

Charity No: 1160691

Company No: 9329522

Registered office:

c/o MARTIN & COMPANY, ACCOUNTANTS
2 VICTORIA GROVE
BRIDPORT
DORSET
DT6 3AA

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Message from the Chair

2024 was a year of steadying and strengthening for Hazel Hill Trust. Building on the transition completed in 2023, we focused on aligning day-to-day activity with our charitable purpose, deepening our partnerships, and caring for the fabric of the wood and its buildings. There were challenges - staffing changes, a demanding maintenance agenda, and the on-going need to diversify income - but there was also a clear sense of momentum as trustees, staff, volunteers and group leaders worked together with renewed clarity.

We are especially encouraged by three themes:

1. Purpose-aligned programming.
2. Care for place.
3. Community in action.

My thanks to our staff team, volunteers, group leaders, donors and fellow trustees for their dedication. Together we continue to steward Hazel Hill as a thriving place where people heal and learn through deeper relationship with the living world.

Oliver Broadbent, Chair of Trustees.

Trustees report

1 The Directors (who meet as the Board of Trustees for the purpose of charity law) present their report on the finances and activities of the company for the year ended 31 December 2024.

2 Introduction to Hazel Hill Trust

a) Purpose and activities

Hazel Hill is a beautiful, secluded 70-acre ancient wood and sustainable retreat education centre, located seven miles from Salisbury. We offer a place for people to deepen their connection with nature, hosting a range of educational and wellbeing events using in-depth contact with nature at the wood.



b) Aims and objectives

The objects of the Charity as stated in the Articles of Association are:

- to promote the conservation and protection of the woodland known as Hazel Hill Wood, near Salisbury and improving its biodiversity for the public benefit by running woodland maintenance and conservation programmes, education on sustainable living and such other programmes and activities as the trustees deem appropriate; and
- to support such general charitable purposes as the trustees may in their absolute discretion determine.

The overall aim of Hazel Hill Trust is for Hazel Hill to be a thriving place where people come to heal and learn through deepening their connection with the more-than-human world.

We achieve this through:

- caring for the wood and the buildings, so they offer a safe and welcoming place for people to gather, connect and heal;
- develop a meaningful practice grounded in principles of deep ecology; and
- build partnerships with those who wish to use the wood for healing and learning.

Our aims fully reflect the purposes that the charity was set up to further.

c) Ensuring our work delivers our aims

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year. This review looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work in the 12 months ending 31 December 2024. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

3 How our activities deliver public benefit

Our main activities and who we try to help are described below. All our charitable activities focus on promoting the health and wellbeing of those who visit the wood, and the wood itself, and are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

Who used and benefited from our services?



Our starting point is that anyone and everyone can benefit from spending time in the woods. Numerous studies have demonstrated the link between spending time in nature and physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. That means we are open for bookings from any group that wants to use the wood.

At the same time, we prioritise not-for-profit groups and in particular groups that we feel can particularly benefit from spending time in the woods, such as people who are disadvantaged because of their circumstances.

In 2024 we were successful in securing a number of significant grants that enabled us to offer reduced price or free bookings to several groups, including Eastleigh Young carers, Salisbury Hospice, Rise 61, Salisbury's green community groups and Wiltshire Volunteer Managers' Forum.

The impact of our work goes far beyond those who visit the wood. By providing respite, healing and connection to visitors, we contribute to more healthy communities when they return to their homes and workplaces.

Other groups hosted in the year included a UK Rights of Nature network gathering, a regenerative design programme, a men's group, groups that celebrate the seasons, Salisbury Rugby Club Men's Group (dementia support) and a group providing coaching and mentoring to youths in need.

Conservation and woodland management work

Our aim is to maintain, and create where appropriate, a mosaic of habitats and microhabitats to support a diverse range of wildlife in the wood and neighbouring flower meadow. This includes:

- removal of non-native conifers in favour of native broadleaf trees
- deer management
- maintaining open ride, glade and meadow habitats; and
- pond maintenance.

The effectiveness of management is monitored via wildlife surveys including regular bird, butterfly, moth and wildflower surveys. These are completed by a mix of our highly skilled volunteers and staff.

Highlights of the year included the confirmation of presence of Hazel Dormouse in the wood, Nuthatches nesting in our nest boxes for the first time, and a rare Light Crimson Underwing moth recorded.

Programme of seasonal events

We continued to host our popular seasonal events, the Spring Bioblitz and Autumn Conservation weekends, in addition to our bat nights, offering community members a chance to connect with nature in unique and exciting ways.

We also for the first time ran a summer gathering where trustees, staff and volunteers came together. It was a chance to complete some important operational tasks (such as general tidying), get to know each other and the woods better, and problem-solve various matters that needed attention.

