

UPPER DON TRAIL TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1104333

Details

Other names	THE UPPER DON WALK TRUST, THE UPPER DON WALK TRUST LIMITED
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2004-06-14
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address 18 Lizzie Lane
Sheffield
S3 8AZ

Phone 07759775550

Email info@upperdontrail.org.uk

Website upperdontrail.org.uk

Activities

Objects: The provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation of the public with the object of improving their conditions of life particularly through the provision of providing footpaths, cycleways, and bridleways as locally appropriate alongside the River Don from Lady's Bridge to Stocksbridge and to the Peak District National park.

Activities: Developing a 23km walking, cycling and riding route from the centre of Sheffield out to the Peak District

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** ALONG THE RIVER DON BETWEEN LADY'S BRIDGE AND BEELEY WOOD, OUGHTIBRIDGE, SHEFFIELD.
- Barnsley
- Sheffield City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-11-30	£1,725	£1,350	-	-
2023-11-30	£296	£1,797	-	-
2022-08-31	£238	£445	-	-
2021-08-31	£371	£445	-	-
2020-08-31	£200	£200	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
SIMON OGDEN	Chair	2013-05-29
BEN MCGARRY		2019-11-25
CHRIS PRESCOTT		2019-11-25
CHRISTOPHER NIGEL BELL		2019-11-25
David Bryan Holmes		2019-11-25
David Lewis Chinchin		2025-09-29
MR TONY CANNING		
Mary Lee Chiswell Heykoop		2019-11-25
Paul Rowland Truin		2019-11-25
Susan Christine Abrahams		2024-02-20
TIMOTHY LEE RIPPON		2019-11-25
TREVOR BAGSHAW		2024-02-20

UPPER DON TRAIL TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1104333

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UPPER DON TRAIL TRUST ANNUAL REPORT 2024–25

Overview

After several years of patient and sometimes discouraging work, 2025 has seen very significant breakthroughs on three of our major objectives: **Oughtibridge Links, More Hall Tips, and Wayfinding**. We have also helped secure important initial improvements to part of the Penistone Road section of the Trail.

We remain hopeful that the Parkwood Springs Levelling Up project will finally bring attention and resources to the problems of Club Mill Road.

Linking up with other stakeholders in Barnsley and with new MP Marie Tidball has also opened up potential to resolve the longstanding missing link to Langsett village at the western end of the Little Don Link.

However, recently published strategies on Active Travel by both Sheffield City Council and the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority still show a lack of vision for longer-distance or off-road routes such as the UDT, even where they already exist or are being delivered through other programmes. Encouragingly, we now have active and improving channels into SYMCA, which we hope will lead to a change in attitudes.

We continue to attract new members and supporters, but have so far been only modestly successful in encouraging more active participation. We hope to improve this through better communications, and as projects move from campaigning into actual implementation.

Huge thanks go to all our volunteers, supporters, rangers, litter-pickers, and trustees.

Our Treasurer, Chris Prescott, and our Secretary, Yvonne McMenemy, are both standing down this year. Chris has contributed decades of experience and deep local knowledge of active travel, regeneration, and the Upper Don. Yvonne has brought organisational and business skills, as well as enthusiasm and imagination, to her role. We offer our grateful thanks to both and are delighted that Chris Prescott will continue as Trustee.

Achievements of the Year

The following objectives were set by Trustees at the beginning of the year, following our last AGM.

1.Complete Wayfinding and Signage of Accessible Sections

We are now close to completing a comprehensive signing and Wayfinding strategy for the trail to support partnership proposals with a number of stakeholders along the route including Bradfield Parish, Stocksbridge Town, Barnsley and Sheffield City Councils, North and Central Local Area Committees, Stocksbridge Town Deal, house builders along the route including David Wilson and Bloor Homes .

Lady's Bridge to Oughtibridge via Kelham–Neepsend and Penistone Road

Much of this signage work has been concentrated on this section. Repeated representations were made to SCC Transport Planners to ensure that existing named routes (Upper Don Trail, Five Weors Walk, Trans Pennine Trail, National Cycle Network) and local destinations were identified in new active travel signage associated with the major improvements between West Bar and Neepsend. These were ignored. Now seeking funding from Central LAC.

Wortley Road Deepcar to Langsett – Funding committed from Stocksbridge Town Deal and Stocksbridge Town Council.

Oughtibridge – BPC support for a Trail Map at Coronation Park and waymarking in Beeley Wood.

2.More Hall Tips / Wraggs Quarry

Objective: consolidate the emerging partnership and secure funding to reclaim the sites for re=forestation, flood control, biodiversity and to formalise public access via the Trail.

Momentum is building towards a joined-up strategic approach, combining these separate investment streams to achieve more than the sum of their parts. The Stocksbridge Town Deal's offer of funding for feasibility and costing and its willingness to collaborate on further funding applications, represents a welcome change of approach under a refreshed Board.

Partners: South Yorkshire Woodland Partnership, Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust, Liberty Steel, Wharnccliffe Estate, SCC Flood & Water, Stocksbridge Town Deal, Bloor Homes.

3.Underbank Loop

Objective: If the STD wish to progress their scheme, we continue to press them to focus on safe crossing of Manchester Road at Underbank Lane.

The STD has now agreed to fund a new feasibility study for an affordable crossing at this junction. The earlier “Underbank Loop” project has been dropped.

4.Parkwood Springs

Objective: Continue to press for the inclusion of Club Mill Road in the programme and for the relocation of the traveller camp.

Legal proceedings to rehouse the remaining Travellers are now progressing slowly. Decisions on investment in improved gateways to the new park are awaited.

There is renewed focus on the Old Park Silver Mills site, which may lead to an initial joint intervention to:

- target-harden against fly-tipping
- improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and wheelers by creating a shared cycle-footway
- encourage private investment.

5. Planning Applications / Developments

Thanks in part to our campaign and intervention at Planning Committee, the Aldi development on Penistone Road has provided a significant section of fully segregated and joined-up cycle/footway. This runs along almost its whole frontage. We hope this will contribute to the larger improvements now being designed and put forward for funding by SCC.

Attempts to secure private-sector funding to improve Club Mill Road, as part of a proposal for a renewable electricity storage installation at the old Neepsend Power Station, fell through when National Grid chose an alternative site on Livesey Street.

6. Oughtibridge Links

Forge Lane/Bridge Crossing –

- We have continued to apply pressure on Sheffield City Council to progress this project urgently. Gap funding has now been approved, and a contractor is due to be appointed in October 2025. Subject to further design, costing,

and planning approval, construction is expected to begin in summer 2026, with completion in spring 2027.

- **Wharncliffe Woods Link** – Forestry England and Yorkshire Water have both agreed to designate this as a 'Permissive Footpath'. We now await the signing of the final agreement and installation of a new accessible gate by Yorkshire Water. Barnsley Public Rights Of Way Officer has promised to supply signage, and we hope to launch a new volunteer ranger group for the route in 2026.
- **Phase 2 Link to Holmes Farm / More Hall** – A new path along our proposed extension route appears in early plans for flood storage around Holmes Farm. We are in dialogue with the project manager to align this proposal with ours.

7, Member Recruitment and Engagement

We have been most successful in Oughtibridge, where progress is visible to the local community, particularly the new housing developments along the trail route.

We hope for a similar effect at Deepcar as the new Bloor Homes housing is occupied.

Our stalls at events such as Oughtibridge Gala and Wardsend Bio-blitz have been very well received.

Professional advice has been secured to improve our website and social media, and to create templates for regular newsletters. The consultant is also compiling heritage, nature, and geology material for a series of route guides for each section of the trail.

Looking Forward

A public meeting with writer and journalist Laura Laker has been organised for October 2025, jointly with Sustrans, Friends of the TPT, and the Sheaf & Porter Rivers Trust. The main aim is to promote wider debate and support for a more joined-up approach to long-distance and off-road active travel in Sheffield and South Yorkshire.

We are also developing an alliance with Cycle Barnsley and other local stakeholders, with the goal of persuading Highways England, Yorkshire Water, and

Barnsley and Sheffield Councils to agree on a pragmatic and achievable way of completing the final 50–100 metres of the route. This would connect the trail to its intended destination while avoiding a seriously dangerous road, tragically highlighted by a recent fatality.



UPPER DON TRAIL TRUST

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING 30th November 2024

Charity Number 1104333

Balances as at 30th November 2024 on the accounts held with the Co-op Bank

Account Number 6516168350 £ 21,858.89

Account Number 6516168300 £ 1,245.05

Total £ 23,103.94

Expenditure

Printing Maps (Reprint) £ 248.40

Artwork and QR code £ 494.97

Insurance (Zurich) £ 157.00

Oughtibridge Gala £ 25.00

Kick Sampling £ 424.99

Total £1350.36

Income

Donation from East Peak Innovation £966.56

Ward Pot Fund (D.Chinchen) £335.00

Interest (savings account) £348.09

Oughtibridge Gala £ 45.22

Total £1724.87

UPPER DON TRAIL TRUST

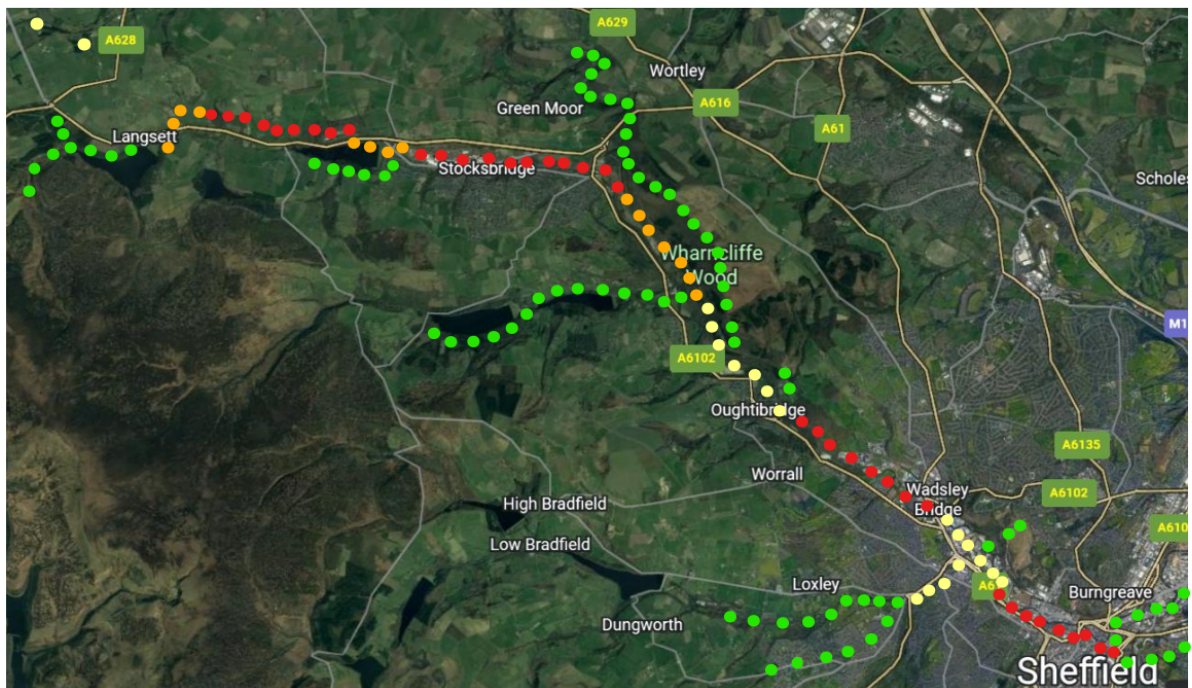
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UPPER DON TRAIL TRUST ANNUAL TRUSTEES REPORT

2023



Upper Don Trail Planned Route

● Completed ● Paused/abandoned ● Planned

● Linked Trails

UPPER DON TRAIL TRUST ANNUAL TRUSTEES REPORT 2023

Overview

The year 2023 saw some significant progress but also some major setbacks. However, the progress is solid and permanent, and the setbacks can we believe be recovered from. Overall extensions to the trail by developers through the planning process are continuing apace while awareness of and interest in the Upper Don Trail continue to grow. The new year 2024 offers some new opportunities which with the help of supporters and partners we can seize. The onus is really on public authorities to recognise this and take advantage of the momentum and offers of help.



