

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: SC467897 (Scotland)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 044673

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2020
for
Flow Country Rivers Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Victor T Fraser & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants
3-4 Market Place
Wick
Caithness
KW1 4LP

Flow Country Rivers Trust

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for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

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Flow Country Rivers Trust

Reference and Administrative Details
for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

TRUSTEES

Mr J Fleming (resigned 16.9.20)
Mr A C W MacAuslan
Lord J M Joicey
Mr J Mackay
Mr V Hackel
Mr S Laird
Mrs S Lopes
Mrs R Andersen
Mr R Sweeting
Dr J McIlvenny (appointed 2.11.20)

TRUST SECRETARY

Mrs E Constable

REGISTERED OFFICE

Skerraboe
North Keiss
Wick
Caithness
KW1 4XF

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER

SC467897 (Scotland)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER

044673

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Victor T Fraser & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants
3-4 Market Place
Wick
Caithness
KW1 4LP

Flow Country Rivers Trust

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

This is the Trust's seventh Annual Report and during the year ended 31st December 2020 the Board held one formal meeting and conducted other business by email.

The Trust website is at www.fcrt.org and contains copies of the tri-annual Newsletters and reports on the work and administration of the Trust.

The bank balance at year end was £22,750. Contract work valued at £5,870, undertaken to further Trust research, was carried out during the year. Thanks are due to Friends who contributed £350 to funds; also to our Scientific Advisor who kindly waived his fee for the year.

James Fleming tendered his resignation from the Trust during the summer and the Board expressed gratitude for his services and acknowledged his pivotal contribution in establishing the Trust and for his role as editor of our Newsletter.

Dr Jason McIlvenny from the Environmental Research Institute Thurso UHI was elected to the Board.

The Trust are members of Fisheries Management Scotland and were represented at the FMS AGM held online in November 2020.

We are redeveloping our website and it will be migrating to a new platform.

The Wick Smolt Tracking Project paper is being prepared for publication with Jason McIlvenny of ERI, and a Trust Board member, as lead author.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The charity aims to promote and support initiatives, including research and education, that seek to further conservation of all freshwater species of fish, migratory and otherwise, within the Flow Country of Caithness and eastern Sutherland, together with the flora and fauna associated with the rivers and still waters.

Significant activities

Projects

Temperature Loggers - Thurso River is part of MSS (Marine Scotland Science) Scotland River Temperature Monitoring Network (SRTMN), a national project that aims to monitor water temperatures in the context of global climate change and to predict future trends based on computer modelling. The Trust has maintained and downloaded data from 11 loggers installed on the Thurso since 2014, forwarding data to MSS for analysis.

Analysis of the data so far obtained indicates that the rivers of the Trust's area will be among those most affected by coming increases in water temperature (see <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotland-river-temperature-monitoring-network-srtmn/pages/outputs-and-tools/>). Accordingly, additional temperature loggers were installed in the Naver and Halladale in 2020 to provide greater spatial detail; these loggers are also being looked after by the Trust.

Water Chemistry - The Langwell/Berriedale SAC has produced some atypical results in the CDSFB electro-fishing surveys. The Berriedale/Langwell catchment has a complex underlying geology that may affect water quality. In order to investigate, the Trust collected an extensive set of water samples from rivers and streams throughout the catchment in 2018. The samples were analysed for multiple hydrochemical components by the MSS Freshwater Laboratory, Pitlochry. Further testing remains to be carried out in Berriedale/Langwell and, depending on the results, testing may be extended to other rivers in the Trust area. This project is ongoing: progress has been delayed by other commitments but it is hoped that high-water measurements will be made in 2021.

Pilot biotelemetry study: Wick River - The Trust has been working alongside the Rivers and Lochs Institute (RLI) and the Environmental Research Institute (ERI) of the University of the Highlands and Islands, as well as Durham University in a PhD project, being carried out by Sunny Bradbury, aimed at tagging and monitoring smolts as they migrate to sea through the River Wick. Parallel to the tracking aspect, a panel of genetic markers has been developed to map the genetic structuring of salmon stocks from two tributaries of the river. The analysis of genetic material obtained from the smolts is in its final stages and this will provide insights into within-river differences in population structure.

