

WORCESTERSHIRE BIOLOGICAL RECORDS CENTRE

Lower Smite Farm, Smite Hill, Hindlip, Worcester, WR3 8SZ

A company limited by guarantee and registered in England No. 04416182

This company is a Registered Charity under registration No. 1096279

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE BOARD

1st May 2023 to 30th April 2024

Objective of the Company

To provide a service which collects, manages and disseminates quality environmental information for the public benefit.

Public Benefit Statement

In addition to the public benefits arising from the availability of quality environmental information, such as assisting decision making which protects the environment, WBRC provides identification services to members of the public, and provides education on environmental issues through its support of the Worcestershire Recorders, their field events, the production of the joint journal, Worcestershire Record, and its website www.wbrc.org.uk. We aim to include records held by WBRC on the National Biodiversity Network Atlas of which WBRC is a member.

WBRC has continued to supply information to all Service Level Agreement holders including Environment Agency, Worcestershire County Council and Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, together with providing data to environmental consultants and local natural history groups, with species identification assistance to members of the public on an ongoing basis as single data requests. During the year WBRC Board have been working to produce a 3 year strategic plan to cover April 2024 to March 2027 to secure and further develop the organisation.

Staffing increased from 1.6 FTE to 1.8 FTE in October 2023 with 2 long-term volunteers contributing greatly during this reporting period within the areas of data processing and administrative duties. Commercial enquiries remained an important income stream, representing c.40% of total income, Service Level Agreement streams were stable during this period and all look to renew for next financial year. WBRC can report a sound financial status to end the year.

The update of the Worcestershire area of the National Ancient Woodland Inventory continued during this financial year. This is a major project fully funded by Woodland Trust and in conjunction with Natural England; WBRC will continue to feed into this project until September 2024.

The database has continued to grow over the year, giving access to over 1.65 million records in the county. The methods by which data is funnelled into WBRC have begun to evolve over the last few years and much more biological recording is undertaken by individuals via online portals such as iRecord. WBRC is working to update and maintain processes to ensure we collate and provide access to the best possible data for the county.

Review of Financial Activity

The organisation finished the year with total assets of **£66,873.78**

Ruth Bourne

Chair of the Board

Worcestershire Biological Records Centre

Financial Statement - 01.05.23 to 30.04.24

Charity Number 1096279
 Company Number 4416182

Bank Balance Brought Forward 78577.04

Income:

Contributions
 Worcs Wildlife Trust 10500
 Worcs County Council 2250.00
 Environment Agency 10133.55
 Woodland Trust (Ancient Woodland Inventory) 19200.00

Sales 39442.50
 Bank Interest 763.46

Income Total 82289.51

Total Assets 160866.55

Expenditure:

Employment Costs 88062.92
 Phone & Broadband 736.92
 Insurance 683.35
 Expenses/Travel 214.56
 Office/Equipment/IT 1259.48
 Training/Conferences 40.00
 Rent/Rates 1250.00
 OS Licence 695.54
 ALERC Membership 1050.00

Expenditure Sub Total 93992.77

Balance Carried Forward 66873.78



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Worcestershire Biological Records Centre

On accounts for the year
ended

30th April

Charity no
(if any)

1096279

Set out on pages

1

(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 DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

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

Signed:

J Blawiston

Date:

7/2/25

Name:

JOHN BLAWISTON

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

CIMA Member in Practice (MIP)

(if any):

Address:

ROSE COTTAGE, SPRING GROVE BARN
BEWOLEY BYPASS, BEWOLEY
WORCS DY12 1LG

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.

NONE