



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1 February 2024 To 31 January 2025

Charity name: Exeter Dissenters' Graveyard Trust

Charity registration number: 1159449

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To assist in the restoration, preservation, improvement, maintenance and conservation of Exeter Dissenters' Graveyard and to advance education in the graveyard and an understanding of the history and heritage of the graveyard and the people who were buried there.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Improvement of the site allowing access to members of the public</p> <p>For many years the site known as the Exeter Dissenters' Graveyard was derelict and was targeted by fly-tippers and substance abusers. The graveyard lies just outside Exeter's Roman walls in an area of historic significance - the Southernhay and The Friars Conservation Area, next to a major hotel. It was an eye-sore for locals and visitors alike and was a constant target for developers.</p> <p>The principal work of the Trust is now to maintain the graveyard, conduct research into the people buried there and their families, and carry out repair work where appropriate.</p> <p>Research</p> <p>The Research Group continues to investigate individuals and families associated with the Graveyard. Over 120 family biographies have been uploaded to the Trust's dedicated website (www.edgt.org.uk).</p>

		<p>Website and social media</p> <p>Our website (www.edgt.org.uk) is regularly updated with information about the project as well as photographs of the work and data about the people buried at the site.</p> <p>Education</p> <p>Dr Ian Varndell, one of the founder trustees, continued to give talks to local history societies about the graveyard and the research undertaken on the people buried in the graveyard.</p> <p>Public benefit and EDGT trustees</p> <p>The trustees have regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commissioner and the trustees confirm that they have had regard to public benefit guides PB1, PB2 and PB3 issued by the Charity Commission when making decisions to which they are relevant.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	NA
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	NA
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<p>Volunteers</p> <p>The EDGT has no employees and relies entirely on volunteers to plan, manage, undertake and report on the work of the charity, and maintain the site using paid contractors only where specialist knowledge, skills or equipment are required. Since 2014 volunteers have undertaken duties ranging from clearance work, building, pointing, stone repair and gardening to research work, stewarding and charity administration.</p>

Other		
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Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>Restoration The principal restoration of the Graveyard was completed in 2018/19.</p> <p>The main emphasis for the trustees is the maintenance of the graveyard, but they continue to increase its exposure to members of the public and ensure that fundraising meets the priorities for improvement works.</p> <p>The trustees agreed to open the graveyard on Wednesdays and Saturdays for most of the year. From January 2025 the graveyard will be open to the public 24/7 until the end of October 2025.</p> <p>Research The Research Group has continued to expand the quantity and accuracy of its biographical database.</p> <p>The Research Group met four times in 2024 and shared a lot of data electronically.</p> <p>On-line Activity The website continues to report progress on the Project and publicise events. The Trust has an occasional presence on Facebook and Twitter.</p> <p>Visitor numbers are monitored and the most popular page visited is Social History which includes output from the EDGT's active Research Group.</p> <p>As QR codes are scanned by visitors to the graveyard this activity is captured electronically. Over 1850 scans were recorded in the period 2021-May 2025.</p> <p>More QR code plaques will be installed in the graveyard in the coming years.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	Para 1.41	
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Achievements against objectives set		
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The trust has £18,333 total funds, of which £126 are unrestricted, £207 are restricted, and £18,000 relate to Heritage Assets.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	EDGT aspires to accumulate reserves to the level of three years' operating expenditure. This will be kept under review during the current financial year. The trustees have not identified any potential concerns.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	The trust has £18,333 total funds, (2023-24: £18,760) of which £126 are unrestricted (2023-24: £553); £207 are restricted (2023-24: £207); and £18,000 relate to Heritage Assets (2023-24: £18,000).
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	NA
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	NA
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	NA

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Principal sources of funding None.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	Fund raising for closed graveyards is challenging. The trustees have identified fund-raising opportunities for the financial year 2025-26.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Foundation model constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Appointed for a three-year term by the current Board of Trustees by resolution at a properly convened meeting of the Board.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	<p>Board of Trustees</p> <p>The initial Board was composed of members representing several heritage and community associations operating in the county of Devon. Close relationships were therefore formed with those associations, all of whom contributed seed funding for the early feasibility work. Whilst close working relationships still exist with the founding associations, new trustees are invited on the basis of their experience and appropriate expertise.</p> <p>Induction and training of trustees</p> <p>New trustees are sought from the local community on the basis of appropriate expertise as required by the Board or have a demonstrated interest in the Objects of the Trust. The charity trustees make available to each new charity trustee, on or before his or her first appointment: (a) a copy of the current version of our constitution; and (b) a copy of the CIO's latest Trustees' Annual Report and statement of accounts.</p>
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	

Other		
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Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Exeter Dissenters' Graveyard Trust
Other name the charity uses	EDGT
Registered charity number	1159449
Charity's principal address	Brimley Cross Bovey Tracey NEWTON ABBOT TQ13 9DL

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Anne Amosford			
2	Ian Varndell	Treasurer		
3	Paul Chant	Secretary		
4	Nigel Fitzhugh			
5	Sally Dyer			
6	Jane Marston			
7	Claire Rudkins			
8	Cathy Moran			
9	Stephen Wills	Chair		
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Accountants	Thompson Jenner LLP	1 Colleton Crescent, Exeter EX2 4DG

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Ian Michael VARNDELL	Robert Paul CHANT
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Hon. Treasurer	Hon. Secretary
Date	14 November 2025	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Exeter Dissenters' Graveyard Trust

1159449

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/02/2024

To

31/01/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations and Legacies	-	-	-	-	375
Charitable Activities	74	-	-	74	33
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	74	-	-	74	408
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	74	-	-	74	408
A3 Payments					
Charitable Activities	501	-	-	501	1,168
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	501	-	-	501	1,168
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	501	-	-	501	1,168
Net of receipts/(payments)	(427)	-	-	(427)	(760)
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	553	207	-	760	1,520
Cash funds this year end	126	207	-	333	760

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 £
B1 Cash funds	Bank	27	207	-
	Cash	99	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	126	207	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Graveyard Land	Heritage	18,000	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Accountancy Accrual	Unrestricted	330	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Ian Michael Varndell		
		Robert Paul Chant		