

SYLVA FOUNDATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1128516

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	06589157
Registered	2009-03-12
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address
Sylva Wood Centre
Little Wittenham Road
Long Wittenham
Abingdon
Oxfordshire
OX14 4QT

Phone 01865 408018

Email info@sylva.org.uk

Website www.sylva.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT CONSISTENT WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES BY: I ADVANCING EDUCATION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT II THE PROMOTION AND CONDUCT OF RESEARCH FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT ABOUT EFFECTIVE SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT AND THE DISSEMINATION OF THE USEFUL RESULTS OF SUCH RESEARCH III SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IV ADVANCING EDUCATION AND BUSINESS ENTERPRISE IN THE DESIGN AND PRODUCTION OF HOME-GROWN WOOD PRODUCTS FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT

Activities: The Sylva Foundation is working to bring trees and people closer together, following sustainable development principles. The charity works across Britain caring for forests to ensure they thrive for people and for nature, and supporting innovation in home-grown wood. We conduct our work through four main programmes, reflecting our charitable objects, namely: Science, Education, Forestry, and Wood.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£910,310	£838,523	£1,724,326	11
2024-03-31	£608,973	£672,552	£1,652,539	9
2023-03-31	£590,358	£649,823	£1,752,218	10
2022-03-31	£499,747	£542,418	-	-
2021-03-31	£496,959	£437,222	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
SARAH JANE TAYLOR	Chair	2018-09-17
Amanda Jayne Bryan		2025-03-11
Dr Eleanor Rosemary Tew		2024-11-19
Dr James Ivo Lindsay Morison		2019-09-17
James Waterson MICFor		2020-11-25
LUCIUS CARY OBE		2012-01-24
Phoebe Tabitha Madison Oldfield		2024-07-18
Robin Buxton MBE		2017-07-10
Sebastian Cox		2025-11-11

SYLVA FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1128516

Accounts



2025

Trustees' Report and Accounts



SYLVA
FOUNDATION



Innovating

Supported more than 10,000 land owners and managers in caring for their woodlands via myForest

200,000ha of woodland mapped in myForest

7,500ha of new woodland planned and created using myForest

Added insightful data layers to myForest to support decision making by land managers

Enhanced the Woodland Condition Assessment to support uplift in ecological conditions of woodlands and biodiversity net gain assessments

Helped channel £39M of funding to support environmental outcomes via the NatureBid platform

Attracted 500 respondents to the 2024 British Woodlands Survey exploring attitudes, experiences and actions among private land managers to public access in their woodlands

Started work developing new British Woodlands Survey for 2025 focussing on environmental change and resilience, creating a 10-year time series

Co-authored a peer-reviewed research article exploring forest manager attitudes towards pest and disease risks to oak in Britain

Training

Delivered an Introduction to Furniture Making course

Delivered a Professional Course, offering bursaries to young students

Offered a fellowship scheme for outstanding students

Ran a Summer School for marginalised genders in collaboration with ercol and Grown in Britain

Production winner in the 2024 Wood Awards for products made by students at the Sylva Wood School

Collaborating

Concluded the PIES project, delivering advice to 146 land owners, supporting the sustainable management of 2,945ha of existing woodland with potential for 455ha of new woodland

Initiated work to redevelop the Woodland Wildlife Toolkit with the RSPB, Woodland Trust, Forestry Commission and others

With Forest Research, developed 3 new projects in Forest Lab exploring tree health and growth across Britain with more than 80 land managers

Supported the development of Whole Farm Tree Plans with the Soil Association

Worked with ercol to deliver a home-grown furniture exhibition

Designed and made a new collection of home-grown furniture with the National Trust

Advocating

Launched the UKFS Checker to help promote understanding of the UK Forestry Standard

Our research of the woodworking sector revealed that only 20% of the workforce were women, while in manufacturing roles just 8%

Awarded a major grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund to run a Woodworking and Gender Project

Appointed a project coordinator to the Woodworking and Gender Project and ran a seminar for marginalised genders

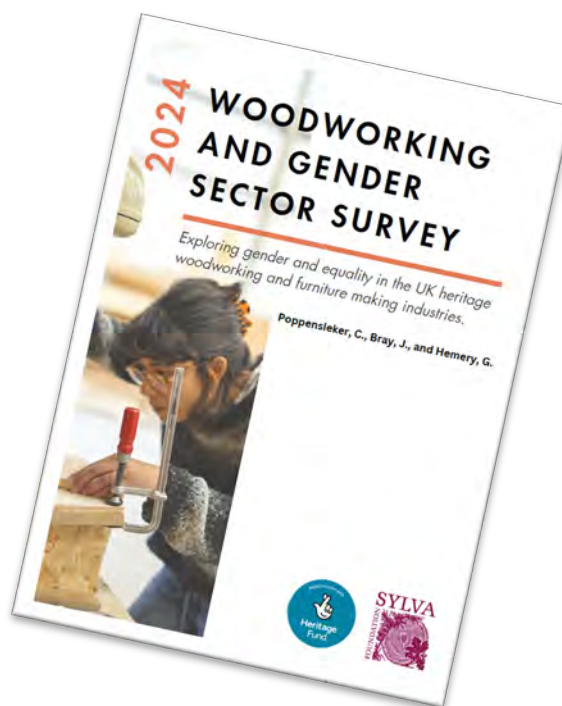
Sylva Foundation is a national charity working for a society that lives in harmony with nature, focusing on the stewardship of our forests and the utility of home-grown timber. It provides solutions to meet significant environmental challenges by innovating, collaborating, training, and advocating.



Safe and supportive spaces for under-served people to learn new skills could provide a vital boost to a threatened trade.

Many heritage crafts that use traditional hand-skills working with wood are in danger. The [Red List of Endangered Crafts](#) features elements of woodworking across all categories from 'currently viable' to 'critically endangered'. On top of this is a lack of women, trans and non-binary people working in the heritage woodworking and furniture-making sectors.

The [Woodworking & Gender project](#), delivered by the charity Sylva Foundation, is aiming to tackle those trends through training and access to facilities, seminars and networking events and partnering with employers and educators.



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Front cover: using the Woodland Condition Assessment app in the field, developed by Sylva Foundation for the Forestry Commission.

Trustees' Report

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its advisers and trustees.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Sylva Foundation is an environmental and forestry charity founded in 2009. The charity is active across Britain, with its headquarters in Oxfordshire.

Registration

Charity registered in England and Wales (1128516), and in Scotland (SC041892).

Charitable Company registration number 6589157.

Registered office

Sylva Wood Centre
Little Wittenham Road
Long Wittenham
Oxfordshire
OX14 4QT

Principal professional advisors

Banking

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

Unity Bank Ltd
4 Brindley Place
Birmingham
B1 2JB

The Charity Bank Ltd
Fosse House
182 High Street
Tonbridge
TN9 1BE

Insurance Brokers

NFU Mutual
Views Farm Barns
Windmill Hill
Great Milton
Oxfordshire
OX44 4NW

Independent Examiner

Ajay Bahl
Wenn Townsend Chartered Accountants
30 St Giles'
Oxford
OX1 3LE

Trustee Board and Staff



Trustees, staff and some of the community of makers gather at the Sylva Wood Centre, March 2025.

Patrons

Lady Audrey Wood OBE
Sir Martin Wood FRS (1927-2021)

Trustees

Sarah Taylor (Chair)
Amanda Bryan FICFor
Dr Mary Barkham
Dr Robin Buxton
Lucius Cary OBE
Dr James Morison
Phoebe Oldfield
Dr Eleanor Tew MICFor
Jim Waterson MICFor MRICS

Staff

Chief Executive

Dr Gabriel Hemery FICFor CEnv

Director of Operations

Paul Orsi FICFor MRICS

Other Staff members

Andrew Clark	Head of Forestry
Gwyneth Bradbury	Web Developer
Joseph Bray	Head of Wood School
Emma Bruun	Product Manager
Phillip Gullam	Senior Tutor and Wood Centre Manager
Lucie Henwood	Finance Manager
Christine Howard	Operations Administrator
Richard Pigott	Head of Web Development
Cathrin Poppensieker	Woodworking and Gender Project Coordinator
Oliver Price	Web Developer

Advisors and Associates

Shems Hadj-Nassar	Communications
Dr Philip Koomen	Furniture & Wood
Dr Gill Petrokofsky	Science
Alistair Yeomans	Scotland Representative

Structure, Governance and Management

Legal Structure

Sylva Foundation ('Sylva' or 'the charity') is a charity registered in England and Wales 1128516 and in Scotland SC041892, and a charitable company limited by guarantee 06589157. The company (a private company not having a share capital) was established under a Memorandum of Association (dated 11th March 2009, updated by Special Resolution 28th March 2013).

The governing body of the charity is the Trustee Board ('the board'). Up to ten trustees may be appointed to the board. During 2024-25, no trustees retired, and three new trustees were appointed, bringing the total number of trustees to nine.

The day-to-day management of the charity is delegated by the Trustee Board to the Chief Executive and carried out by members of staff.

The charity's registered address is in Oxfordshire, and this is its sole headquarters. Sylva's activities extend across Britain, and occasionally internationally.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The charity's trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with FRS102 – The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland. The law applicable to charities in England, Wales, and Scotland requires the charity's trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources

of the group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the charity trustees are required to:

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

The charity trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that:

- are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions;
- disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity; and,
- ensure that the financial statements comply with the reporting and legal regulations and the provisions of the charity's constitution as set out in the Articles of Association and Memorandum of Association.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Policies and Procedures

The charity has a range of policies and procedures, which are renewed at the end of each financial year or more frequently as required, with a rolling programme of consideration by trustees. Currently these include:

- anti-bribery policy
- concerns and complaints procedure
- data protection and terms (including GDPR)
- environmental and sustainability policy
- equality, diversity and inclusion policy
- financial policies
- grievance procedure
- health & safety policy
- information security policy
- mental health and wellbeing policy
- parental leave policy
- privacy policies and notices
- reserves policy
- safeguarding policy
- sexual harassment policy
- sickness and absence policy
- no-smoking policy
- terms of supply
- travel policy
- volunteer procedures
- whistleblowing policy

Risk Management

The charity trustees are responsible for identifying and managing the major risks facing the charity. Risk management is well-established and is considered in every aspect of our work.

We maintain a Risk Register which provides a comprehensive view of the following areas of risk:

- financial risks, including contingency plans to deal with insufficient income;
- operational risks, including loss of key personnel, and data management;
- reputational risks, including failure of a project, maintaining high standards in the management of the charity's estate;
- external environment, including environmental change (e.g. pests, diseases);
- governance, including ensuring trustee experience and skills, fraud; and
- health and safety, for staff and visitors.

The Risk Register is scrutinised annually by the Trustee Board. Following a review in March 2024, the charity trustees confirm that they are satisfied with such arrangements and identified a number of strategic risks which are explained in *Achievements, Challenges and Future Plans*.

Fundraising Activities

Our work nurturing a wood culture and growing a future is only possible because of the support of donors, funders, and other partners who contribute vital funding. Sylva Foundation is registered with the Fundraising Regulator. Alongside our own high standards in fundraising, we follow its Codes of Practice.

Volunteers

We received highly valuable assistance from volunteers, without whom our work would be much reduced. During the year we continued to benefit particularly from volunteers with professional skills, notably in legal matters, and in communications and marketing.

Our local community near the Sylva Wood Centre is very supportive of our activities, including the annual Artweeks exhibition, taking an active role in supporting our community woodland and orchard. We welcome volunteer conservation work parties onto our estate.

We always welcome enquiries from potential volunteers. Please contact us direct or visit our website: sylva.org.uk/volunteer

Trustees and Personnel

During 2024-25 we welcomed three new trustee board members, bringing the number of appointed trustees to nine in total:

- **Phoebe Oldfield:** Phoebe is a furniture designer-maker, currently working at Benchmark Furniture Ltd. Following her degree at Nottingham Trent University, Phoebe was awarded the Chartered Society of Designers CEP Prize, along with the Materials and Design Exchange award for Sustainability.
- **Dr Eleanor Tew:** Eleanor is currently Head of Forest Planning at Forestry England. She studied Biological Sciences at the Department of Zoology, Oxford University followed by a PhD in the Conservation Science Group at Cambridge University. In 2022, she was awarded the Hugh Miller Award for Excellence

by the Institute of Chartered Foresters for her Professional Membership Entry application and was shortlisted for the institute's Professional Forester of the Year 2024.

- **Amanda Bryan:** Amanda is a Chartered Forester, Lecturer at the Scottish School of Forestry, UHI Inverness and an independent consultant working in the fields of forestry, natural capital and communities. With over 25 years' experience in the forestry sector with twelve of those in forestry education Amanda will be able to support Sylva's work in skills, education and training.

Our team expanded to 12 people (10.8 full-time equivalent), our largest head count to date. We welcomed Emma Bruun as Product Manager, and Cathrin Poppensieker as Woodworking and Gender Project Coordinator.

We were delighted by the recognition by the Institute of Chartered Foresters of the significant contributions to the sector of trustee Amanda Bryan and team member Paul Orsi with their appointments as Fellows. Congratulations also to Wood School Senior Tutor Phillip Gullam on receiving the Master Certificate from The Furniture Makers Company.



Paul Orsi FICFor (right) receives his fellowship certificate from Dr Gary Kerr FICFor, Chair of the Institute of Chartered Foresters Professional and Educational Standards Committee.

Objectives, Activities and Public benefit

The charity's objects are set out in the memorandum of association. These are **to promote the conservation of the environment for the public benefit consistent with sustainable development principles** by:

- I. promoting and conducting research for the public benefit about effective sustainable forest management and the dissemination of the useful results of such research;
- II. advancing education for the public benefit in the theory and practice of sustainable forest management;
- III. supporting the development and application of sustainable forest management for the public benefit;
- IV. advancing education and business enterprise in the design and production of home-grown wood products for the public benefit.

The charity's trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing objectives and activities which are described in the section *Achievements, Challenges and Future plans*. Sylva Foundation has a range of activities for achieving these objectives and its public benefit, combining them to best effect. For the purposes of preparing Sylva's accounts, these activities are grouped under four main headings:

- ❖ Innovating
- ❖ Collaborating
- ❖ Training
- ❖ Advocacy

Our Vision

Our vision is for a society that cares for nature while living in harmony with it. We envisage a wood culture where people understand and promote the good stewardship of woodlands and are mindful of their utility, while being conscious of their fragility. Future society will recognise the creative and productive value of forest products which can be derived from growing well-managed forests, and at the same time enhance their wider benefits for people and for nature.

We aim to tackle three highly significant challenges facing the environment and society in Britain:

- I. halting the loss of biodiversity
- II. reducing climate change and its effects
- III. supporting a sustainable society

We believe that our actions today will be tangible in the love and respect that future generations will afford our trees and forests.

Our Mission

- To use our forestry knowledge and information technology skills, supported by state-of-art evidence, to provide innovative solutions to some of the greatest environmental challenges facing modern society.
- To work extensively and selflessly with others, recognising that collaboration is necessary to overcome the challenges of halting biodiversity loss and reducing climate change, while supporting the transition to a sustainable human society.
- To deliver the training and education necessary to support the transformation of society, focussing on the stewardship of our forests and the utility of home-grown timber.
- To undertake advocacy to inspire one another, raise awareness, and endow people with knowledge, passion, and the shared ambition for a better and more sustainable society.



Achievements, Challenges and Future plans

This section highlights some of our achievements, challenges and future plans for activities under our four key values of **Innovating, Collaborating, Training, and Advocacy**.

INNOVATING

To use our forestry knowledge and information technology skills, supported by state-of-art evidence, to provide innovative solutions to some of the greatest environmental challenges facing modern society.

myForest

myForest is a flagship project of Sylva Foundation, providing comprehensive online mapping, digital tools and powerful resources to support the sustainable management and creation of new forests around Britain. There are more than 10,000 forest owners and professional agents using myForest to manage more than 200,000ha of forest. More than 7,500ha of new woodland has been designed and planned using the myForest platform.

We worked in partnership with the Forestry Commission to improve access to vitally important data layers directly through myForest. These data layers are critical to informing considered woodland management and creation plans.

Behind the scenes we have invested considerable time in updating and enhancing the code base of myForest. While such work can be relatively invisible to users, it is crucially important in ensuring we can improve security and add some exciting new features. We also employed our first Product Manager to work closely with our

foresters and web developers to support the future development of myForest and related web applications.

Stewardship Science

Our innovative stewardship science project **Forest Lab** for woodland managers went from strength to strength this year. Forest Lab enables woodland managers who use myForest to collect and share data about their trees and woodlands with researchers, and in return strengthens connections between researchers and woodland managers. Working closely with Forest Research, and with funding from Defra, we developed new several projects:

- **Ips Project** volunteers are helping monitor the movement of an invasive tree pest, the eight-tooth spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) which affects spruce trees.
- **Oak Health** participants are monitoring the changing health of oak trees and woodland across Britain, helping test and deploy a new field method developed by Aberystwyth University.
- **Tree Growth** volunteers regularly measure trees in their woodlands. Tree growth is a key ecological

parameter of forests that is strongly linked to a range of influencing factors. Where repeated measurements of tree increment such as diameter, basal area, height or volume are carried out over a period of time, these measurements can help improve understanding of the response of trees to changes in site (e.g. management) and environmental/climate (e.g. frost, drought) conditions.

Next year we will be launching several new Forest Lab projects, exploring soil health, and woodland structure and its relation to biodiversity potential.



Workshop delegates visited the Sylva Wood Centre and field tested the Woodland Condition Assessment app in the context of creating baseline assessments for biodiversity net gain assessments.

Woodland Condition Assessment app

Work continued enhancing the **Woodland Condition Assessment** web application which enables land managers to assess the ecological condition of a woodland. The app also supports an assessment for use with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric used in Biodiversity Net Gain assessments. In July we hosted a workshop for the South-East regional group of the Institute of Chartered Foresters, during which we reviewed the processes and legislation around Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) as well as emerging markets, habitat banks and more.

NatureBid

Our innovative environmental funding platform developed in partnership with the Environment Agency, **NatureBid**, continues to be successful. This year, Forestry Commission used NatureBid to deliver the Woodland Carbon Guarantee, while Landscape Enterprises Networks used it in East of England and Yorkshire. To date, £39M of environmental funding has been channelled through NatureBid.

British Woodlands Survey

During 2024 we conducted another instance of our **British Woodlands Survey** (BWS), working in partnership with researchers from Forest Research. The national survey explored attitudes, experiences and actions among private land managers to public access in their woodlands.

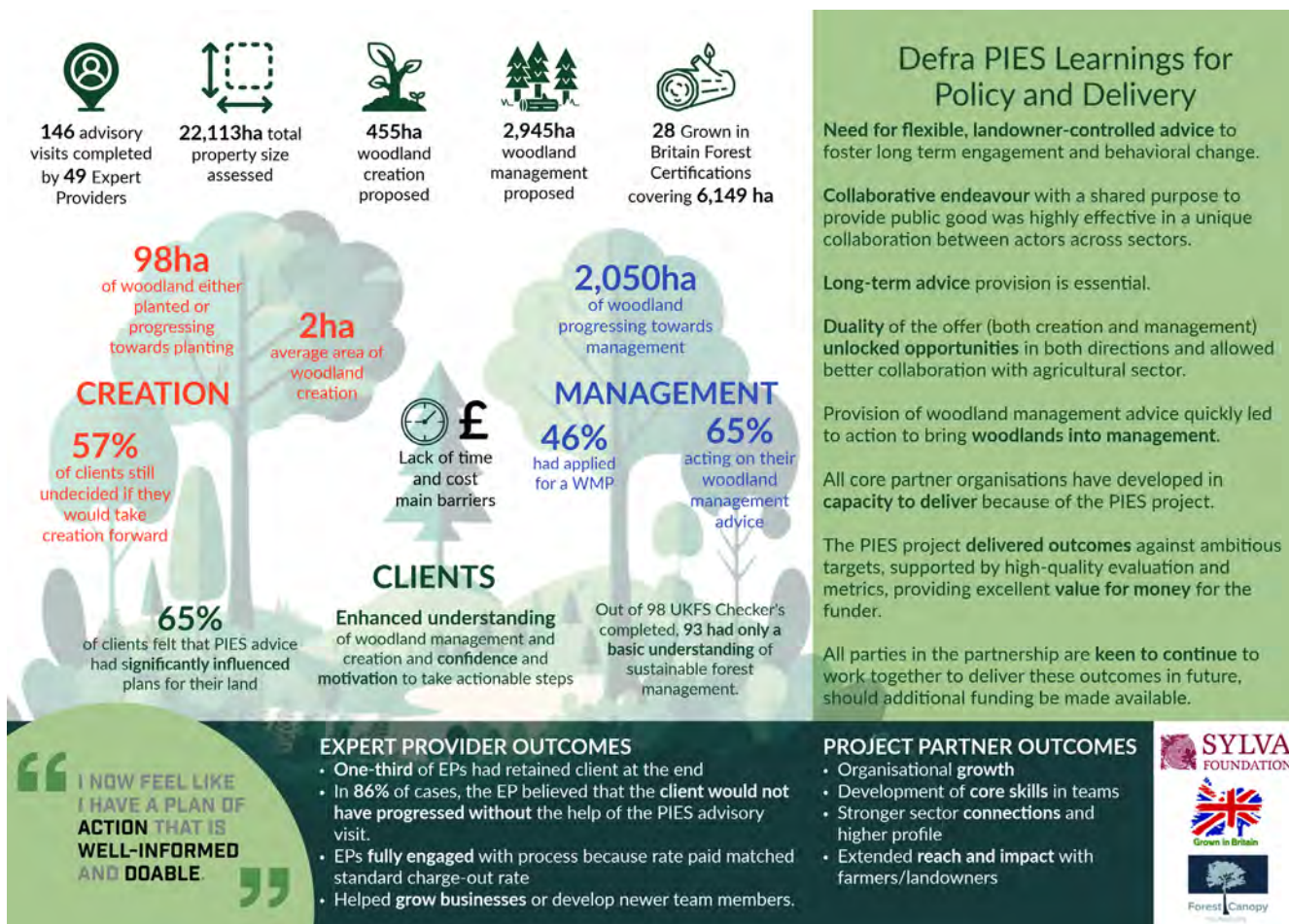
Almost 500 respondents took part in the BWS2024 survey, of whom 87% were woodland owners, representing a significant area of woodland (1.3 million hectares) across Britain, representing 56% of all privately-owned woodland area.



Infographic from the British Woodlands Survey 2024 report exploring attitudes among land managers to public access in woodlands.

Separately, preparations began in developing a new BWS survey for 2025, with funding from Defra. BWS2025 will focus again on environmental change and resilience, the third occasion that we've explored this theme with land managers, following similar surveys in 2015 and 2020.

A peer-reviewed research article was published based on research undertaken in 2021 as part of our British Woodlands Survey. *Managing Trees Species of High Social and Cultural Value: Forest Manager Attitudes towards Pest and Disease Risks to Oak in Britain* was coauthored by Sylva Foundation's Dr Gabriel Hemery and Dr Gillian Petrokofsky alongside researchers from Forest Research and Bangor University.



2,945ha woodland was progressing, with the potential for 455ha of new woodland.

We initiated a deep review of the **Woodland Wildlife Toolkit**, working closely with main partners RSPB, Woodland Trust and the Forestry Commission, and engaging with specialist wildlife charities who provide data to support this innovative toolkit. We aim to submit a funding application to support improvements and to secure future delivery.

Supported by the Forestry Commission's Forest Innovation Fund we collaborated across the sector to explore how we could use our technology to further support forestry and land management. With the Soil Association we developed Whole Farm Tree Plans which aimed to show farmers how the current trees on their land were benefiting their farm business with the aim of encouraging them to plant more. We worked with Evolving Forests to explore how data can be moved between different services and promoted the need for a data standard in forestry. We connected myForest directly into Cumbria Woodland's Canopy Learning platform to allow myForest users to get learning support when they need it. We developed functionality so myForest can connect to timber markets working with CloudForest Timber Auctions and Northwoods.

We were delighted to launch a new collaboration with ercol which will result in an exhibition in 2025 during London Craft Week.

We continued our collaboration with the National Trust. This year we designed and made the Stourhead Collection, a new range of tables and stools for the National Trust using oak from the Stourhead Estate.

COLLABORATING

To work extensively and selflessly with others, recognising that collaboration is necessary to overcome the challenges of halting biodiversity loss and reducing climate change, while supporting the transition to a sustainable human society.

We concluded an innovative new project for Defra and the Forestry Commission (funders) known as **PIES**,

standing for protect, improve, expand, and sustain to help with the creation and management of woodlands across England. We worked in collaboration with Forest Canopy Foundation and Grown in Britain, and with the collaboration of the Forestry Commission and the NFU. We partnered with the Forest Canopy Foundation's networks of Grown in Britain-verified Expert Providers to deliver advice to 146 land owners, assessing more than 22,000ha. By the end of the project, management of

TRAINING

To deliver the training and education necessary to support the transformation of society, focussing on the stewardship of our forests and the utility of home-grown timber.

Sylva Foundation continued to deliver training at the Sylva Wood School. We delivered another **Introduction to Furniture Making Course** providing an introduction to a range of furniture-making skills and experiences in a professional workshop. The course is designed for those looking for an in-depth introduction to woodworking skills or to hone existing skills, and is the perfect stepping stone to our six-month Professional Course.

We are very proud that the Ebworth stools won the Production Made Furniture category of the prestigious 2024 **Wood Awards**. Made from home-grown ash by our students, this collection of hand-crafted stools connects

education, heritage and sustainable woodland management.

Another **Professional Course** was delivered with students achieving a good level of woodworking technical skills, an understanding of professional standards, and many hours of professional experience and competency in wood machinery. Once again, we were pleased to be able to offer **Bursaries** to some students thanks to the support of an individual donor. We continued the **Wood School Fellowship scheme**, where a graduate can remain at a bench with the support of our team, funded by an external grant.

ADVOCATING

To undertake advocacy to inspire one another, raise awareness, and endow people with knowledge, passion, and the shared ambition for a better and more sustainable society.

self-assessment of their woodland stewardship.

Woodworking and Gender Project

Through our existing work, including training the next generation of craftspeople and supporting business start-ups, Sylva has been increasingly aware of gender inequality in the woodworking sector. This has been reinforced by the charity's independent research which showed that among 954 employees represented in a survey, only 20% of the workforce were women, and among those working in manufacturing the percentage dipped as low as 8.5%.

In 2024 we were awarded a grant of £240,000 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to tackle gender inequality in Britain's heritage woodwork and furniture making sectors. We received additional match-funding and support from Conran Foundation, The Mila Charitable Trust, Benchmark Furniture Ltd, and Vastern Timber Ltd.

Thanks to the funding we were able to appoint a project coordinator, welcoming Cathrin Poppensieker to this role in September. Since then, the project has been very active, delivering a seminar on woodworking and marginalised genders, a national survey, with plans in place to deliver a six-week workshop experience course next year. The project is supported by an active steering group of passionate and experienced volunteers. We have a dedicated website for the project:

gender-project.sylva.org.uk



UK Forestry Standard

In 2024 we launched the **UKFS Checker**. It is an intuitive and informative tool built within myForest, designed as an easy-to-use introduction to the complexities of the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS). It enables land owners and managers throughout the UK to carry out a sustainability

Financial Review

This section is prepared by our trustees to offer a summary of the charity's finances, with numbered notes (shown in square brackets) referenced from the accounts, which form the following section of this report. The accounts comply with the requirements of FRS102 – The Financial Reporting Standard, applicable in the UK.

The finances of the charity are overseen by the trustees, together with senior staff. The Board oversees a Financial Strategy and an annual Financial Plan, which are reviewed at board meetings.

Reserves Policy

Sylva Foundation holds funds to be applied to support future activities in the form of a 'Critical Fund', and a proportion of Unrestricted funds:

- The Critical Fund is maintained to ensure that operational expenditure can be supported for at least three months, this represents funds sufficient to meet contingency exit costs. This fund was £99,710 at the end of FY 2024-25 [Note 20].
- The Reserves Policy was reviewed by trustees in March 2024 for the 2024-25 financial year, and it was agreed that a reserves target aiming for a maximum of 50% of budgeted annual expenditure remained prudent.

Introduction

Sylva Foundation continues to operate as a transactional business, with monthly or quarterly flow of income and expenditure.

