

The Blackdown Hills Trust
(A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Company Number: 07181053
Charity Registered in England and Wales Number: 1138327

The Blackdown Hills Trust
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For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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The Blackdown Hills Trust
Reference and Administrative Details
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Trustees and Directors

N Carter (Chair)
J Greenshields (Treasurer) – Deceased 31/12/2023
R Lloyd
M Canham
D Mounsey

Principal Office and Registered Office

Blowiscombe Barn
Clayhidon
Devon
United Kingdom
EX15 3TL

Bankers

HSBC Bank Plc
2 Fore Street
Wellington
Somerset
TA21 8AH

Independent Examiner

Michelle Ferris BSc (Hons) FCA DChA
Albert Goodman LLP
Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 2PX

The Blackdown Hills Trust
Trustees' Report
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's memorandum and articles of association, the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP FRS 102-implemented 1 January 2019) and are in accordance with the special provision relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Structure, governance and management

The Blackdown Hills Trust is an independent charity, registered number 1138327 and a company limited by guarantee, registered number 07181053. The registered office is Blowiscombe Barn, Clayhidon, Devon, United Kingdom, EX15 3TL.

The governing document is the memorandum and articles of association dated 19 February 2010, amended on 21 June 2011. The company was incorporated on 06 March 2010.

The following trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, served during the year and since the year end:

J Greenshields (Treasurer) – Deceased 31/12/2023
R Lloyd
N Carter (Chair & Treasurer)
M Canham
D Mounsey

All business of the trust is conducted in accordance with its memorandum and articles of association together with the rules incorporated within this document. The directors of the company also act as trustees. They act in a voluntary capacity, except the treasurer who is paid a nominal hourly rate when working for the Trust. The Chairman and Treasurer are elected by the other trustees and must be re-elected every three years. Appointment of any new trustees is made in accordance with prescribed criteria and company rules.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £10 in the event of liquidation of the company.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the charity are:

1. To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment.
2. To advance the education of the public in conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment.
3. To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interest of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation for the public at large or individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life.

Every potential project is evaluated as to how far it reflects our objects. In the future project evaluation will take into account how well outcomes have met with our objects.

Achievements and performances

The Trust's current activities are focused on enabling conservation grazing and woodland management in the public forest, encouraging environmental volunteering, and providing advice to landowners on woodland creation and management.

The project funded by the Forestry Commission came to an end in March 2017 where it was hoped that the cattle owned by the Forestry Commission would be gifted to the Trust and the Trust could continue the grazing project. During the 2018-19 year end the cattle (livestock units (LU)) was subsequently gifted to the Trust by the Forestry Commission for £nil consideration. 86 LU's were gifted at the value of £600 each (90% market value). A livestock leasing/management agreement was in place with the two graziers, whereby the graziers would purchase the cattle (at £600 each) over 4 years at which point they will take sole responsibility for the grazing project with the Forestry Commission and Natural England. The final cattle were purchased during the year to 31 March 2023, at which point the Trust had no remaining LU's to sell to the graziers.

The Trust is working with the Forestry Commission long term to take tenancy on open spaces in the Neroche public forest, and to enter into Higher Level Stewardship agreements with Natural England to enable the continued conservation management of these open areas, through extensive grazing with cattle. Public benefit includes long term conservation and better public access. This project is to some extent experimental; therefore it will also provide valuable information and education about potential management strategies for woodland pasture.

The Trust has obtained funding in the year through FIPLs (Farming in Protected Landscapes) for scrub clearance.

The Trust are still holding Funds donated by the Blackdown Hills Woodland Association with the proviso that it is used for Wood / woodland / Tree related Projects.

Plans for the future

The Blackdown Hills Trust is looking to extend the scope of its activities through more diverse projects.

The Trust will continue looking for funding through FIPLs and other grant providers for scrub clearance and Machinery to help with the ongoing conservation.

Financial review and reserves policy

The charity operates with minimal running costs. Most of its charitable work is undertaken on restricted projects, with an agreed contribution to unrestricted core costs wherever possible. A deficit of £1,319 was made during the year (2023: deficit £6,848). The main costs are cattle management and repairs and maintenance of fencing, which together cost £48,606 (2023: £52,357). Cattle were donated in the 2019-year end and were held as stock until they were sold to the graziers. During the previous year, the remaining 21 Livestock Units were sold which generated £12,600 of income, and no livestock units remained at 31 March 2023.

At 31 March 2024, the charity had total reserves of £43,924 (2023: £45,243), of which £2,240 is unrestricted (2023: £3,196) and £41,684 is restricted (2023: £42,047). The unrestricted reserves would allow for approximately 6 months of unrestricted expenditure, which is in line with expectations. Reserves are held for future plans for the charity and the intention is that spending will be capped to income to maintain reserves.