Flow Country Rivers Trust
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES contd

From Landscapes to freshwater Invertebrates: understanding the effects of peatland restoration on Atlantic salmon habitat in the Flow Country - FCRT and RSPB were invited to become partners in a CASE PhD studentship run by the Environmental Research Institute (ERI) in Thurso and the student, Liam Godwin, commenced work in September for three years and started the data collection for his PhD in August 2020, when PhD students were allowed to resume with socially-distant field and laboratory work. Between August and December 2020, he sampled water at multiple points along the Langwell, the Thurso, as well as the Dyke and Halladale. There, he collected water samples that are further analysed in the laboratory for a series of parameters, including dissolved organic carbon, nutrients, particulate matter, metals, cations, pH and electrical conductivity. Sub-samples were also prepared and sent to co-supervisor Dr Josie Geris' lab at the Northern Rivers Institute, Aberdeen University to measure stable isotopes. The data will be used to understand how restoration is impacting water quality and movement in those catchments. In September 2020, Liam was also able to attend the annual electrofishing campaign run by Alan Youngson at a couple of sites, as an observer. Since January, Liam has been undertaking his placement with RSPB, for which he is preparing a literature review on invertebrates in freshwater that will form the introduction of a peer-reviewed publication led by RSPB. This will be useful for Liam's next field campaign that will include freshwater invertebrate sampling.

One of the aims of Liam's project is to link variation in salmon habitat quality (hydrochemistry and hydrology) via variation in prey abundance (stream invertebrates) to variation in the performance of local salmon populations (numbers, age and biomass density). The District Salmon Fishery Boards and the Trust already have substantial datasets that will support this part of the project. In addition, the Trust electric-fishing team took the opportunity to set up a sequence of research sites on the River Thurso when these were found to be saturated or near-saturated with salmon fry in 2020. These sites will be available for further monitoring and investigation as Liam's work progresses.

Smart Rivers Project - The Trust and the Northern and Caithness District Salmon Fishery Boards are participating in the SmartRivers project on stream invertebrates organised by Salmon & Trout Conservation. SmartRivers uses the species mix and abundance of stream vertebrates to check the health of rivers as it affects fish populations. The Halladale Hub, setup through the FCRT, is the first to be established in Scotland.

The SmartRivers project will provide -

- expert on-site training by S&TC members in invertebrate sampling methods
- training in invertebrate species identification
- an authoritative start-up list of the invertebrate species present in the northern rivers.

S&TC training will allow the Trust to develop the knowledge and expertise required to carry out citizen science designed to generate invertebrate data sets to match the extensive fish data sets to which the Trust has access.

As a result of Covid-19 restrictions during 2020, the SmartRivers spring benchmark sampling and training was postponed. Fortunately, by September, restrictions had eased enough to allow the autumn benchmarking to take place and, as planned, six sites spread across the River Halladale were sampled by the SmartRivers team. The analysis of the species from these kick samples was very positive and an extremely wide range of species was identified. The spring benchmark sampling has been rescheduled for May 2021. If restrictions at the time allow, a 2-day training course will also be held at this time.

Contract Work

The Trust carried out electro-fishing on the Achvarasdale Burn in Caithness and the River Borgie in Sutherland, amongst other work. The MSS National Electro-fishing Programme Scotland (NEPS) was cancelled because of Covid.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

Overall the charity recorded net expenditure of £4,691 (2019 £3,533) during the year, resulting in total charitable funds of £22,028 (2019 £26,719).

Reserves policy

The trustees have examined the reserve requirements with due consideration of the charity's main operational risks. The present level of reserves will allow the charity to continue with its current activities.

Flow Country Rivers Trust
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 20 January 2014. It is registered as a charity with OSCR. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Due to the nature of the charity's work the trustees seek to ensure that the membership of the Trust reflects the range of skills required to operate successfully.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 16/03/2021 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
Mr J Mackay - Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Flow Country Rivers Trust

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020 set out on pages six to eleven.

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity's trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(a) to (c) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under Section 44(1)(c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

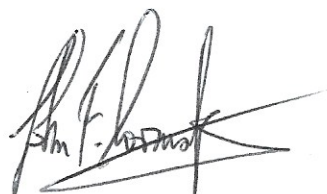
Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention :

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



John F Cormack
Victor T Fraser & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants
3-4 Market Place
Wick
Caithness
KW1 4LP

Date: 17th March 2021

Flow Country Rivers Trust

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		350	-	350	725
Other trading activities	2	<u>5,870</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,870</u>	<u>12,074</u>
Total		6,220	-	6,220	12,799
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Project expenses		8,718	-	8,718	13,798
Running costs of the charity		<u>2,193</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,193</u>	<u>2,534</u>
Total		10,911	-	10,911	16,332
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(4,691)	-	(4,691)	(3,533)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		25,892	827	26,719	30,252
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>21,201</u>	<u>827</u>	<u>22,028</u>	<u>26,719</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Flow Country Rivers Trust

