

# Impact Report 2019-20



Avon



## Welcome...

to Avon Wildlife Trust's reflections on how we helped nature's recovery in Avon between 2019-2020.

Thanks to our influence, Bristol City Council announced an ecological emergency in February 2020, starting a long journey to rebuild Avon's wildlife and habitats together. We have started our own decisive action to tackle this threat through securing important pieces of land to contribute to our Nature Recovery Network, linking up habitats through our B-Lines project and partnering with local land owners to make better decision for wildlife.

We have continued our work in local communities through projects such as My Wild City, Our Bright Futures and Wellbeing in Nature. By creating connection with wildlife on people's doorsteps, we are inspiring thousands of people to take positive action to aid nature's recovery.

Thank you to our invaluable members and supporters for helping make all of this possible. Together, we can bring wildlife back by being the champions for our natural world.



Ian Barrett  
Chief Executive

## Nature's Recovery

Declaring an ecological emergency this year shows the first steps to decisive action for nature rippling through Avon. By working with individuals, businesses and local authorities, we will ensure nature's recovery so wildlife can thrive and everyone can have access to wildlife-rich green spaces in our cities, towns and countryside.



"The course has given me connections to people and to nature that I never had before."

Wellbeing with Nature course participant



"It's not too late to secure the policies, funding and powers we need to restore nature nationally and locally."

Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol



"The Grow Leader placement has given me the confidence towards shaping my future."

Anna, Grow Leader Placement

(c) Steven Falk



### We recorded a carrot mining-bee for the first time in six years

Our Living Landscapes team made recordings in Hengrove Mounds, Nature Reserve, and on a roadside verge off Whitchurch Lane

More success stories inside...



Bringing wildlife back



26

hectares of habitat restoration carried out with our B-lines project

## Bringing wildlife back

We want to bring wildlife back across Avon to tackle the ecological emergency and enable nature's recovery. We are doing this by creating a Nature Recovery Network - an interconnected habitat mosaic across the four districts of Avon and beyond, where wildlife doesn't simply survive but can thrive, moving from place to place, living, feeding and flourishing.

Our new nature reserve at Hutton Hill has been extended to include

28 hectares of woodland through a new agreement with the Woodland Trust, forming part of the woodland network along the northern slopes of the Mendip Hills alongside Hellenge Hill, Purn Hill and Walborough. This is a vital link in our Nature Recovery Network for species like greater horseshoe bats.

We continue to create Biodiversity Lines (B-Lines) - a network of 3km-wide strips of wildflower-rich habitats to help insects.

In 2019 we launched a new phase of delivery focused on the two B-Lines which connect the urban fringes of Bath with Bristol.

With support from the Bathscape partnership, we launched an advisory service for landowners around Bath to support small land holdings. Thanks to funding from the National Heritage Lottery we provided advice to over 40 landowners to help restore and maintain networks of species-rich grasslands around Bath.

### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR

- Led 75 practical days with 200 volunteers restoring reserves and habitats
- Collaborated with 20 landowners to secure 12 hectares of wildflower-rich habitat
- Developed the conservation skills of over 120 volunteers, while creating more space for nature to thrive in their local green spaces





## People and wildlife

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

Our ambition with the project 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, thanks to funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

## Champions for nature

We successfully vaccinated 15 badgers including 4 cubs on one of our woodland nature reserves, featuring in over 14 national and local media articles including Points West and BBC Radio 4 Farming Today. 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.

### THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT...

we've raised over £24,000 for our badger vaccination project - helping to afford the essential vaccines, equipment and training we need to extend this work.

**2,011**

young people connected with nature through the Our Bright Future project



**1,468**

people took part in 30 Days Wild, a 10% increase from last year



**1,448**

school children got up close to nature at our Folly Farm education centre and at Grow Wilder



**343**

people took part in our nature-based wellbeing programmes



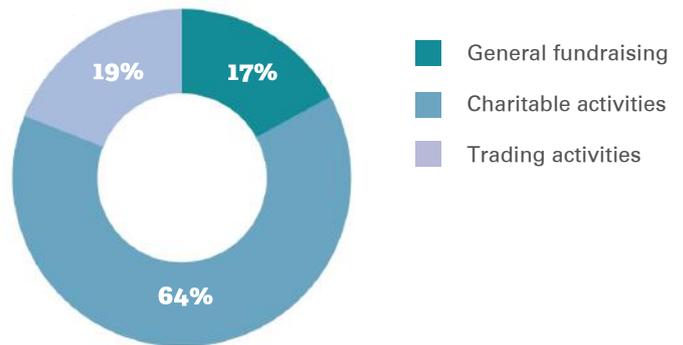
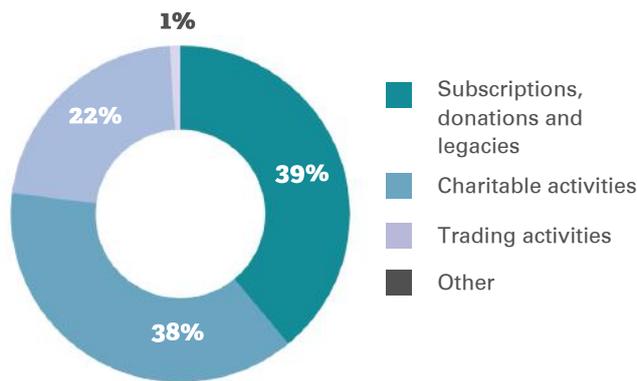
**11**

companies sent teams on our employee engagement days

# Money matters

Income: £2,682,282

Expenditure: £2,725,747



Full financial statements can be found in our Annual Report: [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/publications](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/publications)

## Thank you to all our supporters

AWT Local Groups (various)  
 AJH Ashby Will Trust  
 The Banister Charitable Trust  
 Basil Brown Charitable Trust  
 Biffaward  
 Bristol City Council  
 Bristol Water plc  
 Business Initiative  
 Burges Salmon  
 The Cobalt Trust  
 The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust  
 DEFRA  
 Enovert Community Trust

Hobson Charitable Trust  
 Ibstock Enovert Trust  
 IOP Publishing  
 J & M Britton Charitable Trust  
 Kew Gardens  
 LaLonde Charitable Trust  
 Linley Wigtman Shaw Charitable Trust  
 National Lottery Community Fund  
 National Lottery Heritage Fund  
 Natural England  
 Nature Picture Library  
 Nisbets in the Community  
 The Pauline Meredith Charitable Trust

Players of People's Postcode Lottery  
 Rolls-Royce plc  
 RSWT SDRC  
 Sobell Trust  
 SWECO UK  
 Triodos Bank  
 University of Bristol  
 University of the West of England  
 Van Neste Charitable Trust  
 Vine House Farm  
 Wessex Water  
 Western Power Distribution  
 Woodland Trust



**1,125**

hectares managed as part of our nature recovery network

**63**

features in local and regional media



**135**

species of native wildflowers and herbs grown from seed at Grow Wilder



**2,350**

new members joined our community



**53**

landowners engaged and received advice to manage their land for wildlife



Avon Wildlife Trust  
 32 Jacobs Wells Road, Bristol, BS8 1DR  
 0117 917 7270  
[mail@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:mail@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk)

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



**Avon**

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