



Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2022

Registered in England & Wales, No. 1495108.

Registered Charity No. 280422.

Bringing **wildlife** back

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



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The AWT Group

The Annual Report and Financial Statements 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 13 and 14

President

Vacant

Vice Presidents

Mark Carwardine, Mike Dilger, Kevin McCloud

Trustees

Chair – David Relph

Ped Asgarian

Rebecca Burgess – appointed November 2021

Chris Curling

Ross Fairley

Katharine Finn

Dominic Hogg – appointed September 2021

Kate Leahy

John Zac Nicholson

Nathan Rutter

Malcom Shepherd

Mark Steer

Key Personnel

CEO – Ian Barrett

Director for Nature's Recovery– Amy Coulthard to June 2022

Director of Finance and Resources – Jane Davis

Head of Fundraising, Membership & Communications – Nicole Squire

Head of Communities and Engagement – Julie Doherty

Interim Head of Nature Reserves and Land Management – Bernie D'Arcy – appointed April 2022

Interim Head of Nature Based Solutions – Tim Curley – appointed April 2022

Finance and Resources Committee

Chair – Katherine Finn

Kate Leahy

David Relph

Malcom Shepherd

Rebecca Burgess

Governance Committee

Chair – Malcom Shepherd

John Zac Nicholson

David Relph

Nathan Rutter

Ross Fairley

Dominic Hogg

17 Great George Street, Bristol BS1 5QT

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Reg. in England & Wales No.1495108. Reg. Charity No.280422. VAT No.567561410

Welcome

Welcome to Avon Wildlife Trust's Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022

This year we launched our 10-year strategy, which will inform our work going forward and help us prioritise what's most important in order to bring wildlife back to Avon and see it thrive. This year's Annual Report will reflect the three key areas we'll be focusing on: **Nature's recovery**, **Empowering people** and **Nature-based solutions**. In many ways these have always been the building blocks of what we do, but this strategy gives us clear goals that will see 30% of land and sea managed for the benefit of wildlife, 1 in 4 people taking action for wildlife, and 1,000 hectares of habitat restored to provide nature-based solutions, all by 2030. It's bold and ambitious, but we know it's what is needed to address the twin ecological and climate emergencies.

We celebrated the return of beavers to Avon this year, seen here for the first time in over 400 years. Evidence from our Trust showed that three generations of wild beavers are thriving in our area, which is incredibly significant and shows that they are successfully expanding their range naturally. The presence of this beaver population will support other wildlife and create thriving, carbon-absorbing habitats along the waterways they inhabit, showing one of nature's greatest engineers in action. We look forward to continuing to work with the Bristol Avon and Somerset Frome Beaver Management Group to maximise the benefits of beaver reintroduction, while also addressing the legitimate concerns from some stakeholders.

Looking to the coming year, we're excited to begin moving towards a Team Wilder approach, where we will be engaging and inspiring people right across our area to take action for nature by creating a community filled with resources and mutual support. Our approach has always been to take people by the hand and show them how they can make a difference – now we want the change makers who are out there taking these actions to ignite others, setting off a chain reaction which will see our region mobilised for the benefit of wildlife. Avon Wildlife Trust will be playing a vital role in leading the way, and we're so grateful to the support we've had which will ensure we can continue to see nature flourish.

To enable a better way of working to support our ambitions, this was our last year at our headquarters of 37 years, Jacob Wells Road. Opened by Sir David Attenborough in 1985, The Old Police Station by Brandon Hill was bursting with character and will always be a special place for the Trust. However, as we look to the future and our delivery teams begin to base themselves at regional hubs so they can work more efficiently and help reduce our carbon footprint, we're able to downsize and move our HQ just to the other side of Brandon Hill at Great George Street. We've also been able to improve our IT systems, supporting our work by making us more connected to one another, and to you, than ever before.

This past year has continued to be a difficult time for all of us, with the impact of the pandemic still having an effect on our work, and the significant damage caused by ash dieback on our reserves. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank our incredibly hardworking staff for their inspiring dedication to nature while having to adapt to changing demands, and thank our members, funders and donors for their support through this trying time. It's thanks to you that we can continue to take action for nature and connect people with their local wildlife, and we have so much to be proud of from this past year.



David Relph



Ian Barret

Chair of Trustees 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 2022. The Report (pages 5-22) constitutes a Strategic Report in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013.

Our Strategy

This year saw Avon Wildlife Trust launch our [2020 – 2030 strategy](#), setting out how we will achieve our simple but ambitious aim to help reverse nature's decline and bring back an abundance of wildlife in our region. We remain committed to our charitable purpose and have refreshed our mission and vision to reflect the latest scientific evidence on the scale of the challenges we now face.

Our Charitable Purpose

To advance environmental protection and improvement for wildlife especially but not exclusively in the area formerly known as the County of Avon.

Our Mission

To enable wildlife's recovery by working in partnership to restore, create and connect habitats, and increase species abundance.

To connect people with nature and help them take action for wildlife where they are.

Our Vision

Nature is recovering on a grand scale, and everyone is able to enjoy increasingly abundant wildlife.

You can read our strategy in full on [our website](#). We will report on the three key priority areas that our organisation is focussing on in order to achieve our strategic aims:

Nature's recovery

Empowering people

Nature-based solutions

Nature's recovery

Our landscape scale projects such as Bathscapes, B-Lines, Wilder Waterways and My Wild City have forged ahead and delivered habitat improvements whilst connecting people with nature. This year we were also a project partner in the Levels Up Project. Levels Up was a Defra-funded Green Recovery Challenge Fund (GRCF) partnership project to 'level up' nature across Somerset, working in transitional habitat from the levels up to the hills of the three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) – the Blackdown Hills, Mendip Hills, and Quantock Hills – along strategically important nature recovery networks, to enhance interconnectivity and transitional habitats between the Hills and Levels. Funding from the project enhanced 28ha of woodland on one of Mendip reserves and allowed AWT to employ a Nature's Recovery Assistant. After 11 months of successful employment they secured a permanent role with Lancashire Wildlife Trust.

We continue to work with key partners and landowners to create a nature recovery network – an interconnected network across the four counties of Avon and beyond, where wildlife can thrive, moving from place to place, living, feeding and flourishing into the future. This year we have pioneered innovative 'nofence' virtual fencing where grazing livestock are controlled by GPS collars and an app. The system has been transformational for our reserve management at Walton Common Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and will improve grazing in terms of ecological and economic impact. In addition to introducing innovative technology to aid reserve management we have also developed our GIS systems and invested in tablets for the nature reserves staff. This significantly improves our data recording and how we can communicate the impact of our work visually.

