

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1157922

Details

Other names LINCOLNSHIRE RIVERS TRUST, LRT

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [08613863](#)

Registered 2014-07-21

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

Contact

Address c/o TC Brooks & Partners
22 St. Peter's Street
Stamford
Lincolnshire
PE9 2PF

Phone 07857372207

Email admin@eastmercia.org

Website www.eastmercia.org

Activities

Objects: 1. TO CONSERVE, PROTECT, REHABILITATE AND IMPROVE THE RIVERS, STREAMS, WATERCOURSES AND WATER IMPOUNDMENTS OF THE CATCHMENTS COMPRISING THE RIVERS WITHIN THE HYDROLOGICAL CATCHMENT BOUNDARIES OF THE LINCOLNSHIRE RIVERS BOARD/NRA, 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 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: Secured a years funding to recruit a Project Officer.Secured funding to carry out a number of river restoration projects on the Witham.Delivered Riverfly and Eels in Classroom projects.Attended the county shows and undertook Work Party events with our volunteers.took a lead role in the steering group for the

Catchment Based Approach.Hosted the Rivers Trust Spring Conference.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Lincolnshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£965,515	£934,505	£482,341	9
2024-03-31	£972,310	£764,090	£451,331	7
2023-03-31	£445,341	£399,711	-	-
2022-03-31	£411,711	£551,092	-	-
2021-03-31	£325,588	£191,739	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANDREW STUART MORRISS	Chair	2019-11-01
Benjamin Shrive		2025-01-23
James Stuart Birch		2022-08-31
John Kenneth Leventhall		2022-03-04
Martin James Ballard		2022-08-31
Matthew Bills		2022-08-31
Peter James Holland		2025-04-23
Rachel Dyson		2024-02-07

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1157922

Accounts

Charity registration number 1157922

Company registration number 08613863 (England and Wales)

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr. Martin Ballard Mr Andrew Morriss Mr. James Birch Mr. Matthew Bills Ms. Rachel Dyson Mr. Benjamin Shrive Mr. John Leventhall	(Appointed 23 January 2025)
Senior management	R Butler	Chief executive officer
Charity number	1157922	
Company number	08613863	
Registered office	22 St. Peter's Street Stamford Lincolnshire PE9 2PF	
Independent examiner	TC Group 22 St. Peter's Street Stamford Lincolnshire PE9 2PF	

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

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EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The external environment for the East Mercia Rivers Trust (EMRT) in 2024/25 is marked by policy uncertainty, tightening public funding, and rising expectations for measurable environmental outcomes. Improving evidence on the state of our rivers highlights both the scale of challenge and the urgency of response.

The year ahead will be pivotal in shaping how local catchment delivery aligns with national priorities and the new governance arrangements emerging from the Independent Water Commission chaired by Sir Jon Cunliffe (the *Cunliffe Review*). Launched in October 2024, the review will examine the future structure of Defra's delivery bodies, with potential implications for funding, partnerships, and accountability. Its recommendations are expected to have a major influence across the water and environmental sectors. The Rivers Trust nationally is leading engagement with government, and EMRT will ensure regional representation of this evolving policy landscape.

Following successful Spring Summits, our Welland and Witham Catchment Partnerships remain vital for collaboration as we navigate geopolitical, regulatory, and climatic change. While traditional Environment Agency funding continues to contract, new opportunities in green finance, including biodiversity net gain (BNG), carbon, and nutrient markets are developing but remain uncertain. EMRT continues to contribute to Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS), shaping future funding priorities and delivery frameworks.

Public scrutiny of sewage discharges, urban and highways runoff, and water quality has intensified demand for credible delivery partners and transparent data. EMRT is responding by strengthening its monitoring and evidence base through a new dedicated officer role commencing April 2025.

Climate extremes are increasing pressure on rivers and riparian habitats, compounded by land-use competition and ongoing uncertainty around Defra's sustainable farming schemes. Despite this, farmer willingness to engage remains strong, and EMRT will continue to facilitate these partnerships.

To ensure resilience beyond 2025, EMRT will continue to diversify income sources and reinforce its role as a trusted intermediary between regulators, landowners, and investors. Climate adaptation, natural capital, and community engagement will continue to underpin all programmes.

The Board remains focused on organisational development, reviewing EMRT's competencies and composition to ensure efficiency and strategic strength. During the year, one founding Trustee stepped down, and we welcomed a new member from the international IT and corporate sector. EMRT remains committed to sustaining its purpose and expanding the support it provides to its growing team of passionate professionals.



Martin Ballard
Chair

Date: 05 November 2025

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

TRUSTEES REPORT REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report.

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

Objectives and activities

Mission

Bringing rivers back to life for nature and communities.

The headline KPI achievements for the aims are identified below.

<i>Aim 1: Resilient Rivers</i>	<i>Achievements 2024 - 2025</i>
To create and protect healthy, clean, and resilient watercourses by, <ul style="list-style-type: none">restoring and enhancing habitats,increasing water storage,improving water quality andcontrolling and removing invasive species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">River restoration and enhancement projects.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Kibworth & Smeeton Nature Project river restoration completed following delays caused by Storm BabetSpalding Reconnected urban enhancement project completed with floating ecosystems and coir rollsThunker Beck NFM delivered to support flood alleviation and increased biodiversity & further feasibility studies commissioned for further restorationNFM scoping on the Upper Welland completedNFM monitoring and project development for Field Beck, Sleaford completedMain funding sources<ul style="list-style-type: none">Anglian WaterLocal AuthoritiesEnvironment Agency

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

<i>Aim 2: Rivers for Life</i>	<i>Achievements 2024 - 2025</i>
<p>To inspire local communities, landowners, businesses, and recreational river-users to act for rivers by,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · building data and evidence, · delivering educational activities and advisory services, · Improving access to nature, and · raising awareness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 961 adults & 689 children along with 143 vols attended various work parties & events · Including 160 children, 8 adults & 2 volunteers attending Rivers Academy Sessions · Earthwatch, Riverfly & Anglian Water Get River Positive water quality monitoring continues. · Greater links with mental health charities and voluntary groups has been forged across the chalk streams. · Proposal to create a Natural History Hub in Horncastle has begun with key partners; Sir Joseph Banks Society, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership attracting support from local authorities and other environmental education providers.
<i>Aim 3: Building Collaboration</i>	<i>Achievements 2024 - 2025</i>
<p>To advocate the catchment-based approach by facilitating the Welland Valley and Witham Catchment Partnerships.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Two successful Summits delivered for the Witham and Welland partnerships with a focus on citizen science and volunteering with an aim to accelerate and increase coordination across the catchments.
<i>Aim 4: Creating Security</i>	<i>Achievements 2024 - 2025</i>
<p>To build organisational stability and relevance by,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · diversifying projects and donors, · positioning as the knowledge centre for the catchments, · creating a high profile, and · investing in staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Income percentage increased from non-governmental sources. · Number of all multi-year projects increased. · Staff training budget remains high. · Strong social media presence with regular posts in Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram.

Public benefit

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

Achievements and performance

Significant activities and achievements against objectives

Programme Activities Update

There are over 120 watercourses within the Welland and Witham catchments, EMRT is operational in five counties: Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, and Rutland.

Resilient Rivers

The upper catchment headwater programmes aim to increase water storage, slow water flow, and improve the water quality through large-scale restoration works such as reconnecting floodplains, reinstating paleo channels, installing back channels, wetlands, and scrapes or smaller scale natural flood management measures and in-channel installations such as berms.

1. Upper Witham

The Upper Witham is an important limestone watercourse forming the headwaters of the Witham catchment. Development of a landscape recovery bid is underway to link the many restoration sites and aim to recharge the limestone aquifer.

Following the success of Horncastle and previous greening in Brayford Pool, stakeholder engagement is ongoing to develop wider urban greening and engagement projects in both Lincoln and Sleaford, with Grantham on hold due to recent flooding.

2. Limestone Becks

On-going partnership with the Environment Agency and Wild Trout Trust was extended to include Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. An Expression of Interest to National Lottery Heritage Fund for accelerating engagement and restoration efforts across the Becks and Fens with support provided by the Environment Agency and Anglian Water for the preparatory work.

3. Chalk Streams

Anglian Water Get River Positive and UK Shared Prosperity Fund has continued to support community engagement and river restoration measures centred on Horncastle, which sits on the confluence of two chalk streams and a town that has experienced catastrophic flooding.

4. Upper Welland

The Environment Agency and Anglian Water has supported the preparatory work for the development of a landscape level Welland Vision programme, involving multiple partners and sites around Harborough and Great Bowden.

5. Lower Welland

Installed floating ecosystems and coir rolls in Spalding town have enhanced a canalised section of the River Welland, as part of a wider National Lottery funded programme aimed at improving the town's natural heritage and visitor experience.

6. Invasives

Nationally, Environment Agency funding has been withdrawn for some invasives activities which has led to the cessation of pennywort treatment. Other funding and collaborative working are now being considered with partners to address invasives at scale.

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Rivers for life

The programme's core activities focus on education, skills development, volunteering, and citizen science.

1. Rivers Academy

Working in partnership with Nene Rivers Trust education team and Lincolnshire Outdoor Learning (for KS4+), repeat and new bookings are being taken for field visits at Belton and further afield in both catchments. Funding is being sought as part of the developing Natural History Hub to enable the employment of a dedicated officer to further develop the Rivers Academy.

2. Volunteer Activities

Volunteering remains central to project delivery, most recently through the Horncastle and Limestone Becks projects, which have offered training in invasive species management and invertebrate monitoring. Refresher and taster sessions on invertebrate sampling at Sudbrooke and Market Harborough attracted 15 volunteers.

Established EMRT volunteer groups continue to monitor river health through Freshwater Watch and invertebrate surveys around Grantham, Lincoln, and Market Harborough, with a new group forming in Long Bennington.

The Citizen Science Vision is progressing, bringing together survey techniques to monitor river health across catchments, with the first sub-catchment trial planned for the Upper Welland. Through EMRT's collaboration with the national the Catchment Systems Thinking Cooperative (CaSTCo) project, volunteers have contributed to validation trials shared with catchment partners.

Multi-year funding is being sought to secure equipment, reagents, and a dedicated volunteer coordinator to further support this growing network of Citizen Scientists.

Financial review

Reserves policy

EMRT maintains a minimum of one year's reserves (unrestricted funds) that are freely available to spend on the charity's purposes.

Structure, governance and management

East Mercia Rivers Trust is a registered charity governed by a Board of Trustees. The charity is controlled by its Articles of Association, and constitutes a company limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. The day-to-day operations are led by the Chief Executive Officer with support provided by a Risk and Governance Committee made up of three members of the Board. EMRT remains part of the national Rivers Trust movement, which is growing and to date has around 70 member trusts.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr. Martin Ballard

Mr Andrew Morriss

Mr. James Birch

Mr. Matthew Bills

Ms. Rachel Dyson

Mr. Benjamin Shrive

(Appointed 23 January 2025)

Mr. John Leventhall

Mr. Jon Bolland

(Resigned 31 December 2024)

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The recruitment of Trustees is by invite from East Mercia Rivers Trust Trustees. Subject to the Articles of Association, selection is based on expertise that is judged to add value to the activities and growth of the Trust.

Induction and training of new trustees

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend on their existing experience. Where necessary, induction will be on an informal basis and tailored specially to the individual. Newly appointed Trustees receive a letter of appointment and a copy of EMRT's Trustee Manual and Policy Manual.

None of the Trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the Trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

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



Mr. Martin Ballard
Trustee

05 November 2025

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of East Mercia Rivers Trust (the Charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ACCA, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

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

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

TC Group

K Howitt FCCA

22 St. Peter's Street
Stamford
Lincolnshire
PE9 2PF

Dated: 31 October 2025

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

		Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	5,767	-	5,767	180,560	-	180,560
<u>Charitable activities</u>							-
EN CABA Witham, Welland, Snagging and Volunteers	4	-	30,000	30,000	-	30,000	30,000
IN Invasives	4	-	10,000	10,000	-	68,000	68,000
EN Schools and Rivers Academy	4	-	106,300	106,300	-	25,000	25,000
LB Limestone Becks	4	-	170,385	170,385	-	33,576	33,576
LW Lower Witham and Chalk Streams	4	-	416,225	416,225	-	203,395	203,395
UW Upper Witham	4	-	5,000	5,000	-	272,000	272,000
WT Upper and Lower Welland	4	-	221,838	221,838	-	156,750	156,750
Other trading activities	5	-	-	-	3,029	-	3,029
Total income		<u>5,767</u>	<u>959,748</u>	<u>965,515</u>	<u>183,589</u>	<u>788,721</u>	<u>972,310</u>
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6	149	-	149	1,878	-	1,878

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
<u>Charitable activities</u>							
EN CABA Witham, Welland, Snagging and Volunteers	7	-	28,792	28,792	-	35,710	35,710
IN Invasives	7	-	22,083	22,083	-	57,519	57,519
EN Schools and Rivers Academy	7	-	81,755	81,755	-	30,735	30,735
LB Limestone Becks	7	-	189,309	189,309	-	26,044	26,044
LW Lower Witham and Chalk Streams	7	-	358,844	358,844	-	127,531	127,531
UW Upper Witham	7	-	5,358	5,358	-	264,851	264,851
WT Upper and Lower Welland	7	-	216,089	216,089	-	166,248	166,248
Total charitable expenditure		-	902,230	902,230	-	708,638	708,638
Core Support Costs		23,376	-	23,376	46,691	-	46,691
Governance Costs	12	8,750	-	8,750	6,883	-	6,883
Total expenditure		32,275	902,230	934,505	55,452	708,638	764,090
Net income/(expenditure)		(26,508)	57,518	31,010	128,137	80,083	208,220
Transfers between funds		2,040	(2,040)	-	26,854	(26,854)	-
Net movement in funds	9	(24,468)	55,478	31,010	154,991	53,229	208,220
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		331,761	119,570	451,331	176,770	66,341	243,111
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		307,293	175,048	482,341	331,761	119,570	451,331

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

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	All income funds	
	2025	2024
	£	£
Gross income	965,515	972,310
Total expenditure from income funds	934,505	764,090
Net income for the year	<u>31,010</u>	<u>208,220</u>

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST**BALANCE SHEET****AS AT 31 MARCH 2025**

		2025		2024	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14		852		1,650
Current assets					
Debtors	15	41,160		330,281	
Cash at bank and in hand		543,697		155,310	
		<u>584,857</u>		<u>485,591</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year					
Taxation and social security		5,791		5,091	
Other creditors	16	36,627		30,819	
Deferred income	17	60,950		-	
		<u>103,368</u>		<u>35,910</u>	
Net current assets			<u>481,489</u>		<u>449,681</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>482,341</u>		<u>451,331</u>
Net assets excluding pension liability			<u>482,341</u>		<u>451,331</u>
The funds of the Charity					
Restricted income funds	19	175,048		119,570	
Unrestricted funds		307,293		331,761	
		<u>482,341</u>		<u>451,331</u>	

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

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

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

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

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 05 November 2025



Mr. Martin Ballard

Trustee

Company registration number 08613863 (England and Wales)

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

East Mercia Rivers Trust is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 22 St. Peter's Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire, PE9 2PF.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Charitable funds

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

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

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

1.4 Income

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

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

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

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

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

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

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

Plant and equipment	33.33% straight line
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The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

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

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

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

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.9 Financial instruments

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

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

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

Basic financial assets

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

Basic financial liabilities

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

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

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

Derecognition of financial liabilities

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

1.10 Employee benefits

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

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

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

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

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Donations and gifts	767	150,021
Grants	5,000	30,539
	<u>5,767</u>	<u>180,560</u>

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

4 Income from charitable activities

	Restricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2024 £
EN CABA Witham, Welland, Snagging and Volunteers		
Donations	30,000	30,000
IN Invasives		
Grants	-	58,000
Donations	10,000	10,000
EN Schools and Rivers Academy		
Grants	70,500	-
Donations	35,800	25,000
LB Limestone Becks		
Grants	170,360	33,576
Donations	25	-
LW Lower Witham and Chalk Streams		
Grants	415,772	203,395
Donations	453	-
UW Upper Witham		
Grants	5,000	272,000
WT Upper and Lower Welland		
Grants	150,719	156,750
Donations	71,119	-
	<u>959,748</u>	<u>788,721</u>

5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Trading activity income: other	-	3,029
	<u>-</u>	<u>3,029</u>

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

6 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Fundraising and publicity		
Seeking donations, grants and legacies	149	1,878
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	EN CABA Witham, Welland, Snagging and Volunteers	IN Invasives	EN Schools and Rivers Academy	LB Limestone Becks	LW Lower Witham and Chalk Streams	UW Upper Witham	WT Upper and Lower Welland	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Direct costs								
Staff costs	25,145	-	52,690	53,365	118,184	-	58,846	308,230
Habitat contractors and equipment	245	22,050	23,220	133,377	222,701	4,797	153,496	559,886
Professional Fees	-	-	525	48	3,636	-	1,891	6,100
Expenses	3,402	33	5,320	2,519	14,323	561	1,856	28,014
	<u>28,792</u>	<u>22,083</u>	<u>81,755</u>	<u>189,309</u>	<u>358,844</u>	<u>5,358</u>	<u>216,089</u>	<u>902,230</u>
Analysis by fund								
Restricted funds	<u>28,792</u>	<u>22,083</u>	<u>81,755</u>	<u>189,309</u>	<u>358,844</u>	<u>5,358</u>	<u>216,089</u>	<u>902,230</u>

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

(Continued)

Previous year:

	EN CABA Witham, Welland, Snagging and Volunteers	IN Invasives	EN Schools and Rivers Academy	LB Limestone Becks	LW Lower Witham and Chalk Streams	UW Upper Witham	WT Upper and Lower Welland	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Direct costs								
Staff costs	31,466	6,459	24,536	2,986	50,101	34,257	62,970	212,775
Habitat contractors and equipment	2,327	51,060	2,704	21,340	73,416	227,368	99,204	477,419
Professional Fees	426	-	3,049	500	2,198	3,037	2,560	11,770
Expenses	1,491	-	446	1,218	1,816	189	1,514	6,674
	<u>35,710</u>	<u>57,519</u>	<u>30,735</u>	<u>26,044</u>	<u>127,531</u>	<u>264,851</u>	<u>166,248</u>	<u>708,638</u>
Analysis by fund								
Restricted funds	<u>35,710</u>	<u>57,519</u>	<u>30,735</u>	<u>26,044</u>	<u>127,531</u>	<u>264,851</u>	<u>166,248</u>	<u>708,638</u>

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

8 Support costs allocated to activities

	Core Support Costs	Total
	2025	2024
	£	£
Staff costs	836	23,146
Depreciation	798	577
Staff recruitment, training and welfare	3,038	5,672
Travel and subsistence	5,124	4,774
Printing, postage and stationery	395	465
Software, IT support and related costs	2,178	3,435
Subscriptions	2,836	2,080
Telephone	2,351	999
Sundry	2,475	3,270
Accountancy and bookkeeping	2,357	655
Legal and professional	540	598
Rent	448	1,020
Governance	8,750	6,883
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

9 Net movement in funds

	2025	2024
	£	£
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	798	577
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

10 Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Charity during the year.

11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

2025	2024
Number	Number
9	7
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

11 Employees **(Continued)**

Employment costs	2025	2024
	£	£

Wages and salaries	309,066	235,921
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£

Aggregate compensation	149,107	123,794
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

12 Governance Costs

	Unrestricted	Unrestricted
	funds	funds
	2025	2024
	£	£

Independent examination and insurance costs	8,750	6,883
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

13 Taxation

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

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and equipment £
Cost	
At 1 April 2024	3,185
At 31 March 2025	3,185
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 April 2024	1,535
Depreciation charged in the year	798
At 31 March 2025	2,333
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2025	852
At 31 March 2024	1,650

15 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other debtors	41,160	330,281

16 Other creditors falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Other creditors	35,157	29,373
Accruals and deferred income	1,470	1,446
	36,627	30,819

17 Deferred income

	2025 £	2024 £
Other deferred income	60,950	-

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

17 Deferred income	(Continued)	
	2025	2024
	£	£
Deferred income is included within:		
Current liabilities	60,950	-
	<u>60,950</u>	<u>-</u>
Movements in the year:		
Deferred income at 1 April 2024	-	-
Resources deferred in the year	60,950	-
	<u>60,950</u>	<u>-</u>
Deferred income at 31 March 2025	<u>60,950</u>	<u>-</u>

18 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

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

At the year end there were unpaid contributions due to the fund of £2,019 (2024: £1,585).

19 Restricted funds

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

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
	-	-	-	-	-
EN CABA Witham, Welland, Snagging and Volunteers	-	30,000	(28,792)	(1,208)	-
IN Invasives	10,481	10,000	(22,083)	1,602	-
EN Schools and Rivers Academy	1,940	106,300	(81,755)	1,085	27,570
LB Limestone Becks	16,429	170,385	(189,309)	2,495	-
LW Lower Witham and Chalk Streams	74,184	416,225	(358,844)	(12,760)	118,805
UW Upper Witham	-	5,000	(5,358)	358	-
WT Upper and Lower Welland	16,536	221,838	(216,089)	6,387	28,672
	<u>119,570</u>	<u>959,748</u>	<u>(902,230)</u>	<u>(2,040)</u>	<u>175,048</u>

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

19 Restricted funds	(Continued)				
Previous year:	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
EN CABA Witham, Welland, Snagging and Volunteers	-	30,000	(35,710)	5,710	-
IN Himalayan Balsam and Floating Pennywort	-	68,000	(57,519)	-	10,481
EN Schools and River Academy	7,675	25,000	(30,735)	-	1,940
LB Limestone Becks	33,149	33,576	(26,044)	(24,252)	16,429
LW Horncastle and Chapel Hill	(784)	203,395	(127,531)	(896)	74,184
UW Upper Witham and Natural Flood Management	144	272,000	(264,851)	(7,293)	-
WT Upper and Lower Welland	26,157	156,750	(166,248)	(123)	16,536
	<u>66,341</u>	<u>788,721</u>	<u>(708,638)</u>	<u>(26,854)</u>	<u>119,570</u>

19 Restricted funds

(Continued)

EN CABA Witham, Welland, Snagging and Volunteers

The catchment hosting payments for the Witham and Welland are awarded by the Environment Agency on an annual basis and support project development work. Snagging is provided by the Environment Agency for restoration remedial works. Funding for volunteers and citizen science is from various sources and built into project delivery.

IN Invasives

Funding for invasives is limited to a few donors and at present much of the funding from the Environment Agency has faced budget cuts. Activity has centred on volunteer activities for this financial year.

EN Schools and Rivers Academy

The Rivers Academy was supported by Anglian Water and UK Shared Prosperity Funding via South Kesteven District Council. EMRT also focused on developing partnerships to build a platform for accelerating education and training across the catchments.

LB Limestone Becks

Funding provided by Anglian Water has progressed numerous projects and supported the development of a National Lottery Heritage Fund for the 'Spring into Fen' programme. The national Environment Agency NFM programme contributed to the development of a restoration project on a tributary to the River Slea.

LW Lower Witham and Chalk Streams

Anglian Water Get River Positive programme and UKSPF via East Lindsey District Council continued to support restoration and community engagement in and around Horncastle.

UW Upper Witham

Supported mainly by CaBA funding, the work centred on developing a landscape recovery approach for the Upper Witham, a key limestone river habitat forming the headwaters of the River Witham.

WT Upper and Lower Welland

Multiple funding sources supported the completion of a major restoration on Langton Brook in the Upper Welland, including IFM Investors, Anglian Water, the Environment Agency, and Harborough District Council (via Section 106 contributions). In the Lower Welland, National Lottery Heritage Fund support was secured as part of a wider programme to enhance Spalding town centre, delivering small-scale river habitat improvements within the town.

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1157922

Accounts

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

Charity No. 1157922

Company No. 08613863

Trustees' Report and Unaudited Accounts

31 March 2024

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Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	24 to 25

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Company No. 08613863

Charity No. 1157922

Principal Office

Loddington House

Main Street

Loddington

Leicester

LE7 9XE

Registered Office

Loddington House

Main Street

Loddington

Leicester

LE7 9XE

Directors and Trustees

The Directors of the charitable company are its Trustees for the purposes of charity law.

The following Directors and Trustees served during the year:

M.J. Ballard

M.J. Bills

J.S. Birch

J. Bolland

R. Dyson

M. Hatfield

(Resigned 20 September 2023)

J.K. Leventhall

A.S. Morriss

Key Management Personnel

Chair

Andrew Morriss

Accountants

Brooks & Partners Accountants Ltd

22 St Peter's Street

Stamford

Lincolnshire

PE9 2PF

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

Trustees Annual Report

Bankers

The Co-Operative Bank

PO Box 101

1 Balloon Street

Manchester

M60 4EP

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The above report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime as set out in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Signed on behalf of the board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.S. Morriss', written in a cursive style.

A.S. Morriss

Trustee

13 November 2024

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CHAIR'S REPORT

The building blocks implemented during the last financial year, have enabled East Mercia Rivers Trust (EMRT) to increase income by over 50% and to reach the million-pound income milestone. Funds from grant sources remained high and EMRT has embarked on a new strategic partnership with Anglian Water.

EMRT, along with the Environment Agency, Wild Trout Trust and South Kesteven District Council, was a finalist in the prestigious River Restoration Centre's Annual River Prize with a programme of work that focused on the Upper Witham. Although the partnership did not win, it was very encouraging to be amongst much larger commercial organisations and demonstrated the growth of the trust over the last two years.

The team grew from seven to nine employees, adding experience and skills, particularly in ecological surveying and community engagement. There is a new Senior Management Team in place leading the direction of the Trust. The Board continues to dedicate resources to staff training to develop the skills of the team. The board is very confident that these changes will enable the trust grow and become more effective in the coming years.

A new financial management system was successfully put in place, which has simplified accounting and greatly improved monitoring and control of project expenditure.

The Resilient Rivers Programme habitat priorities remain unchanged, principally the Welland and Witham upper reaches, limestone becks and chalk streams with a particular focus on invasives. EMRT has successfully upscaled restoration efforts on the globally rare chalk streams, securing the second largest project for community engagement and habitat enhancement from the UK Prosperity Fund, which is administered jointly by East Lindsey District, Boston Borough and South Holland District councils. This programme was further bolstered by Anglian Water's Get River Positive fund.

Both catchments were badly affected by Storms Babet and Henk and EMRT provided information on the website to help communities prepare for flooding in the future. The flooding impacted the progress of several projects and particularly the main restoration project on Langton Brook, a key Welland tributary.

The Rivers Academy continues to gain support, with funding secured to continue to grow this aspect of the trust's work. Community engagement remains at the heart of all EMRT's projects.

One trustee stepped down from the board in the year and one new one, with a water sector communications and advocacy background, joined.

Although many challenges lie ahead, the board is optimistic that EMRT will continue to be able to successfully work to improve the streams and rivers in its catchment areas.

Andrew Morriss

Chair September 2024

TRUSTEES REPORT

The Trustees present their Annual Report together with the financial statements of the Trust for the year April 2023 to March 2024. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report. The Trustees confirm they both comply with the statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

Governance

East Mercia Rivers Trust is a registered charity governed by a Board of Trustees. The charity is controlled by its Articles of Association, and constitutes a company limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

The day-to-day operations are led by the Executive Director with support from a Senior Management Team of two and a financial and administrator officer, the technical team grew from seven to nine during 23/24. EMRT remains part of the national Rivers Trust movement, which is growing and to date has around 70 member trusts.

Risk & Governance Committee

The Committee has provided support on overhauling EMRT's policies and procedures during this financial year, which also included a full legal and risk register.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The recruitment of Trustees is by invite from East Mercia Rivers Trust Trustees. Subject to the Articles of Association, selection is based on expertise that is judged to add value to the activities and growth of the Trust. A trustee with communications and advocacy expertise was invited to join the Board in early 2024.

Induction and training of new trustees

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend on their existing experience. Where necessary, induction will be on an informal basis and tailored specially to the individual. Newly appointed Trustees receive a letter of appointment and a copy of EMRT's Trustee Manual and Policy Manual.

Reserves Policy

EMRT maintains a minimum of one year's reserves (unrestricted funds) that are freely available to spend on the charity's purposes.

Mission & Aims

Mission

Bringing rivers back to life for nature and communities.

Aims

The headline KPI achievements for the aims are identified below.

<i>Aim 1: Resilient Rivers</i>	<i>Achievements 2023 - 2024</i>
<p>To create and protect healthy, clean, and resilient watercourses by,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ restoring and enhancing habitats, ▪ increasing water storage, ▪ improving water quality and ▪ controlling and removing invasive species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Delivered river restoration and enhancement projects included. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Buckminster Estates floodplain reconnection, 1.2KM restored ○ Chapel Hill fish refuges ○ Kibworth & Smeeton Nature Project (KSNP) (partially delivered due to Storm Babet) ○ Nocton Fish pass (delivered by Wild Trout Trust) ▪ Volunteer work parties across the Limestone Becks focused on invasives ▪ Secured funding for multi-year & 2024/25 projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UKSPF for Horncastle Riverscape to deliver enhancements & engagement ○ Get River Positive Anglian Water programme for Witham & Welland ○ Rauceby Estate for NFM measures ○ Chalk streams first stage Expression of Interest for Esmee Fairbairn successful (with Norfolk & Great Ouse Rivers Trusts) ○ Limestone becks first stage Expression of Interest for National Lottery Heritage Fund successful (with Wild Trout Trust, Environment Agency & Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust)
<i>Aim 2: Rivers for Life</i>	<i>Achievements 2023 - 2024</i>
<p>To inspire local communities, landowners, businesses, and recreational river-users to act for rivers by,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ building data and evidence, ▪ delivering educational activities and advisory services, ▪ Improving access to nature, and ▪ raising awareness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Completed a feasibility study and business plan for the Rivers Academy & secured funding for equipment & PPE from UKSPF ▪ 320 adults & 562 children along with 61 vols attended various work parties & events of these 79 children, 28 adults & 14 volunteers attended Rivers Academy ▪ Earthwatch water quality monitoring & invasive removal along with Academy workshops were the main activities. ▪ Spalding Reconnected project delivered Eels in the classroom

<i>Aim 3: Building Collaboration</i>	<i>Achievements 2023 - 2024</i>
To advocate the catchment-based approach by facilitating the Welland Valley and Witham Catchment Partnerships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New meeting regime agreed with the Environment Agency with an annual Summit planned for each catchment in F/Y 24/25
<i>Aim 4: Creating Security</i>	<i>Achievements 2023 - 2024</i>
To build organisational stability and relevance by, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ diversifying projects and donors, ▪ positioning as the knowledge centre for the catchments, ▪ creating a high profile, and ▪ investing in staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Income percentage increased from non-governmental sources including private sources. ▪ Number of all year-round projects increased. ▪ Staff training budget remains high.

Programme Activities Update

There are over 120 watercourses within the Welland and Witham catchments, EMRT is operational in five counties: Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, and Rutland.

Resilient Rivers

The upper catchment headwater programmes aim to increase water storage, slow water flow, and improve the water quality through large-scale restoration works such as reconnecting floodplains, reinstating paleo channels, installing back channels, wetlands, and scrapes or smaller scale natural flood management measures and in-channel installations such as berms.

1. Voice for the Limestone Becks

On-going partnership with the Environment Agency and Wild Trout Trust. Focus on developing volunteer work parties across the villages and successfully submitted an Expression of Interest to National Lottery Heritage Fund for accelerating engagement and restoration efforts across the Becks. Anglian Water Get River Positive funded the Nocton Fish pass project successfully completed by a key partner, the Wild Trout Trust.

2. Rejuvenating Lincolnshire's Chalk Streams

UK Shared Prosperity funding secured until March 2025 for the Horncastle Riverscape focused on engagement and river enhancements. Anglian Water Get River Positive funding secured to accelerate the programme. Successful submission of an Expression of Interest for funding a dedicated resource to accelerate restoration across the Wolds.

3. Upper Witham Headwaters Programme

The Upper Witham is an important limestone watercourse forming the headwaters of the Witham catchment. The project is part of a strategy to restore the Upper Witham sub-catchment at a landscape level. Floodplain reconnection on Buckminster Estates successfully implemented and programme of landowner engagement in place.

4. Upper Welland Headwaters Programme

A major restoration began on Langton Brook at Smeeton Westerby, however due to Storm Babet the project was halted and completion planned for Spring 2024. Natural Flood Management is underway around Market Harborough in response to expert modelling work commissioned by the EA. EMRT continued to engage with a group of landowners located on the Langton Brook - Welland confluence, who have an ambition to deliver a large-scale river restoration project.

5. Greening Brayford Pool Project

Working with Lincoln City Council, EMRT has continued to lay the groundwork through surveys and promotional activities to complete the floating ecosystems around Brayford Pool. Project was postponed as the area was flooded twice during the storms of 23/24.

6. Lower Witham Programme

Work was completed at Chapel Hill to install fish refuges. Installation was longer than expected due to the high-water levels following the storms.

7. Stamford Millstream

EMRT secured funding from Stamford Town Council to trial the release of Weevils to address the water fern that had infested the Millstream.

8. Floating Pennywort Project

An on-going Environment Agency partnership agreement with additional funding provided by the Canal and River Trust.

Rivers for Life

The main activities of this programme are centred on developing a Rivers Academy.

1. Rivers Academy

Located at the National Trust's Belton House near Grantham, it is set to be the UK's first permanent rivers school. The National Lottery Heritage Fund, which funded the feasibility study, business plan and nine pilot educational workshops was successfully completed. Funding from UK SPF through South Kesteven District Council for equipment was secured during this year, to be pulled down in next financial year.

2. Volunteer Activities

Volunteer activities were mainly around invasive removal work parties and water quality monitoring on the Upper Witham, Limestone Becks, Chalk Streams, Spalding town and Rockingham Forest Vision project.

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the financial statements of EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the Charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's financial statements 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

As the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ACCA, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

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

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

Kate Fleming ACCA
Brooks & Partners Accountants Ltd
22 St Peter's Street
Stamford
Lincolnshire

PE9 2PF
27 September 2024

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	4	180,560	788,721	969,281	440,295
Other trading activities	5	3,029	-	3,029	5,046
Total		183,589	788,721	972,310	445,341
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	1,878	-	1,878	1,185
Charitable activities	7	29,038	708,638	737,676	378,225
Other	8	24,536	-	24,536	20,301
Total		55,452	708,638	764,090	399,711
Net gains on investments		-	-	-	-
Net income	9	128,137	80,083	208,220	45,630
Transfers between funds		26,854	(26,854)	-	-
Net income before other gains/(losses)		154,991	53,229	208,220	45,630
Other gains and losses					
Net movement in funds		154,991	53,229	208,220	45,630
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		176,770	66,341	243,111	197,481
Total funds carried forward		331,761	119,570	451,331	243,111

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST
 Summary Income and Expenditure Account
 for the year ended 31 March 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Income	972,310	445,341
Gross income for the year	<u>972,310</u>	<u>445,341</u>
Expenditure	763,513	399,217
Depreciation and charges for impairment of fixed assets	577	494
Total expenditure for the year	<u>764,090</u>	<u>399,711</u>
Net income before tax for the year	208,220	45,630
Net income for the year	<u><u>208,220</u></u>	<u><u>45,630</u></u>

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

Balance Sheet

at 31 March 2024

Company No. 08613863	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	1,650	824
		<u>1,650</u>	<u>824</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	13	330,281	103,877
Cash at bank and in hand		155,310	145,090
		<u>485,591</u>	<u>248,967</u>
Creditors: Amount falling due within one year	14	(35,910)	(6,680)
Net current assets		<u>449,681</u>	<u>242,287</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>451,331</u>	<u>243,111</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset or liability		<u>451,331</u>	<u>243,111</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>451,331</u></u>	<u><u>243,111</u></u>
The funds of the charity			
Restricted funds	15		
Restricted income funds		119,570	66,341
		<u>119,570</u>	<u>66,341</u>
Unrestricted funds	15		
General funds		331,761	185,810
Designated funds		-	(9,040)
		<u>331,761</u>	<u>176,770</u>
Reserves	15		
Total funds		<u><u>451,331</u></u>	<u><u>243,111</u></u>

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

For the year ended 31 March 2024 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

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

Approved by the board on 13 November 2024

And signed on its behalf by:



A.S. Morriss

Trustee

13 November 2024

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

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) and the Companies Act 2006.

Change in basis of accounting or to previous accounts

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and method of accounting) since last year and no changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds	These are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity.
Designated funds	These are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.
Revaluation funds	These are unrestricted funds which include a revaluation reserve representing the restatement of investment assets at their market values.
Restricted funds	These are available for use subject to restrictions imposed by the donor or through terms of an appeal.

Income

Recognition of income Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity becomes entitled to, and virtually certain to receive, the income and the amount of the income can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Income with related expenditure Where income has related expenditure the income and related expenditure is reported gross in the SoFA.

Donations and legacies Voluntary income received by way of grants, donations and gifts is included in the the SoFA when receivable and only when the Charity has unconditional entitlement to the income.

Tax reclaims on donations and gifts Income from tax reclaims is included in the SoFA at the same time as the gift/donation to which it relates.

Donated services and facilities These are only included in income (with an equivalent amount in expenditure) where the benefit to the Charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material.

Volunteer help The value of any volunteer help received is not included in the accounts.

Investment income This is included in the accounts when receivable.

Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets This includes any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

Gains/(losses) on investment assets This includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments.

Expenditure

Recognition of expenditure	Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.
Expenditure on raising funds	These comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income, fundraising trading costs and investment management costs.
Expenditure on charitable activities	These comprise the costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services in the furtherance of its objects, including the making of grants and governance costs.
Grants payable	All grant expenditure is accounted for on an actual paid basis plus an accrual for grants that have been approved by the trustees at the end of the year but not yet paid.
Governance costs	These include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the Charity, including any audit/independent examination fees, costs linked to the strategic management of the Charity, together with a share of other administration costs.
Other expenditure	These are support costs not allocated to a particular activity.

Taxation

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

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

Plant and equipment	33.33% straight line
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Freehold investment property

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value at each balance sheet date and are not depreciated. All gains or losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise.

Stocks

Stock is included at the lower of cost or net realisable value. Donated items of stock are recognised at fair value which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay for the items on the open market.

Trade and other debtors

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

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and on hand, demand deposits with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. In the statement of financial position, bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings or current liabilities. In the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the company's cash management.

Trade and other creditors

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

Research and development

Expenditure on research and development is written off in the year in which it is incurred.

Foreign currencies

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in currencies other than the functional currency of the charity are translated at the rates of exchange prevailing at the end of the reporting period.

Transactions in currencies other than the functional currency of the charity are recorded at the rate of exchange on the date that the transaction occurred.

All exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at net income/expenditure.

Leased assets

Where the charity enters into a lease which entails taking substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of an asset, the lease is treated as a finance lease.

Leases which do not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to charity are classified as operating leases.

Assets held under finance leases are initially recognised as assets of the charity at their fair value at the inception of the lease or, if lower, at the present value of the minimum lease payments. The corresponding liability to the lessor is included in the balance sheet date as a finance lease obligation.

Lease payments are apportioned between finance expenses and reduction of the lease obligation so as to achieve a constant rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability. Finance expenses are recognised immediately, unless they are directly attributable to qualifying assets, in which case they are capitalised in accordance with the charity's policy on borrowing costs.

Assets held under finance leases are depreciated in the same way as owned assets.

Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

In the event that lease incentives are received to enter into operating leases, such incentives are recognised as a liability. The aggregate benefit of incentives is recognised as a reduction of rental expense on a straight-line basis.

Pension costs

The charity operates a defined contribution plan for its employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the company pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the company has no further payments obligations. The contributions are recognised as expenses when they fall due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals in the balance sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the company in independently administered funds.

Receipt of donated goods, facilities and services

All donated goods, facilities and services received are recognised within incoming resources and expenditure at an estimate of the value to the charity.

2 Company status

The company is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital.

The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £1.

3 Statement of Financial Activities - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	71,236	369,059	440,295
Other trading activities	5,046	-	5,046
Total	<u>76,282</u>	<u>369,059</u>	<u>445,341</u>
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	1,185	-	1,185
Charitable activities	24,729	353,496	378,225
Other	20,301	-	20,301
Total	<u>46,215</u>	<u>353,496</u>	<u>399,711</u>
Net income	<u>30,067</u>	<u>15,563</u>	<u>45,630</u>
Transfers between funds	(6,317)	6,317	-
Net income before other gains/(losses)	<u>23,750</u>	<u>21,880</u>	<u>45,630</u>
Other gains and losses:			
Net movement in funds	<u>23,750</u>	<u>21,880</u>	<u>45,630</u>
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward	153,020	44,461	197,481
Total funds carried forward	<u>176,770</u>	<u>66,341</u>	<u>243,111</u>

4 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Donations	150,021	65,000	215,021	22,267
Grants	30,539	723,721	754,260	418,028
	<u>180,560</u>	<u>788,721</u>	<u>969,281</u>	<u>440,295</u>

£578,983 (2023: £206,656) in grants received from the Environment Agency

5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Consultancy and Speaking	3,029	3,029	5,046
	<u>3,029</u>	<u>3,029</u>	<u>5,046</u>

6 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£
<i>Costs of generating voluntary income</i>			
Donations	1,878	1,878	1,185
	<u>1,878</u>	<u>1,878</u>	<u>1,185</u>

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities</i>				
Wages	23,146	212,775	235,921	141,516
Professional fees	-	11,770	11,770	11,862
Habitat Contractors and Equipment	3,262	477,419	480,681	222,728
Expenses	1,040	6,674	7,714	-
<i>Governance costs</i>				
Accountancy	1,590	-	1,590	2,119
	<u>29,038</u>	<u>708,638</u>	<u>737,676</u>	<u>378,225</u>

8 Other expenditure

	Unrestricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Employee costs	5,672	5,672	1,395
Motor and travel costs	3,734	3,734	6,481
Premises costs	1,020	1,020	1,045
Amortisation, depreciation, impairment, profit/loss on disposal of fixed assets	577	577	494
General administrative costs	12,280	12,280	10,337
Legal and professional costs	1,253	1,253	549
	<u>24,536</u>	<u>24,536</u>	<u>20,301</u>

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

Notes to the Accounts

9 Net income before transfers

	2024	2023
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	577	494
Independent Examiner's fee	1,590	1,590

10 Trustee remuneration and expenses

One or more of the trustees has been paid expenses in the current or prior periods.

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Number of trustees paid expenses	-	1
The nature of the reimbursed expenses	Travel and meeting costs	
	£	£
Total expenses reimbursed to trustees	-	31

11 Staff costs

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

Total employee benefits received by key management personnel	47,565	-
--	--------	---

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

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Project Officer	4	3
Administrator	1	1
Project Manager	2	2
	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>

The Rivers Trust Pension & Life Assurance Scheme

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and equipment	Total
	£	£
Cost or revaluation		
At 1 April 2023	1,782	1,782
Additions	1,403	1,403
At 31 March 2024	<u>3,185</u>	<u>3,185</u>
Depreciation and impairment		
At 1 April 2023	958	958
Depreciation charge for the year	577	577
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,535</u>	<u>1,535</u>
Net book values		
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,650</u>	<u>1,650</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>824</u>	<u>824</u>

13 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other debtors	330,281	103,877
	<u>330,281</u>	<u>103,877</u>

14 Creditors:

amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other taxes and social security	5,091	2,927
Other creditors	29,373	1,054
Accruals	1,446	2,699
	<u>35,910</u>	<u>6,680</u>

15 Movement in funds

	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources (including other gains/losses) £	Resources expended £	Gross transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
Restricted funds:					
Restricted income funds:					
EN CABA Witham, Welland, Snagging and Volunteers	-	30,000	(35,710)	5,710	-
IN Himalayan Balsam and Floating Pennywort	-	68,000	(57,519)	-	10,481
EN Schools and River Academy	7,675	25,000	(30,735)	-	1,940
LB Limestone Becks	33,149	33,576	(23,513)	(26,783)	16,429
LW Horncastle and Chapel Hill	(784)	203,395	(127,531)	(896)	74,184
UW Upper Witham and Natural Flood Management	144	272,000	(264,851)	(7,293)	-
LN Lincoln	-	-	(2,531)	2,531	-
WT Upper and Lower Welland	26,157	156,750	(166,248)	(123)	16,536
<i>Total</i>	<u>66,341</u>	<u>788,721</u>	<u>(708,638)</u>	<u>(26,854)</u>	<u>119,570</u>
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds	185,810	151,984	(47,147)	41,114	331,761
Designated funds:					
LB Rauceby Estate	(1,820)	-	(81)	1,901	-
WT Spalding Heritage & Rockingham	(3,894)	15,339	(3,951)	(7,494)	-
WT Langton Brook Confluence	(3,326)	16,266	(4,273)	(8,667)	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Total</i>	<u>(9,040)</u>	<u>31,605</u>	<u>(8,305)</u>	<u>(14,260)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u><u>243,111</u></u>	<u><u>972,310</u></u>	<u><u>(764,090)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>451,331</u></u>

Purposes and restrictions in relation to the funds:

Restricted funds:

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

Notes to the Accounts

<p>EN CABA Witham, Welland, Snagging and Volunteers IN Himalayan Balsam and Floating Pennywort</p>	<p>The catchment hosting payments for the Witham and Welland are awarded on an annual basis and support project development work. Funded by the Environment Agency with contribution from Canal and River Trust. Each year EMRT works with RiverCare volunteers and expert contractors reducing invasives on the catchments. All funding agreements are based on an annual basis.</p>
<p>EN Schools and River Academy LB Limestone Becks</p>	<p>National Lottery Heritage Funding was successfully completed for the Rivers Academy. Funding for staff time to develop a larger multi-year funding bid to accelerate restoration across this priority habitat. Nocton Fish Pass completed.</p>
<p>LW Horncastle and Chapel Hill UW Upper Witham and Natural Flood Management LN Lincoln WT Upper and Lower Welland</p>	<p>Chalk Streams project commenced around Horncastle and installation of fish refuges at Chapel Hill successfully completed. Major floodplain restoration project at Buckminster Estate, Colsterworth successfully completed. Engagement work in Lincoln in preparation for larger bid. Major restoration at Smeeton Westerby commenced in Autumn 2023 but delivery was postponed until Spring 2024 due to flooding. NFM scoping work commenced on the Upper Welland & support to Stamford Millstream Group continued with release of weevils to remove water fern, an invasive plant.</p>
<p>Designated funds: LB Rauceby Estate</p>	<p>Continued WQM and invertebrate support to Rauceby Estates in preparation for restoration project with funding secured.</p>
<p>WT Spalding Heritage & Rockingham WT Langton Brook Confluence</p>	<p>Implementation of the educational elements for the Spalding Heritage & volunteer training for Rockingham Forest Vision project. Continued support to landowners located at the Langton Brook Confluence.</p>

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	1,650	-	1,650
Net current assets	330,111	119,570	449,681
	<u>331,761</u>	<u>119,570</u>	<u>451,331</u>

17 Reconciliation of net debt

	At 1 April 2023	Cash flows	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£
Cash and cash equivalents	145,090	10,220	155,310
	<u>145,090</u>	<u>10,220</u>	<u>155,310</u>
Net debt	<u>145,090</u>	<u>10,220</u>	<u>155,310</u>

18 Commitments

Operating lease commitments

Annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2024	2024	2023	2023
	Land and buildings	Other	Land and buildings	Other
	£	£	£	£

Operating leases with expiry date:

Pension commitments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Unpaid contributions due to the fund are included in other creditors and amounted to:	<u>1,585</u>	<u>1,054</u>

19 Related party disclosures

Controlling party

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital; thus no single party controls the company.

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies				
Donations	150,021	65,000	215,021	22,267
Grants	30,539	723,721	754,260	418,028
	<u>180,560</u>	<u>788,721</u>	<u>969,281</u>	<u>440,295</u>
Other trading activities				
Consultancy and Speaking	3,029	-	3,029	5,046
	<u>3,029</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,029</u>	<u>5,046</u>
Total income and endowments	183,589	788,721	972,310	445,341
Expenditure on:				
Costs of generating donations and legacies				
Donations	1,878	-	1,878	1,185
	<u>1,878</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,878</u>	<u>1,185</u>
Total of expenditure on raising funds	1,878	-	1,878	1,185
Charitable activities				
Wages	23,146	212,775	235,921	141,516
Professional fees	-	11,770	11,770	11,862
Habitat Contractors and Equipment Expenses	3,262	477,419	480,681	222,728
	1,040	6,674	7,714	-
	<u>27,448</u>	<u>708,638</u>	<u>736,086</u>	<u>376,106</u>
Governance costs				
Accountancy	1,590	-	1,590	2,119
	<u>1,590</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,590</u>	<u>2,119</u>
Total of expenditure on charitable activities	29,038	708,638	737,676	378,225
Employee costs				
Staff recruitment	298	-	298	-
Staff training	3,801	-	3,801	1,395
Staff welfare	1,573	-	1,573	-
	<u>5,672</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,672</u>	<u>1,395</u>
Motor and travel costs				
Travel and subsistence	3,734	-	3,734	6,481
	<u>3,734</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,734</u>	<u>6,481</u>
Premises costs				
Rent	1,020	-	1,020	1,045
	<u>1,020</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,020</u>	<u>1,045</u>

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

General administrative costs, including depreciation and amortisation				
Depreciation of Plant and equipment	577	-	577	494
General insurances	5,293	-	5,293	3,584
Postage and couriers	75	-	75	136
Software, IT support and related costs	3,435	-	3,435	2,107
Stationery and printing	390	-	390	619
Subscriptions	2,080	-	2,080	1,234
Sundry expenses	8	-	8	2,222
Telephone, fax and broadband	999	-	999	435
	<u>12,857</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,857</u>	<u>10,831</u>
Legal and professional costs				
Accountancy and bookkeeping	655	-	655	-
Other legal and professional costs	598	-	598	549
	<u>1,253</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,253</u>	<u>549</u>
Total of expenditure of other costs	<u>24,536</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,536</u>	<u>20,301</u>
Total expenditure	55,452	708,638	764,090	399,711
Net gains on investments	-	-	-	-
Net income	128,137	80,083	208,220	45,630
Transfers between funds	26,854	(26,854)	-	-
Net income before other gains/(losses)	154,991	53,229	208,220	45,630
Other Gains	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	<u>154,991</u>	<u>53,229</u>	<u>208,220</u>	<u>45,630</u>
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	176,770	66,341	243,111	197,481
Total funds carried forward	<u>331,761</u>	<u>119,570</u>	<u>451,331</u>	<u>243,111</u>

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1157922

Accounts

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

Charity No. 1157922

Company No. 08613863

Trustees' Report and Unaudited Accounts

31 March 2023

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

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EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

CHAIR'S REPORT

Following an approach from the trustees of Welland Rivers Trust (WRT), Lincolnshire Rivers Trust (LRT) took on the activities of WRT in October 2022. To reflect the increased geographical spread of the trust, the name was changed to East Mercia Rivers Trust (EMRT) and the charitable objectives of LRT were revised to state that the trust is operational in both the Witham and Welland catchments. Unrestricted funds totalling £34,291 and restricted funds amounting to £13,142 were transferred to LRT and WRT formally closed in October 2022. The restricted funds were concerned with three projects: Langton Brook river restoration at Smeeton Westerby, catchment hosting for the Welland Valley Partnership and River Warden training.

Two former LRT trustees resigned, one due to health issues and the other work commitments, and three trustees transferred from WRT. The incoming trustees added considerable expertise to the Board including education, local government, water environment, and the construction sector.

Although the amalgamation of the two trusts took longer and was more complicated than expected, these changes have enabled EMRT to upscale its ambitions to bid for significantly larger projects and multi-year funding bids. This has been critical in EMRT's development and progress during this transition year.

It has proven prudent to employ an experienced fundraiser and programme manager at the end of 2021, as EMRT's income has risen and the Trust made a profit this year. Around 18% was drawn from unrestricted funding sources and of the restricted funds approximately 75% was received from government (public) funding sources. We were also thankful for funding from Garfield Weston, which has been helpful in strengthening EMRT's governance and developing the project priority areas.

There is justifiable optimism amongst the trustees and employees of EMRT that the building blocks put in place during the year will lead to significant growth in 2023/24.



Andrew Morriss
Chair September 2023
East Mercia Rivers Trust

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST
Trustees Annual Report

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Company No. 08613863

Charity No. 1157922

Principal Office

Loddington House

Main Street

Loddington

Leicester

LE7 9XE

Registered Office

Loddington House

Main Street

Loddington

Leicester

LE7 9XE

Directors and Trustees

The Directors of the charitable company are its Trustees for the purposes of charity law.

The following Directors and Trustees served during the year:

M.J. Ballard

M.J. Bills

J.S. Birch

J. Bolland

M. Hatfield

J.K. Leventhall

R. Marshall (Resigned 1 December 2022)

A.S. Morriss

L.H. Vickers (Resigned 27 September 2022)

Company Secretary

S.M. Turner (Resigned 23 August 2022)

Accountants

Brooks & Partners Accountants Ltd

22 St Peter's Street

Stamford

Lincolnshire

PE9 2PF

Bankers

The Co-Operative Bank

PO Box 101

1 Balloon Street

Manchester

M60 4EP

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

Trustees Annual Report

Governance

East Mercia Rivers Trust is a registered charity governed by a Board of Trustees. The charity is controlled by its Articles of Association, and constitutes a company limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. The day-to-day operations are led by the Executive Director with support from a financial and administrative officer, the technical team grew from five to seven during 22/23 with two employees transferred from WRT. EMRT remains part of the national Rivers Trust movement, which continues to grow and has around 65 member trusts.

Risk & Governance Committee

At the end of the 22/23 financial year the Trustees set up a committee that aims to.

- Test and challenge all operational aspects of EMRT's activities in readiness for growth.
- Confirm that accountability is set at the appropriate person(s).
- Ensure trustee collective capabilities and knowledge are fit to deliver strategic intent.
- Assure financial mechanisms and deliver clear information to run the company.
- Oversee HR matters, e.g., annual salary reviews and staff performance.
- Refine the strategy and governance documents to support delivery.
- Ensure correct policies and procedures are in place.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The recruitment of Trustees is by invitation from East Mercia Rivers Trust Trustees. Subject to the Articles of Association, selection is based on expertise that is judged to add value to the activities and growth of the Trust.

Induction and training of new trustees

The induction and training provided for new Trustees is tailored to the individual depending on their existing experience and capability. Newly appointed Trustees receive a letter of appointment and a copy of EMRT's Trustee manual. Trustees provide mutual support in ensuring all Trustees have appropriate knowledge and information to be able to contribute to Board proceedings.

Reserves Policy

EMRT maintains a minimum of one year's reserves (unrestricted funds) that are freely available to spend on the charity's purposes.

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

Trustees Annual Report

Mission & Aims

Since October 2022, additional priority Welland catchment programmes and projects were added to the work programme. In total, there are over 120 watercourses within the Welland and Witham catchments, EMRT is operational in five counties: Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, and Rutland.

Following the formation of EMRT in October, the organisational mission and aims were revised and a three-year strategy approved by the Board in December 2022. These are as follows.

Mission

Bringing rivers back to life for nature and communities.

Aims

The headline KPI achievements for the aims are identified below.

<i>Aim 1: Resilient Rivers</i>	<i>Achievements 2022 - 2023</i>
<p>To create and protect healthy, clean, and resilient watercourses by,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ restoring and enhancing habitats, ▪ increasing water storage, ▪ improving water quality and ▪ controlling and removing invasive species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ River restoration and enhancement projects included. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Greening Brayford Pool, 40 m of floating ecosystem installed. ○ Stamford millstream with 300 m of river enhanced with in-channel berms, replacement of a weir with a rock ramp and bank regrading. ○ Hykeham, 100m fish refuges installed. ▪ Developed a water quality monitoring programme & assessment of Natural Flood Management (NFM) for Rauceby Estates ▪ 90km of river treated for Pennywort. ▪ 20km of river treated for Himalayan Balsam ▪ Over 30 potential project sites identified across the Lincolnshire Limestone region.
<i>Aim 2: Rivers for Life</i>	<i>Achievements 2022 - 2023</i>
<p>To inspire local communities, landowners, businesses, and recreational river-users to act for rivers by,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ building data and evidence, ▪ delivering educational activities and advisory services, ▪ Improving access to nature, and ▪ raising awareness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rivers Academy seed funding secured through HLF. ▪ Hosted a 3rd Geography University of Lincoln Student. ▪ As part of a Nene Rivers Trust HLF bid, EMRT are supporting the training of volunteers centred around Rockingham Forest. ▪ Eels in the Classroom was delivered to schools in Grantham. ▪ Attendance at large community events such as Lincolnshire Show and Burghley House Game & Wildlife Show.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Earthwatch water quality monitoring by volunteers continues. ▪ Water vole warrior and Mayfly in the Classroom education initiatives delivered to over 100 children as part of the LBs engagement programme: including schools and scout groups.
<i>Aim 3: Building collaboration</i>	<i>Achievements 2022 - 2023</i>
To advocate the catchment-based approach by facilitating the Welland Valley and Witham Catchment Partnerships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meetings and field visits conducted as part of the catchment partnership meetings. ▪ New members added to the partnerships included local authorities. ▪ Both catchment plans were updated and revised in consultation with partners.
<i>Aim 4: Creating sustainability and security</i>	<i>Achievements 2022 - 2023</i>
To build organisational stability and relevance by, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ diversifying projects and donors, ▪ positioning as the knowledge centre for the catchments, ▪ creating a high profile, and ▪ investing in staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Income percentage increased from non-governmental sources including private sources. ▪ Number of all year-round projects increased. ▪ Profile raised through increased number of press releases leading to media interviews and news articles on project developments such as Brayford Pool and Branston Beck. ▪ Staff training was increased which ranged from safeguarding to technical restoration courses.

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

Trustees Annual Report

The programme activities are set out in more detail below.

Resilient Rivers

The upper catchment headwater programmes aim to increase water storage, slow water flow, and improve the water quality through large-scale restoration works such as reconnecting floodplains, reinstating paleo channels, installing back channels, wetlands, and scrapes or smaller scale natural flood management measures and in-channel installations such as berms.

1. Bringing the Limestone Becks Back to Life Programme

- a. An on-going partnership with the Environment Agency and Wild Trout Trust. During this financial year the Branston Beck Heritage Lottery project was successfully completed. Funding was secured for landowner engagement to identify and work up a series of projects. The primary focus has been Dunston, Nocton, Nettleham and Branston Beck. Funding was secured to cover small-scale habitat works. A document outlining the importance of the cultural heritage of the becks, as well as their ecological value was published in late 2022.

2. Rejuvenating Lincolnshire's Chalk Streams

- a. Seed funding was provided by the EA to scope projects for the Bain and Waring, the two rivers forming the confluence where the historic Roman town of Horncastle is located. Both rivers are in bad condition, the Bain is a key tributary to the Witham and the Waring is lacking flow and is plagued by algal blooms. UK Shared Prosperity funding secured until March 2025 to kickstart the development of a future chalk stream hub in Horncastle.

3. Upper Witham Headwaters Programme

- a. The Upper Witham is an important limestone watercourse forming the headwaters of the Witham catchment. The project is part of a strategy to restore the Upper Witham sub-catchment at a landscape level. The main capital project for the Upper Witham in planning for the year, was the floodplain reconnection on Buckminster Estates.
- b. Natural Flood Management Scoping has also been undertaken to scope opportunities to work with landowners within the sub-catchment.
- c. EMRT commissioned designs for the Saltersford Mill project, however due to significant construction works, which will be on-going for several years, this project is shelved as access to the site is not possible.

4. Upper Welland Headwaters Programme

- a. *Smeeton Westerby*: A major restoration is scheduled for Langton Brook at Smeeton Westerby. Langton Brook is one of twenty tributaries that feeds the Upper Welland, a main source for Rutland Water.
- b. *Natural Flood Management*: Scoping has been undertaken within the sub-catchment. This complements expert modelling work upstream of Market Harborough, commissioned by the EA. The final report is expected mid 23/24. This will be used to inform EMRT NFM activities.
- c. *Langton Brook - Welland confluence*: In early 2023, EMRT engaged with a group of landowners located on the confluence, who have an ambition to work together to deliver a large-scale river restoration project. The landowners have funded EMRT to coordinate on their behalf. This project will be progressed further in 23/24.

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

Trustees Annual Report

5. Greening Brayford Pool Project

- a. The floating ecosystems were added to the island as part of phase 3 of this project. These low maintenance habitats have proved very popular with the local community and monitoring by the Environment Agency and the University of Lincoln is underway.

6. Lower Witham Programme

- a. Working with the angling club Hykeham Fish refuges were installed along a 100-metre section and provided a soft toe protection for riverbank. This provided much needed fish and invertebrate habitat on a barren section of river.

7. Stamford Millstream

- a. The Millstream has been an important feature of Stamford for almost 1000 years. EMRT and the Environment Agency in partnership with the Stamford Millstream Group have undertaken various habitat improvements over the last three years. The habitat works included installation of coir berms, bank regrading, formation of a gravel beach to improve safe access and the removal of a weir (fish barrier) which was replaced by a rock ramp. The project was funded by the EA, Harry Skells Fund, and the Stamford Town Council, in consultation with the Stamford Millstream Group.

8. Himalayan Balsam Project

- a. An on-going project that aims to eradicate Himalayan Balsam along the river Witham. Funding from the Environment Agency for removal and eradication is currently unavailable therefore other funding sources such as Anglian Water are being considered. However, EMRT continues to work closely with partners at RiverCare and volunteers to conduct 'Balsam Bash' events as standalone work parties or as part of projects.

9. Floating Pennywort Project

- a. An on-going Environment Agency partnership agreement with additional funding provided by the Canal and River Trust. Environment Agency funding issues May-August 2022 and extreme heat led to an overall increase in Floating Pennywort presence in 2022. However, EA and Canal & Rivers Trust have continued to support the project into 23/24 and along with RiverCare, EMRT have conducted volunteer training sessions for Floating Pennywort identification and continue to work alongside contractors to aim for complete eradication of Floating Pennywort in the catchments.

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

Trustees Annual Report

Rivers for Life

The main activities of this programme are centred on developing a Rivers Academy, environmental education, community engagement and water stewardship.

1. Rivers Academy

- a. Heritage Lottery Funding was secured in late 22/23 to conduct a feasibility study, develop a business plan, and undertake pilots with schools. Located at the National Trust's Belton House near Grantham, it is set to be the UK's first permanent rivers school. The learning-based activities planned range from curriculum-based education to citizen-science based adult training, through to children's summer holiday activities. Belton House offers an easily accessible, prestigious location, classrooms with facilities and on-site access to a section of the River Witham that has been restored. Grantham is centrally located in England and easily accessible by road and rail. It is intended to build a programme to train volunteers at the Academy, feeding directly into the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and working with Local Authorities and developers in monitoring Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). The initiative will benefit people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds locally and nationally.

2. Volunteer Activities

- a. All the main resilient river projects involved volunteers. For the Welland catchment the River Warden continues to operate with training delivered in Stamford. Collaboration is on-going with Nene Rivers Trust in relation to the Rockingham Forest Vision project. For Witham Catchment, estimated total of 83 full days with approx. 80 different volunteers for project work parties, Freshwater watch and Riverfly and student placement consultant.

3. Water Quality & Stewardship

- a. Funding was received from the Environment Agency to purchase a sophisticated water quality monitoring kit, which gives more accurate results.
- b. Numerous scoping visits have been undertaken across both catchments and development work is underway to develop a water stewardship service. This is in its infancy and the groundwork was funded through the catchment partnership hosting payment. The national Rivers Trust is championing this work through the Replenish programme and the results of this development will feed into EMRT activities in 23/24.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The above report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime as set out in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Signed on behalf of the board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.S. Morriss', written in a cursive style.

A.S. Morriss Trustee
27th September 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the financial statements of EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the Charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's financial statements 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.

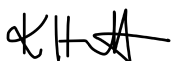
Independent examiner's statement

As the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ACCA, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

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

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



Kate Fleming ACCA
Brooks & Partners Accountants
Ltd 22 St Peter's Street
Stamford
Lincolnshire
PE9 2PF

20 September 2023

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	4	71,236	369,059	440,295	406,397
Other trading activities	5	5,046	-	5,046	5,314
Total		76,282	369,059	445,341	411,711
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	1,185	-	1,185	11,789
Charitable activities	7	24,729	353,496	378,225	529,430
Other	8	20,301	-	20,301	9,873
Total		46,215	353,496	399,711	551,092
Net gains on investments		-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)	9	30,067	15,563	45,630	(139,381)
Transfers between funds		(6,317)	6,317	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) before other gains/(losses)		23,750	21,880	45,630	(139,381)
Other gains and losses					
Net movement in funds		23,750	21,880	45,630	(139,381)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		153,020	44,461	197,481	336,862
Total funds carried forward		176,770	66,341	243,111	197,481

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST
 Summary Income and Expenditure Account
 for the year ended 31 March 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Income	445,341	411,711
Gross income for the year	<u>445,341</u>	<u>411,711</u>
Expenditure	399,217	550,586
Depreciation and charges for impairment of fixed assets	494	506
Total expenditure for the year	<u>399,711</u>	<u>551,092</u>
Net income/(expenditure) before tax for the year	45,630	(139,381)
Net income /(expenditure)for the year	<u><u>45,630</u></u>	<u><u>(139,381)</u></u>

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

Balance Sheet

at 31 March 2023

Company No. 08613863	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	824	1,318
		<u>824</u>	<u>1,318</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	13	103,877	6,427
Cash at bank and in hand		145,090	231,184
		<u>248,967</u>	<u>237,611</u>
Creditors: Amount falling due within one year	14	(6,680)	(41,448)
Net current assets		<u>242,287</u>	<u>196,163</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>243,111</u>	<u>197,481</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset or liability		<u>243,111</u>	<u>197,481</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>243,111</u></u>	<u><u>197,481</u></u>
The funds of the charity			
Restricted funds	15		
Restricted income funds		66,341	44,461
		<u>66,341</u>	<u>44,461</u>
Unrestricted funds	15		
General funds		185,810	132,520
Designated funds		(9,040)	20,500
		<u>176,770</u>	<u>153,020</u>
Reserves	15		
Total funds		<u><u>243,111</u></u>	<u><u>197,481</u></u>

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

For the year ended 31 March 2023 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

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

Approved by the board on 27th September 2023

And signed on its behalf by:



A.S. Morriss

Trustee

27th September 2023

for the year ended 31 March 2023

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

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) and the Companies Act 2006.

Change in basis of accounting or to previous accounts

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and method of accounting) since last year and no changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds	These are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity.
Designated funds	These are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.
Revaluation funds	These are unrestricted funds which include a revaluation reserve representing the restatement of investment assets at their market values.
Restricted funds	These are available for use subject to restrictions imposed by the donor or through terms of an appeal.

Income

Recognition of income Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity becomes entitled to, and virtually certain to receive, the income and the amount of the income can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Income with related expenditure Where income has related expenditure the income and related expenditure is reported gross in the SoFA.

Donations and legacies Voluntary income received by way of grants, donations and gifts is included in the the SoFA when receivable and only when the Charity has unconditional entitlement to the income.

Tax reclaims on donations and gifts Income from tax reclaims is included in the SoFA at the same time as the gift/donation to which it relates.

Donated services and facilities These are only included in income (with an equivalent amount in expenditure) where the benefit to the Charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material.

Volunteer help The value of any volunteer help received is not included in the accounts.

Investment income This is included in the accounts when receivable.

Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets This includes any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

Gains/(losses) on investment assets This includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments.

Expenditure

Recognition of expenditure	Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.
Expenditure on raising funds	These comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income, fundraising trading costs and investment management costs.
Expenditure on charitable activities	These comprise the costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services in the furtherance of its objects, including the making of grants and governance costs.
Grants payable	All grant expenditure is accounted for on an actual paid basis plus an accrual for grants that have been approved by the trustees at the end of the year but not yet paid.
Governance costs	These include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the Charity, including any audit/independent examination fees, costs linked to the strategic management of the Charity, together with a share of other administration costs.
Other expenditure	These are support costs not allocated to a particular activity.

Taxation

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

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

Plant and equipment	33.33% straight line
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Freehold investment property

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value at each balance sheet date and are not depreciated. All gains or losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise.

Stocks

Stock is included at the lower of cost or net realisable value. Donated items of stock are recognised at fair value which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay for the items on the open market.

Trade and other debtors

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

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and on hand, demand deposits with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. In the statement of financial position, bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings or current liabilities. In the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the company's cash management.

Trade and other creditors

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

Research and development

Expenditure on research and development is written off in the year in which it is incurred.

Foreign currencies

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in currencies other than the functional currency of the charity are translated at the rates of exchange prevailing at the end of the reporting period.

Transactions in currencies other than the functional currency of the charity are recorded at the rate of exchange on the date that the transaction occurred.

All exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at net income/expenditure.

Leased assets

Where the charity enters into a lease which entails taking substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of an asset, the lease is treated as a finance lease.

Leases which do not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to charity are classified as operating leases.

Assets held under finance leases are initially recognised as assets of the charity at their fair value at the inception of the lease or, if lower, at the present value of the minimum lease payments. The corresponding liability to the lessor is included in the balance sheet date as a finance lease obligation.

Lease payments are apportioned between finance expenses and reduction of the lease obligation so as to achieve a constant rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability. Finance expenses are recognised immediately, unless they are directly attributable to qualifying assets, in which case they are capitalised in accordance with the charity's policy on borrowing costs.

Assets held under finance leases are depreciated in the same way as owned assets.

Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

In the event that lease incentives are received to enter into operating leases, such incentives are recognised as a liability. The aggregate benefit of incentives is recognised as a reduction of rental expense on a straight-line basis.

Pension costs

The charity operates a defined contribution plan for its employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the company pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the company has no further payments obligations. The contributions are recognised as expenses when they fall due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals in the balance sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the company in independently administered funds.

Receipt of donated goods, facilities and services

All donated goods, facilities and services received are recognised within incoming resources and expenditure at an estimate of the value to the charity.

2 Company status

The company is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital.

The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £1.

3 Statement of Financial Activities - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	35,007	371,390	406,397
Other trading activities	5,314	-	5,314
Total	<u>40,321</u>	<u>371,390</u>	<u>411,711</u>
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	6,234	5,555	11,789
Charitable activities	98,380	431,050	529,430
Other	9,873	-	9,873
Total	<u>114,487</u>	<u>436,605</u>	<u>551,092</u>
Net income	<u>(74,166)</u>	<u>(65,215)</u>	<u>(139,381)</u>
Transfers between funds	80,416	(80,416)	-
Net income before other gains/(losses)	<u>6,250</u>	<u>(145,631)</u>	<u>(139,381)</u>
Other gains and losses:			
Net movement in funds	<u>6,250</u>	<u>(145,631)</u>	<u>(139,381)</u>
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward	152,482	184,380	336,862
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>158,732</u></u>	<u><u>38,749</u></u>	<u><u>197,481</u></u>

4 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Donations	22,267	-	22,267	11,585
Grants	48,969	369,059	418,028	394,812
	<u>71,236</u>	<u>369,059</u>	<u>440,295</u>	<u>406,397</u>

5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£
Consultancy and Speaking	5,046	5,046	5,314
	<u>5,046</u>	<u>5,046</u>	<u>5,314</u>

6 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£
<i>Costs of generating voluntary income</i>			
Advertising	1,185	1,185	6,223
Wages	-	-	5,566
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
<i>Fundraising trading costs</i>			
	-	-	-
	<u>1,185</u>	<u>1,185</u>	<u>11,789</u>

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities</i>				
Wages	22,404	119,112	141,516	93,266
Professional fees	206	11,656	11,862	4,794
Habitat Contractors	-	222,728	222,728	429,030
<i>Governance costs</i>				
Accountancy	2,119	-	2,119	2,340
	<u>24,729</u>	<u>353,496</u>	<u>378,225</u>	<u>529,430</u>

8 Other expenditure

	Unrestricted	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£
Employee costs	1,395	1,395	-
Motor and travel costs	6,481	6,481	4,870
Premises costs	1,045	1,045	-
Amortisation, depreciation, impairment, profit/loss on disposal of fixed assets	494	494	506
General administrative costs	10,337	10,337	4,497
Legal and professional costs	549	549	-
	<u>20,301</u>	<u>20,301</u>	<u>9,873</u>

9 Net income/(expenditure) before transfers

	2023	2022
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	494	506

10 Trustee remuneration and expenses

One or more of the trustees has been paid expenses in the current or prior periods.

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Number of trustees paid expenses	1	-
The nature of the reimbursed expenses	Travel and meeting costs	
	£	£
Total expenses reimbursed to trustees	31	-

11 Staff costs

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

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Project Officer	3	2
Administrator	1	1
Project Manager	2	1
	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>

The Rivers Trust Pension & Life Assurance Scheme

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and equipment	Total
	£	£
Cost or revaluation		
At 1 April 2022	1,782	1,782
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,782</u>	<u>1,782</u>
Depreciation and impairment		
At 1 April 2022	464	464
Depreciation charge for the year	494	494
At 31 March 2023	<u>958</u>	<u>958</u>
Net book values		
At 31 March 2023	<u>824</u>	<u>824</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>1,318</u>	<u>1,318</u>

13 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	-	-
Other debtors	103,877	6,043
Prepayments and accrued income	-	384
	<u>103,877</u>	<u>6,427</u>

14 Creditors:

amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other taxes and social security	2,927	2,641
Other creditors	1,054	-
Accruals	2,699	38,807
	<u>6,680</u>	<u>41,448</u>

15 Movement in funds

	At 1 April 2022	Incoming resources (including other gains/losses) £	Resources expended £	Gross transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
Restricted funds:					
Restricted income funds:					
EN CABA Witham, Welland, Snagging and Volunteers	5,713	42,467	(37,258)	(10,922)	-
IN Himalayan Balsam and Floating Pennywort	13,094	74,500	(100,143)	12,549	-
EN Schools and River Academy	-	17,000	(9,717)	392	7,675
LB Branston, Dunston and Limestone Becks	25,654	56,779	(49,285)	1	33,149
LN LW Brayford Pool and Horncastle	-	52,000	(51,492)	(1,292)	(784)
UW NFM, Buckminster and Hykeham	-	52,863	(55,096)	2,377	144
WQ Water Quality	-	4,000	(5,700)	1,700	-
WT NFM, Millstream and Smeeton	-	69,450	(44,805)	1,512	26,157
<i>Total</i>	<u>44,461</u>	<u>369,059</u>	<u>(353,496)</u>	<u>6,317</u>	<u>66,341</u>
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds	132,520	71,604	(23,223)	4,909	185,810
Designated funds:					
UW Saltersford Mill	20,000	-	(1,994)	(18,006)	-
EN Events and Water Stewardship	500	-	(7,280)	6,780	-
LB Rauceby Estate	-	3,912	(5,732)	-	(1,820)
WT Spalding Heritage, Rockingham and Smeeton	-	766	(7,986)	-	(7,220)
<i>Total</i>	<u>20,500</u>	<u>4,678</u>	<u>(22,992)</u>	<u>(11,226)</u>	<u>(9,040)</u>
Total funds	<u><u>197,481</u></u>	<u><u>445,341</u></u>	<u><u>(399,711)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>243,111</u></u>

Purposes and restrictions in relation to the funds:

Restricted funds:

EN CABA Witham, Welland,
Snagging and Volunteers

The catchment hosting payments for the Witham and Welland are awarded on an annual basis and support project development work.

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

Notes to the Accounts

IN Himalayan Balsam and Floating Pennywort	Mostly funded by the Environment Agency with contribution from Canal and River Trust. Each year EMRT works with RiverCare volunteers and expert contractors reducing these invasives on the catchments. All funding agreements are based on an annual basis.
EN Schools and River Academy	Heritage Lottery Funding was secured for the Rivers Academy which is a concept in development based at Belton House. EMRT, on request, also attends schools and events such as Lincolnshire Show to build community engagement. Water stewardship work is in development and funded through the catchment hosting payments. The catchment hosting payments for the Witham and Welland are awarded on an annual basis and support project development work.
LB Branston, Dunston and Limestone Becks	A key focus for the Witham catchment, the Heritage Lottery funded Branston Beck restoration works were completed this year and the Environment Agency funded development of several projects across all the becks and enhancement works funded by Anglian Water Flourishing Environment Fund are planned for Dunston beck in autumn 2023.
LN LW Brayford Pool and Horncastle	Extension of floating ecosystems on Brayford Pool in Lincoln. Funded by the Environment Agency.
UW NFM, Buckminster and Hykeham	Preparatory work was undertaken for major restoration works planned for Autumn 2023 on Buckminster Estates, scoping of potential Natural Flood Management activities. Completion of the installation of fish refuges at Hykeham.
WQ Water Quality	Water quality monitoring work is ongoing through a national Earthwatch programme and was boosted with a donation from the Environment Agency this year to purchase an advanced technical kit. The catchment hosting payments for the Witham and Welland are awarded on an annual basis and support project development work.
WT NFM, Millstream and Smeeton	Initially started with support work for Welland Rivers Trust prior to closure. Later included restoration work on Stamford Millstream, funded by the Environment Agency and Stamford Town Council, preparatory work for major restoration at Smeeton Westerby, funded by Anglian Water and Natural Flood Management scoping above Market Harborough funded by the Environment Agency. Landowners engaged EMRT to support preparatory work for a major restoration planned for the Langton Brook – Welland confluence. Whilst preparatory work was undertaken for Spalding Reconnected and Rockingham Forest projects, using funding provided through the catchment partnership funds, the projects will commence in 23/24 FY.
Designated funds: UW Saltersford Mill	Designs were commissioned for Saltersford Mill, however due to major construction works around Grantham making access impossible, this project has been shelved for now.
EN Events and Water Stewardship	Funded through unrestricted donations and CaBA hosting funds.

LB Rauceby Estate Funded by landowners with equipment provided by the Environment Agency.

WT Spalding Heritage,
Rockingham and Langton Langton Brook funded by landowners, CaBA hosting funds provided the resources to develop Spalding Heritage and Rockingham projects

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	824	-	824
Net current assets	175,946	66,341	242,287
	<u>176,770</u>	<u>66,341</u>	<u>243,111</u>

17 Reconciliation of net debt

	At 1 April 2022	Cash flows	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£
Cash and cash equivalents	231,184	(86,094)	145,090
	<u>231,184</u>	<u>(86,094)</u>	<u>145,090</u>
Net debt	<u>231,184</u>	<u>(86,094)</u>	<u>145,090</u>

18 Related party disclosures

Controlling party

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital; thus no single party controls the company.

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies				
Donations	22,267	-	22,267	11,585
Grants	48,969	369,059	418,028	394,812
	<u>71,236</u>	<u>369,059</u>	<u>440,295</u>	<u>406,397</u>
Other trading activities				
Consultancy and Speaking	5,046	-	5,046	5,314
	<u>5,046</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,046</u>	<u>5,314</u>
Total income and endowments	76,282	369,059	445,341	411,711
Expenditure on:				
Costs of generating donations and legacies				
Wages	-	-	-	5,566
	<u>1,185</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,185</u>	<u>11,789</u>
Costs of other trading activities				
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total of expenditure on raising funds	1,185	-	1,185	11,789
Charitable activities				
Wages	22,404	119,112	141,516	93,266
Professional fees	206	11,656	11,862	4,794
Habitat Contractors	-	222,728	222,728	429,030
	<u>22,610</u>	<u>353,496</u>	<u>376,106</u>	<u>527,090</u>
Governance costs				
Accountancy	2,119	-	2,119	2,340
	<u>2,119</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,119</u>	<u>2,340</u>
Total of expenditure on charitable activities	24,729	353,496	378,225	529,430
Employee costs				
Staff training	1,395	-	1,395	-
	<u>1,395</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,395</u>	<u>-</u>
Motor and travel costs				
Travel and subsistence	6,481	-	6,481	4,870
	<u>6,481</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,481</u>	<u>4,870</u>
Premises costs				
Rent	1,045	-	1,045	-
	<u>1,045</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,045</u>	<u>-</u>

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

General administrative costs, including depreciation and amortisation				
Depreciation of Plant and equipment	494	-	494	506
General insurances	3,584	-	3,584	1,593
Postage and couriers	136	-	136	-
Software, IT support and related costs	2,107	-	2,107	1,299
Stationery and printing	619	-	619	394
Subscriptions	1,234	-	1,234	-
Sundry expenses	2,222	-	2,222	892
Telephone, fax and broadband	435	-	435	319
	<u>10,831</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,831</u>	<u>5,003</u>
Legal and professional costs				
Other legal and professional costs	549	-	549	-
	<u>549</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>549</u>	<u>-</u>
Total of expenditure of other costs	<u>20,301</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,301</u>	<u>9,873</u>
Total expenditure	46,215	353,496	399,711	551,092
Net gains on investments	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)	30,067	15,563	45,630	(139,381)
Transfers between funds	(6,317)	6,317	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) before other gains/(losses)	<u>23,750</u>	<u>21,880</u>	<u>45,630</u>	<u>(139,381)</u>
Other Gains	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	<u>23,750</u>	<u>21,880</u>	<u>45,630</u>	<u>(139,381)</u>
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	153,020	44,461	197,481	336,862
Total funds carried forward	<u>176,770</u>	<u>66,341</u>	<u>243,111</u>	<u>197,481</u>

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1157922

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 08613863 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1157922

**Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022
for
Lincolnshire Rivers Trust**

Clayton & Brewill
Chartered Accountants
Cawley House
149-155 Canal Street
Nottingham
Nottinghamshire
NG1 7HR

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust

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for the year ended 31 March 2022**

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Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	19

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust
Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 March 2022

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Chair's Report

The Trust grew from 2.5 to the equivalent of 4 full-time staff in this period. Whilst Covid continued to affect volunteer numbers, engagement projects such as Eels in the Classroom were still able to go ahead with the release event attracting over 100 people at Wyndham Park in Grantham. The Upper Witham and Limestone Becks continue to be our primary focus; however, we now want to consolidate this work and extend it to other parts of the catchment. In doing so we believe investing in, and building, our staff capabilities is critical to make this happen.

The Bringing the Limestone Becks Back to Life project continues to grow as our experience in restoring these critically important habitats increases. Both the Upper Cringle Brook floodplain reconnection and Branston Beck Heritage Lottery bid attracted interest for different reasons.

Upper Cringle Brook had been reduced to a deep-sided overgrown 'ditch' that was thought to be beyond restoration. The resulting habitat recreation is now used as an exemplar by the Environment Agency and Wild Trout Trust to encourage more landowners to address their watercourses.



View of top section of site before works
Credit: Andrew Chick



View of top section of site after works
Credit: Andrew Chick

Lincolnshire is becoming known as a haven for water voles. The discovery of water voles at Branston Beck, prior to the habitat works commencing, meant the entire plans had to be revised to ensure they were not disturbed. The discovery of this significant population of water voles created much media attention, raising the profile of the UK's most endangered mammal and LRT's work.



Site before works with old channel to right
Credit: EA



Same view with newly connected floodplain
Credit: EA



The Greening of Brayford Pool continues. The UK's oldest inland port is dominated by concrete banks and the water quality poor, since it was once at the heart of Lincoln's industrial growth. Floating ecosystems have been a significant addition to improve the habitat for wildlife, particularly fish and the resident mute swans. This year these were extended as they have become extremely popular with the community and local businesses, who report that visitors to the areas have remarked on how much the visual amenity value has improved.

In my first year of Chair, I feel the profile of LRT has been raised in recent months and would like to thank the staff and Trustees, who have dedicated their time to make this happen. We have plans to diversify our projects and funding for the future and in particular want to ensure we develop our unique selling point to complement and work with partners within Lincolnshire and our neighbouring catchments.

Andrew Morriss
Chair July 2022

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust
Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Vision:

We will protect what is in great shape and transform where restoration is necessary. Rivers offer recreation and well-being; they connect people with nature. Healthy rivers make a difference to the people who live and work alongside them.

Our Aims and Objectives:

Grow

- Create a culture that attracts and retains great staff and volunteers
- Grow our income from a variety of sources to allow sustainable growth
- Be cost effective and find inventive ways of working

Restore

- Improve water quality
- Reduce non-native invasive species
- Enhance and restore river habitat
- Facilitate fish movement by removing obstacles or by-pass solutions

Engage

- Inspire people to learn more about the river habitat
- Attend events to increase awareness of LRT
- Work with schools and colleges
- Work with communities to understand their expectations

Influence

- To be recognised locally as a charity working effectively for the local environment
- To develop strategic partnerships that deliver outcomes that are cost-effective and timely
- To be heard as part of the larger 'Rivers Trust' and our work and projects recognised as meaningful

Partner

- Develop strategic partnerships that deliver outcomes that are cost-effective and timely
- Be the first partner of choice when delivering river habitat restoration in Lincolnshire
- Fully participate in partnerships that we are part of and expect other to do so

Public benefit

The Trust is mainly public grant funded, providing opportunities to promote and develop practical solutions to environmental issues for the public benefit. In setting objectives, planning for activities, and delivering those activities, the Trustees have regard for, and given due consideration to, general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit. The Trustees are satisfied that the Trust has complied with its educational and environmental benefit purposes, and that such purposes are beneficial to local communities and others wherever there is a river.

Rivers Trust Movement

As part of the Rivers Trust national movement, LRT regularly contributes to regional and national meetings on communications, green finance and education. The Rivers Trusts are community led charitable organisations recognised as deliverers of education, water management advice and practical conservation improving and restoring river and wetland habitats at the river catchment scale.

In 2021/2022, the Rivers Trust introduced a 'Sewage Map' to identify where the sewerage network discharges and overflows into rivers. It also published a 'State of the Rivers' report. England's rivers, including 85% of the world's precious chalk streams, are widely agreed to be a national treasure, yet only 14% are in good ecological health, and every single one fails to meet chemical standards.

Of these failing rivers, agriculture impacts nearly two thirds (2,296 river water bodies); the water sector impacts over a half (2,032 river water bodies); and the urban and transport sector a quarter. Pollution is not the only problem, though, as abstraction and habitat destruction also put the future of rivers in jeopardy.

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust
Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 March 2022

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Core education and rivers trust

Rivers Trusts are community led charitable organisations recognised as important deliverers of education, water management advice and practical conservation work from source to sea, and improving land use, rivers and wetlands at the river catchment scale. The aim is to build our reputation as local "deliverers" by adopting and applying sound environmental practice and techniques at a catchment management scale in a cost effective manner.

Equally important is the dissemination of best practice and techniques. The Trust accordingly attends seminars and conferences. This is a chance to learn from the experiences of more developed rivers trusts and partnerships from the UK.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

2021 Targets	LRT Achievements
Grow	
Increase the staff team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff grew from 2.5 full-time equivalent to 4 • New Trust Manager appointed with wider knowledge and experience of not-for-profit organisational management and fundraising experience • New technical project officer recruited
Continue to diversify and increase funding, focusing on business support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully grew unrestricted funding through charitable trust grant aid i.e., Garfield Weston • Successfully adapted delivery of the Heritage Lottery Fund Branston Beck project in light of Covid and the discover of water voles
Restore	
Extend habitat restoration and enhancement of the Upper Witham & Limestone Becks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully completed Phase 2 for the Greening the Brayford Pool installing 80 metres of floating ecosystems • In total 8 km of river restored or enhanced including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1km of Upper Cringle Brook restored on Easton Estates ○ 0.8 Km restored Branston Beck ○ Boultham Park stretch of Witham - 12 Fish refuges installed.
Continue to eradicate invasive species on the river Witham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractors travelled 3,150km over 2020 and 2021 treating Floating Pennywort • Over 200 patches treated • Himalayan Balsam mapping developed

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust
Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Partner	
Work with Witham Catchment partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnered with Wild Trout Trust and Environment Agency on the Upper Witham and Limestone Becks projects • Partnered with RiverCare and Canal and Rivers Trust to address Himalayan Balsam and Floating Pennywort • Partnered with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust on volunteer training • Partnered with Slea Navigation to deliver River Slea session to local primary school
Engage	
Develop and recruit a range of volunteering roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid continued to place limitations on volunteer activities, however in total engaged 42 volunteers • Recruited a volunteer photographer
Develop schools and family engagement resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertook Eels in the Classroom with 3 schools and the Wyndham Park Visitor Centre in Grantham, over 100 members of the community attended the public release event
Influence	
Continue to attend local and national events and ensure our work is promoted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended GLNP conference and other Rivers Trust and Lincolnshire conservation meetings including greening finance

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the charity to maintain reserves at a level which equates to approximately four months' expenditure. This provides sufficient funds to cover costs. Reserves were maintained at this level throughout the period.

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2022

FUTURE PLANS

In line with our new strategy our ambition:

Grow

- Increase staff capacity through training to grow the LRT in-house expertise
- Collaborate closely with neighbouring rivers trusts to share knowledge and skills
- Diversify funding and projects to enable year-round activities

Restore

- Accelerate and scale up the Bringing the Limestone Becks Back to Life Project
- Extend habitat enhancement work across the catchment
- Complete the Greening of Brayford Pool and extend the installation of floating ecosystems

Partner

- Extend the Witham Catchment Partners to include local authorities and corporates
- Develop closer working relations with catchment partners through initiatives such as the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership

Engage

- Explore the feasibility of a permanent Rivers Academy and Continue our engagement programme and build on the number of volunteers, supporting new river fly and water quality groups
- Increase school engagements and look for other opportunities for youth engagement

Influence

- Nurture closer working relations with the national Rivers Trust movement and member organisations
- Build profile in the county, region and nationally through presentations and attendance at events

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

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

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The subscribers to the Memorandum are the first trustees of the company. The trustees may appoint a person who is willing to serve as a trustee on such terms as they may agree from time to time. The recruitment of Trustees is by communication with Lincolnshire Rivers Trust trustees. Subject to the Articles, selection is based on environmental or specific rivers trust interest, expertise in environmental or other relevant matters, general experience of charities and integrity, with the overriding objective of maintaining a broadly representative body, strong on governance and ability to add value.

Induction and training of new trustees

The training and induction provided for new trustees will depend on their existing experience. Where necessary, induction will be on an informal basis. It will be tailored specially to the individual and will provide training on charity, legal and financial matters.

Newly appointed Trustees receive a letter of appointment, including appointment declarations, and access to an on-line reference pack, which covers the modus operandi of the Trust and includes pertinent information on charities, such as Charity Commission's The Hallmarks of an Effective Charity (CC10).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
08613863 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1157922

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust
Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Registered office

Clayton & Brewill
Chartered Accountants
Cawley House
149-155 Canal Street
Nottingham
Nottinghamshire
NG1 7HR

Trustees

J Bolland
R Page (resigned 31/7/2021)
L H Vickers (resigned 27/9/2022)
A S Morriss
T Williams (resigned 29/7/2021)
M Hatfield
Dr R Marshall
JK Leventhall (appointed 4/3/2022)
M J Ballard (appointed 31/8/2022)
M Bills (appointed 31/8/2022)
J S Birch (appointed 31/8/2022)

Company Secretary

S Turner

Independent Examiner

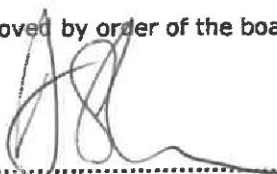
Clayton & Brewill
Chartered Accountants
Cawley House
149-155 Canal Street
Nottingham
Nottinghamshire
NG1 7HR

Bankers

The Co-Operative Bank
PO Box 101
1 Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 13th October 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
A S Morriss – Trustee

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Lincolnshire Rivers Trust**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Lincolnshire Rivers Trust ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of ACA 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.

Yvonne Jackson BSc (Hons) FCA
Clayton & Brewill
Chartered Accountants
Cawley House
149-155 Canal Street
Nottingham
Nottinghamshire
NG1 7HR

Date: 26/10/22

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		20,321	391,390	411,711	325,588
 EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		5,566	-	5,566	5,931
Charitable activities					
Rivers activities		106,028	439,498	545,526	185,808
 Total		<u>111,594</u>	<u>439,498</u>	<u>551,092</u>	<u>191,739</u>
 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(91,273)	(48,108)	(139,381)	133,849
Transfers between funds	9	<u>71,311</u>	<u>(71,311)</u>	-	-
Net movement in funds		(19,962)	(119,419)	(139,381)	133,849
 RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>152,482</u>	<u>184,380</u>	<u>336,862</u>	<u>203,013</u>
 TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>132,520</u>	<u>64,961</u>	<u>197,481</u>	<u>336,862</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust

**Balance Sheet
31 March 2022**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	6	1,318	-	1,318	342
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	7	384	6,043	6,427	16,707
Cash at bank		<u>135,266</u>	<u>95,918</u>	<u>231,184</u>	<u>326,329</u>
		135,650	101,961	237,611	343,036
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>(4,448)</u>	<u>(37,000)</u>	<u>(41,448)</u>	<u>(6,516)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>131,202</u>	<u>64,961</u>	<u>196,163</u>	<u>336,520</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>132,520</u>	<u>64,961</u>	<u>197,481</u>	<u>336,862</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>132,520</u>	<u>64,961</u>	<u>197,481</u>	<u>336,862</u>
FUNDS	9				
Unrestricted funds				132,520	152,482
Restricted funds				<u>64,961</u>	<u>184,380</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>197,481</u>	<u>336,862</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

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


The notes form part of these financial statements

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust

Balance Sheet – continued
31 March 2022

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on ~~13th October 2022~~ and were signed on its behalf by:


.....
A S Morris – Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of FRS 102 Section 1A Small Entities.

Income

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

Expenditure

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

Tangible fixed assets

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

Computer equipment - 33% on cost

Taxation

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

Fund accounting

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

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Legal status of the trust

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding-up is limited to £1.

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements – continued
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

2. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

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

	2022	2021
	£	£
Depreciation – owned assets	<u>506</u>	<u>348</u>

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2022 nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the period ended 31 March 2022 (2021: Nil).

4. STAFF COSTS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	<u>98,832</u>	<u>66,203</u>
	<u>98,832</u>	<u>66,203</u>

Total trustee and key management personnel remuneration benefits for the period ended 31 March 2022 were £27,829 (2021: £29,653).

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

	2022	2021
Project Officer	2	1
Administrator	1	1
Project Manager	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>

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

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

5. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	80,899	244,689	325,588
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	-	5,931	5,931
Charitable activities			
Rivers activities	86,895	98,913	185,808
Total	<u>86,895</u>	<u>104,844</u>	<u>191,739</u>

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

5. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(5,996)	139,845	133,849
Transfers between funds	<u>75,964</u>	<u>(75,964)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds	69,968	63,881	133,849
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	<u>82,514</u>	<u>120,499</u>	<u>203,013</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>152,482</u>	<u>184,380</u>	<u>336,862</u>

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer equipment £
COST	
At 1 April 2021	2,439
Additions	1,482
Disposals	<u>(2,139)</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>1,782</u>
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 April 2021	2,097
Charge for year	506
Eliminated on disposal	<u>(2,139)</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>464</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2022	<u>1,318</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>342</u>

7. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	6,427	16,360
Prepayments	<u>-</u>	<u>347</u>
	<u>6,427</u>	<u>16,707</u>

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022 £	2021 £
Social security and other taxes	2,641	2,928
Trade creditors	35,665	-
Accrued expenses	<u>3,142</u>	<u>3,588</u>
	<u>41,448</u>	<u>6,516</u>

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/4/21 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/3/22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	152,482	(91,273)	71,311	132,520
Restricted funds				
Restricted	184,380	(48,108)	(71,311)	64,961
	<u>336,862</u>	<u>(139,381)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>197,481</u>

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	20,321	(111,594)	(91,273)
Restricted funds			
Restricted	391,390	(439,498)	(48,108)
	<u>411,711</u>	<u>(551,092)</u>	<u>(139,381)</u>

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/4/20 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/3/21 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	82,514	(5,996)	75,964	152,482
Restricted funds				
Restricted	120,499	139,845	(75,964)	184,380
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>203,013</u>	<u>133,849</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>336,862</u>

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	80,899	(86,895)	(5,996)
Restricted funds			
Restricted	244,689	(104,844)	139,845
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>325,588</u>	<u>(191,739)</u>	<u>133,849</u>

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

	At 1/4/20 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/3/22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	82,514	(22,154)	72,160	132,520
Restricted funds				
Restricted	120,499	16,622	(72,160)	64,961
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>203,013</u>	<u>(5,532)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>197,481</u>

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	101,220	(198,489)	(97,269)
Restricted funds			
Restricted	636,079	(544,342)	91,737
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>737,299</u>	<u>(742,831)</u>	<u>(5,532)</u>

Restricted Funds

Invasive Species

1. Himalayan Balsam Project, funded by the Environment Agency this project is seasonal and aims to eradicate Himalayan Balsam along the river Witham. LRT has worked closely with RiverCare/BeachCare volunteers and each year has proven results to show reduction
2. Floating Pennywort Project is a partnership agreement with the Environment Agency with additional funding from the Canal and Rivers Trust. This project is all year round and over time increasingly less chemical treatment and more manual as the amount of this invasive plant is reduced.

Water and Environment Investment Fund (WEIF) Environment Agency

1. Greening Brayford Pool Phase 2 Extended the floating ecosystems, installed in Phase 1, to other banks of the man-made watercourse in central Lincoln. These low maintenance floating ecosystems have proved very popular with local wildlife and have added much needed amenity value to the Brayford. They provide food and spawning sites for fish, along with nesting and shelter for birds.
2. Boultham Park Habitat Enhancement Working with the local angling club LRT installed 14 fish refuge structures over 100 metre section and provided a soft toe protection for riverbank. This provided much needed habitat in barren section of river which is at risk of flooding.
3. Upper Witham Colsterworth Design Working with the landowner, Buckminster Estates to design a large-scale floodplain reconnection in an important part of the catchment. Expert geomorphological design work included archaeological surveys and drone footage to develop the final plan for the site.
4. Upper Cringle Brook Restoration This project restored 1000 metres of a Limestone Beck, reconnecting it with its floodplain. Creation of 1 ha of seasonally wetted floodplain habitat and a 1.7 ha wildflower meadow, along with two large ponds within the floodplain.
5. Sustainable soils. This project was aimed at providing expert advice to farmers on soil management along a 5km stretch of WFD (Water Framework Directive) watercourse to initiate the reduction in the problems caused by excess sediment

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

Heritage Lottery Fund – Green Recovery

Bringing the Limestone Becks Back to Life project is a partnership with the Environment Agency and Wild Trout Trust. Habitat improvements were carried out on 1.2km stretch of Branston Beck. This included tree work along the full stretch of beck, the creation of two new channels, ponds and lowering of the floodplain, planting of wetland vegetation, and the installation limestone gravel, all which will improve the habitat particularly for brown trout and water voles.



10. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies	11,585	80,899
Donations	394,812	244,689
Grants	<u>5,314</u>	<u>-</u>
Other income	<u>411,711</u>	<u>325,588</u>
Total incoming resources	411,711	325,588
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Wages	5,566	5,931
Charitable activities		
Wages	93,266	60,272
Professional /consultancy fees	4,360	5,591
Insurance	1,593	1,806
Telephone	319	320
Postage and stationery	394	207
Advertising	6,223	6,818
River care activities	429,030	101,866
Sundries	892	420
Travel and subsistence	4,870	1,153
Software and equipment	1,299	6,027
Consents and planning	2,774	980
Depreciation	<u>506</u>	<u>348</u>
	<u>545,526</u>	<u>185,808</u>
Total resources expended	<u>551,092</u>	<u>191,739</u>
Net (expenditure)/Income	<u>(139,381)</u>	<u>133,849</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

EAST MERCIA RIVERS TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1157922

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 08613863 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1157922

**Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021
for
Lincolnshire Rivers Trust**



"The only charity working to improve rivers across Lincolnshire"

Clayton & Brewill
Chartered Accountants
Cawley House
149-155 Canal Street
Nottingham
Nottinghamshire
NG1 7HR

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust

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for the year ended 31 March 2021**

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Lincolnshire Rivers Trust
Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 March 2021

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

"A message from our Chair"

Due to Covid, it has been an unprecedented year for Lincolnshire Rivers Trust as it has for the rest of the country and indeed the world.

We adapted to the situation and after a brief spell for our project staff on the government's furlough scheme at the start of the pandemic we were able to deliver a substantial amount of work and find new ways to inspire and engage our schools and local communities. We have followed the government's guidelines in respect of the pandemic keeping our staff, volunteers and community safe our top priority.



OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Rivers are important to Lincolnshire for many different reasons. They support wildlife, provide drinking water and control flooding. Our rivers offer recreation and well-being, they connect people with nature. Unfortunately, our rivers are not all in the best shape; overuse, pollution and climate change all impact on this precious resource.



Lincolnshire Rivers Trust
Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 March 2021

Our Vision:

We will protect what is in great shape and transform where restoration is necessary. Rivers offer recreation and well-being, they connect people with nature. Healthy rivers make a difference to the people who live and work alongside them.

In 2017, we launched our 5-year strategic plan to provide a framework to deliver sustainable and manageable growth whilst continuing to be as ambitious as possible.

Our Aims and Objectives:

Grow

- Create a culture that attracts and retains great staff and volunteers
- Grow our income from a variety of sources to allow sustainable growth
- Be cost effective and find inventive ways of working



Restore

- Improve water quality
- Reduce non-native invasive species
- Enhance and restore river habitat
- Facilitate fish movement by removing obstacles or by-pass solutions



Engage

- Inspire people to learn more about the river habitat
- Attend events to increase awareness of LRT
- Work with schools and colleges
- Work with communities to understand their expectations



Influence

- To be recognised locally as a charity working effectively for the local environment
- To develop strategic partnerships that deliver outcomes that are cost-effective and timely
- To be heard as part of the larger 'Rivers Trust' and our work and projects recognised as meaningful



Lincolnshire Rivers Trust
Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 March 2021

Partner

- Develop strategic partnerships that deliver outcomes that are cost-effective and timely
- Be the first partner of choice when delivering river habitat restoration in Lincolnshire
- Fully participate in partnerships that we are part of, and expect other to do so.



Public benefit

The Board of Trustees strategy for achieving its objects and aims is achieved through its project activities, the Trust is mainly public grant funded, providing opportunities to promote and develop practical solutions to environmental issues for public benefit. In setting objectives, planning for activities and delivering those activities, the Trustees have regard for, and given due consideration to, general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit. The Trustees are satisfied that the Trust has complied with its educational and environmental benefit purposes, and that such purposes are beneficial to local communities and others wherever there is a river.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Core education and rivers trust

Rivers trusts are community led charitable organisations recognised as important deliverers of education, water management advice and practical conservation work from source to sea, and improving land use, rivers and wetlands at the river catchment scale. The aim is to build our reputation as local "deliverers" by adopting and applying sound environmental practice and techniques at a catchment management scale in a cost effective manner.

Equally important is the dissemination of best practice and techniques. The Trust accordingly attends seminars and conferences. This is a chance to learn from the experiences of more developed rivers trusts and partnerships from the UK.

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust
Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 March 2021

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

In 2020 we said we would:	What we achieved:
Grow	
Increase the staff team with a river restoration/biodiversity officer.	We have been able to recruit a new project officer working on the Green Recovery project at Branston Beck and the Pennywort Eradication Project.
Continue to diversify and increase our funding, focusing on business support.	We were successful in our bid to the Green Recovery Challenge Fund and in 2020/21 our funding grew by 62.5%.
Restore	
Deliver our first fish pass project on the Upper Witham.	Due to issues relating to the pandemic and ownership this project was delayed and is on hold until further notice.
Install 'biohavens' on the Brayford Pool in Lincoln.	This pilot project has been successful and well received and will be extended in 2021 and beyond.
Continue to eradicate invasive species on the Upper Witham.	We continued to work with our trusted contractor and have significantly reduced the amount of balsam in the upper catchment. We also were able to find a role for our volunteers during the pandemic by surveying and mapping the density of plants to provide data for our contractors.
Deliver in river habitat improvements on the Upper Witham in Grantham.	This was delivered in September 2020.
Partner	
Work with the EA and Wild Trout Trust to fund and deliver the ambition on the Limestone Becks.	This partnership continues to be mutually beneficial, with several projects awaiting funding to progress.
Work with South and North Kesteven District councils to realise the blue/green ambition as part of their European funded work.	There were significant difficulties on the side of the councils during the pandemic to deliver this work but is hoped to take it forward in 2021 and 2022.
Engage	
Continue our engagement programme and build on the number of volunteers, supporting a new Riverfly group. Develop and recruit different volunteering roles.	We increased the number of volunteers and found new opportunities for surveying and monitoring during the pandemic. We also had a book club and quizzes to keep our volunteers engaged during lockdown. When government guidelines have allowed, we have held small work parties.
Develop our schools and family engagement resources.	Unable to go into schools we developed online sources for schools including videos for both our eel and mayfly in the classroom projects.
Influence	
Continue to attend local and national events and ensure our work is promoted.	We continue to lead the Witham Catchment Partnership and have presented at online workshops and conferences including the IFS, GNLP and Anglian Water's Rivercare.

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust
Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 March 2021

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the charity to maintain reserves at a level which equates to approximately four months' expenditure. This provides sufficient funds to cover costs. Reserves were maintained at this level throughout the period.

FUTURE PLANS

In line with our new strategy our ambition:

Grow

- Employ a new member of staff with a technical background to enable the Trust to use catchment data to better develop projects and opportunities.
- Develop opportunities on the Upper Witham at a catchment scale to provide opportunities to access larger funding allocations.

Restore

- Deliver the pass project on the Upper Witham
- Increase the 'biohavens' on the Brayford Pool in Lincoln
- Continue to eradicate invasive species on the Upper Witham and Pennywort on the Lower Witham
- Deliver our largest restoration project to date at Branston Beck
- Restore a section of Cringle Brook

Partner

- Cement our work with landowners on the Upper Witham
- Work with South and North Kesteven District councils to realise the blue/green ambition as part of their European funded work.

Engage

- Find new ways of engaging with our volunteers, the public and wider community with our work.
- Increase our engagement work outside of schools working with uniformed and youth groups.

Influence

- Continue to attend local and national events and ensure our work is promoted.
- Work with farmers and landowners to enable an understanding of their responsibilities toward the water environment.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

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

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The subscribers to the Memorandum are the first trustees of the company. The trustees may appoint a person who is willing to serve as a trustee on such terms as they may agree from time to time. The recruitment of Trustees is by communication with Lincolnshire Rivers Trust trustees. Subject to the Articles, selection is based on environmental or specific rivers trust interest, expertise in environmental or other relevant matters, general experience of charities and integrity, with the overriding objective of maintaining a broadly representative body, strong on governance and ability to add value.

Induction and training of new trustees

The training and induction provided for new trustees will depend on their existing experience. Where necessary, induction will be on an informal basis. It will be tailored specially to the individual and will provide training on charity, legal and financial matters.

Newly appointed Trustees receive a letter of appointment, including appointment declarations, and access to an on-line reference pack, which covers the modus operandi of the Trust and includes pertinent information on charities, such as Charity Commission's The Hallmarks of an Effective Charity (CC10).

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust
Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 March 2021

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
08613863 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1157922

Registered office
69 Main Street
Kinoulton
Nottingham
Nottinghamshire
NG12 3EL

Trustees
J Bolland
L H Vickers
R Marshall
A Morriss
M Hatfield (appointed January 2021)
R Page (resigned June 2021)
T Williams (resigned July 2021)

Company Secretary
S Turner

Independent examiner
Clayton & Brewill
Chartered Accountants
Cawley House
149-155 Canal Street
Nottingham
Nottinghamshire
NG1 7HR

Bankers
The Co-Operative Bank
PO Box 101
1 Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 4th Oct 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

L Vickers

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Lincolnshire Rivers Trust**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Lincolnshire Rivers Trust ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of ACA 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.

Yvonne Jackson BSc (Hons) FCA
Clayton & Brewill
Chartered Accountants
Cawley House
149-155 Canal Street
Nottingham
Nottinghamshire
NG1 7HR

Date: 28/10/21

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		80,899	244,689	325,588	212,740
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		-	5,931	5,931	4,832
Charitable activities					
Rivers activities		86,895	98,913	185,808	188,926
Total		<u>86,895</u>	<u>104,844</u>	<u>191,739</u>	<u>193,758</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(5,996)	139,845	133,849	18,982
Transfers between funds	9	<u>75,964</u>	<u>(75,964)</u>	-	-
Net movement in funds		69,968	63,881	133,849	18,982
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>82,514</u>	<u>120,499</u>	<u>203,013</u>	<u>184,031</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>152,482</u>	<u>184,380</u>	<u>336,862</u>	<u>203,013</u>

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust

**Balance Sheet
31 March 2021**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	6	342	-	342	690
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	7	-	16,707	16,707	294
Cash at bank		<u>152,140</u>	<u>174,189</u>	<u>326,329</u>	<u>204,422</u>
		152,140	190,896	343,036	204,716
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	8	-	(6,516)	(6,516)	(2,393)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>152,140</u>	<u>184,380</u>	<u>336,520</u>	<u>202,323</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>152,482</u>	<u>184,380</u>	<u>336,862</u>	<u>203,013</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>152,482</u>	<u>184,380</u>	<u>336,862</u>	<u>203,013</u>
FUNDS	9				
Unrestricted funds				152,482	82,514
Restricted funds				<u>184,380</u>	<u>120,499</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>336,862</u>	<u>203,013</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

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

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 4th October 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:

L H Vickers – Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements
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Lincolnshire Rivers Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of FRS 102 Section 1A Small Entities.

Income

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

Expenditure

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

Tangible fixed assets

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

Computer equipment - 33% on cost

Taxation

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

Fund accounting

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

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Legal status of the trust

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding-up is limited to £1.

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

2. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

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

	2021	2020
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>348</u>	<u>358</u>

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2021 nor for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the period ended 31 March 2021 (2020: Nil).

4. STAFF COSTS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	<u>66,203</u>	<u>58,148</u>
	<u>66,203</u>	<u>58,148</u>

Total trustee and key management personnel remuneration benefits for the period ended 31 March 2021 were £29,653 (2020: £24,160).

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

	2021	2020
Project Officer	1	1
Administrator	1	1
Project Manager	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

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

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

5. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	14,191	198,549	212,740
 EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	-	4,832	4,832
Charitable activities			
Rivers activities	74,714	114,212	188,926
 Total	<u>74,714</u>	<u>119,044</u>	<u>193,758</u>
 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(60,523)	79,505	18,982
Transfers between funds	<u>64,684</u>	<u>(64,684)</u>	-
Net movement in funds	4,161	14,821	18,982
 RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	<u>78,353</u>	<u>105,678</u>	<u>184,031</u>
 TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u><u>82,514</u></u>	<u><u>120,499</u></u>	<u><u>203,013</u></u>

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer equipment £
COST	
At 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021	<u>2,439</u>
 DEPRECIATION	
At 1 April 2020	1,749
Charge for year	<u>348</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>2,097</u>
 NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2021	<u>342</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>690</u>

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2021

7. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		2021	2020
		£	£
Trade debtors		16,360	-
Prepayments		<u>347</u>	<u>294</u>
		<u>16,707</u>	<u>294</u>

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		2021	2020
		£	£
Social security and other taxes		2,928	1,072
Accrued expenses		<u>3,588</u>	<u>1,321</u>
		<u>6,516</u>	<u>2,393</u>

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS				
	At 1/4/20	Net movement	Transfers	At
	£	in funds	between	31/3/21
		£	funds	£
			£	
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	82,514	(5,996)	75,964	152,482
Restricted funds				
Restricted	120,499	139,845	(75,964)	184,380
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>203,013</u>	<u>133,849</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>336,862</u>

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

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	80,899	(86,895)	(5,996)
Restricted funds			
Restricted	244,689	(104,844)	139,845
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>325,588</u>	<u>(191,739)</u>	<u>133,849</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/4/19	Net movement	Transfers	At
	£	in funds	between	31/3/20
		£	funds	£
			£	
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	78,353	(60,523)	64,684	82,514
Restricted funds				
Restricted	105,678	79,505	(64,684)	120,499
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>184,031</u>	<u>18,982</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>203,013</u>

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	14,191	(74,714)	(60,523)
Restricted funds			
Restricted	198,549	(119,044)	79,505
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>212,740</u>	<u>(193,758)</u>	<u>18,982</u>

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

	At 1/4/19 £	Net movement In funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/3/21 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	78,353	(66,519)	140,648	152,482
Restricted funds				
Restricted	105,678	219,350	(140,648)	184,380
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>184,031</u>	<u>152,831</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>336,862</u>

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	95,090	(161,609)	(66,519)
Restricted funds			
Restricted	443,238	(223,888)	219,350
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>538,328</u>	<u>(385,497)</u>	<u>152,831</u>

Restricted Funds

Cringle Brook – Design and restoration project on the Upper Cringle Brook working with the landowner to reverse historic modifications of the stream.

Limestone Becks – Habitat improvement projects on the Limestone Becks around Lincoln.

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

The Upper Witham Balsam Eradication project: This project aims to identify and locate the extent of invasive plant species along the River Witham and its tributaries from source to the River Brant confluence. Working with a local contractor we have been successful in working with landowners to reduce and eventually eradicate invasive plants along the Upper Witham.

Reconnecting the Witham – Working with communities and schools to inspire learning and engagement around the river habitat in the town of Grantham, the project will also deliver a fish pass project and habitat improvements.

Upper Witham Design – working with two consultants to progress project designs on the Upper Witham upstream of Lincoln city centre.

Lincoln Habitat improvements – Improvements on the Brayford Pool in Lincoln working with a variety of stakeholders to increase biodiversity in this urban area.

10. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Lincolnshire Rivers Trust

**Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

	2021 £	2020 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	80,899	14,191
Grants	<u>244,689</u>	<u>198,549</u>
	<u>325,588</u>	<u>212,740</u>
Total incoming resources	325,588	212,740
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Wages	5,931	4,832
Charitable activities		
Wages	60,272	53,316
Professional /consultancy fees	5,591	1,652
Insurance	1,806	1,068
Telephone	320	381
Postage and stationery	207	430
Advertising	6,818	2,480
River care activities	101,866	121,150
Sundries	420	70
Travel and subsistence	1,153	3,594
Software and equipment	6,027	1,628
Consents and planning	980	2,724
Donations	-	75
Depreciation	<u>348</u>	<u>358</u>
	<u>185,808</u>	<u>188,926</u>
Total resources expended	<u>191,739</u>	<u>193,758</u>
Net income	<u>133,849</u>	<u>18,982</u>