

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2024

Walberswick Common Lands Charity REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF TRUSTEES April 2025

<u>Trustees</u>

- 1. I was re-appointed Chair of the Trustees with effect from 1 January 2025 (having started in that role on 1 January 2023).
- 2. The Parish Council re-appointed Hannah Sutton as a nominative trustee in March 2024 and myself in December 2024.
- 3. The Rev Russ Gant took up his role as *ex officio* trustee from April 2024.
- 4. At a meeting on 12 December 2024, Vanessa Tucker was re-appointed as a co-opted trustee with effect from 1 January 2025.
- 5. My fellow trustees are extremely dedicated, giving freely of their time in the interests of the Charity and the community as a whole. I am indebted to their experience and insight.
- 6. We are all equally grateful for the ongoing work of our clerk, Matthew Wetmore, whose diligence and knowledge of the affairs of the Charity is unequalled.

Accounts

- 7. At their meeting on 27 February 2025, the Trustees signed off the Charity's accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024.
- 8. The general income for 2024 was just over £25,000 higher than for 2023 (and around £5,000 more than for 2022). Around £15,000 of this increase came from the covenant from Walberswick Car Parks Limited. This is a tribute to the enormous work undertaken by the Directors of WCPL, dealing admirably with a range of difficulties so as not just to protect that source of income, but to build upon it by over one third. That is no small feat.
- 9. The balance of the higher income came from an increase of the funds which we have received by way of grants from the Rural Payments Agency through our Countryside Stewardship Agreement.

10. Our expenditure remained approximately level. The increase in the RPA grant came in in the latter part of the year, and so is ready to be used in the course of 2025. We are mindful that a number of potential matters may require increased expenditure in 2025.

Environmental Stewardship¹

- 11. A substantial proportion of the Trustees' time is spent on considering the management of the land and property for which the Charity is responsible. This includes the Common, but also the Town Marshes (running alongside the River Blyth) and some of the marshes and reedbeds running alongside the River Dunwich.² Much of this land holds a designation protecting it, reflecting the particular value in the wildlife and biodiversity in this rich area. As well as falling within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (or 'National Landscape'), much of the land is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Ramsar Site (wetlands of international importance).
- 12. Our vision is to steward the land in a world-class manner, following a nature-first philosophy, with the support of the village community and partners. We seek to explore priorities and then agree, deliver and monitor a stewardship programme which will protect and enhance the Charity's natural capital for the village and its wider communities. We do this by differentiating the various land types and areas for which we are responsible so that we can then plan their stewardship appropriately. We work with experienced contractors and partners in an environmentally sustainable manner. We are initiating and trialling formal monitoring systems, promoting safe and inclusive practice, and seeking further and stronger community interest in this diverse and accessible landscape.
- 13. As noted in last year's Report, a new 5-year Countryside Stewardship Agreement was reached with Natural England with effect from January 2024. This includes a detailed scheme setting out expectations as to the work required on the relevant land. In 2024 the Charity received almost £45,000 in funds (an increase from around £33,000 in 2023), the use of which is restricted to the stewardship of the land to which it relates.
- 14. The cost of the environmental stewardship work that we undertake is covered by these restricted funds, and any shortfall made up from the Charity's unrestricted funds.

¹ Whilst Natural England uses the term 'countryside stewardship', we prefer the term 'environmental stewardship'; there is no particular distinction between them.

² A fuller description of the land can be found at <u>http://walberswick.onesuffolk.net/walberswick-common-lands-charity/</u>

- 15. In early 2024, the Charity engaged new contractors to undertake a lot of the heavy work that is necessary, in particular over the Common. This preliminary work was successful and a much more significant plan was developed for the winter of 2024/2025 (when the work must be done, to avoid disturbing the wildlife that makes the Common its home over the warmer months). This has seen, for example, a considerable amount of over-sized gorse being cut down and removed from the site (whilst leaving lower gorse which provides such a beautiful display, and smell, in the spring); and the cutting of reeds in the fen.
- 16. We have continued our engagement with volunteer groups for specific projects, such as the clearing of the top end of Bennett's Drift, and we are grateful to the hard work of all of those who have helped out in this way.

Charitable activities

- 17. A core aspect of the Charity's purpose is the grant of relief to those in conditions of need, hardship or distress. This is done by individual grants or loans, and by general grants to charities and organisations that provide support (either generally or specifically) for villagers.
- More information about how the Charity can assist individuals in need can be found on our website.³
- 19. In 2024, the Charity made grants in excess of \pounds 50,000. These included:
 - (a) The Sole Bay Care Fund, in relation to the vital support that it offers within the village.
 - (b) Payments are made to state schools attended by village children. In 2024, we made a one-off offer to the parents of eligible secondary school village children for the purchase of a laptop for study use (as an alternative to a payment being made directly to the school). We considered that this would offer direct and tangible support to those families; and currently intend to continue with this in relation to children as they reach secondary school.
 - (c) A contribution to the Village Hall, which allows for subsidised hire charges for local users.
 - (d) Ongoing support for the provision of the free mini-bus that runs villagers to Norwich.
 - (e) Grants to other local and national charities, whom we believe offer vital support to villagers.

³ <u>http://walberswick.onesuffolk.net/walberswick-common-lands-charity/grants-and-benefits/</u>

- 20. In addition, the Charity supports specific activities, such as the annual Easter egg hunt and the children's summer clubs.
- 21. As ever, the Trustees welcome suggestions as to appropriate charities, organisations and activities it might support in the future. Such suggestions are surprisingly limited in number.

<u>Heritage Hut</u>

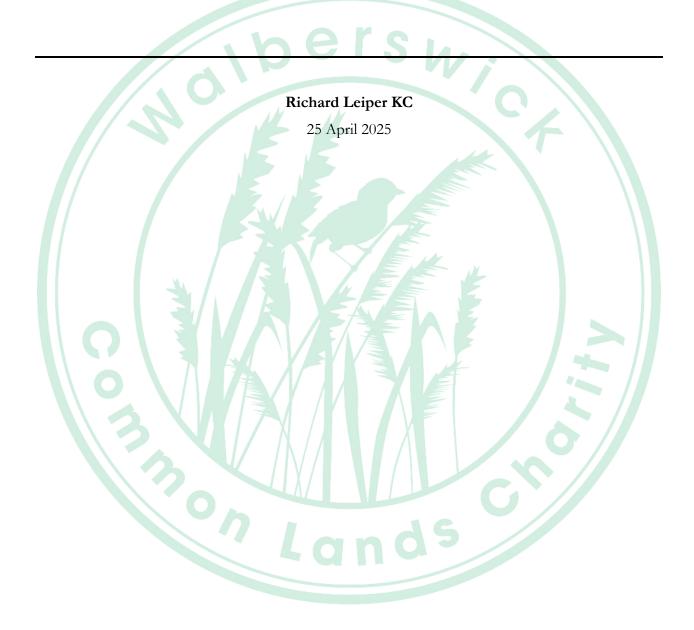
- 22. The successful management and use of the Heritage Hut continued throughout 2024. It is regularly used by various community groups including WPC, the PCC, the Scroll Advisory Group, and WALL, and we are keen to encourage wider community use.
- 23. As well as its use for meetings, the Heritage Hut is the depository for the village archives, so carefully curated by the History Group, and for the Walberswick Scroll, under the watchful aegis of the SAG.
- 24. Of particular note in 2024 was the very successful exhibition 'When the Seas Come In', which attracted almost 1,000 visitors, over various dates across the summer. Our thanks to the Heritage Hut committee, and all of those who helped them in putting on this excellent and informative display.
- 25. In September 2024 the Heritage Hut was the base for a 'heritage trail' as part of the national Heritage Open Days.

'LionLink'

26. The proposals for LionLink continue and it is currently intended that the interconnector cable will go under land owned by the Charity. The Trustees have continued to engage with National Grid Ventures and its various agents and contractors (as well as with Natural England) with a view to ensuring that – if the work proceeds – the impact upon the Charity's land (with its associated protected habitats), and upon the village more widely, is mitigated to the greatest possible extent.

Conclusion

27. The Trustees seek to continue the Charity's ongoing support for the village of Walberswick. This is most obviously through the maintenance and development of the lands under its charge, something that adds to the unique beauty of the area. But it is also through the support of individuals and of the myriad of activities which individuals arrange for the benefit of the community.



REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

FOR

WALBERSWICK COMMON LANDS CHARITY

van Dijk Accountants Limited Georgian House 34 Thoroughfare Halesworth Suffolk IP19 8AP

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	I	Page	2
Report of the Trustees	1	to	2
Independent Examiner's Report		3	
Statement of Financial Activities		4	
Statement of Financial Position		5	
Notes to the Financial Statements	6	to	11
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	12	to	13

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. 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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The Charity is the largest landowner in and around the village of Walberswick in Suffolk. It receives income from rental of its property and from car parking operations. Its primary responsibility is the long-term, environmental stewardship of its lands. In addition, surplus income may be deployed for the relief of need of Walberswick inhabitants and to support charitable objectives in the Parish of Walberswick.

Social investments

Individual grants are also made to support Walberswick inhabitants who are judged to be in need and suffering hardship. Annual and ad-hoc grants are made to groups, organisations, and charities that either directly support charitable objectives in Walberswick or have the potential to provide such support when needed. Examples include supporting; schools where village children are educated, local outreach agencies caring for the sick and elderly, the village hall, the local minibus service, road safety schemes, flood defences, churchyard maintenance, community events and children's sport and recreational activities.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

It is the Charity's and Trustees policy to maintain reserves at a level it considers necessary to; (a) provide a contingency for emergency repairs, including minor flood damage and (b) meet cash flow fluctuations.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Charity is governed by its Scheme dated 7 September 2009, amended on 1st November 2018 and constitutes an unincorporated Charity. The Charity was first registered on 4 February 1901.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The body of seven Trustees is made of one Ex-officio Trustee, four Nominative Trustees and two Co-optative Trustees. The latter two categories are elected for a period of four years. The Ex-officio Trustee is normally the Vicar with pastoral responsibility for the Parish of Walberswick. Nominative Trustees are elected by Walberswick Parish Council.

Risk management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS Registered Charity number 206095

Principal address PO Box 73 Halesworth Suffolk IP19 1AU

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Trustees

Reverend R Gant Mr G D Humphrey Mr R T Leiper KC Chairman Mr D Pelly Mrs S Renouf Mrs H J Sutton Ms V M Tucker

Clerk

Mr M Wetmore

Independent Examiner

P N van Dijk FMAAT van Dijk Accountants Limited Georgian House 34 Thoroughfare Halesworth Suffolk IP19 8AP

Legal advisors

Nicholsons Solicitors, Lowestoft Bates Wells, London

Surveyors

Durrants, Beccles Stutt & Parker, Norwich

BANKERS

Barclays Bank PLC

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 27 February 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr R T Leiper KC - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WALBERSWICK COMMON LANDS CHARITY

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Walberswick Common Lands Charity

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Walberswick Common Lands Charity (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
- 2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

P N van Dijk FMAAT

van Dijk Accountants Limited Georgian House 34 Thoroughfare Halesworth Suffolk IP19 8AP

27 February 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	31.12.24 Total funds £	31.12.23 Total funds £
General Income Other income	2	125,461	44,892	170,353	145,155 60,000
Total		125,461	44,892	170,353	205,155
EXPENDITURE ON Costs		102,802	31,253	134,055	131,404
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		22,659	13,639	36,298	73,751
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS Total funds brought forward		1,761,645	14,747	1,776,392	1,702,641
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		1,784,304	28,386	1,812,690	1,776,392

The notes form part of these financial statements

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION 31 December 2024

				31.12.24	31.12.23
× .		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		fund	fund	funds	funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	4	936,779	-	936,779	947,786
Investment property	5	545,000	-	545,000	545,000
		1,481,779	-	1,481,779	1,492,786
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	6	66,294	-	66,294	83,757
Investments	7	243,788	39,923	283,711	256,412
Cash at bank and in hand	8	56,901	1,068	57,969	18,021
		366,983	40,991	407,974	358,190
CREDITORS					(
Amounts falling due within one year	9	64,458	12,605	77,063	(74,584)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		302,525	28,386	330,911	282 606
NET CORRENT ASSETS			20,300		283,606
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,784,304	28,386	1,812,690	1,776,392
				,=,=_	_,,,,,,,,,
NET ASSETS		1,784,304	28,386	1,812,690	1,776,392
FUNDS	10				
Unrestricted funds				1,784,304	1,761,645
Restricted funds				28,386	14,747
TOTAL FUNDS				1,812,690	1,776,392

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 27 February 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

Mr R T Leiper KC - Trustee

H J Sutton - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, 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 the Charities Act 2011. 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

Freehold property is shown at most recent valuation. Any aggregate surplus or deficit arising from changes in market value is transferred to a revaluation reserve, see note 11 to the accounts.

The Charity has an interest in the Heritage Hut situated on Walberswick Village Green which is held on a ten year lease commencing 11th April 2019. Improvements thereto are being amortised over the remaining term of the lease.

Investment property

Investment property is shown at most recent valuation. Any aggregate surplus or deficit arising from changes in fair value is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

2. GENERAL INCOME

			31.12.24	31.12.23
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds
	£	£	£	£
Access licences	1,380	-	1,380	1,440
Property rent	36,014	-	36,014	34,875
Agricultural agreements	1,516	-	1,516	1,774
Investment income	8,543	-	8,543	6,546
Investment restricted income	-	1,381	1,381	788
Covenant from W.C.P.Ltd	55,162	-	55,162	40,498
Annual licences	20,257	-	20,257	19,404
Track & manor fields	-	-	-	1,665
Environmental stewardship	-	43,511	43,511	30,109
Donations	422	-	422	2,367
Increase in value of investments	2,167	-	2,167	5,689
	125,461	44,892	170,353	145,155

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2024 nor for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2024 nor for the year ended 31 December 2023.

4. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Leasehold property £	Totals £
COST	L	F	L
At 1 January 2024	890,000	98,570	988,570
Additions			
At 31 December 2024	890,000	98,570	988,570
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 January 2024	-	40,784	40,784
Charge for year		11,007	11,007
At 31 December 2024		51,791	51,791
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2024	890,000	46,779	936,779
At 31 December 2023	890,000	57,786	947,786

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

5. INVESTMENT PROPERTY

7.

Walberswick Common Lands Charity has title to freehold land and properties within the Walberswick area from which the Charity derives income, they have been valued professionally at £545,000.

6. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	31.12.24	31.12.23
	£	£
Trade debtors	66,294	83,757
CURRENT ASSET INVESTMENTS		
	31.12.24	31.12.23
	£	£
COIF accumulation shares	31,534	30,008
COIF income shares	28,995	28,355
COIF deposit accounts 1 & 2	140,256	176,127
COIF sea defence deposit account	8,710	8,286
COIF Track & manor fields deposit account	74,216	13,636
	283,711	256,412

8. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

		31.12.24	31.12.23
General		Total	Total
fund	Restricted	funds	funds
£	£	£	£
56,901	-	56,901	17,965
-	1,068	1,068	56
56,901	1,068	57,969	18,021
	fund £ 56,901 -	fund Restricted £ £ 56,901 - - 1,068 	GeneralTotalfundRestrictedfunds£££56,901-56,901-1,0681,068

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

31.12.24	31.12.23
£	£
9,102	10,191
67,961	64,393
77,063	74,584
	£ 9,102 <u>67,961</u>

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.24 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.24 £
Unrestricted funds General fund	_ 1,761,645	22,659	_ 1,784,304
Restricted funds Restricted	14,747	13,639	28,386
TOTAL FUNDS	1,776,392	36,298	1,812,690

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds General fund	125,461	(102,802)	22,659
Restricted funds Restricted	44,892	(31,253)	13,639
TOTAL FUNDS	170,353	(134,055)	36,298

Comparatives for movement in funds

		Net movement	At
	At 1.1.23	in funds	31.12.23
Unrestricted funds	£	£	£
General fund	1,685,783	75,862	1,761,645
Restricted funds Restricted	16,858	(2,111)	14,747
TOTAL FUNDS	1,702,641	73,751	1,776,392

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

10. 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	172,334	(96,472)	75,862
Restricted funds Restricted	32,821	(34,932)	(2,111)
TOTAL FUNDS	205,155	(131,404)	73,751

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

		Net	
		movement	At
	At 1.1.23	in funds	31.12.24
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	1,685,783	98,521	1,784,304
Restricted funds			
Restricted	16,858	11,528	28,386
	1 702 641	110.040	1 912 600
TOTAL FUNDS	1,702,641	110,049	1,812,690

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	297,795	(199,274)	98,521
Restricted funds			
Restricted	77,713	(66,185)	11,528
TOTAL FUNDS	375,508	<u>(265,459</u>)	110,049

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

11. **REVALUATION RESERVE**

Unrestricted funds at 31st December 2024 include the revaluation reserve of £145,000.

12. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Trustees Mrs H J Sutton and Mr R T Leiper KC held on behalf of Walberswick Common Lands one share each in Walberswick Car Parks Limited at 31st December 2024. Mrs H J Sutton is also a director of Walberswick Car Parks Limited. During the year Walberswick Car Parks Limited covenanted £55,162 (2023 £40,498) to Walberswick Common Lands Charity.

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	tor the real Ended ST Determiner 2024			
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.12.24 Total funds £	31.12.23 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS				
General Income				
Access licences	1,380	-	1,380	1,440
Property rent	36,014	-	36,014	34,875
Agricultural agreements	1,516	-	1,516	1,774
Investment income	8,543	-	8,543	6,546
Investment restricted income	-	1,381	1,381	788
Covenant from W.C.P.Ltd	55,162	-	55,162	40,498
Annual licences	20,257	-	20,257	19,404
Track & manor fields	-	42 544	-	1,665
Environmental stewardship	-	43,511	43,511	30,109
Donations	422	-	422	2,367
Increase in value of investments	2,167	-	2,167	5,689
				<u> </u>
	125,461	44,892	170,353	145,155
Other income				
Gains on the revaluation of freehold property	·			60,000
Total incoming resources	125,461	44,892	170,353	205,155
EXPENDITURE				
Costs				
Administration	16,552	-	16,552	16,958
Property maintenance	6,723	-	6,723	2,420
Professional fees	12,796	-	12,796	14,479
Rates	135	-	135	231
Insurance	3,457	-	3,457	3,305
Individual charitable grants	2,442	-	2,442	3,165
Charitable grants Track & manor fields	49,656	-	49,656	44,894
	-	- 21 252	-	11,500
Environmental stewardship General	- 34	31,253	31,253 34	23,432 13
General	54		54	
	91,795	31,253	123,048	120,397
Support costs				
Other				
Depreciation of Leasehold property	11,007	-	11,007	11,007

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

			31.12.24	31.12.23
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds
	<u>£</u>	£	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Total resources expended	102,802	31,253	134,055	131,404
Net income	22,659	13,639	36,298	73,751