

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

(A company limited by guarantee)

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2023**

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

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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The Natural
History
Consortium

Annual Report 2023

The Natural History Consortium

Dear Natural History Partners,

This Annual Summary has been prepared for staff, volunteers and stakeholders at our Consortium partner organisations. Please do share it with colleagues, and we look forward to hearing what ideas it may spark for further activities.

2023 has been a tremendous year to celebrate the 20th anniversary of our Natural History Consortium. It gave us numerous opportunities to reflect on how the collaboration between partners has strengthened, how the partnership has grown from 8 founding partners to our current 14, and how our joint activities have evolved alongside the environmental communication sector.

Mostly importantly, we continue to reflect on how we can increase our impact, and we welcome your support and challenge in this collective endeavour. More information about each of our programmes is available on our website at www.bnhc.org.uk, or we would be happy to speak to you about areas of interest.

Our Mission: Engaging everyone with the natural world through Collaborative Action

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



Avon
Wildlife Trust

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

Partnership in Action

- ✿ Our **Steering Group** is our main strategic and decision-making body, where all 14 partners meet regularly throughout the year. The group is supported by our charity's small Trustee Board and direct the staff's efforts by consensus.
- ✿ Our **Communicate Committee** sets the editorial for our national conference and other sector-facing work.
- ✿ Our events, ad-hoc committees and working groups bring partners together around specialist topics and at events.

Leveraging Partner Contributions

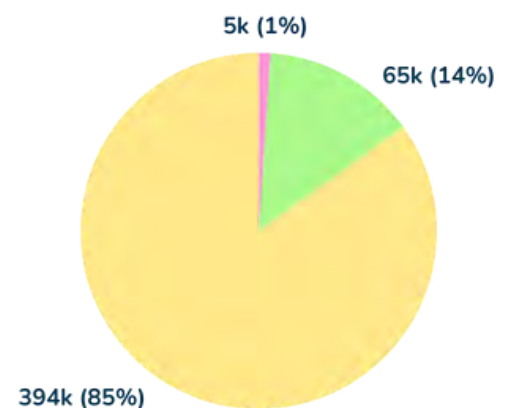
- ✿ NHC partners have made the same annual contribution for twenty years since the partnership was formed. Each year we leverage each organisation's financial contribution and commitment into through fundraising into increased resources for joint programmes.

£5,000 – your organisation's contribution in 2023 (1%)

£65,000 – other partner's contribution in 2023 (14%)

£394,000 – funds leveraged and raised for collaborative programmes (85%)

£464,000 – charity turnover for the year



Volunteers

- ✿ In 2023, 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 connections further.



Staff

- ✿ Our experienced team supports our partners and delivers joint events under their direction.



Savita Willmott (CEO), Stuart Payton (Senior Programmes Manager), Ellie Turner-Wallace (Senior Programmes Manager), Izzy Pulletz (Marketing and Communications Manager), Loz Emerson (Citizen Science Officer)

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

NHC's work on our first objective focuses on direct delivery and public engagement in the West of England, as well as supporting national projects and replicating our learning internationally. Our partners' focus is to develop new methods and mechanisms for reaching the broadest possible audiences, underpinned by our own evaluation framework "Actions for Nature".

Festival of Nature

Festival of Nature is the only public festival to span the West of England region, and the UK's largest free celebration of the natural world. Our 20th anniversary Festival of Nature in June 2023 featured all **14** of our Consortium members, and welcomed over **16,000** visitors to **56** different events. A wide range of live and online programmed inspired audiences to take over **7,000** "actions for nature".



People for Pollinators

'People for Pollinators' was our first major collaborative delivery bid between NHC partners, funded by West of England Combined Authority's Pollinator Fund. Together NHC partners created **1,130m²** of new or improved habitats in **5** demonstration gardens, ran **45** workshops, **7** community events, and a **wildlife gardening competition**.

The project had significant, in-person engagement with **1,877** people across the West of England region and this will increase as partners' demonstration gardens come into bloom. People for Pollinators included an online 'Pesticide Reduction and Wildlife Friendly Gardening' community campaign, which reached **50k** users in the region.



City Nature Challenge

City Nature Challenge is an annual international wildlife recording taking place over 4 days. Over **400** cities take part and NHC inspires audiences across the West of England to take part. In 2023 the challenge took place between 28th April – 1st May. In the West of England region we supported audiences to record **1,296** species across **7,490** observations – making 3rd place on the UK leader board. (The **second highest number of species** ever recorded during a City Nature Challenge event in our region)



EuroBioBlitz

EuroBioBlitz is a partnership programme and communications campaign, funded by the **European Commission's Researchers Night** programme. It has allowed us to replicate our partnership learning from City Nature Challenge into a European-wide activity. Learning resources have been developed in **8 European languages** (English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Swedish, Polish).

In 2023, **64,397** records of wildlife were made by **8,720** participants, with **32,637** records identified to "research grade" level. Plans are underway for 2024 to include resources in an additional 4 languages: Russian, Turkish, Ukrainian and Dutch.



Let it Grow

Behind the scenes, we supported our BBC colleagues this year with the delivery of the Let it Grow campaign across **Radio 2** and **BBC Children's and Education** (Blue Peter, a new digital game, and online content). With a mission to help UK audiences "**turn grey spaces into wild and colourful places**" the campaign got Radio 2 listeners and Blue Peter watchers out growing and planting.



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

Our work on objective 2 focuses on innovation, piloting new approaches, evaluation and dissemination. The focus is on adaptation and learning – with some activities working closely with a few participants and other attracting thousands.

Emergency Tree Fund Pilots

NHC was commissioned as part of the Woodland Trust's Emergency Tree Fund to explore new approaches to **engagement**, **volunteering**, and **formal education** to help successfully deliver the West of England Tree and Woodland Strategy (Forest of Avon plan). This has included woodland walks with diverse audiences, sessions with Disabled Adults, and a national survey of individuals and organisations on new opportunities for environmental volunteering.



Walking Forest

The “Walking Forest” built on our tree-themed art commission (Overstory) in 2022, and took us back to the Broadmead area in June 2023. **We created a moveable ‘parade’ of street trees through three city centre locations in Bristol**, giving away fruit trees and speaking to people about their barriers to planting at home. We’ll be building on this work in 2024 seeking new creative opportunities to connect tree supply with residents.



— Ecological Emergency: 'Blue Strand' —

NHC has supported implementation of **Bristol's Ecological Emergency Strategy** since 2021, and in June 2023 ran a programme focused on 'blue spaces' across the region. We delivered programme of **20 different events** including business networking on boats and paddleboards, talks about beavers and eels, open water swimming, river cleans, and a "fish carnival" for our youngest audience members under 5. We'll be building on this work in 2024 by embedding 'blue' and 'green' across our Festival of Nature programme.



— Collective Field Notebook —

Funding from Literature Works allowed us to pilot a **literature-focused outdoor activity** as part of Festival of Nature in June 2023. Inspired by Charles Darwin's unusual use of field notebooks, a riverside walk with writers and artists allowed us to explore new types of programming for Festival of Nature.



— Sparks —

We were delighted to support the team at 'Sparks' – a new **sustainable hub** in central Bristol, by providing early ideas and facilitation for the creation of a nature-themed space.



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.

Our work on this objective is both regional and national – bringing together professionals and organisations together in curated events, discussions, and co-delivery.

Communicate

Communicate is a flagship event for our partnership: a national conference for environmental communication professionals running since 2004. In 2023 the conference expanded yet again, with hybrid and workshop sessions in **London**, **Manchester** and **Bristol**. These ran alongside a three-day **online** conference. In total, NHC partners together curated **40** sessions over three days, attracting **1,016** delegates and **100** speakers on the theme of “Together for Nature”.



Making Connections —

In January 2023 we brought academic and non-academic staff together from across our partnership to explore collaboration and connections. **24 researchers** attending from our HEI institutions, holding facilitated discussions on future academic research, impact case studies, joint funding bids and academic / student placement projects.



RECLAIM Conference

We received investment from the UKRI funded RECLAIM Network (Reclaiming Forgotten Cities - Turning cities from vulnerable spaces to healthy places for people) to host a symposium during Festival of Nature on public engagement with green and blue infrastructure, attracting **21 specialists** from **12 organisations**.