Balance Sheet
31 December 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	6	217	-	217	325
CURRENT ASSETS					
Prepayments and accrued income		121	-	121	4,321
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>21,963</u>	<u>827</u>	<u>22,790</u>	<u>23,573</u>
		22,084	827	22,911	27,894
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	7	(1,100)	-	(1,100)	(1,500)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>20,984</u>	<u>827</u>	<u>21,811</u>	<u>26,394</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>21,201</u>	<u>827</u>	<u>22,028</u>	<u>26,719</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>21,201</u>	<u>827</u>	<u>22,028</u>	<u>26,719</u>
FUNDS	8				
Unrestricted funds				21,201	25,892
Restricted funds				<u>827</u>	<u>827</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>22,028</u>	<u>26,719</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2020.

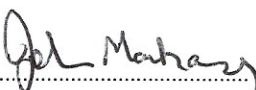
The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 16/03/2021 and were signed on its behalf by:


Mr J Mackay - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

Flow Country Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with 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 Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery - 20% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2020	2019
	£	£
Contract work	<u>5,870</u>	<u>12,074</u>

3. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2020	2019
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>108</u>	<u>109</u>

Flow Country Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

Mr J Mackay provided scientific services to the charity during the year amounting to £932 (2019 £2,620). There were no other trustee remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2020 nor for the year ended 31 December 2019.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustee expenses for the year ended 31 December 2020 (2019 £nil).

5. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	725	-	725
Other trading activities	<u>12,074</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,074</u>
Total	12,799	-	12,799
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Project expenses	13,798	-	13,798
Running costs of the charity	<u>2,534</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,534</u>
Total	<u>16,332</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,332</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(3,533)	-	(3,533)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	<u>29,425</u>	<u>827</u>	<u>30,252</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u><u>25,892</u></u>	<u><u>827</u></u>	<u><u>26,719</u></u>

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

COST	Plant and machinery £
At 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2020	<u>542</u>
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 January 2020	217
Charge for year	<u>108</u>
At 31 December 2020	<u>325</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 December 2020	<u><u>217</u></u>
At 31 December 2019	<u><u>325</u></u>

Flow Country Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2020	2019
	£	£
Accruals	1,100	720
Received in advance	<u>-</u>	<u>780</u>
	<u>1,100</u>	<u>1,500</u>

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.20 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.20 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	25,892	(4,691)	21,201
Restricted funds			
Fisherman's Knowledge	827	-	827
	<u>26,719</u>	<u>(4,691)</u>	<u>22,028</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	6,220	(10,911)	(4,691)
	<u>6,220</u>	<u>(10,911)</u>	<u>(4,691)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.19 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.19 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	29,425	(3,533)	25,892
Restricted funds			
Fisherman's Knowledge	827	-	827
	<u>30,252</u>	<u>(3,533)</u>	<u>26,719</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			

Flow Country Rivers Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	12,799	(16,332)	(3,533)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>12,799</u>	<u>(16,332)</u>	<u>(3,533)</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.1.19 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.20 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	29,425	(8,224)	21,201
Restricted funds			
Fisherman's Knowledge	827	-	827
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>30,252</u>	<u>(8,224)</u>	<u>22,028</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	19,019	(27,243)	(8,224)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>19,019</u>	<u>(27,243)</u>	<u>(8,224)</u>

9. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2019 other than those disclosed in Note 2.

Flow Country Rivers Trust

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations - private	190	430
Donations - Friends of the Trust	160	180
Gift Aid	-	115
	<u>350</u>	<u>725</u>
Other trading activities		
Contract work	<u>5,870</u>	<u>12,074</u>
Total incoming resources	6,220	12,799
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Project expenses	8,610	13,690
Plant and machinery	<u>108</u>	<u>108</u>
	8,718	13,798
Support costs		
Administration		
FMS subscription	500	1,000
Newsletters, website updates	291	867
Office expenses	-	25
Sundry expenses	35	35
Insurance	<u>224</u>	<u>224</u>
	1,050	2,151
Governance costs		
Admin costs	750	-
Companies House	13	13
Accountancy fees	<u>380</u>	<u>370</u>
	<u>1,143</u>	<u>383</u>
Total resources expended	<u>10,911</u>	<u>16,332</u>
Net expenditure	<u>(4,691)</u>	<u>(3,533)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements