

**BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM**

**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2022**

**Company registration number: 06472186  
Registered charity number: 1123432**

# **BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM**

## **REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

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# The Natural History Consortium

## Annual Report 2022

We're so pleased to share this year's Annual Report for you to share with colleagues and internal and external stakeholders. The charity continues to grow, in both the range of co-created programmes being delivered and the wider impact with audiences. It has been wonderful to welcome partners to slowly return to face to face meetings and events during the year alongside a thriving calendar of online collaboration. For the nineteenth year running, partners have come together to co-deliver events for regional and national public and stakeholder audiences over a full calendar year. As we approach the 20th anniversary year of this vibrant and unique partnership, we've decided to include a number of photographs in this year's summary so you can see the programmes in action.

### The Natural History Consortium: Our Shared Objectives

Objective 1: To deliver entertaining and informative events and activities that inspire greater public interest, volunteering and action for nature.

Objective 2: To facilitate, develop, and disseminate novel communication techniques that engage the widest possible audience.

Objective 3: To build, support and pilot effective partnerships that bring together diverse organisations that face similar challenges and issues, and to help organisations learn from each other.

The Natural History Consortium is a charitable partnership between 14 organisations engaging people with the natural world through collaborative action



Bath & North East  
Somerset Council

BBC



BRISTOL  
ZOOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY

Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

Forestry England



NATURAL  
ENGLAND

UNIVERSITY OF  
BATH

University of  
BRISTOL

UWE  
Bristol



WOODLAND  
TRUST

# Headlines and Context

After another year of growth, we reflect on four headlines from our partnership working this year



Ambitious outcomes and a return to live events



Increased leverage of partner contributions



Innovation and testing in live spaces



Participatory Research - learning together

In February 2022 we were pleased the Consortium was awarded 'Top Innovator' status by the World Economic Forum's Uplink programme following an international challenge focused on biodiversity in cities.



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Bath & North East Somerset Council





# Headlines and Context



## Ambitious outcomes and a return to live events

In 2022 we focused on exploring opportunities for fusing the most effective elements of online meetings and events alongside face to face engagement. Our 19th Festival of Nature was based around 95 smaller events that took place over 10 days, building capacity through our volunteering programme and supporting our Consortium members to host, attend and facilitate events to connect audiences and nature.

Our 2022 events secured positive feedback from the press, partners and audiences, and provided an ideal 'stepping stone' to a full combined (live / digital) programme for our 20th anniversary in 2023 when we will explore themes around 'green and blue'.



Family Nature Party at Festival of Nature. Photo by Paul Blakemore.

Our flagship sector-facing programme, Communicate, expanded yet again, with events in January, before the traditional two day Autumn conference. Our main November event expanded to London for the first time, alongside an event in Bristol, a full two day online event and a series of specialist masterclasses. Overall, the editorial programme, co-created by the Natural History Consortium representatives on the conference committee, supported 809 delegates from 235 organisations (and a growing contingent of freelancers). Our largest event to date, with significant momentum for 2023 activities.



Communicate conference 2022 illustrated by Sam Church

Alongside our events programmes, we are exploring a book project and restructure of the conference archive to consolidate, celebrate, and share learning.



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Bath & North East Somerset Council



# Headlines and Context



## Innovation and testing in live spaces

We were pleased to win the contract for the first headline commission from Bristol City Council's City Centre and High Streets Recovery and Renewal programme. The funding provided an opportunity for a live public intervention in the city's retail centre. Our proposal sought to explore themes around urban tree cover through innovative means - working in partnership with artists and the charity's first major art commission in the public realm. Overstory brought together 25 organisations to deliver a nature based engagement programme in an urban setting.

The programme reached thousands of local people, with over 25% of the audience from ethnic minority backgrounds, to discuss trees in our cities and lives. Natural History Consortium partners co-wrote the commission pitch and worked directly with NHC staff and volunteers to deliver live engagement activities. We will be building on the learning with a follow-up live art programme - building on the themes of trees and woodlands - at Festival of Nature 2023 during our 20th anniversary celebrations.



Overstory artwork and engagement activities.  
Photo by Paul Blakemore.

