

ESSEX AND SUFFOLK RIVERS TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1157392

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [08834787](#)

Registered 2014-06-09

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

Contact

Address Essex & Suffolk Rivers Trust
Red Gables
Ipswich Road
Stowmarket
IP14 1BE

Phone 07861107100

Email info@essexsuffolkriverstrust.org

Website www.essexsuffolkriverstrust.org

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS FOR WHICH THE CHARITY IS ESTABLISHED ARE: -1. TO CONSERVE, PROTECT, REHABILITATE AND IMPROVE THE RIVERS, STREAMS, WATERCOURSES, GROUND-WATERS AND WATER IMPOUNDMENTS OF THE CATCHMENTS COMPRISING THE RIVERS IN ESSEX AND SUFFOLK, INCLUDING ADJACENT ESTUARINE AND COASTAL 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, 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: To conserve, protect, rehabilitate and improve the rivers, streams, watercourses, groundwaters and water impoundments of the catchments comprising the rivers in Essex and Suffolk, including adjacent estuarine and coastal areas. To advance the education of the public, or any institution.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Cambridgeshire
- Essex
- Suffolk

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-05-31	£963,493	£277,276	£957,522	5
2024-05-31	£323,449	£211,513	-	-
2023-05-31	£269,677	£166,559	-	-
2022-05-31	£158,875	£137,115	-	-
2021-05-31	£57,239	£46,952	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ADRIAN CHRISTOPHER JOHN WOOD BSCHONMSB		2014-01-24
Anna Martin-Edwards		2017-07-18
Christopher James Whitehouse		2025-01-16
Dr ALAN WOODS		2023-10-04
Henry Charles Wilkes		2023-10-04
Jane Mary Burch		2019-05-14
Sarah Louise Morton		2023-10-04
Simon Tiller		2025-01-16
Tara Arnold		2023-10-04
Thomas James Palmer		2025-01-16

ESSEX AND SUFFOLK RIVERS TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1157392

Accounts



Essex & Suffolk Rivers Trust

ESSEX AND SUFFOLK RIVERS TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

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Administrative and Reference Details

Legal name	Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust
Registered Office	Red Gables, Ipswich Road, Stowmarket, IP14 1BE
Registered Charity Number	1157392
Registered Company Number (England and Wales)	08834787
Website	www.essexsuffolkriverstrust.org
Principal Bankers	CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ
Independent Examiner	Alex Stone FCCA, Edmund Carr LLP, Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor, 146 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0AW

Members of the Board

The Trustees who served during the year and the dates of their most recent election or retirement were as follows:

J M Burch	Chairman	Elected	31/01/2025
C J Whitehouse	Vice Chairman	Elected	15/07/2025
S L Morton	Treasurer	Elected	04/10/2023
A Woods	Secretary	Elected	04/10/2023
T L Arnold	Trustee	Elected	04/10/2023
A Martin-Edwards	Trustee	Elected	17/11/2017
T J Palmer	Trustee	Elected	16/01/2025
S Tiller	Trustee	Elected	16/01/2025
H C Wilkes	Trustee	Elected	04/04/2023
A C J Wood	Trustee	Elected	07/01/2014
A G Davies	Trustee	Resigned	10/10/2024
C I McArthur	Trustee	Resigned	10/10/2024
A E Ruggles-Brise	Chairman	Resigned	31/01/2025
W H Robinson	Trustee	Resigned	15/07/2025

Trustees Report

The Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust is both a registered charity (number 1157392) and a registered company limited by guarantee (number 08834787). The Trustees, whose details are set out on page 3, are both Trustees of the charity and Directors of the company.

This document reports on the activities of the Trust in the year to 31 May 2025 and sets out the financial accounts of the company for the same period. It aims to satisfy the reporting requirements that apply to the Trust as both a charity and a company. This annual report also includes the requirements of a Directors' report, as required by company law.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the Trust's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Charities Act 2011 and The Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Financial Reporting Standard 102), effective from January 2019.

Our Objectives and Activities

The objectives for which the charity is established are:

1. To conserve, protect, rehabilitate and improve the rivers, streams, watercourses, groundwaters and water impoundments of the catchments comprising the rivers in Essex and East Suffolk, including adjacent estuarine and coastal 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 institution, voluntary organisation, company, local authority or public body:
 - a. The understanding of rivers, river corridors and river catchment 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.

Overview of Activities

The ambition and activity of the Trust again increased significantly this year. As hosts of two catchment partnerships (collaborative government-endorsed planning and delivery groups) covering almost all our operational area, we have continued to play an influential role in tackling both the climate and biodiversity crises.

Locally and regionally, the Trust continues to be recognised for its consistent delivery and thoughtful, considered leadership. This is exemplified by our successes in raising funds and our leading role in initiatives to improve the water environment across the East Suffolk and Combined Essex catchments.

During this very successful year we raised £963,112 in grants and donations. We have also:

- Restored over 12.5 kilometres of in-river habitat.
- Organised workshops and catchment meetings bringing together dozens of land managers and/or representatives of local authorities, conservation bodies, and government agencies to support collaborative initiatives to improve the water environment.
- Led over 100 hours of volunteer activity, including Citizen science work and invasive species control.
- Produced 8 Catchment Partnership newsletters, delivered to over 355 subscribers.
- Supported 56 surveyors under the Essex RiverWatch citizen science initiative.
- Built our online presence and increased our total follower count by 31 %: LinkedIn 20%, Instagram 34 %, Facebook and Threads 40%.

In October 2024, the Board marked the formal retirement of two inaugural Trustees, Andrew Davies (Chair to October 2023) and Chris McArthur (Vice Chair to October 2023), and initiated an open recruitment process for new Board members. Three new Trustees were appointed in January 2025: Tom Palmer, Simon Tiller and Chris Whitehouse. At the end of January, Archie Ruggles-Brise, another inaugural Trustee, and Chair since October 2023, retired from the Board and Jane Burch was appointed as Chair in his place. The Board expressed their great appreciation of all Archie's work for the Trust over the years.

Our strong and diverse Board provides advice and guidance to the staff team through the Director. Trustees come from consultancy, businesses, banking, agriculture, water companies and voluntary conservation bodies. The Board met quarterly.

Our Trustees participated in a governance course delivered by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations in October 2024 and developed a governance action plan. Several working groups have since been established to work on different aspects of governance. We engaged Infinity Accountants Ltd in July 2024 and Croner Group Ltd in April 2025 to strengthen our financial and human resources management capabilities respectively. Both companies have experience of working with charities, including Rivers Trusts in particular.

We launched our Strategy for 2024-30 at our AGM in October 2024. This sets out our vision 'for the rivers and estuaries of Essex and Suffolk to be rich in wildlife, loved and cared for by local people, and protected for future generations.' We are working with partners and communities in four areas: restoring natural processes and habitats; protecting our land and water; inspiring people to get involved; and building resilience for future generations.

We further strengthened our team in 2024-25. We have a Director (part-time, 3 days/week) and an Operations Support Officer, Natural Rivers Manager, and Project Support Officer (all full-time). An Enforcement Undertaking from Anglian Water has enabled us to employ a Volunteer and Community Involvement Officer for three years (from 19 May 2025). She will focus on Essex Riverwatch, river restoration planning and enhancing floodplain wetlands. With additional funding from the Environment Agency, we also aim to recruit a Project Officer to develop projects on the Rivers Chelmer and Wid.

We are employing a Programme Coordinator from June 2025 to lead work to implement the Action Plan for the partnership project Recovering the Deben from Source to Sea. This post has been funded by a substantial grant from the DEFRA Water Restoration Fund.

We also lead Essex & Suffolk Water's Bluespaces programme. We strengthened our delivery team by employing a Bluespaces Officer (from 27 May 2025) to support our Bluespaces Delivery Manager.

Both split their time 60:40 between Essex & Suffolk Water and the Trust. They also support the Essex Rivers hub and our wider communication work.

During the year we continued to rent offices in Stowmarket to provide a central office hub. We are investigating the availability of a shared office space for Essex-focused roles.

We remain part of the Anglian Rivers Hub, which brings together local Rivers Trusts to share ideas, work together, and provide a collective voice (e.g. on policy matters). As hosts for two catchment partnerships, for East Suffolk and the Combined Essex rivers (Essex Rivers Hub) we have worked on building capacity, catchment planning, coordinating projects, and upgrading websites. During the year, the River Deben Recovery Plan was the main focus of the Suffolk Partnership (see below). In Essex, the Rivers Hub published its Catchment Plan for 2025-30, aiming to restore rivers and wetlands, engage people in the Partnership's work, and address the impacts of climate change, including droughts and flooding.

During the year we maintained and extended our links with other bodies, including Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, Anglian Water, Essex & Suffolk Water, Environment Agency, Nature Recovery Partnerships, National Landscapes, Forestry Commission, Woodland Trust, Affinity Water, North Essex Farm Cluster, and Water Resources East. Our Chair is a member of the Anglian Eastern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.

Project delivery

Blackwater Catchment Restoration Plan

Our Project Support Officer led a detailed survey of the River Pant and Blackwater in 2024. This provided the basis for the consultation draft of the River Pant & Blackwater Restoration Plan, published in April 2025. The plan is being finalised for implementation in 2025-26.

Bluespaces programme

This Essex & Suffolk Water (E&SW) programme aims to improve 500 km of watercourses by 2030. Projects must deliver improvements in water quality, wildlife, public access, and/or recreation. This programme enables us to engage a wider range of land managers and E&SW grants enable us to attract match funding to deliver wider benefits. Projects releasing some £100,000 of funds were developed for some 50 km of watercourses, including improving the River Gipping and the 'Tin' River in Bungay, and tackling Himalayan Balsam.

Corporate Volunteering

We developed a Corporate Volunteering brochure, offering two types of activities (litter picks and Balsam Bashing) to organisations as part of a bespoke service.

Essex Riverwatch

Following a successful pilot project on the River Brett (in the Stour catchment), we launched the Essex Riverwatch Citizen Science initiative across Essex in July 2024. By 31 March 2025, 37 surveyors had been recruited in six groups, monitoring 19 waterbodies across the Ter, Brett, Box and Chelmer catchments, with more groups waiting to be trained. Surveyors monitor dissolved solids, phosphate and ammonia levels, among other water and habitat quality parameters. Surveyors upload their findings to a dedicated website.

Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) control

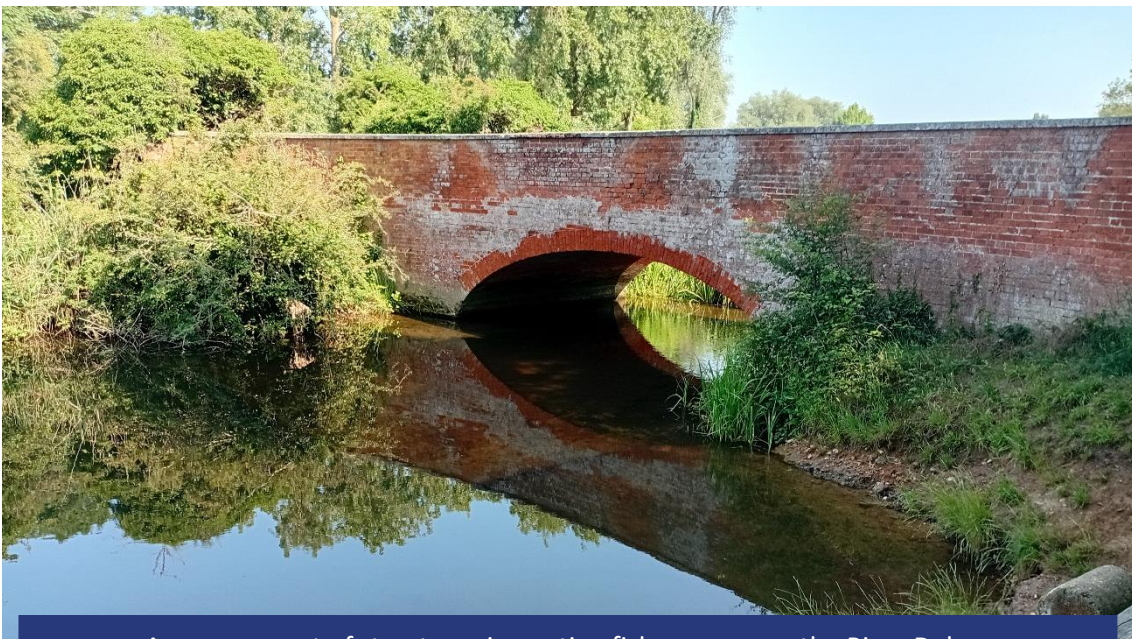
- Several kilometres of the River Fynn were cleared of Himalayan Balsam, with support from the Anglian Water INNS fund.
- Essex & Suffolk Water and National Landscapes supported continuing efforts to control Himalayan Balsam on the Brett, Stour, Box and Lavenham Brook.



ESRT staff tackling invasive, non-native Himalayan Balsam on the River Fynn

Recovering the Deben from Source to Sea

The Deben Estuary is a Wetland of International Importance but in ‘unfavourable and declining’ condition. We are working as part of a multi-stakeholder partnership to restore and enhance the River Deben and estuary.



An assessment of structures impacting fish passage on the River Deben

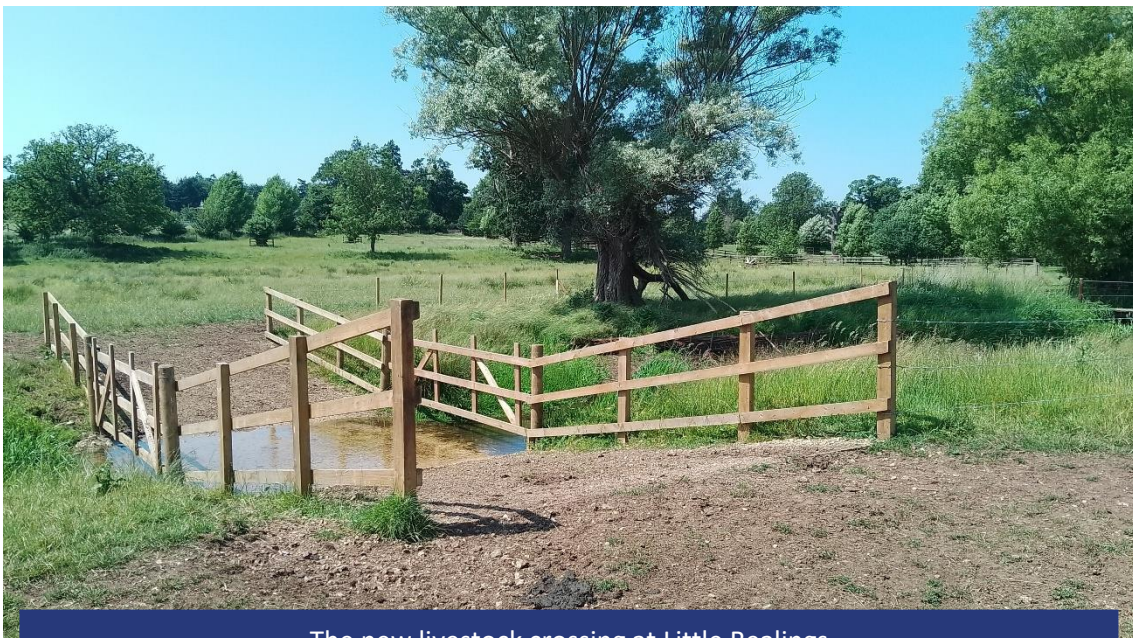
Following the launch of the partnership's Action Plan in May 2024, we are now identifying opportunities for improvement, and sourcing funds to deliver these by 2030, in five areas:

- Valuing our Water (raising awareness of water resources and the importance of water efficiency),
- Natural Edges (establishing a 50m super buffer down the length of the Deben),
- Habitat Connectivity (improving fish passage in the river Deben and creating connected woodland and wetland habitat),
- Natural Flood Management (improving resilience of the river to high flows),
- Water Quality (monitoring and improving the health of our rivers).

Water Environment Improvement Fund projects

Projects undertaken under this Environment Agency funding programme were:

- River Ore: Framlingham: Following work on designs to improve the river through the town, we applied for funding to deliver the works. A decision is awaited.
- River Alde: Bruisyard: We continued to develop plans for natural flood management measures and new wetlands on the Bruisyard estate.
- River Deben: Debenham: We continued work with the Water Management Alliance, Environment Agency and Suffolk County Council to take forward plans for two new ponds above the village with a combined flood water storage capacity of some 20,000 cubic metres, as part of the Action Plan for Recovering the Deben.
- River Fynn: Little Bealings: We installed trout spawning beds, undertook bank improvements and installed a new livestock crossing.



The new livestock crossing at Little Bealings

- River Colne: Fiddlers Hill Meadow: We continued to lead this partnership project to create a new wetland environment within the River Colne floodplain on land owned by the Woodland Trust. Additional funding from the Enover Community Trust, and other awaited match-funding, should enable work to start in September 2025.



ESRT Trustees visit the Fiddler's Hill site on the River Colne

We thank all our Trustees, volunteers, partners and funders for their ongoing support for the Trust in 2024-25.

Financial Review

Our accounts show income of £963,493 (2023-24: £323,449), expenditure of £277,276 (2023-24: £211,513), and a net surplus for the year of £686,217 (2023-24: £111,936). The income has increased in this financial year due to success in gaining multi-year partnership projects. The income will be spent over the next 5 years. The year-to-year variation in expenditure highlights the difference in on projects. Our balance sheet shows total funds of £957,522 (2023-24: £271,305) of which £903,265 is restricted (2023-24: £235,186) and £54,257 is unrestricted (2023-24: £36,119).

Our main sources of income are project grants and donations. We received all the grant income expected in the year and were able to show our funders how this had been spent. We acknowledge, with gratitude, critical funding towards core costs and/or project costs received from businesses, public bodies, charitable funders and individual donors.

Significant supporters of our work during the year included:

- Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
- Essex & Suffolk Water
- Environment Agency
- The Rivers Trust
- Sharegift
- Swire Charitable Trust

We made good progress in further developing a fundraising strategy embracing consultancy, Biodiversity Net Gain, project grants, corporate fundraising and public donations. We continued to improve our website and those of the two catchment partnerships.

Expenditure was in line with our budget for the year. Costs generally increased in line with the expansion of our activities. We continue to keep our insurance requirements under review and to strengthen these where necessary (e.g. in relation to our rented office space). We shall continue to keep our core costs under close review in 2025-26.

At the year-end, the Trust is in a much stronger financial position than in previous years and we are confident that it remains a going concern. During the year we strengthened our staffing, delivered new projects, and identified new partnerships, opportunities to grow our delivery team, and significant new projects, to build on our achievements to date.

Policy on reserves

To date we have sought to maintain £20,000 of unrestricted reserves. We are confident that we can continue to maintain our reserves at this level but, given the Trust's rapid growth, will be reviewing our policy in 2025-26. Unrestricted free reserves on 31 May 2025 were £51,535.

	£
Total reserves	957,522
Less: restricted reserves	(903,265)
Less: fixed assets	(1,873)
Free reserves	<u>52,384</u>

Risk management

The Trust has a comprehensive Risk Register and the Trustees continue to monitor risks to the business. Our banking arrangements with CAF Bank are robust and accountable, with two signatories required on all significant transactions.

In our day-to-day work, we have a strong focus on staff health and safety, particularly as regards lone working, and have strengthened our risk assessment processes. The Trust undertakes dynamic risk assessments on site and staff follow the Construction Design and Management (CDM) guidelines, which are relevant to some of our bigger projects.

Croner Group Ltd undertook a thorough H&S audit in April 2025. They welcomed the Trust's approach, risk assessments and culture and recommended only some minor improvements.

Cyber security is an identified increasing risk to the organisation. We will be seeking to take out insurance to mitigate this risk in 2025/26.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 71 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit in reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning its activities.

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charitable company on ...17 December... 2025 and signed on its behalf.



Jane Burch
Chairman and Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Essex and Suffolk River Trust ("the Company")

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 May 2025 which are set out on pages 13 to 23.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since the company'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 Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, 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 company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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

A Stone

.....
Alex Stone FCCA
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

Date: 12 January 2026

Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)

For the year ended 31 May 2025

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	2	49,330	913,782	963,112	13,293	309,842	323,135
Investment income	3	381	-	381	314	-	314
		49,711	913,782	963,493	13,607	309,842	323,449
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	4	32,373	244,903	277,276	9,857	201,656	211,513
		32,373	244,903	277,276	9,857	201,656	211,513
Net income		17,338	668,879	686,217	3,750	108,186	111,936
Transfers between funds		800	(800)	-	16,192	(16,192)	-
Net Movement in Funds		18,138	668,079	686,217	19,942	91,994	111,936
Reconciliation of Funds							
Funds brought forward		36,119	235,186	271,305	16,177	143,192	159,369
Funds carried forward		54,257	903,265	957,522	36,119	235,186	271,305

Balance Sheet

For the year ended 31 May 2025

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed Assets:			
Tangible fixed assets	6	2,722	124
Current assets:			
Debtors	7	554,928	123,613
Cash at bank and in hand		404,252	162,169
Total Current assets:		959,180	285,782
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	4,380	14,601
Net current assets		954,800	271,181
Total net assets		957,522	271,305
Total funds of the charity			
Expendable Endowment funds			
Restricted Funds	9,10	903,265	235,186
Unrestricted Funds	9,10	54,257	36,119
Total Funds of the Charity		957,522	271,305

For the year ending 31 May 2025 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 special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006

The financial statements on pages 13 to 23 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 17 December and signed on their behalf by:



Jane Burch
Chairman and Trustee

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 May 2025

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Charitable Company Status

The charitable company is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England & Wales, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charitable company in the event of liquidation

1. Accounting Policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the Charity and rounded to the nearest pound.

Going concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charitable company.

Income and endowments

All income is recognised once the charitable company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charitable company has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charitable company before the charitable company is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charitable company and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charitable company has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charitable company in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs comprise those costs incurred in central functions and not related to direct activities.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including independent examination costs.

Notes to the Accounts continued

1. Accounting Policies continued

Taxation

The charitable company is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charitable company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Significant individual fixed assets are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Computer equipment: 33.33%

Office equipment: 10%

Trade debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any discounts due.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand, bank accounts and bank deposits.

Trade creditors

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

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the Trustees's discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charitable company. Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charitable company has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods. Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

Financial instruments Classification

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Notes to the accounts continued

2. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations	6,076	-	6,076	11,353	-	11,353
Grants	43,254	913,782	957,036	1,940	309,842	311,782
	49,330	913,782	963,112	13,293	309,842	323,135

3. Investment Income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bank interest	381	-	381	314	-	314
	381	-	381	314	-	314

4. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2025	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Direct activities	104	237,922	238,026	3,882	171,375	175,257
Support costs	32,269	6,981	39,250	5,975	30,281	36,256
	32,373	244,903	277,276	9,857	201,656	211,513

(a) Direct Activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2025	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Programs						
<i>Water quality improvements</i>						
Blackwater Fluvial Audit	-	35,638	35,638	-	14,075	14,075
Blackwater Restoration Plans	-	17,839	17,839	-	13,929	13,929
Chelmer and Wid	-	11,882	11,882	-	3,757	3,757
Recovering Deben Source to Sea	-	6,021	6,021	-	12,247	12,247
	-	71,380	71,380	-	44,008	44,008
<i>Partnership projects</i>						
East Suffolk Catchment Partnership	-	15,000	15,000	3,882	15,059	18,941
Essex Rivers Hub	-	15,000	15,000	-	9,112	9,112
	-	30,000	30,000	3,882	24,171	28,053
<i>Improvements to river and wetland landscapes</i>						
Bluespaces access to nature	-	12,808	12,808	-	5,148	5,148
Suffolk Interconnected Habitats	-	37,301	37,301	-	29,609	29,609
Fiddlers Hill wetland creation	-	19,727	19,727	-	49,737	49,737
Little Bealings river restoration	-	15,725	15,725	-	-	-
River restoration feasibility	-	4,895	4,895	-	-	-
	-	90,456	90,456	-	84,494	84,494
<i>Community engagement</i>						
Bluespaces access to nature	-	12,809	12,809	-	-	-
Essex River Watch Citizen Science	104	9,818	9,922	-	3,812	3,812
Community Engagement Officer	-	4,851	4,851	-	-	-
Volunteer Coordination Officer	-	4,920	4,920	-	-	-
	104	32,398	32,502	-	3,812	3,812
<i>Invasive species research and projects</i>						
Suffolk Crayfish	-	-	-	-	9,593	9,593
Himalayan Balsam	-	7,530	7,530	-	5,297	5,297
Fynn Balsam	-	6,158	6,158	-	-	-
	-	13,688	13,688	-	14,890	14,890
	104	237,922	238,026	3,882	171,375	175,257

Notes to the accounts continued

Note 5. Expenditure on charitable activities continued

(b) Support Costs

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Administration				
Office costs	3,000	2,199	5,199	13,617
IT	300	35	335	1,657
Rent	5,802	-	5,802	2,077
Salary support	9,276	516	9,792	8,513
Travel and subsistence	1,464	3,866	5,330	4,416
Depreciation	190	110	300	313
	20,032	6,726	26,758	30,593
Governance				
Audit and accountancy fees	12,237	255	12,492	5,663
	12,237	255	12,492	5,663
Total Support Costs	32,269	6,981	39,250	36,256

5. Employee costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries	151,605	101,268
Social Security costs	9,600	3,218
Pension costs	3,595	2,159
	164,800	106,645

	2025	2024
Average number of employees (FTE equivalent)	4.6	4
Number of volunteers	75	14

No employee received remuneration of more than £60,000.

Trustees consider the key management personnel of the organisation to be the Trustees and Director. The total cost of key management personnel was £35,286 (2024: £28,867)

Notes to the accounts continued

6. Fixed Assets

	Office Equipment	Computer Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 June 2024	-	5,020	5,020
Additions	1,012	1,886	2,898
At 31 May 2025	1,012	6,906	7,918
Depreciation			
At 1 June 2024	-	4,896	4,896
Charge for year	69	231	300
At 31 May 2025	69	5,127	5,196
Net book value 31 May 2025	943	1,779	2,722
Net book value 31 May 2024	-	124	124

2024 comparative

	Computer Equipment	Total
	£	£
Cost		
At 1 June 2023	5,020	5,020
Additions	-	-
At 31 May 2024	5,020	5,020
Depreciation		
At 1 June 2023	4,583	4,583
Charge for year	313	313
At 31 May 2024	4,896	4,896
Net book value 31 May 2024	124	124
Net book value 31 May 2023	437	437

7. Debtors

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Other debtors	92	30,519	30,611	-	-	-
Prepayments	-	-	-	-	2,910	2,910
Accrued Income	1,750	522,567	524,317	-	120,703	120,703
	1,842	553,086	554,928	-	123,613	123,613

8. Creditors

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Other taxation and social security	702	-	702	-	2,073	2,073
Other creditors	1,248	-	1,248	674	9,424	10,098
Accruals	2,430	-	2,430	-	2,430	2,430
	4,380	-	4,380	674	13,927	14,601

Notes to the accounts continued

9. Movement of Funds

	Opening balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds					
Blackwater Fluvial	35,925	-	(35,925)	-	-
Blackwater Restoration	17,499	500	(17,999)	-	-
Bluespaces	19,768	271,983	(27,184)	-	264,567
Chelmer and Wid	47,137	-	(17,137)	-	30,000
East Suffolk Catchment Partnership	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Enforcement Undertaking grant	-	283,000	(17,527)	-	265,473
Essex County Council	509	-	(509)	-	-
Essex Community Engagement	65,000	-	-	-	65,000
Essex River Hub	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Essex River Watch (Anglian Water)	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
Essex River Watch (Essex Waterways)	104	-	(104)	-	-
Get River Positive Deben	6,744	-	(6,744)	-	-
Get River Positive Fiddlers Hill	35,000	-	(20,000)	-	15,000
Invasive Species (River Fynn/Anglian Water)	-	13,550	(6,775)	-	6,775
Invasive Species (River Stour/National Landscapes)	-	1,750	-	-	1,750
Invasive Species (Balsam/Branch Out)	7,500	7,500	(7,500)	-	7,500
Little Bealings (EA)	-	16,000	(16,000)	-	-
Mid Suffolk District Council Locality Fund	-	1,150	(1,150)	(800)	(800)
Suffolk Interconnected Habitats (EA)	-	38,349	(38,349)	-	-
Water Restoration Fund Deben (Defra)	-	248,000	-	-	248,000
	235,186	913,782	(244,903)	(800)	903,265
General funds	36,119	49,711	(32,373)	800	54,257
Total Funds	271,305	963,493	(277,276)	-	957,522

An amount of £800 was transferred from MDSC to unrestricted funds relating to fixed assets purchased with the MSDC grant.

