



(A company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

Annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st July 2021

Charity No. 1126535
Registered No. 6661092



Annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st July 2021

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Company information

Trustees	R Findlay (Treasurer) G Haseler P Mascall S Milan E Pringle N Siba P Wakeham (Chairman)
Registered office	46 Wilmot Way Banstead Surrey SM7 2PY
Independent examiner	Michael Tuckey FCA FCMA Chartered Accountant The Dutch House 24 The Downsway Sutton Surrey SM2 5RN



Trustees' report for the year ended 31st July 2021

The Trustees present their Annual Report together with the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st July 2021, which also meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

Objectives and Activities

The Downlands Trust was created as a charitable trust in November 2008. It supports countryside conservation and management across north east Surrey and the adjoining urban fringe, including: Addington, Caterham, Chelsham, Woldingham, Warlingham, Salt Box Hill, Kenley, Riddlesdown, Woodmansterne, Chipstead Downs, Banstead Woods and Merstham. This is not an exhaustive list but gives an indication of the range of sites covered.

Many of the sites are of high conservation and scientific significance and encompass a wide variety of environments, including rare and valuable chalk grassland and ancient woodland. The majority are directly managed by the Downlands Partnership on behalf of their local authority owners, but the Trust also provides financial support for local countryside conservation groups.

The Trust's objectives as defined in its Memorandum of Association are to:

- (1) promote for the benefit of the public the conservation of the physical and natural environment through management of the countryside
- (2) advance the education of the public in the conservation and management of the physical and natural environment.

The Trust achieves its objectives by raising funds via memberships, donations and corporate sponsorship. It then provides grants for investment in the future of the local countryside and engages in the promotion of conservation and the encouragement of access for all.

Affiliation

The Downlands Trust is not affiliated to any other charity.

Structure and Governance

The Downlands Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee. It is run entirely by volunteer trustees who ensure that the Trust acts in accordance with its published constitution, the rules governing its charitable trust status, and in the best interests of its membership. The administration is governed by the Memorandum of Association and the Articles of Association, both dated 15 January 2008.

Based on the founding documents, one-third of trustees are required to retire by rotation at each AGM, with the option to offer to be reappointed. The existing trustees can at any time appoint new trustees, who then need to be reappointed at the next AGM.

Overview 2020/21

Our focus has remained that of supporting a variety of conservation activities that benefit chalk grassland, especially in association with the Downlands Partnership. Activities of the Trust aimed at raising our profile were again constrained throughout the year by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, notably because of the cancellation of summer fetes and fairs at which we would have had a presence. However, this has been offset by Zoom presentations given to several organisations about the work of the Trust and also our biannual newsletter which is now received by an increasing number of conservation orientated societies.



Trustee meetings have been held using video-conferencing technology and the receipt and processing of grant applications has continued unhindered. Our financial reserves remain strong and will ensure that we are able to continue to operate effectively.

The AGM in October 2020 was cancelled and this year's AGM has been arranged for Tuesday 19th October at the Banstead Centre, details to follow.

Funding of the Trust

Overview

The Trust operates in the context of continued financial pressures on local authorities and their need to prioritise essential services, resulting in diminished funding for environmental management and conservation. The economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is likely to exacerbate this situation and the Trust continues to actively explore and utilise the various funding opportunities available for habitat management.

We are delighted that Fidelity International has agreed to support the Trust for a further 2 years which will continue to make a significant difference to our achievements. We are also grateful to Park & Bailey of Caterham-on-the-Hill whose support has benefited conservation work in the Sanderstead to Whyteleafe Countryside Area and to Copley Clark of Sutton and Banstead for agreeing to sponsor the printing of our newsletter.

The Trust remains grateful for the regular core funding that is derived from membership subscriptions and for donations received from members and local organisations.

City of London grant - 'Enjoying Green Spaces'

Supported by work plans provided by the Downlands Partnership, the Trust has successfully secured grants of almost £15,000 for each of the last three years under the City of London Corporation's 'Enjoying Green Spaces' initiative. The funding is ring-fenced to meet the cost of volunteer days and grazing on the City's Commons and the current grant covers the 12-month period to March 2022. This funds grazing at Riddlesdown Quarry and scrub management at Riddlesdown, Farthing Downs and Kenley Common, all of which are situated within the South London Downs National Nature Reserve. We are grateful to the Corporation of the City of London for their continued strong support of the maintenance of their green spaces on the fringes of London and for their confidence in the Trust and the Downlands Partnership.

Fidelity International's Environmental Charity of the Year Sponsorship

The sponsorship of the Trust by Fidelity International in 2019 and 2020 made a great difference to the number and value of the grants that we were able to award. We were therefore delighted and extremely grateful when we were informed at the beginning of 2021 that we would enjoy another two years of sponsorship with the additional benefit of a significantly increased budget. The impact of this renewed support is already very apparent and, so far this year, Fidelity has funded almost all grants awarded from our unrestricted funds.

Prior to the pandemic, the Trust, Fidelity and the Downlands Partnership enjoyed a productive three-way relationship that included Fidelity staff participating in conservation activities at some of the sites managed by the Partnership. It was therefore with regret that in 2020 the volunteering days enjoyed by Fidelity staff had to be suspended because of Covid-19 restrictions. I am pleased to say that they have now recommenced and already this summer the staff have enjoyed days out at Earlswood Common pulling Himalayan Balsam and at Nork Park pulling Ragwort, helping to maintain these sites in good condition.

The pandemic has also resulted in the cancellation of several Fidelity fundraising initiatives that would have benefited the Trust although some fundraising events have been organised online and Fidelity staff have



continued to raise extra funds for us.

Our relationship with Fidelity has always been enjoyable and productive and we look forward to our joint activities quickly increasing to pre-pandemic levels.

Grants Awarded by the Trust

Grant applications are considered by the trustees according to a number of criteria, the most important being compliance with the Trust's Objects as set out in our Memorandum of Association. As a general policy, we do not provide grants that would result in longer term commitments or any that would create a dependency for the beneficiary. 28 grants were awarded in 2020/21 with a total value of approximately £15,000. This represents a reduction in the value of grants awarded in comparison with 2019/20 and is attributable to the reduced number of applications received by the Trust.

The Downlands Partnership is responsible for the maintenance of most of the green spaces in the Trust's area of activity and continues to be a key partner and beneficiary. Over half of grants by value from unrestricted funds were awarded to the Downlands Partnership. These grants funded items such as fencing, livestock and a wide variety of equipment to support grazing and conservation activities. The grazing team has recently acquired 'No Fence' equipment with a grant from the Trust. This uses GPS technology in conjunction with a smartphone app and livestock collars and enables the Partnership's goats to be grazed within a defined area without the need for physical fencing.

The Trust has continued to engage with other local conservation organisations. The WoodChips work in Banstead Woods and Chipstead Downs on behalf of Reigate and Banstead Borough Council and were awarded a grant to replant a historic orchard and a nuttree. They also received a grant for aquatic plants for the drainage lagoon at the junction of Outwood Lane and Holly Lane in Banstead. In the relatively short time since its construction, the lagoon has become a haven for both amphibians and invertebrates and this latest planting has helped to reinforce its importance for wildlife.

Grants have also been awarded for equipment, fencing and path repairs in Happy Valley and Devilsden Wood in Coulsdon, helping to ensure that this splendid SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) continues to be well maintained.

In addition to grants awarded, the Trust has pledged a contribution of £10,000 towards the purchase of a new off-road vehicle by the Downlands Partnership in 2021/22. This will enable the Partnership to terminate the current lease arrangement for a Land Rover and will result in significant cost savings. The balance of the purchase price will be met by a generous donation of £5,000 from Fidelity International, an award of £750 from Reigate and Banstead Borough Council and the proceeds of a joint fundraising campaign that has been undertaken by the Trust and the Partnership.

Discussions have been initiated with a scout troop in Chipstead and a community organisation in Woldingham that may result in grant applications being received in 2021/2.

Reserves

As demonstrated by the financial statements included in this report, the Trust enjoys comfortable reserves that will ensure its longer-term financial sustainability. We periodically review our financial standing and take this into consideration when making decisions on grant applications.

The Charity Commission expects every charity to have a reserves policy, reserves comprising that part of a charity's unrestricted funds that is freely available to spend on the charity's purposes. Our reserves policy is based upon an assessment of likely future income and expenditure over the next few years, taken together with the need to maintain the financial resilience of the Trust. On this basis, the trustees have



decided that our reserves should be maintained within the range £40-60,000.

Reserves currently exceed the upper limit and the Trust continues to explore opportunities for awarding grants that will assist in aligning our reserves with the policy. In this context and as already noted, we shall contribute £10,000 in 2021/22 towards the purchase of a replacement off-road vehicle for the Downlands Partnership.

Investment Policy

The Trust's Memorandum and Articles of Association provide the power to make investments. Accordingly, the Trust may invest surplus funds, defined as cash not required for the short-term funding of grant applications. To this end we have invested a total of £50,000 in two 12 month fixed rate savings accounts with Shawbrook Bank through the Charities Aid Foundation. We benefit from a substantially better interest rate than that offered by our HSBC current account and the investment is fully protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

Engagement with the Public

For the second year in succession the Trust has been obliged to postpone many of its plans to raise its public profile and to attract new members and donations. This included the cancellation of a talk to the Banstead Arts Festival entitled 'Surrey Landscapes', a major public event that had already been rescheduled from 2020. Likewise, all summer fetes and fairs at which we would have taken a stall were cancelled.

The Trust has nevertheless made good use of the remaining opportunities:

- on-line presentations about our work and chalk grassland have been given to a total of 7 organisations including local Rotary clubs and the regional branch of the Royal Society of Biology
- good numbers of Downlands Trust leaflets have been distributed to the public via the leaflet holders that we have installed at key locations across the Downs
- frequent updates have been made to our social media accounts and the number of views has risen accordingly
- our website continues to attract a good number of visitors and queries about the work of the Downlands Trust, the Downlands Partnership and chalk grassland are received and answered on a regular basis
- complimentary copies of our newsletter are provided to an increasing number of conservation organisations in the area and we continue to receive excellent feedback
- in conjunction with the Downlands Partnership, we launched a widely publicised funding campaign to enable a new off-road vehicle to be purchased by the Partnership for use by their Countryside Team

Membership

The number of members as at 31st July 2021 was 146 which is an increase of 10 over the membership of 136 at the same time last year. We have gained 16 new members over the year and lost 6. This is excellent news in view of the pandemic and the lack of live events at which to promote ourselves. This increase may be due to the number of talks which have been given via Zoom over the last year, also to our increasing profile via the provision of leaflets at countryside sites and our enhanced social media presence.



Financial Review of the Year

During the year, the charity received income of £59,416 (2020: £43,713) and incurred expenditure of £50,840 (2020 - £39,990) on charitable activities. Reserves at year-end were £95,120 (2020 - £86,544).

Whilst the pandemic resulted in the loss of some income opportunities, the Trust is fortunate in that unlike many larger charities it has no significant overheads that require funding. Fewer requests for grants were received from local groups as a result of the constraints imposed by the pandemic but it is likely that there will be an increased demand in 2021/22 given that most restrictions have now been lifted.

Risk Review

The Trustees carry out periodic reviews of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Systems and procedures have been established to mitigate those identified, minimising any potential impact on the Trust. Risks to which we pay particular attention are: financial control of our funds, including ensuring that we maintain an adequate reserve to meet future requests; the need to ensure that we are covered by public liability insurance whenever we interact with the public; safeguarding our members' personal information through a data protection policy that complies with the GDPR.

Outlook

The Trust will maintain its strong support for the Downlands Partnership as its core beneficiary as well as continuing to extend its outreach to other potential grant beneficiaries engaged in the conservation of local green spaces. The broader funding environment for conservation is unlikely to improve significantly and the Trust will continue to provide active support for countryside management throughout its area to the best of its ability.

We will endeavour to secure a steady flow of donations and other types of funding and increase our membership base, all of which are particularly important given the lost opportunities of the last two years.

The Trust will continue to establish productive links with other organisations to better understand overlaps, gaps and opportunities for co-operation, including include joint walks with an educational element. We will continue to review and extend the activities offered to our members.

Directors and Trustees:

The Trustees who served during the year were as follows:

Peter Wakeham	(Chairman)
Roger Findlay	(Treasurer)
Geof Haseler	
Richard Marston	(resigned 31 st December 2020)
Pamela Mascall	
Sarah Milan	
Elspeth Pringle	(appointed 24 th November 2020)
Noreen Siba	

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).



Company law requires the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts, and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The above report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Trustees on 24th August 2021 and signed on their behalf by

Peter Wakeham

Chairman



Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Downlands Trust

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Downlands Trust (the "Charity") for the year ended 31st July 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity (and also its directors for the purpose of the company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act ('the 2006 Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:-

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.

Michael Tuckey FCA FCMA
Chartered Accountant
The Dutch House
24 The Downsway
Sutton
Surrey
SM2 5RN
Date: 10th September 2021

Balance sheet as at 31st July 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash in hand and at bank		110,969	94,738
Debtors	5	5,930	293
Current assets		116,899	95,031
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(21,779)	(8,487)
Current liabilities		(21,779)	(8,487)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		95,120	86,544
NET ASSETS		95,120	86,544
FUNDS			
Restricted funds	7	10,285	11,543
Unrestricted funds	7	84,835	75,001
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		95,120	86,544

The company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP.

Approved by the Trustees on 24/08/2021
and signed on their behalf by



Peter Wakeham
Chairman of Trustees

Statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31st July 2021

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income					
Donations and Legacies					
Membership subscriptions	1	1,300	-	1,300	1,180
Donations including Gift Aid	2	40,869	16,088	56,957	42,130
Income from other trading activities					
Sale of logs		685	-	685	-
Investment Income		474	-	474	403
Total Income		43,328	16,088	59,416	43,713
Expenditure					
Grants	3	32,376	17,346	49,722	36,500
Other expenditure on charitable activities	3	1,118	-	1,118	3,490
Total expenditure on charitable activities	3	33,494	17,346	50,840	39,990
Net income and net movement in funds for the year		9,834	(1,258)	8,576	3,723
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	6	75,001	11,543	86,544	82,821
Total funds carried forward		84,835	10,285	95,120	86,544

All of the company's operations are classed as continuing. The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities. The movement on reserves is shown above.

The notes on pages 12 to 16 form part of these financial statements.



Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st July 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with 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 (FRS102) (effective 1st January 2015), with FRS102 and with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Downlands Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

Currency and rounding

The accounts are presented in sterling and rounded to the nearest £1.

Income recognition

All donations and legacies are 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.

Membership income is recognised when received.

Resources expended

- Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.
- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about Downlands Trust's ability to continue as a going concern.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st July 2021 (continued)

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2021	2020
	£	£
Donations for Unrestricted Funds		
Fidelity International (including £5,000 towards replacement vehicle)	33,473	23,463
Reigate & Banstead Borough Council towards replacement vehicle	750	-
Other donations towards replacement vehicle for Downlands Partnership	3,890	-
Members	959	1,267
Copley Clark – payment for newsletter	270	-
1 st Tadworth Scout Group	253	-
Banstead Residents' Association	100	100
Other donations	336	814
Easyfundgiving, Amazon, Paypal and Virgin Money	422	370
Gift Aid	416	473
Total Unrestricted	40,869	26,487
Donations for Restricted Funds		
City of London	14,988	14,843
Park & Bailey	1,100	800
Total Restricted	16,088	15,643
Total donations and legacies	56,957	42,130

3. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Un-restricted costs 2021	Restricted costs 2021	Total Costs 2021	Un-restricted costs 2020	Restricted costs 2020	Total Costs 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grants to:						
Downlands Partnership	27,637	14,998	42,635	16,883	13,774	30,657
Sanderstead to Whyteleafe	-	2,348	2,348	-	313	313
Woldingham CIC	581	-	581	662	-	662
Other local groups	4,158	-	4,158	4,868	-	4,868
Total grants payable	32,376	17,346	49,722	22,413	14,087	36,500
Support costs						
Administration	65	-	65	2,101	-	2,101
Governance	585	-	585	914	-	914
Independent Examiner	48	-	48	55	-	55
Independent Examiner	420	-	420	420	-	420
Total Support Costs	1,118	-	1,118	3,490	-	3,490
Total Expenditure on charitable activities	33,494	17,346	50,840	25,903	14,087	39,990



Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st July 2021 (continued)

4. STAFF AND TRUSTEES

The charity had no employees during the year or the previous period.

The charity trustees were not paid and did not receive any benefits from the charity during the period. No expenses were reimbursed to trustees and no charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity.

5. DEBTORS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Accrued interest Shawbrook Bank	64	293
Outstanding contributions for replacement vehicle for Downlands Partnership:		
- Fidelity International	5,000	-
- Reigate & Banstead Borough Council	750	-
- Virgin Money Giving	116	-
	5,930	293

6. CURRENT LIABILITIES

	2021	2020
	£	£
Due to Downlands Partnership for replacement vehicle	19,640	-
Other amounts falling due within one year	2,139	8,487
	21,779	8,487

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st July 2021 (continued)

7. ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS

Movement in funds in current year

	Balance 1 August 2020	Income	Expenditure	Balance 31 July 2021
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds				
General fund	74,420	43,328	(32,913)	84,835
Designated Fund Woldingham CIC	581	-	(581)	-
Total Unrestricted Funds	75,001	43,328	(33,494)	84,835
Restricted Funds				
Sanderstead to Whyteleafe	4,838	1,100	(2,348)	3,590
City of London	6,705	14,988	(14,998)	6,695
Total Restricted Funds	11,543	16,088	(17,346)	10,285
Total Funds	86,544	59,416	(50,840)	95,120

Movement in funds in prior year

	Balance 1 August 2019	Income	Expenditure	Balance 31 July 2020
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds				
General fund	71,591	28,070	(25,241)	74,420
Designated Fund Woldingham CIC	1,243	-	(662)	581
Total Unrestricted Funds	72,834	28,070	(25,903)	75,001
Restricted Funds				
Sanderstead to Whyteleafe	4,351	800	(313)	4,838
City of London	5,636	14,843	(13,774)	6,705
Total Restricted Funds	9,987	15,643	(14,087)	11,543
Total Funds	82,821	43,713	(39,990)	86,544

The designated fund is a grant of £1,650 awarded to Woldingham CIC in October 2018 for work and grazing on their site by the Downlands Partnership between February 2019 and July 2020. Payments are made as the work is completed.

The restricted fund shown as "Sanderstead to Whyteleafe" represents donations received specifically for use in the Sanderstead to Whyteleafe Recreation Area. The warden of that area must obtain the Trustees' approval before spending from this fund.



Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st July 2021 (continued)

The restricted fund shown as "City of London" relates to a grant awarded by the City of London Corporation for work done by the Downlands Partnership on specific sites. More detail is given in the Trustees' report.

8. FUTURE COMMITMENTS

At 31st July 2021 the Trust had no outstanding commitments (2020: Nil).

The Trust is committed to fund work by the Downlands Partnership specified under the City of London grant (see note 7).

9. COMPANY STATUS

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.