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Bath & North East Somerset Council

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BRISTOL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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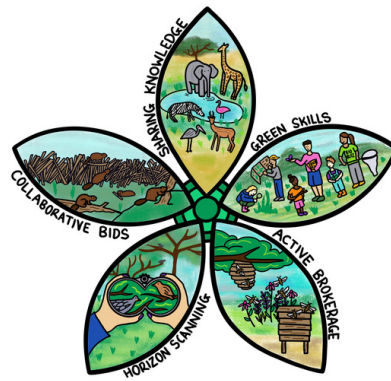
# Headlines and Context



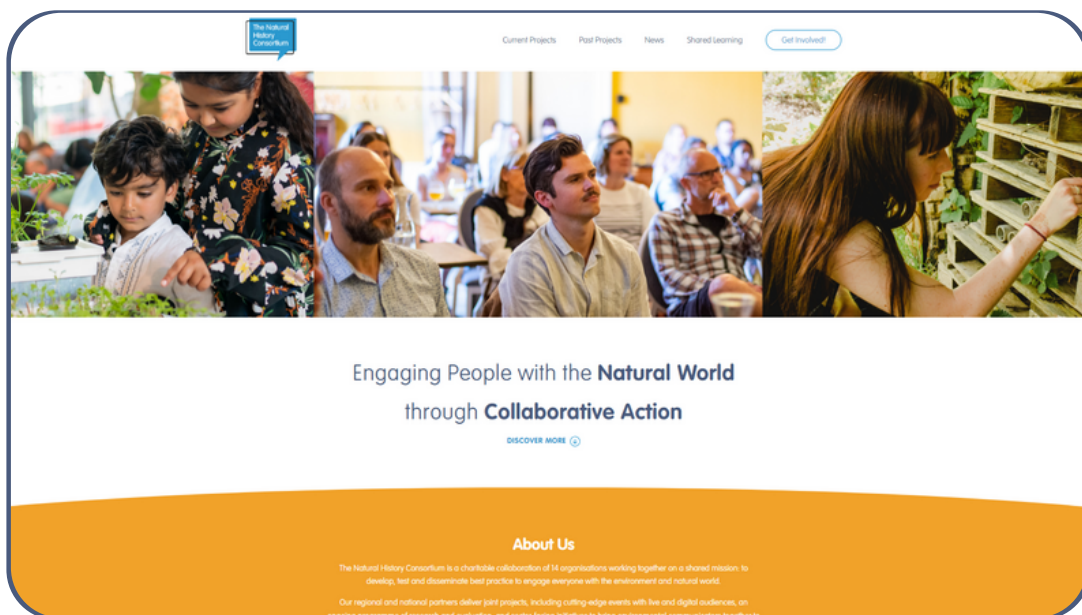
## Participatory Research - learning together

Behind the scenes, NHC partners worked together on a six month participatory research exploratory programme, funded by University of Bath. The project included desk research by NHC, discussions at Steering Group meetings, and one-to-one discussions with Steering Group members. The programme started as a review of how higher education and other partners in the Consortium could work more closely together, but quickly became a larger exploration of new mechanisms and opportunities for all 14 partners to work together. The five pillars that emerged from the process are now being implemented into planning 2023 activities.

Illustration commissioned during the Participatory Research programme. Credit Hana Ayoub.



In April 2022 we launched a new website for the charity, and continued to build our relationships with public and sector audiences.



Natural History Consortium website new look 2022

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# Public Programmes

Our public programmes bring partners together to deliver on Objective 1: To deliver entertaining and informative events and activities that inspire greater public interest, volunteering and action for nature.

## City Nature Challenge

29th April - 2nd May 2022

### Bristol & Bath City Region

**1290**

Recorded 1,290 different species, making 1st place in the UK leaderboard

**7989**

Recorded 7,989 observations, making 2nd place in the UK leaderboard

**648**

Ran 11 West of England hubs in parks and green spaces, engaging 648 people with nature recording

### National

Supported 14 UK cities in using iNaturalist to make a total of 57,077 wildlife observations

**57,077**

## Festival of Nature

10th - 18th June 2022

### West of England and Online

76% of attendees said going to a FON event inspired them to take action for nature

**76%**

95 events took place including 25 NHC staff led and 70 partner led sessions

**95**

100+ delivery partners involved in this year's festival

**100+**

### Green Social Prescribing

**30%**

30% of events in this year's festival focused on Green Social Prescribing (27 sessions)



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# Communicate

Our Communicate programmes bring partners together to deliver on Objective 3: To build, support and pilot effective partnerships that bring together diverse organisations that face similar challenges and issues, and to help organisations learn from each other.

## Beyond COP26: The Conversations

19th January 2022

This unique event brought together communication professionals from across the UK to discuss and share how the environmental communication community will translate international declarations into local action and national programmes following COP26.

