



Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2025

Registered in England & Wales, No. 01495108

Registered Charity No. 280422

Bringing **wildlife** back

We hope you find this report accessible. Please get in touch if you have any suggestions that would improve accessibility, or if you would find it useful to receive the information in a different format including hard copy or larger print.

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The Avon Wildlife Trust Group

The Annual Report and Financial Statements refer to 'The Avon Wildlife Trust Group'. This term is used to include Avon Wildlife Trust and Folly Farm Centre Limited.

Further details about the Trust's subsidiary and related companies are given on pages 11 and 12

Trustee and Committee Members

Avon Wildlife Trust is deeply grateful to those who volunteer to support our work in their roles as trustees and committee members.

Avon Wildlife Trust Trustee Board **Appointed this year** **Retired this year**

Lara Burch **Chair**

Martin Lyne

Ross Fairley

Dominic Hogg

Karen Hills

Sumita Hutchison

Kate Leahy

John Zac Nicholson

Nathan Rutter

Mark Steer

Rebecca Burgess

6th Nov 2024

Ped Asgarian

6th Nov 2024

Finance & Resources Committee **Appointed this year** **Retired this year**

Martin Lyne **Chair**

Lara Burch

Kate Leahy

Rebecca Burgess

6th Nov 2024

Sumita Hutchison

Governance Committee **Appointed this year** **Retired this year**

Ross Fairley **Chair**

Dominic Hogg **Deputy Chair**

John Zac Nicholson

Karen Hills

Nathan Rutter

Ped Asgarian

6th Nov 2024

Senior Leadership Team

Ian Barrett, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) (to 8th November 2024)

Nigel Wilson, Interim CEO (November 2024 – March 2025)

Leah McNally, CEO (from 3rd March 2025)

Shelly Easton, Head of Nature's Recovery

Bernie D'Arcy, Head of Nature Reserves and Land Management

Jane Davis, Director of Finance and Resources (to 31st May 2025)

Rob Hill, Director of Finance and Operations (from 1st June 2025)

Julie Doherty, Head of Communities and Engagement

Sam Warren, Head of Commercial

Steve Williamson, Head of People and Resources

Xuela Edwards, Head of Fundraising, Membership and Communications (to 23rd May 2024)

Katie Burfitt, Head of Development (from 15th July 2024)

Welcome

Welcome to Avon Wildlife Trust's Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

These financial records reflect the steps the charity has taken towards reaching our strategic goals and targets for 2030, and the broader economic climate we are operating within.

- **Nature's recovery** 30% of land and sea managed for the benefit of wildlife
- **Empowering people** 1 in 4 people taking action for wildlife
- **Nature-based solutions** 1,000 hectares of habitat restored to provide nature-based solutions

This has been a year of significant progress towards our goals, thanks to unwavering support from our members, local people, partnership organisations and funders, and the tireless dedication of our staff and volunteers.

Leah McNally joined as Chief Executive in March 2025, bringing a wealth of experience from previous roles, including most recently as Director of Learning, Youth and Communities at London Wildlife Trust.

Nature's recovery still faces huge challenges, and the financial climate remains tough, but we continue to inspire, and be inspired by, our community of action.

Our work this year showcased the power of connection, bringing people, resources, and ideas together to boost biodiversity at both a community and landscape level.

The **Wilder Woodlands** project enhanced and created habitat for dormice and lesser and greater horseshoe bats, with some very promising results for all species (page 6).

Our goal to see more land managed for nature took a huge leap forward with the acquisition of **Ebdon Farm**, a 44-hectare former dairy farm in North Somerset. This is one of our most ambitious plans to date,

with more opportunities to connect people with nature (page 10)

Our first paid traineeships for the **Pollinator Pathways** project joined the team this year. The project offers guidance to landowners, businesses, farmers, and community groups, to access support with surveys, and receive habitat management advice (page 10)

As part of our **Team Wilder** community organising approach, our pioneering Ecological Advisory Service made 100 site visits this year. We also celebrated the successes of the **Somer Valley Nextdoor Nature** project and the amazing work of our **22 Wildlife Champions** in their neighbourhoods (pages 7 and 8)

Most of our funding is donated by our members, funders and supporters. Due to planned work on designated fund projects, associated with work on our nature reserves including the ongoing issue of ash dieback, the Trust had a deficit in the year. Our cash reserves remain healthy, and we are well placed to continue our work towards a future with nature thriving for everyone.

Lara Burch

Chair of Trustees

Leah McNally

Chief Executive

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



Avon
Wildlife Trust

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 2025. 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

In the year to March 2025, we continued to deliver our 2020-2030 strategy (summarised on pages 6 to 10); all with the vision of bringing wildlife back to abundance.

Read our full 2020 - 2030 strategy document here: www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/our-vision

As we reach the mid-point of our strategy, we will review progress and refresh and update our strategy, to present an updated document in the next annual report.

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.

Nature's recovery (Reserves)

Our vision for 2030

We need to make more space for nature to give our struggling wildlife the chance to recover. We will **create**, **connect** and **restore** a diverse range of abundantly wild places and form thriving nature recovery networks across the region.

By 2030 we want to see 30% of land and sea managed for the benefit of wildlife

What we achieved in 2024/25

- We delivered our Goblin Coombe **Wilder Woodlands** project, (with generous support by Natural England and the Halpin Trust). Wilder Woodlands is an approach that seeks to create a dynamic landscape that is resilient to flooding, erosion and extreme weather, while sustaining better-connected habitats. The project ended in April 2025 and was successful with many targets exceeded:
 - Creating 4,250m of new woodland rides and 900m of enhanced rides
 - Delivering interventions to create of 50 veteranised trees and carried out 1ha coppicing
 - Installing 6,900m of livestock fencing and delivering over 250 volunteering task days
 - Procuring a new tractor and other equipment for the Trust
 - Ecological surveying has confirmed the presence of dormice across the whole project area. There was also great news for key bat species, with bat detectors recording 3,360 lesser horseshoe bat passes, 2,177 greater horseshoe bat passes, and 371 barbastelle bat passes.
- We delivered our **Hellenge Hill Nature Recovery** project (supported by Enover Community Trust and Thatchers). Hellenge Hill is part of the recently declared Mendip National Nature Reserve. This 22-hectare site is characterised by calcareous (chalk) grassland and supports many rare plants and animals. We delivered the following enhancements:
 - Upgrading fencing to facilitate continued conservation grazing,
 - Planting native hedges,
 - Installing a trough and water supply for livestock to enable conservation grazing,
 - Installing new gates and updating interpretation boards,
 - Pond restoration work.These activities facilitated the ongoing management and improvement of the mosaic habitat, providing food for wildlife and improving connectivity between areas of existing habitat.
- Our work tackling **ash dieback** and **updating infrastructure** on our reserves are on track. With the support of volunteers and reserves staff we have completed a digitised audit of the infrastructure across all of our nature reserves. This will allow us to plan longer-term maintenance programmes to protect our vital conservation grazing and ensure our reserves are accessible and safe for visitors.
- The reserves team also supported the purchase of Ebdon Farm, the delivery of corporate volunteering days, as well as biodiversity net gain scoping reports.

