

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1160790

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [09153749](#)

Registered 2015-03-09

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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D
E & F
14th Floor
The Plaza
100 Old Hall Street
Liverpool
L3 9QJ

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Website www.merseyforest.org.uk

Activities

Objects: (1) THE OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY ARE SPECIFICALLY RESTRICTED TO THE PROMOTION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC GENERALLY ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE WITHIN THE NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND OR ELSEWHERE AS THE TRUSTEES SHALL DETERMINE CONNECTED WITH THE ENHANCEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT, MAINTENANCE AND PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND LANDSCAPE AND IN PARTICULAR TO:(A) PROMOTE, PROVIDE AND ENHANCE WOODLAND FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC;(B) PROMOTE THE GENERAL IMPROVEMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO WOODLAND OR FORESTRY PRODUCTS;(C) PROMOTE AND PROVIDE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF DERELICT LAND OR HARMFUL SITES;(D) PROVIDE OR HELP TO PROVIDE FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION AND LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION PARTICULARLY INVOLVING THE ENJOYMENT OF LAND AND WOODLAND AS A PUBLIC AMENITY (AND IN FURTHERANCE TO HELP TO PROVIDE SAFE AND CONVENIENT ROUTES AND MODES OF TRANSPORT FOR THE PUBLIC, FOR SAFE CYCLING, AND FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES INCLUDING NATURE TRAILS, RESERVES AND SANCTUARIES, HORSE AND CYCLE AND FOOTWAYS, PARKLAND AND VISITOR FACILITIES AND CAR PARKS);(E) PROMOTE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN HEALTHY RECREATION BY PROVIDING FACILITIES FOR PLAYING PARTICULAR SPORTS;(F) EDUCATE THE PUBLIC IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS, IN ECOLOGY AND PROVIDE BETTER APPRECIATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTS AND WAYS OF BETTER SERVING, PROTECTING AND IMPROVING THE SAME AND EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN ALL MATTERS RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND ITS INTERACTION WITH THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WELLBEING OF THE COMMUNITY;(G) PROMOTE THE ARTS WITHIN THE WOODLAND AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS;(H) PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC THE ECOLOGY AND USE OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND ALL SPECIES LIVING IN IT;(I) PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC THE CONSERVATION, ENHANCEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC IN THE IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN RELATION TO ALL THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHARITY. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUB-ARTICLE, THE PHRASE 'SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT' SHALL MEAN DEVELOPMENT THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF THE PRESENT WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE ABILITY OF FUTURE GENERATIONS TO MEET THEIR OWN NEEDS AND IN APPLYING THIS DEFINITION REGARD SHALL BE HAD TO THE FOLLOWING FACTORS NAMELY, TO SOCIAL PROGRESS WHICH RECOGNISES THE NEEDS OF EVERYONE; EFFECTIVE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT; PRUDENT USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND MAINTENANCE OF HIGH AND STABLE LEVELS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT;(J) PROMOTE AND PROTECT 'GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE' WHICH SHALL MEAN THE LIVING NETWORK OF GREEN SPACES, WATER AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES IN BOTH RURAL AND URBAN AREAS AND SHALL INCLUDE TREES, PARKS, GARDENS, ROAD VERGES, ALLOTMENTS, CEMETERIES, WOODLANDS, RIVERS, WETLANDS, FARMLAND AND OTHER NATURAL FEATURES THAT OPERATE AS FLOOD PROTECTION, CARBON STORAGE OR WATER PURIFICATION; AND(K) PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AGAINST THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE INCLUDING THE CARRYING OUT OF ACTIVITIES TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF, AND ADAPT TO, CLIMATE CHANGE.(2) SUCH OTHER EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE PURPOSES FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT AS THE TRUSTEES MAY IN THEIR ABSOLUTE DISCRETION DETERMINE FROM TIME TO TIME.

Activities: The charitable activities are those of the enhancement and improvement, maintenance and protection of the environment and landscape within the North West, for the benefit of the public.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage, Recreation
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** KNOWSLEYLIVERPOOL CITYSEFTONWIRRALST HELENS
- Cheshire West & Chester
- Knowsley
- Liverpool City
- Sefton
- St Helens
- Wirral

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-06-30	£123,686	£48,807	-	-
2024-06-30	£57,976	£38,674	-	-
2023-06-30	£38,119	£3,454	-	-
2022-03-31	£13,926	£5,034	-	-
2021-03-31	£40,078	£42,379	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
PAUL ANTHONY NOLAN BSC MSC	Chair	2015-03-09
DAVID PAUL SHAW		2019-10-01
David McAleavy		2019-10-01
Dr Urmila Jha Thakur		2025-01-30
Roger Pearson		2022-10-14
Trevor John Nicoll		2024-12-12

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1160790

Accounts

Charity registration number 1160790 (England and Wales)

Company registration number 09153749

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr David McAleavy Mr Paul Nolan (Chair) Mr Roger Pearson Prof David Shaw Mr T Nicoll Dr U JhaThakur	(Appointed 12 December 2024) (Appointed 30 January 2025)
Charity number	1160790	
Company number	09153749	
Registered office	14th Floor The Plaza 100 Old Hall Street Liverpool England L3 9QJ	
Independent examiner	Anita C Mason BA(Hons) BFP FCA Mitchell Charlesworth Suites C, D, E & F, 14th Floor The Plaza 100 Old Hall Street Liverpool L3 9QJ	
Bankers	Tridos Bank Deanery Road Bristol BS1 5AS	
Solicitors	Brabners LLP Horton House Exchange Flags Liverpool L2 3YL	

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

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MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Chair's Report

Introduction I am pleased to present the Chair's Report covering the Foundation's activities over the 2024/25 period. This year has been marked by significant strategic planning, the strengthening of our governance structures, and the continued Foundation support for delivery of projects that help to deliver the Mersey Forest Plan. We have maintained a robust meeting schedule, including virtual sessions in May, October, and January, as well as a valuable site visit to Bold Moss in July 2024.

Governance and Board Membership We have seen changes to our Board composition this year. We were delighted to welcome Trevor Nicoll and Urmila Jha Thakur, whose appointment as trustees has been approved, and bring with them vital expertise in environmental planning.

To support our trustees, Clare Olver has produced a draft Trustee Handbook. This is currently being refined through one-on-one sessions to ensure it meets the needs of both the Mersey Forest Foundation (MFF) and the Community Forest Land Trust (CFLT). We continue to seek additional trustees, particularly those with academic and scientific backgrounds, to support initiatives like the "Idea Lab" that the Mersey Forest Team is developing.

Financial Stewardship and Fundraising Our financial position remains sound, with active management of our funds to maximise impact.

Donations: We received significant donations from Mersey Rail and INTX, both earmarked for tree planting in the Liverpool City Region. We continue to hold approximately £55,000 in unallocated donations, which will be directed toward small-scale projects.

Treasury Management: We are transitioning financial management to ensure transparency and efficiency. This includes a proposal to open multiple current accounts to separate funds for different entities and a review of our banking partners (Co-op and Triodos) to balance ethical considerations with operational ease.

Due Diligence: We are updating our own MFF Due Diligence Policy, ensuring we maintain high ethical standards regarding donations from specific sectors while retaining necessary pragmatism.

Strategy and Business Planning.

Looking ahead, we will look to make progress on the Foundation Strategy and Business Plan, which extends to 2030, though this is still in development. This plan aligns with the Mersey Forest partnership delivery plan and local authority agreements. The Mersey Forest Plan refresh was launched on May 22nd 2025 and the Foundation will look at its strategy to ensure that it continues to support the aspirations set out in the Mersey Forest Plan.

Additionally, the Foundation is preparing to act as a partner for a major conference on "Investing in Nature," planned for June at the Museum of Liverpool. This event aims to engage local businesses and will be supported by sponsorship funds that will be managed by MFF.

Project Delivery Our project work has continued to deliver environmental improvements and community engagement:

- **Bold Forest Park (S106):** Our site visit in July allowed trustees to see the progress at Colliers Moss (Bold Moss North) firsthand. Extensive restoration work has converted heathland into wet lowland heath—a unique habitat for Merseyside—alongside peatland re-wetting and the reintroduction of species.
- **Access and Community:** We are improving access links between Clockface and Griffin, including new paths and a footbridge. Work is also ongoing to develop nature trails with interpretive panels. We are initiating school-based programs funded by S106 allocations.
- **Warrington S106:** The Board agreed to manage a £40,000 project for Warrington Borough Council, similar to the Omega project. While we are eager to proceed, we are currently awaiting further communication from the Council.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Conclusion The Foundation is in a strong position as we move into the next financial year. With a refreshed strategy, an evolving Board, and a clear pipeline of projects, we are well-equipped to continue our work to support the Mersey Forest Plan.

Paul Nolan

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Paul Nolan

Chairman

30/03/2026

Date:

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Introduction

The trustees of Mersey Forest Foundation, who are also directors of the Company, present their annual report for the period ended 30th June 2025. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note one to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 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 (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Vision, Purpose and Values

Our Vision is to get "More from Trees", through the creation of The Mersey Forest.

The purpose of the charity is to:

- support the delivery of the Mersey Forest Plan.
- become the way for people to support The Mersey Forest in their area.
- become a valuable member of The Mersey Forest Partnership.
- promote the role of The Mersey Forest for people, places and a thriving economy.
- be the primary source of unrestricted income for The Mersey Forest Partnership by 2025

The values continue to be:

- to advocate for The Mersey Forest
- working in partnership to get more done
- founded on excellent business practice and corporate governance
- innovative, creative, business-minded thinking

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Objectives and activities

The Objects of the Charity are specifically restricted to the promotion for the benefit of the public generally any charitable purpose within the North West of England or elsewhere as the Trustees shall determine connected with the enhancement and improvement, maintenance and protection of the environment and landscape and in particular to:

- promote, provide and enhance woodland for the benefit of the public;
- promote the general improvement of agriculture and of industry and commerce particularly in relation to woodland or forestry products;
- promote and provide for the improvement of derelict land or harmful sites;
- provide or help to provide for the general public facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation particularly involving the enjoyment of land and woodland as a public amenity (and in furtherance to help to provide safe and convenient routes and modes of transport for the public, for safe cycling, and for the development of facilities including nature trails, reserves and sanctuaries, horse and cycle and footways, parkland and visitor facilities and car parks);
- promote community participation in healthy recreation by providing facilities for playing particular sports;
- educate the public in environmental matters, in ecology and provide better appreciation of the environments and ways of better serving, protecting and improving the same and education and training in all matters relating to the environment and its interaction with the social and economic wellbeing of the community;
- promote the arts within the woodland and natural environments;
- promote for the benefit of the public the ecology and use of the natural environment and all species living in it;
- promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, enhancement and improvement of the environment and to educate the public in the importance of sustainable development in relation to all the activities of the Charity. resources and maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment;
- promote and protect 'green infrastructure' which shall mean the living network of green spaces, water and other environmental features in both rural and urban areas and shall include trees, parks, gardens, road verges, allotments, cemeteries, woodlands, rivers, wetlands, farmland and other natural features that operate as flood protection, carbon storage or water purification; and
- protect the environment against the effects of climate change including the carrying out of activities to mitigate the effects of, and adapt to, climate change.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Statement of Public Benefit

In meeting these objects, the charity's public benefit aim to maintain, complete and apply for funding that supports projects as detailed above. The charity has met its objectives by sticking to the guidelines of the grants applied for.

In setting out policy and planning these activities, the trustees have given consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The Charities Act identifies thirteen charitable purposes as being for the public benefit. Mersey Forest Foundation meets the public benefit principles by focusing on three of those charitable purposes:

- the advancement of education.
- the advancement of health or the saving of lives.
- the advancement of environmental protection or improvement.

The Trustees' remuneration have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Financial review

The foundation's financial position is sound. The core funds stand at £150,508 at the year end (2024: £75,719).

Reserves Policy and Going Concern

Reserves are considered to be that part of the Foundation's funds which are freely available for its general purpose after it has met its commitments and covered its other planned expenditure. These unrestricted funds are needed to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of income and to cover administrative, fundraising and support costs without which the Foundation could not function.

The trustees consider that the ideal level of reserves as at 30th June 2025 would be in the region of £8K being 2 years of core administration costs at their current level for insurance, accounting, governance and general admin. The unrestricted reserves were standing at £150,508 at 30th June 2025 (2024: £75,719) so are deemed to be adequate.

Since the year end there has been no unexpected expenditure and the viability of the charity remains financially sound.

Investment Policies

The charity has a policy of keeping any surplus funds in short-term deposits, which can be accessed readily. On-line banking assists the monitoring of these accounts with a view to achieving best interest rates for amounts held on deposit whilst at the same time ensuring cash flow requirements are met.

Plans for Future Periods

The Foundation intends to continue to play a role in supporting the delivery of the Mersey Forest Plan through its ongoing activities and initiatives. The Foundation will also continue to seek additional funding opportunities to further its mission and objectives.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

The foundation's governing document is its Memorandum and Articles of Association, which were adopted on 23rd July 2014 and registered with the Charity Commission on 9th March 2015. The foundation is a company limited by guarantee, which means that it has no shareholders and its members are not liable for its debts. The foundation's only member is Community Forest Trust Ltd, which is also a charitable company limited by guarantee.

