

Bearsted Woodland Trust

England & Wales · Charity number 1103585

Details

Other names THE BEARSTED WOODLAND CHARITABLE TRUST

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2004-05-04

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

Contact

Address Mote Hall Barn
Church Lane
Bearsted
Maidstone
ME14 4EE

Phone 01622730280

Email richardashness@jardox.com

Website www.bearstedwoodlandtrust.org

Activities

Objects: (A) TO PRESERVE AND MAINTAIN THE LAND KNOWN AS CHURCH LANDWAY, BEARSTED, KENT IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE TO PROVIDE A PLACE OF EXERCISE AND RECREATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE VILLAGE OF BEARSTED AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD AND VISITORS (WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF SEX, RACE OR OF POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS OR OTHER OPINIONS) INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND THE ERECTION OF ANY BUILDINGS SUITABLE FOR OR ANCILLARY TO THESE PURPOSES; (B) IN THE INTERESTS OF CONSERVATION TO DEVELOP, CONSERVE, PROTECT AND RESTORE THE NATURAL RESOURCES AND ANIMALS AND PLANT LIFE AT CHURCH LANDWAY; (C) TO ADVANCE PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE BY THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION, RESTORATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ANIMALS AND PLANT LIFE AT CHURCH LANDWAY; AND (D) TO FURTHER SUCH OTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES AS THE TRUSTEES IN THEIR DISCRETION DETERMINE.

Activities: Conservation of woodland and open space in the village of Bearsted.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Amateur Sport, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** CHURCH LANDWAY, BEARSTED, KENT
- Kent

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-06-30	£37,725	£17,112	-	-
2024-06-30	£37,222	£24,774	-	-
2023-06-30	£27,595	£17,155	-	-
2022-06-30	£17,451	£33,848	-	-
2021-06-30	£20,399	£15,317	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
RICHARD ASHNESS	Chair	
Christian Esposito		2022-06-20
DENA ASHNESS		
Kim Martin		2018-10-28
Martin Gray		2021-04-16

Bearsted Woodland Trust

England & Wales - Charity number 1103585

Accounts

THE BEARSTED WOODLAND CHARITABLE TRUST

Registered Charity 1103585

Report of the Trustees for year ended 30 June 2025

The Trustees present their report and financial statement for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Objectives of the Trust

To preserve and maintain land owned by the Trust off Church Landway, Bearsted and immediately adjacent areas in the interests of social welfare to provide a place of exercise and recreation for the benefits of the inhabitants of Bearsted and visitors. In the interests of conservation to develop, conserve, protect and restore the natural resources and animal and plant life of the land.

Organisation and decision making structure

Bearsted Woodland Trust was founded by a Deed of Trust dated 5 January 2004 and is a Registered Charity no. 1103585. The Trustees govern the charity and delegate day to day operations to a Management Committee which is appointed by the Trustees. Members of the Management Committee contribute a large amount of time and expertise on a voluntary basis.

Review of the activities of the Trust

During the year the operations of the Trust continued in a similar pattern to previous years. Maintenance continues to be well managed and supported by a large team of weekly volunteers (24). Two teams of litter pickers (14) continue to make a noticeable visible difference which combined with a newsletter delivery team bring the total to 69 volunteers (excluding trustees) making a contribution to our trust. Communication with supporters is assured by an excellent website, an annual newsletter, and a member's AGM. Funding is maintained via annual 'membership' donations, tree and bench 'sponsorship' and other donations. The car park remains temporarily closed as we took some time to identify the right solution for us. After some discussion we decided to convert 9 out of the 20 bays to all weather parking with the remainder open during the summer months. Unfortunately, after taking advice, we then had to apply for a Non Material Amendment to an existing planning permission which was received on 29th April 2025. Subsequently we have sought quotes from contractors, awarding the contract in Autumn 2025 with a view to construction in 2026.

Policy on reserves

The Trustees policy is to maintain sufficient reserves to fund the Trust's activities and meet future commitments. This includes retaining sufficient reserves to fund future capital expenditure and to use paid for contractors if necessary.

Richard Ashness
Chairman of Trustees
19 April 2026

BEARSTED WOODLAND TRUST
Registered Charity no. 1103585
ACCOUNTS FOR THE 12 MONTHS TO 30 JUNE 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
INCOME			
Membership donations		6,092	5,941
Life membership donations	1	2,050	4,800
Donations - various		5,921	2,475
Tree donations	1	4,101	7,072
Gift Aid tax recovery		2,463	3,546
Legacy		1,000	-
Bank interest	2	14,006	11,752
Other Income	3	<u>2,092</u>	<u>1,636</u>
Total income		<u>37,725</u>	<u>37,222</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Trees, wildflower seeds & benches		995	710
Site costs	4	5,384	4,302
Insurance		1,646	1,619
Newsletter & Website	4	749	812
Secretarial & General	5	2,318	265
Merchandise		307	219
Fencing	6	4,134	-
Car Park	7	474	15,887
Tree surgery		840	960
Total expenditure		<u>17,112</u>	<u>24,774</u>
Surplus / (Deficit) for year		20,613	12,448
Reserves brought forward		<u>301,820</u>	<u>289,372</u>
Reserves carried forward		<u>322,433</u>	<u>301,820</u>
BALANCE SHEET AS AT :			
		30 Jun 25	30 Jun 24
Bank balances		£	£
Natwest current		6,821	5,231
Epworth Cash Plus Fund for Charities		215,231	196,069
Redwood		11,781	11,364
United Trust Bank-Notice		74,991	74,991
United Trust Bank-Fixed Term		<u>11,146</u>	<u>10,619</u>
Cash at Bank		319,970	298,274
Sundry Debtor		<u>2,463</u>	<u>3,546</u>
Total Assets		<u>322,433</u>	<u>301,820</u>

Martin Gray
Honorary Treasurer

Anil Mathur
Independent Examiner

Richard Ashness
Trustee

Approved at Trustees meeting held on 19 April 2026



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

The Bearsted Woodland Trust

On accounts for the year ended

30 June 2025

Charity no (if any)

1103585

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30 / 06 / 2024.

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

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:

- 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:

Anil Mathur

Date:

23rd September 2025

Name:

Anil Mathur

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

FCA Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address:

14 Windmill Heights, Bearsted, Maidstone, Kent ME14 4QE

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.

Empty box for disclosure details.

Bearsted Woodland Trust

England & Wales - Charity number 1103585

Accounts

THE BEARSTED WOODLAND CHARITABLE TRUST

Registered Charity 1103585

Report of the Trustees for year ended 30 June 2024

The Trustees present their report and financial statement for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Objectives of the Trust

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Organisation and decision making structure

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Review of the activities of the Trust

During the year the operations of the Trust continued in a similar pattern to previous years. Maintenance continues to be well managed and supported by a large team of weekly volunteers (25). Two teams of litter pickers (16) continue to make a noticeable visible difference which combined with a newsletter delivery team bring the total to 79 volunteers (excluding trustees) making a contribution to our trust. Communication with supporters is assured by an excellent website, an annual newsletter, and a member's AGM. Funding is maintained via annual 'membership' donations, tree and bench 'sponsorship' and other donations. The car park went live on 9th October but due to the very wet Autumn 2023 was temporarily closed by the Management committee and remains temporarily closed.

Policy on reserves

The Trustees policy is to maintain sufficient reserves to fund the Trust's activities and meet future commitments. This includes retaining sufficient reserves to fund future capital expenditure and to use paid for contractors if necessary.

The Bearsted Woodland Charitable Trust renamed to Bearsted Woodland Trust

At the 4th November 2023 Trustee meeting the Trustees approved a proposal to rename the Trust from The Bearsted Woodland Charitable Trust to Bearsted Woodland Trust, as it is locally known, and the Trustees signed the required supplementary deed. This name change request was filed with the Charities Commission in July 2024 and subsequently approved on 23 September 2024.

Richard Ashness
Chairman of Trustees
5 April 2025

BEARSTED WOODLAND TRUST
Registered Charity no. 1103585
ACCOUNTS FOR THE 12 MONTHS TO 30 JUNE 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
INCOME			
Membership donations		5,941	6,369
Life membership donations	1	4,800	3,225
Donations - various		2,475	1,444
Tree donations	1	7,072	5,210
Gift Aid tax recovery		3,546	2,679
Bank interest	2	11,752	7,247
Other Income		1,636	1,421
Total income		<u>37,222</u>	<u>27,595</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Trees, wildflower seeds & benches		710	2,707
Site costs	3	4,302	4,754
Insurance		1,619	1,582
Newsletter & Website	3	812	787
Secretarial & General	3	265	732
Merchandise		219	937
Car Park	4	15,887	5,656
Tree surgery		960	-
Total expenditure		<u>24,774</u>	<u>17,155</u>
Surplus / (Deficit) for year		12,448	10,440
Reserves brought forward		289,372	278,932
Reserves carried forward		<u>301,820</u>	<u>289,372</u>
BALANCE SHEET AS AT :			
		30 Jun 24	30 Jun 23
Bank balances		£	£
Natwest current		5,231	2,414
Epworth Cash Plus Fund for Charities		196,069	139,388
Redwood		11,364	87,399
United Trust Bank-Notice		74,991	49,991
United Trust Bank-Fixed Term		10,619	10,180
Cash at Bank		<u>298,274</u>	<u>289,372</u>
Sundry Debtor		3,546	-
Total Assets		<u>301,820</u>	<u>289,372</u>

Martin Gray
Honorary Treasurer

Anil Mathur
Independent Examiner

Richard Ashness
Trustee

Approved at Trustees meeting held on 5 April 2025



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

The Bearsted Woodland Trust

On accounts for the year
ended

30 June 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1103585

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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:

- 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:

Date:

5th September 2024

Name:

Anil Mathur

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

FCA Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address:

14 Windmill Heights, Bearsted, Maidstone, Kent ME14 4QE

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Bearsted Woodland Trust

England & Wales - Charity number 1103585

Accounts

THE BEARSTED WOODLAND CHARITABLE TRUST

Registered Charity 1103585

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Policy on reserves

The Trustees policy is to maintain sufficient reserves to fund the Trust's activities and meet future commitments. This includes retaining sufficient reserves to fund future capital expenditure and to use paid for contractors if necessary.

The Bearsted Woodland Charitable Trust renamed to Bearsted Woodland Trust

At the 4th November 2023 Trustee meeting the Trustees approved a proposal to rename the Trust from The Bearsted Woodland Charitable Trust to Bearsted Woodland Trust, as it is locally known, and the Trustees signed the required supplementary deed.

Richard Ashness
Chairman of Trustees
4 November 2023

BEARSTED WOODLAND TRUST

Registered Charity no. 1103585

ACCOUNTS FOR THE 12 MONTHS TO 30 JUNE 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
INCOME		
Membership donations	6,369	6,055
Life membership donations	3,225	2,300
Donations - various	1,444	3,567
Tree donations	5,210	712
Gift Aid tax recovery	2,679	2,304
Bank interest	7,247	2,035
Other Income	1,421	428
Total income	<u>27,595</u>	<u>17,451</u>

EXPENDITURE

Trees, wildflower seeds & benches	2,707	2,515
Site costs	4,754	3,340
Health and Safety	-	1,016
Insurance	1,582	1,530
Newsletter & Website	787	765
Secretarial & General	732	557
Merchandise	937	1,151
Car Park	5,656	15,442
Car Park Planting	-	1,292
Tree surgery	-	6,240
Total expenditure	<u>17,155</u>	<u>33,848</u>

Surplus / (Deficit) for year 10,440 (16,397)

Reserves brought forward 278,932 295,329

Reserves carried forward 289,372 278,932

BALANCE SHEET AS AT :

	30 Jun 23	30 Jun 22
	£	£
Bank balances		
Natwest current	2,414	1,256
Natwest deposit	-	4,150
Epworth Cash Plus Fund for Charities	139,388	175,911
Redwood	87,399	85,311
United Trust Bank-Notice	49,991	-
United Trust Bank-Fixed Term	10,180	10,000
Cash at Bank	<u>289,372</u>	<u>276,628</u>
Sundry Debtor	-	2,304
Total Assets	<u>289,372</u>	<u>278,932</u>

Martin Gray
Honorary Treasurer

Anil Mathur
Independent Examiner

Richard Ashness
Trustee

Approved at Trustees meeting held on 4 November 2023



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

The Bearsted Woodland Trust

On accounts for the year
ended

30 June 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1103585

Set out on pages

(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 30 / 06 / 2023.

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:

Date:

12th September 2023

Name:

Anil Mathur

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

FCA Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address:

14 Windmill Heights, Bearsted, Maidstone, Kent ME14 4QE

Section B

Disclosure

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[Empty box for disclosure details]