Notes to the accounts continued

9. Movement of Funds continued

2024 Comparative

	Opening balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds					
Big Give Trust	-	1,990	(1,990)	-	-
Blackwater Fluvial	-	50,000	(14,075)	-	35,925
Blackwater Restoration	-	35,000	(17,501)	-	17,499
Bluespaces	-	25,258	(5,490)	-	19,768
Chelmer and Wid	61,900	-	(4,763)	(10,000)	47,137
CSO	-	4,000	(4,000)	-	-
East Suffolk Catchment Partnership	6,332	15,000	(21,332)	-	-
Essex County Council	-	1,500	(991)	-	509
Essex Community Engagement	75,000	-	-	(10,000)	65,000
Essex Rivers Hub	3,768	15,000	(18,768)	-	-
Essex River Watch (Essex Waterways)	-	1,000	(896)	-	104
Get River Positive Deben	-	20,000	(13,256)	-	6,744
Get River Positive Fiddlers Hill	-	35,000	-	-	35,000
Invasive Species (Balsam/Branch Out)	-	25,000	(17,500)	-	7,500
Rivers Trust	-	1,094	(1,094)	-	-
WEIF Fiddles Hill	-	50,000	(50,000)	-	-
Suffolk Interconnected Habitats (EA)	-	30,000	(30,000)	-	-
WEIF	(3,808)	-	-	3,808	-
Total Restricted Funds	143,192	309,842	(201,656)	(16,192)	235,186
General Funds	16,177	13,607	(9,857)	16,192	36,119
Total Funds	159,369	323,449	(211,513)	-	271,305

In 2024, an amount of £3,808 was transferred from unrestricted reserves for overspend on the WEIF fund in 2022/23

£10,000 was transferred from Chelmer and Wid Restoration fund and £10,000 from Essex Community Fund to general funds to support overhead costs, as permitted within the terms of the grants.

Notes to the accounts continued

9. Movement of restricted funds continued

Details of restricted funds

Blackwater Fluvial and Restoration are a continuation of funding from Northumbrian Water to support delivery of the Blackwater Restoration Plan workshop and Fluvial audit report.

Bluespaces is funding from Northumbrian Water for staff costs to support Delivery of Northumbrian Water Bluespaces projects to improve the environment and community access to rivers and beaches.

Chelmer and Wid is a donation from Anglian Water following a historic pollution incident on the River Wid. The funds are helping to support restoration work on the Chelmer and Wid and citizen science work throughout Essex.

East Suffolk Catchment Partnership is a grant from the Environment Agency for projects the charity is managing as hosts of the East Suffolk Catchment Partnership.

The Enforcement Undertaking Grant is funding from Anglian Water in relation to over-abstraction from the borehole at Southend-on-Sea Water Recycling Centre. The donation will be used towards a Volunteer and Community Involvement Officer for ESRT; clean-up of rivers including the Roach, the Essex RiverWatch Citizen Science project, river restoration plans; support funding for core ESRT Activities and wetland creation and floodplain restoration works.

Essex County Council is a match-funding donation from Essex County Council to support crowd funding for the Essex River Watch citizen science project

Essex Community Engagement is a donation from Anglian Water to support community engagement.

Essex River Hub is the continuation of a grant from the Environment Agency's Water Improvement Fund to cover the costs of running the Essex Catchment Partnership

Essex River Watch (Anglian Water) and Essex River Watch (Essex Waterways) is funding from Anglian Water and Essex Waterways for the Citizen Science Project

Get River Positive Deben is a grant from Anglian Water to support the landscape scale project 'Recovering the Deben from Source to Sea'. Get River Positive funding is used to accelerate efforts to protect and enhance rivers.

Get River Positive Fiddlers Hill is a grant from Anglian Water to deliver the wetland creation project for Fiddlers Hill Meadow in Essex.

Invasive Species (River Fynn/Anglian Water) is funding from Anglian Water and the Cambridge Community Foundation to control invasive non-native Himalayan Balsam on the River Fynn.

Invasive Species (River Stour/National Landscapes) is funding from the Dedham Vale Sustainable Development Fund to support control of invasive non native Himalayan balsam on the river Stour.

Invasive Species (Balsam/Branch Out) is a grant from the Essex and Suffolk Water Branch Out scheme for the control of invasive, non-native Himalayan Balsam.

Little Bealings (EA) is funding from the Water Environment Improvement Fund to deliver the livestock crossing, spawning bed and river restoration work on the River Fynn at Little Bealings, Suffolk.

Mid Suffolk District Council Locality Fund is funding from the Mid Suffolk District Council to purchase IT equipment needed to support new staff and expansion of the team.

Suffolk Interconnected Habitats (EA) is funding from the Environment Agency's Water Environment Improvement Fund to support Improving Habitat Connectivity in Suffolk. It includes the delivery of preliminary investigations for the Recovering the Deben NFM project at Debenham and delivery of weir investigation at Witnesham, Suffolk, with potential for physical removal of the weir. It also includes delivery of INNS Control on the River Fynn in partnership with AWS and the design and preliminary investigations for wetland features at Dennington Hall, River Alde Floodplain, Bruisyard.

Water Restoration Fund Deben (Defra) is funding from the Water Restoration Fund to be used for feasibility studies, ecological and archaeological assessments, natural capital baselining, groundtruthing, partner time, and project management on the Recovering the Deben from Source to Sea Project.

2024 restricted funds now closed

Big Give Trust is a donation raised through crowd funding for the Essex River Watch citizen science project

CSO is funding received from Anglian Water for completing surveys on combined sewer overflows within the Essex and Suffolk area.

Rivers Trust is funding from the The Rivers Trust to cover CIWEM Training costs and Bluespaces job advert recruitment costs

WEIF Fiddlers Hill is a grant from the Environment Agency to plan, design and prepare for the wetland creation project for Fiddlers Hill Meadow in Essex.

Water Environment Improvement Fund (WEIF) is a grant from the Environment Agency for river restoration and tree planting in Suffolk.

Notes to the accounts continued

10. Analysis of Funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	1,873	849	2,722	124	-	124
Debtors	1,842	553,086	554,928	-	123,613	123,613
Cash at bank and in hand	54,922	349,330	404,252	36,669	125,500	162,169
Current Liabilities	(4,380)	-	(4,380)	(674)	(13,927)	(14,601)
	<u>54,257</u>	<u>903,265</u>	<u>957,522</u>	<u>36,119</u>	<u>235,186</u>	<u>271,305</u>

11. Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions in 2025 or 2024.

12. Trustee remuneration and expenses

In 2025, two trustees were paid £105 expenses for travel and £34 for governance costs (2024: one trustee, £87 for travel).

13. Taxation

The charitable company is a registered charity and therefore exempt from taxation.

14. Net income/expenditure

Net income/expenditure for the year includes:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Independent examination fee	1,530	1,530
Other non-audit services	-	-
Depreciation	300	313

15. Commitments under operating leases

Land and Buildings

	2025	2024
	£	£
Less than one year	3,390	3,128
Between two and five years	-	-
greater than five years	-	-
Total	<u><u>3,390</u></u>	<u><u>3,128</u></u>

ESSEX AND SUFFOLK RIVERS TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1157392

Accounts



ESSEX AND SUFFOLK RIVERS TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

Registered Charity Number 1157392

Registered Company Number 08834787
(England and Wales)

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

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Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Administrative and Reference Details

Legal name	Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust
Registered Office	8 Gorse Road Reydon Southwold Suffolk IP18 6NQ
Registered Charity Number	1157392
Registered Company Number (England and Wales)	08834787
Website	www.essexsuffolkriverstrust.org
Trustees	A E Ruggles-Brise, Chair, appointed 4 October 2023 J M Burch, Vice Chair, appointed 4 October 2023 S L Morton, Treasurer, appointed 4 October 2023 A Woods, Secretary, appointed 4 October 2023 H C Wilkes, appointed 4 October 2023 T L Arnold, appointed 4 October 2023 A Martin-Edwards W H Robinson A C J Wood A G Davies , Chair until 4 October 2023, resigned 10 October 2024 C I McArthur, Vice Chair until 4 October 2023, resigned 10 October 2024 D C D Dignum, resigned 4 October 2023
Principal Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Independent Examiner	Alex Stone FCCA Edmund Carr LLP Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor 146 New London Road Chelmsford Essex CM2 0AW

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Trustee Report

The Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust is both a registered charity (number 1157392) and a registered company limited by guarantee (number 08834787). The Trustees, whose details are set out on page 3, are both Trustees of the charity and Directors of the company.

This document reports on the activities of the Trust in the year to 31 May 2024 and sets out the financial accounts of the company for the same period. It aims to satisfy the reporting requirements that apply to the Trust as both a charity and a company. This annual report also includes the requirements of a Directors' report, as required by company law.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the Trust's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Charities Act 2011 and The Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Financial Reporting Standard 102), effective from January 2019.

Objectives

The objectives for which the charity is established are:

- to conserve, protect, rehabilitate and improve the rivers, streams, watercourses, groundwaters and water impoundments of the catchments comprising the rivers in Essex and East Suffolk, including adjacent estuarine and coastal areas, for the advancement of environmental protection or improvement for the benefit of the public, and
- to advance the education of the public, or any institution, voluntary organisation, company, local authority or public body, in the understanding of rivers and their catchments, including the need for and the benefits of conservation, protection, rehabilitation and improvements of aquatic environments.

Overview of Activities

The ambition and activity of the Trust again increased significantly this year. As leaders of two catchment partnerships (collaborative government-endorsed planning and delivery groups) covering almost all our operational area, we have continued to play an influential role in tackling both the climate and biodiversity crises. Locally and regionally, the Trust continues to be recognised for its consistent delivery and thoughtful, considered leadership. This is exemplified by our successes in raising funds and our leading role in the Recovering the Deben partnership, for which we developed the action plan, launched in May 2024.

During this very successful year we raised £323,135 in grants and donations. We also

- Carried out 41 kilometres of river surveys.
- Restored over 9 kilometres of in-river habitat.
- Organised 9 workshops and catchment meetings bringing together dozens of land managers and/or representatives of local authorities, conservation bodies, and government agencies to support collaborative initiatives to improve the water environment.
- Led over 70 hours of volunteer activity, including Citizen science work, litter picks, and invasive species control.
- Produced 4 Catchment Partnership newsletters, delivered to over 260 subscribers.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

- built our online presence and increased our total follower count by 21%: LinkedIn 96%, Instagram 33%, Facebook 9%, X/Twitter 4%, and Threads (joined in August 2023).

We were saddened to hear, at the end of 2023, of the death, following a long illness, of Brendan Joyce OBE, our first Director. He joined the Trust in 2020 and made a significant contribution to the Trust's growth and standing.

In Spring 2023, the Board went through an open recruitment process for new Board members in anticipation of planned retirements. New Board members were formally appointed at the AGM on 4 October 2023. At the same meeting we thanked Andrew Davies (Chair) and Chris McArthur (Vice-Chair) for their long and valued service to the Trust as officers and appointed Archie Ruggles-Brise as Chair and Jane Burch as Vice-Chair.

Our strong and diverse Board provides advice and guidance to the staff team through the Director. Trustees come from consultancy, businesses, banking, agriculture, water companies and voluntary conservation bodies. The Board met quarterly during the year.

We thank all our Trustees, volunteers, partners and funders for their ongoing support for the Trust in 2023-24. Our plans for 2024-25 include further developing and implementing new projects, extending our reach, engaging with partners and local communities, growing the organisation, and delivering even more for the water environment. During the year we continued to work on our strategy for 2024-30 and aim to publish this in Spring 2025.

We have a Director (part-time, 3 days/week) and an Administration and Communications Officer and Natural Rivers Manager (both full-time). We further strengthened our team this year by recruiting a Project Support Officer (from 22 January 2024) and Blue Spaces Delivery Manager (from 25 March 2024) (both full time). We rented offices in Stowmarket to provide a central office hub and moved in on 10 June 2024.

We remain part of the Anglian Rivers Hub, which brings together local Rivers Trusts to share ideas, work together, and provide a collective voice (e.g. on policy matters). Our Director and two trustees participated in a course on governance organised through the Hub and delivered by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations. As hosts for two catchment partnerships, for East Suffolk and the Combined Essex rivers (Essex Rivers Hub) we have worked on building capacity, catchment planning, coordinating projects, and upgrading websites. During the year, the River Deben Recovery Plan was the main focus of the Suffolk Partnership (see below). In Essex, the Partnership agreed the process for taking forward catchment plans and discussed a partnership project to develop 'River Schools'.

During the year we strengthened links with many other bodies, including the Essex Flood Partnership Board, Anglian Water, Essex & Suffolk Water, Environment Agency, Nature Recovery Partnerships, National Landscapes, Forestry Commission, Woodland Trust, Affinity Water, North Essex Farm Cluster, and Water Resources East. Two Trustees are members of the Anglian Eastern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee and the Director and a further Trustee are members of Anglian Water's River Health Expert Panel.

Project delivery

Suffolk Water Environment Improvement Fund projects

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

- River Deben: Debenham: With the Water Management Alliance, Environment Agency and Suffolk County Council, as part of the Action Plan for Recovering the Deben, installing natural flood management attenuation ponds on the Derry and Cherry Brooks.
- River Fynn: Little Bealings: We continued work on a livestock crossing. This had been delayed by wet ground conditions and flooding.
- River Fynn: Witnesham: With the Environment Agency, we developed plans to remove a small sleeper weir at Witnesham.
- River Ore: Framlingham: Following work on designs to improve the River through the town, we applied for funding to deliver the works. A decision is awaited.
- River Alde: Bruisyard: We developed designs for natural flood management measures and new wetlands on the Bruisyard estate.

Essex Water Environment Improvement Fund projects

- River Colne: Fiddlers Hill Meadow, Eight Ash: We continued to lead the partnership project to deliver a major habitat improvement scheme within the floodplain on land owned by the Woodland Trust on the banks of the River Colne. Proposals were submitted for planning permission.

Recovering the Deben from Source to Sea

Working through the East Suffolk Catchment Partnership, we played a leading role in this multi-stakeholder partnership to develop an Action Plan to restore and enhance the river. The Plan was launched publicly on 13 May 2024 and received significant media coverage on local television and radio. We launched a new mini site on the ESRT website for the project. At the year end, we were awaiting a decision on our bid to the Department of the Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for funding to lead implementation of the Plan.

Blackwater Catchment Restoration Plan

We are developing projects to restore and enhance the rivers Blackwater and Pant, as contributions to local and regional nature recovery plans. As part of a Fluvial Audit, a workshop for local landowners, parish councillors and NGOs was held in May 2024 to inform site surveys. A further workshop in October 2024 discussed the findings and consulted on the plan. Our Project Support Officer, who started in January 2024, is supporting this major project.

Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) control

- With support from Essex and Suffolk Water and National Landscapes, we continued work to control Himalayan Balsam on the Lavenham Brook and Rivers Brett and Stour.
- Work to tackle Himalayan Balsam throughout the River Fynn, for which funding was sought from the Anglian Water INNS fund, is planned for the 2024-25 financial year.
- Building on the Essex Crayfish Project, which found that white-clawed crayfish are probably extinct in Essex, we undertook a similar survey (testing for their DNA) in July 2023 in Suffolk rivers. This was again funded by Essex & Suffolk Water's Branch Out Fund.

Bluespaces programme

This Essex and Suffolk Water project aims to increase public access to 'Bluespaces' (rivers, ponds, bogs, the coast, saltmarsh and other blue spaces), increase biodiversity and improve water quality. Our Bluespaces Delivery Manager, who joined us in March 2024, will support delivery in the fifth and final year of this 2020-25 project.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Citizen Science

Working through the Essex Rivers Hub, we developed tutorial videos, a webpage and information sheets, to support the Essex Riverwatch Pilot project on the River Brett (Stour catchment). We will then roll-out the initiative across Essex in summer 2024 with established Citizen Science groups and involving new interested groups and individuals.

Future work

Initiatives on which we plan to take a leading role in 2024-25 include:

- Continuing to host and support the work programmes of the East Suffolk Catchment Partnership and the Essex Rivers Hub Catchment Partnership.
- Leading the partnership to deliver the Recovering Deben Source to Sea Action Plan. Our partnership application to the DEFRA Water Restoration Fund, if successful, will fund a programme co-ordinator and three feasibility studies covering fish migration on the Deben, the promotion of super-buffer strips along the river's banks, and a pilot wetland attenuation pond to reduce nutrient inputs from the crag streams.
- Delivering further Water Environment Improvement Fund projects, with support from the Environment Agency, in Essex and Suffolk.
- Leading further local actions to tackle Himalayan Balsam, supported by funding for two years from the Anglian Water Invasive Species fund.
- Continuing our work to develop the Blackwater Catchment Restoration Plan.
- Completing our involvement in Essex and Suffolk water's Bluespaces Programme, which will end in March 2025.
- Continuing to engage the public by rolling out Essex RiverWatch and other Citizen Science projects.
- Working with the Millennium Green team in Halesworth on plans for delivery in 2025-26 to enhance the River Blyth and its floodplain by creating scrapes and gullies and in-stream river improvements.
- Working with the Environment Agency, Essex Wildlife Trust and Essex and Suffolk Water to manage the delivery of a fish pass project on the River Blackwater at Easterford Mill.
- Continuing to work with the Environment Agency on a proposal for natural flood management interventions on the River Brain at Faulkbourne Hall, Witham.

Financial Review

Our accounts show income of £323,449 (2022-23: £269,677), expenditure of £211,513 (2022-23: £166,559), and a net surplus for the year of £111,936 (2022-23: £103,118). The year-to-year variation reflects some timing differences between income and expenditure on projects. Our balance sheet shows total funds of £271,305 (2022-23: £159,369) of which £235,186 is restricted (2022-23: £143,192) and £36,119 is unrestricted (£2022-23: £16,177).

Our main sources of income are project grants and donations. We received all the grant income expected in the year and were able to show our funders how this had been spent. We acknowledge, with gratitude, critical funding towards core costs and/or project costs received from businesses, public bodies, charitable funders and individual donors.

Significant supporters of our work during the year included:

- Anglian Water

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

- Essex & Suffolk Water
- Environment Agency
- Essex County Council
- Essex Waterways
- Reed Foundation
- Saffron Building Society
- AXA Insurance
- Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
- John Lewis Partnership
- Swire Charitable Trust
- Water Resources East

Some 38 individual and corporate donors (including some listed above) helped us to raise £6,827 in April from the Big Give Green Match Fund. This will support the Essex RiverWatch scheme, which was launched in summer 2024.

We made good progress in further developing a fundraising strategy embracing consultancy, Biodiversity Net Gain, project grants, corporate fundraising and public donations. We continued to improve our website and those of the two catchment partnerships.

Expenditure was in line with our budget for the year. Costs generally increased in line with the expansion of our activities. We continue to keep our insurance requirements under review and to strengthen these where necessary (e.g. in relation to our rented office space). We shall continue to keep our core costs under close review in 2024-25.

At the year-end, the Trust is in a stronger financial position than in previous years and we are confident that it remains a going concern. During the year we strengthened our staffing, delivered new projects, and identified new partnerships, opportunities to grow our delivery team, and significant new projects, to build on our achievements to date.

Policy on reserves

Our current policy is to maintain £20,000 of unrestricted reserves and, with known forecast income, we are confident that we can continue to maintain our reserves at this level. Free reserves at 31 May 2024 were £35,995.

Risk management

The Trust has a comprehensive Risk Register and the Trustees continue to monitor risks to the business. Our banking arrangements with CAF Bank are robust and accountable, with two signatories required on all significant transactions.

In our day-to-day work, we have a strong focus on staff health and safety, particularly as regards lone working, and have strengthened our risk assessment processes. Our Natural Rivers Manager participated in training on the Construction Design and Management Regulations, which are particularly relevant to some of our bigger construction projects.

Public benefit

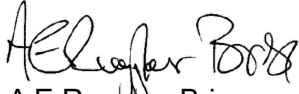
The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 71 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit in reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning its activities.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charitable company on 16 January 2025 and signed on its behalf.



A E Ruggles-Brise

Chair and Trustee

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust ("the Company")

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 May 2024 which are set out on pages 11 to 20.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since the company'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 Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, 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 company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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



Alex Stone FCCA
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW
27th January 2025

Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)

For the year ended 31 May 2024

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	2	13,293	309,842	323,135	1,359	268,003	269,362
Investment income	3	314	-	314	116	-	116
Other income	4	-	-	-	199	-	199
		13,607	309,842	323,449	1,674	268,003	269,677
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	5	9,857	201,656	211,513	4,498	162,061	166,559
		9,857	201,656	211,513	4,498	162,061	166,559
Net expenditure		3,750	108,186	111,936	(2,824)	105,942	103,118
Transfers between funds		16,192	(16,192)	-	-	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		19,942	91,994	111,936	(2,824)	105,942	103,118
Reconciliation of Funds							
Funds brought forward		16,177	143,192	159,369	19,001	37,250	56,251
Funds carried forward		36,119	235,186	271,305	16,177	143,192	159,369

Balance Sheet

For the year ended 31 May 2024

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets:			
Tangible fixed assets	7	124	437
Current assets:			
Debtors	8	123,613	2,459
Cash at bank and in hand		162,169	162,562
Total Current assets:		285,782	165,021
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	9	14,601	6,089
Net current assets		271,181	158,932
Total net assets		271,305	159,369
Total funds of the charity			
Expendable Endowment funds			
Restricted Funds		235,186	143,192
Unrestricted Funds		36,119	16,177
Total Funds of the Charity		271,305	159,369

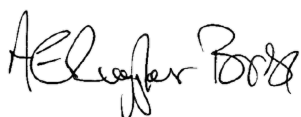
For the year ending 31 May 2024 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

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 special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006

The financial statements on pages 10 to 19 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 10/12/2024 and signed on their behalf by:



A E Ruggles-Brise
Chair and Trustee

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 May 2024

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Charitable Company Status

The charitable company is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England & Wales, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charitable company in the event of liquidation

1. Accounting Policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the Charity and rounded to the nearest pound.

Going concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charitable company.

Income and endowments

All income is recognised once the charitable company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charitable company has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charitable company before the charitable company is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charitable company and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charitable company has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charitable company in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs comprise those costs incurred in central functions and not related to direct activities.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including independent examination costs.

Notes to the Accounts continued

1. Accounting Policies continued

Taxation

The charitable company is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charitable company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Significant individual fixed assets are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Computer equipment: 33.33%

Trade debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any discounts due.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand, bank accounts and bank deposits.

Trade creditors

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

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the Trustees's discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charitable company. Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charitable company has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods. Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

Financial instruments Classification

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Notes to the accounts continued

2. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations	11,353	-	11,353	1,359	-	1,359
Grants	1,940	309,842	311,782	-	268,003	268,003
	13,293	309,842	323,135	1,359	268,003	269,362

3. Investment Income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bank interest	314	-	314	116	-	116
	314	-	314	116	-	116

4. Other income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Consultancy	-	-	-	199	-	199
	-	-	-	199	-	199

5. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Direct activities	3,882	171,375	175,257	128,120
Support costs	5,975	30,281	36,256	38,440
	9,857	201,656	211,513	166,560

Analysis of expenditure

	2024	2023
	£	£
Programs		
Water quality improvements	44,008	50,765
Partnership projects	28,053	7,368
Improvements to river and wetland lan	84,494	53,518
Community engagement	3,812	-
Invasive species research and projects	14,890	16,469
	175,257	128,120

Notes to the accounts continued

Note 5. Expenditure on charitable activities, Analysis of expenditure continued

Support costs allocated to charitable activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Administration		
Office costs	13,617	15,011
IT	1,657	6,487
Rent	2,077	749
Salaries	8,513	5,506
Travel and subsistence	4,416	4,785
Depreciation	313	899
	<u>30,593</u>	<u>33,437</u>
Governance		
Audit and accountancy fees	5,663	5,003
	<u>5,663</u>	<u>5,003</u>
Total Support Costs	<u>36,256</u>	<u>38,440</u>

6. Employee costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries	101,268	69,889
Social Security costs	3,218	522
Pension costs	2,159	1,374
	106,645	71,785

Average number of employees

	2024	2023
	4	3

No employee received remuneration of more than £60,000.

Trustees consider the key management personnel of the organisation to be the Trustees and Director. The total remuneration is £28,867.

Notes to the accounts continued

7. Fixed Assets

	Computer Equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 June 2023	5,020	5,020
Additions	-	-
At 31 May 2024	5,020	5,020
Depreciation		
At 1 June 2023	4,583	4,583
Charge for year	313	313
At 31 May 2024	4,896	4,896
Net book value 31 May 2024	124	124
Net book value 31 May 2023	437	437

Notes to the accounts continued

8. Debtors

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 £	2023 £
Prepayments	-	2,910	2,910	2,459
Accrued Income	-	120,703	120,703	-
	-	123,613	123,613	2,459

9. Creditors

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 £	2023 £
Other taxation and social security	-	2,073	2,073	1,000
Other creditors	674	9,424	10,098	2,359
Accruals	-	2,430	2,430	2,730
	674	13,927	14,601	6,089

Notes to the accounts continued

10. Movement of Funds

	Opening balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds					
Chelmer and Wid Restoration	61,900	-	(4,763)	(10,000)	47,137
Essex Community Engagement	75,000	-	-	(10,000)	65,000
Get River Positive (Deben)	-	20,000	(13,256)	-	6,744
Get River Positive (Fiddlers Hill)	-	35,000	-	-	35,000
Big Give Trust	-	1,990	(1,990)	-	-
Anglia Water CSO	-	4,000	(4,000)	-	-
Suffolk CPF	6,332	15,000	(21,332)	-	-
Environment Agency WEIF Fiddlers Hill	-	50,000	(50,000)	-	-
Environment Agency WEIF ICH	-	30,000	(30,000)	-	-
WEIF	(3,808)	-	-	3,808	-
ERH	3,768	15,000	(18,768)	-	-
Essex and Suffolk Water (Branch Out)	-	25,000	(17,500)	-	7,500
Essex County Council	-	1,500	(991)	-	509
Essex Waterways	-	1,000	(896)	-	104
ESW (Blackwater Fund - Fluvial)	-	50,000	(14,075)	-	35,925
ESW (Blackwater Fund - Restoration)	-	35,000	(17,501)	-	17,499
Northumbrian Water Bluespaces	-	25,258	(5,490)	-	19,768
The Rivers Trust	-	1,094	(1,094)	-	-
Total Restricted Funds	143,192	309,842	(201,656)	(16,192)	235,186
General Funds	16,177	13,607	(9,857)	16,192	36,119
Total Funds	159,369	323,449	(211,513)	-	271,305

An amount of £3,808 is transferred from unrestricted reserves for overspend on the WEIF fund in 2022/23

£10,000 is transferred from Chelmer and Wid Restoration fund and £10,000 from Essex Community Fund to general funds to support overhead costs, as permitted within the terms of the grants.

2023 Comparative

	Opening balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£
Chelmer and Wid Restoration	-	61,900	-	61,900
Essex Community Engagement	-	75,000	-	75,000
East Sussex Rivers PPP	-	5,211	5,211	-
ERH	5,543	15,000	16,775	3,768
Suffolk CPF	21,671	15,000	30,339	6,332
Essex Crayfish	-	15,000	15,000	-
Essex Rivers Catchment	(88)	88	-	-
WEIF	(13,747)	64,620	54,681	(3,808)
Himalayan Balsam	8,686	-	8,686	-
Topsoil	(2,467)	8,548	6,081	-
Water for Tomorrow	17,652	7,636	25,288	-
Total Restricted Funds	37,250	268,003	162,061	143,192
General Funds	19,001	1,674	4,498	16,177
Total Funds	56,251	269,677	166,559	159,369

Notes to the accounts continued

10. Movement of restricted funds continued

Details of restricted funds

Chelmer and Wid restoration is a donation from Anglian Water donation following a historic pollution incident on the River Wid to support restoration work on the Chelmer and Wid and citizen science work throughout Essex.

Essex Community Engagement is a donation from Anglian Water to support engagement with coastal communities around the River Colne following a pollution incident at Jaywick.

Get River Positive (Deben) is a grant from Anglian Water to support the landscape scale project 'Recovering the Deben from Source to Sea'. Get River Positive funding is used to accelerate efforts to protect and enhance rivers.

Get River Positive (Fiddlers Hill) is a grant from Anglian Water to deliver the wetland creation project for Fiddlers Hill Meadow in Essex.

Big Give Trust is a donation raised through crowd funding for the Essex River Watch citizen science project

Anglia Water CSO is funding received from Anglian Water for completing surveys on combined sewer overflows within the Essex and Suffolk area.

Suffolk CPF is a grant from the Environment Agency for projects the charity is managing as hosts of the East Suffolk Catchment Partnership.

Environment Agency WEIF Fiddlers Hill is a grant from the Environment Agency to plan, design and prepare for the wetland creation project for Fiddlers Hill Meadow in Essex.

Environment Agency WEIF ICH is a grant from the Environment Agency to improve connectivity and habitat within the East Suffolk Catchment at several different sites including The Grove, Little Bealings, Rosemary Bridge, Tuddenham, Framlingham town centre and the River Fynn.

Water Environment Improvement Fund (WEIF) is a grant from the Environment Agency for river restoration and tree planting in Suffolk.

ERH is the Essex Rivers Hub Catchment Partnership host funding. It covers the costs of running the Catchment partnership for Essex and comes from the Environment Agency Water Environment Improvement Fund.

ESW (Branch Out - Balsam) is a grant from the Essex and Suffolk Water Branch Out scheme for the control of invasive, non-native Himalayan Balsam.

Essex County Council is a match-funding donation from Essex County Council to support crowd funding for the Essex River Watch citizen science project

ESW (Blackwater Fund - Fluvial) is a grant from Essex and Suffolk Water for a project to conduct a fluvial audit of the rivers Blackwater and Pant. This is a detailed study of the river and its surrounding environment

ESW (Blackwater Fund - Restoration) is a grant from Essex and Suffolk Water to support creating the Blackwater and Pant restoration plan following results of the fluvial audit, including project support officer salary.

Northumbrian Water Bluespaces is a grant to cover the Bluespaces Delivery Manager salary as part of the Bluespaces partnership working agreement with Essex and Suffolk Water (Northumbrian Water).

The Rivers Trust is funding from the Rivers Trust to cover CIWEM Training costs and Bluespaces job advert recruitment costs

East Suffolk Rivers Preventing Plastic Pollution (PPP)- These are funds from the Rivers Trust who received funding from a European Intereg Project across France and England capturing and recording data about sources of plastic pollution.

Himalayan Balsam is a fund for the removal of Himalayan Balsam, an invasive species damaging our rivers.

Essex Crayfish is fund used to undertake eDNA sampling of waterbodies across Essex to check for the presence of native white-clawed crayfish.

Topsoil consists of two projects which are part of the EU Project Topsoil. One project looks at sediment in Layer Brook in Essex and one trials Managed Aquifer Recharge in the Sandlings area in Suffolk.

Water for Tomorrow is a programme of information dissemination on water resource issues. It is part of a wider project funded by the Rivers Trust who are the Lead partner receiving their funding from EU INTERREG VA France (Channel)

Notes to the accounts continued

11. Analysis of Funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	124	-	124	437	-	437
Current Assets	36,669	249,113	285,782	15,740	149,281	165,021
Current Liabilities	(674)	(13,927)	(14,601)	-	(6,089)	(6,089)
	36,119	235,186	271,305	16,177	143,192	159,369

12. Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions in 2024 or 2023.

13. Trustee remuneration and expenses

In 2024, one trustee was paid £87 for travel expenses (2023: £Nil)

14. Taxation

The charitable company is a registered charity and therefore exempt from taxation

14. Net income/expenditure

Net income/expenditure for the year includes:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Independent examination fee	1,530	1,530
Other non-audit services	-	1,200
Depreciation	313	899

ESSEX AND SUFFOLK RIVERS TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1157392

Accounts

Company registration number: 08834787
Charitable company registration number: 1157392

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 May 2023

Edmund Carr LLP
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

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Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Reference and Administrative Details

Chairman	A G Davies (to 4 October 2023) A E Ruggles-Brise (from 4 October 2023)
Trustees	A G Davies A Martin-Edwards C I McArthur (Vice-Chair to 4 October 2023) W H Robinson A E Ruggles-Brise A C J Wood J M Burch (Vice-Chair from 4 October 2023) D C D Dignum (resigned 4 October 2023) T L Arnold (appointed 4 October 2023) S L Morton (Treasurer) (appointed 4 October 2023) H C Wilkes (appointed 4 October 2023) A Woods (appointed 4 October 2023)
Secretary	A Woods
Registered Office	8 Gorse Road Reydon Southwold Suffolk IP18 6NQ The charitable company is incorporated in England & Wales.
Charitable company Registration Number	1157392
Company Registration Number	08834787
Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Independent Examiner	Colin Andrew Barker FCA Edmund Carr LLP 146 New London Road Chelmsford Essex CM2 0AW

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Trustees Report

The Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust is both a registered charity (number 1157392) and a registered company limited by guarantee (number 08834787). The Trustees, whose details are set out on page 1, are both Trustees of the charity and Directors of the company.

This document reports on the activities of the Trust in the year to 31 May 2023 and sets out the financial accounts of the company for the same period. It aims to satisfy the reporting requirements that apply to the Trust as both a charity and a company. This annual report also includes the requirements of a directors' report, as required by company law.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the Trust's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Charities Act 2011 and The Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Financial Reporting Standard 102), effective from January 2019.

Objectives and activities

Our objects for which the charity is established are:

- to conserve, protect, rehabilitate and improve the rivers, streams, watercourses, groundwaters and water impoundments of the catchments comprising the rivers in Essex and East Suffolk, including adjacent estuarine and coastal areas, for the advancement of environmental protection or improvement for the benefit of the public, and
- to advance the education of the public, or any institution, voluntary organisation, company, local authority or public body, in the understanding of rivers and their catchments, including the need for and the benefits of conservation, protection, rehabilitation and improvements of aquatic environments.

Review of activities and future developments

This year represents a significant increase in both the ambition and activity for the Trust. Our leadership of two catchment partnerships covering almost all our operational area (collaborative government endorsed river watershed planning and delivery groups) has positioned the Trust in an increasingly influential role in the fight to tackle the dual challenges around climate change and nature recovery. Locally and regionally the Trust is now recognised for its consistent delivery and thoughtful, considered leadership.

During this very successful year we:

- raised £269,632 in grants and donations.
- Carried out 27km of river surveys
- Restored 0.5 hectares/m2 of floodplain
- Restored over 500m of in-river habitat
- Planted over 300 trees
- led over 200 hours of volunteer activity, including Citizen Science work, litterpicks, invasive species control.
- Produced 4 catchment partnership newsletters, distributed to over 100 subscribers
- Built our online presence and increased our total follower count by 11.8% across 3 platforms (X/Twitter 4% increase, Facebook 7.55% increase and Instagram 62.2% increase).

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Trustees Report

We were saddened to hear in early 2022 of the serious illness of Brendan Joyce OBE, our first Director. He joined the Trust in 2020 and over two years made a significant contribution to the Trust's growth and standing. Brendan supported the Trust in recruiting a new Director before he stepped down from the position and we were delighted to be able to appoint Helen Dangerfield in September 2022.

In spring 2023, the Board went through an open recruitment process for new Board members in anticipation of planned retirements. New Board members were later formally appointed at the AGM on 4th October 2023.

Our strong and diverse Board provides advice and guidance to the staff team through the Director. Trustees come from consultancy, businesses, banking, agriculture, a water company and voluntary conservation bodies. The Board met quarterly during the year.

We thank all our Trustees, volunteers, partners and funders for their on-going support for the Trust in 2022/23. We move into the 2023/24 financial year with ambitious plans to further develop and implement new projects, extend our reach, engage with partners and local communities, grow the organisation, and deliver even more for the water environment.

We have a part-time Director (3 days), a full-time Administration and Communications Officer and a full-time Project and Catchment Officer. We have no liability for any buildings.

We are part of the Anglian Rivers Hub, which brings together local Rivers Trusts to share ideas, work together, and provide a collective voice (e.g. on policy matters). As hosts for the East Suffolk Catchment Partnership (ESCP) and Essex Rivers Hub (ERH) we have worked on building capacity, catchment planning, coordinating projects, and upgrading websites. During the year, ESCP agreed three themes as a focus for new projects and ERH ran a Citizen Science pilot to test different methods for collecting data across Essex.

With support from the Anglian Rivers Hub, we ran a strategy meeting with our Trustees on 25 April 2023. Following further work, our three-year strategy will be published in 2023/24.

During the year we strengthened our links with diverse organisations, including the Dedham Vale National Landscape, Forestry Commission, Woodland Trust, Affinity Water, Anglian Water, Environment Agency, North Essex Farm Cluster, Upper Deben Farm Cluster and Nature Recovery Partnerships. We continued our involvement in the Strategic Advisory Group of Water Resources East and, through our Director and/or Trustees are connected into the Anglian Water Get River Positive Expert Panel and the Anglian Eastern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.

We were active partners in the £3.4 million Interreg (England/France) Water for Tomorrow Project, which developed and tested innovative water management tools and decision-making support systems. We ran the East Suffolk pilot project (April 2021 to March 2023), working collaboratively through the East Suffolk Catchment Partnership to raise awareness of water resources challenges and identify actions to secure sustainable abstraction.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Trustees Report

Project delivery

Suffolk Water Environment Improvement Fund projects

- **River Fynn:** Playford and Little Bealings: Over 300 trees planted, livestock crossings installed to stop poaching by cattle, and in-channel restoration works completed.
- **River Ore:** Producing designs to support Framlingham Town Council and the landowner (the Co-op) in consulting locally on actions to improve the River through the town.
- **Butley River:** Wantisden Park Estate: Large wood structures and introduced gravel were used over a reach of some 500 metres to create seven in-channel features, a semi-meandering planform and improved substrate for fish and macroinvertebrates.
- **Cliff Farm County Wildlife Site:** Sutton: Very large woody debris installed at three points in-channel to promote seasonal wetting of marshland to benefit rare wetland species.

Essex Water Environment Improvement Fund projects

- **River Colne:** Fiddlers Hill Meadow, Fordham: Work on options to reconnect Woodland Trust land to the floodplain, increasing the frequency of flooding and creating new riparian habitats in partnership with the Woodland Trust and Environment Agency. Funding for construction of wetlands and floodplain reconnection will be sought in the next year from grant funders and other organisations keen to deliver this important and rare habitat.

Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) control

- We completed the Essex Crayfish Project (eDNA) and developed proposals for a Crayfish in Suffolk Project. Funding for work to locate and protect endangered White Clawed Crayfish in Suffolk will form a key component of the 2023/24 work plan.
- We developed proposals to extend work to tackle invasive Himalayan Balsam on the Lavenham Brook, River Brett and Stour. With a project plan in place we are now in a strong position to secure funding deliver essential balsam removal sessions [involving volunteers] to enable native riverside plants to recover, stabilising river banks and protecting native wildlife.

Preventing Plastic Pollution Project

As part of a £12 million (England/France) Interreg project we completed 9 litter surveys with partner organisations: The River Gipping Trust (Baylham), River Deben Association (Waldringfield, Melton, Felixstowe) and Natural England staff (Felixstowe beach front). Thanks to 121 hours of volunteer effort, we collected 31 bags of litter (over 2,522 individual items of which 85% were plastic) which weighed 89.16 kg. All waste was disposed of responsibly and recycled where possible by ESRT staff and local council collection. We continue to promote the PPP methodology and encourage both existing and new volunteers to complete surveys when litter picking and upload to the PPP database.

Anglian Water Combined Sewage Outfall Assessment

- Rivers Ore, Chelmer and Blackwater: Working with Anglian Water, the ESCP and Rivers Trust, we assessed opportunities for wetland creation and river habitat improvements at the outfalls from eight sewage treatment works. It is hoped this will lead to detailed designs and construction of wetlands to enhance water quality, better protecting these rivers from pollution.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Trustees Report

Future work

Initiatives on which we plan to take a leading role in 2023/24 include:

- Hosting and supporting developing catchment plans for the East Suffolk Catchment Partnership and the Essex Rivers Hub Catchment Partnership.
- Leading the partnership to deliver the Recovering Deben Source to Sea, a nationally important pioneer project supported by the Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs.
- Delivering further Water Environment Improvement Fund projects with support from the Environment Agency in Essex and Suffolk.
- Leading further local actions to tackle invasive Himalayan Balsam.
- Continuing support for the Suffolk Crayfish Project to recover endangered native crayfish populations.
- Recruiting a BlueSpaces Delivery Manager to work in Partnership with Essex & Suffolk Water in delivering their BlueSpaces programme of projects to improve the water environment.
- Developing the Blackwater Catchment Restoration Plan to identify priority areas of the river and floodplain for restoration and enhancement.
- Recruiting a Project Support Officer to support our work on the Blackwater Fluvial Audit which will reveal the condition of the river, and lead to creation of a pipeline of projects. These outcomes will be shared to support local and regional nature recovery plans and build strong, enduring delivery partnerships.
- Continuing to engage the public through Citizen Science projects.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Trustees Report

Financial review

Our accounts show income of £269,677 (2022: £158, 875), expenditure of £166,559 (2022: £137,115), and a net surplus for the year of £103,118 (2022: £21,760). The year-to-year variation reflects some timing differences between income and expenditure on projects (e.g. the income figure includes a further donation of £75,000 received from Anglian Water in April 2023). Our balance sheet shows total funds of £159,369 (2022: £56,251).

Our main sources of income are project grants and donations. We received all the grant income expected in the year and were able to show our funders how this had been spent. We acknowledge, with gratitude, critical funding towards core costs and/or project costs received from businesses, public bodies, charitable funders and individual donors.

Significant supporters of our work during the year included:

- Anglian Water
- Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
- Environment Agency
- Essex & Suffolk Water
- John Lewis Partnership
- Saffron Building Society
- Water Resources East

We started developing a fundraising strategy embracing consultancy, Biodiversity Net Gain (which offers opportunities for river and wetland restoration through develop contributions), project grants, corporate fundraising and public donations. Following further work, the strategy will guide our fundraising work from 2023/24 onwards.

Expenditure was in line with our budget for the year. Costs generally increased in line with the expansion of our activities. On advice received when renewing our insurance, we increased both our Professional Indemnity cover and our Trustees liability insurance. We shall continue to keep our core costs under close review in 2023/24.

At the year-end, the Trust is in a stronger financial position than in previous years and we are confident that it remains a going concern. During the year we strengthened our staffing, delivered new projects, and identified new partnerships, opportunities to grow our delivery team, and significant new projects, to build on our achievements to date.

Policy on reserves

The carry forward balance is £159,369, including £16,177 of unrestricted reserves. We have a current reserve policy of maintaining £20,000 of unrestricted reserves and with known forecast income will be in a good position to meet this in 2024.

Risk management

The Trust has a comprehensive Risk Register and the Trustees continue to monitor risks to the business. Our banking arrangements with CAF Bank are robust and accountable, with two signatories required on all significant transactions.

In our day-to-day work, we have a strong focus on staff health and safety, particularly as regards lone working, and have strengthened our risk assessment processes.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Trustees Report

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit in reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning its activities.

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the Trustees of the charitable company on 27 February 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

A E Ruggles-Brise

.....
A E Ruggles-Brise
Chairman and Trustee

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust ("the Company")

I report to the charitable company Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 May 2023 which are set out on pages 9 to 22.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since the company'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:

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

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

C A Barker

.....
Colin Andrew Barker FCA
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

27 February 2024

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

**Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 May 2023
(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Other Comprehensive Income)**

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	1,359	268,003	269,362	158,875
Investment income	4	116	-	116	-
Other income		199	-	199	-
Total income		<u>1,674</u>	<u>268,003</u>	<u>269,677</u>	<u>158,875</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	5	<u>4,498</u>	<u>162,061</u>	<u>166,559</u>	<u>137,115</u>
Total expenditure		<u>4,498</u>	<u>162,061</u>	<u>166,559</u>	<u>137,115</u>
Net (expenditure)/income		<u>(2,824)</u>	<u>105,942</u>	<u>103,118</u>	<u>21,760</u>
Net movement in funds		(2,824)	105,942	103,118	21,760
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward (restated)		<u>19,001</u>	<u>37,250</u>	<u>56,251</u>	<u>34,491</u>
Total funds carried forward	15	<u><u>16,177</u></u>	<u><u>143,192</u></u>	<u><u>159,369</u></u>	<u><u>56,251</u></u>

All of the charitable company's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust
(Registration number: 08834787)
Balance Sheet as at 31 May 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £ (As restated)
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	437	965
Current assets			
Debtors	12	2,459	1,700
Cash at bank and in hand	13	<u>162,562</u>	<u>58,304</u>
		165,021	60,004
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(6,089)</u>	<u>(4,718)</u>
Net current assets		<u>158,932</u>	<u>55,286</u>
Net assets		<u>159,369</u>	<u>56,251</u>
Funds of the charitable company:			
Restricted funds	15	143,192	37,250
Unrestricted funds		<u>16,177</u>	<u>19,001</u>
Total funds	15	<u>159,369</u>	<u>56,251</u>

For the financial year ending 31 May 2023 the charitable 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 accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements on pages 9 to 22 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 27 February 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

A E Ruggles-Brise

 A E Ruggles-Brise
 Chairman and Trustee

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2023

1 Charitable company status

The charitable company is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England & Wales, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charitable company in the event of liquidation.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charitable company.

Income and endowments

All income is recognised once the charitable company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charitable company has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charitable company before the charitable company is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charitable company and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2023

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charitable company has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charitable company in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activities based upon the proportion of directly attributable activity costs.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including independent examination costs.

Taxation

The charitable company is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charitable company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Significant individual fixed assets are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2023

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Computer equipment	33.33% straight-line

Trade debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any discounts due.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand, bank accounts and bank deposits.

Trade creditors

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

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the Trustees's discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charitable company.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charitable company has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

Financial instruments

Classification

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2023

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Donations receivable	1,359	-	1,359	395
Grants receivable	-	268,003	268,003	158,480
	1,359	268,003	269,362	158,875

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Interest receivable on bank deposits	116	-	116	-
	116	-	116	-

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Activity undertaken directly £	Activity support costs £	2023 £
Conservation, protection and improvement of rivers, streams and watercourses	128,120	38,440	166,560
	128,120	38,440	166,560
	Activity undertaken directly £	Activity support costs £	2022 £
Conservation, protection and improvement of rivers, streams and watercourses	96,624	40,491	137,115
	96,624	40,491	137,115

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2023

6 Analysis of governance and support costs

Support costs allocated to charitable activities

	Governance costs £	Administration costs £	Total 2023 £
Conservation, protection and improvement of rivers, streams and watercourses	<u>5,003</u>	<u>33,437</u>	<u>38,440</u>
	Governance costs £	Administration costs £	Total 2022 £
Conservation, protection and improvement of rivers, streams and watercourses	<u>4,486</u>	<u>36,005</u>	<u>40,491</u>

7 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net incoming resources for the year include:

	2023 £	2022 £
Independent examination fees	1,530	1,454
Other non-audit services	1,200	1,000
Depreciation of fixed assets	<u>899</u>	<u>776</u>

8 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No Trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charitable company during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2023

9 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	69,889	64,466
Social security costs	522	1,157
Pension costs	1,374	1,193
	<u>71,785</u>	<u>66,816</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charitable company during the year expressed by head count was as follows:

	2023 No	2022 No
Average number of staff employed	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>

3 (2022 - 2) of the above employees participated in the Defined Contribution Pension Schemes.

Contributions to the employee pension schemes for the year totalled £1,374 (2022 - £1,193).

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

10 Taxation

The charitable company is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2023

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 June 2022	4,649	4,649
Additions	371	371
At 31 May 2023	5,020	5,020
Depreciation		
At 1 June 2022	3,684	3,684
Charge for the year	899	899
At 31 May 2023	4,583	4,583
Net book value		
At 31 May 2023	437	437
At 31 May 2022	965	965

12 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Prepayments	2,459	1,700

13 Cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash at bank	162,562	58,304

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other taxation and social security	1,000	1,072
Other creditors	2,359	1,192
Accruals	2,730	2,454
	6,089	4,718

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2023

15 Funds

Current year:

	Balance at 1 June 2022 £ (As restated)	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 May 2023 £
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>				
General	19,001	1,674	(4,498)	16,177
Restricted				
Chelmer and Wid Restoration	-	61,900	-	61,900
Essex Community Engagement	-	75,000	-	75,000
East Suffolk Rivers PPP	-	5,211	(5,211)	-
ERH	5,543	15,000	(16,775)	3,768
Suffolk CPF	21,671	15,000	(30,339)	6,332
Essex Crayfish	-	15,000	(15,000)	-
Essex Rivers Catchment	(88)	88	-	-
WEIF	(13,747)	64,620	(54,681)	(3,808)
Himalayan Balsam	8,686	-	(8,686)	-
Topsoil	(2,467)	8,548	(6,081)	-
Water for Tomorrow	17,652	7,636	(25,288)	-
Total restricted	<u>37,250</u>	<u>268,003</u>	<u>(162,061)</u>	<u>143,192</u>
Total funds	<u><u>56,251</u></u>	<u><u>269,677</u></u>	<u><u>(166,559)</u></u>	<u><u>159,369</u></u>

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2023

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Chelmer and Wid restoration – This was an Anglian Water donation following a historic pollution incident on the River Wid to support restoration work on the Chelmer and Wid and citizen science work throughout Essex.

Essex Community Engagement – This was a donation from Anglian Water to support engagement with coastal communities around the River Colne following a pollution incident at Jaywick.

East Suffolk Rivers Preventing Plastic Pollution (PPP) – These are funds from the Rivers Trust who received funding from a European Interegg Project across France and England capturing and recording data about sources of plastic pollution.

ERH – This is the Essex Rivers Hub Catchment Partnership host funding. This covers the costs of running the Catchment partnership for Essex and comes from the Environment Agency Water Environment Improvement Fund.

Suffolk CPF - This fund is for projects the charity is managing as hosts of the East Suffolk Catchment Partnership.

Essex Crayfish – This fund was used to undertake eDNA sampling of waterbodies across Essex to check for presence of native white-clawed crayfish.

Essex Rivers Hub and Suffolk Catchment (CPF) – These is an Environment Agency fund to support the catchment partnership in Combined Essex and East Suffolk catchments.

WEIF – This is an Environment Agency Water Environment Improvement Fund grant for river restoration and tree planting in Suffolk.

Himalayan Balsam – This fund was for the removal of Himalayan Balsam, an invasive species damaging our rivers.

Topsoil - This consists of two projects which are part of the EU Project Topsoil. One project looks at sediment in Layer Brook in Essex and one trials Managed Aquifer Recharge in the Sandlings area in Suffolk.

Water for Tomorrow – is a programme of information dissemination on water resource issues. It is part of a wider project funded by the Rivers Trust who are the Lead partner receiving their funding from EU INTERREG VA France (Channel).

Colne WFD - This was to fund projects in Essex, mainly Water Framework Directive projects on the River Colne.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2023

Prior year:

	Balance at 1 June 2021 £ (As restated)	Incoming resources £ (As restated)	Resources expended £ (As restated)	Balance at 31 May 2022 £ (As restated)
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>				
General	(675)	39,191	(19,515)	19,001
Restricted				
ERH	(10)	11,733	(6,180)	5,543
Suffolk CPF	12,812	24,550	(15,691)	21,671
Colne WFD	13,704	15,000	(28,704)	-
Essex Rivers Catchment	(88)	-	-	(88)
WEIF	(53)	28,650	(42,344)	(13,747)
Himalayan Balsam	-	11,205	(2,519)	8,686
Topsoil	8,801	6,046	(17,314)	(2,467)
Water for Tomorrow	-	22,500	(4,848)	17,652
Total restricted funds	<u>35,166</u>	<u>119,684</u>	<u>(117,600)</u>	<u>37,250</u>
Total funds	<u><u>34,491</u></u>	<u><u>158,875</u></u>	<u><u>(137,115)</u></u>	<u><u>56,251</u></u>

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2023

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

Current year:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	437	-	437
Current assets	15,740	149,281	165,021
Current liabilities	-	(6,089)	(6,089)
Total net assets	<u>16,177</u>	<u>143,192</u>	<u>159,369</u>

Prior year:

	Unrestricted funds £ (As restated)	Restricted funds £ (As restated)	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	965	-	965
Current assets	18,036	41,968	60,004
Current liabilities	-	(4,718)	(4,718)
Total net assets	<u>19,001</u>	<u>37,250</u>	<u>56,251</u>

17 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

18 Prior year restatement

The allocation of expenditure between unrestricted and restricted funds in the prior year has been restated. This is so the prior year figures more accurately reflect the true usage of each fund.

Due to this restatement, restricted funds as at 31 May 2022 have decreased by £3,177 and unrestricted funds have increased by £3,177.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2023

19 Prior year Statement of Financial Activities

	Note	Unrestricted £ (As restated)	Restricted £ (As restated)	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	<u>39,191</u>	<u>119,684</u>	<u>158,875</u>
Total income		<u>39,191</u>	<u>119,684</u>	<u>158,875</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	5	<u>19,515</u>	<u>117,600</u>	<u>137,115</u>
Total expenditure		<u>19,515</u>	<u>117,600</u>	<u>137,115</u>
Net income		<u>19,676</u>	<u>2,084</u>	<u>21,760</u>
Net movement in funds		19,676	2,084	21,760
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>(675)</u>	<u>35,166</u>	<u>34,491</u>
Total funds carried forward	15	<u><u>19,001</u></u>	<u><u>37,250</u></u>	<u><u>56,251</u></u>

ESSEX AND SUFFOLK RIVERS TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1157392

Accounts

Company registration number: 08834787
Charitable company registration number: 1157392

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 May 2022

Edmund Carr LLP
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

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Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Reference and Administrative Details

Chairman	A G Davies
Trustees	D C D Dignum A Martin C I McArthur P A Roberts W H Robinson A E Ruggles-Brise A C J Wood J M Burch
Principal Office	Dairyley Farmhouse Spains Hall Road Finchingfield Braintree Essex CM7 4NL The charitable company is incorporated in England & Wales.
Charitable company Registration Number	1157392
Company Registration Number	08834787
Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Independent Examiner	Colin Andrew Barker FCA Edmund Carr LLP Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor 146 New London Road Chelmsford Essex CM2 0AW

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Trustees Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present their annual report together with the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31 May 2022.

The company is a registered charity under number 1157392 and is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee from 7 January 2014. The activities are governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association, and the company commenced trading on 20 August 2014.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 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 published on 16 July 2014.

This annual report also includes the requirements of a directors' report, as required by company law.

Organisation

The directors who served as trustees during the year are set out on page 1.

Objectives and activities

Our objects for which the charity is established are:

- to conserve, protect, rehabilitate and improve the rivers, streams, watercourses, groundwaters and water impoundments of the catchments comprising the rivers in Essex and East Suffolk, including adjacent estuarine and coastal areas, for the advancement of environmental protection or improvement for the benefit of the public, and secondly
- to advance the education of the public, or any institution, voluntary organisation, company, local authority or public body, in the understanding of rivers and their catchments, including the need for and the benefits of conservation, protection, rehabilitation and improvements of aquatic environments.

Review of activities and future developments

The board has a strong and diverse membership able to provide advice and give direction on work areas, drawing membership from consultancy, businesses, banking, agriculture, water companies and voluntary conservation bodies. The board has met every three months over the last year. We have three part-time (Director – 3 days, and Admin Support - shared 3 days between the two part-time staff members) and one full-time members of staff (Project and Catchment Officer). We have no liabilities such as ownership of buildings, so we can closely manage our finances with a high degree of certainty and prudence. This policy will be reviewed as we grow as an organisation.

As with many organisations and businesses, Covid restrictions and lockdowns impacted our work. However, with the easing of restrictions across the UK in early 2022, we were able to focus on more project development and on the ground delivery.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Trustees Report

The Director was signed off as long-term sick from the New Year (2022), which reduced and impacted staffing levels and capacity. The Director has continued to play a supporting role at a much-reduced level and supported the Trustees in the recruitment of a new Director for the ESRT.

Despite the restrictions and impacts on the development of the ESRT, we continued with Catchment Partnership meetings, maintained and developed our working relationships with partners and stakeholders throughout Essex and Suffolk using AV conferencing facilities (Teams and Zoom).

We continued to build on our work as hosts of the East Suffolk Catchment Partnership (ESCP) and Essex River Hub (ERH), thanks to continued support from DEFRA and the Environment Agency, holding three successful partnership meetings for each partnership, issuing winter and summer newsletters for the ESCP and our first newsletter for the ERH during the year. We are also the hosts of the ERH website, which we will look to update develop further.

Project delivery work included:

- A suite of small river restoration projects was delivered with our catchment partners, which included the creation of backwaters, scrapes and in-channel habitat creation and flow management.
- Riparian tree planting with fencing, with over 400 trees planted in three catchments (Deben, Alde and Ore)
- Invasive non-native Himalayan balsam plant is a significant ecological problem on many riverbanks in the Stour Catchment. The project focusses on the Stour, Brett and Box rivers and year one of two was successfully delivered in partnership with Essex and Suffolk Water's (part of the Northumbrian Water Group) Branch Out Fund.
- The final phase of the Layer Brook project, as part of the Topsoil programme, supported by the EU Interreg Programme and Essex and Suffolk Water was delivered and successfully brought to a conclusion.

Future project development work includes:

- WEIF project for Essex and Suffolk, focusing on the Deben, Butley River and Colne catchments.
- We are progressing with a tiered Citizen Science project to engage with the general public across Essex and Suffolk.
- We will be delivering our commitment on the INNS Branch Out project, supported by Essex and Suffolk Water for Himalayan balsam control and will be developing a new project to look at the impacts of invasive crayfish species on our Essex populations of white-clawed crayfish.
- We will be developing a Preventing Plastic Pollution Project in partnership with catchment partners for delivery in East Suffolk.

Prior to the New year, we played an active role in the development of a new Regional Water Resources Management Plan for the East of England, led by Water Resources East (WRE). This plan was published in late 2021. We also participated in a number of strategic meetings and workshops as members of WRE's Strategic Advisory Group, and our Trustee representative continues to be actively involved with WRE. We are also actively involved in the Environment Subgroup which is part of the Regional Flood Coastal and Communities Committee and have attended meeting which have principally focussed on water quality in Suffolk rivers, further workshops will be held for this.

In September 2021, Jessica Duckenfield joined the team on two days per week to provide additional admin support as Katie Phillips reduced her hours to one day per week due to other commitments.

We move into the 2022/23 financial year with the development of new projects, maintaining our hosts duties of the catchment partnerships, and opening new and promising funding opportunities to see the further development and expansion of the Trust's activities.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Trustees Report

Our thanks go to all trustees, volunteers, partners and funders for their on-going support of the Trust. We look forward developing and implementing new projects, extending our reach and engagement with partners and local communities and growing the organisation further over the coming years.

Financial review

The details of our finances show that we have a net surplus for the year of £21,760 (2021: £10,287). This is with income of £158,875 and expenditure of £137,115. It should be noted that the difference from year to year is largely due to timing differences between income and outgoings related to specific projects. Our balance sheet shows total funds of £56,251 (2021: £34,491).

Income streams are normally from project financing sources and donations, with only modest funds raised in our own right. Our banking arrangements with CAF Bank are robust and accountable, with two signatories required on all significant transactions. We are confident we will remain a going concern and currently have a number of additional projects being implemented.

Policy on reserves

The total reserves amount to £56,251. These reserves come to more than three months of total expenditure, in line with the reserves policy.

Risk management

The trustees continue to monitor risk and map out a sustainable future for the trust.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales. They have referred to the guidance in the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning future activities as demonstrated above.

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charitable company on 6 January 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
A G Davies
Chairman

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust ("the Company")

I report to the charitable company trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 May 2022 which are set out on pages 6 to 17.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

.....
Colin Andrew Barker FCA
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

11 January 2023

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

**Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 May 2022
(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Other Comprehensive Income)**

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	50,395	108,480	158,875	57,239
Total income		50,395	108,480	158,875	57,239
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4	33,745	103,370	137,115	46,952
Total expenditure		33,745	103,370	137,115	46,952
Net income		16,650	5,110	21,760	10,287
Net movement in funds		16,650	5,110	21,760	10,287
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		(826)	35,317	34,491	24,204
Total funds carried forward	14	15,824	40,427	56,251	34,491

All of the charitable company's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust
(Registration number: 08834787)
Balance Sheet as at 31 May 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	965	1,171
Current assets			
Debtors	11	1,700	1,404
Cash at bank and in hand	12	<u>58,304</u>	<u>35,263</u>
		60,004	36,667
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(4,718)</u>	<u>(3,347)</u>
Net current assets		<u>55,286</u>	<u>33,320</u>
Net assets		<u><u>56,251</u></u>	<u><u>34,491</u></u>
Funds of the charitable company:			
Restricted funds	14	40,427	35,317
Unrestricted funds		<u>15,824</u>	<u>(826)</u>
Total funds	14	<u><u>56,251</u></u>	<u><u>34,491</u></u>

For the financial year ending 31 May 2022 the charitable 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 accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements on pages 6 to 17 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 6 January 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
A G Davies
Chairman

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2022

1 Charitable company status

The charitable company is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England & Wales, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charitable company in the event of liquidation.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charitable company.

Income and endowments

All income is recognised once the charitable company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charitable company has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charitable company before the charitable company is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charitable company and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2022

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charitable company has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charitable company in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activities based upon the proportion of directly attributable activity costs.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including independent examination costs.

Taxation

The charitable company is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charitable company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Significant individual fixed assets are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Computer equipment	33.33% straight-line

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2022

Trade debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any discounts due.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand, bank accounts and bank deposits.

Trade creditors

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

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees's discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charitable company.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charitable company has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

Financial instruments

Classification

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2022

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Donations receivable	395	-	395
Grants receivable	50,000	108,480	158,480
	<u>50,395</u>	<u>108,480</u>	<u>158,875</u>
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Donations receivable	4,021	-	4,021
Grants receivable	-	53,218	53,218
	<u>4,021</u>	<u>53,218</u>	<u>57,239</u>

4 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Activity undertaken directly £	Activity support costs £	2022 £
Suffolk CPF	13,486	6,924	20,410
Colne WFD	72	541	613
Topsoil	16,363	6,676	23,039
WEIF	41,737	15,210	56,947
ERH	10,068	4,634	14,702
Water for Tomorrow	14,898	6,506	21,404
	<u>96,624</u>	<u>40,491</u>	<u>137,115</u>
	Activity undertaken directly £	Activity support costs £	2021 £
Suffolk CPF	10,015	19,886	29,901
Colne WFD	2,737	5,261	7,998
Topsoil	2,855	6,200	9,055
	<u>15,607</u>	<u>31,347</u>	<u>46,954</u>

£33,745 of the total expenditure was unrestricted (2021:£29,115) and £103,370 was restricted (£17,837).

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2022

5 Analysis of governance and support costs

Support costs allocated to charitable activities

	Governance costs £	Administration costs £	Total 2022 £
Suffolk CPF	1,209	5,715	6,924
Colne WFD	2	538	540
Topsoil	486	6,191	6,677
WEIF	1,240	13,971	15,211
ERH	1,107	3,527	4,634
Water for Tomorrow	442	6,063	6,505
	4,486	36,005	40,491
	Governance costs £	Administration costs £	Total 2021 £
Suffolk CPF	2,315	17,571	19,886
Colne WFD	537	4,724	5,261
Topsoil	960	5,240	6,200
	3,812	27,535	31,347

£33,809 of the administration and governance costs was unrestricted (2021: £29,116) and £6,682 was restricted (2021: £24,665).

6 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net incoming resources for the year include:

	2022 £	2021 £
Independent examination fees	1,454	1,340
Other non-audit services	1,000	1,000
Depreciation of fixed assets	776	743
	3,230	3,083

7 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charitable company during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2022

8 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	64,466	37,354
Social security costs	1,157	-
Pension costs	1,193	605
	<u>66,816</u>	<u>37,959</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charitable company during the year expressed by head count was as follows:

	2022	2021
	No	No
Average number of staff employed	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>

1 (2021 - 1) of the above employees participated in the Defined Contribution Pension Schemes.

Contributions to the employee pension schemes for the year totalled £1,193 (2021 - £605).

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

9 Taxation

The charitable company is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2022

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 June 2021	4,079	4,079
Additions	570	570
At 31 May 2022	<u>4,649</u>	<u>4,649</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 June 2021	2,908	2,908
Charge for the year	776	776
At 31 May 2022	<u>3,684</u>	<u>3,684</u>
Net book value		
At 31 May 2022	<u>965</u>	<u>965</u>
At 31 May 2021	<u>1,171</u>	<u>1,171</u>

11 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Prepayments	<u>1,700</u>	<u>1,404</u>

12 Cash and cash equivalents

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash at bank	<u>58,304</u>	<u>35,263</u>

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Other taxation and social security	1,072	782
Other creditors	1,192	225
Accruals	<u>2,454</u>	<u>2,340</u>
	<u>4,718</u>	<u>3,347</u>

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2022

14 Funds

Current year:

	Balance at 1 June 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 May 2022 £
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>				
General	(826)	50,395	(33,745)	15,824
Restricted				
Suffolk CPF	12,812	24,550	(15,691)	21,671
Colne WFD	13,704	15,000	(587)	28,117
Topsoil	8,801	6,046	(17,314)	(2,467)
WEIF	-	28,650	(42,397)	(13,747)
ERH	-	11,734	(11,190)	544
Water for Tomorrow	-	22,500	(16,191)	6,309
Total restricted	<u>35,317</u>	<u>108,480</u>	<u>(103,370)</u>	<u>40,427</u>
Total funds	<u>34,491</u>	<u>158,875</u>	<u>(137,115)</u>	<u>56,251</u>

	Balance at 1 June 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 May 2021 £
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>				
General	24,268	4,021	(29,115)	(826)
Restricted				
Suffolk CPF	9,071	15,000	(11,259)	12,812
Colne WFD	1,674	15,000	(2,970)	13,704
Topsoil	(10,809)	23,218	(3,608)	8,801
Total restricted funds	<u>(64)</u>	<u>53,218</u>	<u>(17,837)</u>	<u>35,317</u>
Total funds	<u>24,204</u>	<u>57,239</u>	<u>(46,952)</u>	<u>34,491</u>

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2022

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Suffolk CPF - This fund is for projects the charity is managing as hosts of the East Suffolk Catchment Partnership.

Colne WFD - This is to fund projects in Essex, mainly Water Framework Directive projects on the River Colne.

Topsoil - This consists of two projects which are part of the EU Project Topsoil. One project looks at sediment in Layer Brook in Essex and one trials Managed Aquifer Recharge in the Sandlings area in Suffolk.

WEIF – This is an Environment Agency Water Environment Improvement Fund grant for river restoration and tree planting in Suffolk.

ERH – This is the Essex Rivers Hub Catchment Partnership host funding. This covers the costs of running the Catchment partnership for Essex and comes from the Environment Agency Water Environment Improvement Fund.

Water for Tomorrow – is a programme of information dissemination on water resource issues. It is part of a wider project funded by the Rivers Trust who are the Lead partner receiving their funding from EU INTERREG VA France (Channel).

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

Current year:

	Unrestricted funds £	Other £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	965	-	965
Current assets	14,859	45,145	60,004
Current liabilities	-	(4,718)	(4,718)
Total net assets	<u>15,824</u>	<u>40,427</u>	<u>56,251</u>

Prior year:

	Unrestricted funds £	Other £	Total funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,171	-	1,171
Current assets	343	36,324	36,667
Current liabilities	(2,340)	(1,007)	(3,347)
Total net assets	<u>(826)</u>	<u>35,317</u>	<u>34,491</u>

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2022

16 Prior year Statement of Financial Activities

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	<u>4,021</u>	<u>53,218</u>	<u>57,239</u>
Total income		<u>4,021</u>	<u>53,218</u>	<u>57,239</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	4	<u>29,115</u>	<u>17,837</u>	<u>46,952</u>
Total expenditure		<u>29,115</u>	<u>17,837</u>	<u>46,952</u>
Net (expenditure)/income		<u>(25,094)</u>	<u>35,381</u>	<u>10,287</u>
Net movement in funds		(25,094)	35,381	10,287
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>24,268</u>	<u>(64)</u>	<u>24,204</u>
Total funds carried forward	14	<u><u>(826)</u></u>	<u><u>35,317</u></u>	<u><u>34,491</u></u>

ESSEX AND SUFFOLK RIVERS TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1157392

Accounts

Company registration number: 08834787

Charity registration number: 1157392

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 May 2021

Edmund Carr LLP
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

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Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Reference and Administrative Details

Chairman	A G Davies
Trustees	D C D Dignum A Martin C I McArthur P A Roberts W H Robinson A E Ruggles-Brise A C J Wood J M Burch
Principal Office	Dairyley Farmhouse Spains Hall Road Finchingfield Braintree Essex CM7 4NL The charity is incorporated in England & Wales.
Company Registration Number	08834787
Charity Registration Number	1157392
Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Independent Examiner	Colin Andrew Barker FCA Edmund Carr LLP Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor 146 New London Road Chelmsford Essex CM2 0AW

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present their annual report together with the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31 May 2021.

The company is a registered charity under number 1157392 and is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee from 7 January 2014. The activities are governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association, and the company commenced trading on 20 August 2014.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 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 published on 16 July 2014.

This annual report also includes the requirements of a directors' report, as required by company law.

Organisation

The directors who served as trustees during the year are set out on page 1.

Objectives and activities

Our objects for which the charity is established are:

- to conserve, protect, rehabilitate and improve the rivers, streams, watercourses, groundwaters and water impoundments of the catchments comprising the rivers in Essex and East Suffolk, including adjacent estuarine and coastal areas, for the advancement of environmental protection or improvement for the benefit of the public, and secondly
- to advance the education of the public, or any institution, voluntary organisation, company, local authority or public body, in the understanding of rivers and their catchments, including the need for and the benefits of conservation, protection, rehabilitation and improvements of aquatic environments.

Review of activities and future developments

The board has a strong and diverse membership able to provide advice and give direction on work areas, drawing membership from consultancy, businesses, banking, agriculture, water companies and voluntary conservation bodies. The board has met every three months during the last year. We have two part-time members of staff in addition to the Director. We have no liabilities such as ownership of buildings, so we can closely manage our finances with a high degree of certainty and prudence. This policy will be reviewed as we grow as an organisation.

As with many organisations and businesses, restrictions and lockdowns as a result of the Covid pandemic seriously impacted our work. This prevented us from having any face-to-face meetings throughout the year and severely hampered our ability to get out on the ground to investigate and develop new projects. Access to new funding also became a major issue as so many funding sources either suspended their grant giving activities or redirected their priorities to emergency funding.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Trustees' Report

Our new Director, who started in March 2020, took the opportunity to develop and produce a new three-year Business Strategy which was approved and adopted by the Board in September 2020.

Despite restrictions on holding meetings in person, we were able to achieve a great deal in maintaining and developing our working relationships with partners and stakeholders throughout Essex and Suffolk using video conference applications. We continued to build on our work as hosts of the East Suffolk Catchment Partnership, thanks to continued support from DEFRA and the Environment Agency, holding three successful partnership meetings and issuing two newsletters in the year. In January 2021 we took on the hosting of the Essex Combined Catchment Partnership (also known as Essex Rivers Hub) from Essex Wildlife Trust, again with financial support from DEFRA through the Environment Agency.

Project development work included:

- A suite of river restoration projects in East Suffolk for submission to DEFRA's Green Recovery Challenge Fund. Whilst this was unsuccessful due to huge competition, we aim to take forward some of the projects through other funding sources.
- A riparian tree planting and river restoration programme for submission to the Environment Agency's Water Environment Investment Fund. This was successful and achieved the full funding requested for delivery in 2021/22.
- We developed a project to tackle the invasive, non-native Himalayan balsam plant which is a significant ecological problem on many riverbanks. The project focusses on the Colne, Brett and Box rivers and was submitted to Essex and Suffolk Water's (part of the Northumbrian Water Group) Branch Out Fund. This was successful and will be delivered in 2021 and 2022.
- Continued work on the development of the final phase of the Layer Brook project as part of the Topsoil programme supported by the EU Interreg Programme and Essex and Suffolk Water.

We played an active role in the development of a new Regional Water Resources Management Plan for the East of England, led by Water Resources East (WRE). We participated in a number of strategic meetings and workshops as members of WRE's Strategic Advisory Group. Also, we joined the newly formed Environment Subgroup which is part of the Regional Flood Coastal and Communities Committee.

Our Project Support Officer, Kirsty Wilmot, moved on to a new role in February 2021 and was replaced by Katie Phillips in the role of Admin Support Officer. We developed a new role of Projects and Catchments Officer and successfully appointed Andrew Went in early May 2021.

Whilst the Covid pandemic continues, the welcome development and roll-out of vaccines has afforded some relaxation of restrictions and more confidence in the future. We move into the 2021/22 financial year with new projects under development and promising funding opportunities in prospect and see the next two years as a period of development and expansion of the Trust's activities.

Our thanks go to all trustees of the Trust for their considerable support and unremunerated assistance throughout the year as well as to all our partners and stakeholders during what, for everyone, has been a very difficult and challenging year.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Trustees' Report

Financial review

The details of our finances show that we have a net surplus for the year of £10,287 (2020: net deficit of £8,281). This is with income of £57,239 and expenditure of £46,952. It should be noted that the difference from year to year is largely due to timing differences between income and outgoings related to specific projects. Our balance sheet shows total funds of £34,491 (2020: £24,204).

Income streams are normally from project financing sources and donations, with only modest funds raised in our own right. Our banking arrangements with CAF Bank are robust and accountable, with two signatories required on all significant transactions. We are confident we will remain a going concern and currently have a number of additional projects being implemented.

Policy on reserves

The total reserves amount to £34,491. These reserves come to more than three months of total expenditure, in line with the reserves policy.

Risk management

The trustees continue to monitor risk and map out a sustainable future for the trust.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales. They have referred to the guidance in the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning future activities as demonstrated above.

Structure, governance and management

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 14 February 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

A G Davies

.....
A G Davies
Chairman

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust ("the Company")

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 May 2021 which are set out on pages 6 to 17.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

C A Barker

.....
Colin Andrew Barker FCA
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

15 February 2022

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 May 2021 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Other Comprehensive Income)

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	4,021	53,218	57,239	36,914
Total income		4,021	53,218	57,239	36,914
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4	29,115	17,837	46,952	45,195
Total expenditure		29,115	17,837	46,952	45,195
Net (expenditure)/income		(25,094)	35,381	10,287	(8,281)
Net movement in funds		(25,094)	35,381	10,287	(8,281)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		24,268	(64)	24,204	32,485
Total funds carried forward	14	(826)	35,317	34,491	24,204

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust
(Registration number: 08834787)
Balance Sheet as at 31 May 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	1,171	157
Current assets			
Debtors	11	1,404	1,403
Cash at bank and in hand	12	<u>35,263</u>	<u>27,665</u>
		36,667	29,068
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(3,347)</u>	<u>(5,021)</u>
Net current assets		<u>33,320</u>	<u>24,047</u>
Net assets		<u>34,491</u>	<u>24,204</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted funds	14	35,317	(64)
Unrestricted funds		<u>(826)</u>	<u>24,268</u>
Total funds	14	<u>34,491</u>	<u>24,204</u>

For the financial year ending 31 May 2021 the charity 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 charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

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

The financial statements on pages 6 to 17 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 14 February 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

A G Davies

.....
A G Davies
Chairman

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2021

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England & Wales, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Income and endowments

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

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2021

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activities based upon the proportion of directly attributable activity costs.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including independent examination costs.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Significant individual fixed assets are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Computer equipment	33.33% straight-line

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2021

Trade debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any discounts due.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand, bank accounts and bank deposits.

Trade creditors

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

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees's discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

Financial instruments

Classification

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2021

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021
	£	£	£
Donations receivable	4,021	-	4,021
Grants receivable	-	53,218	53,218
	4,021	53,218	57,239
	4,021	53,218	57,239
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2020
	£	£	£
Donations receivable	8,405	-	8,405
Grants receivable	-	28,509	28,509
	8,405	28,509	36,914
	8,405	28,509	36,914

4 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Activity undertaken directly	Activity support costs	2021
	£	£	£
Suffolk CPF	10,015	19,886	29,901
Colne WFD	2,737	5,261	7,998
Topsoil	2,855	6,200	9,055
	15,607	31,347	46,954
	15,607	31,347	46,954
	Activity undertaken directly	Activity support costs	2020
	£	£	£
Suffolk CPF	9,123	5,526	14,649
Colne WFD	377	344	721
Topsoil	20,598	9,227	29,825
	30,098	15,097	45,195
	30,098	15,097	45,195

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2021

5 Analysis of governance and support costs

Support costs allocated to charitable activities

	Governance costs £	Administration costs £	Total 2021 £
Suffolk CPF	2,315	17,571	19,886
Colne WFD	537	4,724	5,261
Topsoil	960	5,240	6,200
	<u>3,812</u>	<u>27,535</u>	<u>31,347</u>

	Governance costs £	Administration costs £	Total 2020 £
Suffolk CPF	1,893	3,633	5,526
Colne WFD	31	313	344
Topsoil	1,683	7,544	9,227
	<u>3,607</u>	<u>11,490</u>	<u>15,097</u>

6 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year include:

	2021 £	2020 £
Independent examination fees	1,340	1,250
Other non-audit services	1,000	970
Depreciation of fixed assets	<u>743</u>	<u>158</u>

7 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2021

8 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	37,354	26,089
Pension costs	<u>605</u>	<u>345</u>
	<u>37,959</u>	<u>26,434</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year expressed by head count was as follows:

	2021 No	2020 No
Average number of staff employed	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

1 (2020 - 1) of the above employees participated in the Defined Contribution Pension Schemes.

Contributions to the employee pension schemes for the year totalled £605 (2020 - £345).

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

9 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2021

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 June 2020	2,322	2,322
Additions	1,757	1,757
At 31 May 2021	4,079	4,079
Depreciation		
At 1 June 2020	2,165	2,165
Charge for the year	743	743
At 31 May 2021	2,908	2,908
Net book value		
At 31 May 2021	1,171	1,171
At 31 May 2020	157	157

11 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Prepayments	1,404	1,403

12 Cash and cash equivalents

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash at bank	35,263	27,665

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Other taxation and social security	782	319
Other creditors	225	2,242
Accruals	2,340	2,460
	3,347	5,021

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2021

14 Funds

Current year:

	Balance at 1 June 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 May 2021 £
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
General	24,268	4,021	(29,115)	-	(826)
Restricted					
Suffolk CPF	9,071	15,000	(11,259)	-	12,812
Colne WFD	1,674	15,000	(2,970)	-	13,704
Topsoil	(10,809)	23,218	(3,608)	-	8,801
Total restricted	<u>(64)</u>	<u>53,218</u>	<u>(17,837)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,317</u>
Total funds	<u>24,204</u>	<u>57,239</u>	<u>(46,952)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,491</u>

Prior year:

	Balance at 1 June 2019 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 May 2020 £
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
General	28,033	8,405	(12,670)	500	24,268
Restricted					
Suffolk CPF	4,883	15,000	(10,812)	-	9,071
Colne WFD	2,234	-	(560)	-	1,674
Topsoil	(3,165)	13,509	(21,153)	-	(10,809)
Core	500	-	-	(500)	-
Total restricted	<u>4,452</u>	<u>28,509</u>	<u>(32,525)</u>	<u>(500)</u>	<u>(64)</u>
Total funds	<u>32,485</u>	<u>36,914</u>	<u>(45,195)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,204</u>

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2021

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Suffolk CPF - This fund is for projects the charity is managing as hosts of the East Suffolk Catchment Partnership.

Colne WFD - This is to fund projects in Essex, mainly Water Framework Directive projects on the River Colne.

Topsoil - This consists of two projects which are part of the EU Project Topsoil. One project looks at sediment in Layer Brook in Essex and one trials Managed Aquifer Recharge in the Sandlings area in Suffolk.

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

Current year:

	Unrestricted funds £	Other £	Total funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,171	-	1,171
Current assets	343	36,324	36,667
Current liabilities	<u>(2,340)</u>	<u>(1,007)</u>	<u>(3,347)</u>
Total net assets	<u><u>(826)</u></u>	<u><u>35,317</u></u>	<u><u>34,491</u></u>

Prior year:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted £	Total funds 2020 £
Tangible fixed assets	157	-	157
Current assets	26,331	2,737	29,068
Current liabilities	<u>(2,220)</u>	<u>(2,801)</u>	<u>(5,021)</u>
Total net assets	<u><u>24,268</u></u>	<u><u>(64)</u></u>	<u><u>24,204</u></u>

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2021

16 Prior year Statement of Financial Activities

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2020 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	8,405	28,509	36,914
Total income		8,405	28,509	36,914
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	4	12,670	32,525	45,195
Total expenditure		12,670	32,525	45,195
Net expenditure		(4,265)	(4,016)	(8,281)
Transfers between funds		500	(500)	-
Net movement in funds		(3,765)	(4,516)	(8,281)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		28,033	4,452	32,485
Total funds carried forward	14	24,268	(64)	24,204