



WEST CUMBRIA
**RIVERS
TRUST**



**Accounts and Annual Report
2024 - 2025**



Welcome

Chairs report

I am proud to offer the annual report for West Cumbria Rivers Trust for 2024/2025. This is a new style of report for us; you will first see what an incredible year we've had in our 'year in numbers', followed by seven of our main projects. None of these initiatives would be possible without our partners and funders who are listed on the final page.

Our Annual Report and Financial Statements follow on pages 12 to 43 with our Trustees' report and a list of all the Trusts current projects. If you would like to contact us with any queries, or simply find out more about what we do, please turn to the back page.

You will see from the following pages that the Trust continues to go from strength to strength, delivering its aim of restoring and enhancing our rivers and catchments for the benefit of people and wildlife, with our ultimate goal to provide healthy rivers enjoyed by all.

This would not be possible without a strong, dedicated and passionate team of staff, volunteers and trustees, and is being done in an increasingly difficult climate, both environmentally and financially.

We are extremely grateful to our vast network of sponsors, funders and partners across the community, without whom the fantastic work of the Trust would not be possible.

The Trust currently remains in a healthy position and we will continue to improve our resilience through strengthened governance and wider collaboration through the coming year.

Many thanks to all who have contributed to another successful year.

Trish Dunlop

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Members of the board and Professional advice

The Board of Trustees'

Mr D J Magrath
Mr M Hastings
Mrs P Dunlop
Mr R Hayman
Mr M Buckley (Resigned September 16th, 2024)
Ms A R G McCooey
Mr I M Payne (Resigned April 22nd, 2024)
Mrs J E Saxon (Resigned August 20th, 2025)
Ms H Baker
Mr J Turner (Appointed 9th June 2025)

Company Secretary

Miss Jodie Mills

Trust Operations Director (Senior Management)

Miss Jodie Mills

Auditors

Saint & Co
Wavell Drive
Rosehill
Carlisle
CA1 2SA

Bankers

Handelsbanken
1 Merchants Drive
Parkhouse
Carlisle
CA3 0JW



2024 in numbers

Farming

29 farms worked on
164 farmers engaged with
97 advice visits given to farmers

Biodiversity

4.3km of bankside fencing
2.4km river restoration
981m hedge planted
46Ha invasive species treated
51 tree cages built in fields

28Ha of trees planted
5 barriers to fish passage eased
12 new ponds & 11 scrapes created
1 ford replaced with a bridge

Engagement

129 volunteers clocking 5127 hours
56 community events
817 people taking part
273 people attended 13 adult education workshop
10 new riverside trails - 'Watery Walks'

Education

482 school children from 24 schools worked with
369 children attended forest school

Monitoring

40km of river & 2000Ha land surveyed
271 sites surveyed for fish pollution
15km surveyed for invasive species

Watery Walks

Forest School

World-class recognition for river restoration

Our work through Cumbria's River Restoration Strategy received international recognition this year, reaching the finals of the Thiess International River Prize. This prestigious accolade places our efforts alongside some of the world's most high-profile river restoration projects, reflecting the strength of our partnerships and the impact of our long-term approach. Congratulations go to this year's winners, the Chicago River.

Our Assistant Director, Luke Bryant, who leads our restoration work with partners across Cumbria, has spoken to the media about this achievement, highlighting both the progress made and the challenges ahead.

However, the fragile state of river restoration funding remains a concern. Without sustained investment, projects like these – and the benefits they bring to people, wildlife and communities – are at risk.

We continue to support The Rivers Trust's national *Make Space for Water* campaign, which calls for more room around rivers to build resilience for the future.



Don't Pack a Pest – protecting our lakes

In partnership with South Cumbria (SCRT) and Eden Rivers Trust (ERT), we launched *Don't Pack a Pest* during the summer, a one-year campaign to raise awareness of invasive non-native species (INNS) in Cumbria's lakes and help encourage people to reduce their impact.

The campaign has used a range of visual and digital materials, including images, videos, designs and print, to communicate the importance of preventing the spread of INNS. The team also collaborated with Instagram influencer Jo Moseley to increase engagement and reach a wider audience.

INNS are a significant but often overlooked threat to lake wildlife. Their impact can be as severe as a natural disaster. The campaign emphasises the simple but effective Check, Clean, Dry approach to protecting our lakes.

While the evaluation is not yet complete, early indications show that the team have exceeded their reach targets, demonstrating the campaign's strong initial impact and the potential for longer-term success.



Turning school playgrounds into green havens

This year we successfully completed our Greener Grounds pilot project, transforming four school grounds across West Cumbria into vibrant, biodiverse, flood-resilient outdoor spaces.

The results have been outstanding: increased wildlife, Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) systems that have significantly reduced flooding on previously vulnerable grounds, and vibrant, inspiring spaces that children, staff, and local communities take pride in. Each project was delivered with active engagement from pupils, teachers, and the wider community, fostering a sense of ownership and connection to the new green spaces.

Beyond creating beautiful outdoor areas, the project has established full management plans to ensure these spaces remain thriving, well-maintained, and impactful for years to come. The success of the pilot has been recognised through a national charity award submission.

Building on this momentum, we launched phase two in September, working with two more schools, with a further school planned for next summer, continuing to create spaces that support wildlife, learning, and community pride.



A brighter future for freshwater pearl mussels

Freshwater pearl mussels are among the UK's rarest species, and we are committed to securing their future in the Rivers Irt and Ehen.

Over the past year, our work has delivered significant results: releasing almost 2,500 captive-bred mussels, restoring 16.5 km of river, creating or improving 12.4 hectares of habitat, installing 12 large woody debris structures, building 3 ponds, removing 5 barriers, and replacing a ford with a bridge.

This summer, our partners at the Freshwater Biological Association reached a major milestone, releasing their 5,000th juvenile mussel, many of which now thrive in the Irt and Ehen. These achievements represent important steps toward a sustainable future for this rare and iconic species.



New ponds for Newlands

Three new ponds have been created at Low Skelgill Farm in the Newlands Valley to boost wildlife and improve resilience to flooding and drought. The project was delivered in partnership with the Woodland Trust, the National Trust and landowners Rick and Sonja Cooper, who have been transforming their farm to work in harmony with nature.

The new ponds build on earlier efforts, including tree planting, edible hedgerows and wildlife-friendly grazing. The Coopers' first pond, created in 2022, quickly attracted damselflies, reed warblers, grebes and thousands of tadpoles – a clear sign of how rapidly nature responds when land is made more water-friendly.

Further down the valley at Rowling End, four additional ponds have been created. Over the winter, the site will be planted with wood pasture and edible hedgerows, then grazed by the Coopers' cattle.



A wilder future for Walkmill Community Woodland

Over the past two years, our £1.9 million National Heritage Funded project Walkmill Community Woodland has become an increasingly vibrant space for both wildlife and the local community. Regular community activities and family drop-in days have proved very popular, while a Friends of Walkmill group is developing to take on ongoing site management after the project ends.

