



ESSEX AND SUFFOLK RIVERS TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

Registered Charity Number	1157392
Registered Company Number (England and Wales)	08834787

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

CONTENTS

Reference and Administrative Details	3
Trustee Report	4
Independent Examiner's Report	10
Statement of Financial Activities	11
Balance Sheet	12
Notes to the Accounts	13

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: Witlesham: With the Environment Agency, we developed plans to remove a small sleeper weir at Witlesham.
- 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

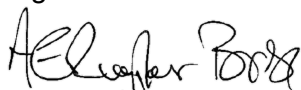
The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 71 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit in reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning its activities.

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

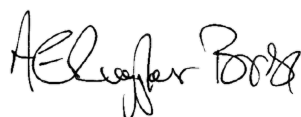
For the year ending 31 May 2024 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

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
	30,593	33,437
Governance		
Audit and accountancy fees	5,663	5,003
	5,663	5,003
Total Support Costs	36,256	38,440

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	<u>5,020</u>	<u>5,020</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 June 2023	4,583	4,583
Charge for year	<u>313</u>	<u>313</u>
At 31 May 2024	<u>4,896</u>	<u>4,896</u>
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	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>123,613</u>	<u>123,613</u>	<u>2,459</u>

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
	<u>674</u>	<u>13,927</u>	<u>14,601</u>	<u>6,089</u>

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