



Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2026

Registered in England & Wales, No. 01495108

Registered Charity No. 280422

Choose the Wild Life.

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.

Head Office

17 Great George Street

Bristol

BS1 5QT

T: 0117 917 7270

www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk

Registered Office

Folly Farm Centre

Stowey, Pensford

Bristol. BS39 4DW

T: 01275 331590

www.follyfarm.org

Contents

Trustees and Committee members	3
Welcome	4
Report of the Trustees	5
Objectives and activities	6
Enabling strategic objectives	9
Public benefit	11
About Avon Wildlife Trust	13
Acknowledgements	19
Financial Review	20
Compliance (including Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities)	22
Independent auditor's report	24
Financial Statements	28
Consolidated statement of financial activities	28
Consolidated and charity balance sheets	29
Consolidated cash flow statement and net movements in funds	30
Accounting policies	31
Notes to the Financial Statements	33
Professional Advisors	45

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 13 and 14.

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		5 th Jan 2026
Karen Hills		
Sumita Hutchison		
Kate Leahy		15 th Nov 2025
John Zac Nicholson		
Nathan Rutter		
Mark Steer		15 th Nov 2025
Judy Rose	15 th Nov 2025	
Kathryn Jeffs	15 th Nov 2025	

Finance & Resources Committee	Appointed this year	Retired this year
Martin Lyne Chair		
Lara Burch		
Kate Leahy		15 th Nov 2025
Sumita Hutchison		
Kathryn Jeffs	15 th Nov 2025	

Governance Committee	Appointed this year	Retired this year
Ross Fairley Chair		
Dominic Hogg		15 th Nov 2025
John Zac Nicholson		
Karen Hills		
Nathan Rutter		
Judy Rose	15 th Nov 2025	

Senior Leadership Team

Leah McNally, CEO
 Rob Hill, Director of Finance and Operations (from 1st June 2025)
 Katie Burfitt, Head of Development (on maternity leave)
 Jane Davis, Director of Finance and Resources (to 31st May 2025)
 Bernie D'Arcy, Head of Nature Reserves and Land Management
 Julie Doherty, Head of Communities and Engagement
 Shelly Easton, Head of Nature's Recovery
 Stuart McCarthy-Thompson, Head of Communications, Marketing, and Campaigns (from 1st January 2026)
 Darren O'Connor, Head of Development (maternity cover)
 Sam Warren, Head of Commercial
 Steve Williamson, Head of People and Resources

Welcome from our Chair and CEO

Welcome to Avon Wildlife Trust's Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026.

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

We refreshed our mission and goals this year, reinvigorating our efforts to secure nature's recovery across the region. With a wide portfolio of work, the continued support of our volunteers, members, partners, community leaders, and funders enabled our dedicated staff team to achieve even more during a particularly busy year.

We spent time learning from the land and from the local community, at our newest land acquisition, Ebdon Farm. The surveying and community consultation helped to paint a picture of how nature is faring and what would be most beneficial for local people to enjoy this landscape.

Our Wildlife Champions programme expanded into more postcodes, supporting local community action for nature through training, advice, and opportunities to share inspiration.

With the increasing frequency of extreme weather events, a grant to provide drought adaption equipment helped to boost our rainwater storage capacity and our ability to move water to where it's needed most.

Our wedding, conference, and events venue at Folly Farm had another successful year, welcoming more than 4,500 wedding guests and 120 conferences. With profits donated

to the Trust, our commercial activities at Folly Farm provided almost a quarter of our income this year. More than 1,600 children also experienced our innovative learning programmes at Folly Farm, helping to nurture a lifelong love of nature.

With increasing signs of beavers along waterways in Avon, our Beaver Support and Advice Team was established, offering advice to land managers, farmers, and individuals with beavers on their land.

An incredible 174 hectares of pollinator friendly habitat has been connected through the Pollinator Pathways initiative, with a further 142 hectares in development to be connected. The team has engaged with 38 landowners to make changes that will benefit pollinators.

All this great progress has been made despite the ongoing financial challenges that we are all facing. We are grateful to our members and supporters whose donations help to sustain us, and to the funders who share our vision of a flourishing future for wildlife and people.

Lara Burch

Chair of Trustees

Leah McNally

Chief Executive

Report of the Trustees

The Trustees of Avon Wildlife Trust are pleased to submit their Report on the Trust, together with its Financial Statements, for the year ended 31 March 2026. The Report (pages 5-23) constitutes a Strategic Report in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013.

During the year to March 2026, we reached the halfway point of our 2020-2030 strategy and took the opportunity to review and refresh our strategy with our Board of Trustees and Senior Leadership Team.

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.

To secure nature's recovery across our region – in urban, rural, and coastal areas.

Our Mission

To lead the way in nature's recovery at scale, co-creating solutions that transform outcomes for nature.

To nurture a lifelong connection with nature, inspiring everyone to take positive action in their community.

Our Vision

Nature as the solution, a flourishing future for wildlife and people together.

