

Charity registration number 1144470 (England and Wales)

Company registration number 07673603

THE SANDSTONE RIDGE TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

THE SANDSTONE RIDGE TRUST

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Prof A Hull Mr P Winn Mr S Pain Prof D Bell Ms T Hull Dr N Holmes
Secretary	Prof A Hull
Charity number (England and Wales)	1144470
Company number	07673603
Registered office	C/O Hall Livesey Brown 68 High St Tarporley Cheshire CW6 0AT
Independent examiner	Hall Livesey Brown HLB House 68 High Street Tarporley Cheshire CW6 0AT
Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent

THE SANDSTONE RIDGE TRUST

CONTENTS

	Page
Trustees' report	1 - 3
Independent examiner's report	4
Statement of financial activities	5
Balance sheet	6
Notes to the financial statements	7 - 13

THE SANDSTONE RIDGE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements 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 governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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)".

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects are set out below:

(a) promote, enhance, improve, protect and conserve the physical natural environment and its natural beauty for the public benefit within the area known as Cheshire's Sandstone Ridge and its environs but not exclusively by:

- (i) habitat conservation and restoration and enhancement of the landscape;
- (ii) improving the understanding of the archaeological, historical and cultural inheritance of the area of benefit;
- (iii) improving awareness of the special qualities and features of the area of benefit through interpretation and improved access; and

(b) advance the education of the public in the physical and natural environment and in particular the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment, by but not exclusively by the provision of training, volunteering and educational opportunities and the development of rural skills for the public benefit.

Principle activities

- (a) maximise public awareness of the Sandstone Ridge Trust;
- (b) Explain the purpose of the Trust, its objects and benefits;
- (c) Secure active participation and support of the Trust by local people;
- (d) Enhance its reputation so that it earns understanding and support, while at the same time;
- (e) Create and maintain links with key audiences and between partners in order to direct the way in which the Trust members and supporters conduct business and communicate activities;
- (f) Become more effective in disseminating information about the Trust and be able to target information more strategically to key audiences and;
- (g) Develop a strong two-way flow of information between Trustees, Trust members, and its partners and key audiences

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance

The Trust has established its brand and set out its operational guidelines. It has reviewed the outcomes of other previous Heritage Lottery funded programmes to help guide and focus future activity. It has communicated with its members and begun to develop project ideas.

Financial review

Income was £39,029 in 2023 (£46 in 2023), of this £38,909 related to grants received the remainder related to interest received in the year,

Expenditure increased to £7,601 from £2,478

The current level of unrestricted reserves is £18,885. The trustees are satisfied that this level is sufficient to meet any obligations arising through the operation of the charity at the current time. The trustees have considered the requirement to maintain free reserves and are satisfied that the charity has a need to establish free reserves to absorb the major fluctuations in funding received without curtailing services to its beneficiaries. This has been calculated to be approximately £1,000.

The trustees has assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

THE SANDSTONE RIDGE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Future plans

The 2023/4 accounting period was dominated by two key items.

Firstly, the ongoing work by Natural England highlighted in the 2022/3 accounts to consider the Sandstone Ridge as a potential new Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This has involved regular meetings and site visits with Natural England and the two Local Authorities (CWaC and Cheshire East), and extensive written submissions as part of the natural England ongoing investigations. The process is likely to continue throughout the rest of 2024 and dependent on the outcomes of the review stages, well into 2025.

Secondly, the successful grant from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund commenced within the accounting period, and will continue until 31 March 2025. This work is directed to four main themes, namely the provision of a 'Walk Talk and Ride Festival' during Q3 2024, a Visitor Survey for the Sandstone Ridge during the summer and autumn of 2024, the development and dissemination of a leaflet on 'Reptiles on the Ridge', and finally promotion of Health and Well-being,

In addition the Trust will continue more generally to engage with the local communities and stakeholders with the wider objectives of extending the awareness and conservation of the Sandstone Ridge.

In the longer term, the Trust's activities and role will be significantly determined by the outcome of Natural England's work on potential AONB designation.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is constituted as a company registered in England, limited by guarantee. The company memorandum and articles of association lays down how it is governed.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Prof A Hull

Mr G Church

(Resigned 22 October 2024)

Mr P Winn

Mr S Pain

Ms S Angus-Crawshaw

(Resigned 17 April 2023)

Prof D Bell

Ms A Roberts

(Resigned 21 October 2024)

Ms T Hull

Dr N Holmes

The Annual General Meeting of the charity elects the Trustees and Honorary offices and appoints reporting accountants and considers and approves the annual report and accounts for the preceding year. The trustees meet regularly to discuss the charities affairs. All of the management and administration is undertaken on a voluntary basis.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The charity seeks suitable trustees from time to time with suitable qualifications who may be co-opted onto the board.