61

61 organisations took part in 6 themed roundtable sessions

An output report highlighted the priorities for the sector in the year ahead

## Communicate: Amplifying Awareness, Focusing Action

15-16th November 2022

This year's Communicate saw a return to live events and a packed two day digital programme. The main conference took place online with 617 delegates attending. In-person workshop days were held alongside the main conference for 74 (London) and 118 (Bristol) delegates. Expanding to London, the Consortium was able to reach new audiences and perspectives.

809

809 individuals attended Communicate conference 2022, including 17 freelancers and representatives from 235 organisations.

14

14 different sectors were represented across the event

90

The 2022 programme offered 53 unique sessions with 90 speakers and chairs



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Avon Wildlife Trust

Bath & North East Somerset Council

BBC



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Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Forestry England



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# Research, Evaluation & Innovation

Each year the charity delivers a number of pilot activities and the evaluation of our programmes, as well as seeking research opportunities. A growing area of the charity's work, these initiatives bring partners together around Objective 2: To facilitate, develop, and disseminate novel communication techniques that engage the widest possible audience.

## Bristol's Ecological Emergency Strategy

### Water project meetings

- The Consortium held a series of Bristol-based water meetings to connect and map projects across the city region - two meetings in person and one online in October.
- 36 individuals took part representing 25 different organisations and/or groups.
- The meetings were linked to one of the key goals in the Bristol Ecological Emergency Strategy: for 100% of Bristol's waterways to have water quality that supports healthy wildlife by 2030.

### Continuing Ecological Emergency Strategy communications

- In Spring 2022 we started producing a monthly newsletter with Ecological Emergency Strategy updates to stakeholders and interested parties.

## Overstory - Broadmead's Canopy

### 19th - 30th August 2022

- Overstory consisted of 12 days of public artwork, including 7 days of on-the-ground engagement activities, highlighting the value of trees, forests and woodlands.
- 200,000 people passed under the Overstory artwork in Broadmead Shopping Quarter.
- 5000+ people engaged with activities on the high street and inside the shopping centre.
- 25 different organisations and groups were involved in the project.



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Bath & North East Somerset Council

BBC



BRISTOL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

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NATURAL ENGLAND

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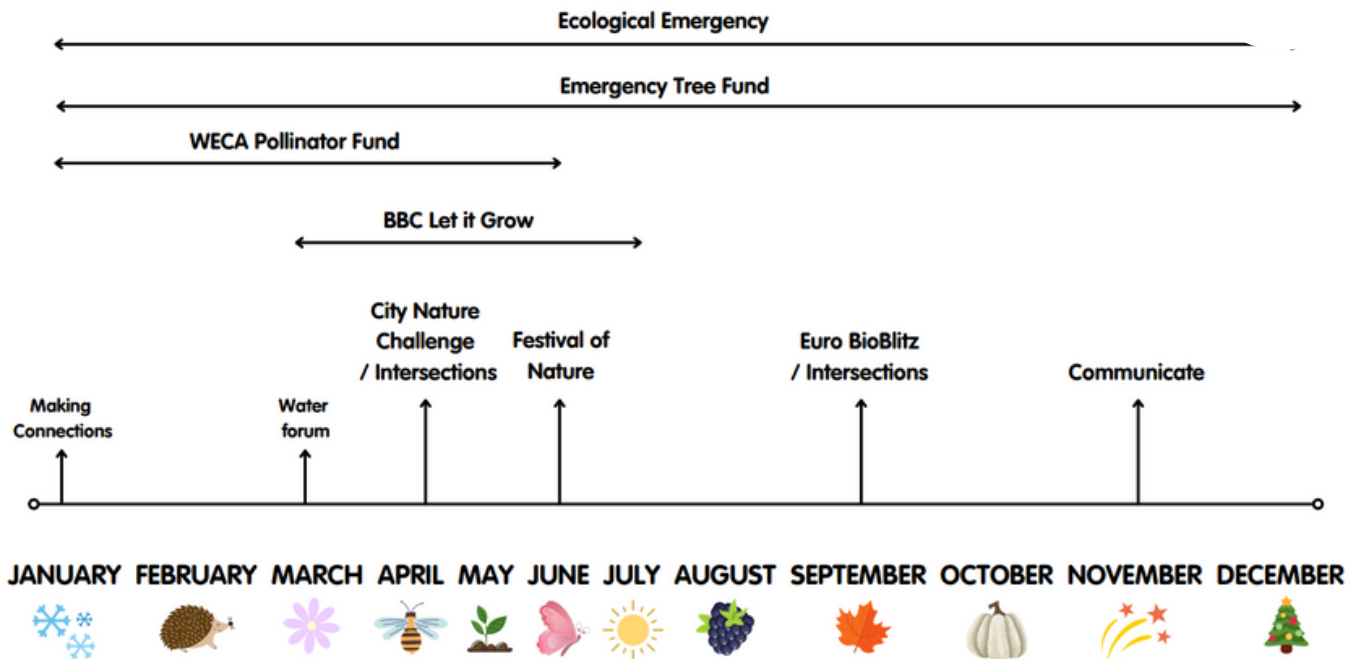
UWE Bristol



