

FOUNDATION FOR COMMON LAND

England & Wales · Charity number 1150439

Details

Other names	FOUNDATION FOR COMMON LAND LTD
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	08113120
Registered	2013-01-11
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Low Nook University of Cumbria Rydal Road Ambleside Cumbria LA22 9BB
Phone	015394 30351
Email	info@foundationforcommonland.org.uk
Website	www.foundationforcommonland.org.uk

Activities

Objects: • TO CONSERVE THE AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS AND THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPES ASSOCIATED WITH COMMONING AND THE MANAGEMENT OF COMMON LAND FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC• TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION OF THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT OF COMMON LAND BY SUPPORTING THE RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE PASTORAL USE OF COMMONS• TO CONDUCT AND COMMISSION RESEARCH INTO COMMONING AND COMMON LAND ISSUES AND PUBLISH THE RESULTS OF SUCH RESEARCH TO THE PUBLIC AT LARGE• TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC PARTICULARLY POLICY MAKERS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES IN SUBJECTS PERTAINING TO COMMONING AND COMMON LAND

Activities: Our charitable objectives are:To conserve for the benefit of the public commoning and the management of common land.To promote the conservation of the physical and natural environment. To conduct research into common land issues. To educate the public in subjects pertaining to commoning and common land

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** ENGLAND AND WALES
- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-06-30	£313,513	£225,311	-	-
2024-06-30	£336,039	£330,285	-	-
2023-06-30	£340,928	£293,002	-	-
2022-06-30	£226,687	£201,771	-	-
2021-06-30	£203,284	£195,174	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
MR C SHORT	Chair	2012-08-01
Harriet Fraser		2020-08-01
James Bailey		2016-11-28
Jennifer Phelps		2017-03-13
Layland Clifford Branfield		2019-09-25
Paul Arkle		2024-06-18
Robin Milton		2020-01-13

Accounts

Foundation For Common Land

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

30 June 2025

Company registration number: 08113120

Charity registration number: 1150439



Foundation For Common Land
Contents

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Trustees' report	2
Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements	9
Independent examiner's report	10
Statement of financial activities	11
Balance sheet	12
Notes to the financial statements	13

Foundation For Common Land
Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name	Foundation For Common Land
Charity registration number	1150439
Company registration number	08113120
Principal office	Low Nook University of Cumbria Rydal Road AMBLESIDE LA22 9BB
Registered office	Low Nook University of Cumbria Rydal Road AMBLESIDE LA22 9BB
Trustees	C Short J Bailey L M Stride (Appointed 25 February 2025) R J Milton J C Phelps L C Branfield H Fraser P Arkle
Secretary	L M Stride (Resigned 25 February 2025)
Accountant	Dodd & Co Limited FIFTEEN Rosehill Montgomery Way Rosehill Estate CARLISLE CA1 2RW

Foundation For Common Land

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 June 2025.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The aim of our work is to safeguard and enhance the heritage of common land and keep commons alive by supporting active grazing. Our aims fully reflect the purposes the charity was set up for.

The Foundation for Common Land's (FCL) charitable objectives as set out in its Articles of Association are:

- To conserve the agricultural systems and the cultural landscapes associated with commoning and the management of common land for the benefit of the public.
- To promote the conservation of the physical and natural environment of common land by supporting the responsible and sustainable pastoral use of commons.
- To conduct and commission research into commoning and common land issues and publish the results of such research to the public at large.
- To educate the public, particularly policy makers and other interested parties in subjects pertaining to commoning.

The common land of England and Wales and the common grazings of Scotland are nationally important for access, tourism, wildlife, carbon storage, water supply, archaeological conservation, food production and livestock breeding. Commons deliver more public benefits than any other type of farmland, but this heritage continues to be at risk from a continued decline in its active management and the challenges in accessing financial support for delivering public goods.

Strategies and activities for achieving objectives

We deliver our core work in the following ways:

- Influence and advocacy through bilateral engagement and membership of technical advisory groups and alliances
- Convene and chair strategic partnerships
- Contract out work to the best consultants in our field
- Design and deliver training to deepen the knowledge of policy makers and practitioners who can influence future commoning
- Develop partnership projects to secure the cultural heritage of commoning
- Provide up-to-date and in-depth information on common land and commoning on our website
- Choose trustees with strong links to commoners and commoning
- On the ground delivery to develop, demonstrate and disseminate best practice

Due to devolution of agricultural and environmental policies to the devolved nations, and FCL being a small charity, our current activities are restricted to England though we seek to retain active links with networks in Scotland and Wales and our constitution allows us to work across Great Britain.

Foundation For Common Land

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

How our activities deliver public benefit

In the 1600s over 50% of England was common land. It is now less than 3% and commons remain a resource under threat. Common land delivers more public benefits than any other type of farmland and is more heavily designated than enclosed land; for instance Common Land is seven times more likely to be designated for nature as a SSSI than enclosed land. Commons are closely linked with a history of traditional and sympathetic pastoral systems developed over many centuries, adapted to local circumstances and informed by the experience of local farming communities. However, as a result of inappropriate government policies and schemes from the mid 1970s onwards biodiversity declined and alongside this the cultural heritage of commoning remains at risk. Farming communities and conservation organisations alike are concerned about the loss of skills and heritage. The impacts of climate change are also becoming apparent though the potential for commons to mitigate the impacts of climate change and be a refuge for some species is high.

It is now over nine years since the decision to leave the EU and therefore the Common Agricultural Policy. Sadly, the transition from BPS to ELM has moved backwards in the last year leading to significant risks that the environmental benefits from commons, both natural and cultural, are at risk as are the commoning communities that manage this land. While we fully support the policy of public money for public goods we are increasingly concerned that implementation by the Government falls far short of what is required. Responsible commoning is not financially viable in most areas of the UK without government support as there is no reward for public goods from the market. Private markets for public goods remain poorly developed and hard to access overall and particularly when land is held by multiple parties.

If these traditional systems and techniques, local infrastructure and expertise is lost, they will be difficult and expensive to re-establish. Loss of pastoral grazing would lead to the loss of many significant habitats and species and damage archaeological sites as well as affecting access and recreation and an erosion of cultural heritage. We also support the appropriate planting of trees and natural regeneration of scrub on common land especially through maintaining, enhancing and creating new wood pasture which has been an ancient land use on common land with the New Forest being a shining example. There are safeguards though the Commons Act 2006 to ensure this is planned with full consultation as works on common require the Defra Secretary of State's consent.

Through our work we take action to address these concerns to enable our cultural and natural heritage on commons to thrive as well as the unique collaborative system of management. We work with commoners, owners of common land, environmental NGOs, farming bodies and government agencies to be the national voice for common land and commoning. Our ambition is to empower individuals and organisations through their work to improve outcomes for the public benefits from common land.

Staff and Trustees' achievements and performance: July 2024 - June 2025

2024/2025 was a year of intense activity making the most of the Our Upland Commons last 12 months of funding.

OUC Staffing (seconded from the National Trust)

Sam Caraway the OUC Project Manager left in September 2024 and his position was filled by a combination of Keira Booth on project management and Jo Swiers for OUC staff management.

Keria Booth, Claire Braeburn and Kinga Swobodzinska left at the end of Our Upland Commons (30th June 2025) while Tamsin Thomas transferred her employment from the National Trust to FCL to work on continuing Dartmoor activity.

Core Staff and Contractors

Julia Aglionby returned as Executive Director in November 2024 and from an employed basis from January 2025 one day a week. Julia is contracted to undertake other work as funds allowed. Robin Milton continues to represent FCL at policy meeting with Defra and other officials.

Jo Swiers led on project development, particularly focusing on resilience and the legacy of Our Upland Commons alongside

Lyndsey Stride returned to being a Trustee and Susie Hodgson continues to undertake our Administrator Role, supporting both the core charity work and our grant contracts. Trustees remain actively engaged and we now have an established a staff and trustee buddy system.

During this year Rhiannon Jones worked to support training and knowledge exchange two days a week and Owen Morgan after Tom Lawrence's departure was promoted to run the SFI Moorland Survey App and is supported by Andrew Burrell, a freelance contractor.

The FCL's main activities and achievements for the year July 2024-June 2025 have been:

Foundation For Common Land

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Our Upland Commons – Our Common Cause

We completed this major £3.1 million National Lottery Heritage Fund project on 30th June 2025 maintaining effective working relationships with our 25 project partners. The accountable body is the National Trust so while the activities are managed by FCL the funds do not pass through our bank account.

All reports from this project are available on our website in the Library.

Highlights during 2024 / 2025 include:

- Collaboratively delivered Natural Flood Management Interventions for Brant Common, Yorkshire Dales with leaky dams, footpath diversions and wetland creation and restoration.
- In Dartmoor a detailed management plan was finalised for Holne Common
- Our Molinia Trials were completed in Dartmoor and a report published
- Two major conferences held; one in Dartmoor and one in Cumbria each with over 120 people present.
- A Policy meeting on 30 key people from government, farming and environmental NGOs was held in London kindly hosted by the National Trust.
- Interpretation panels were co-designed and installed on the Longmynd, Shropshire and were nominated for an award
- Over 20 commoners and advisors were awarded bursary places for Uplands Environmental Land Management Level 4 accredited courses run by the University of Cumbria
- Farmer Led Habitat Assessment undertaken by commoners on over 3,000 ha of moorland
- We supported sustainable commoning by providing equipment including remote controlled bracken cutter, restoring historic sheep pens, and researching flock/herd health providing actionable insights for commoners to improving flock and herd health.
- We produced and widely distributed our final Evaluation Report including our Theory of Change for improving outcomes from Common Land.

Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) - Moorland Survey Digital Service:

- We provide a phone based survey tool for moorland owners, managers and commoners to complete the actions of SFI MOR1 – an annual survey of their land above the moorland line – as part of a three year SFI agreement with Defra.
 - This is a paid for service that enables agreement holders to easily collect, analyse and store their data.
- In 2024/25 we continued to deliver the SFI Digital App service and now have one part time employee and a part time contractor – a total of 1 FTE. The service enables managers of moorland both common and non-common
- moorland to survey their land on a phone app and assess the environmental benefits on the common and opportunities to enhance these public benefits. The information is then provided to the managers in a series of spatial maps and in a spreadsheet.
 - Over 168,000 ha of moorland used the SFI Moorland service in our financial year 2024/2025
 - We have further trialled the Farmer Led Habitat Assessment Tool as a top up to the SFI following trialling during Our Upland Commons.
 - We worked with the Land App to agree a partnership to migrate the underlying surveying service from Mergin to LandApp. This provides us with the ability to scale the service.
- In March 2025 Defra with no notice closed the SFI scheme meant no one else could apply for MOR1. Due to the lag between being awarded an agreement and signing up to a service the demand for our service continued to grow but there remain uncertainties as to with what actions Defra will reopen SFI.

North York Moors: Resilient Commoning in the North York Moors

From October 2024 to March 2025 we delivered a short project in the North York Moors (NYM) funded by a Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) grant made by the NYM National Park Authority using Defra funds. Match funding was provided by FCL and funds from the Federation of Yorkshire Commoners.

Foundation For Common Land

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Arising from an approach for assistance by North York Moor Commoners the project focused on scoping opportunities to deliver positive outcomes for the landscape and people: developing a model for delivery with recommendations for Commons support in the future, including funding, governance and practical land management.

The project was delivered by Claire Braeburn with management by Jo Swiers and supported by Susie Hodgson working closely with a local contractor and commoners across three commons in the north of the park. The project had high levels of engagement and concluded there was demand to formally establish a graziers group, a full report is on our website. At the end of the 2024/25 year a further grant from the FiPL was being negotiated for delivery in 2025/26.

Outreach and Engagement

- The level of outreach over the last four years was made possible by the funding of comms support by the Our Upland Commons. In 2024/25 as part of the wind up of the project we have been working to ensure these communication skills are integrated into FCL's core staff activities.
- Through OUC we have engaged over 10,000 people in events educating, celebrating, and experiencing the natural and cultural heritage of common land, many targeted at hard-to-reach audiences.
- We produced six Spotlight Sheets summarising in infographic form the outcomes of the projects across nature, climate, heritage, collaboration, land management and engagement.
- Our mailing database of interested individuals at the year-end stands at 1335 and MailChimp provides us with information about level of engagement whilst maintaining compliance with GDPR. We have an unusually high level of engagement with our emails.
- A Quarterly newsletter was produced and distributed to all our contacts
- Provided ongoing guidance to commoners' groups, commoners, owners of common land and stakeholders via our website, attendance at their meetings and networks
- Raising the profile of commons through appearances on BBC Farming Today, the Financial Times, the Farmer's Guardian and in the Farmer supplement of the Cumberland News
- Hosted three well attended webinars during the 2024/25 year. Over 582 people registered for the webinars and there have over 473 views of these webinars on YouTube after the live events.
- We hosted three Hill Farm Training courses for Conservation Professionals training over 35 individuals. These are delivered in partnership with the Farmer Network and were commissioned by the National Trust, Natural England and the RPA.
- We were awarded a contract to develop a CPD course for the University of Cumbria on Collaborative Practices for Land Management as part of their Uplands ELM series.

Advocacy

Regular attendance at Defra stakeholder and policy meetings with senior stakeholder staff to attempt to find ways forward for common land governance issues with agri-environment schemes

We reviewed and enhanced our social media presence moving from Twitter (X) to LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook to reach a wider more public audience

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Review of the financial position

Our financial position has remained strong over 2024/2025. Our charitable activities have increased, and we have been successful in drawing down grant funding and contracts to undertake our work.

Our total income was £313,513 (2024: £336,039) and our expenditure was £225,311 (2024: £330,285). We ended the year with overall free reserves of £215,155.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Foundation For Common Land

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Principal financial management policies adopted

The directors scrutinise management accounts and budgets vs actual expenditure at monthly directors' meetings. This is for both the organisation as a whole and on a project/funding stream basis. The use of Xero bookkeeping system allows accounts to be kept up to date and easy to analyse. Dodds in Carlisle remain as our accountants who have offered excellent support to the staff over the past year.

Reserves policy

FCL has completed its thirteenth year of operation. During the year to which these accounts relate FCL had low liabilities with four permanent part time employees. We have low expenditure on overheads. The primary reason FCL needs reserves is to fund short-term deficits in cash flow and for investment in new projects where grant funding may not be forthcoming or for match funding for larger projects. The Trustees consider that present level of reserves available to the charity are enough and this is reviewed on a regular basis.

The reserves held are considered sufficient due to the following financial situation:

- We have sufficient reserves to meet our commitment for continuing operations.
- The charity owns no tangible assets that require repairs or investment. We have a license for a fully serviced shared office space at the University of Cumbria in Ambleside.
- The charity employed four part time members of staff during the financial year. The SFI Digital App that has covered all costs and generated a small surplus to enable us to develop future digital tools. Half of our Administrator's salary in 2024-25 is funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Core Funding which also covers all the Training and Knowledge Exchange post salary until September 2027.
- The Executive Director from 1st January 2025 was employed one day a week for core governance and oversight. Work on specific projects is undertaken as a contractor.
- Additional Senior Operations Support was contracted in on a temporary basis – Jo Swiers.
- The charity's Director Trustees are chosen as individuals who are actively involved through their day jobs in activities that are closely linked to FCL's charitable objective so that in the worst case that project income ceased our Directors would continue to deliver the charitable objects if at a lower level of activity.

The Charity has enough funds in unrestricted funds to cover essential Trustee expenses of insurance, our part-time administrator, travel to the Annual Meeting and Accountants costs for at least 6 months as recommended by the Charity Commission. In 2024/25 we have maintained our unrestricted funds through the delivery of contracts to have reserves for all essential costs for at least 12 months and to be able to make offer match funding for future grant applications as we expect to enter a period of growth.

Principal funding sources

We receive a grant of £49,000 per annum for four years from Esmée Fairbairn Foundation; this will last until September 2027. This is the 14th year Esmée Fairbairn has supported FCL.

In addition to Esmée Fairbairn Foundation core funding in 2024/25 has come from Defra for undertaking work related to the Dartmoor Land Use Management Group and from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Esmée Fairbairn for Our Common Cause: Our Upland Commons and the Hadfield Trust

Our investment in the Moorland SFI Phone app means we are now operating a paid for service to over 168,000 ha of moorland. This service is available to all charging a nominal fee per Ha, providing an important tool and with the aim of covering all costs and it generates some financial surplus which contributes towards our charitable objectives.

For this year the main source of funding of our charitable activity is via the £3.1 million 'Our Common Cause: Our Upland Commons' National Lottery Heritage Fund project. The Foundation for Common Land holds the grant with the National Trust who are the accountable body for the finances for that project. This means staff are employed by the NT and seconded to FCL and that contracts are with the NT. Our Executive Director chairs the project board and leads the partnership.

Funders

A list of all our funders and their contributions appear in the income section of these accounts. As ever, we would like to express our huge gratitude to all who have supported our work this year and we would like to take the opportunity to thank the following for their kind support: Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Hadfield Trust and the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) as well as the many trusts and partners who contributed in cash and kind to Our Upland Commons.

Foundation For Common Land
Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Foundation for Common Land is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association. These were amended by special resolution registered at Companies House on 28 November 2012.

Recruitment and Appointment of the Director-Trustees

The management of FCL is the responsibility of the charity trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association. Under FCL's Articles of Association the trustees are known as the directors. The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the directors are elected to serve for a period up to the following year's AGM where all directors stand down and stand for re-election.

Lyndsey Stride was appointed a Trustee in February 2025.

Methods adopted for the training and induction of director/ trustees

The Charity Commission's guide "the Essential Trustee" is available to all Directors via a shared filing system. This system also contains all the essential governance documents including: Memorandum and Articles of Association; minutes of Director Meetings, away days, business plan, financial records, register of Directors' interests, project files and policies.

FCL recognises the need for directors to be familiar with the work of the organisation. Staff are invited to attend the Trustees' Meetings to encourage sharing of information and experience and all the team gather together for 2 days each autumn. Staff have also been buddied with Trustees for mentoring and support. Directors are encouraged to be members of relevant working parties and advisory panels and attend conferences (often giving presentations on our work) to keep their knowledge current.

Organisational structure

The affairs of FCL are managed by the directors of the limited company who are also trustees of the Charity. According to the Articles of Association there must be a minimum of three Directors and there is no maximum number of directors. The directors are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of FCL. At the year end we had eight director trustees from a variety of backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity. The Executive Director, Company Secretary, and other staff and consultants also attend director meetings as appropriate but have no voting rights.

The Directors have four meetings a year of the main Board with additional topic meetings as required. A Finance sub-committee was instituted this year. While most meetings are on line the Directors meet face to face for two days each year as part of the combined staff and Directors gathering. The minutes are recorded and reviewed at each subsequent meeting.

A scheme of delegation is in place and day-to-day responsibility for the work of FCL rests with the Executive Director, the Operations Lead and the Administrator. They are responsible for ensuring that FCL delivers agreed projects and contracts and all work is delivered in line with good practice models and relevant quality standards and key performance indicators are met.

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the risks related to the operations and finances of the charity and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks.

The directors have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. A risk register has been developed and is regularly reviewed.

The Focus of our forthcoming work in 2025-2026

Build on the just completed Lottery funded 'Our Upland Commons' project through sharing the outputs from the project with partners, commoners, landowners.

Develop our internal capacity to deliver future programmes ourselves rather than relying on others as an accountable body. We have been awarded a new two year resilience grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to review and enhance our governance and capacity and activities will include.

Foundation For Common Land
Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

- Strengthen staffing and governance structures to support the growing body of work which FCL is now delivering and would like to develop
- Recruit a Director of Operations using funds from our new National Lottery Heritage Fund grant.
- Commence delivery of our programme of activity under the NLHF Resilience Project especially focusing on developing networks for those managing commons and advising on management
- Transition users from Mergin to the LandApp mobile app building on our new partnership with the Land App
- Develop the Farmer Led Habitat Assessment moorland app beyond the pilot phase to Beta testing at scale
- Use funds generated to support the ongoing work of FCL.
- With 24 hours of tutor contact time this is aimed at farmers, landowners and professionals working on common land and other collaborative landscape scale projects.

To continue our paid for phone app service for surveying moorland under the SFI Moorland MOR1 action.

To deliver a new part time short CPD course on Collaborative Practices for Land Management as commissioned by the University of Cumbria.

To continue to support the development of a Graziers Group in the North York Moors.

To continue to work with and hold the Rural Payments Agency, Natural England and Defra to account over their delivery of schemes on common land in England with particular emphasis on expiring Higher Level Stewardship schemes and the new ELM schemes

To continue our core work of advocacy, outreach and communications with the aim to reach wider audiences including developing outreach via social media and holding free of charge webinars.

Post Year End Events and Risks

In July 2025 we signed a grant contract with the North York Moors National Park Authority to extend our work with the North York Moor Graziers until March 2026. We employed a new member of staff, Mark Holmes to deliver this work at 0.5 FTE.

In August 2025 we signed a grant contract with the Dartmoor National Park Authority to support the work of the Dartmoor Land Use Management Group from April 2025 until March 2027. Tamsin Thomas is undertaking this work and transferred to FCL as an employee from July 2025 as 0.8 FTE when her contract with the National Trust ended.

In September 2025 we commenced our NLHF 'Leading Change for Common Land' resilience grant project; this runs until January 2028. Using funding from this project we appointed a new Director of Operations, Laura Gray, to start from January 2026 at 0.8 FTE.

There are no material risks to the organisation to report.

Mr C J Short

Chairman, Foundation for Common Land

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Board on 9 February 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

..... 

C Short
Trustee

Foundation For Common Land

Trustees' Responsibilities in relation to the Financial Statements

The trustees (who are also directors of Foundation For Common Land for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and the Financial Reporting Standard 102 - 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

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 of the incoming resources and application of resources, including 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 judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the 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 proper 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.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Foundation For Common Land

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 30 June 2025, which are set out on pages 11 to 21.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charitieshave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

.....
Joanne Thomlinson FCA
Dodd & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants

9 February 2026

FIFTEEN Rosehill
Montgomery Way
Rosehill Estate
CARLISLE
CA1 2RW

Foundation For Common Land

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account) for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	-	49,250	49,250	165,250
Charitable Activities	3	264,263	-	264,263	170,789
Total income and endowments		<u>264,263</u>	<u>49,250</u>	<u>313,513</u>	<u>336,039</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities		176,061	49,250	225,311	330,285
Total expenditure		<u>176,061</u>	<u>49,250</u>	<u>225,311</u>	<u>330,285</u>
Net income before transfers		88,202	-	88,202	5,754
Transfers					
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movements in funds		88,202	-	88,202	5,754
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		128,053	-	128,053	122,299
Total funds carried forward		<u>216,255</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>216,255</u>	<u>128,053</u>

All of the Charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above periods.

The notes on pages 13 to 21 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Foundation For Common Land
Company registration number: 08113120
Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2025

		2025		2024	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		1,100		720
Current assets					
Debtors	10	26,414		9,384	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>215,428</u>		<u>131,863</u>	
		241,842		141,247	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(26,687)</u>		<u>(13,914)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>215,155</u>		<u>127,333</u>
Net assets			<u>216,255</u>		<u>128,053</u>
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted funds			-		-
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted income funds			<u>216,255</u>		<u>128,053</u>
Total charity funds			<u>216,255</u>		<u>128,053</u>

For the financial year ended 30 June 2025, the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

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

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

Approved by the Board on 9 February 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
C Short
Trustee

Foundation For Common Land

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

1 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

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 (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

The charitable company 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 notes.

Going concern

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

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.

Further details of each fund are disclosed in note 15.

Income and endowments

Donations are recognised when the Charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the Charity before the Charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the Charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Legacy gifts are recognised on a case by case basis following the grant of probate when the administrator/executor for the estate has communicated in writing both the amount and settlement date. In the event that the gift is in the form of an asset other than cash or a financial asset traded on a recognised stock exchange, recognition is subject to the value of the gift being reliably measured with a degree of reasonable accuracy and the title to the asset having been transferred to the Charity.

Income from Government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Foundation For Common Land

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

..... continued

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

Taxation

The Charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £200 or more are initially recorded at cost.

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:

Fixtures, fittings and office equipment 3 years straight line basis

Trade Debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business. Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the Charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Liabilities

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the Charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Foundation For Common Land

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

..... continued

Operating leases

Leases in which substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are retained by the lessor are classified as operating leases. Rentals payable under operating leases are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged in the statement of financial activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the Charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the Charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the Charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the Charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Grants				
Esmee Fairbairn	-	49,250	49,250	115,250
Garfield Weston	-	-	-	50,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>49,250</u>	<u>49,250</u>	<u>165,250</u>

Of the donations and legacies income in 2024, all income related to restricted funds.

Foundation For Common Land
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

..... continued

3 Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Provision of project management for Our Uplands Common	92,266	-	92,266	49,654
Defra Lowlands T&T	-	-	-	42,360
SFI Road Test	-	-	-	28,429
SFI Commercial	82,313	-	82,313	37,413
Hill Farm Training	24,162	-	24,162	11,133
Exeter Funding	1,800	-	1,800	1,800
Cumbria Rivers	5,789	-	5,789	-
North York Moors FIPL	57,933	-	57,933	-
	<u>264,263</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>264,263</u>	<u>170,789</u>

Of the other trading activities income in 2024, £145,933 related to unrestricted funds and £24,856 related to restricted funds.

Foundation For Common Land

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

..... continued

4 Expenditure

	Charitable activity	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Direct costs			
Provision of Charitable Activities	10,317	10,317	12,046
Our Uplands Commons	60,035	60,035	154,078
Hill Farm Training	8,081	8,081	10,842
Lowlands T&T	-	-	17,989
SFI Road Test	-	-	64,271
North York Moors FIPL	54,940	54,940	-
West Cumbria Rivers Trust	2,893	2,893	-
SFI Commercial	15,383	15,383	10,921
Wages and salaries	52,683	52,683	40,995
Staff pensions	992	992	825
	<u>205,324</u>	<u>205,324</u>	<u>311,967</u>
Support costs			
Rent	1,178	1,178	1,011
Insurance	386	386	522
Computer software and maintenance costs	1,108	1,108	-
Printing, postage and stationery	42	42	-
Sundry expenses	167	167	11,322
Cost of trustee meetings	2,002	2,002	-
Travel and subsistence	550	550	-
Accountancy fees	1,523	1,523	1,053
Independent examiner's fee	500	500	500
Consultancy fees	12,170	12,170	3,850
Bank charges	33	33	47
Depreciation of office equipment	328	328	13
	<u>19,987</u>	<u>19,987</u>	<u>18,318</u>
	<u>225,311</u>	<u>225,311</u>	<u>330,285</u>

Of the expenditure in 2024, £114,103 related to unrestricted funds and £216,182 related to restricted funds.

5 Governance costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accountancy fees	1,523	1,053
Independent examiner's fee	500	500
Cost of trustee meetings	2,002	-
	<u>4,025</u>	<u>1,553</u>

Foundation For Common Land
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

..... continued

6 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

Expenses totalling £653 (2024 - £497) in relation to travel were claimed by 3 trustees.
Trustee R Milton received £3,500 (2024 - £1,750) in relation to consultancy & advocacy work.

7 Net income

Net income is stated after charging:

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	328	13

8 Employees' remuneration

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management) employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Charitable activities	4	3

The aggregate payroll costs of these persons were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	52,683	40,995
Other pension costs	992	825
	<u>53,675</u>	<u>41,820</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year (2024 - No. 0).

Foundation For Common Land
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

..... continued

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures, fittings and office equipment £	Total £
Cost			
As at 1 July 2024	-	1,367	1,367
Additions	-	708	708
As at 30 June 2025	-	2,075	2,075
Depreciation			
As at 1 July 2024	-	647	647
Charge for the year	-	328	328
As at 30 June 2025	-	975	975
Net book value			
As at 30 June 2025	-	1,100	1,100
As at 30 June 2024	-	720	720

10 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	25,181	9,384
Prepayments and accrued income	1,233	-
	26,414	9,384

11 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	17,839	100
Taxation and social security	7,055	4,403
Other creditors	193	121
Accruals and deferred income	1,600	9,290
	26,687	13,914

12 Members' liability

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

Foundation For Common Land

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

..... continued

13 Pension scheme

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the period represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £992 (2024 - £825).

Contributions totalling £193 (2024 - £121) were payable to the scheme at the end of the period and are included in creditors.

14 Related parties

Controlling entity

The charity is controlled by the trustees who are all directors of the company.

15 Analysis of funds

	At 1 July 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 30 June 2025
	£	£	£	£
General Funds				
Unrestricted income fund	128,053	264,263	(176,061)	216,255
Restricted Funds				
Restricted income fund	-	49,250	(49,250)	-
	<u>128,053</u>	<u>313,513</u>	<u>(225,311)</u>	<u>216,255</u>

Restricted funds - these are funds received from Esmee Fairbairn for core funding

Prior period

	At 1 July 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 30 June 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds					
Unrestricted income fund	<u>95,496</u>	<u>145,933</u>	<u>(114,103)</u>	<u>727</u>	<u>128,053</u>
Restricted Funds					
Restricted income fund	1,947	165,250	(166,470)	(727)	-
DEFRA	<u>24,856</u>	<u>24,856</u>	<u>(49,712)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>26,803</u>	<u>190,106</u>	<u>(216,182)</u>	<u>(727)</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>122,299</u>	<u>336,039</u>	<u>(330,285)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>128,053</u>

Foundation For Common Land

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

..... continued

16 Net assets by fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£
Tangible assets	1,100	1,100	720
Current assets	241,842	241,842	141,247
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(26,687)	(26,687)	(13,914)
Net assets	<u>216,255</u>	<u>216,255</u>	<u>128,053</u>

Prior period

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Tangible assets	720	-	720	-
Current assets	141,247	-	141,247	138,476
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(13,914)	-	(13,914)	(16,177)
Net assets	<u>128,053</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>128,053</u>	<u>122,299</u>

Accounts

CHARITY COMMISSION

Foundation For Common Land

(A company limited by guarantee)

**Annual Report and Financial
Statements**

30 June 2024

Company registration number: 08113120

Charity registration number: 1150439



Foundation For Common Land
Contents

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Trustees' report	2
Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements	9
Independent examiner's report	10
Statement of financial activities	11
Balance sheet	12
Notes to the financial statements	13

Foundation For Common Land
Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name	Foundation For Common Land
Charity registration number	1150439
Company registration number	08113120
Principal office	Low Nook University of Cumbria Rydal Road AMBLESIDE LA22 9BB
Registered office	Low Nook University of Cumbria Rydal Road AMBLESIDE LA22 9BB
Trustees	C Short J Bailey R J Milton J C Phelps L C Branfield H Fraser P Arkle (Appointed 18 June 2024)
Secretary	L M Stride
Accountant	Dodd & Co Limited FIFTEEN Rosehill Montgomery Way Rosehill Estate CARLISLE CA1 2RW

Foundation For Common Land
Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 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.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The aim of our work is to safeguard and enhance the heritage of common land and keep commons alive by supporting active grazing. Our aims fully reflect the purposes the charity was set up for.

The Foundation for Common Land's (FCL) charitable objectives as set out in its Articles of Association are:

- To conserve the agricultural systems and the cultural landscapes associated with commoning and the management of common land for the benefit of the public.
- To promote the conservation of the physical and natural environment of common land by supporting the responsible and sustainable pastoral use of commons.
- To conduct and commission research into commoning and common land issues and publish the results of such research to the public at large.
- To educate the public, particularly policy makers and other interested parties in subjects pertaining to commoning.

The common land of England and Wales and the common grazings of Scotland are nationally important for access, tourism, wildlife, carbon storage, water supply, archaeological conservation, food production and livestock breeding. Commons deliver more public benefits than any other type of farmland but this heritage is at risk from a continued decline in its active management and the challenges in accessing financial support for delivering public goods.

Strategies and activities for achieving objectives

We deliver our core work in the following ways:

- Influence and advocacy through bilateral engagement and membership of technical advisory groups and alliances
- Convene and chair strategic partnerships
- Contract out work to the best consultants in our field
- Design and deliver training to deepen the knowledge of policy makers and practitioners who can influence future commoning
- Develop partnership projects to secure the cultural heritage of commoning
- Provide up-to-date and in-depth information on common land and commoning on our website
- Choose trustees with strong links to commoners and commoning
- On the ground delivery to develop, demonstrate and disseminate best practice

Due to devolution of agricultural and environmental policies to the devolved nations, and FCL being a small charity, our current activities are restricted to England though we seek to retain active links with networks in Scotland and Wales and our constitution allows us to work across Great Britain.

Foundation For Common Land
Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

The Focus of our work in 2024-2025

- 2024-2025 will be a year of making the most of the last year of the Lottery funded 'Our Upland Commons' ensuring we can capture and share the learning and embed the ability for communicating it within our core team and functions.
- Growth in the charity and its work over the past five years during Our Upland Commons.
- The charity will continue to strengthen staffing and governance structures to support the growing body of work which FCL is now delivering.
- Working with a fundraiser FCL will apply for a Heritage Lottery grant focused on resilience building within the organisation.
- To continue to offer a commercial service to moorland owners enabling the application of SFI Moorland standard and generating income to support the ongoing work of FCL.
- Develop the Farmer Led Habitat Assessment moorland app beyond the pilot phase to Beta testing at scale.
- To prepare training materials for a course on Collaborative Practices for Uplands Environmental Land Management as commissioned by the University of Cumbria.
- To continue to work with and hold the Rural Payments Agency, Natural England and Defra to account over their delivery of schemes on common land in England with particular emphasis on expiring Higher Level Stewardship schemes and the new ELM schemes.
- To continue our core work of advocacy, outreach and communications with the aim to reach wider audiences including refreshing and improving our website and holding free of charge webinars

How our activities deliver public benefit

In the 1600s over 50% of England was common land. It is now less than 3% so commons are a resource under threat. Common land delivers more public benefits than any other type of farmland and is more heavily designated than enclosed land; for instance Common Land is seven times more likely to be designated for nature as a SSSI than enclosed land. Commons are closely linked with a history of traditional and sympathetic pastoral systems developed over many centuries, adapted to local circumstances and informed by the experience of local farming communities. However, as a result of inappropriate government policies and schemes from the mid 1970s onwards biodiversity has declined and alongside this the cultural heritage of commoning is at risk. Farming communities and conservation organisations alike are concerned about the loss of skills and heritage. The impacts of climate change are also becoming apparent though the potential for commons to mitigate the impacts of climate change and be a refuge for some species is high.

It is now over eight years since the decision to leave the EU and therefore the Common Agricultural Policy. Sadly, the pace of change from BPS to ELM has been glacial and unpredictable leading to significant risks that the environmental benefits from commons are at risk as are the commoning communities that manage this land. Therefore, while we fully support the policy of public money for public goods we are increasingly concerned that implementation by the Government falls far short of what is required. Responsible commoning is not financially viable in most areas of the UK without government support as there is no reward for public goods from the market. Private markets for public goods are poorly developed.

If these traditional systems and techniques, local infrastructure and expertise is lost, they will be difficult and expensive to re-establish. Loss of pastoral grazing would lead to the loss of many significant habitats and species and damage archaeological sites as well as affecting access and recreation and an erosion of cultural heritage. We also support the appropriate planting of trees and natural regeneration of scrub on common land especially through maintaining, enhancing and creating new wood pasture which has been an ancient land use on common land with the New Forest being a shining example. There are safeguards though the Commons Act 2006 to ensure this is planned with full consultation as works on common require the Defra Secretary of State's consent.

Through our work we take action to address these concerns to enable our cultural and natural heritage on commons to thrive as well as the unique collaborative system of management. We work with commoners, owners of common land, environmental NGOs, farming bodies and government agencies to be the national voice for common land and commoning. Our ambition is to empower individuals and organisations through their work to improve outcomes for the public benefits from common land.

Foundation For Common Land

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Trustees' achievements and performance: July 2023-June 2024

2023/2024 was a year of consolidation. Julia Aglionby stepped back as Executive Director in September 2024 for 15 months, but continued to provide project management support for the Our Upland Commons Lottery project work as well as oversight of the SFI Digital App. Her roles were shared between Trustees and Jo Swiers. Robin Milton has taken the lead on policy, meeting regularly with Defra and other officials, supported by Chris Short and Jim Bailey.

Jo Swiers led on project development, particularly focusing on resilience and the legacy of Our Upland Commons alongside Sam Caraway the OUC Project Manager.

Lyndsey Stride has provided the Company Secretarial role and Susie Hodgson continues to undertake our Administrator Role, supporting both the core charity work and the Tests and Trials. Trustees remain actively engaged and we now have an established staff and trustee buddy system.

During this year we recruited Rhiannon Jones to support training and knowledge exchange two days a week and Owen Morgan to support Tom Lawrence run the SFI Moorland App Service.

The FCL's main activities and achievements for the year July 2023-June 2024 have been:

Projects

• **'Our Upland Commons'**, continuing this major £3.1 million Natural Lottery Heritage Fund project maintaining a good working relationship with our 25 project partners. The accountable body is the National Trust. Highlights during 2023/2024 include:

- Collaboratively planned and contracted Natural Flood Management Interventions for Brant Common, Yorkshire Dales with leaky dams, footpath diversions and wetland creation and restoration.
- In Dartmoor a detailed management plan was agreed for Harford and Ugborough Common.
- Molinia Trials underway and extended in Dartmoor
- Animal health and dung beetle research looks to reduce vet and med interventions to enhance soil fauna.
- Labour of Love Exhibition held at Hawes - over 7,500 visitors to see the Words and Pictures by Harriet and Rob Fraser
- Clee Liberty Common signed up to a Countryside Stewardship Scheme after years of negotiations and extensive surveys for birds and butterflies. New equipment now allowing active management for nature outcomes.
- Ongoing constructive discussions over interpretation panels in the Longmynd, Shropshire
- Over 40 commoners and advisors awarded bursary places for Uplands Environmental Land Management Level 4 accredited courses run by the University of Cumbria
- Grassington Lead Mine Trail completed in the Yorkshire dales
- Farmer Led Habitat Assessment undertaken by commoners on over 3,000 ha of moorland
- Undertook further surveys and research to better understand the species & habitats on upland commons and their management requirements including butterflies, birds and habitats on over 12,000 ha.
- We supported sustainable commoning by providing equipment including remote controlled bracken cutter, restoring historic sheep pens, and researching flock/herd health providing actionable insights for commoners to improving flock and herd health.

Foundation For Common Land
Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

• **Defra Test and Trial SFI Commercial Service:**

- After completing the SFI Moorland Test & Trial we rolled out the SFI Digital App to a universal national service employing two part time employees. The service enables managers of moorland both common and non-common moorland to survey their land on a phone app and assess the environmental benefits on the common and opportunities to enhance these public benefits. The information is then provided to the managers in a series of spatial maps and in a spreadsheet.
- Over 62,000 ha of moorland used the SFI Moorland service in our financial year 2023/2024
- We undertook three field training sessions in how to use the App and how to fulfil SFI common land eligibility requirements.
- We are developing the Farmer Led Habitat Assessment Tool as a top up to the SFI following trialling during Our Upland Commons.

Outreach and Engagement

- The level of outreach is made possible by the funding of comms support by the Our Upland Commons. We are now seeking to ensure these communication skills are being integrated into OUC's core staff activities.
- Through OUC we have engaged over 10,000 people in events educating, celebrating, and experiencing the natural and cultural heritage of common land, many targeted at hard-to-reach audiences.
- Our database of interested individuals stands at 1331 and MailChimp provides us with information about level of engagement whilst maintaining compliance with GDPR.
- A Quarterly newsletter has been written and distributed to all our contacts
- Provided ongoing guidance to commoners' groups, commoners, owners of common land and stakeholders via our website, attendance at their meetings and networks
- Raising the profile of commons through appearances on BBC Farming Today, the Financial Times, the Farmer's Guardian and in the Farmer supplement of the Cumberland News
- Hosted five well attended webinars during the 2023/24 year. Over 1100 people registered for the webinars and there have over 1000 views of these webinars on YouTube after the live events.
- 'Our Common Stories' videos are very popular with over 11,500 views in 2023/24
- We hosted five Hill Farm Training courses for Conservation Professionals training over 70 individuals. These are delivered in partnership with the Farmer Network and were commissioned by the National Trust, Natural England and the RPA.

Advocacy

Regular attendance at Defra stakeholder and policy meetings with senior stakeholder staff to attempt to find ways forward for common land governance issues with agri-environment schemes.

- Increasing our social media presence through regular tweets.
- New Instagram and Facebook accounts set up to reach a wider more public audience
- Submitted Written and Oral Evidence to the Dartmoor Review of Protected Sites

A list of all our funders and their contributions appears in the income section of these accounts. As ever, we would like to express our huge gratitude to all who have supported our work this year and we would like to take the opportunity to thank the following for their kind support: Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Garfield Weston Trust and National Lottery Heritage Fund as well as the many trusts and partners who are contributing in cash and kind to Our Upland Commons.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Review of the financial position

Our financial position has remained strong over 2023/2024. Our charitable activities have increased, and we have been successful in drawing down grant funding and contracts to undertake our work.

Our total Income was £336,039 (2023: £340,928) and our Expenditure was £330,285 (2023: £293,002). This included funds received and spent as agent as part of the SFI Moorland Digital Test and Trial project. We ended the year with free reserves of £128,053.

Foundation For Common Land

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Principal financial management policies adopted

The directors scrutinise management accounts and budgets vs actual expenditure at monthly directors' meetings. This is for both the organisation as a whole and on a project/funding stream basis. The adoption of Xero bookkeeping system allows accounts to be kept up to date and easy to analyse. Dodds in Carlisle remain as our accountants who have offered excellent support to Susie and Julia over the past year.

Reserves policy

FCL has completed its twelfth year of operation. During the year to which these accounts relate FCL had low liabilities with four permanent part time employees. We have low expenditure on overheads. The primary reason FCL needs reserves is to fund short-term deficits in cash flow and for investment in new projects where grant funding may not be forthcoming or for match funding for larger projects. The Trustees consider that the present level of reserves available to the charity are enough and this is reviewed on a regular basis.

The reserves held are considered sufficient due to the following financial situation:

- We have sufficient reserves to meet our commitment for continuing operations.
- The charity owns no tangible assets that require repairs or investment. We have a license for a fully serviced shared office space at the University of Cumbria in Ambleside.

The charity employed four part time members of staff during the financial year. Two are employed on the SFI Digital App that has covered all costs and generated a small surplus to enable us to develop future digital tools. Half of our Administrator's salary in 2023-24 is funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Core Funding and that funding also covers all the Training and Knowledge Exchange post salary for four years.
- The Executive Director was self-employed though stepped back in September 2023.
- Additional Senior Operations Support was contracted in on a temporary basis - Jo Swiers.

The charity's Directors are chosen as individuals who are actively involved through their day jobs in activities that are closely linked to FCL's charitable objective so that in the worst case that project income ceased our Directors would continue to deliver the charitable objects if at a lower level of activity.

The Charity has enough funds in unrestricted funds to cover essential Trustee expenses of insurance, our part-time administrator, travel to the Annual Meeting and Accountants costs for at least 6 months as recommended by the Charity Commission. In 2023/24 we have maintained our unrestricted funds through the delivery of contracts to have reserves for all essential costs for at least 12 months and to be able to make offer match funding for future grant applications.

Principal funding sources

We were delighted to be awarded a core funding grant of £49,000 per annum for four years from Esmée Fairbairn Foundation; this will last until September 2027. This is the 13th year Esmée Fairbairn has supported FCL.

Funding in 2023/24 has come from Esmée Fairbairn for core funding, Defra for undertaking Environmental Land Management Test and Trial Projects and from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Esmée Fairbairn and Garfield Weston for Our Common Cause: Our Upland Commons.

Foundation For Common Land

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

In addition, as part of one of our Defra Test and Trials, we have invested in building a Phone App to support commons and moorland to undertake the Moorland SFI survey option. We have now made this service available to all charging a nominal fee per Ha, providing an important tool and with the aim of covering all costs and generating some surplus to contribute towards our charitable objectives.

For this year the main source of funding of our charitable activity is the £3.1 million 'Our Common Cause: Our Upland Commons' National Lottery Heritage Fund project. The Foundation for Common Land holds the grant with the National Trust who are the accountable body for the finances for that project. This means staff are employed by the NT and seconded to FCL and that contracts are with the NT. Our Executive Director chairs the project board and leads the partnership.

The Charity in this financial year has received funds for Our Common Cause: Our Upland Commons, the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and Defra.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Securing the legacy from Our Upland Commons will be a priority for the year 2024/25 and in particular our focus will be on knowledge exchange and embedding the learning from all the work undertaken over the last four years.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Foundation for Common Land is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association. These were amended by special resolution registered at Companies House on 28 November 2012.

Recruitment and Appointment of the Director-Trustees

The management of FCL is the responsibility of the charity trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association. Under FCL's Articles of Association the trustees are known as the directors. The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the directors are elected to serve for a period up to the following year's AGM where all directors stand down and stand for re-election.

Paul Arkle was recruited to the Board of Trustees in June 2024.

Methods adopted for the training and induction of director/ trustees

The Charity Commission's guide "the Essential Trustee" is available to all Directors via a shared filing system. This system also contains all the essential governance documents including: Memorandum and Articles of Association; minutes of Director Meetings, away days, business plan, financial strategies, register of Directors' interests, project files and policies.

FCL recognises the need for directors to be familiar with the work of the organisation. Staff are invited to attend the Trustees' Meetings to encourage sharing of information and experience. Staff have also been buddied with Trustees for mentoring and support. Directors are encouraged to be members of relevant working parties and advisory panels and attend conferences (often giving presentations on our work) to keep their knowledge current.

During this financial year we have continued to have had the benefit of a Mentor paid via the National Lottery Heritage Fund and they have worked with the trustees and consultants to enhance our systems, governance and risk management.

Foundation For Common Land
Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Organisational structure

The affairs of FCL are managed by the directors of the limited company who are also trustees of the Charity. According to the Articles of Association there must be a minimum of three Directors and there is no maximum number of directors. The directors aim to meet face-to face at least once a year. This is supplemented by 2-hour Director meetings by Zoom (aiming for four per year) following a prepared agenda and written reports covering agenda items. The minutes are recorded and reviewed at each subsequent meeting. The directors are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of FCL. At the year end we had seven directors from a variety of backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity. The Executive Director, Company Secretary, and other staff and consultants also attend director meetings as appropriate but have no voting rights.

A scheme of delegation is in place and day-to-day responsibility for the work of FCL rests with the Executive Director, the Operations Lead and the Administrator. They are responsible for ensuring that FCL delivers agreed projects and contracts and all work is delivered in line with good practice models and relevant quality standards and key performance indicators are met.

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the risks related to the operations and finances of the charity and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks.

The directors have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. A risk register has been developed and is regularly reviewed.

Post Year End Events and Risks

None to report.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Board on 25 February 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
C Short
Trustee

Foundation For Common Land

Trustees' Responsibilities in relation to the Financial Statements

The trustees (who are also directors of Foundation For Common Land for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and the Financial Reporting Standard 102 - 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

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 of the incoming resources and application of resources, including 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 judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the 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 proper 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.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Foundation For Common Land

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 30 June 2024, which are set out on pages 11 to 22.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charitieshave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


Joanne Thomlinson FCA
Dodd & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants

25 February 2025

FIFTEEN Rosehill
Montgomery Way
Rosehill Estate
CARLISLE
CA1 2RW

Foundation For Common Land

**Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account) for the Year
Ended 30 June 2024**

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	-	165,250	165,250	71,340
Charitable Activities	3	145,933	24,856	170,789	269,588
Total income and endowments		<u>145,933</u>	<u>190,106</u>	<u>336,039</u>	<u>340,928</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities		<u>114,103</u>	<u>216,182</u>	<u>330,285</u>	<u>293,002</u>
Total expenditure		<u>114,103</u>	<u>216,182</u>	<u>330,285</u>	<u>293,002</u>
Net income before transfers		31,830	(26,076)	5,754	47,926
Transfers					
Transfers between funds		<u>727</u>	<u>(727)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movements in funds		32,557	(26,803)	5,754	47,926
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>95,496</u>	<u>26,803</u>	<u>122,299</u>	<u>74,373</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>128,053</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>128,053</u>	<u>122,299</u>

All of the Charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above periods.

The notes on pages 13 to 22 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Foundation For Common Land
Company registration number: 08113120
Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2024

		2024		2023	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		720		-
Current assets					
Debtors	10	9,384		20,844	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>131,863</u>		<u>117,632</u>	
		141,247		138,476	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(13,914)</u>		<u>(16,177)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>127,333</u>		<u>122,299</u>
Net assets			<u>128,053</u>		<u>122,299</u>
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted funds			-		26,803
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted income funds			<u>128,053</u>		<u>95,496</u>
Total charity funds			<u>128,053</u>		<u>122,299</u>

For the financial year ended 30 June 2024, the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

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

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

Approved by the Board on 25 February 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
C Short
Trustee

The notes on pages 13 to 22 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Foundation For Common Land

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

1 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

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 (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

The charitable company 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 notes.

Going concern

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

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 income 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.

Further details of each fund are disclosed in note 15.

Income and endowments

Donations are recognised when the Charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the Charity before the Charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the Charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Legacy gifts are recognised on a case by case basis following the grant of probate when the administrator/executor for the estate has communicated in writing both the amount and settlement date. In the event that the gift is in the form of an asset other than cash or a financial asset traded on a recognised stock exchange, recognition is subject to the value of the gift being reliably measured with a degree of reasonable accuracy and the title to the asset having been transferred to the Charity.

Income from Government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Foundation For Common Land

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

..... continued

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

Taxation

The Charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing - or more are initially recorded at cost.

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:

Fixtures, fittings and office equipment 3 years straight line basis

Trade Debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business. Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the Charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Foundation For Common Land

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

..... continued

Liabilities

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the Charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Operating leases

Leases in which substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are retained by the lessor are classified as operating leases. Rentals payable under operating leases are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged in the statement of financial activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the Charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the Charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the Charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the Charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Foundation For Common Land
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

..... continued

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Donations and legacies				
Appeals and donations	-	-	-	40
Grants				
Esmee Fairbairn	-	115,250	115,250	13,300
Garfield Weston	-	50,000	50,000	50,000
Historic England	-	-	-	8,000
	-	165,250	165,250	71,300
	-	165,250	165,250	71,340

Of the donations and legacies income in 2023, all income related to unrestricted funds.

3 Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Provision of project management for Our Uplands Common	49,654	-	49,654	23,011
Defra T&T	-	-	-	23,860
Defra Lowlands T&T	42,360	-	42,360	97,384
SFI Road Test	3,573	24,856	28,429	124,973
SFI Commercial	37,413	-	37,413	-
Hill Farm Training	11,133	-	11,133	-
Exeter Funding	1,800	-	1,800	-
Other	-	-	-	360
	145,933	24,856	170,789	269,588

Of the other trading activities income in 2023, £195,020 related to unrestricted funds and £74,568 related to restricted funds.

Foundation For Common Land

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

..... continued

4 Expenditure

	Charitable activity	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Direct costs			
Provision of Charitable Activities	12,046	12,046	4,046
Our Uplands Commons	154,078	154,078	97,600
Defra T&T	-	-	271
Hill Farm Training	10,842	10,842	-
Lowlands T&T	17,989	17,989	27,473
SFI Road Test	64,271	64,271	102,112
SFI Commercial	10,921	10,921	-
Wages and salaries	40,995	40,995	53,234
Staff pensions	825	825	1,094
	<u>311,967</u>	<u>311,967</u>	<u>285,830</u>
Support costs			
Rent	1,011	1,011	1,011
Insurance	522	522	494
Sundry expenses	11,322	11,322	4,291
Accountancy fees	1,053	1,053	838
Independent examiner's fee	500	500	500
Consultancy fees	3,850	3,850	-
Bank charges	47	47	38
Depreciation of office equipment	13	13	-
	<u>18,318</u>	<u>18,318</u>	<u>7,172</u>
	<u>330,285</u>	<u>330,285</u>	<u>293,002</u>

Of the expenditure in 2023, £236,357 related to unrestricted funds and £56,645 related to restricted funds.

5 Governance costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accountancy fees	1,053	838
Independent examiner's fee	500	500
	<u>1,553</u>	<u>1,338</u>

6 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

Expenses totalling £497 (2023 - £nil) in relation to travel were claimed by 3 trustees.
Trustee R Milton received £1,750 (2023 - £nil) in relation to consultancy & advocacy work.

Foundation For Common Land
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

..... continued

7 Net income

Net income is stated after charging:

	2024 £	2023 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	13	-

8 Employees' remuneration

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management) employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Charitable activities	3	3

The aggregate payroll costs of these persons were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	40,995	53,234
Other pension costs	825	1,094
	41,820	54,328

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year (2023 - No. 0).

Foundation For Common Land
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

..... continued

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings and office equipment £
Cost	
As at 1 July 2023	634
Additions	733
As at 30 June 2024	<u>1,367</u>
Depreciation	
As at 1 July 2023	634
Charge for the year	13
As at 30 June 2024	<u>647</u>
Net book value	
As at 30 June 2024	<u>720</u>
As at 30 June 2023	<u>-</u>

10 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	<u>9,384</u>	<u>20,844</u>

11 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	100	1,915
Taxation and social security	4,403	6,990
Other creditors	121	169
Accruals and deferred income	<u>9,290</u>	<u>7,103</u>
	<u>13,914</u>	<u>16,177</u>

12 Members' liability

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

Foundation For Common Land
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

..... continued

13 Pension scheme

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the period represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £825 (2023 - £1,094).

Contributions totalling £121 (2023 - £169) were payable to the scheme at the end of the period and are included in creditors.

14 Related parties

Controlling entity

The charity is controlled by the trustees who are all directors of the company.

15 Analysis of funds

	At 1 July 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 30 June 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds					
Unrestricted income fund	95,496	145,933	(114,103)	727	128,053
Restricted Funds					
Restricted income fund	1,947	165,250	(166,470)	(727)	-
DEFRA	24,856	24,856	(49,712)	-	-
	26,803	190,106	(216,182)	(727)	-
	122,299	336,039	(330,285)	-	128,053

Restricted funds - these are funds held relating to previous projects.

DEFRA - Funds held for direct payment to commons associations from DEFRA as part of the agreement in our T&T.

Foundation For Common Land

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

..... continued

Prior period

	At 1 July 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 30 June 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds					
Unrestricted income fund	55,797	266,360	(236,357)	9,696	95,496
Restricted Funds					
Restricted income fund	1,947	-	-	-	1,947
Esmee Fairbairn	3,333	-	(3,333)	-	-
Our Uplands Common	9,696	-	-	(9,696)	-
Exeter University	3,600	-	(3,600)	-	-
DEFRA	-	74,568	(49,712)	-	24,856
	18,576	74,568	(56,645)	(9,696)	26,803
	74,373	340,928	(293,002)	-	122,299

16 Transfers

The transfers totalling £727 from restricted to unrestricted funds represents funds on which the restriction is no longer in place.

Foundation For Common Land

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

..... continued

17 Net assets by fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Tangible assets	720	-	720	-
Current assets	141,247	-	141,247	138,476
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(13,914)	-	(13,914)	(16,177)
Net assets	<u>128,053</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>128,053</u>	<u>122,299</u>

Prior period

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Tangible assets	-	-	-	-
Current assets	111,673	26,803	138,476	78,831
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(16,177)	-	(16,177)	(4,458)
Net assets	<u>95,496</u>	<u>26,803</u>	<u>122,299</u>	<u>74,373</u>

Accounts

Foundation For Common Land

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

30 June 2023

Company registration number: 08113120

Charity registration number: 1150439



Foundation For Common Land
Contents

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Trustees' report	2
Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements	9
Independent examiner's report	10
Statement of financial activities	11
Balance sheet	12
Notes to the financial statements	13

Foundation For Common Land
Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name	Foundation For Common Land
Charity registration number	1150439
Company registration number	08113120
Principal office	Low Nook University of Cumbria Rydal Road AMBLESIDE LA22 9BB
Registered office	Low Nook University of Cumbria Rydal Road AMBLESIDE LA22 9BB
Trustees	C Short J Bailey R J Milton J C Phelps L C Branfield H Fraser W Benson (Resigned 14 March 2023)
Secretary	L M Stride
Accountant	Dodd & Co Limited FIFTEEN Rosehill Montgomery Way Rosehill Estate CARLISLE CA1 2RW

Foundation For Common Land
Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 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.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

FCL's charitable objectives as set out in the Articles of Association are as follows:

- To conserve the agricultural systems and the cultural landscapes associated with commoning and the management of common land for the benefit of the public.
- To promote the conservation of the physical and natural environment of common land by supporting the responsible and sustainable pastoral use of commons.
- To conduct and commission research into commoning and common land issues and publish the results of such research to the public at large.
- To educate the public, particularly policy makers and other interested parties in subjects pertaining to commoning.

The common land of England and Wales and the common grazings of Scotland are nationally important for access, tourism, wildlife, carbon storage, water supply, archaeological conservation, food production and livestock breeding. Commons deliver more public benefits than any other type of farmland but this heritage is at risk from a continued decline in its active management. The aim of our work is to safeguard and enhance the heritage of common land and keep commons alive by supporting active grazing. Our aims fully reflect the purposes the charity was set up for. In setting the objectives of the charity the trustees have complied with the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Strategies and activities for achieving objectives

We deliver our core work in the following ways:

- Influence and advocacy through bilateral engagement and membership of technical advisory groups and alliances
- Convene and chair strategic partnerships
- Contract out work to the best consultants in our field
- Design and deliver training to deepen the knowledge of policy makers and practitioners who can influence future commoning
- Develop partnership projects to secure the cultural heritage of commoning
- Provide up-to-date and in-depth information on common land and commoning on our website
- Choose trustees with strong links to commoners and commoning
- On the ground delivery to develop, demonstrate and disseminate best practice

Due to devolution of agricultural and environmental policies to the devolved nations and FCL being a small charity while our constitution allows us to work across Great Britain our current activities are restricted to England though we seek to retain active links with networks in Scotland and Wales.

Foundation For Common Land
Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

The Focus of our work in 2023-2024

- 2023-24 will be a year of consolidation, reflecting on the considerable achievements made in previous years and planning a new phase of work going forward.
- The charity will strengthen staffing and governance structures to support the growing body of work which FCL is now delivering including the employment of a Training and Knowledge exchange Co-ordinator subject to successful funding.
- Working with a fundraiser FCL will apply for a Lottery grant and further funding from Esme Fairburn to support our work on commons and to build upon the legacy of Our Upland Commons.
- Defra funded Environmental Land Management Test and Trial Projects
 - Completing our ELM test and trial project "Delivering Multiple Outcomes at Landscape Scale on commons"
 - Completing the SFI Moorland Test and Trial including working with the Land App to develop a practical Moorland survey method for commoners via a mobile phone App
 - Exploring options for the delivery of further tests and trials to support the development of ELM
- Working with the Land App to offer a commercial service to moorland owners enabling the application of SFI Moorland standard and generating income to support the ongoing work of FCL.
- To continue in line with agreed targets for the delivery phase of the £3.1 million National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) project, "Our Common Cause: Our Upland Commons (OCC)". This includes delivery of projects relating to enhancing public goods, supporting collaboration amongst commoners and owners of common land and engage the public in better understanding commons and commoning.
- To continue to hold the Rural Payments Agency, Natural England and Defra to account over their delivery of schemes on common land in England with particular emphasis on expiring Higher Level Stewardship schemes.
- To continue our core work of advocacy, outreach and communications with the aim to reach wider audiences including refreshing and improving our website and holding free of charge webinars.
- To continue our critical friendship with Defra and the Future Farming Team participating in the ELM co-design process.

How our activities deliver public benefit

In the 1600s over 50% of England was common land. It is now less than 3% so commons are a resource under threat. Common land delivers more public benefits than any other type of farmland and is more heavily designated than enclosed land; for instance, Common Land is seven times more likely to be designated for nature as a SSSI than enclosed land. Commons are closely linked with a history of traditional and sympathetic pastoral systems developed over many centuries, adapted to local circumstances and informed by the experience of local farming communities. However, as a result of inappropriate government policies and schemes from the mid 1970s onwards biodiversity has declined and alongside this the cultural heritage of commoning is at risk. Farming communities and conservation organisations alike are concerned about the loss of skills and heritage. The impacts of climate change are also becoming apparent though the potential for commons to mitigate the impacts of climate change and be a refuge for some species is high.

While we fully support the policy of public money for public goods we are increasingly concerned about the direction and slow pace in which the new Environmental Land Management scheme is being rolled out while the phase out of the Basic Payment Scheme is continuing at pace. This is now placing commoners under such significant short to medium term financial strain that the public goods and benefits of common land and the system of commoning are both at risk. Responsible commoning is not financially viable in most areas of the UK without government support as there is no reward for public goods from the market. Private markets for public goods are poorly developed.

If these traditional systems and techniques, local infrastructure and expertise is lost, they will be difficult and expensive to re-establish. Loss of pastoral grazing would lead to the loss of many significant habitats and species and damage archaeological sites as well as affecting access and recreation and an erosion of cultural heritage. We also support the appropriate planting of trees and natural regeneration of scrub on common land especially through maintaining, enhancing and creating new wood pasture. There are safeguards though the Commons Act 2006 to ensure this is planned with full consultation as works on common require the Defra Secretary of State's consent.

Through our work we take action to address these concerns to enable our cultural and natural heritage on commons to thrive as well as the unique collaborative system of management. We work with commoners, owners of common land, environmental NGOs, farming bodies and government agencies to be the national voice for common land and commoning. Our ambition is to empower individuals and organisations through their work to improve outcomes for the public benefits from common land.

Foundation For Common Land
Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Trustees' achievements and performance: July 2022-June 2023

2022/2023 saw the continued growth in the breadth, scope and value of our activities. We are now actively working across lowland as well as upland commons. Julia Aglionby has provided project management support for the Our Upland Commons Lottery project work as well as the Tests and Trials. Lyndsey Stride has provided Project Management support for the Lowland Common Test and trial and Susie Hodgson continues to undertake our Administrator Role, supporting both the core charity work and the Tests and Trials. Trustees remain actively engaged and we now have an established a staff and trustee buddy system.

The FCL's main activities and achievements for the year July 2022-June 2023 have been:

Projects

• **'Our Upland Commons'**, continuing this major £3.1 million Natural Lottery Heritage Fund project maintaining a good working relationship with our 25 project partners. The accountable body is the National Trust. Highlights include:

- Undertaking work to improve the public benefits of Common Land including:
 - Spring Mire Restoration (Dart)
 - Repair of Ancient Monument (Shrops)
 - Commissioning Natural Flood Management recommendations (YDs)
- Commissioning Research to better understand the species & habitats on upland commons and their management requirements including:
 - Whinchat nest survival (Shrops) & distribution (Dart).
 - Moths and Butterflies (Dart. Lakes, & Shrops).
 - Ring Ouzels (YDS)
 - Tree health, population distribution and natural regeneration (Darts).
- Support sustainable commoning by providing equipment including remote controlled bracken cutter, restoring historic sheep pens, and researching flock/herd health.
- Worked to develop the first 'commons proofed' carbon calculator
- Increased commoner understanding of the habitats they manage through Commoner Led Habitat Assessment programme (YDs)

• **Defra Test and Trial SFI Road Test: (completed in July 2023)**

- Worked with 3 commons to fully road test the SFI Moorland standard
- Created a full set of templates to fulfil 'SFI common land eligibility requirements.
- Sought legal advice to create template for internal agreement
- By end of project we will have held 2 national webinars (with over 1000 combined views) and 4 in person local workshops for over 110 people.
- Added information to aid applications on a common on our website toolkit
- Created a digital App with LandApp to successfully record and survey
- Created a method to recorded results and saved data

• **Continuing Defra ELM Test and Trial Lowland Commons Landscape Recovery Project (completed in July 2023)**

- Susan Mitchell and Joseph Leaper have continued to deliver the Test and Trial
- Multiple workshops delivered with the commoners and owners in the Malverns and New Forest to explore how a long term (30 years) Landscape Scale Scheme could deliver multiple outcomes and public goods.
- Two legal reports commissioned and delivered by Michelmores Law setting out potential governance structures for Long term and Landscape Scale schemes on commons.
- Legal report commissioned and delivered by David Elvin KC, further answering questions relating to SSSIs and private finance on common land.

Foundation For Common Land

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Outreach and Engagement

- The level of outreach is made possible by the funding of communications support by the Our Upland Commons Lottery project. They have supported FCL's Administrator to develop systems for the future.
- Through OUC we have engaged 5,000 people in events educating, celebrating, and experiencing the natural and cultural heritage of common land, many targeted at hard-to-reach audiences. Including
 - Farm2City, Clapham and Take the Commons to Town, outreach taking livestock to urban areas of high indices multiple social deprivation or high BAME populations.
 - John Muir Award - young people from areas of social deprivation taking part in residential visits to discover, explore, conserve and share commons.
 - A public events programme in Dartmoor including livestock gathering events, and community arts celebrating peatland restoration with commoners and people from urban areas of high social deprivation, and the Yorkshire Dales including Skipton Sheep Day, and Ingleborough 'meet a commoner events'
- Our Mail Chimp data base has grown from 750 to over 1300 contacts by the year end which provides information about their level of engagement whilst maintaining compliance with GDPR.
- Quarterly newsletter distributed
- Provided ongoing guidance to commoners' groups, commoners, owners of common land and stakeholders via our website, attendance at their meetings and networks
- Raising the profile of commons through appearances on BBC Farming today, the Financial Times, Country Life, Cumbria Life, Lancashire Life, the Farmer's Guardian and in the Farmer supplement of the Cumberland News
- Hosting several well attended (100+ per webinar) webinars on ELMs and delivering public benefits on common land, focusing on SFI Moorland and Governance of Landscape Scale Schemes, and Measuring and Improving Carbon Sequestration, all which have also been uploaded to YouTube with around 200 views on each so far.

Advocacy

Regular attendance at Defra stakeholder and policy meetings with senior stakeholder staff to attempt to find ways forward for common land governance issues with agri-environment schemes

- Increasing our social media presence through regular tweets.
- Continuing to Chair the Uplands Alliance bringing together over 20 organisations committed to a positive future for uplands management.
- Instigated the uplands Pathways to Success Economic analysis work with Defra though disappointed that Defra failed to public this modelling.
- Ensured uplift in the SFI Moorland rates and introduction of the commons supplement.
- Co facilitated with Defra a series of meetings on schemes on commons for a range of key stakeholders.

A list of all our funders and their contributions appears in the income section of these accounts. As ever, we would like to express our huge gratitude to all who have supported our work this year and we would like to take the opportunity to thank the following for their kind support: Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Garfield Weston Trust and National Lottery Heritage Fund as well as the many trusts and partners who are contributing in cash and kind to Our Upland Commons.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Review of the financial position

Our financial position has remained strong over 2022/2023. Our charitable activities have increased, and we have been successful in drawing down grant funding and contracts to undertake our work. Funding in 2022/23 has come from Esmée Fairbairn for core funding, Defra for undertaking Environmental Land Management Test and Trial Projects and from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Esmée Fairbairn and Garfield Weston for Our Common Cause: Our Upland Commons.

In addition, as part of our test and trial, we have invested in an App to support access for commons and moorland to the Moorland SFI option. We have made this service available to all charging a nominal fee per Ha, providing an important tool and with the aim of covering all costs generating income towards charitable objectives.

At the year end our expenditure on direct charitable activities has increased from £201,000 to £236,00 and our total funds held at the year end has similarly increased by £47,926 from June 2022. This provides us with the necessary reserves to operate securely.

Foundation For Common Land

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Principal financial management policies adopted

The directors scrutinise management accounts and budgets vs actual expenditure at monthly directors' meetings. This is for both the organisation as a whole and on a project/funding stream basis. The adoption of Xero bookkeeping system allows accounts to be kept up to date and easy to analyse. Dodds in Carlisle remain as our accountants who have offered excellent support to Susie and Julia over the past year.

Reserves policy

FCL has completed its eleventh year of operation. During the year to which these accounts relate FCL had low liabilities with one permanent employee and two on fixed term contracts. We have low expenditure on overheads. The primary reason FCL needs reserves is to fund short-term deficits in cash flow and for investment in new projects where grant funding may not be forthcoming or for match funding for larger projects. The Trustees consider that present level of reserves available to the charity are enough and this is reviewed on a regular basis.

The reserves held are considered sufficient due to the following financial situation:

- We have sufficient reserves to meet our commitment for continuing operations.
- The charity owns no tangible assets that require repairs or investment. We have a license for a fully serviced shared office space at the University of Cumbria in Ambleside.

The charity employs three part time members of staff. The salaries of two are being covered by a contract with funding secured and they have been recruited on fixed term contracts. Reserves will be used towards our Administrator's salary in 2022-23 as these have been accrued as their position in 2021-22 has been in part paid for by contract income enabling the core funding to be used for an extended period of time beyond the two years of the grant period.
- The Executive Director is self-employed who provides specific services as agreed by the Directors. The Executive Director's paid time input waxes and wanes according to project income and resources. She has other clients so is not dependent on income from FCL.
- Trustees have considered resilience planning as our executive Director takes on further commitments and will have less time available. The possibility for new Executive Director role is to be investigated and built into any new funding applications.
- The charity's Directors are chosen as individuals who are actively involved through their day jobs in activities that are closely linked to FCL's charitable objective so that in the worst case that project income ceased our Directors would continue to deliver the charitable objects if at a lower level of activity.

The Charity therefore has enough funds in unrestricted funds to cover essential Trustee expenses of insurance, our part-time administrator, travel to the Annual Meeting and Accountants costs for at least 6 months as recommended by the Charity Commission. In 2022/23 we have increased our unrestricted funds through the delivery of contracts to have reserves for all essential costs for at least 12 months due to the time scales for obtaining grant funding and being committed to the delivery of specific time limited contracts.

Principal funding sources

The principle sources of funding for FCL are from grant making trusts and income generation through delivering training and contracts. In 2023-2024 the Trustees will explore the potential for a further Defra Test and Trial should an appropriate opportunity arise.

Foundation For Common Land

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

The other source of funding is the £3.1 million Our Common Cause: Our Upland Commons National Lottery Heritage Fund project. The Foundation for Common Land holds the grant with the National Trust who are the accountable body for the finances for that project. This means staff are employed by the NT and seconded to FCL and that contracts are with the NT. Our Executive Director chairs the project board and leads the partnership.

The Charity in this financial year has received funds Our Common Cause: Our Upland Commons, the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and Defra.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

FCL during the financial year 2023-24 will seek to secure continuing core funding while developing more projects that allow us to reach a wider range and depth of audiences. Securing the legacy from Our Upland Commons will be a priority for the years 2023/24.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Foundation for Common Land is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association. These were amended by special resolution registered at Companies House on 28 November 2012.

Recruitment and Appointment of the Director-Trustees

The management of FCL is the responsibility of the charity trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association. Under FCL's Articles of Association the trustees are known as the directors. The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the directors are elected to serve for a period up to the following year's AGM where all directors stand down and stand for re-election.

There has been one resignation from the Board of Trustees in this financial year.

Methods adopted for the training and induction of director/ trustees

The Charity Commission's guide "the Essential Trustee" is available to all Directors via a shared filing system. This system also contains all the essential governance documents including: Memorandum and Articles of Association; minutes of Director Meetings, away days, business plan, financial strategies, register of Directors' interests, project files and policies.

FCL recognises the need for directors to be familiar with the work of the organisation. Staff are invited to attend the Trustees' Meetings to encourage sharing of information and experience. Staff have also been buddied with Trustees for mentoring and support. Directors are encouraged to be members of relevant working parties and advisory panels and attend conferences (often giving presentations on our work) to keep their knowledge current.

During this financial year we have continued to have had the benefit of a Mentor paid via the National Lottery Heritage Fund and they have worked with the trustees and consultants to enhance our systems, governance and risk management. They have now moved to a new full time position and have stepped down. We have recently (after the year end) recruited a replacement recognising the value of such a role.

Organisational structure

The affairs of FCL are managed by the directors of the limited company who are also trustees of the Charity. According to the Articles of Association there must be a minimum of three Directors and there is no maximum number of directors. The directors aim to meet face-to face at least once a year though this has not been possible in this financial year due to Covid restrictions. This is supplemented by 2-hour Director meetings by Zoom (aiming for four per year) following a prepared agenda and written reports covering agenda items. The minutes are recorded and reviewed at each subsequent meeting. The directors are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of FCL. At present there are seven directors from a variety of backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity. The Executive Director, Programmes' Manager (also Company Secretary) and other staff and consultants also attend director meetings as appropriate but have no voting rights.

Foundation For Common Land
Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

A scheme of delegation is in place and day-to-day responsibility for the work of FCL rests with the Executive Director and the Administrator. They are responsible for ensuring that FCL delivers agreed projects and contracts and all work is delivered in line with good practice models and relevant quality standards and key performance indicators are met.

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the risks related to the operations and finances of the charity and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks.

The directors have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. A risk register has been developed and is regularly reviewed.

Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic

There were no impacts of Covid in this financial year. Staff remained cautious where appropriate but overall we have returned to normal activities and continue to benefit from changes in practice such as Zoom meetings and the use of online webinars which prove increasingly popular.

Post Year End Events and Risks

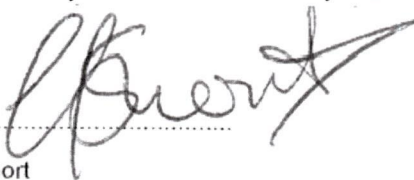
Since the year end our two Defra Test and Trial projects; Lowland Landscape Recovery & SFI Moorland Road Testing ELM were completed in July 2023. Our Upland Commons project continues to progress well. The limited commercial role out of our FCL Moorland digital Survey App commenced on August 2023 necessitating the part-time employment of Tom Lawrence to manage the service. The App should be self-sufficient and cover all associated cost once the RPA fully open applications to SFI Moorland.

Since the year end we have been successful in being awarded £196,000 for four years core funding for FCL from Esmée Fairbairn.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Board on 6 February 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



C Short
Trustee

Foundation For Common Land

Trustees' Responsibilities in relation to the Financial Statements

The trustees (who are also directors of Foundation For Common Land for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and the Financial Reporting Standard 102 - 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

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 of the incoming resources and application of resources, including 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 judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the 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 proper 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.

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Foundation For Common Land**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 30 June 2023, which are set out on pages 11 to 21.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charitieshave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


Joanne Thomlinson FCA
Dodd & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants

6 February 2024

FIFTEEN Rosehill
Montgomery Way
Rosehill Estate
CARLISLE
CA1 2RW

Foundation For Common Land

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account) for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	71,340	-	71,340	100,636
Charitable Activities	3	195,020	74,568	269,588	126,051
Total income and endowments		<u>266,360</u>	<u>74,568</u>	<u>340,928</u>	<u>226,687</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities		236,357	56,645	293,002	201,771
Total expenditure		<u>236,357</u>	<u>56,645</u>	<u>293,002</u>	<u>201,771</u>
Net income before transfers		30,003	17,923	47,926	24,916
Transfers					
Transfers between funds		<u>9,696</u>	<u>(9,696)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movements in funds		39,699	8,227	47,926	24,916
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>55,797</u>	<u>18,576</u>	<u>74,373</u>	<u>49,457</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>95,496</u>	<u>26,803</u>	<u>122,299</u>	<u>74,373</u>

All of the Charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above periods.

The notes on pages 13 to 21 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Foundation For Common Land
Company registration number: 08113120
Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2023

		2023		2022	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Current assets					
Debtors	9	20,844		20,627	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>117,632</u>		<u>58,204</u>	
			138,476		78,831
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	10		<u>(16,177)</u>		<u>(4,458)</u>
Net current assets			<u>122,299</u>		<u>74,373</u>
Net assets			<u>122,299</u>		<u>74,373</u>
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted funds			26,803		18,576
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted income funds			<u>95,496</u>		<u>55,797</u>
Total charity funds			<u>122,299</u>		<u>74,373</u>

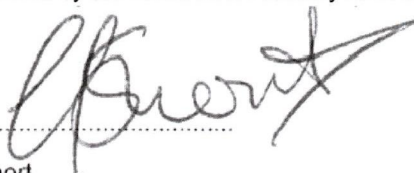
For the financial year ended 30 June 2023, the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

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

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

Approved by the Board on 6 February 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



 C Short
 Trustee

The notes on pages 13 to 21 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Foundation For Common Land

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

1 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

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 (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

The charitable company 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 notes.

Going concern

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

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 income 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.

Further details of each fund are disclosed in note 14.

Income and endowments

Donations are recognised when the Charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the Charity before the Charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the Charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Legacy gifts are recognised on a case by case basis following the grant of probate when the administrator/executor for the estate has communicated in writing both the amount and settlement date. In the event that the gift is in the form of an asset other than cash or a financial asset traded on a recognised stock exchange, recognition is subject to the value of the gift being reliably measured with a degree of reasonable accuracy and the title to the asset having been transferred to the Charity.

Income from Government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Foundation For Common Land

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

..... continued

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

Taxation

The Charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Trade Debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business. Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the Charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Liabilities

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the Charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Operating leases

Leases in which substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are retained by the lessor are classified as operating leases. Rentals payable under operating leases are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Foundation For Common Land

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

..... continued

Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged in the statement of financial activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the Charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the Charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the Charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the Charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Donations and legacies				
Appeals and donations	40	-	40	36
Grants				
Esmee Fairbairn	13,300	-	13,300	87,000
Garfield Weston	50,000	-	50,000	-
The Lake District Foundation	-	-	-	10,000
Exeter University	-	-	-	3,600
Historic England	8,000	-	8,000	-
	71,300	-	71,300	100,600
	71,340	-	71,340	100,636

Of the donations and legacies income in 2022, £36 related to unrestricted funds and £100,600 related to restricted funds.

Foundation For Common Land

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

..... continued

3 Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Provision of training courses	-	-	-	484
Provision of project management for Our Uplands Common	23,011	-	23,011	16,534
Defra T&T	23,860	-	23,860	91,708
Defra Lowlands T&T	97,384	-	97,384	16,697
SFI Road Test	50,405	74,568	124,973	-
Other	360	-	360	628
	<u>195,020</u>	<u>74,568</u>	<u>269,588</u>	<u>126,051</u>

Of the other trading activities income in 2022, £109,517 related to unrestricted funds and £16,534 related to restricted funds.

4 Expenditure

	Charitable activity £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Direct costs			
Provision of Charitable Activities	4,046	4,046	8,525
Our Uplands Commons	97,600	97,600	85,787
Defra T&T	271	271	55,486
Lowlands T&T	27,473	27,473	13,126
SFI Road Test	102,112	102,112	-
Wages and salaries	53,234	53,234	31,582
Staff NIC (Employers)	-	-	639
Staff pensions	1,094	1,094	518
	<u>285,830</u>	<u>285,830</u>	<u>195,663</u>
Support costs			
Rent	1,011	1,011	2,086
Insurance	494	494	483
Sundry expenses	4,291	4,291	2,075
Accountancy fees	838	838	928
Independent examiner's fee	500	500	500
Bank charges	38	38	36
	<u>7,172</u>	<u>7,172</u>	<u>6,108</u>
	<u>293,002</u>	<u>293,002</u>	<u>201,771</u>

Of the expenditure in 2022, £95,984 related to unrestricted funds and £105,787 related to restricted funds.

Foundation For Common Land
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

..... continued

5 Governance costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accountancy fees	838	928
Independent examiner's fee	500	500
	<u>1,338</u>	<u>1,428</u>

6 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No trustees received any remuneration or expenses (2022: £nil) during the year.

7 Employees' remuneration

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management) employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Charitable activities	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>

The aggregate payroll costs of these persons were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	53,234	31,582
Social security	-	639
Other pension costs	1,094	518
	<u>54,328</u>	<u>32,739</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year (2022 - No. 0).

Foundation For Common Land
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

..... continued

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £
Cost	
As at 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023	634
Depreciation	
As at 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023	634
Net book value	
As at 30 June 2023	-
As at 30 June 2022	-

9 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	20,844	20,627

10 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	1,915	580
Taxation and social security	6,990	2,516
Other creditors	169	162
Accruals and deferred income	7,103	1,200
	16,177	4,458

11 Members' liability

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

12 Pension scheme

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the period represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £1,094 (2022 - £518).

Foundation For Common Land
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

..... continued

Contributions totalling £169 (2022 - £162) were payable to the scheme at the end of the period and are included in creditors.

13 Related parties

Controlling entity

The charity is controlled by the trustees who are all directors of the company.

14 Analysis of funds

	At 1 July 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 30 June 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds					
Unrestricted income fund	55,797	266,360	(236,357)	9,696	95,496
Restricted Funds					
Restricted income fund	1,947	-	-	-	1,947
Esmee Fairbairn	3,333	-	(3,333)	-	-
Our Uplands Common	9,696	-	-	(9,696)	-
Exeter University	3,600	-	(3,600)	-	-
DEFRA	-	74,568	(49,712)	-	24,856
	<u>18,576</u>	<u>74,568</u>	<u>(56,645)</u>	<u>(9,696)</u>	<u>26,803</u>
	<u>74,373</u>	<u>340,928</u>	<u>(293,002)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>122,299</u>

Restricted funds - these are funds held relating to previous projects. The balance carried forward relates to the Princes Countryside Fund.

Esmee Fairbairn - these funds are held for wages and are restricted until the end of the grant period.

Our Uplands Commons - these funds are held to enable vulnerable communities to enhance iconic places.

Exeter University - funds held for NERC Discipline Scoping Grant.

DEFRA - Funds held for direct payment to commons associations from DEFRA as part of the agreement in our T&T.

Foundation For Common Land

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

..... continued

Prior period

	At 1 July 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 30 June 2022
	£	£	£	£
General Funds				
Unrestricted income fund	42,228	109,553	(95,984)	55,797
Restricted Funds				
Restricted funds	1,947	-	-	1,947
Esmee Fairbairn	3,333	20,000	(20,000)	3,333
Our Uplands Commons	1,949	93,534	(85,787)	9,696
Exeter University	-	3,600	-	3,600
	<u>7,229</u>	<u>117,134</u>	<u>(105,787)</u>	<u>18,576</u>
	<u>49,457</u>	<u>226,687</u>	<u>(201,771)</u>	<u>74,373</u>

15 Transfers

The transfers totalling £9,696 from restricted to unrestricted funds represents funds on which the restriction is no longer in place.

Foundation For Common Land

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

..... continued

16 Net assets by fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Tangible assets	-	-	-	-
Current assets	111,673	26,803	138,476	78,831
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(16,177)	-	(16,177)	(4,458)
Net assets	<u>95,496</u>	<u>26,803</u>	<u>122,299</u>	<u>74,373</u>

Prior period

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£	£
Current assets	60,255	18,576	78,831	51,279
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(4,458)	-	(4,458)	(1,822)
Net assets	<u>55,797</u>	<u>18,576</u>	<u>74,373</u>	<u>49,457</u>

Accounts

CHARITY COMMISSION

Foundation For Common Land

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

30 June 2022

Company registration number: 08113120

Charity registration number: 1150439



Foundation For Common Land
Contents

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Trustees' report	2
Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements	8
Independent examiner's report	9
Statement of financial activities	10
Balance sheet	11
Notes to the financial statements	12

Foundation For Common Land
Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name	Foundation For Common Land
Charity registration number	1150439
Company registration number	08113120
Principal office	Low Nook University of Cumbria Rydal Road AMBLESIDE LA22 9BB
Registered office	Low Nook University of Cumbria Rydal Road AMBLESIDE LA22 9BB
Trustees	C Short J Bailey L M Stride (Retired 5 July 2021) R J Milton J C Phelps L C Branfield H Fraser W Benson
Secretary	L M Stride (Appointed 5 July 2021)
Accountant	Dodd & Co Limited FIFTEEN Rosehill Montgomery Way Rosehill Estate CARLISLE CA1 2RW

Foundation For Common Land
Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 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.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Foundation for Common Land's (FCL) charitable objectives as set out in the Articles of Association are as follows:

- To conserve the agricultural systems and the cultural landscapes associated with commoning and the management of common land for the benefit of the public.
- To promote the conservation of the physical and natural environment of common land by supporting the responsible and sustainable pastoral use of commons.
- To conduct and commission research into commoning and common land issues and publish the results of such research to the public at large.
- To educate the public, particularly policy makers and other interested parties in subjects pertaining to commoning.

The common land of England and Wales and the common grazings of Scotland are nationally important for access, tourism, wildlife, carbon storage, water supply, archaeological conservation, food production and livestock breeding. Commons deliver more public benefits than any other type of farmland but this heritage is at risk from a continued decline in its active management. The aim of our work is to safeguard and enhance the heritage of common land and keep commons alive by supporting active grazing. Our aims fully reflect the purposes the charity was set up for. In setting the objectives of the charity the trustees have complied with the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Strategies and activities for achieving objectives

We deliver our core work in the following ways:

- Influence and advocacy through bilateral engagement and membership of technical advisory groups and alliances
- Convene and chair strategic partnerships
- Contract out work to the best consultants in our field
- Design and deliver training to deepen the knowledge of policy makers and practitioners who can influence future commoning
- Develop partnership projects to secure the cultural heritage of commoning
- Provide up-to-date and in-depth information on common land and commoning on our website
- Choose trustees with strong links to commoners and commoning
- On the ground delivery to develop, demonstrate and disseminate best practice

Due to devolution of agricultural and environmental policies to the devolved nations and FCL being a small charity while our constitution allows us to work across Great Britain our current activities are restricted to England though we seek to retain active links with networks in Scotland and Wales.

Foundation For Common Land

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

The Focus of our work in 2022-2023

- Defra funded Environmental Land Management Test and Trial Projects
 - Continuing our ELM test and trial project "Landscape Recovery on a Lowland Common"
 - Delivering the SFI Moorland Test and Trial including working with the Land App to develop a practical Moorland survey method for commoners via a mobile phone App
- To continue in line with agreed targets for the delivery phase of the £3.1 million National Lottery Heritage Fund (NHLF) project, "Our Common Cause: Our Upland Commons (OCC)". This includes delivery of projects relating to enhancing public goods, supporting collaboration amongst commoners and owners of common land and engage the public in better understanding commons and commoning
- To continue to hold Rural Payments Agency, Natural England and Defra to account over their delivery of schemes on common land in England with particular emphasis on expiring Higher Level Stewardship schemes
- To continue our core work of advocacy, outreach and communications with the aim to reach wider audiences including refreshing and improving our website and holding free of charge webinars
- To continue our critical friendship with Defra and the Future Farming Team participating in the ELM co-design process

How our activities deliver public benefit

In the 1600s over 50% of England was common land. It is now less than 3% so commons are a resource under threat. Common land delivers more public benefits than any other type of farmland and is more heavily designated than enclosed land; for instance Common Land is seven times more likely to be designated for nature as a SSSI than enclosed land. Commons are closely linked with a history of traditional and sympathetic pastoral systems developed over many centuries, adapted to local circumstances and informed by the experience of local farming communities. However as a result of inappropriate government policies and schemes from the mid 1970s onwards biodiversity has declined and alongside this the cultural heritage of commoning is at risk. Farming communities and conservation organisations alike are concerned about the loss of skills and heritage. The impacts of climate change are also becoming apparent though the potential for commons to mitigate the impacts of climate change and be a refuge for some species is high.

While we fully support the policy of public money for public goods we are increasingly concerned about the direction and slow pace in which the new Environmental Land Management scheme is being rolled out while the phase out of the Basic Payment Scheme is continuing at pace. This is now placing commoners under such significant short to medium term financial strain that the public goods and benefits of common land and the system of commoning are both at risk. Responsible commoning is not financially viable in most areas of the UK without government support as there is no reward for public goods from the market. Private markets for public goods are poorly developed.

If these traditional systems and techniques, local infrastructure and expertise is lost, they will be difficult and expensive to re-establish. Loss of pastoral grazing would lead to the loss of many significant habitats and species and damage archaeological sites as well as affecting access and recreation and an erosion of cultural heritage. We also support the appropriate planting of trees and natural regeneration of scrub on common land especially through maintaining, enhancing and creating new wood pasture. There are safeguards though the Commons Act 2006 to ensure this is planned with full consultation as works on common require the Defra Secretary of State's consent.

Through our work we take action to address these concerns to enable our cultural and natural heritage on commons to thrive as well as the unique collaborative system of management. We work with commoners, owners of common land, environmental NGOs, farming bodies and government agencies to be the national voice for common land and commoning. Our ambition is to empower individuals and organisations through their work to improve outcomes for the public benefits from common land.

Trustees' achievements and performance: July 2021-June 2022

2021/22 saw considerable growth in the breadth, scope and value of our activities. We are now actively working across lowland as well as upland commons. Lyndsey Stride started work on Project Development at the beginning of the year and Susie Hodgson continues to undertake our Administrator Role. Trustees remain actively engaged and we established a staff and trustee buddy system.

The FCL's main activities and achievements for the year July 2021-July 2022 have been:

Foundation For Common Land
Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

Projects

- The completion of the £137,000 **Defra Test and Trial of ELM on Commons** summarised in an easily accessible report available on the FCL website
 - Launching the Common Land Tool Kit providing a wide variety of information and learning on key topics concerning Common Land
 - Production of four common management plans
 - Production of baseline and 10-year projection maps
 - Hosting Victoria Prentis, the Minister of State for Farming, Fisheries and Food for a discussion with commoners about the test and trial and land management
- **Our Uplands Commons**, continuing this major £3.1 million National Lottery Heritage Fund project and maintaining a good working relationship with our 25 project partners. The accountable body is the National Trust. Highlights include
 - Undertaking work to improve the public benefits of Common Land
 - Purchase of two remote controlled bracken cutters
 - Commoner Training on Farmer Led Habitat Assessment in the Yorkshire Dales
 - Wetland restoration in Dartmoor
 - The addition of 'Commons Stories' to the FCL website (and YouTube)
 - Hosting Tony Juniper the Chair of Natural England to Ingleborough
 - Public engagement through attendance at a range of events including the multi-day Shropshire Hills Butterfly and Moth festival, attendance at the Westmorland Show
 - Hosting the John Muir Award Training in Dartmoor with 480 families in attendance
 - Hosting the Iron Age Hillfort workshop in the Shropshire Hills with over 40 attendees
- Obtaining a contract for and starting the **Defra ELM Test and Trial Lowland Commons Landscape Recovery Project**
 - Susan Mitchell and Joe Leaper added to the team as employees based in the New Forest and Malvern Hills respectively
 - Work started with the commoners and owners in the Malverns and New Forest to explore how a long term (30 years) Landscape Recovery Scheme might be delivered on Lowland Commons.

Outreach and Engagement

- The level of outreach is made possible by the funding of comms support by the Our Uplands Commons Lottery project. They have supported FCL's Administrator to develop systems for the future.
- The integration of our contacts into Mail Chimp to grow our data base to over 750 contacts by the year end which provides information about their level of engagement whilst maintaining compliant with GDPR
- Quarterly newsletter distributed
- Provided ongoing guidance to commoners' groups, commoners, owners of common land and stakeholders via our website, attendance at their meetings and networks
- Raising the profile of commons through appearances on BBC Farming today, the Financial Times, Country Life, Cumbria Life, Lancashire Life, the Farmer's Guardian and in the Farmer supplement of the Cumberland News
- Hosting several well attended webinars on ELMs particularly focusing on SFI Moorland which have been uploaded to YouTube with around 200 views on each so far

Advocacy

- Working alongside Defra to significantly increase the payment rates for SFI Moorland Introductory Standard and adding a specific extra commons rate of £6.15 per ha per year which should deliver an extra £1.8 million per year to upland commons
- Regular attendance at Defra stakeholder meetings resulting in the FCL planning and supporting Defra host a 24-hr workshop (held just after the year-end) with senior stakeholder staff to attempt to find ways forward for common land governance issues with agri-environment schemes
- Increasing our social media presence through regular tweets
 - Continuing to Chair the Uplands Alliance bringing together over 20 organisations committed to a positive future for uplands management. Instigated the uplands Pathways to Success Economic analysis work with Defra

Foundation For Common Land
Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

A list of all our funders and their contributions appears in the income section of these accounts. As ever, we would like to express our huge gratitude to all who have supported our work this year and we would like to take the opportunity to thank the following for their kind support: Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Garfield Weston Trust and National Lottery Heritage Fund as well as the many trusts and partners who are contributing in cash and kind to Our Upland Commons.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Review of the financial position

Our financial position has remained strong over 2021/2022. Our charitable activities have increased, and we have been successful in drawing down grant funding and contracts to undertake our work. Funding in 2021/22 has come from Esmée Fairbairn for core funding, Defra for undertaking Environmental Land Management Test and Trial Projects and from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Esmée Fairbairn and Garfield Weston for Our Common Cause: Our Upland Commons.

At the year end our income from direct charitable activities had almost doubled from £66,181 to £126,051 and our net funds held at the year end had increased by £24,916 from June 2021. This provides us with the necessary reserves to operate securely.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Principal financial management policies adopted

The directors scrutinise management accounts and budgets vs actual expenditure at monthly directors' meetings. This is for both the organisation as a whole and on a project/funding stream basis. The adoption of Xero bookkeeping system allows accounts to be kept up to date and easy to analyse. We also changed our accountants to Dodds in Carlisle.

Reserves policy

FCL has completed its tenth year of operation. During the year to which these accounts relate FCL had low liabilities with one permanent employee and two on fixed term contracts. We have low expenditure on overheads. The primary reason FCL needs reserves is to fund short-term deficits in cash flow and for investment in new projects where grant funding may not be forthcoming or for match funding for larger projects. The Trustees consider that present level of reserves available to the charity are enough and this is reviewed on a regular basis.

The reserves held are considered sufficient due to the following financial situation:

- We have sufficient reserves to meet our commitment for continuing operations.
- The charity owns no tangible assets that require repairs or investment. We have a licence for a fully serviced shared office space at the University of Cumbria in Ambleside.

The charity employs three part time members of staff. The salaries of two are covered by a contract with funding secured and they have been recruited on fixed term contracts. Reserves will be used towards our Administrator's salary in 2022-23 as these have been accrued as their position in 2021-22 has been in part paid for by contract income enabling the core funding to be used for an extended period of time beyond the two years of the grant period.
- The Executive Director is self-employed who provides specific services as agreed by the Directors. The Executive Director's paid time input waxes and wanes according to project income and resources. She has other clients so is not dependent on income from FCL.
- The charity's Directors are chosen as individuals who are actively involved through their day jobs in activities that are closely linked to FCL's charitable objective so that in the worst case that project income ceased our Directors would continue to deliver the charitable objects if at a lower level of activity.

Foundation For Common Land

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

The Charity therefore has enough funds in unrestricted funds to cover essential Trustee expenses of insurance, our part-time administrator, travel to the Annual Meeting and Accountants costs for at least six months as recommended by the Charity Commission. In 2021/22 we have increased our unrestricted funds through the delivery of contracts to have reserves for all essential costs for 12 months due to the time scales for obtaining grant funding and being committed to the delivery of specific time limited contracts.

Principal funding sources

The principal sources of funding for FCL are from grant making trusts and income generation through delivering training and contracts.

The other source of funding is the £3.1 million Our Common Cause: Our Upland Commons National Lottery Heritage Fund project. The Foundation for Common Land holds the grant with the National Trust who are the accountable body for the finances for that project. This means staff are employed by the NT and seconded to FCL and that contracts are with the NT. Our Executive Director chairs the project board and leads the partnership.

The Charity in this financial year has received funds from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation for core costs and Our Common Cause: Our Upland Commons, the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and Defra.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

FCL during the financial year 2022-23 will seek to secure continuing core funding while developing more projects that allow us to reach a wider range and depth of audiences. Securing the legacy from Our Upland Commons will be a priority for the years 2022/23 and 2023/24.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Foundation for Common Land is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association. These were amended by special resolution registered at Companies House on 28 November 2012.

Recruitment and Appointment of the Director-Trustees

The management of FCL is the responsibility of the charity trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association. Under FCL's Articles of Association the trustees are known as the directors. The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the directors are elected to serve for a period up to the following year's AGM where all directors stand down and stand for re-election.

There have been no additions to the Board of Trustees in this financial year. After the year end one Trustee, Lyndsey Stride stepped down as a Trustee to become Company Secretary and to undertake some project development and management work for FCL.

Methods adopted for the training and induction of director/ trustees

The Charity Commission's guide "the Essential Trustee" is available to all Directors via a shared filing system. This system also contains all the essential governance documents including: Memorandum and Articles of Association; minutes of Director Meetings, away days, business plan, financial strategies, register of Directors' interests, project files and policies.

FCL recognises the need for directors to be familiar with the work of the organisation. Staff are invited to attend the Trustees' Meetings to encourage sharing of information and experience. Staff have also been buddied with Trustees for mentoring and support. Directors are encouraged to be members of relevant working parties and advisory panels and attend conferences (often giving presentations on our work) to keep their knowledge current.

During this financial year we have continued to have had the benefit of a Mentor paid via the National Lottery Heritage Fund and they have worked with the trustees and consultants to enhance our systems, governance and risk management. They have now moved to a new full time position and have stepped down. We have recently (after the year end) recruited a replacement recognising the value of such a role.

Foundation For Common Land
Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

Organisational structure

The affairs of FCL are managed by the directors of the limited company who are also trustees of the Charity. According to the Articles of Association there must be a minimum of three Directors and there is no maximum number of directors. The directors aim to meet face-to face at least once a year though this has not been possible in this financial year due to Covid restrictions. This is supplemented by 2-hour Director meetings by Zoom (aiming for four per year) following a prepared agenda and written reports covering agenda items. The minutes are recorded and reviewed at each subsequent meeting. The directors are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of FCL. At present there are seven directors from a variety of backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity. The Executive Director, Programmes' Manager (also Company Secretary) and other staff and consultants also attend director meetings as appropriate but have no voting rights.

A scheme of delegation is in place and day-to-day responsibility for the work of FCL rests with the Executive Director and the Administrator. They are responsible for ensuring that FCL delivers agreed projects and contracts and all work is delivered in line with good practice models and relevant quality standards and key performance indicators are met.

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the risks related to the operations and finances of the charity and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks.

The directors have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. A risk register has been developed and is regularly reviewed.

Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic

There were limited impacts of Covid in this financial year. Staff remained cautious where appropriate but overall we have returned to normal activities though benefiting from changes in practice such as Zoom meetings and the use of online webinars which prove increasingly popular.

Post Year End Events and Risks

Since the year end we have been continuing with our two main projects; Defra T&T Lowland Landscape Recovery and Our Upland Commons. These are both progressing well. We also after the year end agreed and signed a contract for a further SFI Moorland Road Testing ELM Test and Trial with Defra for £177,665.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Board on 10 January 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
C Short
Trustee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Short', written over a dotted line.

Foundation For Common Land

Trustees' Responsibilities in relation to the Financial Statements

The trustees (who are also directors of Foundation For Common Land for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and the Financial Reporting Standard 102 - 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

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 of the incoming resources and application of resources, including 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 judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the 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 proper 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.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Foundation For Common Land

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 30 June 2022, which are set out on pages 10 to 19.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

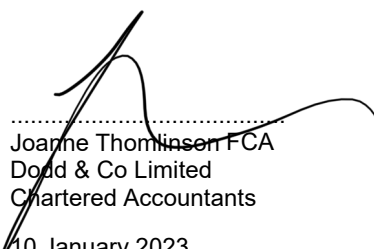
Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charitieshave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Joanne Thomlinson FCA
Dodd & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants

10 January 2023

FIFTEEN Rosehill
Montgomery Way
Rosehill Estate
CARLISLE
CA1 2RW

Foundation For Common Land

**Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account) for the Year
Ended 30 June 2022**

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	36	100,600	100,636	137,101
Charitable Activities	3	109,517	16,534	126,051	66,183
Total income and endowments		<u>109,553</u>	<u>117,134</u>	<u>226,687</u>	<u>203,284</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities		95,984	105,787	201,771	195,174
Total expenditure		<u>95,984</u>	<u>105,787</u>	<u>201,771</u>	<u>195,174</u>
Net movements in funds		13,569	11,347	24,916	8,110
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		42,228	7,229	49,457	41,347
Total funds carried forward		<u>55,797</u>	<u>18,576</u>	<u>74,373</u>	<u>49,457</u>

All of the Charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above periods.

The notes on pages 12 to 19 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Foundation For Common Land
Company registration number: 08113120
Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2022

		2022	2021
	Note	£	£
Current assets			
Debtors	9	20,627	9,564
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>58,204</u>	<u>41,715</u>
		78,831	51,279
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(4,458)</u>	<u>(1,822)</u>
Net current assets		<u>74,373</u>	<u>49,457</u>
Net assets		<u><u>74,373</u></u>	<u><u>49,457</u></u>
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted funds		18,576	7,229
Unrestricted funds			
Unrestricted income funds		<u>55,797</u>	<u>42,228</u>
Total charity funds		<u><u>74,373</u></u>	<u><u>49,457</u></u>

For the financial year ended 30 June 2022, the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

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

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

Approved by the Board on 10 January 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

..... 
C Short
Trustee

The notes on pages 12 to 19 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Foundation For Common Land

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

1 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

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 (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

The charitable company 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 notes.

Going concern

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

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 income 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.

Further details of each fund are disclosed in note 14.

Income and endowments

Donations are recognised when the Charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the Charity before the Charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the Charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Legacy gifts are recognised on a case by case basis following the grant of probate when the administrator/executor for the estate has communicated in writing both the amount and settlement date. In the event that the gift is in the form of an asset other than cash or a financial asset traded on a recognised stock exchange, recognition is subject to the value of the gift being reliably measured with a degree of reasonable accuracy and the title to the asset having been transferred to the Charity.

Income from Government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Foundation For Common Land

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

..... continued

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Taxation

The Charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Trade Debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business. Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the Charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Liabilities

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the Charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Operating leases

Leases in which substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are retained by the lessor are classified as operating leases. Rentals payable under operating leases are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged in the statement of financial activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

Foundation For Common Land

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

..... continued

Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the Charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the Charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the Charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the Charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Donations and legacies				
Appeals and donations	36	-	36	101
Grants				
Esmee Fairbairn	-	87,000	87,000	87,000
Garfield Weston	-	-	-	50,000
The Lake District Foundation	-	10,000	10,000	-
Exeter University	-	3,600	3,600	-
	-	100,600	100,600	137,000
	36	100,600	100,636	137,101

Of the donations and legacies income in 2021, £101 related to unrestricted funds and £137,000 related to restricted funds.

Foundation For Common Land

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

..... continued

3 Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Provision of training courses	484	-	484	800
Provision of project management for Our Uplands Common	-	16,534	16,534	8,400
Defra T&T	91,708	-	91,708	56,577
Defra Lowlands T&T	16,697	-	16,697	-
Other	628	-	628	406
	<u>109,517</u>	<u>16,534</u>	<u>126,051</u>	<u>66,183</u>

Of the other trading activities income in 2021, £57,783 related to unrestricted funds and £8,400 related to restricted funds.

4 Expenditure

	Charitable activity £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Direct costs			
Provision of Charitable Activities	8,525	8,525	10,458
Our Uplands Commons	85,787	85,787	123,451
Defra T&T	55,486	55,486	33,827
Lowlands T&T	13,126	13,126	-
Wages and salaries	31,582	31,582	23,634
Staff NIC (Employers)	639	639	1,038
Staff pensions	518	518	359
	<u>195,663</u>	<u>195,663</u>	<u>192,767</u>
Support costs			
Rent	2,086	2,086	-
Insurance	483	483	-
Sundry expenses	2,075	2,075	1,120
Accountancy fees	928	928	745
Independent examiner's fee	500	500	500
Bank charges	36	36	42
	<u>6,108</u>	<u>6,108</u>	<u>2,407</u>
	<u>201,771</u>	<u>201,771</u>	<u>195,174</u>

Of the expenditure in 2021, £36,712 related to unrestricted funds and £158,462 related to restricted funds.

Foundation For Common Land
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

..... continued

5 Governance costs

	2022	2021
	£	£
Accountancy fees	928	745
Independent examiner's fee	500	500
	<u>1,428</u>	<u>1,245</u>

6 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No trustees received any remuneration or expenses (2021: £nil) during the year.

7 Employees' remuneration

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management) employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
Charitable activities	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

The aggregate payroll costs of these persons were as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	31,582	23,634
Social security	639	1,038
Other pension costs	518	359
	<u>32,739</u>	<u>25,031</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year (2021 - No. 0).

Foundation For Common Land
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

..... continued

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £
Cost	
As at 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022	634
Depreciation	
As at 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022	634
Net book value	
As at 30 June 2022	-
As at 30 June 2021	-

9 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	20,627	9,564

10 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	580	45
Taxation and social security	2,516	577
Other creditors	162	-
Accruals and deferred income	1,200	1,200
	4,458	1,822

11 Members' liability

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

12 Pension scheme

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the period represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £518 (2021 - £359).

Foundation For Common Land
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

..... continued

Contributions totalling £162 (2021 - £nil) were payable to the scheme at the end of the period and are included in creditors.

13 Related parties

Controlling entity

The charity is controlled by the trustees who are all directors of the company.

Related party transactions

During the year L Stride stood down as a trustee and took up a role as a project manager within the charity.

14 Analysis of funds

	At 1 July 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 30 June 2022
	£	£	£	£
General Funds				
Unrestricted income fund	42,228	109,553	(95,984)	55,797
Restricted Funds				
Restricted income fund	1,947	-	-	1,947
Esmee Fairbairn	3,333	20,000	(20,000)	3,333
Our Uplands Common	1,949	93,534	(85,787)	9,696
Exeter University	-	3,600	-	3,600
	<u>7,229</u>	<u>117,134</u>	<u>(105,787)</u>	<u>18,576</u>
	<u>49,457</u>	<u>226,687</u>	<u>(201,771)</u>	<u>74,373</u>

Restricted funds - these are funds held relating to previous projects. The balance carried forward relates to the Princes Countryside Fund.

Esmee Fairbairn - these funds are held for wages and are restricted until the end of the grant period.

Our Uplands Commons - these funds are held to enable vulnerable communities to enhance iconic places.

Exeter University - funds held for NERC Discipline Scoping Grant.

Foundation For Common Land
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

..... continued

Prior period

	At 1 July 2020	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 30 June 2021
	£	£	£	£
General Funds				
Unrestricted income fund	21,056	57,884	(36,712)	42,228
Restricted Funds				
Restricted funds	20,291	-	(29,759)	20,291
Esmee Fairbairn	-	20,000	(16,667)	3,333
Our Uplands Commons	-	125,400	(123,451)	1,949
	20,291	145,400	(158,462)	7,229
	41,347	203,284	(195,174)	49,457

15 Net assets by fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£	£
Tangible assets	-	-	-	-
Current assets	60,255	18,576	78,831	51,279
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(4,458)	-	(4,458)	(1,822)
Net assets	55,797	18,576	74,373	49,457

Prior period

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£	£
Current assets	44,050	7,229	51,279	43,119
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(1,822)	-	(1,822)	(1,772)
Net assets	42,228	7,229	49,457	41,347

Accounts

Foundation For Common Land

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

30 June 2021

Company registration number: 08113120

Charity registration number: 1150439



Foundation For Common Land
Contents

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Trustees' report	2
Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements	8
Independent examiner's report	9
Statement of financial activities	10
Balance sheet	11
Notes to the financial statements	12

Foundation For Common Land
Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name Foundation For Common Land

Charity registration number 1150439

Company registration number 08113120

Principal office Low Nook
University of Cumbria
Rydal Road
AMBLESIDE
LA22 9BB

Registered office Low Nook
University of Cumbria
Rydal Road
AMBLESIDE
LA22 9BB

Trustees C Short
J Bailey
L M Stride
R J Milton
J C Phelps
L C Branfield
H Fraser
W Benson

Accountant Dodd & Co Limited
FIFTEEN Rosehill
Montgomery Way
Rosehill Estate
CARLISLE
CA1 2RW

Foundation For Common Land
Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 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.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Summary of the objects

The Foundation for Common Land's (FCL) charitable objects as set out in the Articles of Association are as follows:

- To conserve the agricultural systems and the cultural landscapes associated with commoning and the management of common land for the benefit of the public.
- To promote the conservation of the physical and natural environment of common land by supporting the responsible and sustainable pastoral use of commons.
- To conduct and commission research into commoning and common land issues and publish the results of such research to the public at large.
- To educate the public, particularly policy makers and other interested parties in subjects pertaining to commoning.

The common land of England and Wales and the common grazings of Scotland are nationally important for access, tourism, wildlife, carbon storage, water supply, archaeological conservation, food production and livestock breeding. Commons deliver more public benefits than any other type of farmland but this heritage is at risk from a continued decline in its active management. The aim of our work is to safeguard and enhance the heritage of common land and keep commons alive by supporting active grazing. Our aims fully reflect the purposes the charity was set up for. In setting the objectives of the charity the trustees have complied with the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Strategies and activities for achieving objectives

We deliver our core work in the following ways:

- Influence and advocacy through membership of technical advisory groups and alliances
- Convene and chair strategic partnerships
- Contract out work to the best consultants in our field
- Design and deliver training to deepen the knowledge of policy makers and practitioners who can influence future commoning
- Develop partnership projects to secure the cultural heritage of commoning
- Provide up-to-date and in-depth information on common land and commoning on our website
- Choose trustees with strong links to commoners and commoning

Due to devolution of agricultural and environmental policies to the devolved nations and FCL being a small charity while our constitution allows us to work across Great Britain our current activities are restricted to England though we seek to retain active links with networks in Scotland and Wales.

The focus of the work for 2020-21

The work for the year has mostly concentrated in the following areas:

Foundation For Common Land
Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

- To make good progress with the delivery of our Defra contract for the Environmental Land Management (ELM) Test and Trial for Common Land
- To be a critical friend to the Defra Future Farming team participating in their ELM co-design process
- To start the delivery phase of the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) project, "Our Common Cause: Our Upland Commons (OCC)" including the recruitment of staff and initiation of activities
- To continue to hold the Rural Payments Agency, Natural England and Defra to account over their delivery of schemes on common land in England with particular emphasis on expiring Higher Level Stewardship schemes
- To continue delivering training to educate conservation specialists, policy makers and other interested parties in subjects pertaining to commoning
- To continue our core work of advocacy, outreach and communications with the aim to reach wider audiences
- To establish an office in Ambleside at the University of Cumbria's campus and recruit an Administrator
- To move to an online bookkeeping system for our finances
- Mentoring new trustees to become actively involved in FCL

How our activities deliver public benefit

Common land delivers more public benefits than any other type of farmland and are more heavily designated than enclosed land. Commons are closely linked with a history of traditional and sympathetic pastoral systems developed over many centuries, adapted to local circumstances and informed by the experience of local farming communities. However, farming communities and conservation organisations alike are expressing concerns about the loss of skills and heritage and at the same time due to inappropriate government policies and schemes biodiversity has declined and the impacts of climate change are becoming apparent. While we support the direction of travel for public support we remain concerned that the manner in which the Agricultural Transition is being delivered will put commoners under such significant short to medium term financial strain that the public goods and benefits of common land and the system of commoning are both at risk.

Once these traditional systems and techniques, local infrastructure and expertise is lost, they will be difficult and expensive to re-establish. Scrub and forest would encroach on much of the common land, leading to the loss of many significant habitats and species and damage archaeological sites as well as affecting access and recreation.

Through our work we are taking action to address these concerns to enable our cultural and natural heritage on commons to thrive as well as the unique collaborative system of management. We work with commoners, owners of common land, environmental NGOs, farming bodies and government agencies to be the national voice for common land and commoning. Our ambition is to empower individuals and organisations through their work to improve outcomes for the public benefits from common land.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

FCL's main activities and achievements for the year July 2020 to June 2021 have been:

- Starting the Delivery Phase of Our Common Cause: Our Upland Commons. The Foundation for Common Land is the Lead Body and the National Trust is the accountable body and will manage the finances. There are 25 partners in the project. The start of the Delivery was deferred due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - By the end of the financial year we had successfully recruited all six staff for the Our Common Cause: Our Upland Commons Delivery Phase
 - We obtained permission to start from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and have started drawing down on our major grants from Esme Fairbairn and Garfield Weston and funding from partners
 - The Area Groups in each of the four areas have been restarted and plans for delivery are starting to take shape though with most actual delivery from July 2021 onwards

Foundation For Common Land
Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

- We completed two-thirds of our Defra funded Environmental Land Management Test & Trial on commons.
- The contract is valued at £137,000 and is delivered in conjunction with the Federation of Cumbria Commoners
- Our Facilitator started in July 2020 and our Assistant Facilitator/ Administrator in September 2020
- We have worked with 4 different commoners associations and are extending to a further two areas in this coming financial year
- We have held two national webinars in the financial year which have both been well attended and viewed on YouTube
- Actively engaged in the development of ELM via the Defra ELM engagement - Defra has kindly paid for our time to attend the core meetings. All meetings have been on line.
- Arranged visit for Janet Hughes, the Defra director leading Future Farming, to Cumbria.
- Gave evidence to the Efra Select Committee and to the National Audit Office of ELM progress. Commons were repeatedly mentioned in the Efra report. Letters to Defra ministers
- Raised the profile of commons through newspaper articles including the Financial Times, a column in the Farmers Guardian and interviews on BBC's Farming Today and BBC's Today programme
- Increased use of our website and Twitter account to increase awareness about common land and commoning
- Continued to Chair the Uplands Alliance, a network that builds consensus between farmers land managers, conservation organisations and others who have an interest in the Uplands. Considerable effort has been spent on the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) for Moorland
- Co delivered a session on Common Land at the Oxford Real Farming Online Conference 2021
- Continued providing our Commons Master Class to Defra and RPA staff - the course works well online and this has enabled us to reach many more participants
- Ongoing attendance of the Rural Payment's Agency (RPA) Stakeholder Group on commons and regular meetings with RPA's Director of Operations and CEO to enable RPA to deliver BPS and Stewardship schemes more effectively on commons
- Provided ongoing guidance to commoners' groups, owners of common land and stakeholders via our website, attendance at their meetings and networks

A list of all our funders and their contributions appears in the income section of these accounts. As ever, we would like to express our huge gratitude to all who have supported our work this year and we would like to take the opportunity to thank the following for their kind support: Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Hadfield Trust, Garfield Weston Trust and National Lottery Heritage Fund as well as the many trusts and partners who are contributing in cash and kind to Our Upland Commons.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Review of the financial position

The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation continue most generously to provide us with a substantial portion of our core funding. Their most recent grant being for two years. We started drawing down funds in September 2020. The net assets of the charity at the year end are £49,457 a slight increase from last year, £42,228 of this sum is unrestricted funds.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Foundation For Common Land

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Principal financial management policies adopted

The directors scrutinise management accounts and budgets vs actual expenditure at monthly directors' meetings. This is for both the organisation as a whole and on a project/funding stream basis. The adoption of Xero bookkeeping system allows accounts to be kept up to date and easy to analyse. We also changed our accountants to Dodd & Co in Carlisle

Reserves policy

FCL has completed its eighth year of operation. During the year to which these accounts relate FCL had low liabilities with no employed staff, no leases and very low expenditure on overheads though this changes from July 2020 when we start employing our own staff. The primary reason FCL needs reserves is to fund short-term deficits in cash flow and for investment in new projects where grant funding may not be forthcoming or for match funding for larger projects. The Directors believe that present level of reserves available to the charity are enough and this is reviewed on a regular basis.

The reserves held are considered sufficient due to the following financial situation :

- The Esmée Fairbairn and Hadfield Trust core funding for 2021-2022 covers our overhead costs such as accounts, Director insurance and core activities and the cost of the Administrator not covered by the Defra grant.
- The charity owns no tangible assets that require repairs or investment.
- The charity at the end of the year had agreed to employ two part time members of staff. Their salaries will be covered by contracts and funding already secured and they will be recruited on fixed term contracts. Core funds previously spent on the Programme Manager who no longer is contracted to FCL will be used towards a new Administrator's salary.
- The Executive Director is self-employed who provides specific services as agreed by the Directors. The Executive Director's paid time input waxes and wanes according to project income and resources. She has other clients so is not dependent on income from FCL.
- The charity's Directors are chosen as individuals who are actively involved through their day jobs in activities that are closely linked to FCL's charitable objective so that in the worst case that project income ceased our Directors would continue to deliver the charitable objects.

The Charity therefore keeps enough funds in unrestricted funds to cover essential Trustee expenses of insurance, our part-time administrator, travel to the Annual Meeting and Accountants costs for at least six months as recommended by the Charity Commission and due to the time scales for obtaining grant funding our target is to have reserves for all essential costs for 12 months.

Principal funding sources

The principle sources of funding for FCL are from grant making trusts and income generation through delivering training and contracts. 2020-21 marked a development for us as we have started two significant contracts that have increased our turnover considerably. One is for a Defra Environmental Land Management Test and Trial with a value of £137,000 over 18 months. The other is the £3.1 million Our Common Cause: Our Upland Commons National Lottery Heritage Fund project. The accountable body for the finances for that project is the National Trust. This means staff are employed by the NT and seconded to FCL and that contracts are with the NT. Our Executive Director chairs the project board and leads the partnership.

The Charity in this financial year has received funds from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation for core costs and Our Common Cause: Our Upland Commons, the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and Garfield Weston.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

FCL during the financial year 2021-22 will seek to secure continuing core funding while developing more projects that allow us to reach a wider range and depth of audiences.

Foundation For Common Land
Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Foundation for Common Land is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association. These were amended by special resolution registered at Companies House on 28 November 2012.

Recruitment and Appointment of the Director-Trustees

The management of FCL is the responsibility of the charity trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association. Under FCL's Articles of Association the trustees are known as the directors. The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the directors are elected to serve for a period up to the following year's AGM where all directors stand down and stand for re-election.

There have been no additions to the Board of Trustees in this financial year. After the year end one Trustee, Lyndsey Stride stepped down as a Trustee to become Company Secretary and to undertake some project development and management work for FCL.

Methods adopted for the training and induction of director/ trustees

The Charity Commission's guide "the Essential Trustee" is available to all Directors via a shared filing system. This system also contains all the essential governance documents including: Memorandum and Articles of Association; minutes of Director Meetings, away days, business plan, financial strategies, register of Directors' interests, project files and policies.

FCL recognises the need for directors to be familiar with the work of the organisation. Staff are invited to attend the Trustees Meeting to encourage sharing of information and experience. Staff have also been buddied with Trustees for mentoring and support. Directors are encouraged to be members of relevant working parties and advisory panels and attend conferences (often giving presentations on our work) to keep their knowledge current.

During this financial year we have continued to have had the benefit of a Mentor paid via the National Lottery Heritage Fund and they have worked with the trustees and consultants to enhance our systems, governance and risk management. They have now moved to a new full time position and have stepped down. We are seeking to find a replacement recognising the value of such a role.

Organisational structure

The affairs of FCL are managed by the directors. According to the Articles of Association there must be a minimum of three Directors and there is no maximum number of directors. The directors aim to meet face-to face at least once a year though this has not been possible in this financial year due to Covid restrictions. This is supplemented by 2-hour Director meetings Zoom (at least four per year) following a prepared agenda and written reports covering agenda items. The minutes are recorded and reviewed at each subsequent meeting. The directors are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of FCL. At present there are seven directors from a variety of backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity. The Executive Director, Programmes' Manager (also Company Secretary) and other staff and consultants also attend director meetings as appropriate but have no voting rights.

A scheme of delegation is in place and day-to-day responsibility for the work of FCL rests with the Executive Director and the Administrator. They are responsible for ensuring that FCL delivers agreed projects and contracts and all work is delivered in line with good practice models and relevant quality standards and key performance indicators are met.

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the risks related to the operations and finances of the charity and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks.

The directors have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. A risk register has been developed and is regularly reviewed.

Foundation For Common Land
Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic

Covid-19 has caused significant disruption to all activities across the economy. During the 2020-21 financial year to which these accounts relate this risk was managed via deferring projects start dates. The Defra ELM Test and Trial started at the beginning of this financial year in July 2020 after a 4 month delay. Our Common Cause: Our Upland Commons Project Manager was recruited and started in mid November 2020. We have successfully managed some disruption e.g. by continuing our Master Classes on line and by running nationally advertised webinars. Both of these have worked well and enabled us to reach many more people across a wider geography than previously. We have established a You Tube channel to enable webinars to be watched at a later time. Our Directors continue to meet by Zoom which is working well.

Post Year End Events and Risks

Since the year end we have been continuing with our two main projects; Defra T&T and Our Upland Commons. These are both progressing well. We also have had our Expression of Interest for our Landscape Recovery Test and Trial accepted. The contract with Defra is currently being finalised for a £196,000 contract over 18 months. We will work in the New Forest and the Malverns. This is due to start in early 2022.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Board on 18 November 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



C Short
Trustee

Foundation For Common Land

Trustees' Responsibilities in relation to the Financial Statements

The trustees (who are also directors of Foundation For Common Land for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and the Financial Reporting Standard 102 - 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

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 of the incoming resources and application of resources, including 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 judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the 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 proper 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.

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Foundation For Common Land**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 30 June 2021, which are set out on pages 10 to 19.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charitieshave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Joanne Thomlinson FCA
Dodd & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants

18 November 2021

FIFTEEN Rosehill
Montgomery Way
Rosehill Estate
CARLISLE
CA1 2RW

Foundation For Common Land

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account) for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	101	137,000	137,101	25,383
Income from Charitable Activities	3	57,783	8,400	66,183	10,123
Total income and endowments		<u>57,884</u>	<u>145,400</u>	<u>203,284</u>	<u>35,506</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities		36,712	158,462	195,174	32,245
Total expenditure		<u>36,712</u>	<u>158,462</u>	<u>195,174</u>	<u>32,245</u>
Net movements in funds		21,172	(13,062)	8,110	3,261
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		21,056	20,291	41,347	38,086
Total funds carried forward		<u>42,228</u>	<u>7,229</u>	<u>49,457</u>	<u>41,347</u>

All of the Charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above periods.

The notes on pages 12 to 19 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Foundation For Common Land
Company registration number: 08113120
Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2021

		2021		2020	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Current assets					
Debtors	9	9,564		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>41,715</u>		<u>43,119</u>	
			51,279		43,119
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	10		<u>(1,822)</u>		<u>(1,772)</u>
Net current assets			<u>49,457</u>		<u>41,347</u>
Net assets			<u>49,457</u>		<u>41,347</u>
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted funds			7,229		20,291
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted income funds			<u>42,228</u>		<u>21,056</u>
Total charity funds			<u>49,457</u>		<u>41,347</u>

For the financial year ended 30 June 2021, the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

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

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

Approved by the Board on 18 November 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



 C Short
 Trustee

The notes on pages 12 to 19 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Foundation For Common Land

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

1 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

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 (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

The charitable company 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 notes.

Going concern

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

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 income 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.

Further details of each fund are disclosed in note 14.

Income and endowments

Donations are recognised when the Charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the Charity before the Charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the Charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Legacy gifts are recognised on a case by case basis following the grant of probate when the administrator/executor for the estate has communicated in writing both the amount and settlement date. In the event that the gift is in the form of an asset other than cash or a financial asset traded on a recognised stock exchange, recognition is subject to the value of the gift being reliably measured with a degree of reasonable accuracy and the title to the asset having been transferred to the Charity.

Income from Government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Foundation For Common Land

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

..... continued

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Taxation

The Charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Trade Debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business. Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the Charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Liabilities

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the Charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged in the statement of financial activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

Foundation For Common Land

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

..... continued

Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the Charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the Charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the Charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the Charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Donations and legacies				
Appeals and donations	101	-	101	-
Grants				
Esmee Fairbairn	-	87,000	87,000	8,750
Princes Countryside Fund	-	-	-	6,900
The Hadfield Trust	-	-	-	4,000
DEFRA	-	-	-	2,883
University of Gloucestershire	-	-	-	2,850
Garfield Weston	-	50,000	50,000	-
	-	137,000	137,000	25,383
	101	137,000	137,101	25,383

Of the donations and legacies income in 2020, £17,043 related to unrestricted funds and £8,340 related to restricted funds.

Foundation For Common Land
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

..... continued

3 Income from Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Provision of training courses	800	-	800	1,273
Provision of project management for Our Common Cause	-	8,400	8,400	8,850
Defra T&T	56,577	-	56,577	-
Other	406	-	406	-
	<u>57,783</u>	<u>8,400</u>	<u>66,183</u>	<u>10,123</u>

Of the other trading activities income in 2020, £1,273 related to unrestricted funds and £8,850 related to restricted funds.

4 Expenditure

	Charitable activity £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Direct costs			
Provision of Charitable Activities	10,458	10,458	13,288
Our Common Cause	123,451	123,451	11,328
Defra T&T	33,827	33,827	-
Hill Farming Training	-	-	1,000
Wages and salaries	23,634	23,634	-
Staff NIC (Employers)	1,038	1,038	-
Staff pensions	359	359	-
Research and Educational Activities	-	-	5,321
	<u>192,767</u>	<u>192,767</u>	<u>30,937</u>
Support costs			
Sundry expenses	1,120	1,120	-
Accountancy fees	745	745	772
Independent examiner's fee	500	500	500
Bank charges	42	42	36
	<u>2,407</u>	<u>2,407</u>	<u>1,308</u>
	<u>195,174</u>	<u>195,174</u>	<u>32,245</u>

Of the expenditure in 2020, £2,486 related to unrestricted funds and £29,759 related to restricted funds.

Foundation For Common Land
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

..... continued

5 Governance costs

	2021	2020
	£	£
Accountancy fees	745	772
Independent examiner's fee	500	500
	<u>1,245</u>	<u>1,272</u>

6 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No trustees received any remuneration or expenses (2020: £817) during the year.

7 Employees' remuneration

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management) employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2021 No.	2020 No.
Charitable activities	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>

The aggregate payroll costs of these persons were as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	23,634	-
Social security	1,038	-
Other pension costs	359	-
	<u>25,031</u>	<u>-</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year (2020 - No. 0).

Foundation For Common Land
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

..... continued

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £
Cost	
As at 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021	634
Depreciation	
As at 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021	634
Net book value	
As at 30 June 2021	-
As at 30 June 2020	-

9 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	9,564	-

10 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	45	1,272
Taxation and social security	577	-
Accruals and deferred income	1,200	500
	1,822	1,772

11 Members' liability

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

12 Pension scheme

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the period represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £359 (2020 - £nil).

There were no outstanding or prepaid contributions at either the beginning or end of the financial year.

Foundation For Common Land
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

..... continued

13 Related parties

Controlling entity

The charity is controlled by the trustees who are all directors of the company.

14 Analysis of funds

	At 1 July 2020	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 30 June 2021
	£	£	£	£
General Funds				
Unrestricted income fund	21,056	57,884	(36,712)	42,228
Restricted Funds				
Restricted income fund	20,291	-	(18,344)	1,947
Esmee Fairbairn	-	20,000	(16,667)	3,333
Our Common Cause	-	125,400	(123,451)	1,949
	20,291	145,400	(158,462)	7,229
	41,347	203,284	(195,174)	49,457

Restricted funds - these are funds held relating to previous projects. The balance carried forward relates to the Princes Countryside Fund.

Esmee Fairbairn - these funds are held for wages and are restricted until the end of the grant period.

Our Common Cause - these funds are held to enable vulnerable communities to enhance iconic places.

Foundation For Common Land

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

..... continued

Prior period

	At 1 July 2019	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 30 June 2020
	£	£	£	£
General Funds				
General funds	5,226	18,316	(2,486)	21,056
Restricted Funds				
Restricted funds	32,860	17,190	(29,759)	20,291
	<u>38,086</u>	<u>35,506</u>	<u>(32,245)</u>	<u>41,347</u>

15 Net assets by fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£	£
Tangible assets	-	-	-	-
Current assets	44,050	7,229	51,279	43,119
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(1,822)	-	(1,822)	(1,772)
Net assets	<u>42,228</u>	<u>7,229</u>	<u>49,457</u>	<u>41,347</u>

Prior period

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2020	Total Funds 2019
	£	£	£	£
Current assets	21,056	22,063	43,119	43,757
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	-	(1,772)	(1,772)	(5,671)
Net assets	<u>21,056</u>	<u>20,291</u>	<u>41,347</u>	<u>38,086</u>

