
Yeovil Rivers Community Trust

Trustees Annual Report for Year

1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025



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

Mr Thomas Bell

Ms Yasmin Khan

Mr David Godwin

Mr Stuart Saunders

Mr Josiah Knights

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: 0
- 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 public, in Yeovil and more widely in South Somerset and North 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 water courses and any other water features (including multi-function surface features as part of a sustainable drainage system and Nature Based Solutions, e.g. Natural Flood Management) 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 with a special emphasis on water and the impacts of climate breakdown.

Funding to support this activity has thus far been sourced solely through public donations and grants from statutory nature conservation bodies (SNCO), local authorities and charitable organisations. Throughout 2024/25 the trustees continued to develop the delivery of paid services by the Trust to diversify income streams with a view to increasing the proportion of Trust funding generated from paid services to reduce reliance on grant funding and improve the sustainability of the Trust.

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 Local Councils, the Environment Agency and other stakeholders.
- 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:

- The provision of technical/specialist analysis and reports to the appropriate sponsor/authority of the Trust's findings.
- Provision of hydraulic and hydrological modelling studies, design drawings, mapping and ecological proposals for aquatic and terrestrial habitats, e.g. new ponds, wetlands and modified riverbanks etc., as required.
- Provision of plants, fencing, trees etc., in support of new and enhanced habitat and Nature Based Solution interventions.
- Visual and amenity improvements and ongoing maintenance and monitoring to existing projects.
- Learning opportunities for young people via formal programmes integrated with school curricula and informal events sponsored outside school hours. We continued to extend this work to local adult groups and organisations with a focus on mental and physical wellbeing and learning disabilities but also to other sectors of the community, e.g. Wild Women over 50 Project.
- Active public engagement on environmental issues around rivers and waterways and habitats and biodiversity generally with an increasing emphasis on Climate Change adaptation, nutrient monitoring 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 completed further works on the Brympton and RYCCCARP 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 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	Further enhancement works in the concrete flood channel are planned for 2025/26 et seq as funding permits. These will be similar to features already installed and modifications/repairs to the damaged macrophyte bays. These are designed to fill performance gaps arising from the works in 2022- 2024 to achieve the habitat and connectivity objectives of the project. The focus of the project has now changed to providing benefits for water vole, reducing phosphorous levels and providing NFM benefits downstream. In view of this, Project P001 has been concluded in the 2024/25 return period and the respective project elements will be divided between P008 and P012.	100%	Project deliverables will now be undertaken via P008 and P012.	Nil/completed
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

<p>(P007) Brympton Project – Phase 2</p>	<p>A range of habitat enhancement/creation interventions in open green spaces across the Brympton Parish are to be delivered via this new project phase. Delivery commenced in the 2024/25 year and is set to continue beyond 2025/26. The planned interventions will target ponds, the Preston Brook and other terrestrial habitats. A small number of activities were delivered in the 2024/25 period.</p>	<p>15%</p>	<p>Activities at this location have been designed in conjunction with Brympton Parish Council. Activities to enhance one pond, including digging new scrapes, tree management to reduce shading and planting plug plants were undertaken by volunteers supervised by YRCT staff. Additional management activities, e.g. vegetation control in a pond, scything of tall ruderal vegetation and maintenance of a complex habitat bank were also delivered at another pond site.</p>	<p>An environmental fund has been established by the Parish Council and activities are mainly funded from this with a small proportion coming from donations received for running corporate volunteer sessions. Only a small amount of activity was undertaken in the period with expenditure of £2,226.46 and income of £2281.95 received.</p> <p>More extensive works, including urban NFM (leaky woody dams) and surface water runoff management works and meadow creation are planned for 2025/26.</p>
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006	<p>Brimsmore housing development.</p> <p>Improvements and overall enhancement of the SuDS which will include: stabilisation of water level and improvements in its quality.</p> <p>Cleaning the outlet culvert and stream which are severely silted up.</p>	0%	<p>No activity undertaken in the reporting period.</p> <p>Awaiting the Somerset Council adoption of the site</p>	<p>No budget in place at this time.</p> <p>Project on hold until site is adopted by the Somerset Council. This may be complicated by the move to a unitary Somerset LA.</p>
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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 delivered after 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 Upper Yeo catchment of which the Dodham Brook Catchment is a part. The phosphate management element has also been expanded accordingly. The mitigation of phosphate pollution can be achieved via essentially the same interventions which would benefit water vole habitats.</p>	75%	<p>Funding was secured for the phosphate management element through the development of a partnership with Wessex Water in which YRCT assist them to deliver their Phosphate Reduction Programme to landowners. A CSI phosphate sampling programme continues in the Yeovil and other parts of the Upper Yeo Catchment including North Dorset. Practical works, planned for delivery in the Yeovil Country Park lake and pond in the 2024/25 year were delayed through lack of permissions and funds. These works, including the creation of reed beds, a water vole bund and increasing plant diversity in the lake and pond, will now be delivered in 2025/26. Activities in 2024/25 were limited to surveys, eDNA sampling and refinement of project designs.</p>	<p>Total grants amounting to £5,230 were secured in the year: Voltalia £5000. Grant expenditure was focused on purchasing sampling equipment, carrying out sampling and surveys and preparing concept designs for interventions for water vole conservation and management of phosphate. Some funding remains for practical delivery in 2025/26. Further grant funding will be applied for in 2025/26 with a target of £20-35k from private grant providers and potentially a crowd funding campaign.</p>
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011	The Yeovil Wellbeing, Wildlife and Water Community Project continued to be developed.	Ongoing.	YRCT continues to deliver activities alongside Wessex Water at their Sutton Bingham site. These include guided walks and surveys. We continue to work with a2a (able2achieve) and have extended this to Cambian (Lufton College) and You Care We Care (Yeovil) to deliver activities to other vulnerable adults charities and their service users. Deliverables include nature walks, volunteering activities (surveys, land management, litter picking, etc.). Engagement continues with schools and other community groups and a specific project for women over 50 was very successfully concluded (Wild Women Project).	Grant funding secured from The National Lottery in March 2024 for £20,000 was available for the 2024/25 period and a further £4,790.00 was secured from various sources, including corporate days. Further bids to support this ongoing work will be submitted to private grant providers in 2025/26 including a further bid to The National Lottery for £20,000 when we become eligible in December 2025. We will continue to expand the income from corporate volunteering days in the 2025/26 year.
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012	<p>Upper River Yeo Catchment Strategy with Natural Flood Management (NFM) element. The NFM project element continued to be mainly funded through the Environment Agency. Overall, the project aims to prepare a detailed catchment restoration plan for implementing at the landscape scale to address identified environmental issues. The NFM element is designed to carry out co-ordinated works within parts of the catchment to build on the successful pilot scheme delivered in 2022/23. The NFM sub-project continues to grow with more landowners showing an interest in implementing NFM and Nature Based Solutions generally and a further strand has evolved in our work with Wessex Water to deliver their Phosphate Reduction Programme. This work will commence from July 2025 and expand and continue until April 2026.</p>	Ongoing	<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. The number of landowners in the Wriggle River Improvement Group (WRIG) continues to grow and up to 8 sites are looking to accommodate NFM interventions to mitigate potential flooding and create enhanced habitat diversity. These interventions are also hugely beneficial for mitigating phosphate issues. 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 difficult to attach a deadline for completion of the strategy for this reason.</p>	<p>A £45,000 budget was secured via the EA for the 2024/25 financial year. Funding was also secured from the Dorset Council FiPL scheme for works in AONBs. This was not paid directly to the Trust as we were not the grant holder, but funds were claimed from third party landowners once works had been delivered. YRCT commenced the registration process with Wessex Water to provide paid services to help them deliver their Phosphate Reduction Programme in March 2025 and hope to commence delivery later in the 2025/26 year to generate additional income.</p>
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Financial Review

- At the end of the reporting period, the total income amounted to £83,372. The total expenditure amounted to £62,197, thus making a surplus of £21,175. Cash carried forward from the previous year of £47,858 gave a year end balance of £69,033.
- 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 2025 is shown in the Accounts Form CC16a for submission to the Charity Commission.

Report Prepared by: Lorne Thomson (Chair – YRCT)

Signed



Date: 20/10/2025

Report Approved by: Josiah Knights (Trustee)

Signed



Date: 28/10/25

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



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Yeovil Rivers Community Trust

No (if any)
1180724

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from 01-Apr-24 To 31-Mar-25

CC16a

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	1,825	-	-	1,825	121
Grants	-	74,378	-	74,378	102,577
Service	7,169	-	-	7,169	350
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	8,994	74,378	-	83,372	103,048
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	8,994	74,378	-	83,372	103,048
A3 Payments					
Insurance	400	-	-	400	395
Consutancy Fees	-	10,823	-	10,823	19,930
Data & Services Supply	-	250	-	250	-
Water samples analysis	-	1,359	-	1,359	311
Handtools & Protective Clothing	-	883	-	883	800
Website/media	462	-	-	462	904
Miscellaneous /expenses	-	1,000	-	1,000	1,500
Project Site Works	-	9,971	-	9,971	83,353
Staff wages/PAYE/Pensions	1,821	35,228	-	37,049	67,501
Sub total	2,683	59,514	-	62,197	174,694
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	2,683	59,514	-	62,197	174,694
of receipts/(payments)	6,311	14,864	-	21,175	- 71,646
A5 Transfers between funds	3,022	- 3,022			
A6 Cash funds last year	1,821	46,037	-	47,858	119,504
Cash funds this year end	11,154	57,879	-	69,033	47,858

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 Account	11,154	57,879	-
	Bank Reserve Account	-	-	-
	Cash in hand	-	-	-
	Total cash funds	11,154	57,879	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Balance of SCC Climate Emergency Community Fund £7058 (grant £22,400 +£542=£22942 (Additional received on	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	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	General & specialised handtools	Unrestricted	600	-
	Protective clothing	Unrestricted	283	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities				
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval




Lorne Thomson

20/10/2025

Josiah Knights

20/10/2025

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 year ended 31 March 2025.

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.



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Michelle Ferris BSC (Hons) FCA DChA

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

Date: 15 January 2026