



**Ballinderry**  
Rivers Trust

## Trustees' Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024



Surveying for freshwater pearl mussel  
on the Ballinderry River at Wellbrook

Registered Charity number: NIC 103694

HMRC Charities number: XT318

## **Ballinderry Rivers Trust**

Registered number: NI 605894 (Northern Ireland)

### **Trustees' report**

For the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024



**Ballinderry**  
Rivers Trust  
freshwater life

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**Company/Charity registered name**

Ballinderry Rivers Trust

**Company Registered Number**

NI605894

**Charity Registration Number**

NIC103694

**Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs Charities number**

XT318

**Registered office**

213a Orritor Road, Cookstown, County Tyrone, BT80 9NB Northern Ireland

**Trustees as of March 2024**

Mr S Aspinall	
Ms P Campbell	
Mr L Cassidy MBE	
Mrs L Fawthrop	
Mr D Ferguson	
Mr R Graham	Treasurer
Mrs S Graham	
Miss V Graham	Chairperson
Dr P Mac Cana	Vice-Chairperson
Mr S Mac Nia	Secretary
Mr M Mellon	
Dr R Mellon	

**Other Trustees in the year to March 2024**

None

**Patron**

Mr J Mahon Patron

**Secretary**

Mr S Mac Nia



**Company/Charity Employees**

Mr M Horton MBE BSc (Hons) MSc MIFM	Chief Executive
Mr E Devlin BSc (Hons)	Farm Advisor
Miss J Johnston B Ed.	Education & Outreach Officer
Mrs H Kennedy	Officer Manager
Miss R McEldowney BSc (Hons)	Agriculture & Land Manager
Mr S McGill BSc (Hons)	Farm Advisor
Mr F Mitchell	Conservation and Breeding Programmes Manager
Mr P Mitchell	Conservation and Breeding Programmes Officer

**Advisors****Independent accountants**

RTJ Ross & Co., 44 Molesworth Street, Cookstown, County Tyrone, BT80 8PA

**Auditors**

Corr and Corr Chartered Accountants, 2nd Floor, The Cornmill, Lineside, B520, Coalisland, Dungannon BT71 4LP

**Bankers**

Ulster Bank, 20 William Street, Cookstown, County Tyrone, BT80 8ND

**Solicitors**

Millar, Shear and Black, 40 Molesworth Street, Cookstown, County Tyrone, BT80 8PH

**Insurers****Public, Employers, Officers & Directors, and Professional Indemnity**

MEAD Sport & Leisure Ltd, PO BOX 1035, Smallburgh, Stalham, Norwich, NR12 9ZL

**Contents**

NFU Mutual, LCC House, 1 Lissan Road, Cookstown, BT80 8EN



## **TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statements of Ballinderry Rivers Trust (the charitable company) for the year ended 31 March 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the company's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006, Part 8 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, other applicable law and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), FRS102 and with the financial reporting standards applicable to charities preparing their accounts.

This is the third year the Trust has required a fully independent audit in accordance with the thresholds set in the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and the outcome of this audit is presented here.

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

#### **a. Constitution**

The Trust is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee, governed by its Articles of Association. The Articles of Association were updated:

- in 2011 to align with the Companies Act 2006.
- in 2012 when the organisation changed its name from Ballinderry River Enhancement Association to Ballinderry Rivers Trust; and
- in 2014, when the Trust extended its geographical area of charitable interest.

Subject to the Articles of Association, membership is open to any individual or organisation.

#### **b. Method of appointment or election of Trustees**

The governing body of the Trust is the Board of Trustees, which comprises not less than 3 and no more than 20 Trustees. The Board comprises founding members of the Trust, these members having been retired, re-nominated, and subsequently re-elected at the AGM, pursuant to Articles 23 and 24, and Trustees invited to join the Board by the members.

One-fifth, or if the number on the Board is not a multiple of 5, then the nearest to one-fifth, of the Trustees must retire by rotation annually at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The recruitment of Trustees is by communication with the Members. Subject to the Articles, selection is based on environmental or specific rivers trust interest, expertise in environmental or other relevant matters, general experience of charities and company/charity regulatory integrity, with the over-riding objective of maintaining a broadly representative body, strong on governance and ability to add value.



**c. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees**

Newly appointed Trustees are given access to the Trust's digital file sharing and communication platform – Basecamp, which contains the governing documents of the Trust, the responsibilities of Company Directors and Charity Trustees, contact details of all other Trustees and copies of minutes, discussion papers and management accounts for all meetings preceding their appointment.

Each new Trustee also receives an induction session with the Chief Executive of the Trust.

The Board meets formally six times per year, but there is frequent consultation with Trustees, individually and as groups, outside formal meetings.

**d. Organisational structure and decision-making**

The Board has confirmed that the Trust should adopt best practice in accordance with the advice and guidance of its reporting accountants, RTJ Ross & Co, and its umbrella body, The Rivers Trust. The Board has adopted 'The Code of Good Governance' for charities in Northern Ireland (<http://www.diycommitteeguide.org/introducing-code>) and The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's 'Running Your Charity' guidance (<https://www.charitycommissionni.org.uk/charity-essentials/running-your-charity-guidance/>) as its guiding principles of best practice and effective governance.

**Executive Officers**

At the end of 2023/2024, the Executive Officers of the Trust were:

Mr M Horton MBE BSc (Hons) MSc MIFM	Chief Executive
Mrs H Kennedy	Office Manager
Miss R McElDowney BSc (Hons)	Agriculture & Land Manager

**Employees**

At the end of 2023/2024, the employees of the Trust were:

Mr M Horton MBE BSc (Hons) MSc MIFM	Chief Executive
Mr E Devlin BSc (Hons)	Farm Advisor
Miss J Johnston B Ed.	Education & Outreach Officer
Mrs H Kennedy	Officer Manager
Miss R McElDowney BSc (Hons)	Agriculture & Land Manager
Mr S McGill BSc (Hons)	Farm Advisor
Mr F Mitchell	Conservation and Breeding Programmes Manager
Mr P Mitchell	Conservation and Breeding Programmes Officer

**e. Related party relationships**

The Trust works closely with The Rivers Trust (the umbrella body for the river trust movement in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, and Ireland) and other charities and organisations. However, all relationships are conducted on an arms' length basis.



## **f. Risk management**

As a small, incorporated charity, there is no legal requirement to undertake a formal Annual Risk Management Review, however, the Trustees recognise the need to identify and, as far as is practically possible, eliminate risk at source. Therefore, as a matter of adopting best practices, the Trustees have resolved to utilise the guidance provided by The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland in its 'Running your Charity' document.

The Trustees encourage the executive officers to adopt innovative approaches in developing the Trust, to promote leadership and initiative, and to make real and significant contributions to environmental improvements. This ethos is supported by good governance, prudent financial control, sustainability, and a culture of mutual trust.

The Trust maintains Public and Employers' Liability and Professional Indemnity insurance cover as well as Trustees' 'Officers and Directors' indemnity insurance; however, the Trustees consider insurance cover to be the measure of last resort.

## **Purpose, Public Benefit, Aims and Objectives**

### **a. Purpose**

The purpose (objects) of the Trust is twofold: –

#### **Environmental protection and improvement**

To conserve, protect, rehabilitate, and improve the rivers, streams, watercourses and water impoundments in the geographical areas known as:

- the Ballinderry River catchment in the Counties of Tyrone and Londonderry/Derry;
- the Salterstown River catchment in County Londonderry/Derry;
- all the watercourses entering the western shore of Lough Neagh between, but not including the mouths of the Blackwater and Moyola Rivers;
- Lough Neagh;
- and, to a lesser extent, areas within the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland;

For the advancement of environmental protection or improvement for the benefit of the public.

#### **Education**

To advance the education of the public, or any association, institution, voluntary organisation, company, local authority, administrative or governmental agency or public body or representative body in: –

- The understanding of rivers, river corridors and river catchments, including their fauna, flora, biodiversity, economic or social activity, and river catchment management.
- The need for, and benefits of, conservation, protection, rehabilitation, and improvement of aquatic environments.

**b. Public Benefit statement****Environmental protection and improvement**

The direct benefits for the public which flow from the charity's purpose of environmental protection and improvement are improved water quality and freshwater habitats in rivers and loughs in the Trust's area, providing a healthier freshwater environment with greater social, economic and environmental value, and; healthy populations of water-dependant flora and fauna which are an important part of the public's local natural heritage, and the conservation and protection of these species for future generations to enjoy.

These benefits are evidenced through survey work undertaken by the Trust to determine the condition of water quality, habitat, or species populations, before, during and after conservation or rehabilitation works are carried out; as a measure of success and achieving the Trust's aims. Environmental improvements undertaken by the Trust are also incidentally evidenced through Statutory monitoring and reporting, undertaken by Government Departments, and by academic institutions as part of research projects. This provides a level of independent assessment of the Trust's work.

**Education**

The direct benefits which flow from the purpose of education are increased public awareness of our rivers and loughs and the roles the public can play in their protection; upskilled members of the public in river survey and conservation techniques that give the public an opportunity to play a key role in the protection of the environment and; the provision of dedicated education resources and support to schools and education providers, allowing freshwater topics to be fully integrated into education provision in all schools in the Trust area.

These benefits are evidenced through the number of students, community groups and individuals participating in education/information and training events organised by the Trust, the uptake and usage of education resources, the usage of the Trust's River School, and feedback from participants, education providers and group leaders.

**Assessment of Harm arising from the Trust's Purpose**

Environmental improvement work, undertaken by the Trust, may cause localised disturbance to wildlife and the immediate river environment, however, the Trust utilise best practice, evidence-based, river conversation and rehabilitation methods, which include the mitigation of environmental impact. The Trust also works closely with Statutory Agencies, responsible for the regulation and protection of the environment, ensuring that its work is undertaken to the highest standard and in line with regulatory requirements. The impacts of any works carried out by the Trust are always minimal and are far outweighed by the benefits for which the work is being undertaken.

The purpose of our charity does not pose any harm to environmental education.

**Assessment of Direct Private Benefit arising from the Trust's Purpose**

The purposes of the charity are not intended for any direct private benefits.

Incidental private benefit may arise for landowners on whose land the Trust has undertaken work, which has led to an improvement in the environment; to recreational users of the rivers and loughs due to improved water quality and increased biodiversity value, to the local tourism sector which supports these activities, and to those who receive training through the Trust which may allow them to privately benefit from these skills acquired, however, these benefits are an unavoidable and necessary consequence of the charity fulfilling its purposes.

**c. Aims**

To deliver its purpose for wider public benefit, Ballinderry Rivers Trust aims to conserve, protect, and improve the rivers and loughs of the Ballinderry River system, Lough Neagh, the Lough's western-shore streams, and their wildlife, for the benefit of the public and the wider environment.

To achieve this, we strive to:

- Work in partnership with local communities, landowners, river and environmental interest groups, businesses, education providers and statutory agencies to ensure that all our projects are sustainable, evidence-based, and utilise the invaluable knowledge, experience and skills that exist in our community.
- Improve the health of the rivers and loughs in the Trust's area through water quality and habitat improvement projects.
- Conserve and protect locally and globally threatened freshwater species and habitats.
- Provide volunteer and training opportunities for the public; helping the Trust to deliver its work and upskilling the public with transferable knowledge and skills.
- Educate the community on the importance of the freshwater environment and the role they can play in its protection.
- Support and undertake research to further our understanding of the freshwater environment.
- Improve river and lough recreation and access opportunities that allow the public to enjoy our freshwater environment in an environmentally sensitive way, bring benefits to the public, the environment, and the local economy.



**d. Objectives for achieving wider public benefit**

The Trust's strategy for achieving its objects and aims is twofold:

1. Through its core activities:
  - a. The Trust acts as the umbrella organisation for river interest groups operating in the Trust's area of charitable interest. Its policy is to support the development of, and build capacity in, these organisations helping to deliver the Trust's objects and provide wider public benefit to its work.
  - b. the Trust provides mentoring in the further development of young people and life-long learners in the field of river conservation & management and land management, benefitting the environment and the wider public.
  - c. The Trust provides volunteering opportunities, helping the Trust to deliver its objects, and providing wider public benefit to its work.
2. Through its project activities:
  - a. The Trust pursues mainly public grant funded opportunities to promote, develop and deliver, practical solutions to environmental issues, for public benefit and to educate the community on the importance of the freshwater environment.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland relating to wider public benefit for the 'Advancement of environmental protection or improvement' and the 'Advancement of education'.



**Trustees Report on Activities in the year to March 2024****a. Core activities****Supporting and Helping the Development of Local River Interest Groups**

The Trust continued to provide support to river interest groups in the Trust's area of charitable interest.

River Interest Groups, affiliated (as described in Article 10) with the Trust during the reporting period were:

- Ballinderry Bridge Angling Club
- Coagh Angling Club
- Kingsbridge Angling Club
- Mid-Ulster Angling Club

The Trust continued to operate on the principles of partnership working and consent, providing, where requested, specialist support in project planning and the provision of training and volunteering opportunities to the groups and their members as required, but played no part in the governance of these groups.

Each affiliated group may nominate one representative to sit on the Board of Trustees of the Trust, subject to Article 6 of the Trusts' governing document, ensuring that the Trust maintains a governance structure that is representative of local interests. In the reporting period, all named groups maintained a member on the Board of Trustees.

**Mentoring Young People and Life-long Learners*****Learning and Outreach for young people and life-long learners***

The Trust provides learning and outreach opportunities through our Trust's River School and Conservation Breeding Centre, Trust-led field trips to demonstration sites in the Ballinderry River system and the Trust providing outreach talks to groups.

In September 2023, we have hosted a half-day seminar and field trip for Queens University Belfast students studying for a Master's degree (MSc) Conservation Biology and Ecology. In total, 31 students learned about the Trust's long-running conservation breeding and reintroduction programme for the endangered freshwater pearl mussel, catchment conservation measures and the ecology of the species, which included a tour of the Trust's conservation breeding centre and a field visit to a local farm to see conservation measures in-situ.

In partnership with National Museums Northern Ireland (NMNI), we organised and hosted a two-day advanced Riverfly Identification Training Course to upskill those with existing Riverfly monitoring experience to contribute to aquatic invertebrate monitoring records for Northern Ireland's Centre for Environmental Data and Recording (CEDaR).



### **Curriculum-based and extracurricular primary and post-primary education**

We continued to deliver and develop our education and outreach programme through the 'Our Rivers' project. During the period 2023-24 a total of 755 Primary and Secondary school-aged students (539 Primary; 216 Secondary), across 20 schools, took part in education and learning programmes offered by the Trust. This included a total of 425 students across 15 schools taking part in our Trout in the Classroom Programme.



In total, 10 after-school 'Eco-Club' activities were also delivered in schools across the catchment area, which contributes towards Eco-School status for participating schools.

The Trust's new 'River Study', in which students, accompanied by the Trust's Education and Outreach Officer, travel by bus down the Lissan Water, from its mountain source to its mouth, stopping at six locations to undertake geography and science-based experiments to complete GCSE and A-Level fieldwork, was delivered to 60 pupils, across two classes in one secondary school in the catchment area.



As part of the 'River Study', and in partnership with Lissan House Trust we designed and erected an outdoor classroom on the banks of the Lissan Water. The outdoor classroom provides a safe, dry space for riverside lessons to take place, and allows children to interact with the river in real life.





### **Public education and outreach**

During 2023–24, the Trust attended two agricultural shows (Omagh and Tullylagan) with our mobile education and outreach tent, comprising display tanks and a touch-pool for aquatic species. In total approximately 350 people were engaged in the work of the Trust at these events.



The Trust also took part in a family fun day at The National Trust's Springhill House, near Moneymore, with approximately 75 children taking part in activities delivered by the Trust.

In addition, two 1-day Riverside Summer Sessions were held for families during July/ August 2023. Attendees engaged in activities around the river, investigated river invertebrates and learnt about the importance of good water quality.



### **Rivers and Fisheries Internships**

For the fifth year the Trust delivered a Rivers and Fisheries Internship, which focuses on freshwater ecological survey techniques and in-channel and riparian habitat restoration. For the first time the Trust offered a new Agriculture and Catchment Management Internship, which focuses on land assessment for identifying pressures on the water environment and its wildlife arising from agriculture and land management practices, and planning and implementing appropriate nature-based and engineered mitigations.

The aim of the internships are to provide structured and purposeful long-term placements (up to 12 months) for up to two students per year, studying a relevant degree at Queens University, Ulster University, or the College of Agriculture Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE). The intention is for the students to learn in a work environment while achieving learning outcomes as part of their academic courses. Knowledge, skills, and ideas are transferred between the Trust and the students with the aim of developing both the students, and the capability of the Trust to deliver its charitable objectives.

During 2023–24 the Trust hosted three interns: one Rivers and Fisheries Intern and one Agriculture and Catchment Management Intern on three-month summer placements and one dual internship for a period of 9-months.

In March 2024, the Trust undertook a recruitment exercise for 2024–25 candidates for the internships.

### **Volunteering Opportunities**

The Trusts volunteering opportunities provide transferable skills and knowledge to participants whilst helping the Trust to achieve its objectives in a cost and time efficient manner.

During this period (2023–24), volunteers collectively contributed 1,116.5 hours of in-kind time with a combined monetary value of £22,329.99 (based on Heritage Lottery Fund benchmark day rates for Unskilled [£50], Skilled [£150] and Professional [£350] volunteers).

**b. Project Activities**
**ResiRiver2030: Towards Nature Recovery and Climate Resilience in the Ballinderry River catchment by 2030**

Name	ResiRiver 2030 Project (Year 1 of 5)	
Period	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023 – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2028	
Type	Habitat Improvement/Water Quality Improvement/Climate Resilience	
Project Partners	The Rivers Trust	
Project funder/s	Northern Ireland Environment Agency (Environment Fund – Strategic Strand)	£204,658
	Ballinderry Rivers Trust (own funds)	£4,891
	Other match funding including from The Rivers Trust and DAERA Sustainable Catchment Programme	£127,824
	Volunteer Time	£21,881
Overall value	<hr/> £359,254	

ResiRiver 2030 is a five-year project that seeks to deliver on national and international targets for water quality, biodiversity and climate adaptation in the Ballinderry River catchment.

The project is working at a landscape-scale, through the principles of integrated catchment management, nature networks and the use of nature-based solutions, to deliver a programme of catchment-scale actions that are designed to support nature's recovery and climate adaptation and resilience in the river system.

This is an ambitious project that aims to deliver a number of outcomes, designed to meet local environmental need, Northern Ireland policies and strategies, as well as contribute to international targets and conventions on water, biodiversity, climate and sustainable development.

The outcomes and delivery mechanisms are as follows:

**Outcome 1**

- By 2030, 95% of the Upper Ballinderry River SAC/ASSI designated site (55.8ha of the 58.8 ha site), will be under Favourable Conservation Management.
- By 2030, at least 30% of the upper Ballinderry River catchment area (38.1km<sup>2</sup> of the 127km<sup>2</sup> catchment) – hydrologically connected to the designated site – will be under Favourable Conservation Management.



- By 2030, the status of waterbodies in the upper Ballinderry River ASSI/SAC catchment will have achieved, or be moving towards, at least 'good' water quality status.

To achieve this, we will:

1. Provide non-regulatory water-friendly farming advice to landowners along and in the catchment area of the Upper Ballinderry River SAC/ASSI, through a team of dedicated Farm Advisors, and produce 200 farm-scale Water and Environment Management Plans (WEMPs) that identify measures required for the protection of water, land, and air, that contribute to the favourable management of the SAC/ASSI (some of these plans may be outside the SAC/ASSI catchment where actions are required to reduce atmospheric ammonia impacting on the SAC/ASSI).
2. Further develop and administer the Ballinderry Water-friendly Farming (agri-environmental) Scheme (WFS), as a mechanism through which to deliver funding to farms for targeted water, land and air protection measures expected to bring about condition improvements to the SAC/ASSI.
3. Develop and pilot a Results-based Payments Scheme (RbPS) for landowners in the Upper Ballinderry River SAC/ASSI, designed to secure sustained, long-term, water quality and habitat improvement for the special protection features of the SAC, as well as wider biodiversity, including peatland restoration (see Outcome 5).
4. Control Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed, in and near to the Upper Ballinderry River SAC/ASSI.
5. Identify opportunities for tree planting in the Upper Ballinderry River SAC/ASSI and wider Ballinderry catchment, by working with The Rivers Trust and the Woodland Trust (Woodlands for Water Officer) and undertake annual tree planting (target 5000 trees by 2028).
6. Establish an SAC/ASSI Landowner Information Hub for landowners, providing support and guidance on managing land and farming along the SAC/ASSI, including support in obtaining consent and undertaking work along the designated stretch.

Outcome 2:

- By 2027, the WFD status in all waterbodies in the Ballinderry catchment has not deteriorated below Moderate.

To achieve this, we will:

1. Develop and publish a Catchment Plan (incorporating the Upper Ballinderry River SAC Conservation Management plan), as a public facing interactive StoryMap, that combines data actions from all sectors to achieve improved water quality across the Ballinderry River system and western-shore rivers of Lough Neagh.
2. Utilise this plan to secure funding for strategic project delivery.

Outcome 3:

- By 2030, the Ballinderry freshwater pearl mussel population in the SAC/ASSI designated site will have increased to 6,000 individuals and will show signs of natural recruitment in the wild.

To achieve this, we will:

1. Maintain and further develop the long-running Ballinderry Freshwater Pearl Mussel Conservation Breeding and Reinforcement Programme, including continued training

of an FPM Conservation Breeding Centre Technician by existing staff (part of breeding programme continuity planning).

2. Undertake detailed habitat assessment and mapping of suitable mussel habitat stretches in the SAC/ASSI to identify new release sites, to expand the range of the population within the river.
3. Release at least 1500 juvenile mussels to the river (~300 each year).
4. Undertake annual condition assessments of mussels and habitat at release sites on an annual basis.
5. Undertake annual salmonid population assessments at 30 sites per annum across the Ballinderry River catchment to compliment FPM assessment data.
6. Undertake annual redox assessment at established FPM/Salmonid Habitat Assessment Sites to inform site condition and habitat improvement measures.

#### Outcome 4:

- By 2028, all known freshwater pearl mussel populations in Northern Ireland will be better understood and protected through an integrated approach to species conservation and management.

#### To achieve this, we will:

1. Undertake Condition Assessments, using JNCC Common Standards Monitoring (CSM), for all six freshwater pearl mussel rivers in NI – maintaining the 6-year data collection and reporting cycle.

#### Outcome 5:

By 2030, 12ha of peatland, located on privately owned land, will have been restored to functioning peat, sequestering carbon, and contributing to hydrological function within the catchment, and act as a pilot for peatland restoration on privately owned land.

#### To achieve this, we will:

1. Integrate peatland restoration with Result-based Payment Scheme (RbPS) pilot (see Outcome 1), as a trial incentive to peatland restoration on privately owned land.
2. Identify and recruit at least two farms with a minimum area of 12ha of peatland restoration potential into the peatland restoration pilot project.
3. Undertake peatland restoration measures on the privately owned peatland.
4. Use RbPS Score Cards to assess peat recovery (carbon sequestration) and biodiversity net gain.

#### Outcome 6:

- By 2028, the rivers trust network in Northern Ireland will be more sustainable and better able to contribute to achieving national and international objectives for water, biodiversity, and climate.

To achieve this, Ballinderry Rivers Trust will coordinate a support network for rivers trusts in Northern Ireland (iCatch) and act as a hub trust for NI's rivers trusts to organise, coordinate, and host:

1. 50 iCatch meetings encouraging peer-to-peer learning and support and greater links with Irish rivers trusts.
2. 5 rivers trust seminars/events, bringing together NI, cross-border and Irish rivers trusts to share learning and expertise.

3. Linking NI rivers trusts through Communities of Practice, providing specialist per-to-peer support and knowledge transfer.

The ResiRiver 2030 Project is being delivered in partnership with:



The ResiRiver 2030 project is funded by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, an Agency within the Department for Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs, through the Environment Fund (EF) Strategic Strand 2023–2028.



**Salterstown Group Facilitation Project**

Name	Salterstown Group Facilitation Project (Year 1)	
Period	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023 – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2026	
Type	Water Quality Improvement/Education	
Project Partners	The Rivers Trust	
Project funder/s	DAERA (Environmental Farming Branch)	£83,243
Other contributions	None	£0
Overall value		<hr/> £83,243

This project aims to reduce the impact of agricultural businesses on water quality in the Salterstown River, by provide non-regulatory water-friendly farming advice to landowners in the catchment, through a team of dedicated Farm Advisors, and producing farm-scale Water and Environment Management Plans (WEMPs) that identify measures required for the protection of water quality.

The farm plans are designed to identify and prioritise action that can be taken through the Trust's Ballinderry Water-friendly Farming (agri-environmental) Scheme (WFS), as a mechanism through which to deliver funding to farms for targeted water, land and air protection measures.

The plans also identify opportunities for tree planting which will be delivered in partnership with The Rivers Trust and the Woodland Trust (Woodlands for Water Officer).

Salterstown Group Facilitation Project is funded through and being delivered in partnership with:



The Rivers Trust's Group Facilitation Project is part of the DAERA Environmental Farming Scheme – Group Facilitation programme which is jointly funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).



**Sustainable Catchments Programme**

Name	Sustainable Catchments Programme (SCP) 2023-24	
Period	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023 – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	
Type	Water Quality Improvement/Education	
Project Partners	The Rivers Trust	
Project funder/s	DAERA (Green Growth Programme)	£535,445
Other contributions	Landowner contribution	£180,602
Overall value		<hr/> £716,047

The Sustainable Catchment Programme (SCP) is joint initiative between the Department for Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA) and The Rivers Trust and is a capital grant that allows the implementation of on-farm measures that are identified through the production of Water Environment Management Plans and are expected to bring about water quality benefit.

Through this fund the Trust was able to significantly increase the impact of its Water-friendly Farming Scheme, to benefit water quality and wildlife, by being able to commit significant funds for on-farm water quality protection measures and leveraging additional landowner contributions towards the cost of measures.

The Sustainable Catchment Programme (SCP) is delivered in partnership with:



The Sustainable Catchment Programme (SCP) is funded by the Department for Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs, under its Green Growth programme.





**Our Rivers (2022-2025)**

Name	Our Rivers	
Period	7 <sup>th</sup> October 2022 – 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 (extended from 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2024)	
Type	Water Quality Improvement/Education	
Project Partners	Lissan House Trust	
Project funder/s	Garfield Weston	£47,619
Other contributions	None	£0
Overall value		<hr/> £47,619 (of £140,000 total project value)

The ‘Our Rivers’ project has two main objectives:

1. Design and implementation of a multi-faceted freshwater education programme aimed primarily at Key Stage 2, providing both class and field-based options for learning about our rivers and loughs.
2. Coordination of a range of volunteer initiatives aimed at increasing participation in recording and environmental monitoring through citizen science.

This project aims to reinvigorate and further grow our education and outreach impact through development and delivery a new, exciting, engaging, and integrated freshwater learning, outreach, and citizen science experience, aimed at increasing environmental awareness about our water environment and involvement of the public in direct conservation activity.

The project strives to establish the Ballinderry River catchment as Northern Ireland’s ‘Freshwater Education and Engagement Hub’, at the fore of ‘hand-on’ environmental engagement and accessible to all. The project will provide the freshwater education support and opportunities that our local schools are so eager for us to deliver for them and be able to meet the demand in an effective, impactful, and sustainable way. We will also provide high quality, meaningful, and fulfilling freshwater volunteering and citizen science opportunities for the public who have a renewed appetite and interest in their local environment.

The ‘Our Rivers’ project is funded by the Garfield Weston Foundation.



**c. Grant making policies**

The Trust does not provide grants to other bodies.

**Achievements and performance****a. Going Concern**

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

**b. Review of activities****Core activities**

In 2023/24, we said we would:

- Continue to act as the umbrella organisation for river interest groups operating in the Trust's area.
- Continue to provide mentoring in the further development of young people and life-long learners in the field of river conservation & management and land management, benefitting the environment and the wider public.
- Continue to provide volunteering opportunities, both formal (e.g., internships, work placements) and informal (on-off events), helping the Trust to deliver its objectives and providing wider public benefit through its work.
- Recognise the contribution that volunteers make.
- Promote the work of the Trust and how the Trust achieves its charitable objectives through:
  - Website
  - Social Media
  - PR and Communications
  - Events
- Deliver training to the Board of Trustees and staff to continually improve the Trust's reach to beneficiaries, impact on charitable objectives and overall effectiveness in achieving its aims.
- Publish a 5-year strategic business plan for the Trust which includes key performance indicators.
- Continue to undertake cost saving measures in the Trust to ensure services/utilities the Trust receives are best value for money.
- Further develop good governance in the Charity.
- Maintain Robust Rating for financial control from the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, demonstrating the Trust operates financial controls comparable to the Department.
- Continue to develop further policies and protocols, in line with best practice governance of the Trust and the requirements of The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

During 2023/24 we:

- Continued to act as the umbrella organisation for river interest groups operating in the Trust's area and supported these groups on the river through the continued provision of recreational access and habitat restoration/protection projects.
- Continued to provide mentoring in the further development of young people and life-long learners in the field of river conservation & management and land management through the Trust's Rivers and Fisheries Internship Programme and the new Agriculture and Land Management Internship.
- Provided structuring volunteering through intern placement students and through the trusts activities which included a range of skilled duties.
- Secured funds to recognise the role of volunteers in the Trust through volunteer appreciation events.
- Promoted the work of the Trust and how the Trust achieves its charitable objectives through social media.
- Provided ongoing 'good governance' information, guidance and leadership to the Board of Trustees and staff to continually improve the Trust's reach to beneficiaries, impact on charitable objectives and overall effectiveness in achieving its aims.
- Continued to undertake cost saving measures in the Trust to ensure services/utilities the Trust receives are best value for money.
- Drafted a 5-year strategic business plan for the Trust which includes key performance indicators.
- Further developed Good Governance in the Charity including updating the Trust's various policies and procedures.
- Maintained a Robust Rating for financial control from the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, demonstrating the Trust operates financial controls comparable to the Department.
- Continued to develop further policies and protocols, in line with best practice governance of the Trust and the requirements of The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

In addition, the Trust maintained the access created through the Ardtrea to Drapersfield Walkway Project, including controlling the growth and spread of Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) which poses a health risk to access users and an environmental risk to the river and biodiversity.

### **Project activities**

In 2023/24 we said we would:

- Deliver the first year of the ResiRiver 2030 project, funded by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency's Environment Fund 2023 – 2028, including:
  - Identify and secure peatland restoration pilot sites in the upper Ballinderry River catchment.
  - Explore the development of a pilot Results-based Payments Scheme for landowners undertaking environmental stewardship.
  - Offer non-regulatory water-friendly farming advice to landowners in the Upper Ballinderry River SAC and the Aghaveagh catchment.
  - Undertake fisheries and habitat assessments across the Trust's area.
  - Continue to control Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed in the Upper Ballinderry River SAC catchment.



- Convene and coordinate a multi-agency working group on the management of the Upper Ballinderry River SAC.
- Deliver the Our Rivers Project, funded by the Garfield Weston Foundation, including:
  - Establish an outdoor classroom at, and in partnership with Lissan House Trust.
  - Design and install educational interpretation panels at Lissan House Trust.
  - Develop and trial a 'source to mouth' rivers study targeted at GCSE students, as well as the supporting resources.
  - Deliver Trout in the Classroom in 15 schools in the Trust's area.
  - Ran a river 'Summer Scheme' open to children and families in the area.
  - Attended local fairs and event with our mobile education display.
- Complete the delivery of the Win Win Solutions for Water-friendly Farming Project and produce an end of project report and short film.
- Continue to run the Trust's Conservation Breeding Centre for freshwater pearl mussel and white-clawed crayfish, including:
  - Releasing up to 200 juvenile freshwater pearl mussel to the Ballinderry River SAC.
  - Refurbish the Trust's White-clawed Crayfish education/observation tank.
- Continue to offer non-regulatory water-friendly farming advice to landowners in the Salterstown catchment.
- Secure additional funding for on-farm interventions targeted at improving water and habitat quality.
- Organise and deliver on-farm demonstration events, promoting best practice in agriculture for the protection of the freshwater environment.
- Continue to plan for, devise and deliver projects that improve water quality and habitat in the rivers and loughs in the Trust area.
- Further develop Ballinderry Rivers Trust as a hub trust for other rivers trusts in Northern Ireland, providing mentoring and coordinating training and peer-to-peer learning and support, including:
  - Providing training to other rivers trusts in NI
  - Coordinate the iCatch Network for NI and link with other groups in Ireland.
- Host the second All-Ireland rivers trust conference/seminar, in partnership with The Rivers Trust.
- Identify opportunities for collaborative projects with neighbouring rivers trusts or like-minded organisations, providing mutual environmental benefit and wider public benefit to our work.
- Pursue Corporate support/sponsorship opportunities.
- Pursue funding opportunities through UK and international grant giving bodies and trusts to deliver the aims and objectives of the Trust.

In 2023/24 we:

- Delivered the first year of the ResiRiver 2030 project, funded by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency's Environment Fund 2023 – 2028, including:
  - Identify peatland restoration pilot sites in the upper Ballinderry River catchment.
  - Completed an expert-led review of options for the development of a pilot Results-based Payments Scheme for landowners undertaking environmental stewardship and peatland restoration.
  - Offered non-regulatory water-friendly farming advice to landowners in the Upper Ballinderry River SAC and the Aghaveagh catchment.
  - Undertook fisheries and habitat assessments across the Trust's area.

- Continued to control Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed in the Upper Ballinderry River SAC catchment.
- Delivered the first year of the Our Rivers Project, funded by the Garfield Weston Foundation, including:
  - Established an outdoor classroom at Lissan House.
  - Undertook the design of educational interpretation panels at Lissan House.
  - Developed and trialled a 'source to mouth' rivers study on the Lissan Water targeted at GCSE students, as well as the supporting resources.
  - Delivered Trout in the Classroom in up to 6 schools in the Trust's area.
  - Run a river 'Summer Scheme' open to children and families in the area.
  - Attend a local fair/event with our mobile education display.
- Completed the delivery of the Win Win Solutions for Water-friendly Farming Project and produced an end of project report and short film.
- Continued to run the Trust's Conservation Breeding Centre for freshwater pearl mussel and white-clawed crayfish, including:
  - Released 300 juvenile freshwater pearl mussel to the Ballinderry River SAC.
  - Refurbished the Trust's White-clawed Crayfish education/observation tank.
- Continued to offer non-regulatory water-friendly farming advice to landowners in the Salterstown catchment.
- Secured additional funding through the SCP for on-farm interventions targeted at improving water and habitat quality.
- Organised and delivered on-farm demonstration events, promoting best practice in agriculture for the protection of the freshwater environment.
- Continued to plan for, devise and deliver projects that improve water quality and habitat in the rivers and loughs in the Trust area.
- Further developed Ballinderry Rivers Trust as a hub trust for other rivers trusts in Northern Ireland, providing mentoring and coordinating training and peer-to-peer learning and support, including:
  - Providing technical support and templet documentation.
  - Coordinated the iCatch Network for NI, in partnership with The Rivers Trust and linked in with other groups in Ireland.
- Hosted the second All-Ireland Rivers Trust conference at the CityNorth Hotel, Dublin, in partnership with The Rivers Trust and Boyne Rivers Trust.
- Identified opportunities for collaborative projects with the River Blackwater Catchment Trust, providing mutual environmental benefit and wider public benefit to our work.
- Pursued funding opportunities through UK and international grant giving bodies and trusts to deliver the aims and objectives of the Trust.

### **c. Investment policy and performance**

The Trust has insufficient uncommitted funds to consider long-term investments, and a detailed review of performance and performance targets is not required. The Trust's investment policy currently is to keep any surplus liquid funds in short-term deposits, which are low risk. Any investment beyond short-term deposits is required to be supported by independent professional advice, at which point the Trustees will consider ethical investment issues and direction.

**Financial review****a. Reserves policy**

It is the aim of the Trustees to generate a level of reserves sufficient to carry out the objects of the Trust on a steady and stable basis. The Trustees have therefore resolved to hold surplus liquid funds in short term deposits that can be accessed readily.

In determining the level of reserves to be held the Trustees have considered the income generating streams of the organisation, from the selling of services, public donations and restricted project funding alongside the running costs which will be financed through restricted funds, match funding arrangements, and the organisation's general funds.

The Board has therefore resolved to hold sufficient reserves to respond to any unexpected difficulties in securing restricted funding and to meet contractual obligations to staff including the provision of redundancy payments should the Trust be forced to close.

Based upon the levels of expenditure in the financial year, it was agreed that £145,500 would be held in reserve.

The trustees wanted to ensure that sufficient reserves were available to respond to any unexpected difficulties in securing restricted funding.

To bridge any potential shortfall in income and to allow sufficient time for additional income to be secured £145,500 would cover 6 months running costs of £24,000 and salaries of £121,500. Although contractual notice periods of staff would cost £31,000, the trustees agreed that staffing numbers should be retained at the current level, as any reduction would significantly reduce the Trusts ability to deliver on its purposes.

Contractual obligations to staff include the provision of redundancy payments. Should the Trust be forced to close current redundancy costs would be £32,713. Further contractual obligation with suppliers would cost £2,000.

The trustees further agreed that surplus funds beyond the amount to be held in reserve could be used for the benefit of the Trust.



**b. Principal funding****Income**

In 2023/2024, total incoming resources were **£885,831** (2022/23: £960,981).

The Trust was fortunate enough to receive support during the year from several sources, including:

- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).
- DAERA Green Growth Fund.
- European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).
- Garfield Weston Foundation.
- Northern Ireland Environment Agency's (NIEA) Environment Fund Strategic Strand 2023–2028.

**Expenditure**

Total expenditure for 2023/2024 was **£883,962** (2022/23: £855,432).

**Balance sheet**

The Trust was in a healthy financial position at year-end, with net assets of **£242,918** (2022/23: £241,049)

The Board confirms that since the year-end, it is not aware of any events that would have a material detrimental impact on its position.



**Plans for the future****a. Future developments****Core activities**

In 2024/25, we plan to:

- Continue to act as the umbrella organisation for river interest groups operating in the Trust's area.
- Continue to provide mentoring in the further development of young people and life-long learners in the field of river conservation & management and land management, benefitting the environment and the wider public.
- Continue to provide volunteering opportunities, both formal (e.g., internships, work placements) and informal (on-off events), helping the Trust to deliver its objectives and providing wider public benefit through its work.
- Recognise the contribution that volunteers make.
- Promote the work of the Trust and how the Trust achieves its charitable objectives through:
  - Website
  - Social Media
  - PR and Communications
  - Events
- Deliver training to the Board of Trustees and staff to continually improve the Trust's reach to beneficiaries, impact on charitable objectives and overall effectiveness in achieving its aims.
- Publish a 5-year strategic business plan for the Trust which includes key performance indicators.
- Continue to ensure that the services/utilities the Trust receives are best value for money.
- Further develop good governance in the Charity.
- Maintain Robust Rating for financial control from the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, demonstrating the Trust operates financial controls comparable to the Department.
- Continue to develop further policies and protocols, in line with best practice governance of the Trust and the requirements of The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.



**Project activities**

In 2024/25, we plan to:

- Deliver the second year of the ResiRiver 2030 project, funded by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency's Environment Fund 2023 – 2028.
- Deliver the remainder of the 'Our Rivers' project, funded by the Garfield Weston Foundation.
- Continue to run the Trust's Conservation Breeding Centre for freshwater pearl mussel and white-clawed crayfish.
- Continue to offer non-regulatory water-friendly farming advice to landowners in the Salterstown catchment.
- Secure additional funding for on-farm interventions targeted at improving water and habitat quality.
- Organise and deliver on-farm demonstration events, promoting best practice in agriculture for the protection of the freshwater environment.
- Continue to plan for, devise and deliver projects that improve water quality and habitat in the rivers and loughs in the Trust area.
- Further develop Ballinderry Rivers Trust as a hub trust for other rivers trusts in Northern Ireland, providing mentoring and coordinating training and peer-to-peer learning and support.
- Host an All-Ireland rivers trust conference/seminar/event, in partnership with The Rivers Trust.
- Identify opportunities for collaborative projects with neighbouring rivers trusts or like-minded organisations, providing mutual environmental benefit and wider public benefit to our work.
- Pursue Corporate support/sponsorship opportunities.
- Pursue funding opportunities through UK and international grant giving bodies and trusts to deliver the aims and objectives of the Trust.

**Trustees' responsibilities statement**

The Trustees (who are also directors of Ballinderry Rivers Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing this Trustees' Report, and independent accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company and charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing these 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 judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the Charities SORP (effective January 2015) in accordance with FRS 102 has been followed;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable group will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

**Disclosure of information to reporting accountants**

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant information of which the charity's reporting accountant are unaware, and
- the Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any information needed by the charity's reporting accountants in connection with preparing their report and to establish that the charitable group's auditors are aware of that information.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and signed on their behalf, by:



.....  
Miss Victoria Graham  
Chairperson/Trustee

## REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF BALLINDERRY RIVERS TRUST

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Ballinderry Rivers Trust (the 'charitable company') for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and 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 FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 Companies Act 2006.
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

### 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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company'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 trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

**Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.
- The trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the Trustee' Annual Report.

**Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) 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 the trustees 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 charitable company'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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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 a Report of the Independent Auditors 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 extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

There is inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities during audit. However effectiveness of entities controls, the nature and extent of the audit procedures performed, gives us confidence in detecting irregularities.

**Further information regarding the scope of our responsibilities as auditor**

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.



- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Report of the Independent Auditors to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Report of the Independent Auditors. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company's to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

#### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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 charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Brendan Corr (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
for and on behalf of Corr & Corr  
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor  
2nd Floor, The Cornmill  
Coalisland, Co. Tyrone  
N. Ireland  
BT71 4LP

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024



**Ballinderry**  
Rivers Trust  
freshwater life

## Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
<b>Income and endowments from</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	<u>2,574</u>	<u>883,257</u>	<u>885,831</u>	<u>960,981</u>
<b>Expenditure on</b>					
<b>Charitable activities</b>	4				
General		31,119	812,738	843,857	816,202
Other		<u>5,190</u>	<u>34,915</u>	<u>40,105</u>	<u>39,230</u>
<b>Total</b>		<u>36,309</u>	<u>847,653</u>	<u>883,962</u>	<u>855,432</u>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	17	36,906	(36,906)	-	-
<b>NET INCOME</b>		3,171	(1,302)	1,869	105,549
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		3,171	(1,302)	1,869	105,549
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>145,430</u>	<u>95,619</u>	<u>241,049</u>	<u>135,500</u>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		148,601	94,317	242,918	241,049

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the financial year.

All income and expenditure relate to continuing activities.

*The notes form part of these financial statements*



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## Balance Sheet 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	12	2,123	82,834	84,957	86,948
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	13	514,120	11,483	525,603	813,567
Cash at bank	14	<u>80,691</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>80,691</u>	<u>51,048</u>
		594,811	11,483	606,294	864,616
<b>Creditors</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	15	(448,333)	-	(448,333)	(710,515)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>146,478</u>	<u>11,483</u>	<u>157,961</u>	<u>154,101</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>148,601</u>	<u>94,317</u>	<u>242,918</u>	<u>241,049</u>
<b>NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>		<u>148,601</u>	<u>94,317</u>	<u>242,918</u>	<u>241,049</u>
<b>Funds</b>	17				
Unrestricted funds				148,601	145,430
Restricted funds				<u>94,317</u>	<u>95,619</u>
<b>Total funds</b>				<u>242,918</u>	<u>241,049</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

.....  
V R Graham – Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements



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## Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Cash generated from operations	19	<u>29,642</u>	<u>(72,020)</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities		<u>29,642</u>	<u>(72,020)</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities		<u>-</u>	<u>90,936</u>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>		29,643	18,915
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period</b>		<u>51,048</u>	<u>32,133</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>		<u>80,691</u>	<u>51,048</u>

*The notes form part of these financial statements*



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## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

### 1. Other restricted funds

The closing balance breakdown of the 'Other Restricted Funds' totalling £94,317 in NOTE 17.

### 2. Accounting policies

#### Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

#### Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

#### Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

#### Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or at valuation, less accumulated depreciation. The charge to depreciation is calculated to write off the original cost or valuation of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives as follows:

Plant and machinery – 10% Straight line

#### Taxation

No current or deferred taxation arises as the company has been granted charitable exemption. Irrecoverable valued added tax is expenses as incurred.



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### Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

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

### Statement of compliance

The financial statements of the company for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)" and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

### 3. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
Grants	1,739	883,257	885,831	960,981
Education services	835	-	-	-
	<u>2,574</u>	<u>883,257</u>	<u>885,831</u>	<u>960,981</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
ABC Grant	-	4,802
EFS	83,243	67,897
Linc Project	-	191,668
River Trust Projects	-	12,743
Garfield Weston	47,619	9,962
Sustainable Catchment Pilot Grant	535,445	554,658
EIP Win	12,292	26,714
Resi River	204,658	-
Donations	1,739	1,601
Capital Grants	-	90,936
	<u>884,996</u>	<u>960,981</u>



**4. Charitable activities costs**

	<b>Direct Costs £</b>	<b>Support costs (see note 5) £</b>	<b>Totals £</b>
General	<u>827,922</u>	<u>15,935</u>	<u>843,857</u>

**5. Support costs**

	<b>Other £</b>	<b>Governance costs £</b>	<b>Totals £</b>
General	<u>9,521</u>	<u>6,414</u>	<u>15,935</u>

**6. Net income/(expenditure)**

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	<b>2024 £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>11,982</u>	<u>10,983</u>

**7. Trustees' remuneration and benefits**

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

**Trustees' expenses**

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

**8. Staff costs**

	<b>2024 £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>
Wages and salaries	<u>242,042</u>	<u>148,850</u>
	<u>242,042</u>	<u>148,850</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Employees	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

**9. Comparatives for the statement of financial activities**

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
<b>Income and endowments from</b>			
Donations and legacies	<u>21,646</u>	<u>939,335</u>	<u>960,981</u>
<b>Expenditure on</b>			
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
General	70,062	746,140	816,202
Other	<u>8,405</u>	<u>30,825</u>	<u>39,230</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>78,467</u>	<u>776,965</u>	<u>855,432</u>
 <b>NET INCOME</b>	 10,098	 95,451	 105,549
 <b>Reconciliation of funds</b>			
Total funds brought forward (as at 01 April 2022)	135,332	168	135,500
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>Total funds carried forward (as at 31 March 2023)</b>	<u>145,430</u>	<u>95,619</u>	<u>241,049</u>

## 10. Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due. Income recognised by the company from government agencies and other co-founders, but not yet received at year end is included in debtors.

## 11. Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand comprises cash on deposit at banks requiring less than three months' notice of withdrawal.





**12. Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Plant and machinery £</b>	<b>Fixtures and fittings £</b>	<b>Motor vehicles £</b>	<b>Totals £</b>
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2023	48,998	14,245	46,596	109,839
Additions	<u>9,991</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,991</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>58,989</u>	<u>14,245</u>	<u>46,596</u>	<u>119,830</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2023	9,340	4,236	9,315	22,891
Charge for year	<u>5,899</u>	<u>1,424</u>	<u>4,659</u>	<u>11,982</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>15,239</u>	<u>5,660</u>	<u>13,974</u>	<u>34,873</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 March 2024	<u>43,750</u>	<u>8,585</u>	<u>32,622</u>	<u>84,957</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>39,658</u>	<u>10,009</u>	<u>37,281</u>	<u>86,948</u>

Certain fixed assets have been funded by direct support. These now form part of the restricted funds (£82,834)

**13. Debtors: amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2024 £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>
Trade debtors	45,943	61,440
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>479,660</u>	<u>752,127</u>
	<u>525,603</u>	<u>813,567</u>

**14. Cash at bank**

	<b>2024 Total funds £</b>	<b>2023 Total funds £</b>
Bank deposit account	<u>80,691</u>	<u>51,048</u>
Total	<u>80,691</u>	<u>51,048</u>

**15. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2024 £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>
Bank loans and overdrafts (see note 16)	-	5,316
Trade creditors	358,381	56,763
Social security and other taxes	4,880	3,982
Accrued expenses	85,072	644,454
Deferred government grants	-	-
	<u>448,333</u>	<u>710,516</u>



## 16. Loans

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts falling due within one year on demand:		
Bank loans	-	5,316

## 17. Movement in funds

	At 1/4/23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/3/24 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
Unrestricted	145,430	3,171	36,906	148,601
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Restricted	95,619	(1,302)	(36,906)	94,317
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>241,049</u>	<u>105,549</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>242,918</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
Unrestricted	2,574	(36,309)	(33,735)
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Restricted	883,257	(847,653)	35,604
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>885,831</u>	<u>(883,962)</u>	<u>1,869</u>

### Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/4/22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/23 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
Unrestricted	135,332	10,098	145,430
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Restricted	168	95,451	95,619
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>135,500</u>	<u>105,549</u>	<u>241,049</u>



**17. Movement in funds – continued**

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	<b>Incoming resources £</b>	<b>Resources expended £</b>	<b>Movement in funds £</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
Unrestricted	21,646	(78,467)	(56,821)
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Restricted	939,335	(776,965)	162,370
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>960,981</u>	<u>(855,432)</u>	<u>105,549</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	<b>At 1/4/22 £</b>	<b>Net movement in funds £</b>	<b>Transfers between funds £</b>	<b>At 31/3/24 £</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
Unrestricted	135,332	(23,637)	36,906	148,601
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Restricted	168	131,055	(36,906)	94,317
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>135,500</u>	<u>107,418</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>242,918</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	<b>Incoming resources £</b>	<b>Resources expended £</b>	<b>Movement in funds £</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
Unrestricted	24,220	(114,776)	(90,556)
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Restricted	1,822,592	(1,624,618)	197,974
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>1,846,812</u>	<u>(1,739,394)</u>	<u>107,418</u>



**18. Related party disclosures**

Ballinderry Rivers Trust works alongside River Care Ltd, a company with a separate board comprised of some members who are also trustees of Ballinderry Rivers Trust. The transactions between the two companies relate to a quarterly recharge for office costs of £1,727. The lease on the premises used by both companies is held by BREA Ltd.

Related Party	2024	2023
River Care Limited	-	5,316

**19. Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities**

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Net income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)</b>	1,869	105,549
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	11,982	10,983
Deferred income adjustment	-	(90,936)
Fixed asset addition	(9,991)	(12,736)
Increase in debtors	287,964	(325,197)
Increase in creditors	(262,182)	240,317
<b>Net cash provided by operations</b>	<u>29,642</u>	<u>(72,020)</u>

**20. Analysis of changes in net funds**

	£ 2023	£ Movement	£ 2024
<b>Net cash</b>			
Cash at bank	<u>51,048</u>	<u>29,642</u>	<u>80,691</u>
	<u>51,048</u>	<u>29,642</u>	<u>80,691</u>
<b>Debt</b>			
Debts falling due within 1 year	<u>(5,316)</u>	<u>5,316</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>(5,316)</u>	<u>5,316</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>45,732</u>	<u>34,958</u>	<u>80,691</u>

**21. Status**

The company is limited by guarantee not having a share capital.

The liability of the members is limited.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of its being wound up while they are members, or within one year thereafter, for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the company contracted before they ceased to be members and the costs, changes and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributors among themselves, such amount as may be required not exceeding £1.

## Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Income and endowments</b>		
<b>Donations and legacies</b>		
Grants	884,996	960,981
Education services	835	-
	<u>885,831</u>	<u>960,981</u>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	885,831	960,981
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Wages	242,042	148,851
Project cost	575,672	644,799
Direct Cost	1,067	1,699
Staff training	4,686	5,780
Volunteer Training cost	-	35
Subscriptions	1,200	690
Consultancy fees	3,255	-
	827,922	801,854
<b>Other</b>		
Insurance	4,717	6,347
Recruitment costs	-	3,226
Travel, subsistence & office	7,785	5,153
Repairs	3,337	2,015
Light and heat	2,624	3,958
Telephone	5,156	3,941
Advertisement	4,504	3,607
Depreciation	11,982	10,983
	40,105	39,230
<b>Support costs</b>		
<b>Other</b>		
Stationery	1,333	1,200
Computer costs	4,968	5,212
General expenses	3,095	1,665
Bank fees	125	127
	9,521	8,204
<b>Governance costs</b>		
Accountancy and legal fees	<u>6,414</u>	<u>6,144</u>
Total resources expended	<u>833,962</u>	<u>855,432</u>
<b>Net income</b>	<u>1,869</u>	<u>105,549</u>



*This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements*

## Analysis of Movements Between Funds for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

### Analysis of Net assets between funds

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS	GENERAL FUNDS	DESIGNATED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	Total
Tangible assets	2,123	-	82,834	84,957
Net current assets/ (liabilities)	146,478	-	11,483	157,961
Creditors: amounts fallen due after one year	-	-	-	-
	148,601	-	94,317	242,918

### Analysis of movement of funds

	Balance 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers Between funds	Balance 31 March 2024
<b>RESTRICTED</b>					
Gross transfers between funds	95,619	883,257	847,653	(36,906)	94,317
<b>UNRESTRICTED</b>					
Gross transfers between funds	145,430	2,574	36,309	36,906	148,601
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>241,049</b>	<b>885,831</b>	<b>883,962</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>242,918</b>





*This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements*

## Schedule of Resources Expended for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	2024 £	2023 £
<b>EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>				
<b>Environmental Improvement &amp; Education</b>				
Wages	219,003	23,039	242,042	148,851
Project costs / Conservation costs	573,177	2,495	575,672	644,799
Direct costs	1,067	-	1,067	1,699
Staff Training	4,686	-	4,686	5,780
Volunteer Training & related costs	-	-	-	35
Subscriptions	-	1,200	1,200	690
Monitoring equipment	3,255	-	3,255	-
	<b>801,188</b>	<b>26,734</b>	<b>827,922</b>	<b>801,854</b>
<b>Other Costs</b>				
Insurance	3,639	1,078	4,717	6,347
Recruitment costs	-	-	-	3,226
Travel, subsistence & Office Costs	7,005	780	7,785	5,153
Repairs	2,439	898	3,337	2,015
Light and heat	2,113	511	2,624	3,958
Telephone	3,904	1,252	5,156	3,941
Advertisements	4,449	55	4,504	3,607
Depreciation	11,366	616	11,982	10,983
	<b>34,915</b>	<b>5,190</b>	<b>40,105</b>	<b>39,230</b>
<b>Support Costs</b>				
Stationery	1,285	48	1,333	1,200
Computer costs	3,476	1,492	4,968	5,212
General expenses	1,421	1,674	3,095	1,665
Bank fees	-	125	125	127
	<b>6,182</b>	<b>3,339</b>	<b>9,521</b>	<b>8,204</b>
<b>Governance Costs</b>				
Accountancy	5,368	1,046	6,414	6,144
	<b>847,653</b>	<b>36,309</b>	<b>883,962</b>	<b>855,432</b>



*This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements*



**Ballinderry**  
Rivers Trust  
freshwater life

Ballinderry Rivers Trust aims to conserve, protect, and improve the rivers and loughs of the Ballinderry River system, Lough Neagh, the Lough's western-shore streams, and their wildlife, for the benefit of the public and the wider environment.

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statements of Ballinderry Rivers Trust (the charitable company) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the financial statements and comply with the company's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006, Part 8 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, other applicable law and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), FRS102 and with the financial reporting standards applicable to charities preparing their accounts.

BALLINDERRY RIVERS TRUST  
231a Orritor Road, Cookstown, County Tyrone, BT80 9NB, Northern Ireland

Registered with the charity commission for Northern Ireland NIC103694  
Company number NI605894 – **Patron: Joe Mahon**