Highlight: Beavers

In 2021, we were part of the momentous discovery of wild beavers living in our region. This is the first time these enigmatic creatures have been sighted in the area for over 400 years and was great news for our goal of [protecting and restoring 30% of land and sea for wildlife by 2030](#), as the beavers will help to create thriving, carbon-absorbing habitats along the waterways they inhabit.

Since then, Avon Wildlife Trust has contributed to national beaver policy discussions with Natural England and the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts. We are awaiting the results of a wild beaver survey by Natural England to provide us with more detailed information on how the population in Avon is progressing.

In the meantime, AWT staff have attended beaver training in enclosed settings, visiting Ladock near Truro in Oct 2021, and Oldventure near Oakhampton in March 2022, to further their understanding of the best ways to manage the reintroduction of beavers and to use what those teams have learned to inform our future planning.

As a Trust we are part of the Bristol Avon and Somerset Frome Beaver Management Group, overseeing our local management strategy to maximise the benefits of beaver reintroduction while also addressing the legitimate concerns of some stakeholders.

The news of the discovery of this family of beavers excited nature lovers from around the world, resulting in significant media coverage on a local, regional, national and international scale. Avon Wildlife Trust's key messages about our '30 by 30' appeal were communicated as part of this, and we've continued to provide updates to our members and supporters where appropriate, with a [webpage set up](#) ensure the public receive accurate information and are able to submit any beaver sightings to our team.

Case study: Ash dieback

Ash dieback (ADB) is a devastating disease which is predicted to severely affect or **kill over 90% of ash trees**, dramatically impacting wooded landscapes across the UK - including here in Avon. It is **a significant public and staff safety issue**. The disease, also known as Chalara, is caused by a fungus called *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (the fungus was previously called *Chalara fraxinea*, hence the name of the disease) which affects the vascular system of ash trees, inhibiting the tree's ability to draw nutrients up into its upper branches. Ash trees are the third most common tree in Britain after oak and birch - there are **80 million ash trees** in the UK.

To mitigate against the impact of ADB, we commissioned an arboriculturist consultant to carry out **Quantified Tree Risk Assessments (QTRA)** across seven of our priority woodlands. Initially, a desktop survey identified target areas of woodland and delineated tree risk compartments. This was followed by a walkover survey grouping trees according to their risk and identifying both individual trees of value and trees requiring immediate removal. QTRA plans and schedules were produced for each reserve. They provide **clarity on the areas affected and the number of trees involved**. Data on the average condition, diameter, height, and numbers of ash trees to be removed was recorded to satisfy the requirements of the Forestry Commission's operation note 46A. Under the guidance of the arboriculturist consultant, the nature reserves team has developed **GIS systems** to enable us to utilise the data from the QTRA's and to continue ADB surveys over the coming years with **a consistent, compliant method** that can inform budgets, woodland management plans and our overarching strategic approach to ADB.

Those trees not affecting public safety will be left to rot and fall, and the resulting decay will release **life-supporting nutrients**. They will provide food and a home for hundreds of species such as stag beetles, which rely on deadwood, and woodpeckers, which feed on those insects. It's also worth recognising that in some cases the emerging habitat will be **more vibrant, more diverse and more welcoming to wildlife** than what it has replaced.

In figures

- 3.6km of SSSI ditch network restored as part of our Wilder Waterways project
- 200 people engaged through citizen science, practical volunteering, wellbeing walks and online talks through Wilder Waterways.
- 20 conservation grazing Dexter cattle supplied with 'nofence' GPS collars at Walton Common SSSI nature reserve.

Empowering people

This year we saw how local green spaces became so important to people over lockdown. Through projects like Bathscape Landscape Partnership, My Wild City and North Somerset Rewilding Champions, our teams hosted over 70 different events across the region – including owl prowls, dawn chorus walks, conservation volunteering, bioblitz's and wellbeing activities.

Our learning team provided opportunities for all ages to discover and explore the natural environment – from nature play to formal education. We welcomed over 1,000 school children to our Folly Farm Centre, launched our new School Grounds pack and created site-specific teaching resources for schools. Meanwhile our Lifelong Learning programme offered a range of training courses from wildlife gardening to bird identification.

We recognise the urgent need to increase activity – at every scale – to help nature recover. Through our North Somerset Rewilding Champions project, in partnership with North Somerset Council, we've trained volunteers in species monitoring. There, even on small pockets of land, by reducing the frequency of mowing, differences in biodiversity are apparent, particularly among invertebrates.

Every action counts, and as we increase our focus on supporting you, we also appreciate the dedication of our volunteers who help us manage the special places we look after. With over 31,000 volunteer hours this year, a special thanks needs to go to everyone who has made time to help protect our wild and special places for future generations.

Highlight: Grow Wilder

Our mission for Grow Wilder is to bring about urgent action for the restoration of wildlife by educating, upskilling and empowering people, communities and businesses to bring about positive change through wildlife-friendly gardening and sustainable food growing.

This year we have been making progress with our fundraising to make Grow Wilder into an engagement hub for the local community. Thanks to our members and supporters, we have raised almost the entire £75k needed to lever in significant capital grant funding to realise our ambitions at Grow Wilder. Alongside fundraising for the project, we have been doing the preparatory work needed to progress development including submitting a planning application. As we edge towards the final stages of this project, we are very grateful to everyone who has helped us get this far and we look forward to delivering a vibrant hub soon. In the meantime we are delighted that the site has fully re-opened now that Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted, enabling the café to open every weekend, and our many courses and volunteering activities to get up and running. We are holding monthly food and craft markets throughout the summer and autumn and our family activities at the site are becoming busy.

Case study: My Wild City

My Wild City aims to help people to connect with their local wildlife site through a programme of family days, school visits and practical conservation days to improve the condition of each site. The long-term aim of the project is to build the capacity of the local community so that **people of all ages can contribute to caring for these special places**, understanding what is needed to help wildlife flourish and enabling others to access and enjoy the space.

The project has provided activities and content to connect people to nature from wildlife walks to nature drawing workshops; online sessions to creating self-guided trails, all collaborating with local community groups. We wish to take people on a journey, from initial discovery to taking

action for nature, **enabling them with the skills and confidence to continue the effort into the future.**

We've also provided training to the local My Wild City communities on orchards, bumble bees, pollinators and butterflies. We also ran training sessions for teachers designed to improve confidence in taking children outside to learn, both in school grounds and on My Wild City sites.

The My Wild City Action Team undertake general maintenance of the eight local sites, from scrub clearance and hay cuts to coppicing. By conserving these areas we support our local wildlife, such as the water voles at Lawrence Weston Moor, the small blue butterfly at Hengrove Mounds and Hawkfield Meadows, and glow worms at Stockwood open space. This volunteering group have been an important asset **demonstrating the potential of empowering volunteers with the skills, knowledge and confidence to manage local wildlife sites**, and we thank them for all their hard work and commitment.

In figures

- 590 volunteers spent a total of 31,615 hours making a difference for Avon's wildlife
- 24 My Wild City events held to bring people closer to nature
- Five training courses were delivered by the My Wild City team to empower local communities

Nature-based solutions

The climate crisis and the nature crisis go hand in hand – they both need to be addressed at the same time. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has suggested that global warming of just 1.5 degrees could mean 20-30% of species go extinct, as well as having a devastating impact on human communities.

The good news is that nature offers infinite possibilities for taking action. Wildlife-rich habitats like meadows, wood pasture, peatlands and wetlands can soak up flood water, clean up polluted waterways and lock away carbon dioxide. Finding ways to create and restore new habitats, and to value them properly for the services they offer, will be hugely beneficial for local climate action as well as nature's recovery.

As society wakes up to the need for business and planning processes to halt and reverse the damage they do to the environment, there are excellent opportunities to bring in corporate support and private finance to fund nature-based solutions. Avon Wildlife Trust is well placed to play a key role in local efforts to deliver these projects and ensure that the potential benefits to wildlife are also unlocked, and work on this has already begun.

Highlight: Bristol Avon Catchment Market

As we face the continuing environmental challenges of climate change we need to find new ways to drive meaningful nature recovery, to reverse biodiversity decline and restore the abundance of wildlife in our area. The Bristol Avon Catchment Market is a world-leading new partnership between the Avon Wildlife Trust, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and EnTrade, a Wessex Water business.

Operating initially in a pilot area within the Bristol Avon catchment, the aim is to kickstart a market where environmental credits from nature-based projects can be generated and sold, driving an unprecedented, continuous investment in nature's recovery.

Targeting areas identified in local nature recovery strategies, we will use our expertise to help landholders and farmers develop new projects for the catchment market that maximise environmental benefits by restoring woodland, wetland and grassland.

It's not just about improving the environment – nature-based solutions help our communities as well by reducing the risk of flooding, cleaning up waterways to make them safer for us to use and sequestering carbon to reduce the impact of climate change.

On the other side of the catchment market, approved businesses will purchase the resulting credits from the verified projects to meet their regulated or voluntary obligations. This investment will support new projects, increasing the opportunity to see more wildlife rich grasslands, hedgerows, wetlands and woodlands, and provide habitat creation and enhancement at a landscape scale.

Importantly, businesses will have to meet the required ethical standards in order to participate in the market. This includes a commitment to use credits purchased through the Bristol Avon Catchment Market to drive genuine environmental improvements.

EnTrade's experience will ensure the market generates fair prices for landholders and farmers and environmental credit buyers, underpinned by transparent rules and rigorous standards and processes to ensure market integrity.

Set-up funding of £1,777,600 was received from the Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund. The fund was developed by Defra and its Arm's-Length Bodies. It is being delivered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Natural England, the Environment Agency and Forestry Commission.

Case study: Goblin Combe Early Start Project

Our North Somerset reserve at Goblin Combe is mainly made up of dense beech plantation which was planted in the 1960's. The habitat beneath the trees is dark and limited in ground flora. We aim to thin the canopy to provide large rides and glades to bring more light to the woodland floor, **creating a paradise** for many birds and mammals.

We know we have dormice and bats there already - this is a chance to **help them to thrive**. Right now we are surveying the site to assess the condition of the habitat and developing a plan that will translate the potential for change into credits, which will be available to buy on the catchment market.

In figures

- By 2030 we aim to have 1,000ha of habitat restored to provide nature-based solutions
- We gave expert advice to 40 land managers in 2020/2021
- Advised on 20ha of land and 20km of waterway that are not owned by AWT

Engaging people: Our year in numbers

2,426 people took part in 30 Days Wild

2,407 new followers across AWT social media accounts

2,227 new members joined our community

1,561 hours were given by people attending Employee Engagement Days

547 people took part in local events organised by AWT to engage with their local wildlife

474 hours spent helping people connect with nature through wellbeing sessions

289 mentions in local, regional, nation and international press, online, radio and TV to champion the value of nature

Case study: Countryfile

In the winter of 2021, we secured a significant piece of national media coverage by being featured in Countryfile, highlighting both the work of the Grow Wilder site and linking in with a story they were covering about development plans in Bristol affecting green spaces.

Our People and Wildlife Officer, George Cook, took presenter Charlotte Smith around a woodland area near Yew Tree Farm, giving tips on wildlife photography and **explaining the importance of nature in urban areas** such as Bristol. This linked into a piece Countryfile focussed on around Yew Tree Farm, and by connecting with this wider feature this segment showed Avon Wildlife Trust's commitment to **protecting and enhancing spaces for wildlife** and championing those who prioritise nature.

Grow Wilder received significant coverage in this episode, with Countryfile having spent a day filming on site. Presenter Charlotte Smith was given a tour by site manager Chris Kaboutian, who went into detail about the aims and ambitions of Grow Wilder to become **a hub of engagement for the local community**, to **connect them with nature** and inspire them to **take action for the benefit of wildlife**. Chris Roe, a herbalist and one of Grow Wilder's land partners, is interviewed and talks about why he decided base himself at Grow Wilder, highlighting the **sense of community** and feeling as though he's part of something bigger. Finally, Charlotte spoke with Bethan Smith, who started as a volunteer at Grow Wilder during the lockdowns and has since gone on to complete a Wild Paths Placement with Avon Wildlife Trust. She talks about how rewarding volunteering and working at the site has been, particularly in regard to **the mental health benefits of being in, and working with, nature**.

In the lead up to the episode of Countryfile being broadcast, we posted behind the scenes photos from filming on social media and wrote about the experience [for our blog](#) and as one of our weekly Bristol Post columns. This coverage is a prime example of how we can work with the media to achieve our strategic aim of **empowering people** to take action for nature (**with 1 in 4 people** doing so by 2030), by shining a light on places like Grow Wilder where people from Bristol and beyond can engage with wildlife and learn new skills to help us **bring wildlife back**.

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 over 900,000 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. Profits generated at Folly Farm can be 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 2020/21 and 2019/20). See note 11 for further financial details.

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 contributed £31,300 (£31,117 in 2020/21) 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 contributed £nil (£nil in 2020/21) 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. Since 2013/14 further Trusts have joined as members of SWWFL, these being Worcestershire Wildlife Trust (2013/14), Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (2017/18).

The Trust has the right to appoint up to two directors to the SWWFL board and currently has one Trustee on the Board. The Company's activities were severely limited by the pandemic last year but membership recruitment services costing £158,698 were provided to the Trust in the current year (up from £40,930 in 2020/21).

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 2021/22 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.

Two new trustees were appointed during the year, Dominic Hogg in September and Rebecca Burgess in November, and we look forward to working with them over the coming years. New trustees are provided with an induction to the Trust and its work.

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 benefits 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

This year we have reviewed the Trust's values, looking at the way we operate at our best to develop a concise summary of our core values to inform our work and the choices we make as a Trust. These are:

Passion – We behave with belief and passion for the cause, recognising the urgency required to tackle the ecological and climate emergencies.

Inspiration – We recognise our role in enabling, empowering, and inspiring all people to take action for nature

Innovation – We know that to achieve change we must use our initiative, push boundaries, and challenge ourselves to improve our knowledge and understanding

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 Senior Leadership 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 faced further challenges in 2021/22 with the impact on our nature reserves and sites of Ash Dieback and the continuing impact of the coronavirus pandemic on our activities and income and these may continue to be felt for many months or years to come.

Our income streams are less certain because of a range of factors such as Brexit and the post-Brexit economic climate, changes to agri environment schemes and lack of detail about ELMS (Environmental Land Management Schemes). Income available from charitable trusts and foundations and grant-giving bodies has been affected both by changes to the values of their funds and changes to their fundraising focus.

The cost of living squeeze could reduce income from membership subscriptions and donations from supporters.

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.

Like most organisations, we are finding the post pandemic employment market challenging with increased staff turnover and a very competitive recruitment market.

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.

Senior Leadership Team

The Chief Executive is supported by Directors and Heads responsible for teams of staff focusing on:

- Nature's Recovery
- Nature Reserves and Land Management
- Communities & Engagement
- Commercial
- Fundraising, Membership and Communications
- Finance & Resources.

The Chief Executive, Directors, Heads and Senior Managers comprise the Senior Leadership Team, which meets regularly and drives forward the delivery of the Trust's Annual Plan. Through the Chief Executive, the Senior Leadership 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 eight complaints last year but none concerned fundraising. 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. The activity of SWWFL and the membership recruiters has been severely limited this year due to the pandemic and restrictions.

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. 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 is increasingly understood. The next decade represents a vital opportunity for us to tackle the twin threats of climate and ecological breakdown and ensure a healthy planet for wildlife and people.

This fact lies at the heart of our strategy for the next ten years. We are focused on reversing nature's decline and bringing back an abundance of wildlife in our region, and with that in mind we have refreshed our mission and vision to reflect the latest scientific evidence on the scale of the challenges we now face.

To help us focus, we have identified three priority areas.

- 1) **Nature's recovery.** With the aim of creating and connecting wilder landscapes where wildlife and people thrive, we aspire to bring 30% of Avon's land and sea into management for wildlife by 2030. This will create a nature recovery network - an interconnected 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) **Empowering people.** We cannot achieve our goals on our own and we recognise how nature benefits people. We have a specific target of seeing one in four people taking action for wildlife, because the science shows that's enough to change the minds and behaviour of the majority. This is essential to help to put nature into recovery.
"Team Wilder" is our solution. This is a community-based approach for getting unprecedented numbers of people involved in our work. Our training will support people to become activators in their communities to make a difference to their local environment.
- 3) **Nature based solutions.** 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.

To achieve this, **we are forming partnerships with the farming and landowning community** to create markets for tools like carbon credits and to bring in private finance for these nature-based solutions. The aim is that by realising the value of these services provided by nature, we can restore 1000 hectares of habitat – which in turn will store more carbon, reduce more flooding and increase wildlife abundance in our area.

We will continue to make the case for nature with MPs and decision-makers in the West of England. We led 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, 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 where we can engage 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.

Until April 2022 Bristol City Council continued to provide our office at Jacobs Wells Road at a peppercorn rent. We have now moved to new offices at 17 Great George Street supported by our very generous new landlord, so that we are able to spend 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>)	DEFRA - Green Recovery Challenge Fund	North Somerset Council
Airbus	Environment Agency	Osborne Clark
Acresend Trust	Garfield Weston Foundation	Players of People's Postcode Lottery
The Banister Charitable Trust	HSWJ Charitable Trust	Peter and Karen Lord
Dr Bevis Watts	Halpin Trust	Triodos Bank
Biffa Award	Jan Barkworth	University of Bristol
The Bristol Airport Environmental Improvement Fund	National Grid	Van Neste Charitable Foundation
The Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership	National Lottery Community Fund	Vine House Farm
Bristol City Council	National Lottery Heritage Fund	Dame Violet Wills Will Trust
Burges Salmon	Natural England	The Wildlife Trusts Sustainable Development Fund
The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust	Nature Picture Library	Wessex Water
DEFRA	NHS BNSSG ICB – Green Social Prescribing Programme	Western Power Distribution
		Woodland Trust

Financial Review

Overview

The Trust has recorded a surplus of £702k in the year compared to a surplus of £1,083k in the previous year.

	2021/22	2020/21
	£'000s	£'000s
Unrestricted surplus	83	101
Designated (deficit)/surplus	384	1,080
Restricted surplus /(deficit)	235	(98)
Total surplus	702	1,083

The net assets of the AWT Group therefore increased to £9,338k from £8,636k at the previous year-end, of which £6,443k (£6,547k in 2020/21) are heritage assets, including our nature reserves.

Key financial factors

Donations and legacies (see note 2) decreased to £1,484k from £1,919k, however this is still high by comparison to earlier years. Legacy receivables include another legacy (£391k) from a long-term supporter of the Trust.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic our membership subscription income increased by 9% to £786k from £722k, representing 30% (23% in 2020/21) of unrestricted income in the year and 22% of total income (21% 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 £1,468k from £1,346k in the previous year.

The income from charitable activities represents 42% (38% in 2020/21) of our total income.

Expenditure (note 5) on general fundraising decreased from £510k to £454k in the year, and expenditure on charitable activities increased by 13% to £1,921k from £1,697k in the previous year.

Folly Farm Centre generated a profit of £85k, despite the impact of continuing covid restrictions in the first quarter of the year, and a flood and storm damage in the final quarter of the year.

Balance sheet (Page 26). The Trust continues to have a strong overall asset position. Heritage assets total £6.4m at the year end (£6.5m at 31 March 2021). The net current asset position of the group is strong at £2,746k (£1,965k at 31 March 2021).

Restricted funds. The Trust has many restricted funds as shown in notes 16 and 17. These funds represent revenue funding for ongoing projects, appeal funds or fixed assets held by the Trust. At 31 March 2022 the value of these restricted funds was £6.1m (£5.9m at 31 March 2021).

Designated funds. The Trust holds designated funds represented by land (£825k) as well as funds, mainly from legacies, totalling £2,473k, to support strategic opportunities and development and for Ash Dieback work to mitigate risk. (See note 18).

Financial reserves. The Group's general unrestricted funds have increased to £715k at 31 March 2022, from £632k at 31 March 2021, and of these £473k (£397k in 2020/21) are free reserves (see note 17).

The trustees have 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 aim to maintain the free unrestricted reserves at a level of three to six months' cover of expenditure rather than a fixed-target value. Based upon the 2022/23 budget, this requirement would be £395k - 790k.

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 2022 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 2022, 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 2022, 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 21, 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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

An understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the charitable company was obtained from the management and the trustees of the charitable company. The audit team was confirmed to have the appropriate competence and capabilities to identify non-compliance with the framework. The audit plan considered the risk of irregularities, including fraud. An element of unpredictability was built into our sample selection for audit tests. The risk of fraud over income was mitigated to an acceptable level as most of the income is either legacy income, membership income, grant income, or donations that are paid directly into the charitable company's bank account; cash donations are insignificant. We agreed a risk-based sample of income to relevant documentation, performed understatement tests on income, and performed analytical procedures on income. The risk of misappropriation of the charitable company's assets was considered: the charity's heritage assets of land and buildings represent 69.0% of its total net assets and the risk of misappropriation is low; the charitable company's bank account balances were tested and confirmed to relevant documentation; and expenditure was tested for validity by substantive tests that included analytical procedures. Accounting estimates were considered as part of our audit work.

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:

Consolidated statement of financial activities

for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	General Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	2	1,344,625	-	139,012	1,483,637	1,918,670
Charitable activities	3	699,521	-	768,959	1,468,480	1,345,854
Other trading activities						
Folly Farm Centre Limited trading		555,374	-	-	555,374	221,696
Fundraising including local groups		5,785	-	-	5,785	3,629
Other income	4	3,464	4,700	-	8,164	11,210
Total		2,608,769	4,700	907,971	3,521,440	3,501,059
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds						
Folly Farm Centre Limited trading	5	445,594	-	-	445,594	210,595
General fundraising	5	453,594	-	-	453,594	509,711
Charitable activities	5&16	1,158,694	88,632	673,392	1,920,718	1,697,611
Total	5	2,057,882	88,632	673,392	2,819,906	2,417,917
Net Income / (expenditure)		550,887	(83,932)	234,579	701,534	1,083,142
Transfers between funds		(467,630)	467,630	-	-	-
Other recognised gains:						
Net contribution/increase in investment value attributable to						
Bristol Natural History Consortium	11	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		83,257	383,698	234,579	701,534	1,083,142
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		632,066	2,089,607	5,915,198	8,636,871	7,553,734
Total funds carried forward	17	715,323	2,473,305	6,149,777	9,338,405	8,636,876

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 2022

	Note	Group 2022 £	Group 2021 £	Charity 2022 £	Charity 2021 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	8	183,391	169,063	40,915	30,182
Heritage assets	9	6,442,862	6,547,186	6,442,862	6,547,186
Investments	11	-	-	1	1
Total fixed assets		6,626,253	6,716,249	6,483,778	6,577,369
Current assets					
Stocks		4,825	3,758	-	-
Debtors	12	1,054,336	1,425,756	1,002,675	1,402,639
Cash at bank and in hand		2,387,542	1,081,958	2,105,536	896,249
Total current assets		3,446,703	2,511,472	3,108,211	2,298,888
Liabilities					
Creditors:					
Amounts falling due within one year	14	700,384	545,845	398,771	250,636
Net current assets		2,746,319	1,965,627	2,709,440	2,048,252
Debtors:					
Amounts falling due after one year	13	-	-	48,582	-
Creditors:					
Amounts falling due after one year	15	34,167	45,000	-	-
Total net assets		9,338,405	8,636,876	9,241,800	8,625,621
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds – designated	17 & 18	2,473,305	2,089,607	2,473,305	2,089,607
Unrestricted funds – general	17	715,323	632,071	618,717	620,815
Unrestricted funds – investments	11	-	-	1	1
		3,188,628	2,721,678	3,092,023	2,710,423
Restricted funds	16	6,149,777	5,915,198	6,149,777	5,915,198
Total funds	17	9,338,405	8,636,876	9,241,800	8,625,621

The notes on pages 30 to 44 form part of these accounts

These accounts were approved by the Board on 21 September 2022

Chair
David Relfh

Trustee
Katharine Finn

Consolidated cash flow statement

for the year ended 31 March 2022

		Group		Group	
		2022	2022	2021	2021
	Note	£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:					
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities			1,365,107		307,854
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment					
Fixed assets	8	(53,690)		(56,554)	
Heritage assets	9	-		-	
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities			(53,690)		(56,554)
Cash flows from financing activities					
Proceeds from disposal of fixed assets		0		1,928	
Bounce Back Loan – Folly Farm		(5,833)		50,000	
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities			(5,833)		51,928
Cash and cash equivalents					
Increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents during the year			1,305,584		303,228
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period			1,081,958		778,730
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period			2,387,542		1,081,958

Reconciliation of net movement in funds to operating cash flow

for the year ended 31 March 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
Net movement in funds	701,534	1,083,142
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges – Fixed assets	39,362	32,196
(Profit) / loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	(466)
Depreciation charges – Heritage assets	104,324	104,324
(Increase) / decrease in stocks	(1,067)	(290)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	371,420	(808,557)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	149,534	(102,495)
Increase / (decrease) in provisions	-	-
(Increase) / decrease in investments	-	-
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	1,365,107	307,854

Accounting Policies

For the year ended 31 March 2022

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.

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.

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.

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.

Accounting Policies (continued)

For the year ended 31 March 2022

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 |
| • Freehold 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 2022

1. Prior year statement of financial activities

for the year ended 31 March 2021	General Unrestricted Funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	1,915,579	1,824	1,267	1,918,670
Charitable activities	866,992	-	478,862	1,345,854
Other trading activities				
Folly Farm Centre Limited trading	221,696	-	-	221,696
Fundraising including local groups	3,629	-	-	3,629
Other income	8,210	3,000	-	11,210
Total	3,016,106	4,824	480,129	3,501,059
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds				
Folly Farm Centre Limited trading	210,595	-	-	210,595
General fundraising	509,711	-	-	509,711
Charitable activities	1,094,885	24,779	577,947	1,697,611
Total	1,815,191	24,779	577,947	2,417,917
Net Income / (expenditure)	1,200,915	(19,955)	(97,818)	1,083,142
Transfers between funds	(1,100,000)	1,100,000	-	-
Other recognised gains:				
Net contribution/increase in investment value attributable to				
Bristol Natural History Consortium	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	100,915	1,080,045	(97,818)	1,083,142
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	531,156	1,009,562	6,013,016	7,553,734
Total funds carried forward	632,071	2,089,607	5,915,198	8,636,876

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

2. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Membership income	786,440	-	-	786,440	722,080
Donations	48,432	-	129,012	177,444	46,188
Appeals	29,122	-	-	29,122	61,299
Legacies	480,631	-	10,000	490,631	1,089,103
Income from costs recharged	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1,344,625	-	139,012	1,483,637	1,918,670

3. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Delivery programmes					
Management of nature reserves	285,652	-	-	285,652	241,780
Biodiversity projects	-	-	23,483	23,483	-
Living Landscapes programme	-	-	74,781	74,781	155,612
Nature Based Solutions	-	-	250,000	250,000	-
My Wild City	-	-	106,191	106,191	91,842
Local Partnership working	122,944	-	-	122,944	60,374
Learning	66,406	-	-	66,406	35,653
Communities – Our Environment	-	-	151,477	151,477	142,918
Our Future	-	-	-	-	-
Other community projects	81,036	-	25,516	106,552	18,240
My Wild Child	-	-	72,000	72,000	71,312
Wellbeing through Nature	25,673	-	-	25,673	27,095
Grow Wilder project	97,098	-	55,511	152,609	168,229
Carbon offsetting	-	-	10,000	10,000	10,000
Heritage Emergency Fund, JRS and other support	20,712	-	-	20,712	322,799
Total	699,521	-	768,959	1,468,480	1,345,854

4. Other income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Other income including interest received	3,464	4,700	-	8,164	10,744
Profit on disposal of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	466
Total	3,464	4,700	-	8,164	11,210

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 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Staff costs (Note 7)	127,504	173,993	1,018,483	-	1,319,980	1,103,408
Conservation & Nature Reserves	-	-	560,064	-	560,064	489,849
Fundraising, advertising and publications	4,292	254,137	3,892	-	262,321	325,262
Folly Farm Centre development	-	-	75,352	-	75,352	75,352
Depreciation	21,834	-	35,215	11,282	68,331	61,292
Legal and professional fees	5,078	-	4,148	16,515	25,741	43,124
Partnership working	-	-	41,485	33,300	74,785	94,522
Premises costs	62,814	-	1	27,068	89,883	59,082
Catering, Conference & Activity Costs	111,508	-	-	-	111,508	4,137
Office and administration	112,564	138	4,795	114,444	231,941	161,889
Governance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	445,594	428,268	1,743,435	202,609	2,819,906	2,417,917
Reallocate Support and Governance	-	25,326	177,283	(202,609)	-	-
Total	445,594	453,594	1,920,718	-	2,819,906	2,417,917

Total resources are stated after charging:	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Auditors' remuneration		
– Audit	13,250	13,295
– Other services including tax advisory	2,155	2,359
Depreciation – tangible and heritage assets	143,686	136,644

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. 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 2022	2022 £	2021 £
Turnover	564,570	74,751
Cost of sales	(214,449)	(38,093)
Gross profit	350,121	36,658
Overheads and administration	(281,826)	(208,246)
Other operating income	18,133	147,261
Operating (loss)/profit	86,428	(24,327)
Interest received	20	30
Interest payable and similar charges	(1,092)	-
(Loss)/profit before taxation	85,356	(24,297)
Tax on profit	-	13
(Loss)/profit for the year	85,356	(24,284)

Balance sheet at 31 March 2022	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets	142,454	138,857
Net current assets/(liabilities)	36,583	(82,929)
Total assets less current liabilities	179,037	55,928
Creditors falling due after more than one year	(82,753)	(45,000)
Total	96,284	10,928
Capital and reserves		
Called-up equity share capital	1	1
Profit and loss account	96,283	10,927
Total	96,284	10,928

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 2021/22 year amounted to £44k (£44k in 2020/21), although rent was waived whilst Folly Farm was closed due to the pandemic.
- 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 2022 includes the consolidation of our subsidiary, the Folly Farm Centre Limited, and the Bristol Natural History consortium (BNHC) as an associated undertaking.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

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

	2022	2021
Group	£	£
Wages and salaries	1,083,133	918,004
Employers' national insurance	79,680	59,273
Pension costs	47,581	44,164
Other staff costs	109,586	81,967
	1,319,980	1,103,408

The trustees were not paid nor did they receive any other benefits from the charity or its subsidiaries in the year (£nil in 2021). No expenses were reimbursed to the trustees during the year (£nil in 2021).

The key management personnel of the parent charity, The Trust, comprise the Senior Leadership Team. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Trust were £181,033 (£166,009 in 2020/21).

The key management personnel of the AWT Group comprise the Senior Leadership 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 £181,033 (£166,009 in 2020/21). One employee earned between £60k and £70k in the year (in 2021, one earned between £60k and £70k).

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

	2022	2021
Delivery programmes	17.7	12.1
Support staff	8.0	10.7
Folly Farm Centre Ltd	2.7	1.7
Total	28.4	24.5

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

8. Tangible fixed assets

	Office improvements £	Freehold improvements	Office equipment & machinery £	Motor vehicles £	Computers £	Total £
Group						
Cost						
At 1 April 2021	5,940	139,143	72,274	89,176	65,398	371,931
Additions	-	23,657	1,772	20,966	7,295	53,690
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2022	5,940	162,800	74,046	110,142	72,693	425,621
Depreciation						
At 1 April 2021	5,940	22,275	58,767	60,857	55,029	202,868
Charge for year	-	14,308	8,267	11,344	5,443	39,362
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2022	5,940	36,583	67,034	72,201	60,472	242,230
Net book value						
At 31 March 2022	-	126,217	7,012	37,941	12,221	183,391
At 31 March 2021	-	116,868	13,507	28,319	10,369	169,063
Charity						
Cost						
At 1 April 2021	5,940	-	12,474	77,553	64,240	160,207
Additions	-	-	-	20,966	7,295	28,261
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2022	5,940	-	12,474	98,519	71,535	188,468
Depreciation						
At 1 April 2021	5,940	-	11,329	58,494	54,262	130,025
Charge for year	-	-	741	11,344	5,443	17,528
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2022	5,940	-	12,070	69,838	59,705	147,553
Net book value						
At 31 March 2022	-	-	404	28,681	11,830	40,915
At 31 March 2021	-	-	1,145	19,059	9,978	30,182

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

9. Heritage assets

	Nature reserves	Improvements to nature reserves	Folly Farm development	Total
Cost	£	£	£	£
At 1 April 2021	3,477,391	680,763	3,859,606	8,017,760
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2022	3,477,391	680,763	3,859,606	8,017,760
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2021	45,759	359,594	1,065,221	1,470,574
Charge for the year	6,537	22,607	75,180	104,324
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2022	52,296	382,201	1,140,401	1,574,898
Net book value				
At 31 March 2022	3,425,095	298,562	2,719,205	6,442,862
At 31 March 2021	3,431,632	321,169	2,794,385	6,547,186

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 2022:

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

*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 £109,919 in the year ended 31 March 2022 (£109,269 in 2021) 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:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Net Fixed Asset Movements in restricted funds	(109,919)	(109,269)
Net Current Asset Movements in restricted funds	344,498	11,451
Net Incoming / (Outgoing) Resources – Restricted funds	234,579	(97,818)

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 company - 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 2021 were approved by the Trustees of BNHC **in September 2022.**

During the year ended 31 December 2021, BNHC generated a deficit of £7,508 (2020 surplus £48,103). At 31 December 2021 the charity had net assets of £72,499 (2020 £80,007) and free reserves amounting to £47,519 (2020: £35,027).

During the period, Avon Wildlife Trust contributed £5,000 as a membership subscription to BNHC (£5,000 in 2021).

12. Debtors – amounts falling due within one year

	Group	Group	Charity	Charity
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Grants and fees receivable	223,962	144,401	223,962	144,401
Prepayments	25,432	33,885	12,535	22,340
Other debtors	804,942	1,247,470	747,995	1,235,898
Loan to Folly Farm Centre Limited	-	-	18,183	-
	1,054,336	1,425,756	1,002,675	1,402,639

13. Debtors – amounts falling due after one year

	Group	Group	Charity	Charity
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Loan to Folly Farm Centre Limited	-	-	48,582	-

Avon Wildlife Trust made a loan on commercial terms to Folly Farm Centre Limited of £43,160 on 08/04/2021 and of £28,640 on 03/03/2022. Monthly repayments are £719.32 and £795.96 respectively.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

14. Creditors – amounts falling due within one year

	Group	Group	Charity	Charity
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	178,764	118,178	131,204	52,013
Other creditors and accruals	508,828	406,796	244,821	177,752
Taxation and national insurance	12,791	20,871	22,747	20,871
	700,383	545,845	398,772	250,636

15. Creditors – amounts falling due after one year

	Group	Group	Charity	Charity
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Bank loan	34,167	45,000	-	-

Folly Farm Centre Limited took out a Business Bounce Back Loan with the Bank of Scotland to assist with cashflow as a result of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. Repayments started on 7th September 2021 at £833.33 per month for five years.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

16. Restricted funds					
Group and Charity	1 Apr 2021 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers £	31 Mar 2022 £
Revenue funds					
Blines / Living Landscapes	30,348	47,781	(25,333)	-	52,796
Folly Wellbeing Garden	5,566	-	(4,207)	-	1,359
Grow Wilder Project	12,971	10,000	(10,000)	-	12,971
Avon Gorge Project	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock	21,117	-	-	-	21,117
Justin Smith Endowment Fund	6,695	12	(2,236)	-	4,471
North Somerset Levels and Moors	12,922	15,000	(16,536)	-	11,386
My Wild City	4	106,191	(106,195)	-	-
My Wild Child	100,108	72,000	(72,594)	-	99,514
Our Bright Future	-	151,477	(151,477)	-	-
Wellbeing through Nature	7,443	-	-	(4,113)	3,330
Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership	9,528	-	(9,528)	-	-
Newbridge Slopes	15,000	-	-	-	15,000
BACM Truck depreciation fund	-	-	(650)	13,000	12,350
Minibus depreciation fund	4,805	-	(4,805)	-	-
Wild Paths	40	-	-	-	40
Feed Bristol depreciation fund	5,716	-	(2,253)	-	3,463
Says Court	3,000	-	(1,845)	-	1,155
Ford Galaxy depreciation fund	6,420	-	(3,081)	-	3,339
Uphill & Walborough	35,401	-	(2,000)	-	33,401
Save our Badgers	13,977	288	(1,752)	-	12,513
Fursman – to support Bristol work	23,912	-	-	-	23,912
Learning - IMAYLA	8,000	-	-	-	8,000
Nailsea Wetlands	21,666	-	-	-	21,666
Puxton	49,695	-	(4,662)	-	45,033
Bathurst Basin Research	3,291	-	(2,796)	-	495
GW Delivery Hub	24,480	-	(15,386)	-	9,094
Carbon Offsetting	10,000	10,000	-	-	20,000
Hutton Wood	-	12,000	(1,000)	-	11,000
Wellbeing 2	-	25,516	(17,222)	4,113	12,407
Land Purchase	-	125,000	-	-	125,000
Bristol Avon Catchment Market	-	250,000	(103,798)	(13,000)	133,202
Clifton Garden Society	-	4,000	-	-	4,000
Legacy J Allan – 'Elderly'	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Beaver Project Fundraising	-	23,195	(6,368)	-	16,827
GW Engagement Hub	-	45,511	(8,538)	-	36,973
Appeal funds					
Summer 15 Appeal	1,262	-	-	-	1,262

Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

Property improvement funds					
Folly Farm sewage treatment	6,496	-	(232)	-	6,264
Folly Farm	22,596	-	(663)	-	21,933
Folly Farm Access Trail	11,215	-	(728)	-	10,487
Willsbridge – landfill	336	-	(12)	-	324
Willsbridge	12,874	-	(427)	-	12,447
Clapton Moor (50 Years)	33,052	-	(946)	-	32,106
Weston Moor	6,560	-	(226)	-	6,334
Walborough	3,896	-	(139)	-	3,757
Goblin Combe (50 Years)	4,130	-	(118)	-	4,012
Weston Big Wood (50 Years)	10,696	-	(307)	-	10,389
Puxton Moor	55,734	-	(1,600)	-	54,134
Nature Reserves Fund	14,217	-	(511)	-	13,706
HLF Conservation Fund	29,541	-	(1,001)	-	28,540
Conservation – reserves fund	16,770	-	(553)	-	16,217
Grow Wilder	8,190	-	(8,190)	-	-
Folly Farm Centre development	2,555,171	-	(73,729)	-	2,481,442
Folly Farm volunteer training base	68,544	-	(1,451)	-	67,093
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	288,042	-	(8,297)	-	279,745
Total	5,915,198	907,971	(673,392)	-	6,149,777

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:

Blines / Living Landscapes	To survey, conserve, restore and enhance Avon's grasslands
Folly Wellbeing Garden	To involve the community in growing nature-friendly food
Grow Wilder 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.
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
BACM Truck depreciation fund	To provide a vehicle for the Bristol Avon Catchment Market project
Minibus depreciation fund	To provide a combination vehicle for the Our Bright Future project
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
Save our Badgers	To vaccinate badgers against BTB in the Avon area and campaign for vaccination as a viable alternative to culling
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
Nailsea Wetlands	To construct a wetland to tackle pollution entering Tickenham, Nailsea and Kenn Moor SSSI.
Puxton	Improvements to Puxton Moor SSSI and nature reserve
Bathurst Basin Research	To create a reedbed in Bathurst Basin with the local community
GW Delivery Hub	To set up a Delivery Hub at Grow Wilder site in Stapleton, north Bristol
Carbon Offsetting	To develop a carbon reduction strategy and action plan
Hutton Wood	To maintain the 28 hectares of wood leased to the Trust by the Woodland Trust
Wellbeing 2	To continue wellbeing through nature activities
Land Purchase	To fund future land purchase
Bristol Avon Catchment Market	Working with partner organisations to demonstrate how a nature based solutions market could work in the Bristol Avon catchment area.
Clifton Garden Society	To purchase and plant trees and wildflowers to create wildlife corridors
Legacy J Allan – 'Elderly'	To support our work with nature particularly with the elderly
Beaver Project Fundraising	To help monitor and protect the newly detected beaver population in Avon
GW Engagement Hub	To establish a new community space to help engage and inspire more people to actively support nature's recovery

Appeal funds:

Summer 15 Appeal	To replace and improve information boards on our reserves
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Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

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

17. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets	Other Net Assets	Total
	£	£	£
Revenue funds			
Blines / Living Landscapes	-	52,796	52,796
Folly Wellbeing Garden	-	1,359	1,359
Feed Bristol project	-	12,971	12,971
Avon Gorge Project	-	10,000	10,000
Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock	-	21,117	21,117
Justin Smith Endowment Fund	-	4,471	4,471
North Somerset Levels and Moors	-	11,386	11,386
My Wild City	-	-	-
My Wild Child	-	99,514	99,514
Wellbeing through Nature	-	3,330	3,330
Bristol Avon Catchment Project	-	-	-
Newbridge Slopes	-	15,000	15,000
BACM Truck depreciation fund	12,350	-	12,350
Minibus depreciation fund	-	-	-
Wild Paths	-	40	40
Feed Bristol depreciation fund	3,463	-	3,463
Says Court	-	1,155	1,155
Ford Galaxy depreciation fund	3,339	-	3,339
Uphill & Walborough	-	33,401	33,401
Save our Badgers	-	12,513	12,513
Fursman – to support Bristol work	-	23,912	23,912
Learning - IMAYLA	-	8,000	8,000
Nailsea Wetlands	-	21,666	21,666
Puxton	-	45,033	45,033
Bathurst Basin Research	-	495	495
GW Delivery Hub	-	9,094	9,094
Carbon Offsetting	-	20,000	20,000
Hutton Wood	-	11,000	11,000
Wellbeing 2	-	12,407	12,407
Land Purchase	-	125,000	125,000
Bristol Avon Catchment Market	-	133,202	133,202
Clifton Garden Society	-	4,000	4,000

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Legacy J Allan – ‘Elderly’	-	10,000	10,000
Beaver Project Fundraising	-	16,827	16,827
GW Engagement Hub	-	36,973	36,973
Appeal funds			
Summer 15 Appeal	-	1,262	1,262
Property improvement funds			
Folly Farm sewage treatment	6,264	-	6,264
Folly Farm	21,933	-	21,933
Folly Farm Access Trail	10,487	-	10,487
Willsbridge – landfill	324	-	324
Willsbridge	12,447	-	12,447
Clapton Moor (50 Years)	32,106	-	32,106
Weston Moor	6,334	-	6,334
Walborough	3,757	-	3,757
Goblin Combe (50 Years)	4,012	-	4,012
Weston Big Wood (50 Years)	10,389	-	10,389
Puxton Moor	54,134	-	54,134
Nature Reserves fund	13,706	-	13,706
HLF Conservation fund	28,540	-	28,540
Conservation - reserves fund	16,217	-	16,217
Grow Wilder	-	-	-
Folly Farm Centre development	2,649,251	(167,809)	2,481,442
Folly Farm volunteer training base	67,093	-	67,093
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	279,745	-	279,745
Total restricted funds	5,559,662	590,115	6,149,777
Unrestricted designated – land at Goblin Combe	825,000	-	825,000
Unrestricted designated – legacy – Fundamental LT Fund	-	1,167,630	1,167,630
Unrestricted designated – Ash Dieback	-	400,000	400,000
Unrestricted designated – funds	-	80,675	80,675
Unrestricted designated funds – Total	825,000	1,648,305	2,473,305
Unrestricted funds – general	241,591	473,732	715,323
Total unrestricted general funds	241,591	473,732	715,323
Total funds	6,626,253	2,712,152	9,338,405

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

The AWT Group total funds increased to £9,338,405 from £8,636,876 at the previous year end.

There is a net current liability in respect of the Folly Farm Centre development project of £167,809. 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.

18. Designated funds

	Group	Group	Charity	Charity
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Strategic opportunities and development	35,937	122,869	35,937	122,869
Landlord repairs – Folly Farm	44,738	41,738	44,738	41,738
Ash Dieback fund	400,000	-	400,000	-
Legacy – Fundamental long-term fund	1,167,630	1,100,000	1,167,630	1,100,000
Designated heritage land – Goblin Combe	825,000	825,000	825,000	825,000
Total designated funds	2,473,305	2,089,607	2,473,305	2,089,607

£87k (2020/21 £23k) of the designated fund for strategic opportunities and development has been used 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 £36k (£123k in 2021) and it is anticipated that the remainder of the funds will be spent in 2022/23.

The very generous legacy of £1,100,000 left to the Trust last year was designated for fundamental long-term purposes to maintain our nature reserves, buy land, improve infrastructure and invest in the future of the Trust and this fund has been increased by another generous legacy in 2021/22.

19. 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 2022, there were no outstanding pension contributions accrued in respect of employees not yet set up under the pension scheme (£nil in 2021).

20. Contingent Liability

During the year the Trust received a section 25 notice from Bristol City Council to renew the lease or to vacate the offices at 32 Jacobs Wells Road by 1st June 2022. The Trust decided to vacate and moved into offices at 17 Great George Street in May 2022.

The lease at 32 Jacobs Wells Road contained provision for dilapidations to be paid by the tenant. However, in light of the state of the building when the lease was originally entered into, it is difficult to reliably measure the probable level of any dilapidations that will be payable. Therefore, in line with FRS 102, this has been accounted for as a contingent liability and no provision has been made in the balance sheet.

Bringing Wildlife Back

Urgent action is needed to tackle the nature and climate emergencies and reverse wildlife declines.

Our vision is to see nature recovering on a grand scale across Avon.

Join us and be part of it!



Priority Areas are the places where our teams are currently concentrating our work to restore and join up habitats at a landscape scale.

Developing Priority Areas are locations where we have specific new ambitions for the next ten years.

We are also leading and supporting work to tackle the ecological emergency in **Urban Areas** throughout the West of England.

avonwildlifetrust.org.uk



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