Volunteer and local community involvement

We continue to run an active volunteer programme, involving 54 people in 2024, many of whom attended on several occasions. Volunteers have a vital role to play in the healthy functioning of our activities, in particular taking care of the woods and our facilities, and also contributing to our conservation work. Their efforts are central to maintaining the charm and functionality of Hazel Hill as a retreat centre.

Many of our volunteers come from villages close to the wood, and we work hard to maintain good connections with the local community.

2024 was a great year for traditional skills at Hazel Hill Wood. Five volunteers received scythe training in the summer. Instead of modern fossil-fuel powered grass cutting machines, we do almost all of our grass cutting using the traditional method of scything. Eight of our volunteers learnt hedgelaying and how to create a continuous woven fence from hazel in the autumn, which was put to practical use in renewing the fence round the roundhouse.

We ran a free Campfire Community Singing evening, featuring a bring and share meal and story telling as well as singing.

Buildings and building maintenance

The buildings in Hazel Hill play a vital role in the hosting of groups. Charming, light, comfortable off-grid buildings with spacious common areas provide the ideal environment for groups to experience a different way of living. They can sally out into the woods and experience nature close at hand, and return to the warmth and shelter of the buildings. Caring for the buildings is a significant responsibility that involves an on-going programme of cleaning, maintenance and investment. In 2024, we replaced one of the compost toilets and undertook repairs to the Ark.

Education outcomes

We seek feedback from all groups who visit, and all evaluations have been extremely positive.

4. Our People

As at the end of 2024, the core staff team was 5 people, one of whom worked 5 days per week and one of whom worked 2 days per week (the remainder each worked fewer than two days per week). The trustees acknowledge and extend their thanks to the team who ensure our guests feel safe and cared for in the woods, and that the wood and the buildings are cared for too.

Financial review

Our income in 2024 was £121k (up £25k). This comprised:

- £61k from charitable activities (down £3k vs. 2023)
- £20k donation from Alan Heeks, the charity's founder (down from £30k in 2023) as part of a trajectory of being less reliant on donations from related parties
- £6k donations (up from £2k in 2023)
- £34k grants (up from £0k in 2023)

We continue to repay a loan to Alan Heeks, repaying £5,000 a year. At 31 December 2024 the balance of this loan stood at £50,000.

Excluding depreciation costs relating to the buildings, we had an operating surplus of £39k in 2024 (2023: £14k deficit)

The notable change from an operating deficit in 2023 to a significant surplus in 2024 is principally due to a number of successful grant applications.

Our reserves policy remains unchanged - that the Trust will hold £30,000 in designated reserves, only to be used in exceptional circumstances, e.g. in the case of needing to wind down operations. Hazel Hill Trust will also hold sufficient cash reserves to meet any operational liabilities as they fall due.

Plans for future years

Priorities for 2025 include:

- a focus on buildings, and taking a more integrated approach to buildings and the practice of being and working in the woods.
- Strengthen governance rhythms (monthly coordinating circle, twice-yearly Council gatherings).
- Care for the Ark building (roof replacement fundraising, water quality improvements, generator monitoring).
- Grow purpose-aligned programming and maintain affordability.

Structure and Governance

Governing Document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 26 November 2014 and registered as a charity on 27 February 2015. The company is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Trustees

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in the accounts.

In December 2024 Helen Kirk stepped down as trustee.

HAZEL HILL TRUST
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR TO 31st DECEMBER 2024
CHARITY NUMBER 1160691 COMPANY NUMBER 9329522

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year to 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 8 to 17.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Tom Swayne, CGMA

131 Western Road, Hurstpierpoint, W. Sussex BN6 9SY

27 September 2025

HAZEL HILL TRUST
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31st December 2024

		Unrestricted General Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Capital Reserve 2024 £	Unrestricted Designated Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
	Note						
Income from:							
Donations	2	25,674				25,674	32,043
Grants	3				34,000	34,000	-
Charitable activities	4	60,866				60,866	64,167
Total		<u>86,540</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,000</u>	<u>120,540</u>	<u>96,210</u>
Expenditure on :							
Raising funds	6	1,025		-		1,025	338
Charitable activities	6	56,032		15,294	24,000	95,326	125,543
Total		<u>57,057</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,294</u>	<u>24,000</u>	<u>96,351</u>	<u>125,881</u>
Net income (expenditure)		29,483	-	(15,294)	10,000	24,189	(29,671)
Gains (Losses) on revaluation of investments	8	1,135		-		1,135	690
Transfers between funds		(5,000)		5,000	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>25,618</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(10,294)</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>25,324</u>	<u>(28,981)</u>
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		13,113	30,000	1,011,651	-	1,054,764	1,083,745
Total funds carried forward		<u>38,731</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>1,001,357</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>1,080,088</u>	<u>1,054,764</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 11 to 16 form part of these financial statements

