

# BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR GEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION LIMITED

England & Wales · Charity number 1016312

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Charitable company

**Company number** [02775501](#)

**Registered** 1993-01-18

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** 131 Craven Road  
Newbury  
RG14 5NN

**Phone** 02920573310

**Email** [british.geoconservation@gmail.com](mailto:british.geoconservation@gmail.com)

**Website** [www.geoconservation.org](http://www.geoconservation.org)

## Activities

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**Objects:** 1)TO PROMOTE OR DEVELOP FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC THE PURSUIT OF GEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION 2)TO PROMOTE RESEARCH INTO GEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION AND TO PUBLISH THE USEFUL RESULTS OF SUCH RESEARCH

**Activities:** Promoting the conservation of Britain's geological heritage, especially the network of SSSIs. Getting ownership of vulnerable sites through purchase via external grants or through transfer of ownership. Developing a Geoheritage Trail in the South Wales Coalfield to promote awareness of the importance of geology among the wider public. To liaise with other European geoconservation organisations.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-05	£175,712	£174,545	-	-
2024-04-05	£172,587	£89,553	-	-
2023-04-05	£125,363	£140,310	-	-
2022-04-05	£105,705	£51,348	-	-
2021-04-05	£111,295	£8,265	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>PROF MICHAEL J BENTON</b>	Chair	
Dr CHRISTOPHER J CLEAL		
Dr JOHN DEHANE MACADAM		
Dr KEVIN PAGE		
Dr Sarah Caroline King		2015-12-16
THOMAS HOSE		

**BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR GEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION LIMITED**

England & Wales - Charity number 1016312

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# Accounts

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**Section A Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/directors/ members of**

British Institute for Geological Conservation Ltd

**On accounts for the year ended**

April 2025

**Charity no.:**

1016312

**Company no.:**

02775501

**Set out on pages**

3-6

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 1 / 04 / 2025.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees of the Company (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination, I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act).

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below \*) which gives me cause to believe that:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 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; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

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.

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

**Signed:**  **Date:**

**Name:**

**Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):**

**Address:**

**Section B Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> 2025

<b>INCOME</b>	Current year	Previous year
Interest on Business Account	£3857.89	£2,931.04
Evolution Garden Project		
Merthyr Tydfill CR (Levelling-Up Fund)	£171,355.00	£169,628.97
TK Max	£500.00	NIL
Refunds from Suppliers	NIL	£27.89
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£175,712.89</u></b>	<b><u>£172,587.90</u></b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Evolution Garden Project		
Employment Costs & Monitoring	£15,969.48	£22,536.08
Independent Project Monitoring	£25,275.50	NIL
Development Officer Costs	£68,668.40	£25,607.79
Educational equipment	£4,324.78	£4,360.95
Gardening equipment	£2,162.10	£2,083.44
Plants	£9,049.90	£1,751.08
Construction & Project Maintenance	£7,233.03	£14,705.93
IT Equipment	£43.49	£5,072.91
PPE	£995.70	£1,327.40
Workshop Specimens & Equipment	£5,318.50	£2,496.39
Ecological survey equipment	NIL	£4,506.10
Pest Control	£7.01	NIL
Event equipment	£771.63	NIL
Event Catering	£802.46	£304.86
Marketing	NIL	£913.99
Translation	NIL	£1,390.00
Bendrick Rocks		
Interpretation boards	NIL	£100.00
Capel Horeb		
Survey Fees	£2,736.96	NIL
Legal fees (site sale)	£1,500.00	
Council Meeting (Expenses)	£174.25	£2,083.93
Web page design	£28,400.00	NIL
Companies House	£34.00	NIL
PROGEO Key Geological Areas Project	£846.91	NIL
Bank Charges	£94.95	£65.61
Geologists' Assoc. Affiliation Fee	NIL	£80.00
Insurance	£143.90	£166.75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£174,545.94</u></b>	<b><u>£89,553.21</u></b>
<b>TRANSFER TO (FROM) RESERVES</b>	<b>+£1,166.95</b>	
<b>RESERVES</b>		
Business Manager Account	£220,506.47	
Community Account	£7,131.97	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£227,638.44</u></b>	

## BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> 2025

### ASSETS

	Current year	Previous year
A. Called up share capital not paid	NIL	NIL
B. Fixed Assets		
Land	£45,000.00	£45,000.00
Library	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
IT Equipment	£4,000.00	£5,000.00
C. Current Assets		
Stocks	NIL	NIL
Debtors	NIL	NIL
Investments	NIL	NIL
Cash in Bank	£227,638.44	£226,471.39
D. Prepayments and accrued income	NIL	NIL
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£277,638.44</u></b>	<b><u>£277,471.39</u></b>

### LIABILITIES

A. Capital and Reserves	£277,638.44	£277,471.39
B. Provisions for liabilities and charges	NIL	NIL
C. Creditors	NIL	NIL
D. Accruals and deferred income	NIL	NIL
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£277,638.44</u></b>	<b><u>£277,471.39</u></b>

### Notes

- For the year ending 1 April 2025 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.
- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions and delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

## Annual Report 2024–2025

The majority of project activity and therefore expenditure during this period has been related to the delivery of our Merthyr's Roots Evolution Garden and Learning Hub activities. The project has been operating with financing from UK Governments Shared Prosperity Fund. We also received a grant from TK Max stores to support this work.

Our Evolution Garden project and classroom space serves as a learning hub, all weather classroom and community training facility. This facility has allowed us to use local geological heritage to investigate and interpret local anthropogenic landscapes and cultural heritage whilst promoting understanding and awareness of locally relevant, global environmental issues. Our garden project allows us to explore the impact of plants on the environment and how they led to the formation of local natural resources. We consider how nature has shaped the culture, landscape and heritage of Merthyr; the project makes special linkage to the formation of coal, iron and other local minerals and investigates how plants have moderated climate in the past and continue to play a vital role in the regulation of climate, temperature and global CO<sub>2</sub> levels. We consider the rise and co-evolution of plants and animals, particularly pollinators and consider their current plight.

Our busy, Merthyr's Roots project provides a new, much needed, community-based education service that looks at the environment and local heritage holistically, linking modern day Merthyr and its diverse and iconic heritage to more ancient natural origins. Our aim continues to be to reconnect people to the environment and enrich their lives by using the local post-industrial landscape and its incredible, yet neglected, natural and cultural assets for learning and discovery.

Our work re-instils a strong sense of place and pride in local residents, something that has been slowly eroded since industry has declined. Our project activity grounds them in their community, making them feel safe in their landscape and appreciate and value their unique region once again.

In the 2024-2025 period the project has reached 4587 members of the public who have taken place in our organised events, workshops and engagement sessions. Records show that 9927 members of the public have visited our evolution garden in the same period. Project activity around our garden, the Cyfarthfa public park and in local schools has created or improved 3097m<sup>2</sup> of blue/green space. 83 different stakeholder groups have accessed non-financial support from BIGC Merthyr's Roots project. 2 people with additional learning needs were employed by the project and 24 people volunteered on the project during this period.

During the year BIGC made progress in disposing of the strip of land adjacent to the Capel Horeb Quarry, which had been proving to be a significant drain on our

financial resources. This strip of scrub land was totally irrelevant to the geoheritage interest of the site but, because the trees that were infected with ash-dieback disease and were constantly threatening to fall on the adjacent highway, we were regularly being ordered by the local council to have one or more of them to be felled. Following legal advice, a local farmer has agreed to take over the strip of scrub land and so during the year we have been arranging for the legal transference. The transfer should be completed in summer 2025.

BIGC continued to be active participants and UK representatives of the International Association for the Conservation of Geological Heritage (ProGeo). This has included providing a grant to support ProGeo's Key Geological Areas Project, which aims to develop a coherent programme to select the world's most important geosites.

Work has been undertaken to redesign the BIGC web site, which should be completed in 2026. We have also produced a short Youtube video to promote the Evolution Garden project (<https://youtu.be/zOLrYHrN9CA?feature=shared>).

**BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR GEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION LIMITED**

England & Wales - Charity number 1016312

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# Accounts

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**Section A Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/directors/ members of**

British Institute for Geological Conservation Ltd

**On accounts for the year ended**

April 2024

**Charity no.:**

1016312

**Company no.:**

02775501

**Set out on pages**

3-5

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 3 / 04 / 2022.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees of the Company (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination, I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act).

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below \*) which gives me cause to believe that:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 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; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

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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.