Income

Income (£910,310) was increased compared to the previous financial year (£608,973) [Statement of Financial Activities], due to the handling of grant income for the PIES project, subsequently paid out to subcontracted parties.

Income was derived from several sources including:

- £187,561 or 21% of total income was received in donations, 56% of which were restricted in their application [Note 5].
- Incoming resources from charitable activities was £605,308 or 66% [Note 6]. Most incoming resources (£355,990) were derived from performance-related grants, meaning grants where performance measures are agreed and longer-term outcomes defined to enable active performance management. Other income consisted of £76,041 from the sale of goods and services, and £173,277 of contractual payments for work.
- Other trading activities totalled £110,728 or 12%, the largest contribution (67%) being rental income from the Sylva Wood Centre [Note 7].
- Bank interest totalled £6,713 representing less than 1% of total income [Note 8].

Fixed Assets

During 2024-25 the value of fixed assets (after depreciation) was £1,465,427 [Note 16].

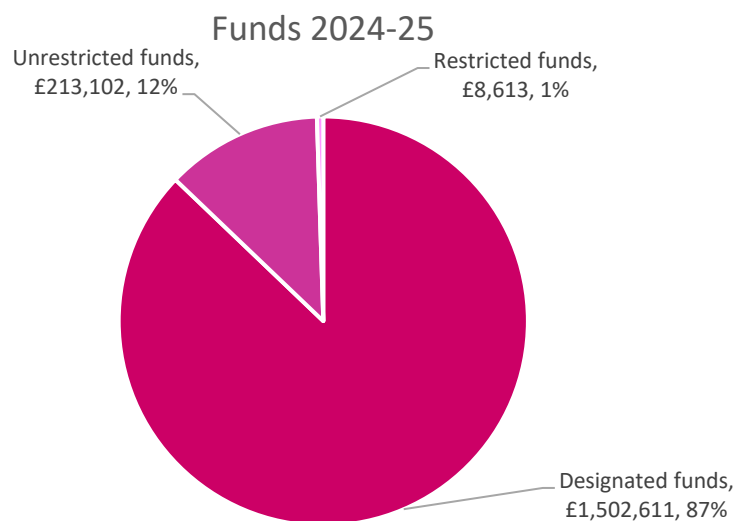
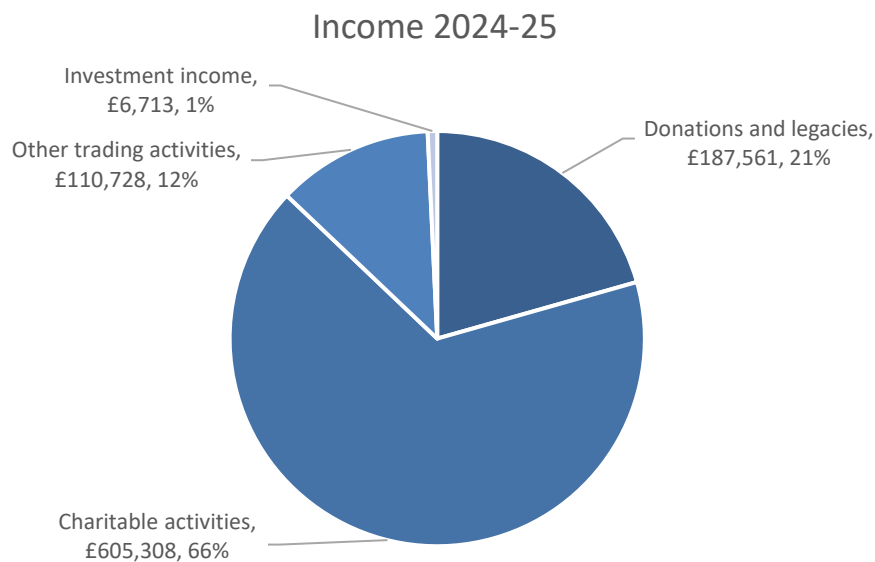
Restricted Funds

Total Restricted Funds totalled £8,613 or 1% [Note 20]. Restricted Funds are derived from donations and grants with specific conditions attached, and these are accounted for separately in our operational accounts.

Income received for goods or services that will be provided in the future are clearly dealt with in our accounts as 'deferred income.' For example, if we receive a grant to run a two-year project, only the portion of the grant related to the work completed in each year is recognised as income in that year, with the remainder deferred until the following year. This is particularly important in cases where a grant may be 'performance-related', meaning that a funder may request repayment if delivery does not meet with expectations set out in a contract. In these accounts there was a deferred income balance of £37,672 in April 2024 [Note 18], and the amount deferred at the year-end (March 2025) was £146,718 [Statement of Financial Activities].

Designated Funds

Designated Funds [Note 20] are those funds held for activities related to Innovating, Collaborating, Training, and Advocating activities, and for Core purposes. The total value of Designated funds at 31st March 2025 was £1,502,611 or 87% [Note 20]. The majority of Designated Funds were Operational Fixed Assets £1,384,374, mostly comprising land and buildings at the Sylva Wood Centre. Under SORP rules, these assets are shown as 'funds', but in fact are physical assets and not 'funds' in the ordinary sense of the word. Trustees may use the assets acquired on an unrestrictive basis for any charitable purpose.



Unrestricted Funds

The total value of Unrestricted Funds at 31st March 2025 was £213,102 or 12% [Note 20]. Unrestricted Funds are those arising from fundraising, consultancy, grants, rental income from the Sylva Wood Centre, and our day-to-day operations. These funds are used by Sylva Foundation to achieve its strategic objectives.

Expenditure

Total resources expended were £838,523 [Statement of Financial Activities]. Delivery of the charity's strategic objectives cost £832,912 [Note 9] plus £5,611 of support costs [detailed in Note 13].

The majority of total expenditure was spent on staff costs (£506,126) [Note 14].

Outcomes for the future

As our current five-year strategy (2021-26) draws to a close, next financial year the trustees and staff will begin a process to develop a new forward-looking strategic plan for the charity. We remain busy implementing our impactful work with the support of our considerable network of partner organisations and individual supporters.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption. The trustees' annual report was approved on 20th August 2025 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Sarah Taylor
Chair of Trustees

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Sylva Foundation

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2025 which are set out on pages 14 to 28.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

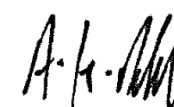
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). 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 report

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 that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company 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.



Mr Ajay Bahl BA BFP FCA
Wenn Townsend
Chartered Accountants
Oxford

1st August 2025

Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31st March 2025

2025

2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £
Income and endowments									
Donations and legacies	5	42,497	40,156	104,908	187,561	66,833	518	-	67,351
Charitable activities	6	571,171	-	34,137	605,308	317,337	-	94,842	412,179
Other trading activities	7	110,728	-	-	110,728	128,259	-	-	128,259
Investment income	8	6,713	-	-	6,713	1,184	-	-	1,184
Total income		731,109	40,156	139,045	910,310	513,613	518	94,842	608,973
Expenditure									
Expenditure on charitable activities	9, 10	622,831	46,395	169,297	838,523	500,723	66,327	105,502	672,552
Total expenditure		622,831	46,395	169,297	838,523	500,723	66,327	105,502	672,552
Net (expenditure) / income		108,278	(6,239)	(30,252)	71,787	12,890	(65,809)	(10,660)	(63,579)
Transfer between funds		(2,336)	2,239	97	-	(17,908)	17,908	-	-
Net movement in funds		105,942	(4,000)	(30,155)	71,787	(5,018)	(47,901)	(10,660)	(63,579)
Reconciliation of funds									
Total funds brought forward		107,160	1,506,611	38,768	1,652,539	112,178	1,554,512	49,428	1,716,118
Total funds carried forward	21	213,102	1,502,611	8,613	1,724,326	107,160	1,506,611	38,768	1,652,539

There are no other gains or losses recognised during the year.

This year's results include performance-related grants whose conditions have not been fully met at the year end hence the charity has deferred £146,718 to be recognised in future periods. If the policy had not been adopted the deficit for the year would be £218,505.

The notes on pages 17 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st March 2025

	Note	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	16		1,465,427		1,520,993
Current assets					
Debtors	17		110,408		88,098
Cash at bank and in hand			410,372		139,826
			<u>520,780</u>		<u>227,924</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18		<u>(261,881)</u>		<u>(96,378)</u>
Net current assets			<u>258,889</u>		<u>131,546</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>1,724,326</u>		<u>1,652,539</u>
Net assets			<u>1,724,326</u>		<u>1,652,539</u>
Funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds	20		213,102		107,160
Designated Funds	20		1,502,611		1,506,611
Restricted Funds	20		<u>8,613</u>		<u>38,768</u>
Total charity funds	21		<u>1,724,326</u>		<u>1,652,539</u>

For the year ending 31st March 2025 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Trustees' responsibilities:

- The trustees have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 20th August 2025 and are signed on behalf of the board by:



Sarah Taylor
Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 17 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31st March 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net cash flow from operating activities:		
(Deficit)/surplus	71,787	(63,579)
Depreciation	57,330	57,803
Interest income receivable	(6,713)	(1,184)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(22,310)	(40,618)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	165,503	31,860
	<hr/> 265,597	<hr/> (15,718)
Investing activities:		
Interest income receivable	6,713	1,184
Expenditure on tangible assets	(1,764)	(7,551)
	<hr/> 270,546	<hr/> 22,085
Increase/(decrease) in cash balances		
Cash at bank and in hand:		
Brought forward balance	139,826	161,911
Increase/(decrease) in cash balances	270,546	(22,085)
	<hr/> 410,372	<hr/> 139,826
Carried forward		

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. General information

Sylva Foundation is a charitable company registered in England and Wales (06589157), and a charity registered in England and Wales (1128516), and in Scotland (SC041892). The address of the registered office is Sylva Wood Centre, Little Wittenham Road, Long Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 4QT.

2. Statement of compliance

These accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis and include income and expenditure as they are earned or incurred, rather than as cash is received or paid. The financial statements 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. They have concluded that the budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves held for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for a particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Income

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable, and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.

3. Accounting policies (continued)

Income (continued)

- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Where income does not meet the above criteria for recognition it is held as deferred income on the balance sheet until such time as it can be released.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any

subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Freehold property	-	4% straight line
Equipment	-	25% straight line

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

For the purposes of impairment testing, when it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

3. Accounting policies (continued)

Impairment of fixed assets

For impairment testing of goodwill, the goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the charity are assigned to those units.

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in the statement of financial activities, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

4. Limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. The trustees undertake to contribute a sum, not exceeding £1 each, to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up.

5. Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Donations – other	42,497	40,156	104,908	187,561	67,351
	<u>42,497</u>	<u>40,156</u>	<u>104,908</u>	<u>187,561</u>	<u>67,351</u>

6. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Sale of goods/services as part of direct charitable activities	72,541	-	3,500	76,041	75,420
Performance-related grants	330,466	-	25,524	355,990	130,711
Other income from charitable activities - contractual payments	168,164	-	5,113	173,277	206,048
	<u>571,171</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,137</u>	<u>605,308</u>	<u>412,179</u>

The 2024 comparatives include performance-related grant restricted expenditure of £94,842 and unrestricted expenditure of £35,869.

7. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Sales income	10,201	-	-	10,201	14,966
Rental income	74,631	-	-	74,631	74,479
Other activities for generating funds	25,896	-	-	25,896	38,814
	<u>110,728</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>110,728</u>	<u>128,259</u>

The 2024 comparatives are all unrestricted income.

8. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Bank interest receivable	6,713	6,713	1,184
	<u>6,713</u>	<u>6,713</u>	<u>1,184</u>

9. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Environment, & Wood School and Wood Centre	617,220	46,395	169,297	832,912	666,423
Support costs	5,611	-	-	5,611	6,129
	<u>622,831</u>	<u>46,395</u>	<u>169,297</u>	<u>838,523</u>	<u>672,552</u>

The 2024 comparatives include environment, wood school and wood centre programmes' designated costs of £66,327, restricted costs of £105,502 and unrestricted costs of £500,723.

10. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Science, Education, Forestry, & Wood Programmes	832,912	-	832,912	666,423
Governance costs	-	5,611	5,611	6,129
	<u>832,912</u>	<u>5,611</u>	<u>838,523</u>	<u>672,552</u>

11. Analysis of support costs

	Support costs	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Finance costs	5,611	5,611	6,129
	<u>5,611</u>	<u>5,611</u>	<u>6,129</u>

12. Net income

Net income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2025	2024
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>58,160</u>	<u>57,803</u>

13. Independent examination fees

Fees payable to the independent examiner for:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Independent examination of the financial statements	772	735
Other financial services	4,839	5,394
	<u>5,611</u>	<u>6,129</u>

14. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	442,067	379,264
Social security costs	41,955	35,491
Employer contributions to pension plans	22,104	18,890
	<u>506,126</u>	<u>433,645</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 11 (2024: 9). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
All staff	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>

Two employees received employee benefits of between £60,000 and £70,000 during the year (2024: 1).

15. Trustee remuneration and expenses

One trustee received remuneration of £773 during the year for work as an external tutor (2024: £Nil).

During the year two trustees received reimbursement for travel expenses totalling £297 (2024: £122).

16. Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 st April 2024	1,695,497	156,552	1,852,049
Additions	-	3,195	3,195
Disposals	-	(1,431)	(1,431)
At 31st March 2025	<u>1,695,497</u>	<u>158,316</u>	<u>1,856,318</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 st April 2024	268,679	62,377	331,056
Charge for the year	42,444	15,716	58,160
Depreciation on disposals	-	(830)	(830)
At 31st March 2025	<u>311,123</u>	<u>77,263</u>	<u>388,386</u>
Carrying amount			
At 31 st March 2025	<u>1,384,374</u>	<u>81,053</u>	<u>1,465,427</u>
At 31 st March 2024	<u>1,426,818</u>	<u>94,175</u>	<u>1,520,993</u>

17. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	108,645	87,368
Prepayments and accrued income	1,763	730
	<u>110,408</u>	<u>88,098</u>

18. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	61,664	37,289
Accruals and deferred income	151,667	44,744
Social security and other taxes	12,498	11,306
Other creditors – pension	6,275	3,013
VAT payable	29,777	26
	<u>261,881</u>	<u>96,378</u>

Deferred income represents income received in advance for which the charity has not yet met the conditions of recognition. There was a deferred income balance of £37,672 at the beginning of the year and the amount deferred at the year-end was £146,718.

19. Pensions and other post-retirement benefits**Defined contribution plans**

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £22,104 (2024 £18,890).

20. Analysis of charitable funds

	At 1 st April 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	At 31 st March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds	107,160	731,109	(622,831)	(2,336)	213,102
	<u>107,160</u>	<u>731,109</u>	<u>(622,831)</u>	<u>(2,336)</u>	<u>213,102</u>
Designated Funds					
Operational fixed assets	1,426,818	-	(42,444)	-	1,384,374
Environment	19,698	465	-	(19,000)	1,163
Wood School	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
Wood Centre	2,951	-	(2,951)	-	-
Reserve fund	39,780	38,691	-	21,239	99,710
Capital maintenance fund	17,364	-	-	-	17,364
	<u>1,506,611</u>	<u>40,156</u>	<u>(46,395)</u>	<u>2,239</u>	<u>1,502,611</u>
Restricted funds					
Environment	4,752	81,610	(77,749)	-	8,613
Wood School	3,345	46,667	(70,012)	20,000	-
Core	30,671	10,768	(21,536)	(19,903)	-
	<u>38,768</u>	<u>139,045</u>	<u>(169,297)</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>8,613</u>

20. Analysis of charitable funds (continued)

	At 1st April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	At 31st March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds	112,178	513,613	(500,723)	(17,908)	107,160
	<u>112,178</u>	<u>513,613</u>	<u>(500,723)</u>	<u>(17,908)</u>	<u>107,160</u>
Designated Funds					
Operational fixed assets	1,469,061	-	(42,243)	-	1,426,818
Environment	13,203	518	(10,000)	15,997	19,698
Wood School	272	-	(272)	-	-
Wood Centre	2,951	-	-	-	2,951
Reserve fund	37,849	-	-	1,931	39,780
Capital maintenance fund	31,176	-	(13,812)	-	17,364
	<u>1,554,512</u>	<u>518</u>	<u>(66,327)</u>	<u>17,928</u>	<u>1,506,611</u>
Restricted funds					
Environment	34,391	2,582	(32,221)	-	4,752
Wood School	5,487	30,724	(32,866)	-	3,345
Core	9,550	61,536	(40,415)	-	30,671
	<u>49,428</u>	<u>94,842</u>	<u>(105,502)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>38,768</u>

21. Analysis of net assets between funds

2025	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	81,053	1,384,374	-	1,465,427
Current assets	247,212	118,237	155,331	520,780
Creditors less than 1 year	(115,163)	-	(146,718)	(261,881)
Net assets	<u>213,102</u>	<u>1,502,611</u>	<u>8,613</u>	<u>1,724,326</u>
2024	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	94,175	1,426,818	-	1,520,933
Current assets	71,691	79,793	76,440	227,924
Creditors less than 1 year	(58,706)	-	(37,672)	(96,378)
Net assets	<u>107,160</u>	<u>1,506,611</u>	<u>38,768</u>	<u>1,652,539</u>

How you can support Sylva Foundation

Sylva Foundation relies on the help of many people and organisations. This section outlines some of the ways we currently receive support. We are always keen to receive support in different ways. Read on to find out how you could help our important work.

Donate

There are several ways you can donate to support Sylva. We offer specific opportunities, such as helping towards a new building, or sponsoring a bench for a start-up business. We also benefit from regular small donations from people who believe in the importance of our work. If you like what we do and how we do it, please consider joining our Friends scheme. Find out more: sylva.org.uk/support

Remember Sylva in your Will

Leaving a Legacy to Sylva is a powerful way to make your support for the charity live on. We believe that trees and forests underpin life on Earth, especially if cared for as part of a dynamic living landscape. Your Legacy will support our ongoing work to achieve a sustainable society and environment. We offer a number of ways to help you leave a legacy, including a home visit with our partners The Goodwill Partnership, and in England a free online Will writing service. You can read more at sylva.org.uk/legacy or contact us to discuss at: **01865 408018** or legacy@sylva.org.uk.

Campaigns and appeals

Support our campaigns and appeals, and you can help our work helping people and trees grow closer together. Subscribe to our enews at sylva.org.uk/subscribe so that you are kept up-to-date.

Training

We offer an exciting range of courses at the Sylva Wood Centre. By attending a paid course your fee will help support our work bridging significant gaps which exist in formal wood education. Find out more at woodschoo.sylva.org.uk.

Shopping

We have a small online shop which helps us raise much-needed income. sylva.org.uk/shop

Get involved

There are a wide range of options for you to get involved in our work. At the local level we enjoy support from the public caring for our small estate, and promoting our work through events at the Sylva Wood Centre.

Fundraise

Sylva is not a membership charity, so is without the regular income this provides many charities. We therefore need to raise funds for specific projects and build a strong foundation of income to support our core costs. We don't have teams of individuals fundraising for us but if you can help promote our work, especially our campaigns and appeals, you will make a difference.

Local groups

Sylva tends to work in partnership with other organisations to achieve its reach across Britain. We are most active locally via the Sylva Wood Centre in Oxfordshire, where local people can help support our Future Forest, Community Orchard, and arts events.

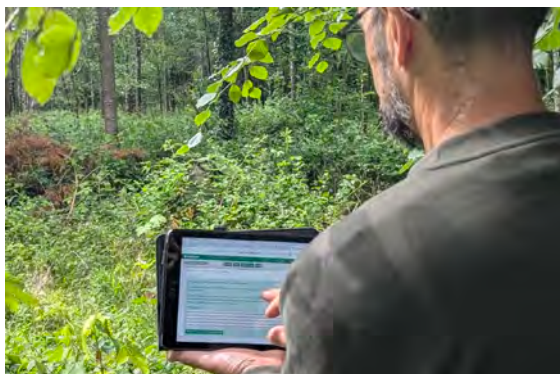
Volunteering

If you are looking for an exciting and interesting way to make a difference to our environment, please consider volunteering with Sylva. We have recently benefited volunteers helping with school visits, data entry, visitor welcoming, tree planting, and even a business angel. You don't have to know anything about trees, forestry or wood to volunteer with Sylva. Find out more at sylva.org.uk/volunteer

Acknowledgements 2024-25

We are very grateful for all the support offered this year by so many individuals and organisations.

Volunteers and community groups	Donors and Funders	Business supporters	NGO and Non-Profit Partners	Statutory sector and other public bodies
Alys Bryan	Aspen Trust	3Keel	Community Forest Trusts	Defra
Andrew Lea	Benchmark Furniture	Benchmark Furniture	Confor	Environment Agency
David and Karon Whenmouth	Chapman Charitable Trust	Blenheim Palace	Cumbria Woodlands	Forest Research
Harriet Child	Conran Foundation	CloudForest	Earth Trust	Forestry Commission
Inge Hill	Dulverton Trust	Doig Furniture Makers	Forest Canopy Foundation and members	Natural England
Jane Cleal	D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust	ercol	Future Trees Trust	Scottish Forestry
Katie Furnmston	Garfield Weston Foundation	Evolving Forests	Grown in Britain	
Katy Thompson	Horlock Educational Trust	Gaze Burvill	Institute of Chartered Foresters	
Lynn Jones	Michaelis family	Grown in Britain	National Farmers Union	
Natalie Cole	National Heritage Lottery	Lamello	National Forest	
Pauline Upstone	The Gunter Charitable Trust	LENS	National Trust	Education/Academic Partners
Phil Horton	The Middle Way Trust	Martin Glynn	Oxford Trust	Aberystwyth University
Philip Koomen	The Mila Charitable Trust	Matthew Cox Furniture Ltd	Royal Forestry Society	Bangor University
Phoebe Oldfield	Vastern Timber Ltd	National Trust	Royal Scottish Forestry Society	Harper Adams University
Rae Sellen	Woven Foundation	Nicholsons	RSPB	Liverpool John Moores University
Sally Richards		Odies Oil	Small Woods Association	Reading University
Steve Ash		ReHeat	Soil Association	Rycotewood Furniture (Activate Learning)
Sylva Foundation Friends		Rural Development Initiatives	Woodland Heritage	Southampton University
Tess Osman		Savills	Woodland Trust	SRUC (Scotland's Rural College)
Wittenham Warriors		Timber Auctions	Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers	



Contact us

Sylva Foundation
Sylva Wood Centre
Long Wittenham
Oxfordshire
OX14 4QT

Tel: 01865 408018

email: info@sylva.org.uk

www.sylva.org.uk

SYLVA FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1128516

Accounts



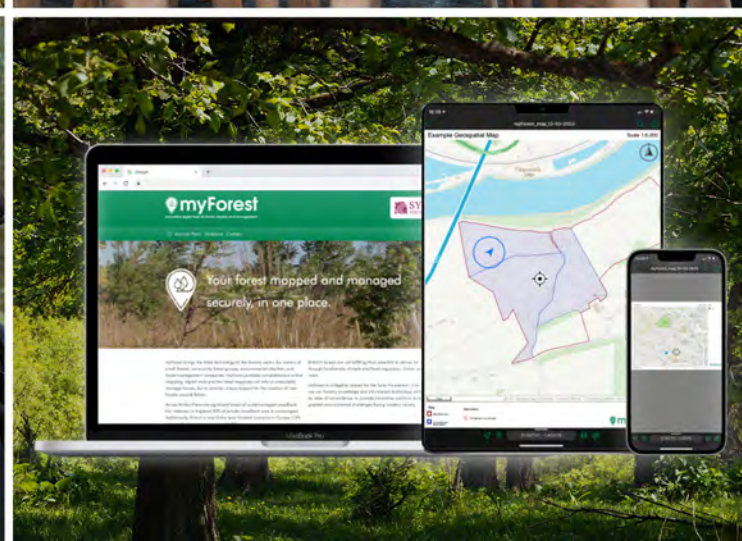
2024

Trustees' Report and Accounts



SYLVA

FOUNDATION



Sylva Foundation is a national charity working for a society that lives in harmony with nature, focusing on the stewardship of our forests and the utility of home-grown timber. It provides solutions to meet significant environmental challenges by innovating, collaborating, training, and advocating.



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Left: a community lunch at the Sylva Wood Centre, during which Sylva staff, wood community businesses, students and visitors enjoy time together.

Front cover images (top left to bottom right): Woodworking and Gender Seminar 2023; Portraits of the Wood Community; Using innovative technology in the woods (Image credit: Evolving Forests); Hosting a visit from Ercol Ltd.; Professional Course students 2023; Discussion between delegates during our Woodworking and Gender Seminar 2023; Sylva's myForest platform; the Sylva Wood Centre from the air in Summer 2023.

Trustees' Report

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its advisers and trustees.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Sylva Foundation is an environmental and forestry charity founded in 2009. The charity is active across Britain, with its headquarters in Oxfordshire.

Registration

Charity registered in England and Wales (1128516), and in Scotland (SC041892).

Charitable Company registration number 6589157.

Registered office

Sylva Wood Centre
Little Wittenham Road
Long Wittenham
Oxfordshire
OX14 4QT

Principal professional advisors

Banking

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

Unity Bank Ltd
4 Brindley Place
Birmingham
B1 2JB

The Charity Bank Ltd
Fosse House
182 High Street
Tonbridge
TN9 1BE

Insurance Brokers

NFU Mutual
Views Farm Barns
Windmill Hill
Great Milton
Oxfordshire
OX44 4NW

Independent Examiner

Ajay Bahl
Wenn Townsend Chartered Accountants
30 St Giles'
Oxford
OX1 3LE

Trustee Board and Staff

Patrons

Lady Audrey Wood OBE
Sir Martin Wood FRS (1927-2021)

Trustees

Sarah Taylor (Chair)
Dr Mary Barkham
Dr Robin Buxton
Lucius Cary OBE
Luke Hughes (resigned November 2023)
Dr James Morison
Jim Waterson

Staff

Chief Executive

Dr Gabriel Hemery FICFor CEnv

Director of Operations

Paul Orsi MICFor

Other Staff members

Andrew Clark	Head of Forestry
Christine Howard	Operations Administrator
George Dennison	myForest Manager (leaver)
Gwyneth Bradbury	Web Developer
Joseph Bray	Head of Wood School
Lucie Henwood	Finance Manager
Oliver Price	Web Developer
Phillip Gullam	Senior Tutor
Richard Pigott	Head of Web Development

Advisors and Associates

Shems Hadj-Nassar	Communications
Dr Philip Koomen	Furniture & Wood
Dr Gill Petrokofsky	Science
Alistair Yeomans	Scotland Representative



Some of the Sylva team on a site visit, winter 2023. Left to right: Gwyneth Bradbury, Richard Pigott, Paul Orsi, Oliver Price, George Dennison, Joseph Bray.

Structure, Governance and Management

Legal Structure

Sylva Foundation ('Sylva' or 'the charity') is a charity registered in England and Wales 1128516 and in Scotland SC041892, and a charitable company limited by guarantee 06589157. The company (a private company not having a share capital) was established under a Memorandum of Association (dated 11th March 2009, updated by Special Resolution 28th March 2013).

The governing body of the charity is the Trustee Board ('the board'). Up to ten trustees may be appointed to the board. During 2023-24, one trustee retired.

The day-to-day management of the charity is delegated by the Trustee Board to the Chief Executive and carried out by members of staff.

The charity's registered address is in Oxfordshire, and this is its sole headquarters. Sylva's activities extend across Britain, and occasionally internationally.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The charity's trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with FRS102 – The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland. The law applicable to charities in England, Wales, and Scotland requires the charity's trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the charity trustees are required to:

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

The charity trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that:

- are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions;
- disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity; and,
- ensure that the financial statements comply with the reporting and legal regulations and the provisions of the charity's constitution as set out in the Articles of Association and Memorandum of Association.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Policies and Procedures

The charity has a range of policies and procedures, which are renewed at the end of each financial year or more frequently as required, with a rolling programme of consideration by trustees. Currently these include:

- anti-bribery policy
- concerns and complaints procedure
- data protection and terms (including GDPR)
- environmental and sustainability policy
- equality, diversity and inclusion policy
- financial policies
- grievance procedure
- health & safety policy
- information security policy
- mental health and wellbeing policy
- parental leave policy
- privacy policies and notices
- reserves policy
- safeguarding policy
- sexual harassment policy
- sickness and absence policy
- no-smoking policy
- terms of supply
- travel policy
- volunteer procedures
- whistleblowing policy

Risk Management

The charity trustees are responsible for identifying and managing the major risks facing the charity. Risk management is well-established and is considered in every aspect of our work.