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# Looking Ahead

## Natural History Consortium 2023 project timeline



### Draft partner plan for 2023 programmes

This diagram shows the range of projects under discussion at the end of 2022. While all events are still a work in progress, the outline provides a starting point for development between partners. A final programme for the year will be released internally and externally in January 2023.

### Volunteer programme

In 2022, the Consortium and NHC team was joined by 50 volunteers, supporting the activities of a range of expanding public programmes. Many volunteers were involved in multiple events, developing their skills and valuable connections further.



Our experienced team supports the Consortium partnership and delivers our suite of programmes:



Savita Willmott (CEO), Stuart Payton (Senior Programmes Manager), Ellie Turner-Wallace (Senior Programmes Manager), Izzy Pulletz (Communications Officer), Loz Emerson (Actions for Nature Officer), Abby Charlesworth (Programmes Officer)

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## **BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

#### **Reference and administrative details**

Company number:	06472186
Charity number:	1123432
Registered office:	1 Little King Street Bristol BS1 4HW
Bankers:	CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ
Independent Examiners:	Linden Accountants

#### **Key management personnel**

Trustees:	Justin Morris – Bristol Zoo Ian Barrett – Avon Wildlife Trust Peter Ball – Independent Trustee Martin Brasher – Independent Trustee Rosa Robinson - Independent Trustee
Principal Staff:	Savita Willmott (Chief Executive)
Company Secretary:	Savita Willmott

#### ***Governing Document***

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 14th January 2008 and registered as a charity on 3 April 2008.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

The Consortium has 14 partners, which work together in the following way:

##### ***Members:***

Bristol Zoo Gardens and Avon Wildlife Trust are members of the organisation. In accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, each member has the right to appoint one representative to the Board of Trustees. The members also each have the right to appoint one representative to the Steering Group.

##### ***Associate members (Consortium members):***

Bath & North East Somerset Council, BBC, Bristol City Council, Forestry England, Natural England, University of Bristol, University of the West of England, University of Bath, National Trust, Wildfowl Wetlands Trust, and The Woodland Trust are associate members (Consortium members). In accordance with the Memorandum & Articles they have the right to appoint one representative to the Steering Group.

##### ***Associate members (Supporter members):***

Defra are associate members (Supporter members). In accordance with the Memorandum & Articles they have the right to send one representative to steering group meetings.

#### ***Organisational structure***

The Consortium undertakes a range of activities that are managed in the following way:



**Trustees** – The Trustees undertake financial responsibility for the organisation in accordance with charity law. The Trustees meet on a quarterly basis.

The Trustees are recruited and appointed from each of the Consortium's legal members, one from each, as well as independent Trustees as co-opted by The Board. Members of the board operate a "rolling chair" to lead each meeting.

**Steering Group** – The Steering Group undertake responsibility for all strategic planning and development for the organisation. The Steering Group meets every two months.

### ***Risk Management***

The steering group and the Trustees have considered the key risks facing the Consortium and have taken steps to mitigate them.

### **Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements**

Company law requires the Trustee Board to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year.

In preparing those financial statements, the Trustee Board should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustee Board is responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

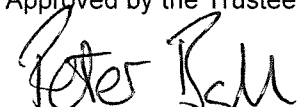
Members of the Trustee Board, who are directors for the purpose of company law and Trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 14.

In accordance with company law, as the charity's Trustees, we certify that:

- So far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's Independent Examiner is unaware; and
- As the Trustees of the charity we have taken all steps that ought to have been taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's Independent Examiner is aware of that information.

Approved by the Trustee Board on

and signed on its behalf by:



.....  
**Peter Ball (On behalf of Trustees)**

.....  
**Date**

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Bristol Natural History Consortium for the year ended 31st December 2022.

### **Responsibility and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees are also its directors for the purposes of company law, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- Accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required under section 386 of the 2006 Act: or
- The accounts do not accord with those records; or
- The accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements under section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of my independent examination: or
- The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Signed:** *Mike Grant*

**Name:** Michael Grant ACPA

**Address:** Linden Accountants Limited, Scrapstore House, 21 Sevier Street, St Werburghs, Bristol, BS2 9LB

**Date:** 13/09/23

## **BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual directors' report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 December 2022 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum & Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015). The company has taken advantage of the exemption to not have to prepare a strategic report in accordance with "The Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013".

The charity's legal name remains Bristol Natural History Consortium, however the operating and public name for the partnership is The Natural History Consortium (NHC)

#### **1. OUR PURPOSES AND ACTIVITIES**

The mission statement and objectives are regularly reviewed on an annual basis by Consortium members.

##### **1.1 Our mission statement:**

The Natural History Consortium - Engaging people with the natural world through collaborative action

##### **1.2 Our objectives:**

The company's charitable objects are to advance the public understanding of wildlife and the natural environment and their conservation.

It achieves this by:

- Delivering entertaining and informative events and activities that inspire greater public interest, volunteering and action for nature
- Facilitating, developing, and disseminating novel communication techniques that engage the widest possible audience
- Building, supporting and piloting effective partnerships that bring together diverse organisations that face similar challenges and issues, and help organisations learn from each other

##### **1.3 Ensuring our work delivers our objectives**

The Consortium's Trustees and Steering Group review progress of the partnership and activities through regular Trustees' meetings and bi-monthly Steering Group meetings.

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how our activities will contribute to and deliver our mission statement.

##### **1.4 Our activities**

We carry out these objectives through a range of activities, guided by our mission statement:

- Festival of Nature – an annual public festival and associated public facing activities
- Communicate – an annual conference and an online community supported by research and resources.
- BioBlitz – a range of public activity and community of practice supporting public participation in biological recording
- Volunteers programme – supporting skills development and volunteer activity through our programmes
- Research and development – a strand of piloting, evaluation and learning activity using
- Governance and management.

##### **1.5 How our activities deliver public benefit**

The relationship of our activities to the target beneficiaries are described below. All of our charitable activities focus on environmental communication.

ACTIVITY	OUTPUTS	IMPACT
<b>FESTIVAL OF NATURE</b> Bringing together content from across the partnership under a common framework for engagement, Festival of Nature is the UK's largest free celebration of the natural world delivering an exciting new programme across the West of England each year since 2003.	A cohesive, inspiring, engaging, ambitious programme of activity that delivers against seven strategic priorities: - Partner interest - Fundability - User experience - Impact (action for nature) - Inclusivity - Covid regulations - Innovation & shared learning	Audiences in the West of England are more aware of environmental issues, more connected with nature and empowered to take new, sustained, positive action for nature.
<b>COMMUNICATE</b> Started in 2004, Communicate is an annual environmental communication conference bringing together a diverse group of delegates each year to develop their skills, share best practice and debate latest issues in science communication, nature conservation and engaging people with the natural world.	Convening the UK environmental communications sector through an annual programme of innovative and engaging conference, workshops and conversations	Environmental communicators are better equipped with tools, knowledge and connections to influence positive change for nature
<b>BIOBLITZ</b> Since 2009 NHC has shown leadership in the development of BioBlitz as a format for public engagement in biological recording and citizen science, representing the West of England in the international City Nature Challenge since 2018. NHC represents Bristol & Bath City Region and spearheads UK participation in this global race for citizens to generate the most wildlife records data possible in 4 days.	A regional programme of activity promoting public participation in biological recording, piloting new innovative formats for participatory community science  Convening and supporting national and international communities of practice around BioBlitz and associated formats to share learning, and foster collaboration  Biological records data contributed at scale to local, national and international datasets	Participants feel better connected and more knowledgeable about nature on their doorsteps, and are empowered to take new, sustained, positive action for nature through community science.  The biological recording and community science sector are better equipped with tools, knowledge and connections to support public participation in biological recording and community science  Conservation and land management practice and research are better informed by biological records data.
<b>VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME</b> NHC runs an on-going, active volunteer programme designed to train and support students, those looking to develop skills, and those looking to make a change of career.	Cohorts of volunteers are trained and supported to take leadership roles in NHC public facing activities. Specific strands of volunteer training, advocacy and skills development are built into NHC programmes	Volunteers are upskilled and build experience in environmental communications and engagement practice  Young volunteers and wildlife enthusiasts benefit from peer-to-peer learning and social cohesion
<b>RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT</b> Through our regular senior stakeholder meetings and frequent informal contact, we have a space for sharing learning and Challenges. Building on core programmes, we explore new ways to facilitate collaboration between Consortium members as well as external partners, to make things happen together.	A collaborative portfolio of funded projects that support our charitable objectives, provide opportunities to support delivery of partners individual priorities, build capacity and facilitate collaboration between partners	NHC reputation as a leading collaboration space and safe pair of hands for delivering against partner priorities  New collaborations, and innovations are fostered and disseminated through the Consortium charitable structure and activities – contributing to research and best practice in environmental communications  Building core capacity through funded activity, and consultancy.
<b>GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT</b>	Financial, administrative, team management and policy responsibilities  Regular meetings of the Trustees and Steering Group	Ensuring financial stability, compliance and best practice in charitable governance  Ensuring effective and efficient investment of resources to meet charitable objectives

