



Avon Wildlife Trust

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020

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**



Contents

Welcome	3
Report of the Trustees	
Avon Wildlife Trust	4
Review of the year.....	5
About Avon Wildlife Trust.....	11
Looking ahead.....	15
Acknowledgements.....	17
Financial Review.....	18
Compliance (including Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities).....	20
Independent Auditor's report	21
Financial Statements	
Consolidated statement of financial activities	23
Consolidated and charity balance sheets	24
Consolidated cash flow statement and reconciliation of net movement in funds	25
Accounting policies	26
Notes to the Financial Statements	29
Avon Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves	43
Professional Advisors	44

The AWT Group

The Annual Report and Financial Statements refer 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 related companies are given on pages 11-12.

President

Simon King

Vice Presidents

Mark Carwardine, Mike Dilger, Kevin McCloud

Trustees

Chair - David Relph (from 13 November 2019)
Chair - Professor Jane Memmott (to 13 November 2019)
Ped Asgarian (appointed 13 November 2019)
Maddy Bartlett (retired 13 November 2019)
Martin Brasher (retired 13 November 2019)
Emma Beeston (retired 20 May 2020)
Chris Curling
Ross Fairley (appointed 13 November 2019)
Katharine Finn
Bob Goodman (appointed 13 November 2019)
Michael Harris (retired 24 April 2019)
Kate Leahy (appointed 13 November 2019)
Nigel Morrison (retired 13 November 2019)
Nathan Rutter
John Zac Nicholson
Malcolm Shepherd
Mark Steer (appointed 26 September 2019)

Key Personnel

CEO - Ian Barrett
Director of Conservation and Delivery Programmes – Amy Coulthard
Director of Finance and Resources – Jane Davis
Director of Fundraising, Membership and Communications -
Julian Hall (resigned 11 July 2019)

Finance and Resources Committee

Chair - Katharine Finn
Bob Goodman
Kate Leahy
David Relph
Malcolm Shepherd

Governance Committee

Chair - Malcolm Shepherd
John Zac Nicholson
David Relph
Nathan Rutter

Avon Wildlife Trust was established in 1980.

It is a registered charity reg. no: 280422 and a registered limited liability company reg. no: 1495108.

Registered office: 32 Jacobs Wells Road, Bristol, BS8 1DR

Welcome

Welcome to Avon Wildlife Trust's Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020.

This has been another year of significant progress for the Trust in making the case for nature's recovery and taking action for wildlife.

There is a growing recognition of the need to halt and reverse wildlife declines and restore the natural systems on which wildlife and people depend – internationally, nationally and locally.

This year, we called successfully for Bristol to become the first major city to declare an Ecological Emergency, alongside the climate emergency declared in 2018, and we are working with city partners to develop a strategy to restore wildlife abundance.

At the West of England level, the Nature Recovery Network developed with the West of England Nature Partnership now forms a central plank of the Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy for the region which will guide and inform development throughout our area.

We have continued to restore and maintain habitats for wildlife, working with landowners and communities through initiatives such as our new urban fringe pollinators project and Bathscape grassland advisory service.

Our own landholdings have continued to grow, with the long-term acquisition of 28ha of woodland adjoining our Hutton Hill nature reserve. We have introduced Exmoor ponies at Folly Farm to help create a diverse mosaic of habitats as part of our ongoing work to support even more wildlife at our nature reserves.

We have continued our work to inspire, equip and support people and communities to take action for wildlife, including through our My Wild City project which has worked with 21 local groups to improve habitats in eight urban wildlife sites.

We have continued to expand our Wildlife Watch groups for young people and now have

an active Youth Forum enabling more young people to get involved in the work of the Trust.

This year, we have started to vaccinate badgers at one of our nature reserves and helped to raise awareness of vaccination as a positive alternative to the cull.

At the end of the year, our activities were impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic, which reminded us of the extent to which people value and depend upon a healthy natural environment.

Covid 19 will have a significant impact on the Trust's income for 2020/21 and we have taken early action to ensure that we come through this in good financial shape, whilst continuing to deliver for people and wildlife.

Looking forward, our focus remains on nature's recovery. We are working with partners in the West of England Nature Partnership to develop a pipeline of habitat improvement projects to build the Nature Recovery Network on the ground and will work with people and communities to make space for nature throughout Avon.

We are hugely grateful for the support and generosity of our members, volunteers, partners, and funders, who make everything we do possible. Thank you for supporting Avon's wildlife in this time of crisis. Together we can create a world of abundant nature where people and wildlife can thrive.



David Relph
Chair of Trustees



Ian Barrett
Chief Executive

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 2020. The Report (pages 5-20) constitutes a Strategic Report in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013.

Avon Wildlife Trust is a charity with over 16,000 members, 800 volunteers, 45 staff and 10 trustees

Our Charitable Objective: to advance environmental protection and improvement for wildlife especially, but not exclusively, in the area formerly known as the County of Avon

Our Vision: nature restored on a grand scale across the West of England. We protect wildlife in the West of England and ensure everyone can enjoy wildlife-rich lives



People are at the heart of everything we do. We work with people to deepen connections with nature, build skills and confidence, and take action for wildlife.

How we work

- We work with communities to create places that work for people and wildlife
- We work in partnership to protect and restore wildlife on a landscape scale
- We make the case for wildlife conservation by using robust evidence and showing what can be done

What we do



Review of the year

The Year in Numbers

2,350 new members joined our community

2,011 young people connected with nature through the Our Bright Future project

1,468 people participated in 30 days Wild in Avon, a 10% increase from last year.

1,448 school children got up close to nature at our Folly Farm education centre in the Chew Valley and at Feed Bristol

1,125 ha of nature reserves managed as a core part of the nature recovery network

343 people took part in our nature based wellbeing programmes

135 species of native wildflowers and herbs were grown from seed as part of our therapeutic horticulture offer at our Feed Bristol site.

96% of participants on the Wellbeing through Nature Self-Care course reported they were more aware of the benefits nature has on wellbeing.

63 features in local and regional press, online, radio and TV to champion the value of nature

53 landowners engaged with us and received advice on how to manage their land for wildlife

45 businesses in our region participated in 30 Days Wild

28 ha of woodland will be managed by Avon Wildlife Trust as an extension to our new nature reserve at Hutton Hill

26 ha of habitat restoration was carried out as part of our B-Lines project

25 Community volunteering and skills development sessions held in the Bath area as part of the Bathscape project

15 badgers were vaccinated against Bovine TB on one of our nature reserves

14 media articles featured our badger vaccination pilot

11 companies sent teams on our employee engagement days

4 Exmoor ponies were introduced to create more naturalistic grazing at Folly Farm nature reserve

Our Vision

Our Vision 2015-2020 is to restore nature on a grand scale across the West of England, and comprises three main objectives:

- Create ecological networks through landscape-scale habitat management and enhancement
- Inspire people and communities to care for nature
- Champion the value of nature

2018-2019 was the fourth year of our strategy in action and we continued to make good progress against our objectives.

Our Objectives & Achievements

Create ecological networks through landscape-scale management and enhancement

The UK has lost over 400 species in the last 200 years, and a further 15% of the country's species are currently at risk of extinction. Human intervention is causing the declines, as changes in climate, pollution, and the way land is used are reducing space, habitats and food sources for wildlife. The potential impact on human life is dramatic – clean air, clear water, healthy soils, food crops, natural flood defences and beautiful places that support our wellbeing all rely on a thriving natural world.

To enable nature to recover and thrive Avon Wildlife Trust is working across our region to create a nature recovery network – an interconnected and resilient network of habitats where wild plants and animals can thrive and adapt to our changing climate. If nature is to recover in Avon, it needs more spaces which are bigger, better and joined up across a network

We manage 1,125 hectares of nature reserves and wild places, which are a core part of the nature recovery network, and include rare calcareous grassland, ancient woodland, saltmarsh and wetlands. With the help of hundreds of volunteers each year, and our grazing partners, we manage our reserves to provide secure, connected habitats that protect wildlife for the future.

Our new nature reserve at Hutton Hill has been further extended to include 28ha of woodland as a result of a new agreement with the Woodland Trust. This forms part of the core woodland network along the northern slopes of the Mendip Hills where we are developing a cluster of sites. These sites provide valuable stepping stones for mobile species such as Greater horseshoe bats but also to support species such as insects and rare plants that rely on the individual sites.

The land in between our nature reserves is critical to nature's recovery, to create a functioning nature recovery network partnerships with landowners and farmers are vital. We provide advice and practical support to encourage and enable these custodians of our local landscape to manage their land in ways that allow wildlife to thrive.

Case Study: Folly Farm Nature Reserve

Folly Farm is a 250-acre nature reserve with stunning views over the Chew Valley. Avon Wildlife Trust has owned and managed the site since 1986.

Mosaics of habitats are crucial for nature's recovery in our increasingly fragmented landscape. More traditional, wilder livestock breeds can create a good balance of natural habitats. As part of a move towards a more naturalistic way of managing grazing, at Folly Farm, we introduced four Exmoor ponies. We are already beginning to see the positive impact they are having on the scrubby slopes, as they trample paths through brambles and munch on tough plants like tufted hair grass and thistles. This will help a more diverse range of wildflowers to thrive on the hilly grassland and give colour, beauty and a vital source of food for insects.

Hedgerows form corridors linking to neighbouring land so wildlife can move around the area. Together with our volunteers, we have planted long stretches of new hedgerow over the last year. In addition, our wooded areas join up with other woodlands around the area to act as stepping stones across the landscape for animals to shelter in and move between.