We maintain a Risk Register which provides a comprehensive view of the following areas of risk:

- financial risks, including contingency plans to deal with insufficient income;
- operational risks, including loss of key personnel, and data management;
- reputational risks, including failure of a project, maintaining high standards in the management of the charity's estate;
- external environment, including environmental change (e.g. pests, diseases);
- governance, including ensuring trustee experience and skills, fraud; and
- health and safety, for staff and visitors.

The Risk Register is scrutinised annually by the Trustee Board. Following a review in March 2024, the charity trustees confirm that they are satisfied with such arrangements and identified a number of strategic risks which are explained in *Achievements, Challenges and Future Plans*.

Fundraising Activities

Our work nurturing a wood culture and growing a future is only possible because of the support of donors, funders, and other partners who contribute vital funding. Sylva Foundation is registered with the

Fundraising Regulator. Alongside our own high standards in fundraising, we follow its Codes of Practice.



A Sylva Friend and volunteer helping with juice making during Apple Day, run with the local community.

Volunteers

We received highly valuable assistance from volunteers, without whom our work would be much reduced. During the year we continued to benefit particularly from volunteers with professional skills, notably in legal matters, and in communications and marketing.

Our local community near the Sylva Wood Centre is very supportive of our activities, including the annual Artweeks exhibition, taking an active role in supporting our community woodland and orchard. We welcome volunteer conservation work parties onto our estate.

We always welcome enquiries from potential volunteers. Please contact us direct or visit our website:

sylva.org.uk/volunteer

Objectives, Activities and Public benefit

The charity's objects are set out in the company's memorandum of association. These are **to promote the conservation of the environment for the public benefit consistent with sustainable development principles** by:

- I. promoting and conducting research for the public benefit about effective sustainable forest management and the dissemination of the useful results of such research;
- II. advancing education for the public benefit in the theory and practice of sustainable forest management;
- III. supporting the development and application of sustainable forest management for the public benefit;
- IV. advancing education and business enterprise in the design and production of home-grown wood products for the public benefit.

The charity's trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing objectives and activities which are described in the section *Achievements, Challenges and Future plans*. Sylva Foundation has a range of activities for achieving these objectives and its public benefit, combining them to best effect. For the purposes of preparing Sylva's accounts, these activities are grouped under the following main headings:

- innovating;
- collaborating;
- training;
- advocacy.

Our Vision

Our vision is for a society that cares for nature while living in harmony with it. We envisage a wood culture where people understand and promote the good stewardship of woodlands and are mindful of their utility, while being conscious of their fragility. Future society will recognise the creative and productive value of forest products which can be derived from growing well-managed forests, and at the same time enhance their wider benefits for people and for nature. This will help result in a halt in the loss of biodiversity, a reduction in climate change, and a human society that can sustain itself. Our actions today will be tangible in the love and respect that future generations afford our trees and forests.

Our Mission

- To use our forestry knowledge and information technology skills, supported by state-of-art evidence, to provide innovative solutions to some of the greatest environmental challenges facing modern society.
- To work extensively and selflessly with others, recognising that collaboration is necessary to overcome the challenges of halting biodiversity loss and reducing climate change, while supporting the transition to a sustainable human society.
- To deliver the training and education necessary to support the transformation of society, focussing on the stewardship of our forests and the utility of home-grown timber.
- To undertake advocacy to inspire one another, raise awareness, and endow people with

knowledge, passion, and the shared ambition for a better and more sustainable society.

Impact

Sylva Foundation undertakes to regularly publish an Impact Report, highlighting its activities, progress, and contributions towards meeting its charitable objectives. These reports are published on our website.

Our 2023 Impact Report highlighted a wide range of public good impacts, including:

- 200,000ha of woodland mapped and detailed across the UK by myForest users;
- 10,000+ users of myForest supported in caring for their woodlands;
- 91 landowners with 3,000ha benefited from the PIES funded advice package, covering more than 400ha of existing woodland, and with 114ha of new woodland proposed;
- 15 horizon scan issues likely to affect forest management in the UK within the next 50 years were identified in research co-authored by Sylva Foundation CEO;
- 3 new projects underway with the new Forest Lab project with the aim of improving tree health and forest resilience;
- 70+ participants attended the Sylva seminar: Woodworking and Gender - What's the Story Now?
- 12 Sylva Summer School students exhibited their work at V&A museum's Susan R Weber Furniture Gallery;
- ... and more!

Achievements, Challenges and Future plans

This section highlights the achievements, challenges and future plans for activities under our four key values of **Innovating**, **Collaborating**, **Training**, and **Advocacy**.

INNOVATING

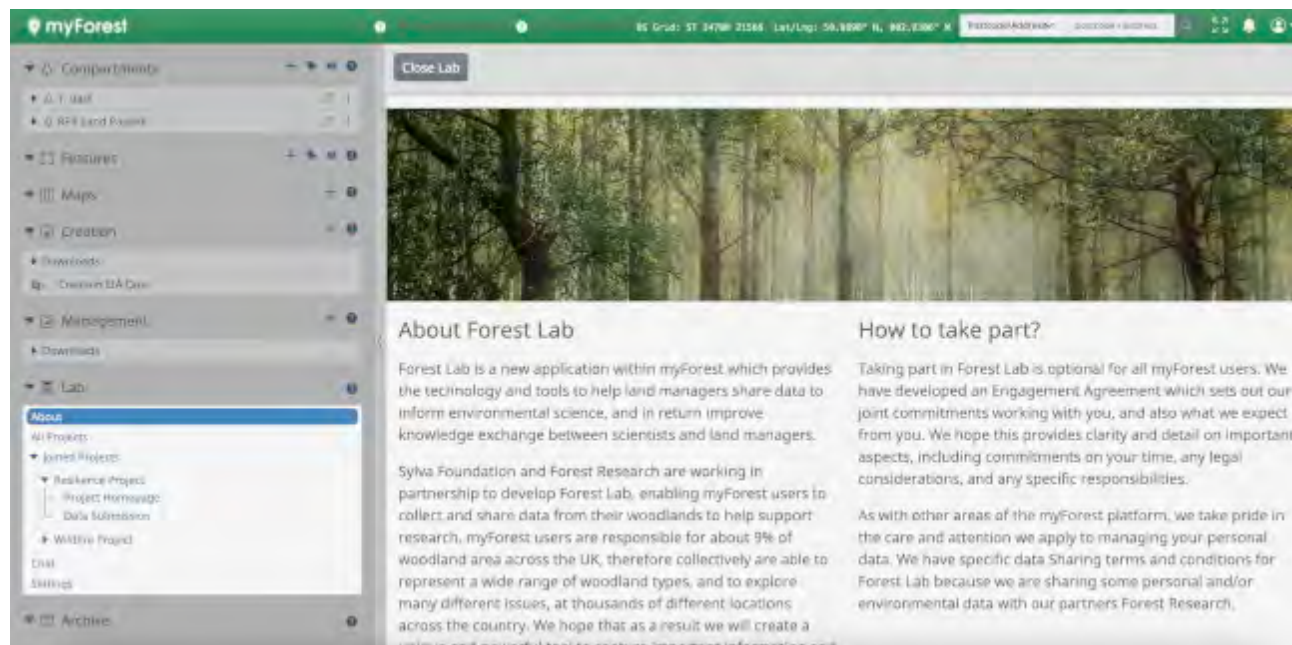
To use our forestry knowledge and information technology skills, supported by state-of-art evidence, to provide innovative solutions to some of the greatest environmental challenges facing modern society.



Development in myForest

myForest is a flagship project of Sylva Foundation, providing comprehensive online mapping, digital tools and the latest resources to support the sustainable management and creation of new forests around Britain. There are now more than 10,000 forest owners and professional agents using myForest to manage more than 200,000ha of forest. More than 4,000ha of new woodland has been design and planned using the platform.

We teamed up with Cumbria Woodlands and Evolving Forests to provide more support for our myForest users. Seamless integration with the Canopy Learning platform helps users to create Forestry Commission Woodland Management Plans.



Stewardship Science

Forest Lab is an innovative project for woodland owners and managers, developed in partnership with Forest Research and funded by Defra. Using the latest technology, Forest Lab enables myForest users to become volunteer 'stewardship scientists' by joining science projects, collaborating with researchers and sharing data to improve forest resilience, enhance forest biodiversity, and protect nature and the landscape. Forest Lab science projects have so far covered tree growth monitoring, soil and resilience, wildfire, and the monitoring of a serious tree pest.

Resilient Treescapes

Sylva continues to support Defra in exploring stakeholder behaviours under the **Resilient**

Treescapes Project. As part of a three-year Tree Health Pilot, we are assisting the government in the design and testing of new incentives and regulation to support land managers in responding to threats from pests and pathogens in England. Outcomes from this pilot will inform the design of the future Tree Health Scheme, to be rolled out through environmental land management schemes.

NatureBid

Our innovative environmental funding platform developed in partnership with the Environment Agency, **NatureBid**, continues to be successful. To date, £34M of environmental funding has been channelled through NatureBid.

EcoservR

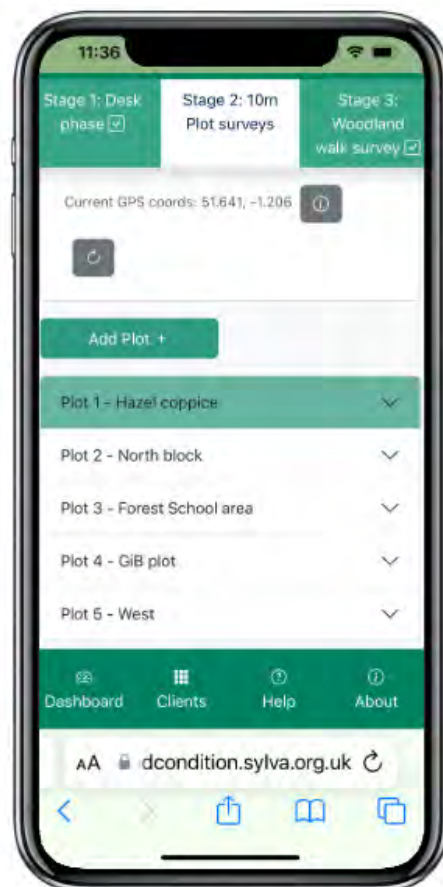
Sylva worked with Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) to support England's Community Forests (ECF). Over the past year we have been developing a platform that allows ECF's to access data on the environmental benefits from woodland creation schemes that have been funded through the Nature for Climate Fund. We have been able to take data generated through LJMU's unique EcoservR technology and provide this directly to ECF. This will allow the ECF's to more easily report to funders as well as providing more information to promote the benefits of woodland creation to communities.

Woodland Condition Assessment app

Sylva was commissioned by Forestry Commission to develop and build a web application that would enable land managers to assess the ecological condition of a woodland. The underlying methodology had been developed by the England Woodland Biodiversity Group. We collaborated with the Field Studies Council in the production of accompanying field guides. The new app also supports an assessment for use with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric used in Biodiversity Net Gain assessments.

Horizon Scanning

We supported a cross-sector horizon scanning exercise for forestry in the next 50 years. The results were published in a peer-reviewed journal. The topic which emerged as a top issue was 'catastrophic forest ecosystem collapse'. Next year we will support seminars and other activities to encourage the sector to respond.



The Woodland Condition Assessment app developed for Forestry Commission.

COLLABORATING

To work extensively and selflessly with others, recognising that collaboration is necessary to overcome the challenges of halting biodiversity loss and reducing climate change, while supporting the transition to a sustainable human society.

Sylva continued to deliver an innovative new project for Defra and the Forestry Commission (funders) known as **PIES**, standing for **protect, improve, expand, and sustain** to help with the creation and management of woodlands across England. We worked in collaboration with Forest Canopy Foundation and Grown in Britain, and with the collaboration of the Forestry Commission and the NFU.

This year our PIES project supported more than 100 farmers and other landowners to reach the first rung of the ladder on their journey towards sustainable forest management and the creation of new woodlands. With advice being provided through Forest Canopy Foundation's networks of Grown in Britain-verified Expert Providers this project has set the bar for how quality forestry advice could be provided in the future.

"PIES funding provided me with the early advice to highlight opportunities and give me a clear idea on how this could work out financially..."

Landowner, PIES support recipient

Our Chief Executive continued as Chair of the **Forestry and Climate Change Partnership (FCCP)**, composed of forestry, conservation and government organisations that have come together to reaffirm their commitment to work together to promote the importance of adapting trees, woods and forests to climate change.

This was an important year in the partnership with an agreement by government to work more formally with the group in future which will merged with another with similar interests focussed on tree health.

Funded by Forestry Commission's Woods into Management Forestry Innovation Fund the **Northwoods Innovation Programme** is providing support to woodland owners and forestry businesses across Yorkshire and the North-East of England. Sylva Foundation is playing a key role in the programme, creating new developments in myForest designed to support woodland owners. Innovations include creation of geo-spatial maps, automating woodland inventory and supporting timber sales.



Training woodland inventory in the field using novel technology developed by Sylva Foundation and partners.

We continued our collaboration with the **National Trust** is making a limited-edition range of hand-crafted wooden stools. These were designed in-house and made by Wood School students. We used Grown in Britain certified ash from the National Trust's Ebworth Estate.

TRAINING

To deliver the training and education necessary to support the transformation of society, focussing on the stewardship of our forests and the utility of home-grown timber.

Sylva Foundation continued to deliver training at the Sylva Wood School. We delivered another **Introduction to Furniture Making Course** providing an introduction to a range of furniture-making skills and experiences in a professional workshop. The course is designed for those looking for an in-depth introduction to woodworking skills or to hone existing skills, and is the perfect stepping stone to our six-month Professional Course.

"I've got a job at Benchmark Furniture as a result of the Professional Course. It was as a result of our workshop visit there - it sparked conversation, and they found a role they thought I was appropriate for. I'm really excited, since they've been on my radar for a couple of years."

Sylva Wood School Student, Professional Course

Another **Professional Course** was delivered with students achieving a good level of woodworking technical skills, an understanding of professional standards, and many hours of professional experience and competency in wood machinery. Once again, we were pleased to be able to offer **Bursaries** to some students. We also continued the **Wood School Fellowship scheme**, where a graduate can remain at a bench, with the support of our team.

In September our Director of Operations and Head of Forestry supported a **Woodland Inventory Training** event in Yorkshire. As well as teaching participants about the benefits of collecting a woodland inventory we were able to test new inventory functionality in myForest which will be launched in 2024/25.

In November, Paul Orsi, Sylva Director of Operations, and Harper Adams alumni, offered two days to deliver **undergraduate training**. As part of their Forestry Module, students are required to design a new woodland, making sure they take into account factors such as designations, soil and future climate scenarios. Paul demonstrated how myForest could help design their new woodland spatially using the mapping tool, in addition to understanding woodland creation considerations using the woodland creation plan embedded into myForest. As part of this work Sylva Foundation has provided access to paid account plans for the students while they work on their assignment.

As part of the **Multi-purpose Woodland Management** module run by the silviculturist Edward Wilson, the myForest Team delivered an online workshop for a group of 30 students at Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) in Edinburgh and Aberdeen. The workshop incorporated a series of specially recorded "how to" videos, detailing how to use myForest for planning Woodland Creation. The students used myForest to produce a poster demonstrating their understanding of the Forest Design Planning process.

ADVOCATING

To undertake advocacy to inspire one another, raise awareness, and endow people with knowledge, passion, and the shared ambition for a better and more sustainable society.

With help from volunteers, we developed the outline of a major new programme aiming to tackle gender inequality in the heritage woodworking sector. Whilst

the charity runs a successful Wood School and hosts multiple businesses at its Wood Centre in Long Wittenham we have become increasingly aware of gender inequality in the woodworking sector. We undertook research among employers in the woodworking sector which showed that among 954 employees represented in the survey, only 20% of the workforce were women, and among those working in manufacturing the percentage dipped as low as 8.5%.



Subsequently, we hosted a seminar at the Wood Centre focussing on gender inequality in the wood sector. More than 70 participants took part in a day of talks, workshops and discussions. Feedback showed that the seminar was not only a success in raising key issues and bringing together people from across the sector to discuss gender equality, but the breadth of stories and experience shared by everyone was immensely powerful.

‘There really was magic in the air. We felt privileged to take part and to meet the incredible women and supporters in the room.’

Participant in the Woodworking and Gender seminar.

We aim to lever these activities to help us fundraise towards launching a new programme through which we would employ a coordinator to lead on a range of activities to promote gender equality.

We published another **Sylva Impact Report** in 2023. This edition focused on our innovations, not just in the form of products and research, but also in terms of the approaches we take and our culture. We are a small charity, but through innovation we are able to punch above our weight. We look to the latest technologies and inspiring collaborations; we develop creative ways to support the woodworking sector, and unique approaches to improving resilience to climate change.

Financial Review

This section is prepared by our trustees to offer a summary of the charity's finances, with numbered notes (shown in square brackets) referenced from the accounts, which form the following section of this report. The accounts comply with the requirements of FRS102 – The Financial Reporting Standard, applicable in the UK.

The finances of the charity are overseen by the trustees, together with senior staff. The Board oversees a Financial Strategy and an annual Financial Plan, which are reviewed at board meetings.

Reserves Policy

Sylva Foundation holds funds to be applied to support future activities in the form of a 'Critical Fund', and Restricted funds:

- The Reserve Fund is maintained to ensure that operational expenditure can be supported for at least three months, this represents funds sufficient to meet contingency exit costs. This fund was £39,780 at the end of FY 2023-24 [Note 20].
- The Reserves Policy was reviewed by trustees in March 2023 and it was agreed that a reserves target aiming for a maximum of 50% of budgeted annual expenditure remained prudent.
- Restricted funds are maintained to ensure that specific purposes intended by the donor can be met.
- Funds related to specific funded projects are also maintained as restricted and designated funds.

Introduction

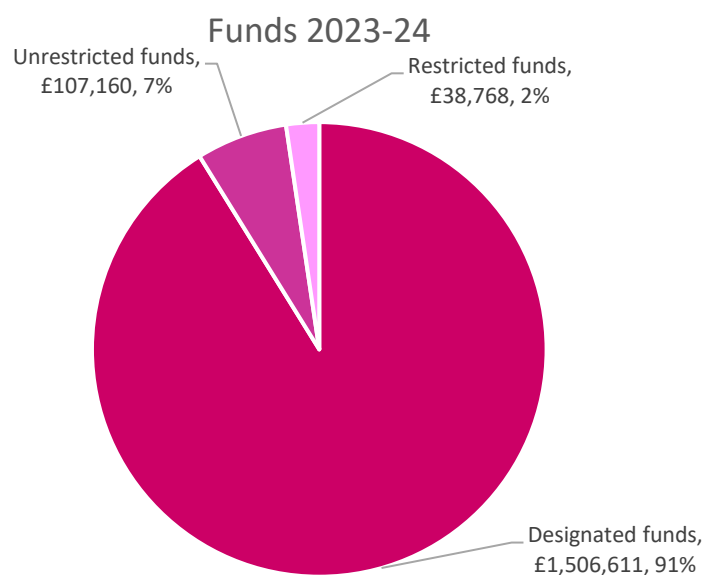
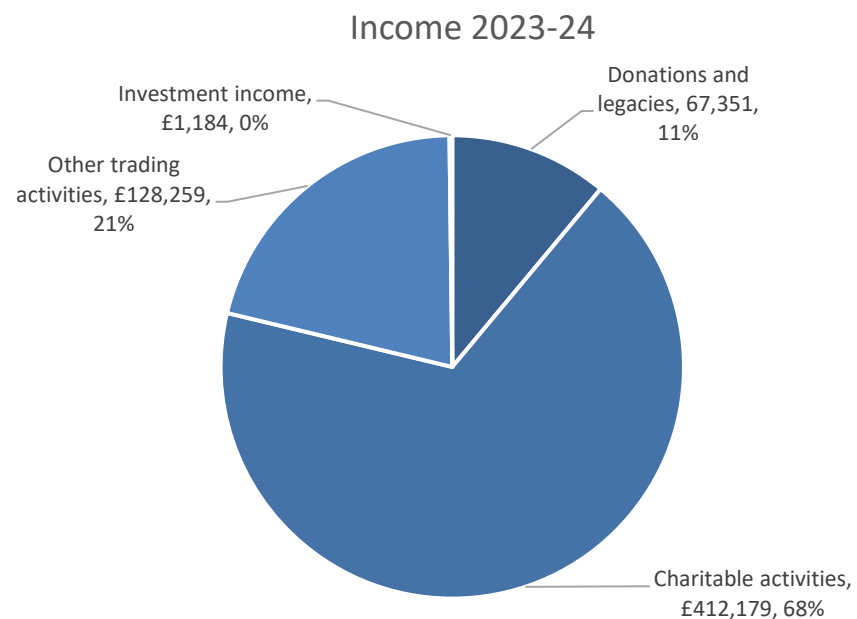
Sylva Foundation continues to operate as a transactional business, with monthly or quarterly flow of income and expenditure.

Income

Income (£608,973) was increased compared to the previous financial year (£554,258) [Statement of Financial Activities].

Income was derived from several sources including:

- £67,351 or 11% of total income was received in donations, 0% of which were restricted in their application [Note 5].
- Incoming resources from charitable activities was £412,179 or 68% [Note 6]. This income consisted of £75,420 from the sale of goods and services; £130,711 of performance-related grants; and £206,048 of contractual payments for work.
- Other trading activities totalled £128,259 or 23%, the majority (54%) of which was rental income from the Sylva Wood Centre [Note 7].
- Bank interest totalled £1,184 representing less than 1% of total income [Note 8].



During 2023-24 the value of fixed assets (after depreciation) were £1,520,993 [Note 16].

Restricted Funds

Total Restricted Funds were £38,768 [Note 20]. Restricted Funds are derived from donations and grants with specific conditions attached, and these are accounted for separately in our operational accounts.

Designated Funds

Designated Funds [Note 20] are those funds held for activities related to Innovating, Collaborating, Training, and Advocating activities, and for Core purposes. The total value of Designated funds at 31st March 2024 was £1,506,611 [Note 20].

The majority of Designated Funds were Operational Fixed Assets £1,426,818, mostly comprising land and buildings at the Sylva Wood Centre. Under SORP rules, these assets are shown as 'funds' but in fact they are physical assets and not 'funds' in the ordinary sense of the word. The charity's trustees may use the assets acquired on an unrestrictive basis for any charitable purpose.

Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted Funds comprise General Funds (£107,160) arising from fundraising, consultancy, grants, rental income from the Sylva Wood Centre, and our day-to-day operations [Note 20]. These funds are used by Sylva Foundation to achieve its strategic objectives.

Fixed Assets

Expenditure

Total resources expended were £672,552 [Statement of Financial Activities]. Delivery of the charity's strategic objectives cost £666,423 [Note 9] plus £6,129 of support costs [detailed in Note 13].

The majority of total expenditure was spent on staff salaries (£433,645) [Note 14].

Outcome for the future

Trustees and staff continue to work closely together over to deliver our five-year strategy (2021-26) for the charity. We are busy implementing impactful plans with the support of our considerable network of partner organisations and individual supporters.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption. The trustees' annual report was approved on 19th November 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Sarah Taylor
Chair of Trustees



Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Sylva Foundation

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2024 which are set out on pages 14 to 28.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

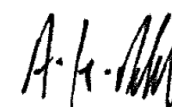
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). 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 report

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 that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company 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.



Ajay Bahl BA BFP FCA
Wenn Townsend
Chartered Accountants
Oxford

10th October 2024

Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31st March 2024

	Note	2024				2023 Restated			
		Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Income and endowments									
Donations and legacies	5	66,833	518	-	67,351	78,207	-	-	78,207
Charitable activities	6	317,337	-	94,842	412,179	214,982	-	124,923	339,905
Other trading activities	7	128,259	-	-	128,259	124,365	10,000	-	134,365
Investment income	8	1,184	-	-	1,184	1,781	-	-	1,781
Total income		513,613	518	94,842	608,973	419,335	10,000	124,923	554,258
Expenditure									
Expenditure on charitable activities	9, 10	500,723	66,327	105,502	672,552	527,757	11,266	110,800	649,823
Total expenditure		500,723	66,327	105,502	672,552	527,757	11,266	110,800	649,823
Net (expenditure) / income		12,890	(65,809)	(10,660)	(63,579)	(108,422)	(1,266)	14,123	(95,565)
Transfer between funds		(17,908)	17,908	-	-	34,204	(34,204)	-	-
Net movement in funds		(5,018)	(47,901)	(10,660)	(63,579)	(74,218)	(35,470)	14,123	(95,565)
Reconciliation of funds									
Total funds brought forward		112,178	1,554,512	49,428	1,716,118	186,396	1,589,982	35,305	1,811,683
Total funds carried forward	21	107,160	1,506,611	38,768	1,652,539	112,178	1,554,512	49,428	1,716,118

There are no other gains or losses recognised during the year.

This year's results include performance-related grants whose conditions have not been fully met at the year end hence the charity has deferred £37,672 to be recognised in future periods. If the policy had not been adopted the deficit for the year would be £25,907.

The notes on pages 18 to 28 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st March 2024

	Note	2024		Restated 2023	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	16		1,520,993		1,571,245
Current assets					
Debtors	17	88,098		47,480	
Cash at bank and in hand		139,826		161,911	
		<u>227,924</u>		<u>209,391</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	<u>(96,378)</u>		<u>(64,518)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>131,546</u>		<u>144,873</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>1,652,539</u>		<u>1,716,118</u>
Net assets			<u>1,652,539</u>		<u>1,716,118</u>
Funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds	20		107,160		112,178
Designated Funds	20		1,506,611		1,554,512
Restricted Funds	20		<u>38,768</u>		<u>49,428</u>
Total charity funds	21		<u>1,652,539</u>		<u>1,716,118</u>

For the year ending 31st March 2024 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Trustees' responsibilities:

- The trustees have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 19th November 2024 and are signed on behalf of the board by:



Sarah Taylor
Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 18 to 28 form part of these financial statements.

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31st March 2024

	2024	Restated
	£	2023
		£
Net cash flow from operating activities:		
(Deficit)/surplus	(63,579)	(95,565)
Depreciation	57,803	55,992
Interest income receivable	(1,184)	(1,781)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(40,618)	81,890
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	31,860	4,717
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(15,718)	45,253
Investing activities:		
Interest income receivable	1,184	1,781
Expenditure on tangible assets	(7,551)	(19,432)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Increase/(decrease) in cash balances	22,085	27,602
Cash at bank and in hand:		
Brought forward balance	161,911	134,309
Increase/(decrease) in cash balances	(22,085)	27,602
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Carried forward	139,826	161,911

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. General information

Sylva Foundation is a charitable company registered in England and Wales (06589157), and a charity registered in England and Wales (1128516), and in Scotland (SC041892). The address of the registered office is Sylva Wood Centre, Little Wittenham Road, Long Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 4QT.

2. Statement of compliance

These accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis and include income and expenditure as they are earned or incurred, rather than as cash is received or paid. The financial statements 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. They have concluded that the budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves held for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for a particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Income

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable, and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.

3. Accounting policies (continued)

Income (continued)

- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Prior period adjustment

The prior period reserves have been adjusted to reflect accrued income included in the 2023 Accounts that should have been adjusted against unrestricted income. This has resulted in Unrestricted reserves being reduced by £36,100 to £112,178 and total reserves restated to £1,716,118 from £1,752,218.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at

revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Freehold property	-	4% straight line
Equipment	-	25% straight line

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

For the purposes of impairment testing, when it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

For impairment testing of goodwill, the goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the charity are assigned to those units.

3. Accounting policies (continued)

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in the statement of financial activities, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other

financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

4. Limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. The trustees undertake to contribute a sum, not exceeding £1 each, to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up.

5. Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Donations – other	66,833	518	-	67,351	78,207
	<u>66,833</u>	<u>518</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>67,351</u>	<u>78,207</u>

6. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Sale of goods/services as part of direct charitable activities	75,420	-	-	75,420	145,636
Performance-related grants	35,869	-	94,842	130,711	191,126
Other income from charitable activities - contractual payments	206,048	-	-	206,048	3,143
	<u>317,337</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>94,842</u>	<u>412,179</u>	<u>339,905</u>

The 2023 comparatives include performance-related grant restricted expenditure of £124,923 and unrestricted expenditure of £3,143

7. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Sales income	14,966	-	-	14,966	5,383
Rental income	74,479	-	-	74,479	72,689
Other activities for generating funds	38,814	-	-	38,814	56,293
	<u>128,259</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>128,259</u>	<u>134,365</u>

The 2023 comparatives include other activities for generating funds designated expenditure of £10,000 and unrestricted expenditure of £46,293.