What we're going to do in 2025/26

- We will support the development of our plans for Ebdon Farm, this will include completing species surveys and managing the land
- We will develop a peat restoration plan for Gordano Valley alongside partners and stakeholders, including establishing moor associations
- We will continue the maintenance and ecological monitoring of our existing nature reserves
- We will continue our work to tackle ash dieback and updating infrastructure on our reserves
- We will identify potential new land acquisitions and partnerships
- We will work to secure new Countryside Stewardship agreements for our existing nature reserves.

Empowering people

Our vision for 2030

The science shows that if just **one person in every four** takes action for wildlife, this can be enough to change the minds and behaviour of the majority, which will help to put nature into recovery.

By 2030 we want to see 1 in 4 people taking action for wildlife

What we achieved in 2024/25

- Through our **Team Wilder Ecological advisory service**, we carried out 100 site visits, and made 18 video calls, responding to enquiries from the general public. The majority of these were for advice on shared community spaces. In total our community ecologist advised on over 288 hectares of land providing site-specific reports focusing on a range of habitats and species. In addition, our community ecologist produced a variety of resources and training webinars on topics such as, 'Introduction to Ecology', 'Monitoring and Recording Species' and 'Managing Habitat for Wildlife', which are all available on our website.
- Our 18 month **Somer Valley Nextdoor Nature** project concluded in March 2025. Using a community organising approach we engaged with 1550 people, of which 61 local residents are continuing to take a leadership role to care for nature and running events in their communities. 2720m² of blue and green space has been improved across four different community projects in Paulton, Peasedown St John, Writhlington and Bath College Somer Valley Campus. This includes:
 - Planting 925 trees,
 - Creating or actively managing 15 ponds,
 - Constructing 70 habitat boxes.

Our evaluation showed that 92% respondents felt they were empowered to make decisions about their local community, and 80% respondents took action for nature beyond the project activities, such as in their garden.

- In spring 2024 we worked with the Natural History Consortium to create a Community Day as part of the annual **Festival of Nature**. The aim was to showcase

local nature groups, projects and events, giving more local people the opportunity to engage with nature in their neighbourhood. We provided community groups with activity packs, resources, webinars and support from our community ecologist. We commissioned a beautifully illustrated map leaflet showcasing community groups and their events. On the day, 36 community events led by local people, were held across Bristol and Bath. Over 550 people attended, with 90% of groups reporting that they met new people from their community during the event.

- In summer 2024 we launched the **Intergenerational Action for Nature and Climate project**, an ambitious three-year project working with young people to transform the land adjacent to our Grow Wilder site into a biodiverse youth-led nature reserve, which will include classroom facilities. Our wider **Youth programme** also expanded, welcoming a greater variety of school and youth groups (focusing on young people experiencing challenging circumstances from under-served communities) to Grow Wilder to enjoy connecting with nature, learning practical conservation and monitoring skills and learning about green careers. We are now able to mentor more young people, and we are delighted to have seen young people move through different elements of our programme and into their first paid role in the sector.
- At **Folly Farm Centre** during the 2024-2025 season, we delivered a range of learning programmes through day and residential visits from schools, reaching 1,796 children from 33 schools.
- In June 2024, we hosted a **Community Campfire** event at Grow Wilder to celebrate Pride month. Community Campfires are a way of bringing people together to inspire local action for nature. Past themes have included wildlife gardening, running a community group, guerrilla food growing and building a wildlife pond, amongst other things. This campfire cultivated a safe space for the LGBTQ+ community and allies to explore themes around the intersections of nature, community, and identity. Our amazing speakers were all from the LGBTQ+ community and included a conservation biologist, zoologist and wildlife filmmaker and a multidisciplinary artists and foraging teacher. Talks were followed with a Q&A time for networking and mingling, and refreshments. The event quickly sold out and we received resoundingly positive feedback.
- In March 2025 the first phase of our **Wildlife Champions** programme was completed. During the programme 22 Wildlife Champions were recruited from across the Avon region and supported to deliver community-led action for nature's recovery. Wildlife Champions supported community members to engage with nature through events, including nature-based workshops, a community festival, and publication of a book. Overall, Avon Wildlife Trust and Wildlife Champions delivered 49 events, building skills and knowledge within the Wildlife Champions network and their wider communities. Champions' actions led to direct and indirect community impact, evidenced by reduced fly-tipping and vandalism, increased site use, community feedback, requests for wildlife gardening advice and helping to build nature connection. Evaluation showed that Champions' actions led to positive changes for nature in their communities, and the support of the programme was a key factor in this. Peer networks and staff support were critical enablers, with Champions rating

staff support highly at both mid-term and final evaluations and citing feelings of empowerment through network building.

What we're going to do in 2025/26

- We will increase the support we provide, and the number of Wildlife Champions we support, to drive locally led action for nature's recovery
- We will work in partnership with community anchor organisations to develop and deliver neighbourhood-scale nature recovery projects
- We will expand the community programme at the annual Festival of Nature event
- We will work with communities in North Somerset to co-create plans for our newly acquired Ebdon Farm, with the aim of creating an accessible and welcoming space for all
- We will support more communities to create climate and nature action plans through our work on the Community Climate and Nature Action Project led by Bristol Climate and Nature Partnership
- We will work with local residents in Warmley, South Gloucestershire to create a community nature reserve
- We will continue to develop plans on site adjacent to Grow Wilder with our Youth Leadership Group and increase revenue generating activities to support our expanding youth programme
- We will host a community showcase event, bringing community groups together to build inter-community networks and increase knowledge and understanding of how to lead impactful action for nature's recovery where they live.

Nature-based solutions

Our vision for 2030

We want to **restore** and **create** good quality habitat to draw down carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, reduce local flooding and promote an abundance of biodiversity.

By 2030 we want to see 1,000 hectares of habitat restored to provide nature-based solutions

What we achieved in 2024/25

- We delivered the **Somerset Moors Future Project** (in partnership with FWAG SouthWest funded by Defra's Lowland Agricultural Peat Water Discovery Pilot (LAPWDP)), working on the peatland areas of the North Somerset Levels and Moors. To deliver this project we:
 - Met 28 farmers / landowners and actively engaged with 21 landowners.
 - Delivered three education / information workshop events.
 - Supported the establishment of three Moor Associations, bringing farmers, landowners and other stakeholders together.
 - Delivered two whole moor land use planning sessions.
 - This project now covers 1,358ha of land.

- We continued to develop our Farm Advice team, through the delivery of the **Pollinators Pathway** project (funded by Green Recovery Fund, via WECA and the Banister Trust). This is a multi-year project, in 2024/25 we:
 - Engaged with 30 landowners through the landowner advisory service, including carrying out habitat surveys, writing management plans for landowners.
 - Held 21 task days with volunteers, that have enhanced over 7ha of grassland and other pollinator-friendly habitat across the project area.
 - Restored 25m of boundaries (hedges, fencing, dry stone walls) and distributed over £3,000 of capital works funding.
 - Held a pollinator farm walk demonstration event, two training events (dead hedge creation and orchard pruning) and two citizen science events facilitated with Buglife.
 - Recruited four trainees, each given a 9-month paid placement to launch their careers into the environmental sector.
- Acquired **Ebdon Farm** as a future nature reserve and secured funding to develop our plans for the site.