**HAZEL HILL TRUST
BALANCE SHEET
AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

	Note	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed assets	7		1,056,358		1,071,651
Investments	8		34,564		33,429
Current Assets					
Debtors		2,100		2,040	
Cash at bank		50,695		14,181	
		<u>52,795</u>		<u>16,221</u>	
Creditors : amounts due within one year	9	<u>13,629</u>		<u>11,537</u>	
Net current assets			<u>39,166</u>		<u>4,684</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>1,130,088</u>		<u>1,109,764</u>
Creditors: amount due after one year	10		50,000		55,000
Net assets			<u>1,080,088</u>		<u>1,054,764</u>
Accumulated funds					
Unrestricted funds	13		68,731		43,113
Designated funds	13		1,001,357		1,011,651
Restricted funds	13		10,000		-
Total funds			<u>1,080,088</u>		<u>1,054,764</u>

The directors statements required by Section 475(2) and (3) are shown on the following page, which forms part of this balance sheet.

The notes on pages 11 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

HAZEL HILL TRUST
BALANCE SHEET (continued)
at 31st December 2024

DIRECTORS STATEMENTS REQUIRED BY SECTIONS 475(2) AND (3)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

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

For the year ending 31 December 2024 the company was entitled to the exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

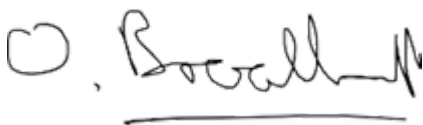
Directors' responsibilities

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

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

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on and signed on its behalf by:

Oliver Broadbent, Chair of Trustees

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'O. Broadbent', is written over a horizontal line.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2024

1. Accounting policies

- a. 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 Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP) (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of investments which are included at market value. In accordance with FRS 102 no statement of cash flow has been prepared
- b. The Charity is dependent upon the continuing financial support of one of its former Trustees alongside other sources of funding. It is anticipated that the financial support will continue for the foreseeable future. Although the future is unpredictable the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.
- c. Income from government and other grants whether capital or revenue 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.
- d. Donations and other forms of voluntary income are recognised as incoming resources when receivable except insofar as they are incapable of financial measurement.
- e. Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations and grants which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the Trust's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the Trust.
- f. Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.
Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.
- g. Fixed assets include ancient woodland at the professional valuation of £400,000 in July 2015 when gifted to the Charity by one of the Trustees. No depreciation charge has been made in respect of the woodland. In addition to the woodland the fixed assets include various buildings valued at £400,000 in July 2015 when also gifted to the Charity by one of the Trustees, and further building work and improvements which have been valued at cost. All buildings are depreciated on a straight line basis over 50 years.
- h. Investments are shown at market value determined by reference to UK stock exchange prices at the balance sheet date and income is recognised when received.

HAZEL HILL TRUST**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2024**

2. Donations	2024	2023
	£	£
Alan Heeks	19,979	30,004
Other donors	5,695	2,039
	<u>25,674</u>	<u>32,043</u>

Alan Heeks was a trustee until his resignation in April 2023.

The Trust benefits from the support of volunteers. In accordance with FRS102 and the SORP (FRS102) the economic contribution of general volunteers is not recognised in the accounts.

3. Grants	2024	2023
	£	£
National Lottery Community Fund	20,000	-
The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust	3,500	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund	10,000	-
Salisbury Transition City C.I.C.	500	-
	<u>34,000</u>	<u>-</u>

4. Income from charitable activities	2024	2023
	£	£
Accommodation bookings and events	60,652	64,064
Sundry income	214	103
	<u>60,866</u>	<u>64,167</u>

HAZEL HILL TRUST

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2024

6. Expenditure	2024	2023
	£	£
Fund raising costs		
Staff costs	1,025	338
	1,025	338
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Staff costs	51,178	68,062
Staff travel	43	26
Education and event costs	3,279	1,357
Estate management	3,719	4,540
Woodland Management	1,013	1,161
Equipment maintenance	-	13,692
Other building costs	2,920	8,148
Miscellaneous costs	182	583
Cleaning and laundry	4,939	4,812
Depreciation of buildings and equipment	15,294	15,294
Support costs see below	12,477	7,626
Governance costs see below	282	244
	95,326	125,543
Support costs (included above)		
Communication	615	598
Marketing and advertising	119	16
Administration and bookkeeping	1,379	-
Insurance	5,013	4,813
Services, fuel and water	4,483	1,625
Bank charges	70	120
Other costs	798	453
	12,477	7,626
Governance costs (included above)		
Trustee expenses remuneration and expenses	282	304
Professional fees	-	(60)
	282	244