The 2023 comparatives include other activities for generating funds designated income of £10,000 and unrestricted income of £46,293.

8. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Bank interest receivable	1,184	1,184	1,781
	<u>1,184</u>	<u>1,184</u>	<u>1,781</u>

9. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Science, Education, Forestry, & Wood Programmes	494,594	66,327	105,502	666,423	644,423
Support costs	6,129	--	-	6,129	5,400
	<u>500,723</u>	<u>66,327</u>	<u>105,502</u>	<u>672,552</u>	<u>649,823</u>

The 2023 comparatives include science, education, forestry and wood programmes designated costs of £11,266, restricted costs of £110,800 and unrestricted costs of £527,757.

10. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Science, Education, Forestry, & Wood Programmes	666,423	-	666,423	644,423
Governance costs	-	6,129	6,129	5,400
	<u>666,423</u>	<u>6,129</u>	<u>672,552</u>	<u>649,823</u>

11. Analysis of support costs

	Support costs	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Finance costs	6,129	6,129	5,400
	<u>6,129</u>	<u>6,129</u>	<u>5,400</u>

12. Net income

Net income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>57,803</u>	<u>55,992</u>

13. Independent examination fees

Fees payable to the independent examiner for:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Independent examination of the financial statements	735	700
Other financial services	5,394	4,700
	<u>6,129</u>	<u>5,400</u>

14. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	379,264	314,084
Social security costs	35,491	28,944
Employer contributions to pension plans	18,890	13,902
	<u>433,645</u>	<u>356,930</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 9 (2023: 9). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
All staff	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>

One employee received employee benefits of between £60,000 and £70,000 during the year (2023: £Nil).

15. Trustee remuneration and expenses

No trustee received any remuneration during the year (2023: £Nil).

During the year one trustee received reimbursement for travel expenses of £122 (2023: £Nil).

16. Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 st April 2023	1,695,497	149,001	1,844,498
Additions	-	7,551	7,551
At 31st March 2024	<u>1,695,497</u>	<u>156,552</u>	<u>1,852,049</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 st April 2023	226,436	46,817	273,253
Charge for the year	42,243	15,560	57,803
At 31st March 2024	<u>268,679</u>	<u>62,377</u>	<u>331,056</u>
Carrying amount			
At 31 st March 2024	<u>1,426,818</u>	<u>94,175</u>	<u>1,520,993</u>
At 31 st March 2023	<u>1,469,061</u>	<u>102,184</u>	<u>1,571,245</u>

17. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	87,368	47,480
Prepayments and accrued income	730	-
	<u>88,098</u>	<u>47,480</u>

18. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	37,289	39,560
Accruals and deferred income	44,744	10,000
Social security and other taxes	11,306	8,960
Other creditors – pension	3,013	1,962
VAT payable	26	4,036
	<u>96,378</u>	<u>64,518</u>

Deferred income represents income received in advance for which the charity has not yet met the conditions of recognition. There was no deferred income balance at the beginning of the year and the amount deferred at the year-end was £37,672.

19. Pensions and other post-retirement benefits**Defined contribution plans**

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £18,890 (2023: £13,902).

20. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 st April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	At 31 st March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	112,178	513,613	(500,723)	(17,908)	107,160
	<u>112,178</u>	<u>513,613</u>	<u>(500,723)</u>	<u>(17,908)</u>	<u>107,160</u>

Designated Funds

Operational Fixed Assets	1,469,061	-	(42,243)	-	1,426,818
Forestry/Information Technology	3,203	518	-	15,997	19,698
Education	272	-	(272)	-	-
Wood Centre	2,951	-	-	-	2,951
Science	10,000	-	(10,000)	-	-
Reserve Fund	37,849	-	-	1,931	39,780
Core	31,176	-	(13,812)	-	17,364
	<u>1,554,512</u>	<u>518</u>	<u>(66,327)</u>	<u>17,928</u>	<u>1,506,611</u>

Restricted funds

Forestry/Information Technology	34,391	2,582	(32,221)	-	4,752
Education	5,487	30,724	(32,866)	-	3,345
Core	9,550	61,536	(40,415)	-	30,671
	<u>49,428</u>	<u>94,842</u>	<u>(105,502)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>38,768</u>

20. Analysis of charitable funds (continued)

	At 1 st April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	At 31 st March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	186,396	455,435	(527,757)	34,204	112,178
	<u>186,396</u>	<u>455,435</u>	<u>(527,757)</u>	<u>34,204</u>	<u>112,178</u>
Designated Funds					
Operational Fixed Assets	1,503,265	-	-	(34,204)	1,469,061
Forestry/Information Technology	3,203	-	-	-	3,203
Education	272	-	-	-	272
Wood Centre	4,217	-	(1,266)	-	2,951
Science	-	10,000	(10,000)	10,000	10,000
Reserve Fund	79,025	-	-	(41,176)	37,849
Capital maintenance fund	-	-	-	31,176	31,176
	<u>1,589,982</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>(11,266)</u>	<u>(34,204)</u>	<u>1,554,512</u>
Restricted funds					
Forestry/Information Technology	18,723	121,563	(105,895)	-	34,391
Education	7,032	3,360	(4,905)	-	5,487
Core	9,550	-	-	-	9,550
	<u>35,305</u>	<u>124,923</u>	<u>(110,800)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>49,428</u>

21. Analysis of net assets between funds

2024	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	94,175	1,426,818	-	1,520,933
Current assets	71,691	79,793	76,440	227,924
Creditors less than 1 year	(58,706)	-	(37,672)	(96,378)
	<u>107,160</u>	<u>1,506,611</u>	<u>38,768</u>	<u>1,652,539</u>
2023	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	102,184	1,469,061	-	1,571,245
Current assets	54,535	85,451	69,405	209,391
Creditors less than 1 year	(44,541)	-	(19,977)	(64,518)
	<u>112,178</u>	<u>1,554,512</u>	<u>49,428</u>	<u>1,716,118</u>

How you can help Sylva Foundation

Sylva Foundation relies on the help of many people and organisations. This section outlines some of the ways we currently receive support. We are always keen to receive support in different ways. Read on to find out how you could help our important work.

Donate

There are several ways you can donate to support Sylva. We offer specific opportunities, such as helping towards a new building, or sponsoring a bench for a start-up business. We also benefit from regular small donations from people who believe in the importance of our work. If you like what we do and how we do it, please consider joining our Friends scheme. Find out more: sylva.org.uk/support

Remember Sylva in your Will

Leaving a Legacy to Sylva is a powerful way to make your support for the charity live on. We believe that trees and forests underpin life on Earth, especially if cared for as part of a dynamic living landscape. Your Legacy will support our ongoing work to achieve a sustainable society and environment. We offer a number of ways to help you leave a legacy, including a home visit with our partners The Goodwill Partnership, and in England a free online Will writing service. You can read more at sylva.org.uk/legacy or contact us to discuss at: **01865 408018** or legacy@sylva.org.uk.

Campaigns and appeals

Support our campaigns and appeals, and you can help our work helping people and trees grow closer together. Subscribe to our enews at sylva.org.uk/subscribe so that you are kept up-to-date.

Training

We offer an exciting range of courses at the Sylva Wood Centre. By attending a paid course your fee will help support our work bridging significant gaps which exist in formal wood education. Find out more at sylva.org.uk/woodschoo

Shopping

We have a small online shop which helps us raise much-needed income. sylva.org.uk/shop

Get involved

There are a wide range of options for you to get involved in our work. At the local level we enjoy support from the public caring for our small estate, and promoting our work through events at the Sylva Wood Centre.

Fundraise

Sylva is not a membership charity, so is without the regular income this provides many charities. We therefore need to raise funds for specific projects and build a strong foundation of income to support our core costs. We don't have teams of individuals fundraising for us but if you can help promote our work, especially our campaigns and appeals, you will make a difference.

Local groups

Sylva tends to work in partnership with other organisations to achieve its reach across Britain. We are most active locally via the Sylva Wood Centre in Oxfordshire, where local people can help support our Future Forest, Community Orchard, and arts events.

Volunteering

If you are looking for an exciting and interesting way to make a difference to our environment, please consider volunteering with Sylva. We have recently benefited volunteers helping with school visits, data entry, visitor welcoming, tree planting, and even a business angel. You don't have to know anything about trees, forestry or wood to volunteer with Sylva. Find out more at sylva.org.uk/volunteer

Acknowledgements 2023-24

We are very grateful for all the support offered this year by so many individuals and organisations.

Volunteers and community groups

Andrew Lea
David and Karon Whenmouth
Harriet Child
Lynn Jones
Pauline Upstone
Phil Horton
Philip Koomen
Phoebe Oldfield
Rae Sellen
Sally Richards
Sheila and Derek Phillips
Steve Ash
Sylva Foundation Friends

Donors and Funders

Aspen Trust
Conran Foundation
Garfield Weston Foundation
Horlock Educational Trust
John Ellerman Foundation
Michaelis family
The Mila Charitable Trust
Vastern Timber
Woven Foundation

Business supporters

Andrew Bax/Drayton Hive
Axminster Tools
Benchmark Furniture
Blenheim Palace
Cloud Forest
Doig Furniture Makers
Evolving Forests
Festool
Gaze Burvill
Joined and Jointed
Lamello
Martin Glynn
National Trust
Nicholsons
Odies Oil
reHeat
Resilient Landscapes East of England CIC
Resilient Landscapes Yorkshire CIC
Rezatec
Robinson Forestry
Rural Development Initiatives
Timber Auctions
Vastern Timber
Wessex Woodland Management

NGO and Non-Profit Partners

Community Forest Trusts
Confor
Cumbria Woodlands
Earth Trust
Forest Canopy Foundation
Grown in Britain
Institute of Chartered Foresters
Liverpool John Moores University
National Farmers Union
National Trust
Royal Forestry Society
Royal Scottish Forestry Society
RSPB
Small Woods Association
Soil Association
Woodland Heritage
Woodland Trust
Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers

Statutory sector and other public bodies

Defra
Environment Agency
Forest Research
Forestry Commission
Natural England
Scottish Forestry

Education/Academic Partners

Harper Adams University
Liverpool John Moores University
Reading University
Rycotewood Furniture (Activate Learning)
SRUC (Scotland's Rural College)



Contact us

Sylva Foundation
Sylva Wood Centre
Long Wittenham
Oxfordshire
OX14 4QT

Tel: 01865 408018

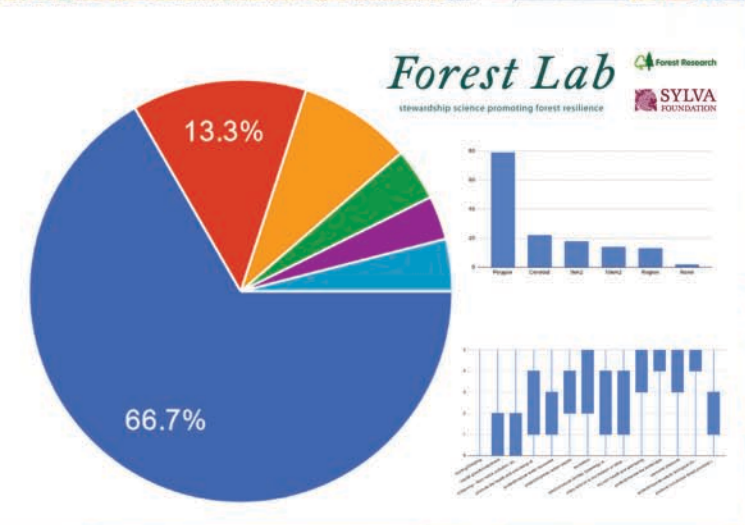
email: info@sylva.org.uk

www.sylva.org.uk

SYLVA FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1128516

Accounts



2023

Trustees' Report and Accounts

SYLVA

FOUNDATION





Sylva foresters meeting with partners, funders and a Derbyshire landowner as part of the Defra PIES project.

Contents

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Front cover:

Top left to bottom right: Sylva wood tutors with participants on the 2022 Summer School; Aerial view of the Sylva Wood Centre, 2022; Fieldwork in Derbyshire; Results of our Forest Lab participants survey; Summer School participants marking timber; Selection of timber logs ready for the Wood School; Three stools produced for the National Trust at the Sylva Wood School; Participants in the 2022 Summer School supported by the V&A Museum.

Trustees' Report

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its advisers and trustees.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Sylva Foundation is an environmental and forestry charity founded in 2009. The charity is active across Britain, with its headquarters in Oxfordshire.

Registration

Charity registered in England and Wales (1128516), and in Scotland (SC041892).

Charitable Company registration number 6589157.

Registered office

Sylva Wood Centre
Little Wittenham Road
Long Wittenham
Oxfordshire
OX14 4QT

Principal professional advisors

Banking

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

Independent Examiner

Ajay Bahl
Wenn Townsend Chartered Accountants
30 St Giles'
Oxford
OX1 3LE

Insurance Brokers

NFU Mutual
Views Farm Barns
Windmill Hill
Great Milton
Oxfordshire
OX44 4NW

Trustee Board and Staff

Patrons

Lady Audrey Wood OBE
Sir Martin Wood FRS (1927-2021)

Trustees

Chair of Trustees

Sarah Taylor

Other Trustee Board members

Dr Mary Barkham
Dr Robin Buxton
Lucius Cary OBE
Luke Hughes
Dr James Morison
Jim Waterson

Staff

Chief Executive

Dr Gabriel Hemery FICFor CEnv

Director of Operations

Paul Orsi MICFor

Other Staff members

Gwyneth Bradbury	Web Developer
Joseph Bray	Head of Wood School
George Dennison	myForest Manager
Phillip Gullam	Senior Tutor
Richard Pigott	Head of Web Development
Oliver Price	Web Developer
Mariah Splawska	Bookkeeper

Advisors and Associates

Shems Hadj-Nassar	Communications
Dr Philip Koomen	Furniture & Wood
Dr Gill Petrokofsky	Science
Alistair Yeomans	Environmental Resilience



Many of the Sylva team were lucky to receive a guided tour of the Ercol factory from senior company executives as part of one of our regular team building days.

Structure, Governance and Management

Legal Structure

Sylva Foundation ('Sylva' or 'the charity') is a charity registered in England and Wales 1128516 and in Scotland SC041892, and a charitable company limited by guarantee 06589157. The company (a private company not having a share capital) was established under a Memorandum of Association (dated 11th March 2009, updated by Special Resolution 28th March 2013).

The governing body of the charity is the Trustee Board ('the board'). Up to ten trustees may be appointed to the board. During 2022-23, no trustees retired.

The day-to-day management of the charity is delegated by the Trustee Board to the Chief Executive and carried out by members of staff.

The charity's registered address is in Oxfordshire, and this is its sole headquarters. Sylva's activities extend across Britain, and occasionally internationally.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The charity's trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with FRS102 – The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland. The law applicable to charities in England, Wales, and Scotland requires the charity's trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the charity trustees are required to:

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

The charity trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that:

- are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions;
- disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity; and,
- ensure that the financial statements comply with the reporting and legal regulations and the provisions of the charity's constitution as set out in the Articles of Association and Memorandum of Association.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Policies and Procedures

The charity has a range of policies and procedures, which are renewed at the end of each financial year or more frequently as required, with a rolling programme of consideration by trustees. Currently these include:

- anti-bribery policy
- concerns and complaints procedure
- data protection and terms (including GDPR)
- environmental and sustainability policy
- equality and diversity policy
- financial policies
- grievance procedure
- health & safety policy
- information security policy
- parental leave policy
- privacy policies and notices
- reserves policy
- safeguarding and child protection policy
- sexual harassment policy
- sickness and absence policy
- smoking policy
- stress management policy
- terms of supply
- travel policy
- volunteer procedures
- whistleblowing policy

Risk Management

The charity trustees are responsible for identifying and managing the major risks facing the charity. Risk management is well-established and is considered in every aspect of our work.

We maintain a Risk Register which provides a comprehensive view of the following areas of risk:

- financial risks, including contingency plans to deal with insufficient income;
- operational risks, including loss of key personnel, and data management;
- reputational risks, including failure of a project, maintaining high standards in the management of the charity's estate;
- external environment, including environmental change (e.g. pests, diseases);
- governance, including ensuring trustee experience and skills, fraud; and
- health and safety, for staff and visitors.

The Risk Register is scrutinised annually by the Trustee Board. Following the most recent review in March 2022, the charity trustees confirm that they are satisfied with such arrangements and identified a number of strategic risks which are explained in *Achievements, Challenges and Future Plans*.

Fundraising Activities

Our work nurturing a wood culture and growing a future is only possible because of the support of donors, funders, and other partners who contribute vital funding. Sylva Foundation is registered with the Fundraising Regulator. Alongside our own high standards in fundraising, we follow its Codes of Practice.

Volunteers

We received highly valuable assistance from volunteers, without whom our work would be much reduced. During the year we continued to benefit particularly from volunteers with professional skills, notably in legal matters, and in communications and marketing.

Our local community near the Sylva Wood Centre is very supportive of our activities, including the annual Artweeks exhibition, taking an active role in supporting our community woodland and orchard. We welcome volunteer conservation work parties onto our estate.

We always welcome enquiries from potential volunteers. Please contact us direct or visit our website:

sylva.org.uk/volunteer

Objectives, Activities and Public benefit

The charity's objects are set out in the company's memorandum of association. These are **to promote the conservation of the environment for the public benefit consistent with sustainable development principles** by:

- I. promoting and conducting research for the public benefit about effective sustainable forest management and the dissemination of the useful results of such research;
- II. advancing education for the public benefit in the theory and practice of sustainable forest management;
- III. supporting the development and application of sustainable forest management for the public benefit;
- IV. advancing education and business enterprise in the design and production of home-grown wood products for the public benefit.

The charity's trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing objectives and activities which are described in the section *Achievements, Challenges and Future plans*. Sylva Foundation has a range of activities for achieving these objectives and its public benefit, combining them to best effect. For the purposes of preparing Sylva's accounts, these activities are grouped under the following main headings:

- innovating;
- collaborating;
- training;
- advocacy.

Our Vision

Our vision is for a society that cares for nature while living in harmony with it.

We envisage a wood culture where people understand and promote the good stewardship of woodlands and are mindful of their utility, while being conscious of their fragility. Future society will recognise the creative and productive value of forest products which can be derived from growing well-managed forests, and at the same time enhance their wider benefits for people and for nature. This will help result in a halt in the loss of biodiversity, a reduction in climate change, and a human society that can sustain itself.

Our actions today will be tangible in the love and respect that future generations afford our trees and forests.

Our Mission

- To use our forestry knowledge and information technology skills, supported by state-of-art evidence, to provide innovative solutions to some of the greatest environmental challenges facing modern society.
- To work extensively and selflessly with others, recognising that collaboration is necessary to overcome the challenges of halting biodiversity loss and reducing climate change, while supporting the transition to a sustainable human society.
- To deliver the training and education necessary to support the transformation of society, focussing on the stewardship of our forests and the utility of home-grown timber.

- To undertake advocacy to inspire one another, raise awareness, and endow people with knowledge, passion, and the shared ambition for a better and more sustainable society.

Impact

Sylva Foundation undertakes to regularly publish an Impact Report, highlighting its activities, progress, and contributions towards meeting its charitable objectives. These reports are published on our website.

Our 2022 Impact Report highlighted a range of impacts, including:

- 160,000ha of woodland mapped and detailed across the UK by myForest users;
- 10,000 users of myForest supported in caring for their woodlands;
- 1,200ha of new woodland supported by myForest;
- 158 woodland managers assisted us in developing a new stewardship science project to be known as Forest Lab;
- we supported 18 organisations working together in the Forestry Climate Change Partnership, including hosting its website and chairing the group;
- two-thirds of our Wood School graduates secured jobs within three months of completing our professional course;
- nine students who identified as female or non-binary took part in our Summer School;
- ... and more!

Achievements, Challenges and Future plans

This section highlights the achievements, challenges and future plans for activities under our four key values of **Innovating, Collaborating, Training, and Advocacy**.

INNOVATING

To use our forestry knowledge and information technology skills, supported by state-of-art evidence, to provide innovative solutions to some of the greatest environmental challenges facing modern society.



Launch of new version of myForest

myForest is the flagship project of Sylva Foundation, providing comprehensive online mapping, digital tools and the latest resources to sustainably manage, and create new forests around Britain. There are now more than 8,000 forest owners and 1,500 forest agents using myForest to manage more than 185,000ha of forest. In August 2022, we released the long-awaited enhanced version of myForest, bringing together our learning and expertise from the last ten years. **myForest v4.0** not only provides the latest in technology and guidance to sustainably manage forests, but also unique support for the creation of new forests across Britain. Feedback on myForest v4.0 has been positive, with the new forest creation tools being particularly successful, with more than 1,200ha of forest creation schemes added since August 2022.

nurturing a wood culture, growing a future

Over the past year, the myForest team regularly provided support and advice to woodland groups across Britain. This included a webinar for some 40 members of the Community Woodlands Association, the representative body of Scotland's community woodland groups, to learn how they could use myForest to support their woodland management activities.

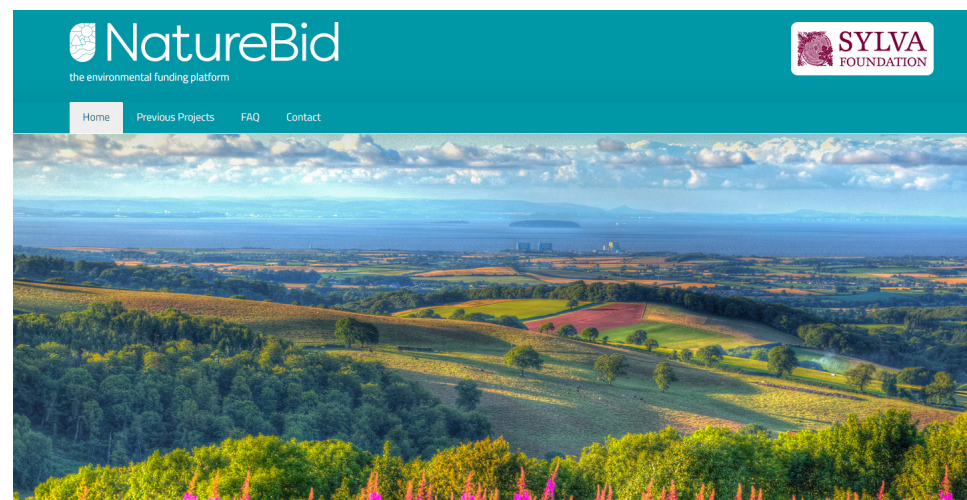
Resilient Treescapes

Sylva continues to support Defra in exploring stakeholder behaviours under the **Resilient Treescapes Project**. As part of their three-year Tree Health Pilot, we are assisting the government in the design and testing of new incentives and regulation to support land managers in responding to threats from pests and pathogens in England. Outcomes from this pilot will inform the design of the future Tree Health Scheme, to be rolled out through environmental land management schemes.

NatureBid

Our innovative environmental funding platform developed in partnership with the Environment Agency, **NatureBid**, continues to be successful. To date, £29M of environmental funding has been channelled through NatureBid including:

- 16 auctions or trades conducted across the UK



- Support offered for natural flood management, woodland creation, carbon sequestration, water quality, and more
- Trusted by 17 partner organisations, including: Community Forests, Forestry Commission, FWAG SouthWest, Highways England, West Country Rivers Trust, and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
- Adopted by several business partners, including: 3Keel, Atkins, Anglian Water, and Nestle

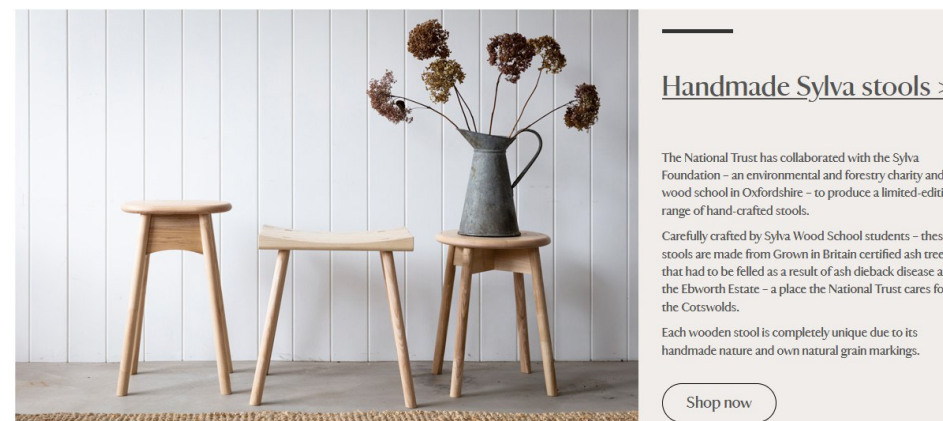
COLLABORATING

To work extensively and selflessly with others, recognising that collaboration is necessary to overcome the challenges of halting biodiversity loss and reducing climate change, while supporting the transition to a sustainable human society.

After successfully securing a major grant from Defra, Sylva launched an innovative new project known as **PIES**, standing for **protect, improve, expand, and sustain** to help with the creation and management of woodlands across England. We are working in collaboration with Forest Canopy Foundation and Grown in Britain, and with the Forestry Commission and the NFU. During the first stage of PIES we received an incredible 60 applications for the innovative package of fully-funded advice, providing vital information for landowners and managers in England in taking the next steps in managing existing woodland and/or creating new wooded areas.

Our Chief Executive is now the Chair of the **Forestry and Climate Change Partnership (FCCP)**, composed of forestry, conservation and government organisations that have come together to reaffirm their commitment to work together to promote the importance of adapting trees, woods and forests to climate change. The FCCP published the Forestry and Climate Change Adaptation Accord, setting out a collective vision that Britain's trees, woods and forests are resilient to climate change and therefore able to meet their full potential to provide environmental, social and economic benefits.

We were delighted when our new collaboration with the **National Trust** was awarded 'Best Range' at the Association for Cultural Enterprises awards. The limited-edition range of hand-crafted wooden stools were



Handmade Sylva stools >

The National Trust has collaborated with the Sylva Foundation – an environmental and forestry charity and wood school in Oxfordshire – to produce a limited-edition range of hand-crafted stools.

Carefully crafted by Sylva Wood School students – these stools are made from Grown in Britain certified ash trees that had to be felled as a result of ash dieback disease at the Ebworth Estate – a place the National Trust cares for in the Cotswolds.

Each wooden stool is completely unique due to its handmade nature and own natural grain markings.

Shop now

Cultural Enterprise award winner. The judges said: 'Beautifully designed, modern and elegant, this range represents an inspired partnership that has created something positive.'

designed in-house and made by Wood School students. We used Grown in Britain certified ash from the National Trust's Ebworth Estate.

Thanks to funding from Vastern Timber, a new collaboration with Sylva Foundation and Earth Trust was launched. **Paradise Wood** in south Oxfordshire was planted by Earth Trust over thirty years ago, and is a research centre for hardwood trees, and a unique resource for learning and advocacy. Paradise Wood is owned by Earth Trust, the charity co-founded by Sir Martin Wood, who also co-founded the Sylva Foundation with our Chief Executive, who has a long connection with this woodland. For the first time Paradise Wood will be mapped using **myForest** to develop a UK Forestry Standard management plan, enabling us all to understand the full capability of Paradise Wood's precious genetic resources, and realise the woodland's potential to help society and nature, while also adapting to climate change.

BUSINESS

ADVICE

Making the most of woodland

NFU-supported project offers funded advice for existing and new woodland

A new government-funded project is offering support to help farmers across England care for their woodland, enhance its environmental condition, build a better understanding of new woodland creation opportunities, and to deliver goods and services that will benefit everyone.

The PIES (Protect Improve Expand Sustain) project is providing a network of independent forestry agents to deliver high-quality, funded advice on bringing existing woodland back into management and/or support for woodland creation projects. Farmers taking part will receive an expert site visit and a customised report, plus ongoing online support and technical services.

NFU INPUT

The NFU recognises that it can be challenging to know where to access woodland management advice and to understand potential future streams. That is why it is working with the project partners.

PIES supports government objectives in the England Trees Action Plan, but also aligns with central asks in the recent NFU Tree Strategy, including the importance of incentives to bring existing woodlands back into management to deliver more outcomes for farmers, wider society and the environment.

According to Forestry Commission figures, 50% of the area of woodland in private ownership across England is unmanaged, suggesting significant untapped societal, economic and environmental potential.

The funded advice and visits will help farmers to develop outline plans for existing woodlands and plans and budgets for new plantings. Further support to implement the plans is also available, but this is optional.

The advisory visit and other outputs have been carefully designed to avoid any overlap with activities covered by government incentives. This means any activities beyond the initial advisory visit could still be supported by other grants and funding.

Following the initial advice and visit, plans and maps will be shared with the farmer via a free account on the myForest platform run by Sylva Foundation, one of the partners leading the project. The platform will provide ongoing support, while simplifying the process of applying for government incentives and meeting regulatory requirements.

In addition, Grown in Britain Forest Certification will be offered free for three years as part of the project, supporting eligible farmers to make the most of their woodland resource.

Applications are described as "straight forward" and eligible farmers include those with existing woodland that do not have a current management plan in place, and/or any farmer interested in creating new woodland on their land. The offer is available only to farmers in England.

To read more and to apply, visit www.sylva.org.uk/pies. Read the NFU Tree Strategy at NFUonline.com/campaigning/info-reports/

HALF of the area of woodland in private ownership across England is unmanaged

The PIES project can help with existing and new woodland projects

64 December 2022 British Farmer & Grower

The NFU published an article about the PIES project in the December 2022 issue of British Farmer and Grower (the UK's largest distribution specialist magazine for farmers).

TRAINING

To deliver the training and education necessary to support the transformation of society, focussing on the stewardship of our forests and the utility of home-grown timber.

Phillip Gullam was appointed as our new **Senior Tutor** last May, just in time to welcome a new cohort of eight students onto our **Introduction to Furniture Making Course**. The course provides an introduction to a range of furniture-making skills and experiences in a professional workshop. The course is designed for those looking for an in-depth introduction to woodworking skills or to hone existing skills, and is the perfect stepping stone to our six-month Professional Course.



Senior Tutor, Phillip Gullam

The second Sylva Wood School **Professional Course** finished earlier this year, with the 2022/3 cohorts of students achieving a good level of woodworking technical skills, an understanding of professional standards, and many hours of professional experience and competency in wood machinery. Once again, we were pleased to be able to offer **Bursaries** to some students. We also continued the **Wood School Fellowship scheme**, where a graduate can remain at a bench, with the support of our team.

"I feel this course has directly led to a job role in a furniture making business that I would previously not have been offered. I also believe that the course has allowed me to be confident within this new role." Student, Sylva Wood School Professional Course 2022/3

In September 2022, the third annual **Sylva Wood Summer School** took place in collaboration with the V&A Museum, and specifically the **Make Good: Rethinking Material Futures** programme to create 'Field Notes.' This collaboration provided a unique opportunity for the creative participants of the 2022 Summer School, culminating in their work being displayed at the V&A's Susan R Weber Furniture Gallery.



Sylva Summer School 2022

"Without doubt this year's Summer School has been the most amazing experience of my teaching career. Bringing together so many brilliant young people, from diverse backgrounds and creative fields then prompting them with inspiring talks, walks and access to our workshops and experienced teachers has led to twelve very special outcomes. Anyone interested in the future of our forests and the opportunities of using homegrown timber should definitely go and see the inspiring display." Joseph Bray, Head of Wood School.

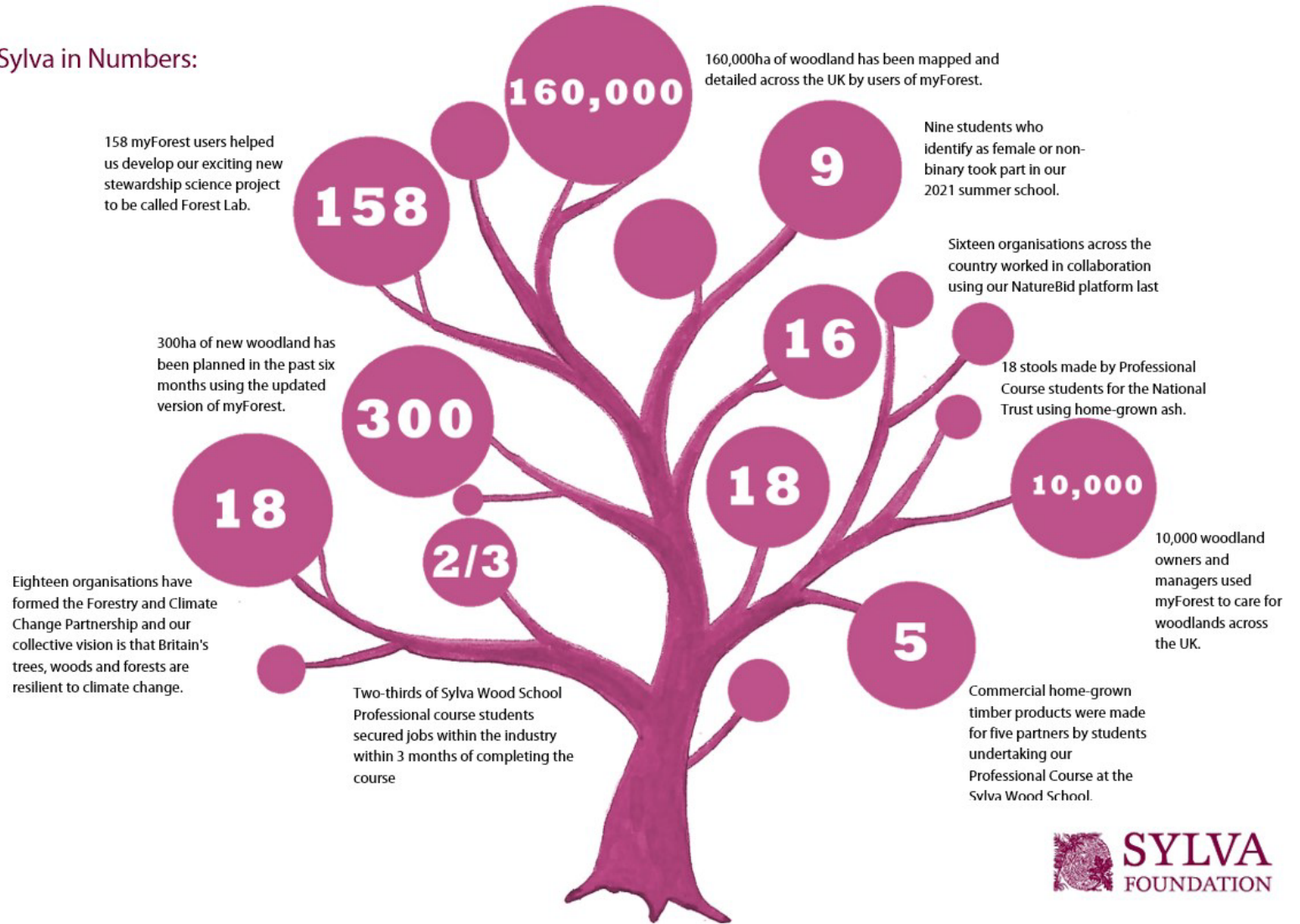
ADVOCACY

To undertake advocacy to inspire one another, raise awareness, and endow people with knowledge, passion, and the shared ambition for a better and more sustainable society.

We released our long-awaited position statement on **Sourcing and Using Home-Grown Wood Products**. In addition, we developed a new free tool to guide wood product users in decision-making for sourcing timber and wood products in the UK. The Home-Grown Wood Product Selector decision support tool is currently a beta version, but we aim to develop it further with support from partners, and if investment can be attracted, develop a simple mobile application to improve accessibility and user experience.

We published another **Sylva Impact Report** in 2022. This second impact report focuses on the many collaborations that ensure Sylva continues to reach far beyond our community in South Oxfordshire.

Sylva in Numbers:



Financial Review

This section is prepared by our trustees to offer a summary of the charity's finances, with numbered notes (shown in square brackets) referenced from the accounts, which form the following section of this report. The accounts comply with the requirements of FRS102 – The Financial Reporting Standard, applicable in the UK.

The finances of the charity are overseen by the trustees, together with senior staff. The Board oversees a Financial Strategy and an annual Financial Plan, which are reviewed at board meetings.

Reserves Policy

Sylva Foundation holds funds to be applied to support future activities in the form of a 'Critical Fund', and Restricted funds:

- The Reserve Fund is maintained to ensure that operational expenditure can be supported for at least three months, this represents funds sufficient to meet contingency exit costs. This fund was £37,849 at the end of FY 2022-23 [Note 20].
- The Reserves Policy was reviewed by trustees in March 2022 and it was agreed that a reserves target aiming for a maximum of 50% of budgeted annual expenditure remained prudent.
- Restricted funds are maintained to ensure that specific purposes intended by the donor can be met.
- Funds related to specific funded projects are also maintained as restricted and designated funds.

Financial report for 2022-23

Introduction

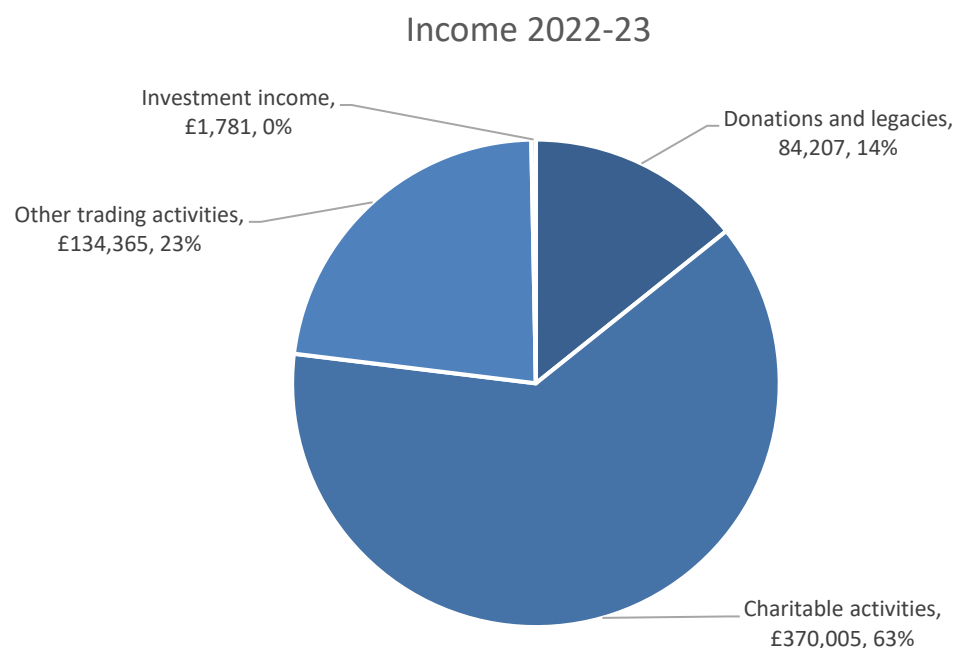
Sylva Foundation has continued to diversify its income streams. Over this year and the previous year, a significant amount of money that had been held in restricted or designated funds for various commitments has been drawn down. This partly explains the deficit reported this financial year. Our financial model has evolved so that we now operate more as a transactional type business, with more monthly or quarterly flow of income and expenditure.

Income

Income (£590,358) increased by 18% compared to the previous financial year (£499,747) [Statement of Financial Activities].

Income was derived from several sources including:

- £84,207 or 14% of total income was received in donations, 0% of which were restricted in their application [Note 5].
- Incoming resources from charitable activities was £370,005 or 63% [Note 6]. This income consisted of £145,636 from the sale of goods and services;



£191,126 of performance-related grants; and £33,243 of contractual payments for work.

- Other trading activities totalled £134,365 or 23%, the majority (54%) of which was rental income from the Sylva Wood Centre [Note 7].
- Bank interest totalled £1,781 representing less than 1% of total income [Note 9].

Fixed Assets

During 2022-23 the value of fixed assets (after depreciation) decreased by £36,560 to £1,571,245 [Note 16].

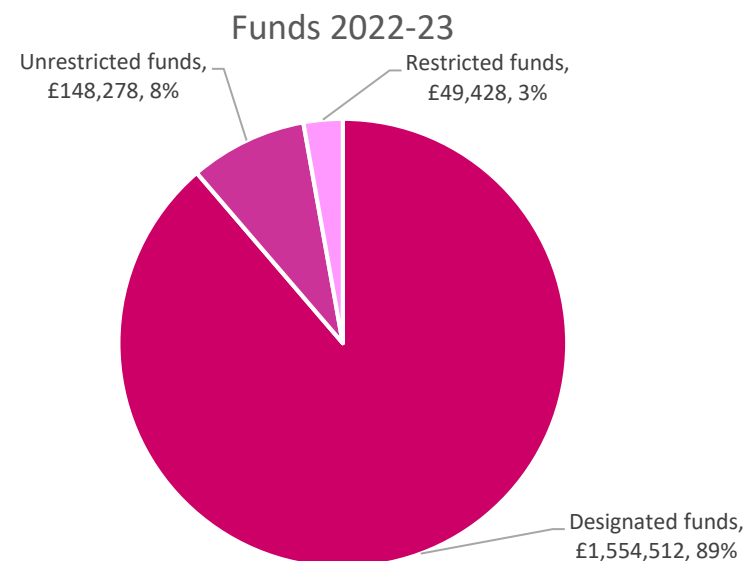
Restricted Funds

Total Restricted Funds were £49,428 (3%) [Note 20]. Restricted Funds are derived from donations and grants with specific conditions attached, and these are accounted for separately in our operational accounts.

Designated Funds

Designated Funds [Note 20] are those funds held for activities related to Innovating, Collaborating, Training, and Advocating activities, and for Core purposes. The total value of Designated funds at 31st March 2023 was £1,554,512 [Note 20].

The largest proportion of Designated Funds were Operational Fixed Assets £1,469,061 (94%), mostly comprising land and buildings at the Sylva Wood Centre. Under SORP rules, these assets are shown as 'funds' but in fact they are physical assets and not 'funds' in the ordinary sense of the word. The charity's trustees may use the assets acquired on an unrestricted basis for any charitable purpose.



Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted Funds comprise General Funds (£148,278) arising from fundraising, consultancy, grants, rental income from the Sylva Wood Centre, and our day-to-day operations [Note 20]. These funds are used by Sylva Foundation to achieve its strategic objectives.

Expenditure

Total resources expended were £649,823 [Statement of Financial Activities]. Delivery of the charity's strategic objectives cost £644,423 [Note 9] plus £5,400 of support costs [detailed in Note 13].

The majority of total expenditure (48%; £314,084) was spent on staff salaries [Note 14]. From our own operational accounts, we calculate overheads to be £113,641 or 17% of our total expenditure.

Outcome for the future

Trustees and staff continue to work closely together over to deliver our five-year strategy (2021-26) for the charity. We are busy implementing impactful plans with the support of our considerable network of partner organisations and individual supporters.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption. The trustees' annual report was approved on 6th November 2023 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Sarah Taylor
Chair of Trustees

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Sylva Foundation

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2023 which are set out on pages 14 to 28.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

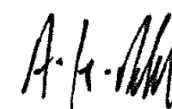
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). 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 report

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 that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company 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.



Ajay Bahl BA BFP FCA
Wenn Townsend
Chartered Accountants
Oxford

6th November 2023

Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31st March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £
Income and endowments									
Donations and legacies	5	84,207	-	-	84,207	56,815	-	-	56,815
Charitable activities	6	245,082	-	124,923	370,005	254,200	-	75,444	329,644
Other trading activities	7	124,365	10,000	-	134,365	90,720	22,500	-	113,220
Investment income	8	1,781	-	-	1,781	68	-	-	68
Total income		455,435	10,000	124,923	590,358	401,803	22,500	75,444	499,747
Expenditure on charitable activities	9, 10	527,757	11,266	110,800	649,823	375,567	38,287	128,564	542,418
Total expenditure		527,757	11,266	110,800	649,823	375,567	38,287	128,564	542,418
Net (expenditure) / income		(72,322)	(1,266)	14,123	(59,465)	26,236	(15,787)	(53,120)	(42,671)
Transfer between funds		34,204	(34,204)	-	-	19,835	(19,835)	-	-
Net movement in funds		(38,118)	(35,470)	14,123	(59,465)	46,071	(35,622)	(53,120)	(42,671)
Reconciliation of funds									
Total funds brought forward		186,396	1,589,982	35,305	1,811,683	140,325	1,625,604	88,425	1,854,354
Total funds carried forward	21	148,278	1,554,512	49,428	1,752,218	186,396	1,589,982	35,305	1,811,683

All activities are continuing.

There are no other gains or losses recognised during the year.

The notes on pages 17 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet

	Note	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	16		1,571,245		1,607,805
Current assets					
Debtors	17	83,580		129,370	
Cash at bank and in hand		161,911		134,309	
		<u>245,491</u>		<u>263,679</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	<u>(64,518)</u>		<u>(59,801)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>180,973</u>		<u>203,878</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>1,752,218</u>		<u>1,811,683</u>
Net assets			<u>1,752,218</u>		<u>1,811,683</u>
Funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds	20		148,278		186,396
Designated Funds	20		1,554,512		1,589,982
Restricted Funds	20		<u>49,428</u>		<u>35,305</u>
Total charity funds	21		<u>1,752,218</u>		<u>1,811,683</u>

For the year ending 31st March 2023 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

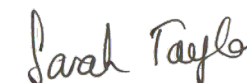
Trustees' responsibilities:

- The trustees have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 6th November 2023 and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Sarah Taylor
Chair of Trustees



The notes on pages 17 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

Cash Flow Statement

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net cash flow from operating activities:		
(Deficit)/surplus	(59,465)	(42,671)
Depreciation	55,992	50,522
Interest income receivable	(1,781)	(68)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	45,790	(78,308)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	4,717	36,121
	<hr/> 45,253	<hr/> (34,404)
Investing activities:		
Interest income receivable	1,781	68
Expenditure on tangible assets	(19,432)	(62,248)
	<hr/> 27,602	<hr/> (96,584)
Increase/(decrease) in cash balances		
Cash at bank and in hand:		
Brought forward balance	134,309	230,893
Increase/(decrease) in cash balances	27,602	(96,584)
	<hr/> 161,911	<hr/> 134,309
Carried forward		

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. General information

Sylva Foundation is a charitable company registered in England and Wales (06589157), and a charity registered in England and Wales (1128516), and in Scotland (SC041892). The address of the registered office is Sylva Wood Centre, Little Wittenham Road, Long Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 4QT.

2. Statement of compliance

These accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis and include income and expenditure as they are earned or incurred, rather than as cash is received or paid. The financial statements 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. They have concluded that the budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves held for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for a particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Income

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable, and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.

3. Accounting policies (continued)

Income (continued)

- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Freehold property	-	4% straight line
Equipment	-	25% straight line

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

For the purposes of impairment testing, when it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

For impairment testing of goodwill, the goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the charity are assigned to those units.

3. Accounting policies (continued)

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in the statement of financial activities, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

4. Limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. The trustees undertake to contribute a sum, not exceeding £1 each, to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up.

5. Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Donations – other	84,207	-	-	84,207	56,815
	<u>84,207</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>84,207</u>	<u>56,815</u>

6. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Sale of goods/services as part of direct charitable activities	145,636	-	-	145,636	93,849
Performance-related grants	66,203	-	124,923	191,126	131,267
Other income from charitable activities - contractual payments	33,243	-	-	33,243	104,528
	<u>245,082</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>124,923</u>	<u>370,005</u>	<u>329,644</u>

The 2022 comparatives include performance-related grant restricted expenditure of £75,444 and unrestricted expenditure of £55,823.

7. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Sales income	5,383	-	-	5,383	12,191
Rental income	72,689	-	-	72,689	71,402
Other activities for generating funds	46,293	10,000	-	56,293	29,627
	<u>124,365</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>134,365</u>	<u>113,220</u>

The 2022 comparatives include other activities for generating funds designated expenditure of £22,500 and unrestricted expenditure of £7,127.

8. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£
Bank interest receivable	1,781	1,781	68
	<u>1,781</u>	<u>1,781</u>	<u>68</u>

9. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Science, Education, Forestry, & Wood Programmes	522,357	11,266	110,800	644,423	537,209
Support costs	5,400	-	-	5,400	5,209
	<u>527,757</u>	<u>11,266</u>	<u>110,800</u>	<u>649,823</u>	<u>542,418</u>

10. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Science, Education, Forestry, & Wood Programmes	644,423	-	644,423	537,209
Governance costs	-	5,400	5,400	5,209
	<u>644,423</u>	<u>5,400</u>	<u>649,823</u>	<u>542,418</u>

11. Analysis of support costs

	Support costs	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£
Finance costs	5,400	5,400	5,209
	<u>5,400</u>	<u>5,400</u>	<u>5,209</u>

12. Net income

Net income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2023	2022
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>55,992</u>	<u>50,522</u>

13. Independent examination fees

Fees payable to the independent examiner for:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Independent examination of the financial statements	700	698
Other financial services	4,700	4,511
	<u>5,400</u>	<u>5,209</u>

14. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	314,084	275,435
Social security costs	28,944	28,254
Employer contributions to pension plans	13,902	13,163
	<u>356,930</u>	<u>316,852</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 9 (2022: 9). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
All staff	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2022: £Nil).

15. Trustee remuneration and expenses

No trustee received any remuneration during the year (2022: £Nil).

No expenses were reimbursed to trustees during the year (2022: £Nil).

16. Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 st April 2022	1,687,457	137,609	1,825,066
Additions	8,040	11,392	19,432
At 31st March 2023	<u>1,696,497</u>	<u>149,001</u>	<u>1,844,498</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 st April 2022	184,193	33,068	217,261
Charge for the year	42,243	13,749	55,992
At 31st March 2023	<u>226,436</u>	<u>46,817</u>	<u>273,253</u>
Carrying amount			
At 31 st March 2023	<u>1,469,061</u>	<u>102,184</u>	<u>1,571,245</u>
At 31 st March 2022	<u>1,503,264</u>	<u>104,541</u>	<u>1,607,805</u>

17. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	83,580	88,803
Prepayments and accrued income	-	40,567
	<u>83,580</u>	<u>129,370</u>

18. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	39,560	33,586
Accruals and deferred income	10,000	13,357
Social security and other taxes	8,960	7,736
Other creditors – pension	1,962	3,387
VAT payable	4,036	1,735
	<u>64,518</u>	<u>59,801</u>

19. Pensions and other post-retirement benefits**Defined contribution plans**

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £13,902 (2022: £13,163).

20. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 st April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	At 31 st March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	140,325	401,803	(375,567)	19,835	186,396
	<u>140,325</u>	<u>401,803</u>	<u>(375,567)</u>	<u>19,835</u>	<u>186,396</u>

Designated Funds

Operational Fixed Assets	1,530,500	-	-	(27,235)	1,503,265
Forestry/Information Technology	6,603	-	(3,400)	-	3,203
Education	272	-	-	-	272
Wood Centre	4,937	-	(720)	-	4,217
Science	-	22,500	(22,500)	-	-
Reserve Fund	71,625	-	-	7,400	79,025
Core	11,667	-	(11,667)	-	-
	<u>1,625,604</u>	<u>22,500</u>	<u>(38,287)</u>	<u>(19,835)</u>	<u>1,589,982</u>

Restricted funds

Forestry/Information Technology	46,860	72,084	(100,221)	-	18,723
Education	29,712	3,360	(26,040)	-	7,032
Wood Centre	2,303	-	(2,303)	-	-
Core	9,550	-	-	-	9,550
	<u>88,425</u>	<u>75,444</u>	<u>(128,564)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,305</u>

20. Analysis of charitable funds (continued)

	At 1 st April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	At 31 st March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	186,396	455,435			
	<u>186,396</u>	<u>455,435</u>			
Designated Funds					
Operational Fixed Assets	1,503,265	-	-	(34,204)	1,469,061
Forestry/Information Technology	3,203	-	-	-	3,203
Education	272	-	-	-	272
Wood Centre	4,217	-	(1,266)	-	2,951
Science	-	10,000	(10,000)	10,000	10,000
Reserve Fund	79,025	-	-	(41,176)	37,849
Capital maintenance fund	-	-	-	31,176	31,176
	<u>1,589,982</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>(11,266)</u>	<u>(34,204)</u>	<u>1,554,512</u>
Restricted funds					
Forestry/Information Technology	18,723	121,563	(105,895)	-	34,391
Education	7,032	3,360	(4,905)	-	5,487
Core	9,550	-	-	-	9,550
	<u>35,305</u>	<u>124,923</u>	<u>(110,800)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>49,428</u>

21. Analysis of net assets between funds

2023	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	102,184	1,469,061	-	1,571,245
Current assets	90,635	85,451	69,405	245,491
Creditors less than 1 year	(44,541)	-	(19,977)	(64,518)
	<u>148,278</u>	<u>1,554,512</u>	<u>49,428</u>	<u>1,752,218</u>
2022	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	104,541	1,503,264	-	1,607,805
Current assets	141,656	86,718	35,305	263,679
Creditors less than 1 year	(59,801)	-	-	(59,801)
	<u>186,396</u>	<u>1,589,982</u>	<u>35,305</u>	<u>1,811,683</u>

How you can help Sylva Foundation

Sylva Foundation relies on the help of many people and organisations. This section outlines some of the ways we currently receive support. We are always keen to receive support in different ways. Read on to find out how you could help our important work.

Donate

There are a number of ways you can donate to support Sylva. We offer specific opportunities, such as helping towards a new building, or sponsoring a bench for a start-up business. We also benefit from regular small donations from people who believe in the importance of our work. If you like what we do and how we do it, please consider joining our Friends scheme. Find out more: sylva.org.uk/support

Remember Sylva in your Will

Leaving a Legacy to Sylva is a powerful way to make your support for the charity live on. We believe that trees and forests underpin life on Earth, especially if cared for as part of a dynamic living landscape. Your Legacy will support our ongoing work to achieve a sustainable society and environment. We offer a number of ways to help you leave a legacy, including a home visit with our partners The Goodwill Partnership, and in England a free online Will writing service. You can read more at sylva.org.uk/legacy or contact us to discuss at: **01865 408018** or legacy@sylva.org.uk.

Campaigns and appeals

Support our campaigns and appeals, and you can help our work helping people and trees grow closer together. Subscribe to our enews at sylva.org.uk/subscribe so that you are kept up-to-date.

Training

We offer an exciting range of courses at the Sylva Wood Centre. By attending a paid course your fee will help support our work bridging significant gaps which exist in formal wood education. Find out more at sylva.org.uk/woodschoo

Shopping

We have a small online shop which helps us raise much-needed income. sylva.org.uk/shop

Get involved

There are a wide range of options for you to get involved in our work. At the local level we enjoy support from the public caring for our small estate, and promoting our work through events at the Sylva Wood Centre.

Fundraise

Sylva is not a membership charity, so is without the regular income this provides many charities. We therefore need to raise funds for specific projects and build a strong foundation of income to support our core costs. We don't have teams of individuals fundraising for us but if you can help promote our work, especially our campaigns and appeals, you will make a difference.

Local groups

Sylva tends to work in partnership with other organisations to achieve its reach across Britain. We are most active locally via the Sylva Wood Centre in Oxfordshire, where local people can help support our Future Forest, Community Orchard, and arts events.

Volunteering

If you are looking for an exciting and interesting way to make a difference to our environment, please consider volunteering with Sylva. We have recently benefited volunteers helping with school visits, data entry, visitor welcoming, tree planting, and even a business angel. You don't have to know anything about trees, forestry or wood to volunteer with Sylva. Find out more at sylva.org.uk/volunteer

Acknowledgements 2022-23

We are very grateful for all the support offered this year by so many individuals and organisations.

Volunteers and community groups

Alistair Yeomans

David and Karon Whenmouth

Gillian Petrokofsky

Harriet Child

Lynn Jones

Phil Horton

Philip Koomen

Sally Richards

Shems Hadj-Nassar

Steve Ash

Sylva Foundation Friends

Sylva Wood Centre tenants

Donors and Funders

Andrew James

Aspen Trust

The Dulverton Trust

Garfield Weston Foundation

The Hobson Charity

Horlock Educational Trust

ISA Charity

Peter Michaelis

Richard Paice

Shanly Foundation

Business supporters

3Keel

Andrew Bax/Drayton Hive

Axminster Tools

Blenheim Palace

Cloud Forest

Evolving Forests

Festool

Gaze Burvill

Joined and Jointed

Lamello

National Trust

Oxford Botanic Garden (Oxford University)

reHeat

Rezatec

Rural Development Initiatives

Vastern Timber

NGO and Non-Profit Partners

Community Forest Trusts

Confor

Cumbria Woodlands

Earth Trust

Forest Canopy Foundation

Grown in Britain

Institute of Chartered Foresters

Liverpool John Moores University

National Farmers Union

Royal Forestry Society

RSPB

Small Woods Association

Victoria & Albert Museum

Woodland Heritage

Woodland Trust

Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers

Statutory sector and other public bodies

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
Environment Agency
Forest Research
Forestry Commission
Natural England
Scottish Forestry



Contact us

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SYLVA FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1128516

Accounts

for the year ended 31 March

2022

Trustees' report and accounts



SYLVA
FOUNDATION

nurturing a wood culture, growing a future

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Front cover:

Amy Hague, one of our students at the 2021 Summer School, tests her prototype stool for size and comfort, designed and made using home-grown beech.

Trustees' Report

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its advisers and trustees.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Sylva Foundation is an environmental and forestry charity founded in 2009. The charity is active across Britain, with its headquarters in Oxfordshire.

Registration

Charity registered in England and Wales (1128516), and in Scotland (SC041892).

Charitable Company registration number 6589157.

Registered office

Sylva Wood Centre
Little Wittenham Road
Long Wittenham
Oxfordshire
OX14 4QT

Principal professional advisors

Banking

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

Affirmative Deposit Fund
Epworth Investment Management
9 Bonhill Street
London
EC2A 4PE

Independent Examiner

Ajay Bahl
Wenn Townsend Chartered Accountants
30 St Giles'
Oxford
OX1 3LE

Insurance Brokers

NFU Mutual
Views Farm Barns
Windmill Hill
Great Milton
Oxfordshire
OX44 4NW

Legal Advisors

Freeths LLP
5000 Oxford Business Park South
Oxford
OX4 2BH

Trustee Board and Staff

Patrons

Lady Audrey Wood OBE
Sir Martin Wood FRS (1927-2021)

Trustees

Chair of Trustees

Sarah Taylor

Other Trustee Board members

Dr Mary Barkham
Dr Robin Buxton
Lucius Cary OBE
Luke Hughes
Dr James Morison
Jim Waterson

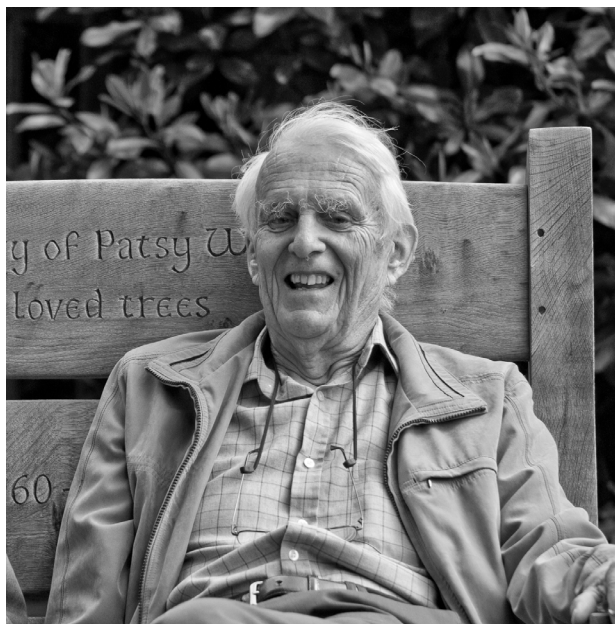
Our patron Sir Martin Wood passed away in December 2021. Martin co-founded Sylva Foundation with Gabriel Hemery in 2009 and together with his wife Audrey became Sylva Foundation's founding Patrons. His contribution to British forestry and to the environment, is incalculable and extraordinary.

CEO Gabriel Hemery later wrote: 'Martin's friendship and leadership transformed my life, professionally and personally, and consequently the lives of the entire Sylva team, the thousands of people we work with, and the tens of thousands of hectares of woodland we help care for across Britain. On my office wall hangs a framed note from Martin that I found waiting on my desk on the first day we started working together on founding a new charity. In a few words, this perfectly captures Martin's unparalleled vision, philanthropy, and humanity.'

nurturing a wood culture, growing a future

'Greetings, a great day – we're going to change the face of forestry in the British Isles!'

Sir Martin Wood, 8th May 2006



Sir Martin Wood FRS (1927-2021) was a founding patron of Sylva Foundation.

Staff

Chief Executive

Dr Gabriel Hemery FICFor CEnv

Director of Operations

Paul Orsi MICFor

Other Staff members

George Dennison	myForest Manager
George Kibble	Web Developer
Joseph Bray	Head of Wood School
Richard Pigott	Head of Web Development
Oliver Price	myForest Developer
Mariah Splawska	Bookkeeper
Ridwan Axmed	NatureBid Developer

Advisors and Associates

Shems Hadj-Nassar	Communications
Dr Philip Koomen	Furniture & Wood
Rob Penn	Media
Dr Gill Petrokofsky	Science
Alistair Yeomans	Environmental Resilience

Structure, Governance and Management

Legal Structure

Sylva Foundation ('Sylva' or 'the charity') is a charity registered in England and Wales 1128516 and in Scotland SC041892, and a charitable company limited by guarantee 06589157. The company (a private company not having a share capital) was established under a Memorandum of Association (dated 11th March 2009, updated by Special Resolution 28th March 2013).

The governing body of the charity is the Trustee Board ('the board'). Up to ten trustees may be appointed to the board. During 2021-22, no trustees retired.

The day-to-day management of the charity is delegated by the Trustee Board to the Chief Executive and carried out by members of staff.

The charity's registered address is in Oxfordshire, and this is its sole headquarters. Sylva's activities extend across Britain, and occasionally internationally.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The charity's trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with FRS102 – The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland. The law applicable to charities in England, Wales, and Scotland requires the charity's trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the charity trustees are required to:

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

The charity trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that:

- are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions;
- disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity; and,
- ensure that the financial statements comply with the reporting and legal regulations and the provisions of the charity's constitution as set out in the Articles of Association and Memorandum of Association.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Policies and Procedures

The charity has a range of policies and procedures, which are renewed at the end of each financial year or more frequently as required. Currently these include:

- anti-bribery policy
- concerns and complaints procedure
- data protection and terms (including GDPR)
- environmental and sustainability policy
- equality and diversity policy
- grievance procedure
- health & safety policy
- information security policy
- parental leave policy
- privacy policies and notices
- reserves policy
- safeguarding and child protection policy
- sickness and absence policy
- smoking policy
- stress management policy
- terms of supply
- travel policy
- volunteer procedures
- whistleblowing policy

Risk Management

The charity trustees are responsible for identifying and managing the major risks facing the charity. Risk management is well-established and is considered in every aspect of our work.

We maintain a Risk Register which provides a comprehensive view of the following areas of risk:

- financial risks, including contingency plans to deal with insufficient income;
- operational risks, including loss of key personnel, and data management;
- reputational risks, including failure of a project, maintaining high standards in the management of the charity's estate;
- external environment, including environmental change (e.g. pests, diseases);
- governance, including ensuring trustee experience and skills, fraud; and
- health and safety, for staff and visitors.

The Risk Register is scrutinised annually by the Trustee Board. Following the most recent review in March 2021, the charity trustees confirm that they are satisfied with such arrangements and identified a number of strategic risks which are explained in *Achievements, Challenges and Future Plans*.

Fundraising Activities

Our work nurturing a wood culture and growing a future is only possible because of the support of donors, funders, and other partners who contribute vital funding. Sylva Foundation is registered with the Fundraising Regulator. Alongside our own high standards in fundraising, we follow its Codes of Practice.

Volunteers

We received highly valuable assistance from volunteers, without whom our work would be much reduced. During the year we continued to benefit particularly from volunteers with professional skills, notably in legal matters, and in communications and marketing.

Our local community near the Sylva Wood Centre is very supportive of our activities, including the annual Artweeks exhibition, taking an active role in supporting our community woodland and orchard. We welcome volunteer conservation work parties onto our estate.

We always welcome enquiries from potential volunteers. Please contact us direct or visit our website:

sylva.org.uk/volunteer



During the year we benefitted greatly from the voluntary support of experienced communications expert Shems Hadj-Nassar

Objectives, Activities and Public benefit

The charity's objects are set out in the company's memorandum of association. These are **to promote the conservation of the environment for the public benefit consistent with sustainable development principles** by:

- I. promoting and conducting research for the public benefit about effective sustainable forest management and the dissemination of the useful results of such research;
- II. advancing education for the public benefit in the theory and practice of sustainable forest management;
- III. supporting the development and application of sustainable forest management for the public benefit;
- IV. advancing education and business enterprise in the design and production of home-grown wood products for the public benefit.

The charity's trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing objectives and activities which are described in the section *Achievements, Challenges and Future plans*. Sylva Foundation has a range of activities for achieving these objectives and its public benefit, combining them to best effect. For the purposes of preparing Sylva's accounts, these activities are grouped under the following main headings:

- innovating;
- collaborating;
- training;
- advocacy.

Our Vision

Our vision is for a society that cares for nature while living in harmony with it.

We envisage a wood culture where people understand and promote the good stewardship of woodlands and are mindful of their utility, while being conscious of their fragility. Future society will recognise the creative and productive value of forest products which can be derived from growing well-managed forests, and at the same time enhance their wider benefits for people and for nature. This will help result in a halt in the loss of biodiversity, a reduction in climate change, and a human society that can sustain itself.

Our actions today will be tangible in the love and respect that future generations afford our trees and forests.

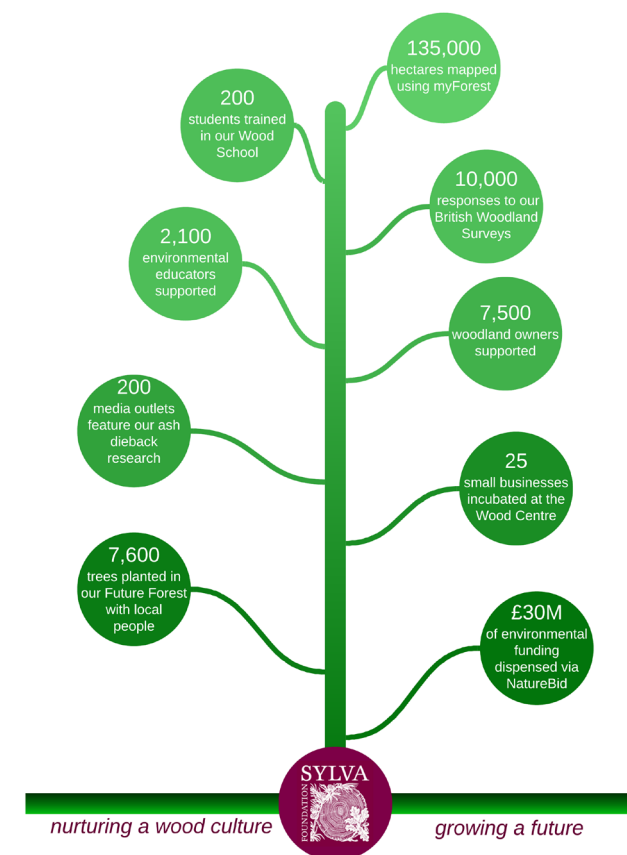
Our Mission

- To use our forestry knowledge and information technology skills, supported by state-of-art evidence, to provide innovative solutions to some of the greatest environmental challenges facing modern society.
- To work extensively and selflessly with others, recognising that collaboration is necessary to overcome the challenges of halting biodiversity loss and reducing climate change, while supporting the transition to a sustainable human society.
- To deliver the training and education necessary to support the transformation of society, focussing on the stewardship of our forests and the utility of home-grown timber.

- To undertake advocacy to inspire one another, raise awareness, and endow people with knowledge, passion, and the shared ambition for a better and more sustainable society.

Impact

In 2021, Sylva Foundation published its first Impact Report, highlighting its activities, progress, and contributions towards meeting its charitable objectives.



Achievements, Challenges and Future plans

This section highlights the achievements, challenges and future plans for activities under our four key values of **Innovating, Collaborating, Training, and Advocacy**.

INNOVATING

To use our forestry knowledge and information technology skills, supported by state-of-art evidence, to provide innovative solutions to some of the greatest environmental challenges facing modern society.

This year we continued to support Defra in exploring stakeholder behaviours under the **Resilient Treescapes project**. We are assisting government in the design and testing of new incentives and regulation to support land managers in responding to threats from pests and pathogens in England. The outcomes of this work are being used to help shape government's new *Tree Health Pilot*.

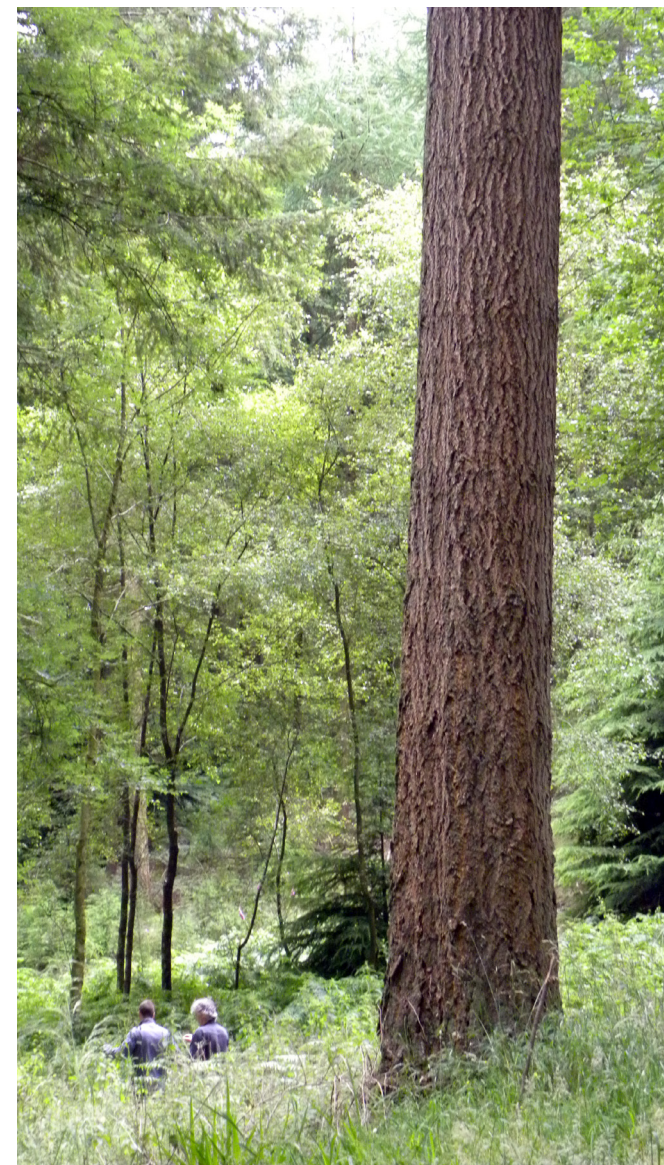
We supported the **Future Oak** project which aims to safeguard our iconic oak trees, led by scientists from Bangor University. Our native oak species are increasingly under-pressure from a variety of pests, pathogens, and changes to the landscape and climate. The project focuses particularly on Acute Oak Decline (AOD) and is exploring the role of micro-organisms in this disease. Sylva's team undertook a national survey among land managers and owners using our **British Woodlands Survey** platform. The results of this work will be published in a peer-reviewed journal. www.future-oak.com

The **myForest service**, a flagship project of Sylva Foundation, provides online mapping and management

tools for woodland owners and managers, enabling them to bring their woodlands into good condition for the environment, society and the economy. Usage of the service continued to grow, and by year-end we were supporting more than 8,000 woodland owners and 1,500 agents caring for woodland across Britain covering an area greater than 141,000ha. www.myforest.org.uk

We completed research and development of a **Woodland Creation** platform supported by Defra under the 'Tests and Trials' phase of the new Environmental Land Management System (replacing incentives under the Common Agricultural Policy in England). Our main partners in the project were Forestry Commission and Woodland Trust. We will be applying lessons learnt and innovations developed in the launch of a new improved version (v.4.0) of myForest later in 2022, which will allow users to create and manage woodlands on a single innovative online platform.

We continued to develop the **NatureBid** environmental matchmaking platform in partnership with the Environment Agency. During the year we supported the delivery of multiple environmental outcomes across England. One of the successful schemes was run with the Highways Agency to support tree planting adjacent to highways to provide natural flood management. To date, the platform has supported the transfer of more than £30M of funding to deliver environmental measures implemented by landowners. www.naturebid.org.uk



COLLABORATING

To work extensively and selflessly with others, recognising that collaboration is necessary to overcome the challenges of halting biodiversity loss and reducing climate change, while supporting the transition to a sustainable human society.

Sylva continued to take a lead role in supporting the work of the **Forestry and Climate Change Partnership**. We helped with the drafting of the new Forestry and Climate Change Accord. Thanks to funding received from a private donor, we were able to support the partnership in the design and creation of its first website: www.forestryclimatechange.uk

Our collaboration with Forestry Commission and Scottish Forestry continued to ensure that woodland owners can draw-up management plans compliant with the UK Forestry Standard using Sylva's **myForest** platform. Thanks also to innovation funding provided by the Forestry Commission, we were able to work with a group of forestry agents to offer free support to 50 landowners across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Oxfordshire, East Sussex, and West Sussex.

We were successful in gaining an award under the Trees Call to Action Fund, to create a network of expert providers who can provide support and advice to

owners of undermanaged woodlands across England, and to those contemplating woodland creation. We will be collaborating with the Forest Canopy Foundation and Grown in Britain to deliver this major project known as **Defra PIES** (Protect Improve Expand Sustain) from summer 2022.

The **Woodland Wildlife Toolkit**—developed with funding from the RSPB and Woodland Trust in collaboration with multiple environmental partners — continued to provide woodland management advice to enhance woodland biodiversity, providing species-specific advice for a locality.

www.woodlandwildlifetoolkit.sylva.org.uk

We initiated a new collaboration with the National Trust to design and make furniture from ash trees felled at one of its estates. The three stools were designed by our Head of **Wood School**, and later made by students learning on our Professional Course. The stools will be sold via the National Trust' online shop in summer 2022.



Members of the Forestry and Climate Change Partnership steering group enjoy a tour of the Future Forest, Sylva Wood Centre. The FCCP is represented by 17 organisations representing a wide range of views across the environmental and forestry sectors.

TRAINING

To deliver the training and education necessary to support the transformation of society, focussing on the stewardship of our forests and the utility of home-grown timber.

The **Sylva Wood Centre** supports more than 20 small businesses that are permanently based at the centre, including those taking advantage of our start-up facilities. Our formal collaboration with Activate Learning continued with the appointment of a new 'craftsperson-in-residence'.

We completed the delivery of our first six-month **Professional Course** under the **Sylva Wood School**. Students graduated with good technical skills in woodworking (by hand and machine), an understanding of professional standards, many hours of practical experience, competence in wood machining and the confidence to move into employment. A funding award enabled us to offer **Bursaries** to some students.

Students on the Professional Course worked on 'real-world' projects, including: a novel beehive for a local business; a resonance board for Soundabout, a charity working with children with profound learning abilities; a suite of presentation boxes for Oxford Botanic Garden, made from Tolkien's black pine, and; furniture for Joined and Jointed. Income from these helps us off-set the training fees for students, while providing experience for them in working to commercial deadlines and production requirements.

Thanks to a private donor, we were able to initiate a **Fellowship scheme**, whereby through a competitive process, one graduate can remain at a bench to continue to develop their skills under the support of our team.

Thanks to a funding award, we will be appointing a new member of staff to work alongside our Head of Wood School. This will enable us to develop and advertise for a new 10-week **Introductory Course**, and to develop further our plans for the training.

We welcomed more than 200 architectural students from Oxford Brookes University to the Wood Centre. Their brief was to help us in our vision and plans concerning one remaining and large semi-derelict building on our site. We were astounded by the quality of their outputs which focused on home-grown timber in construction and eco-build principles.

Sylva hosted a **Summer School** for young creative people to promote design and craft using home-grown timber. Delivered in partnership with Grown in Britain, we welcomed students who were female or non-binary to design and create with less commonly used timbers. The students reported how much they appreciated the opportunity to work together as a group, supported by a significant proportion of female tutors, expressing how their experiences in higher education or industry had been overwhelmingly male-dominated.

'What a fabulous week! This is an amazing course. I needed this course so very much. My memory of it will stay with me forever. Thank you. So much.'
Student, 2021 Summer School



Sylva
Summer
School
2021



ADVOCACY

To undertake advocacy to inspire one another, raise awareness, and endow people with knowledge, passion, and the shared ambition for a better and more sustainable society.

We developed the new **Woodland Assessor** (previously the Woodland Star Rating) with funding from the Forestry Commission. This self-assessment tool helps land managers improve practices in accordance with the UK Forestry Standard. The Woodland Assessor is now embedded within myForest. It provides users with a detailed report and certificate, recording progress from 'Entry' level to 'Gold', at which level the user's plans are considered audit-ready for Grown in Britain certification.

We hope this will help land managers improve the condition of their woodlands.

In summer 2021, we hosted a Home-grown Timber Summit, inviting key stakeholders from across the woodchain to join us at the Sylva Wood Centre for a day of talks and discussion. A key outcome has been the development of our first position statement concerning the challenges and opportunities in procuring home-grown wood products. As part of this work, we also developed a beta version of a Home-Grown Wood Product Selector Tool to help guide users in their procurement decisions.



Our three-hectare woodland at the Sylva Wood Centre, comprising 7,500 trees, was planted in 2017 with help from volunteers. The **Future Forest** allows us to communicate the challenges that trees face from environmental change. Our 'Forest Friends' sponsorship scheme is supporting ongoing management, through volunteer engagement. A Forest School site created in this woodland continues to be used regularly by a local primary school, and by a local Forest School Leader educator to train new Forest School leaders.

Financial Review

This section is prepared by our trustees to offer a summary of the charity's finances, with numbered notes (shown in square brackets) referenced from the accounts, which form the following section of this report. The accounts comply with the requirements of FRS102 – The Financial Reporting Standard, applicable in the UK.

The finances of the charity are overseen by the trustees, together with senior staff. The Board oversees a Financial Strategy and an annual Financial Plan, which are reviewed at board meetings.

Reserves Policy

Sylva Foundation holds funds to be applied to support future activities in the form of a 'Reserve Fund', and Restricted funds:

- The Reserve Fund is maintained to ensure that operational expenditure can be supported for at least three months, this represents funds sufficient to meet contingency exit costs. This fund was £79,025 at the end of FY 2021-22 [Note 21].
- The Reserves Policy was reviewed by trustees in March 2021 and it was agreed that a reserves target of a maximum of 50% of budgeted annual expenditure remained prudent.
- Restricted funds are maintained to ensure that specific purposes intended by the donor can be met.
- Funds related to specific funded projects are also maintained as restricted and designated funds.

Financial report for 2021-22

Introduction

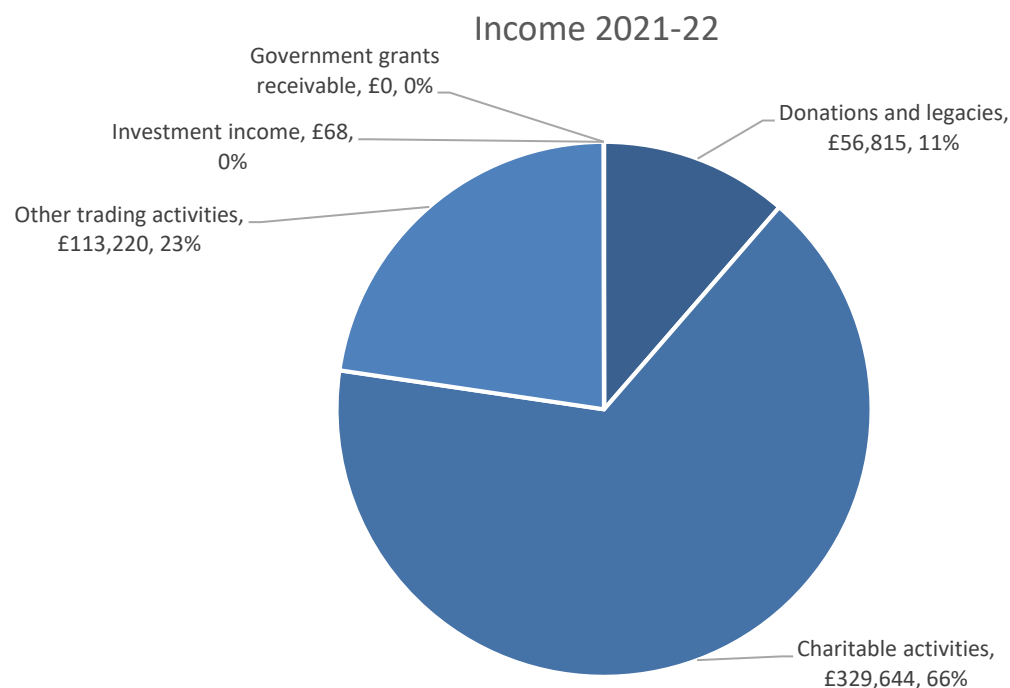
During the year Sylva continued to diversify its income streams. We have been successful in attracting funding from trusts and foundations for several projects and core activities. Our business-minded approach, whereby we seek to win contracts for work that delivers our charitable objects while earning us much-needed core income, continues to prove effective. The Sylva Wood Centre is producing valuable revenue arising from business tenancies to supplement these activities.

Income

Income (£499,747) increased by less than 1% compared to the previous financial year (£496,959) [Statement of Financial Activities].

Income was derived from several sources including:

- £56,815 or 11% of total income was received in donations, 0% of which were restricted in their application [Note 5].
- Incoming resources from charitable activities was £313,321 or 63% [Note 6]. This income consisted of £77,526 from the sale of goods and services;



£131,267 of performance-related grants; and £104,528 of contractual payments for work.

- Other trading activities totalled £129,543 or 26%, the majority (55%) of which was rental income from the Sylva Wood Centre [Note 7].
- No grants were received from government in respect to its Covid-19 furlough scheme [Note 8].
- Bank interest totalled £68 representing less than one percent of total income [Note 9].

Fixed Assets

During 2021-22 the value of fixed assets (after depreciation) increased by 7% to £1,607,805 [Note 17], mostly comprising investments made in machinery at the Sylva Wood School which was supported by a restricted fund (see Designated Funds below).

Restricted Funds

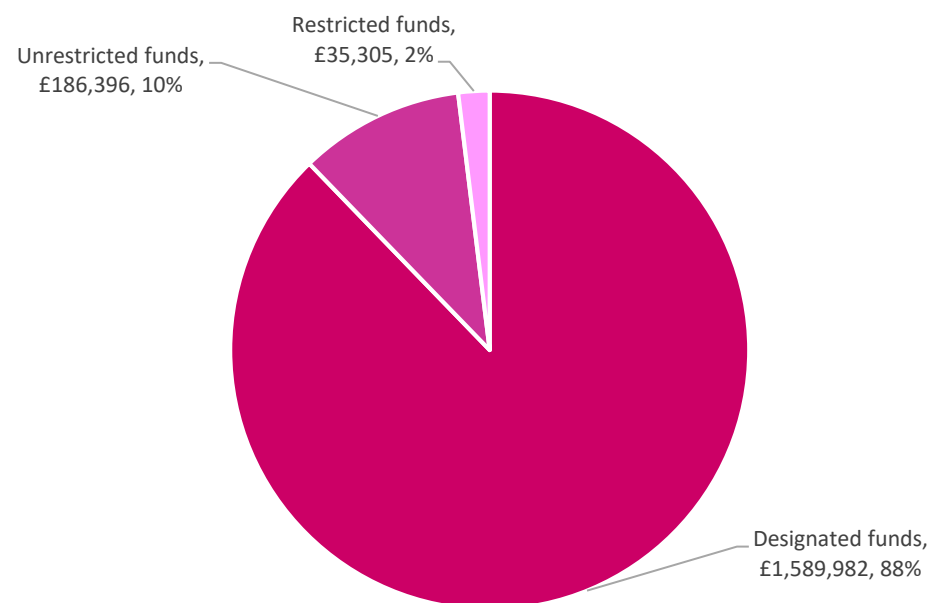
Total Restricted Funds were £35,305 (2%) [Note 21]. Restricted Funds are derived from donations and grants with specific conditions attached, and these are accounted for separately in our operational accounts.

Designated Funds

Designated Funds [Note 21] are those funds held for activities related to Innovating, Collaborating, Training, and Advocating activities, and for Core purposes. The total value of Designated funds at 31st March 2022 was £1,589,982 [Note 21].

The largest proportion of Designated Funds were Operational Fixed Assets £1,503,265 (88%), mostly comprising land and buildings at the Sylva Wood Centre. Under SORP rules, these assets are shown as 'funds' but in fact they are physical assets and not 'funds' in the ordinary sense of the word. The charity's trustees may

Funds 2021-22



use the assets acquired on an unrestricted basis for any charitable purpose.

Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted Funds comprise General Funds (£186,396) arising from fundraising, consultancy, grants, rental income from the Sylva Wood Centre, and our day-to-day operations [Note 21]. These funds are used by Sylva Foundation to achieve its strategic objectives.

Expenditure

Total resources expended were £542,418 [Statement of Financial Activities]. Delivery of the charity's strategic objectives cost £537,209 [Note 10] plus £5,209 of support costs [detailed in Note 14].

The majority of total expenditure (58%; £316,852) was spent on staff salaries [Note 15]. Staff salary costs include direct project delivery costs as well as staff time attributed to overhead costs. From our own operational accounts, we calculate overheads to be £58,941 or 11% of our total expenditure, comprising:

- income generation (16%);
- administration (38%);
- governance (46%).

Outcome for the future

We have a vital environmental message to deliver to a wide-range of stakeholders in a complex political and social landscape. Raising funds remains a significant challenge, as it does for all small charities. We benefit from a diverse portfolio of income streams, and in particular our business-like approach to winning and delivering major contracts with government and others is proving successful in generating income while also helping us in delivering our charitable outcomes.

Trustees and staff continue to work closely together over to deliver our five-year strategy for the charity. We are implementing exciting plans with the support of our considerable network of partner organisations and individual supporters.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 7th July 2022 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



Sarah Taylor
Chair of Trustees

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Sylva Foundation

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2022 which are set out on pages 15 to 27.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

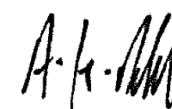
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). 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 report

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 that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company 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.



Ajay Bahl BA BFP FCA
Wenn Townsend
Chartered Accountants
Oxford

7th July 2022

Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31st March 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £
Income and endowments									
Donations and legacies	5	56,815	-	-	56,815	49,616	-	10,000	59,616
Charitable activities	6	254,200	-	75,444	329,644	121,792	-	196,429	318,221
Other trading activities	7	90,720	22,500	-	113,220	112,346	-	-	112,346
Government Grants Receivable	8	-	-	-	-	5,945	-	-	5,945
Investment income	9	68	-	-	68	831	-	-	831
Total income		401,803	22,500	75,444	499,747	290,530	-	206,429	496,959
Expenditure									
Expenditure on charitable activities	10,11	375,567	38,287	128,564	542,418	208,501	40,204	188,517	437,222
Total expenditure		375,567	38,287	128,564	542,418	208,501	40,204	188,517	437,222
Net (expenditure) / income		26,236	(15,787)	(53,120)	(42,671)	82,029	(40,204)	17,912	59,737
Transfer between funds		19,835	(19,835)	-	-	(35,724)	154,679	(118,955)	-
Net movement in funds		46,071	(35,622)	(53,120)	(42,671)	46,305	114,475	(101,043)	59,737
Reconciliation of funds									
Total funds brought forward		140,325	1,625,604	88,425	1,854,354	94,020	1,511,129	189,468	1,794,617
Total funds carried forward	22	186,396	1,589,982	35,305	1,811,683	140,325	1,625,604	88,425	1,854,354

All activities are continuing.

There are no other gains or losses recognised during the year.

The notes on pages 17 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet

	Note	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	17		1,607,805		1,596,079
Current assets					
Debtors	18	129,370		51,062	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>134,309</u>		<u>230,893</u>	
		263,679		281,955	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	<u>(59,801)</u>		<u>(23,680)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>203,878</u>		<u>258,275</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>1,811,683</u>		<u>1,854,354</u>
Net assets			<u>1,811,683</u>		<u>1,854,354</u>
Funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds	21		186,396		140,325
Designated Funds	21		1,589,982		1,625,604
Restricted Funds	21		<u>35,305</u>		<u>88,425</u>
Total charity funds	22		<u>1,811,683</u>		<u>1,854,354</u>

For the year ending 31st March 2022 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Trustees' responsibilities:

- The trustees have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 7th July 2022 and are signed on behalf of the board by:



Sarah Taylor
Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 17 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. General information

Sylva Foundation is a charitable company registered in England and Wales (06589157), and a charity registered in England and Wales (1128516), and in Scotland (SC041892). The address of the registered office is Sylva Wood Centre, Little Wittenham Road, Long Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 4QT.

2. Statement of compliance

These accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis and include income and expenditure as they are earned or incurred, rather than as cash is received or paid. The financial statements 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. They have concluded that the budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves held for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for a particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Income

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable, and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.

3. Accounting policies (continued)

Income (continued)

- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Freehold property	-	4% straight line
Equipment	-	25% straight line

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

For the purposes of impairment testing, when it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

For impairment testing of goodwill, the goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the charity are assigned to those units.

3. Accounting policies (continued)

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in the statement of financial activities, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

4. Limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. The trustees undertake to contribute a sum, not exceeding £1 each, to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up.

5. Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Donations – other	56,815	-	-	56,815	59,616
	<u>56,815</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>56,815</u>	<u>59,616</u>

6. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Sale of goods/services as part of direct charitable activities	93,849	-	-	93,849	56,742
Performance-related grants	55,823	-	75,444	131,267	212,039
Other income from charitable activities - contractual payments	104,528	-	-	104,528	49,440
	<u>254,200</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>75,444</u>	<u>329,644</u>	<u>318,221</u>

7. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Sales income	12,191	-	-	12,191	1,313
Rental income	71,402	-	-	71,402	63,212
Other activities for generating funds	7,127	22,500	-	29,627	47,821
	<u>90,720</u>	<u>22,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>113,220</u>	<u>112,346</u>

8. Government Grants Receivable

	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£
Furlough Income	-	-	5,945
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,945</u>

9. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£
Bank interest receivable	68	68	831
	<u>68</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>831</u>

10. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Science, Education, Forestry, & Wood Programmes	370,358	38,287	128,564	537,209	432,736
Support costs	5,209	-	-	5,209	4,486
	<u>375,567</u>	<u>38,287</u>	<u>128,564</u>	<u>542,418</u>	<u>437,222</u>

11. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Science, Education, Forestry, & Wood Programmes	537,209	-	537,209	432,736
Governance costs	-	5,209	5,209	4,486
	<u>537,209</u>	<u>5,209</u>	<u>542,418</u>	<u>437,222</u>

12. Analysis of support costs

	Support costs	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£
Finance costs	5,209	5,209	4,486
	<u>5,209</u>	<u>5,209</u>	<u>4,486</u>

13. Net income

Net income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2022	2021
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>50,522</u>	<u>46,591</u>

14. Independent examination fees

Fees payable to the independent examiner for:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Independent examination of the financial statements	698	698
Other financial services	4,511	3,788
	<u>5,209</u>	<u>4,486</u>

15. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	275,435	242,137
Social security costs	28,254	24,775
Employer contributions to pension plans	13,163	11,483
	<u>316,852</u>	<u>278,395</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 9 (2021: 8). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
All staff	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2021: £Nil).

16. Trustee remuneration and expenses

No trustee received any remuneration during the year (2021: £Nil).

No expenses were reimbursed to trustees during the year (2021: £Nil).

17. Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 st April 2021	1,672,939	89,879	1,762,818
Additions	14,518	47,730	62,248
At 31st March 2022	<u>1,687,457</u>	<u>137,609</u>	<u>1,825,066</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 st April 2021	142,439	24,300	166,739
Charge for the year	41,754	8,768	50,522
At 31st March 2022	<u>184,193</u>	<u>33,068</u>	<u>217,261</u>
Carrying amount			
At 31 st March 2022	<u>1,503,264</u>	<u>104,541</u>	<u>1,607,805</u>
At 31 st March 2021	<u>1,530,500</u>	<u>65,579</u>	<u>1,596,079</u>

18. Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	88,803	47,602
Prepayments and accrued income	40,567	2,746
VAT receivable	-	714
	<u>129,370</u>	<u>51,062</u>

19. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	33,586	9,209
Accruals and deferred income	13,357	4,481
Social security and other taxes	7,736	7,084
Other creditors – pension	3,387	2,906
VAT payable	1,735	-
	<u>59,801</u>	<u>23,680</u>

20. Pensions and other post-retirement benefits**Defined contribution plans**

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £13,163 (2021: £11,483).

21. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 st April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	At 31 st March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	140,325	401,803	(375,567)	19,835	186,396
	<u>140,325</u>	<u>401,803</u>	<u>(375,567)</u>	<u>19,835</u>	<u>186,396</u>

Designated Funds

Operational Fixed Assets	1,530,500	-	-	(27,235)	1,503,265
Forestry/Information Technology	6,603	-	(3,400)	-	3,203
Education	272	-	-	-	272
Wood Centre	4,937	-	(720)	-	4,217
Science	-	22,500	(22,500)	-	-
Reserve Fund	71,625	-	-	7,400	79,025
Core	11,667	-	(11,667)	-	-
	<u>1,625,604</u>	<u>22,500</u>	<u>(38,287)</u>	<u>(19,835)</u>	<u>1,589,982</u>

Restricted funds

Forestry/Information Technology	46,860	72,084	(100,221)	-	18,723
Education	29,712	3,360	(26,040)	-	7,032
Wood Centre	2,303	-	(2,303)	-	-
Core	9,550	-	-	-	9,550
	<u>88,425</u>	<u>75,444</u>	<u>(128,564)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,305</u>

21. Analysis of charitable funds (continued)

	At 1 st April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	At 31 st March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	94,020	290,530	(208,501)	(35,724)	140,325
	<u>94,020</u>	<u>290,530</u>	<u>(208,501)</u>	<u>(35,724)</u>	<u>140,325</u>
Designated Funds					
Operational Fixed Assets	1,511,129	-	(40,204)	59,575	1,530,500
Forestry/Information Technology	-	-	-	6,603	6,603
Education	-	-	-	272	272
Wood Centre	-	-	-	4,937	4,937
Reserve Fund	-	-	-	71,625	71,625
Core	-	-	-	11,667	11,667
	<u>1,511,129</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(40,204)</u>	<u>154,679</u>	<u>1,625,604</u>
Restricted funds					
Forestry/Information Technology	111,017	122,084	(104,311)	(81,930)	46,860
Wood School	34,406	5,305	(5,981)	(33,730)	-
Education	36,595	29,040	(18,681)	(17,242)	29,712
Wood Centre	-	40,000	(59,094)	21,397	2,303
Science	7,450	-	-	(7,450)	-
Core	-	10,000	(450)	-	9,550
	<u>189,468</u>	<u>206,429</u>	<u>(188,517)</u>	<u>(118,955)</u>	<u>88,425</u>

22. Analysis of net assets between funds

2022	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	104,541	1,503,264	-	1,607,805
Current assets	141,656	86,718	35,305	263,679
Creditors less than 1 year	(59,801)	-	-	(59,801)
	<u>186,396</u>	<u>1,589,982</u>	<u>35,305</u>	<u>1,811,683</u>
2021	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	65,579	1,530,500	-	1,596,079
Current assets	98,426	95,104	88,425	281,955
Creditors less than 1 year	(23,680)	-	-	(23,680)
	<u>140,325</u>	<u>1,625,604</u>	<u>88,425</u>	<u>1,854,354</u>

How you can help Sylva Foundation

Sylva Foundation relies on the help of many people and organisations. This section outlines some of the ways we currently receive support. We are always keen to receive support in different ways. Read on to find out how you could help our important work.

Donate

There are a number of ways you can donate to support Sylva. We offer specific opportunities, such as helping towards a new building, or sponsoring a bench for a start-up business. We also benefit from regular small donations from people who believe in the importance of our work. If you like what we do and how we do it, please consider joining our Friends scheme. Find out more: sylva.org.uk/support

Remember Sylva in your Will

Leaving a Legacy to Sylva is a powerful way to make your support for the charity live on. We believe that trees and forests underpin life on Earth, especially if cared for as part of a dynamic living landscape. Your Legacy will support our ongoing work to achieve a sustainable society and environment. We offer a number of ways to help you leave a legacy, including a home visit with our partners The Goodwill Partnership, and in England a free online Will writing service. You can read more at sylva.org.uk/legacy or contact us to discuss at: **01865 408018** or legacy@sylva.org.uk.

Campaigns and appeals

Support our campaigns and appeals, and you can help our work helping people and trees grow closer together. Subscribe to our enews at sylva.org.uk/subscribe so that you are kept up-to-date.

Training

We offer an exciting range of courses at the Sylva Wood Centre. By attending a paid course your fee will help support our work bridging significant gaps which exist in formal wood education. Find out more at sylva.org.uk/woodschoo

Shopping

We have a small online shop which helps us raise much-needed income. sylva.org.uk/shop

Get involved

There are a wide range of options for you to get involved in our work. At the local level we enjoy support from the public caring for our small estate, and promoting our work through events at the Sylva Wood Centre.

Fundraise

Sylva is not a membership charity, so is without the regular income this provides many charities. We therefore need to raise funds for specific projects and build a strong foundation of income to support our core costs. We don't have teams of individuals fundraising for us but if you can help promote our work, especially our campaigns and appeals, you will make a difference.

Local groups

Sylva tends to work in partnership with other organisations to achieve its reach across Britain. We are most active locally via the Sylva Wood Centre in Oxfordshire, where local people can help support our Future Forest, Community Orchard, and arts events.

Volunteering

If you are looking for an exciting and interesting way to make a difference to our environment, please consider volunteering with Sylva. We have recently benefited volunteers helping with school visits, data entry, visitor welcoming, tree planting, and even a business angel. You don't have to know anything about trees, forestry or wood to volunteer with Sylva. Find out more at sylva.org.uk/volunteer

Acknowledgements 2021-22

We are very grateful for all the support offered this year by so many individuals and organisations.

Volunteers and community groups

Alex Abbott
Alistair Yeomans
Andrew Lea
David and Karon Whenmouth
Gillian Petrokofsky
Harriet Child
Lynn Jones
Philip Koomen
Robert Penn
Sally Richards
Shems Hadj-Nassar
Steve Ash
Sylva Foundation Forest Friends
Sylva Wood Centre tenants
Wittenham Community Orchard Cropsharers

Donors and Funders

Andrew James
Aspen Trust
Dulverton Trust
Garfield Weston Foundation
Heritage Lottery Fund
Horlock Educational Trust
John Ellerman Foundation
Michelle Savill
Michaelis family
Sir Martin and Lady Wood

Business supporters

3Keel
Andrew Bax (Drayton Hive)
Atkins
Axminster Tools
Blenheim Palace
Festool
Forest Canopy Foundation
Joined and Jointed
Lamello
Markfield Woodworking Machinery
Martin Glynn
Mirka
National Trust
Oxford Botanic Garden (Oxford University)
re:heat
Rezatec
Rural Development Initiatives
Soundabout

NGO Partners

Community Forests Trust
Confor
Earth Trust
Forest Canopy Foundation
FWAG south-west
Grown in Britain
Institute of Chartered Foresters
National Farmers Union
Royal Forestry Society
Royal Scottish Forestry Society
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Small Woodland Owners Group
Small Woods Association
Victoria & Albert Museum
Woodland Trust
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Statutory sector and other public bodies

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
Environment Agency
Forest Research
Forestry Commission
National Highways
Natural England
Scottish Forestry



Contact us

Sylva Foundation
Sylva Wood Centre
Long Wittenham
Oxfordshire
OX14 4QT

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www.sylva.org.uk

SYLVA FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1128516

Accounts

for the year ended 31 March

2021

Trustees' report and accounts



SYLVA
FOUNDATION

nurturing a wood culture, growing a future



In 2020, CEO Dr Gabriel Hemery was awarded the Peter Savill Award for contributions to the British forestry industry. Pictured here following a presentation by Michelle Savill.

Front cover:

A sustainably managed forest in Dumfries & Galloway. The charity is actively engaged in supporting forest management in Scotland, and from next year will be piloting an innovative new platform to support woodland creation by Scottish landowners and managers.

Photo © Gabriel Hemery

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Trustees' Report

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its advisers and trustees.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Sylva Foundation is an environmental charity founded in 2009. The charity is active across Britain, with its headquarters in Oxfordshire.

Registration

Charity registered in England and Wales (1128516), and in Scotland (SC041892).

Charitable Company registration number 6589157.

Registered office

Sylva Wood Centre
Little Wittenham Road
Long Wittenham
Oxfordshire
OX14 4QT

Principal professional advisors

Banking

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

Affirmative Deposit Fund
Epworth Investment Management
9 Bonhill Street
London
EC2A 4PE

Independent Examiner

Ajay Bahl
Wenn Townsend Chartered Accountants
30 St Giles'
Oxford
OX1 3LE

Insurance Brokers

NFU Mutual
Views Farm Barns
Windmill Hill
Great Milton
Oxfordshire
OX44 4NW

Legal Advisors

Freeths LLP
5000 Oxford Business Park South
Oxford
OX4 2BH

Trustee Board and Staff

Patrons

Lady Audrey Wood OBE
Sir Martin Wood FRS

Trustees

Chair of Trustees

Mrs Sarah Taylor

Other Trustee Board members

Dr Mary Barkham (appointed 19th March 2021)
Dr Robin Buxton
Mr Lucius Cary OBE
Mr Luke Hughes
Dr James Morison
Mr Jim Waterson (appointed 25th November 2020)



Trustee, Dr Mary Barkham



Trustee, Jim Waterson

Staff

Chief Executive

Dr Gabriel Hemery FICFor CEnv

Director of Operations

Paul Orsi MICFor

Other Staff members

George Dennison	Forester
George Kibble	Web Developer
Joseph Bray	Head of Wood School
Richard Pigott	Head of Web Development
Oliver Price	myForest Developer
Mariah Splawska	Bookkeeper

Advisors and Associates

Dr Philip Koomen	Furniture & Wood
Rob Penn	Media
Dr Gill Petrokofsky	Science
Alistair Yeomans	Environmental Resilience

Structure, Governance and Management

Legal Structure

Sylva Foundation ('Sylva' or 'the charity') is a charity registered in England and Wales 1128516 and in Scotland SC041892, and a charitable company limited by guarantee 06589157. The company (a private company not having a share capital) was established under a Memorandum of Association (dated 11th March 2009, updated by Special Resolution 28th March 2013).

The governing body of the charity is the Trustee Board ('the board'). Up to ten trustees may be appointed to the board. During 2020-21, no trustees retired, but we were pleased to appoint Dr Mary Barkham and Mr Jim Waterson to the board.

The day-to-day management of the charity is delegated by the Trustee Board to the Chief Executive and carried out by members of staff.

The charity's registered address is in Oxfordshire, and this is its sole headquarters. Sylva's activities extend across Britain, and occasionally internationally.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The charity's trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with FRS102 – The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland. The law applicable to charities in England, Wales, and Scotland requires the charity's trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources

of the group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the charity trustees are required to:

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

The charity trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that:

- are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions;
- disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity; and,
- ensure that the financial statements comply with the reporting and legal regulations and the provisions of the charity's constitution as set out in the Articles of Association and Memorandum of Association.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Policies and Procedures

The charity has a range of policies and procedures, which are renewed at the end of each financial year or more frequently as required. Currently these include:

- anti-bribery policy
- complaints procedure
- data protection and terms (including GDPR)
- environmental and sustainability policy
- equality and diversity policy
- grievance procedure
- health & safety policy
- information security policy
- parental leave policy
- privacy policies and notices
- safeguarding and child protection policy
- sickness and absence policy
- smoking policy
- stress management policy
- terms of supply
- travel policy
- volunteer procedures
- whistleblowing policy

Risk management

The charity trustees are responsible for identifying and managing the major risks facing the charity. Risk management is well-established and is considered in every aspect of our work.

We maintain a Risk Register which provides a comprehensive view of the following areas of risk:

- financial risks, including contingency plans to deal with insufficient income;
- operational risks, including loss of key personnel, and data management;
- reputational risks, including failure of a project, maintaining high standards in the management of the charity's estate;
- external environment, including environmental change (e.g. pests, diseases);
- governance, including ensuring trustee experience and skills, fraud; and
- health and safety, for staff and visitors.

The Risk Register is scrutinised annually by the Trustee Board. Following the most recent review in March 2020, the charity trustees confirm that they are satisfied with such arrangements and identified a number of strategic risks which are explained in *Achievements, Challenges and Future Plans*.

Fundraising activities

Our work bringing people and trees closer together is only possible because of the support of donors, funders, and other partners who contribute vital funding. Sylva Foundation is registered with the Fundraising Regulator. Alongside our own high standards in fundraising, we follow its Codes of Practice.

Volunteers

We receive important assistance from volunteers, without whom some of what we have achieved would be much diminished. During 2020-21 we benefited in particular from volunteers with professional skills. One with legal expertise assisted with our compliance with data protection regulations and with a trademark enquiry. Another volunteer, is supporting us in our communications and marketing.

The community local to the Sylva Wood Centre is very supportive of our activities, including the annual Artweeks exhibition, plus the community woodland and orchard. New conservation or event volunteers are always welcome.

Please contact us direct or visit our website: sylva.org.uk/volunteer



Forester, George Dennison, supported by a grant from the John Ellerman Foundation.



Oliver Price, joined Sylva as myForest Developer to support the technical development of our web software.

Objectives, Activities and Public benefit

The charity's objects are set out in the company's memorandum of association. These are **to promote the conservation of the environment for the public benefit consistent with sustainable development principles** by:

- I. promoting and conducting research for the public benefit about effective sustainable forest management and the dissemination of the useful results of such research;
- II. advancing education for the public benefit in the theory and practice of sustainable forest management;
- III. supporting the development and application of sustainable forest management for the public benefit;
- IV. advancing education and business enterprise in the design and production of home-grown wood products for the public benefit.

The charity's trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing objectives and activities which are described in the section *Achievements, Challenges and Future plans*. Sylva has a range of activities for achieving these objectives and its public benefit, combining them to best effect. For the purposes of preparing Sylva's accounts, these activities are grouped under the following main headings:

Science

- We gather intelligence and insights about the challenges affecting woodlands to influence policy and change practice on the ground. Our *British Woodlands Survey* series is our main activity.
- We conduct independent research, often in partnership with others, to support sustainable development.



FUTURE OAK

The Future Oak project is a collaborative project, led by Bangor University. See page 8.

Education

- We undertake and support activities that help people understand why managing woodlands matters, and empower them to be active.
- We support forest school nationally, and provide a forest school site at the Sylva Wood Centre for local young people.
- Our outreach activities often combine art and science to inform and inspire the general public.

Forestry

- Our *myForest Service* is used by more than 7,000 woodland owners and professionals to care for in excess of 125,000 ha of woodland across Britain. We have embedded the UK Forestry Standard in our tools and services.
- We work widely in partnership with other organisations to support sustainable forest management.
- We underpin our delivery with our own research and development activities.

Wood

- At the Sylva Wood Centre, we enable 20 or more wood businesses to thrive, supporting rural employment and adding value to the local woodchain.
- Our business start-up facilities help new wood businesses to establish.
- A formal link with a further education college enables us to provide structured support for business enterprise.
- The Sylva Wood School aims to fill significant gaps which exist in formal wood education. Ultimately, we want to support a revival of Britain's wood culture through excellence in creativity and craftsmanship using home-grown timber.

Achievements, Challenges and Future plans

This section highlights the achievements, challenges and future plans for activities under our four main work programmes of **Science, Education, Forestry, and Wood.**

SCIENCE

Influencing forestry policy and practice in the UK

Sylva staff continued to take a lead role in moving forward the **Action plan for climate change adaptation** in the forestry sector, attending meetings of the Forestry and Climate Change Working Group.

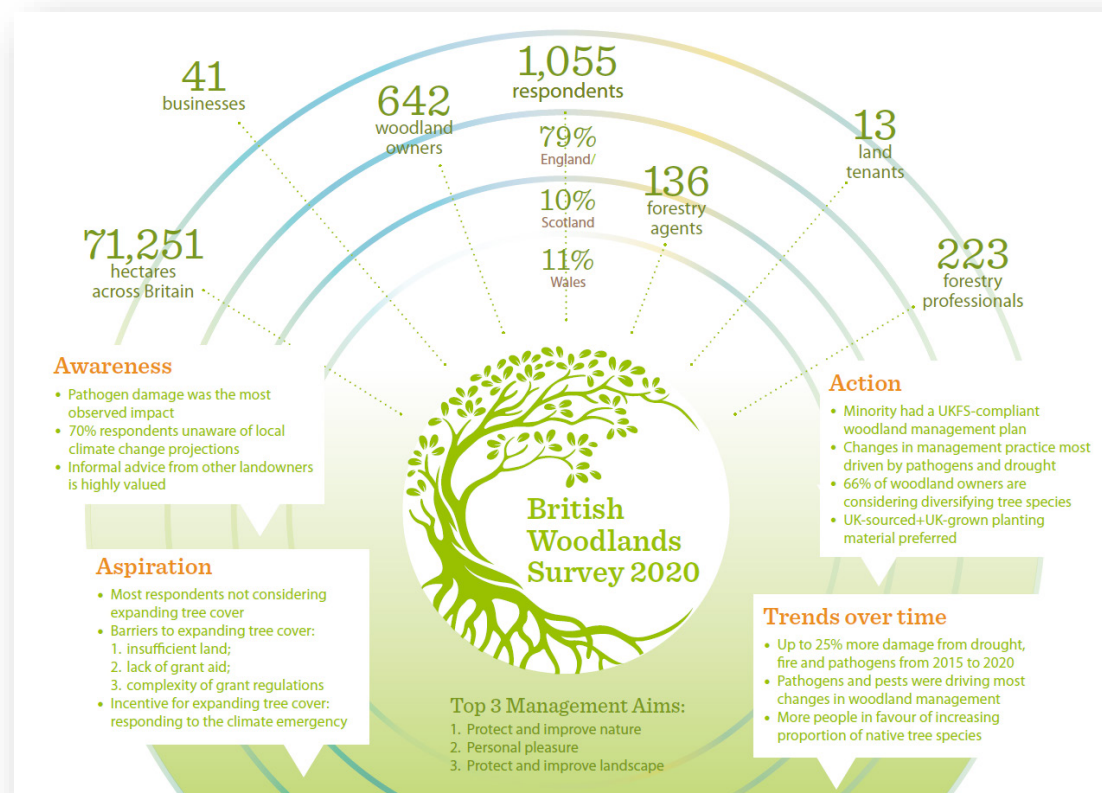
We were contracted to support Defra in exploring stakeholder behaviours under the **Resilient Treescapes project**, including the design and running of a survey exploring options for incentives and regulation to support land managers in responding to threats from pests and pathogens in England. The outcomes of this work have been used to help shape government's new *Environmental Land Management* scheme.

The **British Woodlands Survey (BWS)** is a series of surveys undertaken to gather evidence about the nations' woodlands and those who care for them, co-ordinated by Sylva Foundation www.sylva.org.uk/bws. We ran a new survey in summer 2020, supported financially by the Forestry Commission, which aimed to explore changes over time in environmental awareness and action since the last survey on this theme in 2015. Outputs from previous surveys continue to support evidence-based policy making, including:

- Provided information to support work within Government developing guidance, communication and incentives to target better different kinds of owners, and influential in supporting the need for a 'climate change knowledge hub'.
- BWS2015/BWS2017 prompted research commissioned by Defra to develop responses

to pest and disease outbreaks, and the new Environmental Land Management scheme under development.

An infographic from the report of the BWS2020 survey which explored awareness, action, and aspiration in the forestry sector in responding to environment change.



BWS2020 attracted 1,055 people responses, 74% of whom were woodland owners or agents. The woodland area represented by the survey was 71,251 hectares; equivalent to 3% of privately-owned woodland area in Britain. In 2020, people are more aware than they were in 2015 of environmental change. There were significant increases (up to 25%) in observations of threats from drought, fire, and pathogens. Evidence from the 2020 survey is being used to review progress in meeting the Forestry and Climate Change Action Plan. While most of its actions are underway in some form, it is clear that progress overall is insufficient and that significant barriers remain. Our team will continue to support this important 'action research'.

Conduct independent research in partnership with others to support sustainable development

In March 2021, the **Future Oak** project was launched. This pioneering project aims to safeguard our iconic oak trees, led by scientists from Bangor University. Sylva's team is supporting the research, especially by providing expert silvicultural knowledge, and we will be launching a national survey among practitioners next year.

www.future-oak.com

EDUCATION

Providing unique, practical resources to support primary & secondary education in sustainable forest management

myForest for Education is a free, easy-to-use online application that enables any environmental educator to generate straightforward woodland management plans, maps and ecological impact assessments for woodland sites and school grounds. By the end of the year more than 2,149 environmental educators across Britain—many of them Forest School Leaders—were using the service. www.sylva.org.uk/myforest/education

Raising the profile of sustainable forest management amongst the general public

During the year Sylva staff continued to deliver education to many people. Once Covid-19 restrictions came into play, these took place online in webinars and online conferences. Our Chief Executive delivered an online talk for the Westminster Policy Forum on 'Why trees will provide the roots for the new agricultural revolution.' We also supported a series of talks hosted by the Institute of Chartered Foresters providing information about resilience and woodland creation.

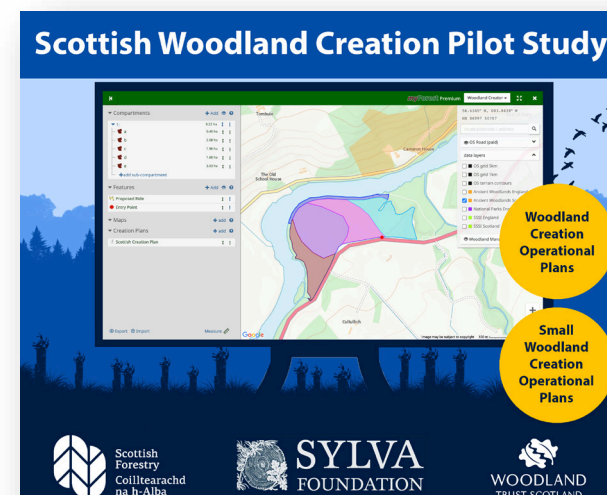
FORESTRY

Supporting the development and application of sustainable forest management

The **myForest service** is a flagship project of Sylva Foundation. The service provides online mapping and management tools for woodland owners and managers, enabling them to bring their woodlands into good condition for the environment, society and the economy. Numbers using the service continued to grow, and by year-end we were supporting 7,084 woodland owners and more than 1,000 agents who care for woodland properties across Britain covering more than 126,693ha. Our collaboration with Forestry Commission and Scottish Forestry continued to ensure that woodland owners can draw-up management plans compliant with the UK Forestry Standard. With ongoing funding provided by The Dulverton Trust we continued to develop the core information technology of myForest. www.myforest.org.uk

We continued to develop a **Woodland Creation** platform supported by Defra under the 'Tests and Trials' phase of the new Environmental Land Management System (replacing incentives under the Common

Agricultural Policy). Our main partners in the project are Forestry Commission and Woodland Trust. We conducted online training to land agents in the Northern Forest who later helped to test the early version of the platform, their responses helping us provide valuable feedback to Defra and helping us develop a refined version to be tested with more users during 2021. www.sylva.org.uk/woodland-creation



We began a pilot Woodland Creation platform for landowners and agents in Scotland with support from Scottish Forestry and Woodland Trust Scotland (through the Croft Woodland Project).

The **Woodland Wildlife Toolkit**—developed with funding from the RSPB and Woodland Trust—continued to provide woodland management advice to enhance woodland biodiversity, providing species-specific advice for a locality. Talks have been initiated with partners to explore its further development to support woodland creation. www.woodlandwildlifetoolkit.sylva.org.uk

Developing a marketplace for ecosystem services

NatureBid is an environmental matchmaking platform that we've developed in partnership with the Environment Agency with funding from Defra. It brings those who fund environmental restoration and enhancement together with landowners who are in a position to deliver it on the ground. A core offering of NatureBid are reverse auctions which ensure value for money in delivery of environmental outcomes.

During the year we supported the delivery of multiple environmental outcomes across England. The third Woodland Carbon Guarantee (WCaG) auction took place in October with a budget of £10 million. To date the WCaG has committed to fund over 2,300ha of new woodland in England providing £16.5 million of carbon funding to farmers and landowners. A fourth Natural Flood Management auction in Somerset was completed in March, and another in Yorkshire in partnership with the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. Projects in the pipeline for next year include a scheme with the Highways Agency. www.naturebid.org.uk

WOOD*Supporting enterprise and innovation in home-grown wood*

The **Sylva Wood Centre** supports more than 20 small businesses that are permanently based at the centre, including those taking advantage of our start-up facilities. Our formal collaboration with Activate Learning continued with the appointment of a new 'craftsperson-in-residence'.

Against the odds (Covid-19), we managed to complete renovation work on the former Grain Store. Two new small units in the building were subsequently let to



Students on the Professional Course at work in the new Grain Store teaching workshop. In the foreground are making projects completed for clients, including a novel beehive design.

separate businesses under our start-up terms, and one medium-sized unit was let commercially. Work started on the furnishing the remaining half of the building as the home for our new **Professional Course** under the **Sylva Wood School**. Thanks to funding from the Aspen Trust and Oxfordshire Local Economic Partnership (European Regional Development Fund), we were able to purchase state-of-art professional woodworking machinery. In November, we welcomed five students to our first six-month Professional Course. Graduates of the programme will leave us with good technical skills in woodworking (by hand and machine), an understanding of professional standards, many hours of practical experience, competence in wood machining and the confidence to move into employment. We also see this programme as the perfect foundation for graduates to move into further study of creative design and imagine that some graduates may be keen to consider hot-

benching and business incubation opportunities within our Potato Store workshops.

The Sylva Wood School was our programme most-impacted by Covid-19. All teaching was halted for several months, including the new Professional Course. Nonetheless, our regular online 'Sylva Talks' continued to gather momentum among wood workers and others with an interest in craft and design with wood.

We will be exploring the potential to further develop the site at the Sylva Wood Centre to support business enterprise, education and training. We will need to fundraise to meet these costs.

www.woodschoo.sylva.org.uk



Sylva's Head of Wood School, Joseph Bray, guides a student learning on our first Professional Course.

ESTATE

The charity owns 12 ha (20 acres) of land at the Sylva Wood Centre in south Oxfordshire. During the year we continued work enhancing the landscape, working closely with the local community, in line with our charitable objects.

Future Forest

This three-hectare woodland, comprising 7,500 trees, was planted in 2017 with help from volunteers. The **Future Forest** allows us to communicate the challenges that trees face from environmental change. Our 'Forest Friends' sponsorship scheme is supporting ongoing management, through volunteer engagement. A Forest Friends' sponsorship scheme is supporting ongoing management, through volunteer engagement. A Forest School site created in this woodland continues to be used regularly by a local primary school, and by a local Forest School Leader educator to train new Forest School leaders.

We received a donation from Michelle Savill, widow of our former Chair of trustees Dr Peter Savill. A portion of these funds helped us design and install some interpretation in the Future Forest.

Community Orchard

Our new **Community Orchard** continues to establish well. Our annual celebration on Apple Day, involving the pressing of juice from apples collected from local gardens, was cancelled due to Covid-19.

House of Wessex

We continued to work with Wulfheodenas, a living history society, which is using the Anglo-Saxon building we reconstructed at the Sylva Wood Centre to educate members of the public. Due to Covid-19, we were forced to cancel a living history day but we hope to welcome the public back next year.



A new interpretation panel in the Future Forest communicates the challenge of creating new woodlands which are resilient. The young trees are beginning to establish really well. In the distance, our office building (far centre) is almost hidden, while the tall elevation of the newly refurbished Grain Store (far right), with its innovative timber cladding, may remain prominent for a few more years.

Financial Review

This section is prepared by our trustees to offer a summary of the charity's finances, with Notes referenced from the accounts, which form the following section of this report. The accounts comply with the requirements of FRS102 – The Financial Reporting Standard, applicable in the UK.

The finances of the charity are overseen by the trustees, together with senior staff. The Board oversees a Financial Strategy and an annual Financial Plan, which are reviewed at board meetings.

Reserves Policy

Sylva Foundation holds funds to be applied to support future activities in the form of a 'Reserve Fund', and Restricted funds:

- The Reserve Fund is maintained to ensure that operational expenditure can be supported for at least three months, this represents funds sufficient to meet contingency exit costs. This fund was £71,625 at the end of FY 2020-21 [Note 21, p24].
- The Reserves Policy was reviewed by trustees in March 2021 and it was agreed that a reserves target of a maximum of 50% of budgeted annual expenditure remained prudent.
- Restricted funds are maintained to ensure that specific purposes intended by the donor can be met.
- Funds related to specific funded projects are also maintained as restricted and designated funds.

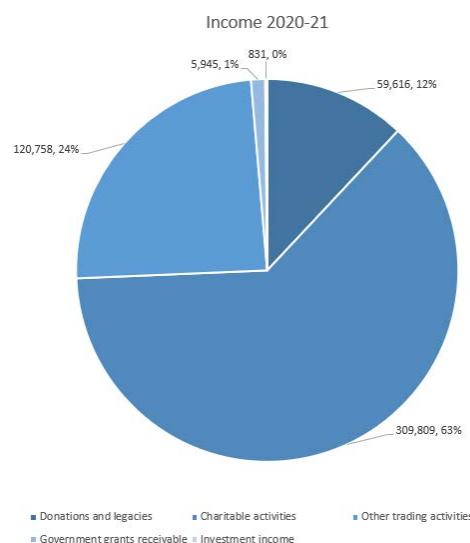
Financial report for 2020-21

Introduction

During the year Sylva continued to diversify its income streams. We have been successful in attracting funding from trusts and foundations for several projects and core activities. Our business-minded approach, whereby we seek to win contracts for work that delivers our charitable objects while earning us much-needed core income, continues to prove effective. The Sylva Wood Centre is producing valuable revenue arising from business tenancies to supplement these activities.

Income

Income (£496,959) increased by 5% compared to the previous financial year (£472,374) [Statement of Financial Activities, p.14].



Income was derived from several sources including:

- £59,616 or 12% of total income was received in donations, 17% of which were restricted in their application [Note 5].
- Incoming resources from charitable activities was £309,809 or 62% [Note 6]. This consisted of £48,330 from the sale of goods and services; £212,039 of performance-related grants; and £49,440 of contractual payments for work.
- Other trading activities totalled £120,758 or 24%, the majority (52%) of which was rental income from the Sylva Wood Centre [Note 7].
- A grant was received from government in respect to its Covid-19 furlough scheme, amounting to £5,945.
- Bank interest totalled £831 representing less than one percent of total income [Note 8].

Fixed Assets

During 2020-21 the value of fixed assets (after depreciation) increased by 6% to £1,596,079 [Note 17], mostly comprising investments made in machinery at the Sylva Wood School which was supported by a restricted fund (see Designated Funds below).

Restricted Funds

Total Restricted Funds were £88,425 [Note 21]. Restricted Funds are derived from donations and grants with specific conditions attached, and these are accounted for separately in our operational accounts.

Designated Funds

In a change from previous reporting formats, Designated Funds have been amended to reflect better the full range of funds held by the charity [Note 21], which had previously been described as Unrestricted. Additional Designated Funds now detail those funds held for activities related to Forestry/Information Technology; Education; Wood Centre; and, Core purposes. Also included for the first time is detail of the charity's Reserve Fund (£71,625; see Reserves Policy above).

The largest proportion of Designated Funds (87%) is termed Operational Fixed Assets, mostly comprising land and buildings at the Sylva Wood Centre. Under SORP rules, these assets are shown as 'funds' but in fact they are physical assets and not 'funds' in the ordinary sense of the word. The charity's trustees may use the assets acquired on an unrestricted basis for any charitable purpose.

Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted Funds comprise General Funds (£140,325) arising from fundraising, consultancy, grants, rental income from the Sylva Wood Centre, and our day-to-day operations [Note 22]. These funds are used by Sylva Foundation to achieve its strategic objectives.

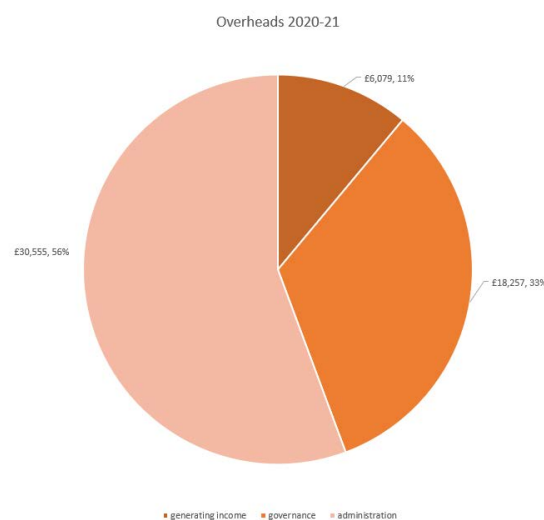
Expenditure

Total resources expended¹ were £437,222 [Statement of Financial Activities, p.14]. Delivery of the charity's strategic objectives cost £432,736 [Note 10]: £204,015 (47%) in Unrestricted Funds, £40,204 (9%) in Designated Funds and £188,517 (44%) in Restricted Funds. Support costs expended on the governance of the charity were £4,486 [Note 12] all of which related to independent

examination fees for the preparation of annual accounts [Note 14].

The majority of total expenditure (65%; £278,395) was spent on staff salaries [Note 15]. Staff salary costs include direct project delivery costs as well as staff time attributed to overhead costs. From our own operational accounts, we calculate overheads² to be £54,891 or less than 13% of our total expenditure, comprising:

- income generation (1%);
- administration (4%);
- governance (7%).



Outcome for the future

We have a vital environmental message to deliver to a wide-range of stakeholders in a complex political and social landscape. Raising funds is a significant challenge, as it is for all small charities, made only more difficult due to Covid-19.

Impacts of the global pandemic on the activities of the charity have been significant and its implications are considered in the Risk Register which is reviewed regularly by the trustee board.

On a positive note, the trustees and staff have worked closely together over recent months to conceive a new five-year strategy for the charity. We have some exciting plans for the future, which we look forward coming to fruition with the support of our considerable network of partner organisations and individual supporters.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 5th July 2021 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Sarah Taylor

Sarah Taylor
Chair of Trustees

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Sylva Foundation

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2021 which are set out on pages 14 to 26.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

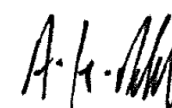
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). 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 report

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 that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company 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.



Ajay Bahl BA BFP FCA
Wenn Townsend
Chartered Accountants
Oxford

5th July 2021

Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31st March 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £
Income and endowments									
Donations and legacies	5	49,616	-	10,000	59,616	52,024	-	105,586	157,610
Charitable activities	6	113,380	-	196,429	309,809	41,338	-	179,024	220,362
Other trading activities	7	120,758	-	-	120,758	91,535	-	-	91,535
Government Grants Receivable	8	5,945	-	-	5,945	-	-	-	-
Investment income	9	831	-	-	831	2,867	-	-	2,867
Total income		290,530	-	206,429	496,959	187,764	-	284,610	472,374
Expenditure									
Expenditure on charitable activities	10,11	208,501	40,204	188,517	437,222	218,677	-	284,100	502,777
Total expenditure		208,501	40,204	188,517	437,222	218,677	-	284,100	502,777
Net (expenditure) / income		82,029	(40,204)	17,912	59,737	(30,913)	-	510	(30,403)
Transfer between funds		(35,724)	154,679	(188,955)	-	(91,773)	1,511,129	(1,419,356)	-
Net movement in funds		46,305	114,475	(101,043)	59,737	(122,686)	1,511,129	(1,418,846)	(30,403)
Reconciliation of funds									
Total funds brought forward		94,020	1,511,129	189,468	1,794,617	216,706	-	1,608,314	1,825,020
Total funds carried forward	22	140,325	1,625,604	88,425	1,854,354	94,020	1,511,129	189,468	1,794,617

All activities are continuing.

There are no other gains or losses recognised during the year.

The notes on pages 16 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet

	Note	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	17		1,596,079		1,519,529
Current assets					
Debtors	18	51,062		34,339	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>230,893</u>		<u>281,613</u>	
		281,955		315,952	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	<u>(23,680)</u>		<u>(40,864)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>258,275</u>		<u>275,088</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>1,854,354</u>		<u>1,794,617</u>
Net assets			<u>1,854,354</u>		<u>1,794,617</u>
Funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds	21		140,325		94,020
Designated Funds	21		1,625,604		1,511,129
Restricted Funds	21		<u>88,425</u>		<u>189,468</u>
Total charity funds	22		<u>1,854,354</u>		<u>1,794,617</u>

For the year ending 31st March 2021 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Trustees' responsibilities:

- The trustees have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 5th July 2021 and are signed on behalf of the board by:



Sarah Taylor
Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 16 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. General information

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, and a registered charity in England and Wales (1128516), and in Scotland (SC041892). The address of the registered office is Sylva Wood Centre, Little Wittenham Road, Long Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 4QT.

2. Statement of compliance

These accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis and include income and expenditure as they are earned or incurred, rather than as cash is received or paid. The financial statements 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements, including a revision of expectations for the potential impact of COVID-19 on the charity. They have concluded that the budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves held for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for a particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Income

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.

3. Accounting policies (continued)

Income (continued)

- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Freehold property	-	4% straight line
Equipment	-	25% straight line

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

For the purposes of impairment testing, when it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

For impairment testing of goodwill, the goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the charity are assigned to those units.

3. Accounting policies (continued)

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in the statement of financial activities, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

4. Limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. The trustees undertake to contribute a sum, not exceeding £1 each, to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up.

5. Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Donations – other	49,616	-	10,000	59,616	157,610
	<u>49,616</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>59,616</u>	<u>157,610</u>

6. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Sale of goods/services as part of direct charitable activities	48,330	-	-	48,330	37,860
Performance-related grants	23,610	-	188,429	212,039	69,380
Other income from charitable activities - contractual payments	41,440	-	8,000	49,440	113,122
	<u>113,380</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>196,429</u>	<u>309,809</u>	<u>220,362</u>

7. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Shop income	1,313	-	-	1,313	3,470
Wood Centre courses	8,412	-	-	8,412	22,542
Rental income	63,212	-	-	63,212	61,090
Other activities for generating funds	47,821	-	-	47,821	4,433
	<u>120,758</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>120,758</u>	<u>91,535</u>

8. Government Grants Receivable

	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£
Furlough Income	5,945	5,945	-
	<u>5,945</u>	<u>5,945</u>	<u>-</u>

9. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£
Bank interest receivable	831	831	2,867
	<u>831</u>	<u>831</u>	<u>2,867</u>

10. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Science, Education, Forestry, & Wood Programmes	204,015	40,204	188,517	432,736	495,430
Support costs	4,486	-	-	4,486	7,347
	<u>208,501</u>	<u>40,204</u>	<u>188,517</u>	<u>437,222</u>	<u>502,777</u>

11. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
Science, Education, Forestry, & Wood Programmes	432,736	-	432,736	495,430
Governance costs	-	4,486	4,486	7,347
	<u>432,736</u>	<u>4,486</u>	<u>437,222</u>	<u>502,777</u>

12. Analysis of support costs

	Support costs	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£
Finance costs	4,486	4,486	7,347
	<u>4,486</u>	<u>4,486</u>	<u>7,347</u>

13. Net income

Net income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2021	2020
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>46,591</u>	<u>33,940</u>

14. Independent examination fees

Fees payable to the independent examiner for:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Independent examination of the financial statements	698	698
Other financial services	3,788	2,074
	<u>4,486</u>	<u>2,772</u>

15. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	242,137	238,123
Social security costs	24,775	20,688
Employer contributions to pension plans	11,483	11,998
	<u>278,395</u>	<u>270,809</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 8 (2020: 8). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2021	2020
	No.	No.
All staff	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2019: £Nil).

16. Trustee remuneration and expenses

No trustee received any remuneration during the year.

No expenses were reimbursed to trustees during the year.

17. Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 st April 2020	1,613,364	26,313	1,639,677
Additions	59,575	63,566	123,141
At 31st March 2021	<u>1,672,939</u>	<u>89,879</u>	<u>1,762,818</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 st April 2020	102,235	17,913	120,148
Charge for the year	40,204	6,387	46,591
At 31st March 2021	<u>142,439</u>	<u>24,300</u>	<u>166,739</u>
Carrying amount			
At 31 st March 2021	<u>1,530,500</u>	<u>65,579</u>	<u>1,596,079</u>
At 31 st March 2020	<u>1,511,129</u>	<u>8,400</u>	<u>1,519,529</u>

18. Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade debtors	47,602	32,152
Prepayments and accrued income	2,746	2,187
VAT receivable	714	-
	<u>51,062</u>	<u>34,339</u>

19. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	9,209	25,886
Accruals and deferred income	4,481	3,973
Social security and other taxes	7,084	10,149
Other creditors – pension	2,906	856
	<u>23,680</u>	<u>40,864</u>

20. Pensions and other post-retirement benefits**Defined contribution plans**

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £11,483 (2020 £11,998).

21. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 st April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	At 31 st March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	94,020	290,530	(208,501)	(35,724)	140,325
Designated Funds					
Operational Fixed Assets	1,511,129	-	(40,204)	59,575	1,530,500
Forestry/Information Technology	-	-	-	6,603	6,603
Education	-	-	-	272	272
Wood Centre	-	-	-	4,937	4,937
Reserve Fund	-	-	-	71,625	71,625
Core	-	-	-	11,667	11,667
	<u>1,605,149</u>	<u>290,530</u>	<u>(248,705)</u>	<u>118,955</u>	<u>1,765,929</u>
Restricted funds					
Forestry/Information Technology	111,017	122,084	(104,311)	(81,930)	46,860
Wood School	34,406	5,305	(5,981)	(33,730)	-
Education	36,595	29,040	(18,681)	(17,242)	29,712
Wood Centre	-	40,000	(59,094)	21,397	2,303
Science	7,450	-	-	(7,450)	-
Core	-	10,000	(450)	-	9,550
	<u>189,468</u>	<u>206,429</u>	<u>(188,517)</u>	<u>(118,955)</u>	<u>88,425</u>

21. Analysis of charitable funds (continued)**Unrestricted funds**

	At 1st April 2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	At 31st March 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	216,706	187,764	(218,677)	(91,773)	94,020
Designated Funds					
Operational fixed assets	-	-	-	1,511,129	1,511,129
	<u>216,706</u>	<u>187,764</u>	<u>(218,677)</u>	<u>1,419,356</u>	<u>1,605,149</u>
Restricted funds					
Forestry/Information Technology	56,376	128,295	(73,654)	-	111,017
Wood School	33,512	29,551	(28,657)	-	34,406
Education	64,117	58,650	(86,172)	-	36,595
Wood Centre	1,454,309	60,364	(95,317)	(1,419,356)	-
Science	-	7,750	(300)	-	7,450
	<u>1,608,314</u>	<u>284,610</u>	<u>(284,100)</u>	<u>(1,419,356)</u>	<u>189,468</u>

22. Analysis of net assets between funds

2021	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	65,579	1,530,500	-	1,596,079
Current assets	98,426	95,104	88,425	281,955
Creditors less than 1 year	(23,680)	-	-	(23,680)
	<u>140,325</u>	<u>1,625,604</u>	<u>88,425</u>	<u>1,854,354</u>
2020	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	8,400	1,511,129	-	1,519,529
Current assets	126,484	-	189,468	315,952
Creditors less than 1 year	(40,864)	-	-	(40,864)
	<u>94,020</u>	<u>1,511,129</u>	<u>189,468</u>	<u>1,794,617</u>

How you can help Sylva Foundation

Sylva Foundation relies on the help of many people and organisations. This section outlines some of the ways we currently receive support. We are always keen to receive support in different ways. Read on to find out how you could help our important work.

Donate

There are a number of ways you can donate to support Sylva. We offer specific opportunities, such as helping towards a new building, or sponsoring a bench for a start-up business. We also benefit from regular small donations from people who believe in the importance of our work. Find out more: sylva.org.uk/support

Remember Sylva in your Will

Leaving a Legacy to Sylva is a powerful way to make your support for the charity live on. We believe that trees and forests underpin life on Earth, especially if cared for as part of a dynamic living landscape. Your Legacy will support our ongoing work to achieve a sustainable society and environment. We offer a number of ways to help you leave a legacy, including a home visit with our partners The Goodwill Partnership, and in England a free online Will writing service. You can read more at sylva.org.uk/legacy or contact us to discuss at: **01865 408018** or legacy@sylva.org.uk.

Campaigns and appeals

Support our campaigns and appeals, and you can help our work helping people and trees grow closer together. Subscribe to our enews at sylva.org.uk/subscribe so that you are kept up-to-date.

Training

We offer an exciting range of courses at the Sylva Wood Centre. By attending a paid course your fee will help support our work bridging significant gaps which exist in formal wood education. Find out more at sylva.org.uk/woodschoo

Shopping

We have a small online shop which helps us raise much-needed income. sylva.org.uk/shop

Get involved

There are a wide range of options for you to get involved in our work. For example, this year we held workshops across Britain asking for help in developing our next national survey, and these were attended by professionals and woodland owners alike. At the local level we enjoy support from the public caring for our small estate, and promoting our work through events at the Sylva Wood Centre.

Fundraise

Sylva is not a membership charity, so is without the regular income this provides many charities. We therefore need to raise funds for specific projects and build a strong foundation of income to support our core costs. We don't have teams of individuals fundraising for us but if you can help promote our work, especially our campaigns and appeals, you will make a difference.

Local groups

Sylva tends to work in partnership with other organisations to achieve its reach across Britain. We are most active locally via the Sylva Wood Centre in Oxfordshire, where local people can help support our Future Forest, Community Orchard, and arts events.

Volunteering

If you are looking for an exciting and interesting way to make a difference to our environment, please consider volunteering with Sylva. We have recently benefited volunteers helping with school visits, data entry, visitor welcoming, tree planting, and even a business angel. You don't have to know anything about trees, forestry or wood to volunteer with Sylva. Find out more at sylva.org.uk/volunteer

Acknowledgements 2020-21

We are very grateful for all the support offered this year by so many individuals and organisations. We keep a list of organisational supporters on our website at: sylva.org.uk/partners

Volunteers and Community Groups

Alex Abbott
Alistair Yeomans
Andrew Lea
David and Karon Whenmouth
Gillian Petrokofsky
Harriet Child
Philip Koomen
Robert Penn
Sally Richards
Sheila Phillips
Shems Hadj-Nassar
Steve Ash
Sylva Foundation Forest Friends
Sylva Wood Centre tenants
Wittenham Community Orchard Cropsarers

Donors and Funders

Aspen Trust
The Dulverton Trust
Ernest Cook Trust
Garfield Weston Foundation
Heritage Lottery Fund
Horlock Educational Trust
John Ellerman Foundation
Michelle Savill
Oxfordshire Local Economic Partnership
Rowse Family Trust
Sir Martin and Lady Wood

Business Supporters

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Oxford Botanic Garden (Oxford University)
The Old Bakehouse Ltd
Vastern Timber
Where The Fruit Is
Workshop heaven
Woodlands.co.uk

NGO Partners

Activate Learning – Rycotewood Furniture Centre
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Berks, Bucks, and Oxon Wildlife Trust
Community Forests Trust
Confor
Country Land and Business Association
Countryside and Community Research Institute
Earth Trust
FWAG south-west
Harcourt Arboretum (Oxford University)
Institute of Chartered Foresters
Long Wittenham C&E Primary School
Long Wittenham Parish Council
Oxford Brookes University
Royal Forestry Society
Royal Scottish Forestry Society
The Oxford Trust
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Small Woodland Owners Group
Small Woods Association
Wild Oxfordshire
Woodland Heritage
Woodland Trust
Wulfheodenas Living History Society
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Statutory sector & public bodies

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
Environment Agency
Forest Research
Forestry Commission
Highways England
Natural England
Natural Resources Wales
Oxfordshire County Council
Scottish Forestry
South Oxfordshire District Council



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