

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 06100324 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1127415

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st March 2024
for
North Wales Rivers Trust Ltd

A.Hughes-Jones, Dyson & Co.
Capel Moreia
South Penrallt
Caernarfon
Gwynedd
LL55 1NS

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for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

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North Wales Rivers Trust Ltd

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Mission Statement: At North Wales Rivers Trust Ltd, our mission is to enhance the aquatic and ecological habitats of the rivers within our catchment Of Denbighshire, Conwy, Anglesey, North Ceredigion, North Powys and Gwynedd river catchments. By doing so, we aim to restore rivers back to good health.

Aims of the Trust:

Biodiversity enhancement: To increase the biodiversity of habitats within the river catchments, working to strengthen the populations Of indigenous species in rivers, streams, still waters, and adjacent areas. Through targeted efforts, we strive to create thriving ecosystems that support a rich variety of life.

Education and conservation: We are dedicated to educating the public about riverine habitats and the wildlife that depends on them. Our aim is to enhance understanding of the importance of conserving, protecting, and rehabilitating these habitats. By fostering awareness, we empower individuals to become stewards of their environment.

Sustainable economic benefits: We seek to promote the sustainable use of rivers and their surrounding environments, recognising their potential for economic benefit. By supporting rural regeneration initiatives, we aim to harness the river's resources in a way that is environmentally responsible and economically viable.

Environmental awareness: Our aim is to raise awareness of environmental issues and advocate for best river management practices. Through outreach programs, campaigns, and partnerships, we strive to engage individuals, communities, and stakeholders in the preservation and sustainable management of our rivers.

Recreational enjoyment: We believe that rivers, lakes, and wetlands are valuable resources for recreational and leisure activities. Our aim is to promote and facilitate responsible enjoyment Of these natural spaces, ensuring that they remain accessible and cherished by an who seek solace, inspiration, and adventure within their waters.

Research and habitat restoration: Undertaking research and practical work, we actively maintain, restore, and enhance environmental habitats within the catchment. By combining scientific knowledge with hands-on efforts, we strive to safeguard and revitalise these vital ecosystems.

By pursuing these aims, North Wales rivers Trust Ltd is committed to preserving the natural heritage of our rivers, fostering sustainable practices, and ensuring the continued well-being of both the ecosystems and the people who depend on them.

Public benefit and objectives of the charity

North Wales Rivers Trust was established to protect, maintain and enhance North and North Mid Wales rivers, lakes and streams. This is achieved by:-

Objective 1 To promote the conservation, protection, rehabilitation and improvement of the rivers, streams, watercourses, and water impoundments in the catchments and in the counties of west Denbighshire (Clwyd), Conwy, Anglesey, North Powys (Dyfi), North Ceredigion (Dyfi) and Gwynedd and adjacent areas of their banks, riparian lands and catchment areas in an their aspects.

Objective 2 To promote the conservation, rehabilitation, and protection Of the indigenous species of animal and plant life Of the rivers, streams, watercourses, water impoundments in the catchments in the counties of West Denbighshire (Clwyd), Conwy, ,anglesey, North Powys (Dyfi), North Ceredigion (Dyfi), Gwynedd and adjacent areas of their banks, repairing lands and catchment areas thereby enhancing the Counties' diversity.

Objective 3 To advance the education of the public in the understanding of rivers, pollution, aquatic habitats, their related catchment areas and their plant life and the need for conservation, protection and rehabilitation and improvement of such environments.

Volunteers

Local communities are essential in helping to achieve the charity's vision of healthy, sustainable rivers.

Volunteer activity ranges from river clean ups, habitat surveys and classroom hatchery projects. The charity trains and supports citizen scientists as part of our partnership with the Angling Trusts Yellow Box campaign.

Strategic Partners

In pursuit of its charitable objectives North Wales Rivers Trust works with the following organisations:

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

Afonydd Cymru, The Rivers Trust, Anglesey Council, Gwynedd Council, Denbighshire Council, Powys Council, Ceredigion Council, Natural Resource Wales, Dwr Cymru, Keep Wales Tidy, North Wales Wildlife Trust, Bodorgan Estate, farmers and landowners, MSFOMA, Bangor University, local primary secondary and sixth form schools, youth groups and other Rivers Trusts across Wales and England.

Health and safety

The statement and policy sets out the principles for development and adherence to practical, detailed standard operating procedures which are regularly reviewed to ensure they are current, relevant and fit for purpose to reflect the charity's developing activity. The staff health and safety group meets at regular intervals to assess reported accidents, near misses and incidents. The outcome of these assessments is included in quarterly reports to the board. The group delegates members to complete tasks such as checking PPE equipment and review or preparation of new standard operating procedures.