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

**Signed:**

*B. A. Thomas*

**Date:**

13.Feb. 2025

**Name:**

Dr. Barry A. Thomas

**Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):**

**Address:**

Ynys Einion, Eglws Fach, Machynlleth SY208SX

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> 2024**

<b>INCOME</b>	Current year	Previous year
Interest on Business Account	£2,931.04	£492.62
Evolution Garden Project		
Merthyr Tydfill CR (Levelling-Up Fund)	£169,628.97	£124,268.32
Refund from Pest Control work	NIL	£245.94
Refunds from Suppliers	£27.89	NIL
Misc.	NIL	£106.42
Fees for filming at Bendrick Rocks	NIL	£250.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£172,587.90</u></b>	<b><u>£125,363.30</u></b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Evolution Garden Project		
Employment Costs & Monitoring	£22,536.08	£4,000.00
Independent Project Monitoring	NIL	£4,350.00
Development Officer Costs	£25,607.79	£70,000.00
Educational equipment	£4,360.95	£10,315.06
Education consultancy	NIL	£15,000.00
Gardening equipment	£2,083.44	£2,639.70
Plants	£1,751.08	NIL
Construction & Project Maintenance	£14,705.93	£25,459.77
Ecological Survey Equipment	£4,506.10	£5,194.62
IT Equipment	£5,072.91	NIL
PPE	£1,327.40	£1,975.73
Workshop Specimens	£2,496.39	NIL
Pest Control	NIL	£387.93
Event Catering	£304.86	£125.26
Marketing	£913.99	NIL
Postage	NIL	£96.05
Translation	£1,390.00	NIL
Bendrick Rocks		
Aerial Survey	NIL	£700.00
Interpretation boards	£100.00	NIL
Council Meeting (Expenses)	£,2083.93	NIL
Bank Charges	£65.61	£65.97
Geologists' Assoc. Affiliation Fee	£80.00	NIL
Insurance	£166.75	NIL
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£89,553.21</u></b>	<b><u>£140,310.09</u></b>
<b>TRANSFER TO (FROM) RESERVES</b>	<b>+£83,034.69</b>	
<b>RESERVES</b>		
Business Manager Account	£224,793.58	
Community Account	£1,677.81	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£226,471.39</u></b>	

## BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> 2024

### ASSETS

	Current year	Previous year
A. Called up share capital not paid	NIL	NIL
B. Fixed Assets		
Land	£45,000.00	£45,000.00
Library	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
IT Equipment	£5,000.00	NIL
C. Current Assets		
Stocks	NIL	NIL
Debtors	NIL	NIL
Investments	NIL	NIL
Cash in Bank	£226,471.39	£143,436.70
D. Prepayments and accrued income	NIL	NIL
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£277,471.39</u></b>	<b><u>£189,436.70</u></b>

### LIABILITIES

A. Capital and Reserves	£277,471.39	£189,436.70
B. Provisions for liabilities and charges	NIL	NIL
C. Creditors	NIL	NIL
D. Accruals and deferred income	NIL	NIL
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£277,471.39</u></b>	<b><u>£189,436.70</u></b>

### Notes

- For the year ending 1 April 2024 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.
- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions and delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

## Annual Report 2023–2024

BIGC activities have continued to be centred on the *Merthyr's Roots* project, supported by the Community Renewal Fund (CRF – “Levelling Up Fund”). The project is based at Cyfarthfa Castle greenhouses and country park, and aims to educate the local communities about their important natural heritage. Numerous activities were again held to benefit a range of stakeholders including children, teachers and youth group leaders and disabled adults, demonstrating the importance of geoheritage and biodiversity. The project employs three disabled people via Merthyr Social Services to help in the greenhouses. Funding will allow the project to continue to at least 2025.

A meeting of the Trustees was held at Cyfarthfa, to review progress of the project. The meeting also discussed the future strategy of BIGC and it was agreed to develop a new Mission Statement document.

Interpretation boards funded by the Geologists' Association Curry Fund have been installed at Capel Horeb Quarry. A LIDAR survey of the site has also been carried out. The strip of land next to the quarry, which came when the Institute acquired the site, continues to be a problem because of the trees infected with Ash Dieback endangering the adjacent highway. This strip of land forms no part of the geoheritage and so is irrelevant to the Institute's charitable activities. Since this land is acting as a significant drain on the Institute's financial resources, negotiations have been initiated with the owner of the neighbouring farm to see if they would be interested in acquiring the land.

An interpretation board has been installed at the Bendrick Rock site, funded by Natural Resources Wales. In collaboration with Cardiff University, the site has been surveyed using drone-based LIDAR. This will facilitate the ongoing monitoring of the condition of the site.

BIGC continues to monitor the situation with the Upper Pennant exposure at Llanhilleth (Tirpentwys/The Canyon). When developments at the site have been finalised, we will continue pushing for it to be designated as a GCR site, and investigate the situation with its ownership.

Representing the UK, Council Members of BIGC attended and gave presentation at the Charnwood Forest meeting of the International Association for the Conservation of Geological Heritage (ProGeo).

BIGC members have been instrumental in initiating special sets of papers for publication in the journals *Geoheritage* and *Geoconservation Research*.

**BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR GEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION LIMITED**

England & Wales - Charity number 1016312

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# Accounts

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**Section A Independent Examiner's Report**

Report to the trustees/directors/members of

British Institute for Geological Conservation Ltd

On accounts for the year ended

April 2023

Charity no.:

1016312

Company no.:

02775501

Set out on pages

3-6

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 3 / 04 / 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the **charity's** trustees of the Company (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the **Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act")**.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your **charity's accounts as carried out** under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("**the 2011 Act**"). **In carrying out my examination, I have** followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below \*) which gives me cause to believe that:

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- **the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).**

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.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:  Date:

Name:

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address:

**Section B Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING April 4<sup>th</sup> 2023

<b>INCOME</b>	Current year	Previous year
Interest on Business Account	£492.62	£13.90
Geologists' Assoc. (Capel Horeb)	NIL	£3,071.62
Evolution Garden Project		
Merthyr Tydfill CR (Levelling-Up Fund)	£124,268.32	£92,370.32
Refund from Pest Control work	£245.94	NIL
Wales Council for Voluntary Action	NIL	£9,999.80
Misc.	£162.42	NIL
Fees for filming at Bendrick Rocks	£250.00	£250.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£125,363.30</u></b>	<b><u>£105,705.64</u></b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Evolution Garden Project		
Employment Costs & Monitoring	£4,000.00	£6,153.72
Independent Project Monitoring	£4,350.00	NIL
Development Officer Costs	£70,000.00	£20,000.00
Educational equipment	£10,315.06	£320.02
Education consultancy	£15,000.00	NIL
Gardening equipment	£2,639.70	£22,749.70
Greenhouse Construction	£25,459.77	NIL
Ecological Survey Equipment	£5,194.62	NIL
PPE	£1,975.73	NIL
Pest Control	£387.93	NIL
Event Catering	£125.26	NIL
Postage	£96.05	NIL
Bendrick Rocks Aerial Survey	£700.00	NIL
Capel Horeb		
Interpretation boards design	NIL	£2,110.00
Bank Charges	£65.97	£15.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£140,310.09</u></b>	<b><u>£51,348.44</u></b>
<b>TRANSFER TO (FROM) RESERVES</b>	<b>-£15,053.21</b>	
<b>RESERVES</b>		
Business Manager Account	£137,233.57	
Community Account	£6,203.13	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£143,436.70</u></b>	

## BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDING April 4<sup>th</sup> 2023

### ASSETS

	Current year	Previous year
A. Called up share capital not paid	NIL	NIL
B. Fixed Assets		
Land	£45,000.00	£45,000.00
Library	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
C. Current Assets		
Stocks	NIL	NIL
Debtors	NIL	NIL
Investments	NIL	NIL
Cash in Bank	£143,436.70	£158,489.91
D. Prepayments and accrued income	NIL	NIL
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£189,436.70</u></b>	<b><u>£204,489.91</u></b>

### LIABILITIES

A. Capital and Reserves	£189,436.70	£204,489.91
B. Provisions for liabilities and charges	NIL	NIL
C. Creditors	NIL	NIL
D. Accruals and deferred income	NIL	NIL
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£189,436.70</u></b>	<b><u>£204,489.91</u></b>

### Notes

- For the year ending 4 April 2023 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.
- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions and delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

## British Institute for Geological Conservation

### Annual Report 2022–2023

The bulk of this year's activities were centred on the *Merthyr's Roots* project, which following a visit from Mr Michael Gove (Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) has been supported by the Community Renewal Fund (CRF – “Levelling Up Fund”). The project is based at Cyfarthfa Castle greenhouses and country park, and aims to educate the local communities about their important natural heritage.

