

Charity number **1191174**

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the period 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025

Slow The Flow

Annual Report and Financial Statements

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Trustees' report for the period 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

The trustees during the financial period and up to and including the date the report was agreed were:

Name	Position	Dates
Adrian Horton	Chair	
Stephen John Garrod	Treasurer	
Robin Gray		Resigned 25/03/2025
Katie Kimber		Resigned 07/07/2026
Amanda McDermott		
Andrew Colin Wright		Resigned 31/08/2026
Andrew John Mackintosh		Resigned 31/12/2025
Samuel Townsend		Resigned 08/10/2026
Pat Devine		Resigned 14/05/2026
Rachael Smith		Appointed 25/03/2025
Sophie Tankard		Appointed 25/03/2025
Rachel Flood		Appointed 31/07/2025

Charity Number

The charity was registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, number 1191174, on 07/09/2020.

Principal address	Hebden Lodge Lee Mill Road Hebden Bridge West Yorkshire HX7 7AE	**Bankers**	Reliance Bank Ltd Faith House 23-24 Lovat Street London EC3R 8EB

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Trustees' report (continued) for the period 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025

Structure, governance and management

The charity is governed by a constitution adopted Jan 2020.

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees of the charity are the founding trustees of the charity or are otherwise appointed by the trustees.

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects

Slow The Flow is a charity working to advance the education of the public in Natural Flood Management, Sustainable Drainage Systems and other renewable methods of managing the environment, including the exploration of alternative practices which safeguard the natural environment and its resources in a manner which best fits the specifics of a local geography.

The charity's main activities

The educational objective of the organisation is achieved by presenting information on the Slow The Flow website from a mixture of specialist technical professionals and NFM practitioners including: case studies carried out with volunteers; "how to" guides for implementation at their own properties or land or that provided by others; workshops, lectures and seminars from the technical professionals and those leading or being involved in volunteer projects; and the hands-on volunteer activities - giving members of the public the opportunity to try first hand a range of flood management techniques on land offered by consenting landowners before doing the same on their own property or by similarly seeking cooperation for projects on land owned by others.

Trustees' report (continued) for the period 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025

The organisation implements pilot projects in so far as this is necessary in a science which is emerging and requires an evidence base to demonstrate its efficacy. Its main project to date is work carried out by volunteers on land owned by The National Trust who is not a beneficiary but a consenting and cooperative landowner whose motivation is to help the organisation educate communities about Natural Flood Management and do its bit on land over which it has control. This project sets out to provide proof of concept including the feasibility of volunteer-based actions to implement Natural Flood Management in a local scenario – notably to the benefit of the entire downstream community – while recognising that this implementation by itself is a small part of a wider solution only achievable by educating others in the mechanics and arguments for Natural Flood Management.

Other implementations entail projects based on a similar scalability model where the organisation produces results and promotes the learned physical and social science to encourage others to repeat and expand the work so that it is scaled up to a level that is of benefit to the extended community.

These projects include: identifying Natural Flood Management opportunities; suggesting designs for small-scale woodland and terrain interventions; communications that encourage involvement of volunteers and landowners; facilitating discussions between participating parties; and building understanding between community participants and local and national government agencies

Public benefit statement

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission’s general guidance on public benefit and in particular in relation to advancing the education of the public in Natural Flood Management, Sustainable Drainage Systems and other renewable methods of managing the environment.

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Trustees' report (continued) for the period 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025

Achievements and performance

Slow The Flow started its work to build Natural Flood Management (NFM) and Sustainable Drainage Solutions (SuDS) into the Calder catchment in 2016. Since then its volunteers, trustees and partners have worked tirelessly on the task with the aim of reducing flood risk to our communities.

We have continued to build upon this early work and develop new partnerships, ideas, projects, and initiatives to reduce flood risk here in the Calder Valley. Below you will find information about some of the activities we have been getting up to throughout 2025.

Activity Report 2025

On Thursday 30th January, Slow The Flow was proud to host a reception at Hardcastle Crags, a National Trust site in West Yorkshire, with three of our **Members of Parliament**. We were grateful for the time and enthusiasm shown by:

- Josh Fenton-Glynn, MP for the Calder Valley;

- Kate Dearden, MP for Halifax, and

- Toby Perkins, MP for Chesterfield and Chair of the All-Party Group Environmental Audit Committee.

Trustee, Katie Kimber, was one of the speakers at the Yorkshire Integrated Catchment Solutions Programme (iCASP) **Confluence 2025 Conference** in Leeds on Wednesday 26th February 2025.

26th April, STF had a **stand at Eureka!** The National Children's Museum supporting Iron People by Northern Broadsides Theatre Company and CultureDale, exploring environmental themes and connecting with Calderdale's natural and historic landscapes.

Some of our Slow The Flow Trustees, joined by Rosie Holdsworth from National Trust Hardcastle Crags, visited **Parliament on Wednesday 25th June** to educate MPs on our 5 Key Messages. A huge thank you to the Calder Valley MP, Josh Fenton-Glynn, for hosting the reception. It was a great opportunity to introduce MPs from the newly formed government to our charity and our 5 Key Messages:

- Rebalance funding to better support nature-based solutions (NBS) to flooding.

- Educate young people about Natural Flood Management (NFM) in schools.

- Promote green jobs and sustainable infrastructure.

- Enforce Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act for SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems).

- Fix sewage overflows and improve national water infrastructure.

The level of engagement from the MPs who came to see us was excellent and we felt that the messages that Slow The Flow, and other similar organisations, are communicating are starting to be heard and understood. It was a terrific day and well worth the effort.

Slow The Flow founding Trustee, Stuart Bradshaw, was awarded the **British Empire Medal (BEM)** for Services to Flood Risk Reduction and Land Management in the King's Birthday Honours list. Stuart was the inspiration behind Slow The Flow in Calderdale and although he is no longer a Trustee, he remains an Associate, still advising us on land management and on the many technical aspects of our work.

8th July, Slow The Flow had a brilliant afternoon with **GCSE Geography students from Brighouse High School** at NT Hardcastle Crags! The students explored some of the 1000s leaky dams that have been installed by volunteers over the last 9 years whilst tackling some invasive Himalayan Balsam on route.

In July we participated in the **Calder Catchment Partnership Summer School**; a fantastic day of networking, knowledge sharing, and inspiring discussions.

Sunday 3rd August, Trustees and volunteers take part in **balsam bashing** at Hardcastle Crags.

Sunday 7th September, Trustees and volunteers take part in **leaky dam building** at Hardcastle Crags.

In September, our **community weather station** in the Upper Calder Valley was installed along with flow meters monitoring streams with leaky dam interventions. This was made possible by the brilliant team at Mainstream Measurements and funding from Community Foundation for Calderdale.

In September, our Chair, Adrian Horton accompanied by two of his oldest friends, walked 100 miles across Scotland in 7 days with 15000ft of climbing, **to raise awareness of and support for Slow The Flow.**

STF Trustees and Volunteers took part in **acorn collecting** on Sunday 5th October National Trust site Hardcastle Crags. The acorns will be nurtured at Daisy Bank Community Tree Nursery in Mytholmroyd, with the support of local Forus Tree volunteers during the weekly tree nursery volunteer day.

Trustees attended the **West Yorkshire Flood Summit** at Dean Clough in Halifax on 20th November 2025 where they heard about work to reduce flood risk in Yorkshire. Speakers included Calderdale Council, the Environment Agency, Leeds City Council and Flood Minister Emma Hardy MP.

26th December 2025, on the 10th anniversary of the Boxing Day floods, Slow The Flow featured on **BBC Look North** talking about our work to reduce flood risk.

26th December BBC News article included a quote from our Chair, Adrian Horton about the Boxing Day 2015 flooding.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwyvm0rkk7no?fbclid=IwY2xjawUwR9RleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBwZG9mBXNydGMGYXBwX2lkEDIyMjAzOTE3ODgyMDA4OTIAAR5k0ItGuHmA4I0S199AibJSg1DASDkZs0t-5Ab_AxhdIi3X5qFN93I_7mokkg_aem_f8RxZZnoj9jYTSThjX-Npg

Trustees volunteered their time to represent Slow The Flow on a number of external committees where they inform and provide their expertise and guidance to other organisations working in the same area. In return, much was learned about the work completed by others. These organisations included:

Calder Catchment Partnership

West Yorkshire Flood Innovation Programme (WYFLIP)

White Rose Forest (Calder Upper Catchment)

Natural Flood Management Operations Group (NFM Ops Group)

Calderdale Invasive Non-Native Species group (INNS)

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Trustees' report (continued) for the period 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025

Receipts and Payments Account

Financial review

The net receipts for the year were: -£1,220 to unrestricted funds comprising £3,508 receipts and £4,728 payments; and -£3,677 to restricted funds comprising no receipts and £3,677 payments.

Reserves policy

The charity's free cash reserves at the year end were £17,545.

It is the charity's policy to maintain a reserve to provide a growing fund (currently £10,750) for future projects and employment of staff plus working capital in the region of £6,800 to fund its general activities in the year ahead comprising expenditure anticipated as follows:

Insurance	650
Website	600
General Publicity and Educational Media	800
Office and Admin Costs	3500
Room Hire/Meeting Expenses	350
Trustee Expenses	250
Fundraising Costs	250
Governance Costs	100
Trustee and Volunteer External Training	150
Bank Charges	150

Risk management

The Trustees have introduced a risk management process to assess business risks and are implementing systems to mitigate these risks. Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures or authorisation of all transactions and projects and to ensure consistent quality of delivery for all operational aspects of the Charity. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients and visitors to relevant sites. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still met the needs of the Charity.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees:

Signed **Date**: 20/10/2026

Name: Stephen Garrod (Trustee)

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Receipts and payments account

for the Financial Period 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025

Receipts	Financial Period to 31/12/2025 Unrestricted Funds	Financial Period to 31/12/2025 Restricted Funds	Financial Period to 31/12/2025 Total Funds	Financial Period to 31/12/2024 Total Funds
Corporate Partnerships	839		839	706
Donations	2370		2370	6124
Grants				590
Interest	298		298	
Total Receipts	**3508**		**3508**	**7420**
Payments				
Bank Charges	121		121	96
Grants Made to Others	500		500	
Fundraising costs	180		180	605
General Publicity	70		70	1150
Governance Costs	47		47	
Insurance	507		507	448
Educational Media	650		650	
Stationery and Postage	77		77	
Meeting Room Hire	315		315	557
Miscellaneous	11		11	50
Office and Admin Costs	1894		1894	1571
Restricted Grant Funded Projects		3677	3677	7914
Trustee Expenses	220		220	448
Training Costs	96		96	260
Website	41		41	946
Total Payments	**4728**	**3677**	8405	**14046**
Net (payments)/receipts	(1220)	(3677)	(4897)	(6625)
Fund Balances Brought Forward	18765	12702	31467	38092
Fund Balances Carried Forward	17545	9025	26570	31467

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Statement of assets and liabilities

as at 31 December 2025

All cash funds were held at the charity's bank.

Assets retained for the charity's own use were valued at £4,500 and comprise items purchased and depreciated since time of purchase in the following categories:

Office Equipment

Audio Visual Equipment

Marketing Display Equipment

Protective Clothing

Groundworks Equipment

Weather and Water Flow Monitoring Equipment

Approval of the accounts

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 08/10/2026.

Signed: 

Name: Stephen Garrod (Trustee)

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Notes to the accounts for the period 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting
The trustees have taken advantage of section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year. No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

Taxation
As a registered charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

2 Trustee Expenses (excluding reimbursement for purchases made on behalf of the charity)

Expenses were paid to or on behalf of the following trustee to reimburse them for travel costs incurred in the course of their work for the charity:

Bede Mullen … £81.00 Samuel Townsend … £52.23 Sophie Tankard … £86.40

3 Trustee remuneration and benefits

There was one trustee who received remuneration for services supplied to Slow The Flow.

This was Andrew Wright who was paid £1,615 in the year under a written agreement for him to provide 8.5 teaching days in schools to enable Slow The Flow to deliver its Education in Schools Project.

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for the period 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025

4 Disclosures Relevant to The Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012

a) There were no guarantees given by Slow The Flow where any potential liability under the guarantee was outstanding at the date of the statement of assets and liabilities.
b) There was no debt outstanding at the date of the statement of assets and liabilities which was owed by the CIO and which was secured by an express charge on any of the assets of the CIO.

5 Grants and Donations

Source of Income	Financial Period Unrestricted Funds	Financial Period Restricted Funds	Financial Period Total Funds
FRIENDLY SOAP LTD (Corporate Partnership)	838.90		838.90
HALIFAX MINSTER RC	1000.00		1000.00
LOCALGIVING LTD	1305.43		1305.43
ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL CHURCH CULLINGWORTH	65.00		65.00
Total:	**3209.33**	**0**	**3209.33**

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3 Restricted Funds

	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Balance c/f
YORKSHIRE WATER SE	3846.00	-	1615.00	2231
WEST YORKS F&R-FUN	2425.00	-	242.34	2183
Community Foundation For Calderdale	6431.00	-	1819.32	4612
	12702.00		**3676.66**	**9025.34**

Fund Name	Purpose of Restriction
YORKSHIRE WATER SE	Education in Schools Project roll out
WEST YORKS F&R-FUN	West Yorkshire Resilience Grant for Equipment
Community Foundation For Calderdale	Ovenden Wind Farm Project (Broadhead Clough)