



# Avon Wildlife Trust

## Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2017

*Registered Charity 280422*

*Registered Company 1495108*

*Securing **wildlife** - Inspiring **people***

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



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#### **The AWT Group**

The Annual Report and Financial Statements refer to 'the AWT Group'. This term is used to include Avon Wildlife Trust and Folly Farm Centre Limited. Further details about the Trust's subsidiary and related companies are given on pages 10-11.

### **President**

Simon King

### **Vice Presidents**

Mark Carwardine, Mike Dilger, Kevin McCloud

### **Trustees**

Chair - Roz Kidman-Cox (Retired 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016)  
Professor Jane Memmott (Chair from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016)  
Maddy Bartlett (Appointed 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016)  
Martin Brasher  
Anthony Brown (Retired 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016)  
Chris Curling (Appointed 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016)  
Alan Dorn (Retired 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016)  
Professor Justin Dillon  
Katharine Finn  
Lorna Fox  
Lesley Freed (Retired 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016)  
Cecile Gillard  
Dilys Huggins  
Nigel Morrison  
Dr. Steve Nicholls (Vice Chair)  
Malcolm Shepherd (Appointed 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016)

### **Key Personnel**

CEO - Ian Barrett  
Director of Delivery Programmes – Dr Lucy Rogers  
Director of Finance and Resources – Jane Davis  
Director of Fundraising, Membership & Communications – Sarah Moore  
Director of Folly Farm – Andrew Lund-Yates (until 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017)

### **Finance Committee**

Chair - Katharine Finn  
Ian Barrett     Martin Brasher  
Jane Davis     Alan Dorn (Retired September 2016)  
Lorna Fox (Appointed November 2016)     Roz Kidman Cox (Retired November 2016)  
Professor Jane Memmott (Appointed November 2016)     Malcolm Shepherd (Appointed September 2016)

### **Governance Committee**

Chair - Dilys Huggins (Appointed September 2016)  
Ian Barrett     Chris Curling (Appointed November 2016)  
Jane Davis     Cecile Gillard (Retired as Chair in September 2016)  
Roz Kidman Cox (Retired November 2016)     Professor Jane Memmott (Appointed November 2016)  
Dr Steve Nicholls     Malcolm Shepherd (Appointed November 2016)

### **Fundraising Committee**

Maddy Bartlett     Chris Curling  
Pat Ellingham     Roz Kidman-Cox  
Sarah Moore     Malcolm Shepherd

Avon Wildlife Trust was established in 1980.

It is a registered charity reg. no: 280422 and a registered limited liability company reg. no: 1495108.

Registered office: 32 Jacobs Wells Road, Bristol, BS8 1DR

## Welcome

*Welcome to Avon Wildlife Trust's Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended on 31 March 2017.*

As the second year of our Vision 2020 strategy comes to a close we have much to celebrate. Across our nature reserves wildlife is thriving thanks to the hard work of our staff and volunteer teams who protect habitats that support species such as Cetti's Warblers, Dormice, breeding Lapwing and rare mosses.

Our urban engagement work has also been very successful. We have supported thousands of people of all ages and from diverse communities to get their hands dirty and have their curiosity awakened about local wildlife. Toddlers and parents have been enjoying wild play sessions in Bristol's parks. Teenagers have developed outdoor skills in their neighbourhoods. Business employees have engaged with schools to transform playgrounds into outdoor classrooms. This year, 7,000 children have learned more about why and how to care for nature.

At Avon Wildlife Trust we celebrate every success for local wildlife and every individual we connect to nature. But we know we are fighting a long battle against the serious decline in wildlife evidenced across the world, and here in the UK. The 2016 State of Nature Report showed that there has been no change in the rate of decline of wildlife in this country. 56% of UK wildlife is in decline, with 15% of UK species in danger of extinction from our shores.

Our work is more vital now than ever. This report shows how we are reaching out to more people and developing our strategic priorities to make bigger and better impacts for local wildlife. We are strengthening our role as champions of the value of nature and we are working in deeper partnerships to effect longer lasting impacts that can ensure a future for our natural world.

As always, we are hugely grateful for the support of our members, volunteers, partners, and funders. We will continue to need, and develop, this support as we navigate an uncertain future politically, economically and environmentally. The ongoing support of our nature-loving community continues to inspire and to achieve great impacts. Together we will continue to protect and restore local wildlife for our future generations.



**Professor Jane Memmott**  
Chair of Trustees



**Ian Barrett**  
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 2017. The Report Covers pages 3-20 and constitutes a Strategic Report in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013.

## Avon Wildlife Trust

*Avon Wildlife Trust is a charity with over 18,000 members, 800 volunteers, 40 staff and 12 Trustees*

**Our Vision:** nature restored on a grand scale across the West of England

We protect wildlife in the West of England and ensure everyone can enjoy wildlife-rich lives

### Wildlife-Rich Places

### Wildlife-Rich Lives

People are at the heart of everything we do  
we work with people to deepen connections with nature,  
build skills and confidence,  
and take action for wildlife.

### What We Do

Create, connect and care for places rich in wildlife

Champion the value of nature

Inspire people & communities to care for nature

### How we Work

We work with communities to create places that work for people and wildlife

We work in partnership to protect and restore wildlife at the landscape scale

We make the case for wildlife conservation by using robust evidence and showing what can be done

**Avon Wildlife Trust – Inspiring Action for Wildlife**

## Review of the year

### The Year in Numbers

**£1million** awarded from Our Bright Future to engage 11 – 24 year olds with the value of nature and develop their skills for employment over the next five years.

**£500,000** awarded from Big Lottery Fund for our four year, Wellbeing through Nature project

**46,000** volunteer hours helped with conservation tasks, at events and in the office

**6,400** people enjoyed an abundance of urban nature at our Feed Bristol project

**3,800** metres of ditches restored on North Somerset Levels & Moors

**2,090** new members joined our community

**1,474** toddler engagements at outdoor, urban Wild Play sessions

**92** features in local and regional press, online, radio and TV to champion the value of nature

**65** hectares of calcareous grassland restored to provide vital habitat for pollinators

**23** species of bee recorded at our Burlledge Hill Nature Reserve

**14** maps created to show key locations for ecosystem services and ecological networks across the Avon Region

**12** urban wildlife demonstration projects created

**11** Dormice recorded in our region's woodlands as part of a national monitoring scheme

**3** pairs of breeding lapwing protected on one of our nature reserves

## Our Vision

Our Vision 2015-2020 is to restore nature on a grand scale across the West of England, and comprises three main objectives:

- Create ecological networks through landscape-scale habitat management and enhancement
- Inspire people and communities to care for nature
- Champion the value of nature

2016-2017 was the second year of our strategy in action and we made good progress against our objectives.

## Our Objectives & Achievements

### *Create ecological networks through landscape-scale management and enhancement*

Pressure on the natural world from growing populations and associated development is increasing, and as a result landscapes have become more fragmented. Without healthy, connected landscapes wildlife cannot survive.

Avon Wildlife Trust is working at scale, across the region to create joined up corridors – ecological networks – that connect mosaics of habitats to enable wildlife to thrive. We manage a total of 1,020 hectares of nature reserves and wild places which include rare calcareous grassland, ancient woodland, saltmarsh and wetlands. With the help of hundreds of volunteers each year, and our grazing partners, we manage our reserves to provide secure, connected habitats that protect wildlife for the future.

Increasing the abundance of wildlife on our nature reserves also relies on us connecting up the spaces in between, and we do this in partnership with landowners and farmers. We provide advice and practical support to encourage and enable these custodians of our local landscape to manage their land in ways that allow wildlife to thrive. Our conservation team has contacted 240 farmers across the region this year. A total of 20 farmers have received direct support to help with land management and we have supported a further eight farmers to access Countryside Stewardship grants.

With a particular focus on land management to support essential pollinators, our **B-Lines project** is targeting 3 areas of nature reserve 'clusters' in the Chew Valley, West Mendips and north and east of Bath. In these areas we are working with farmers and volunteers to create species-rich corridors that stretch between reserves connecting Folly Farm, Burlledge Hill and the Chew Valley, as well as Walborough Common, Purn and Hellenge Hill. This work is developing successful buffers for our reserves and enables us to demonstrate the value of ecological connectivity at a landscape scale.

### **Managing nature reserves and working in partnership**

This year the number of nature reserves we manage reduced to 31. Over the course of the year we reviewed our partnership with Bristol City Council. The Trust has supported the Council to manage a number of nature reserves in the city for many years. However, as part of our strategy to develop ecological networks, we have agreed to hand back management of five small nature reserves in exchange for taking up management of a number of Local Wildlife Sites throughout Bristol. These include Lawrence Weston Moor, Stockwood Open Space, and Coombe Brook Valley, and we will develop and support community volunteer groups to help manage these sites through our My Wild City project.



### Case Study: Walton Common Nature Reserve, Gordano Valley

Walton Common represents an increasingly rare and important ecological and archaeological resource both to the local community and the wider county. The Common was historically used as a site for grazing livestock by the local community which enabled the species-rich grassland to thrive.

However, changes in life style over the past decades have resulted in a lack of grazing and Walton Common was in the process of disappearing under a carpet of scrub and secondary woodland. The Common is well used by the local community, but livestock grazing was urgently needed to restore and protect the rare grassland species.

So, in 2015 AWT installed invisible fencing, a cutting edge technology that has enabled us to implement cattle grazing on the site for the first time in decades. It also means people can continue to enjoy the Common without the impediment of physical fencing. Since installing the fencing, we have made significant progress with scrub clearance, with several hectares of scrub removed over the last two years.

Visitors to Walton Common can encounter the Dexter cattle, a short-legged, hardy breed ideally suited to conservation grazing. These small cattle cause less damage to fragile soil structures, and their agility makes them better at grazing rough terrain and steep slopes. Dexters browse, as well as graze, which is especially helpful for knocking back scrub encroachment on historically under grazed sites. They also tend to be docile in temperament, making them easy to manage and tolerant of people and dogs.

The invisible fencing is a modern solution to enable traditional conservation practice. It means we can control the cattle without preventing people and wildlife from interacting with the developing botanical diversity of this grassland reserve. As well as an abundance of wildflowers, the nationally rare rabbit moss continues to be present on the site, along with one other nationally rare and two nationally scarce moss species.

**There are many species-related success stories on our reserves this year.** At **Weston Moor** we have recorded three pairs of breeding lapwing, as well as an otter and two pups. At **Blake's Pools** breeding Cetti's warblers were recorded as well as water rail, shelduck, avocet, lapwing, green sandpiper, peregrine and a young barn owl in a barn owl box. At **Folly Farm in the Chew Valley** we recorded 22 Ancient Woodland Indicator species during woodland monitoring in Spring 2016, while at **Burledge Hill** we recorded 23 species of bee and 27 species of hoverfly over the summer.

- 5 Osprey Nesting platforms erected in the Chew Valley
- French Oat Grass recorded at Walborough for the first time since 2006
- Violet Oil Beetles recorded at Tickenham Hill
- 3,800 metres of ditches and 15 acres of wet grassland restored on the North Somerset Levels & Moors



### *Inspire people and communities to care for nature*

People are at the heart of our success at Avon Wildlife Trust and we aim to inspire everyone we meet with a love of wildlife, along with the skills and confidence to care for nature.

We run a number of projects designed specifically to connect people to the value of nature for their health and wellbeing, to inspire a curiosity in the natural world through education, and to help people notice everyday nature and take action to protect it. In the main these projects have an urban focus and engage with diverse communities from toddlers, school children and teenagers to adults with learning difficulties and people living with mental ill-health.

Each year we are recipients of the support of hundreds of volunteers and **this year we benefitted from 46,000 hours of volunteering, saving us £300,000 in staff costs.** Volunteer tasks include conservation work on our reserves and on public and private land; help with events; and tasks in the office. We are hugely grateful to all of our volunteers who so generously gave us their time and expertise this year. They really do make our work possible.

**Avon Wildlife Trust has 18,000 members** across the West of England. Our members care for wildlife, act as ambassadors for nature and provide financial support for the Trust's work. **In 2016-2017 we welcomed 2,090 new memberships to our community,** which included many children and families. Our members are invited to regular events designed to connect people to local wildlife and help them understand how they can play a part in caring for nature in their locality.

Our Learning programme engaged almost 7,000 children from inner city and rural primary schools.

#### **Case Study: Eel Education**

Our **Spawn to be Wild Eel** education project is funded by Bristol Water and supported by partners from Bridgwater College Fisheries Team, Sustainable Eel Group, Charles Berkeley from Berkeley Castle & Berkeley Estate Fishing Syndicate. This project highlights the serious plight of European eels, which are critically endangered, and installed tanks of elvers in four primary schools; provided support for the children to raise and learn about eels; and terminated with release of the mature elvers into the wild at Berkeley Castle. In total 1,290 pupils took part in workshops, fieldtrips and assemblies to gain an understanding and experience of eel conservation in practice.

**Avon Wildlife Trust is pioneering community-led, urban wildlife conservation through our My Wild City project.** The My Wild City vision is for Bristol to become a world-class, nature-rich city, with green corridors that support wildlife to thrive. Building on the considerable success delivered during the 2015 Bristol Green Capital year, this year we worked with communities and companies to create a wildlife roof garden at the Bristol Royal Infirmary, and developed the playground at Bedminster Primary School into an outdoor classroom and wildlife haven. Our Wild City Action Team delivered 32 work days on 15 Local Wildlife Sites across Bristol, supporting Bristol City Council to manage these important wildlife habitats.

- Weekly, outdoor 'Wild Play' session across Bristol supported 1,424 toddler engagements.
- 2,917 school children got up close to nature at our Folly Farm education centre in the Chew Valley.
- 160 species of native wildflowers were grown from seed as part of our therapeutic horticulture offer at our Feed Bristol site.
- £1m awarded by Our Bright Future to inspire young people aged 11 – 24 with the value of nature and develop skills for employment, with 1,250 young people engaged in the year.



## Champion the Value of Nature

Nature's voice has never needed to be louder. The 2016 State of Nature Report described how our natural world is in crisis. Compiled using data from 45 UK conservation and environmental charities, including The Wildlife Trusts, the Report described how 56% of our species have declined between 1970-2013, with 15% of UK species extinct or threatened with extinction from our shores. Iconic species that we consider quintessential including hedgehogs, dormice and a variety of bumblebees risk being wiped out without targeted intervention.

Avon Wildlife Trust is working at a strategic level to raise the profile of nature in our locality. Nature provides us with many essential 'services' including air, water and food. Conclusive research shows that spending just 5 minutes in nature can reduce stress hormones and anxiety. Humans need nature for our health and survival. And nature needs us to value it so that wildlife can multiply and thrive. It is vital that the value of nature is understood across our region to ensure our children can embrace a healthy future that is replete with the plants, trees, and creatures that make up our native ecosystems.

**This year we worked in partnership with a wide range of organisations** including: *A Forgotten Landscape, Batheaston Freeholders Association, Bathscapes, Blooming Whiteway, Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership, Bristol Green Capital Partnership, Bristol Natural History Consortium, Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre, Bristol University, Bristol and Wessex Water, Buglife, Burges Salmon, Cotswold and Mendip AONB, Natural England, The Care Forum, The Environment Agency, The Internal Drainage Board, The National Trust, The Natural Academy, The RSPB, The South West Wildlife Trusts, The Woodland Trust, United Communities Housing Association, University of the West of England, The West of England Local Enterprise Partnership, West of England Nature Partnership, West of England Rural Network, Rolls Royce and Unitary Authorities* to help us amplify this message.

### Case Study: Mapping the Region's Ecosystem Services

In 2015, in partnership with the West of England Nature Partnership, Avon Wildlife Trust created the West of England Ecosystem Service Maps. These maps are an open access information source that highlights important areas of the region which provide significant benefits to people, wildlife and the economy with regard to water quality and quantity, and ecological networks (woodland, wetland and grassland).

The maps are designed to help developers and planners avoid causing undue damage to essential ecosystems in our region. **This year our maps were presented to the 2016 European Ecosystem Services conference at the University of Antwerp in Belgium in September.** The conference was attended by academics and practitioners from across Europe who are all developing work around ecosystem services. The maps also framed our response to the Joint Spatial Plan for the Avon region.

**Our Director of Delivery Programmes, Dr Lucy Rogers, was awarded the prestigious Dame Mary Smieton Award in acknowledgement of this pioneering work on ecosystem services mapping for the region.**

Avon Wildlife Trust also worked closely with local press, radio and TV to communicate the value of nature for a wide range of stakeholders, as well as to share the challenges and successes for wildlife in our region. **In total, this year we had 92 occurrences of coverage in the media**, including a feature on Points West filmed in the Wildlife Garden that Avon Wildlife Trust created at the BBC's Natural History Unit, where we held a bioblitz for local school-children. We reached out to diverse communities through Ujima Radio

and began working with the Green and Black Ambassador programme. We also focussed our regular column in the Bristol Post to make a stronger case for nature in the city.

In response to Brexit, Avon Wildlife Trust has been promoting the Greener UK agenda, calling on MP's to sign up to a pledge for the Environment. Greener UK is a coalition of 13 key environmental organisations in the UK and is calling on Government to use Brexit as an opportunity to strengthen UK environmental laws. Locally, Bristol MPs Kerry McCarthy and Thangam Debbonnaire have signed the pledge, and discussions are ongoing with other MP's in our region.

- £500,000 awarded by Big Lottery for our Wellbeing through Nature programme, working with Public Health to demonstrate the value of nature for social prescribing.
- 500 people attended our Nature Day at Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock to connect families with local wildlife and hear from TV presenter Nick Baker about the value of outdoor learning and play.



## 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-focussed 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 47 Wildlife Trusts which cover the British Isles and jointly benefit from the support of 850,000 members.

### The Avon Wildlife Trust Group

Avon Wildlife Trust has legal interests in a number of related companies. For reporting and accounting purposes, one of these related companies (Folly Farm Centre Limited) is included with the Trust in what is called 'the AWT Group'.

#### Wholly owned company

**Folly Farm Centre Limited** is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Trust, formed to run the award-winning residential environmental-learning, conference and events centre in the Chew Valley. This 250-acre nature reserve also operates as a wedding venue and education facility for schoolchildren. Registered limited company no. 6538712 Folly Farm Centre Limited is owned and operated solely by Avon Wildlife Trust with the help of a Board of Directors that includes two Trustees and the Chief Executive of the Trust. Any profits from Folly Farm are gift aided to Avon Wildlife Trust to support our charitable activities.

#### Associated Company

Avon Wildlife Trust has a 49% share in **Gloucester Wildlife Management Limited**, (registered company no. 22844770, managed by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. Trading as **WildService** the principal activity of the company is the promotion and supervision of conservation projects. There is a Board of seven Directors including two representatives from each Trust and the Chief Executives of each Trust. Profits from WildService are gift aided to the two Trusts to support their charitable aims.

#### Connected company

The Trust is a member, and can appoint one trustee to the Board, of the Bristol Natural History Consortium (BNHC) registered charity 1123432 and registered company 06472186. The Trust has a place on the BNHC Board with the other two company members, Bristol Zoo Gardens and Wildscreen.

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 and West of England, Defra, the National Trust, Natural England, Bristol City Council and the RSPB.

The primary aims of the Consortium are to promote public interest in the natural world and to encourage the development of improved techniques of communication about the natural world.

The Trust contributes to the core costs of BNHC (£5,000 in 2016/17). See note 10 for further financial details.

#### Jointly owned companies

The Trust is a corporate member of the **Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT)**, incorporated by Royal Charter and registered charity 207238, formed and owned by a federation of the 47 Wildlife Trusts covering the UK.



The Trust contributes to the operating costs of RSWT £28,240 (2015/16 £28,930) 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 RSWT's two highest decision-making bodies (Council and Forum) but remains entirely independent in terms of its own governance.

The Trust is also a company member of **South West Wildlife Trusts (SWWT)**, a charitable company (registered charity 1094746, registered company 4417769) owned by seven Wildlife Trusts in the SW region. The Trust contributes to the operating costs of SWWT £13,000 (£13,000 in 2015/16) in return for representation of the Trust's interests at the South West regional level and for the promotion of joint programmes and best practice between the Trusts regionally. The Trust is directly represented on the SWWT Board by its Chair and Chief Executive, but again it remains entirely independent in terms of its own governance.

The Trust is also a member of **South West Wildlife Fundraising Limited (SWWFL)**, a company limited by guarantee, company number 8529465. SWWFL provides membership recruitment services to members of SWWFL (and other Wildlife Trusts, at the discretion of the SWWFL directors).

The Trust became one of the original members on incorporation of SWWFL, together with Devon Wildlife Trust, Dorset Trust for Nature Conservation Limited, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, Somerset Wildlife Trust and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. Later, in 2013/14, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust also became a member of SWWFL.

The Trust has the right to appoint up to two directors to the SWWFL board. Each member has committed to loan the company £33k of which £22k was provided in 2013/14 and a further £11k in 2014/15. The first repayment of £11k was received in June 2016. The Company provided membership recruitment services to the Trust costing £167k in the year (2015/16 £107k).

## Governance

Avon Wildlife Trust has dual registration as a charity regulated under charity law, registered charity number 280422, and as a company (registered company no: 1495108) regulated under company law. The Trust is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and the Direct Marketing Association and is committed to good practice in fundraising conduct.

### Constitution

The governing instrument of the Trust is its Memorandum and Articles of Association. This can be amended only by special resolution at a General Meeting of Trust members.

Avon Wildlife Trust is governed by a Board of Trustees who provide guidance in the delivery and operations of our charitable purpose “to advance the environmental protection and improvement for wildlife in the area formerly known as the County of Avon”. The county of Avon ceased to exist in 1996, however the Trust’s principal area of operation remains unchanged. This area is now administered by the four unitary councils of Bath & North-East Somerset (BANES), Bristol City (BCC), North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. In order to provide some flexibility in the Trust’s area of operation, including the opportunity to engage in some activities jointly with neighbouring Wildlife Trusts, a resolution is to be considered at the Trust’s AGM in November 2017 enabling it to undertake activities outside of this area.

### 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.

The constitution of the Trust provides for a maximum of 14 Trustees – up to seven elected directly by Trust members at the AGM, and up to seven appointed by the Trustees, to ensure an appropriate balance of skills, experience and representation on the Board. Trustees serve a one-year term initially; further terms by election or appointment are for three years. The Board can also co-opt Trustees to fill any vacancy between AGMs. The opportunity is being taken at the AGM in November 2017 to propose amendments to some of these provisions, including reducing the maximum number of Trustees to 12 and limiting the number of three year terms that a Trustee can serve.

During 2016/17, the Board was supported by two Committees (Governance and Finance), 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.

This year we said goodbye to our Chair of Trustees, Roz Kidman-Cox, who stepped down after ten years of leading the Trust through significant successes and transformational change. We welcomed Jane Memmott, Professor of Ecology at the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Bristol, as our new Chair of Trustees.

Three of our Trustees, Anthony Brown, Alan Dorn and Lesley Freed, also stood down last year and we would like to acknowledge their valuable contributions to the Trust over the years of their service. In particular, Alan Dorn has provided 29 years of expert guidance and support on the Board and we are very grateful for his commitment during this significant length of time. We welcomed three new Trustees to the Board: Maddy Bartlett, Chris Curling and Malcolm Shepherd, and we look forward to working with them over the coming years.

New Trustees are provided with an induction to the Trust. A record of Trustees’ skills is maintained to ensure that the Board has the expertise, knowledge and experience it needs to provide effective governance of the Trust’s work.



## Public Benefit

All of the Trust's activities are undertaken to provide a healthy living world and connect people to the benefit of nature. We run an extensive programme of public events, activities and services which we make accessible to the widest range of people and promote through a variety of media. Many of our events are available free or at a reasonable price to help cover costs or support fundraising.

Access to our nature reserves is free for the public, all year round. In some cases, however, access is restricted in numbers or at certain times of the year because of the sensitivity of wildlife. The Trustees are therefore satisfied that the Trust meets the public benefit test required of charities.

## Our Values

- Acknowledge the exceptional importance of wildlife and the natural environment to the health and sustainability of the planet's climate and eco-systems
- Promote the crucial social and economic benefits provided by wildlife and the natural environment to the health and wellbeing of the human population
- Enhance social inclusion by promoting opportunities for all members of the community to take part in the Trust's work and activities
- Deliver the Trust's objectives by working as far as possible through partnerships with other organisations and community groups
- Promote opportunities for volunteering and developing the skills, interests and personal development of its volunteers
- Take pride in the Trust's role as a community enterprise created by and responsible to its members
- Foster a culture of innovation, inspiration and creativity in its own internal working to create a visionary and dynamic Trust
- Demonstrate openness and transparency to all its external audiences, partners and customers
- Seek to operate at all times with total probity in support of ethical trading, and minimise its own carbon footprint.

## Principal Activities

Avon Wildlife Trust:

- Manages 1,020 hectares of key wildlife sites as nature reserves
- Runs a successful environmental-learning and conference centre at Folly Farm in the Chew Valley
- Runs a pioneering, urban centre for wellbeing and education in nature at Feed Bristol in Stapleton, North Bristol
- Promotes programmes to safeguard or strengthen the representation, extent and distribution of priority species and habitats native to Avon
- Campaigns to protect and promote wildlife and to maximise the social and economic benefits of the natural environment and the environmental services that it provides
- Encourages and supports wildlife-friendly practices by land managers
- Provides enrichment opportunities for the general public by helping people to learn about and enjoy wildlife and to develop special interests in the natural environment
- Enables people to make a positive contribution to wildlife conservation both by direct action and by reducing the environmental impact of their behaviour
- Provides opportunities for people to acquire skills and experience that enhance their personal development and employability.

## Risk management

The Board has in place the following infrastructure for minimising and managing risk to the Trust:

- A **Risk Policy**
- A detailed **Risk Register** for delivering the policy, identifying key potential risks and with a set of control mechanisms and delivery actions
- Operational delivery and review of the register by the **Management Team** involving the Chief Executive and all of the senior managers
- We have appointed a **Health and Safety Consultant** who provides specialist advice, guidance, training and other services working with our Health and Safety Management Group
- A **Health and Safety self-audit** was completed during the year by the Management Team, and an action plan of development activity prepared
- The Trust is committed to the principles of accident prevention and to ensure that we have robust health and safety management systems. We seek to provide and maintain safe working environments through appropriate risk assessments, maintenance and formal workplace inspections
- A **lead person** is appointed for each individual risk to ensure that the most appropriate people in the organisation are directly involved in assessing control mechanisms, identifying delivery and remedial action, and reviewing performance
- There is an annual reporting and monitoring process to the Board, and to relevant external audiences

The Trust faces a number of risks in the near future. These include the impact of Brexit and the post Brexit economic climate on securing funding to achieve our ambitious strategy. Funding sources that may be impacted include agri-environment funding, membership subscriptions and donations from supporters, and grant income in an increasingly competitive market.

Our relationships with supporters, funders and partners will become increasingly important in developing and maintaining secure long-term support. The increasing costs of maintenance of our infrastructure, buildings and resources at Folly Farm, Feed Bristol, Jacobs Wells Road and on nature reserves necessitate building unrestricted income.

The success of the Trust is reliant upon the quality of the people it is able to recruit and retain and so the investment in the development of staff is increasingly important.

## Management

### Delegation

The Chief Executive has delegated authority from the Board for the overall development, management and operations of the Trust within the strategic framework and policies set by the Trustees. There is a description of this delegation in the Governance Handbook, together with delegation procedures in the Trust Handbook setting out clear limits of authority at different levels for the Chief Executive and other staff to act for the Trust or commit expenditure.

### Management Team

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

- Delivery Programmes
- Fundraising, Membership & Communications
- Folly Farm and
- Finance & Resources.

The Chief Executive and Directors comprise the Management Team, which meets regularly and drives forward the delivery of the Trust's Annual Plan. Through the Chief Executive, the Management Team has delegated authority for dealing with all operational matters within the policy framework set by the Board.



## Fundraising

Avon Wildlife Trust is working to a fundraising strategy designed and led by the Director of Fundraising, Membership and Communications. The fundraising strategy aims to improve the financial resilience of the charity by strengthening and diversifying income streams and professionalising fundraising activity. This year we recruited a Supporter Development Manager to oversee our membership operations and improve our supporter experience. We also developed capacity for our Partnerships Manager to build fundraising partnerships with local companies.

The Trust was a member of the (now disbanded) Fundraising Standards Committee and has registered with The Fundraising Regulator. We are also members of the Direct Marketing Association. Fundraising and membership recruitment follow the strict standards and guidelines set out by these institutions and by the Institute of Fundraising. Our Director of Fundraising holds the professional Certificate in Fundraising Management and is a member of the Institute of Fundraising. All fundraisers are encouraged to attend training and development opportunities offered by The Wildlife Trusts and by the Institute of Fundraising and the South West Institute of Fundraising.

Fundraising appeals are delivered to members and supporters via direct mail and email. Our fundraising ethos is built upon the concept of providing an invitation for people to support us financially, not on suggesting that there is an obligation. The Trust received fewer than ten complaints about fundraising in the year in response to 16,000 contacts made. We aim to respond to complaints within a week and wherever possible complaints are seen as opportunities for the Trust to learn and to develop deeper relationships with our supporters based on trust and integrity.

New members are welcomed by the Trust through our website and also by our team of membership recruiters. Our recruiters are managed by South West Wildlife Fundraising Limited (SWWFL). SWWFL is a limited company owned and managed by the South West Wildlife Trusts. The Trust's Director of Fundraising sits on the SWWFL Board of Directors alongside one representative from each of the seven member Trusts. SWWFL operates on a not for profit basis and represents the Trust at events across Avon throughout the year.

Our membership recruiters work from a stall set up at each event, and speak to members of the public who approach them to find out more. SWWFL 'mystery shops' its recruiter teams to ensure their approach is following best practice guidelines. Training sessions and training materials are given to new membership recruiters followed up with quarterly refresher sessions which include visits to nature reserves and specific on-site training to update recruiters on Avon Wildlife Trust's charitable activities. SWWFL's training includes a specific focus on protecting vulnerable people.

Formal membership of the Trust is open to everybody. There is a minimum annual subscription payable for membership, and this has been kept at a low level to facilitate access to membership for all. Many members generously choose to contribute more than the minimum, when they are able to do so.

In preparation for implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Avon Wildlife Trust has reviewed its processes for gathering and processing data and is ensuring that the correct permission statements are in place and being adhered to across the Trust. We are reviewing our existing database and working with our Trustee Board to agree what steps we will take to ensure GDPR compliance by May 2018.

## Looking Ahead

This year concludes the second year of our current 5-year strategy which sets out our vision, goals and outcomes until 2020. The strategy focuses on

- **Landscape scale conservation** in 5 priority areas; Gordano Valley and Ridges, Avon Gorge & Downs, North Somerset Levels, the Cotswolds, and the Chew Valley
- **Creating connecting corridors for wildlife** across the region

### Developing Priorities

Since the strategy was published in 2015, Bristol and Bath have developed as additional priority areas for the Trust. The designation of Severnside as a Nature Improvement Area (NIA) by the West of England Nature Partnership (WENP) has also extended our focus for work in that area.

Over the next 3 years we will increase focus on the Avon coastline where the network of rhines, wetlands and high tide roosts for wading birds is a vital part of the internationally important Severn Estuary ecosystem. We will work with WENP to achieve the aims of the Severnside Wetlands NIA, focussing our work on our priority areas the North Somerset Levels and Moors and the Gordano Valley.

We will continue to focus on farmland from Chew Valley to Bath, where we are working with landowners to restore and connect habitats for the benefits of pollinators and other wildlife (this incorporates the Chew Valley and the southern part of the Cotswolds priority areas). We will maintain focus on working in partnership to develop ecological networks at the West of England level, protect Local Wildlife Sites and influence development to take more account of the benefits of nature.

We will continue to step up our work in urban areas, working with diverse communities in Bristol and Bath to improve spaces for wildlife and engage people with wildlife and the benefits of access to nature where they are.

### Funding

As the UK prepares to leave the European Union there are likely to be significant changes to how our land management and conservation work is funded. Agri-environment funding currently makes up over 90% of the funding for this work but is expected to decline as current schemes come to an end over the next 7-8 years.

We will mitigate this decline with a focus on strengthening and diversifying income streams across the Trust. A key focus will be on growing our membership, inviting more people from across our region to play a role in protecting and enjoying our local natural world. We also aim to mobilise our membership to provide a stronger voice that champions the value of nature for our region and speaks out to protect wildlife.

To learn more about our work please visit [www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk) or email [hello@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:hello@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk)



## Acknowledgements

Avon Wildlife Trust benefits each year from the generous commitment of our volunteers. This year we were able to manage the range of habitats across our 1,020 hectares of nature reserves, support landowners to adopt wildlife friendly practice, deliver events and support office-based projects and tasks, thanks to over 46,000 hours of volunteer support. This staggering contribution is equivalent to over £300,000 of staff time and we are hugely grateful for this vital support.

Our local groups provide important support through awareness raising and fundraising activities across the region. We are very grateful to these committed groups who continue to champion our vital work in the region. We could not manage our reserves without the help of our farmers and graziers. Their deep knowledge of the sites and their willingness to engage in our conservation work has allowed us to transform the condition of our sites and improve them as key habitats for wildlife in the region.

The expertise and commitment of our local wardens is significant. These remarkable individuals act as the eyes and ears for our nature reserves, run walks for the public and help to connect people with these fabulous landscapes that provide so much benefit to local wildlife. Thank you to all of you for everything you do to help us in our mission to provide wildlife-rich places and wildlife-rich lives in our region.

A range of funders help to financially enable our work. We are grateful for the commitment of many funders to help us deliver benefits for wildlife and people across our region. Our members donate essential income that enables us to operate efficiently and raise the profile of local wildlife and the importance of nature in people's everyday lives. We also benefit from support from businesses and are grateful to our business members.

Bristol City Council continue to provide our office at a peppercorn rent so we are able to expend more of our income on conservation activities. The Bristol Post continues to run a weekly column that gives us an important channel to champion the value of nature for the City.

We are deeply grateful to all of the people, companies, charitable trusts, foundations and grant makers who have supported our work this year. We are also very grateful for gifts left to the Trust in memory and through legacies.

Particular thanks go to:

AWT Local Groups ( <i>various</i> )	The Cobalt Trust	Malcolm Ravenscroft
The Alan Evans Memorial Trust	Cory Environmental Trust	Rolls-Royce plc
The Banister Charitable Trust	DEFRA	RSWT SDRC
Basil Brown Charitable Trust	Ecosurety	Sobell Trust
Biffaward	Ecotricity	Triodos Bank
Big Lottery Fund	Katharine & Mark Finn	Verdon Smith Family Charitable Settlement
Bristol City Council	The Hammamelis Trust	Vine House Farm
Bristol Naturalists Society	IOP Publishing	Viridor Credits Environmental Company
Bristol Ornithologists	Hab Housing	Wessex Water
Bristol Water plc	Kew Gardens	Dr. B Watts
Business Initiative	Natural England	Western Power Distribution
Buglife	Nature Picture Library	Peter White
Burges Salmon	The Pauline Meredith Charitable Trust	Woodland Trust
Cash4Clothes	Players of People's Postcode Lottery	Giles Woodward
	Quartet Community Foundation	



## Financial review

### Overview

The Trust recorded a deficit of £64k in the year compared to a deficit of £9k in the previous year. This comprised an unrestricted deficit of £14k (2015/16 surplus of £146k) together with a restricted deficit of £49k (2015/2016 deficit of £154k). Restricted funds are funds that the Trust has a legal obligation to use only for the specific purpose for which they were given.

The net assets of the AWT Group were £6,410k from £6,475k at the previous year-end, of which £5,625k (2015/16 £5,727k) are Heritage assets, including our nature reserves.

### Key financial factors:

- **Donations and legacies** (see note 1) decreased from £776k to £700k a 10% reduction for the year. Of this the membership subscription income increased by 5.5% to £566k from £537k, representing 37% (31% in 2015/16) of unrestricted income in the year and 32% of total income (34% in previous year). Grants and donations were down from £38k to £22k although our appeals this year raised an additional £24k. A number of the appeals are still open and donations to support our work will continue to be sought. Legacies receivable decreased from £201k to £58k.

Membership income is key to the stability of the Trust when other income streams can be both fluctuating and unpredictable in timing and value.

- **Income from Charitable Activities** (note 2) decreased slightly at £1,027k compared to £1,049k in the previous year. This represents 48% of our income. Continued progress was made in establishing more of the Trust's nature reserves in long-term management agreements.

Contributions to overheads continued from our conservation and community projects.

Income from learning activity decreased in 2016/17 at £110k (2015/16 £136k) however our My Wild Child activity increased from £30k to £95k. School visits to Folly Farm and Feed Bristol as well as learning projects delivered both in schools and on nature reserves continued.

- **Expenditure** (note 4) - Expenditure on raising funds increased from £341k to £418k in the year, reflecting the increased activity, and expenditure on charitable activities decreased by 10% to £1,427k compared to £1,585k in the previous year.
- **Folly Farm Centre** continues to be developed with a view to achieving a balance of activities throughout the year and a broad income base. Although a small deficit was generated in the year rent of £43k was paid to the Trust. The Directors are confident that further growth can be achieved, and feedback from the Centre's customers has continued to be positive. High-quality learning activities and courses are delivered in close partnership with the Trust.
- **WildService** is the ecological consultancy joint venture with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and has generated a contribution of £7,171 (2015/16 £7,648).
- **Balance Sheet** (Page 24) – The Trust continues to have a strong overall asset position. Heritage assets at the year-end were £5.6m (£5.7m at 31 March 2016). The net current asset position of the group remains strong at £778k (£815k at 31 March 2016).
- **Restricted Funds** – The Trust has many restricted funds as shown in Notes 15 and 16. These funds represent revenue funding for ongoing projects, appeal funds or fixed assets held by the Trust. At 31 March 2017 the value of these restricted funds was £5.6m (£5.7m at 31 March 2016). The deficit on the Folly Farm Development Project remains at £170k at 31 March 2017. The Trustees will prioritise the clearing of this deficit in the medium term (see Note 16).
- **Cash Flow** – The receipt of legacies and donations continues to support cash flow.



## Financial Reserves

The Group's unrestricted reserves decreased to £391k at 31 March 2017, from £425k at 31 March 2016 (see Note 16).

The Trustees 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 have decided that unrestricted (or free) reserves should aim to be maintained at three months' cover of Revenue and Core expenditure rather than a fixed-target value. Based upon the 2017/18 budget, this requirement would be £400k.

The designated reserves established last year to enable the Trust to take advantage of strategic opportunities and development to support our work to enable nature to 'recover on a grand scale' remains at £193k.

## 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 Board'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 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 have taken 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 have taken as a member of the Board in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to the auditor.

The Report of the Members of the Board was approved by the Board on 21 September 2017 and signed on their behalf:

  
Chair \_\_\_\_\_  
Professor Jane Memmott

  
Trustee \_\_\_\_\_  
Katharine Finn



## Independent auditor's report

We have audited the Financial Statements of Avon Wildlife Trust for the year ended 31 March 2017, which comprise the Group **Statement of Financial Activities**, the Group **Balance Sheet**, the Parent **Balance Sheet**, Group **Cash Flow** and the related Notes. 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015).

### RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND AUDITOR

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement (page 20), the Trustees (who are also Directors of the 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.

We have been appointed auditors under the Companies Act 2006 and section 151 of the Charities Act 2011, and report to you in accordance with those Acts. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

### SCOPE OF THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the Financial Statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that those Statements are free from material mis-statements, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of:

- whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charitable company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed;
- the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Trustees; and
- the overall presentation of the Financial Statements.

In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Annual Report to identify any material inconsistencies with the audited Financial Statements. If we become aware of any apparent material mis-statements or inconsistencies, we consider the implications for our Report.

### OPINION ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In our opinion the Financial Statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Group's and the parent company's affairs as at 31 March 2017 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 (FRS102)(effective 1 January 2015); and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

### OPINION ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

In our opinion the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report for the financial year for which the Financial Statements are prepared is consistent with the Financial Statements.

### 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 and the Charities Act 2011 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the parent charitable company has not kept adequate and sufficient accounting records, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or



- the Financial Statements of the parent charitable company 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.



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PHILIP BARRY FCA  
(Senior Statutory Auditor)

Date 27/09/ 2017

**HOLLINGDALE POOLEY**

Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor  
Bramford House  
23 Westfield Park  
Clifton  
Bristol BS6 6LT

# Consolidated statement of financial activities

for the year ended 31 March 2017

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2017 £	Total funds 2016 £
<b>Income and endowments</b>					
<b>from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	1	692,281	8,665	700,946	775,767
Charitable activities	2	412,764	614,144	1,026,908	1,049,246
Other trading activities					-
Folly Farm Centre Limited trading		399,069	-	399,069	423,903
Fundraising including local groups		6,607	-	6,607	4,629
Other income	3	15,272	-	15,272	4,751
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,525,993</b>	<b>622,809</b>	<b>2,148,802</b>	<b>2,258,296</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds					
Folly Farm Centre Limited trading	4	373,854	-	373,854	347,681
General fundraising		418,781	-	418,781	341,626
Charitable activities	4 & 15	754,959	672,083	1,427,042	1,585,692
Other expenditure		-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	4	<b>1,547,594</b>	<b>672,083</b>	<b>2,219,677</b>	<b>2,274,999</b>
<b>Net Income / (expenditure)</b>		<b>(21,601)</b>	<b>(49,274)</b>	<b>(70,875)</b>	<b>(16,703)</b>
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains:</b>					
Net contribution from Associated Company	10	7,171	-	7,171	7,648
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(14,430)</b>	<b>(49,274)</b>	<b>(63,704)</b>	<b>(9,055)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		730,365	5,744,219	6,474,584	6,483,639
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	16	<b>715,935</b>	<b>5,694,945</b>	<b>6,410,880</b>	<b>6,474,584</b>

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 20.

# Consolidated and charity balance sheets

at 31 March 2017

	Note	Group 2017 £	Group 2016 £	Charity 2017 £	Charity 2016 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	7	55,158	38,876	26,051	31,636
Heritage assets	8	5,625,410	5,727,140	5,625,410	5,727,140
Investments	10	49	49	50	50
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>5,680,617</b>	<b>5,766,065</b>	<b>5,651,511</b>	<b>5,758,826</b>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks		1,956	1,543	-	-
Debtors	11	469,993	547,650	435,664	515,137
Cash at bank and in hand		715,054	643,634	595,716	524,922
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>1,187,003</b>	<b>1,192,827</b>	<b>1,031,380</b>	<b>1,040,059</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Creditors:					
Amounts falling due within one year	12	409,002	378,350	196,950	203,087
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>778,001</b>	<b>814,477</b>	<b>834,430</b>	<b>836,972</b>
Creditors:					
Amounts falling due after one year	13	-	61,220	-	61,220
Provisions	14	47,738	44,738	47,738	44,738
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b>6,410,880</b>	<b>6,474,584</b>	<b>6,438,203</b>	<b>6,489,840</b>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>					
Unrestricted funds - designated	16 & 17	193,000	193,000	193,000	193,000
Unrestricted funds - general	16	522,886	537,316	550,208	552,571
Unrestricted funds - investments	10	49	49	50	50
		<b>715,935</b>	730,365	<b>743,258</b>	745,621
Restricted funds	15	5,694,945	5,744,219	5,694,945	5,744,219
<b>Total funds</b>	16	<b>6,410,880</b>	<b>6,474,584</b>	<b>6,438,203</b>	<b>6,489,840</b>

These accounts were approved by the Board on 21 September 2017

 Chair  
 Trustee  
 Jane Memmott Katharine Finn



# Consolidated cash flow statement

for the year ended 31 March 2017

	Note	Group		Group	
		2017	2017	2016	2016
		£	£	£	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>					
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities			169,002		132,154
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment					
- Fixed Assets	7	(34,078)		(9,104)	
- Heritage Assets	8	-		(3,647)	
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities			(34,078)		(12,751)
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>					
Loan repayment from Related Company		11,000		-	
Repayment of borrowings		(74,504)		(21,479)	
Net cash used in financing activities			(63,504)		(21,479)
<b>Cash and cash equivalents</b>					
Increase / (decrease) in cash & cash equivalents during the year			71,420		97,924
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period			643,634		545,710
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period			715,054		643,634

## Reconciliation of net movement in funds to operating cash flow

for the year ended 31 March 2017

	2017	2016
	£	£
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(63,704)</b>	<b>(9,055)</b>
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges – Fixed Assets	17,797	21,124
Depreciation charges – Heritage Assets	101,730	104,627
(Increase) / decrease in work in progress	(413)	14,157
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	66,656	(18,465)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	43,936	(17,839)
Increase / (decrease) in provisions	3,000	37,605
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>	<b>169,002</b>	<b>132,154</b>

The notes on pages 26 to 41 form part of these accounts

## Accounting Policies

For the year ended 31 March 2017

### 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 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 2015).

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

### 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 funds can be used for any of the charity's 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.

**Designated funds** – these are unrestricted funds set aside by the Trustees for specific purposes.

### e) INCOMING RESOURCES

**Legacy income** is included in the accounts when the amount due can be quantified with reasonable probability and the timing of the receipt is known.

**Incoming resources** in the form of 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**

Membership income is taken to the Statement of Financial Activities over the life of the subscription, taking into account the type of membership involved.



## Accounting Policies (continued)

For the year ended 31 March 2017

### Incoming resources

Income from investments, Gift Aid and deeds of covenant is included gross, and is accounted for when it is receivable or the charity's right to it becomes legally enforceable. Provision has been made for the Income Tax claimable at the year end.

### f) RESOURCES EXPENDED

are recognised in the period in which they are incurred and include attributable VAT that cannot be recovered.

**Membership recruitment fees** are billed in the year of recruitment, but are charged in the SOFA over three years to match the income generated.

#### General overheads

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost is clearly identifiable as relating to that activity. General overheads are apportioned to activities in proportion to the staff costs related to each area of activity.

#### Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the SOFA as incurred over the term of the lease.

### g) TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of all fixed assets, other than freehold land, by equal instalments over their expected useful lives. The periods (in years) generally applicable are:

• Freehold & Leasehold property	50
• Improvements to nature reserves	10-50
• Office equipment and office improvements	5
• Tenant improvements	10
• Motor vehicles	2.5-5
• Computers	4

### h) HERITAGE ASSETS

Heritage assets are assets of historical or scientific importance that are held to advance the preservation, conservation and educational objectives of the charity and through public access contribute to the nation's culture and education at either a national or local level. Freehold nature reserves are included in heritage assets at their acquisition costs and are not revalued or depreciated. The charity aims to preserve and enhance its nature reserves, which are not held for their resale potential. The market value of the reserves is of no practical relevance to the charity's activities. No depreciation is provided because the reserves have an indefinite life.

The cost of leasehold nature reserves are amortised over the period of the lease.

### i) STOCK

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

### j) PENSION COSTS

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

# Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2017

## 1. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2017 £	Total funds 2016 £
Membership income	566,181	-	566,181	536,854
Grants and donations	21,556	-	21,556	38,020
Appeals	24,375	-	24,375	-
Legacies	49,688	8,665	58,353	200,893
Income from costs recharged	30,481	-	30,481	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>692,281</b>	<b>8,665</b>	<b>700,946</b>	<b>775,767</b>

## 2. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funding £	Restricted funding £	Total funds 2017 £	Total funds 2016 £
<b>DELIVERY PROGRAMMES</b>				
Management of nature reserves	214,211	11,857	226,068	268,860
Biodiversity projects	-	660	660	451
Living Landscapes programme	180	128,540	128,720	83,132
My Wild City	4,035	38,169	42,204	67,511
Local Partnership working	46,019	-	46,019	38,796
Consultancy	-	-	-	65,724
Learning	86,892	24,077	110,969	135,879
Communities – Our Environment Our Future	-	130,721	130,721	60,238
Other community projects	23,754	1,534	25,288	54,805
My Wild Child	-	95,000	95,000	30,000
Wellbeing through Nature	-	135,520	135,520	-
Communities and Nature project	-	-	-	67,815
Feed Bristol project	37,673	33,066	70,739	105,844
Folly Farm learning activities	-	15,000	15,000	6,000
	412,764	614,144	1,026,908	985,055
<b>PORTBURY WHARF NATURE RESERVE</b>	-	-	-	64,191
<b>Total</b>	<b>412,764</b>	<b>614,144</b>	<b>1,026,908</b>	<b>1,049,246</b>

## 3. Other income

	Unrestricted funding £	Restricted funding £	Total funds 2017 £	Total funds 2016 £
Other income including interest received	15,272	-	15,272	4,751



## Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

### 4. Summary analysis of expenditure

	Folly Farm Centre Limited Trading £	Raising funds - General £	Charitable activities £	Support & Governanc e £	Total funds 2017 £	Total funds 2016 £
Staff costs (Note 6)	151,493	168,285	801,466	-	<b>1,121,244</b>	1,042,122
Conservation & Nature Reserves	-	-	310,785	-	<b>310,785</b>	361,235
Fundraising, advertising and publications	29,667	214,930	3,538	-	<b>248,135</b>	197,755
Folly Farm Centre development	-	-	90,735	-	<b>90,735</b>	97,125
Depreciation	5,476	-	103,897	10,154	<b>119,527</b>	125,751
Legal & professional fees	2,828	-	-	16,996	<b>19,824</b>	26,546
Partnership working	-	12,252	-	46,240	<b>58,492</b>	50,054
Premises costs	115,127	-	-	26,923	<b>142,050</b>	150,440
Office & administration	69,263	6,654	-	25,108	<b>101,025</b>	214,912
Governance	-	-	-	7,860	<b>7,860</b>	9,059
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>373,854</b>	<b>402,121</b>	<b>1,310,421</b>	<b>133,281</b>	<b>2,219,677</b>	<b>2,274,999</b>
Reallocate Support & Governance	-	16,660	116,621	(133,281)	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>373,854</b>	<b>418,781</b>	<b>1,427,042</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,219,677</b>	<b>2,274,999</b>

Total resources are stated after charging:	Total funds 2017 £	Total funds 2016 £
Auditors' remuneration		
- Audit	<b>9,490</b>	9,250
- Other services including tax advisory	<b>1,549</b>	2,474
Depreciation – tangible and heritage assets	<b>119,527</b>	125,751
Amounts payable under operating leases	<b>1,770</b>	3,540

### 5. 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 and joint owner of an associated company, Gloucestershire Wildlife Management Limited (trading as WildService). 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 of Folly Farm Centre Limited is shown below:

## Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

<b>PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
for the year ended 31 March 2017	£	£
<b>Turnover</b>	<b>429,483</b>	456,804
Cost of sales	<b>(111,596)</b>	(121,138)
<b>Gross profit</b>	<b>317,887</b>	335,666
Overheads and administration	<b>(330,030)</b>	(290,642)
<b>Operating profit/(loss)</b>	<b>(12,143)</b>	45,024
Interest received	<b>24</b>	-
Interest payable and similar charges	-	-
<b>Profit/(loss) for the financial period</b>	<b>(12,119)</b>	45,024

<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
at 31 March 2017	£	£
Fixed assets	<b>29,105</b>	7,241
Net current liabilities	<b>(56,428)</b>	(22,445)
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>(27,323)</b>	(15,204)
Creditors falling due after more than one year	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>(27,323)</b>	(15,204)
<b>Capital and reserves</b>		
Called-up equity share capital	<b>1</b>	1
Profit and loss account	<b>(27,324)</b>	(15,205)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(27,323)</b>	(15,204)

There are legal contracts in place between Avon Wildlife Trust and Folly Farm Centre Limited:

- Under a **Lease** dated 1 April 2009, the Trust leases the buildings and some of the adjoining land at Folly Farm to Folly Farm Centre Limited. The Lease runs from 1 July 2008 to 1 July 2018, and rent is payable to the Trust from 1 July 2010. Rent payable in the 2016/17 year amounted to £43k (2015/16 £40k).
- A **Trading Agreement** between the Trust and Folly Farm Centre Limited was completed on 29 May 2009 setting out a framework for how the trading subsidiary can operate and for inter-company transactions and charges. This is reviewed periodically.

The AWT Group for the year ended 31 March 2017 includes the consolidation of WildService as an associated undertaking. A net contribution from Associated Company of £7,171 represents 50% of the profit for WildService for the year ended 31 March 2017 (2016: £7,648).

The AWT Charity generated a deficit of £31k in the year before consolidation compared to a surplus of £51k in the previous year. This comprised an unrestricted surplus of £18k (2015/16 surplus of £206k) together with a restricted deficit of £49k (2015/2016 deficit of £154k). Restricted funds are funds that the Trust has a legal obligation to use only for the specific purpose for which they were given.



## Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

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

	2017	2016
GROUP	£	£
Wages and salaries	981,564	913,233
Employers' national insurance	70,636	72,096
Pension costs	45,592	34,834
Other staff costs	23,453	21,959
	<b>1,121,245</b>	<b>1,042,122</b>

The trustees were not paid nor did they receive any other benefits from the charity or its subsidiaries in the year (2016 £Nil). Expenses were reimbursed to the Trustees during the year £13 (2016 £13).

The key management personnel of the parent charity, The Trust, comprise of the senior management team. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Trust were £204,853 (2015/16 £210,496).

The key management personnel of the AWT Group comprise of the senior management team of the Trust and that of its wholly owned subsidiary Folly Farm Centre Limited. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the AWT Group were £256,615 (2015/16 £263,057). One employee earned between £60k and £70k in the year (2016: between £70k and £80k).

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

	2017	2016
Delivery programmes	22.1	17.3
Support staff	12.2	11.1
Folly Farm Centre Ltd	6.5	5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>40.8</b>	<b>33.4</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

### 7. Tangible fixed assets

	Office improvements £	Tenants Improvements	Office equipment & machinery £	Motor vehicles £	Computers £	Total £
<b>GROUP</b>						
<b>Cost</b>						
At 1 April 2016	5,940	-	46,800	74,697	38,132	<b>165,569</b>
Additions	-	20,632	6,709	-	6,737	<b>34,078</b>
Disposals	-	-	-	(3,600)	-	<b>(3,600)</b>
At 31 March 2017	5,940	20,632	53,509	71,097	44,870	<b>196,048</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>						
At 1 April 2016	5,940	-	38,079	59,488	23,186	<b>126,693</b>
Charge for year	-	516	5,198	5,214	6,869	<b>17,797</b>
Disposals	-	-	-	(3,600)	-	<b>(3,600)</b>
At 31 March 2017	5,940	516	43,277	61,102	30,055	<b>140,890</b>
<b>Net book value</b>						
At 31 March 2017	-	20,116	10,232	9,995	14,815	<b>55,158</b>
At 31 March 2016	-	-	8,721	15,209	14,946	<b>38,876</b>
<b>CHARITY</b>						
<b>Cost</b>						
At 1 April 2016	5,940	-	8,768	74,697	38,132	<b>127,537</b>
Additions	-	-	-	-	6,737	<b>6,737</b>
Disposals	-	-	-	(3,600)	-	<b>(3,600)</b>
At 31 March 2017	5,940	-	8,768	71,097	44,869	<b>130,674</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>						
At 1 April 2016	5,940	-	7,893	59,488	22,580	<b>95,901</b>
Charge for year	-	-	239	5,214	6,869	<b>12,322</b>
Disposals	-	-	-	(3,600)	-	<b>(3,600)</b>
At 31 March 2017	5,940	-	8,132	61,102	29,449	<b>104,623</b>
<b>Net book value</b>						
At 31 March 2017	-	-	636	9,995	15,420	<b>26,051</b>
At 31 March 2016	-	-	875	15,209	15,552	<b>31,636</b>



## Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

### 8. Heritage assets – Group and Charity

	Nature reserves	Improvements to nature reserves	Folly Farm development	Total
Cost	£	£	£	£
At 1 April 2016	2,227,391	669,498	3,787,072	6,683,961
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2017	2,227,391	669,498	3,787,072	6,683,961
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2016	13,074	251,165	692,582	956,821
Charge for the year	6,537	21,465	73,728	101,730
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2017	19,611	272,630	766,310	1,058,551
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 March 2017	2,207,780	396,868	3,020,762	5,625,410
At 31 March 2016	2,214,317	418,333	3,094,490	5,727,140

The Trust's nature reserves are an important part of the Heritage Assets of the nation and are held by the charity on a long-term basis. The Trust is responsible for ensuring that the reserves are properly managed in order to:

- conserve and enhance the special wildlife interest within these sites;
- provide a refuge for wildlife from which to re-colonise other sites;
- serve as demonstration sites for sustainable land management and heritage skills;
- provide opportunities for public inspiration, involvement, learning and enjoyment.

All the Trust reserves are freely open to the public, except in a few cases where there are some necessary restrictions due to the sensitivity of the habitats, or seasonal restrictions.

The Trust owns a freehold interest in the following nature reserves at 31 March 2017:

#### Bennett's Patch & White's Paddock

Brown's Folly	Cleeve Heronry*	Prior's Wood	Tickenham Hill
Burledge Hill	Folly Farm ( <i>see below</i> )	Purn Hill	Walborough
Charfield Meadow*	Hellenge Hill	Puxton Moor	Weston Big Wood
Clapton Moor (New Farm)	Littleton Brick Pits*	Stephen's Vale*	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 4 sites shown above with an asterisk\*. They are small nature reserves – together covering 4.74 hectares (11.70 acres) of land – which were gifted to the Trust, they have a small capital value, and in the opinion of the Trustees, the cost of valuation would be disproportionate to the value of the assets.

The Heritage Lottery Fund has a Legal Charge over the Trust's freehold interest in **Folly Farm** in connection with the major development project there. Viridor Credits Environmental Company has a legal charge over Bennett's Patch & White's Paddock Nature Reserve.

During the year the Trust also managed **23 other properties** under agreements with landowners.

## Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

### 9. 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 £103,897 in the year ended 31 March 2017 (2016: £106,321) and has been magnified by the Trust's extensive investment in Folly Farm in the last few years. This is shown in the Statement of Financial Activities and can be analysed as follows:

	£
Net Fixed Asset Movements in restricted funds	(103,897)
Net Current Asset Movements in restricted funds	54,623
<b>Net Outgoing Resources – Restricted Funds</b>	<b>(49,274)</b>

The annual depreciation charge reduces the value of the restricted fund asset balances in the Balance Sheet as in note (f) of the Accounting Policies on page 27.

### 10. 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, WildService.

#### Associated company

The Trust owns a 49% share of Gloucester Wildlife Management Ltd (registered company 02284477 and trading as 'WildService') since 1 October 2015. WildService is an ecological consultancy run from Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT).

#### 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 operated by AWT in partnership with Bristol Zoo Gardens and Wildscreen.

BNHC was incorporated on 14 January 2008 and registered as a charity on 3 April 2008. Its financial year runs from 1 January to 31 December, and the Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2016 were approved by the trustees of BNHC on 1 June 2017.

During the year ended 31 December 2016, BNHC incurred a deficit on unrestricted funds of £13,762. At 31 December 2016 the charity had net assets of £15,631, of which £7,626 are held in unrestricted funds.

Trustees are in the process of developing a strategy to increase the level of funding over the next two financial years. During the period, Avon Wildlife Trust contributed £5,000 as a membership subscription to BNHC.



## Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

### 11. Debtors – amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2017 £	Group 2016 £	Charity 2017 £	Charity 2016 £
Grants & fees receivable	135,409	192,666	135,409	192,666
Prepayments	14,444	25,341	6,606	17,059
Other debtors	298,140	296,643	271,649	272,412
Loan to SWWFL	22,000	33,000	22,000	33,000
	<b>469,993</b>	<b>547,650</b>	<b>435,664</b>	<b>515,137</b>

### 12. Creditors – amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2017 £	Group 2016 £	Charity 2017 £	Charity 2016 £
Trade creditors	98,694	92,703	80,505	75,162
Other creditors and accruals	270,866	229,660	97,215	87,685
Taxation and national insurance	31,942	35,154	11,730	19,456
Bank Loan	-	13,284	-	13,284
Grants received in advance	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
	<b>409,002</b>	<b>378,301</b>	<b>196,950</b>	<b>203,087</b>

The Bank of Scotland loan was repaid in August 2016.

### 13. Creditors – amounts falling due after one year

	Group 2017 £	Group 2016 £	Charity 2017 £	Charity 2016 £
Bank Loan (see note 16)	-	61,220	-	61,220

### 14. Provisions

	Group 2017 £	Group 2016 £	Charity 2017 £	Charity 2016 £
Landlord repairs – Folly Farm	29,738	26,738	29,738	26,738
Building (including roof) repairs	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
	<b>47,738</b>	<b>44,738</b>	<b>47,738</b>	<b>44,738</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

### 15. Restricted funds

Group and Charity	1 Apr 2016 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers £	31 Mar 2017 £
<b>REVENUE FUNDS</b>					
Catchment Restoration – Avon Pilot	8,527	500	(9,027)	-	-
Folly Farm Learning Fund	6,010	15,000	(15,796)	-	5,214
Communities & Nature project	1,368	-	(1,368)	-	-
Feed Bristol Project	47,169	33,066	(59,403)	1,585	22,417
Spawn to be Wild	-	7,216	(7,216)	-	-
Folly Farm volunteer training base	9,239	-	-	-	9,239
Living Landscapes – Grassland	20,909	55,544	(49,863)	-	26,590
Avon Gorge projects	25,958	-	(15,606)	-	10,352
Landrover depreciation fund	15,208	-	(5,214)	-	9,994
Bennett's Patch & White's Paddock	10,915	8,855	(4,442)	-	15,328
Folly Wellbeing Garden	19,442	1,534	(9,835)	-	11,141
Justin Smith Endowment Fund	10,086	1,625	(1,993)	-	9,718
Coronation Meadows	-	10,006	(10,006)	-	-
North Somerset Levels & Moors	7,969	24,782	(12,346)	-	20,405
My Wild City	11,706	38,169	(47,255)	-	2,620
My Wild City – Education – Hedgehogs	1,137	3,000	(4,137)	-	-
My Wild Child	27,174	95,000	(47,982)	-	74,192
Big Lottery Fund (Our Environment Our Future)	33,644	130,721	(161,967)	(1,585)	813
Wellbeing through Nature	-	135,520	(63,524)	-	71,996
Bath & Beyond	-	12,550	(14,976)	5,000	2,574
Oxmead	-	5,200	-	(5,000)	200
The Big Worle	-	13,861	(13,155)	-	706
WENP – Think Nature	-	30,464	(603)	-	29,861
<b>APPEAL FUNDS</b>					
Seed Fund	5,549	-	(5,549)	-	-
Appeal 2015	3,752	-	(2,430)	-	1,322
Butterfly Appeal	4,314	160	(4,474)	-	-
Summer 15 Appeal	6,459	36	(5,233)	-	1,262
<b>PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT FUNDS</b>					
Willsbridge (10 Years)	440	-	(440)	-	-
Folly Farm Sewage Treatment	7,656	-	(232)	-	7,424
Folly Farm	25,907	-	(659)	-	25,248
Folly Farm Access Trail	14,521	-	(394)	-	14,127
Willsbridge – Landfill	396	-	(12)	-	384
Willsbridge	15,010	-	(428)	-	14,582
Clapton Moor (50 Years)	38,307	-	(1,471)	-	36,836
Clapton Moor (10 Years)	428	-	(428)	-	-
Weston Moor	7,692	-	(228)	-	7,464
Walborough	4,587	-	(135)	-	4,452
Goblin Combe (50 Years)	4,720	-	(118)	-	4,602
Prior's Wood (10 Years)	132	-	(132)	-	-



## Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

Weston Big Wood (50 Years)	12,235	-	(311)	-	11,924
Puxton Moor	63,739	-	(1,605)	-	62,134
Nature Reserves Fund	16,772	-	(511)	-	16,261
HLF Conservation Fund	34,544	-	(999)	-	33,545
Conservation - Reserves Fund	19,530	-	(548)	-	18,982
Feed Bristol	49,306	-	(8,356)	-	40,950
Folly Farm Centre development	2,923,813	-	(73,728)	-	2,850,085
<b>FREEHOLD LAND AND BUILDING FUNDS</b>					
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
<b>LEASEHOLD LAND AND BUILDING FUNDS</b>					
Bennett's Patch & White's Paddock	329,178	-	(7,948)	-	321,230
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,744,219</b>	<b>622,809</b>	<b>(672,083)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,694,945</b>

The transfer column in the table above identifies transfers between funds, which are in accordance with funders instructions.

## Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

The purpose of each fund is as follows:

### REVENUE FUNDS:

Catchment Restoration – Avon Pilot	To develop a management plan for the River Avon catchment
Folly Farm Learning Fund	To develop learning programmes for Folly Farm Centre
Communities & Nature project	To engage disadvantaged communities with nature
Feed Bristol project	To involve the community in growing nature friendly food
Spawn to be Wild	To help threatened species
Folly Farm volunteer training base	To develop a volunteer training base at Folly Farm
Living Landscapes – Grassland	To survey, conserve and restore Avon's grasslands
Avon Gorge projects	To assess the feasibility of various projects in the Avon Gorge
Landrover depreciation fund	To provide a combination vehicle to access reserves
Bennett's Patch & White's Paddock	To acquire and create a nature reserve in the Avon Gorge
Folly Wellbeing Garden	To involve the community in growing nature friendly food
Justin Smith Endowment Fund	To support apprentice ecologists to continue Justin's passion and knowledge
Coronation Meadows	To create and restore hay meadows as a source of seed & hay
North Somerset Levels & Moors	A catchment approach to restoring coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
My Wild City	To make Bristol a world- leading, nature- rich city where people are connected to the natural landscape and wildlife is more resilient to growing challenges.
My Wild City – Education – Hedgehogs	To deliver education sessions in schools linked to My Wild City and improving school grounds for hedgehogs
My Wild Child	One of 6 Trusts delivering urban forest school education projects
Big Lottery Fund (Our Environment Our Future)	To empower young people in social housing to take ownership of local green spaces
Wellbeing through Nature	To improving health and wellbeing through structured programmes of purposeful activities providing opportunities to explore, learn and take care of nature.
Bath & Beyond	Restoring wildlife habitat on a grand scale to improve connectivity from city centre to countryside to enable wildlife to thrive. Connecting local communities with the nature on their doorstep, and inspiring them to take action to protect wildlife for the future.
Oxmead	To acquire and create a nature reserve in the Bath area
The Big Worle	To engage the local community in their local green spaces and with the wildlife that inhabits them; and encourage people to be more active
WENP – Think Nature	Development of a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform and Think Tank to promote innovation with Nature based solutions

### APPEAL FUNDS:

Seed Fund	To provide match funding for conservation projects
Appeal 2015	To create a wildlife haven at the gateway to Bristol
Butterfly Appeal	To improve butterfly habitat on our reserves
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	} To enhance nature reserves owned or managed by the Trust
HLF Conservation Fund	
Conservation – Reserves Fund	
Folly Farm Centre Development Fund	To enhance the historic landscape and property at Folly Farm

### 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]

### 16. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Other Net Assets £	Total £
<b>REVENUE FUNDS</b>			
Folly Farm Learning Fund	-	5,214	<b>5,214</b>
Feed Bristol project	-	22,417	<b>22,417</b>
Folly Farm volunteer training base	-	9,239	<b>9,239</b>
Living Landscapes - Grasslands	-	26,590	<b>26,590</b>
Avon Gorge Projects	-	10,352	<b>10,352</b>
Landrover depreciation	9,994	-	<b>9,994</b>
Bennett's Patch & White's Paddock	-	15,328	<b>15,328</b>
Folly Wellbeing Garden	-	11,141	<b>11,141</b>
Justin Smith Endowment Fund	-	9,718	<b>9,718</b>
North Somerset Levels & Moors	-	20,405	<b>20,405</b>
My Wild City	-	2,620	<b>2,620</b>
My Wild City – Education – Hedgehogs	-	-	<b>-</b>
My Wild Child	-	74,192	<b>74,192</b>
Big Lottery Fund (Our Environment Our Future)	-	813	<b>813</b>
Wellbeing through Nature	-	71,996	<b>71,996</b>
Bath & Beyond	-	2,574	<b>2,574</b>
Oxmead	-	200	<b>200</b>
The Big Worle	-	706	<b>706</b>
WENP – Think Nature	-	29,861	<b>29,861</b>
<b>APPEAL FUNDS</b>			
Appeal 2015	-	1,322	<b>1,322</b>
Summer 15 Appeal	-	1,262	<b>1,262</b>
<b>PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT FUNDS</b>			
Folly Farm sewage treatment	7,424	-	<b>7,424</b>
Folly Farm	25,248	-	<b>25,248</b>
Folly Farm Access Trail	14,127	-	<b>14,127</b>
Willsbridge - Landfill	384	-	<b>384</b>
Willsbridge	14,582	-	<b>14,582</b>
Clapton Moor (50 Years)	36,836	-	<b>36,836</b>
Weston Moor	7,464	-	<b>7,464</b>
Walborough	4,452	-	<b>4,452</b>
Goblin Combe (50 Years)	4,602	-	<b>4,602</b>
Weston Big Wood (50 Years)	11,924	-	<b>11,924</b>
Puxton Moor	62,134	-	<b>62,134</b>
Nature Reserves Fund	16,261	-	<b>16,261</b>
HLF Conservation Fund	33,545	-	<b>33,545</b>
Conservation - Reserves Fund	18,982	-	<b>18,982</b>
Feed Bristol	40,950	-	<b>40,950</b>
Folly Farm Centre development	3,020,764	(170,679)	<b>2,850,085</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

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
LEASEHOLD LAND AND BUILDING FUNDS			
Bennett's Patch & White's Paddock	321,230	-	321,230
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>5,549,674</b>	<b>145,271</b>	<b>5,694,945</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds - Designated</b>	-	<b>193,000</b>	<b>193,000</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds – General</b>	<b>130,894</b>	<b>391,992</b>	<b>522,886</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds – Associated Company - WildService</b>	<b>49</b>	-	<b>49</b>
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>130,943</b>	<b>584,992</b>	<b>715,935</b>
	<b>5,680,617</b>	<b>730,263</b>	<b>6,410,880</b>

The AWT Charity total funds decreased to £6,438,203 from £6,489,840 in the previous year end.

Total **Other Net Assets of £730,263** above comprise Net Current Assets of £778,001, and provisions of £47,738 as per the Balance Sheet.

There is a net current liability in respect of the Folly Farm Centre development project of £170,679. The deficit was supported financially by a loan from the Bank of Scotland (£74,503 at 31 March 2016) but this was repaid in August 2016 as shown in Notes 12 & 13 to the Financial Statements. The deficit arose from a fundraising shortfall on the major project to restore the buildings and historic landscape at Folly Farm and the Trust's strategy for addressing the deficits are clearly established:

- First, as Folly Farm Centre returns to trading profitably, surplus profits will be transferred back to the Charity, and this income will be applied to reduce the deficits.
- Second, the Trust is seeking to develop other unrestricted income streams to generate a surplus to be applied to the deficit.

## 17. Designated funds

The Trustees have designated £193k of unrestricted reserves into a designated fund for strategic opportunities and development to support the vital work required to achieve the Trust's vision to enable nature to 'recover on a grand scale'.

## 18 Commitments under operating leases

The Trust has annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

<b>Other than Land and Buildings</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Due within 1 year	-	1,770
Due within 2–5 years	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,770</u>



## Notes to the Financial Statements [continued]

### 19. Pension scheme

The Trust operates a Group Personal Pension scheme for its employees with Friends Life. This is a defined contributions scheme, which is managed independently from the Trust. The pension costs disclosed in Note 6 represent contributions payable for the year. At 31 March 2017, there were no outstanding pension contributions accrued in respect of employees not yet set up under the pension scheme (2016: £Nil).

### 20. Prior year statement of financial activities

for the year ended 31 March 2016	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 2016	Total funds 2015
	£	£	£	£
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>				
Donations and legacies	775,767	-	<b>775,767</b>	729,619
Charitable activities	535,131	514,115	<b>1,049,246</b>	1,054,641
Other trading activities				-
Folly Farm Centre Limited trading	423,903	-	<b>423,903</b>	382,654
Fundraising including local groups	4,629	-	<b>4,629</b>	6,481
Other income	4,751	-	<b>4,751</b>	7,639
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,744,181</b>	<b>514,115</b>	<b>2,258,296</b>	<b>2,181,034</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Raising funds				
Folly Farm Centre Limited trading	347,681	-	<b>347,681</b>	338,470
General fundraising	341,626	-	<b>341,626</b>	286,149
Charitable activities	916,740	668,952	<b>1,585,692</b>	1,580,826
Other expenditure	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,606,047</b>	<b>668,952</b>	<b>2,274,999</b>	<b>2,205,445</b>
<b>Net Income / (expenditure)</b>	<b>138,134</b>	<b>(154,837)</b>	<b>(16,703)</b>	<b>(24,411)</b>
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains:</b>				
Net contribution from Associated Company	7,648	-	<b>7,648</b>	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>145,782</b>	<b>(154,837)</b>	<b>(9,055)</b>	<b>(24,411)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>				
Total funds brought forward	584,583	5,899,056	<b>6,483,639</b>	6,508,050
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>730,365</b>	<b>5,744,219</b>	<b>6,474,584</b>	<b>6,483,639</b>



# Nature reserves and sites

## Avon



img: shattara 2/08/22

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

Protecting Wildlife for the Future





**Avon**  
Wildlife Trust

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#### Solicitors

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#### Wards Solicitors

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#### Bond Dickinson

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#### TLT

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##### Co-operative Bank

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

##### Nat West Bank plc

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##### Triodos Bank NV

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##### CAF Bank

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