New trustees will be briefed on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the memorandum and articles of association, the committee and decision-making processes.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

THE SANDSTONE RIDGE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Prof A Hull

Trustee

Dated: 13 December 2024

THE SANDSTONE RIDGE TRUST

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE SANDSTONE RIDGE TRUST

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Sandstone Ridge Trust (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006.
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements 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 financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

Rebecca Ellams FCCA

HLB House
68 High Street
Tarporley
Cheshire
CW6 0AT

Dated: 16 December 2024

THE SANDSTONE RIDGE TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

		Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	74	38,909	38,983	10	-	10
Investments	4	46	-	46	36	-	36
Total income		120	38,909	39,029	46	-	46
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	5	2,592	5,009	7,601	2,478	-	2,478
Total expenditure		2,592	5,009	7,601	2,478	-	2,478
Net income/(expenditure)		(2,472)	33,900	31,428	(2,432)	-	(2,432)
Transfers between funds							
		-	-	-	20,257	(20,257)	-
Net movement in funds	7	(2,472)	33,900	31,428	17,825	(20,257)	(2,432)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		21,357	2,924	24,281	3,532	23,181	26,713
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		18,885	36,824	55,709	21,357	2,924	24,281

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

THE SANDSTONE RIDGE TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	11	37,897		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		18,512		25,554	
		<u>56,409</u>		<u>25,554</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(700)		(1,273)	
Net current assets			55,709		24,281
			<u>55,709</u>		<u>24,281</u>
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	13	36,824		2,924	
Unrestricted funds	14	18,885		21,357	
		<u>55,709</u>		<u>24,281</u>	
			<u>55,709</u>		<u>24,281</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

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

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 13 December 2024

Prof A Hull
Trustee

Company registration number 07673603 (England and Wales)

THE SANDSTONE RIDGE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Sandstone Ridge Trust is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is C/O Hall Livesey Brown, 68 High St, Tarporley, Cheshire, CW6 0AT.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, its is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of that obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to a particular heading they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

THE SANDSTONE RIDGE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.7 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.8 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

THE SANDSTONE RIDGE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Donations and gifts	74	-	74	10	-	10
UKSPF	-	38,909	38,909	-	-	-
	<u>74</u>	<u>38,909</u>	<u>38,983</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10</u>

4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Interest receivable	46	36
	<u>46</u>	<u>36</u>

THE SANDSTONE RIDGE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Raising donations and legacies 2024 £	UKSPF 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Raising donations and legacies 2023 £
Direct costs				
Enter ac905 in database	-	5,009	5,009	-
Share of support and governance costs (see note 6)				
Support	1,717	-	1,717	1,522
Governance	875	-	875	956
	<u>2,592</u>	<u>5,009</u>	<u>7,601</u>	<u>2,478</u>
Analysis by fund				
Unrestricted funds	2,592	-	2,592	2,478
Restricted funds	-	5,009	5,009	-
	<u>2,592</u>	<u>5,009</u>	<u>7,601</u>	<u>2,478</u>

6 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2024 £	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2023 £
Marketing PR and website	648	-	648	558	-	558
Running costs	888	-	888	778	-	778
Bank charges	62	-	62	73	-	73
Membership	119	-	119	113	-	113
Independent examiner fees	-	700	700	-	613	613
Insurance	-	164	164	-	327	327
Trustee expenses	-	11	11	-	16	16
	<u>1,717</u>	<u>875</u>	<u>2,592</u>	<u>1,522</u>	<u>956</u>	<u>2,478</u>
Analysed between Charitable activities	<u>1,717</u>	<u>875</u>	<u>2,592</u>	<u>1,522</u>	<u>956</u>	<u>2,478</u>

THE SANDSTONE RIDGE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

7	Net movement in funds	2024	2023
		£	£

The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):

Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements

700	613
=====	=====

8 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

9 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Total	-	-
	=====	=====

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

10 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

11 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	37,897	-
	=====	=====

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	700	1,273
	=====	=====

THE SANDSTONE RIDGE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

13 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Transfers £	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Movement in funds		Balance at 31 March 2024 £
				Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	
Hillforts and Habitats project	20,257	(20,257)	-	-	-	-
Walk and Ride Festival	32	-	32	-	-	32
HLF/CWAC - Transitional funding	2,892	-	2,892	-	-	2,892
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	-	-	-	38,909	(5,009)	33,900
	<u>23,181</u>	<u>(20,257)</u>	<u>2,924</u>	<u>38,909</u>	<u>(5,009)</u>	<u>36,824</u>

14 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
General funds	21,357	120	(2,592)	-	18,885
	<u>21,357</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>(2,592)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,885</u>
Previous year:	At 1 April 2022	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
General funds	3,532	46	(2,478)	20,257	21,357
	<u>3,532</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>(2,478)</u>	<u>20,257</u>	<u>21,357</u>

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
At 31 March 2024:			
Current assets/(liabilities)	18,885	36,824	55,709
	<u>18,885</u>	<u>36,824</u>	<u>55,709</u>

THE SANDSTONE RIDGE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
At 31 March 2023:			
Current assets/(liabilities)	21,357	2,924	24,281
	<u>21,357</u>	<u>2,924</u>	<u>24,281</u>

16 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2023 - none).

This document was delivered using electronic communications and authenticated in accordance with the registrar's rules relating to electronic form, authentication and manner of delivery under section 1072 of the Companies Act 2006.