

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 07846516 (ENGLAND AND WALES)  
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1144840

**Report of the Trustees and**  
**Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**  
  
**for**  
  
**The Open Spaces Society**

Villars Hayward LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Chartered Tax Advisers  
Registered Auditors  
Boston House  
Henley-on-Thames  
RG9 1DY

The Open Spaces Society  
(Registered Company Number: 07846516)

Contents of the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

	<b>Page</b>
Report of the Trustees	1-7
Report of the Independent Examiner	8
Statement of Financial Activities	9
Statement of Financial Position	10
Notes to the Financial Statements	11-16

**The Open Spaces Society**  
**(Registered Company Number: 07846516)**

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

The Trustees, who are also directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2022 and confirm that they comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Registered Charity Number:	1144840		
Registered Company Number:	07846516		
Principal and Registered Office:	25A Bell Street, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 2BA		
Independent Examiner:	Nicholas M Smith, BFP, ACA, CTA Villars Hayward LLP, Boston House, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 1DY		
Bankers:	Barclays Bank plc Mid-Thames Group, PO Box 1, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 2AX		
Solicitors:	Richard Buxton Office A, Dales Brewery, Gwydir Street Cambridge CB1 2LJ	Mercers 50 New Street Henley-on-Thames RG9 2BX	
Surveyors:	Severage Greaves Limited 9 St Mary's Street Wallingford OX10 0EL		

***Directors and Trustees***

The directors of the charitable company (the Charity) are the Trustees for the purpose of Charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as Trustees.

The Trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:-

Dr P D Wadey – Chairman  
G M Bathe – Vice Chairman  
S Bain (Treasurer)  
C B N Beney  
J Hall  
T-J Sutcliffe  
S Hunt

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Governing Document**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, the memorandum and articles of association, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

**The Open Spaces Society**  
**(Registered Company Number: 07846516)**

**Report of the Trustees (continued)**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)**

**Governing Document (continued)**

The charity is the successor to the Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society (registered charity number 214753) which was established by a trust deed dated 6 December 1963, originally having been founded in 1865. It was registered as a company limited by guarantee on 14 November 2011.

**Recruitment and appointment of Trustees**

Trustees are appointed by the members of the company, in accordance with the memorandum and articles of association.

**Related party disclosures**

No transaction which would need to be disclosed has been notified by any trustee, in relation to the year, nor any balance outstanding from previous years.

**Declarations of interest**

An agenda item for recording these, if any be declared, appears on the agenda for each trustee meeting. The society's insurers require a statement to be minuted at each meeting that the trustees are not aware of anything arising which might lead to a claim on the society's indemnity policy.

**Risk Management**

The society maintains a risk register which is regularly reviewed by trustees with practical precautions being implemented by officers and staff.

**PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT**

Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 requires the charity trustees to comply with their duty to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

The trustees are mindful of this obligation and have been referring to the guidance when reviewing their aims and objectives and in planning their future activities. In particular, they have considered how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT**

***Summary of the charity's objects and strategy for achieving them***

The objects of the society are campaigning to create and conserve common land, village greens, open spaces and rights of public access in town and country, in England and Wales. These objects are furthered both locally and nationally. The society is building up a network of local correspondents who can make site visits where problems arise and submit appropriate representations regarding, for example, proposed changes to the public-path network. The society also secures the registering of new village greens, resists encroachments on common land, and defends common land and greens against deregistration.

At a national level the society's unique expertise is its accumulated knowledge in the complicated case law and common law that apply to common land and its user rights. Bodies such as the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Welsh government, the National Trust, Natural England and Natural Resources Wales acknowledge the society's primacy in this area. The society is a mandatory consultee for certain applications for works on common land and for changes to public rights of way.

We are grateful to the Millennium Oak Trust for their donation.

The society also endeavours to improve the law for the benefit of the public. By challenging unacceptable proposals—through the courts if necessary—and more generally by seeking media attention and lobbying parliament and local authorities, it protects places of beauty and interest, and achieves better public access throughout England and Wales.