HAZEL HILL TRUST
Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2024
7. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land	Buildings & equipment	Total
Valuation	£	£	£
Brought forward	400,000	764,675	1,164,675
Additions	-	-	-
Carried forward	400,000	764,675	1,164,675
Depreciation			
Brought forward	-	93,023	93,023
Charge for the year	-	15,294	15,294
Carried forward	-	108,317	108,317
Written down value at 31st December 2024	400,000	656,358	1,056,358
<i>Written down value at 31st December 2023</i>	<i>400,000</i>	<i>671,651</i>	<i>1,071,651</i>

8. Investments	UK listed investments	2024	2023
		£	£
	Valuation at the beginning of the year	33,429	32,738
	Increase/(decrease) in valuation	1,135	691
	Valuation at the end of the year	34,564	33,429

9. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2024	2023
	£	£
Income in advance	-	1,660
Creditors	8,629	4,876
Unsecured long term loan	5,000	5,000
	13,629	11,537

HAZEL HILL TRUST

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2024

10. Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	2024	2023
	£	£
Unsecured long term loan	50,000	55,000

The unsecured long-term loan is from Alan Heeks, a former Trustee and Director. The loan is repaid in annual instalments of £5,000 and should be fully repaid by 2035

11. Trustees remuneration and expenses	2024	2023
	£	£

The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the charitable company permit payments to Trustees where certain criteria are met.

Three trustees (five in 2023) were reimbursed for travel and sundry expenses incurred during the year:	339	549
The following Trustees were paid other than for reimbursed travel expenses during the year:		
Helen Kirk: Remuneration for providing staff maternity cover	320	4,499

Trustees attending Trustee meetings and other events do occasionally stay overnight at Hazel Hill thereby reducing travel costs. Any benefit arising has not been taken reflected in these accounts.

12. Staff costs	2024	2023
	£	£
Staff costs, excluding the trustees in note 11 , were as follows		
Employees: Three in 2024 (three in 2023)	48,838	60,612
Freelance self employed: five in 2024 (three in 2023)	12,367	10,076
	<u>61,205</u>	<u>70,688</u>

13. Funds	Unrestricted General fund	Unrestricted Capital reserve	Unrestricted Designated	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Brought forward at 1st January 2024	13,113	30,000	1,011,651	-	1,054,764
Surplus (deficit) for the year	29,483	-	(15,294)	10,000	24,189
Transfers between funds	(5,000)		5,000		-
Gains and revaluation of investments	1,135				1,135
Carried forward at 31st December 2024	38,731	30,000	1,001,357	10,000	1,080,088

Represented by:

Fixed assets			1,056,358		1,056,358
Investments	4,564	30,000			34,564
Debtors	2,100				2,100
Cash at bank	40,695			10,000	50,695
	47,359	30,000	1,056,358	10,000	1,143,717
Creditors	(8,629)		(55,000)		(63,629)
	38,730	30,000	1,001,358	10,000	1,080,088

HAZEL HILL TRUST**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2024****14. Capital**

Members of the charitable company guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of a winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31st December 2024 was three (2023: three).

15. Related party transactions

In addition to the payments to the Trustees shown in note 11 above, the Charity provided services at commercial rates to four trustees who paid £12,710. (2023: six trustees paid £21,806).

There are no further related party transactions during the year which require disclosure in these accounts.

16. Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from Corporation Tax on its charitable activities.

HAZEL HILL TRUST
SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR TO 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	Unrestricted Operational	Unrestricted Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources					
Accommodation and events	60,652	-	-	60,652	64,167
Grants		-	34,000	34,000	-
Other income	214	-	-	214	-
Donations	25,674	-	-	25,674	32,043
Total Incoming resources	86,540	-	34,000	120,540	96,210
Expenditure					
Fund raising costs	1,025	-	-	1,025	338
Programme delivery	-	-	24,000	24,000	1,484
Forestry and conservation	1,013	-	-	1,013	1,161
Building maintenance	6,639	-	-	6,639	31,832
General management	35,622	-	-	35,622	67,894
Depreciation	-	15,294	-	15,294	15,294
Support costs	12,477	-	-	12,477	7,626
Governance costs	282	-	-	282	244
Total expenditure	57,057	15,294	24,000	96,351	125,872
Surplus (deficit)	29,483	(15,294)	10,000	24,189	(29,662)
Gains /(Losses) on revaluation of investments	1,135	-		1,135	690
Transfers between funds	(5,000)	5,000	-	-	-
Net Movement in funds	25,618	(10,294)	10,000	25,324	(28,972)