What we're going to do in 2025/26

- We will develop our **Ebdon Farm** project. The farm was acquired in March 2025 with support from National Lottery Heritage Fund, we will prepare detailed plans and designs for the site, working with the local community to understand their needs, completing habitat surveys and raising funds to deliver these plans.
- We will launch the **Beaver Advisory Service**, it will consist of a team of experts, including a new Beaver Field Officer. We will offer free support, advice and training to landowners, farmers and communities living alongside our wild living beaver population. We aim to improve understanding of beaver ecology and behaviour through talks, walks and training for those who require a class license for beaver management. We are also working to improve the understanding of beaver populations via surveying and monitoring of beaver territories.
- On our **Pollinator Pathways** project, we will continue to work with landowners, schools, community groups, focusing on the northern part of the project area to the east of Bath and up into South Gloucestershire. Supported by our small grant facility, we have a programme of habitat enhancements planned for autumn/winter 25/26, including 5ha of grassland enhancement works across four sites across the Mendip Hills and Somer Valley Hedgerow improvement works and demonstration events. Two trainees will complete their placements graduating and receiving support to find their next steps, and two new trainees will start their Avon Wildlife Trust journey.
- In the **Somerset Moors** project, we will continue to develop moor associations, engage with other stakeholders (including local communities, town councils and the North Somerset Levels and Moors partnership) and plan to secure large scale project funding to progress the work.

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 (Registered company no. 06538712) 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 and conference venue and education facility for schoolchildren.

Folly Farm Centre Limited is owned and operated by Avon Wildlife Trust with the help of a Board of Directors that includes at least one Avon Wildlife Trust Trustee and the Chief Executive of the Trust. Profits generated at Folly Farm are gift aided to Avon Wildlife Trust to support our charitable activities. All Folly Farm transactions are consolidated with the Trust's transactions in the group accounts.

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 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 2024/25 and 2023/24). In addition, Avon Wildlife Trust received £14,950 of income from BNHC in 2024/25. See note 11 for further financial details.

The Trust has a place on the BNHC Board with the other company members. Leah McNally, Avon Wildlife Trust Chief Executive Officer is the current Avon Wildlife Trust trustee of BNHC. 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, National Trust, Natural England, Bristol City Council, BANES, the Woodland Trust and Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.

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 £44,425 (£43,670 in 2023/24) 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.

In the 2024/25 financial year, the Trust paid a total of £86,577 to RSWT (including the £44,425 contribution to operating costs), and received £79,897 in income.

The Trust is also a founding member of **South West Wildlife Fundraising Limited (SWWFL)** with Devon Wildlife Trust, Dorset Trust for Nature Conservation Limited, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, Somerset Wildlife Trust and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. SWWFL is a company limited by guarantee, company number 08529465. It provides membership recruitment services to members of SWWFL and other Wildlife Trusts.

The Trust has the right to appoint a director to the SWWFL board. The Trust's Director of Finance and Operations is the 'Member Representative' in all meetings of the Members and in all communications between that Member and the Company. Membership recruitment services costing £213,533 were provided to the Trust in the current year (£125,906 in previous year).

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. 01495108) regulated under company law.

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. Copies of these are available on request.

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.

Two Trustees retired during the year, Ped Asgarian and Rebecca Burgess and we thank them for their support and hard work. Two new trustees are being recruited, and will be appointed

at the next AGM. 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.

During 2024/25 the Board was supported by two Committees (Governance and Finance and 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.

Public Benefit

All the Trust's activities are undertaken to advance environmental protection and improvement for wildlife especially, but not exclusively, in the area formerly known as the County of Avon.

Access to our nature reserves is free for the public, all year round. In some cases, access or numbers may be restricted in numbers seasonally because of the sensitivity of wildlife or to ensure visitor safety. This year, Ash Dieback disease made many areas unsafe and we invested in signage and communications to ensure volunteer, visitor and staff safety.

We deliver 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 and resources are available free or at a reasonable price to help cover costs or support fundraising. In this year we substantially increased the number of free resources available through our inclusive, 'Team Wilder' community organising approach www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/team-wilder

The Trustees are therefore satisfied that the Trust meets the public benefit test required of charities.

Our Values

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 888 hectares of key wildlife sites as nature reserves.
- 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.
- Enables people to make a positive contribution to wildlife conservation, both by direct action and by reducing the environmental impact of their behaviour.
- 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.
- Runs a successful environmental learning and conference centre at Folly Farm in the Chew Valley.
- Runs a pioneering urban centre at Grow Wilder 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.
- Provides opportunities for people to acquire skills and experience that enhance their personal development and employability.

Risk management

Avon Wildlife Trust manages its strategic risks through the use of a risk management policy, and risk register. The Trustees and Senior Leadership Team routinely complete risk assessments to identify strategic risks. The Trustees also routinely review the risk register to ensure all risks are being monitored. Each strategic risk has an owner, and a set of risk mitigation plans to reduce either the likelihood or impact of each particular risk. The Governance Committee of the Board periodically reviews the risk policy, the risk register and receives regular reports on performance.

In addition, the Trust has:

- A health and safety consultant who provides specialist health and safety advice and training to staff and works with our Health and Safety Management Group.
- A designated Safeguarding lead.

The current strategic risks of the organisation are assessed as:

1. Fundraising. Insufficient funding to achieve strategic aims
2. Fundraising. High level of short term project funding, and lower levels of longer term programme funding
3. Staff turnover. Loss of institutional memory
4. Health and Safety. Incident to a member of the public or staff member at one of our sites.

5. Nature reserves infrastructure. Lack of investment in nature reserves, due to insufficient funds leads to health and safety incident.
6. Project delivery. Insufficient capacity to deliver high profile, large timebound projects.
7. Event delivery. Lack of staff capacity at Folly Farm and other venues to deliver pre-paid events.
8. Data protection. Poor cybersecurity leads to loss of member data.

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.

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 and Engagement
- Commercial
- Fundraising
- Finance and Operations
- People and Resources

The Chief Executive, Directors and Heads 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

Since the Trust was founded in 1980, our work has been made possible thanks to the generosity of our loyal members and supporters. Avon Wildlife Trust needs to fundraise to deliver the majority of our work with wildlife. The figures in this report set out our investment in fundraising and the grants, donations and gifts in Wills received in this year. This section provides more detail about our approach to fundraising and key activities. We welcome enquiries from anyone who would like to learn more

Fundraising@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk

Our members and supporters are extremely important to us and we take steps to ensure that they have a positive, friendly experience when they are kind enough to donate and take action for nature. All our staff share a love of wildlife with our supporters and our fundraising is built around working together to bring wildlife back. We invite, and very much appreciate, the financial support that helps reach our shared goals.

Membership is an important part of the whole Wildlife Trust movement. We believe in the strength in numbers that membership brings, and the regular income donated from our members is critical to running the charity. Formal membership of the Trust is open to everybody. We have deliberately kept the minimum annual donation low so it remains accessible, particularly to families, so that children can learn about nature. Membership of Avon Wildlife Trust is not about receiving personal benefit as we do not charge entry fees for our nature reserves. Many members, including our Patrons, choose to donate at a higher level to make a difference to wildlife and we are sincerely grateful for their kindness.

New members are welcomed by the Trust through our website, national campaigns delivered by The Wildlife Trusts, and by our membership recruiters. Our recruiters are employed and 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. There are more details on SWWFL in the *Jointly owned companies* section on Page 12.

SWWFL is a Wildlife Trust-owned company and shares our passion for wildlife and commitment to high standards for supporters. They pride themselves on the exceptionally low level of complaints received and their regular positive feedback which we monitor. This high standard is achieved through quality training which includes a specific focus on protecting vulnerable people, supportive management, and an understanding that they act as ambassadors in the community.

Rightly, fundraising is well-governed and we take our compliance seriously. To reflect our commitment to best practice, the Trust is registered with The Fundraising Regulator. Through this, we pledge that our fundraising is legal, open; honest and respectful. You can read more here www.fundraisingregulator.org.uk.

We work with integrity and uphold the strict standards and guidelines set out by industry bodies including the Chartered Institute of Fundraising www.ciof.org.uk/about-us/what-we-stand-for/excellent-fundraising/compliance

Our Fundraising team is trained in the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations (PECR) and supporter information is held securely and correctly used for the purposes that permission was given such as membership. Our valued members and supporters are also protected by the Direct Debit guarantee if they choose to donate in this way.

In our work with the grant-makers, whose transformative role in our work with wildlife is clear in our accounts, we reflect that same commitment to be legal, open, honest and respectful in our applications, reporting, evaluation reporting and in meeting the terms of our formal grant agreements. Our commitment to 'going the extra mile' for our supporters is published on our website www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/what-we-do/how-we-are-run/our-supporter-care-charter

In line with the Trusts ambitious strategic goals, we continue to pursue a fundraising strategy of growing income to support more delivery. Fundraising works alongside every part of the charity, including other income-generating activities such as sales from our plant nursery, to support our vision for a future where nature is recovering on a grand scale, and everyone is able to enjoy increasingly abundant wildlife.

Complaints

We aim to respond to fundraising 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.

Acknowledgements

Avon Wildlife Trust was founded by volunteers and volunteers continue to be an integral part of the trust their generous commitment of time and dedication.

We're grateful to our volunteer-led 'local groups' in the Chew Valley, Keynsham, and Portishead which inspire and inform local communities about the wonders of wildlife, with some actively improving nature sites through the region.

Our partnerships with farmers and graziers bring enormous benefit to our work.

Avon Wildlife Trust's loyal members are the lifeblood of the charity. Their donations support our year-round work on reserves and provide the stability that safeguards places and species over the long-term. The confidence that members show the charity through their regular gifts enables us to develop and secure further funding for specific projects.

We're grateful to our business members who help engage more people and champion our vital work to a broader audience.

Gifts given to benefit wildlife in Wills, and in memory, mean a great deal to us. We would like to formally express our sincere gratitude to everyone who chooses to include Avon Wildlife Trust in their lasting wishes. As this report shows, your generosity is far-reaching.

We truly value the support of charitable trusts, foundations and grant-makers to help reach the vision of nature's recovery.

Thank you to all of the individuals and community groups who shared their time, their stories, and their passion for nature which inspired others to take action.

We would like to thank everyone who chose Folly Farm for conferences and weddings this year and to everyone who planned their employee engagement days with nature in mind.

Our generous landlord at Great George Street enables us to invest more of our income on conservation activities.

The Bristol Post provides us with a weekly column to champion the value of nature to their readership.

Thank you also to the local businesses that lend us space to promote membership.

We give thanks for grants, gifts of time, money and skills, and gifts in kind

Airbus	National Lottery Reaching Communities
Aviva	National Lottery Heritage Fund
Bath & North-East Somerset Council	Natural England
Banister Charitable Trust	Natural England Species Recovery
Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership	Programme
Bristol City Council	Osborne Clarke
Bristol Masons	Patagonia 1% for the Planet
Burges Salmon	South Gloucestershire Council
Defra	SO-MA Trust
Ecological Restoration Fund	Thatcher's Foundation
Enovert Community Trust	The Ernest Cook Trust
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group	The Nisbet Trust
Garfield Weston Foundation	The Pople Charitable Trust
Halpin Trust	West of England Combined Authority
Mendips Farming in Protected Landscapes	Wessex Water
National Lottery Community Fund – Climate Action	

Financial Review

Overview

The Trust made a deficit of £568k in the year compared with a surplus of £17k in the previous year, this is primarily due to:

- Expenditure on planned designated fund projects, such as improving the infrastructure on nature reserves and reducing the impact of ash die-back.
- Expenditure on existing activities that were previously funded by restricted grants, such as the management of nature reserves and working with local communities and partnerships.

	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000s	£'000s
Unrestricted (deficit)/surplus	(281)	152
Designated (deficit)/surplus	(261)	(221)
Restricted (deficit)/surplus	(26)	86
Total (deficit) / surplus	(568)	17

As a result, the net assets of the Avon Wildlife Trust Group decreased to £8,391k from £8,959k at the previous year-end. Of this value, £6,238k (£6,326k in 2023/24) are 'heritage assets', primarily our nature reserves. In financial terms, these are not assets that we can convert to an equivalent in cash. For example, in our 'Unrestricted designated funds' we list £825k which is the value of land at Goblin Combe which was gifted to the Trust and which we are not planning to sell.

Key financial factors

Donations and legacies (see note 2) increased slightly from £1,045k to £1,165k. Membership subscription income increased by 5% from £870k to £913k, representing 39% (35% in 2023/24) of unrestricted income in the year and 29% of total income (24% in previous year).

Income from charitable activities (note 3) decreased from £1,683k to £1,192k in 2023/24. The decrease is due to a reduction in grant income. The income from charitable activities represents 38% (46% in 2023/24) of our total income.

Expenditure (note 5) on charitable activities increased from £2,300k to £2,447k in 2023/24, and represents 66% of total expenditure. General fundraising expenditure decreased from £664k to £640k in the year.

Folly Farm Centre generated a profit of £61k, down from £75k in the previous year. A donation from Folly Farm to Avon Wildlife Trust of £73,263 was made (from the 2023/2024 profit).

Balance sheet (Page 27) The Trust continues to have a strong balance sheet. The net current assets of the group remains are £1,663k, down from £2,216k last year (at 31 March 2024). The reduction in assets is primarily due to a reduction in designated funds.

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 2024 the value of these restricted funds had decreased slightly to £6.0m (from £6.1m at 31 March 2024). This is primarily the value of land and property donated or purchased from restricted funds.

Designated funds

The Trust holds designated funds represented by land (£825k) as well as funds, mainly from legacies, totalling £1,874k. This has reduced by £261k from £2,135k at 31st March 2024. The reduction is due to expenditure on planned activities to support strategic opportunities and for work to improve infrastructure on nature reserves and to mitigate the risks of Ash dieback (See note 18).

Financial reserves

The Group's general unrestricted funds have decreased from £774k to £493k at 31 March 2025, and of these £137k (£403k in 2022/23) 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 2025/26 budget, this requirement would be (£429k – £858k in 2024/25).

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 30 September 2025 and signed on their behalf:

Trustee Lara Burch
Signer ID: OBN1PH4XPY...

Lara Burch

Trustee Martin Lyne
Signer ID: SZH0QDSLCE...

Martin Lyne

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 2025, 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 2025, 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),
- 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,
- 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.

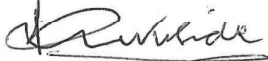
Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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 74% 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.



STEPHEN BURNSIDE (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of :

Burnside Chartered Accountants
61 Queen Square, Bristol, BS1 4JZ

Date:

30/9/25

Consolidated statement of financial activities

for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	2	1,124,757	258	40,070	1,165,085	1,045,366
Charitable activities	3	428,079	-	763,641	1,191,720	1,683,285
Other trading activities						
Folly Farm Centre Limited trading		710,832	-	-	710,832	788,248
Fundraising including local groups		4,291	-	-	4,291	25,460
Other income	4	63,470	-	-	63,470	86,046
Total		2,331,429	258	803,711	3,135,398	3,628,405
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds						
Folly Farm Centre Limited trading	5	616,403	-	-	616,403	646,815
General fundraising	5	640,137	-	-	640,137	664,428
Charitable activities	5&16	1,309,308	223,169	914,643	2,447,120	2,300,261
Total	5	2,565,848	223,169	914,643	3,703,660	3,611,504
Net Income / (expenditure)		(234,419)	(222,911)	(110,932)	(568,262)	16,901
Transfers between funds		(47,159)	(38,034)	85,193	-	-
Other recognised gains:						
Net contribution/increase in investment value attributable to						
Bristol Natural History Consortium	11	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(281,578)	(260,945)	(25,739)	(568,262)	16,901
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		774,342	2,134,828	6,050,032	8,959,202	8,942,301
Total funds carried forward	17	492,764	1,873,883	6,024,293	8,390,940	8,959,202

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

	Note	Group 2025 £	Group 2024 £	Charity 2025 £	Charity 2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	8	326,158	356,323	191,599	193,054
Heritage assets	9	6,237,702	6,326,233	6,237,702	6,326,233
Investments	11	-	-	1	1
Investment - restricted	12	113,534	113,534	113,534	113,534
Total fixed assets		6,677,394	6,796,090	6,542,836	6,632,822
Current assets					
Stocks		5,071	5,595	-	-
Debtors	13	508,346	661,322	464,018	610,794
Cash at bank and in hand		1,850,806	2,204,675	1,477,789	1,904,026
Total current assets		2,364,223	2,871,592	1,941,807	2,514,820
Liabilities					
Creditors:					
Amounts falling due within one year	15	650,677	708,480	278,408	397,945
Net current assets		1,713,546	2,163,112	1,663,399	2,116,875
Debtors:					
Amounts falling due after one year	14	-	-	-	12,215
Total net assets		8,390,940	8,959,202	8,206,235	8,761,912
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds – designated	18	1,873,883	2,134,828	1,873,883	2,134,828
Unrestricted funds – general	17	492,764	774,342	308,058	577,051
Unrestricted funds – investments	11	-	-	1	1
		2,366,647	2,909,170	2,181,942	2,711,880
Restricted funds	16 & 17	6,024,293	6,050,032	6,024,293	6,050,032
Total funds	18	8,390,940	8,959,202	8,206,235	8,761,912

The notes on pages 31 to 46 form part of these accounts

These accounts were approved by the Board on 30 September 2025.


 Signer ID: OBN1PH4XPY...
 Lara Burch Trustee


 Signer ID: SZH0QDSLCE...
 Martin Lyne Trustee

Consolidated cash flow statement for the year ended 31 March 2025

		Group		Group	
	Note	2025	2025	2024	2024
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:					
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities			(281,065)		(23,672)
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment					
Fixed assets	8	(51,467)		(241,216)	
Heritage assets	9	(21,337)		(74,603)	
Investment - restricted		-		(113,534)	
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities			(72,804)		(429,353)
Cash flows from financing activities					
Proceeds from disposal of fixed assets		-		28,185	
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities			-		28,185
Cash and cash equivalents					
Increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents during the year			(353,869)		(424,840)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period			<u>2,204,675</u>		<u>2,629,515</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period			<u>1,850,806</u>		<u>2,204,675</u>

Reconciliation of net movement in funds to operating cash flow for the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net movement in funds	(568,262)	16,901
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges – Fixed assets	81,649	46,132
(Profit) / loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	(14,495)
Depreciation charges – Heritage assets	109,868	95,092
(Increase) / decrease in stocks	524	(843)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	152,976	44,512
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	(57,820)	(210,971)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(281,065)	(23,672)

Accounting Policies

For the year ended 31 March 2025

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.

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.

Accounting Policies (continued)

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 12 months 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) Mixed Motive Investments

A mixed motive investment is an asset held by the charity that provides a financial return but also contributes to the investing charity's purposes.

The Charity has invested in the rights to biodiversity units in a collaborative scheme with the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and EnTrade. The funds invested will potentially create a financial return to the Charity that can be used to generate further Biodiversity Units, which have a commercial value, as well as providing a direct environmental impact. Mixed motive investments are initially valued at cost but the subsequently re-valued to fair value.

j) Stock

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

k) Pension costs

Pension costs are charged based on amounts due for the year (see note 19).

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Prior year statement of financial activities

For the year ended 31 March 2024	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	1,019,950	200	25,216	1,045,366
Charitable activities	610,791	-	1,072,494	1,683,285
Other trading activities				
Folly Farm Centre Limited trading	788,248	-	-	788,248
Fundraising including local groups	25,460	-	-	25,460
Other income	86,046	-	-	86,046
Total	2,530,495	200	1,097,710	3,628,405
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds				
Folly Farm Centre Limited trading	646,815	-	-	646,815
General fundraising	664,428	-	-	664,428
Charitable activities	1,109,343	147,185	1,043,733	2,300,261
Total	2,420,586	147,185	1,043,733	3,611,504
Net Income / (expenditure)	109,909	(146,985)	53,977	16,901
Transfers between funds	42,542	(74,603)	32,061	-
Other recognised gains:				
Net contribution/increase in investment value attributable to				
Bristol Natural History Consortium	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	152,451	(221,588)	86,038	16,901
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	621,891	2,356,416	5,963,994	8,942,301
Total funds carried forward	774,342	2,134,828	6,050,032	8,959,202

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

2. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Membership income	912,987	-	-	912,987	869,797
Donations & Donations in kind	116,515	-	31,076	147,591	81,310
Appeals	16,759	258	8,994	26,011	20,086
Legacies	78,496	-	-	78,496	74,173
Total	1,124,757	258	40,070	1,165,085	1,045,366

3. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Delivery programmes					
Management of nature reserves	111,031	-	118,378	229,409	262,489
Wilder Woodlands	-	-	89,742	89,742	311,026
Biodiversity projects	-	-	51,963	51,963	53,787
Living Landscapes programme	-	-	25,000	25,000	25,000
Nature Based Solutions	-	-	48,093	48,093	205,679
My Wild City	-	-	-	-	85,553
Local Partnership working	112,814	-	-	112,814	103,594
Learning	87,744	-	-	87,744	89,442
Team Wilder projects	5,000	-	430,465	435,465	349,085
My Wild Child	-	-	-	-	41,000
Grow Wilder project	98,490	-	-	98,490	149,780
Other support	13,000	-	-	13,000	6,850
Total	428,079	-	763,641	1,191,720	1,683,285

4. Other income

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Other income including interest received	63,470	-	-	63,470	71,555
Profit on disposal of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	14,491
Total	63,470	-	-	63,470	86,046

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 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Staff costs (Note 7)	151,238	268,952	1,665,672	-	2,085,862	1,811,348
Conservation & Nature Reserves	-	-	298,474	-	298,474	653,866
Fundraising, advertising and publications	-	289,880	3,831	610	294,321	256,863
Folly Farm Centre development	-	-	75,181	-	75,181	75,180
Depreciation	31,965	148	59,178	17,210	108,501	66,072
Legal and professional fees	11,315	-	28,896	21,768	61,979	20,818
Partnership working	-	8	-	51,549	51,557	43,670
Premises costs	-	-	5,672	12,643	18,315	184,837
Catering, Conference & Activity Costs	153,033	-	-	-	153,033	146,953
Office and administration	268,852	-	-	236,921	505,773	346,582
Governance	-	-	-	50,664	50,664	5,315
Subtotal	616,403	558,988	2,136,904	391,365	3,703,660	3,611,504
Reallocate Support and Governance	-	81,149	310,216	(391,365)	-	-
Total	616,403	640,137	2,447,120	-	3,703,660	3,611,504

Total resources are stated after charging:

	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Auditors' remuneration		
– Audit	15,295	10,901
– Other services including tax advisory		-
Depreciation – tangible and heritage assets	191,517	141,224

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)

Folly Farm Centre Limited

Profit and loss account for the year ended 31 March 2025	2025 £	2024 £
Turnover	741,564	781,319
Cost of sales	(284,167)	(273,684)
Gross profit	457,397	507,635
Overheads and administration	(401,461)	(437,137)
Other operating income	-	-
Operating (loss)/profit	55,936	70,498
Interest received	5,573	5,531
Interest payable and similar charges	(619)	(1,408)
(Loss)/profit before taxation	60,890	74,621
Tax on profit	-	-
(Loss)/profit for the year	60,890	74,621

Balance sheet at 31 March 2025	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets	134,547	163,270
Net current assets/(liabilities)	53,730	46,026
Total assets less current liabilities	188,277	209,296
Creditors falling due after more than one year	3,583	12,229
Total	184,694	197,067
Capital and reserves		
Called-up equity share capital	1	1
Profit and loss account	184,693	197,066
Total	184,694	197,067

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 2024/25 year amounted to £47k (£44k in 2023/24).
- 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.

The Avon Wildlife Trust Group for the year ended 31 March 2025 includes the consolidation of our subsidiary, the Folly Farm Centre Limited. It also includes 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

	2025	2024
Group	£	£
Wages and salaries	1,716,285	1,459,947
Employers' national insurance	143,629	136,639
Pension costs	82,999	71,568
Other staff costs	142,949	143,194
	2,085,862	1,811,348

The trustees were not paid nor did they receive any other benefits from the charity or its subsidiaries in the year (£nil in 2024). No expenses were reimbursed to the trustees during the year (£nil in 2024).

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 £438,220 (£392,574 in 2023/24).

The key management personnel of the Avon Wildlife Trust 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 Avon Wildlife Trust Group were £438,220 (£392,574 in 2023/24). One employee earned between £70k and £80k and one between £60k and £70k in the year (in 2024, one employee earned between £70k and £80k and one between £60k and £70k).

The average number of employees in the Avon Wildlife Trust Group in the year was 52 (2024: 48).

Many employees work part-time, and the following table sets out full-time equivalents (FTE) and analysis by function:

	2025	2024
Delivery programmes	39.3	35.3
Support staff	8.5	8.2
Folly Farm Centre Ltd	3.8	4.5
Total	51.6	48.0

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 2024	-	223,981	104,675	154,725	34,588	517,969
Additions	18,834	2,165	15,528	-	14,957	51,484
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025	18,834	226,146	120,203	154,725	49,545	569,453
Depreciation						
At 1 April 2024	-	71,479	52,337	16,025	21,805	161,646
Charge for year	3,281	21,812	19,511	29,174	7,871	81,649
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025	3,281	93,291	71,848	45,199	29,676	243,295
Net book value						
At 31 March 2025	15,553	132,855	48,355	109,526	19,869	326,158
At 31 March 2024	-	152,502	52,338	138,700	12,783	356,323
Charity						
Cost						
At 1 April 2024	-	11,634	32,974	154,725	34,588	233,921
Additions	18,832	-	14,435	-	14,957	48,224
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025	18,832	11,634	47,409	154,725	49,545	282,145
Depreciation						
At 1 April 2024	-	524	2,546	15,992	21,805	40,867
Charge for year	3,281	1,163	8,190	29,174	7,871	49,679
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025	3,281	1,687	10,736	45,166	29,676	90,546
Net book value						
At 31 March 2025	15,551	9,947	36,673	109,559	19,869	191,599
At 31 March 2024	-	11,110	30,428	138,733	12,783	193,054

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

9. Heritage assets

	Nature reserves	Improvements to nature reserves	Folly Farm development	Total
Cost	£	£	£	£
At 1 April 2024	3,477,391	755,366	3,859,606	8,092,363
Additions	-	21,337	-	21,337
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025	3,477,391	776,703	3,859,606	8,113,700
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2024	65,370	409,993	1,290,767	1,766,130
Charge for the year	6,537	28,151	75,180	109,868
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025	71,907	438,144	1,365,947	1,875,998
Net book value				
At 31 March 2025	3,405,484	338,559	2,493,659	6,237,702
At 31 March 2024	3,412,021	345,373	2,568,839	6,326,233

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.

Access to our nature reserves is free for the public, all year round. In some cases, access or numbers may be restricted in numbers seasonally because of the sensitivity of wildlife or to ensure visitor safety. This year, Ash Dieback disease made many areas unsafe and we invested in signage and communications to ensure volunteer, visitor and staff safety.

The Trust owns a freehold interest in the following nature reserves at 31 March 2025:

Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock	Hutton Hill	Stephen's Vale*
Brown's Folly	Cleeve Heronry*	Littleton Brick Pits*
Burledge 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.

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 8 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 £117,037 in the year ended 31 March 2025 (£95,771 in 2024) and has been magnified by the Trust's extensive investment in Folly Farm. This is shown in the Statement of Financial Activities and can be analysed as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net Fixed Asset Movements in restricted funds	(103,639)	133,089
Net Current Asset Movements in restricted funds	(68,626)	(47,051)
Net Incoming / (Outgoing) Resources – Restricted funds	(172,265)	86,038

The annual depreciation charge reduces the value of the restricted fund asset balances in the Balance Sheet as in note (g) 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 Avon Wildlife Trust in partnership the other company member, Bristol Zoo Gardens. The Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 were approved by the Trustees of BNHC in September 2025.

During the year ended 31 December 2024, BNHC generated a surplus of £26,819 (2023 deficit of £12,811). At 31 December 2024 the charity had net assets of £86,554 (2023 £59,735) and free reserves of £36,554 (2023: £56,235).

During the year, Avon Wildlife Trust contributed £5,000 as a membership subscription to BHNC (£5,000 in 2023).

12. Fixed assets – Investments - Restricted

During 2023/24 the Trust purchased a mixed motive investment, the rights to buy 7.137 biodiversity units from the Bristol Avon Catchment Market. The funds invested will potentially create a financial return that can be used to generate further biodiversity units, which have a commercial value, as well as providing a direct environmental impact. These units could not be sold before July 2024.

On sale of any rights to biodiversity units, funds will be spent on the development and operation of the Catchment Market, or on nature-based solutions projects generating environmental credits in Avon and Wiltshire if the market were to end.

The rights to biodiversity units were purchased in July 2023 and the cost and fair value are deemed to be materially the same at the year end.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

13. Debtors – amounts falling due within one year

	Group	Group	Charity	Charity
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Grants and fees receivable	204,069	383,584	204,069	383,584
Prepayments	87,954	70,038	62,914	47,327
Other debtors	216,323	207,700	184,820	161,700
Loan to Folly Farm Centre Limited	-	-	12,215	18,183
	508,346	661,322	464,018	610,794

14. Debtors – amounts falling due after one year

	Group	Group	Charity	Charity
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Loan to Folly Farm Centre Limited	-	-	-	12,215

Avon Wildlife Trust made a loan on commercial terms to Folly Farm Centre Limited of £43,160 on 8th April 2021 and of £28,640 on 3rd March 2022. Monthly repayments are £719.32 and £795.96 respectively.

15. Creditors – amounts falling due within one year

	Group	Group	Charity	Charity
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	174,883	198,187	117,553	171,661
Other creditors and accruals	459,012	461,933	160,008	193,556
Taxation and national insurance	16,782	48,360	847	32,728
	650,677	708,480	278,408	397,945

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

16. Restricted funds					
Group and Charity	1 Apr 2024	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	31 Mar 2025
Revenue funds					
Blines / Living Landscapes	24,896	37,925	(42,742)	-	20,079
Grow Wilder Projects	12,971	-	-	-	12,971
Avon Gorge Project	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock	19,395	-	(8,324)	2	11,073
Justin Smith Endowment Fund	1,320	-	(45)	-	1,275
My Wild City	4,888	-	-	-	4,888
My Wild Child	26,757	-	(20,658)	1	6,100
Wellbeing through Nature	6,381	500	(6,520)	2,970	3,331
Newbridge Slopes	15,000	-	-	(15,000)	-
Save our Badgers	9,747	-	-	-	9,747
Fursman – to support Bristol work	23,912	-	-	(3,500)	20,412
Nailsea Wetlands	21,666	-	-	-	21,666
Hutton Wood & Orchard	11,000	-	-	(4,000)	7,000
Land Purchase	125,000	-	-	-	125,000
Bristol Avon Catchment Market (BACM)	84,857	-	(21,514)	-	63,343
BACM – Investment in units	113,534	-	-	-	113,534
Clifton Garden Society	3,250	-	-	-	3,250
Legacy J Allan – 'Elderly'	8,130	-	-	(2,640)	5,490
Beaver Project Fundraising	20,983	10	-	(1)	20,992
GW Engagement Hub	42,528	-	-	(7,828)	34,700
Team Wilder	905	17,255	(15,616)	1	2,545
Ecologist in Residence	19,615	38,500	(44,756)	5,799	19,158
Wildlife Champions	2,478	129,906	(132,384)	-	-
Goblin Combe Tree Project	6,029	-	-	(6,029)	-
Goblin Combe Bat project	47,787	-	-	(4,949)	42,838
Tractor Depreciation Fund	121,713	-	(24,755)	-	96,958
Youth Work – Early Years	35,000	33,563	(20,230)	(14,000)	34,333
TWT Ecological Restoration	5,163	48,093	(27,115)	1	26,142
Warmley Nature Action Zone	984	40,932	(47,674)	5,758	-
Seed Fund	-	8,994	-	-	8,994
Grow Wilder 2	-	-	-	25,000	25,000
WiC2 Funding	-	15,000	-	-	15,000
Youth (CLAF)	-	45,346	(38,662)	-	6,684
Wilder Mendip & Hellenge	-	10,400	(11,119)	16,903	16,184
DEFRA Peatlands	-	47,614	(34,264)	(1)	13,349
Pollinator Pathways	-	68,874	(61,678)	9,715	16,911
Next Door Nature & Somer Valley	-	120,393	(114,428)	(5,965)	-
Wilder Woodlands	-	89,742	(92,192)	2,450	-
Hutton Hub	-	-	(3,229)	3,229	-
Wilder Waterways	-	15,000	(16,712)	1,712	-
Ebdon Development	-	35,664	(39,230)	3,566	-
Appeal funds					
Summer 15 Appeal	1,262	-	-	(1,262)	-

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Group and Charity	1 Apr 2024	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	31 Mar 2025
Property improvement funds					
Folly Farm sewage treatment	5,800	-	(232)	-	5,568
Folly Farm	20,607	-	(664)	-	19,943
Folly Farm Access Trail	9,031	-	(729)	-	8,302
Willsbridge – landfill	300	-	(12)	-	288
Willsbridge	11,593	-	(428)	-	11,165
Clapton Moor (50 Years)	30,214	-	(947)	-	29,267
Weston Moor	5,882	-	(226)	-	5,656
Walborough	3,479	-	(139)	-	3,340
Goblin Combe (50 Years)	3,776	-	(118)	-	3,658
Weston Big Wood (50 Years)	9,775	-	(307)	-	9,468
Puxton Moor	50,934	-	(1,601)	-	49,333
Nature Reserves Fund	12,684	-	(512)	-	12,172
HLF Conservation Fund	26,538	-	(1,002)	-	25,536
Conservation – reserves fund	15,111	-	(554)	-	14,557
Folly Farm Centre development	2,366,045	-	(73,730)	73,263	2,365,578
Folly Farm volunteer training base	64,191	-	(1,447)	(2)	62,742
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	263,150	-	(8,148)	-	255,002
Total	6,050,032	803,711	(914,643)	85,193	6,024,293

The transfer column in the table above identifies agreed transfers between funds.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

The purpose of each fund is as follows:

Revenue funds:

B - Lines / Living Landscapes	To survey, conserve, restore and enhance Avon's grasslands
Grow Wilder Project	To involve the community in growing nature-friendly food and looking after nature
Avon Gorge Project	To assess the feasibility of various projects in the Avon Gorge
Bennett's Patch / 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
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
Wellbeing in Nature	To continue wellbeing through nature activities
Newbridge Slopes	To enhance the land and engage the community with nature
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
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
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
Land Purchase	To fund future land purchase
Bristol Avon Catchment Market	Working with partners 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 engage and inspire more people to actively support nature's recovery
Team Wilder	to build a movement of people acting for nature's recovery
Ecologist in Residence	to provide ecological expertise to support Community Climate Action plans in Bristol
Wildlife Champions	to create a peer learning network of local champions taking action for nature's recovery
Goblin Combe Tree Project	Habitat restoration to improve biodiversity and enhance soil health and reduce flooding downstream
WECA Pollinator Pathways	A partnership project designed to reduce pesticide use and create a demonstration climate-resilient garden.
Wilder Woodlands	Habitat creation project focussing on native woodland
Youth Work – Early years	Encouraging young people to explore, learn and take action for nature
TWT Ecological Restoration	Creating and restoring habitats across nature reserves and new areas
Warmley Nature Action Zone	Engaging and empowering communities to create Community Nature Reserves that link council owned wildlife habitats to form part of a Nature Action Zone
Seed Fund	To provide match funding to secure future funding
Grow Wilder 2	To develop the second site at Grow Wilder
WiC2 Funding	Continuation funding to create a peer learning network of local champions taking action for nature's recovery

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Wilder Mendip & Hellenge	To support nature's recovery in the Hellenge Hill and Mendip Hills National Nature reserve
DEFRA Peatlands	To support the development of moor associations in the Gordano Valley
Next Door Nature & Somer Valley	Using a community organising approach to increase biodiversity in community neighbourhoods
Hutton Hub	To establish a new office and community space to engage and inspire more people to actively support nature's recovery
Wilder Waterways	Habitat creation project focussing on native waterways
Ebdon Development	To support the development of a new Avon Wildlife Trust reserve at Ebdon Farm
Appeal funds:	
Summer 15 Appeal	To replace and improve information boards on our reserves
Property improvement funds:	
On named reserves	To enhance land and property at the named locations
Nature Reserves fund	
HLF Conservation fund	To enhance nature reserves owned or managed by the Trust
Conservation – reserves fund	
Folly Farm Centre Development fund	To enhance the historic landscape and property at Folly Farm
Folly Farm volunteer training base	To develop a volunteer training base at Folly Farm
Freehold land and buildings funds:	
On named reserves	To purchase land at the named locations
Leasehold land on named reserves	To purchase land at the named locations

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

17. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Other Net Assets £	Total £
Revenue funds			
Blines / Living Landscapes		20,079	20,079
Feed Bristol project		12,971	12,971
Avon Gorge Project		10,000	10,000
Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock		11,073	11,073
Justin Smith Endowment Fund		1,275	1,275
My Wild City		4,888	4,888
My Wild Child		6,100	6,100
Wellbeing through Nature		3,331	3,331
Save our Badgers		9,747	9,747
Fursman – to support Bristol work		20,412	20,412
Nailsea Wetlands		21,666	21,666
Hutton Wood		7,000	7,000
Land Purchase		125,000	125,000
Bristol Avon Catchment Market (BACM)		63,343	63,343
BACM – Investment in Biodiversity units	113,534		113,534
Clifton Garden Society		3,250	3,250
Legacy J Allan – 'Elderly'		5,490	5,490
Beaver Project Fundraising		20,992	20,992
GW Engagement Hub		34,700	34,700
Team Wilder		2,545	2,545
Ecologist in Residence		26,142	26,142
Goblin Combe Bat project		42,838	42,838
Tractor Depreciation Fund	96,958		96,958
Youth Work – Early Years		34,333	34,333
TWT Ecological Restoration		26,142	26,142
Seed Fund		8,994	8,994
Grow Wilder 2		25,000	25,000
WiC2 Funding		15,000	15,000
Youth (CLAF)		6,684	6,684
Wilder Mendip & Hellenge		16,184	16,184
DEFRA Peatlands		13,349	13,349
Pollinator Pathways		16,911	16,911
Appeal funds			
Summer 15 Appeal		-	-
Property improvement funds			
Folly Farm sewage treatment	5,568	-	5,568
Folly Farm	19,943	-	19,943
Folly Farm Access Trail	8,302	-	8,302
Willsbridge – landfill	288	-	288
Willsbridge	11,165	-	11,165
Clapton Moor (50 Years)	29,267	-	29,267

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

	Tangible Fixed Assets	Other Net Assets	Total
	£	£	£
Weston Moor	5,656	-	5,656
Walborough	3,340	-	3,340
Goblin Combe (50 Years)	3,658	-	3,658
Weston Big Wood (50 Years)	9,468	-	9,468
Puxton Moor	49,333	-	49,333
Nature Reserves fund	12,172	-	12,172
HLF Conservation fund	25,536	-	25,536
Conservation - reserves fund	14,557	-	14,557
Folly Farm Centre development	2,446,130	(80,552)	2,365,578
Folly Farm volunteer training base	62,742	-	62,742
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	255,002	-	255,002
Total restricted funds	5,496,390	527,903	6,024,293
Unrestricted designated – land at Goblin Combe	825,000	-	825,000
Unrestricted designated – legacy – Fundamental LT Fund	-	634,170	634,170
Unrestricted designated – Nature Reserves Infrastructure	-	302,356	302,356
Unrestricted designated – Ash Dieback	-	49,804	49,804
Unrestricted designated – other funds	-	62,553	62,553
Unrestricted designated funds – Total	825,000	1,048,883	1,873,883
Unrestricted funds – general	356,004	136,760	492,764
Total unrestricted general funds	356,004	136,760	492,764
Total funds	6,677,394	1,713,546	8,390,940

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

There was a net current liability in respect of the Folly Farm Centre development project of £80,552 (2023/24 £141,905). The deficit arose from a fundraising shortfall on the major project to restore the buildings and historic landscape at Folly Farm. The Trust's strategy for addressing the deficit is utilise surplus profit from Folly Farm Centre to transfer back to the Charity. This income will be applied to reduce the deficit.

18. Designated funds

	Group	Group	Charity	Charity
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Strategic opportunities and development	17,487	27,777	17,487	27,777
Landlord repairs – Folly Farm	45,066	50,738	45,066	50,738
Reserves Recovery Infrastructure	302,356	340,458	302,356	340,458
Ash Dieback fund	49,804	225,237	49,804	225,237
Legacy – Fundamental long-term fund	634,170	665,618	634,170	665,618
Sub-total designated funds	1,048,883	1,309,828	1,048,883	1,309,828
Land at Goblin Combe	825,000	825,000	825,000	825,000
Total designated funds including land	1,873,883	2,134,828	1,873,883	2,134,828

Very generous legacies over the last few years were designated for strategic opportunities and development and for fundamental long-term purposes to maintain our nature reserves, buy land, improve infrastructure and invest in the future of the Trust.

19. Pension scheme

The Trust operates a Group Personal Pension scheme for its employees with Aviva. 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 2025, there were no outstanding pension contributions accrued in respect of employees not yet set up under the pension scheme (£nil in 2024).



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Bank of Scotland

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Co-operative Bank

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