
Yeovil Rivers Community Trust

Trustees Annual Report for Year

1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023



The Yeovil Rivers Community Trust

19, Chilton Grove
Yeovil
Somerset
BA21 4AN

<https://yrct.org.uk>

Executive Summary

1. Registration Name:

The Yeovil Rivers Community Trust

2. Registration Number:

1180724

3. Registration date:

16th November 2018

4. Governing Document:

The Yeovil Rivers Community Trust Constitution

5. Names of Charity Trustees serving during the year:

Mr Lorne Thomson	Chair
Ms Sarah Hunt	Secretary (resigned November 2022)
Mr Thomas Bell	
Mr Roger Meecham	Treasurer (resigned October 2022)
Ms Claire Hollingsworth	(resigned July 2022)
Ms Yasmin Khan	
Mr David Godwin	
Mr Stuart Saunders	(Joined September 2022)
Mr Josiah Knights	(Joined October 2022)
Ms Lucy Davies	(Joined February 2023)

6. Objects of the Charity

- To promote for the benefit of the public both locally in Yeovil and the wider public within Somerset and Dorset, the conservation protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment by promoting and maintaining biological diversity, notably, but not exclusively, in the restoration, enhancement and creation of watercourses and any other water features (including multi-function surface features as part of a sustainable drainage system) and their adjoining terrestrial areas. Maintaining biological diversity includes managing and monitoring relevant habitats for the mutual benefit of biodiversity and the public.
- To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment.

7. Organisation of the Charity

- Number of elected Honorary Officers: 1
- Number of representatives of statutory authorities: 2
- Number of paid staff: 7

Note: Two of the trustees are professional ecologists who provide their professional expertise and experience to the Charity

8. Further details of the Charity

- Name and address of Bank: Barclays Bank plc,
King George Street
Yeovil
Somerset
- Insurers:

Zurich Insurance
The Zurich Centre
3000 Parkway
Whiteley Fareham
Hampshire PO15 7JZ

Objectives & Activities

The formation of the Yeovil Rivers Community Trust (YRCT) was spurred by the need to protect the local streams, rivers and ponds together with adjacent natural landscape features, amid growing concern for the environment expressed by the local population as well as a range of organisations including local authorities, the Environment Agency, Somerset Catchment Partnership and other NGOs.

The objectives of the Charity are to promote for the benefit of the wider public, primarily in and around Yeovil, the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment by:

- Promoting and maintaining biological diversity, notably, but not exclusively, in the restoration, enhancement and creation of water courses and any other water features (including multi-function surface features as part of a sustainable drainage system) and their adjoining terrestrial areas.
- Maintaining biological diversity includes managing and monitoring relevant habitats for the mutual benefit of biodiversity and the public.
- To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment.

Funding to support this activity is sourced solely through public donations and grants from the statutory nature conservation body (SNCO), local authorities and charitable organisations. The Charity's work is managed and undertaken by local volunteers and a small number of mainly part-time staff. Technical advice and project management as well as specialist services are supplied by consultants as required.

Specifically, the needs and activities addressed by the Charity are:

- An independent overview of Planning Applications insofar as they affect the natural flow and diversity of waterbodies and habitats, this activity being undertaken in co-operation with the relevant authorities and organisations.
- Through the deployment of volunteer working parties, undertake physical activities on streams and riverbanks, clearing rubbish, debris and invasive non-native plants and undergrowth. This work is in support of the South Somerset District and Local Councils and their Parish Rangers who have neither the time nor resource to provide this service 100% of the time.
- To carry out surveys of local water courses checking for sustainable wildlife habitat by undertaking water sampling and checking out sources of pollution and reporting formally to the appropriate authorities.

Deliverables resulting from the work of the Charity include:

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- The provision of technical/specialist analysis and reports to the appropriate sponsor/authority of the Trusts findings.
 - Provision of hydraulic modelling studies and design drawings for new ponds, wetlands and modified riverbanks etc. as required.
 - Provision of plants, fencing, trees etc in support of new pond and wetland creations.
 - Visual and amenity improvements and ongoing maintenance to existing projects.
 - Learning opportunities for young people via formal programmes integrated with school curriculum and informal events sponsored outside school hours. We began to extend this work to local adult groups and organisations with a focus on mental and physical wellbeing and special needs from January 2022.
 - Active public engagement on environmental issues around rivers and waterways and habitats and biodiversity generally with an increasing emphasis on Climate Change adaptation and building resilience.
 - Physical improvement and extended viability to the local streams and rivers in respect of public accessibility and enjoyment. This includes a healthier and sustainable wildlife habitat. This incorporates identifying, designing and implementing a range of measures to restore, enhance and create aquatic and terrestrial habitats using nature based solutions (NBS) and natural flood management (NFM) techniques wherever possible within the Yeo and adjacent Catchments.

The Charity continued work on the Brympton and Dodham Brook Phase 3 projects during the financial period. The projects numbering seven in total are described in the following section. At the time of reporting, two projects are currently not being worked on as they are held awaiting approval/clearance from sources external to the Yeovil Rivers Community Trust.

The trust employed one full-time and 6 part-time staff within the year to assist the delivery of projects and provide administration capacity.

Achievements and Performance

The following table itemises the major project activity undertaken by the Charity during the reporting period.

Project Identity	Description	% Completion	Deliverables	Funding Status
Dodham Brook Restoration 001 Phase 3	Implementation of the physical changes required for rehabilitation of the concrete flood channel containing a section of the Dodham Brook beyond the Yeovil Country Park (YCP) towards Newton Road. Works include a fish pass on the YCP weir, enhancement of the culverted channel at Tanyard Way and a small fish easement at the Newton Road weir.	60% All logistical actions completed and some practical works. Remaining actions are all focused on practical installation of features to be completed by 30/06/23	Installation of Rehabilitation features, i.e. macrophyte and habitat bays, baffles and fish easements, aquatic plant establishment, interpretation and project related public engagement.	£196,300 secured from Green Recovery Challenge Fund (£77,440 paid in year). 10% (£19,360) balance to be paid after 30/6/23.
004	Restoration and long-term maintenance of Brympton Pond. Planned activity: Development of a natural pond which will be semi incorporated into a proposed business park development. Future use and maintenance to be planned.	0%	Following discussion within the YRCT, it is considered that the site may be suitable for Biodiversity Net Gain Offsetting with no public access. Project currently on hold while BNG develops and discussions can be had with landowner and developer.	Awaiting landowners agreement. Project on hold

(005, 007 and 009) Projects combined to become the Brympton Project in February 2021.	(formerly P005) Alvington Lane Pond and Foxglove Way Basin Provision of a pond with enhanced wildlife habitats in area at the end of the hamlet Enhancement of an adjacent balancing pond.	100%	Activities at this location were restricted to monitoring, evaluation and management of vegetation and features.	Funding secured from the Somerset County Council Climate Change Fund amounts to increased by £548 to £23,548. The Somerset CCF is held by Brympton Parish Council and invoices are submitted to make
	(formerly P007) Redesigned interventions in the brook backwaters and riparian margin and	75%		

	<p>the rehabilitation of two ponds at Oak Tree Park. This includes creating two new complex habitat banks, wildflower areas and establishing aquatic plants in both ponds. Interventions are on-going.</p> <p>(formerly P009) Augusta Park residential development. Improvements and enhancement of existing pond and SuDS. This element has been abandoned as the developer has chosen not to engage.</p>	0%	<p>Works to install dipping platform, interpretation boards, relocate fencing to establish wildflower grassland areas, and undertake aquatic plant establishment continued during the return period but was significantly delayed by local authority inability to deliver their parts of the project. Main interventions will now take place in the 2023/24 return period.</p> <p>YRCT activities limited to management, outreach and completion of small habitat bank at one site.</p>	<p>drawdown payments after delivery on a bi-monthly basis. £5230.00 was drawn down in the return period leaving a balance of £7070 for the 2023/24 return period.</p>
006	<p>Brimsmore housing development. Improvements and overall enhancement of the SuDS which will include: stabilisation of water level and improvements in its quality. Cleaning the outlet culvert and stream which are severely silted up.</p>	0%	<p>No activity undertaken in the reporting period. Awaiting the SSDC adoption of the site</p>	<p>No budget in place at this time Project on hold until site is adopted by the SSDC. This may be complicated by the move to a unitary Somerset LA.</p>

008	<p>Yeovil Country Park (Ninesprings) Lake, Pond and Water Vole habitat Enhancement</p> <p>The project aims to: Create new aquatic habitats in the lake and pond</p> <p>The project will provide valuable new and enhanced aquatic habitats near the centre of Yeovil which already accommodate endangered species. The proposed enhancements will also augment the works planned for the restoration of Dodham Brook which runs through the country park to the north of the lake and pond. An optimised, resilient network of habitats will thereby be created to support enhanced biodiversity. The project area was expanded during the return period to include the entire Dodham Brook Catchment and also incorporate a phosphate management element. The mitigation of phosphate pollution can be achieved via essentially the same interventions which would benefit water vole habitats.</p>	55%	<p>Funding was secured for the phosphate management element via the Somerset Catchment Partnership. A CSI water vole survey was completed in the period and the results helped to inform the project development and identify areas in the catchment where water vole are present and can be supported with interventions. eDNA testing was carried out at one location as a pilot study. An initial sampling survey was carried out at 24 sites to map phosphate hotspots and identify locations for mitigation works. Surveys of the lake and pond in Yeovil Country Park were carried out in the Summer of 2020 but the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions forced a delay in progressing to detailed design and implementation stages.</p>	<p>A grant has been provided by the Somerset Catchment Partnership for phosphate related actions for £5000. A further bid to the Swire Charitable Trust is in preparation. Further funding will be sought from private grant providers.</p>
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011	The Yeovil Wellbeing, Wildlife and Water Community Project continued to be developed.	Ongoing.	YRCT has further developed the activities being delivered alongside Wessex Water at their Sutton Bingham site. These include guided walks and surveys. We continue to work with A2A (Able to Achieve) and have initiated discussions with another vulnerable adults charity (Cambian) to deliver activities to service users. Deliverables include nature walks, volunteering activities (surveys, land management, litter picking, etc.), engagement with schools, Brownies and other community groups.	Funding secured from The National Lottery in February 2023 for £10,000, The Russell Trust (£5,000), and the Discovery Fund (£9,000). Further bids to support this work will be submitted to private grant providers and the National Lottery in 2023/24.
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012	<p>Upper River Yeo Catchment Strategy with Natural Flood Management (NFM) element. The NFM project element is being funded through the Environment Agency. Overall, the project aims to prepare a detailed catchment restoration plan for implementing at the landscapescale to address identified environmental issues. The NFM element is designed to carry out co-ordinated works within parts of the catchment as a pilot scheme embedded within the project.</p>	50%	<p>The scale of the project requires it to be delivered in phases. The phases are synchronized with the tax year as this is the basis of EA funding. Extensive stakeholder engagement is ongoing within the River Wriggle and Cam/Caundle Brook sub-catchments. A group of landowners have formed the Wriggle River Improvement Group (WRIG) and two sites have accommodated NFM interventions to mitigate potential flooding and create enhanced habitat diversity. Further practical works are planned for further phases and stakeholder engagement will be expanded to new stakeholders and other sub-catchments. Slow but steady progress is being made in developing the Yeo Catchment Strategy with desktop analysis extended to the lower part of the catchment. Funding limitations are the main reason for the slow progress in this element. It is hoped that the strategy will be delivered over 2023/24 culminating in a final Catchment Strategy for implementing in phases over a number of years.</p>	<p>A £20,000 budget was secured via the EA for the 2022/23 financial year. £2000.00 was received from the Somerset Catchment Partnership to deliver practical NFM interventions at up to two sites. Funding has been secured from the EA for the 2023/24 year and additional sources are being sought for 2023/24 and subsequent years.</p>
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Financial Review

- At the end of the reporting period, the total income amounted to £144706. The total expenditure amounted to £134719, thus making a surplus of £9987.
- The charity does not currently have any unallocated financial reserves. The credit balance at the end of this financial year represents unspent grant funds which are committed to current projects according to the required expediency in maintaining progress. We recognize the importance of a reserve to the long-term sustainability of the trust. When further funding has been secured and the prospect of a reserve being retained becomes potentially viable, a discussion will be held among the trustees to agree the amount of unrestricted funds which should be placed in a reserve.
- Funds in deficit - None

Financial Report

The financial status of the Yeovil Rivers Community Trust for the period ending 31st March 2023 is shown in the Accounts Form CC16a for submission to the Charity Commission.

Report Prepared by: Lorne Thomson (Chair – YRCT)

Signed



Date: 27/11/2023

Report Approved by: Yasmin Khan (Trustee)

Date: 17/09/2023

Definitions & Abbreviations

BPC	Brympton Parish Council
CIO	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
EA	Environment Agency
FWAG	Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group
helophyte	plant which grows in marsh, partly submerged
HotSWEP	Heads of South West Local Business Groups
LDC	Land Drainage Consent
macrophyte	aquatic plant that grows in or near water
PA	Planning Application
SCC	Somerset County Council
SSDC	South Somerset District Council
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
YRCT	Yeovil Rivers Community Trust
YTC	Yeovil Town Council

Independent examiners report to the Trustees of Yeovil Rivers Community Trust

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for Yeovil Rivers Community Trust ("the charity") for the period ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and 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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not comply with these records

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.

Michelle Ferris FCA DChA

Albert Goodman LLP
Chartered Accountants
Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 2PX

Date: 30/11/2023



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Yeovil Rivers Community Trust

No (if any)
1180724

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period
from

Period start date
01/04/2022

To

Period end date
31/03/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	1,112	-	-	1,112	1,180
Grants	-	143,594	-	143,594	133,575
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	1,112	143,594	-	144,706	134,755
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	1,112	143,594	-	144,706	134,755
A3 Payments					
Insurance	455	-	-	455	455
Consultancy fees	-	27,409	-	27,409	23,126
Data and Services Supply	-	-	-	-	1,260
Water Sample Analysis	-	378	-	378	652
Handtools & Protective Clothing	-	1,000	-	1,000	684
Website/media	2,242	-	-	2,242	329
Miscellaneous expenses	-	3,098	-	3,098	4,207
Project site works	-	53,809	-	53,809	7,263
Staff wages/PAYE/Pensions	2,520	43,808	-	46,328	14,157
Sub total	5,217	129,502	-	134,719	52,132
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	5,217	129,502	-	134,719	52,132
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 4,105	14,092	-	9,987	82,623
A5 Transfers between funds	5,510	- 5,510	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	569	108,948	-	109,517	26,894
Cash funds this year end	1,974	117,530	-	119,504	109,517

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds				
	Bank current	1,974	117,530	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	1,974	117,530	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
	Balance of SCC Climate Emergency Community Fund £7,058 (grant £22,400 + £542 = £22,942)	-	7,058	
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	Details			
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details			
	General & specialised handtools	Unrestricted	750	500
	Protective clothing	Unrestricted	250	200
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Details			
	Accountancy fees	Unrestricted	516	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	L Thomson	Lorne Thomson	27/11/2023
	Y Khan	Yasmin Khan	27/11/2023