Polity for the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults

North Wales Rivers Trust understands its duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and is committed to ensuring that safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice. The charity's polity recognises that the welfare and interests of children, young people and vulnerable adults must prevail in all circumstances. North Wales Rivers Trust recognises that some children and adults can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and accepts responsibility to take appropriate steps to ensure their welfare. We aim to ensure that children, young people and vulnerable adults have a positive experience whilst taking part in North Wales Rivers Trust activities and are protected from abuse regardless of age, gender identity, religion or beliefs, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or socio-economic background.

Policy on Bribery

North Wales Rivers Trust is committed to acting in an ethical and honest manner at all times and will behave professionally and fairly in all dealings and relationships. North Wales Rivers Trust has zero-tolerance for bribery and corrupt activities and is committed to implementing and enforcing systems that ensure bribery is prevented. North Wales Rivers Trust bribery policy sets out responsibilities for observing and upholding the charity's position. It acts as a source of information and guidance for those working for North Wales Rivers Trust. It helps everyone to recognise and deal with bribery and corruption issues, as well as to understand their responsibilities.

Privacy Policy

North Wales Rivers Trust is committed to protecting the privacy and security of all those involved in the charity's work and to complying with the General Data Protection Regulation law.

The charity will never use personal data, and only use it for the purpose or purposes it was collected for (or else closely related purposes).

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Introduction

This year, we have continued to increase our commitment to championing the rivers within our catchment, alongside the surrounding marine and land areas. Our efforts over the past year have led to significant enhancements in our capabilities, particularly through the Menai Strait Partnership Forum, which connects protected areas of rivers, seas, and land. With invaluable input from our Advisory Group, we are actively engaged in collaborative projects with the community and various organisations. These partnerships ensure a lasting positive impact on the Menai Strait and the 13 rivers that flow into it.

Key Highlights include:

Staff Developments: We welcomed Dr. Antony Smith back to the team as Principal Fisheries Officer and appointed Poppy Backshall as Community Engagement Officer, with Oisín Sellers advancing to Senior Community Engagement Officer.

Funding Diversification: We successfully diversified our funding sources, securing support from the National Heritage Lottery, Local Nature Partnerships, National Lottery Community Fund, and Eryri National Park.

We set up a Lab Dwr program. This included our River Ambassador program, training twenty key ambassadors across the catchment. This will continue into 2024. We also set up a Business award program helping local businesses work towards reducing their impact on the rivers.

River Restoration Initiatives:

Added over 100 tonnes of gravel to rivers to create new spawning grounds.

Placed 100 boulders in rivers to vary flow and provide cover from predation.

Built bank revetments using live willow to stabilise banks, reduce sediment, and provide cover for juvenile fish.

Created four fish easements on man-made barriers, opening up 3 km of river. Focused on reducing invasive species such as Japanese knotweed, Rhododendron, and Himalayan Balsam.

Created wetland scrapes and buffer zones to filter diffuse pollution and provide habitats for invertebrates and other wildlife, as well as natural flood management.

Established over 13.75 km of natural bank stabilisation and fencing to reduce poaching, eutrophication, and improve water quality.

Began work on our flagship pilot projects including Floating Wetlands, Freshwater Pearl Mussels and Project Torgoch.

Social Media and Reach

We have expanded our online communications. Through creative use of film and animation enabling a wider audience to connect with our work and the wildlife in our rivers. We grew our social media reach with Instagram becoming our most popular model. Our social media reach stands at 23,605 for this period which is an increase of 619.9% on the previous year. Within the same period we had 5,096 returning visitors to our website which has seen an increase of 137%. We have now also implemented a monthly digital newsletter which we expect to grow by 50% in 2024.

Educational Outreach

Our educational outreach has been extensive, involving over 17 schools and educational institutions. During the last year all of our projects have included an education programme. This includes both higher education and primary schools. In addition to 6 higher education seminars. This has resulted in over 730 pupils engaged throughout North Wales. We raised awareness about the ecosystems beneath the water's surface and provided proactive steps for the community to protect our rivers and wildlife. We have also increased our educational materials using animation, webinars and video to share tips and resources with rural communities across the region as well as producing lesson plans and schemes of work for teachers across the region.

Outreach events

Outreach events have been key in the increased reach of the North Wales Rivers Trust. We attended and hosted 21 outreach events that resulted in more than 690 people engaged. Key events included Serendipity2 with over 3300 attendees, and we were asked to be keynote speakers at several high profile events including the RRC conference and LNP conferences.