### **3. Further notes to the accounts**

Funds totalling £24,924 have been designated for 2023, they were received during 2022 for the staffing of the EuroBioBlits between January - March 2023.

**BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
(INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds 2022</b>	<b>Total Funds 2021</b>
	<b>Note</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
INCOME FROM					
Donations	3	70,000	2,000	72,000	78,625
Other trading activities		-	-	-	-
Investments		-	-	-	-
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Festival of Nature	4	40,284	9,425	49,709	32,546
Communicate Conference	4	20,541	-	20,541	22,678
Education and Engagement	4	196,005	4,420	200,426	79,576
<i>Other income</i>		-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>326,831</b>	<b>15,845</b>	<b>342,676</b>	<b>213,425</b>
EXPENDITURE ON:					
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Festival of Nature	5	77,944	12,405	90,349	78,142
Communicate Conference	5	97,959	-	97,959	75,559
Education and Engagement	5	149,901	4,420	154,321	67,231
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>325,804</b>	<b>16,825</b>	<b>342,629</b>	<b>220,933</b>
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year		1,027	(980)	47	(7,508)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		71,519	980	72,499	80,007
Total funds carried forward		72,546	0	72,546	72,499

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains and losses other than those stated above.

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AT 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	Notes	<u>2022</u> £	<u>2021</u> £
FIXED ASSETS:			
Tangible assets	8	5,921	3,777
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Debtors	9	80,894	79,206
Cash at bank and in hand		64,008	67,188
		144,901	146,395
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	10	(78,277)	(77,672)
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS		66,625	68,722
TOTAL NET (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS		72,546	72,499
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Restricted funds	13	0	980
Unrestricted funds	14	47,622	47,519
Designated funds	15	24,924	24,000
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		72,546	72,499

The Trustees are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to the audit of the financial statements for the year by virtue of section 477, and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the company keeps adequate accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act, and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

These accounts have been delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the directors and authorised for issue.

Approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by



(On behalf of Trustees)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**(a) Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Bristol Natural History Consortium meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

**(b) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis**

The Trustees have considered the 12 month period from the date of the approval of the financial statements. The Trustees note that the position of the unrestricted reserves has improved each year since 31st December 2019. At the time of filing the Trustees are reviewing the reserves policy and treatment of unrestricted reserves as they make long term plans for the success and stability of the charity.

**(c) Income**

All income is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Intangible income is recognised as an incoming resource where the provider of the service has incurred a financial cost. Volunteer time is not included in the financial statements.

Grants are recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are receivable, unless they specifically relate to a future period, in which case they are deferred.

**(d) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT**

Expenditure is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered.

Most expenditure is directly attributable to a specific activity and is allocated to that activity. However, the costs of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function, is apportioned on the following basis which are an estimate, based on core staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity.

• Festival of Nature	20%
• Communicate Conference	40%
• Education & Engagement	40%

**(e) Donated services and facilities**

Donated services & facilities are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable and measurable. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received. This will be the price the charity estimates it would pay in the open market for a service or facility of equivalent utility to the charity.

**(f) Interest receivable**

Interest on funds held is included when receivable by the charity.

**(g) Funds accounting**

Funds held by the charity are:

Unrestricted general funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted funds - these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each funds is included in the notes to the accounts.



**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(h) **Tangible fixed assets**

The cost of tangible fixed assets is written-off by equal annual instalments over their expected useful life as follows:

Computer equipment	3 years straight line
Website	4 years straight line
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	4 years straight line

(i) **Pension costs**

The charity contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme. The employer contributions made by the charity are treated as an expense and disclosed in note 7 to the accounts.

