

Impact Report

2017 - 18



Avon



(c) Barbara Evripidou

Welcome to our review of the year from April 2016 to March 2017. We're delighted to share with you some key achievements from another busy year in which we've seen real progress towards our ambitious vision for Avon.

We continue to focus on restoring nature at a landscape scale across our region, increasing the abundance of wildlife in our cities and countryside and inspiring more people to love and take action for wildlife.

We are continuing to protect, improve and create habitats for important wildlife species including lapwing, otters, barn owls and orchids - on our nature reserves, surrounding landscapes and in urban spaces across our region. We are also engaging thousands of people in getting outdoors, experiencing nature and taking action to support wildlife in their own lives, through our work with schools, families and businesses.

We have spoken out strongly on important issues affecting the future protection for wildlife in our Avon region, engaging with decision-makers including local authorities and MPs to highlight what's at stake for our natural environment. We are hugely grateful for the support of our members, volunteers, partners and funders, who inspire and enable everything we do. Together, we are ensuring a healthy future for the natural world that people and wildlife rely on.

Ian Barrett
Chief Executive

Jane Memmott
Chair, Board of Trustees

Celebrating our volunteers

Once again this year, an enormous amount of work was done by our wonderful and dedicated group of more than 3,500 volunteers.

Our volunteers do lots of the regular, practical conservation work needed on our nature reserves, help us at events, in the office, on our projects and out in the community as ambassadors. We are enormously grateful for this generosity and support which has saved us over £350,000 of staff costs and enabled us to deliver so much more towards our shared goals for wildlife.



(c) Toby Pickard

Highlights of the year

Protecting wildlife



(c) Rosie Maple



(c) Toby Pickard

- Our conservation team and volunteers have worked hard to restore lost habitats, planting or laying 268 metres of hedgerow.

- We have worked with 25 farmers - giving direct support to help them manage their land in ways which enables wildlife to thrive.

Inspiring people



(c) Barbara Evripidou

- Our Learning programme welcomed 1,295 school children to our education centres at Folly Farm and Feed Bristol.



- Our Wellbeing through Nature project has helped 536 people improve their wellbeing and strengthen their connection to nature.

Protecting wildlife -

We create, connect and care for places rich in wildlife

Pressure on the natural world from growing populations and associated development is increasing, and as a result landscapes have become more fragmented. Without healthy, connected landscapes wildlife cannot survive.

We are working at scale across the region to create joined-up corridors – ecological networks – that connect mosaics of habitats to enable wildlife to thrive. Our B-Lines project continued to create connected habitats to the north and east of Bath. We care for 30 nature reserves across Avon, from ancient woodland to rare wildflower meadows, and wetlands to moorland. These wild places

provide shelter for wildlife and our focus is on protecting and connecting them to enable species to thrive and move across our landscape.

Successes this year include recording 23 bees and 16 species of hoverfly during a survey at Folly Farm over the summer, demonstrating the rich habitat for these valuable

pollinators. At Weston Moor 153 moth species were found during a survey as well as species of fly rarely found in the West of England.



Case Study: Lapwing return to Weston Moor

We have been working across our reserves in the Gordano Valley to improve wetland habitats for a wide range of birds and invertebrates, with a special focus on attracting lapwing and reversing the decline of these once-common wading birds. Through funding from Biffa Award, we've managed the wetland landscape carefully, working with partners including a local farmer to do controlled grazing, creating the short, sparse vegetation and open ground which lapwings need. We're pleased that numbers of breeding lapwing have increased from three to five over 12 months and hope to see more lapwing pairs as we continue creating the right conditions for these birds to return.

Championing the value of nature

We have raised our voice during the last year on important issues facing the natural environment and the future of wildlife in our Avon region.

We highlighted the importance of making nature central to planning and policy decisions in the run-up to the West of England Metro Mayor elections in May 2017. Following the June 2017 general election, we have contacted many

of our MPs, urging them to sign up to a pledge to safeguard the UK's environmental protections when the UK leave the EU, and inviting them to meet us on their local nature reserves to see for themselves what is at stake for wildlife. We have also spoken out on a number of other specific threats to wildlife this year, including opposing Government proposals to extend badger culling into the Avon region for the first time.



1,863

new members

joined our community



160

species

of native wildflowers grown from seed as part of our therapeutic horticulture offer at our Feed Bristol site



270

school children

cared for young eels in their classroom as part of the Spawn to be Wild project



84%

participants

on our Wellbeing through Nature course reported an improvement in their mood



Inspiring people and communities to care for nature



Over the past year we have engaged with thousands of people through our programmes and projects to inspire them to care for the wildlife on their doorstep.

Our learning programme gives children a chance to develop their curiosity in the natural world through activities including pond dipping, bat detecting and badger watching. Through our People and Wildlife programme we have engaged over 2,700 people with their local wildlife, helping them to notice, identify and begin to care for nature in their everyday lives.

Our pioneering community-led, urban wildlife conservation work continued this year through our My Wild City project with a vision for Bristol and Bath to become nature-rich cities, with green corridors that enable wildlife to thrive. Over the year we

engaged 566 employees from businesses across Bristol and Bath in conservation projects, many of which took place at Feed Bristol, our urban nature reserve. Employees got their hands dirty digging ponds, clearing scrub, planting trees and laying paths, as well as eating freshly-cooked food together and learning more about the abundance of wildlife across this urban site.



Thank you to all our supporters

The work of the Trust would not be possible without public support. We are grateful to the committed local groups who provide important support through awareness raising and fundraising activities across the region. We could not manage our reserves without the help of the farmers and graziers who work in partnership with us. We are grateful for the expertise and commitment of our local wardens who help us look after our nature reserves and connect people to these wonderful wildlife-rich landscapes. We are deeply grateful to all the people, members, companies, charitable trusts, foundations and grant makers who have supported our work this year. We are also very grateful for gifts left to the Trust in memory and through legacies. **Particular thanks go to:**

AWT Local Groups (various)
The Alan Evans Memorial Trust
AJH Ashby Will Trust
The Banister Charitable Trust
Basil Brown Charitable Trust
Biffaward
Big Lottery Fund
Bristol City Council
Bristol Naturalists Society
Bristol Water plc
Business Initiative
Burgess Salmon
The Clark Foundation

The Cobalt Trust
Cory Environmental Trust -
now Enovert Community Trust
DEFRA
Ecosurety
Ecotricity
European Agricultural Fund for
Rural Development (LEADER)
The Hammamelis Trust
Heritage Lottery Fund
Ibstock Enovert Trust
IOP Publishing
Kew Gardens

The Leonard Laity Stoaie
Charitable Trust
Natural England
Nature Picture Library
Nisbets in the Community
OVO Foundation
The Pauline Meredith
Charitable Trust
Players of People's
Postcode Lottery
Quartet Community
Foundation
Rolls-Royce plc

RSWT SDRC
Sobell Trust
SWECO UK
Triodos Bank
University of Bristol
University of the West
of England
Verdon Smith Family
Charitable Settlement
Vine House Farm
Wessex Water
Western Power Distribution
Woodland Trust

153
species of
moths
were recorded
at Weston Moor



1,028
engagements
with toddlers
at outdoor,
urban Wild
Play sessions



200
orchard
trees
of mixed variety
planted North
of Bath



19
companies
sent teams on
our employee
engagement days



Money matters - summary of financial statements

Consolidated statement of financial activities

for the year ended 31 March 2018	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 2018	Restated Total funds 2017
	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	806,817	441,322	1,248,139	700,946
Charitable activities	419,721	722,139	1,141,860	1,026,908
Other trading activities				
Folly Farm Centre Limited trading	421,166	-	421,166	399,069
Fundraising including local groups	9,145	-	9,145	6,607
Other income	2,013	233	2,246	15,272
Total	1,658,862	1,163,694	2,822,556	2,148,802
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds				
Folly Farm Centre Limited trading	354,839	-	354,839	373,854
General fundraising	362,586	-	362,586	418,781
Charitable activities	872,132	746,820	1,618,952	1,427,042
Other expenditure	-	-	-	-
Total	1,589,557	746,820	2,336,377	2,219,677
Net income / (expenditure)	69,305	416,874	486,179	(70,875)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains:				
Net contribution/increase in investment value attributable to				
WildService	1,789	-	1,789	7,171
Bristol Natural History Consortium	12,737	-	12,737	-
Net movement in funds	83,831	416,874	500,705	(63,704)
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	745,673	5,694,945	6,440,618	6,504,322
Total funds carried forward	829,504	6,111,819	6,941,323	6,440,618

Financial review

Overview
The Trust recorded a surplus of £501k in the year compared to a deficit of £64k in the previous year. An unrestricted surplus of £84k (2017 deficit of £14k) together with a restricted surplus of £417k (2016/2017 deficit of £49k). Restricted funds are funds that the Trust has a legal obligation to use only for the specific purpose for which they were given. The net assets of the AWT Group were £6,941k (2017: £6,440k) of which £5,950k (2017 £5,625k) are heritage assets, including our nature reserves.

Key financial factors:

- **Donations and legacies** increased from £701k to £1,248k, a 78% increase. Legacies receivable increased from £58k to £593k and include an entitlement to a gift of land valued at £425k (although at the year-end the title to the land had not been transferred). Membership subscription income increased by 5.6% to £598k from £566k, representing 36% (37% in 2017) of unrestricted income in the year and 21% of total income (26% in 2017). Membership income is key to the stability of the Trust when other income streams can be both fluctuating and unpredictable in timing and value.
- **Income from Charitable Activities** increased to £1,142k (2017: £1,027k), 40% of our income. Continued progress was made in establishing more of the Trust's nature reserves in long-term management agreements. Contributions to overheads continued from our conservation and community projects. Income from learning activity decreased to £83k (2016/17 £110k) with the My Wild Child project activity at £67k compared to £95k previously.
- **Expenditure** on general fundraising decreased to £363k (2017: £419k), and charitable activities increased 13% to £1,619k (2017: £1,427k). School visits to Folly Farm and Feed Bristol as well as learning projects delivered both in schools and on nature reserves continued.
- **Folly Farm Centre** continues to be developed with a view to achieving a balance of activities throughout the year and a broad income base. A profit of £24k (2017: £12k loss). The Directors are confident that further growth can be achieved, and feedback from the Centre's customers has continued to be positive. High-quality learning activities and courses are delivered in close partnership with the Trust. WildService is the ecological consultancy joint venture with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and has generated a contribution of £1,789 (2017 £7,171). Bristol Natural History Consortium (BNHC) is now an Associated Company following Wildscreen's withdrawal as a member in December 2017. Our BNHC investment has increased in value by £12,737 this year.
- **Balance Sheet** is in a strong overall asset position. The Trust has many restricted funds which represent funding for ongoing projects, appeal funds or fixed assets held by the Trust. At 31 March 2018 the value of these restricted funds was £6.1m (2017: £5.7m).

Financial Reserves

The Group's general unrestricted funds have increased to £547k (2017: £523k) and of these £407k (2017: £366k) are free reserves. The Trustees reviewed the reserves and reserve policy during the year and unrestricted (or free) reserves should aim to be maintained at three months' cover of Revenue and Core expenditure rather than a fixed-target value. Based upon the 2018/19 budget, this requirement would be £510k. Reserves are held

- to provide adequate working capital to carry out projects for which external funding is claimed in arrears
- to provide working capital for essential costs, such as staff salaries and overheads
- to meet any legal obligations of the Trust.

The designated reserves established last year to enable the Trust to take advantage of strategic opportunities and development to support our work to enable nature to 'recover on a grand scale' has increased by £45k to £268k (2017 £223k - restated).

Independent auditor's report

OPINION
We have audited the financial statements of Avon Wildlife Trust (the

Consolidated balance sheet

at 31 March 2018	Group 2018	Restated Group 2017
	£	£
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	81,264	55,158
Heritage assets	5,949,791	5,625,410
Investments	14,575	49
Total fixed assets	6,045,630	5,680,617
Current assets		
Stocks	6,132	1,956
Debtors	710,112	469,993
Cash at bank and in hand	633,507	715,054
Total current assets	1,349,751	1,187,003
Liabilities		
Creditors:		
Amounts falling due within one year	414,058	409,002
Net current assets	935,693	778,001
Creditors:		
Amounts falling due after one year	-	-
Provisions	40,000	18,000
Total net assets	6,941,323	6,440,618
The funds of the charity		
Unrestricted funds - designated	267,738	222,738
Unrestricted funds - general	547,191	522,886
Unrestricted funds - investments	14,575	49
	829,504	745,673
Restricted funds	6,111,819	5,694,945
Total funds	6,941,323	6,440,618

"parent charitable company") and its subsidiaries (the "group") for the year ended 31 March 2018 which comprise the consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the consolidated Balance Sheet, the charitable company Balance Sheet, the consolidated Statement of Cashflows and the notes to the financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2018 and of the group's income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015); and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the parent charitable company and the parent company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

BASIS FOR OPINION

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

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

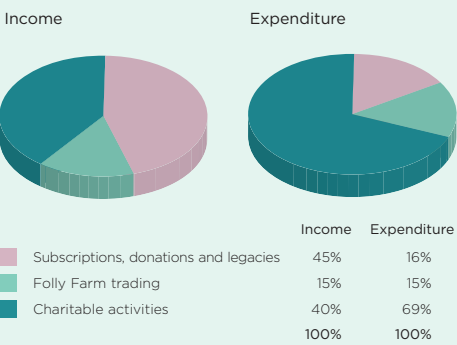
We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the group's or the parent charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a

Income and expenditure was as follows:



Note

These summary financial statements are extracted from the full Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2018 which were approved by the Trustees on 12 September 2018. Copies will be filed with the Charity Commission and the Registrar of Companies.

The Summary Financial Statements may not contain sufficient information for a full understanding of the financial position of the Trust. Copies of the full Financial Statements can be downloaded from the website or requested from enquiries@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk or by writing to Avon Wildlife Trust, 32 Jacobs Wells Road, Bristol BS8 1DR.

Reg. charity no. 280422 Company no. 1495108

material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

OPINIONS ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

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 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 18, the trustees (who are also the directors of the parent charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

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

MARK POOLEY For and on behalf of **HOLLINGDALE POOLEY**
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor
Bramford House 23 Westfield Park Clifton, Bristol BS6 6LT
Date: 02 October 2018