Citizen Science Project

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

Through our Citizen Science project, we have trained and upskilled dedicated volunteers to monitor invertebrates, chemicals, and other pollutants. Additionally, our volunteers have acquired skills in river habitat surveys, mapping, and monitoring. We were also able to provide accredited training opportunities to volunteers in open water lifeguard certification and secured funding for a series of BSAC snorkel instructor workshops. With both community and educational surveys, we have successfully trained volunteers and conducted 24 habitat surveys across our region aiding our baseline data of key species.

Regional Work

Ynys Mon

We secured funding from Local Nature Partnerships and Ynys Mon council for a Floating Wetland Project. Aimed at studying the impact of biofilm and zooplankton to combat Cyanobacteria. Phase one of the project involved baseline science planning, survey work and design. This resulted in plans for one control lake near RAF Valley, one wetland in Llyn Maelog with farming interventions to support and the other wetland placed in Llyn Coron. The lakes will be physically installed in the summer of 2024. This study is a pilot study to create a scientifically robust understanding of how floating wetlands can help to alleviate cyanobacteria blooms and also serve as a case study for other organisations and scientists across the U.K. The community engagement team worked with ten schools in the region to launch the project and develop a 'Build Your Own Floating Wetland' STEAM activity programme. Allowing pupils to design, engineer and build their own mini classroom wetlands complete with daphnia to monitor and understand the effects of zooplankton on algal blooms. The project also held public meetings, webinars and created opportunities for the local community to proactively monitor the river and collate cyanobacteria levels for our lab analysis. The final project will be complete in March 2025.

The Anglesey AONB Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places (SLSP) initiative is a three year phased programme funded by the Welsh government. The North Wales Rivers Trust (NWRT) project is focused on the Afon Wygyr, Anglesey, and aims to deliver a number of schemes to help improve wildlife habitat and water quality. The Afon Wygyr was chosen as it is impacting on bathing water quality at the Cemaes Bay Bathing Water Zone (BWZ) and is an important river for brown and sea trout (*Salmo trutta*), which are a UK Priority Species (formally UK BAP). An important element of this work will involve close partnership working with landowners, farmers, Natural Resources Wales, Anglesey Council and local community groups and individuals. The manageable size of the Wygyr catchment and the variety of issues provides a good opportunity to develop new tools and techniques, deliver measurable outcomes and provide good practice guidance and examples for use on other, larger catchments across Wales.

Work in 2023 -2024 (Phase Two) focused on Carrog farm and involved substantially widening the existing riparian zone. A mosaic of native deciduous trees (670 in total) were planted by volunteers within the new riparian zone, increasing buffering capacity and providing habitat for terrestrial species and shade over the river. The widened buffer encompassed an existing permissive path, thus separating footpath users from grazing cattle to improve safety for people, dogs, and livestock. In addition, a livestock drinking bay remaining from Phase One was closed.

As part of our Swimways project we also fenced off riverbanks on the Braint that have suffered from extensive cattle poaching and planted a corridor of 800 trees to stabilise the eroding banks and regulate river temperatures. During this period we produced detailed surveys with volunteers and created site plans to strengthen a section of the Braint that has been historically straightened, creating wetland to alleviate flooding and plant trees and plants to connect wildlife corridors. Works for this will begin in 2024.

Gwynedd

In collaboration with the Snowdonia National Park. Prysor and Dolgellau anglers and the local community we have been working on a project focused on the conservation of the Freshwater Pearl Mussels. This project involved training the community to monitor the river, restore habitat and survey key species. The Mawddach steering group also identified critical areas in need of enhancement for salmon and sewin spawning, with a particular focus on the Afon Eden and Afon Wen areas.

In a previous phase, we embarked on a significant initiative to restore the natural balance by removing conifers and spruce, improving pH levels, and installing gravel traps. In the subsequent phase, centered on the Afon Wen, our efforts revolved around eradicating invasive species and creating designs for diverse in-stream habitats through swales, gravels and boulders.

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

We have worked intensively at our second site on the Afon Eden. Identified as a Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC), spanning approximately 4 kilometers. To adhere to permitting, survey, and licensing requirements, the work here was thoughtfully executed in sections. To ensure the preservation of the unique ecosystem, we conducted a series of comprehensive habitat surveys, including freshwater pearl mussel surveys which rely on a good juvenile salmonoid population to complete their lifecycle, to pinpoint crucial areas for restoration works. This meticulous approach allowed us to avoid disturbing key grounds while implementing enhancements to the river's spawning habitats.