(j) **Operating leases**

No leases at 31st December 2022

2 PRIOR PERIOD COMPARATIVES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
INCOME FROM			
Donations	76,625	2,000	78,625
Other trading activities	-	-	-
Investments	-	-	-
<i>Charitable activities:</i>			-
Festival of Nature	26,816	5,730	32,546
Communicate Conference	22,678		22,678
Education and Engagement	48,575	31,001	79,576
Other income	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL INCOME	174,694	38,731	213,425
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
EXPENDITURE ON:			
<i>Charitable activities:</i>			
Festival of Nature	55,700	22,443	78,142
Communicate Conference	72,916	2,644	75,559
Education and Engagement	33,587	33,645	67,231
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	162,202	58,731	220,933
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year	12,492	(20,000)	(7,508)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

**3 DONATIONS**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Member subscriptions	70,000	-	70,000	70,000
<i>Donations:</i>				
In kind donations	-	2,000	2,000	2,000
Company donations	-	-	-	6,625
Individual donations	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	70,000	2,000	72,000	78,625
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

A summary of the in kind donated services is set out below:

	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Design costs	2,000	2,000
Use of exhibition space/site services (Festival of Nature)	-	-
Use of exhibition space (Communicate)	-	-
Marketing support	-	-
Event consumables	-	-
Storage space	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,000	2,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**4 INCOME**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
<b>Festival of Nature</b>				
Sponsorship	8,562	-	8,562	-
Sales	6,248	-	6,248	4,366
Grants	25,474	9,425	34,899	28,180
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	40,284	9,425	49,709	32,546
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Communicate Conference</b>				
Sponsorship	-	-	-	-
Sales	20,541	-	20,541	9,628
Grants	-	-	-	13,050
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	20,541	-	20,541	22,678
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Education &amp; Engagement</b>				
Sales	7,398	-	7,398	-
Education & Engagement	65,107	-	65,107	48,575
Euro Bioblitz	5,000	-	5,000	31,001
Canopy project	118,500	4,420	122,920	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Education &amp; Engagement (Total)</b>	196,005	4,420	200,426	79,576
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

5 TOTAL EXPENDITURE

	Staff Costs £	Other Direct Costs £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Festival of Nature	62,780	27,569	90,349	76,642
Communicate Conference	60,102	37,857	97,959	75,559
Education & Engagement	88,255	66,066	154,321	68,731
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	211,138	131,492	342,629	220,934
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

OTHER DIRECT COSTS

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Event & project costs	37,013	5,471
Premises costs	29,418	19,205
Office costs	41,644	24,769
Legal & professional costs	6,567	13,828
Depreciation	2,654	1,388
Miscellaneous fees	-	-
VAT partial exemption adjustment	14,196	5,334
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	131,492	69,995
	<hr/>	<hr/>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Festival of Nature	77,944	12,405	90,349	78,142
Communicate Conference	97,959	-	97,959	75,559
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Education &amp; Engagement</i>				
<i>Euro Bioblitz</i>	5,000	-	5,000	31,001
Canopy project	37,805	4,420	42,225	-
<i>Education &amp; Engagement</i>	107,096	-	107,096	36,230
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Sub-total</i>	149,901	4,420	154,321	67,231
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	325,804	16,825	342,629	220,934
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

6 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR

	2022 £	2021 £
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation	2,654	1,388
Independent Examination	550	550
Accounting & Book-keeping services	5,793	5,400
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

**7 STAFF COSTS AND TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION**

Staff costs were as follows:	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	123,647	110,666
Employer's National Insurance	6,767	5,786
Employer's pensions	2,757	2,407
Freelance staff	62,284	27,743
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	195,455	146,602
	<hr/>	<hr/>

No employee earned £60,000 p.a. or more. The average number of employees during the year was 5 (2021 - 4).

The charity Trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2021: £nil), neither were they reimbursed expenses during the year (2021: £nil). No charity Trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2021: £nil).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Trustees and the Chief Executive Officer. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £37,356 (2021: £30,980).

**8 TANGIBLE ASSETS**

	Website Development	Computer Equipment	Office Furniture	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>COST</b>				
At 1 January 2022	4,000	2,758	664	7,422
Additions	4,000	798	-	4,798
Disposals	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2022	8,000	3,556	664	12,220
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>				
At 1 January 2022	1,000	1,981	664	3,645
Charge for the year	2,000	654	-	2,654
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2022	3,000	2,635	664	6,299
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>				
At 31 December 2022	5,000	921	-	5,921
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2021	3,000	777	-	3,777
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**9 DEBTORS**

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	80,181	62,851
Prepayments & accrued income	313	2,123
Taxation and social security	-	3,873
Other debtors	400	10,359
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	80,894	79,206
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The trade debtors include a credit of £10,224 (2021 : £15,224) in relation to the BBC. A credit was raised in 2018 and annual memberships for the BBC have been set against this. This will continue until the credit has been used up.

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust is represented on the Steering Group by Sally Airey and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2022.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

17 RELATED PARTIES (Continued)

*Natural England*

Natural England is represented on the Steering Group by Kanta Mall and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5000 to BNHC in 2021

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

10 CREDITORS	2022 £	2021 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade creditors	821	1,988
Taxation and social security	4,928	3,795
Accruals	2,528	1,890
Deferred income	70,000	70,000
Other creditors	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	78,277	77,672
	<hr/>	<hr/>

11 DEFERRED INCOME

Deferred income comprises subscriptions and grants invoiced in advance.

	2022 £	2021 £
Balance as at 1 January 2022	70,000	71,000
Amount released to income earned from charitable activities	(70,000)	(71,000)
Amount deferred in year	70,000	70,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance as at 31 December 2022	70,000	70,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>

12 OPERATING LEASES

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Not later than 1 year	-	-
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

**13 RESTRICTED FUNDS**

	At 1 January <u>2022</u>	<u>Income</u> £	<u>Expenditure</u> £	At 31 December <u>2022</u> £
<i>Bristol Festival of Nature Communicate</i>	980 -	11,425 -	(12,405) -	- -
<i>Education &amp; Engagement Parks Accelerator Euro Bioblitz</i>	- -	4,420 -	(4,420) -	0 -
	<u>980</u>	<u>15,845</u>	<u>(16,825)</u>	<u>0</u>

Purposes of Restricted Funds

*Postcode Local Trust*

This funding is in support City Nature Challenge.

*The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust*

This funding is in support of City Nature Challenge.

*South Gloucestershire Council*

This funding is in support of City Nature Challenge.

*National Lottery*

This funding is in support of covering core costs.

**14 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS**

	At 1 January <u>2022</u> £	<u>Income</u> £	<u>Expenditure</u> £	Transfers Between Funds £	At 31 December <u>2022</u> £
General Fund	47,519	326,831	(325,804)	(924)	47,622

**15 DESIGNATED FUNDS**

	At 1 January <u>2022</u> £	<u>Income</u> £	<u>Expenditure</u> £	Transfers Between Funds £	At 31 December <u>2022</u> £
Designated funds	24,000	-	-	924	24,924

Designated funds consist of £24,924 of funds received for the staffing of the EuroBioBlitz between January - March 2023

**16 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

	<u>General Funds</u> £	<u>Restricted Funds</u> £	<u>Designated funds</u>	<u>Total</u> £
Tangible fixed assets	5,921	-	-	5,921
Cash at bank and in hand	64,008	0	-	64,008
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	2,617	-	-	2,617
	<u>72,546</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>72,546</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

17 RELATED PARTIES

*Avon Wildlife Trust*

Avon Wildlife Trust is represented on the Steering Group by Julie Doherty. Avon Wildlife Trust is a subscribing organisation and paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2022.

*Bath & North East Somerset Council*

Bath & North East Somerset Council is represented on the Steering Group by Mark Minkley. Bath & North East Somerset Council is a subscribing organisation and paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2022.

*BBC*

BBC is represented on the Steering Group by Stephanie Marshall. BBC is a subscribing organisation and paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2022.

*Bristol City Council*

Bristol City Council is represented on the Steering Group by Richard Ennion and Ray Barnett. BCC is a subscribing organisation and paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2022.

*Bristol Zoo Gardens*

Bristol Zoo Gardens is represented on the Steering Group by Simon Garrett. As a subscribing organisation, Bristol Zoo paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2022.

*Defra*

Defra is represented on the Steering Group by Emily Ambrose and as a subscribing organisation paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2022.

*Forestry England*

Forestry England is represented on the Steering Group by Naomi Fuller and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2022.

*National Trust*

National Trust is represented on the Steering Group by Nerys Jones and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2022.

*Natural England*

Natural England is represented on the Steering Group by Sunita Welch and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2022.

*University of West of England*

The University of the West of England is represented on the Steering Group by Jackie Rogers and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2022.

*The Woodland Trust*

The Woodland Trust is represented on the Steering Group by Rosie Walker and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2022.

*University of Bristol*

The University of Bristol is represented on the Steering Group by Rhys Charles and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2022.

*University of Bath*

The University of Bath is represented on the Steering Group by Heather Featherstone and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2022.

*Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust*