



**Ecological**  
**Land Trust**

# **Annual Report**

1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Ecological Land Trust

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Charity Number: 1158032

Registered Office: Unit 2, Wildgoose Space, 228 Mina Road, Bristol  
BS2 9YP

## Trustees

O Rodker (chair)

L Beighton

H Westphely

## Governance

Governing Document: Constitution

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> July 2014

The Ecological Land Trust has a relationship with the Ecological Land Cooperative (Community Benefit Society no. 30770R registered with the FCA under the Cooperative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014) and raises funds for environmental conservation work on the Cooperative's small farm sites.

The Trust also receives funds on behalf of the Ecological Land Cooperative. These are held in the Ecological Land Trust's bank account until they are drawn down by the cooperative.

## Charitable Aims

"To promote sustainable development (as defined below) for the benefit of the public by:

- a. the preservation, conservation and the protection of the environment and the prudent use of resources;
- b. the promotion of sustainable means of achieving economic development and regeneration.

To advance the education of the public in subjects relating to sustainable development and the protection, enhancement and rehabilitation of the environment and to promote study and research in such subjects provided that the useful results of such study are disseminated to the public at large.

**Sustainable Development** means development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

## Activities

The Ecological Land Trust has been engaged in supporting the charitable work of the Ecological Land Cooperative to conserve and protect the natural environment.

The Trust continues to hold funds for the development of the Cooperative's site in Cornwall due to begin in 2024.

The Trust received the donation of a farm in Carmarthenshire in June 2022 – Maesgwyn Isaf. The ongoing maintenance and management of this farm will be carried out by the Ecological Land Cooperative. There is a Tenancy at Will in place in which the Ecological Land Trust is the Landlord and the Ecological Land Cooperative is the Tenant. The Ecological Land Cooperative has full repairing and insuring liability of Maesgwyn Isaf.

In Autumn 2023, the Trust was chosen as the recipient of the gift of Ragmans Lane Farm in Gloucestershire. The Trust sought legal and financial advice from Third Sector Accountancy and Wrigleys Solicitors with regards to the tax implications of the farm donation for both the Trust and the donor. The transfer was to be completed after the year end.

There was further legal advice sought with regards to clarifying the relationship between the Trust and the Ecological Land Cooperative which was identified as a risk in the 2022 Annual Report. Following confirmation from HMRC it was agreed that the Trust could receive donations from individuals to contribute to the work of the Ecological Land Cooperative that aligns with the charitable objects of the Trust and could collect Gift Aid on any such donations.

Work was carried out towards the end of 2023 on a new website for the Trust which is due to be launched in 2024.

The Trustees had due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

## **Achievements and Performance**

The Ecological Land Trust was effective in its purpose of supporting the promotion of sustainable development as per its Objects. It did this by securely holding funds for the renovation of a farm; the development of a new farm and the carrying out of ecological surveys on existing farms. Each of these areas seek to support new entrants to ecological farming to gain affordable access to land and to ensure that ecological principles are upheld in farming practices.

## **Finances**

An overview of the Ecological Land Trust's financial transactions in the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 are as follows:

Donations £1,177

Expenditure £36,672

Remaining carried forward = £41,351

Money has been spent on site development and ecological surveys. The remaining unrestricted funds are expected to be spent on legal costs for the acquisition of Ragmans Lane Farm and will constitute the majority part of our expenses next year.

The Trust does not seek to hold funds in reserve at this time.

## **Risks**

The Trust did not have any successful funding applications in 2023. In order to mitigate the risk of running out of funds, the Fundraiser of the Ecological Land Cooperative will submit funding applications on behalf of the Trust.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees:



Oli Rodker

15<sup>th</sup> October 2024



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name  
Ecological Land Trust

No (if any)  
1158032

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

Period start date  
1/1/2023


To

Period end date  
12/31/2023

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations	1,167	10	-	1,177	50,010
Grants	-	-	-	-	2,500
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b> (Gross income for AR)	1,167	10	-	1,177	52,510
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	1,167	10	-	1,177	52,510
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Distribution of Crowdfunds	-	27,952	-	27,952	-
Ecological surveys	-	5,000	-	5,000	-
Site development	-	3,720	-	3,720	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	36,672	-	36,672	-
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
Farm donation	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	-	36,672	-	36,672	-
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	1,167	- 36,662	-	- 35,495	52,510
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	9,775	67,071	-	76,846	24,336
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	10,942	30,409	-	41,351	76,846

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Cash in bank	10,942	30,409	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	10,942	30,409	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Maesgwyn Isaf Farm	General	-	500,000
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Oli Rodker	10/15/2024	