

The Rivers Trust Movement: Our Charter

Together as a Movement, we are stronger than the sum of our parts.

We – the Rivers Trust Movement, comprising local member Rivers Trusts across Great Britain, Northern Ireland and Ireland and The Rivers Trust, the umbrella body for the Movement, are steadfast in our commitment to protecting, restoring, and sustaining river, lake, groundwater, estuarine and near-shore marine environments, and their water-dependent ecosystems, for nature and thriving communities.

Our network of Rivers Trusts has evolved over past decades to create a diverse and established movement. Each Trust delivers real, local impact through their own governance, relationships, activities and self-determination. Each has its own identity and continues to develop in a way that reflects the water environments, communities, geographies and stakeholders of their catchments. This diversity hosts a breadth of expertise, capability, approaches, perspectives and opportunities and establishes our overall collective influence.

We celebrate and support all Trusts at every stage in their journey. From the long-standing, founded early in the Movement's beginnings, to those in the early stages of their development.

We understand the importance of reputation, both for our Member Trusts and for the Movement. Therefore, we will provide support and guidance and enable shared learning across the Movement to deliver a collective, lasting impact. Our ambition is for us all to be the best we can be.

Our Charter: together for our shared vision

This Charter is a framework, or a foundation, to share the aspirations of the Network Support Service and set out our shared principles as a Movement. It has been co-designed by our Member Trusts, for our Member Trusts.

It will be a springboard for further conversations into shared services and support that will help us achieve our mutual vision of 'wild, healthy, natural rivers valued by all'.

This Charter provides an outline for cooperation, setting out commitments of The Rivers Trust and local Rivers Trusts, working across Great Britain, Northern Ireland, and Ireland, as members of The Rivers Trust Movement.

Together, we:

- ✓ Deliver our vision for 'wild, healthy, natural rivers valued by all'.
- ✓ Inspire and empower others to value and act for rivers.
- ✓ Are trusted partners who invest in our teams and support each other to achieve individual aims so we continue to become stronger together.

1. Deliver our vision for wild, healthy, natural rivers valued by all.

Together, we will:

- a) Focus on achieving positive and impactful actions for wild, healthy, natural rivers valued by all.
- b) Lead transformative change for rivers through integrated catchment management and collaborative community involvement and empowerment.
- c) Support the delivery of nature-based solutions that sustainably use and manage ecosystems to achieve multiple benefits and outcomes for the environment, resilient communities and economy.
- d) Work in partnership and collaboration to achieve our vision.
- e) Grow and share expertise in data collection, analysis, and reporting to support evidence - based conservation actions and the accessibility of data.
- f) Learn together by sharing expertise and experiences, be they successes or failures, in water and catchment conservation and management.

2. Inspire and empower others to value and act for rivers.

Together, we will:

- a) Champion the restoration of our rivers, lakes, groundwaters, estuaries, near-shore marine environments and their water-dependent species and habitats.
- b) Adopt a constructive, solutions-focused and evidence-based approach to advocacy.
- c) Work in partnership to ensure that the advocacy, influence and reputation of our organisations complement and support each other, to strengthen local, national and international initiatives and recognition, where appropriate.
- d) Act with integrity and respect, remembering that how we behave is a reflection on the Movement as a whole.
- e) Record and share our impact effectively.

3. Are trusted partners who invest in our teams and support each other to achieve individual aims so we continue to become stronger together.

Together, we will:

- a) Ensure the good of the environment and those that depend on it guides our decisions and actions.
- b) Comply with all relevant legal requirements and adopt appropriate good practice for charities.
- c) Take our responsibilities for health, safety and wellbeing seriously, making them a top priority for our Movement.
- d) Be inclusive, equitable and together work towards creating a more diverse movement.
- e) Encourage continuous professional development for staff, board members/trustees, and volunteers.
- f) Be collaborative, professional, reliable, transparent and authentic with each other and all external partners.
- g) Be informed and purposeful in all partnerships and funding relationships to ensure that they are consistent with the vision of The Rivers Trust and the Movement.
- h) Seek coordinated and collaborative opportunities for regional, national, and international funding which is dispersed amongst the Trusts.