UK City Nature Challenge Network —

In 2023 NHC brought together **22 cities** taking part in the City Nature Challenge through **6 online facilitated meetings** to support capacity and learning between organisers. 83% of participants said they found these meetings “very helpful” and 17% “helpful”. **100%** of respondents said that they would like these meetings to continue for future events and we are currently planning for 2024 programmes.

Together, UK cities recorded **79,293** total wildlife observations, a **34% increase** from 59,090 in 2022.



Celebrating our 20th anniversary

A special strand of activity during our 20th year ensured we took the opportunity to reflect on our partnership’s work to date and plans for the future. We are currently planning a **new publication** collating learning across the Communicate conference between 2003-2024.



The Natural History Consortium

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



Avon
Wildlife Trust

Bath & North East
Somerset Council

BBC



BRISTOL
ZOOLOGICAL
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 Department
for Environment
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Forestry England



National
Trust



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH



University of
BRISTOL

UWE
Bristol University of the
West of England



BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Reference and administrative details

Company number:	06472186
Charity number:	1123432
Registered office:	Jubilee House Bristol BS1 4RW
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.

BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	<u>2023</u> £	<u>2022</u> £
FIXED ASSETS:			
Tangible assets	8	3,934	5,921
		<hr/>	<hr/>
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Debtors	9	61,568	80,894
Cash at bank and in hand		74,389	64,008
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		135,957	144,901
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	10	(80,158)	(78,277)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS		55,800	66,625
		<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL NET (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS		59,734	72,546
		<hr/>	<hr/>
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Restricted funds	13	(0)	-
Unrestricted funds	14	80,190	47,622
Designated funds	15	3,500	24,924
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		83,690	72,546
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		<hr/>	<hr/>

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)

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 2023.

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: 22/08/24

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual directors' report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 December 2023 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
FESTIVAL OF NATURE 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.
COMMUNICATE 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
BIOBLITZ 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.
VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME 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
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT 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.
GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT	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

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	Note	£	£	£	£
INCOME FROM					
Donations	3	70,000	17,714	87,714	72,000
Other trading activities		-	-	-	-
Investments		-	-	-	-
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Festival of Nature	4	37,281	16,135	53,416	49,709
Communicate Conference	4	30,645	-	30,645	20,541
Education and Engagement	4	186,013	99,959	285,972	200,426
<i>Other income</i>		-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME		323,939	133,808	457,747	342,676
EXPENDITURE ON:					
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Festival of Nature	5	129,596	28,749	158,346	90,349
Communicate Conference	5	86,892	-	86,892	97,959
Education and Engagement	5	96,306	129,059	225,365	154,321
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5	312,795	157,808	470,603	342,629
Net income/(expenditure) and net		11,144	(24,000)	(12,856)	47
Transfer between funds		(24,000)	24,000	-	-
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		72,546	-	72,546	72,499
Total funds carried forward		59,690	(0)	59,690	72,546

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 2023

	Notes	<u>2023</u> £	<u>2022</u> £
FIXED ASSETS:			
Tangible assets	8	3,934	5,921
		<hr/>	<hr/>
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Debtors	9	61,568	80,894
Cash at bank and in hand		74,389	64,008
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		135,957	144,901
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	10	(80,158)	(78,277)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS		55,800	66,625
		<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL NET (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS		59,734	72,546
		<hr/>	<hr/>
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Restricted funds	13	(0)	-
Unrestricted funds	14	80,190	47,622
Designated funds	15	3,500	24,924
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		83,690	72,546
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		<hr/>	<hr/>

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 2023

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 2023

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 2023

2 PRIOR PERIOD COMPARATIVES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
INCOME FROM			
Donations	70,000	2,000	72,000
Other trading activities	-	-	-
Investments	-	-	-
<i>Charitable activities:</i>			
Festival of Nature	40,284	9,425	49,709
Communicate Conference	20,541	-	20,541
Education and Engagement	196,005	4,420	200,426
Other income	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL INCOME	326,831	15,845	342,676
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
EXPENDITURE ON:			
<i>Charitable activities:</i>			
Festival of Nature	77,944	12,405	90,349
Communicate Conference	97,959	-	97,959
Education and Engagement	149,901	4,420	154,321
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	325,804	16,825	342,629
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year	1,027	(980)	47
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

3 DONATIONS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Member subscriptions	70,000	-	70,000	70,000
<i>Donations:</i>				
In kind donations	-	12,000	12,000	2,000
Company donations	-	5,100	5,100	-
Individual donations		614	614	-
	<hr/> 70,000	<hr/> 17,714	<hr/> 87,714	<hr/> 72,000

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

	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Design costs	2,000	2,000
Use of exhibition space/site services (Festival of Nature)	10,000	-
Use of exhibition space (Communicate)	-	-
Marketing support	-	-
Storage space	-	-
	<hr/> 12,000	<hr/> 2,000

4 INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Festival of Nature				
Sponsorship	17,260	-	17,260	8,562
Sales	1,911	-	1,911	6,248
Grants	18,110	16,135	34,245	34,899
	<hr/> 37,281	<hr/> 16,135	<hr/> 53,416	<hr/> 49,709
Communicate Conference				
Sponsorship	5,000	-	5,000	-
Sales	25,645	-	25,645	20,541
Grants	-	-	-	-
	<hr/> 30,645	<hr/> -	<hr/> 30,645	<hr/> 20,541
Education & Engagement				
<i>Education & Engagement</i>	-	99,959	99,959	65,107
<i>Euro Bioblitz</i>	3,500	-	3,500	5,000
Canopy project	-	-	-	122,920
Sponsorship	-	-	-	-
Sales	20,742	-	20,742	7,398
Grants	161,771	-	161,771	-
	<hr/> 186,013	<hr/> 99,959	<hr/> 285,972	<hr/> 200,426
Education & Engagement (Total)				

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

5 TOTAL EXPENDITURE

	Staff Costs £	Other Direct Costs £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Festival of Nature	82,011	76,335	158,346	90,349
Communicate Conference	48,132	38,760	86,892	97,959
Education & Engagement	145,871	79,495	225,365	154,321
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	276,014	194,590	470,603	342,629
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

OTHER DIRECT COSTS

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Event & project costs	83,533	37,013
Premises costs	62,960	29,418
Office costs	23,478	41,644
Legal & professional costs	4,007	6,567
Depreciation	2,756	2,654
Bad Debt write off	15,000	-
VAT partial exemption adjustment	2,810	14,196
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	194,545	131,492
	<hr/>	<hr/>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Festival of Nature	129,596	28,749	158,346	90,349
Communicate Conference	86,892	-	86,892	97,959
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Euro Bioblitz</i>	-	24,000	24,000	5,000
Canopy project	-	-	-	42,225
<i>Education & Engagement</i>	96,306	105,059	201,365	107,096
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Sub-total</i>	96,306	129,059	225,365	154,321
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	312,795	157,808	470,603	342,629
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

6 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation	2801	2,654
Independent Examination	550	550
Accounting & Book-keeping services	3457	5,793
	<hr/>	<hr/>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

7 STAFF COSTS AND TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION

Staff costs were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	146,683	123,647
Employer's National Insurance	9,285	6,767
Employer's pensions	4,190	2,757
Freelance staff	33,259	62,284
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	193,416	195,455
	<hr/>	<hr/>

No employee earned £60,000 p.a. or more. The average number of employees during the year was 5 (2022 - 5).

The charity Trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2022: £nil), neither were they reimbursed expenses during the year (2022: £nil). No charity Trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2022: £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 £42,950.75 (2022: £37,356).

8 TANGIBLE ASSETS

	<u>Website Development</u>	<u>Computer Equipment</u>	<u>Office Furniture</u>	<u>Festival Equipment</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
COST					
At 1 January 2023	8,000	3,556	664	-	12,220
Additions	-	498	-	271	769
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2023	8,000	4,055	664	271	12,990
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 January 2023	3,000	2,635	664	-	6,299
Charge for the year	2,000	705	-	51	2,756
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2023	5,000	3,340	664	51	9,055
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 December 2023	3,000	714	-	220	3,934
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2022	5,000	921	-	-	5,921
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

9 DEBTORS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	60,256	80,181
Prepayments & accrued income	1,312	313
Taxation and social security	-	-
Other debtors	-	400
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	61,568	80,894
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The trade debtors include a credit of £5,224 (2022: £10,224) 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

10 CREDITORS	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade creditors	2,731	821
Taxation and social security	7,401	4,928
Accruals	26	2,528
Deferred income	70,000	70,000
Other creditors	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	80,158	78,277
	<hr/>	<hr/>
11 DEFERRED INCOME		
Deferred income comprises subscriptions and grants invoiced in advance.		
	2023 £	2022 £
Balance as at 1 January 2023	70,000	70,000
Amount released to income earned from charitable activities	(70,000)	(70,000)
Amount deferred in year	70,000	70,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance as at 31 December 2023	70,000	70,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
12 OPERATING LEASES		
The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:		
	2023 £	2022 £
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 2023**

13 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 January 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers Between Funds	At 31 December 2023
		£	£	£	£
<i>Bristol Festival of Nature</i>	-	28,749	(28,749)		(0)
<i>Communicate</i>	-	-	-		-
<i>Education & Engagement</i>	-	105,059	(105,059)		-
<i>Parks Accelerator</i>	-	-	-		-
<i>Euro Bioblitz</i>	-	-	(24,000)	24,000	-
	-	133,808	(157,808)	24,000	(0)

Purposes of Restricted Funds

Bristol City Council - Walking Forest

This funding is in support of an arts project at Festival of Nature.

Postcode Local Trust

This funding is in support of citizen science activities at Festival of Nature.

West of England Combined Authority

This funding is in support of a collaborative programme engaging audience with pollinators.

14 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 January 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers Between Funds	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	47,622	320,439	(288,795)	924	80,190

15 DESIGNATED FUNDS

	At 1 January 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers Between Funds	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds	24,924	3,500	-	(24,924)	3,500

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

Designated funds consist of £3,500 of funds received for Festival of Nature Youth panel 2024

16 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	General Funds	Restricted Funds	Designated funds	Total
	£	£		£
Tangible fixed assets	3,934	-	-	3,934
Cash at bank and in hand	70,890	(0)	3,500	74,389
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	(18,590)	-	-	(18,590)
	56,235	(0)	3,500	59,735

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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 2023

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 2023

BBC

BBC is represented on the Steering Group by Stephanie Marshall. BBC is a subscribing organisation and paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2023

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 2023

Bristol Zoo Gardens

Bristol Zoo Gardens is represented on the Steering Group by Mark Kennett. As a subscribing organisation, Bristol Zoo paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2023

Defra

Defra is represented on the Steering Group by Sarah Swash and as a subscribing organisation paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2023

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 2023

National Trust

National Trust is represented on the Steering Group by Simon Lawrence and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2023

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 2023

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 2023

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 2023

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 2023

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 2023

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust is represented on the Steering Group by Penny Read and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2023

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Reference and administrative details

Company number:	06472186
Charity number:	1123432
Registered office:	Jubilee House Bristol BS1 4RW
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.

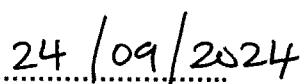
In accordance with company law, as the charity's Trustees, we certify that:

- 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



The Natural
History
Consortium

Annual Report 2023

The Natural History Consortium

2023 has been a tremendous year to celebrate the 20th anniversary of our Natural History Consortium.

It gave us numerous opportunities to reflect on how the collaboration between partners has strengthened, how the partnership has grown from 8 founding partners to our current 14, and how our joint activities have evolved alongside the environmental communication sector. Mostly importantly, we continue to reflect on how we can increase our impact, and we welcome your support and challenge in this collective endeavour.

More information about each of our programmes is available on our website at www.bnhc.org.uk, or we would be happy to speak to you about areas of interest.

Our Mission: Engaging everyone with the natural world through Collaborative Action

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



Partnership in Action

- ✿ Our **Steering Group** is our main strategic and decision-making body, where all 14 partners meet regularly throughout the year. The group is supported by our charity's small Trustee Board and direct the staff's efforts by consensus.
- ✿ Our **Communicate Committee** sets the editorial for our national conference and other sector-facing work.
- ✿ Our events, ad-hoc committees and working groups bring partners together around specialist topics and at events.