'The knock-through' - Little Kelham

Route Development

2023 finally saw the 'knock-through' linking the trail route through **Little Kelham to the Brooklyn Works** section and across the now permanently pedestrianised Ball Street Bridge. Anticipation of this and the other improved walking and cycling routes associated with the Kelham Neepsend Low Traffic Neighbourhood were the factors which led to the abandonment of our Little Kelham Bridge project in 2022.

Further work is anticipated as part of the council's Connecting Sheffield programme to install improved walking and cycling space on **Neepsend Lane** including a new controlled crossing of the hazardous Rutland Road Bridge.

The feasibility study on upgrading the public footpath from **Hillfoot to Herries Road**, funded by Sustrans, was completed by consultants for the council and then unfortunately dismissed as too costly and challenging owing to topography and the presence of large electric and gas lines.



However, we were not shown the report and no input from the Trust or other stakeholders was invited. Only many months later, thanks to local councillors, did we receive the report along with an addendum from Sustrans engineers suggesting that a solution drawing on new materials and techniques could reduce costs significantly.

We believe it would be short-sighted and defeatist if the council was to simply abandon any prospect of improving the existing right of way between the Five Arches on Herries Road and the riverside at Wardsend Cemetery. This section of the Upper Don Trail would hugely improve the link to the riverside from large housing estates like Parson Cross and Southey. It would be especially disappointing given the exciting developments planned alongside this stretch of river.

Key among these is the flagship plan for a proposed **Parkwood Springs Country Park**, which has just been awarded a £19m Levelling Up grant. The Master Plan for the country park has always extended all the way to the riverside. Plans have also been unveiled recently for an exciting environmental education centre at Wardsend Cemetery, and there is imminent investment in flood defences along this stretch of the Don. In total, there is potential for a multi-funded, multi-functional solution to this hugely under exploited stretch of the river. An improved stretch of the Upper Don Trail really should be a vital part of it all! We look forward to taking part in further engagement on how it might all come together.

Meanwhile, we welcomed the council's initiative to put forward major improvements to the existing but still very substandard **Penistone Road** cycleway as a high priority for the next programme of investments from the Department of Transport. However, we fear that this heavily trafficked and polluted route will never feel as safe or attractive as an off-road trail for many users and that both routes need improvement for different outcomes.

At **Oughtibridge Valley** (formerly Oughtibridge Paper Mill) house building has been accompanied by construction of most of the 0.75 km stretch of the Trail within the estate required by planning. Meanwhile we are delighted that design and costing of the long-awaited bridge and cycle footway over the Don to Forge Lane and the village, using a £750k developer contribution, is now finally progressing and council transport planners are cautiously optimistic that any shortfall in funding resulting from inflation can be met from other sources in the coming twelve months subject to further consultation on the details.



Emerging Trail and riverside park at Oughtibridge Valley

The Trust, working with local councillor Lewis Chinchon and residents has made progress towards agreement to opening Yorkshire Water's gate and road which is the main obstacle to safely accessing Forestry England's Open Access **Wharnccliffe Woods** and the Trans Pennine Trail at Plank Gate. It has been heartening to find so many local householders willing to become volunteers to look after the proposed new route.

At the huge former brickworks site at Deepcar, Bloor Homes appear to have almost completed reclamation of the site. This includes new reedbeds to deal with the minewater, and the retaining walls for the 1km new riverside trail are under construction.



Bloor site August 2023 with new reedbeds

Reclamation of the adjoining More Hall tip by Liberty Steels has also begun to accelerate with the prospect of tree planting taking place.

The major disappointment of the year has been the decision of the **Stocksbridge** Town Deal Board to first 'pause' and then abandon most or all of their ambitious £2.75m proposal to complete the four missing sections of the Trail between the mouth of the Ewden Valley and Langsett via More Hall, Fox Valley and Underbank.

Whilst questions remain about how these decisions were arrived at, the Trust and its partners continue to promote a constructive way forward. We are pressing for the sharing of all designs, costings and appraisals by the Town Deal Board team so that we can work collaboratively to find alternative solutions including savings, phasing and new funders.

Ironically, in early 2024, Highways England will complete a £1.75m investment in a new crossing of the Stocksbridge Bypass. This is designed to link two sections of the Trail at Underbank Reservoir and the Little Don Trail through Sheephouse Woods. The latter has been recently upgraded by Barnsley Council as far as Alderman Head Farm. They plan to continue right to Langsett Reservoir when Yorkshire Water and Highways England complete their respective parts under the A616 and through their treatment plant to the dam.

Citizen Science and Water Quality

2023 saw a huge increase in public awareness of river pollution and declining bio-diversity nationally and locally. This resulted from a range of causes including the failings of water companies, misguided agricultural practices, fly tipping and the increase in plastics and 'chemicals of concern' which we are all often unknowingly releasing into our drainage systems.

In Sheffield, volunteer River Ranger groups have become established on the Sheaf, Porter, Meersbrook, Loxley and Rivelin. They are affiliated to local river trusts and work with professionals from the Sheffield-based social enterprise River Stewardship Company and the Don Catchment River Trust.

These initiatives have been welcomed by the Environment Agency as it gives their woefully under-resourced Land and Water Team many valuable extra 'eyes and ears' on the riverbanks.

Several groups and individuals, including anglers and kayakers, have already done good work in their locality to report incidents and carry out water quality and ecological sampling, some for many years. Recently more volunteers have received training in River Fly sampling from DCRT. A number of significant incidents and issues have already been identified and reported.

One of the Trust's objectives in 2024 is to consolidate these activities in the Sheffield Upper Don into a Ranger Group along similar lines to other local rivers. We are therefore actively appealing for volunteers to help us do this.





Our stall at Stocksbridge Fox Valley Market

Public Engagement and Wayfinding

The Trust attended a number of public events with our stall including the Oughtibridge Gala and Fox Valley Market.

We ran two well attended walks in September for the Walking Festival. We staged volunteering events with SOAR and Friends of Wardsend Cemetery on the Wardsend/Club Mill section of the Trail. These included construction of new steps and installation of a new interpretive board on the Toad Hole Dyke .

Our speakers also gave a number of presentations to local community groups.

Working with local arts practice Gotham D, we have begun to draw up a Wayfinding proposal for the whole trail including a common suite of signage, naming strategy, physical and digital interpretation and landmark art installations. It is hoped that partners such as developers will be willing to buy into this common style and strategy to make the emerging Upper Don Trail easier to follow and enjoy.

Getting Involved

There are numerous ways to get involved in the Trust's work, from becoming a paid member and supporting volunteer events, becoming a River Ranger, helping us with our online media, commenting on planning proposals on the river or becoming a Trustee. Please get in touch.

info@upperdontrail.org.uk





UPPER DON TRAIL TRUST

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING 30th November 2023

Charity Number 1104333

Balances as at 30th November 2023 on the accounts held with the Co-op Bank

Account Number 6516168350	£ 20,929.87
Account Number 6516168300	£ 1,223.63
Account Number 6511979000	£ 694.98
Total	£ 22,848.48

Expenditure

Web hosting	£ 184.06
Printing Maps (Reprint)	£ 124.50
Insurance (Zurich)	£ 157.00
New Information Boards	£ 145.00
Herries Rd Information Board (Pryor signs)	£ 1136.40
Oughtibridge Gala	£ 25.00
Fox Valley Market	£ 25.00
Total	£1796.96

Income

Mugs/Donations	£ 167.12
Interest	£ 128.62
Total	£295.74

UPPER DON TRAIL TRUST

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Upper Don Trail Trust Annual Trustees Report 2022

Upper Don Trail Trust

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UPPER DON TRAIL TRUST ANNUAL TRUSTEES REPORT 2022

Overview

Despite the severe restrictions imposed by the Pandemic 2021/22 has seen exciting progress on planning and extending the Trail from Kelham to Langsett including construction on the Barnsley Little Don and at Oughtibridge Mill. The coming year should see more work start at More Hall and Club Mill Road and a breakthrough at Kelham's Brooklyn Works.

Reluctantly Trustees decided to withdraw from the long-standing Little Kelham Bridge project and to concentrate efforts and resources on other priorities as set out in detail below.

As restrictions on outdoor gatherings reduced, we organised a series of successful volunteer events and will be stepping up this side of our work in the coming months. We are keen to offer our many members and supporters more opportunities for active involvement in promoting, maintaining and waymarking available sections of the trail. In light of latest information and public concern over the poor quality of many of our rivers we are also planning to start training for a 'Citizen Science' campaign to monitor and report water quality and contamination in the Upper Don, working with kayakers, swimmers, anglers, environmentalists and local residents.



Pollution Hunters on an "Outfall Safari"

Route Development

Kelham Neepsend

The Trust's longest standing project has been to achieve a bridge crossing of the Kelham Goyt to provide a walking and cycling link from the Island to Brooklyn Works and Ball St Bridge. In early 2021, after lengthy negotiations the Trust succeeded in securing funding from its own resources and the Council's S106 fund for a bridge to be constructed and maintained by Citu, developers of the Little Kelham housing scheme. However, after a year's delay Citu failed to sign a funding agreement for the project or demonstrate any will to do so.

In the meantime, the Council's Kelham Neepsend Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) has turned Alma St/Green Lane and Ball St into a safe low traffic and low speed cycle route. The Little Kelham development is also about to be connected directly to Ball Street Bridge and will require a new direct off-road public walking route. These two routes largely provide the envisaged benefits of the bridge for the Trail, sadly other than a link to the Museum. Trustees reluctantly agreed that we should focus our energies and resources and those of the Council on Club Mill Road which together with Parkwood is becoming increasingly recognised as a fantastic 'green lung' for Inner City residents.



Ball Street Bridge, temporary closure soon to be made permanent and a key part of the Upper Don Trail

The LTN will also improve the trail between Rachel's Corner community garden and Rutland Road by closing a short section of Neepsend Lane and providing a long needed signalised crossing of Rutland Bridge.

We also look forward to the anticipated redevelopment of the former Hydra Tools site on Penistone Road for housing which will offer the opportunity of a new trail linking Rutland Rd to Penistone Rd at Packhorse Weir.

Hillfoot to Herries Rd (Club Mill Road etc)

This has been the Trust's priority project since 2019. An initial proposed new accessible cycle-footpath route between Wardsend and Herries Rd had to be abandoned in 2021 when insuperable problems with unrecorded electric and gas lines were discovered and Sustrans funding was lost. However, with help from Gill Furniss MP and Coun Douglas Johnson (Cabinet Member for Transport), an alternative route is being investigated which would in part follow the Toad Hole Dyke (a small forgotten brook in sore need of some TLC). It is hoped that subject to feasibility work now underway funding from Sustrans and the Council can be secured in the next twelve months.



Proposed new route from Livesey St Bridge to Herries Rd Following the Toad Hole Dyke.

The Trust has also obtained an in-principle agreement with the owners of the Old Park Silver Mill site to allow construction of a new cycle-footway on their riverside land at a dangerously narrow part of the road. The Trust has also facilitated discussions with a potential developer to take the historic building on for a new use which would improve the attractiveness of the Trail.

An important outstanding issue is for the Council to find alternative accommodation for the traveller camp currently occupying part of Club Mill Road in unsuitable and unsafe conditions. The travellers also want to move.

Penistone Road:

The Trust and Cycle Sheffield have worked jointly to get developer Jaguar to provide a proper segregated cycle and footway on Penistone Road alongside their large development site and to include provision of a signalised Toucan crossing of the busy Herries Road South. Although our efforts have so far been only partly successful there is now a fresh opportunity with a new planning application for part of the site - the former Charlie Browns autoparts store which we are pursuing again with Cycle Sheffield.

Oughtibridge to Wharnccliffe Side:

The redevelopment of the former Oughtibridge Paper Mill (now being named Oughtibridge Valley) by David Wilson Homes is progressing rapidly and the first few metres of the riverside trail are already built. The developers have also made the first S106 ('Planning Gain') contribution towards a new bridge over the Don and connecting trail to Oughtibridge village. We await the Council's long-promised public consultation on exactly where this route goes and how it connects to Beeley Woods - ideally in our view with a second bridge to Coronation Park thus avoiding dangerous junctions.



The first few meters of the UDT have now been built at Oughtibridge Valley

Wharncliffe Woods

We are now starting discussions on a possible linking trail from the Oughtibridge Valley site upstream to Holmes Farm through land and paths owned by Yorkshire Water and Forestry England.

More Hall Tip

Funding is identified in the Stocksbridge Towns Fund Health and Wellbeing Programme (SHTP) to build a high quality cycle footpath and possibly equestrian lane from Holmes Farm west to Station Road Deepcar through the former Wraggs Quarry and Liberty steelworks tips. In principle wayleave has been agreed with the Wharncliffe Estate. Planning application expected shortly with a possible construction start by the end of the year.

Bloor Homes

Although substantial site access work has been completed including a new road and bridge there is still no date for housebuilding to start on the site due to outstanding planning conditions. However we believe that these may now have been resolved. The development will create a new 1km trail giving access to one of the most beautiful sections of the Don.



The Don at Deepcar these wet woodlands will become accessible but not affected by the new housing

Little Don- Hunshelf to Underbank Lane: SHTP also propose modest improvements to the link between Fox Valley and the Steel Valley trail and more substantial improvements on Underbank Lane with a signalised crossing of Manchester Road to Underbank Reservoir.

Little Don - Underbank Reservoir

Yorkshire Water are still planning improvements to public access around the reservoir but details are unclear at present.

Little Don - Equitrek Crossing

A critical new crossing of the A616 at Equitrek has been promised by National Highways to link Underbank Reservoir to Barnsley's improved Little Don trail but construction has been set back and a new date is awaited.

Little Don- Underbank to Langsett

The majority of the improved trail following the former reservoir rail trackbed has been completed by Barnsley MBC with European Union funding. The final link from Alderman Head to Langsett Reservoir is apparently in the hands of Yorkshire Water and National Highways but the programme for this work is not yet known.



In summary of the estimated 22.5 km total planned trail (including the Little Don Trail to Langsett)

Completed	8.2 km	
Useable but needs improvement	3.5 km	(some duplication with section below)
Construction funded/committed	9.3 km	
Needs proposal/funding	2.52 km	
Total	22.52 km	(includes some duplication)

Volunteering

As restrictions were reduced in 2021, we began to re-establish volunteering events. Two very well supported 'clean-up and cut-backs' were organised on sections of the Hillfoot to Herries route with great support from Litter Pickers, Friends of Wardsend and Friends of Parkwood Springs. Temporary waymarking and historical interpretation was installed. The Trust is also working with SOAR on a pilot 'Green Social Prescribing' project to install improvements to the Wardsend section of the trail, working with local volunteers and the Conservation Volunteers.

A further mass clean-up of the central section of Club Mill Road is planned for 2 July 2022.



Clean-up and Signage Day with UDTT, Litter Pickers and Friends of Parkwood and Wardsend October 2021

Design and Waymarking

We have been encouraged by the decision of the Trans Pennine Trail to designate the UDT as its main route from Wharncliffe to Sheffield City Centre when missing links are provided and Sustrans similar commitment to re-signing the Trail as part of National Cycle Route 627.

SHTP has also accepted our proposal to commission a Wayfinding and Naming strategy for the Trail to resolve some overlapping and confusing naming issues and very incomplete signing and mapping in and around Stocksbridge.

We have also welcomed a project proposal from the Ramblers to produce a summary map of riverside walks in South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire.

Public Engagement

- We took part in the week of consultations on the Stocksbridge High Street programme where the trail received an overwhelming positive response.
- We had a stall at the 2021 Kelham Christmas Market where we engaged with around 100 interested people and groups.
- We also had a stall at the recent showing of the inspiring feature documentary 'River' at the Showroom Cinema which attracted wide interest.
- We have new display boards and have produced UDT Mugs and an updated 3D map of the Ladys Bridge to Oughtibridge section of the Trail.

Future Work – How to Get Involved!

In 2022 we will be working with other rivers trusts in Sheffield to provide 'Citizen Science' training in pollution spotting, reporting and sampling.

We need lots of volunteers who walk, cycle, kayak, fish or swim our rivers regularly.

Contact simon.ogden43@gmail.com



Club Mill Clean-up Summer 2021

We also need people to fund raise, promote and signpost the trail, help with volunteer events, talk to schools, comment on planning applications, record our river history and wildlife or help with our administration and accounts. **What could you do?**

Upper Don Trail Trust

Financial Statement

As at 31.08.21

Balances at Bank	£	
Account number 65161683 50	22,793.67	
Account number 65161683 00	863.51	
Account number 65119790 00	539.86	
Expenditure - Total	445	
Design		110
Marketing (UDTT mugs)		160
Printing(maps)		71.25
Web Hosting and input		103.48
Income	371	
Donations		200
Sale of Mugs		60
Xmas market		99.12
Cash in Hand	5.10	
Book of 2nd class stamps	7.92	

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Despite the severe restrictions imposed by the Pandemic 2021/22 has seen exciting progress on planning and extending the Trail from Kelham to Langsett including construction on the Barnsley Little Don and at Oughtibridge Mill. The coming year should see more work start at More Hall and Club Mill Road and a breakthrough at Kelham's Brooklyn Works.

Reluctantly Trustees decided to withdraw from the long-standing Little Kelham Bridge project and to concentrate efforts and resources on other priorities as set out in detail below.

As restrictions on outdoor gatherings reduced, we organised a series of successful volunteer events and will be stepping up this side of our work in the coming months. We are keen to offer our many members and supporters more opportunities for active involvement in promoting, maintaining and waymarking available sections of the trail. In light of latest information and public concern over the poor quality of many of our rivers we are also planning to start training for a 'Citizen Science' campaign to monitor and report water quality and contamination in the Upper Don, working with kayakers, swimmers, anglers, environmentalists and local residents.



Pollution Hunters on an "Outfall Safari"

Route Development

Kelham Neepsend

The Trust's longest standing project has been to achieve a bridge crossing of the Kelham Goyt to provide a walking and cycling link from the Island to Brooklyn Works and Ball St Bridge. In early 2021, after lengthy negotiations, the Trust succeeded in securing funding from its own resources and the Council's S106 fund for a bridge to be constructed and maintained by Citu, developers of the Little Kelham housing scheme. However, after a year's delay Citu failed to sign a funding agreement for the project or demonstrate any will to do so.

In the meantime, the Council's Kelham Neepsend Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) has turned Alma St/Green Lane and Ball St into a safe low traffic and low speed cycle route. The Little Kelham development is also about to be connected directly to Ball Street Bridge and will require a new direct off-road public walking route. These two routes largely provide the envisaged benefits of the bridge for the Trail, sadly other than a link to the Museum. Trustees reluctantly agreed that we should focus our energies and resources and those of the Council on Club Mill Road which together with Parkwood is becoming increasingly recognised as a fantastic 'green lung' for Inner City residents.



Ball Street Bridge, temporary closure soon to be made permanent

The LTN will also improve the trail between Rachel's Corner community garden and Rutland Road by closing a short section of Neepsend Lane and providing a long needed signalised crossing of Rutland Bridge.

We also look forward to the anticipated redevelopment of the former Hydra Tools site for housing which will offer the opportunity of a new trail linking Rutland Rd to Penistone Rd at Packhorse Weir.

Hillfoot to Herries Rd (Club Mill Road etc)

This has been the Trust's priority project since 2019. An initial proposed new accessible cycle-footpath route between Wardsend and Herries Rd had to be abandoned in 2021 when insuperable problems with unrecorded electric and gas lines were discovered and Sustrans funding was lost. However, with help from Gill Furniss MP and Coun Douglas Johnson (Cabinet Member for Transport), an alternative route is being investigated which would in part follow the Toad Hole Dyke (a small forgotten brook in sore need of some TLC). It is hoped that subject to feasibility work now underway funding from Sustrans and the Council can be secured in the next twelve months.



Proposed new route from Livesey St Bridge to Herries Rd

Following the Toad Hole Dyke. The Trust has also obtained an in-principle agreement with the owners of the Old Park Silver Mill site to allow construction of a new cycle-footway on their riverside land at a dangerously narrow part of the road. The Trust has also facilitated

discussions with a potential developer to take the historic building on for a new use which would improve the attractiveness of the Trail.

An important outstanding issue is for the Council to find alternative accommodation for the traveller camp currently occupying part of Club Mill Road in unsuitable and unsafe conditions. The travellers also want to move.

Penistone Road:

The Trust and Cycle Sheffield have worked jointly to get developer Jaguar to provide a proper segregated cycle and footway on Penistone Road alongside their large development site and to include provision of a signalised Toucan crossing of the busy Herries Road South. Although our efforts have so far been only partly successful there is now a fresh opportunity with a new planning application for part of the site - the former Charlie Browns autoparts store which we are pursuing again with Cycle Sheffield.

Oughtibridge to Wharncliffe Side:

The redevelopment of the former Oughtibridge Paper Mill (now being named Oughtibridge Valley) by David Wilson Homes is progressing rapidly and the first few metres of the riverside trail are already built. The developers have also made the first S106 ('Planning Gain') contribution towards a new bridge over the Don and connecting trail to Oughtibridge village. We await the Council's long-promised public consultation on exactly where this route goes and how it connects to Beeley Woods - ideally in our view with a second bridge to Coronation Park thus avoiding dangerous junctions.



The first few meters of the UDT have now been built at Oughtibridge Valley

Wharncliffe Woods

We are now starting discussions on a possible linking trail from the Oughtibridge Valley site upstream to Holmes Farm through land and paths owned by Yorkshire Water and Forestry England.

More Hall Tip

Funding is identified in the Stocksbridge Towns Fund Health and Wellbeing Programme (SHTP) to build a high quality cycle footpath and possibly equestrian lane from Holmes Farm west to Station Road Deepcar through the former Wraggs Quarry and Liberty steelworks tips. In principle wayleave has been agreed with the Wharncliffe Estate. Planning application expected shortly with a possible construction start by the end of the year.

Bloor Homes

Although substantial site access work has been completed including a new road and bridge there is still no date for housebuilding to start on the site due to outstanding planning conditions. However we believe that these may now have been resolved. The development will create a new 1km trail giving access to one of the most beautiful sections of the Don.



The Don at Deepcar these wet woodlands will not be affected by the new housing

Little Don- Hunshelf to Underbank Lane: SHTP also propose modest improvements to the link between Fox Valley and the Steel Valley trail and more substantial improvements on Underbank Lane with a signalised crossing of Manchester Road to Underbank Reservoir.

Little Don -Underbank Reservoir

Yorkshire Water are still planning improvements to public access around the reservoir but details are unclear at present.

Little Don -Equitrek Crossing

A critical new crossing of the A616 at Equitrek has been promised by National Highways to link Underbank Reservoir to Barnsley's improved Little Don trail but construction has been set back and a new date is awaited.

Little Don- Underbank to Langsett

The majority of the improved trail following the former reservoir rail trackbed has been completed by Barnsley MBC with European Union funding. The final link from Alderman Head to Langsett Reservoir is apparently in the hands of Yorkshire Water and National Highways but the programme for this work is not yet known.



In summary of the estimated 22.5 km total planned trail (including the Little Don Trail to Langsett)

Completed	8.2 km	
Useable but needs improvement	3.5 km	(some duplication with section below)
Construction funded/committed	9.3 km	
Needs proposal/funding	2.52 km	
Total	22.52 km	(includes some duplication)

Volunteering

As restrictions were reduced in 2021, we began to re-establish volunteering events. Two very well supported 'clean-up and cut-backs' were organised on sections of the Hillfoot to Herries route with great support from Litter Pickers, Friends of Wardsend and Friends of Parkwood Springs. Temporary waymarking and historical interpretation was installed. The Trust is also working with SOAR on a pilot 'Green Social Prescribing' project to install improvements to the Wardsend section of the trail, working with local volunteers and the Conservation Volunteers.

A further mass clean-up of the central section of Club Mill Road is planned for 2 July 2022.



Clean-up and Signage Day with UDTT, Litter Pickers and Friends of Parkwood and Wardsend October 2021

Design and Waymarking

We have been encouraged by the decision of the Trans Pennine Trail to designate the UDT as its main route from Wharncliffe to Sheffield City Centre when missing links are provided and Sustrans similar commitment to re-signing the Trail as part of National Cycle Route 627.

SHTP has also accepted our proposal to commission a Wayfinding and Naming strategy for the Trail to resolve some overlapping and confusing naming issues and very incomplete signing and mapping in and around Stocksbridge.

We have also welcomed a project proposal from the Ramblers to produce a summary map of riverside walks in South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire.

Public Engagement

- We took part in the week of consultations on the Stocksbridge High Street programme where the trail received an overwhelming positive response.
- We had a stall at the 2021 Kelham Christmas Market where we engaged with around 100 interested people and groups.
- We also had a stall at the recent showing of the inspiring feature documentary 'River' at the Showroom Cinema which attracted wide interest.
- We have new display boards and have produced UDT Mugs and an updated 3D map of the Ladys Bridge to Oughtibridge section of the Trail.

Future Work – How to Get Involved!

In 2022 we will be working with other rivers trusts in Sheffield to provide 'Citizen Science' training in pollution spotting, reporting and sampling.

We need lots of volunteers who walk, cycle, kayak, fish or swim our rivers regularly.

Contact simon.ogden43@gmail.com



Club Mill Clean-up Summer 2021

We also need people to fund raise, promote and signpost the trail, help with volunteer events, talk to schools, comment on planning applications, record our river history and wildlife or help with our administration and accounts. **What could you do?**

UPPER DON TRAIL TRUST

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING 31st AUGUST 2021

Charity Number 1104333

There was minimal financial activity within the trust during the year. *

Balances as at 31st August 2021 on the accounts held with the Co-op Bank

Account Number 6516168350	£22,793.67
Account Number 6516168300	£863.51
Account Number 6511979000	£539.86
Total	£24,197.04

Expenditure

Web hosting and input	£103.48
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Income

Donation from talk/work undertaken	£200.00
Cash in Hand	£5.10
Book of 2nd Class stamps	

Charitable objects

The provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation of the public with the object of improving their conditions of life particularly through the provision of providing footpaths, cycleways, and bridleways as locally appropriate alongside the River Don from Lady's Bridge to Stocksbridge and to the Peak District National Park.

UPPER DON TRAIL TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1104333

Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
		Period start date			Period end date		
From	01	09	2019	To	31	08	2020

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

Charity's principal address

28 Millau
2 Kelham Island
Sheffield
Postcode S3 8RD

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Simon Ogden	Chairperson		AGM of registered members
2	Chris Prescott	Treasurer		
3	Chris Bell	Trustee		
4	David Holmes	Trustee		
5	Ian Holmes	Trustee		
6	Tim Rippon	Trustee		
7	Lee Heykoop	Trustee		
8	Julie Parfitt	Trustee		
9	Tony Canning	Trustee		
10	Ben McGarry	Trustee		
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	CIO
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected by AGM

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

<p>You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees; • the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works; • relationship with any related parties; • trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them. 	<p>The Upper Don Trail Trust works with a wide range of partners and groups in order to achieve the aims of it's charitable objectives. These include city and town councils, local communities, private landowners, statutory bodies such as the Environment Agency, other charities and developers.</p>
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Section C Objectives and activities

<p>Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document</p>	<p>The objects of the CIO are:</p> <p><i>"The provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation of the public with the object of improving their conditions of life particularly through the provision of providing footpaths, cycleways, and bridleways as locally appropriate alongside the River Don</i></p>
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from Lady's Bridge to Stocksbridge and to the Peak District National park."

Throughout the course of planning and managing our activities for this the organisation has very much kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our trustee meetings.

COVID-19 had some impact on our activities.

Following a relaunch in October 2019 and despite the severe restrictions resulting from the Pandemic from early 2022, the Trust has made a very significant impact on progressing the Trail in almost every section whether through commenting on and influencing planning applications, seeking partnerships with landowners, applying and supporting funding bids and organising volunteering events when permitted.

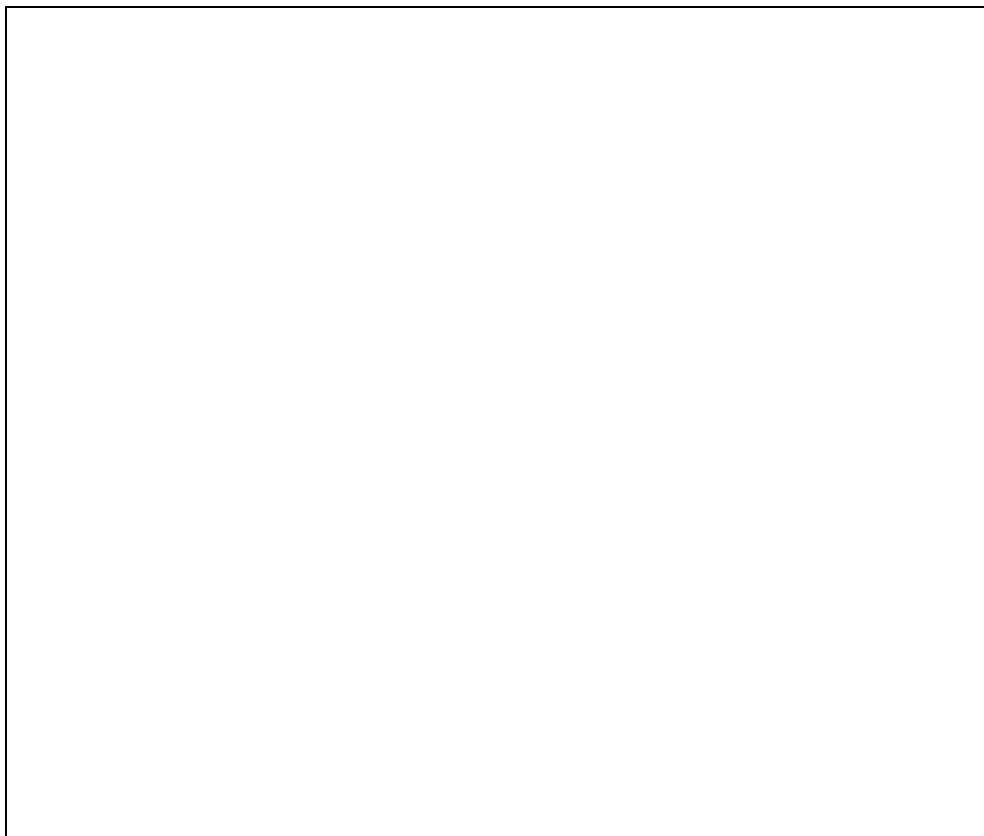
The Trustees and other active supporters have continued to meet using virtual meeting technology, which has given us the ability to include members otherwise unable to attend in person, a facility which we hope to retain when meeting in person is again allowed.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.



Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

All our activities are steered by volunteers.

Little Kelham Bridge

After a number of false starts the Council's funding contribution was re-confirmed in August 2020 and a partnership agreement with Citu drafted which should allow the bridge to be constructed, subject to costs remaining within budget. A new planning application will be required as the previous one has timed out.

Herries to Hillfoot

This new project was adopted as the first priority of the relaunched trust as it is the key missing link in the inner city section of the trail between established sections in Kelham/Neepsend and Beeley Woods. A successful bid to Sustrans was submitted by the Council and supported by the UDTT, with additional funding from the Council and a planning application was submitted and approved. However subsequent site investigations have revealed unforeseen problems with buried electric and gas services which render the route unviable as an accessible cycle and wheelchair trail. An alternative route for cycling is therefore being explored following the river bank more closely whilst more modest improvements to the previous alignment as a walking only route are being considered.

Stocksbridge Healthy Towns Fund

Trustees have been invited to join the sub-group of the above board to help shape its bid for up to £20m from the government's Healthy Towns Programme. The successful initial bid has been approved including up to £3.75m for new connections in the walking/cycling/horse riding trails around Stocksbridge, most of which form part of or connect with the UDT. Stakeholder work, consultation and detailed feasibility, costing and design will continue.

Planning Applications

The UDTT has commented on the following planning applications to ensure parts of the trail are provided as part of the development:

- Bloor Homes – 450 houses at former brick works Manchester Rd Deepcar with 1km of riverside trail and improvements to Station Rd
- Barrett Homes – 200 houses at former paper mill Manchester Rd Wharnccliffe Side with 1km of riverside trail plus new bridge over the River Don and connecting trail into Oughtibridge
- Jaguar Estates – retail and leisure development between Penistone Rd and Herries Rd, Hillsborough with potential to improve existing cycling and walking facilities on Penistone Road (decision yet to be made)

Volunteering

A clean-up of the Beeley Woods section of the Trail was organised in February 2020 in partnership with Sustrans Rangers, City Kayak Club, Good Gym and the River Stewardship Co. Over 40 people took part and the whole length of trail from Abbey Stainless to Oughtibridge Cricket Club was litter picked, leaves and detritus scraped off and encroachment of vegetation cut back.

Further activities are planned at Club Mill Rd when permitted again.

Design Guidance

Trustees are working to produce a compendium of design standards for widths, surfacing, signage etc based on best practice from across Europe. This will be used to influence the design of new sections and the upgrade of existing trails including removal of security barriers which exclude legitimate users.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Charity doesn't maintain significant reserves and raises funds on a needs by needs basis.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None.

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Our principal sources of funds are:

- i. Grant applications
- ii. Business sponsorship (funds and in kind)

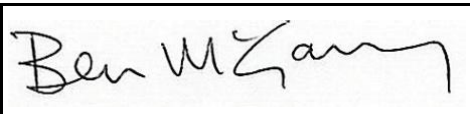
Section F Other optional information

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Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Ben McGarry	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Trustee	
Date	31.07.2021	



Receipts and payments account

For the period from	Period start date 31/08/2019	To
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £
A1 Receipts			
Balance		-	-
Donations	200	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	200	-	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).			
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-
Total receipts	200	-	-
A3 Payments			
Media: short film commission			-
Artwork: logo	200		-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
Sub total	200	-	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)			
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-
Total payments	200	-	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	-	-	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	1	-	14/07/2021

Cash funds this year end - -

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Accounts with Co-op Bank plus float	23,526
		-
		-
	Total cash funds	23,526
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-
		-
		-
		-
		-
		-
B3 Investment assets		
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		
B5 Liabilities CCXX R3 accounts (SS)		
	3	14/07/2024

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print N

<i>C. Prescott</i>

C. PRES

o (if any)
104333

units

Period end date
31/08/2020

CC16a



Total funds

Last year

to the nearest £

to the nearest £

	26,236
200	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
200	26,236

-	
-	-
-	-
200	26,236

-	2,510
200	200
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
200	2,710

-	
-	
-	-
200	2,710

	23,526
-	-
-	-

23,526	23,526
--------	--------

Restricted funds	Endowment funds
to nearest £	to nearest £
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-

Restricted funds	Endowment funds
to nearest £	to nearest £
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-

Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-

Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-

Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
-	

-	
-	
-	
-	

Name	Date of approval
SCOTT	20th May 2021