Risk management

The trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed. They have reviewed those risks and established systems and procedures to manage them appropriately.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are directors of The Blackdown Hills Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report (incorporating the Directors' Report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the income and expenditure of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities and are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information on the charity's website.

The Blackdown Hills Trust
Trustees' Report
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Small company

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

Signed by order of the trustees on 17 December 2024

N Carter
Director

The Blackdown Hills Trust

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Independent examiners report to the Trustees of The Blackdown Hills Trust

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Blackdown Hills Trust ("the Company") for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's 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 charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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 comply with these 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.

Michelle Ferris BSc (Hons) FCA DChA
Albert Goodman LLP
Chartered Accountants
Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 2PX

Date: 17.12.2024

The Blackdown Hills Trust

Statement of Financial Activities (including the income and expenditure account)
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unre- stricted Funds	Re- stricted Funds	Total 2024	Unre- stricted Funds	Re- stricted Funds	Total 2023
Income from:							
Donations	2	-	-	-	-	12,600	12,600
Charitable activities	3	3,079	48,243	51,322	3,350	48,313	51,663
Total		3,079	48,243	51,322	3,350	60,913	64,263
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	4	4,035	48,606	52,641	6,154	64,957	71,111
Total		4,035	48,606	52,641	6,154	64,957	71,111
Net (expenditure)/ income for the year before transfers		(956)	(363)	(1,319)	(2,804)	(4,044)	(6,848)
Transfers		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movements in funds		(956)	(363)	(1,319)	(2,804)	(4,044)	(6,848)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 01 April 2023		3,196	42,047	45,243	6,000	46,091	52,091
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		2,240	41,684	43,924	3,196	42,047	45,243

The results for the year derive from continuing activities and there are no gains or losses other than those shown above.

The statement of financial activities incorporates the income and expenditure account.

The Blackdown Hills Trust – Company Registration Number: 07181053**Balance sheet****As at 31 March 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	8	-	-
Current assets			
Stock	9	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand		45,172	46,561
		<u>45,172</u>	<u>46,561</u>
Creditors			
Amounts falling due within one year	10	(1,248)	(1,318)
Net current assets		<u>43,924</u>	<u>45,243</u>
Net assets		<u><u>43,924</u></u>	<u><u>45,243</u></u>
Funds			
General funds	13	2,240	3,196
Restricted funds	13	41,684	42,047
		<u>43,924</u>	<u>45,243</u>

These accounts have been prepared and delivered in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act relating to small companies and constitute the annual accounts required by the Companies Act 2006.

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

The trustees have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of the accounts.

Approved by the Board for issue on 17 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

N Carter
Director

1 Accounting policies

1.1 General information and basis of preparation

The Blackdown Hills Trust is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in the United Kingdom under the Companies Act. The address of the registered office is given on page 2. The nature of the charity's operations and its principal activities are set out in the Trustees report on pages 3-6.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention. 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 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)-(Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity meets the definition of public benefit under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

1.2 Fund accounting policy

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

1.3 Income

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income. The valuation of donated services is not quantified within the Statement of Financial Activities.

Donated stock is included at fair value, being the expected proceeds from the sale less the expected costs of the sale. If practical to assess the fair value at receipt, it is recognised in stock and income from donations. Upon sale, the value of the stock is charged against charitable activities expenditure and the proceeds are recognised as income from donations.

Income from grants, relating to specifically the provision of goods or services as part of charitable activities or services to clients are included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable and in the period in which they relate to. Grants are deferred when the monies have been received in advance of the period in which they relate to.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on the accruals basis. Liabilities are recognised in the accounting period to which they relate.

Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

1.5 Government grants

Government grants are accounted for when unconditionally due and reasonable assurance can be gained that it will be received. Where funds are received in advance, for a specified period, these funds are deferred and recognised in the period to which they relate. Where funds have not been received in a specified period, these funds will be accrued in debtors and recognised in the period to which they relate. Not all grants received have conditions and performance indicators attached, where this is the case, the income is included within donations. Performance related grants are included within Charitable Activities income.

1.6 Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Plant and machinery	20% straight line basis
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1.7 Stock

Cattle stock is valued at the lower of cost (donated fair value) or net realisable value.

1.8 Debtors

Accrued income is recognised at the settlement amount due and prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

1.9 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand comprise cash on hand and call deposits that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

1.10 Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at their settlement amount.

1.11 Financial instruments

The charity only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and liabilities of the charity and their measurements are as follows:

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

Cash at bank – is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

The Blackdown Hills Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

2 Donations income

	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Cattle sales	-	-	-	-	12,600	12,600
	-	-	-	-	12,600	12,600

3 Charitable activities income

	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Grant income						
RPA	3,079	48,243	51,322	3,350	48,313	51,663
	3,079	48,243	51,322	3,350	48,313	51,663

The Blackdown Hills Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

4 Charitable activities expenditure

	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Cattle opening stock	-	-	-	-	12,600	12,600
Cattle closing stock	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	12,600	12,600
Cattle management	-	44,570	44,570	-	47,847	47,847
Fees paid to trustees	801	-	801	646	-	646
Rent	500	-	500	500	-	500
Repairs and maintenance (note 5)	-	4,036	4,036	-	4,510	4,510
Print, postage and stationery	23	-	23	320	-	320
Insurance	-	-	-	1,008	-	1,008
Travel	71	-	71	46	-	46
Cost of trustee meetings	177	-	177	80	-	80
Bank charges	65	-	65	66	-	66
Woodlanders administration	1,150	-	1,150	2,300	-	2,300
Governance costs	1,248	-	1,248	1,188	-	1,188
	4,035	48,606	52,641	6,154	64,957	71,111
Included in governance costs						
Accountants' remuneration	933	-	933	888	-	888
Independent examiner's fee	315	-	315	300	-	300
	1,248	-	1,248	1,188	-	1,188

The Blackdown Hills Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

5 Repairs and maintenance

	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Ground maintenance	-	-	-	-	1,169	1,169
Fenceline maintenance	-	4,036	4,036	-	3,341	3,341
	-	4,036	4,036	-	4,510	4,510

6 Trustees and employees

The charity has no employees, and hence none that received remuneration of over £60,000 (2023: none).

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration by the charity during the year (2023: none).

Fees of £1,070 (2023 - £727) for administrative services, reimbursements for mileage totalling £71 (2023 - £46) and reimbursements for postage, stationery, repairs materials and venue hire totalling £100 (2023: £313) were paid to one (2023 – one) of the trustees during the year.

7 Taxation

The company is a registered charity and is, therefore, not liable to corporation tax to the extent that income and gains are applied to charitable purposes.

The Blackdown Hills Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

8 Tangible assets

	Plant and machinery	Total
	£	£
Cost		
As at 01.04.2023 and 31.03.2024	3,000	3,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Depreciation		
As at 01.04.2023 and 31.03.2024	3,000	3,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net book value		
As at 31.03.2024	-	-
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
As at 31.03.2023	-	-
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

9 Stock

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cattle	-	12,600
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals	1,248	1,188
Other creditors	-	130
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,248	1,318
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

11 Company limited by guarantee

The charity was incorporated as a private company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The guarantee to the company is £10 per member due on the winding up of the company. At 31 March 2024 the company had four members and therefore, the total amount guaranteed was £40.

12 Operating lease commitments

As at 31 March 2024, the charity had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

Operating leases which expire:

	2024	2023
	£	£
	Land	Land
Under one year	500	500

The Blackdown Hills Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

13 Statement of funds

	Balance 01.04.23 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31.03.24 £
Restricted funds					
Cattle grazing project	34,211	48,243	(48,606)	-	33,848
Woodland Fund	7,836	-	-	-	7,836
Total restricted funds	42,047	48,243	(48,606)	-	41,684
Unrestricted funds					
General	3,196	3,079	(4,035)	-	2,240
Total Funds	45,243	51,322	(52,641)	-	43,924

Statement of funds – 2023

	Balance 01.04.22 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31.03.23 £
Restricted funds					
Cattle grazing project	38,255	60,913	(64,957)	-	34,211
Woodland Fund	7,836	-	-	-	7,836
Total restricted funds	46,091	60,913	(64,957)	-	42,047
Unrestricted funds					
General	6,000	3,350	(6,154)	-	3,196
Total Funds	52,091	64,263	(71,111)	-	45,243

The Blackdown Hills Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Statement of funds – continued...

The purpose of the material funds are as follows:

- 1) The cattle grazing project aims to maintain felled areas in the forest using English Longhorn cattle, which graze on brambles, bracken etc and thus keep these under control.
- 2) The Woodland fund was donated by the Blackdown Hills Woodland Association with the proviso that it is used for Wood / woodland / Tree related Projects.

14 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Current assets	3,488	41,684	45,172	4,514	42,047	46,561
Creditors: amount falling due within one year	(1,248)	-	(1,248)	(1,318)	-	(1,318)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,240	41,684	43,924	3,196	42,047	45,243
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

15 Related party transactions

There have been no related party transactions during the year (2023: none).