To counter cattle-induced poaching, we introduced alternative drinking sources powered by solar pumps and established durable hard-standing areas to reduce trampling. During the summer months, our assessments identified critical spawning areas that had fallen victim to compaction and aggressive vegetation overgrowth. We promptly undertook measures to clear some of this vegetation and, upon closer examination, detected elevated nutrient levels in the water including ammonia and phosphate spikes. We are currently investigating and monitoring levels further as the Bronaber sewage works is situated in this area.

Further enhancing spawning gravels we introduced 100 tons of river-washed gravels into a section previously subjected to dredging, this section is now deemed suitable for fish spawning. In tandem, we manually hand lifted gravels to expand the viable habitat. We reintroduced over 60 dredged boulders to enhance flow variation, scouring, and provide cover for juvenile fish. Over a 3-kilometer stretch, we incorporated wetland scrapes and planting to reduce diffuse pollution. Our commitment also extended to planting over 1000 deciduous trees, which will play a crucial role in curbing aggressive in-river plant growth and maintaining cooler water temperatures and providing river habitat over time.

We are now actively exploring opportunities to implement ditch-blocking measures in drainage ditches entering the river. This initiative aims to mitigate the influx of fine sediment, which has been identified as a significant issue affecting spawning grounds in this specific section.

As part of this project the community engagement officer has been working with the local school children to learn more about the rivers SAC and SSSI protections. This included a field visit to the river to complete invertebrate kick sampling session in the river to study water quality, art lessons, fish life cycle and freshwater pearl mussel studies and developing a Welsh story about the creatures who live in the river with local angler Rhys Llewellyn.

In collaboration with the Seiont, Gwyrfa and Llyfni Angling Society and NRW, we have undertaken a series of strategic interventions aimed at enhancing fisheries habitat, improving water quality and access to crucial spawning areas. One of our key initiatives involved the installation of fencing spanning over 2600 meters of riverbank, effectively deterring trampling from livestock along the riverbank. We also implemented a gravity pump system, alongside troughs and hard standing, to provide livestock with an alternative water source, reducing the risk of trampling and contamination.

To bolster the aquatic ecosystem, we strategically relocated boulders into the channel, thereby creating diverse flow patterns and safe havens for juvenile fish. To further safeguard the river's health, we incorporated live willow bank revetment and brush, serving as protective measure during high flows by absorbing energy and preventing sediment loss into the channel, safeguarding vital spawning grounds.

As part of our ongoing efforts, we completed an additional fencing scheme over the winter on an important spawning tributary, this was complemented by tree planting activities to provide refuge, keep the river temperature cool and provide woody debris into the channel over time for salmonids. Over the summer of 2023 we also produced a series of detailed fish pass designs for man made barriers to fish migration. These will be worked into plans to potentially deliver in 2024.

We also secured funding for our flagship 'Prosiect Torgoch'. This project is funded by the National Heritage Lottery. In Winter 2024 we started our water quality monitoring project at Llyn Cwellyn. WFD data since 2007 show an increasing trend in nutrients and consequent decline in deep water dissolved oxygen. If these trends were to continue then deep-water refugia habitat for Arctic charr may be reduced. In March the University of Liverpool collected a sediment core from the lake bottom which is now being analysed to assess the nutrient history of the lake. In May 2024 a programme of intensive water quality monitoring will begin in the catchment upstream of Llyn Cwellyn. We have agreed with DCWW for continuous water quality monitoring upstream and downstream of the Rhyd ddu WWTW. Antony will also collect regular spot samples of all inflowing rivers using our new water quality monitoring equipment.

The data collected from the surveys will help us understand nutrient sources and prioritise catchment restoration projects to be delivered later in the project.

At Llyn Padarn we have identified a number of options to restore spawning habitat for Arctic charr and preparation is underway for a full report ready for consultation with stakeholders. These projects will be delivered during the in-river season of 2024 and 2025.

Clwyd

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

This year we focused our efforts on the Afon Bach. Currently not achieving good status under the WFD for both fish and invertebrates. We fenced out over 5000m of river bank, creating a connected corridor and riparian buffer strip to filter diffuse pollution. We carried out 8 fencing schemes with a minimum of 2-5m buffer zone from the river bank. This has allowed the over grazed banks to stabilise and the riparian corridor to regenerate and filter out diffuse pollutants.

Small sections of eroded banks were supported with live willow and brush revetments which have allowed for juvenile fish habitat and cover from predation. We have also planted over 500 trees along this section in order to climate proof the rivers and regulate water temperatures for salmonids.

