

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1154348

## Details

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**Other names** BART

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Charitable company

**Company number** [07986475](#)

**Registered** 2013-10-28

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Website** [www.bristolavonriverstrust.org](http://www.bristolavonriverstrust.org)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO CONSERVE,PROTECT,REHABILITATE AND IMPROVE THE RIVERS,STREAMS,WATERCOURSES AND WATER IMPOUNDMENTS OF THE CATCHMENTS COMPRISING THE RIVERS OF THE BRISTOL AVON,SOMERSET AND SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE STREAMS,INCLUDING ADJACENT ESTUARINE AREAS,FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF OBJECTS.(1)ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OR IMPROVEMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC.(2)TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC OR ANY ASSOCIATION,INSTITUTION,VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION,COMPANY,LOCAL AUTHORITY,ADMINISTRATIVE OR GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY OR PUBLIC BODY OR REPRESENTATIVE BODY IN-(A)THE UNDERSTANDING OF RIVERS,RIVER CORRIDORS AND RIVER CATCHMENTS,INCLUDING THEIR FAUNA,FLORA,BIODIVERSITY,ECONOMIC OR SOCIAL ACTIVITY, AND RIVER CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT.(B)THE NEED FOR,AND BENEFITS OF,CONSERVATION,PROTECTION,REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF AQUATIC ENVIRONMENTS.

**Activities:** BART aims to protect and improve the health of rivers and streams and their bankside environment within the Bristol Avon catchment area. BART achieves this by using the knowledge of its volunteers and by forming partnerships with other interested parties such as Wildlife Trusts, and by engaging with land owners, community groups and river users such as anglers and walkers.

## Classification

- **How:** Provides Other Finance, Provides Human Resources, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Bristol City
- Somerset
- South Gloucestershire
- Wiltshire

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£908,303	£850,497	£396,456	14
2024-03-31	£634,915	£572,303	£338,650	11
2023-03-31	£445,141	£371,625	-	-
2022-03-31	£391,264	£319,251	-	-
2021-03-31	£254,749	£220,914	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alex Foster		2026-05-12
David William Atkin		2021-11-08
Dr Julian Bradley Greaves		2020-07-27
Katherine Thackray		2025-04-28
Peter Chapple Coleman-Smith		2019-08-14
Professor Richard Arthur Skeffington		2019-08-12
Thomas Rodding Kjeldsen		2024-01-22



**BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1154348

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# Accounts

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Charity registration number 1154348 (England and Wales)

Company registration number 07986475

**BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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<b>Trustees</b>	Mr D W Atkin Mr P C Coleman-Smith Dr J B Greaves Mr T R Kjeldsen Professor R A Skeffington Mr K Adams Miss K Thackray	(Appointed 28 October 2024) (Appointed 28 April 2025)
<b>Secretary</b>	Mr P C Coleman-Smith	
<b>Chief Executive Officer</b>	Mr S Hunter	
<b>Charity number</b>	1154348	
<b>Company number</b>	07986475	
<b>Registered office</b>	The Oakley Kidderminster Road Droitwich Worcestershire WR9 9AY	
<b>Independent examiner</b>	Colm McGrory The Oakley Kidderminster Road Droitwich Worcestershire WR9 9AY	
<b>Bankers</b>	Tridos Bank Deanery Road Bristol BS1 5AS  Lloyds Bank plc PO Box 1000 BX1 1LT	

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# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

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# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### A word from the Chair

It is my great pleasure to reflect on another remarkable year of progress and impact at Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART). Each year, the Trust continues to grow - not just in size and scope, but in the depth of its influence across the catchment. The past twelve months have been no exception.

This year, the team has expanded towards 20 dedicated professionals, supported by a thriving network of volunteers and partners. Together, they have delivered an extraordinary range of projects - from habitat restoration and natural flood management to citizen science and community engagement. These initiatives have not only improved the ecological health of our rivers and streams but have also deepened public connection to the natural world.

The Trust's work with farmers through the Chew, Cam & Wellow Farm Cluster now spans over 1,000 hectares, identifying hundreds of opportunities for riparian enhancement. Our citizen science programmes, including Riverfly, River Detectives, and RiverBlitz, have reached full capacity, with over 200 active volunteer sites and thousands of data points collected to inform action. These efforts are not just impressive in scale - they are transformative in their outcomes.

Financially, BART continues to demonstrate resilience and strategic foresight. Increased confidence from funders and partners has enabled the Trust to build reserves, diversify income, and plan for long-term sustainability. The development of RiverHub, our centralised data platform, is a testament to our commitment to transparency, collaboration, and innovation.

Governance has also strengthened, with the Board expanding to six Trustees, bringing new expertise and sharper oversight. Our focus has remained on supporting the CEO, refining policy, and ensuring robust risk management - particularly in areas such as health and safety, data protection and financial planning.

As Chair, I am immensely proud of the team's achievements and the values that underpin their work: integrity, professionalism, and a willingness to get hands dirty in pursuit of lasting environmental change. BART's reputation as a trusted partner, intermediary between communities, local government, statutory agencies and businesses, and as the deliverer of choice continues to grow.

Looking ahead, the Trust is poised for another year of ambitious delivery. From weir removals, river restoration and eDNA monitoring to expanded farm engagement, education and community engagement, the pipeline is rich with opportunity. I invite you to explore the pages of this report and join us in celebrating the people, partnerships, and projects that make BART such a vital force for good.



.....  
Dr J B Greaves  
Chairman

Date: .....07/11/25

# **BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity memorandum and articles of association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

### **Welcome from the Chief Executive**

This past year has been one of growth, collaboration, and continued commitment to our mission of restoring and protecting the rivers of the Bristol Avon catchment.

BART has developed from its grassroots beginnings into a trusted and ambitious organisation, delivering multi-benefit projects that improve water quality, enhance habitats, and connect communities with their rivers. In 2025, we have strengthened partnerships with landowners, local authorities, government agencies, and businesses, ensuring that our collective efforts continue to deliver positive outcomes for wildlife and people.

Our work is only possible thanks to the dedication of our staff, trustees, volunteers, and the many supporters who share our vision for healthy rivers. I am immensely proud of what we have achieved together and of the impact we are making across the catchment.

As the climate and ecological challenges facing our rivers become ever more pressing, BART remains determined to play its part in building resilient ecosystems and inspiring communities to value and protect the freshwater environment. These accounts reflect not only our financial stewardship, but also the trust placed in us by funders and partners to deliver meaningful change.

Thank you to all who continue to support BART's work. Together, we are ensuring a future where the rivers of the Bristol Avon are healthier, more resilient, and better connected for generations to come.

Simon Hunter  
Chief Executive Officer

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### Objectives and activities

#### a. Legal Purpose Charitable Objectives

The charitable objectives of the Trust set out in the Memorandum and articles of association are:

To conserve, protect, rehabilitate and improve rivers streams, watercourses and water impoundments of the catchments comprising the Bristol Avon and South Gloucestershire streams including adjacent estuarine areas, for the advancement of environmental protection or improvement for the benefit of the public.

To advance the education of the public or any association, institution, voluntary organisation, company, local authority or representative body in:

a) The understanding of rivers, river corridors and river catchments including their fauna, biochemistry, economic or social activity and river management.

b) The need for, and benefits of, conservation, protection, rehabilitation and improvement of aquatic environments.

The Trusts objectives correspond with the charitable purposes of advancing environmental protection and the advancement of education as described in the Charities Act 2011. The Trust's activities meet the two key principles of public benefit as follows:

**Principle 1.** There must be identifiable benefits which are clear, related to the aims and balanced against any detriment or harm.

**Principle 2.** The benefits must be appropriate to the aims and available to the public or section of the public and private benefits must be incidental.

The Trust's work meets principle 1 through bringing about physical change to the rivers and streams with the catchment through improvement to in stream riparian habitat and by working with the formal catchment partnership to influence plans and strategies involving water quality within the catchment to ensure that environmental outcomes are represented within such plans. The Trust further works throughout the catchment to share these plans at local and community level. The Trust's work aims to provide ecosystem services benefits to the public through improving water quality, preserving the habitat and food sources of endangered species, conserving the environment and providing education about the aquatic environment to community groups and schools.

The Trust's work meets principle 2 through improving water quality and the natural environment for the benefit of all. These include users of water in home and business, leisure users, and communities who live by the river as well as schools and outreach organisations and volunteers using the river to improve levels of wellbeing in the community.

# **BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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### **b. Aims and Activities to Support Objectives**

The Trust aims to protect, restore and enhance the rivers, streams and riparian habitat, within the Bristol Avon Catchment. It aims to achieve this by working at all levels from local projects to catchment wide initiatives and at all educational levels from primary schools to university, and through national initiatives such as run by the Riverfly Partnership, providing at all times that our mutual objectives are complimentary. Our principal aims are described by the following activity headings.

#### **River & Land Management**

We aim to protect and restore rivers that have suffered damage or whose habitats are under threat. Activities range from restoring spawning gravels and improving fish passage to working with the farming community to improve soil management practices where these detrimentally affect our rivers and streams.

#### **Education**

We work with schools, universities and community groups to engage people with their river and help them learn about the challenge their rivers face in our modern world. We help groups play an active role in looking after their local river through projects and citizen science. We aim to influence local policy and plans using our local knowledge and through our membership of the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership and our relationships with other key agencies and utilities.

#### **Partnership working**

The nature of the Trust's work is that partnership working, and public engagement are essential to delivery. The Trust often works as a facilitator providing vision and finance for projects and bringing together the necessary skills from a range of other organisations. Partnerships are formed for several reasons – working at catchment level with the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership, or within an individual project where skills do not exist within the Trust.

The Trust has continued to be a member of the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership, a partnership set up to co-ordinate the efforts of multiple partners in improving water quality for the benefit of people and wildlife. The Trust contributes considerable in-kind contributions in time and through raising funds to support catchment partnership projects.

The Trust is also a Board Member of the West of England Nature Partnership where it provides a voice for water and is working to integrate aquatic ecosystems into natures recovery.

#### **Significant activities**

Throughout the year, the Trust has secured funding from various sources, empowering it to spearhead numerous initiatives and collaborative projects. These endeavours have encompassed a wide array of activities, yielding benefits for both the public and the environment.

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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In light of the influx of additional funding opportunities, the team has adeptly accelerated its efforts to deliver for its charitable objectives. This proactive approach has enabled the Trust to make substantial strides towards achieving our objectives and has left a lasting impact on the catchment. This year the team has increased in size, to 15 paid members of the team, with further growth anticipated for 2025/26.

Among the most noteworthy operational achievements are:

- **During the winter of 2024/25, the team carried out habitat restoration and natural flood management across several sub-catchments**, including the Bristol Frome, River Chew, Cam Brook, Little Avon, and Sherston Avon. Activities included wetland creation, leaky dams, wildlife ponds, and river habitat restoration. These efforts enhance catchment resilience to flooding, climate change, and biodiversity loss, while also improving water quality and creating better "blue" spaces for public enjoyment.
- **Chew, Cam & Wellow Farm Cluster – Establishment and Progress.** Over the past year, the Trust has successfully established and continues to coordinate the Chew, Cam & Wellow Farm Cluster, supporting landowners across the Chew, Cam, Wellow, and Somer catchments. Since its launch last year, the Chew Cam and Wellow Farm Cluster has been steadily growing, and we now have over 50 members, covering over 1000ha of land.

Our work focuses on improving water quality, enhancing biodiversity, and implementing natural flood management practices. Through on-the-ground engagement, the Trust's farm team has identified more than 300 opportunities for riparian enhancements throughout the catchments. We are now preparing to support farmers in applying for local Nature Recovery Grants to help bring these improvements to fruition. In parallel, our Free Farmer Training Grant has been positively received, with funding allocated for a range of practical courses including chainsaw operation, permaculture design, and regenerative soil management. These opportunities have provided farmers with valuable skills that support both environmental outcomes and the long-term sustainability of their businesses.

## BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### Volunteering at Bristol Avon Rivers Trust

Volunteering with BART offers individuals the opportunity to contribute to river conservation through a range of citizen science programmes and practical, hands-on activities. Volunteers play a vital role in initiatives such as riverfly monitoring, where they collect and report data on river health, and the River Detectives programme, which fosters community engagement and education around river stewardship. Through their efforts, BART's volunteers help gather essential data, enhance river ecosystems, and strengthen local support for long-term conservation.

Over the past 12 months, BART's volunteering programmes have seen substantial growth, driven by new funding and a strong partnership with Wessex Water. This collaboration has enabled us to provide increased training and coordination, responding to a growing public awareness and interest in the condition of local rivers. The Trust has supported its expanding monitoring network through the Riverfly Partnership, BART Beacon, Water Guardians, River Detectives, delivering numerous training sessions and maintaining over 200 active volunteer sites across the Bristol Avon catchment.

The 2024/25 training sessions have resulted in new watercourses being monitored and the expansion of existing monitoring locations. BART also continues to deliver its SmartRivers invertebrate monitoring programme, which supports detailed ecological assessments of the Chew, Cam, and Wellow Brooks.

To ensure the effective sharing and visualisation of the data collected by both volunteers and water industry partners, BART has developed a centralised data platform under the RiverHub project. RiverHub serves as an umbrella for several of BART's citizen science initiatives.

The River Detectives programme continues to grow, with new volunteers joining from South Gloucestershire and Bath, enhancing our understanding of water quality in these areas. Additional Riverfly training has been delivered, and the number of Water Guardians has increased accordingly. To support our growing volunteer network, BART has hosted a series of engagement events and circulates a monthly volunteer newsletter.

With these efforts, BART's citizen science programme is now operating at full capacity. Any future expansion will be considered as part of a planned second phase of the project, anticipated to begin in November 2025.



Image: BART Volunteers, visiting a nature-based solution scheme delivered by BART

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

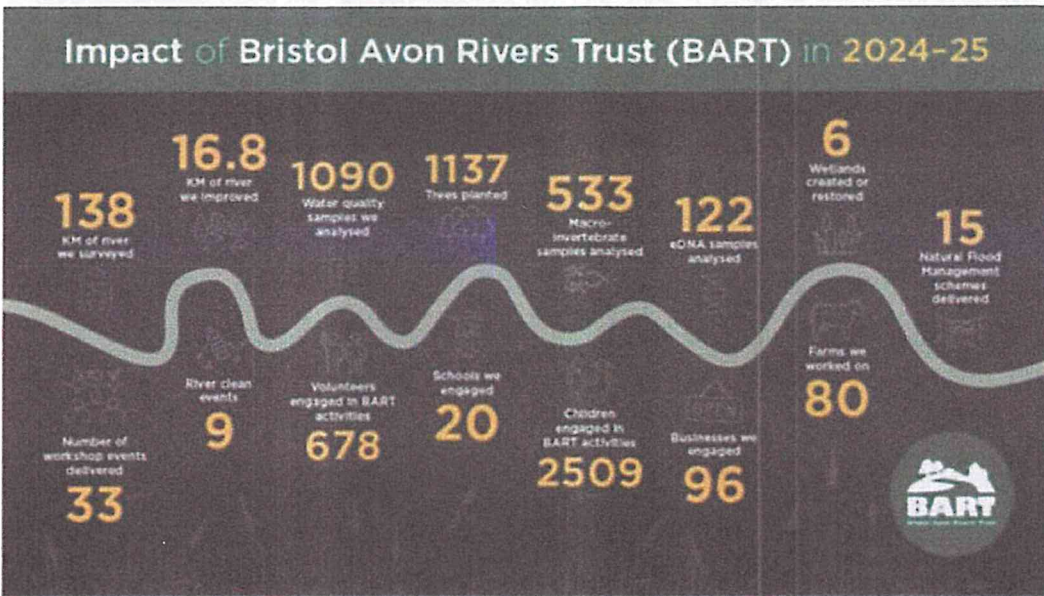
### Achievements and Performance

To protect and enhance the Avon catchment, BART continues to work collaboratively with a wide range of stakeholders, including farmers and landowners, community groups, environmental charities, the Environment Agency, local authorities, the water industry and businesses. Priorities for key Avon tributaries have been identified in partnership with these stakeholders and aligned with national policy. The Trust remains committed to delivering high-quality, effective projects that meet environmental objectives, represent good value for money, and bring broader benefits to both people and nature.

Over the past year, one of the Trust's key achievements has been the continued expansion of its citizen science and volunteering programmes, alongside the development of RiverHub - a new centralised data platform. Through programmes like Riverfly, River Detectives, and Water Guardians, volunteers regularly monitor the health of local rivers and streams. Their data has not only enhanced our understanding of river conditions, but in several cases, has led to further investigations and action by the Environment Agency and local authorities.

The Trust has also continued to play a central role in the Resilient Frome Partnership, contributing as a key delivery partner to the Natural Flood Management (NFM) Project Steering Group and delivering NFM interventions on the ground. Funded through Defra's £200 million Flood and Coastal Innovation Programmes and managed by the Environment Agency, this work supports innovation in flood and coastal resilience and helps communities adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Governance also remains a strong focus, with BART's Trustees actively overseeing and reviewing risks, policies, controls and data/events to ensure robust organisational management.



### Charitable activities

To ensure the vitality of our region's freshwater environments, our teams are dedicated to a range of areas, including community and volunteer engagement, land and river management, river monitoring, mapping, communications, fundraising, finance, HR, IT, and beyond.

Our staff is deeply committed to enhancing riverine and estuarine ecosystems, which ultimately support the health of marine environments. Below, we highlight some of the remarkable achievements from 2024/25 that have strengthened the health of our rivers, streams, and watercourses.

Continue reading to discover the positive impact our charity has made through various projects on the region's rivers:

## BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### Improving watercourses to support wildlife:

##### Eelstream - Linking the Levels

The South Gloucestershire Levels, which run from Oldbury down to New Passage are a delightful mosaic of drainage ditches (rhines), ridge and furrow pasture systems, hedgerows and mature trees, that should provide ideal habitat for European Eel. Recent surveys, however, show only a very sparse distribution of these species. For European Eel, this is a sad issue of > 90% decrease in numbers from 1980.



Image: existing wetland habitat adjacent to the Severn Estuary; photo of European elvers taken from one of BART's educational activities "Eels in the classroom"

Entry of critically endangered European eel in the network of rhines and ditches is via a set of tidal gates located at the mouth of the Estuary. Working with the Environment Agency, we have the barriers have not been maintained since installation (12 years ago) so we are pursuing with a view to improve their function, which should lead to improved fish migration inland.

The next obstacles to fish movement inland include a series of weirs and culverts leading into the rhine and ditch system. These have been mapped along with opportunities to aid fish passage which have been identified by a team of BART surveyors covering over 33 km of the rhine and ditch system. Opportunities to create new natural flood management and wetland features have also been mapped. The project is now engaging with landowners to identify where sites for these projects can be bought forward.

This is leading into a costed programme of investment, led by South Gloucestershire Council, to take forward to improve habitat for the important species of this system, along with some quick win projects for more immediate delivery.

## BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### Restoring habitat along the Bristol Frome

In February 2025, we successfully completed a series of Natural Flood Management (NFM) interventions within the Bristol Frome Catchment, delivered through the 'Resilient Frome' project. These works are designed to restore more natural flow patterns in heavily modified urban tributaries and implement nature-based flood management solutions across North Bristol.

The Bristol Frome catchment spans both rural and urban areas, including North Bristol, Winterbourne, Frampton Cotterell, and Yate. Much of the river currently holds 'Poor' or 'Moderate' ecological status under the Water Framework Directive and is highly responsive to rainfall, with flash flooding a common issue - particularly in lower sections.

Despite these pressures, the catchment includes valuable green spaces such as Leap Valley and Three Brooks Nature Reserve, which are cared for by active local groups and serve as important community assets for wildlife and recreation.

To address ecological and flood challenges, BART has implemented natural flood management features at these sites, including a series of in-channel woody berms. These structures encourage meandering, create diverse flow conditions that benefit fish and invertebrates, and provide refuge for wildlife. Over time, the berms will trap silt, support vegetation, and help slow the flow of water downstream - delivering multiple environmental benefits in one solution.



Image: After installation of berm along the right-hand bank; construction of a "leaky dam" with support from volunteers.

Thank you to the Three Brooks Nature Conservation Group, Friends of Leap Valley, South Gloucestershire Council and Badminton Road Methodist Church for working with us on this project.

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### Community Engagement:

#### South Bristol Our Blue Spaces project.

Rain planters, river trips, pavement art and bustling community events were all part of the South Bristol Our Blue Spaces project which finished in March 2025. School children and communities enjoyed varied and fun ways to learn about and connect with the streams flowing through South Bristol, which provide valuable blue space in this very urban area.

Three schools took part with 720 children attending the sessions BART delivered. Children learnt about their local rivers and how they can help look after them in interactive assemblies, classroom workshops and river trips. Two of the schools had rain planters installed with the help of children from one school's 'Green Team' and the other's nursery group.



Image: BART led school workshop

As part of its commitment to engaging local communities, BART delivered a variety of interactive and educational activities across South Bristol. These included river-themed fun days, family LEGO workshops where children designed river-friendly homes, community stalls at local festivals, guided river dipping sessions, and organised litter picks along watercourses.

Alongside the fantastic outreach led by BART's Community Engagement Team, the Trust also conducted SmartRivers ecological monitoring at five sites across South Bristol. Invertebrate samples were collected during autumn 2024 and spring 2025 on Colliters Brook, Pigeonhouse Stream, Malago Brook, and Brislington Brook. The data, currently being analysed, will offer important insights into the health and ecological condition of these urban watercourses and help guide future restoration and engagement work.

Thank you to the John Lewis Spedan Foundation for funding the project.



Image: Students undertaking a river dip to see what's living in their local river, and a rain planter installed by BART working with a school in South Bristol

## BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### Bristol Frome Catchment - Community Engagement and Education Programme

BART has a long-standing relationship with the Environment Agency's Water Environment Improvement Fund, which has supported the delivery of river restoration, education, and community engagement across the Bristol Frome catchment. The most recent phase of this work has now concluded and proved to be another great success.

This latest programme focused heavily on community engagement, education, and landowner outreach. Thirteen schools took part in a range of activities – from workshops on sustainable water use to caring for and releasing endangered European eels and even attending an interactive engagement day at the University of Bristol.

To amplify key messages, BART partnered with local art students to create eye-catching pavement art reminding the public that "only rain down the drain." These visuals quickly gained traction on local social media channels, raising awareness across the wider Bristol Avon catchment.

In addition to school outreach, BART took part in a number of community events. These included a presence at the Chipping Sodbury Eat Festival, a guided walk and talk with 30 members of the Gloucester Road Women's Institute, and a half-term nature activity session at Three Brooks Reserve. These events have helped deepen community connections and build broader support for river health and conservation efforts.



Image: pupils identifying the invertebrates that live in their local river, and artwork commissioned through the Only Rain Down the Drain programme.

BART also spent time engaging local landowners, providing advisory visits and created three farm plans providing advice about managing land and water more sustainably.

Thank you to the Environment Agency for funding this valuable work.

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### Empowering Communities to Explore and Protect Local Waterways:

#### Bristol Avon RiverBlitz 2024

Bristol Avon RiverBlitz is an annual citizen science initiative organised by the Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART) that captures a snapshot of water quality and ecological health in rivers and streams across the catchment. Using affordable test strips, participants of all ages and backgrounds are empowered to connect with their local watercourses and take an active role in safeguarding their natural environment.

#### Key Highlights of RiverBlitz:

- **Inclusive Participation:** RiverBlitz encourages community involvement by making it easy for everyone to participate, regardless of age or background. This initiative fosters a sense of connection to local rivers and streams and raises awareness about the importance of protecting these vital ecosystems.
- **Data Collection and Analysis:** By collecting data during RiverBlitz events, BART has been able to pinpoint areas with both good and poor water quality. This information helps to identify pollution sources and prioritize areas for further investigation and monitoring.
- **Historical and Comparative Insights:** BART's data platform, associated with RiverBlitz, enables comparisons across different years (dating back to 2016) and locations. This feature provides a comprehensive view of water quality trends over time and across various parts of the catchment.
- **Targeted Monitoring:** Insights from RiverBlitz inform targeted, more detailed, and frequent monitoring through other citizen science programs. This strategic approach enhances the effectiveness of BART's efforts to improve water quality in the catchment.

Through initiatives like RiverBlitz, BART continues to engage and empower communities, fostering a collaborative effort to monitor and enhance the health of local water ecosystems.



Image: One of many families participating in the 2024 Bristol Avon RiverBlitz

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### A Practical and Honest role

Bristol Avon Rivers Trust was founded as an active organisation, and we are not afraid to get our hands dirty and feet wet in order to make lasting improvements to the river and its species. We have grown in size, knowledge, and reputation over the past year to become a respected leading actor in environmental conservation in the Bristol Avon Catchment, but we have always remained faithful to our founders' ethos.

Bristol Avon Rivers Trust continues to act as a trusted intermediary between government and business, and the general public.

- We will continue to collaborate with all parties to achieve the best possible outcomes for the environment, wildlife and communities;
- We will hold ourselves to the highest standards of best practise, scientific understanding, excellence and professionalism; and
- We will continue to build trust from our partners, stakeholders, customers and supporters.

These pillars will support the standards of excellence and integrity that the Trust has built, enabling us to make a real difference for which we strive.

### Financial review

BART monitors financial performance through key indicators including a rolling cash flow forecast, movement in restricted and unrestricted funds, and working capital. These metrics are reviewed regularly as part of the Trust's financial reporting processes.

Growing confidence from funders, driven by the Trust's strong delivery record, has contributed to increased reserves and a robust pipeline of future projects. The CEO has worked closely with Trustees through quarterly financial reviews to ensure a strong focus on delivery is maintained across all operations. Income diversification through BART River Services Ltd has also strengthened the Trust's financial resilience.

Strategic planning is closely aligned with budgeting, led by the CEO, Head of Operations, and Finance Manager. Financial control is supported by the use of Xero, providing a robust framework for financial management. However, high inflation over the past year has placed pressure on capital budgets. In response, contractual commitments are regularly reviewed, and inflationary costs are factored into multi-year project planning.

Despite wider economic uncertainty, the Trust has a healthy volume of contracted work for the coming year and expects further projects to be confirmed within the first three quarters. Trustees remain optimistic about the organisation's financial trajectory.

BART remains committed to using its reserves to advance its charitable objectives, with a strong focus on sustaining and developing its workforce. The Trust's reserves policy ensures that funds are maintained at an appropriate level to meet future needs, based on prudent financial planning.

The attached financial statements include provisions for deferred income where project-related invoices have not yet been received.

### Reserves policy

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between twelve and eighteen month's expenditure. The Trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

# **BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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### **Plans for future periods**

The Trust is committed to continuing its efforts to achieve its goals in a professional and safe manner. The future looks promising, with a wide range of projects planned for the upcoming fiscal year. These include creating Natural Flood Management scheme near Malmesbury, eDNA fish monitoring, multiple reach-scale river habitat restoration programs across the catchment, several weir removals / easements, citizen science training events, scaling up our working with farms, and invasive species control.

The Trust will remain an active member of the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership and West of England Nature Partnership, contributing to strategic plans for improving the Bristol Avon at the catchment level and participating in partnership projects as they arise. Additionally, the Trust will continue to identify opportunities to provide education and advice on the river environment to schools and local community groups across the catchment.

The Trust will maintain its leadership in improving the River Chew and will extend similar efforts to the Cam & Wellow Brooks, Bristol Frome, and Upper Avon, and other rivers within the catchment as opportunities arise.

### **Structure, governance and management**

#### **Constitution**

The Trust is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee, governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 12 March 2012. The Trustees of the charity are also the directors of the company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006.

#### **Trustees**

The Trustees are responsible for the overall direction and charitable activities of the Trust and for ensuring the Trust complies with the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

#### **Selection and appointment of Trustees**

The introduction and recruitment of Trustees is by recommendation of existing Trustees and is made by personal contacts with other organisations or individuals with related environmental or river trust interests and appropriate skills. The Trust aims to maintain a broadly respected body of Trustees with sufficient experience to provide strong governance and add value to the Trusts decision making.

#### **Policies for the induction and training of Trustees**

New trustees receive an induction pack outlining their roles and responsibilities. Ongoing training needs are monitored by the Chair and CEO. The Board of Trustees also operates under a Code of Conduct.

#### **Pay policy for senior staff**

The Chair of Trustees benchmarks staff salaries and reviews them as needed, making adjustments where necessary.

#### **Organisational structure**

A formal delegation of powers has been developed and adopted to guide decision making. The Chief Executive Officer is in frequent contact with the Chair of the Trustees.

The Chair of the Trustees attends monthly meetings with the Chief Executive Officer and key project managers and staff to ensure satisfactory progress is being made and subsequently reports monthly to the Board using key agreed metrics and topics.

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### **Risk Management**

The Trustees have established systems to mitigate risk appropriate to the size of the charity with a focus on Finance and Health & Safety. Processes and procedures are reviewed annually by the Trustees and annual refreshment of Health & safety procedures takes place for all staff, Trustees and key volunteers. During the last year the Trustees have authorised expenditure to improve the Trust's Data Protection capabilities and centralised control of all documentation to avoid potential loss of Trust data and records.

### **Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

The Trustees, who are also the directors of Bristol Avon Rivers Trust for the purpose 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).

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Dr J B Greaves  
Chairman

27 October 2025

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

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I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

#### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

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

#### Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I 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 that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006.
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements 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 financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.



**Colm McGrory FCA**

Ormerod Rutter Limited  
The Oakley  
Kidderminster Road  
Droitwich  
Worcestershire  
WR9 9AY

Dated: 10/11/2025

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Income from:</b>							
Donations and legacies	3	42,567	500	43,067	92,608	-	92,608
Charitable activities	4	249,907	576,113	826,020	126,055	361,288	487,343
Other trading activities	5	30,402	-	30,402	51,278	-	51,278
Investments	6	8,814	-	8,814	3,686	-	3,686
<b>Total income</b>		<b>331,690</b>	<b>576,613</b>	<b>908,303</b>	<b>273,627</b>	<b>361,288</b>	<b>634,915</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Charitable activities	7	266,990	583,507	850,497	196,786	375,517	572,303
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>266,990</b>	<b>583,507</b>	<b>850,497</b>	<b>196,786</b>	<b>375,517</b>	<b>572,303</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>64,700</b>	<b>(6,894)</b>	<b>57,806</b>	<b>76,841</b>	<b>(14,229)</b>	<b>62,612</b>
Transfers between funds		2,241	(2,241)	-	44,881	(44,881)	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	9	<b>66,941</b>	<b>(9,135)</b>	<b>57,806</b>	<b>121,722</b>	<b>(59,110)</b>	<b>62,612</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		328,126	10,524	338,650	206,404	69,634	276,038
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2025</b>		<b>395,067</b>	<b>1,389</b>	<b>396,456</b>	<b>328,126</b>	<b>10,524</b>	<b>338,650</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	13		5,319		2,860
Investments	14		1		1
			<u>5,320</u>		<u>2,861</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	15	170,587		122,316	
Cash at bank and in hand		735,131		605,356	
		<u>905,718</u>		<u>727,672</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	17	<u>(513,302)</u>		<u>(381,883)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>392,416</u>		<u>345,789</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>397,736</u>		<u>348,650</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	18		<u>(1,280)</u>		<u>(10,000)</u>
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>396,456</u>		<u>338,650</u>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>					
Restricted income funds	20		1,389		10,524
Unrestricted funds	21		395,067		328,126
			<u>396,456</u>		<u>338,650</u>

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.

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 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.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 27 October 2025

Dr J B Greaves  
Chairman

*Julian Greaves*

Mr K Adams  
Treasurer

*Keith Adams*

Company registration number 07986475 (England and Wales)

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash generated from operations	27		133,481		195,913
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(4,160)		(930)	
Purchase of investments		-		(1)	
Investment income received		8,814		3,686	
<b>Net cash generated from investing activities</b>					
			4,654		2,755
<b>Financing activities</b>					
Repayment of bank loans		(8,360)		(8,000)	
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>					
			(8,360)		(8,000)
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>					
			129,775		190,668
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			605,356		414,688
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>					
			735,131		605,356

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### 1 Accounting policies

#### Charity information

Bristol Avon Rivers Trust is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is The Oakley, Kidderminster Road, Droitwich, Worcestershire, WR9 9AY.

#### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "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)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

#### 1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

#### 1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

#### 1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### 1 Accounting policies (Continued)

#### 1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, 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 classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

#### 1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Plant and equipment	25% straight line
---------------------	-------------------

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

#### 1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the charity. Control is the power to govern the financial and operating policies of the entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

#### 1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

#### 1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

#### 1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### 1 Accounting policies (Continued)

#### **Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

#### **Basic financial liabilities**

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

#### **Derecognition of financial liabilities**

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

#### 1.11 Taxation

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

#### 1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

#### 1.13 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Donations and gifts	42,567	500	43,067	92,608	-	92,608

### 4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Charitable activities</b>						
Charitable income	84,907	576,113	661,020	126,055	361,288	487,343
Other income	165,000	-	165,000	-	-	-
	<u>249,907</u>	<u>576,113</u>	<u>826,020</u>	<u>126,055</u>	<u>361,288</u>	<u>487,343</u>

### Grants analysis

	Charitable activities 2025 £	Charitable activities 2024 £
South Gloucestershire Council	116,110	75,480
Wessex Water Services Ltd	130,843	70,973
Natural England	96,607	14,419
Halpin Trust	39,389	13,975
Environment Agency	101,418	128,936
Babcock International	-	11,250
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust	11,310	20,159
Bristol Water	20,289	21,726
Garfield Weston foundation	-	39,620
Mossy Earth	27,247	13,813
West of England Combined Authority	80,247	-
Other	37,559	76,992
	<u>661,020</u>	<u>487,343</u>

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Non-charitable trading activities	24,553	-
Fundraising events	5,849	51,278
Other trading activities	30,402	51,278

### 6 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Interest receivable	8,814	3,686

### 7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Direct costs</b>				
Staff costs	421,708	-	421,708	318,605
Depreciation and impairment	1,701	-	1,701	1,517
Travel and subsistence	23,465	-	23,465	13,473
Equipment	58,109	-	58,109	34,852
External Services	149,504	-	149,504	82,825
Other	15,820	25,675	41,495	4,843
	<u>670,307</u>	<u>25,675</u>	<u>695,982</u>	<u>456,115</u>
<b>Share of support and governance costs (see note 8)</b>				
Support	140,484	-	140,484	102,635
Governance	14,031	-	14,031	13,553
	<u>824,822</u>	<u>25,675</u>	<u>850,497</u>	<u>572,303</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>				
Unrestricted funds	241,315	25,675	266,990	196,786
Restricted funds	583,507	-	583,507	375,517
	<u>824,822</u>	<u>25,675</u>	<u>850,497</u>	<u>572,303</u>

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 8 Support costs allocated to activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Staff costs	95,624	70,569
Travel & subsistence	275	300
Recruitment	3,094	1,938
Building costs	4,471	2,547
Office running costs	31,465	14,617
Other costs	-	6,625
Staff training	5,555	6,039
Governance costs	14,031	13,553
	<u>154,515</u>	<u>116,188</u>
<b>Analysed between:</b>		
Charitable activities	<u>154,515</u>	<u>116,188</u>

	2025	2024
	£	£
<b>Governance costs comprise:</b>		
Accountancy fees	8,463	10,360
Professional fees	3,128	1,043
Independent examination	2,250	2,150
Legal Costs	190	-
	<u>14,031</u>	<u>13,553</u>

### 9 Net movement in funds

	2025	2024
	£	£
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	2,250	2,150
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	1,701	1,517
	<u>3,951</u>	<u>3,667</u>

### 10 Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year (2024: Nil). There were no transactions with trustees during the year (2024: Nil).

### 11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
Employees	<u>14</u>	<u>11</u>

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 11 Employees (Continued)

Employment costs	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	442,816	334,778
Social security costs	42,702	27,545
Other pension costs	31,814	26,851
	<u>517,332</u>	<u>389,174</u>

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
£70,001 to £80,000	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

#### Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Total remuneration	<u>139,044</u>	<u>114,323</u>

### 12 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 13 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and equipment £
<b>Cost</b>	
At 1 April 2024	6,817
Additions	4,160
	<u>10,977</u>
At 31 March 2025	10,977
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>	
At 1 April 2024	3,957
Depreciation charged in the year	1,701
	<u>5,658</u>
At 31 March 2025	5,658
<b>Carrying amount</b>	
At 31 March 2025	<u>5,319</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>2,860</u>

### 14 Fixed asset investments

	Other Investments £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>	
At 1 April 2024 & 31 March 2025	1
	<u>1</u>
<b>Carrying amount</b>	
At 31 March 2025	1
	<u>1</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>1</u>

### 15 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	85,824	109,224
Prepayments and accrued income	84,763	13,092
	<u>170,587</u>	<u>122,316</u>

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

<b>16 Loans and overdrafts</b>		<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Bank loans		9,640	18,000
Payable within one year		8,360	8,000
Payable after one year		1,280	10,000
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>		<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
		<b>Notes</b>	
Bank loans	16	8,360	8,000
Other taxation and social security		12,085	9,868
Trade creditors		16,395	43,836
Accruals and deferred income		476,462	320,179
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
		513,302	381,883
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>18 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>		<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
		<b>Notes</b>	
Bank loans	16	1,280	10,000
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>19 Retirement benefit schemes</b>		<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Defined contribution schemes</b>			
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes		31,814	26,851
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 20 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2025 £
South Gouc Council: Bristol Frome NFM	157	3,891	(4,048)	-	-
Water Guardians	1,072	4,026	(5,098)	-	-
River Chew spawning trib river restoration	1,901	38,800	(40,701)	-	-
South Glouc. Council; Little Avon Berkeley Estate River Restoration	1,305	-	-	-	1,305
South Bristol Communities Reconnected	129	2,310	(2,439)	-	-
Eastern Gray Restoration Ph.1	122	589	(711)	-	-
Gauze Brook River Restoration	283	3,032	(3,315)	-	-
BACP:Our Blue Spaces	619	2,980	(3,599)	-	-
The Rivers Trust:ELM T&T	752	3,300	(4,052)	-	-
Malmesbury NFM Engagement River Marden Spays Farm	577	2,100	(2,677)	-	-
Siston Brook "Blue Opportunities"	2,002	-	(2,002)	-	-
SVR Wellow watercourse oportunities report	43	555	(598)	-	-
Cam Brook, Little Blew WEIF	62	660	(722)	-	-
Fish Passage in the Trym	92	-	(92)	-	-
Chew Water Voles	422	6,180	(6,602)	-	-
Various Funders: Tree Maintenance	-	2,200	(2,200)	-	-
Bristol & Chew Water Resources Project	-	2,733	(1,222)	(1,427)	84

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

20	Restricted funds	(Continued)				
	American Mink Monitoring	575	13,909	(14,484)	-	-
	S. Gloc. Highways Water Quality	-	16,473	(15,648)	(825)	-
	Species Recovery - Cam & Wellow	-	96,607	(96,602)	(6)	-
	Rivers for Wellbeing	411	5,985	(6,413)	16	-
	Limestone Link project	-	29,867	(29,867)	-	-
	Kenysham Wier WIEF 2024-6	-	34,101	(34,101)	-	-
	Keynsham Wier BANES CIL	-	10,490	(10,490)	-	-
	Bristol Frome WEIF 2024	-	22,218	(22,218)	-	-
	Marden Blue Corridor	-	1,434	(1,434)	-	-
	Chew & Cam Farm Clusters	-	80,247	(80,247)	-	-
	EelStream - Linking the Levels	-	43,641	(43,641)	-	-
	Calne WP Landowner Engagement	-	559	(559)	-	-
	Malmesbury NFM 24-25	-	27,031	(27,031)	-	-
	Highway Run-off – Smart Rivers	-	18,222	(18,222)	-	-
	WaterSpace Connected: Somerdale	-	9,913	(9,913)	-	-
	Little Avon FIP	-	4,120	(4,120)	-	-
	Bristol Frome NFM 2024	-	30,817	(30,817)	-	-
	Charlton Farm "Blue" Optioneering study	-	4,212	(4,212)	-	-
	EA Farm Management Animation	-	3,000	(3,000)	-	-
	Somer Valley Rediscovered Feasibility & Design	-	18,600	(18,600)	-	-
	BACP fund 24/25	-	8,690	(8,690)	-	-
	Wiltshire Rural Run-Off	-	11,311	(11,311)	-	-

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 20 Restricted funds (Continued)

Wilder Waterways 24/25	-	2,018	(2,018)	-	-
River Detectives - Flood Watch Wellow Valley	-	8,360	(8,360)	-	-
	<u>10,524</u>	<u>576,613</u>	<u>(583,507)</u>	<u>(2,241)</u>	<u>1,389</u>

### 21 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	<u>328,126</u>	<u>331,690</u>	<u>(266,990)</u>	<u>2,241</u>	<u>395,067</u>

### 22 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total 2025
	£	£	£
<b>At 31 March 2025:</b>			
Tangible assets	5,319	-	5,319
Investments	1	-	1
Current assets/(liabilities)	391,027	1,389	392,416
Long term liabilities	(1,280)	-	(1,280)
	<u>395,067</u>	<u>1,389</u>	<u>396,456</u>
	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total 2024
	£	£	£
<b>At 31 March 2024:</b>			
Tangible assets	2,860	-	2,860
Investments	1	-	1
Current assets/(liabilities)	335,265	10,524	345,789
Long term liabilities	(10,000)	-	(10,000)
	<u>328,126</u>	<u>10,524</u>	<u>338,650</u>

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### 23 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024 - none).

### 24 Subsidiaries

These financial statements are separate charity financial statements for Bristol Avon Rivers Trust.

Details of the charity's subsidiaries at 31 March 2025 are as follows:

Name of undertaking	Registered office	Nature of business	Class of shares held	% Held	
				Direct	Indirect
BART River Services Ltd	The Oakley, Kidderminster Road, Droitwich, Worcestershire WR9 9AY	Environmental consulting	Ordinary share	100.00	

The aggregate capital and reserves and the result for the year of subsidiaries excluded from consolidation was as follows:

Name of undertaking	Profit/(Loss)	Capital and Reserves
	£	£
BART River Services Ltd	(709)	1,067

### 25 Limited company

The charity is a limited company but has taken advantage of the exemption available to dispense with the word 'limited' after its name.

### 26 Share capital

The charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee, and as such does not have share capital.

<b>27 Cash generated from operations</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	£	£
Surplus for the year	57,806	62,612
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(8,814)	(3,686)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	1,701	1,517
<b>Movements in working capital:</b>		
(Increase) in debtors	(48,271)	(28,302)
Increase in creditors	131,059	163,772
<b>Cash generated from operations</b>	<b>133,481</b>	<b>195,913</b>

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 28 Analysis of changes in net funds

	At 1 April 2024	Cash flows	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	605,356	129,775	735,131
Loans falling due within one year	(8,000)	(360)	(8,360)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(10,000)	8,720	(1,280)
	<u>587,356</u>	<u>138,135</u>	<u>725,491</u>

**BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1154348

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# Accounts

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**Charity registration number 1154348**

**Company registration number 07986475 (England and Wales)**

**BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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<b>Trustees</b>	Mr D W Atkin Mr P C Coleman-Smith Dr J B Greaves Mr T R Kjeldsen Professor R A Skeffington	(Appointed 22 January 2024)
<b>Secretary</b>	Mr P C Coleman-Smith	
<b>Chief Executive Officer</b>	Mr S Hunter	
<b>Charity number</b>	1154348	
<b>Company number</b>	07986475	
<b>Registered office</b>	The Oakley Kidderminster Road Droitwich Worcestershire WR9 9AY	
<b>Independent examiner</b>	Colm McGrory The Oakley Kidderminster Road Droitwich Worcestershire WR9 9AY	
<b>Bankers</b>	Tridos Bank Deanery Road Bristol BS1 5AS  Lloyds Bank plc PO Box 1000 BX1 1LT	

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# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

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# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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### A word from the Chair

It is my absolute pleasure to reflect on another year of solid growth and achievement at BART. Year after year, the team grows in number, activity and, above all, impact within the Bristol Avon Catchment.

Over the last 12 months, the team has managed to increase income by c.30% to over £630k. This in itself is an achievement worthy of celebration. However, it is not the money that matters. The real measure of success is what the team has done with these funds and the added value they have brought to bear, which, for such a small organisation, is truly staggering. The increased income has allowed the team to invest in critical projects, enhance habitats, survey ecosystems, prepare future projects and expand outreach and education activities, all of which have had a tangible positive impact on the catchment and its human inhabitants. In the last 12 months, the BART Team has engaged over a thousand volunteers and over 2,800 children in a range of activities. This is crucial work in empowering future generations to become custodians of their natural world.

I would encourage readers of this report to take a moment and consider the scale of achievements summarised on Page 5.

Our CEO has continued to deepen relationships with key organisations in the catchment, demonstrating with every opportunity BART's reliability to deliver above and beyond expectations. This has truly placed BART as the deliverer of choice with local authorities, water companies, our unitary authority and increasingly, private sector organisations. Developing relationships in the corporate sector and demonstrating the value BART can bring to their organisations is now a key focus of development.

The last year has seen the expansion of the Board of Trustees to five, with a sixth member about to join the team. This has brought new expertise to the Board and has brought forth a marked improvement in the governance and support provided to the CEO. Focus for the Board has been on reviewing Policy, risk identification and management, improving governance processes and providing greater support to our CEO and the wider BART team. Our newest member of the team has specialist expertise in financial management. This skillset will provide improved financial oversight and support to the CEO as BART continues to grow.

The Board looks forward to the exciting developments of the next twelve months.



.....  
Dr J B Greaves

**Chairman**

Date: 04/11/2024  
.....

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024*

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The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity memorandum and articles of association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

#### **Welcome from the CEO**

##### **Chief Executive Officer, Simon Hunter, reflects on another busy year**

At Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART), we have experienced another dynamic and impactful year. Our team has expanded significantly, growing from 8 to 12 members over the past year. As we look ahead to 2024, we are excited to welcome even more team members, marking yet another milestone in our continued growth and commitment to safeguarding our rivers.

As a science-driven organisation, we place great value on data and statistics. You can find a snapshot of our 2023 achievements in numbers in the infographic later in this report. While these figures provide a glimpse into the tangible outcomes of our work, the true measure of our success lies in the less quantifiable aspects—the strong camaraderie among our volunteers, the deep connections we have fostered with farming and angling communities, and the partnerships we have built with grassroots and governmental environmental organisations.

In 2023, BART undertook a variety of projects to benefit the rivers across the diverse catchments of Bristol, South Gloucestershire, Bath & North East Somerset, Wiltshire, and North Somerset. These efforts have been sustained by the collective contributions of individuals and groups, breathing life into the region's waterways. Key highlights include the Bristol Avon Fish Recovery Strategy and the Action Plan for the River Chew, both of which have significantly raised awareness of our local 'blue spaces.' These initiatives have developed comprehensive plans to improve fish migration to high-quality spawning habitats, which the Trust is now actively implementing. Additionally, our citizen science efforts have expanded, drawing in new volunteers and becoming part of a regional citizen science pilot, in collaboration with stakeholders across the Bristol Avon catchment. I find myself immensely privileged to oversee such a broad and impactful scope of operations.

The unwavering dedication and energy of our teams, both in the field and in core support roles, have enabled our Trust to thrive despite the challenges of securing funding for BART's growing team. We are deeply grateful for their passion and commitment to achieving meaningful results for our region's rivers.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the unwavering hard work, passion, and dedication of our staff team and Board of Trustees. Without their efforts, the achievements of the past year would not have been possible. United by a shared commitment to improving the water environment, we will continue to work tirelessly to achieve our vision for a "clear future for our river" the Bristol Avon.

As we embark on our 12th year, with many new initiatives on the horizon, we recognise that there is still much to be done for our rivers and thank those who have been part of BART's journey so far.

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### Objectives and activities

#### a. Legal Purpose Charitable Objectives

The charitable objectives of the Trust set out in the Memorandum and articles of association are:

To conserve, protect, rehabilitate and improve rivers streams, watercourses and water impoundments of the catchments comprising the Bristol Avon and South Gloucestershire streams including adjacent estuarine areas, for the advancement of environmental protection or improvement for the benefit of the public.

To advance the education of the public or any association, institution, voluntary organisation, company, local authority or representative body in:

- a. The understanding of rivers, river corridors and river catchments including their fauna, biochemistry, economic or social activity and river management.
- b. The need for, and benefits of, conservation, protection, rehabilitation and improvement of aquatic environments.

The Trusts objectives correspond with the charitable purposes of advancing environmental protection and the advancement of education as described in the Charities Act 2011. The Trust's activities meet the two key principles of public benefit as follows:

**Principle 1.** There must be identifiable benefits which are clear, related to the aims and balanced against any detriment or harm.

**Principle 2.** The benefits must be appropriate to the aims and available to the public or section of the public and private benefits must be incidental.

The Trust's work meets principle 1 through bringing about physical change to the rivers and streams with the catchment through improvement to in stream riparian habitat and by working with the formal catchment partnership to influence plans and strategies involving water quality within the catchment to ensure that environmental outcomes are represented within such plans. The Trust further works throughout the catchment to share these plans at local and community level. The Trust's work aims to provide ecosystem services benefits to the public through improving water quality, preserving the habitat and food sources of endangered species, conserving the environment and providing education about the aquatic environment to community groups and schools.

The Trust's work meets principle 2 through improving water quality and the natural environment for the benefit of all. These include users of water in home and business, leisure users, and communities who live by the river as well as schools and outreach organisations and volunteers using the river to improve levels of wellbeing in the community.

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024*

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### **b. Aims and Activities to Support Objectives**

The Trust aims to protect, restore and enhance the rivers, streams and riparian habitat, within the Bristol Avon Catchment. It aims to achieve this by working at all levels from local projects to catchment wide initiatives and at all educational levels from primary schools to university, and through national initiatives such as run by the Riverfly Partnership, providing at all times that our mutual objectives are complimentary. Our principal aims are described by the following activity headings.

#### **River & Land Management**

We aim to protect and restore rivers that have suffered damage or whose habitats are under threat. Activities range from restoring spawning gravels and improving fish passage to working with the farming community to improve soil management practices where these detrimentally affect our rivers and streams.

#### **Education**

We work with schools, universities and community groups to engage people with their river and help them learn about the challenge their rivers face in our modern world. We help groups play an active role in looking after their local river through projects and citizen science. We aim to influence local policy and plans using our local knowledge and through our membership of the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership and our relationships with other key agencies and utilities.

#### **Partnership working**

The nature of the Trust's work is that partnership working, and public engagement are essential to delivery. The Trust often works as a facilitator providing vision and finance for projects and bringing together the necessary skills from a range of other organisations. Partnerships are formed for several reasons – working at catchment level with the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership, or within an individual project where skills do not exist within the Trust.

The Trust has continued to be a member of the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership, a partnership set up to co-ordinate the efforts of multiple partners in improving water quality for the benefit of people and wildlife. The Trust contributes considerable in-kind contributions in time and through raising funds to support catchment partnership projects.

The Trust is also a Board Member of the West of England Nature Partnership where it provides a voice for water and is working to integrate aquatic ecosystems into nature's recovery.

#### **Significant activities**

Throughout the year, the Trust has secured funding from various sources, empowering it to spearhead numerous initiatives and collaborative projects. These endeavours have encompassed a wide array of activities, yielding benefits for both the public and the environment.

In light of the influx of additional funding opportunities, the team has adeptly accelerated its efforts to deliver for its charitable objectives. This proactive approach has enabled the Trust to make substantial strides towards achieving our objectives and has left a lasting impact on the catchment.

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024*

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This year the team has increased in size, to 12 paid members of the team, with further growth anticipated for 2024/25.

Among the most noteworthy operational achievements are:

- During the winter of 2023/24, the team carried out habitat restoration and natural flood management across several sub-catchments, including the Bristol Frome, River Chew, Cam Brook, Little Avon, and Sherston Avon. Activities included wetland creation, leaky dams, wildlife ponds, and river habitat restoration. These efforts enhance catchment resilience to flooding, climate change, and biodiversity loss, while also improving water quality and creating better “blue” spaces for public enjoyment.
- The Trust has published the Bristol Avon Fish Recovery Strategy to integrate river value into decision-making across spatial planning, public health, and economic development. This strategy will guide collaborative efforts to achieve the partnership's vision and objectives for fish populations in the Bristol Avon catchment.
- The Trust's collaboration with landowners has grown and is now a key part of our strategy. In early 2023, we concluded a River Trust Defra Test & Trial program in the River Chew catchment, preparing farms for the Environment Land Management scheme. To expand its work with landowners and build on the Test & Trial project, BART submitted an expression of interest (EOI) for a River Chew, Cam & Wellow Farm Cluster project to the West of England Combined Authority's Green Recovery Fund in late 2023. The successful EOI led to an invitation to submit a full business case, which is now under review. If funded, the project will establish two farm clusters to promote sustainable food production and nature recovery, potentially linking the Cotswolds and Mendip conservation areas to boost resilience for nature and communities.

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### Volunteering at Bristol Avon Rivers Trust

Volunteering at the Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART) involves participating in various citizen science programs and hands-on activities to support river conservation. Volunteers engage in river fly monitoring, which involves sampling and reporting data on river health, and take part in the River Detectives programme, which educates and involves local communities in river stewardship. BART's volunteers play a crucial role in collecting data, enhancing river ecosystems, and increasing community support for river conservation efforts.

Over the past 12 months, BART's volunteering efforts have significantly expanded. This growth has been driven by new funding, which has enabled us to provide training and coordination in response to increased community interest and awareness of local river conditions. The Trust has supported its monitoring network through the Riverfly Partnership, conducted several training events, and now has over 100 volunteer sites across the Bristol Avon. The 2023/24 training sessions have led to monitoring new watercourses and expanding existing sites. Additionally, BART continues its Smart Rivers invertebrate monitoring program to assess the health of the Chew, Cam, and Wellow Brooks.

The Trust has launched new citizen science programs, BART Detectives and Water Guardians, in collaboration with Wessex Water. To enhance water quality monitoring amid reductions in statutory monitoring, BART is spearheading the 'River Detectives' project. This initiative features an interactive map displaying the collected data on the Trust's website, offering a more detailed view of river health across the catchment and training community members in water quality monitoring.



Image: Volunteer River fly Monitors, following their training

#### *Public benefit*

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

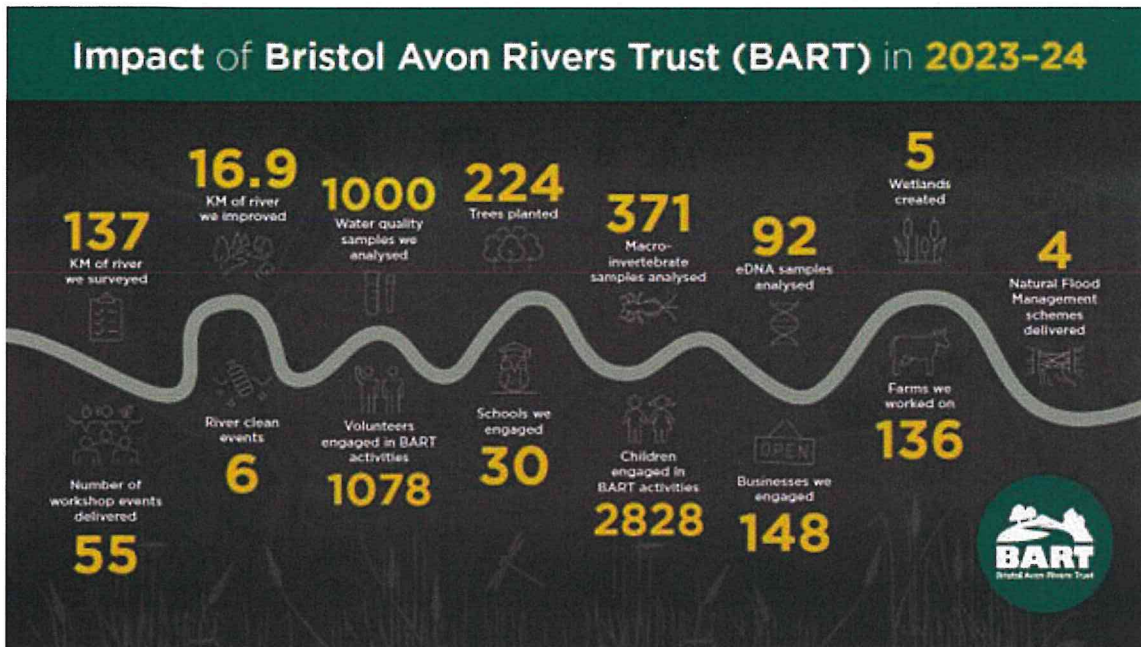
#### Achievements and Performance

To preserve this remarkable river catchment, we continue to collaborate closely with a diverse range of individuals and organisations along the river, including farmers and landowners, environmental groups, communities, local authorities and businesses. Priorities for several Avon tributaries have been identified in partnership with our stakeholders and in alignment with government policy. We have worked diligently to deliver these projects effectively, ensuring they meet environmental objectives, offer value for money, and provide broader benefits to both society and wildlife.

Over the past year, the Trust's standout achievements include expanding its citizen science and volunteering programs through river fly monitoring and River Detectives, leading to a substantial increase in community support. BART's network of volunteer river fly monitors diligently samples local rivers and streams, providing valuable data on river health. Notably, BART monitors contribute more data to the national Anglers' River fly Monitoring Initiative than any other group in the country. Between April 2023 and March 2024, BART monitors conducted 363 surveys and were responsible for 7.3% of all records submitted.

Additionally, the Trust remains deeply involved as a key delivery partner within the Resilient Frome Partnership, actively participating in the Natural Flood Management Project Steering Group and developing and executing on-the-ground projects. The Resilient Frome project is funded by Defra as part of the £200 million Flood and Coastal Innovation Programmes, managed by the Environment Agency. These programmes aim to drive innovation in flood and coastal resilience and support adaptation to a changing climate.

Trustees have continued to diligently review the Trust's policies.



#### Charitable activities

To ensure the vitality of our region's freshwater environments, our teams are dedicated to a range of areas, including land management, river restoration, river monitoring, mapping, community engagement, and school education.

Our staff is deeply committed to enhancing riverine and estuarine ecosystems, which ultimately support the health of marine environments. Below, we highlight some of the remarkable achievements from 2023/24 that have strengthened the health of our rivers, streams, and watercourses.

Continue reading to discover the positive impact our charity has made through various projects on the region's rivers:

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### Improving rivers to support wildlife:

##### Publication of the Bristol Avon Fish Recovery Strategy

In 2023, we were delighted to announce the completion of the Bristol Avon Fish Recovery Strategy—a comprehensive plan aimed at addressing the challenges fish populations face within the catchment and identifying opportunities for their recovery. The full strategy is available on the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership's website:

<https://www.bristolavoncatchment.co.uk/bristol-avon-fish-recovery-strategy/>

##### Key Components of the Strategy:

- **Challenges and Opportunities:** The strategy outlines the primary challenges that fish populations in the Bristol Avon face, such as habitat degradation, barriers to migration, and pollution. It also identifies areas where interventions can most effectively support fish population recovery.
- **Guiding Principles and Multi-Sector Approach:** A core component of the strategy is its emphasis on guiding principles for fish recovery, underscoring the necessity of a collaborative, multi-sector approach. This approach brings together stakeholders from various sectors, including agriculture, conservation, and urban planning, to work towards common goals.
- **Action Plan:** Included within the strategy is a detailed action plan that outlines high-level actions needed to facilitate fish recovery across the catchment. The plan also sets up mechanisms for monitoring progress to ensure the strategy's goals are being met.

##### Strategic Integration:

The Bristol Avon Fish Recovery Strategy operates at a strategic level within the catchment and the broader region. It is integrated into several regional and environmental frameworks, ensuring its principles and actions align with wider conservation efforts. Specifically, it is considered in the development and implementation of:

- The Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the region.
- Biodiversity Net Gain initiatives.
- Environmental Land Management Schemes.

Additionally, the strategy is featured on the West of England Combined Authority website as a key regional document, reflecting its importance in the region's environmental planning. By aligning with these strategies, the Bristol Avon Fish Recovery Strategy plays a crucial role in promoting a resilient and biodiverse future for the region's rivers and aquatic ecosystems.



Image: Brown trout is a key native species which the Bristol Avon Fish Recovery Strategy sets out to sustain and increase populations

The Trust expresses its gratitude to the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership for the funding provided through the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership project grant scheme.

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### Enhancing the Sherston Avon, Wiltshire with woody structures

In autumn 2023, the Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART) initiated a major river restoration project on a 150-meter stretch of the Sherston Avon near Easton Grey, Wiltshire. Funded by the Environment Agency Fisheries Improvement Programme, The Halpin Trust, and the Easton Grey Fishing Syndicate, the project aimed to improve the river's ecological health through the installation of nine complex woody structures.

Following a 2022 river walkover with the Easton Grey Fishing Syndicate, the project focused on enhancing wild fish habitats in response to poor river conditions exacerbated by groundwater extraction and climate change. The river had become overly wide and shallow, particularly in dry weather, which highlighted the need for structural changes to improve flow and create deeper habitats.

The woody structures were designed to narrow the river channel, increase flow diversity, and develop new habitats. These structures, built over three days by BART staff, volunteers from Mott McDonald, include strategically placed woody deflectors and hinged trees. The deflectors will help trap sediment and promote the growth of vegetation, while the hinged trees will restore natural habitat complexity.

These interventions are expected to enhance the river's resilience to climate change, support aquatic wildlife, and improve overall ecological health.



Image: the BART team undertaking a detailed site survey, and on the right, a hinged tree installed on the Sherston Avon, to improve flow diversity and habitat to support wildlife

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024*

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### Community Engagement:

#### Bristol Frome

BART hosted a range of community events across the catchment, with a highlight being the ongoing work on the Bristol Frome. Funded by the Environment Agency's Water Environment Improvement Fund (WEIF), this project engaged diverse audiences on topics such as water quality, pollution, Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, and Natural Flood Management (NFM).

The project achieved:

- **One school involved** in our Eels in the Classroom project
- **Seven school events**, such as lessons, field trip to our NFM work, river dips. Reaching a total of 378 children.
- **Four community events** involving local beaver scouts and a general community event, reaching over 100 individuals.
- **Engaging one hundred businesses** through our 'Only Rain Down the Drain' campaign, raising awareness to businesses about the connections between surface drains and nearby watercourses, safe management of waste material, drainage blockages and to discuss ways of minimising impacts of business activity on water pollution.
- **Three farm landowners engaged** about the current health of the Bristol Frome, water quality improvements, the increasing flood risk to downstream areas in the catchment and the benefits of incorporating water-based improvements to their farmland and yield. Bespoke advisory reports were created for the landowners to make these improvements.
- **An animation** aimed at enhancing understanding of the combined sewage system and the role of sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) in mitigating their impact on discharge frequency.

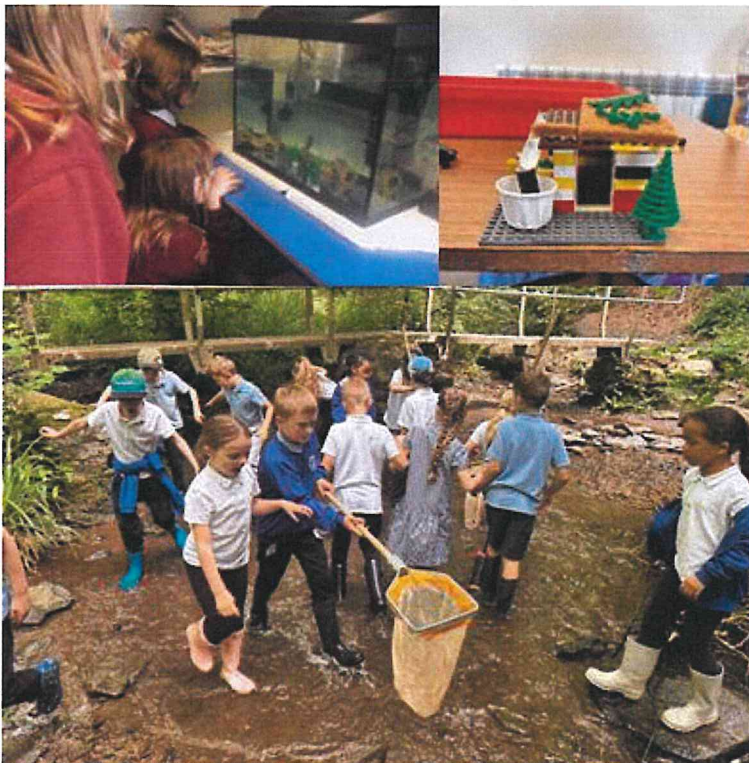


Image: Eel in the Classroom and a Lego house which formed part of the Trust's Sustainable Water Usage school project and a river dip event undertaken with a local primary school.

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### South Bristol Communities Reconnected Project

In March 2023, the Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART) published an opportunity report for the rivers and streams of South Bristol, identifying various river and habitat restoration possibilities within the Malago, Pigeonhouse, and Colliters Brook catchments. This project is now putting community-level recommendations from the report into action, with a focus on improving residents' well-being and strengthening their connections to the blue-green spaces in South Bristol.

The project was funded by the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership project grant scheme.

#### Key initiatives include:

- **Community Outreach:** Our team is delivering a comprehensive community outreach program aimed at increasing people's wellbeing and fostering a deeper connection to their local rivers and green spaces.
- **Volunteer Education and Training:** Our team is upskilling local volunteers to learn how to restore river habitat through the delivery of three river habitat restoration projects. Volunteers joined our team throughout, learning why restoration is important to support biodiversity and the techniques involved.
- **River Enhancement:** A 100m section of the Malago in Bedminster is being improved for both wildlife and community enjoyment through the installation of woody debris.
- **Riverfly Monitoring Network:** The Trust is setting up a riverfly monitoring network across the South Bristol river system to gain a deeper understanding of the ecological benefits of our restoration efforts and track how the environment responds over time. This network will also help us identify any emerging water quality issues.

These efforts aim not only to restore and improve local waterways but also to engage and empower the South Bristol community, strengthening the connection between people and their natural environment.



Image: a river clean organised by BART working with volunteers on the Pigeonhouse Stream

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024*

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### **A Practical and Honest role**

Bristol Avon Rivers Trust was founded as an active organisation, and we are not afraid to get our hands dirty and feet wet in order to make lasting improvements to the river and its species. We have grown in size, knowledge, and reputation over the past year to become a respected leading actor in environmental conservation in the Bristol Avon Catchment, but we have always remained faithful to our founders' ethos.

Bristol Avon Rivers Trust continues to act as a trusted intermediary between government and business, and the general public.

- We will continue to collaborate with all parties to achieve the best possible outcomes for the environment, wildlife, and communities;
- We will hold ourselves to the highest standards of best practise, scientific understanding, excellence, and professionalism; and
- We will continue to build trust from our partners, stakeholders, customers, and supporters.

These pillars will support the standards of excellence and integrity that the Trust has built, enabling us to make a real difference for which we strive.

### **Financial review**

Rolling cash flow forecast, movement on restricted and unrestricted funds and working capital are the key financial performance indicators which are assessed during the regular financial reporting to monitor performance.

Thanks to the Trust's ability to demonstrate its adaptability to funders throughout the year, confidence in the Trust has grown. This has resulted in increased reserves and a strong pipeline of projects for future years.

The CEO conducted quarterly financial assessments in close collaboration with the Trustees to ensure the Trust maintained a strong delivery focus throughout the year. Contributions from the consulting arm, BART River Services Ltd, also helped diversify income.

The CEO, Head of Operations, and Finance Manager link business planning to budgets and projects. The use of Xero ensures robust and controlled financial management. However, significant inflation over the past 12 months has stressed budgets, particularly for capital works. Contractual commitments are regularly reviewed, and for multi-year initiatives, inflation increases are factored in.

While the funding and economic outlook remains uncertain, the Trust has significant contracted work for the coming year and a solid pipeline of work expected to be confirmed in the first three quarters of next year. As a result, the Trustees are optimistic about the future.

The Trust is committed to using its reserves to further its charitable goals, considering the maintenance and development of its workforce critical to that mission. The Trust's reserve policy ensures that reserves are sufficient to meet its projected needs, as conservatively determined by the Trustees, who believe the Trust is well-positioned.

The attached accounts include a provision for deferred income related to project expenditures where invoices have not yet been received.

### *Reserves policy*

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between twelve and eighteen month's expenditure. The Trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

# **BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024***

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### **Plans for future periods**

The Trust is committed to continuing its efforts to achieve its goals in a professional and safe manner. The future looks promising, with a wide range of projects planned for the upcoming fiscal year. These include creating a floodplain wetland in the Chew Valley, Natural Flood Management projects across the Bristol Frome, eDNA fish monitoring, multiple reach-scale river habitat restoration programs across the catchment, several weir removals / easements, citizen science training events, scaling up our working with farms, and invasive species control.

The Trust will remain an active member of the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership and West of England Nature Partnership, contributing to strategic plans for improving the Bristol Avon at the catchment level and participating in partnership projects as they arise. Additionally, the Trust will continue to identify opportunities to provide education and advice on the river environment to schools and local community groups across the catchment.

The Trust will maintain its leadership in improving the River Chew and will extend similar efforts to the Cam & Wellow Brooks, Bristol Frome, Upper Avon, Little Avon, and other rivers within the catchment as opportunities arise.

### **Structure, governance and management**

#### **Constitution**

The company is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee, established and constituted by a Memorandum of Association on 12 March 2012.

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

#### **Method of Appointment or Election of Trustees**

As of 31 March 2024, the Board of Trustees comprises five members with expertise in finance, accounting, risk management, health & safety, research and academia, and public relations.

The Board regularly reviews the skills and experience of its members and identifies any gaps. When necessary, Board members leverage their networks to find suitable candidates with the required expertise to act as trustees.

Trustee recruitment follows a defined process during which existing trustees seek and consider references and formally vote regarding any proposed new trustee. Successful applicants are required to complete and return an Information to be Disclosed and Declaration Form covering their status and eligibility to act as a Charity Trustee and Company Director. New trustees are appointed by the Board following an initial meeting with the Chair and an invitation to attend a Board meeting as a guest.

#### **Policies for the Induction and Training of Trustees**

New trustees receive an induction pack outlining their roles and responsibilities. Ongoing training needs are monitored by the Chair and CEO. The Board of Trustees also operates under a Code of Conduct.

#### **Pay Policy for Senior Staff**

The Chair of Trustees benchmarks staff salaries and reviews them as needed, making adjustments where necessary.

#### **Organisational Structure and Decision-Making**

The CEO is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Trust and reports to the Board of Trustees, which meets four times per year. Between Board meetings, the CEO consults with the Chair on key issues, such as financial risk, and provides updates to the Trustees as required.

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### Risk Management

The Trustees are responsible for overseeing the management and control of Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART) and its subsidiary, BART Rivers Service Ltd. This includes overall control of risk management, particularly setting and reviewing policy (at least annually and ad-hoc as well if required - e.g. due to an event or change in scope), plus also the process parameters and reviewing outcomes.

Our risk identification process is led by the delegated Risk Management Policy holder (Trustee), Chair, and CEO. This process covers all areas of risk, including financial, governance, operational, and reputational. An annual audit of controls is conducted to ensure effectiveness.

Day-to-day risk management and coordination are delegated to the Chief Executive, who reports to the Board of Trustees on the effectiveness of the risk management process, including any issues encountered and recommendations for improvement.

The Trustees regularly review individual risks, assessing their significance, potential impact, and likelihood of occurrence. Current key risks include:

- **Loss of Key Staff & Recruitment Challenges:** A succession plan is in place, providing staff with CPD support, appropriate notice periods for key individuals, and a health and wellbeing programme. Staff contracts are regularly reviewed, with permanent contracts issued where suitable to reduce reliance on temporary positions.
- **Reducing Dependence on Limited Funding Sources:** The management team has extensive experience in fundraising from diverse sources, including statutory agencies, lotteries, and charitable trusts. The Trust has consistently secured unrestricted funding and benefits from discretionary donations from supporters. While the Trust does not engage in direct fundraising campaigns, it continues to diversify funding streams.
- **Lack of Budget Control:** The CEO, Head of Operations, Finance Officer, and Trustees ensure that business planning is closely linked to budgets and projects. The use of Xero accounting software strengthens financial management. The Board has adopted a scheme of delegation, clearly outlining the financial authority granted to staff, ensuring a robust and auditable process.
- **Inflation:** Significant inflation over the past 12 months has put pressure on budgets, particularly for capital projects. Contractual commitments are regularly reviewed, and inflation increases are accounted for in multi-year initiatives.
- **Failure to Meet Health & Safety Standards:** The Trust has a dedicated Health & Safety Director (Board) and Health & Safety Manager (Staff) who implement a robust, annually reviewed policy. All staff undergo Health & Safety training and have access to a Health & Safety handbook.
- **Lack of Site Safeguarding:** The Trust works with children and vulnerable adults across various activities. A comprehensive safeguarding policy is in place, reviewed annually. A Safeguarding Officer is appointed within the management team, alongside a lead Trustee. All staff receive safeguarding training, and recruitment procedures strictly adhere to the policy.
- **Global Pandemics:** While the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic has diminished throughout 2023, the Trust continues to monitor the situation closely to ensure business continuity.

This structured approach ensures that BART remains resilient in the face of various risks, safeguarding both its operations and long-term sustainability.

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024*

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### **Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

The Trustees, who are also the directors of Bristol Avon Rivers Trust for the purpose 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 which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

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 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity 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 charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

*Julian Greaves*

.....  
Dr J B Greaves

**Trustee**

Date: 28/10/2024.....

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

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I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the Trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity 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 the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

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

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I 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 that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements 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 financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.



**Colm McGrory FCA**

Ormerod Rutter Limited  
The Oakley  
Kidderminster Road  
Droitwich  
Worcestershire  
WR9 9AY

Dated: ...4/11/2024

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Income from:</b>							
Donations and legacies	3	92,608	-	92,608	32,112	-	32,112
Charitable activities	4	126,055	361,288	487,343	2,060	354,969	357,029
Other trading activities	5	51,278	-	51,278	48,397	6,576	54,973
Investments	6	3,686	-	3,686	1,027	-	1,027
<b>Total income</b>		<u>273,627</u>	<u>361,288</u>	<u>634,915</u>	<u>83,596</u>	<u>361,545</u>	<u>445,141</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Charitable activities	7	196,786	375,517	572,303	3,062	368,563	371,625
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>196,786</u>	<u>375,517</u>	<u>572,303</u>	<u>3,062</u>	<u>368,563</u>	<u>371,625</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<u>76,841</u>	<u>(14,229)</u>	<u>62,612</u>	<u>80,534</u>	<u>(7,018)</u>	<u>73,516</u>
Transfers between funds		44,881	(44,881)	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	9	<u>121,722</u>	<u>(59,110)</u>	<u>62,612</u>	<u>80,534</u>	<u>(7,018)</u>	<u>73,516</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		<u>206,404</u>	<u>69,634</u>	<u>276,038</u>	<u>125,870</u>	<u>76,652</u>	<u>202,522</u>
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2024</b>		<u><u>328,126</u></u>	<u><u>10,524</u></u>	<u><u>338,650</u></u>	<u><u>206,404</u></u>	<u><u>69,634</u></u>	<u><u>276,038</u></u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	13		2,860		3,447
Investments	14		1		-
			<u>2,861</u>		<u>3,447</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	15	122,316		94,014	
Cash at bank and in hand		605,356		414,688	
		<u>727,672</u>		<u>508,702</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	17	(381,883)		(218,611)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>345,789</u>		<u>290,091</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>348,650</u>		<u>293,538</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	18		(10,000)		(17,500)
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>			<u>338,650</u>		<u>276,038</u>
<b>Net assets</b>			<u><u>338,650</u></u>		<u><u>276,038</u></u>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>					
Restricted income funds	20		10,524		69,634
Unrestricted funds			328,126		206,404
			<u>338,650</u>		<u>276,038</u>

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 2024.

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 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.

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

**AS AT 31 MARCH 2024**

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The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 28/10/2024 .....

*Julian Greaves*

.....  
Dr J B Greaves

**Trustee**

Company registration number 07986475 (England and Wales)

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash generated from operations	27		195,913		113,040
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(930)		(2,790)	
Purchase of investments		(1)		-	
Investment income received		3,686		1,027	
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>	
<b>Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities</b>			2,755		(1,763)
<b>Financing activities</b>					
Repayment of bank loans		(8,000)		(8,000)	
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>	
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>			(8,000)		(8,000)
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>			190,668		103,277
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			414,688		311,411
			<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>			<u>605,356</u>		<u>414,688</u>

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024*

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### 1 Accounting policies

#### Charity information

Bristol Avon Rivers Trust is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is The Oakley, Kidderminster Road, Droitwich, Worcestershire, WR9 9AY.

#### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's [governing document], the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "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). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

#### 1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

#### 1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

#### 1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### 1 Accounting policies (Continued)

#### 1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, 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 classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

#### 1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Plant and equipment	25% straight line
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The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

#### 1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the charity. Control is the power to govern the financial and operating policies of the entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

#### 1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

#### 1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

#### 1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### **Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

##### **Basic financial liabilities**

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

##### **Derecognition of financial liabilities**

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

#### 1.11 Taxation

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

#### 1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

#### 1.13 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

#### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### 3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Donations and gifts	92,608	32,112

### 4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Charitable income	126,055	361,288	487,343	2,060	354,969	357,029

#### Grants analysis

	Charitable activities 2024 £
South Gloucestershire Council	75,480
Wessex Water Services Ltd	70,973
Natural England	14,419
Halpin Trust	13,975
Environment Agency	128,936
Babcock International	11,250
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust	20,159
Bristol Water	21,726
Garfield Weston foundation	39,620
Mossy Earth	13,813
Other	76,992
	<u>487,343</u>

### 5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Fundraising	51,278	-	51,278	48,397	6,576	54,973

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### 6 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Interest receivable	3,686	1,027

### 7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Direct costs</b>		
Staff costs	318,605	190,788
Depreciation and impairment	1,517	1,031
Travel and subsistence	13,473	10,943
Equipment	34,852	36,920
External Services	82,825	39,584
Other	4,843	8,436
	<u>456,115</u>	<u>287,702</u>
<b>Share of support and governance costs (see note 8)</b>		
Support	102,635	76,890
Governance	13,553	7,033
	<u>572,303</u>	<u>371,625</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>		
Unrestricted funds	196,786	3,062
Restricted funds	375,517	368,563
	<u>572,303</u>	<u>371,625</u>

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### 8 Support costs allocated to activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Staff costs	70,569	61,880
Travel & subsistence	300	939
Recruitment	1,938	1,087
Building costs	2,547	1,791
Office running costs	14,617	6,640
Other costs	6,625	3,414
Staff training	6,039	1,139
Governance costs	13,553	7,033
	<u>116,188</u>	<u>83,923</u>

#### Analysed between:

Charitable activities	<u>116,188</u>	<u>83,923</u>
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#### Governance costs comprise:

	2024 £	2023 £
Accountancy fees	10,360	7,033
Professional fees	1,043	-
Independent examination	2,150	-
	<u>13,553</u>	<u>7,033</u>

### 9 Net movement in funds

	2024 £	2023 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	<u>1,517</u>	<u>1,031</u>

### 10 Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year (2023: Nil). There were no transactions with trustees during the year (2023: Nil).

### 11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Trustees	4	4
Employees	11	8
	<u>15</u>	<u>12</u>

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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11 Employees	(Continued)	
Employment costs	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	334,778	220,152
Social security costs	27,545	16,852
Other pension costs	26,851	15,664
	<u>389,174</u>	<u>252,668</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

### Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Total remuneration	<u>114,323</u>	<u>103,344</u>

## 12 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

## 13 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and equipment £
<b>Cost</b>	
At 1 April 2023	15,178
Additions	930
At 31 March 2024	<u>16,108</u>
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>	
At 1 April 2023	11,731
Depreciation charged in the year	1,517
At 31 March 2024	<u>13,248</u>
<b>Carrying amount</b>	
At 31 March 2024	<u>2,860</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>3,447</u>

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### 14 Fixed asset investments

	Investment in subsidiaries £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>	
At 1 April 2023	-
Additions	1
	<hr/>
At 31 March 2024	1
	<hr/>
<b>Carrying amount</b>	
At 31 March 2024	1
	<hr/> <hr/>
At 31 March 2023	-
	<hr/> <hr/>

### 15 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	109,224	68,862
Other debtors	-	3,892
Prepayments and accrued income	13,092	21,260
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	122,316	94,014
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

### 16 Loans and overdrafts

	2024 £	2023 £
Bank loans	18,000	26,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Payable within one year	8,000	8,500
Payable after one year	10,000	17,500
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

### 17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Bank loans	16	8,000	8,500
Other taxation and social security		9,868	6,560
Trade creditors		43,836	9,924
Accruals and deferred income		320,179	193,627
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		381,883	218,611
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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**18 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year**

	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2024</b> <b>£</b>	<b>2023</b> <b>£</b>
Bank loans	<b>16</b>	10,000	17,500

**19 Retirement benefit schemes**

<b>Defined contribution schemes</b>	<b>2024</b> <b>£</b>	<b>2023</b> <b>£</b>
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	26,851	15,664

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### 20 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
South Gouc Council: Bristol Frome NFM	-	42,410	(42,253)	-	157
Riverhub	-	39,760	(39,760)	-	-
Water Guardians	-	16,628	(15,555)	-	1,072
Species Recovery - Cam & Wellow	-	14,419	(14,419)	-	-
Stoke Brook - Forty Acres Restoration	(43)	14,308	(14,265)	-	-
River Chew spawning trib river restoration	-	13,975	(12,074)	-	1,901
South Glouc. Council; Little Avon Berkeley Estate River Restoration	-	12,761	(11,456)	-	1,305
South Bristol Communities Reconnected	-	9,040	(8,911)	-	129
Eastern Gray Restoration Ph.1	-	8,292	(8,170)	-	122
Bristol & Chew Water Resources Project	-	8,200	(9,381)	1,182	-
Various Funders:Riverfly 2023	-	7,000	(7,000)	-	-
Wilder Waterways Farm Engagement	-	6,460	(6,460)	-	-
Gauze Brook River Restoration	-	4,788	(4,505)	-	283
BACP:Our Blue Spaces	-	4,357	(3,739)	-	618
Keynsham Wier BANES CIL	-	3,301	(3,301)	-	-
The Rivers Trust:ELM T&T	-	9,237	(8,485)	-	752
Malmesbury NFM Engagement River Marden Spays Farm	-	12,149	(11,572)	-	577

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

20	Restricted funds	(Continued)				
	Pickedmoor Rhine Restoration	-	5,275	(6,018)	743	-
	Siston Brook "Blue Opportunities"	-	8,750	(6,748)	-	2,002
	Thornbury River Project	-	3,178	(3,178)	-	-
	SVR Wellow watercourse opportunities report	-	4,395	(4,352)	-	43
	Cam Brook, Little Blew WEIF	-	14,340	(14,278)	-	62
	Halpin Trust:Upper Avon & Little Avon Project	-	8,663	(8,663)	-	-
	Cotswold Conversation Board:Little Avon delivery	-	6,643	(6,643)	-	-
	Avon Wildlife Trust land Yeo Farm Engagement	5,000	1,285	(6,285)	-	-
	BACP:Chew Valley Fish Recovery Action Plan	-	9,957	(9,957)	-	-
	South Gloucestershire Council:B.Frome NFM	-	9,262	(9,262)	-	-
	The River Trust:Chew & Cong Yeo Water Resources Project	(15)	9,788	(9,772)	-	-
	DS Smith:Eel in the Classroom 2023	-	4,387	(4,387)	-	-
	Natural England:Cam & Wellow Landowner Engagement	-	4,159	(4,159)	-	-
	Natural England:Cam & Wellow Eel project	-	4,372	(4,372)	-	-
	Mendip Hills AOB Unit:Upton Farm wetland	-	2,971	(2,971)	-	-
	The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust:Rivers for Wellbeing	-	3,379	(3,379)	-	-
	BART CSR 2023	(311)	3,050	(2,739)	-	-
	Riverblitz 2023	350	13,000	(13,350)	-	-
	Easton Grey FIP	-	3,813	(3,813)	-	-

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

20 Restricted funds	(Continued)				
BART RS:NSC Goblin Combe NFM	3,523	-	(3,523)	-	-
ADAS CSF	-	2,607	(2,607)	-	-
Other funds	61,130	10,932	(23,754)	(46,808)	1,501
	<u>69,634</u>	<u>361,288</u>	<u>(375,517)</u>	<u>(44,881)</u>	<u>10,524</u>

### 21 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
General funds	206,404	273,627	(196,786)	44,881	328,126
	<u>206,404</u>	<u>273,627</u>	<u>(196,786)</u>	<u>44,881</u>	<u>328,126</u>

### 22 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
<b>At 31 March 2024:</b>			
Tangible assets	2,860	-	2,860
Investments	1	-	1
Current assets/(liabilities)	335,265	10,524	345,789
Long term liabilities	(10,000)	-	(10,000)
	<u>328,126</u>	<u>10,524</u>	<u>338,650</u>
	<u>328,126</u>	<u>10,524</u>	<u>338,650</u>
	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
<b>At 31 March 2023:</b>			
Tangible assets	3,447	-	3,447
Current assets/(liabilities)	220,457	69,634	290,091
Long term liabilities	(17,500)	-	(17,500)
	<u>206,404</u>	<u>69,634</u>	<u>276,038</u>
	<u>206,404</u>	<u>69,634</u>	<u>276,038</u>

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### 23 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2023 - none).

### 24 Subsidiaries

These financial statements are separate charity financial statements for Bristol Avon Rivers Trust.

Details of the charity's subsidiaries at 31 March 2024 are as follows:

Name of undertaking	Registered office	Nature of business	Class of shares held	% Held	
				Direct	Indirect
BART River Services Ltd	The Oakley, Kidderminster Road, Droitwich, Worcestershire WR9 9AY	Environmental consulting	Ordinary share	100.00	

The aggregate capital and reserves and the result for the year of subsidiaries excluded from consolidation was as follows:

Name of undertaking	Profit/(Loss)	Capital and Reserves
	£	£
BART River Services Ltd	692	1,776

### 25 Limited company

The charity is a limited company but has taken advantage of the exemption available to dispense with the word 'limited' after its name.

### 26 Share capital

The charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee, and as such does not have share capital.

27 Cash generated from operations	2024 £	2023 £
Surplus for the year	62,612	73,516
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(3,686)	(1,027)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	1,517	1,031
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase) in debtors	(28,302)	(39,829)
Increase in creditors	163,772	79,349
<b>Cash generated from operations</b>	<b>195,913</b>	<b>113,040</b>

# BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### 28 Analysis of changes in net funds

	At 1 April 2023	Cash flows	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	414,688	190,668	605,356
Loans falling due within one year	(8,500)	500	(8,000)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(17,500)	7,500	(10,000)
	<u>388,688</u>	<u>198,668</u>	<u>587,356</u>

**BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1154348

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# Accounts

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**COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 07986475**

**CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1154348**

**Bristol Avon Rivers Trust  
Company Limited by Guarantee  
Unaudited Financial Statements  
31 March 2023**

**Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)**  
**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statement of the charity for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

**Reference and administrative details**

**Registered charity name:** Bristol Avon Rivers Trust

**Charity registration number:** 1154348

**Company registration number:** 07986475

**Principal office and registered office:** Unit 4, Corum 2  
Corum Office Park  
Crown Way  
Warmley  
Bristol  
BS30 8FJ

**The Trustees:** Mr P Coleman-Smith  
Dr J Greaves  
Prof R Skeffington  
Mr D Atkin

**Company Secretary:** Mr P Coleman-Smith

**Accountants:** Whittock Consulting Limited  
Unit 4, Corum 2  
Corum Office Park, Crown Way  
Warmley, Bristol  
BS30 8FJ

**Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)**  
**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

**Structure, governance and management**

**Constitution**

The Articles of Association remain unchanged.

**Legal Structure**

The Trust is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee governed by its memorandum and articles of association. The Trustees of the charity are also the directors of the company for the purposes of the Companies Act.

**Trustees**

The Trustees are responsible for the overall direction and charitable activities of the Trust and for ensuring the Trust complies with the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

**Selection and appointment of Trustees**

The introduction and recruitment of Trustees is by recommendation of existing Trustees and is made by personal contacts with other organisations or individuals with related environmental or river trust interests and appropriate skills. The Trust aims to maintain a broadly respected body of Trustees with sufficient experience to provide strong governance and add value to the Trusts decision making.

**Organisational structure**

A formal delegation of powers has been developed and adopted to guide decision making. The Chief Executive Officer is in frequent contact with the Chair of the Trustees.

The Chair of the Trustees attends monthly meetings with the Chief Executive Officer and key project managers and staff to ensure satisfactory progress is being made and subsequently reports monthly to the Board using key agreed metrics and topics.

**Risk Management**

The Trustees have established systems to mitigate risk appropriate to the size of the charity with a focus on Finance and Health & Safety. Processes and procedures are reviewed annually by the Trustees and annual refreshment of Health & Safety procedures takes place for all staff, Trustees and key volunteers. During the last year the Trustees have authorised expenditure to improve the Trust's Data Protection capabilities and also centralised control of all documentation to avoid potential loss of Trust data and records.

**Objectives and activities**

**a) Legal Purpose Charitable Objectives**

The charitable objectives of the Trust set out in the Memorandum and articles of association are:

To conserve, protect, rehabilitate and improve rivers streams, watercourses and water impoundments of the catchments comprising the Bristol Avon and South Gloucestershire streams including adjacent estuarine areas, for the advancement of environmental protection or improvement for the benefit of the public.

To advance the education of the public or any association, institution, voluntary organisation, company, local authority or representative body in:

# Bristol Avon Rivers Trust

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)

#### Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

- a) The understanding of rivers, river corridors and river catchments including their fauna, biochemistry, economic or social activity and river management.
- b) The need for, and benefits of, conservation, protection, rehabilitation and improvement of aquatic environments.

The Trusts objectives correspond with the charitable purposes of advancing environmental protection and the advancement of education as described in the Charities Act 2011. The Trust's activities meet the two key principles of public benefit as follows:

**Principle 1.** There must be identifiable benefits which are clear, related to the aims and balanced against any detriment or harm.

**Principle 2.** The benefits must be appropriate to the aims and available to the public or section of the public and private benefits must be incidental.

The Trust's work meets principle 1 through bringing about physical change to the rivers and streams with the catchment through improvement to in stream riparian habitat and by working with the formal catchment partnership to influence plans and strategies involving water quality within the catchment to ensure that environmental outcomes are represented within such plans. The Trust further works throughout the catchment to share these plans at local and community level. The Trust's work aims to provide ecosystem services benefits to the public through improving water quality, preserving the habitat and food sources of endangered species, conserving the environment and providing education about the aquatic environment to community groups and schools.

The Trust's work meets principle 2 through improving water quality and the natural environment for the benefit of all. These include users of water in home and business, leisure users, and communities who live by the river as well as schools and outreach organisations and volunteers using the river to improve levels of wellbeing in the community.

#### b) Aims and Activities to Support Objectives

The Trust aims to protect, restore and enhance the rivers, streams and riparian habitat, within the Bristol Avon Catchment. It aims to achieve this by working at all levels from local projects to catchment wide initiatives and at all educational levels from primary schools to university, and through national initiatives such as run by the Riverfly Partnership providing at all times that our mutual objectives are complimentary. Our principal aims are described by the following activity headings.

#### Land Management

We aim to protect and restore rivers that have suffered damage or whose habitats are under threat. Activities range from restoring spawning gravels and improving fish passage to working with the farming community to improve soil management practices where these detrimentally affect our rivers and streams.

#### Education

We work with schools, universities and community groups to engage people with their river and help them learn about the challenge their rivers face in our modern world. We help groups play an active role in looking after their local river through projects and citizen science. We aim to influence local policy and plans using our local knowledge and through our membership of the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership and our relationships with other key agencies and utilities.

# **Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)**

#### **Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

##### **Partnership working**

The nature of the Trust's work is that partnership working, and public engagement are essential to delivery. The Trust often works as a facilitator providing vision and finance for projects and bringing together the necessary skills from a range of other organisations. Partnerships are formed for a number of reasons – working at catchment level with the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership, or within an individual project where skills do not exist within the Trust.

The Trust has continued to be a member of the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership, a partnership set up to co-ordinate the efforts of multiple partners in improving water quality for the benefit of people and wildlife. The Trust contributes considerable in-kind contributions in time and through raising funds to support catchment partnership projects.

The Trust is also a Board Member of the West of England Nature Partnership where it provides a voice for water and is working to integrate aquatic ecosystems into nature's recovery.

##### **Significant activities**

The Trust has drawn funds from multiple sources during the year enabling it to lead a number of initiatives and partnership projects. Projects have covered a range of activities which have benefitted both the public and the environment.

In response to additional funding streams and increasingly tight delivery timelines, the team successfully ramped up their delivery. In doing so, the Trust has made a significant contribution to our goals and left an indelible stamp on the catchment. Among the most notable operational accomplishments are:

- During the winter of 2022/23, the team delivered an ambitious catchment-wide programme of habitat restoration and natural flood management work across several of our sub-management catchments, including the River Marden and Bristol Frome. Riparian woodland planting, wetland creation, leaky dams, wildlife ponds, and river habitat restoration were among the capital activities completed. Collectively, these actions are assisting in increasing our catchment's resilience to flooding, climate change, and biodiversity loss, and in many cases, improve water quality and provide improved "blue" spaces for people to enjoy.
- The Trust's work with landowners is expanding and has become an important component of our delivery strategy. The Trust has been involved in a Defra Test & Trial programme in the River Chew catchment, working with farms to be ready for the move to the Environment Land Management scheme. This work included multiple farm workshops, individual farm visits, and the development of programmes to improve the resilience of both our waterways and farm businesses. This work has enabled the creation of nature-based solutions across the landscape, resulting in improved soil health, and cleaner water entering our watercourses within the areas we have worked. Nature-based solutions also help to slow the flow of water, which contributes to greater resilience in the face of climate change.
- Throughout the year, The Trust has worked with the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership to lead development of the Bristol Avon Fish Recovery Strategy which serves as a tool for embedding the value of rivers in decision-making across spatial planning, public health and economic development. This Bristol Avon Fish Recovery Strategy will guide collective action to deliver the partnerships vision and objectives for fish populations in the Bristol Avon catchment.

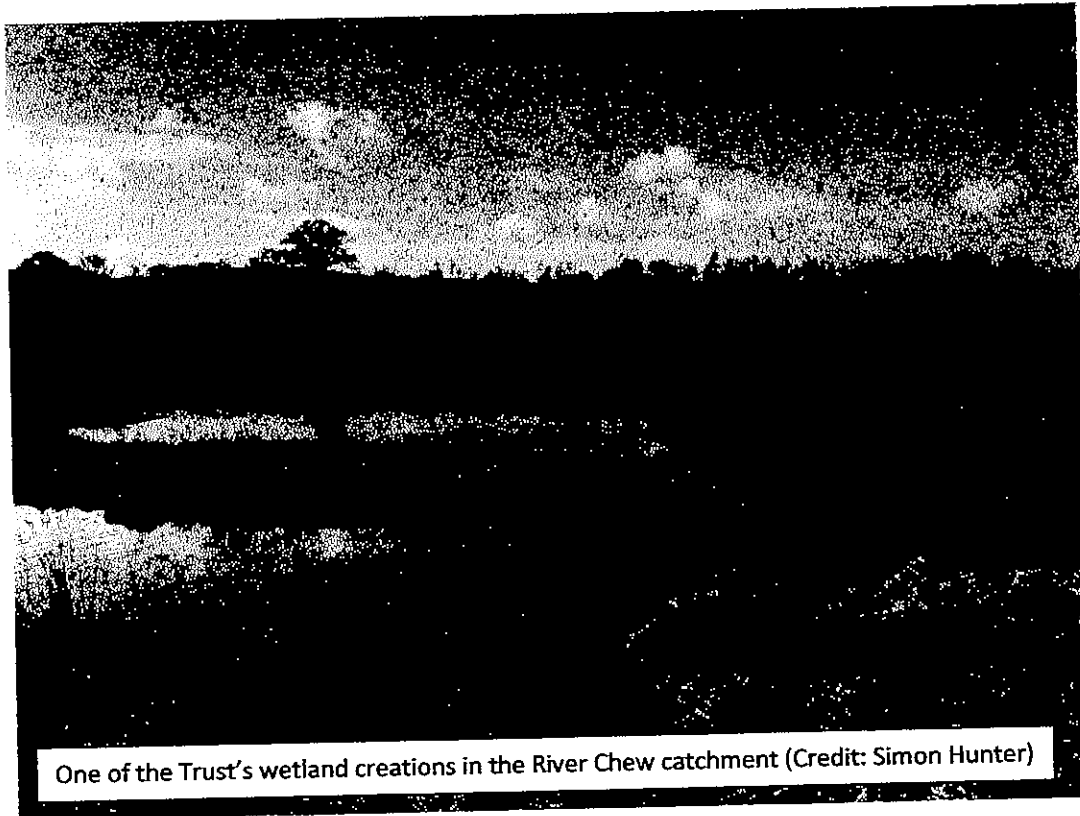
# Bristol Avon Rivers Trust

Company Limited by Guarantee

## Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)

Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

- The Trust has been working on an ambitious Freshwater Biodiversity Market that will enable buyers and sellers to enable investment in freshwater biodiversity. This would help fill the current gap in investment to restore river habitats and address barriers to fish passage. The project is developing a process for freshwater biodiversity code that will provide a standard UK metric for enhancement to freshwater biodiversity through the delivery of river restoration techniques.
- The Trust also concluded its Defra Green Recovery Challenge Fund River Chew Re-Connected project which included a sustainable Water Usage project that reached a total of 2,421 people through events, talks, walks, local volunteering, schools' activities, and monitoring programmes. The project enabled the recruitment of a dedicated River Chew Community Engagement Officer who has been an invaluable resource for this project. The success of this project and the way that Amy has integrated into the BART team has meant that we have continued her contract past the end of this project.



### Volunteering at Bristol Avon Rivers Trust

The Trust works very closely with a diverse range of volunteers, who include individuals, community groups and corporations. Collectively, the skills and additional resource that our volunteer base provides, remains an invaluable support mechanism towards helping us achieve our organisational Objectives.

The past 12 months has seen volunteering at BART grow, in response to the ongoing publicity around the state of our rivers. The Trust has continued to support its monitoring network in support of the Riverfly Partnership and had delivered several training events this year. We now have over 100 volunteer sites across the Bristol

# **Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)**

#### **Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

Avon. The Trust's 2022 training sessions have resulted in monitoring on many new watercourses as well as extending the network of sites we had already established in some areas. In addition, the Trust has continued to deliver its Smart Rivers invertebrate monitoring to monitor the health of the Chew and has collected two seasons of data for the Congresbury Yeo. This programme was financed by Bristol Water and D'Oyley Carte.

The Trust has established a new citizen science programme named BART Detectives, supported by Bristol Water, Wessex Water, Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership, Bath and North East Somerset Council. In an effort to increase and improve water quality monitoring, at a time when Environment Agency monitoring is being reduced, BART are leading a citizen science 'BART River Detectives' project. The pilot has been rolled out across several sub-management catchments, including the Cam & Wellow Brooks, Bristol Frome and the River Chew. The collected data will be displayed on an interactive map, providing a more comprehensive data collection and improving our understanding of river health throughout the catchment whilst upskilling members of the community to undertake water quality monitoring.

The Trust will always work at a catchment scale and continue to influence river and land management to benefit the environment and local communities.

#### **Achievements and Performance**

To conserve this wonderful river catchment, we continue to work closely with various individuals and organisations along the river, including farmers and landowners, environmental organisation, communities, and businesses. Priorities for a number of tributaries of the Avon have been determined in collaboration with our partners and government policy, and we have worked hard to deliver these projects in the best possible way to accomplish a set of environmental objectives and value for money, providing wider benefits to society and wildlife as a whole.

The Trust's most notable achievements during the last year has been its successful partnership application to Defra's Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF) to develop a Freshwater Biodiversity model and code. The project will fill a significant gap in the natural capital investment market through monetising river restoration techniques and the subsequent benefits this provides to enhancing and restoring freshwater biodiversity. The Trust is leading the project, which is being carried out in collaboration with The Rivers Trust, the Duchy of Cornwall, and Federated Hermes and the development phase will conclude in Q3 of 2023.

In addition, the Trust is heavily involved as a delivery partner within the Resilient Frome Partnership engaging in the Natural Flood Management Project Steering Group and developing and delivering projects on the ground. The Resilient Frome project is funded by Defra as part of the £200 million Flood and Coastal Innovation Programmes, which is managed by the Environment Agency. The programmes will drive innovation in flood and coastal resilience and adaptation to a changing climate.

Trustees have continued to lead improvements to the Trust's policies.



# **Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)**

#### **Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

inspiring talk at the festival for which a further 30 people attended. BART's presence and engagement during these events will lead to changing ideas and positive actions. The project has been mentioned in 7 press releases through local press coverage, including:

- Chew Valley Gazette, Oct 21: 'Let's clean up our river!'
- Keynsham Voice, May 22: 'Keeping a caring eye on River Chew'
- Mendip Times, June 22: 'Monitoring the River Chew'
- Keynsham Voice, Oct 22: 'Habitat boost attracts butterflies to river'
- Chew Gazette, Oct 22: 'New habitat attracts a range of butterflies along the River Chew'
- Mendip Times, May 22: 'River Chew causes concern'
- Chew Gazette, Dec 22: 'River Chew: Bristol Avon Rivers Trust work with nature to benefit people and wildlife'

#### **Case Study**

##### **River Chew Re-Connected.**

##### *Aims*

The River Chew Reconnected Project commenced in August 2021 and was completed in March 2023 centred around the Chew catchment based in Bath & Northeast Somerset, approximately 6.5Km southwest of Bristol and set out to achieve four main aims:

- To improve reach scale biodiversity, which will contribute towards the delivery of improvements at a landscape scale.
- Targeting both the urban and rural areas within the catchment with the aim of educating and providing inspiration for individuals to change their behaviours.
- Engage local people in the project so that communities are informed and inspired about nature conservation and recovery.
- To leverage additional funds to grow the project and deliver for the River Chew catchment plan.

##### *Flood risk-benefits*

Across 2 project sites, BART created a total of 8 wetland scrapes with a total area of 0.245Ha and a capacity to hold 3675m<sup>3</sup> of water. In times of heavy rainfall, the scrapes will accommodate an additional storage capacity of 3675m<sup>3</sup> of water which would have otherwise runoff into the River Chew. Wetland scrapes are excellent nature-based solutions that help to "slow the flow" of water by holding it back in the landscape and thus provide increased resilience to properties at flood risk downstream, such as the villages of Pensford and Woollard who have historically been badly affected by severe flooding.

**Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
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**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**



Wetland creation within the floodplain of the River Chew

*Carbon Sequestration*

Wetlands can store 50 times more carbon than rain forests and it is therefore vital that we continue to create these invaluable nature-based solutions in the landscape to enable us to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Evidence gathered by Hope and Others (2001) have suggested ponds, for which these habitats are similar, could sequester up to  $29.33 \text{ t CO}_2\text{e ha}^{-1} \text{ Y}^{-1}$ , which could result in the wetland scrapes created as a result of the River Chew Reconnected project may sequester up to  $7.186 \text{ t CO}_2\text{e ha}^{-1} \text{ Y}^{-1}$ .

In addition to the wetland scrapes, the 470m of hedgerows planted across both project sites is likely to sequester a good amount of carbon too and further provide resilience to climate change impacts. Studies undertaken by Axe (2015) have suggested hedgerows untrimmed for 3 years (height 3.5 m, width 2.6–4.2 m) contained a carbon stock of  $42 \pm 3.78 \text{ t C ha}^{-1}$  in their above ground biomass, and this reduced to  $40.6 \pm 4.47 \text{ t C ha}^{-1}$  and  $32.2 \pm 2.76 \text{ t C ha}^{-1}$  when trimmed to a height of 2.7 and 1.9m high respectively. Minimally managed hedges at the same site were reported to store on average higher amounts of carbon in their vegetation at  $45.8 \pm 12.26 \text{ t C ha}^{-1}$ . Both farms follow sustainable land management principles and being informed with this information, they have agreed to undertake minimal management of the hedgerows in order to obtain the maximum amount of carbon storage.

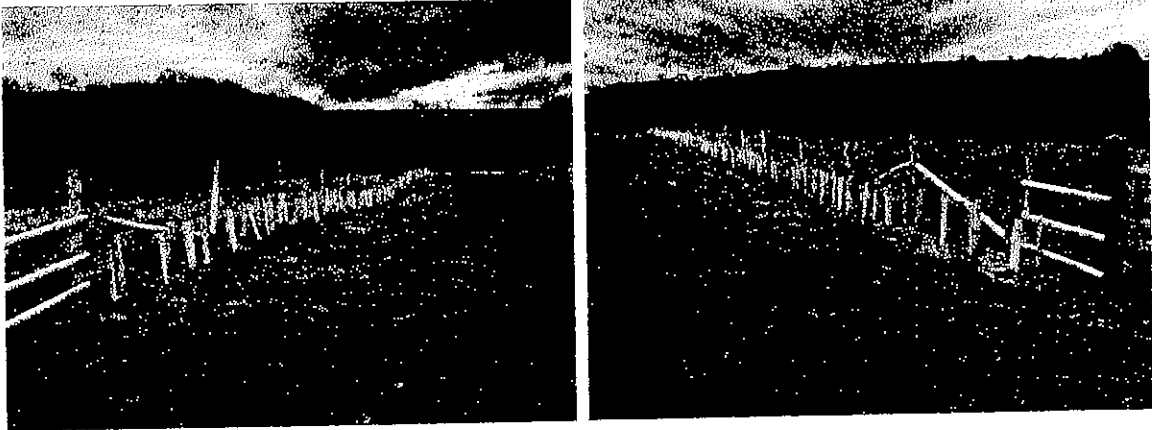
# Bristol Avon Rivers Trust

Company Limited by Guarantee

## Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)

Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Hedgerow planting to create a better connected and diverse wildlife corridor



### *Drought Resilience*

Wetlands perform a number of important functions: from acting as temporary water stores to the recharging of aquifers. The microclimatic effects of wetlands help to buffer temperatures, maintaining soil moisture and groundwater levels. The River Chew has been impacted by drought and low flow conditions over the past 2 years in particular as summer temperatures have soared. The presence of wetland scrapes within the catchment will help to recharge the River Chew in times of drought and enable the freshwater biodiversity of the river ecosystem to become more resilient to climate change.

### *Community engagement*

In October 2021, BART employed a River Chew Community Engagement Officer to deliver a programme of school and community engagement across the Chew catchment area with the opportunity to extend outreach to deprived areas such as Keynsham and Bristol that are within 2-6Km of the catchment. The project ran for a period of 18 months and has far exceeded the predicted outputs by delivering engagement to the following:

- The Sustainable Water Usage project has reached a **total of 2,421 people** through events, talks, walks, local volunteering, schools' activities and monitoring.
- BART engaged 640 individuals from 10 different community groups.
- **1,546 children engaged** through classroom and river-based educational activities.
- The project has planted **2,804 trees** across the 2 sites which has helped create **600m of new hedgerow connectivity, 1 wildflower meadow, and created 8 seasonal wetland scrapes.**
- The delivery of work has enabled BART to engage with over 20 new landowners in the area to talk about nature-based solutions and opportunities on their farms.
- BART **trained 10 individuals** to take monthly Riverfly samples at 10 different sites within the Chew catchment.
- **235 individuals have been actively involved** with heritage activities including tree planting, eels in the classroom, Riverfly training and monitoring and wetland planting.

# Bristol Avon Rivers Trust

Company Limited by Guarantee

## Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)

Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

- 53 Events have taken place across the catchment and within schools to increase people's understanding of key local environmental and water management issues relevant to the River Chew.



BART's Community Engagement Officer educating and inspiring the next generation of river guardians



Top left & right: Riverfly monitoring training; Bottom left and right: "Eel in the Classroom" programme forming part of BART's school engagement work package.

# **Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)**

#### **Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

##### **A Practical and Honest role**

Bristol Avon Rivers Trust was founded as an active organisation, and we are not afraid to get our hands dirty and feet wet in order to make lasting improvements to the river and its species. We have grown in size, knowledge, and reputation over the past year to become a respected leading actor in environmental conservation in the Bristol Avon Catchment, but we have always remained faithful to our founders' ethos.

Bristol Avon Rivers Trust continues to act as a trusted intermediary between government and business, and the general public.

- We will continue to collaborate with all parties to achieve the best possible outcomes for the environment, wildlife, and communities;
- We will hold ourselves to the highest standards of best practise, scientific understanding, excellence, and professionalism; and
- We will continue to build trust from our partners, stakeholders, customers, and supporters.

These pillars will support the standards of excellence and integrity that the Trust has built, enabling us to make a real difference for which we strive.

##### **Financial review**

Rolling cash flow forecast, movement on restricted and unrestricted funds and working capital are the key financial performance indicators which are assessed during the regular financial reporting to monitor performance.

As the Trust was able to show funders that it could adjust and adapt to restrictions throughout the year, their confidence in the Trust has increased resulting in a year in which we were able to increase reserves and develop a healthy pipeline of projects for future years.

The CEO conducted quarterly financial assessments, working closely with the Trustees to ensure that the Trust maintained a strong delivery focus throughout the year. The Trust received contributions from its consulting arm, BART River Services Ltd, which contributed in income diversification.

The CEO, Head of Operations and Finance Manager, link business planning to budgets and projects. The use of Xero ensures that the financial management of the Trust is robust and controlled.

Significant inflation increases over the past 12 months has placed stress on our budgets, especially so in respect to capital works. Contractual commitments are regularly reviewed, and, for multi-year initiatives, inflation increases are accounted for.

While the funding and economic outlook remain extremely uncertain, the Trust has significant contracted work for the coming year as well as a robust pipeline of work that we expect to be confirmed in the first half of next year. As a result, the Trustees feels optimistic about its future.

The Trust is committed to using its reserves to further its charitable goals, and it feels that maintaining and developing its workforce is critical to that goal.

The Trust's reserve policy is that they must be sufficient to fulfil the trust's projected needs as conservatively decided by the Trustees. In this regard, the Trustees consider that the trust is well placed.

# Bristol Avon Rivers Trust

Company Limited by Guarantee

## Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)

Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

The attached accounts contain a provision for deferred income in relation to expenditure on projects where invoices have not yet been received.

### Plans for future periods

The Trust will continue to work hard to achieve its goals in a professional and safe manner. The future looks promising, with a wide range of projects scheduled for the coming fiscal year. These include the creation of a floodplain wetland in the Chew Valley, eDNA fish monitoring, several reach scale river habitat restoration programmes across the catchment, riverfly training events, SmartRivers, and the control of invasive species in the Chew Valley.

The Trust will remain a member of the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership and West of England Nature Partnership and seek to contribute both to strategic plans for the improvement of the Bristol Avon at catchment level and to partnership projects which may arise as a result. The Trust will continue to identify opportunities to provide education and advice regarding the river environment across the catchment to both schools and local community groups.

The Trust will continue its work on leading improvements on the River Chew and will make similar contributions on the Cam & Wellow Brook's, River Marden, Bristol Frome, Upper Avon, Little Avon as well as other rivers within the catchment when opportunities present themselves.

The trustees' annual report was approved and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

**Julian  
Greaves**  
-----

Digitally signed by  
Julian Greaves  
Date: 2023.08.07  
09:43:33 +01'00'

Dr J Greaves

Chairman

Date Signed .....

# **Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)**

#### **Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

##### **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**

We report to the trustees on our examination of the financial statements of Bristol Avon Rivers Trust ('the charity') for the financial year ended 31 March 2023.

##### **Responsibilities and Basis of Report**

The trustees are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law and are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income does not exceed £500,000. The Trustees feel it is prudent to have an independent examination and we are qualified to undertake this examination by being a practising member firm of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants.

Having satisfied ourselves that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is our responsibility to;

- Examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and
- To state whether any matters have come to our attention

##### **Independent Examiners' Statement**

We have completed our examination. We confirm that no matters have to come our attention in connection with the examination giving us cause to believe;

- 1) Accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2) The financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3) The financial statements 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 financial statements 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 (FRS102)

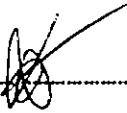
# Bristol Avon Rivers Trust

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)

Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

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

Signed  .....

Date Signed 15-08-23 .....

Whittock Consulting Limited

Unit 4, Corum 2

Crown Way,

Warmley,

Bristol,

BS30 8FJ

**Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)**  
**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

**Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)**

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	5	32,112	-	32,112	835
Charitable activities	6	2,060	354,969	357,029	348,333
Other trading activities	7	49,424	6,576	56,000	42,096
<b>Total</b>		<b>83,596</b>	<b>361,545</b>	<b>445,141</b>	<b>391,264</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	8	3,062	368,563	371,625	319,251
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,062</b>	<b>368,563</b>	<b>371,625</b>	<b>319,251</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds</b>					
		<b>80,534</b>	<b>(7,018)</b>	<b>73,516</b>	<b>72,013</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		125,870	76,652	202,522	130,509
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>206,404</b>	<b>69,634</b>	<b>276,038</b>	<b>202,522</b>

The statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All Income and Expenditure derive from continuing activities.

**Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)**  
**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

		2023	2022
		£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	13	3,447	1,688
		<b>3,447</b>	<b>1,688</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	14	94,014	54,185
Cash at bank and in hand		414,688	311,411
		<b>508,702</b>	<b>365,596</b>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>(218,611)</b>	<b>(138,762)</b>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>290,091</b>	<b>226,834</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>293,538</b>	<b>228,522</b>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after one year</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>(17,500)</b>	<b>(26,000)</b>
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b>276,038</b>	<b>202,522</b>
<b>Funds of the Charity</b>			
Restricted funds		69,634	76,652
Unrestricted funds		206,404	125,870
<b>Total charity funds</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>276,038</b>	<b>202,522</b>

For the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to company's subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

# **Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**

**Company Limited by Guarantee**

**Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)**

**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue and are signed on behalf of the board by:

**Julian  
Greaves**

Digitally signed by  
Julian Greaves  
Date: 2023.08.07  
09:45:38 +01'00'

**Dr J Greaves**

**Chairman**

**Date Signed** .....

# Bristol Avon Rivers Trust

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)

#### Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

#### 1. General information

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Unit 4, Corum 2, Crown Way, Warmley, Bristol, BS30 8FJ.

#### 2. Statement of Compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of FRS 102, section 1A, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, the 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) (Charities SORP FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

#### 3. Accounting Policies

##### Debtors

Trade debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discounts offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discounts due.

##### Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared on the historical cost basis.

##### Creditors

Creditors 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 are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

##### Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charities ability to continue.

##### Taxation

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

##### Disclosure exemptions

The entity satisfies the criteria of being a qualifying entity as defined in FRS 102. As such advantage has been taken of the following disclosure exemptions available under paragraph 1.12 of FRS 102.

- a) No cash flow statement has been presented for the company.
- b) Disclosures in respect of financial instruments have not been presented.

##### 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.

##### Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

# Bristol Avon Rivers Trust

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)

Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Trustees for particular projects or commitments.

Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through terms of an appeal and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

#### **Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- 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.
- Legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- 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 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 from contracts for the supply of goods and services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

#### **Resources expended**

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered and is classified under the headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates.

- Expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs relating to governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable basis.

#### **Tangible assets**

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment costs.

**Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
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**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Plant and machinery                      - 25% straight line

**Defined contribution plans**

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided.

**4. Limited by guarantee**

Bristol Avon Rivers Trust is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of its being wound up, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member.

**5. Donations and legacies**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>
Donations	<u>32,112</u>	<u>32,112</u>	<u>835</u>	<u>835</u>

**Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**  
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**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

**6. Charitable activities income**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£
Environment Agency		32,560	32,560
D'Oyley Carte		555	555
The Halpin Trust		52,311	52,311
Bristol Airport Community Fund		6,973	6,973
Cotswold Conservation Board		7,507	7,507
Avon Wildlife Trust		4,219	4,219
South Gloucestershire Council		21,902	21,902
Co-Op		656	656
Calne Town Council		6,083	6,083
Bristol Water		11,046	11,046
Bradley Stoke Council		900	900
Wessex Water		10,992	10,992
The Rivers Trust		9,928	9,928
Nature England		22,854	22,854
Mendip Hills AOB		14,197	14,197
Garfield Weston Foundation		10,380	10,380
DS Smith		1,613	1,613
Friends of the Marden Valley		2,589	2,589
DEFRA		107,469	107,469
Dame Emily Park Trust		3,767	3,767
Bristol City Council		1,625	1,625
Bath and North East Somerset		361	361
Medlock Charitable Trust		384	384
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust		219	219
Waitrose		84	84
The Big Give		504	504
Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership		10,265	10,265
BART RS	2,060		2,060
Duchy of Cornwall		848	848
Peoples Postcode Lottery		5,776	5,776
Other		6,402	6,402
	2,060	354,969	357,029

# Bristol Avon Rivers Trust

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)

Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

#### Charitable Activities Income 2022

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£
Environment Agency		97,903	97,903
The Tree Council		7,426	7,426
National Heritage		48,850	48,850
D'Oyley Carte		3,500	3,500
Somerset County Council		16,960	16,960
The Halpin Trust		65,000	65,000
Bristol Airport Community Fund		5,000	5,000
Wild Trout Trust		4,000	4,000
Cotswold Conservation Board		12,750	12,750
Avon Wildlife Trust		7,000	7,000
West of England Rural Network		12,900	12,900
Earthsong Foundation		5,975	5,975
National Grid		20,000	20,000
South Gloucestershire Council		6,197	6,197
Co-Op		6,962	6,962
Duchy of Cornwall		3,760	3,760
Ninevah		2,500	2,500
Calne Town Council		3,855	3,855
Tesco		1,000	1,000
Bristol Water		5,824	5,824
Sustainable Hive		900	900
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust		2,200	2,200
Other	7,871		7,871
	<u>7,871</u>	<u>340,462</u>	<u>348,333</u>

#### 7. Other trading activities income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Fundraising events	<u>49,424</u>	<u>6,576</u>	<u>56,000</u>	<u>42,096</u>	<u>42,096</u>

**Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**  
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**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

**8. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023
	£	£	£
BART Yeo EU Farm engagement		1,384	1,384
Chew Tree planting project		7,175	7,175
Little & Upper Avon project		24,725	24,725
Fish Recovery Strategy		11,036	11,036
Chew Valley Mink Project		19,353	19,353
River Chew Re-Connected		64,740	64,740
Bristol Avon RiverBlitz		10,923	10,923
Freshwater Biodiversity Investment Model & UK Freshwater Biodiversity Code		44,865	44,865
Wilder Waterways		5,939	5,939
BART Detectives		13,708	13,708
CSR Event		3,175	3,175
Rivers for wellbeing		1,285	1,285
Cong Yeo & Chew Water resources project		9,527	9,527
Bristol Frome Re-Connected		27,943	27,943
Marden River Restoration		6,083	6,083
Our Blue Spaces Project		2,550	2,550
River Chew Watervole Surveys		4,500	4,500
Cam & Wellow Our Blue Spaces		492	492
Cam & Wellow eel project		18,013	18,013
South Bristol Rivers Project		8,767	8,767
Resilient Frome		23,432	23,432
Aberd Brook Restoration		584	584
PinPoint		228	228
Eels in the Classroom		3,513	3,513
Cam & Wellow landowner engagement project		4,841	4,841
AONB Levels Up Project		14,197	14,197
Core Costs		10,380	10,380
Riverfly Monitoring training		11,348	11,348
River Chew Spawning trib restoration		4,562	4,562
Restoring The Cam		4,115	4,115
River Marden Restoration		4,236	4,236
Stoke Brook Restoration		900	900
Other	3,062	44	3,062
	3,062	368,563	371,625

**Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**  
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**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

**Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type 2022**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022
	£	£	£
Bristol Frome WEIF		25,264	25,264
River Chew WEIF		59,820	59,820
BACP Fish Recovery Plan		9,857	9,857
Little Avon delivery		8,658	8,658
eDNA Newton Brook		3,760	3,760
Caring for the Cam		7,860	7,860
Mendip Hills Level Up Project		29,827	29,827
Winford Tree Planting		5,057	5,057
Chew Re-Connected		31,383	31,383
Mink project		5,441	5,441
BART Yeo farm engagement	712		
Chew Valley Farm nature based solutions		5,312	5,312
Riverfy monitoring		14,717	14,717
Bristol innovation fund business case development		3,228	3,228
Marden weir removal		13,252	13,252
Upper Avon & Little Avon surveys		16,832	16,832
Little Avon headwaters study		8,658	8,658
UWE Coastal Project		2,301	2,301
Eel in the classroom 2022		1,339	1,339
Marden & Congresbury Yeo Water Quality Project	12,633		
eDNA Chew		12,680	12,680
Regilbury Park Farm		20,000	20,000
Other		20,660	20,660
	<b>13,345</b>	<b>305,906</b>	<b>319,251</b>

**Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**  
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**9. Net (expenditure)/income**

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

	2023	2022
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,031	711

**10. Independent examination fees**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fees payable to the independent examiner for independent examination of the financial statements	4,362	4,128

**11. Staff costs**

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	222,852	171,540
Social security costs	16,852	11,863
Employer contribution to pension plans	15,664	4,966
	<u>255,368</u>	<u>188,369</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 12 (2022: 11). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2023	2022
Trustees	4	4
Employees	8	7
	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>

No employee received benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2022: 0).

**Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)**  
**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

**12. Trustee remuneration and expenses**

No remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity were received by the trustees and no trustees' expenses have been incurred.

**13. Tangible Assets**

	<b>Plant &amp; Machinery</b> £
<b>Cost</b>	
As at 1 April 2022	12,388
Additions	2,790
As at 31 March 2023	15,178
<b>Depreciation</b>	
As at 1 April 2022	10,700
Provided during the period	1,031
As at 31 March 2023	11,731
<b>Net Book Value</b>	
As at 31 March 2023	3,447
As at 1 April 2022	1,688

**14. Debtors**

**Due within one year**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£
Trade debtors	68,862	33,235
Prepayments and accrued income	21,260	20,950
Other debtors	3,892	-
	94,014	54,185

# Bristol Avon Rivers Trust

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)

Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

#### 15. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other taxes and social security	6,560	4,312
Other creditors	9,924	1,046
Accruals and deferred income	193,627	125,404
Bank Loans	8,500	8,000
	<u>218,611</u>	<u>138,762</u>

#### 16. Creditors: Amounts Falling After More Than One Year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank Loans	17,500	26,000
	<u>17,500</u>	<u>26,000</u>

#### 17. Deferred income

Deferred income comprises of grants received from ongoing projects which have not been completed by the balance sheet date.

	2023	2022
	£	£
Deferred income	<u>193,627</u>	<u>125,404</u>

#### 18. Pensions and other post-retirement benefits

##### Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plan was £15,664 (2022: £4,966)

# Bristol Avon Rivers Trust

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)

Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

#### 19. Analysis of charitable funds

As 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022	Income	Expenditure	At 31 March 2023
£	£	£	£
202,522	445,141	371,625	276,038

#### 20. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£		£
Tangible fixed assets	3,447		3,447	1,688
Current assets	235,517	273,185	508,702	365,596
Creditors less than 1 year	(15,060)	(203,551)	(218,611)	(138,762)
Creditors more than 1 year	(17,500)	-	(17,500)	(26,000)
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>206,404</b>	<b>69,634</b>	<b>276,038</b>	<b>202,522</b>

#### 21. Related parties

Bristol Avon Rivers Trust own 100% Shareholding of BART River Services Ltd (BART RS).

**BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1154348

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# Accounts

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**COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 07986475**

**CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1154348**

**Bristol Avon Rivers Trust  
Company Limited by Guarantee  
Unaudited Financial Statements  
31 March 2022**

# Bristol Avon Rivers Trust

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)

#### Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statement of the charity for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

#### Reference and administrative details

**Registered charity name:** Bristol Avon Rivers Trust

**Charity registration number:** 1154348

**Company registration number:** 07986475

**Principal office and registered office:** Unit 4, Corum 2  
Corum Office Park  
Crown Way  
Warmley  
Bristol  
BS30 8FJ

**The Trustees:**

Mr R J Howlett	resigned with effect from 26/04/21
Mr J B Hector	resigned with effect from 26/07/21
Mr P Coleman-Smith	
Dr J Greaves	
Prof R Skeffington	
Mr D Atkin	appointed on 08/11/21

**Company Secretary:** Mr P Coleman-Smith

**Accountants:** Whittock Consulting Limited  
Unit 4, Corum 2  
Corum Office Park, Crown Way  
Warmley, Bristol  
BS37 6BA

# **Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)**

**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

#### **Structure, governance and management**

##### **a) Constitution**

The Articles of Association remain unchanged.

##### **b) Legal Structure**

The Trust is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee governed by its memorandum and articles of association. The Trustees of the charity are also the directors of the company for the purposes of the Companies Act.

##### **c) Trustees**

The Trustees are responsible for the overall direction and charitable activities of the Trust and for ensuring the Trust complies with the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

##### **d) Selection and appointment of Trustees**

The introduction and recruitment of Trustees is by recommendation of existing Trustees and is made by personal contacts with other organisations or individuals with related environmental or river trust interests and appropriate skills. The Trust aims to maintain a broadly respected body of Trustees with sufficient experience to provide strong governance and add value to the Trust's decision making.

##### **e) Organisational structure**

A formal delegation of powers has been developed and adopted to guide decision making. The Chief Executive Officer is in frequent contact with the Chair of the Trustees.

The Chairman of the Trustees attends monthly meetings with the Chief Executive Officer and key project managers and staff to ensure satisfactory progress is being made and subsequently reports monthly to the Board using key agreed metrics and topics.

##### **f) Risk Management**

The Trustees have established systems to mitigate risk appropriate to the size of the charity with a focus on Finance and Health & Safety. Processes and procedures are reviewed annually by the Trustees and annual refreshment of Health & Safety procedures takes place for all staff, Trustees and key volunteers. During the last year the Trustees have authorised expenditure to improve the Trust's

# **Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)**

**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

Data Protection capabilities and also centralised control of all documentation to avoid potential loss of Trust data and records.

#### **Objectives and activities**

##### **a) Legal Purpose Charitable Objectives**

The charitable objectives of the Trust set out in the Memorandum and articles of association are:

To conserve, protect, rehabilitate and improve rivers streams, watercourses and water impoundments of the catchments comprising the Bristol Avon and South Gloucestershire streams including adjacent estuarine areas, for the advancement of environmental protection or improvement for the benefit of the public.

To advance the education of the public or any association, institution, voluntary organisation, company, local authority or representative body in:

- a) The understanding of rivers, river corridors and river catchments including their fauna, biochemistry, economic or social activity and river management.
- b) The need for, and benefits of, conservation, protection, rehabilitation and improvement of aquatic environments.

The Trust's objectives correspond with the charitable purposes of advancing environmental protection and the advancement of education as described in the Charities Act 2011. The Trust's activities meet the two key principles of public benefit as follows:

Principle 1. There must be identifiable benefits which are clear, related to the aims and balanced against any detriment or harm.

Principle 2. The benefits must be appropriate to the aims and available to the public or section of the public and private benefits must be incidental.

The Trust's work meets principle 1 through bringing about physical change to the rivers and streams with the catchment through improvement to in stream riparian habitat and by working with the formal catchment partnership to influence plans and strategies involving water quality within the catchment to ensure that environmental outcomes are represented within such plans. The Trust further works throughout the catchment to share these plans at local and community level. The Trust's work aims to provide ecosystem services benefits to the public through improving water quality, preserving the habitat and food sources of endangered species, conserving the environment and providing education about the aquatic environment to community groups and schools.

The Trust's work meets principle 2 through improving water quality and the natural environment for the benefit of all. These include users of water in home and business, leisure users, and communities who live by the river as well as schools and outreach organisations and volunteers using the river to improve levels of wellbeing in the community.

# **Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)**

**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

#### **b) Aims and Activities to Support Objectives**

The Trust aims to protect, restore and enhance the rivers, streams and riparian habitat, within the Bristol Avon Catchment. It aims to achieve this by working at all levels from local projects to catchment wide initiatives and at all educational levels from primary schools to university, and through national initiatives such as run by the Riverfly Partnership and by Freshwaterwatch providing at all times that our mutual objectives are complementary. Our principal aims are described by the following activity headings.

#### **Land Management**

We aim to protect and restore rivers that have suffered damage or whose habitats are under threat. Activities range from restoring spawning gravels and improving fish passage to working with the farming community to improve soil management practices where these detrimentally affect our rivers and streams.

#### **Education**

We work with schools, universities and community groups to engage people with their river and help them learn about the challenge their rivers face in our modern world. We help groups play an active role in looking after their local river through projects and citizen science. We aim to influence local policy and plans using our local knowledge and through our membership of the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership and our relationships with other key agencies and utilities.

#### **Partnership working**

The nature of the Trust's work is that partnership working and public engagement are essential to delivery. The Trust often works as a facilitator providing vision and finance for projects and bringing together the necessary skills from a range of other organisations. Partnerships are formed for a number of reasons – working at catchment level with the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership, or within an individual project where skills do not exist within the Trust.

The Trust has continued to be a member of the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership, a partnership set up to co-ordinate the efforts of multiple partners in improving water quality for the benefit of people and wildlife. The Trust contributes considerable in-kind contributions in time and through raising funds to support catchment partnership projects.

During 2021, the Trust accepted the invitation to become a board member of The West of England Nature Partnership (WENP), a partnership working to restore the natural environment in the West of England through embedding the value of nature in decision making across spatial planning, public health and economic development. WENP is the designated Local Nature Partnership (LNP) for the West of England (Bristol City, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset and Bath & North East Somerset). LNPs are a key commitment from the 2011 Government White Paper, The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature, which recognised the need for a more joined-up approach to reverse the loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems – which we all rely on – and to secure nature's return to health. The Trust provides in-kind time to support strategic project development and offers a voice for freshwater.

# **Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)**

**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

#### **Significant activities**

The Trust has drawn funds from multiple sources during the year enabling it to lead a number of initiatives and partnership projects. Projects have covered a range of activities which have benefitted both the public and the environment.

As a Rivers Trust the projects which we are involved invariably fit around the four seasons. This means we plan them to fit in with what we expect to happen at those times, some of which are more predictable than others – spawning fish and nesting birds, but also seasonal farming activities such as planting and harvest. Weather is always a significant factor and has significant impacts and so flexibility is always built in to cater for rain and the occasional flood event. Much of our engagement and education work has a similar set of seasons – based around school terms and generally good weather. Volunteering drops sharply in wet and cold weather. The Trust, like so many other organisations has had to continue to adapt throughout the pandemic, to work in a newly determined safe manner for staff, volunteers, stakeholders and public alike. The use of digital systems and remote working formed the norm for our team prior to the pandemic, but these platforms now form the norm for most. We have established new ways of working to continue to work effectively and interact with the public.

It is against this background that this report is written; the following enumerates some of the achievements from the last 12 months.

Over the past year the Trust has grown in size, knowledge and standing to become a respected leading player in environmental conservation across the Bristol Avon catchment.

The Trust's work with landowners continues to develop which has become a major factor in the delivery of our Natural Flood Management schemes that 'slow the flow' and increase the time it takes rainwater to reach our rivers across the catchment, with a focus on the River Chew catchment. The Trust have also made a number of working relationships with landowners within both the Mendip and Cotswold AONB's where project scopes have been developed to improve the habitat and water quality of watercourses. Several proposals have been submitted to the Farming in Protected Landscape grant programme, which forms part of the Government's Agriculture Transition Plan to enable landowners to be ready for the move to the Environmental Land Management scheme in 2024.

The Trust has continued to build upon the foundations of the multi-stranded River Chew catchment project and this year has delivered habitat works including tree planting, wetland creation, and natural flood management, including woody debris dams, attenuation ponds and banded scrapes in strategic locations throughout the Chew Valley, in places where the Trust has formed partnerships with landowners. This year we received support from volunteers supporting our delivery across the Bristol Avon, from tree planting to river litter picks, the Trust's volunteers have played a vital role in protecting our local rivers and wildlife. The Trust anticipates that these programs will continue to expand as our work areas continue to grow through working with partners including Bristol Water, Environment Agency Water Environment Improvement Fund, Mendip Hills AONB who have financed elements of the project over a four-year period.

# **Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)**

#### **Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

The local stakeholder and landowner relationships the Trust has formed led to the Trust applying to the Green Recovery Challenge Fund for the River Chew Re-Connected project which comprises a programme of physical riparian and floodplain restoration works, community engagement and an education package, including recruitment of a 12-month project funded River Chew Community Engagement Officer. The programme is currently underway and the Green Recovery Challenge Fund project-funded work will be completed by March 2023.

The Trust has also created a student placement for the first time, which provided the student with valuable experience of working in the conservation sector, whilst providing support to the Trust's project delivery team. A further opportunity is planned for summer 2022 as a result of the mutual success that this position provided.

Landowner engagement has formed a significant part of the Trust's work across the catchment this year, with a number of schemes being developed in the Little Avon, River Marden, Bristol Frome and Cam Brook catchments. The Trust continues to form new working relationships with local stakeholders, including local authorities, parish councils, AONB's and community groups.

The Trust has continued to support its monitoring network in support of the Riverfly Partnership and had delivered a record number of training events this year. We now have over 100 volunteer sites across the Bristol Avon. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the training courses consisted of two parts this year: 1) an online theory element with a test and 2) a practical session on the river. The practical sessions were held at suitable locations within 5 river catchments: the Chew, Marden, Somerset Frome, Congresbury Yeo and Keward Brook, Wells. The Trust's 2021 training sessions have resulted in monitoring on many new watercourses as well as extending the network of sites we had already established in some areas. In addition, the Trust has continued to deliver its Smart Rivers invertebrate monitoring to monitor the health of the Chew and has collected two seasons of data for the Congresbury Yeo. This programme was financed by Bristol Water and D'Oyly Carte.

The Trust delivered a weir removal on the River Marden, working with Calne Town Council and Bowood Estate. The project was financed by The Halpin Trust whose support we are incredibly grateful. The Trust will return to the Castlefields Park site to install river restoration techniques that will enhance river habitat during late Spring. Since the removal of the weir, the stretch of river leading to the weir has completely changed, gone is the silt to be replaced by riffles, gravel and some superb trout pools. The Trust continues to work closely with Calne Town Council and is building a strong working relationship with Calne Without Town Council too. The Trust carried out a River Marden catchment walkover survey whereby current challenges and opportunities were identified and is now beginning to build upon the findings to develop plans for several river and riparian improvement schemes.

The Trust has also spoken at many virtual events across the catchment including schools, community organisations and with local angling organisations raising awareness of issues affecting the rivers and streams in their area.

# **Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)**

**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

The Trust secured funding from the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership to lead the development of the Bristol Avon Fish Recovery Plan with the aim of working with partners to attract interest and stimulate additional support from partners to integrate this strategy into local and regional plans. The ambition would be to raise the profile of fish and aquatic life in nature's recovery and secure funding to deliver improvements to our rivers to aid the natural recruitment and health of populations of fish across the Bristol Avon catchment.

The Trust will always work at a catchment scale and continue to influence river and land management to benefit the environment and local communities.

#### **Achievements and Performance**

The Trust's most notable achievement during the last year has been its successful application to Defra's Green Recovery Challenge Fund (Round 2) to fund an 18-month River Chew Re-Connected project. The £40 million fund is supporting a range of nature conservation and recovery and nature-based solutions projects, which will contribute towards the Government's wider 25 Year Environment Plan commitments. The Trust's River Chew Reconnected project was one of 90 projects nationally that was successful in its application for funding (secured £97,700) during Round 2.

Trustees reviewed and led improvements to the Trust's policies, ensuring they remain up to date with regulation and operational experience and therefore appropriate for the work of the Trust.

#### **Charitable activities**

The Trust has continued to support its Riverfly monitoring network (over 100 sites) providing ongoing services to all volunteers verifying their data for use by the Riverfly Partnership network as well as providing them with newsletters and support where required. Further riverfly monitoring training has been provided and the Trust has bounced back with a record number of training events this year summarised to subscribers via the riverfly newsletter which is a marked achievement considering no events were carried out in the previous year due to restrictions put in place during the pandemic.

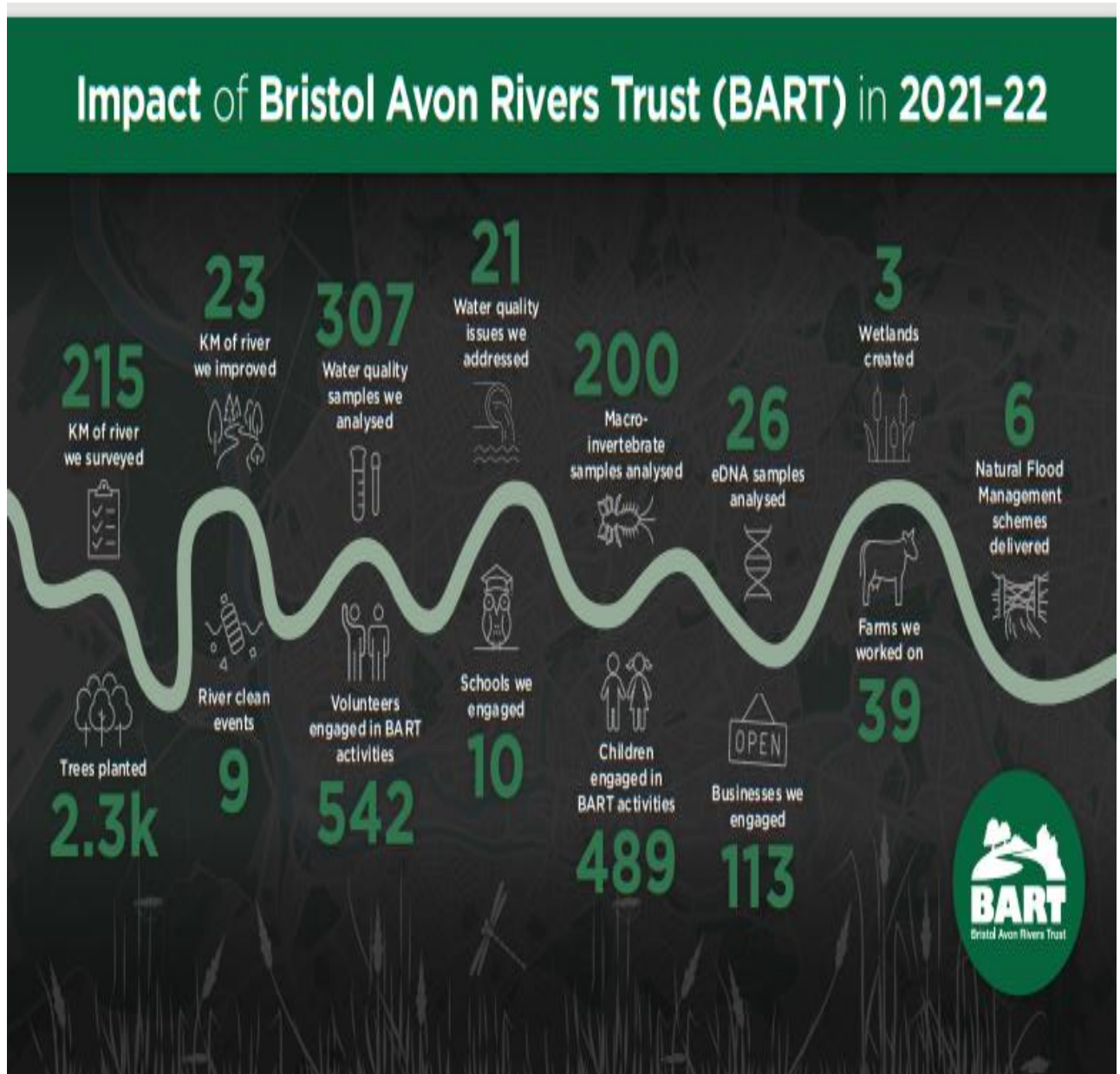
2021 also saw the delivery of the 6th Annual Bristol Avon Waterblitz with the Trust ensuring the citizen science project was delivered safely as lockdown restrictions eased. The data is displayed on the Trust's website via its visualisation tool. The Trust's "Eel in the Classroom" project was delivered across three schools in the Chew Valley, engaging students about the life cycle of the critically endangered species and the pressures impacting freshwater environments.

# Bristol Avon Rivers Trust

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)

Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022



# **Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)**

**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

#### **Financial review**

The Trust has followed Government guidelines throughout the year and continued to amend its safe working policy to ensure safety of staff and volunteers and the public. We will continue to operate in this way, as the country begins its recovery from the pandemic. As the Trust was able to show funders that it could adjust and adapt to restrictions throughout the year, their confidence in the Trust has increased resulting in a year where we have managed to increase reserves and develop a healthy pipeline of projects for future years.

Quarterly financial reviews have been carried by CEO working closely with the Trustees to ensure that the Trust maintained a strong delivery focus throughout the year. The Trust received contributions from its consultancy arm BART River Services Ltd which has aided diversification of income.

The use of Xero ensures that the financial management of the Trust is robust and controlled.

Whilst the funding and economic outlook all still appear to be extremely uncertain, the Trust has the advantage of significant contracted work for the coming year and a robust pipeline of work which we expect to be confirmed in the first half of next year. As a result, the Trust is confident it will continue to thrive.

The Trust is committed to using its reserves in pursuit of its charitable objectives and believes maintaining and growing its team are essential to that purpose.

The Trust's policy on reserves is for them to be sufficient to meet the anticipated needs of the Trust as prudently determined by the Trustees. The Trustees believe that the Trust is well placed in this respect.

The attached accounts contain a provision for deferred income in relation to expenditure on projects where invoices have not yet been received.

#### **Plans for future periods**

The Trust will continue to adapt to new ways of working to remain delivering its objectives in a safe manner, and as we move further away from the grips of lockdown and Covid-19 restrictions, the future is looking bright, with a wide range of projects planned for next financial year. These include creation of a floodplain wetland in the Chew Valley, eDNA fish monitoring, several reach scale river habitat restoration programmes across the catchment, riverfly training events in the upper Avon and Little Avon catchments, SmartRivers, and invasive species control in the Chew Valley.

The Trust will remain a member of the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership and West of England Nature Partnership and seek to contribute both to strategic plans for the improvement of the Bristol Avon at catchment level and to partnership projects which may arise as a result. The Trust will continue to identify opportunities to provide education and advice regarding the river environment across the catchment to both schools and local community groups.

The Trust will continue its work on leading improvements on the River Chew and will make similar contributions on the Marden, Bristol Frome and Little Avon as well as other rivers within the catchment when opportunities present themselves.

**Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)**  
**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

**Small company provisions**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

*Julian Greaves*  
.....

**Dr J Greaves**

**Chairman**

**Date Signed** 31/08/2022 .....

# **Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)**

**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

#### **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**

We report to the trustees on our examination of the financial statements of Bristol Avon Rivers Trust ('the charity') for the financial year ended 31 March 2022.

#### **Responsibilities and Basis of Report**

The trustees are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law and are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income does not exceed £500,000. The Trustees feel it is prudent to have an independent examination and we are qualified to undertake this examination by being a practising member firm of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants.

Having satisfied ourselves that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is our responsibility to;

- Examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and
- To state whether any matters have come to our attention

#### **Independent Examiners' Statement**

We have completed our examination. We confirm that no matters have to come our attention in connection with the examination giving us cause to believe;

- 1) Accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2) The financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3) The financial statements 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 financial statements 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 (FRS102)

# **Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)**

#### **Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

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

Signed .....

Date Signed .....

Whittock Consulting Limited

Unit 4, Corum 2

Crown Way,

Warmley,

Bristol,

BS30 8FJ

# Bristol Avon Rivers Trust

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)

Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

#### Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	5	835	-	835	754
Charitable activities	6	7,871	340,462	348,333	205,801
Other trading activities	7	-	42,096	42,096	48,194
<b>Total</b>		<b>8,706</b>	<b>382,558</b>	<b>391,264</b>	<b>254,749</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	8	13,345	305,906	319,251	220,914
<b>Total</b>		<b>13,345</b>	<b>305,906</b>	<b>319,251</b>	<b>220,914</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds</b>		<b>(4,639)</b>	<b>76,652</b>	<b>72,013</b>	<b>33,835</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		130,509	-	130,509	96,674
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>125,870</b>	<b>76,652</b>	<b>202,522</b>	<b>130,509</b>

The statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All Income and Expenditure derive from continuing activities.

# Bristol Avon Rivers Trust

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)

#### Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

		2022 £	2021 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	13	1,688	1,895
		<b>1,688</b>	<b>1,895</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	14	54,185	11,168
Cash at bank and in hand		311,411	239,990
		<b>365,596</b>	<b>251,158</b>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	15	(138,762)	(82,544)
<b>Net current assets</b>		226,834	168,614
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>228,522</b>	<b>170,509</b>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after one year</b>	16	(26,000)	(40,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b>202,522</b>	<b>130,509</b>
<b>Funds of the Charity</b>			
Restricted funds		76,652	-
Unrestricted funds		125,870	130,509
<b>Total charity funds</b>	19	<b>202,522</b>	<b>130,509</b>

For the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to company's subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

# **Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**

**Company Limited by Guarantee**

**Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)**

**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue and are signed on behalf of the board by:

*Julian Greaves*  
.....

**Dr J Greaves**

**Chairman**

**Date Signed** 31/08/2022 .....

# **Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)**

**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

#### **1. General information**

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Unit 4, Corum 2, Crown Way, Warmley, Bristol, BS30 8FJ.

#### **2. Statement of Compliance**

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of FRS 102, section 1A, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, the 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) (Charities SORP FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

#### **3. Accounting Policies**

##### **Debtors**

Trade debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discounts offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discounts due.

##### **Basis of preparation**

The accounts have been prepared on the historical cost basis.

##### **Creditors**

Creditors 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 are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

##### **Going concern**

There are no material uncertainties about the charities ability to continue.

##### **Taxation**

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

##### **Disclosure exemptions**

The entity satisfies the criteria of being a qualifying entity as defined in FRS 102. As such advantage has been taken of the following disclosure exemptions available under paragraph 1.12 of FRS 102.

- a) No cash flow statement has been presented for the company.
- b) Disclosures in respect of financial instruments have not been presented.

# **Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees Annual Report (incorporating the Directors Report)**

**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

#### **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.

#### **Fund Accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Trustees for particular projects or commitments.

Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

#### **Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- 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.
- Legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- 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 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 from contracts for the supply of goods and services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

# **Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

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**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

#### **Resources expended**

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered and is classified under the headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates.

- Expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs relating to governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable basis.

#### **Tangible assets**

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment costs.

#### **Depreciation**

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Plant and machinery                      - 25% straight line

#### **Defined contribution plans**

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided.

#### **4. Limited by guarantee**

Bristol Avon Rivers Trust is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of its being wound up, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member.

# Bristol Avon Rivers Trust

## Company Limited by Guarantee

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Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

#### 5. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2022	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2021
Donations	835	835	754	754

#### 6. Charitable activities income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£
Environment Agency		97,903	97,903
The Tree Council		7,426	7,426
National Heritage		48,850	48,850
D'Oyley Carte		3,500	3,500
Somerset County Council		16,960	16,960
The Halpin Trust		65,000	65,000
Bristol Airport Community Fund		5,000	5,000
Wild Trout Trust		4,000	4,000
Cotswold Conservation Board		12,750	12,750
Avon Wildlife Trust		7,000	7,000
West of England Rural Network		12,900	12,900
Earthsong Foundation		5,975	5,975
National Grid		20,000	20,000
South Gloucestershire Council		6,197	6,197
Co-Op		6,962	6,962
Duchy of Cornwall		3,760	3,760
Ninevah		2,500	2,500
Calne Town Council		3,855	3,855
Tesco		1,000	1,000
Bristol Water		5,824	5,824
Sustainable Hive		900	900
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust		2,200	2,200
Other	7,871		7,871
	<u>7,871</u>	<u>340,462</u>	<u>348,333</u>

# Bristol Avon Rivers Trust

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Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

#### Charitable Activities Income 2021

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2021
Environmental Agency		40,094	40,094
EU		32,750	32,750
BART RS	30,462	-	30,462
PPCL		19,450	19,450
The Tree Council		15,517	15,517
BACP		12,680	12,680
CAOB		10,250	10,250
Bath & N.E. Somerset		10,000	10,000
Bristol Airport		10,000	10,000
FWAG		7,500	7,500
Avon Wildlife Trust		7,000	7,000
Other		10,098	10,098
	<u>30,462</u>	<u>175,339</u>	<u>205,801</u>

#### 7. Other trading activities income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2021 £
Fundraising events	-	42,096	42,096	48,194	48,194
		<u>42,096</u>	<u>42,096</u>	<u>48,194</u>	<u>48,194</u>

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#### 8. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £
Bristol Frome WEIF		25,264	25,264
River Chew WEIF		59,820	59,820
BACP Fish Recovery Plan		9,857	9,857
Little Avon delivery		8,658	8,658
eDNA Newton Brook		3,760	3,760
Caring for the Cam		7,860	7,860
Mendip Hills Level Up Project		29,827	29,827
Winford Tree Planting		5,057	5,057
Chew Re-Connected		31,383	31,383
Mink project		5,441	5,441
BART Yeo farm engagement	712		
Chew Valley Farm nature based solutions		5,312	5,312
Riverfly monitoring		14,717	14,717
Bristol innovation fund business case development		3,228	3,228
Marden weir removal		13,252	13,252
Upper Avon & Little Avon surveys		16,832	16,832
Little Avon headwaters study		8,658	8,658
UWE Coastal Project		2,301	2,301
Eel in the classroom 2022		1,339	1,339
Marden & Congresbury Yeo Water Quality Project	12,633		
eDNA Chew		12,680	12,680
Regilbury Park Farm		20,000	20,000
Other		20,660	20,660
	<u>13,345</u>	<u>305,906</u>	<u>319,251</u>

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#### Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type 2021

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £
Chew WEIF		31,184	31,184
Chew Catchment		25,074	25,074
Congesbury Yeo		25,000	25,000
Mink Control		13,900	13,900
Winford Brook		13,860	13,860
Little Avon		13,784	13,784
Court Farm Tree Planting		13,450	13,450
Winford & Upper Chew		12,910	12,910
South Brook NFM Delivery		11,885	11,885
Winford Brook		9,733	9,733
Keynsham Memorial Park Weir Study		8,751	8,751
SF Fisheries		8,520	8,520
Wilder Waterways		8,496	8,496
Others		24,367	24,367
	<u>-</u>	<u>220,914</u>	<u>220,914</u>

#### 9. Net (expenditure)/income

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

	2022 £	2021 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>711</u>	<u>1,157</u>

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#### 10. Independent examination fees

	2022	2021
	£	£
Fees payable to the independent examiner for independent examination of the financial statements	<u>4,128</u>	<u>3,420</u>

#### 11. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	171,540	125,747
Social security costs	11,863	7,393
Employer contribution to pension plans	4,966	3,227
	<u>188,369</u>	<u>136,367</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 11 (2021: 11). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2022	2021
Trustees	4	5
Employees	7	6
	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>

No employee received benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2021: £0).

# Bristol Avon Rivers Trust

## Company Limited by Guarantee

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Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

#### 12. Trustee remuneration and expenses

No remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity were received by the trustees and no trustees' expenses have been incurred.

#### 13. Tangible Assets

	Plant & Machinery £
<b>Cost</b>	
As at 1 April 2021	11,884
Additions	504
As at 31 March 2022	<u>12,388</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>	
As at 1 April 2021	9,989
Provided during the period	711
As at 31 March 2022	<u>10,700</u>
<b>Net Book Value</b>	
As at 31 March 2022	<u>1,688</u>
As at 1 April 2021	<u>1,895</u>

#### 14. Debtors

##### Due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	33,235	-
Prepayments and accrued income	20,950	11,076
Other debtors		92
	<u>54,185</u>	<u>11,168</u>

# Bristol Avon Rivers Trust

## Company Limited by Guarantee

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Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

#### 15. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other taxes and social security	4,312	3,085
Other creditors	1,046	-
Accruals and deferred income	125,404	79,459
Bank Loans	8,000	-
	<u>138,762</u>	<u>82,544</u>

#### 16. Creditors: Amounts Falling After More Than One Year

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Bank Loans	26,000	40,000
	<u>26,000</u>	<u>40,000</u>

#### 17. Deferred income

Deferred income comprises of grants received from ongoing projects which have not been completed by the balance sheet date.

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Deferred income	<u>125,404</u>	<u>79,459</u>

# Bristol Avon Rivers Trust

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#### 18. Pensions and other post-retirement benefits

Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plan was £4,966 (2021: £3,227)

#### 19. Analysis of charitable funds

As 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021	Income	Expenditure	At 31 March 2022
£	£	£	£
130,509	391,264	319,251	<b>202,522</b>

#### 20. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	£	£		£
Tangible fixed assets	1,688		1,688	1,895
Current assets	288,944	76,652	365,596	251,158
Creditors less than 1 year	(138,762)		(138,762)	(82,544)
Creditors more than 1 year	(26,000)		(26,000)	(40,000)
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>125,870</b>	<b>76,652</b>	<b>202,522</b>	<b>130,509</b>

#### 21. Related parties

Bristol Avon Rivers Trust own 100% Shareholding of BART River Services Ltd (BART RS).

**BRISTOL AVON RIVERS TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1154348

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# Accounts

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**Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Trustees Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors Report)**  
**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, present their report and the independently examined though, unaudited financial statement of the charity for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

**Reference and administrative details**

**Registered charity name:** Bristol Avon Rivers Trust  
**Charity registration number:** 1154348  
**Company registration number:** 07986475  
**Principal office and registered office:** First Floor Suite,  
7 High Street,  
Chipping Sodbury,  
Bristol,  
BS37 6BA

**The Trustees:**

Mr R J Howlett  
Mr J B Hector  
Professor R Skeffington  
Mr P Coleman-Smith  
Dr J Greaves (chair from 25 January 2021)  
Mr I Mock (chair, resigned 25 January 2021)

**Company Secretary** Mr P Coleman-Smith

**Accountants** TJS Business Solution Ltd.  
First Floor Suite,  
7 High Street,  
Chipping Sodbury,  
Bristol, BS37 6BA

**Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Trustees Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors Report)**  
**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021**  
**Structure, governance and management**

**a) Constitution**

The Articles of Association remain unchanged.

**b) Legal Structure**

The Trust is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee governed by its memorandum and articles of association. The Trustees of the charity are also the directors of the company for the purposes of the Companies Act.

**c) Trustees**

The Trustees are responsible for the overall direction and charitable activities of the Trust and for ensuring the Trust complies with the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

**d) Selection and appointment of Trustees**

The introduction and recruitment of Trustees is by recommendation of existing Trustees and is made by personal contacts with other organisations or individuals with related environmental or river trust interests and appropriate skills. The Trust aims to maintain a broadly respected body of Trustees with sufficient experience to provide strong governance and add value to the Trusts decision making.

**e) Organisational structure**

A formal delegation of powers has been developed and adopted to guide decision making. The Chief Executive Officer is in frequent contact with the Chair of the Trustees.

The Chairman of the Trustees attends monthly meetings with the Chief Executive Officer and key project managers and staff to ensure satisfactory progress is being made and subsequently reports monthly to the Board using key agreed metrics and topics.

**f) Risk Management.**

The Trustees have established systems to mitigate risk appropriate to the size of the charity with a focus on Finance and Health & Safety. Processes and procedures are reviewed annually by the Trustees and annual refreshment of Health & Safety procedures takes place for all staff, Trustees and key volunteers. During the last year the Trustees have authorised expenditure to improve the Trust's Data Protection capabilities and also centralised control of all documentation to avoid potential loss of Trust data and records.

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**Objectives and activities**

**a) Legal Purpose Charitable Objectives**

The charitable objectives of the Trust set out in the Memorandum and articles of association are:

- 1) To conserve, protect, rehabilitate and improve rivers streams, watercourses and water impoundments of the catchments comprising the Bristol Avon and South Gloucestershire streams including adjacent estuarine areas, for the advancement of environmental protection or improvement for the benefit of the public.
- 2) To advance the education of the public or any association, institution, voluntary organisation, company, local authority or representative body in:
  - a) The understanding of rivers, river corridors and river catchments including their fauna, biochemistry, economic or social activity and river management.
  - b) The need for, and benefits of, conservation, protection, rehabilitation and improvement of aquatic environments.

The Trusts objectives correspond with the charitable purposes of advancing environmental protection and the advancement of education as described in the Charities Act 2011. The Trust's activities meet the two key principles of public benefit as follows:

**Principle 1.** There must be identifiable benefits which are clear, related to the aims and balanced against any detriment or harm.

**Principle 2.** The benefits must be appropriate to the aims and available to the public or section of the public and private benefits must be incidental.

The Trust's work meets principle 1 through bringing about physical change to the rivers and streams with the catchment through improvement to in stream riparian habitat and by working with the formal catchment partnership to influence plans and strategies involving water quality within the catchment to ensure that environmental outcomes are represented within such plans. The Trust further works throughout the catchment to share these plans at local and community level. The Trust's work aims to provide ecosystem services benefits to the public through improving water quality, preserving the habitat and food sources of endangered species, conserving the environment and providing education about the aquatic environment to community groups and schools.

The Trust's work meets principle 2 through improving water quality and the natural environment for the benefit of all. These include users of water in home and business, leisure users, and communities who live by the river as well as schools and outreach organisations and volunteers using the river to improve levels of wellbeing in the community.

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**b) Aims and Activities to Support Objectives**

The Trust aims to protect, restore and enhance the rivers, streams and riparian habitat, within the Bristol Avon Catchment. It aims to achieve this by working at all levels from local projects to catchment initiatives and at all educational levels from primary schools to university, and through national initiatives such as run by the Riverfly Partnership and by Freshwaterwatch providing at all times that our mutual objectives are complimentary. Our principal aims are described by the following activity headings.

**Land Management.**

We aim to protect and restore rivers that have suffered damage or whose habitats are under threat. Activities range from restoring spawning gravels and improving fish passage to working with the farming community to improve soil management practices where these detrimentally affect our rivers and streams.

**Education.**

We work with schools, universities and community groups to engage people with their river and help them learn about the challenge their rivers face in our modern world. We help groups play an active role in looking after their local river through projects and citizen science. We aim to influence local policy and plans using our local knowledge and through our membership of the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership and our relationships with other key agencies and utilities.

**Partnership working.**

The nature of the Trust's work is that partnership working and public engagement are essential to delivery. The Trust often works as a facilitator providing vision and finance for projects and bringing together the necessary skills from a range of other organisations. Partnerships are formed for a number of reasons – working at catchment level with the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership, or within an individual project where skills do not exist within the Trust.

The Trust has continued to be a member of the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership, a partnership set up to co-ordinate the efforts of multiple partners in improving water quality for the benefit of people and wildlife. The Trust contributes considerable in-kind contributions in time and through raising funds to support catchment partnership projects.

**Significant activities.**

The Trust has drawn funds from multiple sources during the year enabling it to lead a number of initiatives and partnership projects. Projects have covered a range of activities which have benefitted both the public and the environment.

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**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

As a Rivers Trust the projects which we are involved invariably fit around the four seasons. This means we plan them to fit in with what we expect to happen at those times – spawning fish and nesting birds, but also seasonal farming activities such as planting and harvest. Weather is always a significant factor and has significant impacts and so flexibility is always built in to cater for rain and the occasional flood event. Much of our engagement and education work has a similar set of seasons – based around school terms and generally good weather. Volunteering drops sharply in wet and frosty weather. This year has been extraordinary because in addition to the usual more traditional factors the Trust and nation have had to adapt to the Covid 19 pandemic which continues to affect the way that we work and can interact with the public.

It is against this background that this report is written.

Our focus during for the past year has been primarily to continue delivering for a catchment wide project on the River Chew – an important tributary of the Bristol Avon. This river suffered terribly in the flood events of 1968 and local populations still have long memories of these times. Each year local communities suffer inconvenience as a result of flooding. The river environment has suffered as a result with fisheries and local wildlife placed under increasing pressure. Despite this there are still endangered species such as Atlantic Salmon and European eel managing to reach the river and spawn.

BART has developed a multi strand project which has interested multiple stakeholders during the three-year project financed by Bristol Water, Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership (BACP), Environment Agency, Bath & North East Somerset Council, Mendip Hills AONB (via the Level Up Green Recovery Challenge Funded project) and the Halpin Trust. This has enabled BART to investigate weirs, create a Fisheries Improvement plan and carry out several Natural Flood Management surveys and pilot deliveries. During 2020/21 BART developed a comprehensive a catchment action plan to integrate the project with stakeholders' ambitions for the catchment as well as align the project to local and regional strategies. As a result of the development work undertaken this year, BART have secured funds from the Environment Agency and Bristol Water to deliver schemes on the ground during 2021. We will continue to work closely with stakeholders and local communities to maintain and grow project momentum and attract further funding.

As a result of securing funding from the Environment Agency (WEF) and the Postcode Local Trust, BART has carried out a series of walkover investigations along the Bristol Frome to identify opportunities for river improvements. BART is working as a delivery partner on the River Frome Reconnected Project. Alongside this, BART has developed an online virtual education package which will be rolled out to several primary schools in the Bristol Frome Catchment during 2021. The education platform focusses on raising awareness of our freshwater environment, including learning about species of fish wildlife that live within and around our local rivers. The digital lessons also demonstrate the pressures impacting our rivers and how individuals can all help to look after their local river, such as including ways to save water and only to flush the three P's. As a result of the initial trial with Staple Hill primary school, the students have launched a fundraising page to raise funds for BART to continue delivering work to protect the rivers of Bristol.

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BART's project team has spent a part of the year (between lockdowns) in the River Marden and Little Avon catchments, engaging with local community groups, parish councils and landowners. In doing so, we have delivered sub-catchment walkover surveys to identify opportunities that may lead to improving river habitat and water quality. We are grateful for the support that Caine Without Parish Council and Cotswold AONB respectively who have provided funding towards carrying out the surveys. We plan to build upon our findings to implement schemes that benefit our rivers throughout both catchments.

BART is leading an eDNA fisheries project and has raised interest amongst wider stakeholders in its usefulness for collecting catchment wide fisheries data. By collecting water samples from various points along a river, we can analyse the DNA present within the sample to identify the fish species that are present within a section of river, including the tributaries and minor waterbodies. The science behind eDNA analysis is continuously evolving and this methodology could offer an opportunity to better understand what lies beneath the surface of water in our rivers. Coupled with the data collected via our volunteer riverfly monitors, we are beginning to build a better understanding of our aquatic wildlife. During 2021, BART was successful in its application to the BACF small grant scheme to develop a River Chew eDNA pilot project which will demonstrate the presence and absence of species throughout the catchment. eDNA data combined with BART's local knowledge of the river will help to target future improvements that may improve the recruitment of wild fish, including the critically endangered European eel. This technique could present a cost-effective solution that will complement the Environment Agency's electrofishing survey's which in many cases across the Bristol Avon are very limited. The ambition would be to deliver this approach across the entire Bristol Avon catchment.

The Trust has continued to support its monitoring network in support of the Riverfly Partnership but as a result of Covid-19 restrictions, has been unable to train further volunteers during this year. The Trust has continued to provide ongoing support to monitors regarding their queries and provides the resource necessary to update their findings to the Riverfly Partnership records.

The Trust has also spoken at many virtual events across the catchment including schools, community organisations and with local angling organisations raising awareness of issues affecting the rivers and streams in their area.

**Achievements and Performance.**

The Trusts most notable achievements during the last year have been in the continued development of our River Chew Catchment project. This has involved working in partnership with a growing list of stakeholders across the whole catchment. The project has now delivered several schemes on the ground, including planting "Trees for water" with several private landowners where works will benefit both reductions to local flooding peaks and deliver wider environmental benefits. Several further projects now have permissions and funding for delivery during 2021.

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In addition, the Trustees led improvements to the Trusts Data Protection capabilities by migrating records to a new software platform enabling centralised record keeping. This work included a revision of Data Protection policies for all staff and Trustees, part of a wider review/Updating of BART risks and policies to align with the Charity Commission frameworks.

A new website was completed during the year which has been well received by supporters and funders.

**Charitable activities with the public.**

Due to the covid 19 restrictions and general public nervousness in between lockdown periods much of the Trusts work has been confined to aspects where it could work from home or with effective self-isolation measures. Many projects involving the public have simply been postponed as a result. Despite this progress has been made using online means and through email and social media contact. There have been some notable exceptions, however.

During the year, where restrictions have allowed, the Trust has carried out volunteering days including involving students and local businesses in projects such as tree planting where social distancing measures were able to be adhered to. Our work with community groups about matters relating to their local streams and how they can become involved in their improvement has mainly been virtual over Zoom or alike, but there have been a couple of exceptions where small numbers of community groups have supported our practical work on the ground which include discussions around local issues as well as partaking in our annual Waterblitz project.

BART has continued to support its Riverfly monitoring network (over 70 sites) providing ongoing services to all volunteers verifying their data for use by the Riverfly Partnership network as well as providing them with newsletters and support where required. Riverfly training events have not been possible due to Covid-19 restrictions. During national and local lockdown, volunteers were not able to undertake sampling, so frequency of datasets have been disrupted throughout this year.

**Financial review and effect of Coronavirus on the year ahead.**

The Trust has followed government guidelines throughout the year and indeed furloughed most of its staff during the first quarter of 2020. Funders have been very flexible and staff have worked extremely hard on returning to work to ensure projects have been completed and it was necessary to recruit further. As the Trust was able to show funders that it had weathered the initial crisis and come out of it strongly their confidence in the Trust has increased further resulting in a year where we have managed to increase reserves and develop a healthy pipeline of projects for future years.

Quarterly financial reviews have been carried by Trustees working closely with the Operations Manager ensuring that the Trust maintained a strong delivery focus throughout the year despite Covid challenges. The Trust received contributions from its consultancy arm BART River Services Ltd which continued to trade within government guidelines during the pandemic. BART was the recipient of EU enforcement undertakings because of pollutions being prosecuted within the catchment.

Whilst the funding and economic outlook all still appear to be extremely uncertain the Trust has the advantage of significant contracted work for the coming year and a robust pipeline of work which we

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expect to be confirmed in the first half of next year. As a result, the Trust is confident it will continue to thrive.

The Trust is committed to using its reserves in pursuit of its charitable objectives and believes maintaining and growing its team are essential to that purpose.

The Charity's policy on reserves is for them to be sufficient to meet the anticipated needs of the trust as prudently determined by the Trustees. The Trustees believe that the trust is well placed in this respect, with – BART's operating reserves sufficient to ensure the stability of the Trust's purpose, programs, employment and ongoing operations.

The attached accounts contain a provision for deferred income in relation to expenditure on projects where invoices have not yet been received.

**Plans for future periods.**

The Trust will remain a member of the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership and seek to contribute both to strategic plans for the improvement of the Bristol Avon at catchment level and to partnership projects which may arise as a result. The Trust will continue to identify opportunities to provide education and advice regarding the river environment across the catchment to both schools and local community groups.

The Trust will continue its work on leading improvements on the River Chew and will make similar contributions on the Congresbury Yeo, Bristol Frome and Little Avon as well as other rivers within the catchment when opportunities present themselves.

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**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Bristol Avon Rivers Trust**

**Independent Examiners' Statement**

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

Mr T Seymour FFA / FIPA  
TJS Business Solutions Ltd  
First Floor Suite,  
7 High Street,  
Chipping Sodbury,  
Bristol,  
BS37 6BA

11 June 2021

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**Statement of Financial Activities (Including Income and Expenditure Account)**

	2021	2020
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Donations and legacies	754	248
Charitable activities	205,801	163,583
Other Trading activities	48,194	34,664
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>254,749</b>	<b>198,495</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Costs of raising donations & legacies	0	6,401
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	220,914	198,071
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>220,914</b>	<b>204,472</b>
<b>Net Income (expenditure) and net movement in Funds</b>	<b>33,835</b>	<b>(5,977)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Funds</b>		
Total funds brought forward	96,674	102,651
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>130,509</b>	<b>96,674</b>

The statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.  
All Income and Expenditure derive from continuing activities

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	2021	2020
Note	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Tangible assets	1,895	658
<b>Current assets</b>	1,895	658
Debtors	11,168	7,818
Cash at bank and in hand	239,890	170,011
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	251,158	177,829
	(82,544)	(81,813)
<b>Net current assets</b>	168,614	96,016
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	170,509	96,674
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	(40,000)	0
<b>Net assets</b>	130,509	96,674
<b>Funds of the Charity</b>		
Unrestricted Funds	130,509	96,674
<b>Total Charity funds</b>	130,509	96,674

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For the year ending 31 March 2021 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

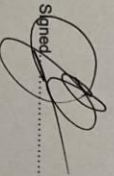
Directors responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to company's subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Name Juhani Greaves

Signed 

Date 14/07/21

Name Peter Coleman-Smith

Signed Peter Coleman-Smith

Date 16/07/21

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**1. General information.**

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is First Floor Suite, 7 High Street, Chipping Sodbury, Bristol, BS37 6BA.

**2. Statement of Compliance.**

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of FRS 102, section 1A, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, the 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) (Charities SORP FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

**3. Accounting Policies.**

**Debtors**

Trade debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discounts offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discounts due.

**Basis of preparation**

The accounts have been prepared on the historical cost basis.

**Creditors**

Creditors 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 are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

**Going concern**

There are no material uncertainties about the charities ability to continue.

**Taxation**

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

**Disclosure exemptions**

The entity satisfies the criteria of being a qualifying entity as defined in FRS 102. As such advantage has been taken of the following disclosure exemptions available under paragraph 1.12 of FRS 102.

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(a) No cash flow statement has been presented for the company.

(b) Disclosures in respect of financial instruments have not been presented.

**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.

**Fund Accounting.**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Trustees for particular projects or commitments.

Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

**Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- 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.
- Legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- 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 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 from contracts for the supply of goods and services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.



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Every member of the company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of its being wound up, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member.

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds		Total Funds	
	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
5. Donations and legacies	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations	754	754	754	248	248	248

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds		Total Funds	
	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
6. Charitable activities income	£	£	£	£	£	£
Environmental Agency		40,094			40,094	
EU		32,750			32,750	
BART RS	30,462	-			30,462	
PPCL		19,450			19,450	
The Tree Council		15,517			15,517	
BACP		12,680			12,680	
CAOB		10,250			10,250	
Bath & N.E. Somerset		10,000			10,000	
Bristol Airport		10,000			10,000	
FWAG		7,500			7,500	
Avon Wildlife Trust		7,000			7,000	
Other		10,098			10,098	

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	30,462	175,339	205,801
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£
Environmental Agency			56,778
Bristol Water			38,500
Calne Town Council			7,789
Cotswold Conversion Board			7,200
Halpin Trust			7,000
South Glos Council			5,000
National Grid			2,463
Kingsplay Farming	10,000		10,000
BART River Services Ltd	10,000		10,000
Other	4,174		18,853
	24,174		163,583

**7. Other trading activities income**

	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2021	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
Fundraising events	48,194	48,194	34,664	34,664

**8. Costs of raising donations and legacies.**

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	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2021	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2020
Fundraising costs	£ 0	£ 0	£ 6,401	£ 6,401

**9. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type.**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021
Chew WEIF	£ 31,184	£ 31,184	£ 31,184
Chew Catchment	25,074	25,074	25,074
Congresbury Yeo	25,000	25,000	25,000
Mink Control	13,900	13,900	13,900
Winford Brook	13,860	13,860	13,860
Little Avon	13,784	13,784	13,784
Court Farm Tree Planting	13,450	13,450	13,450
Winford & Upper Chew	12,910	12,910	12,910
South Brook NFM Delivery	11,885	11,885	11,885
Winford Brook	9,733	9,733	9,733
Keynsham Memorial Park Weir Study	8,751	8,751	8,751
SF Fisheries	8,520	8,520	8,520
Wildier Waterways	8,496	8,496	8,496
Others	24,367	24,367	24,367
	220,914	220,914	220,914

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	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2020
	£	£	£
Catchment Hosting		30,000	30,000
Bydenhill Brook		27,750	27,750
Chew Phase 2		18,700	18,700
Duchy Phase 1		15,825	15,825
Keynsham Weir		15,000	15,000
Spawn To Be Wild		12,000	12,000
Caring For The Cam		11,096	11,096
Riverfly		8,502	8,502
Chew WEIF		8,368	8,368
Chew Fisheries		8,292	8,292
Axe Surveys		8,000	8,000
River Marden		7,913	7,913
Norton Brook		7,750	7,750
Website redevelopment		7,000	7,000
Mink Control		5,110	5,110
Mendip Hills AOB		5,000	5,000
Others		16,548	16,548
	0	204,472	204,472

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**10. Net (expenditure) / Income.**

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

	2021	2020
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,157	839

**11. Independent examination fees**

	2021	2020
	£	£
Fees payable to the independent examiner for: Independent examination of the financial statements	3,420	3,538

**12. Staff costs**

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	125,747	106,277
Social security costs	7,393	3,638
Employer contribution to pension plans	3,227	2,569
	<u>136,367</u>	<u>112,484</u>

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The average head count of employees during the year was 10 (2020). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2021	2020
Trustees	5	4
Employees	6	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	11	10

No employee received benefits of more than £50,000 during the year (2020:0).

**13. Trustee remuneration and expenses.**

No remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity were received by the trustees and no trustees' expenses have been incurred.

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	2021	2000
<b>14. Tangible fixed benefits.</b>		
<b>Plant and Machinery</b>		
<b>Cost</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
At 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2020	9,490	9,490
Additions	2,394	2,394
At 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021	11,884	11,884
<b>Depreciation</b>		
At 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2020	8,832	8,832
Charge for the year	1,157	1,157
As at 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021	9,989	9,989
<b>Carrying amount</b>		
At 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	1,895	1,895
At 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2020	658	658

	2021	2000
<b>15. Debtors</b>		
Trade debtors	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	11,076	7,408
Other debtors	92	-
	<u>11,168</u>	<u>7,818</u>

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**16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	2021	2020
Trade creditors	£ -	£ -
Accruals and deferred income	79,459	79,299
Social security and other benefits	3,085	2,513
	82,544	81,813

**17. Deferred Income**  
 Deferred income comprises of grants received from ongoing projects which have not been completed by the balance sheet date.

	2021	2020
	£ 79,459	£ 79,299

**18. Pensions and other post-retirement benefits**  
 Defined contribution plans  
 The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plan was £3,227 (2020: £2,569)

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**19. Analysis of charitable funds**  
 Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

	At 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2020	Income	Expenditure	At 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£
	96,674	254,749	220,914	130,509

**20. Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Unrestricted funds	Total funds 2021	Total funds 2020
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	1,895	1,895	658
Current assets	251,158	251,158	177,829
Creditors less than 1 year	(82,544)	(82,544)	(81,813)
Creditors more than 1 year	(40,000)	(40,000)	-
<b>Net assets</b>	<u>130,509</u>	<u>130,509</u>	<u>96,674</u>

**21. Related parties**

Bristol Avon Rivers Trust own 100% Shareholding of BART River Services Ltd