

Annual report

**Reporting back
on 2024/25**

Charity No. 1184386
Trustees' Report and Audited Accounts
30 June 2025



Contents

Title page	1
Contents page	2
Reference and administrative details	3
Welcome from Chair and CEO	4
Our objectives	5
How we're different	6
Highlights 24/25	7
Woodland Creation	8
Land	9
Trees Planted	10
Future plans: Lower Chew Forest	11-15
Impact for People	16
Preparing for commercial trading	17
Landscape Recovery	18
Achievements & Performance: Our new 5-Year Strategy	19
Volunteering	20
Our volunteers	21
Number of people living within 10 miles of our sites	22
People Impact: Case Studies	23-25
Our green skills programme	26
Graduates	27
Outreach	28
Structure, management and governance	29
Our staff demographics	30
Statement of responsibilities of the trustees	31
Finance Review	32-33
Fundraising	34
Funding and Donations	35
Independent auditors' report to the members of Avon Needs Trees	36-47
Final Thanks	48



Trustees annual report

The trustees present their report with the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Reference and administrative details

Principal Office

Office 115, 117, 119
Regus Castlemead
Lower Castle Street
Bristol
BS1 3AG

Registered Office

Office 115, 117, 119
Regus Castlemead
Lower Castle Street
Bristol
BS1 3AG

Key Management Personnel

Chair M. Funnell
CEO D. Wood

Trustees

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

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

Third FD
31 Market Place
Chippenham
SN15 3HP

Solicitors

Thrings Solicitors
2 Queen Square
Bath BA1 2HQ

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

Triodos Bank
Deanery Road
Bristol
BS1 5AS

Welcome



Welcome from the Chair

Looking back on another landmark year for Avon Needs Trees, the statistics tell such an impressive story. But it's the individual acts of commitment and kindness that really stick with you.

The volunteer who would cycle 25 miles, plant trees all day, then cycle home. The couple in their 70s who'd turn up in all weathers to help create woodlands they want to leave to future generations. The donors who'd write the most moving, beautiful messages in response to our fundraisers. The colleagues who have created the most selfless and supportive workplace culture I have known.

So when we read yet more headlines about ecological collapse and climate breakdown, about the declining resilience of woodlands in State of The UK's Trees And Woods 2025, let's also think of this collective response. Of the 1,600 ANT volunteers who planted over 18,000 trees and completed Great Avon Wood - the biggest new woodland the area has seen in a generation. The hundreds of thousands of pounds donated to buy the trees and the equipment we needed. And the myriad stories and motivations behind these acts of commitment and kindness.

It feels like a movement. And its momentum has attracted a level of support we could only have dreamed of several years ago. Thanks to funding from Defra, Triodos Bank and West of England Combined Authority, we completed the purchase of Wick Farm in May 2024 and set out our ambitious vision for the vast Lower Chew Forest. Next year's report will see yet another step change in our collective impact.

Once again my heartfelt thanks go to the tireless team, to our funders and donors, and of course to our wonderful volunteers and volunteer leaders. We are profoundly grateful for all your support.

Mark Funnell, Chair

Introduction from the Chief Executive

For Avon Needs Trees, this has been a year defined by scale. From our planting on the ground and beyond, the ambitious scale of our undertaking has never been greater.

In May of 2024, we successfully purchased the 422-acre site for our latest woodland, Lower Chew Forest. This year, our work on that land could begin in earnest. Establishing a woodland of this size, with its protection in perpetuity always in mind, demands a breadth of skill and commitment. I take pride in how the team have delivered.

At the same time, our work for the development phase of Landscape Recovery in the Lower Chew has been intensive and wide-ranging. The possibilities for woodland creation, habitat connectivity across the valley, social impact, and the potential amplification of our sites' own impact, have been rewarding to explore. As Avon Needs Trees moves forward, we are increasingly convinced it is this kind of targeted, landscape-scale thinking that is needed most.

This year has been successful only through the effort of many. Thank you to the staff team, who navigated the year with skill, patience, and good humour. Thank you to our many volunteers and to our volunteer leaders, who give their time so generously. Thank you to our donors, to our funders, and to those we collaborate with, who each play an indispensable role.

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 less productive 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.

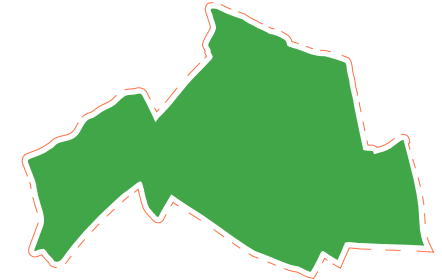
The Highlights 2024/25

- + Planted over 18k trees
- + Completed planting at Great Avon Wood
- + Completed the first planting season at Lower Chew Forest
- + Engaged with 307 individuals across two surveys, 107 organisations, and 15 members on the partnership board to co-design Landscape Recovery in the Lower Chew
- + Recruited 11 new staff roles
- + Created a welcome area at our new land at Lower Chew Forest
- + Raised £82,000 from generous local people in a Crowdfunder to plant Lower Chew Forest
- + Received generous donations from 9 partners and 20 companies who volunteered and contributed financially
- + Launched the second year of the Green Skills Course

...the list goes on!



18k+
trees planted



Great Avon Wood

Completed planting
at Great Avon Wood



Green Skills

Launched the second year of the
Green Skills course



£82,000

Raised from Crowdfunder for
Lower Chew Forest planting

Woodland Creation

2024/25 has been a year of growing impact and preparing for more growth. We completed the purchase of the land to become Lower Chew Forest just before the reporting period, now managing for nature 591 acres across five sites. This year we planted the first 10,339 trees at Lower Chew Forest and are preparing to plant substantially more next year.

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 7,835 trees at Great Avon Wood, bringing the total so far to 28,923. A further 400 trees were planted at Ed Woods, including 28 orchard trees. Post planting maintenance and conservation continued at Hazeland, Pudding Brook Wood and Ed Woods, as well as at Great Avon Wood.

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 planting 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 completing the first phase of planting season at Lower Chew Forest, beat-up planting at Great Avon Wood and woodland creation and connectivity and complementary habitat opportunities as part of Landscape Recovery in the Lower Chew.

We also plan to purchase additional land adjacent to Great Avon Wood in the coming reporting period to build on the new woodlands connectivity.

Avon Needs Trees Land

We completed the purchase of 422 acres at Wick Farm to create Lower Chew Forest a few weeks before the start of 2024/25. Our biggest tasks in 2024/25 were the first planting season at Lower Chew Forest, the South West's biggest reforestation program in a generation as well as planning planting for connectivity and complementary habitats through the development phase of our Landscape Recovery in the Lower Chew project.

We are excited about the purchase of new land adjacent to Great Avon Wood in the coming period in 2025/26.



Trees planted in 2025

In the 2024/25 planting season, 10,339 trees were planted at Lower Chew forest. 7,835 trees were planted at Great Avon Wood and any trees which were lost from previous years planting were replaced (beating up).



7,835
total number of trees
planted at
Great Avon Wood
near Bristol

10,339
total number of trees
planted at
Lower Chew Forest
between Bristol and Bath



Future Plans: Lower Chew Forest

As part of the woodland creation planning process, further consultation and collaboration with the Forestry Commission led to the submission of the plans as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) approval process. The EIA was submitted in February 2025 and subsequently approved shortly after. This was the culmination of several years' work to get to this point, with final approval allowing the charity to plan and implement the coming planting season where the forest would be delivered as part of Trees for Climate contractual terms.

Local views of the future

Due to the size of the site, this required full landscape analysis and visualisation, which formed part of the submission as well as part of the local consultation process to help locals visualise how their landscape will be changing.

Biodiversity Net Gain ready

This also formed an essential part of BNG plans which would be submitted shortly after in March 2025 in line with the proposed timeline for generation of BNG credits at Lower Chew Forest and included a range of habitats to provide the best chance of providing sales in the emerging BNG market.

Climate concious planting

Specifics around species mixture were formalised and modelled against future climate scenarios using the Forest Research's ESC tool. The final plans included a variety of wooded habitat that made for a rich mosaic of tree cover, including closed canopy forest, productive coppice, scrub, traditional orchards, wood-pasture and agroforestry nut groves. Comments from the Forestry Commission summarised the approach:

This is a large and diverse scheme that has been sensitively integrated with its landscape context. This will enhance its spirit of place and create landscape unity and the balance of scale. I am supportive of the design concept that is a good example of an enhanced wooded landscapes with a diverse treescape ranging from productive woodland, agroforest, orchards to natural colonisation. I think there is also good connectivity across the site and views and habitats have been well considered and incorporated.

Lower Chew Forest: View from 'The Tump'

This visual illustrates the proposed view from 'The Tump' earthwork, looking east.

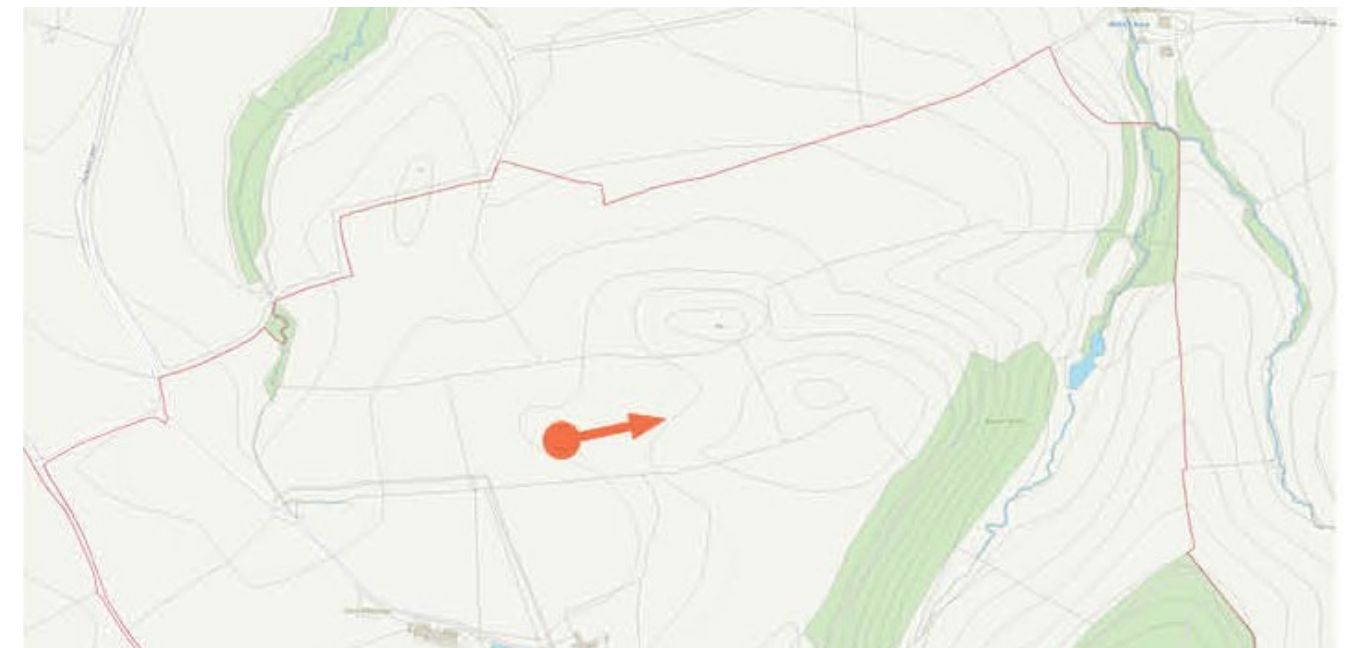


- 1 Filtered views created through use of low height scrub and scattered trees to retain spirit of place.
- 2 Scrub areas follow landform and retain undulating nature of field which is typical of LCT 2b
- 3 Heritage earthwork kept open with open views to the farmhouse and across to Hunstrete and new permissive access created to enhance spirit of place.

Current view:



Location:

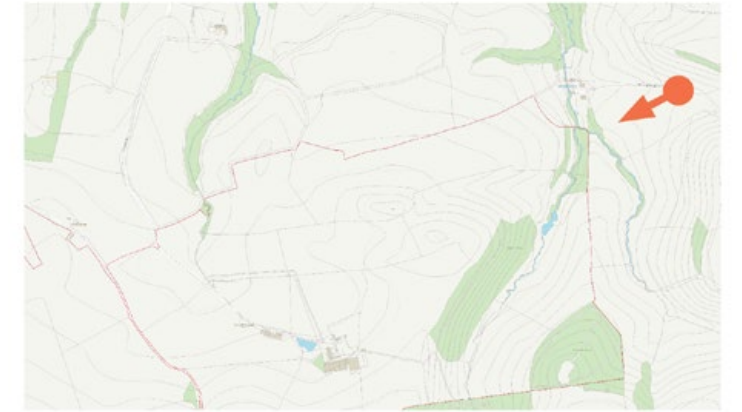


Lower Chew Forest: Viewpoint 2

This visual illustrates the landscape analysis of the landscape from local footpaths looking west.

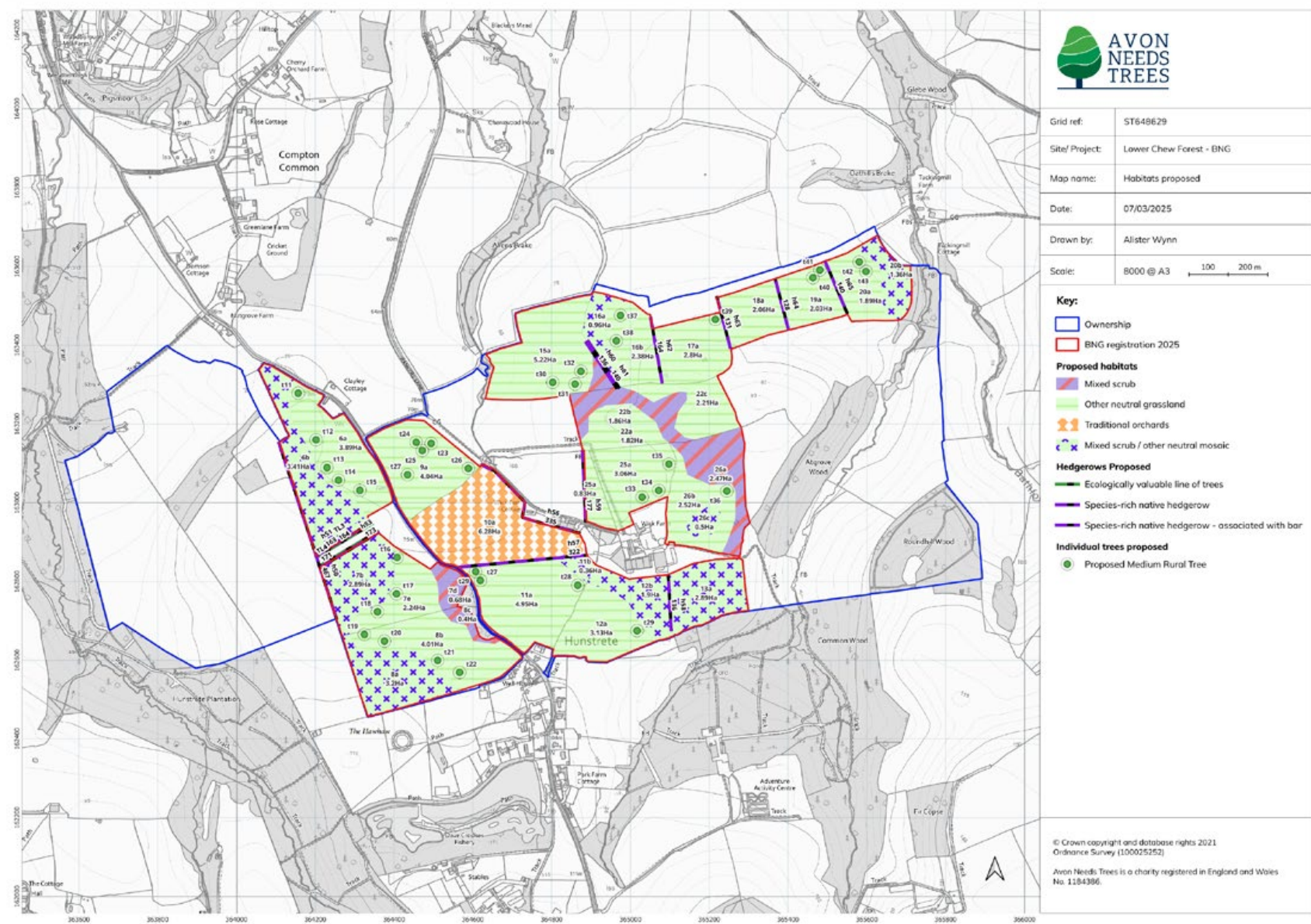
Viewpoint from PROW in Tuckingmill looks into the north eastern corner of the site with the largest arable field clearly visible. Large arable field not typical of ancient pattern of enclosure. Rolling nature of the topography of the eastern section of the site clear from this viewpoint. Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland Atgrove wood visible to the south. In-field trees provide natural features and contribute to spirit of place.

Location:



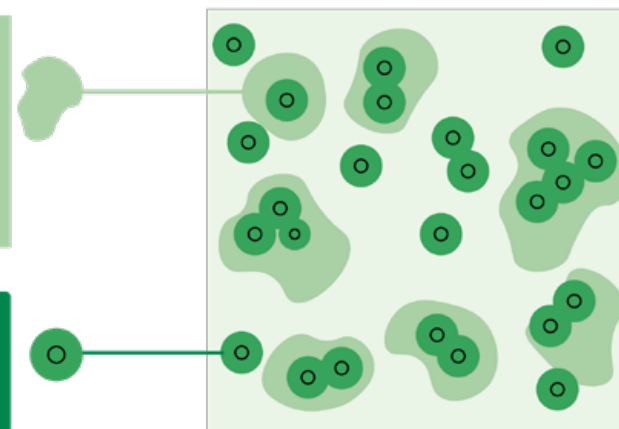
Lower Chew Forest Future Plans: Biodiversity Net Gain

Proposed Habitats in the central section of BNG Registration Area EM-F02.



Scrub with scattered trees
 60/40 whips with 0.75m hare guards and cane averaged out to 2m spacing (2500 stems per Ha) planted in naturalistic clumps with gaps between clumps, meaning approx 1m spacing on the ground.

Scattered individual trees
 60/40 whip with single Cactus guard with 0.75m hare guard and cane



Low and medium density woodland

Scrub (trees under 5m) will cover 20% (low density) to 40% (medium density) of the ground with neutral grassland / meadow the remaining with scattered trees interwoven in a mosaic. Scattered trees will eventually make up 20-25% of the canopy cover of the area. This will be managed through pollarding to create the typical open grown habit with species such as Oak, Wild Service, Small leaved lime, Hornbeam and Field maple.

Lower Chew Forest Future Plans: Ecological Site Classification

Species mixture modelled against future climate scenarios using the Forest Research's ESC tool. ESC assesses the suitability of a range of tree species, the evaluation is based on the match between key site factors and the ecological requirements of different species, and incorporates future climate change projections.



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 1,600 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 the second Green Skills course, a free training programme, designed to increase employment opportunities for adults who want to work in the green sector. The 6-month programme is a combination of practical on-site learning experiences and talks from industry professionals relating to woodland creation, tree care and land management.

ANT's Second Woodland Skills training programme ran November 2024 - May 2025 with 15 participants and 10 pro-bono training partners. 14 of the 15 participants completed the course with good attendance.



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

An extensive stakeholder mapping and engagement workstream was undertaken in this reporting period and beyond to support the development phase of our Landscape Recovery in the Lower Chew project. This involved land owners, local people and a range of wider stakeholders helping to design or shape our Landscape Recovery proposal.

Future plans

The development phase of Landscape Recovery in the Lower Chew is due to complete in 2025/26. In this time funders will also determine whether our Landscape Recovery project will proceed to an implementation phase that would last and deliver benefit for at least 20 years. In 2025/26 the Echo Wood project at Lower Chew Forest sees a high-profile and community-focused collaboration between Avon Needs Trees and internationally renowned installation artist, Bristol-based Luke Jerram.

Preparing for commercial trading

Having created our trading body, Avon Needs Trees Trading LTD, this year ANT focused on developing its commercial assets and expertise as a first step to unlocking income from commercial activities. ANT also secured a £2m repayable grant from the West of England Combined Authority's Infrastructure Fund, enabling our commercial team to take the first steps in developing income-generating assets at Lower Chew Forest.

In terms of expertise, ANT formed three new commercial staff positions. Our Head of Business Development post created a senior leadership position focused on growing ANT's commercial income streams and unlocking value from our woodland sites without compromising their positive environmental and social impact, and leading ANT's commercial team. Within this team lie two new roles: our Natural Capital and Nature Markets Lead, focused on unlocking the revenue potential of ecosystem services credits through frameworks like the Woodland Carbon Code and Biodiversity Net Gain; and our Business Development Officer, focused on supporting the operational development and launch of our ecotourism offering at Lower Chew Forest.

Our newly formed commercial team focused on the commercial potential of Lower Chew Forest, working with our Land team to develop and finalise our Biodiversity Net Gain proposal and 30 year Habitat Maintenance and Monitoring Plan for Lower Chew Forest, and submit this to the local authority for approval and registration - an essential step on the journey towards being able to sell Biodiversity Net Gain units from this site under the national statutory framework. According to our models, the BNG value of Lower Chew Forest could be worth as much as £50m - providing a critically important source of capital to both cover the purchase, afforestation and long-term maintenance of the site and potentially also funds to plough back into ANT's next land purchase.

Plans were developed to renovate and bring back into use both the grade-II listed Wick Farmhouse and Wick Cottage, and to install woodland cabins to provide nature-based stays in the understory of our existing woodlands on site.

Landscape Recovery

Landscape Recovery is the flagship programme of Defra's post-Brexit Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMs). Landscape Recovery is underpinned by its bold new vision for restoring nature. It's an ambitious set of new large-scale, long term financial incentives led by Defra that encourage landowners to take coordinated, joined-up actions for nature and climate.

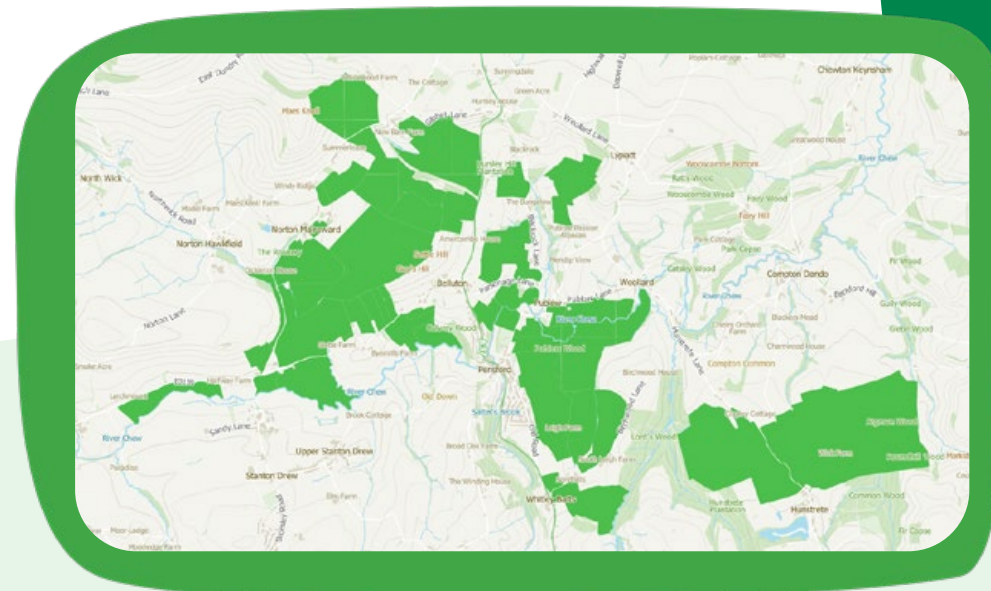
Landscape Recovery in the Lower Chew

In April 2024, ANT embarked on the Development Phase of our own Landscape Recovery Project, marking the transition of the kind of work we do from beyond single sites, to working across the Lower Chew Valley at a much larger scale.

We worked with several landowners across just over 500 Ha in the Lower Chew Valley to develop plans that will restore nature, contribute to net zero targets and support rural livelihoods. Great Avon Woods & Lower Chew Forest sit in the heart of our project area - making up 216 Ha. By enhancing woodlands, wetland and grasslands we will be building the natural resilience of the landscape to resist flooding, whilst providing more opportunities for people to enjoy and celebrate the unique heritage and culture of the place.

The Development Phase runs for just under 18 months and offers an opportunity for the project to create a vision for the Lower Chew, to be submitted to Defra in the hope of securing approval of our proposals and long-term funding - potentially 35 years - to make our vision a reality.

The reporting period covered within this Annual Report maps onto the most substantial chunk of our Development Phase. In this time, we undertook the following activities.



Activities the project has undertaken

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. Baselineing is a priority for Landscape Recovery, ensuring that impact can be quantified where possible. We undertook:

- + Ecological habitat baselineing of project land
- + Species baselineing across the landscape
- + Soil sampling across the landscape

Landscape Recovery involves visioning guided by the question: *'what does landscape recovery look like in our particular landscape from an ecological, heritage, social impact and economic perspective?'*

Using a plethora of inputs, including baselineing data & insights from the farmers who know the land best, ANT undertook a visioning process for the landscape, seeking a vision that maximised ecological habitat connectivity, in turn supporting increased biodiversity, sustainable food production, enhancement of heritage, social benefit, economic sustainability for rural communities.

Landscape Recovery involves lots of different voices:

- + As a landowner-led scheme, the voices of those who know the land best - **the farmers** - were front and centre throughout the visioning process
- + We undertook stakeholder co-design and a **public consultation** to understand what local communities wanted for their landscape
- + Throughout the Development phase, we worked with many different experts, including farmers, ecologists, heritage experts the Forestry Commission, and Bristol Avon Rivers Trust. Our Partnership Board comprised 15 organisations with expertise in social impact, ecology, farming and business.

Looking ahead

From July 2025, ANT will be busily working on the final submission to Defra, due in September 2025. If the bid is successful, 35 years' worth of funding for nature, sustainable food production and social impact projects could be released for the Lower Chew...funding of this magnitude could be a game-changer for climate and nature, with impact for generations to come.

Achievements & Performance: Our new 5-Year Strategy

During the reporting period Avon Needs Trees finalised a new 5-Year Strategy, running 2024-29. The calls to action from our theory of change are expressed in 5 new goals:

1. Create new woodlands at a landscape scale to tackle the climate and nature emergencies

The development phase for Landscape Recovery in the Lower Chew has been a major part of charity work in the reporting period. Our Landscape Recovery project is an opportunity for woodland creation and connectivity at landscape scale. In the reporting period we completed the planting of Great Avon Wood and completed the first season of planting at Lower Chew Forest.

Future Plans:

In 2025/26 we will see the outcome of the development phase of Landscape Recovery in the Lower Chew with an implementation phase that could deliver benefit for at least 20 years. In 2025/26 we will also complete planting at Lower Chew Forest and continue beat-up at Great Avon Wood. A pipeline for new land purchase will be a priority for 2025/26. We plan to purchase one area of land and refocus search for further suitable land for woodland creation.

2. Achieve financial sustainability, so we can deliver more

Fundraising goals were achieved in this reporting period with a fundraising team appointed. Much of the reporting period focussed on development of our Landscape Recovery proposals including BNG sales and ecotourism.

Future plans:

In 2025/26 there has been the start of a major fundraising drive especially for the establishment of Lower Chew Forest including Echo Wood. We are grateful for the exceptionally generous donations by individuals, companies, trusts and foundations. Fundraising for the establishment of this major new forest continues. 2025/26 also sees the launch of ANT's BNG sales and the final stages of development of ecotourism and other potential commercial opportunities.



3. Develop our people for today and tomorrow

The period saw a major enhancement of the training offer for our staff and volunteers focusing on increased foundational knowledge. ANT has sought to in-source skills where possible and invest in the knowledge and skills of the charity team.

Future plans:

In 2025/26 recruitment of trustees is a priority, alongside development of directors and staff in our commercial entity. A broader range of volunteer roles opportunities over a longer period of time continues to be developed as part of our Landscape Recovery development.

4. Help our communities adapt and mitigate climate change

Community co-design and consultation around our Landscape Recovery project was a major focus of stakeholder engagement this year. We ran scores of volunteering, outreach and education events throughout the year both general access alongside many specifically engaging our target demographic groups.

Future plans:

Preparing for future community adaptation and mitigation was a central strand of our development work for Landscape Recovery in the Lower Chew. Moving forward we hope to have the opportunity to put this planning into action. This includes a widening of our outreach, green skills, green social prescribing, specialised volunteering and opportunities to showcase our learning so far.

5. Extend our impact and embrace our leadership role

Working with landowners across the Lower Chew and wider stakeholders we have developed an ambitious Landscape Recovery plan that will widen that impact beyond the woodland sites we own.

Future plans:

ANT works in an unusual space: our core activity being buying land and creating new woodlands. Groups and organisations frequently contact us for help, being one of the few charities in this space. While our aims are supported and shared at all levels we find many obstacles, enough to put off other groups wanting to do what we do. We have started to work with national and local policy-makers, as well as the wider private and public sector, to advocate for removing these obstacles. We are continuing to develop this work with the aim of making nature's recovery at scale more possible both regionally and nationally.

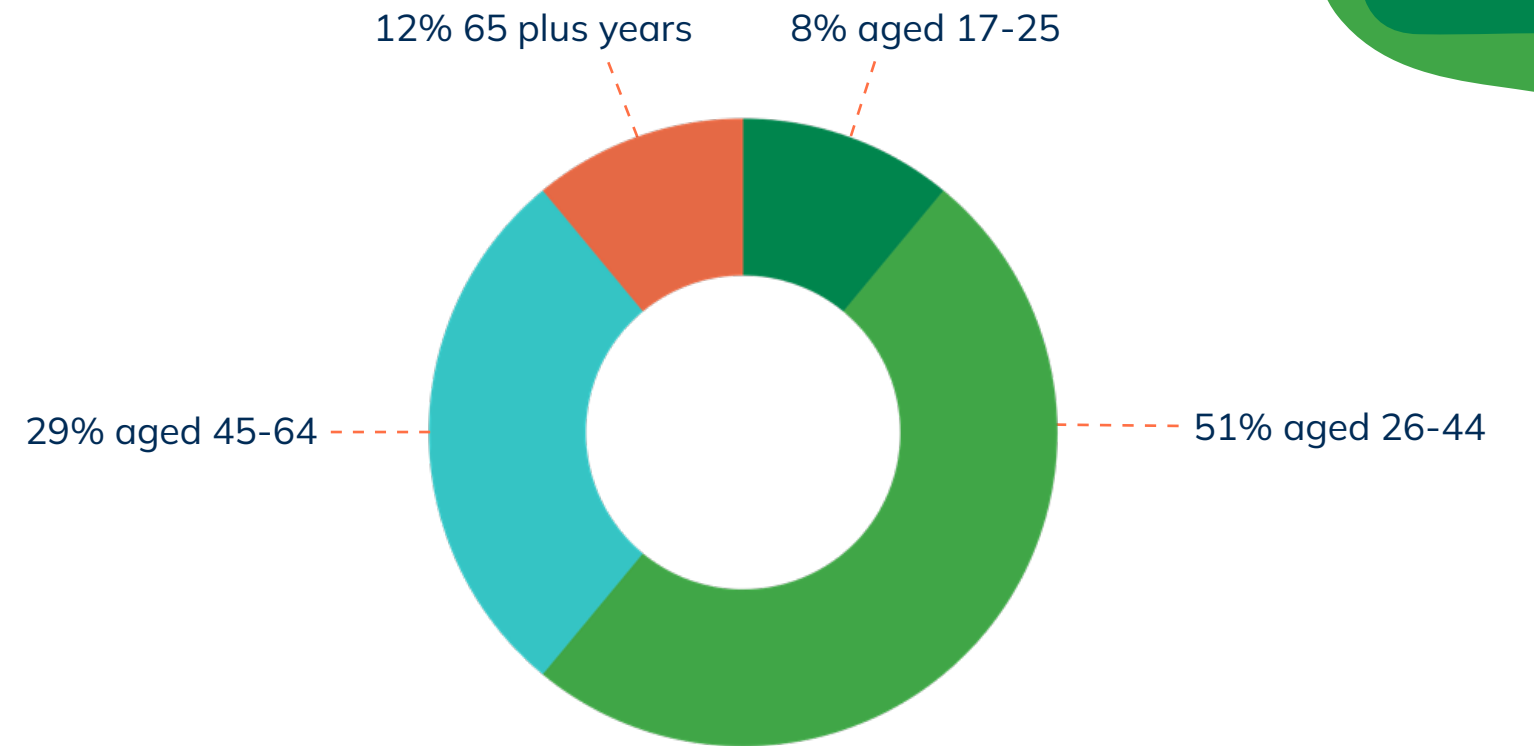
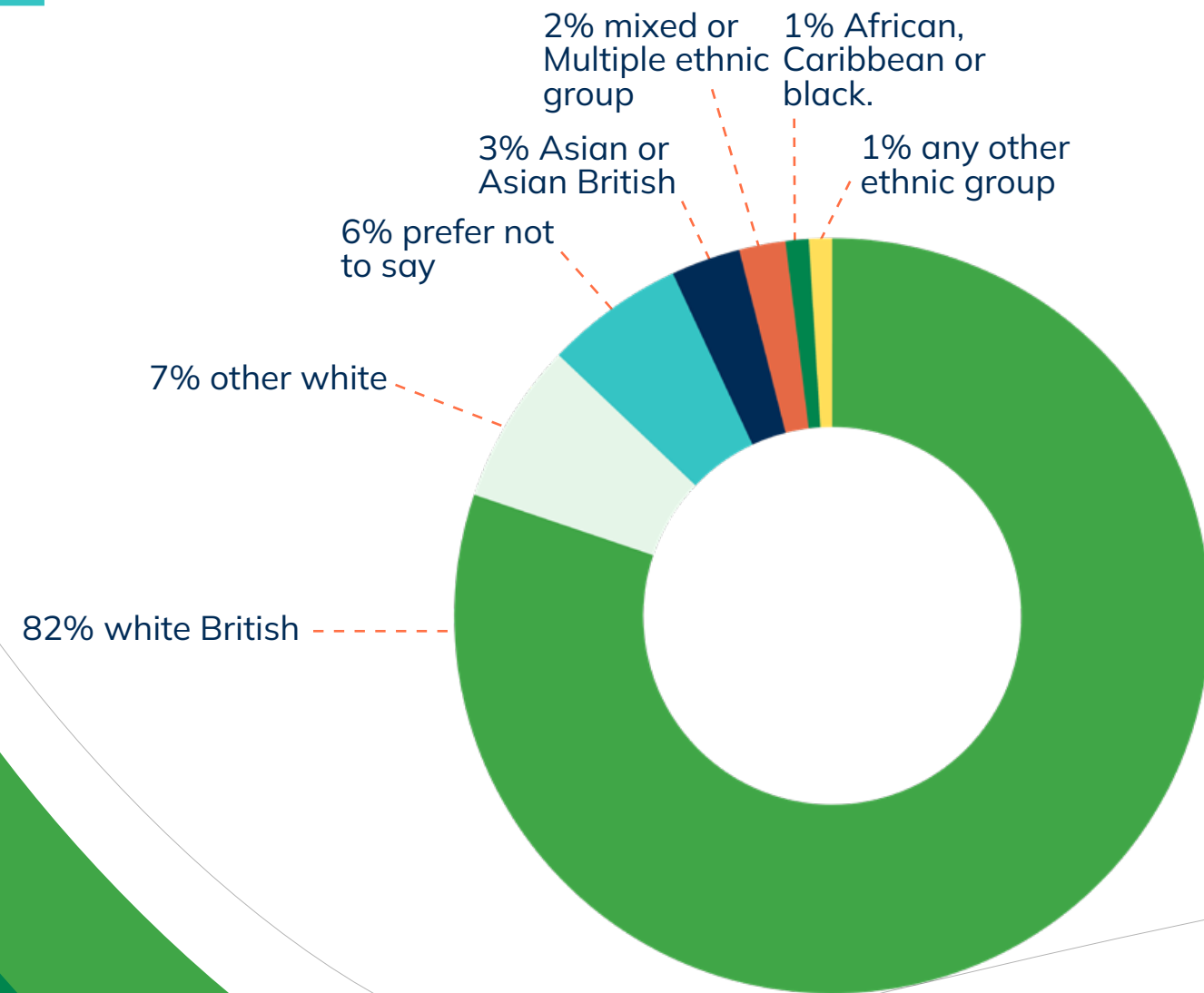
Volunteering

In 2024-2025:

- + 102 volunteering opportunities
- + 1,691 people registered on the volunteer portal
- + 3,415 confirmed volunteer hours, valuing £68,300
- + 85% said they would volunteer again
- + 98% said it was beneficial to their mental / physical health



Our volunteers



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

Great Avon Wood
nr Bristol
895k people



Lower Chew Forest
nr Bristol and Bath
787k people

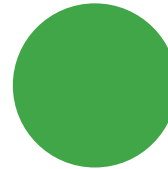


Pudding Brook Wood
nr Chippenham
186k people



Ed Woods
nr Shepton Mallet
149k people

Hazeland
nr Calne
175k people



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

People Impact: Case Studies

Pensford Primary School

Pensford Primary is the school closest to ANT's Great Avon Wood site and so the new woodland forms an important part of the young people's landscape. We have formed a strong relationship with the school and pupils have attended tree planting, forest schools and seed collection, while we have presented assemblies at the school. Year 5&6 also took part in a two day story creation workshop to create a new story of the landscape entitled 'The Riddle Tree' based inspired by the 1,000 year oak at our site.

“Our children have become more knowledgeable about their local environment and passionate about caring for it.”

Warrick Barton
(Headteacher)

The kids said:

"The butterflies were my favourite part—one wouldn't leave my hand!"

"Checking on our trees with friends—and cake—was the best bit."

"Our story had all of our ideas—it felt amazing to see it published."



"I loved digging the holes and planting trees—there were lots of worms!"



Young Muslim Women's Group

Avon Needs Trees staff have developed informal links with a group of young Muslim women from Bristol. They come together to share their faith and support each other spiritually and socially. Many are studying at one of the city's universities. They are enthusiastic about connecting with nature and planting a tree is an act of charity in Islam. But many lack the confidence about how to access the countryside: "I simply have no idea. Everytime I search I just get redirected to normal parks, plus I'm not sure how safe the place can be." As well as transport and clothing, we also understand the need to provide events for specific groups, space for ablutions and for prayer. We have hosted three visits to Great Avon Wood, for wildlife walks, picnics and prayer in the summer and tree planting in the winter. In June we met the women at the bus station and all came together by bus to increase their confidence for visiting the site independently.

Participants said:

"I learned how to gently catch and handle butterflies and insects, which was completely new to me. I also got to practise being more observant in nature – spotting different species in the grassland and understanding how to use the containers and tools properly. It was a great hands-on learning experience!"

"I really enjoyed spending the day at Avon woods, the atmosphere was great. I felt moved and emotional being around a group of supportive women in nature."



"I truly loved how guided it was, from the moment we got there we were informed really well, and we were well provided for - down to the clothing and food, it was such a comfortable and joyful experience. The demonstration was really clear and helpful, and we were aided throughout which helped eased us into it and granted us confidence."

People Impact: Case Studies

Black2Nature

Black2Nature is dedicated to connecting Visibly Minority Ethnic (VME) kids with nature. ANT has continued to build the connection with Black2Nature to bring young people to our winter tree planting days and on summer visits for tree care and nature exploration at our Great Avon Wood site.

B2N Programme Leader said:

"Black2Nature are extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Avon Needs Trees at the Great Avon Wood over the last few years. Our young people have benefitted hugely with their mental and physical health, enjoying their time out in nature, planting and caring for trees."



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 have attended tree planting days, tree care sessions and Forest School workshops.

Into University Programme Leader said:

"Our students love working with Avon Needs Trees! Giving these young people opportunities to experience the outdoors in a way they may not usually be able to is a fantastic experience. They still talk about the tree planting in particular, even despite all the mud. We saw sides to students we've known for years come out that we hadn't seen before. We're so excited to keep working with Avon Needs Trees and providing our young people with unique experiences they wouldn't usually get."



Youth Adventure Trust

The Youth Adventure Trust (YAT) use outdoor adventure and one-to-one support to empower young people to fulfil their potential and lead positive lives in the future. In April we hosted YAT for a day at our Hazeland forest school. Around 15 young people plus their facilitators joined us for some outdoor activities including shelter building, stick whittling and cooking and also games like hide and seek. YAT have booked to return to Hazeland this April. Feed back from the day included:

"Thank you so much for the day. It was a pleasure working with you both. I look forward to organising something similar in the future".

"This is one of the best days of my life! I wish I could come back here on my birthday."

Young person from into university attending a tree planting



People Impact: Case Studies

Grief Encounter helps bereaved children, young people and their families find hope and healing after the death of someone close. Planting a tree in memory of a loved one is a symbolic act with its promise of new life. The charity organises outings for families throughout the year in and around Bristol. The centre is in Knowle, next to the bus route to GAW and only 5 miles away.

In July 2024 we organised a family day with a visit to the Publow Oak, where we wrote messages on paper leaves and hung them from the tree. Several of the families came back (plus some new ones) in February 2025 to plant trees with us. They buried clay hearts with them and wrote messages on the tree tubes. They returned in the summer for a walk around the heritage trail, a picnic, wildlife spotting and to check on the trees they had planted. It was wonderful to see the children running free across the site and delighting in catching butterflies to observe and release. The charity chose a 300 year old oak tree at the site to be their special Grief Encounter tree.

There were so many beautiful moments—planting over 100 trees with heartfelt messages of love (the oaks are certainly blessed to start their journeys with so much love and care), children and families gathering to share stories, parents and children gradually relaxing as the day went on, enjoying picnics together, rolling down the "rolly polly" hill, gathering around the magnificent Publow oak and Jeanna reading 'Michaels song', jumping in the leaves and finally walking back to the carpark seeing the snowdrops and spring flowers emerging, it truly felt like a sign of hope. (Claire Fender, GE staff team)

Participants shared the following about what they enjoyed:

"Planting trees and remembering Mummy. "

"Everything and rolling down the hills."

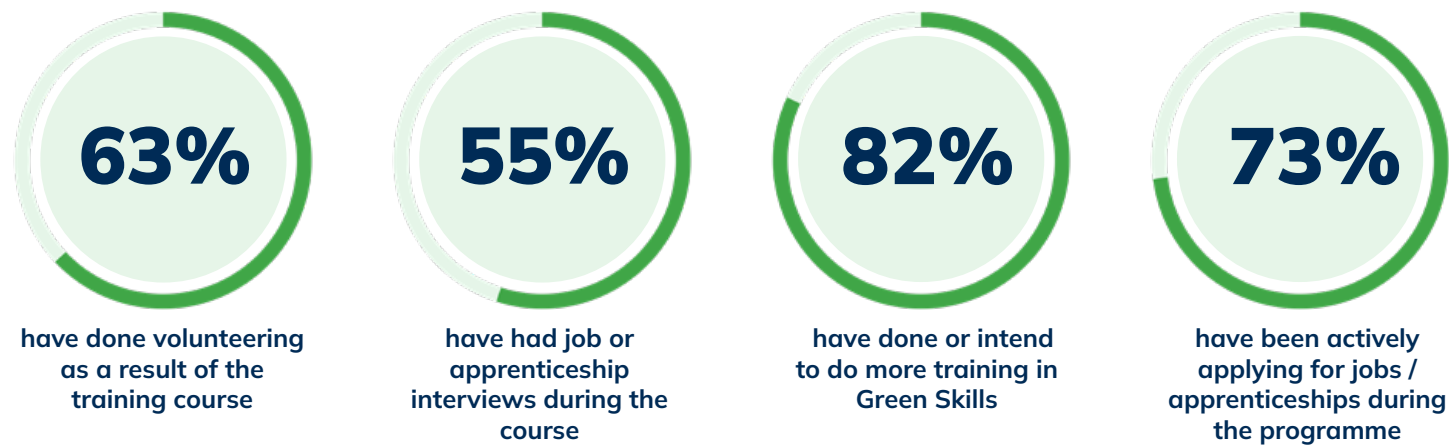
"I enjoyed it when I lay down by the baby trees"

“ We had a lovely day tree planting with staff and friends at Grief Encounter, this memory will be with us forever and knowing we can go back and visit our special trees planted in memory of Julie, it is such a wonderful place.
Claire Fender, GE staff



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.



Of the people beginning new jobs:

- + 3 people moving into full time work in the green sector
- + 3 people have taken jobs not in the green sector (a stepping stone towards a green job)
- + 3 people taking on new self-employed work in the green sector

Of the people undertaking further training:

- + 2 people have trained as an ANT Volunteer Leader
- + 1 person has received subsidised training for chainsaw licence and brushcutter
- + 1 person has begun training in renewable energy consultation
- + 2 people are starting short courses with the Field Studies Council

Key Statistics:

- + 14 / 15 people completed the course with great attendance
- + 9 people have begun new jobs during the course (60%)
- + 5 people have gone onto further training courses by the end of the course (33%)

This means that 80% (12/15 people) have accomplished the objectives of the course within 6 months of enrolment.

We also measured learning about environment, employment and confidence:



Our graduates

Quotes from the latest cohort of course participants:



It has been the perfect introduction for me to start considering how I might access a green skills career, providing a toolkit to make CV changes, resources and networks to research and explore as well as practical skills that have helped to shape what areas of work would be of interest/possible in my circumstances."



As an unemployed parent looking to transfer into the green sector, this free course has helped me to gain confidence and clarity with my future career options. It gave me purpose, structure and sense of belonging and at a time when I was lost and uncertain in term my career and needed specific support around environmental and green sector career pathways."



The course has far exceeded my expectations, it has filled me with encouragement, added greatly to my experiences and skills. It has given me a much greater insight into the range of opportunities available both in job roles and training within the green sector. I am finishing the course feeling a great sense of accomplishment. I am so thankful and happy to have been accepted on such an invaluable course led by such a thoughtful, dedicated and caring team."



The course has been the best part of my life for the past six months"



Each and every day of the course has been brilliant!"



Outreach

Events in 2024/25:

Spring Tree Id walk
 Dundry Earth Day Festival
 Corsham Eco Fair
 Early Morning Bird Walk
 Green Skills Heritage Trail tour
 Forest School with Into University
 Walking the new Great Avon Wood
 Marksbury Primary
 Foraging Day
 Summer Tree ID walk at Hermitage
 Heritage Trail tour at GAW for AWT
 Muslim Women's group visit to GAW
 WENP board - tour of LCF
 Windmill Hill Cubs tour
 Oasis Academy visit to GAW
 Compton Dando Summer Fete
 Summer Tree Id walk
 Family Nature Activities
 Landscape Recovery Landowner Meeting
 UoB Biology Dept site visit to GAW and LCF
 Muslim Women's Group

Grief Encounter's visit
 Family Nature Activities
 Tree Nursery Launch
 Family Nature Activities
 Stories Under the Ancient Oak
 Bat walk
 Stockwood Youth Group explore
 Chew Stoke Harvest Home
 East Harptree Flower Show
 Autumn Tree id walk
 Out in Nature' Autumn
 Wellbeing session at GAW
 Wells Food Festival
 Introduction to NFM - online
 Forest School with Into University
 Story Creation Workshop at Pensford Primary
 Ancient and Veteran trees - online

We ran
 more than
34
 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 2024/25 these teams were a) people and operations, b) engagement, communications and fundraising, c) woodland and impact, and d) business development.

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. In this reporting period the following directors also joined the above three: ANT Head of Business Development Aran Shaunak and unconflicted persons Hilary Jeffkins and Carrie Spittlehouse. As at the end of the year 2024/25 the company had not yet traded or entered into any contracts. Avon Needs Trees and Avon Needs Trees Trading Limited are now VAT grouped..

Future plans

At the time of writing trustees are about to launch a recruitment campaign for new trustees.

As the scope and complexity of the organisation has grown trustees have further sharpened focus on strategic, financial and legal matters. Policies and strategies are trustee board owned but at the time of writing a number of supporting protocols and processes have been delegated to the Chief Executive and Senior Leadership. These are mainly employee related protocols.

Avon Needs Trees Trading Ltd is not trading as of March 2026, but is expected to commence trading in 2026.

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 25 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:

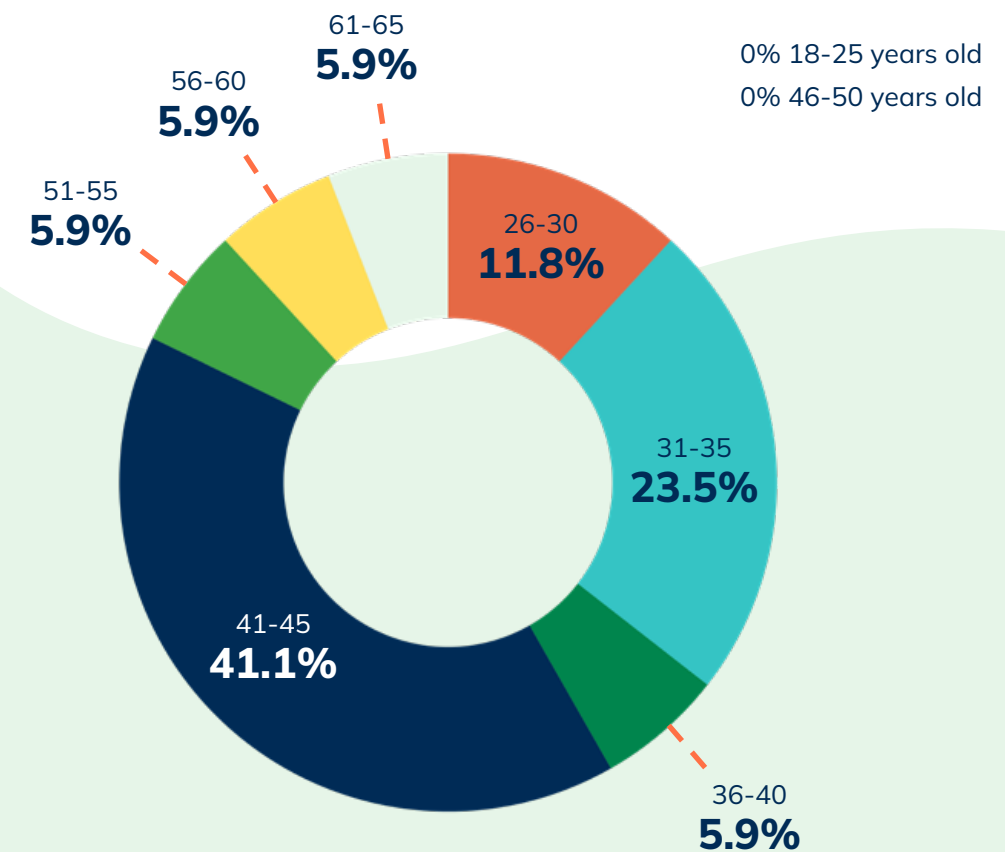
- Non-binary staff were paid above average
- Bisexual staff were paid above average
- Ethnicity: Not published to avoid releasing data about identifiable individuals
- Staff with disabilities were paid above average
- Lower socio-economic background staff were paid above average
- Staff who were not religious were paid above average
- Staff with caring responsibilities were paid above average

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

- Gender: female, 47.1%
- Sexual orientation: heterosexual, 52.9%
- Ethnicity: white British, 88.2%
- Disability: not disabled, 64.7%
- Socio-economic: not lower socio-economic background, 81.3%
- Religion: not religious, 76.4%
- Caring responsibilities: no caring responsibilities, 52.9%

All staff employed with ANT up to 30th June 2025 were invited to complete an anonymous survey monitoring diversity and gender pay.

Age of staff:



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 27th April 2026 and signed on their behalf by



Mark Funnell, Chair

Financial Review

Total funds (net assets) carried forward at the year end were £6,271,283 (2024: £5,514,522). This balance is primarily represented by land and property assets held by the charity, funded through a combination of restricted grants and long-term financing. During the year, the charity continued to invest in woodland establishment and the development of Wick Farm properties, alongside receiving funding in advance to support these activities.

While this has strengthened the charity's overall balance sheet position, the year also included planned investment in woodland establishment and property development, resulting in a reduction in unrestricted reserves.

Total net income for the year was £756,761 (2024: £4,239,324). This surplus was driven by restricted funding for woodland establishment and complementary projects, offset by an unrestricted deficit of £(22,018) (2024: £(68,366)).

The charity's main source of unrestricted income continues to be donations and unrestricted grants, which decreased by 15% compared to the prior year. Unrestricted expenditure exceeded income in the year primarily due to planned investment in the establishment of new woodland at Lower Chew Forest, including costs incurred in advance of associated grant income. This reflects both the timing of project delivery and the strategic use of unrestricted reserves to support growth in the charity's activities.

Staff costs increased significantly in the year, rising by 163% (2024: 82%), reflecting the continued growth of the organisation, with average headcount increasing from 12 to 23 employees. This increase was driven by the delivery of funded projects, with additional staff recruited to support woodland establishment and related activities. While this expansion has enabled the charity to deliver its strategic objectives, it has also increased the underlying cost base.

As a result of this investment phase, unrestricted reserves reduced to £490,231 at the year end (2024: £512,249). However, this includes the value of fixed assets (land and buildings) and long term finance. Unrestricted net current assets were £434,967 at the year end. The movement in reserves reflects the intentional use of unrestricted funds to enable woodland establishment and progress the development of income-generating assets. The Trustees recognise the importance of maintaining adequate levels of unrestricted reserves and will seek to rebuild these over the medium term through a combination of fundraising, development of commercial income streams and careful cost management.

At the year end, the charity held cash and short-term deposits totalling £1,092,824 (2024: £488,631), of which a significant proportion relates to restricted funding for specific projects. The Trustees have considered the availability of unrestricted cash within their forecasts to ensure sufficient liquidity to meet operational requirements.

The charity also continues to manage its long-term loan facility in line with expectations, with interest payments beginning May 2026 and no capital repayments due until 2029.

The charity's financial position reflects a period of significant growth and investment, with increased activity funded predominantly through restricted grants alongside the planned utilisation of unrestricted reserves.



Finance Review

Reserves policy

The charity's reserves policy takes account of the cashflow requirements arising from grant-funded activities, particularly where expenditure is incurred in advance of claims being submitted to funders. Major projects require upfront investment, with reimbursement often received on a quarterly or annual basis.

Based on these factors, the Trustees consider it appropriate to hold free reserves of approximately £218,000, consistent with the prior year policy. These reserves are intended to provide sufficient working capital to manage timing differences in grant receipts and to cover unforeseen expenditure.

At the year end, unrestricted free reserves were £490,231 (2024: £512,249), which is in line with the level set by the Trustees. The reduction in reserves during the year reflects the planned use of unrestricted funds to support woodland establishment and the development of income-generating assets.

The Trustees will seek to maintain reserves at an appropriate level going forward through a combination of fundraising, development of commercial income streams and careful cost management.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, which the Trustees consider appropriate in accordance with FRS 102, after reviewing the charity's forecasts and current financial position for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements.

At the year end, the charity held cash and short-term deposits totalling £1,092,824 and maintained a positive net current asset position. The Trustees have prepared detailed cash flow forecasts covering the period to at least April 2027, reflecting the current cost base and planned activity levels.

These forecasts include assumptions regarding the timing and level of future income, including the development of commercial income streams. The Trustees recognise that there is inherent uncertainty in the timing and delivery of these income streams and have therefore considered scenarios where income is delayed or lower than expected.

In these scenarios, the charity is able to take mitigating actions, including the deferral of discretionary expenditure and adjustment of project phasing. This approach is consistent with the charity's reserves policy and ensures that sufficient liquidity is maintained throughout the forecast period. Since the year end, financial performance has been in line with expectations and the charity continues to maintain adequate cash balances to meet its obligations as they fall due.

Based on this assessment, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and therefore continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. For the financial year ending 30th June 2025, Godfrey Willson Limited were re-appointed as auditors.

Fundraising

At the start of the reporting period, ANT developed a new 3 year fundraising strategy. Four priority areas were identified; trusts & foundations, corporate relationships, one-off crowdfunder style campaigns and philanthropists

Much of our fundraising activity took place through formal application processes and relationship building through existing networks, using channels like email and social media, following GDPR rules and guidelines. Any reach to new audiences at scale was through press and PR activity.

Avon Needs Trees continues not to use fundraising practices at scale to cold audiences which have the potential to be an unreasonable intrusion on personal space, for example street fundraising. All activities are carried out by ANT personnel. We aim to use channels that minimise extensive use of materials in an unsustainable manner, for example letterbox door drops.

Due to this selective use of fundraising approaches, ANT has not been required to sign up to bodies that largely regulate cold fundraising at scale and seek to minimise any potential negative or intrusive impacts of these activities.

ANT has a donation policy which lays out a clear process for carrying out appropriate due diligence on supporters. In practice this means, for example, that we carry out checks on potential corporate partners to check they broadly align with our sustainable principles and don't work in sectors that would be in direct contradiction to our work and charitable objectives. A similar process is in place for individual donors.

There were no complaints received by the charity about fundraising activity and any activities carried out were in line with fundraising regulations including the guidelines of the Charity Commission.



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 CrowdFunder, **Bradenstoke Solar Park Community Benefit Fund** and **Alastair Sawday Publishing Grassroots Fund**, this includes:



The
countryside
charity

Triodos Bank



We are also grateful to the following for their donations: Nicholas Pearson Associates, Elemis, Ecosurety, Piper Maddox, GCP Architects, NHS Shared Business Services, Offspring Films, ZapMap, Burgess Salmon, Bristol Uni CAPC, Equans, Loom Digital, Granger Reis, Burgess Salmon, Inside Travel, BaseKit, EDP, AHMM, Goodrich Consulting LLP, Savills, Southby & Co Financial Planning, University of Bristol, School of Physics, Sunhouse Creative and EDF

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 2025 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 2025 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 the provisions available for small entities, in the circumstances set out in note 7 to the financial statements, 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: 30th April 2026

Godfrey Wilson Limited

Godfrey Wilson Limited
Chartered accountants and statutory auditors
5th Floor Mariner House
62 Prince Street
Bristol BS1 4QD

Audited Accounts

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Note	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	127,094	99,810	226,904	266,262
Charitable activities	4	1,725,698	20,000	1,745,698	4,553,811
Investments		-	8,840	8,840	2,760
Other income		-	2,321	2,321	-
Total income		1,852,792	130,971	1,983,763	4,822,833
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		-	9,009	9,009	3,909
Charitable activities					
Maintain existing woodland		-	26,402	26,402	38,930
Establish new woodland		794,589	140,213	934,802	365,212
Land acquisition		-	-	-	128,788
Complementary projects		256,789	-	256,789	46,670
Total expenditure	6	1,051,378	175,624	1,227,002	583,509
Net income / (expenditure)		801,414	(44,653)	756,761	4,239,324
Transfers between funds		(22,635)	22,635	-	-
Net movement in funds	7	778,779	(22,018)	756,761	4,239,324
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		<u>5,002,273</u>	<u>512,249</u>	<u>5,514,522</u>	<u>1,275,198</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>5,781,052</u>	<u>490,231</u>	<u>6,271,283</u>	<u>5,514,522</u>

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 17 to the accounts.

Balance Sheet at 30 June 2025

	Note	£	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets	10		8,149,220	8,116,132
Investments	11		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
			8,149,221	8,116,133
Current assets				
Debtors	12	345,486		206,059
Current asset investments	13	680,500		-
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>412,324</u>		<u>488,631</u>
		1,438,310		694,690
Liabilities				
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	14	<u>92,687</u>		<u>71,877</u>
Net current assets			<u>1,345,623</u>	<u>622,813</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			9,494,844	8,738,946
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than 1 year	15		<u>3,223,561</u>	<u>3,224,424</u>
Net assets	16		<u>6,271,283</u>	<u>5,514,522</u>
Funds	17			
Restricted funds			5,781,052	5,002,273
Unrestricted funds				
Designated funds			-	216,346
General funds			<u>490,231</u>	<u>295,903</u>
Total charity funds			<u>6,271,283</u>	<u>5,514,522</u>

Approved by the trustees on 27 April 2026 and signed on their behalf by



M. Funnell - Trustee

Statement of Cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash used in operating activities:		
Net movement in funds	756,761	4,239,324
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	10,022	8,601
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(8,840)	(2,760)
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	(139,427)	1,197
Increase in creditors	20,810	58,949
Interest payable	(863)	37,294
Net cash provided by operating activities	638,463	4,342,605
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	8,840	2,760
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(43,110)	(7,152,663)
Acquisition of investments	-	(1)
Net cash used in investing activities	(34,270)	(7,149,904)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Cash inflows from new borrowing	-	3,187,130
Net cash provided in financing activities	-	3,187,130
Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year	604,193	379,831
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	488,631	108,800
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	1,092,824	488,631
Cash and cash equivalents comprises:		
Current asset investments	680,500	-
Cash at bank and in hand	412,324	488,631
	1,092,824	488,631

Analysis of net changes in debt are given in note 18.

Notes to the Accounts

1. Accounting policies

a) General information and basis of preparation

Avon Needs Trees is a charitable incorporated organisation registered in England and Wales.

The registered office address is:

Office 115 117 and 119
Regus Castlemead
Lower Castle Street
Bristol
BS1 3AG

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).

Avon Needs Trees meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b) Going concern basis of accounting

The trustees have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis in accordance with FRS102, having reviewed the charity's current financial position and detailed cash flow forecasts covering a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements. At the year end, the charity held cash and short-term deposits of £1,092,824 and maintained a positive net current asset position. Forecasts reflect the current cost base, planned activity levels and assumptions regarding future income, including the development of commercial income streams, and incorporate scenario analysis to address potential delays or shortfalls in income. The trustees have identified appropriate mitigating actions, including the deferral of discretionary expenditure and adjustment of project phasing, in line with the charity's reserves policy, to ensure ongoing liquidity. Since the year end, financial performance has been in line with expectations. Based on this assessment, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and therefore continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

c) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from the government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

d) Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item, is probable and the economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

e) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

f) Funds accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or through terms of appeal are for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

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

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

h) 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:

	2025	2024
Raising funds	0.0%	0.0%
Charitable activities		
Maintain existing woodland	1.1%	5.1%
Establish new woodland	74.7%	45.6%
Land acquisition	0.0%	45.1%
Complementary projects	24.2%	4.2%

1. Accounting policies (continued)

i) Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

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 and equipment	25% reducing balance

No depreciation is charged on assets under development.

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

j) 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.

k) Current asset investments

Current asset investments consist of cash held on deposit in interest bearing accounts with a term not more than 1 year which are intended to be held for short term investment purposes rather than to meet day to day cashflow requirements. Such investments are held at fair value.

l) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

m) Creditors

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.

Loans and other financial liabilities are initially measured at transaction price net of any transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost determined using the effective interest method. Where the charity revises its estimates of future payments, for example due to changes in contractual interest rates, the carrying amount of loans is recalculated by computing the present value of future cash flows at the original effective interest rate. An adjustment is recognised in the SOFA as income or expense at the date of revision.

n) Financial instruments

The CIO 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 recognised as noted above in note 1(m).

1. Accounting policies (continued)

o) Pension costs

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees. There are no further liabilities other than that already recognised in the SOFA.

p) 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 source of estimation uncertainty that has a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements is depreciation as described at note 1(i) and the amortisation of the bank loan as described at note 1(m).

2. Prior period comparatives: statement of financial activities

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 Total £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	160,829	105,433	266,262
Charitable activities	4,552,311	1,500	4,553,811
Investments	-	2,760	2,760
Total income	4,713,140	109,693	4,822,833
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	-	3,909	3,909
Charitable activities			
Maintain existing woodland	30,125	8,805	38,930
Establish new woodland	289,057	76,155	365,212
Land acquisition	47,990	80,798	128,788
Complementary projects	38,278	8,392	46,670
Total expenditure	405,450	178,059	583,509
Net income / (expenditure)	4,307,690	(68,366)	4,239,324
Transfers between funds	(142,836)	142,836	-
Net movement in funds	4,164,854	74,470	4,239,324

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2025 Total £
Individual donations	111,094	24,821	135,915
Corporate donations	6,000	27,532	33,532
Grants	10,000	47,457	57,457
Total income from donations and legacies	127,094	99,810	226,904

Prior period comparative:

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 Total £
Individual donations	160,829	59,529	220,358
Corporate donations	-	15,404	15,404
Grants	-	30,500	30,500
Total income from donations and legacies	160,829	105,433	266,262

4. Income from charitable activities

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2025 Total £
Maintain existing woodland:			
The Swire Charitable Trust	-	20,000	20,000
Establish new woodland:			
West of England Combined Authority	1,145,785	-	1,145,785
The National Lottery Heritage Fund	73,223	-	73,223
Garfield Weston Foundation	30,000	-	30,000
Ernest Cook Trust	20,011	-	20,011
Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts	20,000	-	20,000
The HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust	15,000	-	15,000
Complementary projects:			
DEFRA - Environment Agency	421,103	-	421,103
The Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum	576	-	576
Total income from charitable activities	1,725,698	20,000	1,745,698

4. Income from charitable activities (continued)**Prior period comparative:**

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 Total £
Maintain existing woodland:			
Forest of Avon Trust	25,392	-	25,392
Great Western Community Forest	2,737	-	2,737
Establish new woodland:			
West of England Combined Authority	303,961	-	303,961
The National Lottery Heritage Fund	115,500	-	115,500
The Woodland Trust	23,653	-	23,653
Land acquisition:			
Cheshire and West Chester Council	4,043,880	-	4,043,880
Other funders	-	1,500	1,500
Complementary projects:			
DEFRA - Environment Agency	28,267	-	28,267
Other funders	8,921	-	8,921
Total income from charitable activities	4,552,311	1,500	4,553,811

5. Government grants

The charity receives government grants, defined as funding from the Environment Agency (DEFRA) and The West of England Combined Authority (WECA), to fund charitable activities (2024: as current year, in addition to Cheshire and West Chester Council, and Wiltshire County Council). The total value of such grants in the period ending 30 June 2025 was £1,566,963 (2024: £4,380,029). There are no unfulfilled conditions or contingencies attaching to these grants in the current or prior year, except the WECA grant of £850,000 (2024: £nil), as described further in note 20.

6. Total expenditure

	Direct costs £	Staff costs £	Support and governance costs £	2025 Total £
Raising funds	9,009	-	-	9,009
Maintain existing woodland	15,981	7,023	3,398	26,402
Establish new woodland	255,364	457,883	221,555	934,802
Complementary projects	37,080	148,065	71,644	256,789
Total expenditure	317,434	612,971	296,597	1,227,002
				2025 Total £
Support costs				
Publicity and promotion				5,224
Other interest payable				(863)
Employee costs				160,915
Motor and travel costs				108
Premises costs				37,008
Amortisation and depreciation				10,022
General administrative costs				29,154
Legal and professional costs				41,419
Auditors' fees				13,610
Total support costs				296,597

Total governance costs were £13,610 (2024: £9,960).

6. Total expenditure (continued)
Prior period comparative

	Direct costs £	Staff costs £	Support and governance costs £	2024 Total £
Raising funds	3,909	-	-	3,909
Maintain existing woodland	7,804	19,859	11,267	38,930
Establish new woodland	139,870	124,726	100,616	365,212
Land acquisition	27,978	1,376	99,434	128,788
Complementary projects	25,625	11,697	9,348	46,670
Total expenditure	205,186	157,658	220,665	583,509
				2024 Total £
Support costs				
Publicity and promotion				3,435
Event costs				4,034
Employee costs				76,239
Motor and travel costs				3,391
Premises costs				22,039
Amortisation and depreciation				8,601
General administrative costs				14,649
Legal and professional costs				78,317
Auditors' fees				9,960
Total support costs				220,665

7. Net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation	10,022	8,601
Operating lease payments	-	16,250
Trustees' remuneration	229	2,100
Trustees' reimbursed expenses	540	354
Auditors' remuneration (excluding VAT):		
▪ Statutory audit	10,850	8,300
▪ Under accrual of prior year fees	2,280	-

One trustee in the current and prior year was paid remuneration in respect of running forest school sessions at one of the sites owned by the charity. Remuneration was paid in accordance with section 185 of the Charities Act and as permitted by the charity's constitution.

One trustee (2024: one trustee) was reimbursed expenses in respect of travel (2024: travel).

In common with other charities of our size and nature we use our auditors to assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

8. Staff costs and numbers

Staff costs were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Salaries and wages	692,877	265,950
Social security costs	57,064	21,144
Pension costs	19,679	5,331
	769,620	292,425

One employee earned between £60,000 and £70,000 in the current year.

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the prior year.

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Trustees, Chief Executive Officer, Head of People and Operations, Head of Engagement, Communications and Fundraising, Head of Business Development, and Head of Woodlands and Impact. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel were £250,749. (2024: Trustees, Chief Executive Officer, Head of People and Operations: £85,900).

8. Staff costs and numbers (continued)

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Average head count	<u>23</u>	<u>12</u>

9. Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £	Asset under construction £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 July 2024	8,045,340	-	74,986	4,407	8,124,733
Additions in year	<u>-</u>	<u>22,635</u>	<u>15,942</u>	<u>4,533</u>	<u>43,110</u>
At 30 June 2025	<u>8,045,340</u>	<u>22,635</u>	<u>90,928</u>	<u>8,940</u>	<u>8,167,843</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 July 2024	-	-	7,499	1,102	8,601
Charge for the year	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,343</u>	<u>1,679</u>	<u>10,022</u>
At 30 June 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,842</u>	<u>2,781</u>	<u>18,623</u>
Net book value					
At 30 June 2025	<u>8,045,340</u>	<u>22,635</u>	<u>75,086</u>	<u>6,159</u>	<u>8,149,220</u>
At 30 June 2024	<u>8,045,340</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>67,487</u>	<u>3,305</u>	<u>8,116,132</u>

Land and buildings includes £4,870,396 (2024: £4,870,396) of land purchased with restricted funding and over which restrictive grant terms still apply.

11. Investments

	2025 £	2024 £
Investment in subsidiary company	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Avon Needs Trees owns 100% of the share capital of Avon Needs Trees Trading Ltd (company number 15771034). It was incorporated on 11 June 2024, and it has been excluded from consolidation as the company was dormant in the current and prior year.

12. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	990	-
Prepayments	19,492	11,691
Accrued income	289,155	179,568
Other debtors	<u>35,849</u>	<u>14,800</u>
	<u>345,486</u>	<u>206,059</u>

13. Current asset investments

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash held in deposit accounts	<u>680,500</u>	<u>-</u>

Current asset investments comprise cash held in notice accounts.

14. Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	22,820	46,385
Accruals	43,644	15,910
Deferred income	2,175	-
Other taxation and social security	20,195	8,083
Amounts owed to group undertakings (note 11)	1	1
Other creditors	<u>3,852</u>	<u>1,498</u>
	<u>92,687</u>	<u>71,877</u>

15. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Bank loans and overdrafts	<u>3,223,561</u>	<u>3,224,424</u>
Analysis of debt maturity		
Debt due:		
▪ between one and five years	410,050	32,254
▪ in five years or more	<u>2,813,511</u>	<u>3,192,170</u>
	<u>3,223,561</u>	<u>3,224,424</u>

During the 2023/24 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 (now known as Lower Chew Forest). Triodos Bank holds a legal charge over the site 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 2023/24 year, and £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 commence in June 2029.

Total capital outstanding at 30 June 2025 was £3,557,880 (2024: £3,322,000). The loan balance is shown less related fees with interest accrued at an effective annual rate of 8.213%, determined at initial recognition.

The total interest charged / credited to the statement of financial activities in the current year was £863 credit (2024: £37,294 charge). This comprises effective interest of £255,080 charged less a remeasurement adjustment of £255,943 to reflect changes to estimated cashflows arising from movements in underlying base rates during the year.

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	General funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	4,870,396	-	3,278,824	8,149,220
Investments	-	-	1	1
Current assets	910,656	-	527,654	1,438,310
Current liabilities	-	-	(92,687)	(92,687)
Non current liabilities	-	-	(3,223,561)	(3,223,561)
Net assets at 30 June 2025	<u>5,781,052</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>490,231</u>	<u>6,271,283</u>

Prior year comparative	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	General funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	4,870,396	216,346	3,029,390	8,116,132
Investments	-	-	1	1
Current assets	131,877	-	562,813	694,690
Current liabilities	-	-	(71,877)	(71,877)
Non current liabilities	-	-	(3,224,424)	(3,224,424)
Net assets at 30 June 2024	<u>5,002,273</u>	<u>216,346</u>	<u>295,903</u>	<u>5,514,522</u>

17. Movements in funds

	At 1 July 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	At 30 June 2025 £
Restricted funds					
Land purchase	4,870,396	-	-	-	4,870,396
Lower Chew Forest - development	-	850,000	-	(22,635)	827,365
Lower Chew Forest - operation and infrastructure	43,385	212,105	(225,490)	-	30,000
Environment Agency - Land Recovery Project	-	421,103	(375,014)	-	46,089
Great Avon Woods - operation and infrastructure	81,091	369,008	(450,099)	-	-
Pudding Brooks Woods - operation and infrastructure	7,401	-	(199)	-	7,202
The Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum	-	576	(576)	-	-
Total restricted funds	5,002,273	1,852,792	(1,051,378)	(22,635)	5,781,052
Unrestricted funds					
<i>Designated funds:</i>					
Fixed asset fund	216,346	-	-	(216,346)	-
<i>Total designated funds</i>	<i>216,346</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>(216,346)</i>	<i>-</i>
General funds	295,903	130,971	(175,624)	238,981	490,231
Total unrestricted funds	512,249	130,971	(175,624)	22,635	490,231
Total funds	5,514,522	1,983,763	(1,227,002)	-	6,271,283

Purposes of 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 CWAC for the purchase of Wick Farm. Where the funder or donor does not retain such right related restrictions are considered discharged on purchase.

17. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of restricted funds (continued)

Lower Chew Forest - development	To develop and maintain the woodland at Lower Chew Forest, funded by WECA.
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.
Great Avon Woods - operation and infrastructure	To establish and maintain the woodland at Great Avon Woods.
Pudding Brooks Woods - operation and infrastructure	To establish and maintain the woodland at Pudding Brook Woods.
The Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum	To develop and maintain woodland.

Purposes of 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.
------------------	--

Transfers between funds

Transfers between funds represent the purchases of fixed assets with restricted funding, upon which there are no on-going restrictions, and the release of designated funds to general funds, for which the board has no on-going purpose.

17. Movements in funds (continued)**Prior year comparative**

	At 1 July 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	At 30 June 2024 £
Restricted 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 Brooks 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	-	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)	-
WBNP - Healthier with Nature Development Grant	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Total restricted funds	837,419	4,713,140	(405,450)	(142,836)	5,002,273
Unrestricted funds					
<i>Designated funds:</i>					
Fixed asset fund	145,554	-	(8,601)	79,393	216,346
<i>Total designated funds</i>	<i>145,554</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>(8,601)</i>	<i>79,393</i>	<i>216,346</i>
General funds	292,225	109,693	(169,458)	63,443	295,903
Total unrestricted funds	437,779	109,693	(178,059)	142,836	512,249
Total funds	1,275,198	4,822,833	(583,509)	-	5,514,522

18. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 July 2024 £	Cash flows £	Other non- cash movements £	At 30 June 2025 £
Cash and cash equivalents	488,631	604,193	-	1,092,824
Bank loans falling due after 1 year (note 15)	(3,224,424)	-	863	(3,223,561)
Total net debt	(2,735,793)	604,193	863	(2,130,737)

19. Related party transactions

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

20. Contingent liabilities

There is a potential liability arising from additional obligations under the grant received from the West of England Combined Authority (WECA). Should any BNG units be sold as a direct result of creation activities funded by the grant, the charity is required to repay that sum to WECA up to the maximum value of the total grant claim (£850,000 as at 30 June 2025). Any repayment of the sale value, net of costs related to ongoing management of any habitat created, will only commence after repayment of the Triodos loan secured against the same land holding (note 15). At the year end date, any amounts payable and the timing of the cash outflow cannot be ascertained and therefore no liability has been recognised.

Thank you to everyone who supported us!



 Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

 Environment
Agency

 NATURAL
ENGLAND

Landscape Recovery

Avon Needs Trees is a registered charity in England and Wales.
Registration number: 1184386 Castlemead Lower Castle Street Bristol BS1 3AG