The team is also delivering an impressive interpretation plan, with waymarking and information throughout the site to help visitors connect with its wildlife, heritage and natural features. These efforts will help transform Walkmill into a thriving, accessible haven for people and nature alike.



Landmark step for catchment-wide restoration

Our hugely ambitious Defra Landscape Recovery Round 2 Pilot project, Resilient Glenderamackin, has reached a major milestone. At the end of June, the team submitted six detailed plans to Defra for review, comprising over 100,000 words.

Aiming to reduce flood risk to Keswick while delivering nature-based solutions for wildlife, farming, and communities, the project has attracted significant national interest and represents one of the largest blended finance nature restoration programmes in England.

Over the summer, the team have been responding to clarification questions from Defra. We now wait to see whether the project will be given the green light to move forward.



Annual report and financial statement

Trustees annual report YEAR ENDED 31 March 2025

The Trustees (who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act) are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statements of West Cumbria Rivers Trust Limited (the company) for the year ended 31 March 2025. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the company's governing document and are in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Structure, governance and management

CONSTITUTION

The company is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 15/09/2009, originally as Derwent Rivers Trust Limited, changing its name to West Cumbria Rivers Trust Limited on 23/09/2011. Registered charity number 1142396.

METHOD OF APPOINTMENT OR ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

The management of the charitable company is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association. All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charitable company. Any expense reclaimed from the charitable company is detailed in the accounts.

The Trustees have attempted to ensure that the board of Trustees represent as wide a cross section of the local community as possible and that the Trustees have appropriate experience to assist the charitable company with its objectives. Traditional business skills as well as environmental skills are well represented within the board of Trustees. The Trustees and the chairman have worked hard this year to set up subgroups to ensure the effective running of the charity. The three new sub-committees which have been formed will oversee Finance, Governance and Communication & HR.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND DECISION MAKING

Trustee induction and training

Most Trustees are already familiar with the practical work of the charitable company before becoming Trustees. Aspirant Trustees are required to attend three board meetings to confirm their willingness to serve before a decision on them becoming a Trustee is taken by the existing Trustees, if the aspirant Trustee is still willing to stand.

Organisational structure

The Board of Trustees meet regularly (targeted to be around every 6 – 8 weeks) with the Trust's Operations Director and are responsible for the strategic direction and policies of the charitable company. Site visits and talks by staff have continued this year and are a great way for the Trustees to see and hear about all the fantastic work being carried out on the ground.

The staff team within the charitable company comprises the Operations Director plus two Assistant Directors (who make up the Senior Management Team – SMT) and due to expansion to 29 staff we now have a second tier of management – the General Management Team – GMT. Staff turnover remains incredibly low which is an aspect the Trust prides itself on. There have been only three resignations from the team in the year.

There have been three Trustee resignations and one appointment, taking the current total to seven serving Trustees. The yearly skills audit has given us a focus for recruitment of a new Trustee from the education sector.

Governance

The Trustees follow the Charity Commission's Good Governance guidelines and the Essential Trustee and carry out regular governance reviews following WCRT's Governance Action Plan. This covers Diversity and Effectiveness, Decision Making and Control and Stakeholder Mapping. The 'Trustee Chatter' WhatsApp group continues to be well used and a more informal way of keeping regular contact or enabling a quick decision should something urgent come about. The Trustees also communicate via email between meetings.

Related Parties

Insofar as it is complementary to the charitable company's objectives, the charitable company is guided by local and national policy.

Our charitable objectives

Our objects, as set out in our governing document are:

To conserve, protect, rehabilitate and improve the rivers, streams, water courses and water impoundments which form part of the catchments of the rivers Calder, Derwent, Ellen, Ehen, Esk (Cumbrian not Border), Irt and Mite and Waver and Wampool, all in Cumbria (including without limitation the following lakes: Derwent Water, Bassenthwaite Lake, Thirlmere, Crummock Water, Buttermere, Loweswater, Ennerdale and Wast Water) and including the estuaries of all such rivers and the adjacent estuarine and coastal areas thereto and to do likewise with regard to such other rivers catchments in the geographical area currently constituted by the county of Cumbria as determined from time to time by the Trustees for the advancement of environmental protection or improvement for the benefit of the public.

To advance the education of the public with regard to their understanding of rivers, river corridors and catchments including their flora and fauna and also with regard to the need for, and the benefits of, conservation, protection, rehabilitation and improvement of aquatic environments.

The Trust has also agreed the following mission statement:

“West Cumbria Rivers Trust restores and enhances rivers, lakes, estuaries and the surrounding countryside, for the benefit of both people and wildlife”.

The Trust's objectives and goals as set out in the Strategic Business Plan 'Healthy Rivers For All' 2023 - 2028.

West Cumbria Rivers Trust has a crucial role to play in raising awareness and increasing understanding of West Cumbria's rivers and lakes. We do this by connecting with people locally to make a positive difference to the health of rivers, lakes, people and wildlife and by following the Trust's strategic aims and objectives:

Aim 1

Improve and protect

Conserve, restore and enhance rivers and catchments to improve and protect the natural environment.

Aim 2

Connect, engage and educate

Engage stakeholders and communities to inspire enthusiasm and commitment to deliver positive proactive change to improve our natural environment.

Aim 3

Growth and resilience

Supporting sustained financial security that enables our vision by developing a robust and diverse network of corporate sponsors, donors and individual supporters.

Aim 4

Enhanced reputation

Build on our track record of delivering successful projects, where stakeholder needs are respected and outputs clearly measured, by being a trusted partner among funding organisations, communities, and businesses.

Ensuring the work delivers the aims

There are a number of objectives that sit beneath the aims in an operational plan that will be reviewed by the Trustees at the AGM. Trustees look at what has been achieved and the outcomes of the work in the previous 12 months and at the success of each key activity and the key benefits they have brought. The review also helps to ensure the aims, objectives and activities remain focused on the stated purposes.

Public benefit

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit in reviewing the charitable company's aims and objectives and in planning future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider that planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set. The Trustees confirm that public benefit has been provided by the advancement of environmental protection or improvement.



Overview

The charity has had another impactful year to restore and enhance our rivers and lakes.

Financial position in 2024/25

Total income: £2,487,258

Total expenditure: £2,295,135

Total funds: £1,475,275

The results for the year ended 31st March 2025 show a net movement of funds of £192,123 (2024: £136,346). This breaks down into a net movement of £50,146 surplus (2024: (£9,477) deficit) on unrestricted funds and a £141,977 surplus (2024: £145,823 surplus) on restricted funds. The restricted funds surplus represents funds received for ongoing projects that will be spent in 2025-26. The unrestricted funds are held in accordance with our Reserves Policy.

Funding for our various projects continues to see a growing trend enabling the completion of more work each year. The number of projects continues to grow with 40 this year (2024: 35) which coincides with a growth in staff numbers, 30 (2024: 25) to deliver these projects.

Our net assets are £1,475,275 (2024: £1,283,152) with net current assets at £1,420,807 (2024: £1,213,206). The increase year on year reflects an increase in our bank balance of some £426,000 and an increase in creditors of £16,000 and a reduction in debtors & grants due of £202,000.

The Trust continues to increase the reach and variety of work into all areas of the catchments under our remit.

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Trustees conduct a regular review of the major risks to which the charitable company is exposed through its Risk Register. Risks are reviewed at each board meeting, and agreed actions recorded. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the Trust faces. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff and volunteers and Croners have been commissioned to advise on all our health and safety needs, alongside our HR requirements. The Trust carries appropriate employers' and public liability insurance as well as professional indemnity insurance at an appropriate level and directors and officer's insurance. The board is committed to a culture of continuous improvement in governance, with policy review as a rolling agenda item.

Remuneration policy for key management personnel

All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustees received remuneration in the year.

We have reviewed The Trusts pay policy and updated Personal Development Reviews on which pay is automatically increased to the next scale and the average inflation, using guidance from the Rivers Trust pay policy, provided the charity has sufficient funds to do so.

GOING CONCERN

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis for preparing the financial statements.

RESERVES POLICY

The Trustees have examined the Trust's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. The Trustees consider that the practises adopted by the Board and the Senior Management Team in planning and evaluating ongoing operational and financial performance are appropriate for monitoring and maintaining the Reserves Policy.

The Trust has a comparatively low level of unrestricted funds as most of the funds it receives are to be spent on specific projects. Unrestricted funds at 31 March 2025 were £217,351 (2024: £167,205) and Restricted funds were £1,257,924 (2024: £1,115,947) total reserves are £1,475,275 (2024: £1,283,152). The strategy of The Trust is to build our unrestricted funds undertaking an increasing amount of consultancy work to fund the increases in unrestricted costs and maintain our unrestricted funds.

Unrestricted reserves comprise an amount of funds sufficient to cover the salary costs of staff for the short term if the Trust cannot secure adequate funding to keep all staff fully employed. The amount is calculated based on the turnover of the Trust, the likelihood of part of the Trusts funding not being forthcoming and the costs of wages and attributed overhead that might attach to such an occurrence.

The Trust also recognises that in any year there may be an excess of general overhead costs not covered by restricted income and an amount is also set aside to cover this eventuality.

In both instances a method to calculate the amount of funds needed for the current and future years is used and the amount is reviewed annually.

Using this calculation for 2024/25 the Trust estimates that the unrestricted reserves held of £217,351 are acceptable.

INVESTMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

Aside from retaining a prudent amount in reserves each year, most of the charitable company's funds are restricted funds to be spent in the short term on specific projects and so there are few funds available for long term investment. To take advantage of the current higher interest rates the Trustees have decided to place some funds into short to medium term higher interest accounts with our current bankers and are looking to spread to other banking institutions. The Trustees have developed an investment policy to reflect these actions.

Trustees responsibilities in relation to financial statements

The Trustees (who are also directors of West Cumbria Rivers Trust Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and accounting 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 the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and 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 irregularities.

Each of the persons who is a Trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a Trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

The auditor is deemed to have been re-appointed in accordance with section 487 of the Companies Act 2006.

In preparing this report, the Trustees have taken advantage of the small companies exemptions provided by section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 20th October 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Trish Dunlop
Trustee

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT to the trustees of WCRT

We have audited the financial statements of West Cumbria Rivers Trust Limited (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account), balance sheet, cash flow statement and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

The extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with Trustees and other management;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charity;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud;

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in the accounting policies were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with the Charity Commission.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's Trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Saint & Co is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Saint & Co
Chartered Accountants & statutory auditor

Sterling House Chartered Accountants & statutory auditor
Wavell Drive, Rosehill
Carlisle, Cumbria
CA1 2SA

14 November 2025

Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Activities including Income & Expenditure Account year ended 31 March 2025

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
	Note				
INCOME					
Donations	2	6,393	2,150	8,543	15,279
Income from charitable activities	3	-	2,424,544	2,424,544	1,337,829
Income from other trading activities	3	35,538	-	35,538	58,846
Bank interest	4	18,633	-	18,633	9,930
TOTAL INCOME		60,564	2,426,694	2,487,258	1,421,884
EXPENDITURE					
Expenditure on raising funds		300	-	300	150
Expenditure on charitable activities	8 & 9	30,037	2,264,179	2,294,216	1,281,257
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		30,337	2,264,179	2,294,516	1,281,407
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR BEFORE TRANSFERS		30,227	162,515	192,742	140,477
Transfers between funds	15	20,538	(20,538)	-	-
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)					
Foreign exchange (loss)		(619)	-	(619)	(4,131)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		50,146	141,977	192,123	136,346
Total funds brought forward		167,205	1,115,947	1,283,152	1,146,806
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	15	217,351	1,257,924	1,475,275	1,283,152

The notes on the following pages form part of these financial statements.

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2025

		2025		2024
	Note	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible assets	12		54,468	69,946
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	13	392,548		594,295
		1,194,517		768,498
Cash at bank		1,587,065		1,362,793
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	14	(166,258)		(149,587)
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			1,420,807	1,213,206
NET ASSETS			1,475,275	1,283,152
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY				
Restricted Funds	15		1,257,924	1,115,947
Unrestricted Funds	15		217,351	167,205
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			1,475,275	1,283,152

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2025, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 20th October 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:



Trish Dunlop
Trustee

The notes on the following pages form part of these financial statements.

Cash flow statements year ended 31st March 2025

	Note	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by operating activities	19	441,069	93,954
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(14,431)	(38,088)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		(14,431)	(38,088)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		426,638	55,866
Change in cash and cash equivalents due to exchange rate movement		(619)	(4,131)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		768,498	716,763
Change in cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		1,194,517	768,498

The notes on the following pages form part of these financial statements.

The notes on the following pages form part of these financial statements.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

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 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

West Cumbria Rivers Trust 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.

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern.

1.2 Company status

The charitable company is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in England and Wales. The members of the charitable company are the Trustees named on page 3. In the event of the charitable company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charitable company.

1.3 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Significant judgements

The Trustees consider there were no significant judgements made in preparing the financial statements.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Accounting estimates and assumptions are made concerning the future and, by their nature, will rarely equal the related actual outcome. The Trustees consider there are no key sources of estimation uncertainty.

1.4 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Trust and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors, or which have been raised by the Trust for specific purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged to the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

1.5 Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the Trust has entitlement to the funds, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the Trust being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received.

Income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable, and its amount can be measured reliably.

Income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated

resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is received.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

1.6 Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expenses categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities, they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the Trust. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with the administration of the Trust and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.7 Fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Plant and machinery	20% straight line
Office Equipment	20% straight line
Motor vehicles	straight line over 4 years

Assets under £1,000 are not capitalised.

1.8 Debtors and prepayments

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.9 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1.10 Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

1.11 Taxation

The Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

Accordingly, the Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

1.12 Government Grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are not recognised until there is reasonable assurance that the charity will comply with the conditions attaching to them and the grants will be received.

Where the grant does not impose specified future performance-related conditions on the recipient, it is recognised in income when the grant proceeds are received or receivable. Where the grant does impose specified future performance-related conditions on the recipient, it is recognised in income only when the performance related conditions have been met. Where grants received are prior to satisfying the revenue recognition criteria, they are recognised as a liability.

1.13 Public Benefit Entity Concessionary Loans

Public benefit entity concessionary loans shall initially be measured at the amount received and recognised in the statement of financial position. In subsequent years, the carrying amount of concessionary loans in the financial statements shall be adjusted to reflect any accrued interest payable.

Notes to the financial statements

2 Voluntary income – current year

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Donations	5,718	2,150	7,868
River Giver donations	675	-	675
	6,393	2,150	8,543

Voluntary income – prior year

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations	8,337	6,700	15,037
River Giver donations	242	-	242
	8,579	6,700	15,279

3 Income from charitable activities – current year

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
River Projects	-	2,424,544	2,424,544

Income from charitable activities – prior year

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
River Projects	-	1,337,829	1,337,829

INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES – CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Fund Raising Activities	820	-	820
Management & Contract Fee Income	34,718	-	34,718
	35,538	-	35,538

INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES – PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Fund Raising Activities	902	-	902
Management & Contract Fee Income	57,944	-	57,944
	58,846	-	58,846

GRANT FUNDERS

	Current Year 2025			Prior Year 2024		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Cumbria Community Foundation	-	15,673	15,673	-	16,179	16,179
Cumberland Council	-	66,792	66,792	-	8,500	8,500
Cumbria Youth Alliance	-	-	-	-	400	400
Environment Agency	-	601,054	601,054	-	314,241	314,241
Esmee Fairburn	-	-	-	-	40,977	40,977
FiPL Lake District Nat Park	-	88,201	88,201	-	154,001	154,001
Forestry Commission	-	8,895	8,895	-	2,800	2,800
Francis Scott	-	12,400	12,400	-	11,500	11,500
Hadfield Trust	-	2,000	2,000	-	-	-
Heritage Lottery Fund	-	548,901	548,901	-	178,099	178,099
LifelP	-	-	-	-	28,040	28,040
Natural England	-	69,013	69,013	-	102,162	102,162
National Trust	-	21,119	21,119	-	33,120	33,120
NEIRF Environment Agency	-	340,288	340,288	-	23,364	23,364
Sainsburys	-	43,000	43,000	-	-	-
Sellafield	-	154,549	154,549	-	154,549	154,549
Small Grants	-	190	190	-	2,530	2,530
The Rivers Trust	-	19,001	19,001	-	17,000	17,000
UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology	-	9,486	9,486	-	4,156	4,156
United Utilities	-	204,062	204,062	-	204,983	204,983
Voluntary Action Cumbria	-	1,250	1,250	-	1,250	1,250
W4W	-	18,473	18,473	-	18,578	18,578
WEIFF	-	85,000	85,000	-	20,000	20,000
West Lakes CIC	-	39,500	39,500	-	1,400	1,400
Westmorland Council	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	-
Woodland Trust	-	5,557	5,557	-	-	-
WRAP	-	60,140	60,140	-	-	-
		2,424,544	2,424,544		1,337,829	1,337,829

Principal funding sources

DEFRA continues to be a major funder through government bodies including the Environment Agency in the form of charitable grants to undertake work within catchments to deliver the Resilient Glenderamackin Project, practical river restoration projects, natural flood management (NFM) work, engagement with farmers and tree planting support through the Woodlands for Water Programme (W4W). The Mink Free/Water Vole Reintroduction programme is also funded mainly by EA with funds also from the Forestry Commission. The Rural Payments Agency also manage the Water Restoration Fund for Lakes biosecurity area project for invasive species work across Cumbria and the Cocker Discovery project along with funding for the Cocker facilitation fund. The Environment Agency also continue to fund our Catchment Partnership work

Our focus on engaging people with nature continues particularly on the west coast with funding sources continuing from The National Lottery Heritage Fund which has funded our 'A Wilder Walkmill' project and our 'People on the Keekle' project funded by the Sellafield Six. These projects also contribute to our other charitable aims with river restoration projects embedded within. The National Trust Species Survival Fund has funded more education work, WCRT's Youth Panel, Riverfly and some invasive species work on the Derwent catchment.

United Utilities is still a major partner from the business sector, funding projects which currently require the services of three full time posts to carry out habitat improvements and projects to reduce diffuse water pollution, which assist with the delivery of their business objectives. The particular emphasis for their work is around the compensatory measures project and the critically endangered freshwater pearl mussels and St. Johns Beck. They also fund the Better Rivers Better Northwest project on the Waver Wampool.

Other grants have been received from WRAP, WEIF, FIPL, Cumbria Community Foundation, Francis Scott Charitable Trust and Cumberland UKSPF, Woodland Trust, Natural England, potato pot foundation and Walney Extension Community grants fund.

Commercial work - The Trust has also been delivering invoiced consultancy work for contractors and consultants to deliver fish rescues, electro-fishing and walkover surveys and is investigating ways to officially start a consultancy arm.

4. INVESTMENT INCOME - CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Bank Interest	18,633	-	18,633

INVESTMENT INCOME – PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Bank Interest	9,930	-	9,930

5. DIRECT COSTS

	Current Year 2025		Prior Year 2024	
	River Projects £	Total 2025 £	River Projects £	Total 2024 £
Advertising & Marketing	6,217	6,217	7,320	7,320
Computer/Website	16,080	16,080	28,032	28,032
Depreciation	29,909	29,909	28,765	28,765
Electric and Gas	3,127	3,127	2,040	2,040
Farmer Grants	31,657	31,657	17,909	17,909
HR Consultants	2,441	2,441	1,972	1,972
Health & Safety Consultants	2,479	2,479	1,446	1,446
Insurance	11,206	11,206	9,551	9,551
Legal and professional	11,441	11,441	12,614	12,614
Office costs	2,264	2,264	2,164	2,164
Project purchases	1,055,554	1,055,554	393,313	393,313
Printing, postage and stationery	4,071	4,071	2,655	2,655
Protective clothing	8,889	8,889	7,222	7,222
Rent and Rates	29,776	29,776	24,545	24,545
Repairs and maintenance	1,044	1,044	469	469
Staff costs - sundry	7,044	7,044	7,999	7,999
Sundry expenses	4,880	4,880	6,420	6,420
Training	26,369	26,369	12,157	12,157
Travel cost	34,089	34,089	23,157	23,157
Telephone	8,944	8,944	7,370	7,370
Wages & salaries, pension and National Insurance	991,113	991,113	678,726	678,726
	2,288,594	2,288,594	1,275,846	1,275,846

6. GOVERNANCE COSTS – CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Accountancy Fees	1,500	-	1,500
Auditor's Remuneration	3,166	-	3,166
Legal and professional	69	-	69
	4,735	-	4,735

GOVERNANCE COSTS – PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Accountancy Fees	1,500	-	1,500
Auditor's Remuneration	2,997	-	2,997
Legal and professional	48	-	48
	4,545	-	4,545

7. SUPPORT COSTS – CURRENT YEAR

	River Projects £	Total 2025 £
Bank Charges	887	887

SUPPORT COSTS – PRIOR YEAR

	River Projects £	Total 2024 £
Bank Charges	866	866

8. ANALYSIS OF RESOURCES EXPENDED BY EXPENDITURE TYPE – CURRENT YEAR

	Staff Costs £	Depreciation £	Other Costs £	Total 2025 £
River Projects	991,113	29,909	1,268,459	2,289,481
Governance	-	-	4,735	4,735
	911,113	29,909	1,273,194	2,294,216

ANALYSIS OF RESOURCES EXPENDED BY EXPENDITURE TYPE – PRIOR YEAR

	Staff Costs £	Depreciation £	Other Costs £	Total 2024 £
River Projects	678,726	28,765	569,221	1,276,712
Governance	-	-	4,545	4,545
	678,726	28,765	573,766	1,281,257

9. ANALYSIS OF RESOURCES EXPENDED BY ACTIVITIES – CURRENT YEAR

	Activities Undertaken Directly £	Support Cost £	Total 2025 £
River Projects	2,261,672	887	2,262,559
Grants to Farmers	31,657	-	31,657
River Projects	2,293,329	887	2,294,216

ANALYSIS OF RESOURCES EXPENDED BY ACTIVITIES – PRIOR YEAR

	Activities Undertaken Directly £	Support Cost £	Total 2024 £
River Projects	1,262,482	866	1,263,348
Grants to Farmers	17,909	-	17,909
River Projects	1,280,391	866	1,281,257

10. NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES

This is stated after charging:		
	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation	29,909	28,765
Auditors	3,166	2,997

11. STAFF COSTS

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	847,285	579,725
Employers national insurance	77,926	52,341
Employer Pension Contribution	65,902	46,660
	911,113	678,726

No employees received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

No remuneration was paid to any Trustee in respect of their position as Trustee. No expenses were paid to Trustees in either year.

The charity has purchased insurance to protect Trustees from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on charity business. The cost for the year ended 31st March 2025 was £2,290 (2024 - £2,290). The cost of this insurance is included in direct costs. The Trustee's liability insurance is capped at £5,000,000.

The key management personnel of the Trust, comprise the Trustees and the Trust's Operations Director. The total employee benefit of key management personnel of the Trust was £62,709 (2024 £57,737). The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2025 No	2024 No
Management	1	1
Project staff	24	22
Administration staff	2	2
	27	25

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Motor Vehicle £	Plant and Machinery £	Office Equipment £	Total £
COST				
At 1 April 2024	95,510	130,526	3,369	229,405
Additions	11,798	2,633	-	14,431
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025	107,308	133,159	3,369	243,836
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 April 2024	61,117	96,126	2,216	159,459
Charge for year	15,090	14,435	384	29,909
On disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025	76,207	110,561	2,600	189,368
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 March 2025	31,101	22,598	769	54,468
At 31 March 2024	34,393	34,400	1,153	69,946

13. DEBTORS

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade Debtors	112,768	195,136
Sundry Debtors	4,220	2,037
Grants Due	264,400	386,763
Prepayments	11,160	10,359
	392,548	594,295

14. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	124,023	47,634
Other taxation and social security	19,051	14,741
Other creditors	18,434	83,770
Accruals and deferred income	4,750	3,442
	166,258	149,587

Notes to the financial statements

15. STATEMENT OF FUNDS – CURRENT YEAR

	Balance at 01 Apr 24 £	Movement in resources		Transfers £	Balance at 31 Mar 25 £
		Incoming £	Outgoing £		
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	167,205	60,564	30,956	20,538	217,351
Total unrestricted funds	167,205	60,564	30,956	-	217,351
Restricted funds					
Annas Catchment	2,983	-	1,468	-	1,515
Bathing Waters	333	-	442	109	-
Catchment Partnership	70,158	42,500	53,420	-	59,238
Coast to Coast	7,270	12,340	12,505	(863)	6,242
Cocker Facilitation Fund	1,421	19,439	19,938	-	922
Cocker NFM	53,115	43,000	52,353	13,000	56,762
Cocker WEG	4,992	-	-	-	4,992
Compensatory Measures-River Ehen	67,651	82,760	26,784	(5,066)	118,561
CPAF	53,500	68,109	87,055	-	34,554
Cumbria People & Nature	5,138	8,500	11,332	-	2,306
Electrofishing Surveys	8,077	9,300	20,854	7,000	3,523
Ennerdale Mill Dam	10,000	-	-	(10,000)	-
FiPL Glenderamackin	(1,897)	88,202	75,750	-	10,555
Flimby	11,380	-	2,075	-	9,305
GDF ReBIRTH	921	-	857	-	64
Glenderamackin NFM	22,663	-	5,005	-	17,658
IRT High Ecological Status	29,978	-	18,363	15,000	26,615
Invasive Species	13,677	33,008	35,664	16,464	27,485
Loweswater Care	4,496	-	1,047	-	3,449
Mink Free Rivers	-	4,752	1,148	-	3,604
Natural England Projects	8,529	3,482	2,567	-	9,444
Newlands	7,861	2,877	646	-	10,092
People on The Keekle & Mirehouse Ponds	171,300	154,549	95,283	-	230,566
ReForm	-	222,061	232,576	10,515	-
Replenish West Lakes	-	19,500	3,893	-	15,607
Resilient Glenderamackin	9,630	340,288	328,878	-	21,040
Restoring The Derwent	6,612	-	1,564	-	5,048
River Corridor Group	7,456	-	-	-	7,456
River Irt Compensation	55,387	35,000	69,161	4,550	25,776
River Restoration Project	154,107	189,460	122,809	(57,037)	163,721
Species Survival Fund (National Trust)	-	18,343	5,147	(11,964)	1,232
St John's in The Vale	19,774	140,582	138,421	(3,000)	18,935
Thirlmere	-	1,712	1,477	-	235
Thriving Cocker	1,575	-	-	-	1,575
Water Vole Reintroduction	-	50,000	47,334	-	2,666
Watery Walks	-	66,792	67,546	754	-
Waver Wampool Farming Futures	-	60,140	28,966	-	31,174
Wilder Walkmill	239,654	652,351	649,458	-	242,547
Wild River Education	58,843	27,633	16,824	-	69,652
Woodlands for Water	9,363	30,014	25,569	-	13,808
Total Restricted funds	1,115,947	2,426,694	2,264,179	(20,538)	1,257,924
Total funds	1,283,152	2,487,258	2,295,135	-	1,475,275

Notes to the financial statements

15. STATEMENT OF FUNDS – PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 01 Apr 23 £	Movement in resources		Transfers £	Balance at 31 Mar 24 £
		Incoming £	Outgoing £		
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	176,682	77,355	86,832	-	167,205
Total unrestricted funds	176,682	77,355	86,832	-	167,205
Restricted funds					
Annas Catchment	4,204	-	1,221	-	2,983
Bathing Waters	-	6,000	5,667	-	333
Catchment Partnership	78,256	40,880	48,306	(672)	70,158
Coast to Coast	-	7,500	230	-	7,270
Cocker Facilitation Fund	1,083	19,366	19,028	-	1,421
Cocker NFM	56,673	5,000	8,558	-	53,115
Cocker WEG	4,992	-	-	-	4,992
Compensatory Measures	51,345	89,736	69,637	(3,793)	67,651
CPAF	57,384	60,156	64,040	-	53,500
Cumbria People & Nature	-	8,500	3,362	-	5,138
Electrofishing Surveys	15,214	15,700	27,837	5,000	8,077
Ennerdale Mill Dam	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
FiPL Glenderamackin	-	19,434	21,331	-	(1,897)
Flimby	13,580	-	2,200	-	11,380
GDF ReBIRTH	3,141	-	2,220	-	921
Glenderamackin NFM	46,212	150	23,699	-	22,663
IRT High Ecological Status	4,314	39,815	34,151	20,000	29,978
Invasive Species	20,466	1,232	10,521	2,500	13,677
Loweswater Care	5,682	-	1,186	-	4,496
Monitoring	3,828	-	4,500	672	-
Natural England Projects	7,866	3,484	2,821	-	8,529
Newlands	7,861	-	-	-	7,861
People on The Keekle & Mirehouse Ponds	71,701	154,549	54,950	-	171,300
ReForm	-	71,812	79,389	7,577	-
Resilient Glenderamackin	7,093	72,565	70,028	-	9,630
Restoring The Derwent	5,188	15,000	13,576	-	6,612
River Corridor Group	7,915	-	459	-	7,456
River Irt Compensation	79,005	-	19,834	(3,784)	55,387
River Restoration Project	140,219	209,241	123,913	(71,440)	154,107
St John's Beck	30	115,366	95,622	-	19,774
Thirlmere	492	-	2,032	1,540	-
Thriving Cocker	(9,060)	139,668	129,033	-	1,575
Wilder Walkmill	217,046	179,400	199,192	42,400	239,654
Wild River Education	51,133	47,097	39,387	-	58,843
Woodlands for Water	7,261	22,878	20,776	-	9,363
Total Restricted funds	970,124	1,344,529	1,198,706	-	1,115,947
Total funds	1,146,806	1,421,884	1,285,538	-	1,283,152

Project descriptions follow on pages 40-43

Notes to the financial statements

16. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS between funds – CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	5,327	49,141	54,468	69,946
Current assets	232,697	1,354,368	1,587,065	1,362,793
Current liabilities	(20,673)	(145,585)	(166,258)	(149,587)
	217,351	1,257,924	1,475,275	1,283,152

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS between funds – PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	35,548	34,398	69,946	60,623
Current assets	148,108	1,214,685	1,362,793	1,295,908
Current liabilities	(16,451)	(133,136)	(149,587)	(209,725)
	167,205	1,115,947	1,283,152	1,146,806

17. RELATED PARTIES

The charitable company is controlled by the Trustees who are all directors of the company. The Trust works with other rivers trusts and the umbrella organisation The Rivers Trust. The Trust Operations director is a trustee of The Rivers Trust and Cumbria People and Nature Network, Mrs J Saxon, a trustee is also an employee of the National Trust and the trust had transactions with these organisations during the year. All relationships are conducted at an arm's length basis and where required a standard memorandum of understanding is negotiated.

18. COMMITMENTS

Operating Leases:

At 31st March 2025 there were the following annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases. Amounts relate to rent of the offices, photocopier and telephones.

	2025 £	2024 £
Operating leases payments due:		
Within one year	20,431	26,958
In the second to fifth years inclusive	7,368	18,977
	27,799	45,935

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

	2025 £	2024 £
Net income for the year	192,742	140,477
Adjustments for:		
Less Government grant income	-	-
Add back depreciation	29,909	28,765
Add back HP interest charge	-	-
(Increase) decrease in debtors	201,747	(15,150)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	16,671	(60,138)
Net cash provided by operating activities	441,069	93,954

20. ANALYSIS OF CHANGE IN NET DEBT

	At 01/04/2024 £	Cash flows £	Other non Cash changes £	At 31/03/2025 £
Cash & cash equivalents				
Cash	768,498	426,019	-	1,194,517
Total	768,498	426,019	-	1,194,517

Details on the projects will follow on page 40 onwards.

21. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in independently advised funds. The pension cost charge represents the contributions payable by the Charity to the fund and amounted to £65,902 (2024 £46,660). Contributions total £12,659 (2024 £12,502) were payments due to the fund at the Balance Sheet date and are included in creditors.

WCRT Project Descriptions

Invasive Species

The aim of this project is to prevent, detect, control and eradicate specified invasive non-native species in the Derwent Catchment through a uniform, catchment-based approach across partners, aligning with the Derwent Catchment INNS strategy and the GB Invasive Species Strategy. This project is currently focusing on controlling and eradicating Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed and American skunk cabbage. The project also aims to raise awareness of invasive species through the Don't Pack a Pest campaign to prevent the spread of new invasive species. Funding has been received from National Trust Species Survival Fund, Natural England Coast to Coast fund, Environment Agency and United Utilities. All work is done in collaboration with partners, through the Derwent Invasives Partnership.



Mink Free Rivers

Funded by the Environment Agency Water Environment Improvement Fund, Forestry England and United Utilities the overall aim of the Mink Free Rivers Project is to eradicate mink from the West Cumbria area. Mink pose a grave threat to native wildlife, including water voles (whose populations have declined by 94%), ground and hole-nesting birds and fish. The project employs innovative, humane techniques inspired by Waterlife Recovery Trust, including remote monitoring devices which notify trappers when a mink is in a trap, mink anal scent gland lures and genetic analysis to better inform trapping protocol. Once mink have been eradicated, the project anticipates the reintroduction of water voles to restore ecological balance and revive biodiversity across the region.

Lakes Biosecurity Priority Area

This is a one-year 'development' project funded by the Water Restoration Fund (WRF) - monies raised from penalties imposed on water companies. The project will finish in March 2026 although we anticipate applying for a 5-year 'delivery' phase upon completion, also funded through the WRF. WCRT are leading the project alongside Eden Rivers Trust and South Cumbria Rivers Trust, developing a strategic, comprehensive approach to preventing new INNS introductions, raising the awareness of INNS and improving access to these lakes through upgrading infrastructure in specific access areas, allowing natural recovery across the waterbody.

Loweswater Care Programme

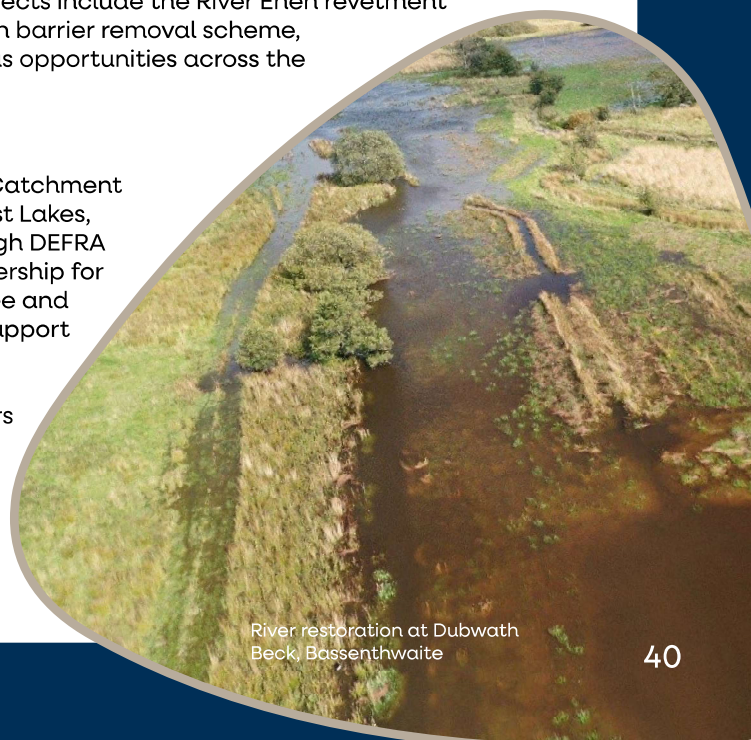
The LCP aimed to improve the water quality of Loweswater through improvements in farming practices, land restoration and treatment of lake waters. The main LCP project, funded by DEFRA's Catchment Restoration Fund (CRF), was completed in 2015, but the Trust is still involved in monitoring of the Lake.

River Restoration Programme

Funded by the Environment Agency and Natural England, the overall aim of the river restoration project is to restore watercourses in the SSSI section of the Derwent catchment in line with the Water Framework Directive and the SAC/SSSI Site Improvement Plan, and since 2022 the scope has expanded to include areas outside the SSSI boundaries (on a case by case basis). Current projects include the River Ehen revetment removal programme, Dubwath Beck restoration, River Ellen barrier removal scheme, Croasdale Beck fish easement, Liza Beck study and various opportunities across the River Irt catchment.

Catchment Partnerships

WCRT host three Catchment Partnerships as part of the Catchment Based Approach (CaBA) covering the Derwent, South-West Lakes, and Wampool and Waver catchments. The funding through DEFRA allows for the establishment and maintenance of a partnership for each catchment that works with key stakeholders to agree and deliver the strategic priorities for the catchment and to support partner organisations in developing and delivering plans and strategies such as the River Basin Management Plan (required under the Water Framework Directive) and others such as Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans.



River restoration at Dubwath Beck, Bassenthwaite

Irt High Ecological Status

This is a longstanding project benefiting from several different funding sources over the years. The project now primarily benefits from Environment Agency funding and Natural England funding through WEIF and River Restoration Strategy. It aims to restore the River Irt and surrounding catchment to High Ecological Status through habitat restoration to benefit the Freshwater Pearl Mussel population. The project also includes re-introductions of mussels and monitoring.

Wild Rivers Education

We continue to run our successful Wild About Rivers programme to Key Stage 2 primary children across West Cumbria thanks to funding from Cumbria Community Foundation and the National Trust's Species Survival Fund. This year we have delivered 50 sessions across 21 schools, reaching a total of 860 learners. Feedback, as always, has been excellent and is once again over subscribed. Our Wellbeing in the Woods programme - funded by Francis Scott Trust - works with small groups of young people on a regular basis and aims to improve mental well-being through attending Forest School sessions. In addition, we have organised or supported a range of community events to engage and enthuse local communities. The Trust's Youth Panel of young people have branched out to also work with the National Trust and wanted this year to learn more on the ground conservation tasks.



Electrofishing Surveys

Funded by Water Restoration Fund, donations from riparian landowners, the angling community, various charitable sources, and partner organisations, this Derwent catchment-wide fish and habitat assessment provides crucial data on distributions and numbers of fish to inform the targeting of conservation actions throughout the catchment and demonstrates the impacts of improvement works. The project is also working in collaboration with The Rivers Trust, Environment Agency and other local Rivers Trusts to collaborate on standards, data sharing and data management to feed the data into the Environment Agency's national database.

Natural England's Facilitation Fund (River Cocker)

The Trust continues to work with the Cocker Catchment farmer group, funded through a third round of the Countryside Stewardship facilitation fund scheme. The scheme involves engaging and educating landowners and farmers collectively through a series of events, site visits and demonstrations, around reducing diffuse pollution, air quality, habitat restoration and natural flood management to improve farm resilience and restore the environment and watercourses.

Compensatory Measures (River Ehen)

Following on from the Pearls in Peril Project the Trust has continued working with the critically endangered freshwater pearl mussel in the River Ehen catchment with continued funding from United Utilities' Compensatory Measures project. The project delivers habitat improvements, reduces diffuse and point source water pollution and supports natural processes to provide a healthy natural environment that supports the sustainable recruitment of the freshwater mussel and Atlantic salmon.

People on the Keekle & Mirehouse Ponds

The 'People on the Keekle' project, initially scheduled to end in October 2023, has received a three-year extension with funding from Sellafield. This phase will continue the successful efforts in community engagement, habitat restoration, and water quality improvement at Longlands Lake, the Lower River Keekle, and its tributaries, while also expanding to include Mirehouse Ponds and the Mirehouse estate in Whitehaven. The project is working to connect people with nature by involving local communities and schools in environmental education and hands-on learning. Schools will develop nature areas on their grounds, integrating outdoor activities into their curriculum. The initiative will also focus on managing invasive species, enhancing public access, and organising community events such as wildlife walks, tree planting, and pond dipping. These activities aim to enrich the natural environment and foster a stronger connection between residents and their local ecosystems, benefiting both wildlife and the community.

Mitigation Measures (St. Johns in the Vale)

Funded by United Utilities, this project is part of the new Thirlmere Abstraction Licence Section 20 agreement between UU and the EA (Schedule 2). The aim of the project is to work with landowners in the St John's Beck catchment to improve the habitat for the benefits of the protected features of the Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The intention is that the habitat improvements will make flow in St John's Beck more effective at delivering the natural processes that the SAC requires but which are adversely impacted by the highly managed nature of the system.



Woodlands for Water

Supported by RAISE Cumbria Community Forest, through this project we facilitate landowners to apply for tree planting grants from either the Community Forest or Forestry Commission. This includes woodland creation, river buffers and agroforestry.

A Wilder Walkmill

The delivery phase of funding from National Lottery Heritage fund started in September 2023. Over 4 years the project will improve and enhance the much-loved greenspace of Walkmill Community Woodland at Moresby Parks near Whitehaven. The site is important because of its significant natural and industrial heritage but requires significant management and repair for people and wildlife.

Health and wellbeing of the local community will also be improved through Green Gyms, Green Social Prescribing and events and activities. School children will learn about the sites fascinating history and connect with the miners from the village through oral history and interpretation.

Resilient Glenderamackin

The Resilient Glenderamackin Project builds on over a decade of work by West Cumbria Rivers Trust (WCRT) and partners in the catchment. It was developed in response to escalating threats such as biodiversity loss and climate change, alongside growing support from the farming community to scale up action. Initially shaped through the Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF), it became clear that a blend of private and agri-environment funding was essential for delivery. This led to a successful application to the DEFRA Landscape Recovery Round 2 pilot scheme.

Led by WCRT, in collaboration with the Rivers Trust, Nature Finance and partners, The Resilient Glenderamackin Landscape Recovery (RGLR) project is working with 60 land managers across 43 holdings and 3 commons in the Lake District National Park. Currently in the development stage, with delivery plans submitted to Defra in summer 2025, it aims to improve protected site condition, enhance biodiversity, reduce flood risk, improve water quality, and help mitigate climate change.

Key project actions include:

- Restoring and creating habitats across over 7,880 hectares, including wetlands, ponds, rivers, woodlands, scrub, and hedgerows.
- Upland restoration over 4,600ha, including peatland rewetting and the creation of upland scrub, including within designated SACs and SSSIs.
- River restoration along the Glenderamackin and St John's Beck, reconnecting floodplains and exploring opportunities to improve flow regimes in collaboration with United Utilities.
- Invasive species control, with ambitions to reintroduce native water voles after mink eradication.
- Improving 23 upland footpaths to enhance access and reduce erosion in sensitive habitats.
- Supporting sustainable farming, blending food production with nature recovery, backed by trusted advisory relationships and tailored financial support.
- Engaging communities through education, citizen science, events, and volunteering opportunities.
- Delivering Natural Flood Management, with 800,000m³ of temporary flood storage aiming to reduce downstream flood peaks by 10–15% and improve climate resilience.

In addition to environmental outcomes, the project is expected to generate significant economic and social benefits, contributing approximately £100 million to the local economy.

Cocker - Water Restoration Fund

This project is funded through DEFRA's Water Restoration Fund and is a development project. Working closely with farmers and landowners the project includes project scoping, from initial visits right through to detailed design. Projects which are being worked up as part of this project include 4 river restorations, 5 wetlands as well as identifying locations for other interventions such as riparian zones, ponds, hedges and tree planting. A central strand of the project is to develop pipelines of projects to deliver on multiple benefits and supporting farmers to develop projects which would allow them to apply into other available schemes and access support, particularly Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier (CSHT). The aim is to have a pipeline of projects prepared for delivery should a second round of funding be announced.



Cocker – Cumbria innovation Flood Resilience (CiFR)

This project is funded through Westmorland and Furness Council and overseen by the Environment Agency and Natural England. It is an NFM project which is delivering multiple projects along Tom Rudd and Bitter Becks, which are both tributaries of the river Cocker. The deliverables have all been pre-scoped and prescribed by the CiFR team and we have tendered for the delivery. Which includes – hedge restoration, riparian fencing and planting, ponds and leaky dams. We are also involved in the development of the second phase of this project which involves working closely with Natural England, Environment Agency and the farmers and landowners along Tom Rudd and Bitter Beck, to develop NFM solutions which have multiple benefits for flood protection, nature and farming.

Waver Wampool Farming Futures

Funded primarily by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), with additional funding from United Utilities 'Better Rivers Better North-West' and the Environment Agency's Water Environment Improvement Fund, the Trust is working closely with farmers, landowners and local communities to improve water quality and restore riparian habitats, whilst supporting farm businesses, in the catchments of the Rivers Waver and Wampool in the Solway area of north Cumbria.

Bathing Waters

Following the summer of water quality testing in 2024 by the Environment Agency, Derwentwater's bathing water was classed as poor with advice against bathing. The Trust continue to run the bathing waters steering group – Cherish Derwent Water - and have secured further funding from Cumberland Council UKDPF fund to carry out further water quality testing at other popular swimming spots around the lake.

Cumbria People & Nature Network (CPNN)

The CPNN is a forum that brings people of all backgrounds and cultures together who are involved in people and nature activity to grow relationships and partnerships, share learning and work collaboratively, and help more people connect with, benefit from, and take action for nature across Cumbria. The trust was instrumental in setting up the partnership along with Natural England and Cumbria Local Nature Partnership. The Trusts director chairs the steering group and funding from Westmorland and Furness council and Cumberland council have enabled the creation of a website and collaborative events to be run.

Coast to Coast

In July 2022 Natural England received Secretary of State approval to establish a new National Trail broadly following the route of the popular Alfred Wainwright Coast to Coast path from St Bees in Cumbria to Robin Hoods Bay in the North York Moors National Park. As part of this approval, Natural England was awarded additional funding to offer a range of nature improvement initiatives along the corridor of the route. The Trust received funding to produce a Biodiversity in Borrowdale Action Plan for nature, with a particular focus on salmon. The funding also created a unified approach to managing invasive species in the Borrowdale Valley and Derwent Water.

Watery Walks

The Trust has received funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund as part of the government Levelling Up fund, managed through Copeland Community Fund to give people the confidence to find new ways to access their local watery world by identifying, scoping and mapping 10 watery walks. View all WCRT's Watery Walks here: [Trails - River Walks Cumbria — West Cumbria Rivers Trust](#)

National Trust Species Survival fund

The National Trust Lake District Riverlands Project and the Trust are delivering a programme of Engagement and Outreach activities to connect people in Cumbria with the health of their rivers across the Derwent catchment. The project will also support the Derwent Invasives Partnership, Riverfly and the Trust's Youth Panel and is funded through the NT Species Survival Fund run through the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Replenish West Lakes

This programme is funded by West Lakeland CIC using their Natural Environment Investment Readiness (NEIRF) funded project. The aim of the programme is to develop environmental restoration opportunities that have been put forward by farmer members. The programme will then match opportunities, for example projects that would improve water availability, with private buyers.





Accounts and Annual Report 2024 - 2025

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Funded by UK Government Heritage Fund



Landscape Recovery