

Impact Report 2020-21



Avon



Welcome...

to AWT's reflections on how we helped nature's recovery in Avon between 2020-2021.

This year has been our most difficult to date. Inevitably the vital work we do has been disrupted. However, we are proud of our achievements.

Fantastic plants sales from our Grow Wilder site resulted in more native species than ever making their way to gardens across the region. We gained many new supporters following our increased online output, including many who previously would not have been able to enjoy our reserves in person.

It's crucial that the next decade sees real transformation, with ever-more communities taking meaningful action on the ecological crisis, and our newly-published 10-year Strategy frames our plan to achieve this. Most of all we are grateful to our supporters. Together, we feel hopeful we are up to the ambitious changes that will be needed to ensure wildlife is able to thrive.



Ian Barrett
Chief Executive

Nature's Recovery

Twelve months of unprecedented challenges has underlined the importance of creating and connecting wilder landscapes across our region, for the benefit not only of wildlife, but people too.

That's the vision behind our aspiration to bring 30% of Avon's land and sea into management for wildlife by 2030. This will create a nature recovery network across the four districts of Avon and beyond, where wildlife doesn't simply survive but can thrive, moving from place to place, flourishing into the future.



2,426 people took part in 30 Days Wild – almost double the previous year and the most ever participants



1600 people viewed our My Wild Child videos for 5 year olds and under



1175 new members joined our community

89% of attendees on our Wellbeing for Nature course experienced improved mental health...

...with 73% continuing onto further purposeful activities such as returning to work or volunteering

More success stories inside...

(c) Steven Falk



Bringing **wildlife** back



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

Create, connect and care for places rich in wildlife

Avon contains many rich and diverse habitats, but nature needs us to look beyond our 30 nature reserves to create a healthy, interconnected wildlife network.



To that end, our Biodiversity Lines (B-Lines) work has been improving, enriching and linking up pollinator habitats throughout the Mendip Hills.



In Somerset, our focus on the Land Yeo river has progressed with a volunteer-led survey programme run by our partners, Bristol Avon Rivers Trust. This has generated vital data allowing us to improve and increase biodiversity throughout this landscape.

This year, the impact of the pandemic made green community spaces especially important to people. We encouraged our supporters to renew their connections to the wild places on their doorsteps.

Our urban-focused My Wild City and Bathscape projects were paused in April 2020, but in August we resumed this work, delivering significant habitat improvements in and around the two cities.



OTHER HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR

- 20km of river surveyed as part of our Wilder Waterways project
- 21 landowners supported through the Bathscape project.
- 16ha of grassland restoration carried out under our Bathscape Landowner Advisory Service
- 2 ponds restored and 30% of the ditches at Lawrence Weston Moor Local Wildlife Site restored through the My Wild City project



Inspire people to care for nature

We adapted quickly to the challenges of lockdown, moving activities online to keep our audiences interested and engaged.

Based on positive feedback we will continue to offer a balanced blend of online and in-person courses in the future.

The online shop at our urban wildlife site went live in April, mid-lockdown, seeing huge demand as people turned to gardening.

Our amazing supporter team contributed approximately 2,000 hours to making the project a success - a timely reminder that we could not function without our wonderful volunteers.

Champions for nature

Championing nature has never been so important. With our encouragement, this year Bath and North East Somerset Council and North Somerset Council followed Bristol City Council in declaring an ecological emergency.

September saw the launch of the One City Ecological Emergency Strategy, with organisations across Bristol setting out key actions needed to tackle the ecological emergency.



Meanwhile, our social media channels became an important way for people to connect with nature, reaching over 750,000 people in the course of the year.



1400 orders

for plants were received at Grow Wilder during the first lockdown.



20,000

wildflowers bought from the Grow Wilder nursery were planted across Avon and beyond.



19

adult learning courses attracted 391 participants.

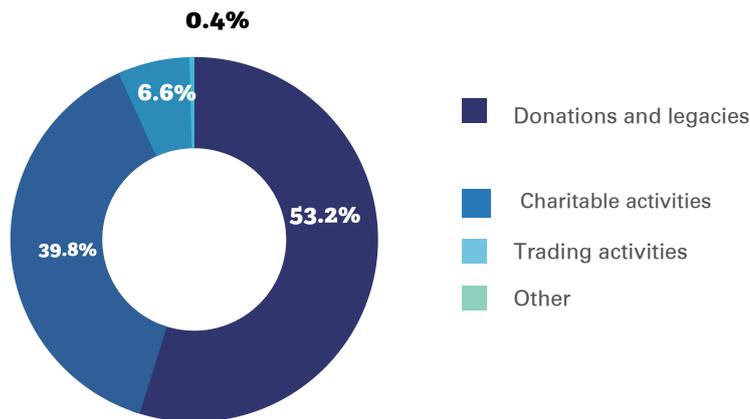


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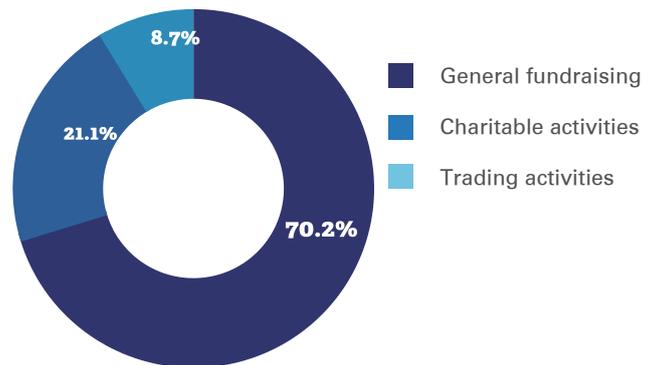
young people participated in wildlife activities through the Our Bright Future project.

Money matters

Income: £3,501,059



Expenditure: £2,417,917



Full financial statements can be found in our Annual Report: avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/publications

Thank you to all our supporters

AWT Local Groups (various)
 The Anton Jurgens Charitable Trust
 The Banister Charitable Trust
 Biffa Award
 The Bristol Airport Environmental Improvement Fund
 The Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership
 Bristol City Council
 Burges Salmon
 The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust
 DEFRA

Environment Agency
 Garfield Weston Foundation
 The HSWJ Charitable Trust
 Ibstock Enover Trust
 Jan Barkworth
 National Lottery Community Fund
 National Lottery Heritage Fund
 Natural England
 Nature Picture Library
 North Somerset County Council

Osborne Clarke
 Players of People's Postcode Lottery
 Triodos Bank
 University of Bristol
 University of the West of England
 Vine House Farm
 Wessex Water
 Western Power Distribution
 Woodland Trust

132

schoolchildren took part in outreach projects



28

features in local and regional media



8882

hours contributed to our work by volunteers



25

training programmes and events completed



26

organisations took part in live virtual sessions



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Avon

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