

# SLOW THE FLOW

England & Wales · Charity number 1191174

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2020-09-07

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

## Contact

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**Address** Hebden Lodge  
Lee Mill Road  
Hebden Bridge  
HX7 7AE

**Phone** 07713144792

**Email** [secretary@slowtheflow.net](mailto:secretary@slowtheflow.net)

**Website** [www.slowtheflow.net](http://www.slowtheflow.net)

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE OBJECT OF THE CIO IS TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN NATURAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT, SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE SYSTEMS AND OTHER RENEWABLE METHODS OF MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENT, INCLUDING THE EXPLORATION OF ALTERNATIVE PRACTICES WHICH SAFEGUARD THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND ITS RESOURCES IN A MANNER WHICH BEST FITS THE SPECIFICS OF A LOCAL GEOGRAPHY.

**Activities:** Slow The Flow is a charity working to advance the education of the public in Natural Flood Management, Sustainable Drainage Systems and other renewable methods of managing the environment, including the exploration of alternative practices which safeguard the natural environment and its resources in a manner which best fits the specifics of a local geography.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£7,420	£14,046	-	-
2023-12-31	£19,489	£10,176	-	-
2022-12-31	£28,206	£26,834	-	-
2021-12-31	£23,018	£8,519	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>ADRIAN HORTON</b>	Chair	2023-09-13
AMANDA MCDERMOTT		2020-02-18
Andrew Colin Wright		2021-06-17
Katie Kimber		2020-02-18
Rachel Flood		2025-07-31
Rachel Mary Smith		2025-03-25
STEPHEN JOHN GARROD		2020-02-18
Samuel Townsend		2024-07-13
Sophie Jain Tankard		2025-03-25

**SLOW THE FLOW**

England & Wales - Charity number 1191174

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# Accounts

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Charity number **1191174**

**Annual Report and Financial Statements**  
**For the period 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024**



# Slow The Flow

## Annual Report and Financial Statements

### For the period 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024

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# Slow The Flow

## Trustees' report for the period 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024

### Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

The trustees during the financial period and up to and including the date the report was agreed were:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Bede Mullen	Chair (to 15/07/2024)	Resigned 15/07/2024
Adrian Horton	Secretary (from 06/06/2024 to 19/07/2024)	
	Chair (from 19/07/2024)	
Stephen John Garrod	Treasurer	
Robin Gray		
Katie Kimber		
Amanda McDermott		
Paul Garry Williams		Resigned 06/06/2024
Andrew Colin Wright		
Jacqueline Ann Lowe	Secretary (to 06/06/2024)	Resigned 06/06/2024
Andrew John Mackintosh		
Robin Howorth		Resigned 20/07/2024
Susan O'Brien	Secretary (from 19/07/2024 to 16/10/2024)	Appointed 23/05/2024 Resigned 16/10/2024
Samuel Townsend		Appointed 13/07/2024
Pat Devine		Appointed 23/01/2025
Rachel Smith		Appointed 25/03/2025
Sophie Tankard		Appointed 25/03/2025
Rachel Flood		Appointed 31/07/2025

### Charity Number

The charity was registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, number 1191174, on 07/09/2020.

<b>Principal address</b>	Hebden Lodge Lee Mill Road Hebden Bridge West Yorkshire HX7 7AE	<b>Bankers</b>	Reliance Bank Ltd Faith House 23-24 Lovat Street London EC3R 8EB
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# Slow The Flow

## Trustees' report (continued) for the period 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024

### Structure, governance and management

The charity is governed by a constitution adopted Jan 2020.

### Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees of the charity are the founding trustees of the charity or are otherwise appointed by the trustees.

### Objectives and activities

#### The charity's objects

Slow The Flow is a charity working to advance the education of the public in Natural Flood Management, Sustainable Drainage Systems and other renewable methods of managing the environment, including the exploration of alternative practices which safeguard the natural environment and its resources in a manner which best fits the specifics of a local geography.

#### The charity's main activities

The educational objective of the organisation is achieved by presenting information on the Slow The Flow website from a mixture of specialist technical professionals and NFM practitioners including: case studies carried out with volunteers; "how to" guides for implementation at their own properties or land or that provided by others; workshops, lectures and seminars from the technical professionals and those leading or being involved in volunteer projects; and the hands-on volunteer activities - giving members of the public the opportunity to try first hand a range of flood management techniques on land offered by consenting landowners before doing the same on their own property or by similarly seeking cooperation for projects on land owned by others.



## Slow The Flow

### **Trustees' report (continued) for the period 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024**

The organisation implements pilot projects in so far as this is necessary in a science which is emerging and requires an evidence base to demonstrate its efficacy. Its main project to date is work carried out by volunteers on land owned by The National Trust, which is not a beneficiary but a consenting and cooperative landowner whose motivation is to help the organisation educate communities about Natural Flood Management and do its bit on land over which it has control. This project sets out to provide proof of concept including the feasibility of volunteer-based actions to implement Natural Flood Management in a local scenario – notably to the benefit of the entire downstream community – while recognising that this implementation by itself is a small part of a wider solution only achievable by educating others in the mechanics and arguments for Natural Flood Management.

Other implementations entail projects based on a similar scalability model where the organisation produces results and promotes the learned physical and social science to encourage others to repeat and expand the work so that it is scaled up to a level that is of benefit to the extended community.

These projects include: identifying Natural Flood Management opportunities; suggesting designs for small-scale woodland and terrain interventions; communications that encourage involvement of volunteers and landowners; facilitating discussions between participating parties; and building understanding between community participants and local and national government agencies

#### **Public benefit statement**

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular in relation to advancing the education of the public in Natural Flood Management, Sustainable Drainage Systems and other renewable methods of managing the environment.



## Slow The Flow

### Trustees' report (continued) for the period 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024

#### Achievements and performance

Slow The Flow started its work to build Natural Flood Management (NFM) and Sustainable Drainage Solutions (SuDS) into the Calder catchment in 2016. Since then its volunteers, trustees and partners have worked tirelessly on the task with the aim of reducing flood risk to our communities.

We have continued to build upon this early work and develop new partnerships, ideas, projects, and initiatives to reduce flood risk here in the Calder Valley. Below you will find information about some of the activities we have been getting up to throughout 2024.

2024 was a busy year for Slow The Flow trustees and volunteers. We have continued with our long-term project at the National Trust's Hardcastle Crag estate in Hebden Bridge and this year started work at a new site: Broadhead Clough. We have worked in partnership with the National Trust for the past eight years bringing hundreds of volunteers to monthly work sessions building leaky dams, and placing logs along valley contours to interrupt the flow of water into rivers.

We also continue to welcome guests and visitors to Hardcastle Crag for them to see for themselves the work and the benefits to the community, and to the developing bio-diversity which the work contributes towards.

#### January 2024

Slow The Flow appeared on BBC Look North on 7th January 2024, showcasing its Key Stage 2 educational resources being used by pupils at Copley Primary School near Halifax.

A video of the coverage is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7M8tDh2OGg>

Funding from the Community Foundation For Calderdale enabled Slow The Flow to develop KS2 and KS3 education resources. More can be read about the materials on Slow The Flow's website from where the materials can also be download at no charge.

At the charity's first session at Broadhead Clough on Sunday 21st January 2024 Slow The Flow was joined by a team from ITV news who compiled the report that can be watched at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E7r5iLUr7Rc>

Volunteers put 4 leaky dams in place and could already see them in action as the rain poured down.



Walking through Broadhead Clough, the dams can be spotted at the first stream on the right when heading from the bottom of the nature reserve, they can't be missed.

On days when the area is being hit with rain and gale force winds it's clear why this work is so important. The more work done in the uplands to slow the flow the less the valley bottom has to deal with.