**The Open Spaces Society**  
**(Registered Company Number: 07846516)**

**Report of the Trustees (continued)**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT (continued)**

***Summary of main achievements during the year***

The main achievements during the year are listed below under headings which reflect the four main objects in our constitution.

**1. To protect commons, greens and other open spaces**

It was a turbulent year, with three prime ministers and three environment secretaries, the continuing squeeze on public funding, and the cost-of-living crisis. However, people continue to value their open spaces and paths as places for refreshment and solace and, although case numbers were down on the last two years, they were still considerable and occupied much time. Despite all the external pressures, the society remained strong and feisty.

We responded to calls from members for advice on protection and management of at least 149 commons, 88 registered greens and 258 other open spaces. Many more cases and disputes came to us from consultations from official bodies, or were dealt with by our local correspondents.

Our re-registration officer, Frances Kerner, funded by the generous legacy from Jack Candy, continued her work on applications in Cumbria and North Yorkshire. She also pursued and defended applications we had already submitted in other English counties before their registers closed to new applications on 31 December 2020. During the year we celebrated the addition of six commons to the registers thanks to our efforts: in Cornwall at the Lizard, and land near Teneriffe farm; in Cumbria, Eskdale Fell; and in Hertfordshire, Clay End Common, Walmans Green, and Water End Moor. We were disappointed that another application at Water End Moor was rejected.

We were pleased when the supreme court refused Blackbushe Airport Ltd leave to appeal, following its defeat in the court of appeal. We had actively supported the defendant, Hampshire County Council, to prevent the deregistration of part of Yateley Common in Hampshire. We are now in consultation with the airport and council about an amended application to deregister only the land covered in buildings.

We challenged in the high court the Planning Inspectorate's decision to allow the construction of a shared-vehicular access on Barking Tye Common in Suffolk, in relation to an adjoining development. We argued that the inspector, in approving consent for works on common land under section 38 of the Commons Act 2006, did not take account of the policy guidance of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. We lost, but the judgment contains valuable interpretation of government policy which will serve us well in future.

Applicants for works on, or exchange of, common land notified us of 77 cases. We raised objections to 47 of them.

Of the 54 statutory applications for works which were determined during the year, 26 were granted with no objection from us, and 22 were granted despite our objection. These included the deregistration of part of Walton Common in Essex for an electricity-generation plant; the retention of fencing on Hergest Ridge, Herefordshire; Therfield Heath, Hertfordshire; and Wolvercote Green, Oxfordshire; the use of parts of Clapham Common, London Borough of Lambeth, as temporary-events sites; resurfacing and new access roads across Wellow Common, Nottinghamshire, and Wood Street Common, and Weston Green, Surrey; play equipment on Edlesborough Common, Bucks; a football and rugby area on Marlborough Common, Wiltshire; and a temporary anemometer mast on Eisteddfa Gurig Common in Ceredigion. We continued to feel frustrated at the Planning Inspectorate's failure to address the detail of applications and their shortcomings.

**The Open Spaces Society**  
**(Registered Company Number: 07846516)**

**Report of the Trustees (continued)**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

**1. To protect commons, greens and other open spaces (continued)**

Seven applications were rejected or withdrawn following our advice. These included the deregistration of part of Hamsterley village green in County Durham, Preston recreation ground in Hertfordshire, and Longhorsley common land in Northumberland, none with any exchange land offered; a football development on Tooting Bec Common, London Borough of Wandsworth (following a public inquiry at which we were represented by our local correspondent, Jeremy Clyne), and a footway across Hare Lane Green common, and a golf-club works compound on Chobham Common, both in Surrey. We were delighted when Swansea Council withdrew its application to deregister part of Bracelet Bay at Mumbles, which it initially claimed had been wrongly registered as common.

Through an article in Open Space and on our website, we initiated a debate on tree-planting on commons, which we believe should be undertaken as part of a long-term plan.

Our general secretary attended a round-table meeting regarding the future of Plumstone Mountain common in Pembrokeshire, of which she and Jim Henry from the USA are trustees. The outcome was that a management plan is to be prepared and a friends' group established.

We published new editions of our books *Our Common Land* and *Getting Greens Registered*, the former was drafted by Paul Clayden shortly before his untimely death.