Leveraging Partner Contributions

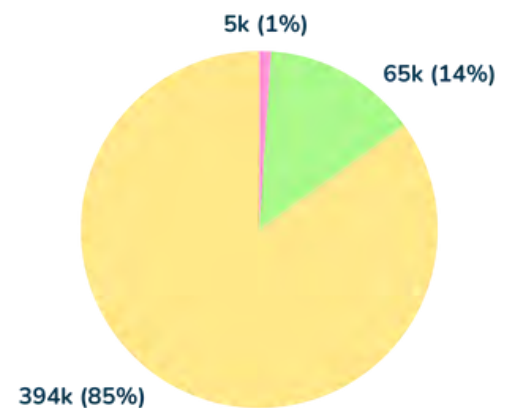
- ✿ NHC partners have made the same annual contribution for twenty years since the partnership was formed. Each year we leverage each organisation's financial contribution and commitment through fundraising into increased resources for joint programmes.

£5,000 – your organisation's contribution in 2023 (1%)

£65,000 – other partner's contributions in 2023 (14%)

£394,000 – funds leveraged and raised for collaborative programmes (85%)

£464,000 – charity turnover for the year



Volunteers

- ✿ In 2023, the Consortium and NHC team was joined by **50 volunteers**, supporting the activities in a range of expanding public programmes. Many volunteers were involved in multiple events, developing their skills and connections further.



Staff

- ✿ Our experienced team supports our partners and delivers joint events under your direction.



Savita Willmott (CEO), Stuart Payton (Senior Programmes Manager), Ellie Turner-Wallace (Senior Programmes Manager), Izzy Pulletz (Marketing and Communications Manager), Loz Emerson (Citizen Science Officer)

People for Pollinators

'People for Pollinators' was our first major collaborative delivery bid between NHC partners, funded by West of England Combined Authority's Pollinator Fund. Together NHC partners created **1,130m²** of new or improved habitats in **5** demonstration gardens, ran **45** workshops, **7** community events, and a **wildlife gardening competition**.

The project had significant, in-person engagement with **1,877** people across the West of England region and this will increase as partners' demonstration gardens come into bloom. People for Pollinators included an online 'Pesticide Reduction and Wildlife Friendly Gardening' community campaign, which reached **50k** users in the region.



City Nature Challenge

City Nature Challenge is an annual international wildlife recording event taking place over 4 days. Over **400** cities take part and NHC inspires audiences across the West of England to get involved. In 2023, the challenge took place between 28th April – 1st May. In the West of England region we supported audiences to record **1,296** species across **7,490** observations – making **3rd place** on the UK leader board and recording the **second highest number of species** during a City Nature Challenge for our region.



EuroBioBlitz

EuroBioBlitz is a partnership programme and communications campaign, funded in 2023 by UKRI, and part of **INTERSECTIONS** - a collaborative, international project supporting European researchers. It has allowed us to replicate our partnership learning from City Nature Challenge into a European-wide activity. Learning resources have been developed in **8 European languages** (English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Swedish, Polish).

In 2023, **64,397** records of wildlife were made by **8,720** participants, with **32,637** records identified to “research grade” level. Plans are underway for 2024 to include resources in an additional 4 languages: Russian, Turkish, Ukrainian and Dutch.



Let it Grow

Behind the scenes, we supported our BBC colleagues this year with the delivery of the Let it Grow campaign across **Radio 2** and **BBC Children's and Education** (Blue Peter, a new digital game, and online content). With a mission to help UK audiences “**turn grey spaces into wild and colourful places**” the campaign got Radio 2 listeners and Blue Peter watchers out growing and planting.



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

Our work on objective 2 focuses on innovation, piloting new approaches, evaluation and dissemination. The focus is on adaptation and learning – with some activities working closely with a few participants and other attracting thousands.

Emergency Tree Fund

NHC was commissioned as part of the Woodland Trust's Emergency Tree Fund to explore new approaches to **engagement, volunteering, and formal education** to help successfully deliver the West of England Tree and Woodland Strategy (Forest of Avon plan). This has included woodland walks with diverse audiences, sessions with Disabled Adults, and a national survey of individuals and organisations on new opportunities for environmental volunteering.



Walking Forest

The “Walking Forest” built on our 2022 tree-themed art commission, Overstory, and took us back to the Broadmead area in June 2023. **We created a moveable ‘parade’ of street trees through three city centre locations in Bristol**, giving away fruit trees and speaking to people about their barriers to planting at home. We’ll be building on this work in 2024 seeking new creative opportunities to connect tree supply with residents.



— Ecological Emergency: 'Blue Strand' —

NHC has supported implementation of **Bristol's Ecological Emergency Strategy** since 2021, and in June 2023 ran a programme focused on 'blue spaces' across the region. We delivered programme of **20 different events** including business networking on boats and paddleboards, talks about beavers and eels, open water swimming, river cleans, and a "fish carnival" for our youngest audience members under 5. We'll be building on this work in 2024 by embedding 'blue' and 'green' across our Festival of Nature programme.



— Collective Field Notebook —

Funding from Literature Works allowed us to pilot a **literature-focused outdoor activity** as part of Festival of Nature in June 2023. Inspired by Charles Darwin's unusual use of field notebooks, a riverside walk with writers and artists allowed us to explore new types of programming for Festival of Nature.



— Sparks —

We were delighted to support the team at 'Sparks' – a new **sustainable hub** in central Bristol, by providing early ideas and facilitation for the creation of a nature-themed space.



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.

Our work on this objective is both regional and national – bringing together professionals and organisations together in curated events, discussions, and co-delivery.

Communicate

Communicate is a flagship event for our partnership: a national conference for environmental communication professionals running since 2004. In 2023 the conference expanded yet again, with hybrid and workshop sessions in **London**, **Manchester** and **Bristol**. These ran alongside a three-day **online** conference. In total, NHC partners together curated **40** sessions over three days, attracting **1,016** delegates and **100** speakers on the theme of “Together for Nature”.



Making Connections

In January 2023 we brought academic and non-academic staff together from across our partnership to explore collaboration and connections. **24 researchers** attending from our HEI institutions, holding facilitated discussions on future academic research, impact case studies, joint funding bids and academic / student placement projects.



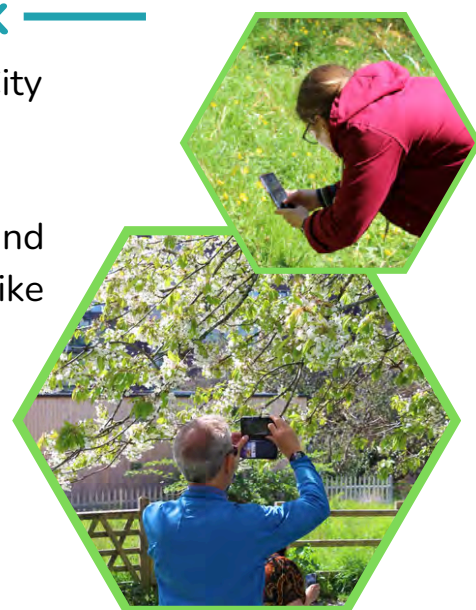
RECLAIM Conference

We received investment from the UKRI funded RECLAIM Network (Reclaiming Forgotten Cities - Turning cities from vulnerable spaces to healthy places for people) to host a symposium during Festival of Nature on public engagement with green and blue infrastructure, attracting **21 specialists** from **12 organisations**.

UK City Nature Challenge Network

In 2023 NHC brought together **22 UK cities** taking part in City Nature Challenge through **6 online facilitated meetings** to support capacity and learning between organisers. 83% of participants said they found these meetings “very helpful” and 17% “helpful”. **100%** of respondents said that they would like these meetings to continue for future events and we are currently planning for 2024 programmes.

Together, UK cities recorded a total of **79,293** wildlife observations, a **34% increase** from 59,090 in 2022.



Celebrating our 20th anniversary

A special strand of activity during our 20th year ensured we took the opportunity to reflect on our partnership’s work to date and plans for the future. We are currently planning a **new publication** collating learning from twenty years of the Communicate conference.



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

The Natural History Consortium



Avon
Wildlife Trust

Bath & North East
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

BBC



BRISTOL
ZOOLOGICAL
SOCIETY



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Forestry England



National
Trust



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH



University of
BRISTOL



For wetlands. For life.



WOODLAND
TRUST