Our Strategy

We have developed the following **strategic goals**,

- **Mobilise:** We will develop a movement where everyone feels inspired to take meaningful action for nature in their neighbourhoods.
- **Transform:** We will take bold, joined-up action at a landscape scale, escalating our efforts to secure nature's recovery
- **Influence:** We will advocate for nature at the heart of decision making and demonstrate best practice for nature-positive growth

We have also developed the following **enabling goals**,

- **Building financial resilience**
- **Supporting and enabling dedicated staff and volunteer teams**
- **Measuring impact and performance**

Read our refreshed Strategy 2030 strategy document here:

www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/strategy

Objectives and activities

Mobilise

Our goal for 2030

We will develop a movement where everyone feels inspired to take meaningful action for nature in their neighbourhoods.

Our achievements in 2025/26

- We increased the number of Wildlife Champions that we supported, with 1:1 mentoring from our dedicated staff, monthly training sessions and the formation of a peer learning network.
- We created a new Urban Nature Recovery team, recruiting an Urban Nature Recovery manager and a Community Ecologist, to work on Nature Together, a two-year partnership project led by Bristol City council as part of the wider Nature Towns and Cities national programme.
- We expanded the community programme at the annual Festival of Nature event, coordinating events with 90 community groups.
- We worked with communities in North Somerset to co-create plans for our newly acquired Ebdon Farm site.
- We worked with local residents in Warmley, South Gloucestershire to create a community nature reserve.
- We continued to develop plans on a site adjacent to Grow Wilder with our Youth Leadership Group and increased revenue generating activities to support our expanding youth programme.
- We hosted a community showcase event in Bristol, The Community Gathering, bringing community groups together to build inter-community.

Our plans for 2026/27

- We will expand the Wildlife Champions programme into more postcode areas, moving towards our goal of a Champion in every postcode by 2030.
- We will launch a county-wide Community Nature Reserve programme in South Gloucestershire, funded by the local authority.
- We will support the professional and community programmes at the annual Festival of Nature event, and co-host an innovative event in Bath, focusing on imagining a climate resilient future.
- We will continue our work on the Nature Together partnership programme, highlighting the work to create the conditions for nature to recover in our towns and cities.
- We will continue to develop our learning programme at Folly Farm.
- We will continue our youth programme and look for opportunities to work with young people from underserved backgrounds who do not already engage with nature. We will develop plans to upscale our work with young people.

Transform

Our goal for 2030

We will take bold, joined-up action at a landscape scale, escalating our efforts to secure nature's recovery.

Our achievements in 2025/26

- At Ebdon Farm, we carried out extensive surveys to learn from the land and create a species baseline. We worked with the local community to co-create plans for a community area on site. We also submitted a grant application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund to secure the investment needed to make our phase one plans a reality.
- We set up a Beaver Advice and Support Team (Bristol Avon & Somerset Frome), offering free support, advice and training to land managers, farmers and communities living alongside our wild living beaver population. We surveyed the entire River Chew catchment, in collaboration with the Environment Agency, Bristol Avon Rivers Trust, Bath and North East Somerset Council and The Beaver Trust, as well as carrying out several volunteer beaver walks in the Batheaston area.
- Our Pollinator Pathways initiative supported landowners, schools, and community groups, focusing on the northern part of the project area to the east of Bath and up into South Gloucestershire. The initiative also included two trainee positions to support career progression into the sector.
- We developed a longer-term peat restoration plan for the Gordano Valley with key stakeholders.
- We continued the maintenance, enhancement, and ecological monitoring of our existing nature reserves, including our work to tackle ash dieback.
- We continued our work to secure new Countryside Stewardship agreements for our existing nature reserves.

Our plans for 2026/27

- We will begin phase one of our catalyst masterplan, to transform Ebdon Farm
- We will seek significant investment to further develop the next phase of our peat restoration plan in Gordano Valley.
- We will continue the maintenance, improvement, and ecological monitoring of our existing nature reserves
- We will continue work to secure new Countryside Stewardship agreements for our existing nature reserves.
- We will become a woodland creation delivery partner for Western Forest.
- We will seek investment for our North Somerset woodlands.

Influence

Our vision for 2030

We will advocate for nature at the heart of decision making and demonstrate best practice for nature-positive growth.

Our achievements in 2025/26

- Our Somerset Moors initiative continued to develop moor associations, engaging with other stakeholders including local communities, town councils and the North Somerset Levels and Moors partnership.
- We supported the federation-wide campaign to encourage supporters to write to their MP about the Planning and Infrastructure Bill. This topic created significant engagement on our social media channels, with many followers sharing local examples of green spaces under pressure from development. More than 870 supporters in our region wrote to their MP, with our three Bristol-based MPs receiving more than 100 emails each from our supporters.
- In November 2025 we received over 20 enquiries about our Weston Big Wood nature reserve being under threat in relation to the North Somerset Local Plan. We developed a formal response to the Council's Local Plan and also shared a statement on our website and social media accounts.

Our plans for 2026/27

- We will commission a refresh of our brand identity.
- We will host an event with strategic partners to share our refreshed strategy and goals.
- We will realign our communications, marketing, and campaigns team to support delivery of our refreshed strategy.
- We will align our campaigns to move the narrative from 'nature is nice' to 'nature is necessary'.
- We will refresh the Folly Farm commercial website and integrate and support marketing and communications within the wider team.

Enabling strategic objectives

Building financial resilience

Our vision for 2030

We will continue to diversify and grow our income to enable us to deliver our charitable objects.

Our achievements in 2025/26

- We worked towards the transition of the catering for weddings, events and conferences to an in-house model at Folly Farm by 31st March 2026.
- We reviewed our finance team structure and updated our financial processes.
- We reviewed our fundraising team structure, roles and responsibilities.
- We produced a business plan for Ebdon Farm holiday lets and Biodiversity Net Gain.

Our plans for 2026/27

- We will deliver in-house catering at Folly Farm from April 1st 2026.
- We will audit our facilities and infrastructure at Folly Farm, producing a maintenance and investment plan.
- We will begin the first phase of work at Ebdon Farm to develop two holiday lets to diversify our income sources.
- We will make progress in readiness to bring BNG units to market for two nature reserves.
- We will strengthen our relationships with our members and supporters.
- We will develop our corporate partnership offering.
- We will build our engagement programme with long term supporters through a series of tours of Ebdon Farm and an event at Folly Farm.
- We will develop new projects and seek grants from National Lottery, Trusts, Landfill, and Foundations.

Supporting and enabling dedicated staff and volunteer teams

Our vision for 2030

We will continue to invest in our staff and our organisational systems and diversify our paid traineeship opportunities and volunteering programmes.

Our achievements in 2025/26

- We completed a pay and benefits review across the Trust
- We improved our volunteer management system and processes
- We hosted two trainee placements through our Pollinator Pathways initiative

Our plans for 2026/27

- We will continue our work on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion via our dedicated working group.
- We will continue to update and improve policies, including our parental leave policy.
- We will review our Health & Safety policy and processes.

Measuring impact and performance

Our vision for 2030

We will evaluate our work and performance through developing a set of measures and recording our progress through evidence.

Our achievements in 2025/26

- We enhanced reporting to our Board of Trustees.
- We spent time developing our new strategy with the Board and Senior Leadership Team.

Our plans for 2026/27

- We will publish our new strategy and hold a Big Nature Conversation event to showcase our work.
- We will develop a new internal strategy implementation plan.
- We will align reporting to our Board with our new strategy.
- We will roll out a new application to monitor qualitative and impact indicators of our community organising and engagement work.
- We will refresh the format of our annual impact report.

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. Ash Dieback disease is an ongoing concern, but we have 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.

The Trust has an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion working group, consisting of staff from across the charity. This group oversees training and adopting best practice to ensure our organisational practices improve; activities are of benefit to, and can be accessed by, a wider range of people especially those who are currently underrepresented in the sector.

Many of our events and resources are available free or at a reasonable price to help cover costs. We promote free online resources offering advice and inspiration for individuals, community groups, and organisations wishing to take positive actions for nature.

www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/team-wilder

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

Who we are

We're determined

Nature is facing huge challenges, but we have the skills, tenacity, and experience to help it recover and thrive.

We get things done

Nature's recovery takes bold and decisive action. Our ability to work locally and at a landscape scale enables us to make an immediate and effective impact.

We're collaborative

Nature connects us all. We work to bring like-minded people together, co-creating solutions that help nature and people flourish.

Principal Activities

Avon Wildlife Trust:

- Manages more than 800 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.
- Provides advice to land managers, farmers, local authorities, and partner organisations to help secure nature's recovery.
- 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 nature's recovery, 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 wedding, environmental learning and conference centre at Folly Farm in the Chew Valley.
- Runs an urban nature reserve and wildflower nursery at Grow Wilder in Stapleton, North Bristol which inspires and equips people to take action for nature through courses and events.
- Provides opportunities for people to acquire skills and experience that enhance their personal development and employability.

About Avon Wildlife Trust

Purpose, Structure and Governance

Avon Wildlife Trust is the longest established charity working towards nature's recovery across Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. Our strong track record of creating, restoring, and protecting valuable habitats for nature puts us at the forefront of tackling the challenges of the ecological and climate emergencies.

We were established in 1980, and connecting people with nature remains one of our key priorities. We draw on our vast experience of listening to and supporting communities to take local action for nature. In addition, we are also part of the national federation of 46 Wildlife Trusts which cover the British Isles and jointly benefit from the support of almost 1 million 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, wedding, 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 donated 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 2025/26 and 2024/25).

The Trust has a place on the BNHC Board with the other company members. Leah McNally, 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, Bath and North East Somerset Council, 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 £45,830 (£44,425 in 2024/25) 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 2025/26 financial year, the Trust paid a total of £68,721 to RSWT (including the £45,830 contribution to operating costs) and received £88,607 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 (Rob Hill) is the 'Member Representative' in all meetings of the Members and in all communications between that Member and the Company. Membership recruitment services costing £225,188 were provided to the Trust in the current year (£213,533 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, working closely with the Chief Executive, and takes all decisions on matters of Trust policy.

Three Trustees retired during the year: Mark Steer, Kate Leahy and Dominic Hogg. We thank them for their support and hard work. Two new trustees (Judy Rose and Kathryn Jeffs) were elected at the AGM on 15th November 2025. We look forward to working with them over the coming years. In addition, three new trustees are being recruited, and will be elected at the next AGM. 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 2025/26 the Board was supported by two Committees (the Governance Committee and the Finance and Resources Committee), 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.

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 providing specialist health and safety advice and training to staff and supports with our Health and Safety Working Group.
- Designated Safeguarding leads.

The current strategic risks of the organisation are assessed as:

1. Operations: Insufficient funding to achieve strategic aims
2. Operations: Strategic implementation, and opportunity cost of delivering large projects
3. Operations: Staff retention, turnover and well-being
4. Governance: Organisational strategic relevance and trustee experience
5. Reputation with partners, funders, Folly Farm customers and other stakeholders
6. Financial: Level of unrestricted reserves and cash-flow management on large projects
7. Financial: Liabilities on historic leasehold land
8. Compliance: Health and safety incident to a member of the public or staff member at one of our sites
9. Compliance: Safeguarding incident at one of our sites
10. Compliance: Poor cybersecurity leads to data protection incident or 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 a Director of Finance and Resources and Heads of Department responsible for teams of staff focusing on:

- Nature's Recovery
- Nature Reserves and Land Management
- Communities, Youth, and Learning
- Commercial Operations
- Fundraising and Development
- Finance and Operations
- People and Resources
- Communications, Marketing, and Campaigns

The Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Heads of Department comprise the Senior Leadership Team which meets regularly and drives forward the delivery of the Trust's strategic 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 uses fundraised income to deliver the majority of our work.

Our members and supporters are extremely important to us and we take steps to ensure that they have a positive 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 secure nature's recovery. 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, choose to donate at a higher level 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 14.

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 for Wildlife Trusts in the community.

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 to fundraise in line with the Code of Fundraising Practice (<https://www.fundraisingregulator.org.uk/code>) in a way that is legal, open, honest and respectful. We work with integrity and uphold the strict standards and guidelines set out by

industry bodies including the Chartered Institute of Fundraising (<https://ciof.org.uk/membership/member-code-of-conduct/>).

Our supporter care charter is published on our website www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/what-we-do/how-we-are-run/our-supporter-care-charter

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. Our valued members and supporters are also protected by the Direct Debit guarantee if they choose to donate in this way.

We also work with grant funders, whose transformative role in our work with wildlife is clear in our accounts. When working with grant funders we maintain the same commitment to be legal, transparent, honest and respectful in our applications, reporting, evaluation and in meeting the terms of our formal grant agreements.

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

Volunteers continue to be an integral part of Avon Wildlife Trust, helping us achieve more through their generous commitment of time and dedication. From the volunteer-led Local Groups, in the Chew Valley, Keynsham, and Portishead, and the volunteers who support at nature reserves or in our hubs, to those who share pro-bono expertise or guide our work as Trustees, thank you for your continued support.

Thank you also to the individuals and community groups who shared their stories and their passion for nature which inspired others to take action. This includes our partnerships with farmers and graziers who support us with land management.

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 through their regular gifts enables us to develop and secure further funding for specific projects. We would also like to thank everyone who chooses to include Avon Wildlife Trust in their wills, and in memory donations.

We're grateful to everyone who chose Folly Farm for conferences and weddings this year or planned their employee engagement days with nature in mind. Our generous landlord at Great George Street has enabled us to invest more of our income in our core work.

We formally thank the following organisations for their grants and donations

Airbus	Natural England
Aviva	Osborne Clarke
Bath & North-East Somerset Council	Patagonia 1% for the Planet
Big Chalk Nature Recovery Fund	Pensford and Stanton Community Trust
Bristol City Council	Sharegive
Bristol Water	South Gloucestershire Council
Burges Salmon	SO-MA Trust
Defra	Thatcher's Foundation
Ecological Restoration Fund	The Ernest Cook Trust
Enovert Community Trust	The National Lottery Community Fund –
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group	Climate Action National Lottery Reaching
Garfield Weston Foundation	Communities
John James Bristol Foundation	The National Lottery Heritage Fund
Leonard Laity Stoate Charitable Trust	The Nisbet Trust
Mendip Hills National Landscape	The Swire Charitable Trust
National Grid Community Grants	West of England Combined Authority
	Wessex Water

Financial Review

Overview

The Trust made a deficit of £530k in the year compared with a deficit of £568k in the previous year. This is primarily due to planned expenditure activities that were previously funded by restricted grants, such as the management of nature reserves and working with local communities and partnerships. These activities were funded by prior year reserves.

	2025/26	2024/25
	£'000s	£'000s
Unrestricted (deficit)/surplus	(385)	(542)
Restricted (deficit)/surplus	(146)	(26)
Total (deficit) / surplus	(531)	(568)

As a result, the net assets of the Avon Wildlife Trust Group decreased from £8,391k to £7,860k. Of these assets, £6,128k (£6,238k in 2024/25) 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 figures

Donations and legacies (see note 2) increased slightly from £1,165k to £1,194k.

Membership subscription income increased by 2% from £913k to £927k, representing 39% (39% in 2024/25) of unrestricted income in the year and 26% of total income (29% in previous year).

Income from charitable activities (note 3) increased from £1,192k in 2024/25 to £1,569k. This is due to an increase in grant income. The income from charitable activities represents 44% (38% in 2024/25) of our total income.

Expenditure (note 5) on charitable activities increased from £2,447k to £2,572k, and represents 63% of total expenditure. General fundraising expenditure increased from £640k to £869k in the year.

Folly Farm Centre generated a profit of £68k, up from £61k in the previous year. A donation from Folly Farm to Avon Wildlife Trust of £89k was made in the year from prior year profits.

Balance sheet (Page 29) The Trust continues to have a strong balance sheet. The net current assets of the group are £1,336k, down from £1,714k last year. 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 15 and 16. These funds represent grant or appeal funding for specific ongoing projects, or fixed assets held by the Trust. At 31 March 2026 the value all restricted funds held by the Trust had decreased slightly to £5.9m from £6.0m at 31 March 2025. This is primarily the value of land and property donated or purchased from restricted funds.

Designated funds

The Trust holds £825k of designated funds represented by land held at Goblin Coombe. The trust revised its reserves policy in the year to close all previous designated funds to ensure our core unrestricted general reserve is compliant with our reserves policy.

Financial reserves

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 often 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 general unrestricted reserves at a level of between three to six months' expenditure rather than a fixed-target value. Based on the 2026/27 budget, this is between £900k and £1.8m.

During the year the Trustees reviewed the organisation's reserves policy. To ensure compliance with the policy to hold a minimum of three months operating costs as a general unrestricted reserve, the trustees agreed to close all previous designated funds (with the exception of the fund matching the land value of the Goblin Coombe reserve). As a result of this change to the reserves policy, the Group's general unrestricted funds have increased from £493k at 31 March 2025 to £1,157k. This is consistent with the minimum reserves policy target for general reserves of £900k.

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 applicable requirements of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102), second edition, effective 1 January 2019.

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:

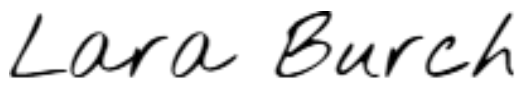
- There is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware,

- 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.

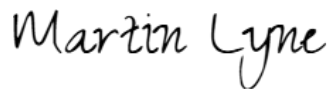
Statement as to disclosure of information to auditors

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 1 October 2026 and signed on their behalf:



Signer ID: OBN1PH4XPY
Lara Burch (Chair of Trustees)



Signer ID: SZH9QDSLCE
Martin Lyne (Deputy Chair of Trustees)

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 2026, 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 2026, 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

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the

group's or the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date on which the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

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 22, 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:

In identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the charitable company and the group through discussions with management and the trustees, and considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements.

- We considered the risk of irregularities, including fraud, as part of our audit planning and incorporated an element of unpredictability into the selection of items for audit testing.
- We considered the risk of fraud in relation to income recognition. The majority of the charitable company's income comprises legacy income, membership income, grant income and donations received directly into its bank accounts, with cash donations being insignificant. Our audit procedures included agreeing a risk-based sample of income to supporting documentation, performing tests designed to identify potential understatement of income and carrying out analytical procedures.
- We also tested bank balances to supporting evidence and performed substantive procedures over expenditure, including analytical procedures.
- We considered the potential for management bias in relation to accounting estimates 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

Stephen Burnside

Signer ID: L1RYW3IHXY...

Date: 10/16/2026 BST

Financial Statements

Consolidated statement of financial activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds £ '000	Restricted funds £ '000	Total 2026 £ '000	Total 2025 £ '000
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	1,119	75	1,194	1,165
Charitable activities	3	493	1,076	1,569	1,192
Trading activities					
Folly Farm Centre Limited trading		748	-	748	711
Other income	4	38	-	38	67
Total		2,398	1,151	3,549	3,135
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds					
Folly Farm Centre Limited trading	5	639	-	639	616
General fundraising	5	869	-	869	640
Charitable activities	5	1,271	1,301	2,572	2,447
Total	5	2,779	1,301	4,080	3,703
Net Income / (expenditure)		(381)	(150)	(531)	(568)
Transfers between funds	15	(4)	4	-	-
Net movement in funds		(385)	(146)	(531)	(568)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		2,367	6,024	8,391	8,959
Total funds carried forward	15	1,982	5,878	7,860	8,391

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

		Group 2026 £ '000	Group 2025 £ '000	Charity 2026 £ '000	Charity 2025 £ '000
	Notes				
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	8	282	326	141	192
Heritage assets	9	6,128	6,238	6,128	6,238
Investments	11 & 12	114	113	114	113
Total fixed assets		6,524	6,677	6,383	6,543
Current assets					
Stock		-	5	-	-
Debtors	13	360	508	300	464
Cash at bank and in hand		1,646	1,851	1,311	1,477
Total current assets		2,006	2,364	1,611	1,941
Liabilities					
Creditors:					
Amounts due within one year	14	670	650	297	278
Net current assets		1,336	1,714	1,314	1,663
Total net assets		7,860	8,391	7,697	8,206
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds (designated)	15	825	1,874	825	1,874
Unrestricted funds (general)	15	1,157	493	994	308
Total unrestricted funds		1,982	2,367	1,819	2,182
Restricted funds	15	5,878	6,024	5,878	6,024
Total funds	16	7,860	8,391	7,697	8,206

The notes on pages 33 to 44 form part of these accounts

These accounts were approved by the Board on 1 October 2026.

Lara Burch

Super ID: 0BN1RH4XRY
Lara Burch (Chair of Trustees)

Martin Lyne

Super ID: SZHQ0910SE
Martin Lyne (Deputy Chair of Trustees)

Consolidated cash flow statement

		Group		Group	
	Note	2026	2026	2025	2025
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash flows from operating activities:					
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities					
			(169)		(281)
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment					
Fixed assets	8	(36)		(52)	
Heritage assets	9	-		(21)	
Investment - restricted		-		-	
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities			(36)		(73)
Cash and cash equivalents					
Increase / (decrease) in cash and equivalents during the year					
			(205)		(354)
Cash and equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period			1,851		2,205
Cash and equivalents at the end of the reporting period			1,646		1,851

Reconciliation of net movement in funds to operating cash flow for the year ended 31 March 2026

	2026	2025
	£ '000	£'000
Net movement in funds	(531)	(568)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges – Fixed assets	80	82
(Profit) / loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	-
Depreciation charges – Heritage assets	109	110
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	153	153
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	20	(58)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(169)	(281)

Accounting Policies

a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except where otherwise stated, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102 (Charities SORP (FRS 102), second edition, effective 1 January 2019).

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

The Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. In making this assessment, the Trustees have considered all available information about the future for a period of at least twelve months from the date on which these financial statements are authorised for issue. Accordingly, the financial statements have been prepared on the 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 results 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 408 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 recognised when the charity is entitled to the income, receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably. In assessing whether these criteria are met, the Trustees consider the information available from executors and estate administrators, including whether probate has been granted, whether there are sufficient assets in the estate after settling liabilities, and whether any conditions attached to the legacy have been satisfied.

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.

Other income. 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.

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
• Freehold improvements	10
• Office equipment and office improvements	5
• Motor vehicles	5
• Computers and IT equipment	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 are 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 17).

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Prior year statement of financial activities

For the year ended 31 March 2025	Unrestricted Funds £ '000	Restricted funds £ '000	Total 2025 £ '000
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	1,125	40	1,165
Charitable activities	428	764	1,192
Trading activities			
Folly Farm Centre Limited trading	711	-	711
Other income	67	-	67
Total	2,331	804	3,135
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds			
Folly Farm Centre Limited trading	616	-	616
General fundraising	640	-	640
Charitable activities	1,532	915	2,447
Total	2,788	915	3,703
Net Income / (expenditure)	(457)	(111)	(568)
Transfers between funds	(85)	85	-
Net movement in funds	(542)	(26)	(568)
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward	2,909	6,050	8,959
Total funds carried forward	2,367	6,024	8,391

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

2. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £ '000	Restricted funds £ '000	Total 2026 £ '000	Total 2025 £'000
Membership income	927	-	927	913
Donations	35	65	100	148
Appeals	9	10	19	26
Legacies	148	-	148	78
Total	1,119	75	1,194	1,165

3. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £ '000	Restricted funds £ '000	Total 2026 £ '000	Total 2025 £ '000
Delivery programmes				
Management of nature reserves	182	134	316	319
Nature recovery projects	-	667	667	238
Community projects	-	86	86	435
Youth and education projects	16	83	99	88
Grow Wilder	69	61	130	98
Other support	226	45	271	14
Total	493	1,076	1,569	1,192

4. Other income

	Unrestricted Funds £ '000	Restricted funds £ '000	Total funds 2026 £ '000	Total funds 2025 £ '000
Other income including interest received	38	-	38	67
Total	38	-	38	67

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

5. Summary analysis of expenditure

	Charitable activities £ '000	Folly Farm trading £ '000	Fundraising £ '000	Support and Governance £ '000	Total 2026 £ '000	Total 2025 £ '000
Staff costs (Note 7)	1,250	174	334	412	2,170	2,086
Contractors and consultants	476	80	-	32	588	295
Tools, materials and other direct costs	128	-	8	3	139	129
Catering and activity costs	-	161	-	-	161	153
Partnerships	-	-	-	48	48	52
Fundraising and marketing	6	15	357	1	379	327
Office and IT costs	44	171	9	131	355	411
Depreciation and other costs	141	38	20	41	240	250
Subtotal	2,045	639	728	668	4,080	3,703
Reallocate Support and Governance	527	-	141	(668)	-	-
Total	2,572	639	869	-	4,080	3,703

Total resources are stated after charging:

	Total 2026 £ '000	Total 2025 £ '000
Auditors' remuneration		
– Audit	25	15
– Other services including tax advisory	-	-
Depreciation – tangible and heritage assets	189	192

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

6. Trading subsidiaries

The Avon Wildlife Trust Group accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026 includes the consolidation of our subsidiary, the Folly Farm Centre Limited.

Folly Farm Centre Limited

The Trust is the beneficial owner of shares in a wholly owned subsidiary, Folly Farm Centre Limited, a company incorporated in the UK. The Trust did not expend any funds in obtaining these interests. 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 weddings and conferences. In addition, the Centre provides education courses, to further the Trust's charitable purpose by inspiring people about wildlife.

The company pays rent to the Trust for use of the buildings and adjoining area, and most profits generated by the company are transferred as a charitable donation to the Trust. This provides an additional source of unrestricted income that the Trust can use to fund charitable activity. 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:

Folly Farm Centre Limited

Profit and loss account for the year ended 31 March 2026	2026 £ '000	2025 £ '000
Turnover	781	741
Cost of sales	(280)	(284)
Gross profit	501	457
Overheads and administration	(438)	(401)
Operating profit / (loss)	63	56
Interest received	5	6
Interest payable and similar charges	-	(1)
Profit / (loss) before taxation	68	61
Tax on profit	-	-
Profit / (loss) for the year	68	61

Balance sheet at 31 March 2026	2026 £ '000	2025 £ '000
Fixed assets	141	134
Net current assets/(liabilities)	22	54
Total assets less current liabilities	163	188
Creditors falling due after more than one year	-	3
Total	163	185
Capital and reserves		
Profit and loss account	163	185
Total	163	185

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 2025/26 year amounted to £48k (£47k in 2024/25).
- 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.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

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

Group	2026 £ '000	2025 £ '000
Wages and salaries	1,772	1,716
Employers' national insurance	191	144
Pension costs	89	83
Other staff costs	118	143
	2,170	2,086

The trustees were not paid nor did they receive any other benefits from the charity or its subsidiaries in the year (£nil in 2025). No expenses were reimbursed to the trustees during the year (£nil in 2025).

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 £434,349 (£438,220 in 2024/25). One employee earned between £70k and £80k in the year (in 2025, 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 53.8 (2025: 51.6).

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

	2026	2025
Delivery programmes	40.3	39.3
Support staff	9.7	8.5
Folly Farm Centre Ltd	3.8	3.8
Total	53.8	51.6

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

8. Tangible fixed assets

	Office improvements £ '000	Freehold improvements £ '000	Equipment & machinery £ '000	Motor vehicles £ '000	Computers £ '000	Total £ '000
Group						
Cost						
At 1 April 2025	19	226	120	155	50	570
Additions	-	6	30	-	-	36
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2026	19	232	150	155	50	606
Depreciation						
At 1 April 2025	3	94	72	45	30	244
Charge for year	4	21	18	29	8	80
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2026	7	115	90	74	38	324
Net book value						
At 31 March 2026	12	117	60	81	12	282
At 31 March 2025	16	132	48	110	20	326
Charity						
Cost						
At 1 April 2025	19	12	47	155	49	282
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2026	19	12	47	155	49	282
Depreciation						
At 1 April 2025	3	2	11	44	30	90
Charge for year	4	1	8	31	7	51
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2026	7	3	19	75	37	141
Net book value						
At 31 March 2026	12	9	28	80	12	141
At 31 March 2025	16	10	36	111	19	192

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

9. Heritage assets

Cost	Nature reserves £ '000	Improvements to nature reserves £ '000	Folly Farm development £ '000	Total £ '000
At 1 April 2025	3,477	777	3,860	8,114
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2026	3,477	777	3,860	8,114
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2025	72	438	1,366	1,877
Charge for the year	6	32	72	109
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2026	78	470	1,438	1,986
Net book value				
At 31 March 2026	3,399	307	2,422	6,128
At 31 March 2025	3,405	339	2,494	6,238

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 2026:

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 £136,000 in the year ended 31 March 2026 (£117,000 in 2025).

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 2025 were approved by the Trustees of BNHC in September 2026.

During the year ended 31 December 2025, BNHC generated a deficit of £38,930 (2024 surplus of £26,821). At 31 December 2025 the charity had net assets of £47,626 (2024: £86,556), these reserves are all held as free reserves.

During the year, Avon Wildlife Trust contributed £5,000 as a membership subscription to BNHC (£5,000 in 2024/25).

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.

Upon 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
	2026	2025	2026	2025
	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000
Grants and fees receivable	177	204	177	204
Prepayments	73	88	52	63
Other debtors	110	216	71	185
Loan to Folly Farm Centre Limited	-	-	-	12
	360	508	300	464

14. Creditors – amounts falling due within one year

	Group	Group	Charity	Charity
	2026	2025	2026	2025
	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000
Trade creditors	221	175	180	117
Other creditors and accruals	438	459	116	160
Taxation and national insurance	11	16	1	1
	670	650	297	278

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

15. Restricted funds					
Group and Charity	1 Apr '25 £ '000	Income £ '000	Expenditure £ '000	Transfers £ '000	31 Mar '26 £ '000
Restricted funds					
Nature Reserve projects					
Big Chalk (Folly Farm)	-	40	45	5	-
Puxton Moor	-	94	94	-	-
Wilder Mendip	16	45	55	(6)	-
Other nature reserve projects	47	7	35	-	19
Landscape projects and major developments					
Ebdon Farm development	-	283	351	68	-
Ebdon Farm match-funding	125	109	-	(68)	166
Pollinator Pathways	17	150	153	-	14
North Somerset levels and moors	35	48	33	-	50
Beavers	21	51	30	-	42
Other landscape projects	20	37	22	2	38
Community and education projects					
Wildlife Champions	18	90	87	1	22
Youth projects	41	83	76	-	48
Warmley nature action zone	-	48	45	-	3
Ecologist in residence	19	(4)	15	-	-
Community climate and nature	-	11	6	-	5
Other community projects	44	12	58	2	-
Grow Wilder projects	73	-	13	-	60
Other projects					
Bristol Avon Catchment Market	177	-	-	-	177
Tractor depreciation fund	97	-	25	-	72
Goblin Coombe bat credits	43	-	-	-	43
Green Finance preparation	25	37	48	-	15
Other projects	-	8	-	-	8
Total revenue restricted funds	818	1,151	1,191	4	782
Property improvement funds	2,627	-	110	-	2,517
Freehold land funds	2,324	-	-	-	2,324
Leasehold land funds	255	-	-	-	255
Total restricted funds	6,024	1,151	1,301	4	5,878
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	1,874	-	-	(1,049)	825
General unrestricted funds	493	2,398	2,779	1,045	1,157
Total funds	8,391	3,549	4,080	-	7,860

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:

Nature Reserve projects

Big Chalk (Folly Farm)	Improvements to Folly Farm nature reserve
Puxton Moor	Improvements to Puxton Moor SSSI and nature reserve
Wilder Mendip	Improvements to AWT reserves on the Mendip ridge
Other nature reserve projects	

Landscape projects and major developments

Ebdon Farm development	National Lottery Heritage Funded project to develop plans at Ebdon Farm
Ebdon Farm match-funding	Match-funding for the Ebdon Farm project
Pollinator Pathways	WECA funding to support landowners improve pollination on their land
North Somerset levels	To support the development of moor associations in the Gordano Valley
Beavers	To help monitor and protect the newly detected beaver population in Avon
Other landscape projects	

Community and education projects

Wildlife Champions	To create a peer learning network of local champions taking action for nature's recovery
Youth projects	Encouraging young people to explore, learn and take action for nature
Warmley nature action zone	Supporting people taking action for nature in Warmley
Ecologist in residence	Providing ecological expertise to communities developing Community Climate Action plans in Bristol
Community climate and nature	
Other community projects	

Grow Wilder projects	To involve the community in growing nature-friendly food and looking after nature
-----------------------------	---

Other projects

Bristol Avon Catchment Market	Working with partners to demonstrate how a nature-based solutions market could work in the Bristol Avon Catchment area
Tractor depreciation fund	To fund the purchase of a tractor
Goblin Coombe bat credits	To manage bat habitats at Goblin Coombe
Green Finance preparation	To support the Trust's development of green finance projects
Other projects	

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Fixed Assets £ '000	Net Current Assets £ '000	Total £ '000
Restricted Funds (revenue funds)	249	533	782
Restricted funds (property funds)	5,096	-	5,096
Unrestricted funds (designated)	825	-	825
Unrestricted funds (general)	354	803	1,157
Total funds	6,524	1,336	7,860

17. 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 2026, there were no outstanding pension contributions accrued in respect of employees not yet set up under the pension scheme (£nil in 2025).

Professional Advisors

Auditors

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

Solicitors

Burges Salmon LLP
One Glass Wharf, Bristol BS2 0ZX

TLT

One Redcliff Street, Bristol, BS1 6TP

Osborne Clarke

Halo, Counterslip, Bristol BS1 6AJ

Bankers

Bank of Scotland

Community Banking, PO Box 10, 38 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh, EH2 2YR

Co-operative Bank

Olympic House, Olympic Court, Montford Street, Salford, M5 2QP

Nat West Bank plc

250 Bishopsgate, London, EC2M 4AA

Triodos Bank NV

Deanery Road, Bristol, BS2 5AS

CAF Bank

25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Avon Wildlife Trust Head Office

17 Great George Street
Bristol
BS1 5QT
T: 0117 917 7270

www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk

Folly Farm Centre & Registered Office

Folly Farm
Stowey,
Pensford
Bristol BS39 4DW
T: 01275 331590

www.follyfarm.org

Grow Wilder

181 Frenchay Park Road,
Frenchay
Bristol
BS16 1EL

www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/grow-wilder



Avon
Wildlife Trust