



Avon
Wildlife Trust

Impact Report

2021-22

Bringing **wildlife** back

Nature's recovery

Welcome

to AWT's reflections on how we've helped bring wildlife back to Avon in 2021-2022.

With the launch of our 10 year strategy, we're now able to focus our work on the key elements that are most important to bringing wildlife back to Avon: Nature's recovery, empowering people and nature-based solutions. We've also set ourselves clear, bold and ambitious goals that we know are needed to address the twin ecological and climate emergencies: 30% of land and sea managed for the benefit of wildlife; 1 in 4 people taking action for wildlife; and 1,000 hectares of habitat restored to provide nature-based solutions, all by 2030. We're so grateful for your continued support, so we can achieve these goals together.

This year we've celebrated the return of beavers to Avon and seen how they've been able to flourish, but we've also felt the impact of ash dieback on our woodland. We're undertaking a huge programme of work to make Avon's wild spaces safe, whilst embracing the opportunities to allow new habitats to form naturally.

As we move towards a Team Wilder approach, our future is looking wilder than ever. We'll be engaging and inspiring people right across our area to take action for nature by creating connections and forming a community filled with resources. We know that when people and nature work together, we all thrive.



Ian Barrett
Chief Executive

We've been working at landscape scale, with initiatives such as Bathscapes looking at the power of nature in Bath, B-Lines creating biodiversity corridors across the county, and My Wild City improving habitats and connecting people in Bristol with their local green space. We've also been a project partner on the Levels Up Project to introduce transitional habitats from the Somerset levels up to the hills of the three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

We continue to work with key partners and landowners to create a nature recovery network, where wildlife can thrive, moving from place to place, living, feeding and flourishing into the future.

1,125

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

We can't ignore the destructive impact of ash dieback which has been felt on our nature reserves, where brittle trees can pose a threat to safety. We've worked with an arboriculturist consultant to develop management plans, felling those trees which could cause harm while leaving others to complete their lifespan and generate new habitats for wildlife.

Empowering people

This year our teams hosted over 70 different events across the region – including owl prowls, dawn chorus walks, conservation volunteering, bioblitz's and wellbeing activities – to deepen people's connection and understanding of the natural world.

We've introduced our members, staff and volunteers to a new way of working - Team Wilder. This approach is key to our aim of inspiring 1 in 4 people to take action for nature, by creating a community of people sharing what they've done for the natural world and connecting with others to share what they've learnt.

Other highlights include working with North Somerset Council on their North Somerset Rewilding

Champions project, to survey the green spaces which they have allowed to grow wild, monitoring biodiversity and engaging with the local community. Volunteers have been trained up to carry on this work, showing the power of nurturing a love of nature. We also launched our 'Wildlife in School Grounds' pack, with practical advice and ideas for managing school grounds for wildlife and inspiring with outdoor learning.

Nature-based solutions

business, which will kickstart a revolutionary market where environmental credits from nature-based projects can be generated and sold, driving an unprecedented, continuous investment in nature's recovery.

We will be using our expertise to help landholders and farmers develop new projects for the catchment market which help the environment by restoring woodland, wetland and grassland. Businesses will have to meet required ethical standards in order to participate in the market, and we look forward to seeing it thrive.

As we face the continuing climate and ecological crises, we need to find new ways to drive meaningful nature recovery, to reverse biodiversity decline and restore the abundance of wildlife in our area.

The Bristol Avon Catchment Market aims to be part of the solution. It's a world-leading partnership between ourselves, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and EnTrade, a Wessex Water



2,227 new members joined our community



590 volunteers spent a total of 31,615 hours making a difference for Avon's wildlife

More highlights from this year

We moved our headquarters from Jacobs Well Road to Great George Street

20 Dexter cattle at Walton Common Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) were supplied with 'nofence' GPS collars to help us target how they graze the land, conserving vital habitats

Thanks to our members and supporters, we've raised almost £75k for our Grow Wilder engagement hub appeal

3.6km of SSSI ditch network has been restored as part of our Wilder Waterways project, joining up floodplains, creating wetlands and increasing biodiversity around North Somerset's Land Yeo river.

We were featured on Countryfile in January 2022, highlighting the power of creating spaces for people to engage with wildlife and the natural world at Grow Wilder



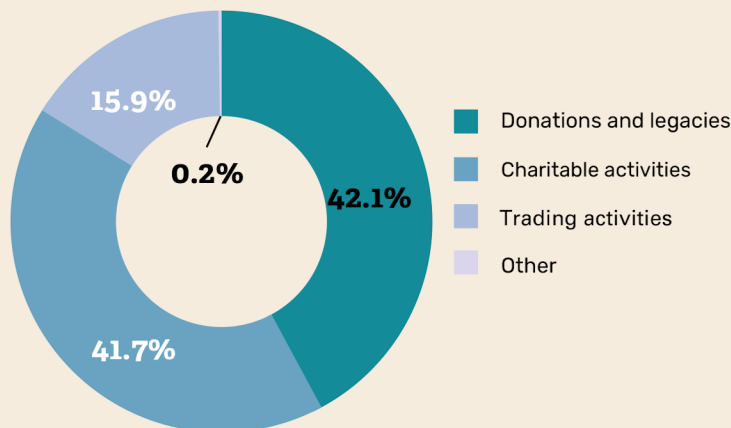
547 people took part in our events



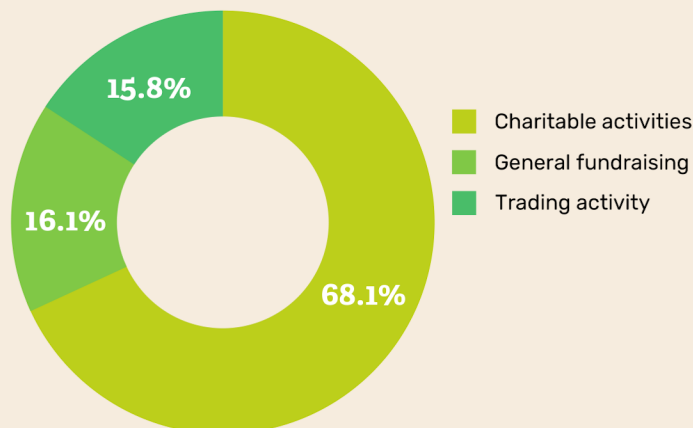
40 land owners were given expert advice of managing their land for nature

Money matters

Income: £3,521,440



Expenditure: £2,819,906



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

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 (various) | DEFRA - Green Recovery Challenge Fund | North Somerset Council |
| Airbus | Environment Agency | Osborne Clark |
| Acresend Trust | Garfield Weston Foundation | Players of People's Postcode Lottery |
| The Banister Charitable Trust | HSWJ Charitable Trust | Peter and Karen Lord |
| Dr Bevis Watts | Halpin Trust | Triodos Bank |
| Biffa Award | Jan Barkworth | University of Bristol |
| The Bristol Airport Environmental Improvement Fund | National Grid | Van Neste Charitable Foundation |
| The Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership | National Lottery Community Fund | Vine House Farm |
| Bristol City Council | National Lottery Heritage Fund | Dame Violet Wills Will Trust |
| Burges Salmon | Natural England | The Wildlife Trusts Sustainable Development Fund |
| The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust | Nature Picture Library | Wessex Water |
| DEFRA | NHS BNSSG ICB – Green Social Prescribing Programme | Western Power Distribution |
| | | Woodland Trust |

474

hours spent helping people connect with nature through wellbeing sessions

289

mentions in local, regional and national media

2,426

people took part in 30 Days Wild

24

My Wild City events held to bring people closer to local wildlife

200

people engaged through citizen science, practical volunteering, wellbeing walks and online talks through Wilder Waterways

Avon Wildlife Trust
17 Great George Street
Bristol,
BS1 5QT
0117 917 7270
mail@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk

www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk



Avon
Wildlife Trust

Registered Charity no. 280422 • Limited company no. 1495108