The project has benefited a range of stakeholders with varying abilities and needs, including 2532 children and young people, and 400 adults (mainly teachers, educators and group leaders). A Total of 117 workshop sessions were delivered, each tailored to a specific audience. The events considered the impact and significance of climate change and biodiversity loss; we have handled bugs, studied natural cycles, considered fossil fuels, made small worlds, looked locally and thought globally and discovered our own evidence for climate change. We have also considered mass extinctions, the plight of pollinators, and conjured with the complexities of co-evolution of plants and animals. We also had an extensive programme of walks and talks based on the rich natural and man-made environment of the area. These included climate change sessions, fungi forays, foraging and wild foods, geological talks, fossil hunts, ecological surveys of reptiles, amphibians, small mammals, wild birds, nocturnal wildlife, invasive species, co-evolution of plants and animals, the wood wide web and nature's interconnectivity, moth trapping, bat surveys, seed and mast harvesting.

Mainstreaming and showcasing disability has been a significant component of this project. This has included:

- Employing three disabled Social Service Clients for 6 months to help deliver the project;
- Together with the People First (disability advocacy group), holding an 8-week programme of events including fossil hunting, terrarium building, walks and talks, biodiversity surveying, making pooters, Life that Glows, and foraging;
- Having Volunteering Greenhouse Social Service clients and NHS mental health groups to help with the running and maintenance of the project, including supporting events, pest control and pruning, planting and preparation for events, hospitality and public engagement.

The project has worked closely with schools and home school networks, LA Education Department staff, NHS practitioners, and the Police and Probation Services. We have also worked extensively with specialist interest groups including historical societies, horticultural and nature conservation groups.

We have also engaged with the Heads of the Valleys *Future Valleys* project and Tilbury Douglas at Prince Charles hospital, as well as the Cyfarthfa Foundation. We have collaborated with Cyfarthfa Museum Staff, TV & Welsh Language production companies. local business owners, land owners, the film and tourist sectors, local and regional stakeholders. These organisations have all become aware of the project and participated in or contributed to its activities.

We encouraged groups to use new places, to revisit historic places, to use and champion threatened spaces. We have encouraged the use of old maps and historic documents and used Welsh words nearly forgotten. We made familiar places foreign by adding darkness and encouraged participants to look at the world they thought they knew with fresh eyes. Saving spaces for future generations has become a key part of project delivery for future project.

Other BIGC projects during the year have included:

- Capel Horeb – maintenance work to clear a rock-fall that partly obscured the exposure, and the design of geodiversity interpretation boards funded by the Curry Fund (Geologists' Association);
- Bendrick Rock – design of geodiversity interpretation boards funded by Natural Resources Wales and dealing with media profile of site including request from Michael Portillo to film there for his Great British Railway Journeys series;
- Evolution Garden at Cyfarthfa Castle – further plant purchases and interpretation (this project has evolved into the *Merthyr's Roots* project);
- Development of set of papers on geoconservation for the journal *Geoheritage*.

**BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR GEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION LIMITED**

England & Wales - Charity number 1016312

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# Accounts

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Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/directors/ members of

British Institute for Geological Conservation Ltd

On accounts for the year ended

April 2022

Charity no.:

1016312

Company no.:

02775501

Set out on pages

3-5

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 3 / 04 / 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the **charity's** trustees of the Company (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the **Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act")**.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your **charity's accounts as carried out** under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("**the 2011 Act**"). **In carrying out my examination, I have** followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below \*) which gives me cause to believe that:

- **accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006;** or
- **the accounts do not accord with such records;** or
- **the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 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;** or
- **the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).**

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.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:  Date:

Name:

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address:

**Section B Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.



## BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup> 2022

### ASSETS

	Current year	Previous year
A. Called up share capital not paid	NIL	NIL
B. Fixed Assets		
Land	£45,000.00	£45,000.00
Library	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
C. Current Assets		
Stocks	NIL	NIL
Debtors	NIL	NIL
Investments	NIL	NIL
Cash in Bank	<u>£158,489.91</u>	£104,132.71
D. Prepayments and accrued income	NIL	NIL
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£204,489.91</u></b>	<b><u>£150,132.71</u></b>

### LIABILITIES

A. Capital and Reserves	£204,489.91	£150,132.71
B. Provisions for liabilities and charges	NIL	NIL
C. Creditors	NIL	NIL
D. Accruals and deferred income	NIL	NIL
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£204,489.91</u></b>	<b><u>£150,132.71</u></b>

### Notes

- For the year ending 3 April 2022 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.
- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions and delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

## ANNUAL REPORT 2021–2022

All project activity and expenditure during this financial period has involved the design and installation of the interpretation boards at the Capel Horeb SSSI, and the development and delivery of the Merthyr's Roots Project. The income for the latter project was to cover work to be done both in the reporting year and in 2022–2023. This explains the unusually (for us) high balances in our bank accounts at the end of the reporting year; this cash holding is committed for planned expenditure on the project in the next year.

### *Capel Horeb*

The interpretation boards at Capel Horeb were developed based on information provided by members of BIGC, and have now been installed at the site. The design and installation costs were covered by a grant from the Curry Fund of the Geologists' Association.

### *Merthyr's Roots Evolution Garden and Learning Hub*

This is being developed at Cyfarthfa Greenhouses in Merthyr Tydfil. The project is a geology, landscape and environment project that aims to educate and engage the communities of Merthyr in the appreciation and management of its natural assets and special local places. The projects tackle and promote global environmental issues as well as national wellbeing initiatives and local environmental, heritage and community policy & agendas. The project is the latest phase of BIGCs Coalfield Geo-heritage Initiative.

From April 2021- October 2021, the project was based in a building that is run as a Social Services & Welfare centre, and so was under strict Covid secure measures. This limited events and activities that could take place due in part to the presence of clients categorised as vulnerable.

From October 2021 the project was approved as a Community Renewal Fund project as part of the Governments Levelling-up agenda. A ministerial visit from Michael Gove launched the project in November and following this launch the project has been incredibly busy with a wide range of community groups, schools, specialist interest groups and stakeholder organisations taking part in the project. Between November 2021 and April 2022, the project ran 37 events and activities, and saw over 1,200 people as part of project delivery.

Funding has been spent on the maintenance of the existing garden, and improving and renewing components of the garden and greenhouse complex that required updating. and has used some of the funding to employ three members of the community with special needs and learning disabilities. BIGC used a specialist recruitment agency Elite, to appoint staff, evaluate performance and suitability for the project. Elite also dealt with payroll and other necessary employment requirements. The majority of expenditure has been on materials and educational resources which have been used to deliver innovative educational sessions. BIGC has retained the services of project manager Ben Evans

**BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR GEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION LIMITED**

England & Wales - Charity number 1016312

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# Accounts

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5/4/20



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

**Independent examiner's  
report on the accounts**

Section A

## Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Charity Name  
British Institute for Geological Conservation

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

4/4/2021

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1016312

**Set out on pages**

3-4

remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 4/4/2021.

**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 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:

B O Thomas

Date:

30/ Dec 2021

Name:

BARRY ARCHIE THOMAS

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):**

Address:

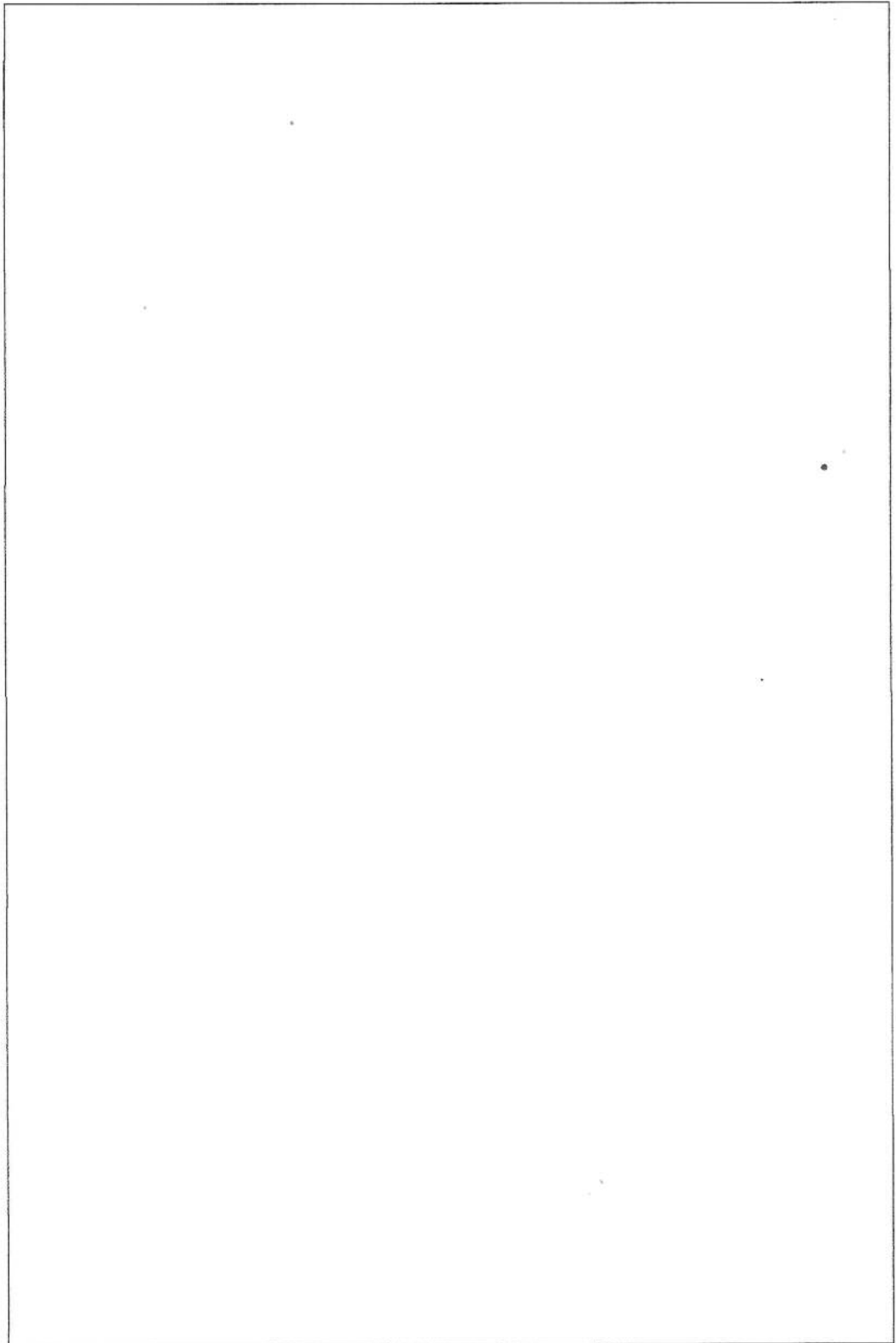
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Nadymlleth SY20 8SX

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**



**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup> 2021**

<b>INCOME</b>	Current year	Previous year
Interest on Business Account	£29.12	£25.68
Typical Valleys Project		
Merthyr Tydfil CB	£16,267.29	£32,810.68
Merthyr's Roots Project		
Waterloo Foundation	£25,000.00	NIL
Wales Council for Voluntary Action	£39,999.20	NIL
B. Evans	£30,000.00	NIL
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£111,295.61</u></b>	<b><u>£32,836.36</u></b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Development Officer Costs	NIL	£65,821.46
Council meeting expenses	NIL	£538.60
Geologists' Assoc. affiliation fee	£40.00	NIL
Capel Horeb		
Interpretation boards design	£1333.94	NIL
Merthyr development costs		
Translation costs	NIL	£1,800.00
Web design	NIL	£594.00
Evolution Garden Project		
Purchase of plants	£6,891.70	NIL
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£8,265.64</u></b>	<b><u>£68,754.06</u></b>
<b>TRANSFER TO (FROM) RESERVES</b>	<b>+£103,029.97</b>	
<b>RESERVES</b>		
Business Manager Account	£103,788.61	
Community Account	£344.10	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£104,132.71</u></b>	

## BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup> 2021

### ASSETS

	Current year	Previous year
A. Called up share capital not paid	NIL	NIL
B. Fixed Assets		
Land	£45,000.00	£45,000.00
Library	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
C. Current Assets		
Stocks	NIL	NIL
Debtors	NIL	NIL
Investments	NIL	NIL
Cash in Bank	<u>£104,132.71</u>	<u>£1,102.74</u>
D. Prepayments and accrued income	NIL	NIL
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£150,132.71</u></b>	<b><u>£47,102.74</u></b>

### LIABILITIES

A. Capital and Reserves	£150,132.71	<u>£47,102.74</u>
B. Provisions for liabilities and charges	NIL	NIL
C. Creditors	NIL	NIL
D. Accruals and deferred income	NIL	NIL
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£150,132.71</u></b>	<b><u>£47,102.74</u></b>

### Notes

- For the year ending 4 April 2021 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.
- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions and delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

## ANNUAL REPORT 2020–2021

The Covid -19 pandemic has considerably disrupted our work this year, in particular the outreach and public engagement activities. It has meant that we have had to delay project start-dates, and therefore the timing of expenditure. As a result, we received more income than we spent in this financial year. However, this income has been rolled over to the following year (2021–2022) and is assigned to deliver project activity in the remainder of 2021 and in 2022.

From a financial perspective, the pandemic has also put severe pressure on our ability to secure continuation money/grants. Fortunately, however, we were able to secure some smaller grants that have enabled us to bridge the gap and shortfall in funding.

### *Merthyr's Roots*

This project at the Cyfarthfa Castle Greenhouse is an extension of our previous *Carboniferous Garden* Project and aims to demonstrate the evolution of plants through deep time. The project was supposed to run from May 2020 to October 2021 but, due to Covid delays, it did not start until 1st October 2020.

The project has been supported from two funding sources during this year.

1. A grant from the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA), representing the first, advance 80% of a £49,999 grant provided by the Welsh Government Landfill Disposal Tax Grant Scheme. The final 20% (£10K) will be claimable on completion of the project.
2. The Waterloo Foundation provided a Covid Resilience Emergency Grant intended to bridge the gap in funding between April and October 2020. It is to be used to sustain the Evolution Garden project, allowing it to diversify during the Covid period by helping the local community to grow vegetables and fruit using the greenhouse complex. This will provide food to local community members, disability groups and food banks. The grant has already been reported on and signed off by the Waterloo Foundation.

This pilot project has two distinctive yet complementary elements: an Evolutionary Garden and an education/training service. Together, they will be used as tools to reintroduce schools, communities and stakeholders to their local heritage landscapes and help local people become better global citizens.

The Evolution Garden will serve as a learning hub, an all-weather classroom and a community facility. It will allow us to investigate and interpret local heritage alongside global environmental issues:

- The special linkage between the formation of coal, iron and other local minerals
- How plants have moderated climate in the past, and continue to play a vital role in the regulation of climate, temperature and global CO<sub>2</sub> levels.
- The rise and co-evolution of plants and animals, particularly looking at pollinators and their current plight.
- The impact of plants on the environment

- How vegetation has led to the formation of local natural resources
- How nature has shaped the culture, landscape and heritage of Merthyr

The project will also provide a new, much needed, community-based education service that looks at the environment and local heritage holistically, linking modern day Merthyr and its diverse and iconic heritage to its more ancient natural origins. Our aim is to reconnect people to the environment and enrich their lives by using the local post-industrial landscape and its incredible, yet neglected, natural and cultural assets for learning and discovery.

Our work will re-instil a strong sense of place and pride in local residents, something that has been slowly eroded since industry has declined. Our activities will ground them in their community, making them feel safe in their landscape and appreciate and value their unique region once again. It will raise awareness of and encourage greater, sustainable use and healthy exploration of the wonderful local heritage assets (both natural and cultural) that abound in the Merthyr area. This industrial landscape offers exciting new learning and wellbeing opportunities and meshes with ambitious plans for regeneration set out recently by the Cyfarthfa Foundation.

#### *Other work at Cyfarthfa Castle Greenhouses*

We have been training, mentoring and upskilling disability groups, Social Service clients and volunteers with the intention of building confidence and capacity to re-enter the workforce. The venue has also been used as an indoor classroom to provide training and inspirational learning activities to local schools, colleges and teachers.

The Carboniferous Garden has been opened to the public, and acts as an enhancement to local visitor attractions, complimenting other local and developing heritage initiatives.

#### *Other community activities*

The BIGC Project Officer has

- Developed and trialled bespoke training sessions that reintroduce teachers to the wealth of natural assets and post-industrial landscapes that abound in Merthyr Tydfil.
- Provided and attended community events encouraging community and citizen science style projects.
- Spent considerable time scoping out and developing new collaborations with partner organisations (stakeholders, third sector, Local Authority and regional) to generate networks and build capacity for future projects.

#### *Tipical Valleys Project*

BIGC received the last instalment in the grant from Merthyr Tydfil CB that supported this project. This project is now finished.

*Capel Horeb*

During this year, the design for the interpretation panels for Capel Horeb were finalised. The construction and installation of the panels will be done in the following year (2021) and is being supported by a grant from the Geologists' Association Curry Fund.