Water quality is a key issue and although we have begun to tackle the agricultural impact we have also created an intensive study on all of the farms in the area to analyse a series of farm management practices and to calculate the potential reductions in ammonia and phosphate being lost to the waterway. Alongside this work we have ascertained the baseline levels of fish species by carrying out Environmental DNA analysis on the Bach which resulted in a return of species that are sensitive to water quality changes such as the bull head.

We combined this with a study on the road run off from the A55. Heavy metals and salinity levels are a potential concern here and we are embarking on a series of baseline tests over the winter. This will form a report on ways to mitigate these losses to the watercourse and groundwaters. On the basis of the results we will then move into phase two where we will look at a series of sustainable drainage interventions, reductions and mitigation techniques in 2024.

Elsewhere in the catchment we have added baffles to a culvert to open up several km of water for fish spawning grounds.

Conwy

In the current year we identified and addressed critical issues in riverbank trampling and the protection of essential spawning grounds. Our focus centered on the region above Llyn Geirionydd, where we undertook substantial measures to tackle these challenges head-on.

We erected a robust 1250-meter-long fence along the riverbank, creating a protective buffer zone spanning 2-5 meters. This proactive approach not only serves to deter cattle from encroaching on the riverbanks but also contributes to mitigating harmful nutrient input. Notably, we've chosen solar-powered arrowhead electric fencing for this stretch, ensuring adaptability to fluctuating river levels. To further strengthen the banks and create an ideal environment for juvenile fish, we introduced willow and alder trees while also helping to maintain cooler water temperatures.

Our commitment extended to smaller yet equally vital enhancements in Llanwrst, including the addition of a V-notch to an existing weir, the installation of step weir baffles, and the creation of wooden easements to facilitate fish passage. Additionally, we've installed an eel pass to enhance migration opportunities for this critically endangered fish.

Looking forward to 2024, we are fully engaged in designing comprehensive plans to expand spawning habitats and enhance overall water quality. Our primary focus for the upcoming year will be on the Lledr, a tributary of paramount importance for spawning, particularly upstream of the Roman bridge.

We have also compiled data on Llanwrst sewage works as the data is showing inconsistencies in outputs and clear breaches of permits- we believe this is having a serious impact on water quality. This will inform a wider series of interventions moving forward.

North Ceredigion/ North Powys

We are pleased to report the successful delivery of a collaborative project with a landowner along the Dyfi tributaries. This initiative involved the installation of 1.5 kilometers of riverbank fencing, complemented by strategic hedgerow planting. These combined efforts will yield significant benefits for fish populations. The fencing and hedgerow planting serve as protective measures to safeguard the riparian zone. In turn, this contributes to the reduction of sedimentation and the stabilization of the riverbanks. As a result, water quality is enhanced, and crucial spawning habitats are preserved.

In addition to these measures, we introduced a wet meadow section into the project. This wet meadow will foster the growth of invertebrates, which are an essential food source for fish. Numerous scientific studies have emphasized the critical role of invertebrates in the aquatic food web, supporting fish growth and survival.

We also planted native deciduous willow and alder species. These trees provide shade, which helps regulate water temperatures, a crucial factor for fish health. They also contribute organic matter to the river, enhancing the overall aquatic ecosystem.

Simultaneously, we conducted a thorough plan to remove a weir in a mining area, which included investigations into mining pollutants affecting the Dyfi tributaries. The insights gleaned from this study will inform our phase two removal plans.

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

In the community of Llanbrynmair, we collaborated to remove a road salt pile that had been polluting the nearby watercourse. Powys Council removed the last of the salt in 2023, and we thank the community for their efforts in alerting us and collating data. We also worked significantly with an angler on this catchment who aided our plans and knowledge of the river system. This allowed us to produce initial plans for a series of pilots on the main stem. However, these were not progressed due to landowner permissions. The team also attended site visits with the Leri Flood Talybont group, looking at potential natural flood management mitigation for future projects.

In 2024, we will install a Lab Dŷr river hub on this section of the river and equip the community with skills and training to monitor the river effectively and pinpoint any issues that need to be addressed. We are also working in partnership with a range of organisations overseen by the Dyfi Biosphere, whom we thank for their time coordinating plans on this catchment

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The North Wales Rivers Trust income this year was £840,026 (2023 £315,389). This reflects the Charity's policy of diversifying funding beyond restricted project funding.

Reserves at the end of the financial year were £504,837 of which £369,704 related to restricted funds.

Reserves policy

The Trustees believe that the Charity should hold financial reserves:

- Because many projects are ongoing into the future;
- To enable the charity to continue operating despite unforeseen setbacks;
- To allow the charity to take advantage of change and opportunities to further its objectives.

The trustees believe that the level of free reserves should be the equivalent of six months' essential operating costs.

The Trustees consider that the charity's finances are sufficient to continue to operate for the foreseeable future and for a period of twelve months from the date of approval of the accounts.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

North Wales Rivers Trust Ltd

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

The charity is governed by the trustees (who are also directors) who ensure that North Wales Rivers Trust is solvent, well-run and delivers its charitable purpose. The trustees lead the charity's strategic direction and delegate day-to-day operational decisions to the operations manager. Board meetings are held every three months. The number of trustees is not less than five and a maximum of fifteen

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits (apart from limited travelling expenses). The North Wales Rivers Trust is a founding member Of Afonydd Cymru, the body representing Welsh Rivers Trust and is an associate member of The Rivers Trust, the parent body of English Rivers Trusts

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Method of appointment or election of trustees

The governing body of the trust is the board of trustees, which comprises up to 11 trustees. Rivers Trust trustees have the right to nominate and appoint up to six Trustees ("Rivers Trustees") and all members have the right to elect up to five trustees ("Elected Trustees") at an AGM pursuant to Articles 21 and 24. All trustees shall be appointed for a 5-year term and are eligible for re appointment for a consecutive 5-year term. There will be no less than three trustees at any one time.

The recruitment of trustees is by communication with the Rivers Trust community and others. Subject to the Articles, selection is based on environmental or specific rivers trust interest, expertise in environmental or other relevant matters, general experience Of charities and integrity, with the over-riding objective of maintaining a broadly representative body, strong on governance and with the ability to add value. The trust has adopted a skills matrix approach to assist in meeting this objective.

Policies adopted for the induction and training of trustees

Newly appointed trustees have access to an on-line reference pack which covers the modus operandi of the trust and includes pertinent information on charities, such as the Charity Commission's The Hallmarks of an Effective Charity (Ccio). The pack is continually updated and provides all trustees with a dynamic support tool. For ongoing training purposes, the board has agreed that the on-line reference pack, presentations etc. and board papers will maintain standards of governance.

Organisational structure and decision-making

The board recognises that as an umbrella organisation representing the Rivers Trust movement there is an obligation on the trust to embrace best governance practice positively. The board meets formally on a quarterly basis, but there is frequent consultation with trustees individual and as groups outside formal meetings. The board has a business, audit and risk committee section, principally to deal with monitoring performance and risk, approving projects and detailed financial matters. This committee is part of the general trustee meetings.

Risk management

A strategic analysis of potential risks to North Wales Rivers Trust is carried out annually. It focusses on:- governance and management; financial; operational; computer system and external factors. Risks are assessed through a scoring system cross-referencing their likelihood with potential impact, to enable issues to be prioritised for action. The highest scoring risks identified in the year were:- insufficient senior capacity to support and implement growth strategies; loss of key staff; lack of long term funding and competition for funding. In each case, measures were identified to reduce the risk to the charity

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

06100324 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1127415

Registered office

Gwel Yr Afon
Llanddoged
Llanrwst
Conwy
LL26 0TY

North Wales Rivers Trust Ltd

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

Trustees

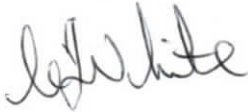
P Ferguson (appointed 4.9.24)
Dr N J Milner (appointed 4.9.24)
R F Thomas
C J White
R White
A J Winston
Dr R Parry (resigned 11.10.23)
I G Roberts (resigned 5.9.23)

Company Secretary

Independent Examiner

A.Hughes-Jones, Dyson & Co.
Capel Moreia
South Penrallt
Caernarfon
Gwynedd
LL55 1NS

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 11th December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



C J White - Trustee

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
North Wales Rivers Trust Ltd**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of North Wales Rivers Trust Ltd ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of 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

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of 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 an independent examination; or
4. 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.



Brian Hughes FCA
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

A.Hughes-Jones, Dyson & Co.
Capel Morcia
South Penrallt
Caernarfon
Gwynedd
LL55 1NS

11th December 2024

North Wales Rivers Trust Ltd

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	18	785,254	785,272	315,389
Other trading activities	3	54,754	-	54,754	-
Total		54,772	785,254	840,026	315,389
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	4				
River Restoration		1,297	413,949	415,246	190,940
Community Education		-	131,389	131,389	-
Total		1,297	545,338	546,635	190,940
NET INCOME					
Transfers between funds	13	53,475 60,189	239,916 (60,189)	293,391 -	124,449 -
Net movement in funds		113,664	179,727	293,391	124,449
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		21,469	189,977	211,446	86,997
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		135,133	369,704	504,837	211,446

The notes form part of these financial statements

North Wales Rivers Trust Ltd

Balance Sheet
31st March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	10	1,582	18,566	20,148	4,536
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	11	-	3,056	3,056	53,114
Cash at bank		133,481	349,903	483,384	156,935
		<u>133,481</u>	<u>352,959</u>	<u>486,440</u>	<u>210,049</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	12	69	(1,820)	(1,751)	(3,139)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>133,550</u>	<u>351,139</u>	<u>484,689</u>	<u>206,910</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>135,132</u>	<u>369,705</u>	<u>504,837</u>	<u>211,446</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>135,132</u>	<u>369,705</u>	<u>504,837</u>	<u>211,446</u>
FUNDS	13				
Unrestricted funds				135,132	21,469
Restricted funds				<u>369,705</u>	<u>189,977</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>504,837</u>	<u>211,446</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st March 2024.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

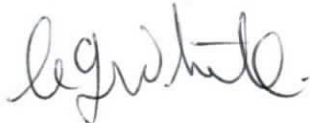
North Wales Rivers Trust Ltd

Balance Sheet - continued

31st March 2024

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 11th December 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C J White', written in a cursive style.

C J White - Trustee

North Wales Rivers Trust Ltd

Cash Flow Statement
for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

	Notes	31.3.24 £	31.3.23 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	I	348,777	38,790
Net cash provided by operating activities		<u>348,777</u>	<u>38,790</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(22,328)	(3,477)
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(22,328)</u>	<u>(3,477)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>326,449</u>	<u>35,313</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		156,935	121,622
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u><u>483,384</u></u>	<u><u>156,935</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement
for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Net income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	293,391	124,449
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	6,716	1,512
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	50,058	(53,114)
Decrease in creditors	(1,388)	(34,057)
Net cash provided by operations	<u>348,777</u>	<u>38,790</u>

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.4.23	Cash flow	At 31.3.24
	£	£	£
Net cash			
Cash at bank	<u>156,935</u>	<u>326,449</u>	<u>483,384</u>
	<u>156,935</u>	<u>326,449</u>	<u>483,384</u>
Total	<u>156,935</u>	<u>326,449</u>	<u>483,384</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery	- 25% on reducing balance
Fixtures and fittings	- 25% on reducing balance
Motor vehicles	- 25% on reducing balance

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds 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 fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Donations	17	5
Grants	785,255	315,384
	785,272	315,389

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Other grants	785,255	315,384

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Consultancy income	54,754	-

4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs	Support costs (see note 5)	Totals
	£	£	£
River Restoration	401,166	14,080	415,246
Community Education	130,007	1,382	131,389
	<u>531,173</u>	<u>15,462</u>	<u>546,635</u>

5. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management	Finance	Human resources
	£	£	£
River Restoration	7,826	65	1,817
Community Education	376	-	540
	<u>8,202</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>2,357</u>

	Other	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£
River Restoration	1,972	2,400	14,080
Community Education	466	-	1,382
	<u>2,438</u>	<u>2,400</u>	<u>15,462</u>

6. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	6,716	1,512

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st March 2024 nor for the year ended 31st March 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31st March 2024 nor for the year ended 31st March 2023.

8. STAFF COSTS

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Wages and salaries	131,679	81,605
	<u>131,679</u>	<u>81,605</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.3.24	31.3.23
Management	1	1
Project	3	2
	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

9. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	<u>71,171</u>	<u>244,218</u>	<u>315,389</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
River Restoration	<u>71,331</u>	<u>119,609</u>	<u>190,940</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(160)	124,609	124,449
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	21,629	65,368	86,997
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>21,469</u>	<u>189,977</u>	<u>211,446</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Totals £
COST				
At 1st April 2023	-	16,175	-	16,175
Additions	10,328	-	12,000	22,328
	<u>10,328</u>	<u>16,175</u>	<u>12,000</u>	<u>38,503</u>
At 31st March 2024	10,328	16,175	12,000	38,503
DEPRECIATION				
At 1st April 2023	-	11,639	-	11,639
Charge for year	2,582	1,134	3,000	6,716
	<u>2,582</u>	<u>12,773</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>18,355</u>
At 31st March 2024	2,582	12,773	3,000	18,355
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31st March 2024	7,746	3,402	9,000	20,148
	<u>7,746</u>	<u>3,402</u>	<u>9,000</u>	<u>20,148</u>
At 31st March 2023	-	4,536	-	4,536
	<u>-</u>	<u>4,536</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,536</u>

11. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
VAT	3,056	-
Prepayments and accrued income	-	53,114
	<u>3,056</u>	<u>53,114</u>

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Social security and other taxes	(649)	-
Accrued expenses	2,400	3,139
	<u>1,751</u>	<u>3,139</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	21,469	53,474	60,189	135,132
Restricted funds				
SAF Grants	170,235	(33,791)	(136,444)	-
Anglesey Council Costal Capacity	11,107	(9,258)	(1,849)	-
National Lottery	8,635	(9,779)	1,144	-
Esmee Fairbairn	-	58,000	-	58,000
WCVA Local Nature partnership	-	59,932	-	59,932
WCVA Challenge Fund	-	174,813	-	174,813
River restoration Fund	-	-	76,960	76,960
	<u>189,977</u>	<u>239,917</u>	<u>(60,189)</u>	<u>369,705</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>211,446</u>	<u>293,391</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>504,837</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	54,772	(1,298)	53,474
Restricted funds			
SAF Grants	195,781	(229,572)	(33,791)
Anglesey Council Costal Capacity	46,010	(55,268)	(9,258)
National Lottery	-	(9,779)	(9,779)
Esmee Fairbairn	58,000	-	58,000
WCVA Local Nature partnership	310,650	(250,718)	59,932
WCVA Challenge Fund	174,813	-	174,813
	<u>785,254</u>	<u>(545,337)</u>	<u>239,917</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>840,026</u>	<u>(546,635)</u>	<u>293,391</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

13. **MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	21,629	(160)	21,469
Restricted funds			
SAF Grants	65,368	104,867	170,235
Anglesey Council Costal Capacity	-	11,107	11,107
National Lottery	-	8,635	8,635
	<u>65,368</u>	<u>124,609</u>	<u>189,977</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>86,997</u>	<u>124,449</u>	<u>211,446</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	71,171	(71,331)	(160)
Restricted funds			
SAF Grants	212,918	(108,051)	104,867
Anglesey Council Costal Capacity	21,500	(10,393)	11,107
National Lottery	9,800	(1,165)	8,635
	<u>244,218</u>	<u>(119,609)</u>	<u>124,609</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>315,389</u>	<u>(190,940)</u>	<u>124,449</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	21,629	53,314	60,189	135,132
Restricted funds				
SAF Grants	65,368	71,076	(136,444)	-
Anglesey Council Costal Capacity	-	1,849	(1,849)	-
National Lottery	-	(1,144)	1,144	-
Esmee Fairbairn	-	58,000	-	58,000
WCVA Local Nature partnership	-	59,932	-	59,932
WCVA Challenge Fund	-	174,813	-	174,813
River restoration Fund	-	-	76,960	76,960
	<u>65,368</u>	<u>364,526</u>	<u>(60,189)</u>	<u>369,705</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>86,997</u>	<u>417,840</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>504,837</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	125,943	(72,629)	53,314
Restricted funds			
SAF Grants	408,699	(337,623)	71,076
Anglesey Council Costal Capacity	67,510	(65,661)	1,849
National Lottery	9,800	(10,944)	(1,144)
Esmee Fairbairn	58,000	-	58,000
WCVA Local Nature partnership	310,650	(250,718)	59,932
WCVA Challenge Fund	174,813	-	174,813
	<u>1,029,472</u>	<u>(664,946)</u>	<u>364,526</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,155,415</u>	<u>(737,575)</u>	<u>417,840</u>

14. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31st March 2024.

North Wales Rivers Trust Ltd

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

	31.3.24 £	31.3.23 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	17	5
Grants	<u>785,255</u>	<u>315,384</u>
	785,272	315,389
Other trading activities		
Consultancy income	<u>54,754</u>	<u>-</u>
Total incoming resources	840,026	315,389
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Wages	131,679	81,605
River Restoration costs	295,762	87,647
Community education costs	87,405	-
Van expenses	3,247	-
Event costs	-	2,645
PPE costs	-	2,086
Travel expenses	7,498	5,006
Plant and machinery	2,582	-
Motor vehicles	<u>3,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	531,173	178,989
Support costs		
Management		
Office rent and venue hire	2,724	1,374
Insurance	1,263	626
Postage and stationery	162	305
Advertising	-	1,939
Sundries	419	247
Afonydd Cymru fees	2,500	2,500
Fixtures and fittings	<u>1,134</u>	<u>1,512</u>
	8,202	8,503
Finance		
Bank charges	65	60
Human resources		
Staff training	2,357	447
Other		
Computer software costs	2,438	301

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

North Wales Rivers Trust Ltd

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

	31.3.24 £	31.3.23 £
Other		
Governance costs		
Accountancy fees	2,400	2,640
Total resources expended	546,635	190,940
Net income	293,391	124,449

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements