

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

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ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Trustees

Mr Gardner Crawley BSc(Eng) FICE (Chairman)
Mr David Felton FCA
Mr Michael Hart OBE
Mr Richard Broyd CBE
Mr David Keay CEng, FIMechE, FIET
Mr David Slack FRICS, FIAGrM, MRAC, BEM
Dr Stephen Murfitt LLB, LLM, PhD

**Charity registered
number**

1088452

Principal office

Robertsbridge Junction Station
Station Road
Robertsbridge
East Sussex
TN32 5DG

Independent auditor

Crowe U.K. LLP
Medway Bridge House
1-8 Fairmeadow
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1JP

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the Charity for the 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024. The Trustees confirm that the Annual report and financial statements of the charity and the group comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charity and the group's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in 2015.

Objectives and activities

a. Policies and objectives

The objects of the charity are to preserve for the benefit of the public of Kent and East Sussex and of the nation the historical, architectural and constructional heritage that may exist in and around Kent and East Sussex in buildings (including any building as defined in section 336 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) or structures of particular beauty or historical, architectural or constructional interest.

Rother Valley Railway Limited is a majority owned subsidiary of the charity that continues to act on the reconstruction of the Kent & East Sussex Railway from Bodiam to Robertsbridge in East Sussex to preserve the heritage of the historic railway.

The charity makes grants to achieve these objectives.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

Achievements and performance

a. Review of activities

In preparing a review of the activities for the year, the Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

During the year, the charity gave grants totalling £1,025,000 to its subsidiary in accordance with its objectives. These grants were principally towards the continuation of the restoration of the historic trackbed between Bodiam and Robertsbridge station. In addition, further grants were made for the costs of refurbishment of Manning Wardle steam locomotive 'Charwelton' and the initial costs of construction of the new station building at Robertsbridge Junction Station.

b. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. At year end the group held cash in excess of £3M and reserves in excess of £9M which is deemed sufficient to enable the charity to carry out the possible reconstruction works through all of 2025 and into 2026. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Achievements and performance (continued)

c. Public benefit

The Trustees consider that the charity's objectives are for the public benefit and that its activities, achievements and performance are consistent with its objectives.

To achieve its objectives the charity:

- makes donations for the acquisition, preservation and restoration of locomotives, rolling stock and other items of historical, operational, educational and general interest;
- maintains, improves and develops the railway and the land, works and buildings relating thereto;
- encourages and promotes the interest, support and participation of young people in the railway; and maintains a public museum of objects of interest in the history of the railway.

d. Fundraising regulation

Rother Valley Railway Heritage Trust complies with sector best practice. No complaints were received with regards to fundraising throughout the course of the year and no professional fundraisers or commercial partners conducted fundraising as charity representatives. The board of Trustees monitors and manages its fundraising regulation and compliance which are discussed at board meetings.

Donations received come from a variety of donors, with the majority coming from two main supporters of the charity. The Trustees regard its relationship with donors as highly important and it looks to retain the support of its donors for many years to come.

The Trustees are continuing to look for further donors and will be implementing new policies to help aid the progression of the restoration project.

Financial review

a. Reserves policy and future developments

The Trustees regularly review the reserves position of the charity and will only carry out projects if the necessary reserves are available. The total expenditure anticipated for the reconstruction of the unrebuilt section of the railway is £6M, of which £2M was received during the year (2023 - £2M). Donors have pledged the remaining £2M to complete the reconstruction of the trackwork. The charity continues to seek funding to enable the balance of the facilities to be completed.

The Charity's free reserves as at 31 December 2024 were £3,189,756 (2023 - £2,158,403), the free reserves being defined by the Charity Commission as unrestricted reserves less the fixed assets needed to undertake the objectives of the charity.

On the 9th May 2023, the Department for Transport granted the application by the Rother Valley Railway Ltd for a Transport & Works Act Order. This TWA Order obliges the Company to complete the reconstruction of the railway between Bodiam and Robertsbridge in East Sussex and gives it the necessary powers to do so.

