



# Avon Wildlife Trust

## Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 March 2015

*Registered Charity 280422*

*Registered Company 1495108*

*Securing wildlife - Inspiring people*

Avon Wildlife Trust  
is a company member of  
Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts  
South West Wildlife Trusts  
South West Wildlife Fundraising Limited  
and Bristol Natural History Consortium



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## **The AWT Group**

The Annual Report and Financial Statements make reference to 'the AWT Group'. This term is used to include Avon Wildlife Trust and Folly Farm Centre Limited. Further details about the Trust's subsidiary and connected companies are given on page 15.

## Welcome

### **Welcome to Avon Wildlife Trust's Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending on 31 March 2015.**

This has been one of the busiest years the Trust has seen, with many significant achievements in pursuit of our two strategic goals for 2014/15: to secure wildlife and to inspire people. These have included a multitude of activities, from practical conservation to advising, campaigning and community engagement.

Our Vision 2015–2020, sets out our goals for the next five years. We want to enable nature to 'recover on a grand scale', moving away from the traditional approach of wildlife conservation – trying to protect what we have left – towards more ambitious, large-scale habitat creation and restoration for the benefit of wildlife and people. Given the scale and pace of the loss of nature and wild spaces, this will be a huge challenge, especially in our region, which has one of the fastest-growing human populations in the UK. This is why we must step up our response and find new ways of working to increase our impact.

The last year has seen the laying of important foundations towards the realisation of that vision and some early progress towards it.

The creation of our new nature reserve, Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock in the Avon Gorge, was a particular highlight, transforming a derelict site next to Bristol's Portway into an inspiring nature reserve, involving more than 1,000 people in the process. The site connects up wildlife habitat in the Avon Gorge – a key part of the Trust's wider vision to create wildlife corridors across Bristol – and represents a great asset for the city for years to come, as well as an opportunity to engage with more people and to champion habitat creation and restoration.

We maintained our leading role in the West of England Nature Partnership (WENP), helping to identify its first Nature Improvement Area along the Severn Estuary. Our other partnerships continued to thrive, including the West of England B-Lines project to help pollinators (in partnership with Buglife), and the Forgotten Landscape project in South Gloucestershire. We also continued a number of very successful partnerships to engage the community, working with Bristol Water,

for example, on our award-winning Trout and About project and Spawn to be Wild, and with Rolls Royce on our Wild Schools Film Challenge. In total, we engaged more than 10,000 schoolchildren through projects such as these and our many other learning activities.

To celebrate Bristol as European Green Capital 2015, we launched our central campaign, My Wild City, with the aspiration of turning our entire city into a nature reserve. We developed a variety of great resources to support the campaign, including My Wild City maps, which allow people to zoom in to their own street and garden level, and we have already engaged communities across Bristol in creating, restoring and connecting wildlife habitats. We look forward to reporting on this ground-breaking initiative further next year.

Our volunteering grew significantly in the past year, and we are extremely grateful to the pool of over 1,500 volunteers who have contributed so much to our work, with an average of 425 people volunteering with us each month. All our work is only possible with the support of more than 17,000 members, and our partners and funders. As we celebrate our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are proud to look back over all we have achieved – particularly as a pioneer of urban nature conservation in the UK.

We look forward to working more closely with all our supporters and partners as we move ahead with our 2015–2020 vision.

**Dr Bevis Watts**  
Chief Executive

**Rosamund Kidman Cox**  
Chair, Board of Trustees



# Report of the Trustees

The Trustees of Avon Wildlife Trust are pleased to submit their Report on the Trust, together with its Financial Statements, for the year ended 31 March 2015. The Report covers pages 2-18.

## Review of the year

The Trust has achieved most of its major objectives and targets for the year – a collaborative achievement through the efforts of our members, volunteers and staff and the invaluable support of our funders and partners.

## Highlights include:

### Securing wildlife

- We created our new nature reserve in the Avon Gorge and acquired a lease on a new reserve, Middle Hill Common, in the Gordano Valley, bringing the total number of reserves we care for to 37.
- We took a prominent role in the West of England Nature Partnership (WENP), which identified its first Nature Improvement Area along the coast of the Severn Estuary.
- We were a key partner in launching the Greater Bristol Pollinator Strategy, and we partnered Buglife to launch the West of England B-Lines project to help pollinators by creating wildflower-rich corridors across the wider landscape.
- With the help of 1,538 active volunteers, we accomplished a wide range of management tasks across our reserves, including extensive conservation work at Prior's Wood.
- We started work with Natural England to improve the habitat for wetland birds across a large area of the Gordano Valley.
- We carried out extensive woodland conservation work at Prior's Wood over the winter, felling the diseased larch plantation and replanting with 3,000 native broadleaved trees.
- We joined the Wildlife Trusts and RSPB in campaigning in the run up to the general election for a new Nature and Wellbeing Act.
- We stood up for wildlife in the face of major developments and issues, including the Bristol Metrobus, Hinkley Point C Connection, Somerdale Development and the badger cull.

### Inspiring people

- More than 1,000 people were involved in the creation of our new nature reserve in the Avon Gorge, which includes a specially designed volunteer cabin.
- We launched our major campaign My Wild City, engaging communities across Bristol in creating, restoring and connecting wildlife habitats city-wide.
- Despite disruption and uncertainty, we continued Feed Bristol, our innovative community food-growing initiative, and secured significant funding for its future.
- Through our Wellbeing Garden project, we created a new wildlife-friendly food-growing site at Folly Farm Centre, involving volunteers, visitors and community groups.
- Our Communities and Nature project enabled vulnerable groups and young people in less advantaged areas of Bristol, Bath and Weston-super-Mare to access nature.
- Our Wild Schools programme delivered outdoor learning to more than 10,000 children.
- We engaged schoolchildren in projects such as our award-winning Trout and About, Spawn to be Wild and the Wild Schools Film Challenge. Spawn to be Wild released 2,500 eels into the Chew Valley river catchment.
- We maintained our leading role in the Bristol Natural History Consortium and took part in its biggest Festival of Nature yet.



## Financial summary

The Trust has ended the year with a small surplus on its unrestricted income, despite the difficult external funding climate. Folly Farm Centre, the subsidiary company running the sustainable residential learning and conference centre, continued to grow turnover and generated a profit for the year.

The generosity of our members continues to support further investment in the Trust's vital activities.

## Compliance

This Report has been prepared in compliance with the requirements of the *Charities Act 2011*, and the Trustees confirm that they have had regard to the guidance on Public Benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

The Report also constitutes a Directors' Report as required by Section 415 of the *Companies Act 2006* and has been prepared under the exemptions conferred by Part 15 of this Act. In addition the Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of *Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (2005 as amended)* issued by the Accounting Standards Board and the Charity Commission.

## Responsibilities of the Trustees as Directors

For each financial year, company law requires the Trustees as Directors of the registered company to prepare Financial Statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss for that period.

In preparing those Financial Statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the Financial Statements on the "going concern" basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Trust will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees confirm that as far as they are aware:

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

## About the Trust

### What we are

Avon Wildlife Trust is a local environmental charity with 17,052 members.

Its mission is to conserve the natural environment in the Avon area for public benefit.

The Trust is the largest locally-based environmental conservation charity in the Avon area, and the only one dedicated to conserving the whole range and diversity of local wildlife, including all species of plants and animals, together with the habitats and natural landscapes that support and sustain them.

The Trust has a dual legal status as a registered company regulated under company law, and as a registered charity regulated under charity law. It is governed for public benefit by a Board of Trustees.

The Trust is part of the national federation of 47 Wildlife Trusts, which jointly cover the whole British Isles and have more than 800,000 members.

### What we do

The Trust had two strategic objectives in 2014/15:

#### Securing wildlife

This incorporates two key themes of work: *Working for wildlife* and *Standing up for wildlife*.

***Working for wildlife*** reflects the Trust's work in undertaking practical action 'on the ground' to: protect areas that are of particular importance as key wildlife sites; promote landscape-scale conservation of species and habitats across the wider environment and at a time when wildlife is under increasing threat; and improve the science that informs the Trust's work.

***Standing up for wildlife*** reflects the work of the Trust campaigning on wildlife-related issues to: highlight the importance of 'ecological services' and a healthy natural environment to the quality of life in

the Avon area, including the future success of its economy and the health and wellbeing of its people; strengthen the public voice for wildlife; and influence public policy and decisions.

#### Inspiring people

This incorporates two key strands of work: *Engaging the community* and *Communicating with our audiences*. ***Engaging the community*** involves the Trust working across the whole community in Avon to: promote inclusive access by everyone to the natural world; enable people of all ages to enjoy the natural world around them; help them to develop an appreciation and understanding of their natural world; and encourage and assist them in taking action to conserve it.

***Communicating with our audiences*** covers the work carried out by the Trust to influence decision-makers, engage the support of funders, promote its work to communities, and inform its membership.

Our Vision 2015–2020 sets out the Trust's goals for the next five years (see box page 5 & page 14).

### Why we do it

In the modern world, the natural environment is so often taken for granted. Yet it is vital in providing a wide range of 'ecological services' that are critical to human life – from clean air and water to soil fertility and carbon sequestration. It also provides something else harder to measure, but of equal importance – the contribution to human wellbeing that comes from contact with nature. The Trust exists for public benefit to ensure that the natural environment of the Avon area is properly valued and protected, that the development that takes place here is truly sustainable in the long term and achieves a proper balance between the built and natural environments, and that our local wildlife brings widespread and lasting benefit to the people and economy.



### **Our vision**

The Trust's vision is to enable nature to 'recover on a grand scale'.

The Trust will deliver this vision by working towards three goals for 2015–2020 to:

- create ecological networks through landscape-scale habitat management and enhancement
- inspire people and communities to care for nature
- champion the value of nature

### **Our values**

The Trust is committed to the following values and principles:

- Acknowledging the exceptional **importance of wildlife and the natural environment** to the health and sustainability of the planet's climate and eco-systems
- Promoting the crucial **social and economic benefits** provided by wildlife and the natural environment to the health and wellbeing of the human population
- Enhancing **social inclusion** by promoting opportunities for all members of the community to take part in the Trust's work and activities
- Delivering the Trust's objectives by working as far as possible through **partnerships** with other organisations and community groups
- Promoting opportunities for **volunteering** and developing the skills, interests and personal development of its volunteers
- Taking pride in the Trust's role as a **community enterprise** created by and responsible to its members
- Fostering a culture of **innovation, inspiration and creativeness** in its own internal working to create a visionary and dynamic Trust
- Demonstrating **openness and transparency** to all its external audiences, partners and customers
- Seeking to operate at all times with total **probity**, in support of **ethical trading**, and **minimising its own carbon footprint**

### **Charitable purpose**

The Trust's charitable purpose is described in its Memorandum of Association as *"to advance the environmental protection and improvement for wildlife in the area formerly known as the County of Avon"*.

### **Public benefit**

All the Trust's activities are undertaken to provide a healthy living world for the benefit of the public. The Trust runs an extensive programme of public events, activities and services. The Trust actively works to ensure that these are accessible to the widest range of people, and that they can gain information about them through a variety of media.

Many of our events and activities are available free, and in those cases where a charge is made (for example, to cover necessary costs), the charge is kept to a reasonable minimum.

The Trust also encourages free public access to its extensive network of nature reserves, although at a few of these reserves, access has to be restricted in numbers or at certain times of the year because of the sensitivity of the wildlife.

Formal membership of the Trust is open to anybody. There is a minimum annual subscription payable for membership, and this has been kept at a low level to facilitate access to membership for all. Many members generously choose to contribute more than the minimum, when they are able to do so.

### **Principal activities**

The Trust:

- Manages 1,130 hectares of key wildlife sites as nature reserves.
- Runs a successful environmental-learning centre at Folly Farm.
- Promotes programmes to safeguard or strengthen the representation and extent/distribution of priority species and habitats native to Avon.
- Campaigns to protect and promote wildlife, and to maximise the social and economic benefits of the natural environment and the environmental services that it provides.
- Encourages and supports wildlife-friendly practices by land managers.
- Provides enrichment opportunities for the general public by helping people to learn about and enjoy wildlife and to develop special interests in the natural environment.
- Enables people to make a positive contribution to wildlife conservation, both by direct action and by reducing the environmental impact of their behaviour.
- Provides opportunities for people to acquire skills and experience that enhance their personal development and employability.

### **Area of operation**

The Trust was set up in 1980 to operate throughout the newly created County of Avon. The County ceased to exist in 1996, but the Trust's geographical area of operation remains unchanged and is now administered by the four unitary councils of Bath & NE Somerset, Bristol City, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. The area is now referred to in many official circles as the West of England, but is called Avon in this report.



## Our impact in 2014/15

### Securing wildlife

#### *Working for wildlife*

***Wildlife needs our help in the face of mounting pressures and a changing climate.***

***Practical action to protect wildlife, promote conservation and improve our understanding***

Our landmark project to create a **new nature reserve** in the Avon Gorge – Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock – progressed rapidly. More than 1,000 people helped make it happen, through volunteering or fundraising, to create wildlife habitat, including a record 744 volunteers planting almost 4,000 trees in just over two months, culminating in the reserve being ready to open in April 2015. The brownfield site (a five-hectare former sports ground next to Bristol's Portway) has been transformed into an inspiring nature reserve, connecting up wildlife habitat in the Avon Gorge. It is an important part of the Trust's wider vision to create wildlife corridors across Bristol.

We continued our key role in the West of England Nature Partnership (WENP), which identified its **first Nature Improvement Area (NIA)** – Severnside Wetlands Nature Improvement Area. The aim is to improve the area for the benefit of wildlife and people by creating wildlife corridors along the coast of the Severn Estuary, from South Gloucestershire to North Somerset. These will connect existing wildlife sites, rural and urban areas and enable wildlife to move across the wider landscape. The NIA was launched at the WENP conference in March, where speakers included the Under Secretary of State for Science and the Environment, Lord de Mauley, and Avon Wildlife Trust's Chief Executive Dr Bevis Watts.

In partnership with Buglife, the Trust developed the **West of England B-Lines project**. This ambitious new plan to help bees and other pollinating insects will create wide strips of wildflower-rich grasslands, linking existing wildlife areas to create a network of insect pathways across the wider landscape. We drew up a map of proposed routes and will work

closely with landowners, providing advice and training to create and restore habitat.

The Trust joined with organisations including Bristol City Council, the University of Bristol and the University of the West of England to launch the **Greater Bristol Pollinator Strategy** – which will link up and build on the many successful projects relating to pollinator conservation already underway. In February, we jointly hosted the largest local summit yet (with 100 delegates, including two local MPs) to help bees and other pollinators.

We carried out **extensive woodland conservation work** at Prior's Wood over winter, felling the diseased larch plantation and replanting with 3,000 native broadleaved trees. We are very grateful for the financial support of Eunomia Research and Consulting and the enormous effort of Trust volunteers and Eunomia staff on this project. After several years' hard work by volunteers and contractors, we have also now completed the clearance of 11 hectares of invasive rhododendrons at this site.

The **raised water level project** on Weston Moor got underway in the summer in a joint project between the Trust and Natural England to improve the habitat for wetland birds across a large area of the Gordano Valley. By installing two tilting weir structures on a better central ditch, we will be able to control the water levels seasonally, improving conditions for overwintering and breeding birds across our reserve and the adjacent national nature reserve. Initial signs are encouraging, with two breeding pairs of lapwing on the site for the first time in many years.

***"Volunteers play such an important role. Without them we would achieve a fraction of what we do to protect wildlife and inspire people."***

### **Other key impacts:**

- The Trust cared for **37 nature reserves** across Avon, from woodland and wetlands to wildflower meadows, including a newly acquired site, Middle Hill Common, in the Gordano Valley, a limestone grassland of great botanical interest and with stunning views.
- **1,538 volunteers** supported the Trust's work across the region, equating to £476k of time (2014: £401k). The value of volunteer input into reserves alone was £351,000 (2014: £288,000).
- With the help of volunteers, we carried out a wide range of **maintenance and management** tasks across our reserves, including dry-stone walling, improving pathways, repairing fences and gates, carrying out wildlife surveys and monitoring.
- A record number of **survey volunteers** worked on projects across our reserves, including mapping all the badger setts, mapping water vole activity and recording butterfly activity. We were pleased to see larger numbers of great crested newts and to discover water voles on a site where they had not previously been recorded.
- Our **dormouse survey** at Goblin Combe in November (part of the National Dormouse Monitoring Programme) turned up a record 16 dormice in 50 monitoring boxes, where in previous years we have found just a few. We worked with the adjacent Goblin Combe Environment Centre to put new boxes across the woodland and link up our survey areas.
- We carried out **ride management** work at Brown's Folly (maintaining feeding corridors for bats and light for ground flora) and Weston Big Wood (widening the central ride to restore open habitat favoured by butterflies), with support from the English Woodland Grant Scheme and our Wildlife Action Group volunteers.
- Volunteers and contractors carried out significant **habitat management** work at Portbury Wharf over winter, including connecting the pools adjacent to the South Pools hide to create a larger water body that is more appealing to waders.
- At Purn Hill and Hellenge Hill, the Weston-super-Mare volunteer group cleared bramble and gorse thickets to enable **rare rock roses** and Somerset hair grass to thrive.
- The Trust is working with Kier Construction to improve the **flood storage capacity** at Bathampton Meadow to help protect the city of Bath from flooding.
- Teams of volunteers from our Wildlife Action Group cut hay in a number of reserves to maintain the **wildflower meadows** for next year. Restoration of the historic wildflower meadows at Folly Farm Centre continued over winter.
- As part of the **Coronation Meadows** project launched in 2013, we worked with Nailsea Environment and Wildlife Trust to turn their Moorend Spout reserve into a wildflower meadow using green hay and seed from our Netcott's Meadow, a designated Coronation Meadow.
- The **Grassland Restoration Team** delivered grassland management advice and practical help to 49 land managers over the past year and received much positive feedback.
- **Avon Wildlife Trust Ecological Consultancy** had a successful year providing a comprehensive range of **ecological services** to benefit both wildlife and the interests of clients, with any profits going to support the Trust's work.
- A project returning **Brown's Folly** a SSSI into favourable condition finished with a comprehensive study to ascertain the diversity and distribution of the resident bat populations and help inform future management. The surveys and final report have provided a good foundation for future monitoring and management of the site for the 13 species found. The **reintroduction of grazing** on the grassland that started a couple of years ago has been a huge success with additional stock introduced this year for a longer period. Natural England has cited AWT's work at Brown's Folly as a best-practice example.



## Standing up for wildlife

### **Standing up for wildlife: defending our local wild places**

#### **Campaigning to protect wild species and habitats**

We joined the Wildlife Trusts in partnership with the RSPB in campaigning for a new **Nature and Wellbeing Act**, setting out seven key policies to make positive change for people and the environment, and for this to be included in the manifestos of all major political parties in election year. In March, the Wildlife Trusts, RSPB, National Trust and Bristol 2015 hosted a Nature and Wellbeing Summit in Bristol, bringing together key practitioners, researchers and decision-makers to discuss the value of nature in our society, with a specific focus on landscape-scale conservation and nature-based solutions for health and wellbeing.

#### **Other key impacts:**

- The Trust continued to engage with Bristol City Council following planning application approval for the North Fringe to Hengrove **Metrobus**, concerned to mitigate the scheme's significant impact on the environment and on Feed Bristol, our wildlife-friendly community food-growing project.
- The Trust made a formal representation to the Planning Inspectorate on National Grid's **Hinkley Point C** planning application, reiterating the potential damage that the underground route through Portbury Wharf Reserve will cause, and the differential impacts of the preferred versus alternative route for the 400kv pylons.
- The Trust engaged with Taylor Wimpey and subsequently with Bath and North East Somerset Council and local communities, concerned that ecological enhancements promised for the **Somerdale Development** site at Keynsham would not be delivered.
- We continued our advocacy against the **badger cull**, which carried on in 2014, despite findings of the Independent Expert Panel appointed by Defra that pilot culls in 2013 were ineffective and inhumane. We joined the Wildlife Trusts in urging the Government to take alternative measures that will control bovine TB in the long term.
- With newly collated information from Wildlife Trusts across the country highlighting the dramatic decline in our remaining **wildlife-rich grasslands**, we joined the Wildlife Trusts in calling for a full review of existing protection for environmentally important grasslands and asking the Government for action, including improving and enforcing existing laws, setting up a national grassland inventory and awarding statutory protection to more sites.



## Inspiring people

### *Engaging the community*

#### ***Involving people of all ages and walks of life with wildlife***

More than 1,000 people of all ages and mixed abilities from across Bristol were involved in the creation of our **new nature reserve**, Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock, in the Avon Gorge over the past two years. The site includes a **volunteer cabin** complete with kitchen and amenities (as well as an integrated bat hotel and space for bee corridors), and an access for all trail and the site will be used regularly for educational and community events. We are very grateful to HAB Housing and Hugh Strange Architects for making this facility happen, and for the support of many others providing funding. The new reserve provides a great opportunity to champion the importance of creating new homes for wildlife in the region and to encourage people to do so where they live.

In celebration of Bristol European Green Capital 2015, we launched our central campaign **My Wild City**, engaging communities across Bristol in creating, restoring and connecting wildlife habitats, with the aspiration of turning our entire city into a nature reserve. We published maps of the city as it had never been seen before, showing where wildlife habitat could be connected or created to help turn Bristol into a nature reserve. We also began work on creating a number of demonstration sites, including one created in partnership with the BBC at Broadcasting House.

In support of our My Wild City campaign, we developed 20 **My Wild City maps** from more than 200 data sets (including aerial photography, remote sensing, habitat and soil data). The maps allow people to zoom in to their own street and garden level, showing the best places to create habitat for wildlife that will link gardens and green spaces to form wildlife corridors across greater Bristol.

The Trust secured significant funding to continue **Feed Bristol**, our innovative community food-growing initiative. Since the project began in 2012, it has helped more than 8,000 disadvantaged people and 70 organisations access nature through wildlife-friendly food growing,

allowing wildlife to thrive with significant benefits to people's wellbeing. The project faced disruption by the Metrobus development and uncertainty as its initial three-year funding ended. A five-year business plan, developed with pro-bono support from Grant Thornton, demonstrated the huge impact the project has had on the local community – a social return on investment to the community estimated at £6.7 million. Ten local business start-ups and groups were established and supported at the site, and almost 40 volunteers used the experience, skills and confidence they gained to secure employment. We are very grateful for grant support from all our funders including the Cory Environmental Trust, Bristol City Council, and Local Food.

Inspired by the success of Feed Bristol, we launched Folly Farm Centre's **Wellbeing Garden**. Staff, regular volunteers, corporate visitors and community groups (including schoolchildren, refugees and adults with learning difficulties) have transformed the garden into a wildlife-friendly food-growing site and enjoyed sharing in the produce. We are grateful too for the funding which enabled the project to work with older generations in the area.

Our **Communities and Nature** project (CAN), supported by the Big Lottery Fund, continued to enable vulnerable groups and young people in less-advantaged areas of Bristol, Bath and Weston-super-Mare to access nature. For example, our recent work with Easton Community Centre has brought together people of diverse ages and abilities to improve their green space for people and nature. We have also supported the successful Growing Together project on the Bournville Estate in Weston-super-Mare for the past three years.

**Other key impacts:**

- Our **Wild Schools** programme delivered outdoor learning to more than 10,000 schoolchildren.
- We continued our award-winning **Trout and About** project (now in its third year) in partnership with Bristol Water, giving schoolchildren across Bristol the chance to learn hands-on about river ecology and its connection with our water supply by rearing trout from eggs in classrooms before releasing them into the wild.
- In our **Spawn to be Wild** project funded by Bristol Water, the Trust reached almost 1,000 primary schoolchildren, raising critically endangered young European eels in classrooms and then releasing 2,500 of them into Blagdon Lake in the Chew Valley.
- We launched the **Pollinators and Predators** project, funded by Western Power Distribution, allowing pupils from 12 schools, including those in low-income areas, to explore the roles of moths and bats through games and learning activities in and out of the classroom.
- The **Wild Schools Film Challenge**, supported by Rolls-Royce, saw more schools than ever take advantage of our free film-making kits to engage schoolchildren with nature. The winners of last year's competition were presented with the first Mini Panda Awards (sponsored by BBC Earth) at a special ceremony at the Wildscreen International Film Festival.
- We welcomed more than half of all Bristol primary schools to our **Folly Farm Centre** for day and residential trips. Recent developments include our new residential programme about nocturnal wildlife for children in year 2.
- **Running Wild**, a holiday club for 6-12 year olds, was launched by the Trust's community food-growing project Feed Bristol, with lots of fun activities to bring children close to nature.
- The **Land and Food Forum** took place at our Feed Bristol site in Stapleton as part of the Bristol Food Connections festival, with workshops, activities and a debate exploring how people and nature could help make Bristol a sustainable-food city in the run-up to the European Green Capital Year 2015.
- Our project to create a nature journal of **A Year in the Life of Portbury Wharf** continued, with many people contributing photos and observations of the site through the seasons.
- We organised many **family and other events** throughout the year, including a series of **wild weekends** to encourage people to explore different habitats in nearby nature reserves.
- We supported the new initiative **My Wild Life** launched by the Wildlife Trusts to encourage people to reflect on what wildlife means to them and to think how they can make wildlife part of their daily lives.
- We promoted the Wildlife Trusts **My Wild Winter**, a free online wildlife and activity guide, packed with ideas and information to help families explore nature and wild places over the Christmas holidays.



## Communicating with our audiences

### Raising awareness and influencing decisions

Our new nature reserve **Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock** was delivered thanks in part to our most successful ever public appeal with over £40,000 raised from donations.

More than 250 people attended our **Annual Meeting and AGM** in September, which included the premiere of *Wild Avon*, a film celebrating our local wildlife and promoting the need to support the Trust's work. Produced by Trust Vice Chair and award-winning wildlife film-maker Steve Nicholls, with a team of top wildlife cameramen donating their time, the film was very well received and is now available to members to hire.

We maintained our role in the Bristol Natural History Consortium and took part in its biggest **Festival of Nature** yet. Satellite events were held for the first time in Bath (attracting 3,000 people) and Chew Valley, ahead of the main Bristol weekend, attended by more than 20,000 people. We offered all sorts of activities, including a wildlife obstacle course (thanks to the support of Cod Steaks prop-makers) and the chance to see live baby eels ahead of their subsequent release into Chew Valley Lake, as well as communicating about our latest projects and showing the *Wild Avon* film on the giant screen in Millennium Square.

We continued to have a strong **media profile** across the West of England and beyond, with television, radio, newspaper and magazine coverage. Our presence on **social media** continued to grow, with more than 50,000 visits to our website, a Facebook reach of over 122,000 and more than 8,000 followers on Twitter. Our campaigns were successfully supported by hashtags such as #MyWildCity and #GetBristolBuzzing.

In May 2014 we launched our **new website**, which was very well received, and later added My Wild City pages, with maps, information, advice and event details. We also changed our magazine schedule to fit better with the times when we need to communicate with members.

#### Other key impacts:

- We published **Our Vision 2015–2020**, which sets out the Trust's goals for the next five years (see Looking Ahead, Page 14).
- We increased our number of **members** to 17,052 (2014: 16,840) and planned a number of recruitment initiatives.
- Working with six Trusts, we continued to pursue the South West Wildlife Trusts project for **collaboration across membership and marketing services**.
- Rolls Royce and HAB Housing became our first **business members**, followed by Burleigh Portishead, Wessex Water and Chorus IT.
- With nature reserves providing critical butterfly habitat amid the decline in wildflower meadows, we launched a successful **Butterfly Appeal** to raise money towards the costs of improving our sites to support long-term butterfly survival.
- Eight of our nature reserves were included in a new book, **Butterfly Walks**, by the Somerset and Bristol Branch of Butterfly Conservation.
- Trust supporters were given the opportunity to raise money towards our work to restore wildflower habitat by opening a **savings account** with Triodos Bank. The bank will donate £40 to the Trust for every account opened with a deposit of £100 or more.
- We launched an **affiliate partnership** with Ecotricity, where the Trust receives £40 for each member who switches energy provider to Ecotricity.
- We promoted the Wildlife Trusts **Will for Wildlife Week**, encouraging wildlife-lovers to leave a legacy to the Trust to help protect wildlife and wild places for future generations.



## Thank you

The work of the Trust would simply not be possible without public support. This support comes in many forms and from many sources – in volunteer time, through subscriptions and donations, and through direct funding. This is hugely encouraging, and the Trust is very grateful for the levels of commitment and generosity. It is not possible to acknowledge all the donors, and so the following is a summary.

### Volunteers

We received 9,534 (2014: 8,488) days of volunteer time over the past year. This is especially appreciated as we understand the many demands on people's time. The 1,538 volunteers who were active in 2014/15 were crucial to the success of the Trust's work, covering conservation, education, community and office activities. Voluntary work ranges from providing specialist expertise, hands-on scrub bashing and magazine distribution to taking photographs.

We are also grateful to the Trust's Local Group volunteers, who raise funds and organise events.

In financial terms, volunteer time equates to the value of approximately £476k. This means that the Trust benefits from increased capacity and impact of approximately 60 per cent.

Volunteers play such an important role. Without them we would achieve a fraction of what we do to protect wildlife and inspire people.

The Trust values this support and where possible provides training, structured work experience and opportunities for volunteers to develop their careers.

### Financial and In-kind support

We are grateful to all our supporters from Lottery funders, charitable trusts, businesses, councils and the Trust's own local groups, as well as those who offer support through expertise or services. This includes Bristol City Council which lease offices at a token peppercorn rent, allowing the Trust to spend more on conservation, learning and community projects.

Members continue to be our single biggest source of revenue through subscriptions, donations, appeals and fundraising events. Particular thanks go to our major donors for the Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock reserve, Timothy Bennett and Peter and Patricia White.

It is also always touching, however sad the news, to receive gifts in memoriam and legacies. During the last year, we received nine gifts in memoriam and bequests from Norman Cook, Margaret Gunning, Margaret Irish, Gladys Horner and Naomi Grant.

Our thanks also go to our new business members Rolls Royce, Wessex Water, HAB Housing, Burleigh Portishead and Chorus IT.

Alec French Architects	Environment Agency	North Somerset Council
The Astley Trust	Ernest Cook Trust	ONEPOST
AWT Local Groups ( <i>various</i> )	Ernest Kleinwort Trust	Persimmon Homes plc
Basil Brown Charitable Trust	Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	Quartet Community Foundation
Biffaward	Eunomia Research & Consulting	Rolls-Royce plc
Big Lottery Fund	The Five Miles Charitable Trust	RSWT SDRC
Bristol City Council	Garfield Weston Foundation	SITA Trust
Bristol City Council's One Tree Per Child	Grant Thornton	Sobell Trust
Bristol Naturalists Society	Greater Fishponds Neighbourhood Partnership	South Gloucestershire Council
Bristol Green Capital Challenge Fund	HAB Housing	Toyota Fund for a Better Tomorrow
Bristol Water plc	Hugh Strange Architects	Triodos Bank
Buglife	J Paul Getty Jnr Charitable Trust	University of Bristol Botanic Garden
Cobalt Trust	The Lalonde Trust	Verdon Smith Family Charitable Settlement
Cod Steaks	Life Cycle UK	Vine House Farm
Cory Environmental Trust	Linbury Trust	Viridor Credits Environmental Company
Douglas Arter Foundation	Lloyds Bank	Western Power Distribution
Duchy of Cornwall	Natural England	Wooden Spoon
Ecotricity	Nature Picture Library	Woodland Trust



# Financial review

## Overview

The AWT Group (see page 15) has had a challenging year financially in 2014/15. The unrestricted activity was particularly difficult, but the year finished with a small surplus of £26k. Restricted income of £654k was exceeded by expenditure of £704k, resulting in a reduction in restricted funds of £50k. This resulted in an overall decrease in total funds of £24k.

## Key financial factors in 2014/15 were:

- **Subscriptions, donations and legacies** – Income from membership subscriptions is reflected in the unrestricted income and remained steady at £504k, representing 33% of the unrestricted income in the year. Membership income is key to the stability of the organisation, when other income streams can be both fluctuating and unpredictable in timing and value.

The Trust encourages members to continue to support us and tries to secure new members to underpin our vital conservation and community activities.

- **Folly Farm Centre Limited** – A profit of £12k was reported for 2014/15, a significant improvement on the loss in 2013/14 of £27k.

Turnover for the year was £412k, which is an increase of 16% on the previous financial year and was due to strong growth in both the conference and Education sectors. Cost of sales increased to £113k and resulted in a gross profit of £299k, which was 13% higher than the previous financial year. Overheads decreased by 1.4% to £288k as a result of cost savings on premises costs and general overheads. Rent paid to AWT was £40k.

All operational areas of the business continue to be developed with a view to achieving a balance of activities throughout the year and a broad income base. The Directors are confident that further growth can be achieved, and feedback from the Centre's customers has continued to be extremely positive, with many repeat bookings for conferences leisure and educational visits. The company has to date successfully achieved a balance between developing as a commercial entity while supporting the delivery of high-quality learning activities and courses in close partnership with Avon Wildlife Trust, its parent company.

- **Conservation** – Income from conservation charitable activity was down by 9% compared to the previous year. However, continued progress was made in establishing more of the Trust's nature reserves in long-term management agreements, and contributions to overheads continued from the Living Landscapes projects.

The Trust's Ecological Consultancy continues to grow and generated income of £157k – a significant increase on the previous year (2013/14 £121k).

- **Community** – Income from learning activity and community projects was down during 2014/15 at £73k (2013/14 £110k), but school visits to Folly Farm and Portbury Wharf and learning projects delivered both in schools and on nature reserves continued. Contributions to overhead costs continued through major projects such as Feed Bristol and Communities and Nature.
- **Cash Flow** – The receipt of legacies and donations continues to support cash flow.
- **Restricted Funds** – The Trust has many restricted funds as shown in Notes 15 and 16. These funds represent either revenue funding for ongoing projects, appeal funds or fixed assets held by the Trust. At 31 March 2015 the value of these funds was £5.5m (£5.6m at 31 March 2014). The deficit on the Folly Farm Development Project remains £170k at 31 March 2015 (£170k at 31 March 2014). The Trustees will prioritise the clearing of this deficit in the medium term (see Note 16).
- **Balance Sheet** – The Trust continues to have a strong overall asset position. Heritage assets at the year-end were £5.8m (£5.9m at 31 March 2014). The net current asset position has strengthened slightly to £676k at 31 March 2015 (£635k at 31 March 2014).

## Financial Reserves

The Group's free unrestricted reserves increased slightly to £448k at 31 March 2015, from £439k at 31 March 2014 (see Note 16).

During the year the Trustees reviewed the reserves and decided that unrestricted (or free) reserves should aim to be maintained at three months' cover of Revenue and Core expenditure rather than a fixed-target value (£350k in 2013/14), and based upon the 2015/16 budget, this requirement would be £348k.

## Looking ahead

**Our Vision 2015–2020 is the Trust’s published plan for protecting nature and inspiring people across the West of England. It sets out our goals for the next five years.**

### Our vision

Our vision is to enable nature to ‘recover on a grand scale’. This represents a significant change in approach to wildlife conservation, from trying to protect what we have left, to one off large-scale habitat restoration and recreation for the benefit of wildlife and people.

Given the scale and pace of loss of nature and wild spaces, reversing the decline in biodiversity is a huge challenge, especially in our region, which has one of the fastest-growing human populations in the UK. The Trust (both individually and collectively with the Wildlife Trusts) is therefore stepping up its response and finding new ways of working to increase our impact.

### Our goals

Our three goals over the next five years to make this vision a reality are to:

- create ecological networks through landscape-scale habitat management and enhancement;
- inspire people and communities to care for nature;
- champion the value of nature.

### Achieving our goals

We will deliver our goals at two levels:

1. We will focus most of our effort within five landscape-scale areas prioritised for their conservation need and their potential for community engagement. Each area also offers valuable ecosystem services, such as the provision of clean drinking water, flood alleviation, absorptions of greenhouse gases, pollination services and health and wellbeing.
2. We will work to create connecting corridors for wildlife across the region.

Both will be supported by generic work at a West-of-England-wide scale, such as reserve management and education.

Our five priority areas are:

1. Gordano Valley and Ridges
2. Avon Gorge and Downs
3. North Somerset Levels
4. Cotswolds
5. Chew Valley.

To achieve our goals, we will:

- look after and improve our existing wildlife sites, increasing their size where possible;
- restore and create new areas for wildlife;
- join up wildlife sites through corridors or via green ‘stepping stones’;
- increase the wildlife value of the wider landscape;
- extend the reach and impact of our engagement with people in both urban and rural areas;
- work with partners to champion the value of nature and provide evidence to show that investing in our natural capital can help create a strong and sustainable economy and society.

We will continue to drive the agenda of the West of England Nature Partnership and seek to influence regional economic development, spatial planning and health and wellbeing strategies.

We look forward to working more closely with all our supporters and partners to move ahead with these plans and deliver our vision.



## The AWT Group

*Avon Wildlife Trust has legal interests in a number of related companies. For reporting and accounting purposes, one of these related companies (Folly Farm Centre Limited) is included with the Trust in what is called 'the AWT Group'.*

### Folly Farm Centre Limited

This company is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Trust, formed to run the award-winning residential environmental-learning, conference and events centre developed on the Trust's property at Folly Farm, which includes a stunning 250-acre nature reserve. During 2014/15, the company achieved a turnover of £412k (2013/14 – £355k).

The conference facilities are attracting customers from the public, private and voluntary sectors, including: Baby Sensory, Ineo Life, University of Bristol, Northern Integrated Health, Doner UK, Royal United Hospital Bath, Wildwood Ecology Ltd, Thyme Chef, Green Ink, Sirona Health Care, Mulberry, DAS Services Ltd and C&J Clarks International Ltd.

The Trust continues to develop the range of residential and day-learning courses at primary, secondary, further and higher levels using the Centre.

As well as the opportunities that the Centre provides for promoting environmental messages, the Centre buildings were designed as a demonstration of sustainable development, including use of rainwater harvesting, biomass and solar energy, and reed-bed sewage treatment.

The Centre has won a number of Green Tourism awards, and received national, regional and local media attention. The enthusiastic feedback and many repeat bookings are evidence of the Centre's success, and the Trustees are confident that the Centre will continue to be a profitable venture, as well as a vehicle for the Trust to reach and influence new audiences.

## Related Companies

The Trust has sole ownership of one subsidiary company, has an interest in one connected company, and is a company member of two jointly-owned companies:

### Wholly owned company

The Trust set up a subsidiary company in 2008: **Folly Farm Centre Limited**, registered company 6538712. The Trust has control and sole ownership of this company. During 2008/9 the company took on a lease of the newly completed Centre buildings at Folly Farm from the Trust, and now operates the Centre under the terms of a trading agreement with the Trust. There is a Board of seven directors including at least two Trustees (currently three) and the Chief Executive of the Trust.

### Connected company

The Trust is a member and can appoint one trustee to the Board of the **Bristol Natural History Consortium** (BNHC) registered charity 1123432 and registered company 06472186.

The company was set up in 2008 to replace the unincorporated association of organisations that had operated under the same name since 2003.

The Trust has a place on the BNHC Board with the other two company members, Bristol Zoo Gardens and Wildscreen.

The activities of the Consortium are taken forward by a Steering Group representing the partners of the Consortium, which also includes the BBC Natural History Unit, the Universities of Bristol and West of England, Defra, the National Trust, Natural England, Bristol City Council and the RSPB.

The primary aims of the Consortium are to promote public interest in the natural world and to encourage the development of improved techniques of communication about the natural world. It does this through three main activities:

- staging an annual Festival of Nature in Bristol involving over 200 organisations and visited free by more than 20,000 visitors;
- promoting an annual Communicate conference with international participation; and
- delivering outreach educational activities, such as BioBlitz.

The Trust contributes to the core costs of BNHC (£5,000 in 2014/15).

## Jointly owned companies

The Trust is a corporate member of the **Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT)**, incorporated by Royal Charter and registered charity 207238, formed and owned by a federation of the 47 Wildlife Trusts covering the UK. The Trust contributes to the operating costs of RSWT £26,990 (2013/14 £23,300) in return for representation of the Trust's interests at European,

UK and England levels and for the promotion of co-operation and best practice between the Wildlife Trusts nationally. The Trust has a say in RSWT's strategy and management through regional representatives on RSWT's two highest decision-making bodies (Council and Forum) but remains entirely independent in terms of its own governance.

The Trust is also a company member of **South West Wildlife Trusts (SWWT)**, a charitable company (registered charity 1094746, registered company 4417769) owned by eight Wildlife Trusts in the SW region. The Trust contributes to the operating costs of SWWT £9,000 (also £9,000 in 2013/14) in return for representation of the Trust's interests at the South West regional level and for the promotion of joint programmes and best practice between the Trusts regionally. The Trust is directly represented on the SWWT Board by its Chair and Chief Executive, but again it remains entirely independent in terms of its own governance.

## South West Wildlife Fundraising Limited (SWWFL)

The Trust is also a member of South West Wildlife Fundraising Limited (SWWFL), a company limited by guarantee, company number 08529465. SWWFL exists to provide membership recruitment services to members of SWWFL (and other Wildlife Trusts, at the discretion of the SWWFL directors).

The Trust became one of the original members on incorporation of SWWFL, together with Devon Wildlife Trust, Dorset Trust for Nature Conservation Limited, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, Somerset Wildlife Trust and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. Later, in 2013/14 Worcestershire Wildlife Trust also became a member of SWWFL.

The Trust has the right to appoint up to two directors to the SWWFL board. Each member has committed to loan the company £33k of which £22k was provided in 2013/14 and a further £11k in 2014/15. The Company provided membership recruitment services to the Trust totalling £93k in the year (2013/14 £45k).

## AWT governance

### Legal status

The Trust has dual legal status as a registered charity under the Charities Act 2011 and as a registered company limited by guarantee under the Companies Act 2006.

### Constitution

The governing instrument of the Trust is its Memorandum and Articles of Association. This can be amended only by special resolution at a General Meeting of Trust members.

### Governance

The governing body of the Trust is the Board of Trustees, which meets every three months to deal with regular business, with occasional extra meetings to address strategic or special matters. This body has full responsibility for the strategic development and direction of the Trust, and takes all decisions on matters of Trust policy.

The constitution of the Trust provides for a maximum of 14 Trustees – up to seven elected directly by Trust members at the AGM, and up to seven appointed by the Trustees, to ensure an appropriate balance of skills, experience and representation on the Board. Trustees serve a one-year term initially; further terms by election or appointment are for three years. The Board can also co-opt Trustees to fill any vacancy between AGMs.

During 2014/15, the Board was supported by two Committees (Governance and Finance), and by the Health, Safety and Resources Management Group. The Board also occasionally set up short-term task groups to look at specific issues and policy areas.

The Committees have a specified membership of Trustees and operate within terms of reference, remits, rules and specific limits of delegated authority approved directly by the Board. The Board receives the minutes of every meeting of the Committees and task groups. During the year, the Governance Committee updated the Governance Handbook for Trustees and reviewed the risk register.

The Management Groups have a specified membership of key senior staff, who operate within the same strict framework as the Committees. In addition to receiving the minutes of every Management Group meeting, the Board also receives an annual report from each group.



## Trustee training and development

On taking up office, every trustee meets the Chair, Chief Executive, and relevant senior managers for induction to the workings and activities of the Trust. They are given a copy of the Governance Handbook, which contains such material as the Trust's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the terms of reference of the committees, role descriptions for trustees and officers of the Trust and statements about trustee responsibilities and the roles of Trustees and staff.

They are invited to serve on committees and task groups according to their skills, experience and aptitude. The Board actively promotes trustee development in various ways including site visits and working sessions with staff and outside advisers.

## Risk management

The Board has in place the following infrastructure for minimising and managing risk to the Trust:

- A **Risk Policy**.
- A detailed **Risk Management Plan** for delivering the policy, identifying key potential risks, with a full set of control mechanisms and delivery actions.
- Operational delivery and review of the plan by the **Management Team** involving the Chief Executive and all of the senior managers.
- A **lead person** for each individual risk to ensure that the most appropriate people in the organisation are directly involved in assessing control mechanisms, identifying delivery and remedial action, and reviewing performance.
- An **annual reporting and monitoring** process to the Board, and to relevant external audiences through this report.

## Management

### Delegation

The Chief Executive has delegated authority from the Board for the overall development, management and operations of the Trust within the strategic framework and policies set by the trustees. There is a description of this delegation in the Governance Handbook, together with delegation procedures in the Trust Handbook setting out clear limits of authority at different levels for the Chief Executive and other staff to act for the Trust or commit expenditure.

### Management Team

The Chief Executive is supported by four Directors responsible for teams of staff focusing on

Conservation, Community, Communications & Development, and Finance & Resources. The Chief Executive and the four Directors comprise the Management Team, which meets regularly and drives forward the delivery of the Trust's Annual Plan. Through the Chief Executive, the Management Team has delegated authority for dealing with all operational matters within the policy framework set by the Board.



## Staffing

At the end of 2014/15, the Trust and its subsidiary company were employing 44 paid staff, 25 full-time and 19 part-time. Staff are actively involved in the development and delivery of key aspects of the Trust's work through virtual teams (groups drawn from different teams and different levels within the staff structure).

Internal communications within the Trust are promoted in various ways including: a web-based Trust Handbook accessible internally and remotely by staff, a monthly staff forum, and a co-worker forum to air issues and put forward ideas to the Management Team. There are also strategy and team-building days to discuss key issues and develop ideas for the Annual Plan and the longer-term development of the Trust.

## On behalf of the Board of Trustees

Chair R. Kidman Cox Date 17/9 2015  
Rosamund Kidman Cox

Treasurer KE Finn Date 17/9/ 2015  
Katharine Finn

# General information

As at 31 March 2015

## AVON WILDLIFE TRUST

is a registered charity in England and Wales and a registered company limited by guarantee. The Trust was established on 2 May 1980 and formally registered as a charity on 10 July 1980.

## REGISTERED CHARITY

Number 280422

## REGISTERED COMPANY

Number 1495108

## PRINCIPAL ADDRESS AND REGISTERED OFFICE

32 Jacobs Wells Road  
Bristol BS8 1DR

**PATRONS** Lord O'Hagan

**PRESIDENT** Simon King

**VICE PRESIDENTS** Mark Carwardine  
Mike Dilger  
Philippa Forrester

## TRUSTEES

The following Trustees served on the Trust's Board throughout 2014/15 except as noted:

Rosamund Kidman Cox – <i>Chair</i>	Dr Steve Nicholls (now Deputy Chair)
Cecile Gillard – <i>Secretary</i>	Martin Brasher
Tony Elgood – <i>Treasurer &amp; Deputy Chair</i> (resigned December 2014)	Katharine Finn (appointed September 2014, now Treasurer)
Anthony Brown	Andy Bord (resigned September 2014)
Alan Dorn	Dilys Huggins (appointed September 2014)
Lesley Freed	Nigel Morrison (appointed November 2014)
Professor Jane Memmott	Keith Taylor (resigned June 2014)

## KEY PERSONNEL

Dr Bevis Watts	– <i>Chief Executive</i>
Jane Davis	– <i>Director of Finance &amp; Resources</i>
Dr Lucy Rogers	– <i>Director of Conservation Programmes</i>
Robin Maynard	– <i>Director of Community Programmes</i>
Andrew Lund-Yates	– <i>Centre Director at Folly Farm Centre Limited</i>

## SOLICITORS

Burges Salmon LLP	Osborne Clarke	Wards Solicitors	Bond Dickinson
Narrow Quay	2 Temple Back	52 Broad Street	3 Temple Quay
House Narrow	East	Bristol	Temple Back East,
Quay	Temple Quay	BS1 2EP	Bristol
Bristol BS1 4AH	Bristol BS1 6EG		BS1 6DZ

## AUDITORS

Hollingdale Pooley  
Bramford House  
23 Westfield Park  
Bristol BS6 6LT

## BANKERS

Bank of Scotland	Co-operative Bank	NatWest Bank plc	Triodos Bank NV	CAF Bank	Virgin Money
Community	Olympic House	The Mall	Deanery Road	25 Kings Hill	Unit 2
Banking	Olympic Court	Clifton	Bristol	Avenue	Transom House
PO Box 10	Montford Street	Bristol	BS1 5AS	Kings Hill	Victoria Street
38 St Andrews	Salford M5 2QP	BS99 5AJ		West Malling	Bristol
Square				Kent ME19 4JQ	BS1 6AH
Edinburgh EH2 2YR					



# Independent auditor's report

We have audited the Financial Statements of Avon Wildlife Trust for the year ended 31 March 2015, which comprise the Group **Statement of Financial Activities**, the Group **Balance Sheet**, the Parent **Balance Sheet**, and the related Notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and UK Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

## RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND AUDITOR

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement (page 3), the trustees (who are also Directors of the 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.

We have been appointed auditors under the Companies Act 2006 and section 151 of the Charities Act 2011, and report to you in accordance with those Acts. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

## SCOPE OF THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the Financial Statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that those Statements are free from material mis-statements, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of:

- whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charitable company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed;
- the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Trustees; and
- the overall presentation of the Financial Statements.

In addition we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Annual Report to identify any material inconsistencies with the audited Financial Statements. If we become aware of any apparent material mis-statements or inconsistencies, we consider the implications for our Report.

## OPINION ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In our opinion the Financial Statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Group's and the parent company's affairs as at 31 March 2015 and of the Group's 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 and the Charities Act 2011.

## OPINION ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

In our opinion the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report for the financial year for which the Financial Statements are prepared is consistent with the Financial Statements.

## MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the parent charitable company has not kept adequate and sufficient accounting records, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the Financial Statements of the parent charitable company 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.

 PHILIP BARRY (Senior Statutory Auditor)

Date 25 Sept. 2015

For and on behalf of:

**HOLLINGDALE POOLEY**

Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor  
Bramford House  
23 Westfield Park  
Clifton  
Bristol BS6 6LT

Consolidated

## Statement of financial activities

for the year ended 31 March 2015

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2015 £	Total funds 2014 £
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
<b>GENERATED FUNDS</b>					
<b>Voluntary income:</b>					
Subscriptions, donations and legacies	1	616,597	113,022	<b>729,619</b>	851,172
<b>Activities for generating funds:</b>					
Folly Farm Centre Limited trading income	4	382,654	-	<b>382,654</b>	322,994
Local Groups income		6,481	-	<b>6,481</b>	7,199
Tractor Appeal					-
<b>CHARITABLE ACTIVITY</b>					
Conservation	2	456,736	250,169	<b>706,905</b>	781,204
Community	2	57,046	211,704	<b>268,750</b>	325,100
Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve	2	-	78,986	<b>78,986</b>	95,954
<b>OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Other Income		7,639	-	<b>7,639</b>	401
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>1,527,153</b>	<b>653,881</b>	<b>2,181,034</b>	<b>2,384,024</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
<b>COST OF GENERATING FUNDS</b>					
Membership expenditure	3	180,323	-	<b>180,323</b>	111,718
Development and promotion	3	73,527	-	<b>73,527</b>	101,016
Fundraising costs	3	32,299	-	<b>32,299</b>	28,872
Folly Farm Centre Limited trading costs	4	338,470	-	<b>338,470</b>	329,339
<b>CHARITABLE ACTIVITY</b>					
Conservation	3	658,598	333,996	<b>992,594</b>	829,066
Community	3	205,327	209,357	<b>414,684</b>	451,296
Folly Farm Centre development	3	3,000	75,401	<b>78,401</b>	85,016
Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve	3	-	85,551	<b>85,551</b>	88,611
Local Groups expenditure	3	3,861	-	<b>3,861</b>	7,589
<b>GOVERNANCE COSTS</b>	3	5,735	-	<b>5,735</b>	13,773
<b>OTHER OUTGOING RESOURCES</b>					
		-	-	-	-
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>1,501,140</b>	<b>704,305</b>	<b>2,205,445</b>	<b>2,046,296</b>
<b>Net incoming / (outgoing) resources</b>		<b>26,013</b>	<b>(50,424)</b>	<b>(24,411)</b>	<b>337,728</b>
<b>Balance brought forward at 1 April 2014</b>		<b>921,384</b>	<b>5,586,666</b>	<b>6,508,050</b>	<b>6,170,322</b>
<b>Balance carried forward at 31 March 2015</b>		<b>947,397</b>	<b>5,536,242</b>	<b>6,483,639</b>	<b>6,508,050</b>



Consolidated

# Balance sheet

at 31 March 2015

	Note	Group 2015 £	Group 2014 £	Charity 2015 £	Charity 2014 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible fixed assets	8	50,896	48,606	37,925	31,416
Heritage fixed assets	9	5,828,120	5,918,159	5,828,120	5,918,158
Investments	11	-	-	1	1
		<b>5,879,016</b>	<b>5,966,765</b>	<b>5,866,046</b>	<b>5,949,575</b>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stock		15,700	9,013	13,219	8,180
Debtors	12	529,185	530,704	537,509	563,730
Cash at bank and in hand		545,710	432,167	493,487	428,540
		<b>1,090,595</b>	<b>971,884</b>	<b>1,044,215</b>	<b>1,000,450</b>
<b>Creditors</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	407,140	298,781	287,560	238,235
Provisions		7,133	38,000	7,133	38,000
<b>Net current assets</b>					
		<b>676,322</b>	<b>635,103</b>	<b>749,522</b>	<b>724,215</b>
<b>Creditors - due after one year</b>	14	<b>71,699</b>	<b>93,818</b>	<b>71,699</b>	<b>93,818</b>
<b>Net assets</b>					
		<b>6,483,639</b>	<b>6,508,050</b>	<b>6,543,869</b>	<b>6,579,972</b>
<b>Funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds - designated	17	362,814	362,814	362,814	362,814
Unrestricted funds - general	16	584,583	558,570	644,812	630,491
Unrestricted funds - investments	11	-	-	1	1
		<b>947,397</b>	<b>921,384</b>	<b>1,007,627</b>	<b>993,306</b>
Restricted funds	15	5,536,242	5,586,666	5,536,242	5,586,666
<b>Total funds</b>	16	<b>6,483,639</b>	<b>6,508,050</b>	<b>6,543,869</b>	<b>6,579,972</b>

The Financial Statements and notes set out on pages 20 to 36 have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and were approved on 17 September 2015 and were signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees by:

R Kidman, Cox

 Chair

K Finn



Treasurer

# Accounting Policies

For the year ended 31 March 2015

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with: the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008); *Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)* issued by the Auditing Standards Board and the Charity Commission in April 2005; and Companies Act 2006.

The principal accounting policies adopted by the Trust in drawing up its Financial Statements are as follows:

## a) INCOMING RESOURCES

### Subscriptions

Annual subscriptions from members are included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) in the year they are received.

### Donations

Voluntary income received by way of donations and gifts is included in full in the SOFA when receivable. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

### Grants and fees

Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, and fees for contracts are recognised in full in the SOFA in the year in which they are receivable. When donors specify that donations or grants are for a particular restricted purpose, this income is included in incoming resources of restricted funds when receivable.

### Legacies

Legacies are included when the charity is advised by the personal representative of an estate that payment will be made or property transferred and the amount involved can be quantified.

### Investment income

Investment income is accounted for in the period in which the charity is entitled to receipt.

## b) RESOURCES EXPENDED

Resources expended, with the exception of recruitment fees, are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT that cannot be recovered.

### Membership recruitment fees

Recruitment fees for membership are billed in the year of recruitment, but are charged in the SOFA over three years to match the income generated.

### General overheads

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost is clearly identifiable as relating to that activity. General overheads are apportioned to activities in proportion to the staff costs related to each area of activity.

### Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the SOFA as incurred over the term of the lease.

## c) TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of all fixed assets, other than freehold land, by equal instalments over their expected useful lives. The periods (in years) generally applicable are:

• Freehold & Leasehold property	50
• Improvements to nature reserves	10-50
• Office equipment and office improvements	5
• Motor vehicles	2.5-5
• Computers	4

## d) STOCK

Stock is valued at the lower of cost-and-net-realizable value.

## e) PENSION COSTS

Pension costs are charged on the basis of amounts due for the year (see note 19).

## f) CONSOLIDATED RESULTS

These Financial Statements consolidate the results of the charity and its wholly owned subsidiary. The Trust has taken advantage of the exemption conferred by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has omitted its individual income and expenditure account from these Financial Statements.

## g) FUNDS ACCOUNTING

Funds held by the charity are:

**Unrestricted general funds** – these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable purposes at the discretion of the Trustees.

**Restricted funds** – these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the purposes of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are secured for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the Notes to the Financial Statements.



# Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2015

## 1. Income from subscriptions, donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 2015	Total funds 2014
	£	£	£	£
Donations	49,436	113,022	<b>162,458</b>	226,075
Legacies	56,995	-	<b>56,995</b>	108,727
Subscriptions	503,860	-	<b>503,860</b>	504,107
Income from costs recharged	6,306	-	<b>6,306</b>	12,263
	<b>616,597</b>	<b>113,022</b>	<b>729,619</b>	<b>851,172</b>

## 2. Grants and fees for contracts - Charity

	Unrestricted funding	Restricted funding	Total funds 2015	Total funds 2014
	£	£	£	£
<b>CONSERVATION</b>				
Management of nature reserves	249,871	148,105	<b>397,976</b>	482,935
Biodiversity projects	16,795	18,646	<b>35,441</b>	30,494
Living Landscapes programme	476	83,418	<b>83,894</b>	146,778
Local Partnership working	33,093	-	<b>33,093</b>	-
Consultancy	156,501	-	<b>156,501</b>	120,997
	<b>456,736</b>	<b>250,169</b>	<b>706,905</b>	<b>781,204</b>

### COMMUNITY

Learning and Community projects	50,720	22,676	<b>73,396</b>	110,318
Communities and Nature project	-	87,748	<b>87,748</b>	88,272
Feed Bristol project	6,326	81,280	<b>87,606</b>	106,510
Folly Farm learning activities	-	20,000	<b>20,000</b>	20,000
Other Community projects				-
	<b>57,046</b>	<b>211,704</b>	<b>268,750</b>	<b>325,100</b>

### PORTBURY WHARF NATURE RESERVE

Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve	-	78,986	<b>78,986</b>	95,954
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## Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

### 3. Total resources expended

	Direct staff costs £	Allocated staff cost £	Other direct costs £	General support costs £	Total 2015 £	Total 2014 £
Membership expenditure	35,055	5,748	130,759	8,761	<b>180,323</b>	111,718
Development and promotion	35,704	14,943	11,486	11,394	<b>73,527</b>	101,016
Fundraising costs	12,680	8,046	4,985	6,588	<b>32,299</b>	28,872
Folly Farm Centre Ltd trading	-	-	338,470	-	<b>338,470</b>	329,339
Conservation	325,310	119,547	451,437	96,300	<b>992,594</b>	829,066
Community	214,052	81,614	54,619	64,399	<b>414,684</b>	451,296
Folly Farm Centre development	-	-	78,401	-	<b>78,401</b>	85,016
Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve	27,208	-	58,343	-	<b>85,551</b>	88,611
Local Group expenditure	-	-	3,861	-	<b>3,861</b>	7,589
<b>GOVERNANCE COSTS</b>	-	-	4,458	1,277	<b>5,735</b>	13,773
<b>Total</b>	<b>650,009</b>	<b>229,898</b>	<b>1,136,819</b>	<b>188,719</b>	<b>2,205,445</b>	<b>2,046,296</b>

Direct expenditure has been allocated to the appropriate activity. Indirect staff costs and general support costs have been allocated to activities in accordance with accounting policies note b). General support costs for the year ended 31 March 2015 are made up as follows:

	2015 £	2014 £
Affiliation subscriptions and costs	<b>44,767</b>	43,390
Insurance costs	<b>22,496</b>	24,715
Bank charges and interest	<b>5,917</b>	5,378
Folly Farm development finance costs	<b>3,170</b>	3,612
Folly Farm support costs	<b>3,377</b>	9,871
Printing, postage and stationery	<b>28,042</b>	17,910
Office maintenance and utility costs	<b>29,197</b>	33,884
Recruitment costs	<b>3,369</b>	12,975
Depreciation	<b>9,149</b>	8,436
IT support and consumables	<b>15,676</b>	11,055
Other overhead costs	<b>2,454</b>	26,387
Legal costs	<b>5,028</b>	24,942
Other professional fees	<b>14,800</b>	33,384
Costs recharged to 3rd parties	-	-
Governance costs	<b>1,277</b>	13,773
<b>Total</b>	<b>188,719</b>	<b>269,712</b>



## Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

### 4. Trading subsidiaries

The Trust is the beneficial owner of shares in one wholly owned subsidiary, Folly Farm Centre Limited, a company incorporated in the UK. The Trust did not expend any funds in obtaining this interest.

#### Folly Farm Centre Limited

The purpose of the subsidiary is to operate the restored buildings at Folly Farm, which are owned by the Trust, as an environmental learning, conference and events venue. Commercial activities include the hosting of day and residential conferences, meetings and social functions. In addition, the Centre provides school, youth, adult and specialist courses, both daily and on a residential basis to further the Trust's charitable purpose by inspiring people about wildlife.

The company continued to pay rent to the Trust for use of the buildings and adjoining area, and any profits generated by the company will be transferred as a charitable donation to the Trust. This income will provide an additional source of unrestricted income that the Trust can apply to projects and activities in furtherance of its charitable purpose. A summary of the results of Folly Farm Centre Limited is shown below:

	2015	2014
	£	£
<b>PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT</b>		
for the period ended on 31 March 2015		
<b>Turnover</b>	<b>412,055</b>	355,034
Cost of sales	<b>112,665</b>	89,634
<b>Gross profit</b>	<b>299,390</b>	265,400
Overheads and administration	<b>287,696</b>	291,911
<b>Operating profit/(loss)</b>	<b>11,694</b>	(26,511)
Interest received	-	-
Interest payable and similar charges	-	(245)
<b>Profit/(loss) for the financial period</b>	<b>11,694</b>	(26,756)
	2015	2014
	£	£
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>		
as at 31 March 2015		
Fixed assets	<b>12,972</b>	17,190
Net current liabilities	<b>(73,200)</b>	(89,112)
Total assets less current liabilities	<b>(60,228)</b>	(71,922)
Creditors falling due after more than one year	-	-
Total	<b>(60,228)</b>	(71,922)
<b>Capital and reserves</b>		
Called-up equity share capital	<b>1</b>	1
Profit and loss account	<b>(60,229)</b>	(71,923)
Total	<b>(60,228)</b>	(71,922)

## Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

There are four legal contracts in place between Avon Wildlife Trust and Folly Farm Centre Limited:

- Under a **Lease** dated 1 April 2009, the Trust leases the buildings and some of the adjoining land at Folly Farm to Folly Farm Centre Limited. The Lease runs from 1 July 2008 to 1 July 2018, and rent is payable to the Trust from 1 July 2010. Rent payable in the 2014/15 year amounted to £40k.
- Through a **Loan Agreement** dated 1 April 2009, the Trust offered a loan facility to Folly Farm Centre Limited. The maximum facility is £100,000 and interest is payable at 1% above the annual rate of interest charged on Avon Wildlife Trust's borrowings from the Bank of Scotland. The agreement set out a repayment schedule for the loan from 1 July 2010, and the loan was repaid in full to the Trust on 1 July 2013.
- Under a **Debenture** dated 1 April 2009 the Trust has a floating charge over the assets of Folly Farm Centre Limited as security for the agreed loan facility.
- A **Trading Agreement** between the Trust and Folly Farm Centre Limited was completed on 29 May 2009 setting out a framework for how the trading subsidiary can operate and for inter-company transactions and charges. This is reviewed and updated periodically.

### 5. Trustees' remuneration

The trustees neither received nor waived any emoluments during the year (2014 £Nil).

Expenses were reimbursed to the Trustees during the year £13 (2014 £297).

### 6. Staff costs

	2015	2014
GROUP	£	£
Wages and salaries	766,551	849,249
Employers' national insurance	61,554	74,097
Pension costs	30,042	25,924
Other staff costs	21,760	29,552
	<b>879,907</b>	<b>978,822</b>

No employee earned more than £60,000 a year.

The average number of employees, based on full-time equivalents and analyses by function, was:

	2015	2014
Conservation programmes	11.4	11.6
Community programmes	7.8	6.9
Support staff	9.1	9.0
Folly Farm Centre Ltd	5.3	3.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>30.8</b>

### 7. Net movement in funds

The net movement in funds is stated after charging:

	2015	2014
GROUP	£	£
Depreciation (unrestricted)	9,149	8,436
Auditors' remuneration	10,086	10,508
Operating lease rentals – plant and equipment	3,540	6,008



## Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

### 8. Tangible fixed assets

	Office improvements	Office equipment & machinery	Motor vehicles	Computers	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>GROUP</b>					
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 April 2014	5,940	81,311	105,869	95,603	<b>288,723</b>
Additions	-	1,734	-	15,540	<b>17,274</b>
Disposals	-	-	(15,846)	-	<b>(15,846)</b>
At 31 March 2015	5,940	83,045	90,023	111,143	<b>290,151</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 April 2014	5,940	63,778	80,232	90,167	<b>240,117</b>
Charge for year	-	5,182	5,214	4,588	<b>14,984</b>
Disposals	-	-	(15,846)	-	<b>(15,846)</b>
At 31 March 2015	5,940	68,960	69,600	94,755	<b>239,255</b>
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 March 2015	-	14,085	20,423	16,388	<b>50,896</b>
At 31 March 2014	-	17,533	25,637	5,436	<b>48,606</b>
<b>CHARITY</b>					
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 April 2014	5,940	48,152	105,869	95,603	<b>255,564</b>
Additions	-	1,194	-	15,540	<b>16,734</b>
Disposals	-	-	(15,846)	-	<b>(15,846)</b>
At 31 March 2015	5,940	49,346	90,023	111,143	<b>256,452</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 April 2014	5,940	47,809	80,232	90,167	<b>224,148</b>
Charge for year	-	423	5,214	4,588	<b>10,225</b>
Disposals	-	-	(15,846)	-	<b>(15,846)</b>
At 31 March 2015	5,940	48,232	69,600	94,755	<b>218,527</b>
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 March 2015	-	1,114	20,423	16,388	<b>37,925</b>
At 31 March 2014	-	343	25,637	5,436	<b>31,416</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

### 9. Heritage assets – Group and Charity

	Nature reserves £	Improvements to nature reserves £	Folly Farm development £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2014	2,227,391	651,897	3,787,072	<b>6,666,360</b>
Additions	-	13,954	-	<b>13,954</b>
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2015	2,227,391	665,851	3,787,072	<b>6,680,314</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2014	-	203,078	545,124	<b>748,202</b>
Charge for the year	6,537	23,726	73,729	<b>103,992</b>
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2015	6,537	226,804	618,853	<b>852,194</b>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 March 2015	2,220,854	439,047	3,168,219	<b>5,828,120</b>
At 31 March 2014	2,227,391	448,819	3,241,948	<b>5,918,158</b>

#### Heritage assets

The Trust's nature reserves are an important part of the Heritage Assets of the nation and are held by the charity on a long-term basis. The Trust is responsible for ensuring that the reserves are properly managed in order to:

- conserve and enhance the special wildlife interest within these sites;
- provide a refuge for wildlife from which to re-colonise other sites;
- serve as demonstration sites for sustainable land management and heritage skills;
- provide opportunities for public inspiration, involvement, learning and enjoyment.

All the Trust reserves are freely open to the public, except in a few cases where there are some necessary restrictions due to the sensitivity of the habitats, or seasonal restrictions.

The Trust owns a freehold interest in the following nature reserves at 31 March 2015:

Brown's Folly	Cleeve Heronry*	Prior's Wood	Tickenham Hill
Burledge Hill	Folly Farm ( <i>see below</i> )	Purn Hill	Walborough
Charfield Meadow*	Hellenge Hill	Puxton Moor	Weston Big Wood
Clapton Moor (New Farm)	Littleton Brick Pits*	Stephen's Vale*	Weston Moor ( <i>see below</i> )

Mostly these properties are included in the Balance Sheet at their original cost of purchase. However, no value has been included for the 4 sites shown above with an asterisk\*. They are small nature reserves – together covering 4.74 hectares (11.70 acres) of land – which were gifted to the Trust, they have a small capital value, and in the opinion of the Trustees, the cost of valuation would be disproportionate to the value of the assets.

The Heritage Lottery Fund and Bank of Scotland have a joint Legal Charge over the Trust's freehold interest in **Folly Farm** in connection with the major development project there. Viridor Credits Environmental Company has a legal charge over Bennett's Patch & White's Paddock Nature Reserve.

During the year the Trust also managed **23 other properties** under agreements with landowners.



## Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

### 10. Fixed Assets held in Restricted Funds – Depreciation

As a result of the Trust's past extensive investment in fixed assets (held in restricted funds in the Trust's accounts as set out in Note 16), there is a significant annual depreciation charge on restricted assets that is included in the Statement of Financial Activities each year as resources expended on restricted funds. This depreciation charge amounted to £103,992 in the year ended 31 March 2015 (2014 : £94,823) and has been magnified by the Trust's extensive investment in Folly Farm in the last few years. This is shown in the Statement of Financial Activities and can be analysed as follows:

	£
Net Fixed Asset Movements in restricted funds	(104,822)
Net Current Asset Movements in restricted funds	54,398
<b>Net Incoming / (Outgoing) Resources – Restricted Funds</b>	<b>(50,424)</b>

The annual depreciation charge reduces the value of the restricted fund asset balances in the Balance Sheet as in note (c) of the Accounting Policies on page 22.

### 11. Fixed assets – investments

#### Subsidiaries

During the year the Trust was the beneficial owner of shares in 1 wholly owned trading subsidiary. See Note 4.

#### Connected company

Avon Wildlife Trust is a member of the Bristol Natural History Consortium (BNHC) (registered charity 1123432 and registered company 06472186) and can appoint one trustee to the Board. BNHC is a charitable company limited by guarantee operated by AWT in partnership with Bristol Zoo Gardens and Wildscreen.

BNHC was incorporated on 14 January 2008 and registered as a charity on 3 April 2008. Its financial year runs from 1 January to 31 December, and the Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2014 were approved by the trustees of BNHC on 29 July 2015.

During the year ended 31 December 2014, BNHC incurred a surplus on unrestricted funds of £5,851. At 31 December 2014 the charity had net assets of £25,749, all of which are held in unrestricted funds.

Trustees are in the process of developing a strategy to increase the level of funding over the next two financial years.

During the period, Avon Wildlife Trust contributed £5,000 as a membership subscription to BNHC.

## Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

### 12. Debtors – amounts falling due within one year

	<b>Group</b>	Group	<b>Charity</b>	Charity
	<b>2015</b>	2014	<b>2015</b>	2014
	<b>£</b>	£	<b>£</b>	£
Grants & fees receivable	<b>165,859</b>	151,482	<b>165,859</b>	151,482
Prepayments	<b>12,742</b>	42,871	<b>7,007</b>	36,611
Other debtors	<b>317,584</b>	314,351	<b>331,643</b>	353,637
Loan to SWWFL	<b>33,000</b>	22,000	<b>33,000</b>	22,000
	<b>529,185</b>	530,704	<b>537,509</b>	563,730

### 13. Creditors – amounts falling due within one year

	<b>Group</b>	Group	<b>Charity</b>	Charity
	<b>2015</b>	2014	<b>2015</b>	2014
	<b>£</b>	£	<b>£</b>	£
Trade creditors	<b>87,354</b>	60,734	<b>81,172</b>	52,807
Other creditors and accruals	<b>234,369</b>	124,266	<b>137,290</b>	84,326
Taxation and national insurance	<b>53,633</b>	34,282	<b>37,314</b>	30,603
Bank Loan	<b>13,284</b>	13,284	<b>13,284</b>	13,284
Other Loans	<b>11,000</b>	20,000	<b>11,000</b>	11,000
Grants received in advance	<b>7,500</b>	46,215	<b>7,500</b>	46,215
	<b>407,140</b>	298,781	<b>287,560</b>	238,235

AWT Group is reliant on loan facilities provided by the Bank of Scotland repayable over 10 years. The loan is secured on the freehold land and property at Folly Farm.

The movement in Grants received in advance during the year ended 31 March 2015 is as follows:

	<b>£</b>
Balance at 1 April 2014	46,215
Grants released during year	(41,215)
Grants received during year	2,500
Balance at 31 March 2015	7,500



## Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

### 14. Creditors – amounts falling due after one year

	Group 2015 £	Group 2014 £	Charity 2015 £	Charity 2014 £
Bank Loan (see note 14)	71,699	81,818	71,699	81,818
Other Loans	-	12,000	-	12,000
	<b>71,699</b>	<b>93,818</b>	<b>71,699</b>	<b>93,818</b>

### 15. Restricted funds

	1 Apr 2014 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers £	31 Mar 2015 £
<b>REVENUE FUNDS</b>					
Crayfish Project	172	-	(172)	-	-
Catchment Restoration – Avon Pilot	21,034	18,646	(10,332)	-	29,348
Folly Farm Learning Fund	20,000	20,000	(19,083)	(917)	20,000
Project Development Fund	678	-	(1,595)	917	-
Communities & Nature project	7,144	87,763	(90,057)	5,000	9,850
Feed Bristol Project	47,222	84,785	(69,532)	-	62,475
Eel project	8,952	-	(7,144)	-	1,808
Folly Farm volunteer training base	9,239	-	-	-	9,239
Living Landscapes – Grassland	-	83,988	(64,875)	-	19,113
Living Landscapes – N Somerset Wetlands	16,716	180	(16,821)	-	75
Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve	16,442	78,986	(85,552)	-	9,876
Avon Gorge projects	2,635	40,960	(33,588)	34,947	44,954
Landrover depreciation fund (see comment)	25,636	-	(5,214)	-	20,422
Bennett's Patch & White's Paddock	109,790	68,130	(124,781)	(25,723)	27,416
Trout and About	-	6,350	(4,729)	-	1,621
Spawn to be Wild	-	5,900	(5,900)	-	-
Interpretation Boards	-	5,000	-	(5,000)	-
Bristol 2015	-	8,000	-	-	8,000
Urban Living Landscape	-	43,400	(41,400)	-	2,000
Folly Wellbeing Garden	-	6,000	(3,174)	-	2,826
Wildlife Corridors	-	35,228	(996)	-	34,232
Justin Smith Endowment Fund	-	7,856	(177)	-	7,679
<b>APPEAL FUNDS</b>					
Seed Fund	13,109	-	(2,566)	-	10,543
Appeal 2015	-	45,004	(13,557)	(9,224)	22,223
Butterfly Appeal	-	7,705	(3,842)	-	3,863
<b>PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT FUNDS</b>					
Willsbridge (10 Years)	1,326	-	(443)	-	883
Folly Farm Sewage Treatment	8,120	-	(232)	-	7,888
Folly Farm	27,233	-	(663)	-	26,570
Folly Farm Access Trail	15,977	-	(728)	-	15,249
Willsbridge – Landfill	420	-	(12)	-	408

## Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

Willsbridge	15,864	-	(427)	-	15,437
Clapton Moor (50 Years)	40,197	-	(945)	-	39,252
Clapton Moor (10 Years)	1,286	-	(429)	-	857
Weston Moor	8,144	-	(226)	-	7,918
Walborough	4,865	-	(139)	-	4,726
Goblin Combe (50 Years)	4,956	-	(118)	-	4,838
Goblin Combe (10 Years)	500	-	(250)	-	250
Prior's Wood (10 Years)	1,212	-	(540)	-	672
Weston Big Wood (50 Years)	12,849	-	(307)	-	12,542
Weston Big Wood (10 Years)	3,269	-	(1,637)	-	1,632
Puxton Moor	66,939	-	(1,600)	-	65,339
Nature Reserves Fund	17,794	-	(511)	-	17,283
HLF Conservation Fund	36,546	-	(1,001)	-	35,545
Conservation - Reserves Fund	20,636	-	(553)	-	20,083
Feed Bristol	65,690	-	(8,142)	(50)	57,498
Folly Farm Centre development	3,071,269	-	(73,778)	50	2,997,541
<b>FREEHOLD LAND AND BUILDING FUNDS</b>					
Hellenge Hill	86,050	-	-	-	86,050
Puxton Moor	361,529	-	-	-	361,529
Walborough	55,000	-	-	-	55,000
Clapton Moor	185,144	-	-	-	185,144
Weston Moor	333,758	-	-	-	333,758
Tickenham Hill	28,000	-	-	-	28,000
Weston Big Wood	123,572	-	-	-	123,572
Burledge Hill	48,233	-	-	-	48,233
Purn Hill	25,816	-	-	-	25,816
Tickenham Ridge	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
Prior's Wood	238,855	-	-	-	238,855
<b>LEASEHOLD LAND AND BUILDING FUNDS</b>					
Bennett's Patch & White's Paddock	326,848	-	(6,537)	-	320,311
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,586,666</b>	<b>653,881</b>	<b>(704,305)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,536,242</b>



## Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

The purpose of each fund is as follows:

### REVENUE FUNDS:

Crayfish project	To conserve native white crayfish populations
Catchment Restoration – Avon Pilot	To develop a management plan for the River Avon catchment
Folly Farm Learning Fund	To develop learning programmes for Folly Farm Centre
Project Development Fund	To develop environmental projects
Communities & Nature project	To engage disadvantaged communities with nature
Feed Bristol project	To involve the community in growing nature friendly food
Eel project	To help threatened species
Folly Farm volunteer training base	To develop a volunteer training base at Folly Farm
Living Landscapes – Grassland	To survey, conserve and restore Avon's grasslands
Living Landscapes – N Somerset Wetlands	To survey, conserve and restore North Somerset Wetlands
Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve	To manage land at Portbury Wharf for wildlife and the community
Avon Gorge projects	To assess the feasibility of various projects in the Avon Gorge
Landrover depreciation fund	To provide a combination vehicle to access reserves
Bennett's Patch & White's Paddock	To acquire and create a nature reserve in the Avon Gorge
Trout and About	To rear brown trout in the classroom and release them in the wild
Spawn to be Wild	To help threatened species
Interpretation Boards	To engage and inform the community
Bristol 2015	To create wildlife-garden starter boxes
Urban Living Landscape	To map the natural green spaces of Bristol
Folly Wellbeing Garden	To involve the community in growing nature friendly food
Wildlife Corridors	To create reference sites and resources for Bristol's wildlife corridors
Justin Smith Endowment Fund	To support apprentice ecologists to continue Justin's passion and knowledge

### APPEAL FUNDS:

Seed Fund	To provide match funding for conservation projects
Appeal 2015	To create a wildlife haven at the gateway to Bristol
Butterfly Appeal	To improve butterfly habitat on our reserves

### PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT FUNDS:

On named reserves	To enhance land and property at the named locations
Nature Reserves Fund	} To enhance nature reserves owned or managed by the Trust
HLF Conservation Fund	
Conservation – Reserves Fund	
Folly Farm Centre Development Fund	To enhance the historic landscape and property at Folly Farm

### FREEHOLD LAND AND BUILDINGS FUNDS:

On named reserves	To purchase land at the named locations
Leasehold land on named reserves	To purchase land at the named locations

## Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

### 16. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Other Net Assets £	Total £
<b>REVENUE FUNDS</b>			
Catchment Restoration	-	29,348	29,348
Folly Farm Learning Fund	-	20,000	20,000
Communities & Nature project	-	9,850	9,850
Feed Bristol project	-	62,475	62,475
Eel project	-	1,808	1,808
Folly Farm volunteer training base	-	9,239	9,239
Living Landscapes - Grasslands	-	19,113	19,113
Living Landscapes - N Somerset Wetlands	75	-	75
Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve	-	9,876	9,876
Avon Gorge Projects	-	44,954	44,954
Landrover depreciation	20,422	-	20,422
Bennett's Patch & White's Paddock	-	27,416	27,416
Trout and About	-	1,621	1,621
Bristol 2015	-	8,000	8,000
Urban Living Landscape	-	2,000	2,000
Folly Wellbeing Garden	-	2,826	2,826
Wildlife Corridors	-	34,232	34,232
Justin Smith Endowment Fund	-	7,679	7,679
Seed Fund	-	10,543	10,543
Appeal 2015	-	22,223	22,223
Butterfly Appeal	-	3,863	3,863
<b>PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT FUNDS</b>			
Willsbridge (10 Years)	883	-	883
Folly Farm sewage treatment	7,888	-	7,888
Folly Farm	26,570	-	26,570
Folly Farm Access Trail	15,249	-	15,249
Willsbridge - Landfill	408	-	408
Willsbridge	15,437	-	15,437
Clapton Moor (50 Years)	39,252	-	39,252
Clapton Moor (10 Years)	857	-	857
Weston Moor	7,918	-	7,918
Walborough	4,726	-	4,726
Goblin Combe (50 Years)	4,838	-	4,838
Goblin Combe (10 Years)	250	-	250
Prior's Wood (10 Years)	672	-	672
Weston Big Wood (50 Years)	12,542	-	12,542
Weston Big Wood (10 Years)	1,632	-	1,632
Puxton Moor	65,339	-	65,339
Nature Reserves Fund	17,283	-	17,283
HLF Conservation Fund	35,545	-	35,545



## Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Other Net Assets £	Total £
Conservation - Reserves Fund	20,083	-	20,083
Feed Bristol	57,498	-	57,498
Folly Farm Centre development	3,168,222	(170,681)	2,997,541
<b>FREEHOLD LAND AND BUILDING FUNDS</b>			
Hellenge Hill	86,050	-	86,050
Puxton Moor	361,529	-	361,529
Walborough	55,000	-	55,000
Clapton Moor	185,144	-	185,144
Weston Moor	333,758	-	333,758
Tickenham Hill	28,000	-	28,000
Weston Big Wood	123,572	-	123,572
Burledge Hill	48,233	-	48,233
Purn Hill	25,816	-	25,816
Tickenham Ridge	50,000	-	50,000
Prior's Wood	238,855	-	238,855
<b>LEASEHOLD LAND AND BUILDING FUNDS</b>			
Bennett's Patch & White's Paddock	320,311	-	320,311
<b>Total Restricted Funds – AWT Charity</b>	<b>5,379,857</b>	<b>156,385</b>	<b>5,536,242</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds – AWT Charity</b>	<b>123,373</b>	<b>374,478</b>	<b>497,851</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds – Trading Subsidiary</b>	<b>12,972</b>	<b>73,760</b>	<b>86,732</b>
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>136,345</b>	<b>448,238</b>	<b>584,583</b>
<b>Designated Funds</b>	<b>362,814</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>362,814</b>
	<b>5,879,016</b>	<b>604,623</b>	<b>6,483,639</b>

Total **Other Net Assets of £604,623** are made up of Net Current Assets of £676,322 and Creditors due after one year of £71,699 as per the Balance Sheet.

There is a net current liability in respect of the Folly Farm Centre development project of £170,681. The deficit is being financially supported by means of a loan from the Bank of Scotland (£84,983 at 31 March 2015) as per Notes 13 & 14 to the Financial Statements. The deficit arose due to a fundraising shortfall on the major project to restore the buildings and historic landscape at Folly Farm, and the Trust's strategy for addressing the deficits are clearly established:

- First, as Folly Farm Centre returns to trading profitably, surplus profits will be transferred back to the Charity, and this income will be applied to reduce the deficits.
- Second, the Trust is seeking to develop other unrestricted income streams to generate a surplus to be applied to the deficit.

## Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

### 17. Designated funds

These funds are represented by the following landholdings owned by the Trust, which are included in Fixed Assets.

	£
Folly Farm	332,814
Brown's Folly	30,000
	<u>362,814</u>

There were no movements in the year.

The Trustees recognise that some parts of these assets were purchased out of restricted funds. However, the purchases occurred before the introduction of the charity SORP (*Accounting and Reporting by Charities – Statement of Recommended Practice*). The Charity Commission has made it clear that charities are not obliged to set up restricted funds for such assets.

### 18. Commitments under operating leases

The Trust has annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

<b>Other than Land and Buildings</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	£	£
Due within 1 year	<b>3,540</b>	3,540
Due within 2–5 years	<b>1,770</b>	5,310
	<u><b>5,310</b></u>	<u>8,850</u>

### 19. Pension scheme

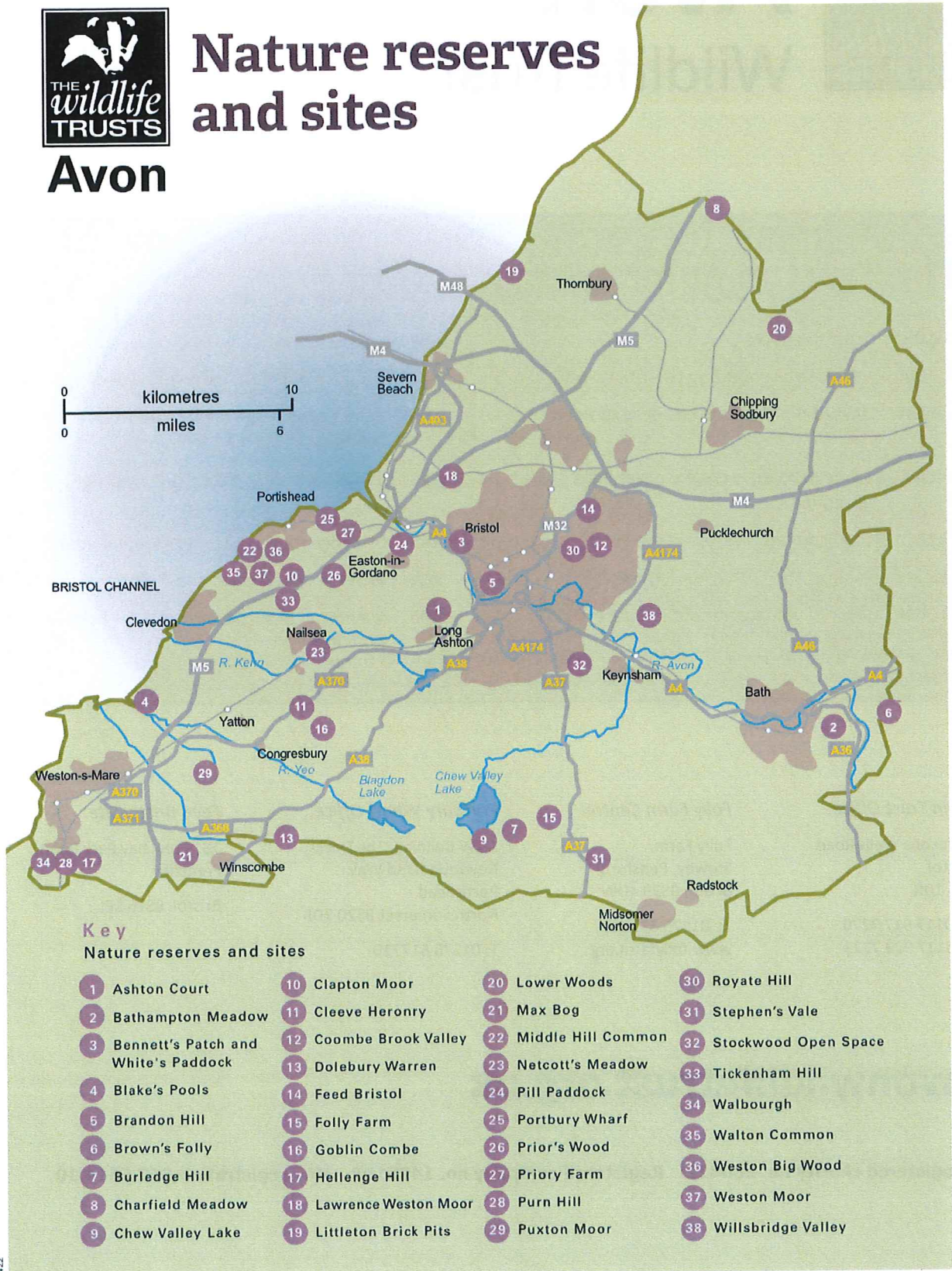
The Trust operates a Group Personal Pension scheme for its employees with Friends Life. This is a defined contributions scheme, which is managed independently from the Trust. The pension costs disclosed in Note 6 represent contributions payable for the year. At 31 March 2015, there were outstanding pension contributions accrued in respect of employees not yet set up under the pension scheme of £Nil (2014 : £Nil).





# Nature reserves and sites

## Avon



### Key

#### Nature reserves and sites

- |                                       |                         |                       |                         |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Ashton Court                        | 10 Clapton Moor         | 20 Lower Woods        | 30 Royate Hill          |
| 2 Bathampton Meadow                   | 11 Cleeve Heronry       | 21 Max Bog            | 31 Stephen's Vale       |
| 3 Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock | 12 Coombe Brook Valley  | 22 Middle Hill Common | 32 Stockwood Open Space |
| 4 Blake's Pools                       | 13 Dolebury Warren      | 23 Netcott's Meadow   | 33 Tickenham Hill       |
| 5 Brandon Hill                        | 14 Feed Bristol         | 24 Pill Paddock       | 34 Walbourn             |
| 6 Brown's Folly                       | 15 Folly Farm           | 25 Portbury Wharf     | 35 Walton Common        |
| 7 Burledge Hill                       | 16 Goblin Combe         | 26 Prior's Wood       | 36 Weston Big Wood      |
| 8 Charfield Meadow                    | 17 Hellenge Hill        | 27 Priory Farm        | 37 Weston Moor          |
| 9 Chew Valley Lake                    | 18 Lawrence Weston Moor | 28 Purn Hill          | 38 Willsbridge Valley   |
|                                       | 19 Littleton Brick Pits | 29 Puxton Moor        |                         |

Reg. charity no. 250422

[avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Protecting **Wildlife** for the Future





# Avon Wildlife Trust

## The Trust in numbers in 2014/15

<b>17,052</b>	Trust members	<b>37</b>	nature reserves
<b>800</b>	volunteers supporting the Trust's work	<b>1,130</b>	hectares of nature reserves owned/managed
<b>9,534</b>	days of time contributed by volunteers	<b>95%</b>	nature reserves in favourable/recovering condition
<b>10,000</b>	schoolchildren engaged in learning programmes	<b>50,463</b>	'unique' visitors to the Trust website
<b>£2.3m</b>	total amount invested in the Trust's work	<b>143</b>	recorded media 'hits' (articles and interviews)
<b>£5.8m</b>	value of the Trust's 'heritage assets'	<b>32%</b>	Increase in Facebook and Twitter followers
<b>£351k</b>	value of volunteer input into reserves alone	<b>8,300</b>	Viewers of most popular photo – Folly Farm's fox cubs

### Main Trust Office:

32 Jacobs Wells Road  
Bristol  
BS8 1DR

T: 0117 917 7270  
F: 0117 929 7273

### Folly Farm Centre:

Folly Farm  
Stowey, Pensford  
Bristol BS39 4DW

T: 01275 331590  
www.follyfarm.org

### Portbury Wharf Office:

A&W Building, The Docks,  
Newfoundland Way  
Portishead  
North Somerset BS20 7DF

T: 01275 817710

### Feed Bristol Site:

181 Frenchay Park Road,  
Frenchay  
Bristol BS16 1EL

[avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Registered charity no. 280422 Registered company no. 1495108 VAT registration 567 5614 10