Our case officers delivered training packages on commons and greens, both online and in person, with a specially-tailored course for our local correspondents. They assisted with 149 cases concerning common land.

**2. To protect and enhance public rights of way and public access**

The Henley office dealt with 336 requests for advice on paths, and our local correspondents pursued many others.

We were delighted when Defra decided not to implement the 2026 deadline for historic-path applications, and to repeal the legislation at the earliest opportunity<sup>1</sup>. It intends to implement those parts of the package which were not dependent on the cut-off, and the right for landowners to apply for path changes (which we deplore). However, progress has been slow due to Defra's lack of resources, and it resorted to inviting the working group to form task and finish groups to work on the detail of the statutory instruments and guidance, a job normally done by government lawyers.

In Wales we continued to work with the cross-party group for outdoor activity, and were pleased to meet Julie James, Minister for Climate Change, in the summer. We pressed her to make progress on the access-reform package which was referred to Welsh government some time ago, and we offered to assist in its implementation.

Our local correspondents defended paths with considerable success. For example, Lucy Wilson served notice on a landowner in Cornwall who had illegally blocked paths with wheat and brassica. The paths were cleared the next day. Chris Smith made 19 applications for the addition of paths to the definitive map, mostly in West Sussex. We helped to defeat a damaging diversion scheme at Cookham in Windsor and Maidenhead, and we celebrated the success of our former correspondent, Owen Morgan, when Boat Lane in the parishes of Goodrich and Walton, Herefordshire, was added to the definitive map as a public footpath.

With the British Horse Society and Ramblers, we took Cornwall Council to task for failing to carry out its statutory duty on path maintenance, and we met with senior managers twice, though made little progress.

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<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, in March 2023, the government reversed its decision not to implement the deadline for recording lost paths in England and instead plans to set the deadline at 1 January 2031.



**The Open Spaces Society**  
**(Registered Company Number: 07846516)**

**Report of the Trustees (continued)**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

**2. To protect and enhance public rights of way and public access (continued)**

We were dismayed when the supreme court refused us leave to appeal on our judicial review of the confirmation of a diversion order at Rollright in Oxfordshire. The effect is that the landowner's interest may get disproportionate weight when an inspector determines a contested diversion order under section 119 of the Highways Act 1980. We intend to find a suitable case to challenge this in the supreme court.

We continued to criticise the Westminster government's failure to include payments for access in the new environmental land management schemes, despite numerous ministerial promises that it would do so. We briefed Barry Gardiner MP (Labour, Brent North) to quiz the environment secretary, Thérèse Coffey, about this when she appeared before the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs committee. Her response was deeply unsatisfactory.

In Wales, we welcomed the inclusion of payments for access in the Agriculture Bill and worked with members of Wales Environment Link on the detail to make this a reality. In England and Wales there is as yet no prospect of enforcement through cross-compliance measures.

With Tom Platt from the Ramblers, our general secretary gave evidence to the House of Lords Land use Committee. We pressed the case for public access to be at the heart of a land-use strategy for England and were pleased that our recommendations were adopted in the report.

Our general secretary spoke at the 90th anniversary celebration of the Kinder Scout mass trespass, and at a youth summit at Knepp in West Sussex, where young people gathered to consider rewilding and public access, and produce a manifesto of their demands.

**3. To secure the creation of new public paths and open spaces**

We continued to encourage local authorities and other landowners voluntarily to register their land as town or village green, thereby giving local people rights of recreation there and protecting it from development. We celebrated registrations at Portishead in North Somerset and Dorchester on Thames in Oxfordshire. Our case officer, Helen Clayton, joined the Friends of Dartmouth Community Orchard to unveil a plaque on its new green, which we had helped to save.

We advised more than 66 members and other inquirers about claiming greens.

**4. To protect the beauty of the countryside**

The government published its response to the 2019 recommendations of the Glover Review in England, but this was inadequate and we continued to press for full implementation of the review. Our case officer Nicola Hodgson continued to serve on the Better Planning Coalition, convened by the Campaign to Protect Rural England, to lobby for improvements to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill which is working its way through Parliament, and we provided briefing for amendments to provisions on pavement licensing.

**ORGANISATIONAL MANAGEMENT**

We now have 42 local correspondents. In 2022 we appointed Kevin Abraham (for part of Wiltshire), Aidan Harris (former Chiltern District, Bucks), Stephen Lindsay (Rhondda Cynon Taf), Denise Metcalfe (part of Northumberland), and Chas Townley (Stroud district, Gloucestershire). We said goodbye and thank you to Jay Kynch (Rhondda Cynon Taf), Colin Sandford (Guildford Borough, Surrey), Harry Scott (Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent city), and David Williams (London Borough of Hillingdon).

We held a get-together for our local correspondents in the Lickey Hills, Worcestershire, in July, which was both valuable and enjoyable.

We adopted our updated strategic plan for 2022–27, and developed a policy on renewable-energy developments, with guidelines for our local correspondents. We also began to consider how we might measure our carbon footprint, and we established an inclusion working party to determine how we reach broader audiences.

**The Open Spaces Society**  
**(Registered Company Number: 07846516)**

**Report of the Trustees (continued)**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

**ORGANISATIONAL MANAGEMENT (Continued)**

We held our annual general meeting in London with an online option. In total 30 people attended. Voting was undertaken online, with 53 votes cast. Our treasurer, Steve Warr, stepped down after eight years' service as our treasurer, and Stuart Bain took his place. We thanked Steve for his dedicated service. We presented Chris Beney with the Eversley Award for Outstanding Achievement, for his decades of work on public paths.

We issued 35 press releases and published three editions of our magazine Open Space. Staff and members appeared at least nine times on the radio, three times on television, and on two podcasts. Our general secretary was interviewed for a short film called 'Freedom to Roam', to be released in 2023. We continued to improve our website, updating and expanding our information sheets.

On 31 December, membership stood at 2,319, a net increase of 13. This number is comprised of 1,697 individuals, and 622 organisations and local authorities. We welcomed 270 new members and 60 members who had lapsed and rejoined; 15 members died during the year and a further 303 lapsed.

In February our digital marketing and content manager, Nichola Finan, left us. We appointed Abbie Cavendish in her place, and also hired Lucy McKean as our office assistant. Our dedicated staff, Kate Ashbrook, Abbie Cavendish Helen Clayton, Hugh Craddock, Sarah Hacking, Lucie Henwood, Nicola Hodgson, Frances Kerner, and Lucy McKean have had another busy year. We thank them warmly for their commitment and success in furthering the work of the society.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

**Financial operations**

In 2022 the society's income was primarily split across investment returns, membership subscriptions, and donations.

Membership subscriptions remained fairly static, and investments returns have been positive with an increase of £5,715. During the year the society received a generous legacy of £782,438 from our former vice-president, Ronald Smith, that has resulted in a healthy surplus in the accounts.

**Legacies recognised in 2022**

Freda Jones, Alan Lidiard, Anthony Newman, Ann Sayer, Ronald Sims, Ronald W G Smith, John Edwin Thackray.

We are grateful for all legacies and donations, and your gift to the society will help to ensure that future generations will enjoy commons, open spaces, and paths, in towns and countryside throughout England and Wales.

Please see our website: <https://www.oss.org.uk/what-you-can-do/legacies/> for more information.

The society decided not to make any appeals to members for funds, resulting in a drop of income of just over £15,000. The decision was reached following discussions about pressures on the cost of living and resource constraints to oversee disbursement of appeal monies on charitable objectives. The society will continue to review the approach to public appeals throughout 2023.

During the financial year, the society has changed its strategy for meeting its short-term savings objectives. The society is in the process of moving short-term savings and bonds onto the Flagstone cash management platform. As existing bonds mature, monies will be migrated to the Flagstone platform. Benefits to this approach include a reduction in administration when opening new accounts, maximising the best interest rates available by being able easily to switch products when fixed rates end, and maximising Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) coverage. It should be noted the FSCS coverage applies to the first £85,000 placed with each institution through Flagstone and is not measured on total funds held via Flagstone.



**The Open Spaces Society**  
**(Registered Company Number: 07846516)**

**Report of the Trustees (continued)**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

**RESERVES POLICY**

The reserves policy has been kept under close review throughout the year by trustees to ensure it was flexible enough to respond to external economic pressures and remained fit for purpose.

Strategic reserve fund: the society's recurring revenue is not sufficient to meet all running costs so it is the policy of the trustees to maintain a strategic reserve fund sufficient to cover the expected net outgoings of the society for 48 months. Following a review of the budget for 2023, anticipating a reduction in the overall deficit, changes to operating costs, and inflation, the strategic reserve fund was revalued to £910,313 for January 2023. This releases £125,169 for the society to pursue its charitable objectives. The designated fund is invested for the benefit of the society but remains available to the trustees to transfer back into unrestricted funds if required.

The applications reserve fund, set up in 2019, is unchanged at £435,000. The figure is kept under review annually, based on experience and analysis of the costs actually incurred by the society as a result of commons and rights-of-way applications. Trustees acknowledge this reserve is essential since the costs associated with taking applications to completion are unknown and variable, but can be considerable and can run over a long period.

**CONCLUSION**

The Open Spaces Society has performed well over the last year, which is just as well as the level of problems encountered on greens, commons, paths and open spaces never seems to decrease. The expertise and diligence of our society is put to good use in taking action in the courts to challenge public bodies in the higher courts when we think they are not applying the law correctly, and we were pleased to take the decision to budget for a new case officer, starting in 2023, to work on enforcement activities to keep our rights open and available for use. The value of legacies in enabling the society to expand its work cannot be underestimated, and we are grateful to those who remembered us in this way.

I thank, once again, our dedicated staff, increasing number of local correspondents, and members, and all who have helped in support of the society and its activities. I commend this report to our members.

**ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:**

*P D Wadey*

.....  
Dr P D Wadey – Chairman, on behalf of the Trustees

Date: 27 April ..... 2023



**The Open Spaces Society**  
**(Registered Company Number: 07846516)**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of**  
**The Open Spaces Society**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2022 set out on pages nine to sixteen.

**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 financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements 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 financial statements 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**

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those accounting records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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.

*Nicholas Smith BFP, ACA, CTA*

Nicholas M Smith BFP, ACA, CTA  
Villars Hayward LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditors  
Chartered Tax Advisers  
Boston House  
Henley-on-Thames  
RG9 1DY

Date: 2 May.....2023

**The Open Spaces Society**  
**(Registered Company Number: 07846516)**

**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**(including Income and Expenditure Account)**  
**For the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations (inc. Gift Aid) and legacies	2	819,924	-	-	819,924	283,472
Charitable activities						
Subscriptions		79,071	-	-	79,071	79,114
Appeals	3	525	-	-	525	15,888
Other trading activities						
Sale of publications, Trusts, Royalties etc.	4	9,619	-	-	9,619	13,043
Investments	5	28,706	29,344	1,394	59,444	53,729
Other income	6	300	-	-	300	-
<b>Total</b>		<u>938,145</u> =====	<u>29,344</u> =====	<u>1,394</u> =====	<u>968,883</u> =====	<u>445,246</u> =====
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds						
Other publications costs		5,001	-	-	5,001	254
Charitable activities						
Staff salaries and related costs	7	215,826	30,551	-	246,377	221,859
Premises costs	8	14,546	-	-	14,546	15,834
Administration costs	9	27,461	-	-	27,461	30,128
Local correspondents		4,043	-	-	4,043	127
Open Space and website		12,783	-	-	12,783	14,774
Other costs	10	81,603	26,345	-	107,948	161,308
Governance costs	11	12,470	-	-	12,470	7,834
<b>Total</b>		<u>373,733</u> =====	<u>56,896</u> =====	<u>-</u> =====	<u>430,629</u> =====	<u>452,118</u> =====
(Loss)/Gain on investment assets	12	(19,404)	(30,646)	(1,456)	(51,506)	109,115
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<u>545,008</u>	<u>(58,198)</u>	<u>(62)</u>	<u>486,748</u>	<u>102,243</u>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>		<u>30,738</u>	<u>(29,344)</u>	<u>(1,394)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>575,746</u>	<u>(87,542)</u>	<u>(1,456)</u>	<u>486,748</u>	<u>102,243</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>						
Total funds brought forward		1,469,572	342,196	26,145	1,837,913	1,735,670
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	13	<u>2,045,318</u> =====	<u>254,654</u> =====	<u>24,689</u> =====	<u>2,324,661</u> =====	<u>1,837,913</u> =====

**The Open Spaces Society**  
**(Registered Company Number: 07846516)**

**Statement of Financial Position**  
**as at 31 December 2022**

	Note	31.12.22	31.12.21
		£	£
<b>Fixed Assets:</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	14	4,535	5,514
Investments	15	873,205	924,711
<i>Total fixed assets</i>		<u>877,740</u> =====	<u>930,225</u> =====
<b>Current Assets:</b>			
Debtors	16	3,595	103,347
Fixed and short term deposits	17	1,472,761	800,092
Cash at bank and in hand		13,582	49,871
<i>Total current assets</i>		<u>1,489,938</u>	<u>953,310</u>
<b>Liabilities:</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(43,017)	(45,622)
<i>Net current assets</i>		<u>1,446,921</u>	<u>907,688</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u>2,324,661</u> =====	<u>1,837,913</u> =====
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>			
Unrestricted funds:			
<i>Strategic reserve fund</i>		910,313	1,035,482
<i>Applications reserve fund</i>		435,000	435,000
<i>General fund</i>		700,005	(910)
Restricted funds:			
<i>Candy fund</i>		211,360	296,349
<i>Creech Jones fund</i>		43,294	45,847
Endowment funds:			
<i>Buxton fund</i>		24,689	26,145
<b>Total charity funds</b>		<u>2,324,661</u> =====	<u>1,837,913</u> =====

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2022.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on.....13 April 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

**P D Wadey**

Dr P D Wadey - Chairman

**Stuart Bain**

S Bain - Treasurer



**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation for uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

**(a) Basis of preparation**

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) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic Of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Open Spaces Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

**(b) Income recognition policies**

Items of income are recognised and included in the financial statements when all of the following criteria are met:

- the charity has entitlement to the funds;
- any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met or are fully within the control of the charity;
- there is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable, and
- the amount can be measured reliably.

**Legacies**

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earliest of:

- the date on which the charity is aware that probate has been granted;
- the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the charity that a distribution will be made; or
- when a distribution is received from the estate.

Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution.

**Other voluntary income**

Voluntary income received by way of subscription, donations and appeals is included in the financial statements when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity.

**Donated services**

The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these financial statements.

**Interest receivable**

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

**(c) Expenditure and Irrecoverable VAT**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

Expenditure on Charitable activities comprise those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them. Governance costs include those costs associated with the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the independent examiner's fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

**The Open Spaces Society**  
**(Registered Company Number: 07846516)**  
**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**(d) Fixed Assets**

Fixed assets (excluding investments) are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided so as to write off the asset over four years.

Investments held as fixed assets are revalued at mid-market value at the balance sheet date and the gain or loss taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

**(e) Fund Accounting**

**General fund** - This is an unrestricted fund which is to be invested for the benefit of the society but remains available to the trustees to be used for the objects of the society or for making allocations to the Strategic Reserve fund.

**Strategic Reserve fund** - This is an unrestricted fund derived from allocations from the General fund. It is the policy of the trustees to keep 48 months' reserve in this fund, so that it should hold sufficient to cover the society's following 48 months' net outgoings, and to allow for an orderly closure of the society thereafter, should this become necessary. In line with this policy, the fund stood at £1,702,732 at 31 December 2022. This fund is to be invested for the benefit of the society but remains available to the trustees to transfer back to the General fund in case of need.

**Applications Reserve Fund** - This is an unrestricted fund derived from allocations from the General Fund. The funds within this reserve are to be used to see through to completion applications to register rights of way or common land where the application has been made in the name of the Society. Some applications are determined quickly and without significant cost, but for some there may be many years between an application being made and its conclusion. The Trustees consider that it is appropriate to hold a reserve for this purpose so that protracted applications can be supported.

**Crech Jones fund** - The income from this restricted fund may be used for the objects of the society that would not normally be met from the General fund.

**Candy fund** - This is a restricted fund to be used only for the general charitable purposes of the Open Spaces Society. It is not to be used for administrative expenses.

**Buxton fund** - The income from this fund is transferred to the Society's General fund.

<b>2 DONATIONS (INC. GIFT AID) AND LEGACIES</b>	<b>31.12.22</b>	<b>31.12.21</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Legacies	792,918	148,716
Donations	14,544	115,386
Gift Aid	12,462	19,370
	<u>819,924</u>	<u>283,472</u>
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**3 APPEALS AND GIFT AID**

Funds raised by appeals over the year also generated related income via Gift Aid.

<b>Appeal</b>	<b>Donations</b>	<b>Gift Aid</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Grant a Green Appeal	500	125	625
Saving Lockdown Spaces	25	-	25
	<u>525</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>650</u>
	-----	-----	-----

<b>4 INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>31.12.22</b>	<b>31.12.21</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Sales of publications	5,041	1,055
Special projects and training	3,640	700
Trusts, royalties, commission etc.	938	3,788
Refund of legal costs	-	7,500
	<u>9,619</u>	<u>13,043</u>
	=====	=====



**The Open Spaces Society**  
**(Registered Company Number: 07846516)**

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

<b>5</b>	<b>INVESTMENT INCOME</b>	<b>31.12.22</b>	<b>31.12.21</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Listed investments	49,319	43,972
	Cash investments	10,125	9,757
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		59,444	53,729
		=====	=====
<b>6</b>	<b>OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>31.12.22</b>	<b>31.12.21</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Other income	300	-
		=====	=====
	Other income comprises sundry receipts unrelated to the operations of the charity.		
<b>7</b>	<b>STAFF SALARIES</b>	<b>31.12.22</b>	<b>31.12.21</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Gross Salaries	215,012	198,344
	Employer's National Insurance Contributions	15,862	14,847
	Employer Pension Contributions	9,911	8,136
	Recruitment Costs	5,592	532
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		246,377	221,859
		=====	=====
	Employees with emoluments exceeding the Charity Commission reporting threshold of £60,000: Nil (2021: Nil)		
	The average number of full-time equivalent employees in the year was five (2021: five)		
<b>8</b>	<b>PREMISES COSTS</b>	<b>31.12.22</b>	<b>31.12.21</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Rent	7,800	7,800
	Light and Heat	2,109	1,924
	Repairs and Maintenance	1,641	2,974
	Cleaning	1,385	1,276
	Insurance	724	717
	Rates and Water	661	920
	Consumables	226	78
	Other	-	145
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		14,546	15,834
		=====	=====
<b>9</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATION COSTS</b>	<b>31.12.22</b>	<b>31.12.21</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	IT Costs	8,055	8,356
	Postage, Telephone and Stationery	7,910	7,027
	Travel and Subsistence	2,963	1,211
	Depreciation of Computer/Office equipment	2,888	2,584
	Printing and Photocopying	2,690	5,071
	Other Expenses	1,863	4,787
	Professional Indemnity Insurance	1,092	1,092
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		27,461	30,128
		=====	=====

**The Open Spaces Society**  
**(Registered Company Number: 07846516)**

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

10	OTHER COSTS	31.12.22	31.12.21		
		£	£		
	Legal Costs	42,806	81,736		
	Marketing	28,049	32,974		
	Commons Registration Project	22,295	32,285		
	Subscriptions	8,903	9,264		
	Donations and Grants	4,750	3,700		
	Legacy mailing to the Law Society	860	1,290		
	Conferences and Training	228	-		
	Books and Maps	57	59		
		<hr/>	<hr/>		
		107,948	161,308		
		=====	=====		
11	GOVERNANCE COSTS	31.12.22	31.12.21		
		£	£		
	Independent examiner's fees (including taxation services)	6,143	6,188		
	AGM and trustees	2,115	1,032		
	Other professional fees	4,212	614		
		<hr/>	<hr/>		
		12,470	7,834		
		=====	=====		
12	(LOSSES)/GAINS ON INVESTMENT ASSETS	£	£		
	Unrealised (loss)/gain on revaluation of investments	(51,506)	109,115		
		=====	=====		
13	ANALYSIS OF FUNDS	Opening balance	Net income/ (expenditure)	Transfers	Closing balance
		£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted funds				
	Strategic reserve fund	1,035,482	-	(125,169)	910,313
	Applications reserve fund	435,000	-	-	435,000
	General fund	(910)	545,008	155,907	700,005
	Restricted funds				
	Candy fund	296,349	(58,090)	(26,899)	211,360
	Creech Jones fund	45,847	(108)	(2,445)	43,294
	Endowment funds				
	Buxton fund	26,145	(62)	(1,394)	24,689
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		1,837,913	486,748	-	2,324,661
		=====	=====	=====	=====

**The Open Spaces Society**  
**(Registered Company Number: 07846516)**

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

<b>14</b>	<b>TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>Office equipment £</b>	<b>Computer equipment £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
	<b>Cost</b>			
	At 1 January 2022	10,871	44,594	55,465
	Additions	-	1,910	1,910
	Disposals	-	-	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	At 31 December 2022	10,871	46,504	57,375
		=====	=====	=====
	<b>Depreciation</b>			
	At 1 January 2022	10,272	39,679	49,951
	Charge for the year	296	2,593	2,889
	Disposals	-	-	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	At 31 December 2022	10,568	42,272	52,840
		=====	=====	=====
	<b>Net book value at 31 December 2022</b>	303	4,232	4,535
		=====	=====	=====
	<b>Net book value at 31 December 2021</b>	599	4,915	5,514
		=====	=====	=====
<b>15</b>	<b>INVESTMENTS</b>		<b>2022 £</b>	<b>2021 £</b>
	<b>AT MARKET VALUE 1 JANUARY</b>		924,711	815,596
	Net investment (losses)/gains		(51,506)	109,115
			<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>AT MARKET VALUE 31 DECEMBER</b>		873,205	924,711
			=====	=====

There were no investment assets outside the UK. The investments are held primarily to provide an investment return for the Charity.

The historical cost of the above investments at 31 December 2022 is £720,349 (2021: £720,349)

<b>16</b>	<b>DEBTORS</b>	<b>2022 £</b>	<b>2021 £</b>
	Accrued income	2,604	102,356
	Professional indemnity insurance prepaid	991	991
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		3,595	103,347
		=====	=====

**The Open Spaces Society**  
**(Registered Company Number: 07846516)**

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**  
**For the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

<b>17</b>	<b>FIXED AND SHORT TERM DEPOSITS</b>	<b>31.12.22</b>	<b>31.12.21</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	CAF Gold Account	727,716	10,853
	Flagstone	262,097	-
	The Charity Bank	90,895	88,618
	Cambridge & Counties Bank	90,801	90,036
	Nationwide Instant Saver	86,658	86,397
	Furness Building Society	85,000	85,000
	Aldermore Bank Bond	79,534	79,132
	Nationwide Instant Saver	50,060	100,027
	Shawbrook Bank	-	85,000
	United Trust Bank	-	90,015
	Allica Bank	-	85,014
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		1,472,761	800,092
		=====	=====
<b>18</b>	<b>CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>	<b>31.12.22</b>	<b>31.12.21</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Trade creditors	37,750	8,459
	Accruals	4,788	36,684
	Other taxes and social security costs	479	479
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		43,017	45,622
		=====	=====

**19 PARLIAMENT PIECE**

The society owns this land in Kenilworth which is leased, under a 99-year lease, to Warwick District Council and managed locally. No value has been placed on this land in these financial statements.

**20 REMUNERATION OF TRUSTEES**

None of the trustees received any remuneration (2021 - nil).

An aggregate of £419 (2021: £0) was reimbursed to three (2021 - two) trustees for expenses incurred in relation to the society's activities, including attending meetings and/or acting as local correspondents.