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

The charity is an unincorporated association registered with the Charity Commission and constituted under a Trust Deed dated 17 January 2001. Its objects and powers are set out therein.

b. Method of appointment or election of Trustees

The management of the charity and the group is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Trust deed.

c. Charity governance code

The Trustees have taken note of the new Charity Governance Code. The Trustees have attended seminars in the year and are now implementing policies to comply with the Code.

d. Risk management

The Trustees have given consideration to the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, and have considered the systems designed to mitigate exposure to these risks, in particular regular Trustee's meetings with a careful review of the Trust's funding and available resources to ensure sufficient monies are held to meet and manage the Trust's costs and current and ongoing commitments.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and the Charity and of their incoming resources and application of resources, including their income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

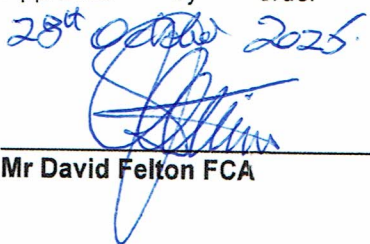
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Group will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Group and the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Group and the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on
28th 02/2025 2025
and signed on their behalf by:


Mr David Felton FCA

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Rother Valley Railway Heritage Trust (the 'parent charity') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the Charity Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn.

This has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Group's and of the parent charity's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of the Group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Group's or the parent charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST (CONTINUED)

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- the parent Charity has not kept sufficient accounting records; or
- the parent Charity financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Group's and the parent charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Group or the parent charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST (CONTINUED)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks within which the charitable company operates, focusing on those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The laws and regulations we considered in this context were the SORP 2015.

We considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be necessary to the group's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

We identified the greatest risk of material impact on the financial statements from irregularities, including fraud, to be the override of controls by management, revenue recognition and its classification as restricted or unrestricted, and understatement of capital expenditure. Our audit procedures to respond to these risks included:

- enquiry of management about the Group's policies, procedures and related controls regarding compliance with laws and regulations and if there are any known instances of non-compliance;
- examining supporting documents for all material balances, transactions and disclosures;
- enquiry of management and review and inspection of relevant correspondence where deemed necessary;
- evaluation of the selection and application of accounting policies related to subjective measurements and complex transactions;
- analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- testing a sample of donations to confirm completeness and accuracy, and that these are being spent in accordance with the donor's wishes;
- reviewing a sample of items expensed to ensure these were not capital in nature; and
- a review of accounting estimates for biases.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST (CONTINUED)

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditor's Report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Crowe U.K. LLP

Crowe U.K. LLP

Ian Weekes
Medway Bridge House
1-8 Fairmeadow
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1JP

Date: 28 October 2025

Crowe U.K. LLP are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	2,011,079	194,397	2,205,476	2,162,842
Other trading activities	4	2,008	-	2,008	2,501
Investments	5	51,192	-	51,192	7,416
Total income		2,064,279	194,397	2,258,676	2,172,759
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	171,869	13,128	184,997	160,466
Total expenditure		171,869	13,128	184,997	160,466
Net income before net losses on investments		1,892,410	181,269	2,073,679	2,012,293
Net losses on investments		-	(421)	(421)	-
Net movement in funds		1,892,410	180,848	2,073,258	2,012,293
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		6,946,281	100,352	7,046,633	5,034,340
Net income attributable to the parent charity		1,892,423	181,269	2,073,692	2,012,271
Net losses attributable to the parent charity		-	(421)	(421)	-
		8,838,704	281,200	9,119,904	7,046,611
Net expenditure attributable to non-controlling interests		(13)	-	(13)	22
Total funds carried forward		8,838,691	281,200	9,119,891	7,046,633

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

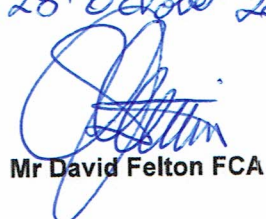
The notes on pages 14 to 31 form part of these financial statements.

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	5,575,619	4,758,641
Investments	11	63,255	13,250
		<u>5,638,874</u>	<u>4,771,891</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	12	46,674	226,633
Cash at bank and in hand		3,443,764	2,057,357
		<u>3,490,438</u>	<u>2,283,990</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(9,421)	(9,248)
Net current assets		<u>3,481,017</u>	<u>2,274,742</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>9,119,891</u>	<u>7,046,633</u>
Total net assets		<u>9,119,891</u>	<u>7,046,633</u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	15	281,200	100,352
Unrestricted funds	15	8,838,436	6,946,013
Total funds attributable to the parent charity		<u>9,119,636</u>	<u>7,046,365</u>
Non-controlling interests		<u>255</u>	<u>268</u>
Total funds		<u>9,119,891</u>	<u>7,046,633</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 28th October 2025 and signed on their behalf by:


Mr David Felton FCA

The notes on pages 14 to 31 form part of these financial statements.

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

CHARITY BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	441,954	441,954
Investments	11	77,754	37,749
		<u>519,708</u>	<u>479,703</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	12	66	200,128
Cash at bank and in hand		3,400,336	2,026,881
		<u>3,400,402</u>	<u>2,227,009</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(7,200)	(6,000)
		<u>3,393,202</u>	<u>2,221,009</u>
Net current assets			
		<u>3,912,910</u>	<u>2,700,712</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			
		<u>3,912,910</u>	<u>2,700,712</u>
Total net assets			
		<u><u>3,912,910</u></u>	<u><u>2,700,712</u></u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	15	281,200	100,352
Unrestricted funds	15	3,631,710	2,600,360
		<u>3,912,910</u>	<u>2,700,712</u>
Total funds		<u><u>3,912,910</u></u>	<u><u>2,700,712</u></u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 28th October 2025. and signed on their behalf by:


Mr David Felton FCA

The notes on pages 14 to 31 form part of these financial statements.

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net cash used in operating activities	2,289,426	1,913,648
Cash flows from investing activities		
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	51,192	7,416
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(944,211)	(191,725)
Purchase of investments	(10,000)	-
Net cash used in investing activities	(903,019)	(184,309)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	1,386,407	1,729,339
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	2,057,357	328,018
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	3,443,764	2,057,357

The notes on pages 14 to 31 form part of these financial statements

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. General information

The principal activity of the charity during the year was to preserve for the benefit of the public of Kent and East Sussex and of the nation the historical, architectural and constructional heritage that may exist in and around Kent and East Sussex in buildings or structures of particular beauty or historical, architectural or constructional interest.

The charity is an unincorporated charity which is registered in England and Wales (1088452).

The address of the registered office is:

Robertsbridge Junction Station
Station Road
Robertsbridge
East Sussex
TN32 5DG

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements 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 Section 1A small entities) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Rother Valley Railway Heritage Trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) and Balance Sheet consolidate the financial statements of the charity and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

No separate SOFA has been presented for the charity alone as permitted by Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The net income and expenditure account for the year dealt with in the accounts of the charity was a surplus of £1,212,201 (2023 - surplus of £1,904,910).

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. At year end the group held cash in excess of £3M and reserves in excess of £9M which is deemed sufficient to enable the charity to carry out the possible reconstruction works through all of 2025 and into 2026. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

2.2 Basis of consolidation

The financial statements consolidate the accounts of Rother Valley Railway Heritage Trust and all of its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

2.4 Income

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

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

For donations, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date of which either: the charity is aware the donation is being provided or upon receipt.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

2.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, 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 classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Group's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.5 Expenditure (continued)

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the charity's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

2.6 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Group; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £50 or more are capitalised.

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Permanent way	- 2% straight line
Buildings and structures	- 10% straight line
Land	- No depreciation
Equipment	- 25% straight line
Rolling stock	- 5%/10% straight line

2.8 Investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The Statement of financial activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

2.9 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.10 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.11 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

2.12 Financial instruments

The Group only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.13 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Group and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Group for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

2.14 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

Estimates and judgments are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

Tangible fixed assets: the directors annually assess both the residual value of these assets and the expected useful life of such assets based on experience.

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Donations	2,011,079	194,397	2,205,476
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Donations	2,013,242	100,000	2,113,242
Similar incoming resources	-	49,600	49,600
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,013,242	149,600	2,162,842
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

4. Income from other trading activities

Income from fundraising events

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Scrap sales	32	32
Rent received	1,976	1,976
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,008	2,008
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Rent received	2,501	2,501
	<hr/>	<hr/>

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Interest receivable	51,192	51,192

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Interest receivable	7,416	7,416

6. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Charitable activities	171,869	13,128	184,997

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total 2023 £</i>
Charitable activities	160,466	160,466

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Direct costs 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Charitable activities	146,693	38,304	184,997

	<i>Direct costs 2023 £</i>	<i>Support costs 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Charitable activities	118,005	42,461	160,466

Charitable activities relate to the restoration and maintenance of the historic railway between Bodiam and Roberstridge station.

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2024 £	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Tools and general consumables	1,396	947
Rolling stock restoration	515	1,752
Repairs and maintenance	9,500	3,638
Diesel	128	68
Depreciation	127,234	105,216
Governance costs	7,920	6,384
Total 2024	146,693	118,005

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2024 £	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Rent	5,752	7,125
Insurance	6,114	5,271
Subscription	177	170
Legal & Professional	859	899
Repairs & Maintenance	2,916	-
Forestry & Gardening	4,906	8,334
Electricity & Heating Gas	3,317	4,525
Telephone & Broadband	974	884
Water	103	531
Waste collection	1,258	1,119
Bank charges	238	204
Health & Safety	995	407
Cleaning & Janitorial	23	46
Sundry expenses	7,821	4,501
Publicity and public relation expenses	2,851	8,445
Total 2024	38,304	42,461

8. Auditor's remuneration

The auditor's remuneration amounts to an auditor fee of £5,750 (2023 - £5,550).

9. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2023 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 December 2024, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2023 - £NIL).

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

10. Tangible fixed assets

Group

	Freehold property £	Long-term leasehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Office equipment £	Other fixed assets £	Total £
Cost or valuation						
At 1 January 2024	4,507,378	127,454	441,954	324,663	279,453	5,680,902
Additions	886,847	35,491	-	16,926	4,947	944,211
Disposals	-	(3,605)	-	(2,963)	-	(6,568)
At 31 December 2024	<u>5,394,225</u>	<u>159,340</u>	<u>441,954</u>	<u>338,626</u>	<u>284,400</u>	<u>6,618,545</u>
Depreciation						
At 1 January 2024	732,412	84,394	-	16,873	88,582	922,261
Charge for the year	107,894	11,113	-	4,376	3,850	127,233
On disposals	-	(3,605)	-	(2,963)	-	(6,568)
At 31 December 2024	<u>840,306</u>	<u>91,902</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,286</u>	<u>92,432</u>	<u>1,042,926</u>
Net book value						
At 31 December 2024	<u>4,553,919</u>	<u>67,438</u>	<u>441,954</u>	<u>320,340</u>	<u>191,968</u>	<u>5,575,619</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>3,774,966</u>	<u>43,060</u>	<u>441,954</u>	<u>307,790</u>	<u>190,871</u>	<u>4,758,641</u>

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

10. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Charity

	Plant and machinery £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 January 2024	441,954
At 31 December 2024	441,954
Net book value	
At 31 December 2024	441,954
<i>At 31 December 2023</i>	<i>441,954</i>

11. Fixed asset investments

Group	Unlisted investments £	Listed investments £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2024	13,250	-	13,250
Additions	10,000	40,426	50,426
Revaluations	-	(421)	(421)
At 31 December 2024	23,250	40,005	63,255
Net book value			
At 31 December 2024	23,250	40,005	63,255
<i>At 31 December 2023</i>	<i>13,250</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>13,250</i>

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

11. Fixed asset investments (continued)

Charity	Investments in subsidiary companies £	Listed investments £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2024	37,749	-	37,749
Additions	-	40,426	40,426
Revaluations	-	(421)	(421)
	<u>37,749</u>	<u>40,005</u>	<u>77,754</u>
At 31 December 2024	<u>37,749</u>	<u>40,005</u>	<u>77,754</u>
Net book value			
At 31 December 2024	37,749	40,005	77,754
At 31 December 2023	<u>37,749</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,749</u>

Group:

Unlisted investments represent Rother Valley Railway Limited's 93 ordinary shares (nominal value of £250 each) of The 4253 Locomotive Co Limited. 40 of these shares were acquired in the year. This represents less than 4% of the share capital.

Charity:

Shares in group undertakings represent Rother Valley Heritage Trust's holding in Rother Valley Railway Limited.

In the year quoted shareholdings in 9 listed investments were donated to to the Charity in specie by a supporter into the Robertsbridge Station Building Fund. These have been measured at market value as at acquisition date and revalued to fair value at year end.

12. Debtors

	Group 2024 £	Group 2023 £	Charity 2024 £	Charity 2023 £
Due within one year				
Other debtors	38,791	217,115	66	200,128
Prepayments and accrued income	7,883	9,518	-	-
	<u>46,674</u>	<u>226,633</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>200,128</u>

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

13. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2024 £	<i>Group 2023 £</i>	Charity 2024 £	<i>Charity 2023 £</i>
Other creditors	2,220	3,247	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	7,201	6,001	7,200	6,000
	9,421	9,248	7,200	6,000

14. Financial instruments

	Group 2024 £	<i>Group 2023 £</i>	Charity 2024 £	<i>Charity 2023 £</i>
Financial assets				
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	3,490,438	2,283,989	3,400,402	2,227,009
Financial assets measured at fair value	40,005	-	40,005	-
	3,530,443	2,283,989	3,440,407	2,227,009
	Group 2024 £	<i>Group 2023 £</i>	Charity 2024 £	<i>Charity 2023 £</i>
Financial liabilities				
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	(9,420)	(9,248)	(7,200)	(6,000)

Financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise cash at bank, prepayments and accrued income and other debtors. Financial assets measured at fair value comprise listed investments.
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost comprise other creditors and accruals.

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

15. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds						
Robertsbridge Station Building	-	-	-	50,000	-	50,000
General funds						
General Funds - all funds	6,946,013	2,064,279	(171,856)	(50,000)	-	8,788,436
Minority interest	268	-	(13)	-	-	255
	<u>6,946,281</u>	<u>2,064,279</u>	<u>(171,869)</u>	<u>(50,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,788,691</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>6,946,281</u>	<u>2,064,279</u>	<u>(171,869)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,838,691</u>
Restricted funds						
BP Tank Restoration Fund	352	-	-	-	-	352
Charwelton Restoration	-	1,447	(1,447)	-	-	-
Robertsbridge Station Building	100,000	192,950	(11,681)	-	(421)	280,848
	<u>100,352</u>	<u>194,397</u>	<u>(13,128)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(421)</u>	<u>281,200</u>
Total of funds	<u>7,046,633</u>	<u>2,258,676</u>	<u>(184,997)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(421)</u>	<u>9,119,891</u>

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

15. Statement of funds (continued)

Restricted funds are funds which have been given for a particular purpose or project. These funds have been 'ring fenced' for use in support of the aims of the respective fund.

The Robertsbridge Station Building fund refers to a reserve held for a new building to be constructed at the Robertsbridge station. A donation was received in the year for this project of £50,000.

Other funds are restricted in line with the purpose indicated in the name of the fund.

During the year, the Trustees designated £50,000 from unrestricted funds to a designated fund to support the planned construction at Robertsbridge Station. This designation reflects the Trustees' commitment to ensuring sufficient resources are available for this project.

Statement of funds - prior year

	<i>Balance at 1 January 2023 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 December 2023 £</i>
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds - all funds	5,033,742	2,023,137	(160,466)	49,600	6,946,013
Minority interest	246	22	-	-	268
	<u>5,033,988</u>	<u>2,023,159</u>	<u>(160,466)</u>	<u>49,600</u>	<u>6,946,281</u>
Restricted funds					
BP Tank Restoration Fund	352	-	-	-	352
Turntable Fund	-	49,600	-	(49,600)	-
Robertsbridge Station Building	-	100,000	-	-	100,000
	<u>352</u>	<u>149,600</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(49,600)</u>	<u>100,352</u>
Total of funds	<u><u>5,034,340</u></u>	<u><u>2,172,759</u></u>	<u><u>(160,466)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>7,046,633</u></u>

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

16. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
Designated funds	-	-	-	50,000	-	50,000
General funds	6,946,281	2,064,279	(171,869)	(50,000)	-	8,788,691
Restricted funds	100,352	194,397	(13,128)	-	(421)	281,200
	<u>7,046,633</u>	<u>2,258,676</u>	<u>(184,997)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(421)</u>	<u>9,119,891</u>

Summary of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
General funds	5,033,988	2,023,159	(160,466)	49,600	6,946,281
Restricted funds	352	149,600	-	(49,600)	100,352
	<u>5,034,340</u>	<u>2,172,759</u>	<u>(160,466)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,046,633</u>

17. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	5,294,419	281,200	5,575,619
Fixed asset investments	63,255	-	63,255
Current assets	3,490,438	-	3,490,438
Creditors due within one year	(9,421)	-	(9,421)
Total	<u>8,838,691</u>	<u>281,200</u>	<u>9,119,891</u>

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

17. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	4,658,289	100,352	4,758,641
Fixed asset investments	13,250	-	13,250
Current assets	2,283,990	-	2,283,990
Creditors due within one year	(9,248)	-	(9,248)
Total	<u><u>6,946,281</u></u>	<u><u>100,352</u></u>	<u><u>7,046,633</u></u>

18. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	Group 2024 £	<i>Group 2023 £</i>
Net income for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	<u>2,073,258</u>	<u>2,012,293</u>
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	127,233	105,213
Donations to investments	(40,426)	-
Loss/(gain) on investments	421	-
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	(51,192)	(7,416)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	179,959	(196,424)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	173	(18)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u><u>2,289,426</u></u>	<u><u>1,913,648</u></u>

19. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	Group 2024 £	<i>Group 2023 £</i>
Cash in hand	<u>3,443,764</u>	<u>2,057,357</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u><u>3,443,764</u></u>	<u><u>2,057,357</u></u>

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

20. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 January 2024 £	Cash flows £	At 31 December 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	2,057,357	1,386,407	3,443,764
	<u>2,057,357</u>	<u>1,386,407</u>	<u>3,443,764</u>

21. Capital commitments

	Group 2024 £	Group 2023 £	Charity 2024 £	Charity 2023 £
Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements	<u>562,517</u>	<u>28,447</u>	<u>562,517</u>	<u>-</u>

22. Related party transactions

During the year Rother Valley Railway Heritage Trust gave grants to Rother Valley Railway Limited totalling £1,025,000 (2023 - £247,500) in relation to various construction projects on reconstruction of the Rother Valley Railway. As at 31 December 2024 £Nil (2022 - £Nil) was owed to Rother Valley Railway Limited.

During the year rent of £1 (2023 - £1) was paid by Rother Valley Railway Limited to Rother Valley Railway Heritage Trust.

The charity does not have any employees. The key management personnel are considered to be the trustees who receive no remuneration.

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

23. Principal subsidiaries

The following was a subsidiary undertaking of the Charity:

Name	Company number	Registered office or principal place of business	Principal activity	Holding
Rother Valley Railway Limited	2613553	Robertsbridge Junction Station Station Road Robertsbridge East Sussex TN32 5DG	Reconstruction of the Kent & East Sussex Railway from Bodiam to Robertsbridge in East Sussex	99%

The financial results of the subsidiary for the year were:

Name	Income £	Expenditure £	Profit/(Loss) / Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year £	Net assets £
Rother Valley Railway Limited	175,601	(176,920)	(1,319)	12,866