

Annual report

**Reporting back
on 2023/24**

Charity No. 1184386
Trustees' Report and Audited Accounts
30 June 2024



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Trustees annual report

The trustees present their report with the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Reference and administrative details

Principal Office

Canningford House,
38 Victoria Street,
Bristol,
BS1 6BY

Registered Office

Canningford House,
38 Victoria Street,
Bristol,
BS1 6BY

Key Management Personnel

Chair M. Funnell
CEO D. Wood

Trustees

The following Trustees served during the year:
C.L. Bedford
T. Blanchard
A. Chester
J. Chew
M. Funnell
S. Hales
N.J.A. Murry
A.G. Spittlehouse

Auditors

Godfrey Wilson,
Mariner House,
62 Prince Street,
Bristol,
BS1 4QD

Accountant

Magic Bean Counters Limited
Unit 7,
The Old Co-op 38 Chelsea
Road
Bristol
BS5 6AF

Bankers

CAF Bank Limited
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill West Malling
Kent ME19 4JQ

The Co-operative Bank p.l.c.
P.O. Box 101 1 Balloon Street
Manchester M60 4EP

Solicitors

Thrings Solicitors
2 Queen Square
Bath BA1 2HQ

Welcome



Welcome from the Chair

The intensifying impacts of the nature and climate crises are everywhere to see. 2024 was the warmest year on record, the first year temperatures were more than 1.5c above pre-industrial levels. In the UK extreme weather events resulted in more flooding, heat spikes and wildfires. Climate change disinformation and denialism is rife online. And so the need for practical, positive climate action has never been greater.

The good news is that we are seeing people increasingly taking solutions into their own hands. The 1,000 volunteers at Avon Needs Trees planted more trees over the course of 2024 than any previous year, with survival rates of 90% or more – well above average. They repeatedly reported boosts to their wellbeing and mental health, as well as feelings of pride and accomplishment in the difference they are making.

Our charity has also taken its work to the next level, securing our biggest site yet: Wick Farm. Together with Great Avon Wood a mile or so away, the Lower Chew Valley is fast becoming one of the UK's beacon sites for woodland creation and nature recovery. And with its history of flooding, local communities all the way down to Keynsham on the banks of the Avon will reap wider benefits from these projects, as new woodland traps rainfall and slows the flow of floodwaters into the river system.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in these success stories, from our staff, generous donors, volunteer leaders and of course the heroic volunteers themselves.

Mark Funnell, Chair



Introduction from the Chief Executive

2024 was also highly challenging but successful year for Avon Needs Trees. We assembled cutting-edge public/private finance on an unprecedented scale for creating priority habitats: £7m to purchase Wick Farm to create Lower Chew Forest, the biggest new woodland in the south west in a generation. We were also accepted into the second round development phase of Landscape Recovery, a 25-year plus DEFRA scheme in its new Environmental Land Management programme. Landscape recovery in the Lower Chew will see ANT join with a group of local landowners to plan ecological and social impact on an unprecedented scale over many years to come.

Our staff team doubled over the course of 2024 to meet the challenges of these significant projects. Projects on this ambitious scale cannot be achieved without the passion and hard work of our staff team, trustees and volunteers. We can also only do what we do with the help of our funders, partners, corporate supporters and the public who gave an amazing £172,000 to a single crowdfunder in 2024 alone. Thank you!

Dave Wood, CEO

Our objectives



Our purpose is to double woodland cover in our area by 2050

Our mission is to tackle the climate and nature emergency by buying land to create new, permanent woodland throughout the Bristol-Avon catchment area.

Our charitable objectives are:

- > i) The conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment for public benefit by the establishment and maintenance of trees, woodland and complementary habitats in such areas within the Bristol-Avon catchment area as the trustees shall determine.
- > ii) To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment including by promoting woodlands as a means for the public to learn about wider environmental issues such as: sustainability, climate change, ecology and the mitigating need for trees.

Our short- to medium-term strategic aim is to transform our ownership and funding model to build a resilient and sustainable ANT that delivers maximum possible outcomes for nature, climate and people. Our activities that deliver this aim includes:

1. Fundraising to buy land to create new woodlands and complementary habitats and to meet our charitable objectives through the long-term conservation, protection and improvement of those habitats. ANT is evolving its model to make a greater impact by also creating woodland on land it does not own where legal mechanisms for permanence can be achieved, working in partnership with others. Fundraising activities will contribute to our objectives by facilitating long-term delivery, maintenance and protection of woodlands and complementary habitats.

2. Meeting ANT's education objective through public engagement in woodland creation, conservation activities, heritage, ecology and climate change through volunteering opportunities, free-to-access education events, outreach and green skills programmes, as well as participating in research activities.

Our long-term strategic aim is to create a financially self-sustaining ANT that works in partnership with communities to create woodlands and complementary habitats at an increasingly impactful, landscape scale across our catchment area. Fundraising for a growing and stronger ANT operating across a wider geography will maximise impact now and into the long term.



Our organisational values guide our work and inform our organisational behaviours. Our organisational values are:

Ambitious. Our people are nimble and take opportunities, take urgent action to tackle the climate and nature emergencies, are bold in our ambition and scale

Reasoned. We are thoughtful, ethical and reasoned in how we deliver our ambitions

Positive. We are optimistic about the future and our ability to shape it, meeting our mission and challenges with positivity

How we're different

We buy and own land

Avon Needs Trees is different because we buy land to ensure that our new woodlands will be around permanently.

We provide quality aftercare

Because we own most of our land, we can and do plan for the long term care and maintenance of trees. This means our trees have exceptionally high survival rates.

We plant thoughtfully

We plant thoughtfully. Native trees in suitable places - where they should be.

We plant unproductive land

We plant on the least productive land, reintroducing space for nature into the countryside, alongside sustainable food production.

We don't greenwash

Our planting isn't just a numbers game. We plant sensitively and appropriately, and not to hit targets to greenwash private finance.

Our projects are near cities

From planting to pruning, we actively encourage participation from all communities at every stage - especially those with limited access to nature.

The Highlights 2023/24

- + Planted over 15k trees
- + Secured £4m loan in private funding
- + Raised over £170k via Crowdfunder
- + Awarded place in Landscape Recovery round two
- + Set up a Trading Body
- + Recruited 5 new staff roles
- + Launched Green Skills Course
- + Launched new Volunteer Portal
- + Purchased a 422 acre site

...the list goes on!



Woodland Creation

2024 has been a further substantial year of growth for the charity, with the number of acres of land managed for nature and woodland creation increasing from 169 acres across four sites to 591 acres across five sites.

Our new woodlands this year

On 10th May 2024 we completed purchase of 422 acres at Hunstrete, just south of Bristol, of what will become Lower Chew Forest. The site will become the biggest woodland creation project in the South West in a generation. This purchase was funded by a combination of DEFRA grant, Triodos natural capital loan and community fundraising.

Our existing woodlands

On our existing sites volunteers planted the next phase of 14,931 trees at Great Avon Wood, bringing the total to 21,088. A further 400 trees were planted at Ed Woods, including 28 orchard trees. Post planting maintenance and conservation continued at Hazeland and Pudding Brook Wood, as well as at Great Avon Wood and Ed Woods.

Maximising ecological and climate impact

Delivering multi-layered benefits is central to maximising impact for climate and ecology. Woodland creation can deliver a range of benefits to biodiversity, wildlife and natural flood management and climate resilience. These factors were considered strongly during site selection and design this year when purchasing Lower Chew Forest. This was achieved through considering Nature Recovery Networks and emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategy when selecting sites, taking advice from the Environment Agency on the natural flood management potential of each site, commissioning independent ecologists to input into site design, as well as assessing site design against outcomes for climate resilience (especially soil improvement in open space land use) and food security.

Future Plans

In the next reporting period ANT's main focus will be on the first planting season at Lower Chew Forest, completing planting at Great Avon Wood and woodland creation and connectivity opportunities as part of Landscape Recovery in the Lower Chew. ANT also intends to scope funding options to work with communities to identify wider opportunities for woodland creation across our catchment area.

Land - a year of growth

Purchase of 422 acres between Bristol and Bath, to create Lower Chew Forest, which will see 100,000 native trees planted, the creation of new wetlands, miles of new hedgerows and species-rich grassland habitats.

This 422 acre site will be the South West’s biggest woodland creation project in a generation, and saw huge growth in ANT’s collective estate.



Trees planted in 2024

In the 2023/24 planting season, 14,931 trees were planted at Great Avon Wood.



21,088
total number of trees
now planted
at Great Avon Wood
near Bristol

400
new trees planted at Ed Woods
including 28 orchard trees
near Shepton Mallet

**Post planting
Maintenance**
at Hazeland
near Calne

**Post planting
Maintenance**
at Pudding Brook Wood
nr Chippenham

Future plans: Lower Chew Forest

Our woodlands at Lower Chew Forest

Over 30 different native species, such as Hawthorn, Oak, Hazel, and Willow- a mix of vital habitats for a wide range of birds, insects and mammals. Host to aphids, caterpillars and butterflies, which form the base of many food chains.

An important food source for some of the UK's vanishing butterflies. Purging buckthorn is the main food source for the brimstone, the beautiful early spring butterfly; large and sulphurous yellow. The spindle is home to the holly blue, an increasingly rare and beautiful blue butterfly.

Planting for a changing climate. Species such as Sessile Oak, Hornbeam and Small-leaved Lime

Benefits to vulnerable and indicator species such as the Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary (for woodlands).

A focus on species

Large areas of open space will favour notable species such as Brown Hare which are prevalent on site.

Glades and open fields with woodland edge will benefit Barn Owls, Farmland birds and the Bat species that are present on site

Large areas of scrub with Blackthorn will benefit Brown Hairstreak Butterflies, a priority species in the area

Removal of Maize production particularly on the steeper eastern section of the site will benefit river species and reduce silt buildup

Hazel features as a large percentage of the overall species mix and will benefit Hazel Dormouse which are historically recorded as nearby.

Hedgerows

In the UK, over the last 75 years hedgerows have declined by as much as 50%. This has had devastating consequences for the creatures that depends on them - some species such as hazel dormouse facing much steeper losses and an uncertain future.

At Lower Chew Forest, we're planting 4 km of new hedgerows. These restored nature superhighways will provide an invaluable shelter for much of the UK's beleaguered biodiversity - providing space for nature to rest, feed and ultimately thrive.

They will connect isolated wildlife habitats and provide refuge for farmland wildlife, supporting rare species like the hairstreak butterfly, cirl bunting, and dormouse.

Our wildflower meadows

The UK was once famous for species-rich grasslands, which developed over a period of around 6,000 years. Since the 1930s we have lost 97% of these spaces.

Wetland and waterways

Once a common and essential part of the landscape - but over the last 500 years England has lost 90% of these natural wonders.

Species like the Daubentons Bat will use our wetlands to feed. By flying low and skimming over the water's surface, these remarkable creatures will feed on the Mayflies, Midges and Caddisflies that need wet environments to survive.

Indicator & vulnerable species that will benefit include the otter and European Eel and Atlantic Salmon

The orchard

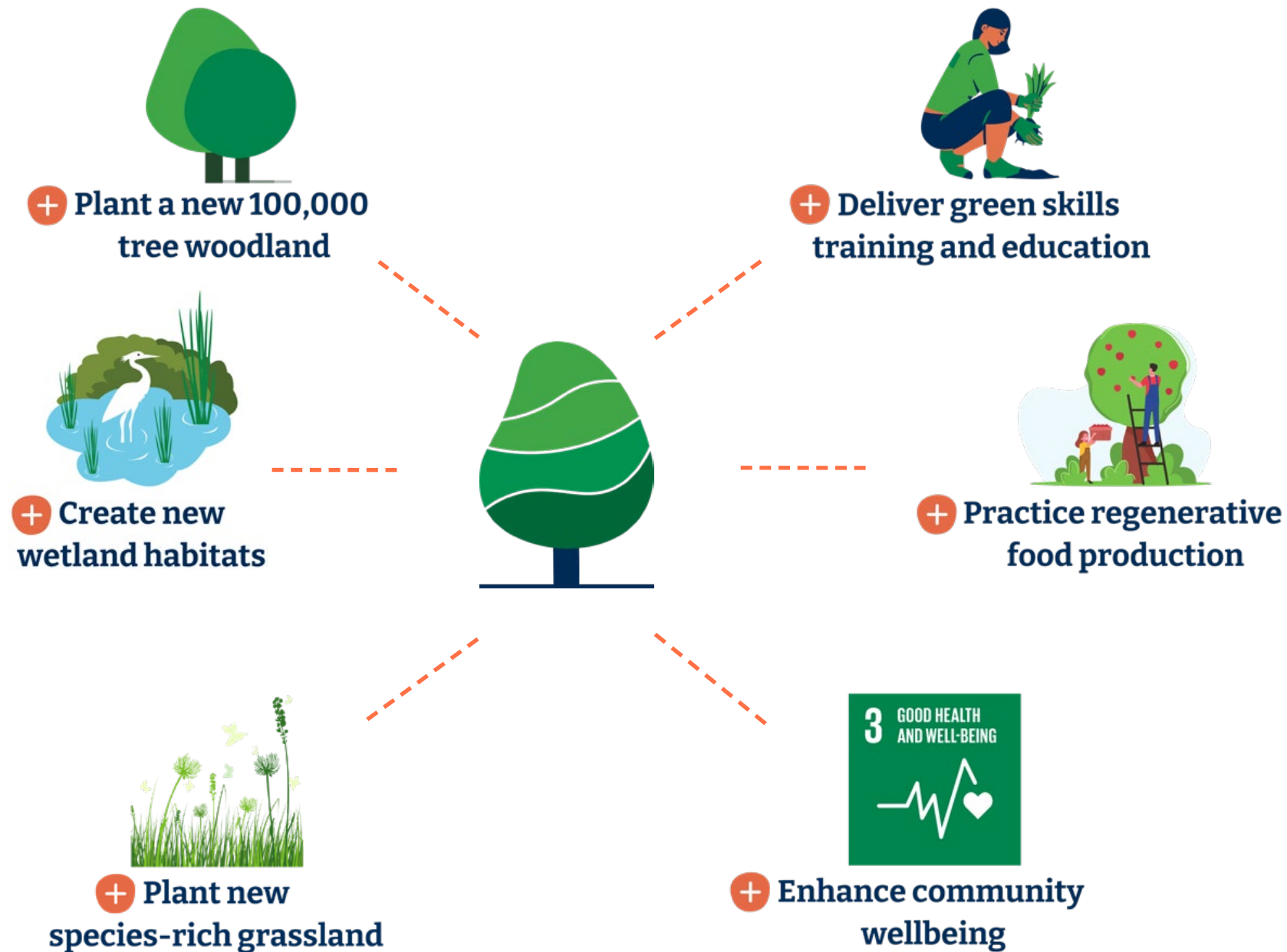
We're creating a traditionally managed orchard for rare heritage fruit trees.

Traditional orchards have declined by as much as 81% in England and Wales since 1900, taking with them hundreds of years of precious crop diversity.

We will be providing space for these historic varieties that are a unique part of our environmental and culinary heritage, creating a living seed bank that bears fruit.

As well as providing homes for native pollinators including bats, bees and birds these trees will allow volunteers the opportunity to learn organic tree care skills.

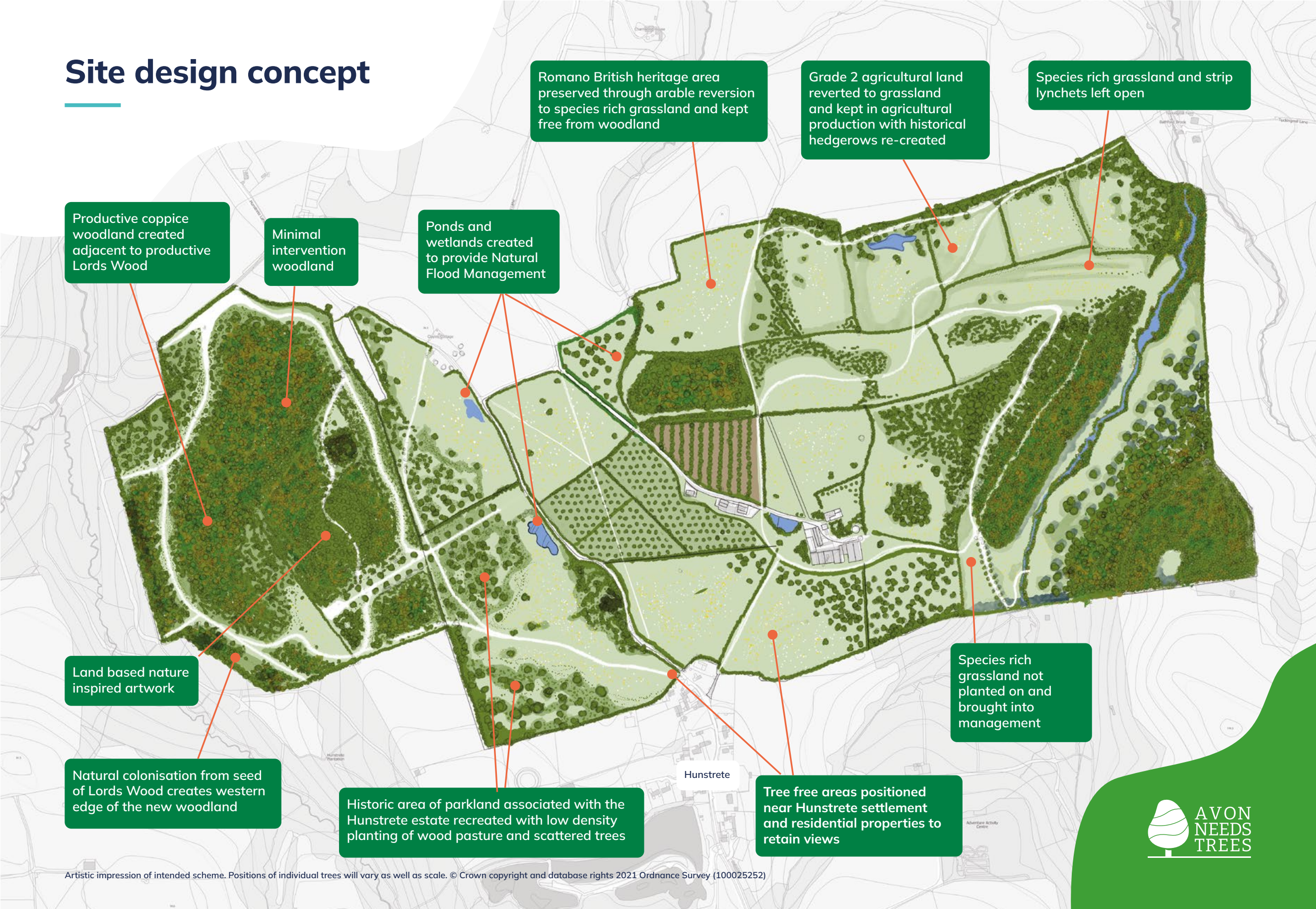
Future Plans: Lower Chew Forest



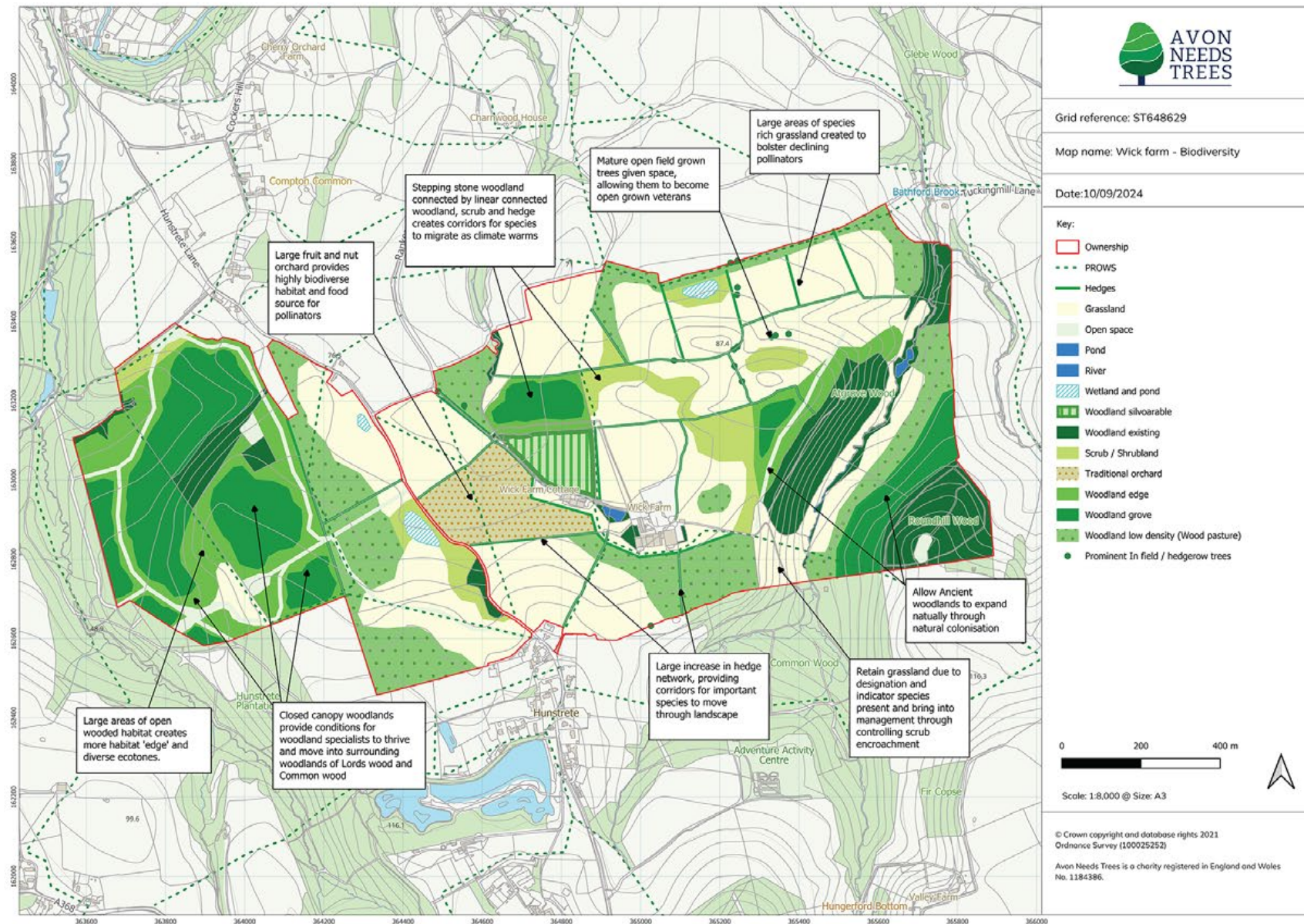
Our new forest will have a significant impact on climate nature and people:

-  Store or avert 54,000 tonnes of carbon over the next 30 years
-  Create £162m economic benefit
-  246% net increase in habitat value for wildlife by 2030
-  5km of new footpaths
-  Give marginalised groups access to outdoor spaces
-  Develop a climate and nature education hub

Site design concept



Lower Chew Forest: Creating Biodiverse Habitats



* Current projected net increase based on Natural England's statutory biodiversity metric



246% net increase in habitat value for wildlife by 2030*

At Lower Chew Forest we are creating the conditions and habitat for wildlife to flourish and contribute to our regional and national biodiversity targets.

The varied wooded habitat and large areas of species rich meadows will provide refuge and connectivity in a fragmented landscape. Not just for woodland flora and fauna but also for species that require open fields.

Edge habitat and diverse ecotones are maximised through the varied nature of the scheme, providing landscape permeability for a large number of species.

Ponds and wetlands further add to the mix, creating more room for a rich assemblage of wildlife to thrive and move through the landscape.

Lower Chew Forest

Phase 1: Purchase and fees - £8m

- £4m ECF/DEFRA
- £3.85m Triodos loan - BNG credits
- £177,000 Crowdfunder

Phase 2: Establishment and development - £5m

- £1.85m from Forest of Avon Trust
- £2m from WECA
- CPRE hedgerow non-cash contributions
- £350,000 to meet via fundraising (e.g. tree guards, mulch mats and grass seed)
- In progress: £400,000 Tree Fund for purchase of trees



Impact for People

ANT's objectives of woodland creation and conservation, and education about climate and nature, bring multi-layered benefits to individual people and the wider public. ANT has a particular focus on individuals and communities most likely to be impacted by climate change, for example young people, marginalised communities and the climate anxious.

Volunteering

Over 1,000 volunteers helped meet our charitable objectives, mostly through planting trees, conservation, and providing aftercare. Specialist volunteers and trustees are heavily involved in planning woodland creation, public engagement and outreach. We monitor skills, knowledge and wellbeing outcomes to maximise our impact.

Events: We ran dozens of free-to-access public events at our sites across the year to deliver, monitor and evaluate natural heritage and ecological education, knowledge and wellbeing outcomes. Events range from forest schools to family days to forest schools and story creation events.

Jobs and skills

This year we ran a pilot Green Skills course with funding from the West of England Combined Authority, particularly focussed on long-term unemployed people, young people and those who have faced barriers accessing environmental jobs. 13 people completed the course and 9 went onto employment, further training or volunteering.

Outreach

This year we ran an organised presence at a range of community events to ensure ANT's opportunities are available to a wider audience. Many of these were stalls at very localised general community events or town-wide climate-focused events.



Equity and inclusion

Inclusion is central to our cross-cutting theme of multilayered benefit delivery. National and local government statistics concur that marginalised communities are both less likely to access high quality green space or engage with opportunities, and more likely to benefit from taking these steps. We monitor internal equalities information to establish how representative our direct beneficiaries are of the general population and take action to redress lack of representation. The following communities are less likely to get involved in our activities without proactive steps: disabled people, children, older people and ethnic minorities. Our marketing, use of imagery and design of events has a focus on children and ethnic minorities, with most of our on-site events designed for one or both communities.

Co-design with communities

We embrace the principles of co-design and this year we have been working towards good practice. This year we held community drop-in events during the woodland creation process to directly engage local people in the design of our new woodlands. We also met with local farmers and landowners to form a group that applied successfully for Landscape Recovery Round 2. We continue to discuss new projects of any kinds widely amongst potential beneficiaries, people who face barriers to involvement, local communities and regional stakeholders.

Future plans

In the coming reporting period ANT plans to create an Engagement Strategy to implement the engagement priorities of the new 5-Year Strategy. This intends to have a sharper focus on directing our engagement and outreach to priority communities.

Two further intakes of the Green Skills Course are planned and funded. Recruitment of Volunteer Leaders and other volunteers is a priority.

A focus of the coming reporting period will be designing the implementation of Landscape Recovery in the Lower Chew. This will involve stakeholder engagement on a new scale and designing wide-ranging benefits for people in a project that will last at least 25 years.

Preparing for commercial trading

In June 2024 ANT established Avon Needs Trees Trading Ltd (ANTTL) with two trustees and the ANT CEO as founding directors. Since then a further member of ANT staff and two unconflicted directors have been appointed. ANTTL is a wholly owned subsidiary of ANT and intends to donate its profits to the charity.

ANTTL will undertake commercial activities that are complementary to our charitable objectives and activities, such as ecotourism that is expected to be launched in summer 2025.

ANT is also preparing to market and sell Biodiversity Net Gain credits in the coming reporting period.

Both commercial activities will fund ANT's charitable activities. In the short term this will include helping ANT to meet its loan obligations from purchase of Wick Farm to create Lower Chew Forest.

Landscape Recovery in the Lower Chew

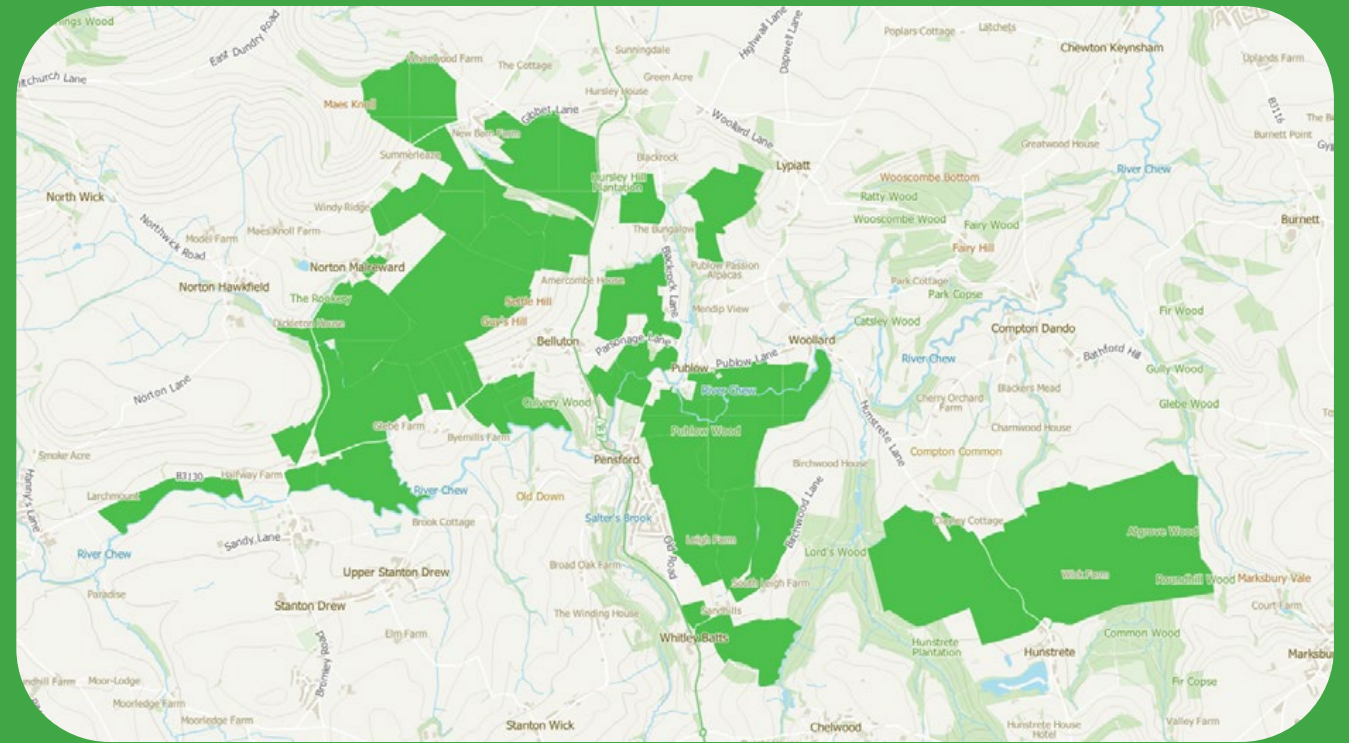
The Lower Chew Valley Landscape Recovery Project formally started in April 2024, after ANT was successful in its application to DEFRA for Round Two of its 'pilot' roll out of Landscape Recovery Projects. LRP represents the third arm of the government's Environmental Land Management schemes (the others two being Countryside Stewardship and the Sustainable Farming Initiative), 22 projects were approved in Round 1 in 2023, and another 34 projects, including ANT's Lower Chew Valley were approved in Round 2 in 2024. ANT, as landowners in Lower Chew, is now leading the project that combines 683 hectares of farmland, woodland and watercourses in 6 farms. An expected addition of one more farm should bring the total area of the project to almost 800 ha.

The story so far

As of April 2024, ANT began a 20-month period of Project Development in preparation for the 20-30 year Project Implementation Period which will start in early 2026 if all the six project plans meet DEFRA's approval. ANT secured almost £750,000 from DEFRA to finance this project development phase (PDP).

The project intends to have measurable impact in meeting the key objectives of improving biodiversity through the creation, restoration, or continued effective management of a mosaic of wildlife-rich habitats, while also contributing towards Net Zero ambitions for the region. As secondary goals, the project intends to restore water-based habitats to improve water-dependent biodiversity and Natural Flood Management, enhance landscape character and enhance heritage. Additionally, through increasing access and engagement to the project area for people we intend to have a significant social impact, while maintaining a high level of food production from the area.

By June 2024, ANT had successfully recruited a core team of 4 staff to manage different aspects of the project, as well as identifying where other existing and new ANT staff would contribute to the work. Project programming, planning and landowner liaison was well underway, not to mention solid working relationships were established with the project-dedicated DEFRA Project Liaison Officer, as well as relevant Forestry Commission, Natural England and Environment Agency staff. Baseline ecological studies and habitat condition assessments had already started. The most productive and impactful period of the project development phase of this LRP will be the July 2024-June 2025 reporting period.



Achievements & Performance: Towards a new 5-Year Strategy

During the reporting period ANT was operating under its 5-Year Strategy (2021-26), which was given an interim update in September 2023. By the end of 2023/24 ANT had far exceeded several of its 2021-26 goals, whilst others are more advanced:



1. Plant at least two Pudding Brook Wood sized woodlands each year

- a. This target of 84 acres of woodland by 2026 has been greatly exceeded. At the end of 2023/24 ANT owns or controls 591 acres of land for new woodlands, with over 100 acres planted

2. Trustee and volunteer resilience

- a. Trustee roles are now more sustainable, especially by creating staff supporting in finance and land management, and trustee turnover was 0% in 2023/24
- b. Through recruitment, volunteering numbers and especially Volunteer Leader numbers have grown to a sustainable level

3. Staffing for a sustainable ANT

- a. The proportion of running costs met through cost recovery on projects has markedly improved, meaning fundraising can now focus more on greater levels of habitat creation
- b. Staff numbers have grown to a level where delivering ANT's charitable purposes is more sustainable
- c. Plans to increase ANT's levels of regular fundraising income are better developed



4. Developing our funding and ownership model, securing long-term care for our woodlands

- a. ANT has successfully explored expanding impact through new models of permanence to complement land ownership. This includes 30-year agreements at Ed Woods and Landscape Recovery in development, bringing together a range of landowners
- b. ANT is actively developing long-term funding models like Biodiversity Net Gain and Landscape Recovery, in addition to developing regular and commercial income
- c. Hazeland and Pudding Brook Wood have moved into their post-planting phase, but are continuing to cultivate thriving volunteering and public access

Future Plans:

During the reporting period ANT started to develop a new 5-Year Plan (2024-29). This has since been finalised, with a more comprehensive strategy, theory of change and new goals:

1. Create new woodlands at a landscape scale to tackle the climate and nature emergencies
2. Achieve financial sustainability so we can deliver more
3. Develop our people for today and tomorrow
4. Help our communities adapt and mitigate climate change
5. Extend our impact by our embracing our leadership role

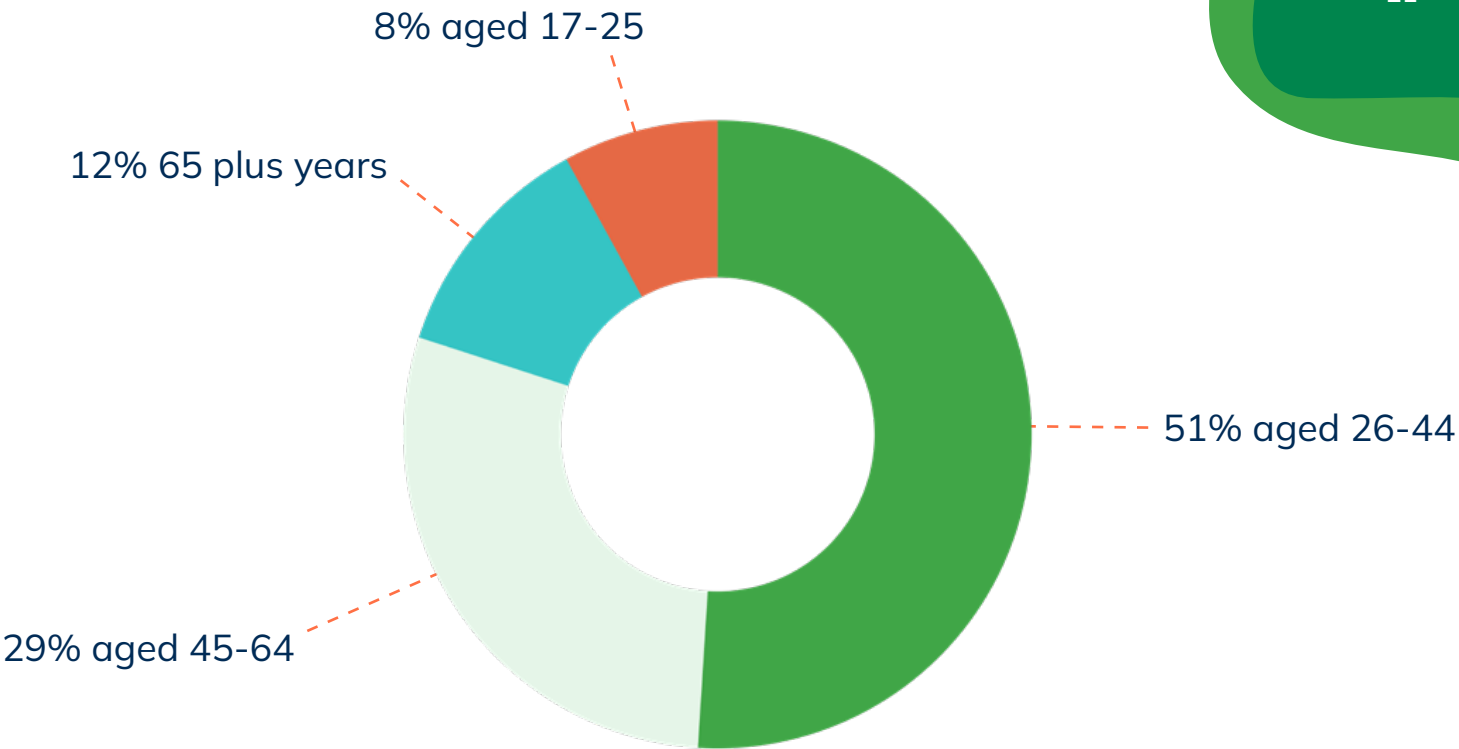
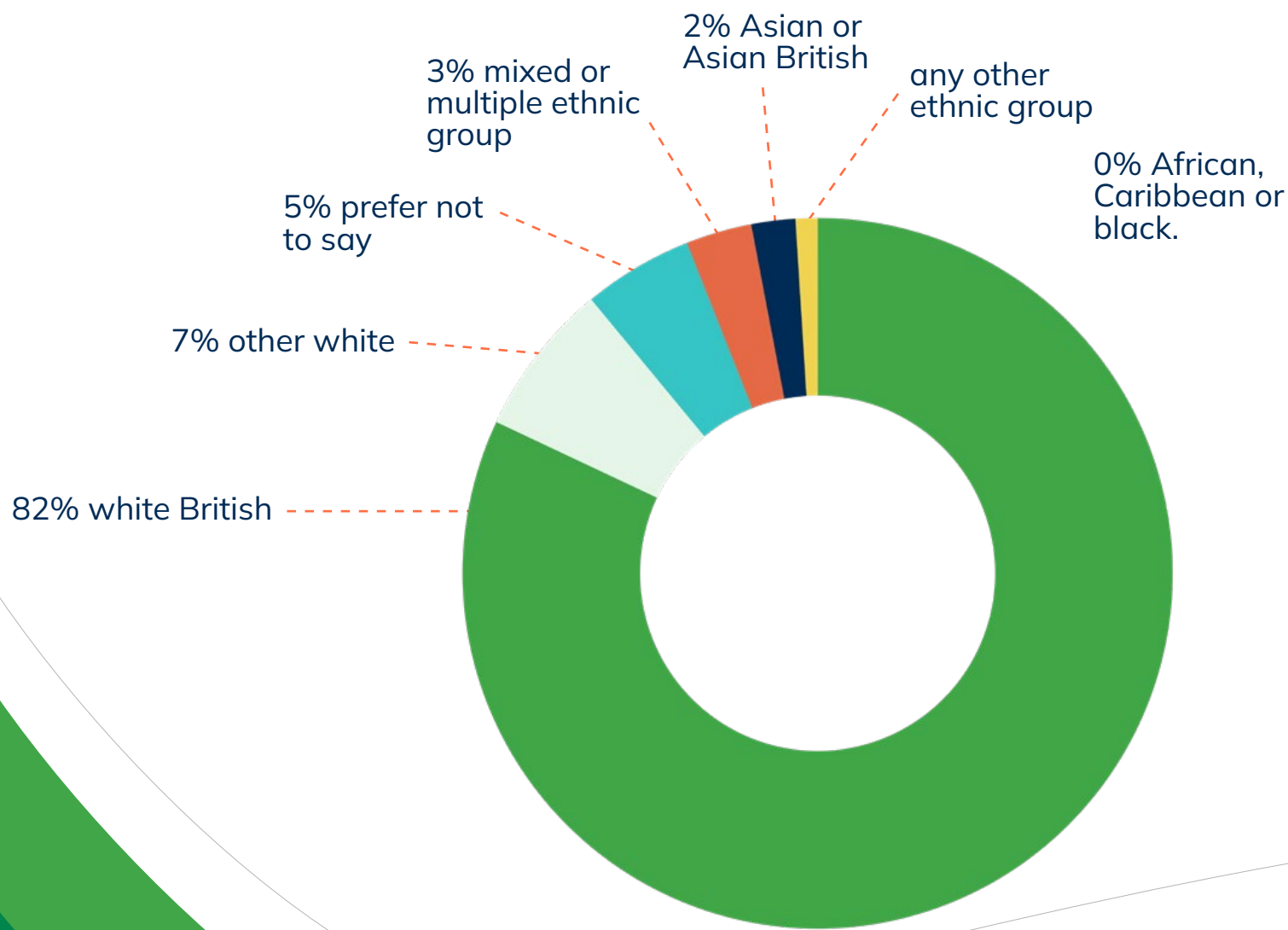
Volunteering

In 2023-2024:

- + 1,638 volunteer days
- + 136 volunteering opportunities
- + 1,005 people registered on the volunteer portal
- + 92.3% said they would volunteer again
- + 4,571 confirmed volunteer hours, valuing £91,420
- + 84% said Yes, it was beneficial to their mental health



Our volunteers



Number of people living within 10 miles of our sites*:

Great Avon Wood
nr Bristol
897k people



Lower Chew Forest
nr Bristol and Bath
725k people



Pudding Brook Wood
nr Chippenham
184k people



Ed Woods
nr Shepton Mallet
148k people



Hazeland
nr Calne
175k people



*according to Population around a point (tomforth.co.uk)

People Impact: Case Studies

Black2Nature

Black2Nature is dedicated to connecting Visibly Minority Ethnic (VME) kids with nature.

ANT has worked with Black2Nature to bring young people to two dedicated tree planting days during both tree planting seasons at our Great Avon Wood site. This has been built on with a summer visit for tree care and nature exploration. We plan to continue this connection with Black2Nature and our woodland creation projects.

www.black2nature.org



Bristol Muslim Home Ed Network

ANT has been connecting with this informal network of Muslim Home Educating Families across Bristol. Women and young people who are part of the network have attended a family nature day, a block of 5 Forest School sessions and a tree planting day at Great Avon Wood. We plan to continue working to build connections with these families.



Into University

Into University works to break down barriers to social mobility, providing local learning centres where young people can broaden their horizons and are inspired to achieve.

ANT has been working with their Bristol South centre in Withywood. Young people attended a tree planting day last winter at GAW and have followed this up with a Spring and Autumn Forest School session. This schedule is planned to repeat next year with some additional sessions too.

<https://intouniversity.org/centre/intouniversity-bristol-south/>

Bristol University Inclusion Team and LGBTQ student community

ANT has been working with the Inclusive Communities Officer at Bristol University to welcome LGBTQ students to Great Avon Wood. Students attended an 'Out in Nature' Spring Wellbeing session at the site delivered by a specialist art therapist and will return for a follow up in the autumn. These sessions will repeat next year with the hope of including students in tree planting too.

People Impact: Case Studies

We have identified that older people and vulnerable adults are two of the communities that are less likely to get involved in our activities. We wanted to see what we could do to improve their health and wellbeing by providing activities in nature.

The Wiltshire Project Coordinator went to a number of local groups where older people come together to talk about our work and the importance of trees and we also did some tree related artwork together. This photo is of the Reconnected Group in Calne.

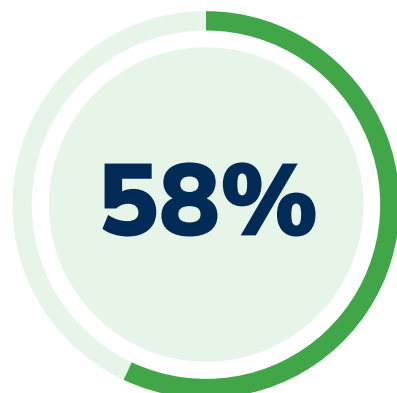


“Thanks so much for coming along to Forget me not club last Friday. The activities were great. Hope the funding for the project continues as so good to get people thinking about getting out and enjoying nature.”

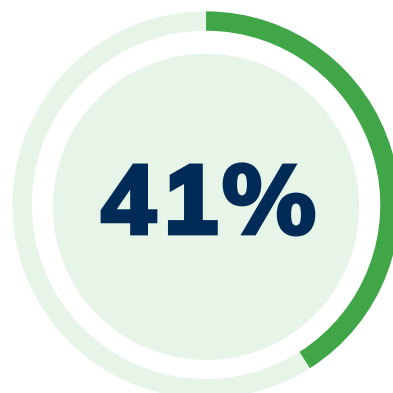


Our green skills programme

ANT's first ever Woodland Skills training programme ran January - June 2024 with 15 participants and 5 pro-bono training partners. The course consisted of 9 day-long workshops and site visits and 2 webinars. All course participants had the opportunity to shadow a member of ANT or FOAT staff for a day.



have done volunteering as a result of the training course



have had job or apprenticeship interviews during the course (June 2024)



have been actively applying for jobs / apprenticeships during the programme

- + 13 / 15 people completed the course with great attendance
- + 3 people have begun full time work in the green sector (subsequently rising to 6)
- + 2 people set up self-employment and made links to clients in the green sector
- + 1 person has been offered an apprenticeship
- + 1 person is stepping up to become an ANT Volunteer Leader
- + 1 person has joined the New Wave young persons Heritage programme at National Trust
- + 2 people have been awarded grants for forestry training fund to further their skills training in the green sector
- + 2 people are starting Horticulture courses in September 2024



Responses to green skills programme survey:

83% *I have learned new skills and knowledge about woodland creation, tree care and land management*
respondents agreed

75% *I have learned new information about local environment / heritage*
respondents agreed

92% *I have improved my job application skills such as CV writing, interview skills and job searching*
respondents agreed

100% *I have increased understanding of local environmental jobs working with trees and landscapes*
respondents agreed

100% *I have learned about possible career pathways for local environmental jobs*
respondents agreed

75% *I have increased my confidence to apply for jobs in the green sector*
respondents agreed

67% *I have created a self-directed career plan to help you map your next steps*
respondents agreed

Our first graduates

Quotes from the first cohort of course participants:



"I was looking for almost exactly what the course was offering.. I feel a lot more confident that while I don't have formal qualifications in conservation or ecology, this is no barrier to my getting a job within the sector."



"It was enjoyable, engaging, supportive and knowledgeable learning environment"



"I really enjoyed the course and felt part of a community. The other attendees were considerate and approachable. It was a safe space to learn in."



Outreach

Events in 2024:

Family Open Day
 All Things Trees
 Muslim Home Ed Family Forest Day
 Muslim Home Ed Family Forest School (x5)
 Autumn Forest School Pensford Primary
 Storytelling on site
 Muslim Home Ed Group tree planting
 Storytelling online event
 Soul Trail Wellbeing Hiking group tree planting
 Black 2 Nature Tree Planting
 Into University Tree Planting - Hazel Coppice
 Black 2 Nature Tree Planting
 Pensford Primary Tree Planting
 Ancient Forests online event
 Tales from the Landscape
 Early Morning Bird Walk
 Walking the New Great Avon Wood
 Spring Tree ID walk
 LGBTQ wellbeing - Spring
 Forest School with Into University
 Story Creation Workshop

We ran
more than
20
events

attended by
542
people
in total

Structure, management and governance

Constitution

ANT is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), formed in April 2019 and registered as a charity in July 2019. The affairs of ANT are governed by its Constitution which established the objects and powers of ANT. In the event of the charity being wound up the trustees have no liability for its debts.

Appointment of Trustees

The governance of ANT is the responsibility of the Trustees who are appointed under the terms of the Constitution. Trustees remain in post until they retire or otherwise cease under the provisions of the Charity constitution. New Trustees are elected by the Trustees then in post after an observation period of at least three meetings, as detailed in the Trustee Policy, along with an induction learning journey and training.

Organisational structure and decision-making policies

Operational decisions are delegated by Trustees to the Chief Executive, in consultation with relevant lead Trustees for HR, safeguarding, health & safety, data protection, fundraising and public engagement and operational reports are reviewed a monthly meetings of Trustees. Policy decisions are made at Trustee monthly meetings with regular and ad hoc Trustee subgroups in operation to advise.

The Chief Executive leads the staffing structure and delegates responsibilities to other members of staff as necessary, based on trustee board decisions and a schedule of authority. The Chief Executive manages the senior leadership team, who in turn manage their own teams. In the year 2023/24 these teams were a) people and operations, b) engagement, communications and fundraising and c) woodland and impact.

During the reporting year a new pay policy was instituted by trustees. Trustees set the salary and terms for the CEO and the CEO sets salaries and terms for other staff. Salary bands for job families are benchmarked to other landowning nature charities, within the same region where possible. These are reviewed annually.

Pay progression within salary bands is based on performance against annual objectives and ANT's behaviour framework.

Risk Management policy

The Trustees have identified the potential risks to ANT and ranked them according to likelihood and severity. For each risk they have identified mitigation and a responsible person, and the risk register is reviewed at every regular meeting of the Trustees.

Public Benefit

the Trustees have reviewed the Charity Commission's guidance on the requirement to report on public benefit. They are satisfied that the work of ANT, as described above, accords with its stated objects and provides tangible public benefit to an appropriate section of those who reside within ANT's area of benefit.

The charity maintains service delivery contracts with individuals, funders and partner organisations. Other collaboration with partner organisations are informal, except for a formal collaboration agreement with Forest of Avon Trust governing the joint ownership of Great Avon Wood. On 16th May 2024 ANT registered a wholly owned trading subsidiary, Avon Needs Trees Trading Ltd. The founding directors were ANT trustees Mark Funnell and Theodore Blanchard, and ANT CEO Dave Wood. As at the end of the year 2023/24 the company had not yet traded or entered into any contracts.

Future plans

Trustees are discussing priorities for trustee recruitment.

Since the end of 2023/24 ANT has adopted a formal, comprehensive scheme of delegation to complement the schedule of authority.

Staff numbers have increased from 16 to 26, including a business development and finance team.

Risk management has been separated into strategic risks and operational risks, enabling trustees to be most focused on strategic risk.

Avon Needs Trees Trading Ltd is not trading as of March 2025, but is expected to commence trading in summer 2025. An additional member of ANT staff and two unconflicted people have been appointed as directors.

Our staff demographics

Avon Needs Trees is committed to the monitoring of the diversity and gender pay gaps of our workforce to understand its changing nature and progress toward greater diversity and equity. ANT is not obliged to publish this data but we are committed to understanding our diversity and paygaps and publishing reasonable amounts information.

Because only sixteen staff were employed at this time ANT has decided not to publish the full results, except for age, to avoid individuals being identifiable.

Based on variation from average (mean) FTE salary is reported below. The highest paid demographic is reported in each case, again to reduce any likelihood of individuals being identifiable:

- Non-binary staff were paid 15.6% above average
- Bisexual staff were paid 15.7% above average
- White British staff were paid 0% above average
- Staff with disabilities were paid 3.5% above average
- Lower socio-economic background staff were paid 4.2% above average
- Staff who were not religious were paid 1% above average
- Staff with caring responsibilities were paid 6.1% above average
- Full-time staff were paid 0.1% above average

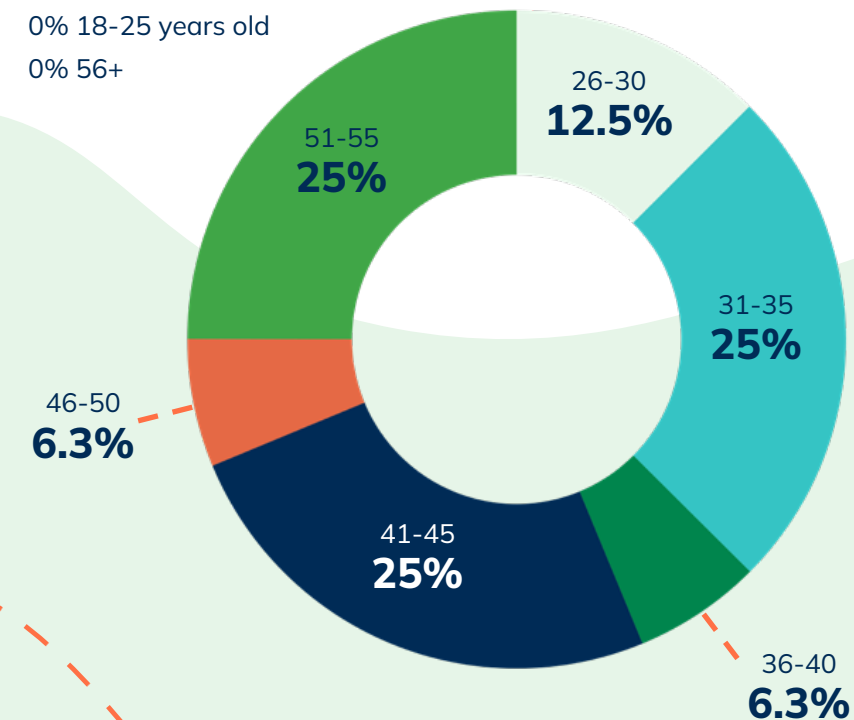
To prevent any risk of individuals being identifiable, the largest groups for demographic are reported below:

- Gender: female, 56.3%
- Sexual orientation: heterosexual, 43.8%
- Ethnicity: white British, 100%
- Disability: not disabled, 50%
- Socio-economic: not lower socio-economic background, 81.3%
- Religion: not religious, 87.5%
- Caring responsibilities: no caring responsibilities, 56.25%

All staff employed with ANT up to 30th June 2024 completed an anonymous survey monitoring diversity and gender pay gaps. Based on HR records 75% of staff were part-time.

Age of staff:

0% 18-25 years old
0% 56+



Future Plans:

Since the end of 2023/24 ANT has introduced a new pay policy, including salary bands, behaviours framework and performance-based pay increase and promotion processes.

Staff numbers have increased from 16 to 26 and weaker diversity demographics have improved.

Recruitment diversity is monitored, anonymously, and will be reviewed in the 2024/25 reporting period.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the group and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure, of the charity and the group for the year. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and the group and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the charity have no liability to contribute to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

Auditors

Godfrey Wilson Limited were appointed as auditors to the charity during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

Approved by the trustees on 29th April 2025 and signed on their behalf by



Mark Funnell, Chair

Finance Review

Total funds carried forward in this period were £5,514,522 (2023: £1,275,198: increase of 332%). This was principally due to the acquisition of Wick Farm to create Lower Chew Forest.

The charity maintained a positive financial position throughout the year, with the year closing on an increased general funds position of £3,678 (2023: increase of £27,912)

The charity's main source of unrestricted income continues to be from donations and unrestricted grants, which increased by 22% on the previous year (2022: increase of 92%). Unrestricted expenditure exceeded income in the year, but predominantly due to professional fees surrounding the planning and acquisition of the site known as Wick Farm.

Staff costs grew in the year by 82% (2023: increase of 176%), a representation of the rapid growth the charity has seen – starting the 22/23 year with three employees and ending the 23/24 year with 14 on payroll.

The charity's growth in activities is predominantly funded via restricted grants. While total grants each year are often heavily skewed towards those received for land acquisition, underlying this there has been a consistent growth in grants for activities. The 2024 year-end saw activity-based grant income of £508,431 (2023: £202,970) representing an increase of 150% (2023: increase of 152%).

The largest financial impact on the year related to the acquisition of Wick Farm which was funded through a combination of grant and debt funding.. Development plans for the site were drawn up prior to purchase and a period of development is underway.

The charity's reserves policy must consider the cashflow requirements of the organisations that are impacted by grants claimed in arrears. Major projects like Great Avon Woods require upfront expenditure based on quarterly or annual reclaims from funders, cashflow projections indicate a number of quarters where the capital sums expended but awaiting reclaim will exceed £200,000. In addition to this the charity considered it sensible to hold an additional reserve to cover unforeseen costs or in the event of other changes in circumstance. Based on the factors considered the charity's current reserves policy is to hold £218,000 of general funds.

The charity had total funds of £5,514,522 at year end (2023: £1,275,198) which is comprised of £5,002,273 restricted funds (2023: £837,419), £216,346 designated funds (2023: £145,554) and £295,903 general funds (2023: £292,225). All designated funds relate to fixed asset values held and so do not relate to future expenditure, but do represent funds that could only be realised by disposing of those fixed assets.

Current reserves exceed the stated policy amount, this is due to the charity building funds for the development of what will be Lower Chew Forest on the site of Wick Farm.

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they have adopted the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.



Fundraising

ANT's fundraising approach was a combination of grant applications and receipt of donations from individuals, companies and trusts.

All fundraising took place either through a formalised process, for example grant applications, or by promoting through email or websites any opportunities to give online, or by responding to direct requests from potential corporate or individual givers. ANT did not undertake any fundraising that would require persistent contact, unreasonable intrusion on personal privacy, or undue pressure on a person to give money or other property.

ANT undertakes a rigorous process of vetting any company that may want to enter into an informal partnership with the charity involving a donation. This process particularly focusses on greenwashing – being the attempt by a company to improve its image by marketing rather than by greening their operations. ANT only accepts donations from vetted companies that the charity is happy to be publicly linked to. ANT regularly rejects potential partnerships in this way. Prior to accepting donations the charity also completes checks on individuals who would like to donate £10,000 or more, including cumulatively, for due diligence. The charity is also mindful of the background of any source of trust funding before making funding applications.

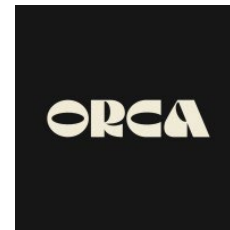
All fundraising activity was undertaken by in-house ANT personnel. The standards of fundraising followed were those outlined by the Charity Commission. In the future if the charity planned to engage in more proactive ways – for example through public collections, lotteries, events or by direct verbal communication – then ANT would voluntarily register with an appropriate scheme.

There were no complaints received by the charity about fundraising activity and no known failure to comply with fundraising regulations



Funding and Donations

ANT is very grateful to the grant-makers, members of the public and companies who helped make our work possible in the reporting year. Along with our generous CrowdFunder givers, Genetts Charitable Trust and the Vernet Trump Charitable Trust, this includes:



Independent auditors' report to the members of Avon Needs Trees

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Avon Needs Trees (the 'charity') for the year ended 30 June 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows, and the related notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 30 June 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of the trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out in the trustees' report, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Independent auditors' report to the members of

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The procedures we carried out and the extent to which they are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, are detailed below:

- (1) We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, and assessed the risk of non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Throughout the audit, we remained alert to possible indications of non-compliance.
- (2) We reviewed the charity's policies and procedures in relation to:
 - Identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations, and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - Detecting and responding to the risk of fraud, and whether they were aware of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
 - Designing and implementing internal controls to mitigate the risk of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud.

(3) We inspected the minutes of trustee meetings.

(4) We enquired about any non-routine communication with regulators and reviewed any reports made to them.

(5) We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and assessed their compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

(6) We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected transactions or balances that may indicate a risk of material fraud or error.

(7) We assessed the risk of fraud through management override of controls and carried out procedures to address this risk. Our procedures included:

- Testing the appropriateness of journal entries;
- Assessing judgements and accounting estimates for potential bias;
- Reviewing related party transactions; and
- Testing transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. Irregularities that arise due to fraud can be even harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Date: 29th April 2025

Godfrey Wilson Limited

Godfrey Wilson Limited

Chartered accountants and statutory auditors

5th Floor Mariner House

62 Prince Street

Bristol

BS1 4QD

Godfrey Wilson Limited is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Audited Accounts

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Restated Total funds 2023 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	105,433	160,829	266,262	86,393
Charitable activities	4	1,500	4,552,311	4,553,811	677,970
Investments	5	2,760	-	2,760	827
Total		109,693	4,713,140	4,822,833	765,190
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	3,909	-	3,909	297
Charitable activities	10	174,150	405,450	579,600	306,057
Total		178,059	405,450	583,509	306,354
Net income	11	(68,366)	4,307,690	4,239,324	458,836
Transfers between funds		142,836	(142,836)	-	-
Net movement in funds		74,470	4,164,854	4,239,324	458,836
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		437,779	837,419	1,275,198	816,362
Total funds carried forward		512,249	5,002,273	5,514,522	1,275,198

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 19 to the accounts.

Prior period expenditure has been restated due to a change in the basis for allocating support costs to provide a more accurate reflection of the use of resources by the charity and to be comparable with the current year. There is no change to the total expenditure or net movement in funds.

Balance Sheet at 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	8,116,132	972,070
Investments	15	1	-
		<u>8,116,133</u>	<u>972,070</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	16	206,059	207,256
Cash at bank and in hand		488,631	108,800
		<u>694,690</u>	<u>316,056</u>
Creditors: Amount falling due within one year	17	(71,877)	(12,928)
Net current assets		<u>622,813</u>	<u>303,128</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>8,738,946</u>	<u>1,275,198</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	18	(3,224,424)	-
Total net assets		<u>5,514,522</u>	<u>1,275,198</u>
The funds of the charity			
Restricted funds	19		
Restricted income funds		5,002,273	837,419
		<u>5,002,273</u>	<u>837,419</u>
Unrestricted funds	19		
General funds		295,903	292,225
Designated funds		216,346	145,554
		<u>512,249</u>	<u>437,779</u>
Total funds		<u>5,514,522</u>	<u>1,275,198</u>

Approved by the board on 29 April 2025

And signed on its behalf by:



M. Funnell
Trustee

Statement of Cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income per Statement of Financial Activities	4,239,324	458,836
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	8,601	-
Profit on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	(4,942)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(2,760)	(827)
Decrease/ (Increase) in trade and other receivables	1,197	(171,913)
Increase in trade and other payables	58,949	1,143
Interest payable	37,294	-
Net cash provided by operating activities	4,342,605	282,297
Cash flows from investing activities		
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment	-	30,872
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(7,152,663)	(475,000)
Payments for investments	(1)	-
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	2,760	827
Net cash used in investing activities	(7,149,904)	(443,301)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Proceeds from new borrowings	3,187,130	-
Net cash from financing activities	3,187,130	-
Net increase/ (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	379,831	(161,004)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	108,800	269,804
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	488,631	108,800
Components of cash and cash equivalents		
Cash and bank balances	488,631	108,800
	488,631	108,800

Analysis of net changes in debt are given in note 21.

Notes to the Accounts

1 Accounting policies

Avon Needs Trees is a charitable incorporated organisation registered in England and Wales. The registered office address is:

Canningford House
38 Victoria Street
Bristol
BS1 6BY

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 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Avon Needs Trees Trading Ltd (15771034) is a registered company, incorporated on 11 June 2024. It is a wholly controlled subsidiary of Avon Needs Trees. The trustees have opted not to prepare consolidated accounts on the basis of immateriality, in application of statutory instrument 2008/629 regulation 19. In the period to 30 June 2024, the subsidiary made no income or expenditure and had a net assets position of £nil.

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.

Going Concern

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the charity is able to continue as a going concern, which the trustees consider appropriate having regard to the current level of unrestricted reserves.

In coming to their conclusion the trustees have also taken in to account the bank loan received during the year secured against, and for the purchase of, the property known as Wick Farm. The first payment against this loan is due more than 12 months from the date on which these financial statements are approved, nevertheless the trustees have no reason to question the progress of the charity's plans towards developing the site in a way as to manage these repayments by the time they become due.

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. The trustees consider that the charity will continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from the date on which these financial statements are approved.

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.

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.
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.

Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity, including the costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements and any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities based on direct attribution where clear, and otherwise according to the percentage of directly attributed costs to each activity as follows:

	2024	2023
Raising funds	0%*	0%*
Charitable activities		
Maintain existing woodland	5%	18%
Establish new woodland	46%	80%
Land acquisition	45%	2%
Establish new woodland	4%	0%

* Only directly attributable support costs have been assigned to Raising funds.

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:

Freehold property	0/2% Land is held at cost and not depreciated, buildings and associated improvements are depreciated straight line over 50 years
Plant and machinery	10% Reducing balance
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	25% Reducing balance

No depreciation is charged on assets under development. The charity has adopted a policy of capitalisation of borrowing costs while associated building are under development.

The charity's capitalisation threshold is £200 net of VAT for items considered to provide economic benefit over multiple years.

Financial Instruments

The CO only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently recognised at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

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 charity'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.

Pension costs

The charity operates a defined contribution plan for its employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the charity pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the charity 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 charity 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.

Accounting estimates and key judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying 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 if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods. The key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements is depreciation as described under the Fixed Assets above.

2 Statement of Financial Activities - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	58,326	28,067	86,393
Charitable activities	-	677,970	677,970
Investments	827	-	827
Total	59,153	706,037	765,190
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	297	-	297
Charitable activities	43,205	262,852	306,057
Total	43,502	262,852	306,354
Net income	15,651	443,185	458,836
Transfers between funds	(13,669)	13,669	-
Net income before other gains/ (losses)	1,982	456,854	458,836
Other gains and losses:			
Net movement in funds	1,982	456,854	458,836
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward	435,797	380,565	816,362
Total funds carried forward	437,779	837,419	1,275,198

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Individual donations	59,529	160,829	220,358
Corporate donations	15,404	-	15,404
Unrestricted grants	30,500	-	30,500
	105,433	160,829	266,262
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Individual donations	19,629	8,594	28,223
Corporate donations	21,548	19,474	41,022
Unrestricted grants	17,148	-	17,148
	58,325	28,068	86,393

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Maintain existing woodland	-	28,129	28,129	15,787
Establish new woodland	-	443,114	443,114	187,183
Land acquisition	1,500	4,043,880	4,045,380	475,000
Complementary projects	-	37,188	37,188	-
	<u>1,500</u>	<u>4,552,311</u>	<u>4,553,811</u>	<u>677,970</u>

The totals for the prior period (2023) all relate to restricted income.

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Bank interest	2,760	2,760	827
	<u>2,760</u>	<u>2,760</u>	<u>827</u>

The totals for the prior period (2023) all relate to unrestricted income.

6 Government grants

The charity receives government grants, defined as funding from the Environment Agency, Cheshire and West Chester Council, Wiltshire County Council, and The West of England Combined Authority, to fund charitable activities. The total value of such grants in the period ending 30 June 2024 was £4,380,029 (2023: £604,858). There are no unfulfilled conditions or contingencies attaching to these grants in the current or prior year.

7 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted	Total 2024	Restated Total 2023
	£	£	£
Costs of generating voluntary income			
Individual donations	3,909	3,909	297
	<u>3,909</u>	<u>3,909</u>	<u>297</u>

The totals for the prior period (2023) all relate to unrestricted expenditure.

8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Expenditure on charitable activities			
Maintain existing woodland	315	27,348	27,663
Establish new woodland	338	264,258	264,596
Land acquisition	5,872	23,482	29,354
Complementary projects	1,348	35,974	37,322
	<u>7,873</u>	<u>351,062</u>	<u>358,935</u>

	Restated Unrestricted	Restated Restricted	Restated Total 2023
	£	£	£

Expenditure on charitable activities			
Maintain existing woodland	1,333	36,292	37,625
Establish new woodland	-	190,842	190,842
Land acquisition	-	10,589	10,589
	<u>1,333</u>	<u>237,723</u>	<u>239,056</u>

9 Support and governance costs

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Support costs			
Publicity and promotion	-	3,435	3,435
Event costs	118	3,916	4,034
Other interest payable	-	-	-
Employee costs	39,468	36,771	76,239
Motor and travel costs	2,516	875	3,391
Premises costs	18,173	3,866	22,039
Amortisation, depreciation, impairment, profit/loss on disposal of fixed assets	8,601	-	8,601
General administrative costs	9,124	5,525	14,649
Legal and professional costs	78,317	-	78,317
Governance costs			
Independent examiner's fees	-	-	-
Auditor's fees	9,960	-	9,960
	<u>166,277</u>	<u>54,388</u>	<u>220,665</u>

	Restated Unrestricted	Restated Restricted	Restated Total 2023
	£	£	£
Support costs			
Publicity and promotion	-	1,354	1,354
Event costs	57	1,979	2,036
Other interest payable	36	-	36
Employee costs	37,044	-	37,044
Motor and travel costs	732	3,248	3,980
Premises costs	2,186	5,999	8,185
Amortisation, depreciation, impairment, profit/loss on disposal of fixed assets	(4,942)	-	(4,942)
General administrative costs	4,292	12,549	16,841
Legal and professional costs	667	-	667
Governance costs			
Independent examiner's fees	1,800	-	1,800
	<u>41,872</u>	<u>25,129</u>	<u>67,001</u>

10 Summary analysis of expenditure

Activity or programme	Activities undertaken directly £	Support Costs £	Total 2024 £
Maintain existing woodland	27,663	11,267	38,930
Establish new woodland	264,596	100,616	365,212
Land acquisition	29,354	99,434	128,788
Complementary projects	37,322	9,348	46,670
	<u>358,935</u>	<u>220,665</u>	<u>579,600</u>

Activity or programme	Restated Activities undertaken directly £	Restated Support Costs £	Restated Total 2023 £
Maintain existing woodland	37,625	11,898	49,523
Establish new woodland	190,842	53,897	244,739
Land acquisition	10,589	1,206	11,795
	<u>239,056</u>	<u>67,001</u>	<u>306,057</u>

11 Net income before transfers

	2024	2023
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	8,601	-
Operating lease payments	16,250	-
Auditors' remuneration (excl. VAT)	8,300	-
Independent Examiner's fee (excl. VAT)	-	1,500
Other fees paid to the auditor or independent examiner (excl. VAT)	-	200

12 Trustee remuneration and expenses

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

Trustee	2024	2023
	£	£
J. Chew	2,100	1,100

All amounts were paid in respect of operation of forest school sessions at one of the sites owned by the charity. Remuneration has been paid in accordance with section 185 of the Charities Act and as permitted by the charity's constitution.

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	2
The nature of the reimbursed expenses	All expenses are either in respect of travel or reimbursal of costs expensed on behalf of the charity.	
	£	£
Total expenses reimbursed to trustees	354	872

13 Staff costs

	2024	2023
Salaries and wages	265,950	153,229
Social security costs	21,144	4,031
Pension costs	5,331	3,120
	<u>292,425</u>	<u>160,380</u>

No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 in the current or prior year.

Total employee benefits received by key management personnel	85,900	56,472
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The average monthly number of full time equivalent employees during the year was as follows:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Administration	3	2
Conservation	3	2
Education	2	1
	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme.

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £	Total £
Cost or revaluation				
At 1 July 2023	972,070	-	-	972,070
Additions	7,073,270	74,986	4,407	7,152,663
At 30 June 2024	<u>8,045,340</u>	<u>74,986</u>	<u>4,407</u>	<u>8,124,733</u>
Depreciation and impairment				
Depreciation charge for the year	-	7,499	1,102	8,601
At 30 June 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>7,499</u>	<u>1,102</u>	<u>8,601</u>
Net book values				
At 30 June 2024	<u>8,045,340</u>	<u>67,487</u>	<u>3,305</u>	<u>8,116,132</u>
At 30 June 2023	<u>972,070</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>972,070</u>

Land and buildings includes £4,870,396 (2023: £826,516) of land purchased with restricted funding and over which restrictive grant terms still apply.

15 Investments

	Investment in Subsidiaries £	Total £
Cost or revaluation		
Additions	1	1
At 30 June 2024	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Net book values		
At 30 June 2024	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Investment in Subsidiaries

The company has the following subsidiary undertakings:

Name of company	Class of shares held	% age of shares held %	Capital and reserves at end of the relevant year £	Profit/ (loss) for the relevant year £
Avon Needs Trees Trading Ltd	Ordinary	100	1	-

Avon Needs Trees Trading Ltd was incorporated on 11th June 2024. It has been excluded from consolidation as it was dormant between this date and the charity's year end.

16 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Other debtors	14,800	-
Prepayments and accrued income	191,259	207,256
	<u>206,059</u>	<u>207,256</u>

17 Creditors:

amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	46,385	3,247
Amounts owed to group undertakings	1	-
Other taxes and social security	8,083	6,174
Other creditors	1,498	965
Accruals	15,910	2,542
	<u>71,877</u>	<u>12,928</u>

18 Creditors:

amounts falling due after more than one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts	3,224,424	-
	<u>3,224,424</u>	<u>-</u>
Liabilities repayable in more than five years after the balance sheet date		
Amount repayable by instalments	3,224,424	-
	<u>3,224,424</u>	

During the year the charity agreed a loan facility with Triodos Bank of up to £3,850,000 for the purpose of the acquisition of Wick Farm. Triodos Bank holds a legal charge over Wick Farm and a floating charge over all assets and undertakings of the charity in respect of the loan. The loan term is 15 years with an interest rate of 2.75% above base rate. The charity took a drawdown on the facility of £3,300,000 during the year, but £150,000 of the loan was assigned to a bank account in the charity's name to be kept as a loan reserve fund. The remainder of the facility was reserved to cover initial interest accrued against the loan for the first two years. Capital repayments are due to start from the sixth year of the loan on a straight line basis. Additional capital repayments will be due during the term of the loan based on the net sales proceeds of Biodiversity Net Gain units sold in relation to Wick Farm. The loan balance is shown less related fees with interest accrued at an effective annual rate of 8.3%.

The total interest expense charged to the statement of financial activities in the current year was £37,294.

19 Movement in funds

	At 1 July 2023	Incoming resources (including other gains/ losses) £	Resources expended £	Gross transfers £	At 30 June 2024 £
Restricted funds:					
Restricted income funds:					
Land purchase	826,516	4,193,265	(23,482)	(125,903)	4,870,396
Hazeland - operation and infrastructure	2,305	-	(15,158)	12,853	-
Pudding Brook Woods - operation and infrastructure	7,967	2,737	(3,303)	-	7,401
Great Avon Woods - operation and infrastructure	631	454,558	(299,346)	(74,752)	81,091
Ed Woods - tree planting	-	25,392	(26,992)	1,600	-
Lower Chew Forest - operation and infrastructure	-	-	-	43,385	43,385
Environment Agency - Land Recovery Project	-	28,267	(28,267)	-	-
Wiltshire Council	-	3,921	(3,902)	(19)	-
WENP - Healthier with Nature Development Grant	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Total	<u>837,419</u>	<u>4,713,140</u>	<u>(405,450)</u>	<u>(142,836)</u>	<u>5,002,273</u>
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds	292,225	109,693	(169,458)	63,443	295,903
Designated funds:					
Fixed asset fund	145,554	-	(8,601)	79,393	216,346
Total unrestricted funds	<u>437,779</u>	<u>109,693</u>	<u>(178,059)</u>	<u>142,836</u>	<u>512,249</u>
Total funds	<u>1,275,198</u>	<u>4,822,833</u>	<u>(583,509)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,514,522</u>
Gross transfers includes:					
Land purchase		£82,518 of crowdfunded donations towards the purchase costs of Wick Farm discharged to general funds following purchase. £43,385 of crowdfunded donations to 'Lower Chew Forest - operation and infrastructure'.			
Hazeland - operation and infrastructure		£12,853 has been transferred to the fund to cover a deficit.			
Great Avon Woods - operation and infrastructure		£74,752 of grant costs capitalised as fixed assets, being infrastructure on the land.			

Ed Woods - tree planting £1,600 has been transferred to the fund to cover a deficit.

Purposes and restrictions in relation to the funds:

Restricted funds:

Land purchase Grant funding and donations to be directly invested in land. Funds invested in land for which the funder retains an ongoing right to clawback the funds should the charity breach land use restrictions are carried forward, this includes amounts in the current year received from OWAC for the purchase of Wick Farm. Where the funder or donor does not retain such right related restrictions are considered discharged on purchase.

Hazeland - operation and infrastructure To establish and maintain the woodland at Hazeland.

Pudding Brook Woods - operation and infrastructure To establish and maintain the woodland at Pudding Brook Woods.

Great Avon Woods - operation and infrastructure To establish and maintain the woodland at Pudding Brook Woods.

Ed Woods - tree planting To establish a woodland at the site known as Ed Woods.

Lower Chew Forest - operation and infrastructure To establish and maintain the woodland at Lower Chew Forest.

Environment Agency - Land Recovery Project Developing plans with other land owners to support sustainable landscape recovery.

Wiltshire Council Health & wellbeing workshops & events.

WENP - Healthier with Nature Development Grant Organisational development.

Designated funds:

Fixed asset fund To represent value of unrestricted funds used in fixed asset purchases, excluding any long term liabilities secured against those fixed assets. The acquisition of Wick Farm for the sum of £7,073,270 is not represented in this fund due to this amount being covered by restricted funds and long term liabilities (See Note 18).

Avon Needs Trees Notes to the Accounts

Prior year	At 1 July 2022	Incoming resources (including other gains/ losses) £	Resources expended £	Gross transfers £	At 30 June 2023 £
Restricted funds:					
Restricted income funds:					
Land purchase	351,516	475,000	-	-	826,516
Hazeland - operation and infrastructure	29,049	2,141	(28,885)	-	2,305
Pudding Brook Woods - operation and infrastructure	-	22,211	(14,244)	-	7,967
Great Avon Woods - operation and infrastructure	-	153,717	(163,536)	10,450	631
Ed Woods - tree planting	-	52,968	(56,187)	3,219	-
Total	380,565	706,037	(262,852)	13,669	837,419
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds	264,313	59,153	(43,502)	12,261	292,225
Designated funds:					
Fixed asset fund	171,484	-	-	(25,930)	145,554
Total unrestricted funds	435,797	59,153	(43,502)	(13,669)	437,779
Total funds	816,362	765,190	(306,354)	-	1,275,198

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

Current year	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Fixed assets	3,245,736	4,870,396	8,116,132
Investments	1	-	1
Net current assets	490,936	131,877	622,813
Creditors due in more than one year and provisions	(3,224,424)	-	(3,224,424)
	512,249	5,002,273	5,514,522

Prior year	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Fixed assets	145,554	826,516	972,070
Net current assets	292,225	10,903	303,128
	437,779	837,419	1,275,198

21 Reconciliation of net debt

	At 1 July 2023	Movements	At 30 June 2024
	£	£	£
Cash and cash equivalents	108,800	379,831	488,631
	<u>108,800</u>	<u>379,831</u>	<u>488,631</u>
Cash movements			
Bank loans falling due after more than one year	-	(3,187,130)	(3,187,130)
Non-cash movements			
Interest due	-	(37,294)	(37,294)
	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,224,424)</u>	<u>(3,224,424)</u>
Net debt	<u>108,800</u>	<u>(2,844,593)</u>	<u>(2,735,793)</u>

22 Commitments

Pension commitments

	2024 £	2023 £
The pension cost charge to the company amounted to:	<u>1,656</u>	<u>3,120</u>
Unpaid contributions due to the fund are included in other creditors and amounted to:	<u>1,498</u>	<u>965</u>

23 Related party disclosures

There were no related party transactions in the current or prior period.

Controlling party

The Charity is controlled by the Trustees as a body.



Thank you to everyone who supported us!



Landscape Recovery

Avon Needs Trees is a registered charity in England and Wales.
Registration number: 1184386 Canningford House, 38 Victoria Street, Bristol, BS1 6BY