This year, with support from the Bathscape partnership, we launched a new advisory service for landowners in the Bath area. The grassland advisory service we provide is designed to support smaller land holdings that are not suitable for Agri-environment funding. As a result of the funding we receive from the National Heritage Lottery and in addition to our B-Lines projects we have provided advice to over 40 landowners alongside small grants and volunteers to help restore and maintain networks of species rich grasslands.

Case Study: Urban Fringe Pollinators

41% of insect species face extinction. The loss of their habitats and overuse of pesticides are two major reasons why these little creatures are dying out eight times faster than large mammals.

Since 2014 Avon Wildlife Trust (AWT) have worked with Buglife, to deliver B-Lines (Biodiversity Lines) a network of 3km wide linear zones, within which the best opportunities lie to create a continuous swathe of wildlife-rich habitat. In 2019 we launched a new phase of delivery focused on the two B-lines which connect the urban fringes of Bath with Bristol.

As our urban areas expand it becomes increasingly important that these kinds of habitats are 'designed in' to future developments and are orientated in such a way the pollinators can move in and out of our cities and towns. By coupling this action with improved management of existing habitats in the surrounding rural areas we maximise the chances of pollinators thriving in our urban fringes and beyond.

Working with landowners, developers and volunteers in 2019/20 Avon Wildlife Trust:

- Led 75 task days with 200 volunteers
- Worked with 20 landowners to secure 12ha of wildflower rich habitat
- Recorded the Carrot mining-bee the first time in six years in two locations: Hengrove Mounds Nature Reserve, and on a roadside verge off Whitchurch Lane.

Summary

- 28 ha of woodland leased from the Woodland Trust extended **Hutton Hill** nature reserve
- 4 Exmoor ponies were introduced to **Folly Farm** nature reserve
- 21 landowners received free advice in the Bathscape project area
- 26 ha of habitat management was carried out under our B-Lines project

Inspire people and communities to care for nature

The future for our local, unique wildlife really is in our hands. Without the skills and confidence to take care of our natural world, its future is uncertain.

Our approach recognises the need for people to have positive and meaningful experiences in nature, to feel connected to the natural world. We provide opportunities to learn about wildlife and develop new skills to care for it. This can then lead to local action, which we are able to support. We know from experience that this helps our own wellbeing and leads to more environmentally and socially caring behaviours.

We provide opportunities for all ages to engage with, explore and take action for wildlife. Over the past year our Learning programme welcomed 2,834 school children to our education centres at Folly Farm and Feed Bristol. In 2019, with support from Western Power, we expanded our Wildlife Watch clubs, the junior branch of the Wildlife Trusts and the UK's leading environmental action club for children, in Bristol. Avon Wildlife Trust are now running a regular club at Grow wilder and two Bristol schools in Hartcliffe and Long Ashton. Children enjoy a variety of activities including bug hunting, planting seeds and making bird feeders

Our Communities and Wellbeing programmes reaches out to people from across our region to help make connections with their natural world where they are. This year our engagements have focussed on our two main urban areas, Bristol and Bath. In Bath we have increased community engagement through our work with the Bathscape partnership to deliver 25 community volunteering sessions. Volunteers develop conservation skills and create spaces for nature to thrive through activities such as hedgelaying, planting wildflowers and building bug hotels in their local green spaces.

In spring 2019 our Wellbeing through Nature project staff used their skills, developed through the National Lottery Community Fund project, to deliver our first facilitator training. This has enabled all our project teams to incorporate wellbeing into their own work streams. This was a huge success and has been rolled out nationally via The Wildlife Trust's national training programme. The training course explores the framework behind the Wellbeing with Nature approach, the course resources, the facilitation skills needed, and practical application of our nature-based wellbeing and health interventions.

Case Study: My Wild City

Our ambition is to make Bristol a world-leading, nature-rich city where people are connected to the natural landscape, and wildlife is more resilient to growing challenges. Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund the My Wild City project team is working with communities around 8 Local Wildlife Sites in Bristol to achieve 3 key outcomes:

- People feel connected to their Local Wildlife Site
- People have new knowledge and skills to care for wildlife
- Local Wildlife Sites are better managed for wildlife and people

Year 1 delivery summary:

- 21 local groups are working with us engaging local communities in activities on 8 Local Wildlife sites
- 16 wildlife walks and events encouraged communities in Bristol to explore nature on their doorstep
- 90 teachers explored how taking learning outside into nature can support students' wellbeing, and support the maths, english and science curricula as part of our CPD programme.
- 415 volunteer days were spent coppicing, scything, clearing scrub to restore wildflower rich grasslands and an orchard at Saltmarsh Drive, repairing steps and maintaining footpaths.

Once again, this year we were supported by a wonderful group of committed and volunteers. Our volunteers undertake the cyclical conservation work needed on our nature reserves, help us at events, in the office, on our projects and out in the community as ambassadors.

Summary

- 1,448 school children got up close to nature at our Folly Farm education centre in the Chew Valley and at Feed Bristol.
- 16 wildlife walks and events inspired communities to re connect with nature on local wildlife sites across Bristol through My Wild City
- 2,011 young people were engaged this year in Our Bright Future, which aims to inspire young people aged 11 – 24 with the value of nature and develop skills for employment.
- 40 young people completed work experience with Avon Wildlife Trust
- 25 Community volunteering and skills development sessions held in the Bath area as part of the Bathscape project

Champion the value of nature

Recent international reports, including the 2019 State of Nature, have painted a picture of plummeting wildlife populations, with 68% declines in populations of wild vertebrates globally. 41% of UK species are in decline, including serious declines for once common species and 15% are at risk of extinction. In Bristol, the city's swift and starling populations are a fraction of what they were, with a 96% decline in numbers of these once-common birds between 1994 and 2014. The future for nature in the West of England is not secure.

Avon Wildlife Trust has continued to lead the way in raising awareness of wildlife decline and the need for urgent action to address it, including with politicians and decision-makers.

On 26 June, an estimated 12,000 people gathered in Westminster to lobby their MPs for urgent action on nature's decline and climate change. In the largest-ever environmental lobby of Parliament, 307 MPs met with their constituents. Avon Wildlife Trust organised a coach and joined over 100 people from Bristol and Bath to meet five of our region's MPs and call for laws protecting nature, climate and people to be maintained and strengthened as we leave the EU.

In November, Avon Wildlife Trust asked Bristol to become the first city to declare an ecological emergency, signalling a new approach to nature recovery and restoring wildlife-rich spaces. The declaration was made by Bristol Mayor Marvin Rees, our Chief Executive Ian Barrett, and other city organisations, at a cabinet meeting at the beginning of February. Standing alongside the declaration of a climate emergency made by Bristol City Council in November 2018, the ecological emergency declaration recognises the scale of wildlife decline and the serious degradation of the natural environment which we now face.

Ambitious nature targets for the city have been set out in the One City Plan, including increasing tree cover and wildlife abundance in Bristol by the 2040s. The February declaration paves the way for a much quicker pace of change and a new citywide strategy to address the ecological emergency and create and restore places for wildlife throughout the city will be published in autumn 2020.

This year we successfully vaccinated 15 badgers including 4 cubs on one of our woodland nature reserves. Public engagement with the Save our Badgers appeal demonstrated the significant public interest in what has previously been a toxic debate. Our badger vaccination project featured in over 14 national and local media articles including Points West and BBC Radio 4 Farming Today. It was also used to highlight the issue during political debates on Politics Today and in a debate in Westminster. Local MPs from all three main

political parties contacted Avon wildlife Trust to hear more about our work and the role badger vaccination could play as part of a national bovine TB control strategy. We were delighted when in early 2020 the government announced a new proposal to support widespread badger vaccination. We will be continuing to vaccinate badgers on our nature reserves, support local landowners interested in badger vaccination for the next three years and make the case for vaccination to MPs.

We have increased our following on social media to over 22,671 followers across Twitter, Instagram and Facebook and had good quality interactions with local and national broadcast media, including BBC Points West, ITV West Country, BBC News, BBC Radio 4 and BBC Radio Bristol.

This year we worked in partnership and been supported by a wide range of organisations, including: Aardman Animations, Batheaston Freeholders' Association, Bathscape, Bath University, Bath City Farm, Blooming Whiteway, Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership, Bristol Green Capital Partnership, Natural History Consortium, Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre, Bristol Naturalists' Society, Bristol University, Bristol Water, Wessex Water, Buglife, Burges Salmon, Cotswold and Mendip AONB, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Natural England, PWC, Somerset Badger Group, The Care Forum, The Environment Agency, The Internal Drainage Board, The National Trust, The Natural Academy, Osborne Clarke, The RSPB, The SS Great Britain, The South West Wildlife Trusts, The Woodland Trust, United Communities Housing Association, University of the West of England, West of England Combined Authority, The West of England Local Enterprise Partnership, West of England Nature Partnership, West of England Rural Network, Western Power, Wild Walcot, Rolls Royce and all four unitary authorities to help us amplify this message.

Avon Wildlife Trust has worked closely with local press, radio and TV to communicate the value of nature for a wide range of stakeholders, as well as to share the challenges and successes for wildlife in our region. In total, this year we had 53 occurrences of coverage in the media, including features:

- Our badger vaccination project has featured in over 14 national and local media articles including Points West and BBC Radio 4 Farming Today. It was also used to highlight the issue during political debates on Politics Today and recently in a debate in Westminster. Local MPs from three main political parties have been in touch to hear more.
- Youth Climate Strikes, spearheaded by Greta Thunberg gained international recognition this year and Ian gave a speech at one of the Bristol strikes in February
- Bath Life magazine – Bathscape - Nicole
- Devils Finger fungus story gained wide coverage including national newspapers
- Bath followed Bristol by declaring an Ecological Emergency, keeping the media spotlight in the region on the Ecological Emergency generally.

Our regular weekly column in the Bristol Post continued to cover the breadth of AWT's work on landscapes and with people and communities across the region.

Popular topics included how people could take action for insects from their own homes by growing wildflowers from Grow Wilder, seasonal spectacles such as the winter bird migration, our new Exmoor ponies at our Folly Farm reserve and ways people can help us face the ecological emergency in their own communities.

Coronavirus

The Coronavirus pandemic started to affect the work of the Trust towards the end of the financial year in March 2020, meaning that some activities and events had to be put on hold. This will have had a small impact on our activities, achievements and income for 2019/20, but the greatest impact has been on the financial year 2020/21 and this is considered in the looking ahead section on page 15 and accounting notes on page 26.

About Avon Wildlife Trust

Purpose, Structure and Governance

Established in 1980, and officially opened by The Wildlife Trusts' President Emeritus, David Attenborough, Avon Wildlife Trust is the largest locally-focused environmental conservation charity in the Avon region. We are 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. We are also part of the national federation of 46 Wildlife Trusts which cover the British Isles and jointly benefit from the support of 850,000 members.

The Avon Wildlife Trust Group

Avon Wildlife Trust has legal interests in a number of related companies.

Wholly owned company

Folly Farm Centre Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Trust, formed to run the award-winning residential environmental-learning, conference and events centre in the Chew Valley. This 250-acre nature reserve also operates as a wedding venue and education facility for schoolchildren. Registered limited company no. 6538712, Folly Farm Centre Limited is owned and operated solely by Avon Wildlife Trust with the help of a Board of Directors that includes two trustees and the Chief Executive of the Trust. Any profits from Folly Farm are gift aided to Avon Wildlife Trust to support our charitable activities.

Associated Companies

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 Trust has a place on the BNHC Board with the other company member, Bristol Zoo Gardens. 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, Bath and West of England, Defra, the National Trust, Natural England, Bristol City Council, BANES, the Woodland Trust and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.

The primary aims of the Consortium are to promote public interest in the natural world and to encourage the development of improved techniques for communication about the natural world. The Trust contributes to the core costs of BNHC (£5,000 in both 2019/20 and 2018/19). See note 11 for further financial details.

Avon Wildlife Trust had a 49% share in **Gloucester Wildlife Management Limited**, (registered company no. 2284477), managed by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust until August 2019. Trading as **WildService**, the principal activity of the company is the promotion and supervision of conservation projects. The Trust transferred its shares to Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust in August 2019 and is no longer associated with Gloucester Wildlife Management Limited.

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 46 Wildlife Trusts covering the UK.

The Trust contributes £30,150 (£30,040 in 2018/19) to the operating costs of RSWT 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 its 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 seven Wildlife Trusts in the SW region. The Trust contributes £8,000 (£8,000 in 2018/19) to the operating costs of SWWT 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.

The Trust is also a member of **South West Wildlife Fundraising Limited (SWWFL)**, a company limited by guarantee, company number 8529465. SWWFL provides 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. Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust became members of SWWFL in 2013/14 and 2017/18 respectively.

The Trust has the right to appoint up to two directors to the SWWFL board. The Company provided membership recruitment services to the Trust costing £184,516 in the current year (£159,000 in 2018/19).

Governance

Avon Wildlife Trust has dual registration as a charity regulated under charity law, registered charity number 280422, and as a company (registered company no. 1495108) regulated under company law. The Trust is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and the Direct Marketing Association and is committed to good practice in fundraising conduct.

Constitution

The governing instrument of the Trust is its Memorandum and Articles of Association as amended by any special resolution at a General Meeting of Trust members.

Trustees

Avon Wildlife Trust is deeply grateful to the generous contributions of time and professional expertise given by our Trustee Board. This body has full responsibility for the strategic development and direction of the Trust and takes all decisions on matters of Trust policy.

During 2019/20 the Board was supported by two Committees (Governance and Finance & Resources), and by the Health and Safety 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.

Five trustees retired during the year and we thank them for their support and their contribution to the Trust. We welcomed five new trustees to the Board: Ped Asgarian, Ross Fairley, Bob Goodman, Kate Leahy and Mark Steer, and we look forward to working with them over the coming years. New trustees are provided with an induction to the Trust.

A record of trustees' skills is maintained to ensure that the Board has the expertise, knowledge and experience it needs to provide effective governance of the Trust's work.

Public Benefit

All the Trust's activities are undertaken to provide a healthy living world and connect people to the benefit of nature. We run an extensive programme of public events, activities and services which we make accessible to the widest range of people and promote through a variety of media. Many of our events are available free or at a reasonable price to help cover costs or support fundraising.

Access to our nature reserves is free for the public, all year round. In some cases, however, access is restricted in numbers or at certain times of the year because of the sensitivity of wildlife. The trustees are therefore satisfied that the Trust meets the public benefit test required of charities.

Our Values

- Acknowledge the exceptional importance of wildlife and the natural environment to the health and sustainability of the planet's climate and eco-systems

- Promote the crucial social and economic benefits provided by wildlife and the natural environment to the health and wellbeing of people
- Enhance social inclusion by promoting opportunities for all members of the community to take part in the Trust's work and activities
- Deliver the Trust's objectives by working as far as possible through partnerships with other organisations and community groups
- Promote opportunities for volunteering and developing the skills, interests and personal development of the Trust's volunteers
- Take pride in the Trust's role as a community enterprise created by and responsible to its members
- Foster a culture of innovation, inspiration and creativity in its own internal working, to create a visionary and dynamic Trust
- Demonstrate openness and transparency to all the Trust's external audiences, partners and customers
- Seek to operate at all times with total probity in support of ethical trading and minimise the Trust's own carbon footprint.

Principal Activities

Avon Wildlife Trust:

- Manages 1,125 hectares of key wildlife sites as nature reserves
- Runs a successful environmental-learning and conference centre at Folly Farm in the Chew Valley
- Runs a pioneering, urban centre at Grow Wilder (formerly Feed Bristol) in Stapleton, North Bristol, which inspires and equips people to take action for wildlife through courses and events, wildlife gardening and wildlife-friendly good growing
- Promotes programmes to safeguard or strengthen the representation, extent and 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.

Risk management

The Board has the following infrastructure in place to minimise and manage risk to the Trust:

- A **Risk Policy**
- A detailed **Risk Register** for delivering the policy, identifying key potential risks and with a set of control mechanisms and delivery actions
- Operational delivery and review of the risks by the **Management Team** consisting of the Chief Executive and all senior managers
- A **Health and Safety Consultant** who provides specialist advice, guidance, training and other services, working with our Health and Safety Management Group
- A **Health and Safety Development Plan** which prioritises activities for the next year
- The Trust is committed to the principles of accident prevention and to ensure that we have robust health and safety management systems. We seek to provide and maintain safe working environments through appropriate risk assessments, maintenance and formal workplace inspections
- A **lead person** is appointed 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
- The Governance Committee of the Board periodically reviews the risk policy, the risk register and the Health and Safety Development Plan, and receives regular reports on performance

- There is an annual reporting and monitoring process to the Board, and to relevant external audiences

The Trust faces a number of risks in the near future. These include the potential ongoing impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on our activities and income and the possibility that Brexit and the post-Brexit economic climate may also have an effect. Funding sources may become more or less available depending on a range of factors. Income available from charitable trusts and foundations and grant-giving bodies is being affected both by changes to the values of their funds and changes to their fundraising focus in response to Coronavirus and this is likely to continue. A continued economic downturn could reduce income from membership subscriptions and donations from supporters. In the longer-term, we do not yet know how income from agri-environment schemes will be affected as the UK develops its own approach. The scale of housing and transport infrastructure development planned for the West of England risks damaging important wildlife sites and wildlife corridors, but also provides a significant opportunity for securing funds needed to restore and create habitats to develop a Nature Recovery Network to restore the abundance of wildlife.

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 Directors responsible for teams of staff focusing on:

- Delivery Programmes
- Folly Farm and Finance and Resources.

The Chief Executive, Directors and Senior Managers 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.

Fundraising

Avon Wildlife Trust is working to a fundraising strategy which aims to improve our financial resilience by strengthening and diversifying income streams and professionalising our fundraising activity.

The Trust is registered with The Fundraising Regulator and is a member of the Direct Marketing Association. Fundraising and membership recruitment follow the strict standards and guidelines set out by these institutions and by the Institute of Fundraising. All fundraisers are encouraged to attend training and development opportunities offered by The Wildlife Trusts and by the Institute of Fundraising and the South West Institute of Fundraising.

Fundraising appeals are delivered to members and supporters via direct mail and email. Our fundraising ethos is built upon the concept of providing an invitation for people to support us financially, not on suggesting that there is an obligation. The Trust received fewer than five complaints about fundraising in the year, in response to c. 20,000 contacts made. We aim to respond to complaints within a week and wherever possible complaints are seen as opportunities for the Trust to learn and to develop deeper relationships with our supporters, based on trust and integrity.

New members are welcomed by the Trust through our website and by our team of membership recruiters. Our recruiters are managed by South West Wildlife Fundraising Limited (SWWFL), which operates on a not-for-profit basis and represents the Trust at events across Avon throughout the year.

Our membership recruiters work from a stall set up at each event and speak to members of the public who approach them to find out more. SWWFL and the Institute of Fundraising 'mystery shop' its recruiter teams to ensure their approach is following best practice guidelines. Training sessions and training materials are given to new recruiters, followed up with quarterly refresher sessions which include visits to nature reserves

and specific on-site training on Avon Wildlife Trust's charitable activities. SWWFL's training includes a specific focus on protecting vulnerable people.

Formal membership of the Trust is open to everybody. 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.

We complied with GDPR by the deadline of 25th May 2018 by contacting our members to secure permission to continue to use email or telephone. We use Legitimate Interest to guide postal communications where appropriate. All new contacts have their consent preferences recorded on our Customer Relationship Management system. Our privacy policy and data holding policies have been updated and are available to view on our website.

Looking ahead

The scale of the crisis facing wildlife and ecosystems globally, nationally and locally is increasingly understood. The next decade will be crucial in deciding whether we can reverse declines in wildlife before it is too late for many species and ecosystems. We need to tackle the twin threats of climate and ecological breakdown if we are to maintain and restore a healthy planet for wildlife - and for people.

We are also now facing a health crisis, in Coronavirus, which has its roots in the poor health of the natural world and human encroachment into damaged ecosystems where zoonotic diseases can take hold. Coronavirus presents both an immediate challenge to the Trust's operations - as it does to the rest of society – and a challenge to improve the health and resilience of ecosystems and our relationship with them.

Coronavirus will have a significant impact on our income for the year ahead and perhaps beyond. We are expecting our income from projects, fundraising and other sources to be around £1m less than we had hoped to achieve this year, offset by new income from sources such as a grant from the Heritage Emergency Fund, the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and our Coronavirus appeal. We have reduced our costs in response to this loss of income, reducing non-staff costs as far as possible, and making the difficult decision to reduce staff costs through redundancies. This has resulted in a reduction of 9 posts (7.1 FTE) - around 20% of substantive roles within the core charity – in management, administration and support services. In making these changes, we have moved to a flatter, more open, less hierarchical structure with fewer management layers, which is intended to simplify internal communication, decision-making, funding models and increase efficiency. These changes will result in a cost reduction of around £98k this year and a full year cost reduction of around £260k, enabling the Trust to stay within its financial means whilst continuing to achieve its mission and deliver its activities this year and into the future.

The Trust's strategy for the next ten years will focus on nature's recovery. We have worked with partner organisations in recent years to map and agree a Nature Recovery Network for the West of England - a network of interconnected habitats where wildlife can survive and thrive. This has been a significant achievement, which is now being embedded in planning policy. Our focus now is on developing a pipeline of projects to restore and create habitats to develop the Nature Recovery Network on the ground and begin to restore the abundance of wildlife in our area. We will continue to conserve and enhance remaining areas of wildlife habitat and seek to restore natural processes to create wilder landscapes where wildlife and people can thrive. Our nature reserves are important components of the Nature Recovery Network and we will continue to focus on them, as well as working with landowners, communities and partner organisations to develop the Nature Recovery Network at a landscape scale in areas including:

- the Gordano Valley and North Somerset Levels and Moors,
- the western Mendip hills around Bleadon Hill and Weston-super-Mare,
- the Chew Valley and other landscapes connecting the Cotswold and Mendip hills,
- Bristol, Bath and other urban areas.

Overall, we want to see significantly more land in the West of England managed for the benefit of wildlife, in line with international aspirations for 30% of land to be contributing to nature's recovery by 2030.

We will pioneer and implement “nature-based solutions” to societal issues, developing habitat creation and restoration projects that help to:

- absorb carbon and increase resilience to climate change,
- reduce flooding and pollution, and
- offset the impacts of development on local wildlife and habitats,

as well as contributing to nature’s recovery in the West of England. Tackling climate change is a priority for nature conservation, because of the impacts that a changing climate will have on wildlife and ecosystems. The United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimate that 20-30% of the species on Earth may be at risk of extinction if the climate warms by an average of 1.5°C, warning that climate change is happening too quickly for many species to adapt and that most ecosystems will struggle if the planet warms by more than 2°C. Absorbing carbon in new and restored habitats such as wetlands, woodlands and well managed meadows can provide win-win solutions, helping to address the climate and ecological crises at the same time. New markets are developing for nature-based solutions, which could provide significant new funding for habitat creation and restoration and we will work with partners to support this in our area.

People remain at the heart of what we do and how we work as a Trust. We will continue to inspire and equip people to take action for wildlife, supporting people and communities to take a lead in restoring habitats, rewilding neighbourhoods and standing up for local wildlife. We will seek to build an open and inclusive movement for wildlife in the West of England, with people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities working together for wildlife and everybody enjoying the benefits of a healthy natural environment. We want to see one in four people taking action for wildlife to help to drive the societal level change that is needed.

We will continue to make the case for nature with MPs and decision-makers in the West of England. We have succeeded in asking Bristol and now Bath and North East Somerset Council (in July 2020) to declare an ecological emergency and we will continue to make the case in North Somerset, South Gloucestershire and the West of England Combined Authority. We are leading work to develop an Ecological Emergency Strategy for Bristol and will work with Councils across the West of England to put in place the plans and projects needed to bring wildlife back.

Internally, we will continue to look at the changes we need to enable us to achieve our mission and goals and operate sustainably into the future. We will shift our operations to a more flexible, dispersed model less reliant on using vehicles from a central Bristol headquarters, seeking to achieve zero carbon operations by 2030. We will continue to develop Grow Wilder as a place where large numbers of people can be inspired and learn how to care for wildlife and we will develop more hubs and centres where we can engage and inspire people to take action for wildlife.

Working together with our members and partners we can make a real difference for the wildlife in our region.

To learn more about our work, please visit www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk or email hello@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk

Acknowledgements

Avon Wildlife Trust benefits each year from the generous commitment of our volunteers. This year we were able to manage the range of habitats across our 1,125 hectares of nature reserves, support landowners to adopt wildlife friendly practice, deliver events and support office-based projects and tasks, thanks to many hours of volunteer support and we are hugely grateful for this vital help.

Our local groups provide important support through awareness raising and fundraising activities across the region. We are very grateful to these committed groups who continue to champion our vital work in the region. We could not manage our reserves without the help of our farmers and graziers; their deep knowledge of the sites and their willingness to engage in our conservation work has allowed us to transform the condition of our sites and improve them as key habitats for wildlife in the region.

The expertise and commitment of our local wardens is significant. These remarkable individuals act as the eyes and ears for our nature reserves, organise walks for the public, and help to connect people with these fabulous landscapes that provide so much benefit to local wildlife. Thank you for everything you do to help us in our mission to provide wildlife-rich places and wildlife-rich lives in our region.

A range of funders help to financially enable our work. We are grateful for the commitment of many funders to help us deliver benefits for wildlife and people across our region. Our members donate essential income that enables us to operate efficiently and raise the profile of local wildlife and the importance of nature in people’s everyday lives. We also benefit from support from businesses and are grateful to our business members.

Bristol City Council continues to provide our office at a peppercorn rent, so that we are able to expend more of our income on conservation activities. The Bristol Post runs a weekly column that gives us an important channel to champion the value of nature for the City.

We are deeply grateful to all of the people, 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 (<i>various</i>)	Finnis Scott Foundation	Rolls-Royce plc
The Banister Charitable Trust	Garfield Weston Foundation	RSWT SDRC
Basil Brown Charitable Trust	Ibstock Enovert Trust	The Sobell Foundation
The Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership	IOP Publishing	Triodos Bank
Bristol City Council	Jan Barkworth	University of Bristol
Bristol Water plc	National Lottery Community Fund	University of the West of England
Burges Salmon	National Lottery Heritage Fund	Vine House Farm
The Cobalt Trust	Natural England	Wessex Water
The D’Oyly Carte Charitable Trust	Nature Picture Library	Western Power Distribution
DEFRA	Osborne Clark	Woodland Trust
Enovert Community Trust	Players of People’s Postcode Lottery	1625 Independent People

Financial review

Overview

The Trust recorded a deficit of £43k in the year compared to a surplus of £656k in the previous year. This comprised:

	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000s	£'000s
Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	16	(46)
Designated (deficit)/surplus	(44)	786
Restricted (deficit)/surplus	(15)	(83)
Total surplus	(43)	656

The net assets of the AWT Group therefore decreased to £7,554k from £7,597k at the previous year-end, of which £6,652k (£6,756k in 2018/19) are heritage assets, including our nature reserves.

Key financial factors:

Donations and legacies (see note 2) decreased from £1,621k to £1,029k, however in 2018/19 the Trust received a gift of land, valued at £825k, from a generous supporter and member. Legacies receivable were £206k, up from £137k in the previous year.

Membership subscription income increased by 10% to £685k from £621k, representing 36% (35% in 2018/19) of unrestricted income in the year and 25% of total income (20% in previous year). Our current appeals remain open and donations to support our work will continue to be sought. 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 (note 3) increased to £1,023k compared to £1,018k in the previous year. This represents 38% (32% in 2018/19) of our income. Continued progress was made in establishing more of the Trust's nature reserves in long-term management agreements. Contributions continued to be made to overheads from our conservation and community projects.

Income from unrestricted learning activity increased to £78k (£62k in 2018/19), with activity on the My Wild Child project remaining fairly constant at £66k (£66k in the previous year). School visits to Folly Farm and Feed Bristol, as well as learning projects delivered both in schools and on nature reserves, continued.

Expenditure (note 5) on general fundraising increased from £391k to £476k in the year, and expenditure on charitable activities increased 5% to £1,730k from £1,639k in the previous year.

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 £31k (£7k in 2018/19) was achieved in the year. Rent of £44k was paid to the Trust. High-quality activities and courses are delivered in close partnership with the Trust, and the Directors are confident that further growth can be achieved. Customer feedback has continued to be very positive.

Bristol Natural History Consortium (BNHC) is now an Associated Company, following Wildscreen's withdrawal as a member in December 2017 (see page 11). Our BNHC investment decreased in value in 2018/19 and this year remains at nil value, reflecting the impairment in value due to a net liability position of £6k at the 2018 year end.

Balance sheet (Page 24). The Trust continues to have a strong overall asset position. Heritage assets remain at £6.7m (£6.7m at 31 March 2019). The net current asset position of the group remains strong at £756k (£765k at 31 March 2019).

Restricted funds. The Trust has many restricted funds as shown in notes 15 and 16. These funds represent revenue funding for ongoing projects, appeal funds or fixed assets held by the Trust. At 31 March 2020 the value of these restricted funds was £6.0m (£6.0m at 31 March 2019).

Cash flow. The receipt of legacies and donations continues to support cash flow.

Financial reserves

The Group's general unrestricted funds have increased slightly to £531k at 31 March 2020, from £516k at 31 March 2019, and of these £327k (£352k in 2018/19) are free reserves (see note 16).

The trustees reviewed the reserves and reserve policy during the year. 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 trustees have decided that unrestricted (or free) reserves should aim to be maintained at a level of three months' cover of Revenue and Core expenditure rather than a fixed-target value. Based upon the 2020/21 budget, this requirement would be £469k.

The designated reserves established over the last few years 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 decreased to £1,010k (£1,053k in 2018/19) with net expenditure of £43k (£40k in 2018/19) during the year.

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 (FRS 102) issued by the Accounting Standards Board and the Charity Commission.

Statement of the Trustee's responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Avon Wildlife Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements, in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on a going-concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity 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 charitable company and that enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees confirm that as far as they are aware at the time of approving this annual report:

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

Statement as to disclosure of information to auditors

The members of Board who were in office on the date of approval of these financial statements have confirmed, as far as they are aware, that there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware. Each of the members of the Board has confirmed that they have taken all steps that they ought to in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to the auditor.

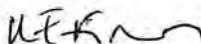
The Report of the Members of the Board was approved by the Board on 21 September 2020 and signed on their behalf:

Chair



David Relph

Trustee



Katharine Finn

Independent auditor's report

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Avon Wildlife Trust (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2020, which comprise the consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the consolidated Balance Sheet, the charitable company Balance Sheet, the consolidated Statement of Cash flows 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).

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 2020, 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 the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102); 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 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 20, 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 and 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 (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of :Burnside Chartered Accountants
61 Queen Square, Bristol, BS1 4JZ



Date: 06 October 2020

Consolidated statement of financial activities

for the year ended 31 March 2020

	Note	General Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	2	913,436	-	115,557	1,028,993	1,621,401
Charitable activities	3	342,787	-	680,062	1,022,849	1,018,110
Other trading activities						
Folly Farm Centre Limited trading		587,866	-	-	587,866	530,293
Fundraising including local groups		6,361	-	-	6,361	6,666
Other income	4	33,213	3,000	-	36,213	4,499
Total		1,883,663	3,000	795,619	2,682,282	3,180,969
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds						
Folly Farm Centre Limited trading	5	519,759	-	-	519,759	480,799
General fundraising	5	475,811	-	-	475,811	391,024
Charitable activities	5&15	872,481	46,700	810,996	1,730,177	1,638,695
Total	5	1,868,051	46,700	810,996	2,725,747	2,510,518
Net Income / (expenditure)		15,612	(43,700)	(15,377)	(43,465)	670,451
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains:						
Net contribution/increase in investment value attributable to						
WildService	11	-	-	-	-	(1,838)
Bristol Natural History Consortium	11	-	-	-	-	(12,737)
Net movement in funds		15,612	(43,700)	(15,377)	(43,465)	655,876
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		515,544	1,053,262	6,028,393	7,597,199	6,941,323
Total funds carried forward	16	531,156	1,009,562	6,013,016	7,553,734	7,597,199

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

A comparative statement of financial activities is included in note 1.

Consolidated and charity balance sheets

at 31 March 2020

	Note	Group 2020 £	Group 2019 £	Charity 2020 £	Charity 2019 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	8	146,169	110,584	39,231	39,849
Heritage assets	9	6,651,510	6,755,840	6,651,510	6,755,840
Investments	11	-	-	1	1
Total fixed assets		6,797,679	6,866,424	6,690,742	6,795,690
Current assets					
Stocks		3,468	2,779	-	-
Debtors	12	617,199	699,554	539,678	657,200
Cash at bank and in hand		778,730	501,826	645,931	355,273
Total current assets		1,399,397	1,204,159	1,185,609	1,012,473
Liabilities					
Creditors:					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	643,342	438,233	358,144	180,056
Net current assets		756,055	765,926	827,465	832,417
Creditors:					
Amounts falling due after one year		-	-	-	-
Provisions	14	-	35,151	-	35,151
Total net assets		7,553,734	7,597,199	7,518,207	7,592,956
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds – designated	16 & 17	1,009,562	1,053,262	1,009,562	1,053,262
Unrestricted funds – general	16	531,156	515,544	495,628	511,300
Unrestricted funds – investments	11	-	-	1	1
		1,540,718	1,568,806	1,505,191	1,564,563
Restricted funds	15	6,013,016	6,028,393	6,013,016	6,028,393
Total funds	16	7,553,734	7,597,199	7,518,207	7,592,956

These accounts were approved by the Board on 21 September 2020


 _____ Chair
 David Relp


 _____ Trustee
 Katharine Finn

Consolidated cash flow statement

for the year ended 31 March 2020

		Group		Group	
		2020	2020	2019	2019
	Note	£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:					
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities			332,348		531
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment					
Fixed assets	8	(64,694)		(59,413)	
Heritage assets	9	-		(83,799)	
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities			(64,694)		(143,212)
Cash flows from financing activities					
Proceeds from disposal of fixed assets		9,250		-	
Loan repayment from Related Company		-		11,000	
Net cash used in financing activities			9,250		11,000
Cash and cash equivalents					
Increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents during the year			276,904		(131,681)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period			501,826		633,507
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period			778,730		501,826

Reconciliation of net movement in funds to operating cash flow

for the year ended 31 March 2020

	2020	2020
	£	£
Net movement in funds	(43,465)	655,876
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges – Fixed assets	26,101	30,093
Profit on disposal of fixed assets	(6,242)	-
Depreciation charges – Heritage assets	104,330	102,750
(Increase) / decrease in stocks	(689)	3,353
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	82,355	(442)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	205,109	24,175
Increase / (decrease) in provisions	(35,151)	(4,849)
(Increase) / decrease in investments	-	14,575
Gift of designated Heritage asset	-	(825,000)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	332,348	531

The notes on pages 29 to 42 form part of these accounts

Accounting Policies

For the year ended 31 March 2020

a) Basis of accounting

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charity Commission Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by provisions of the Charities SORP (FRS 102) – Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (effective 1 January 2019).

The Trustees confirm that the Charity is a public benefit entity.

From mid-March 2020 the lockdown imposed by the UK Government to curb the Covid 19 pandemic impacted on the Trusts activities with many projects, activities and events put on hold and the majority of staff furloughed. Most of the financial impact will be seen in the 2020/21 financial year and our initial projections anticipated that income could be greatly reduced, which would result in a significant deficit for the year.

To mitigate the impact of this lost income a number of actions have been taken to support income and reduce costs and these include:

- Furlough of 41 members of staff under the Government Job retention Scheme for at least part of the lockdown period
- Successfully applied for emergency funding for the Trust and Folly Farm Centre under the Heritage Emergency Fund to cover essential costs in the four months to September 2020
- Folly Farm applied for and obtained a Business Hospitality Grant as well as Business Rates Relief for 2020/21
- Communicated regularly with our members and launched our Coronavirus appeal for their continued help through membership subscriptions and donations to support our local wildlife
- Our face to face activities have been reassessed and where possible we have developed online methods to support delivery or new ways to operate securely
- Grow Wilder launched an on-line shop selling wildflower, herb and vegetable plants
- Reduced staff through redundancies, in management, administrative and support roles
- Reduced non staff costs as far as possible

We will continue to look at changes that can improve the Trust's ability to achieve our mission and goals, but the actions outlined above have improved our reforecast and cashflow for 2020/21 so that the deficit for the AWT Group is currently estimated to be £95k.

Based on the above, the Trustees and management have a reasonable expectation that the Trust will be continuing to operate for at least 12 months after the signing of these accounts and remains a going concern. The accounts have therefore been prepared on a going concern basis.

Accounting Policies (continued)

For the year ended 31 March 2020

b) Group accounts

The Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) and Balance Sheet consolidate the financial statements of the charity and its subsidiary undertakings. The result of the subsidiaries are consolidated on a line-by-line basis.

The charity has availed itself of Paragraph 4(1) of Schedule 1 of the Large and Medium-sized Companies and Groups (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and adapted the Companies Act formats to reflect the special nature of the charity's activities. No separate SOFA has been presented for the charity alone as permitted by Section 509 of the Companies Act 2006 and paragraph 397 of the SORP.

c) Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

d) Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are:

Unrestricted funds – these can be used for any of the charity's purposes;

Designated funds – these are unrestricted funds set aside by the trustees for specific purposes;

Restricted income funds – these funds have been given to the Trust for a particular purpose to be used in accordance with the wishes of the donor.

e) Incoming resources

Legacy income is included in the accounts when entitlement has been established, the amount due can be quantified with reasonable probability, and the timing of the receipt is known with reasonable certainty.

Incoming resources in the form of donated assets have been included in the SOFA at a reasonable estimate of their value, taking into account the market value of the assets and comments made by the donor.

Grants receivable are accounted for when there is sufficient information to enable the claim to be made or the claim has been made and there is clear indication to suggest the claim will be met.

Volunteer help the trust receives support from a wide variety of volunteers. It is not practical to place a value in the accounts on the time volunteered by all these persons, due to the variety of duties performed, the differences in time spent, and the sheer number of volunteers who gave of their time.

Membership income is taken to the Statement of Financial Activities over the life of the subscription, taking into account the type of membership involved.

Incoming resources

Income from investments, Gift Aid and deeds of covenant is included gross, and is accounted for when it is receivable or the charity's right to it becomes legally enforceable. Provision has been made for the Income Tax claimable at the year end.

f) Resources expended

These are recognised in the period in which they are incurred and include attributable VAT that cannot be recovered.

Membership recruitment fees 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.

g) 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 and leasehold property	50
• Improvements to nature reserves	10-50
• Office equipment and office improvements	5
• Tenant improvements	10
• Motor vehicles	2.5-5
• Computers	4

h) Heritage assets

Heritage assets are assets of historical or scientific importance that are held to advance the preservation, conservation and educational objectives of the charity and through public access contribute to the nation's culture and education at either a national or local level. Freehold nature reserves are included in heritage assets at their acquisition costs and are not revalued or depreciated. The charity aims to preserve and enhance its nature reserves, which are not held for their resale potential. The market value of the reserves is of no practical relevance to the charity's activities. No depreciation is provided because the reserves have an indefinite life.

The cost of leasehold nature reserves are amortised over the period of the lease.

i) Stock

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

j) Pension costs

Pension costs are charged based on amounts due for the year (see note 18).

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2020

1. Prior year statement of financial activities

for the year ended 31 March 2019	Restated Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2019 £	Restated Total funds 2018 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	796,401	825,000	-	1,621,401	1,248,139
Charitable activities	414,032	-	604,078	1,018,110	1,141,860
Other trading activities					
Folly Farm Centre Limited trading	530,293	-	-	530,293	421,166
Fundraising including local groups	6,666	-	-	6,666	9,145
Other income	4,499	-	-	4,499	2,246
Total	1,751,891	825,000	604,078	3,180,969	2,822,556
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds					
Folly Farm Centre Limited trading	480,799	-	-	480,799	354,839
General fundraising	391,024	-	-	391,024	362,586
Charitable activities	940,217	-	698,478	1,638,695	1,618,952
Other expenditure	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1,812,040	-	698,478	2,510,518	2,336,377
Net Income / (expenditure)	(60,149)	825,000	(94,400)	670,451	486,179
Transfers between funds	28,502	(39,476)	10,974	-	-
Other recognised gains:					
Net contribution/increase in investment value attributable to					
WildService	(1,838)	-	-	(1,838)	1,789
Bristol Natural History Consortium	(12,737)	-	-	(12,737)	12,737
Net movement in funds	(46,222)	785,524	(83,426)	655,876	500,705
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	561,766	267,738	6,111,819	6,941,323	6,440,618
Total funds carried forward	515,544	1,053,262	6,028,393	7,597,199	6,941,323

Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

2. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Membership income	685,308	-	-	685,308	621,316
Grants and donations	35,191	-	66,971	102,162	842,524
Appeals	10,841	-	24,674	35,515	13,236
Legacies	182,096	-	23,912	206,008	136,592
Income from costs recharged	-	-	-	-	7,733
Total	913,436	-	115,557	1,028,993	1,621,401

3. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Delivery programmes					
Management of nature reserves	170,657	-	-	170,657	189,420
Biodiversity projects	12,350	-	1,355	13,705	27,901
Living Landscapes programme	15,040	-	71,965	87,005	57,002
My Wild City	-	-	91,329	91,329	26,968
Local Partnership working	43,828	-	-	43,828	58,421
Learning	77,743	-	8,000	85,743	61,618
Communities – Our Environment Our Future	-	-	176,913	176,913	166,377
Other community projects	23,169	-	24,338	47,507	122,089
My Wild Child	-	-	66,200	66,200	66,000
Wellbeing through Nature	-	-	143,704	143,704	121,285
Feed Bristol project	-	-	96,258	96,258	67,644
Folly Farm learning activities	-	-	-	-	-
Folly Farm volunteer base	-	-	-	-	53,385
Total	342,787	-	680,062	1,022,849	1,018,110

4. Other income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Other income including interest received	26,972	3,000	-	29,972	4,499
Profit on disposal of fixed assets	6,241	-	-	6,241	-
Total	33,213	3,000	-	36,213	4,499

Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

5. Summary analysis of expenditure

	Folly Farm Centre Limited trading £	Raising funds – General £	Charitable activities £	Support and Governance £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Staff costs (Note 7)	112,754	175,095	1,006,131	-	1,293,980	1,255,593
Conservation and nature reserves	-	-	345,713	-	345,713	278,863
Fundraising, advertising and publications	9,428	268,707	7,429	-	285,564	269,185
Folly Farm Centre development	-	-	70,161	-	70,161	70,330
Depreciation	10,826	1,319	39,622	8,499	60,266	132,843
Legal and professional fees	5,954	630	29,488	36,855	72,927	37,279
Partnership working	-	-	47,026	-	47,026	46,990
Premises costs	52,224	-	1,307	53,045	106,576	93,335
Catering, Conference & Activity Costs	262,454	-	-	-	262,454	195,365
Office and administration Governance	66,120	5,992	14,825	81,358	168,294	121,384
	-	-	-	12,786	12,786	9,351
Subtotal	519,759	451,743	1,561,702	192,543	2,725,747	2,510,518
Reallocate Support and Governance	-	24,068	168,475	(192,543)	-	-
Total	519,759	475,811	1,730,177	-	2,725,747	2,510,518

Total resources are stated after charging:	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Auditors' remuneration	£	£
– Audit	15,550	10,522
– Other services including tax advisory	1,179	568
Depreciation – tangible and heritage assets	130,431	132,843
Profit on disposal of fixed assets	(6,242)	-

6. 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, and was until August 2019 a joint owner of an associated company, Gloucestershire Wildlife Management Limited (trading as WildService). The Trust did not expend any funds in obtaining these interests.

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 continues 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 for Folly Farm Centre Limited (before the consolidation adjustments that have been made to the figures in the SOFA) is shown below:

Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

Profit and loss account for the year ended 31 March 2020	2020	2019
	£	£
Turnover	618,747	560,386
Cost of sales	(252,550)	(236,020)
Gross profit	366,197	324,366
Overheads and administration	(334,864)	(317,514)
Operating profit/(loss)	31,333	6,852
Interest received	111	69
Interest payable and similar charges	-	-
Profit before taxation	31,444	6,921
Tax on profit	13	(17)
Profit/(loss) for the financial period	31,457	6,904

Balance sheet at 31 March 2020	2020	2019
	£	£
Fixed assets	106,923	70,718
Net current liabilities	(71,711)	(66,963)
Total assets less current liabilities	35,212	3,755
Creditors falling due after more than one year	-	-
Total	35,212	3,755
Capital and reserves		
Called-up equity share capital	1	1
Profit and loss account	35,211	3,754
Total	35,212	3,755

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

- Under a lease dated 1 April 2009, and renewed in July 2018 the Trust leases the buildings and some of the adjoining land at Folly Farm to Folly Farm Centre Limited. Rent payable in the 2019/20 year amounted to £44k (£44k in 2018/19).
- 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 periodically.

The AWT Group for the year ended 31 March 2020 includes the consolidation of our subsidiary, the Folly Farm Centre Limited, and Bristol Natural History consortium (BNHC) as an associated undertaking. The investment value of Bristol Natural History Consortium is considered to be impaired as a result of deficits generated, and the value has been written down to £nil. The BNHC 2019 accounts will be available in October 2020.

The AWT Charity generated a deficit of £43k in the year before consolidation, compared to a surplus of £656k in the previous year. This comprised an unrestricted surplus of £16k (deficit of £46k in 2018/19), a designated deficit of £44k (surplus of £785k in 2018/19) and a restricted deficit of £15k (deficit of £83k in 2018/19). Restricted funds are funds that the Trust has a legal obligation to use only for the specific purpose for which they were given.

Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

7. Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Group	2020	2019
	£	£
Wages and salaries	1,040,496	1,001,021
Employers' national insurance	72,998	66,670
Pension costs	50,000	46,003
Other staff costs	78,064	67,436
Outsourced contractor staff costs and recharges	52,422	74,463
	1,293,980	1,255,593

The trustees were not paid nor did they receive any other benefits from the charity or its subsidiaries in the year (£nil in 2019). No expenses were reimbursed to the trustees during the year (£nil in 2019).

The key management personnel of the parent charity, The Trust, comprise the senior management team. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Trust were £187,847 (£186,103 in 2018/19).

The key management personnel of the AWT Group comprise the senior management team of the Trust and that of its wholly owned subsidiary Folly Farm Centre Limited. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the AWT Group were £187,847 (£186,103 in 2018/19). One employee earned between £60k and £70k in the year (in 2019, one earned between £60k and £70k).

The average number of employees in the AWT Group, based on full-time equivalents (FTE) and analyses by function, was:

	2020	2019
Delivery programmes	23.4	24.1
Support staff	13.1	10.8
Folly Farm Centre Ltd	1.1	1.1
Total	39.0	36.0

Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

8. Tangible fixed assets

	Office improvements £	Tenants improvements	Office equipment and machinery £	Motor vehicles £	Computers £	Total £
Group						
Cost						
At 1 April 2019	5,940	59,408	56,709	125,931	52,963	300,951
Additions	-	31,575	15,455	12,049	5,615	64,694
Disposals	-	-	-	(10,029)	-	(10,029)
At 31 March 2020	5,940	90,983	72,164	127,951	58,578	355,616
Depreciation						
At 1 April 2019	5,940	5,651	46,597	86,664	45,515	190,367
Charge for year	-	6,322	5,404	9,693	4,682	26,101
Disposals	-	-	-	(7,021)	-	(7,021)
At 31 March 2020	5,940	11,973	52,001	89,336	50,197	209,447
Net book value						
At 31 March 2020	-	79,010	20,163	38,615	8,381	146,169
At 31 March 2019	-	53,757	10,112	39,267	7,448	110,584
Charity						
Cost						
At 1 April 2019	5,940	-	12,474	114,308	51,805	184,527
Additions	-	-	-	12,049	5,615	17,664
Disposals	-	-	-	(10,029)	-	(10,029)
At 31 March 2020	5,940	-	12,474	116,328	57,420	192,162
Depreciation						
At 1 April 2019	5,940	-	9,688	84,302	44,748	144,678
Charge for year	-	-	900	9,692	4,682	15,274
Disposals	-	-	-	(7,021)	-	(7,021)
At 31 March 2020	5,940	-	10,588	86,973	49,430	152,931
Net book value						
At 31 March 2020	-	-	1,886	29,355	7,990	39,231
At 31 March 2019	-	-	2,786	30,006	7,057	39,849

Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

9. Heritage Assets

	Nature reserves	Improvements to nature reserves	Folly Farm development	Legacy Gift not yet transferred	Total
Cost	£	£	£	£	£
At 1 April 2019	3,052,391	680,763	3,859,606	425,000	8,017,760
Additions	425,000	-	-	(425,000)	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2020	3,477,391	680,763	3,859,606	-	8,017,760
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2019	32,685	314,380	914,855	-	1,261,920
Charge for the year	6,537	22,607	75,186	-	104,330
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2020	39,222	336,987	990,041	-	1,366,250
Net book value					
At 31 March 2020	3,438,169	343,776	2,869,565	-	6,651,510
At 31 March 2019	3,019,706	366,383	2,944,751	425,000	6,755,840

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 2020:

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

*Mostly these properties are included in the Balance Sheet at their original cost of purchase. However, no value has been included for the four sites shown above with an asterisk. They are small nature reserves – together covering 4.74ha (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 has a 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 and White's Paddock Nature Reserve.

Improvements to Nature Reserves are depreciated over their expected lives (10 to 50 years). Improvements will include access for all paths, fencing, signs, ditches and drainage, sewage treatment, etc.

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 £109,271 in the year ended 31 March 2020 (£102,500 in 2019) 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:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Net Fixed Asset Movements in restricted funds	(109,676)	(12,615)
Net Current Asset Movements in restricted funds	94,299	(70,811)
Net Incoming / (Outgoing) Resources – Restricted funds	15,377	(83,426)

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

11. Fixed assets – Investments

Subsidiaries

During the year the Trust was the beneficial owner of shares in one wholly owned trading subsidiary, Folly Farm Centre Limited and one jointly owned associated company, Bristol Natural History Consortium.

Associated companies

WildService

The Trust owned a 49% share of Gloucester Wildlife Management Ltd (registered company 02284477 and trading as 'WildService') from 1 October 2015 until August 2019. WildService is an ecological consultancy which continues to be run and managed by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

Bristol Natural History Consortium

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 and operated by AWT in partnership the other company members, Bristol Zoo Gardens and, until December 2017, Wildscreen. The Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 were approved by the Trustees of BNHC on ddd/mmm/ 2020.

During the year ended 31 December 2018, BNHC generated a deficit of £31,642. At 31 December 2018 the charity had net liabilities of £6,167 (previously net liabilities of £6,167) and free reserves amounting to (£10,660). The Trust considers the investment to be impaired and the value has been written down to £nil.

The Trustees of BNHC have set a surplus budget of £6,000 for 2020 and they continue to explore ways to ensure the free reserves target (£25k) is achieved and maintained in future years.

During the period, Avon Wildlife Trust contributed £5,000 as a membership subscription to BNHC (£5,000 in 2019).

Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

12. Debtors – amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2020 £	Group 2019 £	Charity 2020 £	Charity 2019 £
Grants and fees receivable	113,359	221,362	113,359	221,362
Prepayments	47,361	11,779	25,609	6,549
Other debtors	456,479	466,413	400,712	429,289
Loan to SWWFL	-	-	-	-
	617,199	699,554	539,678	657,200

13. Creditors – amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2020 £	Group 2019 £	Charity 2020 £	Charity 2019 £
Trade creditors	117,032	156,939	74,974	61,244
Other creditors and accruals	478,602	254,399	237,094	90,146
Taxation and national insurance	47,708	19,395	46,076	21,166
Grants received in advance	-	7,500	-	7,500
	643,342	438,233	358,144	180,056

14. Provisions

	Group 2020 £	Group 2019 £	Charity 2020 £	Charity 2019 £
Building repairs	-	35,151	-	35,151
	-	35,151	-	35,151

Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

15. Restricted funds					
Group and Charity	1 Apr 2019	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	31 Mar 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue funds					
WENP – Think Nature	37,328	-	(661)	-	36,667
Blines / Living Landscapes	20,402	58,598	(69,445)	-	9,555
Folly Wellbeing Garden	5,566	-	-	-	5,566
Feed Bristol Project	12,972	99,055	(96,256)	-	15,771
Avon Gorge Project	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock	22,797	-	(1,680)	-	21,117
Justin Smith Endowment Fund	9,351	324	(2,391)	-	7,284
North Somerset Levels and Moors	15,789	19,167	(21,960)	-	12,996
My Wild City	10,766	97,649	(105,840)	-	2,575
My Wild Child	76,568	66,200	(57,724)	-	85,044
Our Bright Future	14,018	176,913	(173,649)	-	17,282
Wellbeing through Nature	48,837	144,144	(131,833)	-	61,148
Lapwing Project	2,901	-	(2,901)	-	-
Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership	9,528	-	-	-	9,528
Newbridge Slopes	15,000	-	-	-	15,000
Minibus depreciation fund	14,415	-	(4,805)	-	9,610
Bath and Beyond	5,000	-	(5,000)	-	-
Wild Paths	-	21,338	(21,338)	-	-
Feed Bristol depreciation fund	10,222	-	(2,253)	-	7,969
Says Court	3,000	3,000	(3,000)	-	3,000
Ford Galaxy depreciation fund	12,582	-	(3,081)	-	9,501
Uphill & Walborough	-	50,000	-	-	50,000
Save our Badgers	-	27,319	(8,051)	-	19,268
Fursman – to support Bristol work	-	23,912	-	-	23,912
Learning - IMAYLA	-	8,000	-	-	8,000
Appeal funds					
Summer 15 Appeal	1,262	-	-	-	1,262
Property improvement funds					
Folly Farm sewage treatment	6,960	-	(232)	-	6,728
Folly Farm	23,922	-	(663)	-	23,259
Folly Farm Access Trail	12,671	-	(728)	-	11,943
Willsbridge – landfill	360	-	(12)	-	348
Willsbridge	13,728	-	(427)	-	13,301
Clapton Moor (50 Years)	34,944	-	(946)	-	33,998
Weston Moor	7,012	-	(226)	-	6,786
Walborough	4,174	-	(139)	-	4,035
Goblin Combe (50 Years)	4,366	-	(118)	-	4,248
Weston Big Wood (50 Years)	11,310	-	(307)	-	11,003
Puxton Moor	58,934	-	(1,600)	-	57,334
Nature Reserves Fund	15,239	-	(511)	-	14,728

Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

HLF Conservation Fund	31,543	-	(1,001)	-	30,542
Conservation – reserves fund	17,876	-	(553)	-	17,323
Feed Bristol	24,570	-	(8,190)	-	16,380
Folly Farm Centre development	2,702,627	-	(73,727)	-	2,628,900
Folly Farm volunteer training base	71,446	-	(1,451)	-	69,995
Freehold land and building funds					
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
Folly Farm	332,814	-	-	-	332,814
Brown's Folly	30,000	-	-	-	30,000
Huttin Hill	425,000	-	-	-	425,000
Leasehold land and building funds					
Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock	304,636	-	(8,297)	-	296,339
Total	6,028,393	795,619	(810,996)	-	6,013,016

The transfer column in the table above identifies transfers between funds, which are in accordance with funders' instructions.

Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

The purpose of each fund is as follows:

Revenue funds:

WENP – Think Nature	Development of a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform and Think Tank to promote innovation with nature-based solutions
Blines / Living Landscapes	To survey, conserve, restore and enhance Avon's grasslands
Folly Wellbeing Garden	To involve the community in growing nature-friendly food
Feed Bristol Project	To involve the community in growing nature-friendly food
Avon Gorge Project	To assess the feasibility of various projects in the Avon Gorge
Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock	To acquire and create a nature reserve in the Avon Gorge
Justin Smith Endowment Fund	To support apprentice ecologists to continue Justin's passion and knowledge
North Somerset Levels and Moors	A catchment approach to restoring coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
My Wild City	To make Bristol a world-leading, nature-rich city where people are connected to the natural landscape, and wildlife is more resilient to growing challenges
My Wild Child	One of six Trusts delivering urban forest school education projects
Our Bright Future	To empower young people in social housing to take ownership of local green spaces
Wellbeing through Nature	To improve health and wellbeing through structured programmes of purposeful activities providing opportunities to explore, learn and take care of nature.
Lapwing Project	To help threatened species in the Gordano Valley
Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership	To develop and implement a management plan for the River Avon catchment
Newbridge Slopes	To enhance the land and engage the community with nature
Minibus depreciation fund	To provide a combination vehicle for the Our Bright Future project
Bath and Beyond	Restoring wildlife habitat on a grand scale to improve connectivity from city centre to countryside, to enable wildlife to thrive. Connecting local communities with the nature on their doorstep, and inspiring them to take action to protect wildlife for the future
Wild Paths	To provide new careers in nature conservation
Feed Bristol depreciation fund	To provide an outdoor kitchen facility
Says Court	To deliver community activities with nature
Ford Galaxy depreciation fund	To provide a vehicle for the Wellbeing through Nature project
Uphill and Walborough	To benefit nature and engage local communities in the Uphill and Walborough area
Fursman work in Bristol	To support the work of the Trust in the Bristol area
Learning - Imayla	To provide support for an education visit to Folly Farm

Appeal funds:

Summer 15 Appeal	To replace and improve information boards on our reserves
Save our Badgers	To vaccinate badgers against BTB in the Avon area and campaign for vaccination as a viable alternative to culling

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
Folly Farm volunteer training base	To develop a volunteer training base 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
	£	£	£
REVENUE FUNDS			
WENP – Think Nature	-	36,667	36,667
Blines / Living Landscapes	-	9,555	9,555
Folly Wellbeing Garden	-	5,566	5,566
Feed Bristol project	-	15,771	15,771
Avon Gorge Project	-	10,000	10,000
Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock	-	21,117	21,117
Justin Smith Endowment Fund	-	7,284	7,284
North Somerset Levels and Moors	-	12,996	12,996
My Wild City	-	2,575	2,575
My Wild Child	-	85,044	85,044
Our Bright Future	-	17,282	17,282
Wellbeing through Nature	-	61,148	61,148
Bristol Avon Catchment Project	-	9,528	9,528
Newbridge Slopes	-	15,000	15,000
Minibus depreciation fund	9,610	-	9,610
Feed Bristol depreciation fund	7,969	-	7,969
Says Court	-	3,000	3,000
Ford Galaxy depreciation fund	9,501	-	9,501
Uphill & Walborough	-	50,000	50,000
Save our Badgers	-	19,268	19,268
Fursman – to support Bristol work	-	23,912	23,912
Learning - IMAYLA	-	8,000	8,000
Appeal funds			
Summer 15 Appeal	-	1,262	1,262
Property improvement funds			
Folly Farm sewage treatment	6,728	-	6,728
Folly Farm	23,259	-	23,259
Folly Farm Access Trail	11,943	-	11,943
Willsbridge – landfill	348	-	348
Willsbridge	13,301	-	13,301
Clapton Moor (50 Years)	33,998	-	33,998
Weston Moor	6,786	-	6,786
Walborough	4,035	-	4,035
Goblin Combe (50 Years)	4,248	-	4,248
Weston Big Wood (50 Years)	11,003	-	11,003
Puxton Moor	57,334	-	57,334
Nature Reserves fund	14,728	-	14,728
HLF Conservation fund	30,542	-	30,542
Conservation - reserves fund	17,323	-	17,323
Feed Bristol	16,380	-	16,380
Folly Farm Centre development	2,799,570	(170,670)	2,628,900
Folly Farm volunteer training base	69,995	-	69,995

Freehold land and building funds			
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
Folly Farm	332,814	-	332,814
Brown's Folly	30,000	-	30,000
Hutton Hill	425,000	-	425,000
Leasehold land and building funds			
Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock	296,339	-	296,339
Total restricted funds	5,768,711	244,305	6,013,016
Unrestricted designated – land at Goblin Combe	825,000	-	825,000
Unrestricted designated – funds	-	184,562	184,562
Unrestricted designated funds – Total	825,000	184,562	1,009,562
Unrestricted funds – general	203,968	327,188	531,156
Total unrestricted funds	203,968	327,188	531,156
Total funds	6,797,679	756,055	7,553,734

The AWT Group total funds decreased to £7,553,734 from £7,597,199 at the previous year end.

Total **Other Net Assets of £756,055** above comprise Net Current Assets of £756,055 as per the Balance Sheet.

There is a net current liability in respect of the Folly Farm Centre development project of £170,670. The deficit arose from 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.

17. Designated funds

	Group 2020	Group 2019	Charity 2020	Charity 2019
	£	£	£	£
Strategic opportunities and development	145,824	192,524	145,824	192,524
Landlord repairs – Folly Farm	38,738	35,738	38,738	35,738
Gift of designated heritage asset	825,000	825,000	825,000	825,000
Total designated funds	1,009,562	1,053,262	1,009,562	1,053,262

The trustees have used £47k of the designated fund for strategic opportunities and development to support the vital work required to achieve the Trust's vision to enable nature to 'recover on a grand scale'. This fund is now £146k (£193k in 2019) and it is anticipated that opportunities currently being considered may also be spent from this fund in 2020/21.

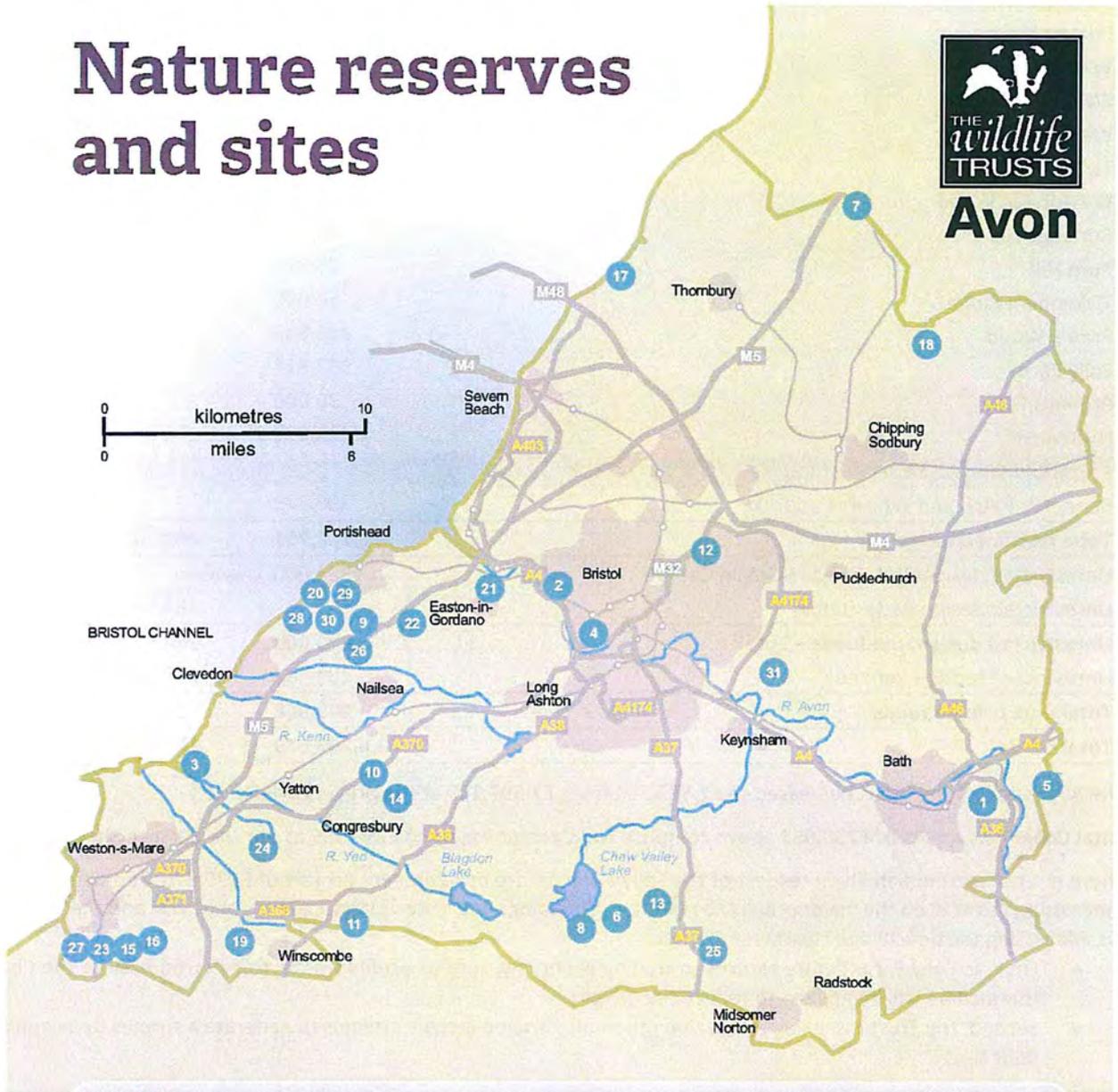
18. Pension scheme

The Trust operates a Group Personal Pension scheme for its employees with Aviva (previously Friends Life). This is a defined contributions scheme, which is managed independently of the Trust. The pension costs disclosed in note 7 represent contributions payable for the year. At 31 March 2020, there were no outstanding pension contributions accrued in respect of employees not yet set up under the pension scheme (£nil in 2019).

Nature reserves and sites



Avon



Key

Nature reserves and sites

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Bathampton Meadow | 9 Clapton Moor | 17 Littleton Brick Pits | 25 Stephen's Vale |
| 2 Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock | 10 Cleeve Heronry | 18 Lower Woods | 26 Tickenham Hill |
| 3 Blake's Pools | 11 Dolebury Warren | 19 Max Bog | 27 Walborough |
| 4 Brandon Hill | 12 Grow Wilder | 20 Middle Hill Common | 28 Walton Common |
| 5 Browne's Folly | 13 Folly Farm | 21 Pill Paddock | 29 Weston Big Wood |
| 6 Burledge Hill | 14 Goblin Combe | 22 Prior's Wood | 30 Weston Moor |
| 7 Charfield Meadow | 15 Hellenge Hill | 23 Purn Hill | 31 Willsbridge Valley |
| 8 Chew Valley Lake | 16 Hutton Hill | 24 Puxton Moor | |

avonwildlifetrust.org.uk

Protecting Wildlife for the Future



Avon
Wildlife Trust

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Auditors

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Solicitors

Burges Salmon LLP
Narrow Quay House, Narrow Quay, Bristol, BS1 4AH

Wards Solicitors

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TLT

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Co-operative Bank

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