## **February 2024**

Slow The Flow welcomed Jack Wallington as a patron of the charity whose passion for its cause and dedication to making a difference will undoubtedly inspire positive change.

Jack is a local landscape designer and nature writer; his combination of growing, showing and explaining what he does to help others has allowed him to communicate a new approach to gardens.

Slow The Flow is keen to see Jack seamlessly weave its natural flood management principles into his celebrated work, adding a flood resilience and eco-conscious touch to his creations.

The following video clip shows Jack introducing himself and explaining why he's delighted to be involved.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zukcNPe-xLO>

## **March 2024**

On Sunday 3rd March, Halifax MP, Holly Lynch joined the volunteers at Hardcastle Crag to help make leaky dams and stuff gullies and recorded the video below where she set out what Slow The Flow hoped to achieve from its planned trip to the Houses of Parliament on 12th March. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpG9sacl2FI>

On Tuesday 12th March, Slow The Flow visited the Houses of Parliament and presented five key messages to a room full of Members of Parliament and Peers at The House of Commons, highlighting the importance of NFM, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), and other renewable methods of managing the environment to reduce flood risk.

The day was very positive, meeting more than 25 MPs who wanted to understand how NFM can reduce flood risk. There were lots of great conversations about natural flood



management and what MPs can do in their own constituency which produced lots of engagement and interest.

The key messages presented were:

1. More funding is needed for NFM stressing it is a cost-effective approach that provides value for money.
2. All new developments should include SuDS.
3. Green skills and expertise are necessary for the development of NFM. Local authorities should have NFM officers.
4. Education is crucial for long-term understanding and success. NFM and SuDS should be included in the primary school curriculum.
5. NFM and SuDS have a positive impact on Combined Sewer Outfalls, and the automatic right to combined sewer connection should be removed.

Using contacts made at this event, Slow The Flow planned to continue to work with these legislators to ensure that NFM is front and centre of decisions around reducing flood risk in Calderdale and around the UK .

There followed an article about the visit on the BBC website.

As part of its educational aims and campaign to promote the adoption of natural flood management across the United Kingdom, on Wednesday 20th March Slow The Flow hosted Ymgynghoriaeth Gwynedd Consultancy (YGC), the largest public sector run consultancy in Wales, to view the work carried out at Hardcastle Crags and Broadhead Clough. Ten staff of YGC spent the day with Slow The Flow's Chair, Bede Mullen, examining some of the 1000 plus leaky dams the charity has installed, together with the other natural flood management measures it has undertaken, with an emphasis on monitoring their effectiveness and promoting community engagement.

YGC work with an extensive and varied list of clients, both in the public and private sector. Services provided include cost estimating, procurement, project management and other specialist consultancy services in the areas of transport infrastructure, building design, flood mitigation and environmental work. Currently employing 120 members of staff and with annual turnover of circa £5.5m.



YGC have a dedicated team of engineers to deal with the ever-increasing threat of flooding due to predicted rise in sea levels and rainfall intensity associated with climate change. One of their key responsibilities is to undertake flood risk management, ranging from building flood defences to building resilience through raising public awareness.

Through good public engagement and collaboration with other risk management authorities, YGC aims to manage the risk of flooding in communities across the region. This includes carrying out the role of operating as Lead Local Flood Authority on behalf of Gwynedd & Anglesey Councils.

Elen Williamson from YGC said “it was inspiring to see the enormous amount of work Slow The Flow has carried out since 2016 to protect local communities from the effects of flooding. This community led approach is something to be recommended and adopted elsewhere”.

Robin Perkins of YGC spoke about this in the video below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2iG2KDJVxAU>

#### **April 2024**

Slow The Flow Trustees, Adrian Horton and Stephen Garrod, met with Andy Bampton, Project Development Champion at Andy’s Man Club. Among other things, they spoke about the power of volunteering to improve mental health and well-being.

#### **Summer 2024**

In June, some of the Slow The Flow Trustees, alongside colleagues from the Landscape Institute of Yorkshire and Humberside, had a great site visit to ‘Sponge Parks’ at West Gorton Community Park and Mayfield Park in Manchester to view two very different approaches to urban surface water drainage. Highlights of the visit included the retrofit of the surrounding highways at West Gorton to maximise water attenuation and at Mayfield the retention of elements from the former factory including structural beams, attention to detailing and some incredible specimen trees which gave this site the wow factor.



Throughout June and July, Slow The Flow welcomed local Scouts, Cubs, Brownies, Guides and Rangers who took part in Natural Flood Management (NFM) and Balsam Bashing sessions at Hardcastle Crag. Participants each received a special STF badge for their efforts.

During July and August the trustees were busy planning the future of Slow The Flow, taking time to reflect on what the charity does well, what it should do more of, and what activities might need to be placed at lower priority. On Saturday 13th July trustees met in a meeting room at The Birchcliffe Centre in Hebden Bridge to discuss the strategy and what plans they had for the next few years. It was a terrifically productive day and great to spend some time together to discuss what was to be achieved in the years ahead. There was a follow-up meeting in October to finalise the strategy plan.

On 8th August, trustees had a brilliant afternoon with two of the charity's partners meeting first with the Broadhead Clough, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Reserve Assistant to explore some exciting leaky dam plans at Slow The Flow's new natural flood management site there; and later with the Hardcastle Crag, National Trust Site Managers to discuss the continuation of its 7 year collaboration with The National Trust into 2025.

#### **October 2024**

Following on from Slow The Flow's visit to Parliament in March this year, and with the general Election settled, trustees were proud to be invited by Ashley Dalton MP, West Lancashire, and Scarisbrick Parish to a public meeting discussing their local flooding issues. (4th October)

One of the outcomes sought after the March visit to Parliament was to reach new audiences and spread the word about the Natural Flood Management and Sustainable Urban Drainage System work achieved by the charity which would help to mitigate the effects of climate change.

The discussion centred on finding long-term solutions to flooding in the area and involved local Councillors, the Environment Agency and Slow The Flow Trustees Adrian and Sam.



## **November 2024**

Slow The Flow was delighted to have won the Community Foundation For Calderdale Community Spirit Award in the “Great and Green” category, for its work in providing NFM education in schools.

Slow The Flow thanked the Community Foundation for Calderdale for the financial support in enabling it to make these excellent resources freely available to schools across Calderdale, and nationally.

## **Throughout the Year**

Slow The Flow used skilled volunteers to review Calderdale Council planning applications and, where appropriate, submit comments to the planning portal to highlight ways in which Natural Flood Management (NFM), Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and other practices can be incorporated into the design to help alleviate potential flood risk.

Trustees volunteered their time to represent Slow The Flow on a number of external committees where they inform and provide their expertise and guidance to other organisations working in the same area. In return, much was learned about the work completed by others. These organisations included:

Calder Catchment Partnership (CCP)

West Yorkshire Flood Innovation Programme (WYFLIP)

White Rose Forest (WRF)

Natural Flood Management Operations Group (NFM Ops Group)

Calderdale Invasive Non-Native Species group (INNS)



# Slow The Flow

## Trustees' report (continued) for the period 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024

### Financial review

The net receipts for the year were: £1289 to unrestricted funds comprising £7,420 receipts and £6,131 payments; and -£7,914 to restricted funds comprising no receipts and £7,914 payments.

### Reserves policy

The charity's free cash reserves at the year end were £18765.

It is the charity's policy to maintain a reserve to provide a growing fund (currently £11,750) for future employment of staff and working capital in the region of £7,000 to fund its general activities in the year ahead comprising expenditure anticipated as follows:

Insurance	470
Website	950
General Publicity and Educational Media	500
Promotion by Social Media	480
Office and Admin Costs	2400
Room Hire/Meeting Expenses	500
Trustee Expenses	200
Equipment	300
Fundraising Costs	600
Governance Costs	250
Trustee and Volunteer External Training	250
Bank Charges	100

### Risk management

The Trustees have introduced a risk management process to assess business risks and are implementing systems to mitigate these risks. Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures or authorisation of all transactions and projects and to ensure consistent quality of delivery for all operational aspects of the Charity. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients and visitors to relevant sites. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still meet the needs of the Charity.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees:

Signed 

Date: 21/10/2025

Name: Stephen Garrod (Trustee)



# Slow The Flow

## Receipts and payments account

for the Financial Period 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024

Receipts	Financial Period to 31/12/2024 Unrestricted Funds	Financial Period to 31/12/2024 Restricted Funds	Financial Period to 31/12/2024 Total Funds	Financial Period to 31/12/2023 Total Funds
Donations	6830		6830	4689
Grants	590		590	14800
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>7420</b>		<b>7420</b>	<b>19489</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Bank Charges	96		96	89
Donations				10
Fundraising costs	605		605	282
General Publicity	1150		1150	202
Governance Costs				750
Insurance	448		448	406
Groundwork Tools				81
Protective Clothing				783
Meeting Room Hire	557		557	367
Miscellaneous	50		50	
Office and Admin Costs	1571		1571	1604
Restricted Grant Funded Projects		7914	7914	5060
Trustee Expenses	448		448	70
Training Costs	671		671	
Website	946		946	471
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>6131</b>	<b>7914</b>	<b>14046</b>	<b>10176</b>
Net (payments)/receipts	1289	(7914)	(6625)	9313
Fund Balances Brought Forward	17476	20616	38092	28778
Fund Balances Carried Forward	18765	12702	31467	38092



## **Slow The Flow**

### **Statement of assets and liabilities**

**as at 31 December 2024**

**All cash funds were held at the charity's bank.**

Assets retained for the charity's own use were valued at £4,500 and comprise items purchased and depreciated since time of purchase in the following categories:

Office Equipment

Marketing Display Equipment

Protective Clothing

Groundworks Equipment

Weather and Water Flow Monitoring Equipment

### **Approval of the accounts**

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 21/10/2025.

**Signed:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S Garrod', written over a horizontal line.

**Name:** Stephen Garrod (Trustee)



# Slow The Flow

## Notes to the accounts for the period 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024

### 1 Accounting policies

#### Basis of accounting

The trustees have taken advantage of section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year. No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

#### Taxation

As a registered charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

#### Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

### 2 Trustee Expenses (excluding reimbursement for purchases made on behalf of the charity)

Expenses were paid to or on behalf of the following trustee to reimburse them for travel to Westminster to meet with MPs:

Bede Mullen ... £41.20    Stephen Garrod ... £57.16    Paul Williams ... £62.92  
Amanda Mc Dermott ... £71.12    Katie Kimber ... £49.82    Robin Grey ... £66.09  
Samuel Townsend ... £49.82

Expenses were paid to or on behalf of the following trustees to reimburse them for their DBS check:

Robin Grey ... £18.00    Katie Kimber ... £18.00

### 3 Trustee remuneration and benefits

There was one trustee who received remuneration for services supplied to Slow The Flow.

This was Andrew Wright who was paid £3,560 in the year under a written agreement for him to provide 18 teaching days in schools to enable Slow The Flow to deliver its Education in Schools Project.



# Slow The Flow

## Notes to the accounts

for the period 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024

### 4 Disclosures Relevant to The Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012

- a) There were no guarantees given by Slow The Flow where any potential liability under the guarantee was outstanding at the date of the statement of assets and liabilities.
- b) There was no debt outstanding at the date of the statement of assets and liabilities which was owed by the CIO and which was secured by an express charge on any of the assets of the CIO.

### 5 Grants and Donations

Source of Income	Financial Period Unrestricted Funds	Financial Period Restricted Funds	Financial Period Total Funds
Yorkshire Divide	500		500
Blazing Saddles Limited	204		204
Calder Valley Fellrunners	600		600
Calderdale M.B.C. Victoria Theatre	1000		1000
Calderdale Sustainability Forum	90		90
Community Foundation for Calderdale/ Halifax Minster	500		500
Diaz-N & San Gu	35		35
Friendly Soap Limited	706		706
Hebden Bridge Trades Club	500		500
LocalGiving Limited	3095		3095
Mytholmroyd St Michaels Wives Group	30		30
Probus	25		25
Scarisbrick Parish	100		100
Smith BC	35		35
<b>Total:</b>	<b>7420</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7420</b>



# Slow The Flow

Notes to the accounts  
for the period 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024

## 4 Restricted Funds

	Balance b/f	Incomin g	Outgoing	Balance c/f
Community Foundation For Calderdale	2616	-	2616	0
YORKSHIRE WATER SE	5000	-	1154	3846
WEST YORKS F&R-FUN	3000	-	575	2425
Community Foundation For Calderdale	10000	-	3569	6431
	<b>20616</b>	-	<b>7914</b>	<b>12702</b>

Fund Name	Purpose of Restriction
Community Foundation For Calderdale	Education in Schools Project set up
YORKSHIRE WATER SE	Education in Schools Project roll out
WEST YORKS F&R-FUN	West Yorkshire Resilience Grant for Equipment
Community Foundation For Calderdale	Monitoring the effectiveness of Natural Flood Management at Broadhead Cough

**SLOW THE FLOW**

England & Wales - Charity number 1191174

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# Accounts

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## Slow The Flow

### Trustees' report for the period 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023

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Bede Mullen	Chair (to 15/07/2024)	Resigned 15/07/2024
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Stephen John Garrod	Treasurer	
Stuart Bradshaw		Resigned 30/09/2023
Robin Gray		
Katie Kimber		
Marie Therese Degnan		Resigned 30/08/2023
Amanda McDermott		
Roseanne Marie Sweeney		Resigned 06/02/2023
Paul Garry Williams		Resigned 06/06/2024
Andrew Colin Wright		
Jacqueline Ann Lowe	Secretary (to 06/06/2024)	Appointed 31/05/2023 Resigned 06/06/2024
Andrew John Mackintosh		Appointed 11/01/2023
Robin Howorth		Appointed 31/05/2023 Resigned 20/07/2024
Susan O'Brien	Secretary (from 19/07/2024 to 16/10/2024)	Appointed 23/05/2024 Resigned 16/10/2024
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#### Charity Number

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West Yorkshire  
HX7 7AE

**Bankers**                      Reliance Bank Ltd  
Faith House  
23-24 Lovat Street  
London  
EC3R 8EB



## **Slow The Flow**

### **Trustees' report (continued) for the period 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023**

#### **Structure, governance and management**

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These projects include: identifying Natural Flood Management opportunities; suggesting designs for small-scale woodland and terrain interventions; communications that encourage involvement of volunteers and landowners; facilitating discussions between participating parties; and building understanding between community participants and local and national government agencies

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## Slow The Flow

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We have continued to build upon the last 6 years and develop new partnerships, ideas, projects, and initiatives to reduce flood risk here in the Calder Valley. Below you will find information about some of the activities we have been getting up to throughout 2023.

2023 has been a busy year for Slow The Flow trustees and volunteers. We have continued with our long-term project at the National Trust's Hardcastle Crag estate in Hebden Bridge. We have worked in partnership with the National Trust for the past seven years bringing hundreds of volunteers to monthly work sessions building leaky dams, and placing logs along valley contours to interrupt the flow of water into rivers.

We accommodated around 100 scouts, guides, brownies and other uniformed services to Hardcastle Crag over the summer providing practical and educational opportunities over a month of evening sessions. These prove invaluable in developing and promoting our work to a young audience who in the fullness of time may go on and develop their own interest in geography and natural Flood Management.

We also continue to welcome guests and visitors to Hardcastle Crag for them to see for themselves the work and the benefits to the community, and to the developing bio-diversity which the work contributes towards.

We also continued to welcome young people on the Duke Of Edinburgh scheme at Hardcastle Crag. They usually attended for a number of sessions and this helped towards their award. One particular participant wrote about his positive experience in a blog <https://slowtheflow.net/my-duke-of-edinburgh-experience-with-slow-the-flow/>.

Publicity and concern continue to be raised about river pollution and the contribution made by Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO). It is a cause we have been championing for a while now and in line with our education objectives have produced information about Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO) and Natural Flood Management (NFM). One of our volunteers



provided an interesting European perspective on the subject, [Combined Sewer Overflows: impacts, mitigation solutions and European perspective.](#)

With funding from the Community Foundation for Calderdale, our work to develop resources for the teaching of Natural Flood Management at KS2 and KS3 continues and this is now being taught in Primary Schools throughout Calderdale. These resources have been written and designed by our trustees and the packs of resources were made available to primary and secondary schools in Calderdale. This work continues unabated, including full day workshops led by Slow The Flow trustees in Calderdale primary schools. The [Natural Flood Management curriculum resources](#) are freely available from this link.

We continue to support the community with our donations to the Community Foundation for Calderdale as part of their membership scheme. This supports other local charitable organisations in Calderdale.

Our work inspires other communities and groups around the UK to use natural processes to combat their own flood risk. These relationships are vitally important because collectively they have all contributed to the policy shift to include NFM and SuDS in Flood Alleviation Schemes in our cities, towns, villages, and rural communities.

Slow The Flow also continues to support national communications to promote flood resilience with flood action week.

In October, Storm Babet battered the UK and presented opportunities to see our works in action at Hardcastle Crags near Hebden Bridge. The 800+ leaky woody dams all continue to work to reduce the levels of rain water which would have made their way into the valleys through Calderdale.

Slow The Flow also commented on 37 planning applications in 2023 throughout Calderdale promoting sustainable drainage and simple flood mitigation measures which could be adopted on new build schemes.

A small number of our Trustees visited the beavers at Cropton Forest. It was a fascinating day out and lessons were learned from these natural dam builders.



And finally, seeing volunteers develop is so important to the work of Slow The Flow – educating young people and encouraging their passion for the environment. This is an outstanding example of where a young volunteer has enjoyed the work so much, he has gone on and studied more about this work we do in Calderdale and the benefits to the environment. Sam Townsend continues to be an integral part of our volunteer base and is looking forward to working with us in the years to come. You can read more about Sam here - [volunteer development](#).

As trustees and volunteers, we look forward with passion to a further year of passing on the importance of natural flood management through education and direct action.



# Slow The Flow

## Trustees' report (continued) for the period 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023

### Financial review

The net receipts for the year were: £1,373 to unrestricted funds comprising £6,489 receipts and £5,116 payments; and £7,940 to restricted funds comprising £13,000 receipts and £5,060 payments.

### Reserves policy

The charity's free cash reserves at the year end were £17,476.


It is the charity's policy to maintain a reserve to provide a growing fund (currently £9,000) for future employment of staff and working capital in the region of £8,500 to fund its general activities in the year ahead comprising expenditure anticipated as follows:

Bank Charges	100
Fundraising costs	1000
General Publicity and Educational Media	3000
Governance Costs	500
Insurance	450
Equipment Renewal	500
Meeting Room Hire	500
Office and Admin Costs	2000
Trustee Expenses	200
Website	500

### Risk management

The Trustees have introduced a risk management process to assess business risks and are implementing systems to mitigate these risks. Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures or authorisation of all transactions and projects and to ensure consistent quality of delivery for all operational aspects of the Charity. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients and visitors to relevant sites. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still met the needs of the Charity.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees:

Signed   
(Trustee)

Date: 30/10/2024

Name: Stephen Garrod



## Slow The Flow

### Receipts and payments account

for the Financial Period 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023

Receipts	Financial Period to 31/12/2023 Unrestricted Funds	Financial Period to 31/12/2023 Restricted Funds	Financial Period to 31/12/2023 Total Funds	Financial Period to 31/12/2022 Total Funds
Donations	4689		4689	5056
Grants	1800	13000	14800	23150
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>6489</b>	<b>13000</b>	<b>19489</b>	<b>28206</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Bank Charges	89		89	99
Bursaries				2000
Donations	10		10	
Fundraising costs	282		282	96
General Publicity	202		202	350
Governance Costs	750		750	300
Insurance	406		406	397
Measuring Equipment				40
Groundwork Tools	81		81	
Protective Clothing	783		783	
Meeting Room Hire	367		367	315
Miscellaneous				50
Office and Admin Costs	1604		1604	889
Restricted Grant Funded Projects		5060	5060	21563
Travel				140
Trustee Expenses	70		70	104
Website	471		471	491
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>5116</b>	<b>5060</b>	<b>10176</b>	<b>26834</b>
Net (payments)/receipts	1373	7940	9313	1373
Fund Balances Brought Forward	16102	12676	28778	27406
Fund Balances Carried Forward	17476	20616	38092	28778



# Slow The Flow

## Statement of assets and liabilities

as at 31 December 2023

All cash funds were held at the charity's bank.

### Assets retained for the charity's own use

Smart Turners (2)	Husqvarna 545 15" Chainsaw
Log Carries (2)	Husqvarna Chainsaw Box
Peavy Cant Hooks 3.5 ft (2)	Bolle Tracker
Timber Tongs (4)	Laptop for GDPR
Lifting Hooks (4)	NatureSpy Solar Camera
Seagate BUP Slim 1 TB Red	Storage Boxes (2)
Gloves (36 pairs)	Drone Mavic Mini Fly More Combo
Telescopic Staffs 5m, 5 Section (2)	Memory Card for drone - 100Mb/sec 64Gb
Branded Shirts (12)	Brochure & Leaflet Holders
Branded High Viz Vests (50)	Table Top Easel & Board (2 items)
Tsurugi 300mm Fine Tooth Saws (2)	Portable Wooden Easel – 1.5m High (8 items)
Sandvik Bow Saws 21" Type 51 (4)	Gazebo Frame, Cover and SideWalls
Time Lapse Cameras (8)	Wheeled gazebo bag
Husqvarna Technical Forest Helmet	5 ft Folding Table and Cover
Pavement Sign	Leg Weights
Stein Top Saw Multi Tool	

### Approval of the accounts

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 30/10/2024.

Signed:

Name: Stephen Garrod (Trustee)



# Slow The Flow

## Notes to the accounts for the period 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023

### 1 Accounting policies

#### Basis of accounting

The trustees have taken advantage of section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year. No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

#### Taxation

As a registered charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

#### Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

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

### 2 Trustee Expenses (excluding reimbursement for purchases made on behalf of the charity)

Expenses were paid to the following trustee to reimburse them for travel to Hull to attend an iCASP meeting:

Bede Mullen ... £34.54

Expenses were paid to the following trustees to reimburse them for their DBS check:

Bede Mullen ... £18.00    Amanda McDermott ... £18.00

### 3 Trustee remuneration and benefits

There was one trustee who received remuneration for services supplied to Slow The Flow.

This was Andrew Wright who was paid £3,990 in the year under a written agreement for him to provide 21 teaching days in schools to enable Slow The Flow to deliver its Education in Schools Project.



# Slow The Flow

## Notes to the accounts

for the period 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023

### 4 Disclosures Relevant to The Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012

- a) There were no guarantees given by Slow The Flow where any potential liability under the guarantee was outstanding at the date of the statement of assets and liabilities.
- b) There was no debt outstanding at the date of the statement of assets and liabilities which was owed by the CIO and which was secured by an express charge on any of the assets of the CIO.

### 5 Grants and Donations

Source of Income	Financial Period Unrestricted Funds	Financial Period Restricted Funds	Financial Period Total Funds
AKIN I Z K	750		750
Todmorden Mayor	833		833
Calderdale Sustainability Forum	1800		1800
Community Foundation for Calderdale		10000	10000
FRIENDLY SOAP LTD	1362		1362
LOCALGIVING LTD	727		727
MOONFULL LTD	492		492
SHREDZ LIMITED	110		110
THE CALDER LEARNING TRUST	216		216
Todmorden Mayor	200		200
WEST YORKS F&R-FUN		3000	3000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>6489</b>	<b>13000</b>	<b>19489</b>



# Slow The Flow

## Notes to the accounts for the period 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023

### 6 Restricted Funds

	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Balance c/f
Community Foundation For Calderdale	7676	-	5060	2616
YORKSHIRE WATER SE	5000	-	0	5000
WEST YORKS F&R-FUN	-	3000	0	3000
Community Foundation For Calderdale	-	10000	0	10000
	<b>12676</b>	<b>13000</b>	<b>5060</b>	<b>20616</b>

Fund Name	Purpose of Restriction
Community Foundation For Calderdale	Education in Schools Project set up
YORKSHIRE WATER SE	Education in Schools Project roll out
WEST YORKS F&R-FUN	West Yorkshire Resilience Grant for Equipment
Community Foundation For Calderdale	Ovenden Wind Farm Project

**SLOW THE FLOW**

England & Wales - Charity number 1191174

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# Accounts

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Charity number **1191174**

**Annual Report and Financial Statements**  
**For the period 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2022**



# Slow The Flow

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements For the period 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2022**

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# Slow The Flow

## Trustees' report for the period 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2022

### Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

The trustees during the financial period and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Bede Mullen	Chair	
Adrian Horton		Resigned 30/08/2022
Stephen John Garrod	Treasurer	
Stuart Bradshaw		Resigned 30/09/2022
Robin Gray		
Katie Kimber		
Marie Therese Degnan		Resigned 30/08/2022
Amanda McDermott		
Roseanne Marie Sweeney		Resigned 06/02/2023
Paul Garry Williams		
Andrew Colin Wright		
Jacqueline Ann Lowe	Secretary	Appointed 31/05/2022
Andrew John Mackintosh		Appointed 11/01/2023
Adrian Horton		Appointed 13/09/2023

### Charity Number

The charity was registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, number 1191174, on 07/09/2020.

### Principal address

Hebden Lodge  
Lee Mill Road  
Hebden Bridge  
West Yorkshire  
HX7 7AE

### Bankers

Reliance Bank Ltd  
Faith House  
23-24 Lovat Street  
London  
EC3R 8EB



## **Slow The Flow**

### **Trustees' report (continued) for the period 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2022**

#### **Structure, governance and management**

The charity is governed by a constitution adopted Jan 2020.

#### **Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees**

The trustees of the charity are the founding trustees of the charity or are otherwise appointed by the trustees.

#### **Objectives and activities**

##### **The charity's objects**

Slow The Flow is a charity working to advance the education of the public in Natural Flood Management, Sustainable Drainage Systems and other renewable methods of managing the environment, including the exploration of alternative practices which safeguard the natural environment and its resources in a manner which best fits the specifics of a local geography.

##### **The charity's main activities**

The educational objective of the organisation is achieved by presenting information on the Slow The Flow website from a mixture of specialist technical professionals and NFM practitioners including: case studies carried out with volunteers; "how to" guides for implementation at their own properties or land or that provided by others; workshops, lectures and seminars from the technical professionals and those leading or being involved in volunteer projects; and the hands-on volunteer activities - giving members of the public the opportunity to try first hand a range of flood management techniques on land offered by consenting landowners before doing the same on their own property or by similarly seeking cooperation for projects on land owned by others.



## Slow The Flow

### **Trustees' report (continued) for the period 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2022**

The organisation implements pilot projects in so far as this is necessary in a science which is emerging and requires an evidence base to demonstrate its efficacy. Its main project to date is work carried out by volunteers on land owned by The National Trust who is not a beneficiary but a consenting and cooperative landowner whose motivation is to help the organisation educate communities about Natural Flood Management and do its bit on land over which it has control. This project sets out to provide proof of concept including the feasibility of volunteer-based actions to implement Natural Flood Management in a local scenario – notably to the benefit of the entire downstream community – while recognising that this implementation by itself is a small part of a wider solution only achievable by educating others in the mechanics and arguments for Natural Flood Management.

Other implementations entail projects based on a similar scalability model where the organisation produces results and promotes the learned physical and social science to encourage others to repeat and expand the work so that it is scaled up to a level that is of benefit to the extended community.

These projects include: identifying Natural Flood Management opportunities; suggesting designs for small-scale woodland and terrain interventions; communications that encourage involvement of volunteers and landowners; facilitating discussions between participating parties; and building understanding between community participants and local and national government agencies

### **Public benefit statement**

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular in relation to advancing the education of the public in Natural Flood Management, Sustainable Drainage Systems and other renewable methods of managing the environment.



## Slow The Flow

### Trustees' report (continued) for the period 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2022

#### Achievements and performance

Slow The Flow started its work to build **Natural Flood Management** (NFM) and **Sustainable Drainage Solutions** (SuDS) into the Calder catchment in 2016; since then its volunteers, trustees and partners have worked tirelessly on the task with the aim of reducing flood risk to our communities.

We continue to develop new schemes, partnerships, ideas, projects, and initiatives to reduce flood risk here in the Calder Valley. Below you will find information about some of the activities we have been getting up to in 2022.

Our work inspires other communities and groups around the UK to use natural processes to combat their own flood risk. These relationships are vitally important because collectively they have all contribute to the policy shift to include NFM and SuDS in Flood Alleviation Schemes in our cities, towns, villages, and rural communities.

2022 has been a busy year for Slow The Flow trustees and volunteers. Following the relaxation of restrictions imposed during the Covid pandemic, we were able to return to our long-term project at the National Trust's Hardcastle Crags estate in Hebden Bridge. We have worked in partnership with the National Trust for the past six years bringing hundreds of volunteers to fortnightly work sessions building leaky dams, attenuation ponds and placing logs along valley contours to interrupt the flow of water into rivers.

We expect to publish the results of research into the effectiveness of our NFM interventions during 2023. In 2021 we set up an **annual bursary** to support MA students researching natural flood management in partnership with the University of Leeds and Environment Agency. The bursary is named after Penny Eastwood, aka **Dongria Kondh**, our wonderful friend and founder of **Treesponsibility** who sadly passed away last the year. This was a fitting memorial to one of the most influential people we have known, and we are delighted to commit to supporting this bursary for the next few years.

During the year several topics were discussed and debated by Slow the Flow and the general public. The issue of planting trees to reduce flood risk being one of them. This resulted in an interesting blog post from one of our supporters that provided a nuanced answer to the question, [Is tree planting good for biodiversity and does it help reduce the risk of flooding?](#)

As part of our commitment to volunteer development we sent one of our long-term volunteers, Sam Townsend to represent Slow The Flow at Flood Expo 2022, the national flood prevention event held every year at the NEC Birmingham. You can read Sam's account of the event [Flood Expo 2022](#),



We have been working to promote the mass use of water butts on residential and commercial buildings to reduce flood risk. As yet we have been unsuccessful in securing funding to roll out a programme of water butt use across the catchment. However, we have been working with some smart people who have developed [Smart Water butts](#)

A lot of publicity and concern was raised during the year about river pollution and the contribution made by Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO). It is a cause we have been championing for a while now and in line with our education objectives have produced information about Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO) and Natural Flood Management (NFM). One of our volunteers provided an interesting European perspective on the subject, Combined Sewer Overflows: impacts, mitigation solutions and European perspective

Our biggest event of the year was undoubtedly a Climate Action Roadshow. We ran a six-week summer roadshow to promote natural flood management (NFM) and community-led climate action across Calderdale.

“The purpose of the roadshow is to highlight relatively simple things we can all do to reduce flood risk, whether building leaky dams and planting trees in upland areas or creating rain gardens or green roofs in our homes and businesses. “

“We want to get the word out that whilst climate change and more major flood events are inevitable, Together we can slow the flow”. Bede Mullen, Chair, Slow The Flow.

The CLIMATE ACTION ROADSHOW, from 7 July to 20 August, included an indoor and outdoor travelling exhibition, a giant interactive map of the River Calder and flood hot spots, schools climate change debate, flood walks, family activities and expert workshops on how to make the Calder Valley more flood resilient.

It began with the launch of an exhibition in the Central Library Halifax on Slow the Flow’s work which looked at our flagship project building leaky dams at National Trust site Hardcastle Crags, as well as showcasing lessons it is developing for schools on NFM as part of the national curriculum.

Events took place at the Piece Hall, Square Chapel, Shibden Park, Hardcastle Crags, Sowerby Bridge, Cromwell Bottom, Brighouse, Calder Homes Park, Hebden Bridge and Todmorden Community College and library. One of the most popular and well attended events was an evening seminar on Slowing The Flow in Towns



Working with the University of Huddersfield we launched a MRes fully funded studentship opportunity looking into the effect of natural flood management (NFM) structures on aquatic macroinvertebrates and terrestrial plant diversity. We look forward to publishing the results of the research in 2023.

With funding from the Community Foundation for Calderdale we have worked to develop resources for the teaching of Natural Flood Management at KS2 and KS3. These resources have been written and designed by our trustees and the packs of resources were launched at Halifax library in July and made available to primary and secondary schools in Calderdale. Much of this work will continue into 2023 including full day workshops lead by Slow The Flow trustees in Calderdale primary schools. .The Natural Flood Management curriculum resources are freely available from this link.

And finally, seeing volunteers develop is so important to the work of Slow The Flow – educating young people and encouraging their passion for the environment. This is an outstanding example of volunteer development

As trustees and volunteers, we look forward with passion to a further year of passing on the importance of natural flood management through education and direct action.



# Slow The Flow

## Trustees' report (continued) for the period 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2022

### Financial review

The net receipts for the year were £28206 comprising £10556 net payments from unrestricted funds and £17650 net receipts in restricted funds.

### Reserves policy

The charity's free cash reserves at the year end were £16,102

It is the charity's policy to maintain a reserve to provide working capital in the region of £16,000 to fund its general activities in the year ahead comprising expenditure anticipated as follows:

Bank Charges	100
Fundraising costs	1000
General Publicity and Educational Media	3000
Governance Costs	300
Insurance	400
Equipment Renewal	500
Meeting Room Hire	500
Office and Admin Costs	1000
Working Capital on Projects (this item to grow to fund future staffing)	8500
Trustee Expenses	200
Website	500

### Risk management

The Trustees have introduced a risk management process to assess business risks and are implementing systems to mitigate these risks. Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures or authorisation of all transactions and projects and to ensure consistent quality of delivery for all operational aspects of the Charity. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients and visitors to relevant sites. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still met the needs of the Charity.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees:

Signed: 

Date: 30/10/2023

Name: Stephen Garrod (Trustee)



## Slow The Flow

### Receipts and payments account

for the Financial Period 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2022

Receipts	Financial Period to 31/12/2022 Unrestricted Funds	Financial Period to 31/12/2022 Restricted Funds	Financial Period to 31/12/2022 Total Funds	Financial Period to 31/12/2021 Total Funds
Donations	5056	-	5056	6656
Grants	5500	17650	23150	16240
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>10556</b>	<b>17650</b>	<b>28206</b>	<b>22896</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Bank Charges	99		99	45
Bursaries	2000		2000	2000
Fundraising costs	96		96	96
General Publicity	350		350	398
Governance Costs	300		300	-
Insurance	397		397	365
Measuring Equipment	40		40	132
Meeting Room Hire	315		315	430
Miscellaneous	50		50	82
Office and Admin Costs	889		889	-
Restricted Grant Funded Projects	348	21214	21563	-
Travel	140		140	140
Trustee Expenses	104		104	104
Website	491		491	491
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>5620</b>	<b>21214</b>	<b>26834</b>	<b>4259</b>
Net (payments)/receipts	4936	(3564)	1373	18637
Fund Balances Brought Forward	11166	16240	27406	8769
Fund Balances Carried Forward	16102	12676	28778	27406



# Slow The Flow

## Statement of assets and liabilities

as at 31 December 2022

All cash funds were held at the charity's bank.

### Assets retained for the charity's own use

Smart Turners (2)	Husqvarna 545 15" Chainsaw
Log Carries (2)	Husqvarna Chainsaw Box
Peavy Cant Hooks 3.5 ft (2)	Bolle Tracker
Timber Tongs (4)	Laptop for GDPR
Lifting Hooks (4)	NatureSpy Solar Camera
Seagate BUP Slim 1 TB Red	Boots (1 pair)
Gloves (15 pairs)	Drone Mavic Mini Fly More Combo
Telescopic Staffs 5m, 5 Section (2)	Memory Card for drone - 100Mb/sec 64Gb
Branded Shirts (20)	Brochure & Leaflet Holders (3xA4, 5xA5)
Branded High Viz Vets (15)	Table Top Easel & Board (2 items)
Tsurugi 300mm Fine Tooth Saws (3)	Portable Wooden Easel – 1.5m High (8 items)
Sandvik Bow Saws 21" Type 51 (6)	Gazebo Frame, Cover and SideWalls
Time Lapse Cameras (8)	5 ft Folding Table and Cover
Husqvarna Technical Forest Helmet	Leg Weights 2 pairs
Pavement Sign	Storage Boxes (2)
Stein Top Saw Multi Tool	Together We Can STF Tee Shirts (40 items)

**Liabilities** There will be the cost of an Independent Examination of these accounts amounting to £750.

### Approval of the accounts

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 08/10/2023.

Signed: 

Name: Stephen Garrod (Trustee)



# Slow The Flow

## Notes to the accounts for the period 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2022

### 1 Accounting policies

#### Basis of accounting

The trustees have taken advantage of section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year. No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

#### Taxation

As a registered charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

#### Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

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

### 2 Trustee Expenses (excluding reimbursement for purchases made on behalf of the charity)

Expenses were paid to the following trustees to reimburse them for travel to the Queen's Award:

Adrian Horton ... £62.50          Amanda McDermott ... £23.50

Expenses were paid to the following trustee to reimburse them for their DBS check:

Jackie Lowe ... £18.00

### 3 Trustee remuneration and benefits

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.



# Slow The Flow

## Notes to the accounts

for the period 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2022

### 4 Disclosures Relevant to The Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012

- a) There were no guarantees given by Slow The Flow where any potential liability under the guarantee was outstanding at the date of the statement of assets and liabilities.
- b) There was no debt outstanding at the date of the statement of assets and liabilities which was owed by the CIO and which was secured by an express charge on any of the assets of the CIO.

### 5 Grants and Donations

Source of Income	Financial Period Unrestricted Funds	Financial Period Restricted Funds	Financial Period Total Funds
Quakers Skipton Local Meeting	30	-	30
Heptonstall Parish Council	1000	-	1000
Calder High Students Cake Sale	71	-	71
Wadsworth W.I.	40	-	40
Norland W.I.	50	-	50
Community Foundation for Calderdale	634	-	634
Hebden Bridge Trades Club	1029	-	1029
HEBTROCO LTD	1000	-	1000
KIRKLEES COUNCIL	500	-	500
LOCALGIVING LTD	993	-	993
TNL community Fund -Together For Our Planet	-	8500	8500
NATIONAL TRUST	2000	-	2000
S Abbott	180	-	180
Roadshow Fundraising	29	-	29
West Riding Mason Lodge	3000	-	3000
WEST YORKS F&R-FUND (West Yorkshire Prepared)	-	4150	4150
Yorkshire Water	-	5000	5000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>10556</b>	<b>17650</b>	<b>28206</b>



# Slow The Flow

## Notes to the accounts for the period 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2022

### 6 Restricted Funds

	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Balance c/f
Community Foundation For Calderdale	14740	-	7064	7676
The Marcus E Tillotson Charitable Trust	1500	-	1500	0
TNL community Fund -Together For Our Planet	n/a	8500	8500	0
YORKSHIRE WATER SE	n/a	5000	0	5000
WEST YORKSHIRE PREPARED	n/a	4150	4150	0
	<b>16240</b>	<b>17650</b>	<b>21214</b>	<b>12676</b>

Fund Name	Purpose of Restriction
Community Foundation For Calderdale	Education in Schools Project set up
The Marcus E Tillotson Charitable Trust	Tree Planting and Enclosure for public wood
TNL community Fund -Together For Our Planet	Roadshow Set Up
YORKSHIRE WATER SE	Education in Schools Project roll out
WEST YORKSHIRE PREPARED	Roadshow Launch and Roll Out



## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SLOW THE FLOW**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

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

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M R Heaton', is written over a faint, light blue circular watermark.

M R Heaton FCCA FCIE DChA

KM

1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Block C,

The Wharf

Burnley

Lancashire

BB11 1JG

30 October 2023

**SLOW THE FLOW**

England & Wales - Charity number 1191174

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# Accounts

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# **Slow The Flow**

Charity number **1191174**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements For the period 07/09/2020 to 31/12/2021**

# Slow The Flow

## Annual Report and Financial Statements For the period 07/09/2020 to 31/12/2021

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# Slow The Flow

## Trustees' report for the period 07/09/2020 to 31/12/2021

### Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

The trustees during the financial period and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Bede Mullen	Chair	
Adrian Horton	Secretary	Resigned 30/08/2022
Stephen John Garrod	Treasurer	
Stuart Bradshaw		Resigned 30/09/2022
Robin Gray		
Katie Kimber		
Marie Therese Degnan		Resigned 30/08/2022
Amanda McDermott		
Warren Goodall		Resigned 31/05/2021
Roseanne Marie Sweeney		Appointed 09/09/2021
Paul Garry Williams		Appointed 17/06/2021
Andrew Colin Wright		Appointed 17/06/2021

### Charity Number

The charity was registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, number 1191174, on 07/09/2020.

### Principal address

Hebden Lodge  
Lee Mill Road  
Hebden Bridge  
West Yorkshire  
HX7 7AE

### Bankers

Reliance Bank Ltd  
Faith House  
23-24 Lovat Street  
London  
EC3R 8EB

# **Slow The Flow**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the period 07/09/2020 to 31/12/2021**

### **Structure, governance and management**

The charity is governed by a constitution adopted Jan 2020.

### **Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees**

The trustees of the charity are the founding trustees of the charity or are otherwise appointed by the trustees.

### **Objectives and activities**

#### **The charity's objects**

Slow The Flow is a charity working to advance the education of the public in Natural Flood Management, Sustainable Drainage Systems and other renewable methods of managing the environment, including the exploration of alternative practices which safeguard the natural environment and its resources in a manner which best fits the specifics of a local geography.

#### **The charity's main activities**

The educational objective of the organisation is achieved by presenting information on the Slow The Flow website from a mixture of specialist technical professionals and NFM practitioners including: case studies carried out with volunteers; "how to" guides for implementation at their own properties or land or that provided by others; workshops, lectures and seminars from the technical professionals and those leading or being involved in volunteer projects; and the hands-on volunteer activities - giving members of the public the opportunity to try first hand a range of flood management techniques on land offered by consenting landowners before doing the same on their own property or by similarly seeking cooperation for projects on land owned by others.

## **Slow The Flow**

### **Trustees' report (continued) for the period 07/09/2020 to 31/12/2021**

The organisation implements pilot projects in so far as this is necessary in a science which is emerging and requires an evidence base to demonstrate its efficacy. Its main project to date is work carried out by volunteers on land owned by The National Trust who is not a beneficiary but a consenting and cooperative landowner whose motivation is to help the organisation educate communities about Natural Flood Management and do its bit on land over which it has control. This project sets out to provide proof of concept including the feasibility of volunteer-based actions to implement Natural Flood Management in a local scenario – notably to the benefit of the entire downstream community – while recognising that this implementation by itself is a small part of a wider solution only achievable by educating others in the mechanics and arguments for Natural Flood Management.

Other implementations entail projects based on a similar scalability model where the organisation produces results and promotes the learned physical and social science to encourage others to repeat and expand the work so that it is scaled up to a level that is of benefit to the extended community.

These projects include: identifying Natural Flood Management opportunities; suggesting designs for small-scale woodland and terrain interventions; communications that encourage involvement of volunteers and landowners; facilitating discussions between participating parties; and building understanding between community participants and local and national government agencies.

#### **Public benefit statement**

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular in relation to advancing the education of the public in Natural Flood Management, Sustainable Drainage Systems and other renewable methods of managing the environment.

# Slow The Flow

## Trustees' report (continued) for the period 07/09/2020 to 31/12/2021

### Achievements and performance

Slow The Flow is grateful to everyone who has supported our work over the course of this period. Even with Covid-19 still in our midst, we have been very busy as we continue to develop new schemes, partnerships, ideas, projects and initiatives to reduce flood risk here in the Calder Valley.

It is also fair to say that the work our volunteers and volunteer Trustees do, inspires other communities and groups around the UK, to use natural processes to combat their own flood risk. These relationships are vitally important because collectively, they all contribute to **Natural Flood Management (NFM)** and **Sustainable Drainage Solutions (SuDS)** which are now being recognised and used to reduce flood risk in our cities, towns, villages, and rural communities.

One of our highlights during 2021 was the appointment of 3 brand new amazing Trustees who we appointed to bolster and support the work we do. We have two Trustees (Andrew and Paul) with an educational brief who are working on materials for schools and educators and a Trustee (Roseanne) solely dedicated to fundraising to support the work of Slow The Flow. We are delighted to have them onboard and after only a few short months they have all made a significant impact on our work.

### Here are some of the other highlights for 2021:

#### January

Flood sirens sound again as the Calder Valley braces itself for Storm Christoph. The Environment Agency issues 11 flood warnings for the area and warns communities to put flood plans into action. When the torrential rainfall moves on, flood damage is limited but the psychological impact of the threat of another major flooding event is widely felt.

#### February

We set up an **annual bursary** to support MA students researching natural flood management in partnership with the University of Leeds and Environment Agency. The bursary is named after Penny Eastwood, aka **Dongria Kondh**, our wonderful friend and founder of **Treesponsibility** who sadly passed away later in the year. This was a fitting memorial to one of the most influential people we have known, and we are delighted to commit to supporting this bursary for the next few years.

#### March

Do volunteers have a role in natural flood management? 'Of course, we do!' is our message to FloodExpo21, a major annual gathering of flood experts. To be effective, NFM strategies must be widely deployed across communities. Later, we publish a **report** based on our pioneering interactive 'opportunity mapping' study, which shows that NFM and SuDS have the potential to attenuate almost 2 million cubic metres of water across Calderdale.

#### April

Tracey Brabin, the successful candidate in the first Mayoral elections in West Yorkshire, pays a visit to Hardcastle Crags to hear about our work, demonstrating the increasing strategic importance of flood resilience regionally.

# Slow The Flow

## Trustees' report (continued) for the period 07/09/2020 to 31/12/2021

### May

New Mayor of Todmorden Councillor Pat Taylor chooses us as her Charity of the Year. We are delighted as it gives us an opportunity to spread our reach and message beyond Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd where we have been focused to date.

### June

Volunteering resumes at Hardcastle Crags after a 16 month break due to Covid. We are bashing balsam, an **invasive non-native species**, which takes over riverbanks and woodlands reducing biodiversity and increasing flooding risk. More good news – Slow the Flow is awarded the Queens Award for Volunteer Services – the MBE of volunteering – a tribute to the hundreds of local people who have volunteered with us since we were set up in 2016.

### July

A wonderful permanent exhibition of our work, featuring the film **'Slowing The Flow Together'**, opens in Gibson Mill in Hardcastle Crags, thanks to the support of the National Trust.

### August

Leaky dam building at Hardcastle Crags resumes at last, with Halifax MP Holly Lynch joining the first volunteer group. So far, we have built over 750 leaky dams on the hillsides above Hebden Bridge during colourful, intergenerational weekend events, which boost not just climate resilience, but mental health too!

### September

It's challenge event time! Jonnie Cunningham, head of operations at flood company, Watertight, completes a gruelling sponsored 9-day cycle from Lands End to John O' Groats, while local councillor Josh Fenton Glynn runs not one, but two marathons, to raise money for us, St Augustine's and the Community Foundation For Calderdale.

Together they have contributed an amazing £6K in donations to support our work.

### October

As world leaders gather in Glasgow for Cop26, we launch a media campaign calling on communities to play their part tackling climate change – a story picked up by local, regional, and national media. "People living and working in the Calder Valley know from direct experience how vital it is that world leaders make real progress tackling climate change," says our chair Bede Mullen. **"But communities must take action too"**.

### November

We participate in a public meeting on NFM in Todmorden town hall organised by the Mayor of Todmorden. Amongst other groups present at the event, which is well attended, are Calderdale Council, the Environment Agency, and Todmorden Flood Group. **Our blog** then features excellent guest posts on mitigating flood risk from two of the speakers: Jane from the Calder Rivers Trust on **soil health**, and Christina from Treesresponsibility on **trees**.

# Slow The Flow

## Trustees' report (continued) for the period 07/09/2020 to 31/12/2021

### December

The board of trustees met for the final time in 2021 making exciting plans for 2022 and beyond and looking forward to working with supporters and public, private and community partners to promote NFM and fight back against climate change.

We launched an exciting new piece of citizen science at Hardcastle Craggs NT, where we have installed **fixed point photography posts** – and encouraged submission of photos of leaky dams from the public.

In addition throughout this reporting period we regularly:

- Engaged with statutory bodies and influencers through e.g. The Source / Calder Catchment Partnership / NFM Ops Group / CMBC Flood Newsletter / Climate Committee
- provided talks to organisations such as the WI, Rotary, and Parish Councils.
- Mentored other community groups across the country as they start similar initiatives
- Commented on planning applications / the local plan / climate change action plan

# Slow The Flow

## Trustees' report (continued) for the period 07/09/2020 to 31/12/2021

### Financial review

The net receipts for the year were £14500 comprising £1740 net payments from unrestricted funds and £16240 net receipts in restricted funds.

### Reserves policy

The charity's free cash reserves at the year end were £11166.

It is the charity's policy to maintain a reserve to provide working capital in the region of £8,000 to fund its general activities in the year ahead comprising expenditure anticipated as follows:

Insurance	370
Website	400
Educational Media	2000
General Publicity Print	1000
Room Hire	480
Travel	250
Equipment Renewal	500
Working Capital on Projects	2000
Fundraising Costs	1000

Restrictions on activities as a result of the Covid pandemic have reduced the charity's ability to spend funds as otherwise might have been planned leaving a higher than sought free cash reserve.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees:

Signed: ...  .....

Date: ... 31/10/2022 .....

Name ... Stephen Garrod ..... (Trustee)

## Slow The Flow

### Receipts and payments account

for the Financial Period 07/09/2020 to 31/12/2021

	Financial Period Unrestricted Funds	Financial Period Restricted Funds	Financial Period Total Funds
<b>Receipts</b>			
Donations	6778	-	6778
Grants	-	16240	16240
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>6778</b>	<b>16240</b>	<b>23018</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Bank Charges	45	-	45
Bursaries	2000	-	2000
Fundraising costs	96	-	96
General Publicity	398	-	398
Governance Costs	958	-	958
Grants Made to Others	3225	-	3225
Insurance	365	-	365
Measuring Equipment	186	-	186
Meeting Room Hire	430	-	430
Miscellaneous	82	-	82
Website	493	-	493
Trustee Expenses	46	-	46
Office and Admin Costs	195	-	195
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>8519</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8519</b>
Net (payments)/receipts	(1740)	16240	14500
Fund Balances Brought Forward	12906	-	12906
Fund Balances Carried Forward	11166	16240	27406

# Slow The Flow

## Statement of assets and liabilities

as at 31 December 2021

All cash funds were held at the charity's bank.

### Assets retained for the charity's own use

Smart Turners (2)	Husqvarna Technical Forest Helmet
Log Carries (2)	Pavement Sign
Peavy Cant Hooks 3.5 ft (2)	Stein Top Saw Multi Tool
Timber Tongs (4)	Husqvarna 545 15" Chainsaw
Lifting Hooks (4)	Husqvarna Chainsaw Box
Seagate BUP Slim 1 TB Red	Bolle Tracker
Gloves (15 pairs)	Laptop for GDPR
Telescopic Staffs 5m, 5 Section (2)	NatureSpy Solar Camera
Branded Shirts (20)	Boots (1 pair)
Branded High Viz Vets (15)	Drone Mavic Mini Fly More Combo
Tsurugi 300mm Fine Tooth Saws (3)	
Sandvik Bow Saws 21" Type 51 (6)	
Time Lapse Cameras (8)	

**Liabilities** None

### Approval of the accounts

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on

Date: ..... 31/10/2022 .....

Signed: .....  ..... (Trustee)

Name ..... Stephen Garrod .....

# Slow The Flow

## Notes to the accounts for the period 07/09/2020 to 31/12/2021

### 1 Accounting policies

#### Basis of accounting

The trustees have taken advantage of section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year. No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

#### Taxation

As a registered charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

#### Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

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

### 2 Trustee Expenses (excluding reimbursement for purchases made on behalf of the charity)

Expenses were paid to the following trustees to reimburse them for the cost (£23 each) of DBS application:

Robin Gray  
Katie Kimber

### 3 Trustee remuneration and benefits

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

### 4 Disclosures Relevant to The Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012

- a) There were no guarantees given by Slow The Flow where any potential liability under the guarantee was outstanding at the date of the statement of assets and liabilities.
- b) There was no debt outstanding at the date of the statement of assets and liabilities which was owed by the CIO and which was secured by an express charge on any of the assets of the CIO.

# Slow The Flow

Notes to the accounts continued  
for the period 07/09/2020 to 31/12/2021

## 5 Grants and Donations

	Financial Period Unrestricted Funds	Financial Period Restricted Funds	Financial Period Total Funds
Community Foundation For Calderdale	-	14740	14740
Flood Control (NI) FCNI J Cunningham	4661	-	4661
The Marcus E Tillotson Charitable Trust	-	1500	1500
Heptonstall Parish Council	1000	-	1000
Donations via LocalGiving	566	-	566
Donations at public events	436	-	436
Hebden Bridge WI	50	-	50
CSA Prize	50	-	50
Individual donation by cheque	15	-	15
<b>Total Grants and Donations</b>	<b>6778</b>	<b>16240</b>	<b>23018</b>

## 6 Restricted Funds

	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Balance c/f
Community Foundation For Calderdale	-	14740	-	14740
The Marcus E Tillotson Charitable Trust	-	1500	-	1500

Fund Name	Purpose of Restriction
Community Foundation For Calderdale	Education in schools
The Marcus E Tillotson Charitable Trust	Tree Planting and Enclosure for public wood