Appointment of Trustees

The trustees are appointed and may be removed by the Community Forest Trust. There is a minimum of three trustees, and the selection process is designed to ensure that the board has the expertise and diversity required to effectively manage the foundation.

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company (the charity) are its trustees for the purpose of charity law. The trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Mr David McAleavy

Mr Paul Nolan (Chair)

Mr Roger Pearson

Prof David Shaw

Mr T Nicoll

(Appointed 12 December 2024)

Dr U JhaThakur

(Appointed 30 January 2025)

Key Personnel

Employees from related organisations have provided their services for the charity:

Business & Finance Manager Mr B Buggy

Organisation

The board of trustees meets quarterly to review the foundation's performance and make strategic decisions. The board liaises with the finance team at Community Forest Trust and the Chair to ensure that it has access to the information it needs to make informed decisions. The board also receives regular updates from the key personnel.

The trustees during the year were trustees of other organisations as follows:

	Community Forest Trust	Community Forest Land Trust
Paul Nolan	N/A	Appointed: 29 October 2013
Dave Shaw	N/A	Appointed: 1 October 2019
Rick Rogers	N/A	Appointed: 1 September 2019
Dave McAleavy	N/A	Appointed: 1 October 2019
Roger Pearson	N/A	Appointed: 14 October 2022
Urmila Jha Khathur	N/A	Appointed: 30 January 2025
Trevor Nicoll	N/A	Appointed: 12 December 2024

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

None of the trustees receive remuneration or other benefit for their work with the charity. Any contractual relationship with a related party must be disclosed in the current year and previous year and are detailed in note 17 of the financial statements.

Risk Management

The monitoring and management of risk is a dynamic process and the charity faces some level of risk in the activities, events and contracts that it engages in. The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity may face.
- the establishment of policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review; and
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact the charity should those risks materialise.

- Governance risks - eg inappropriate organisational structure, difficulties recruiting trustees with relevant skills, conflict of interest.

- Financial risks - eg accuracy and timeliness of financial information, adequacy of reserves and cash flow, diversity of income sources.

- External risks - eg public perception and adverse publicity, demographic changes, government policy.

- Compliance with law and regulation - eg breach of trust law and regulatory requirements of particular activities such as fund-raising.

The charity's review of its risk management will continue to help ensure:

- the charity's aims are achieved more effectively.
- significant risks are known and monitored enabling trustees to make a more effective contribution.
- there is improved forward planning

Small companies provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The report was approved by the board of trustees.

Paul Nolan

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Mr Paul Nolan (Chair)

30/03/2026

Dated:

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

The trustees, who are also the directors of Mersey Forest Foundation for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees' remuneration 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 charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees' remuneration are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity 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 charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION OF MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Mersey Forest Foundation (the charity) for the period ended 30 June 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees' remuneration of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006.
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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

Mitchell Charlesworth

Anita C Mason BA(Hons) BFP FCA
Mitchell Charlesworth
Suites C, D, E & F, 14th Floor The Plaza
100 Old Hall Street
Liverpool
L3 9QJ
L3 9QJ

Dated:

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

		Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	4	41,531	-	41,531	8,184	2,500	10,684
Charitable activities	5	-	42,026	42,026	-	8,160	8,160
Investments	6	40,129	-	40,129	39,132	-	39,132
Total income		<u>81,660</u>	<u>42,026</u>	<u>123,686</u>	<u>47,316</u>	<u>10,660</u>	<u>57,976</u>
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	7	6,781	42,026	48,807	20,114	18,560	38,674
Total expenditure		<u>6,781</u>	<u>42,026</u>	<u>48,807</u>	<u>20,114</u>	<u>18,560</u>	<u>38,674</u>
Net income		74,879	-	74,879	27,202	(7,900)	19,302
Transfers between funds		(90)	90	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	9	<u>74,789</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>74,879</u>	<u>27,202</u>	<u>(7,900)</u>	<u>19,302</u>
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 July 2024		<u>75,719</u>	<u>35,154</u>	<u>110,873</u>	<u>48,517</u>	<u>43,054</u>	<u>91,571</u>
Fund balances at 30 June 2025		<u><u>150,508</u></u>	<u><u>35,244</u></u>	<u><u>185,752</u></u>	<u><u>75,719</u></u>	<u><u>35,154</u></u>	<u><u>110,873</u></u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	14	29,467		10,168	
Cash at bank and in hand		2,108,079		2,045,996	
		<u>2,137,546</u>		<u>2,056,164</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(1,951,794)</u>		<u>(1,945,291)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>185,752</u>		<u>110,873</u>
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	16		35,244		35,154
Unrestricted funds	17		150,508		75,719
			<u>185,752</u>		<u>110,873</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 30 June 2025.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

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

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

30/03/2026

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees' remuneration on

Paul Nolan

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Mr Paul Nolan (Chair)

Company registration number 09153749 (England and Wales)

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Mersey Forest Foundation is an incorporated charity registered in England and Wales. The registered office is 14th Floor The Plaza, 100 Old Hall Street, Liverpool, England, L3 9QJ.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "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). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies are set out below.

The Charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for Charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees' remuneration have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees' remuneration continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees' remuneration in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Voluntary income, including donations, gifts and legacies, and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature are recognised where there is entitlement; where any performance conditions have been met; where it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income received in advance of a specific project would be deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Grants made to finance the activities of the bureau are credited to the statement of the financial activity in the period to which they relate.

Grants received in advance of the period in which the funder requires the expenditure to be applied will be reflected in deferred income within the balance sheet.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Donated Services and Facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that the economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), volunteer time is not recognised and for this current year there has been no volunteer input.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Interest Receivable

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

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 to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure and Irrecoverable VAT

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

- Expenditure on charitable activities includes grants payable and other administration costs to further the purposes of the charity.

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

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and at hand

Cash at bank includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of 3 months or less from the date of deposit.

1.7 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial assets

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.8 Taxation

As a registered charity, the Company benefits from various exemptions from taxation afforded by tax legislation and is not liable to corporation tax on income or gains falling within those exemptions.

The charity is also able to partially recover Value Added Tax. Expenditure that is not recoverable by the charity is recorded in the accounts inclusive of VAT.

1.9 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.10 Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

1.11 Creditors

Creditors and accruals are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in a transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Accruals

A provision is made in the accounts for any goods / services received in the year where payments are not processed until after the year-end date.

Deferred Income

A provision is based on the total grant received less any income recognised in the year.

3 Legal Status

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital, In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charity.

4 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2025	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	41,531	8,184	2,500	10,684
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

5 Charitable activities

	Restricted Funds	Restricted Funds
	2025	2024
	£	£
Grants received	42,026	8,160
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

6 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Interest receivable	40,129	39,132

The charity's investment income of £40,129 (2024: £39,132) arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts and bank interest received.

7 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Project costs	1,417	16,198	17,615	756	8,560	9,316
Insurance	2,198	-	2,198	1,042	-	1,042
Administration costs	42	25,828	25,870	338	-	338
Donations payable	-	-	-	15,584	10,000	25,584
	<u>3,657</u>	<u>42,026</u>	<u>45,683</u>	<u>17,720</u>	<u>18,560</u>	<u>36,280</u>
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	3,124	-	3,124	2,394	-	2,394
	<u>6,781</u>	<u>42,026</u>	<u>48,807</u>	<u>20,114</u>	<u>18,560</u>	<u>38,674</u>
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	6,781	-	6,781	20,114	-	20,114
Restricted funds	-	42,026	42,026	-	18,560	18,560
	<u>6,781</u>	<u>42,026</u>	<u>48,807</u>	<u>20,114</u>	<u>18,560</u>	<u>38,674</u>

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

8 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2025	Support costs	Governance costs	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Independent examiners fee	-	1,200	1,200	-	1,350	1,350
Accountancy	-	1,924	1,924	-	1,044	1,044
	<u>-</u>	<u>3,124</u>	<u>3,124</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,394</u>	<u>2,394</u>
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	-	3,124	3,124	-	2,394	2,394
	<u>-</u>	<u>3,124</u>	<u>3,124</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,394</u>	<u>2,394</u>

9 Net movement in funds

	2025	2024
	£	£
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,350</u>

10 Trustees' Remuneration

None of the trustees (or any person connected to them) received any remuneration or were reimbursed expenses during the year. (2024: £Nil).

11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
Total	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

12 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

13 Financial instruments	2025	2024
	£	£
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost	2,128,093	2,046,138
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at amortised cost	62,507	13,978
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
14 Debtors	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	20,014	142
Prepayments and accrued income	9,453	10,026
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	29,467	10,168
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2025	2024
	£	£
	Notes	
Deferred income	1,889,287	1,931,313
Trade creditors	51,702	9,364
Other creditors	2,263	-
Accruals	8,542	4,614
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	1,951,794	1,945,291
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

16 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	Movement in funds			Movement in funds			Transfers	Balance at 30 June 2025
	Balance at 1 July 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 1 July 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Harbison Walker International	11,985	-	-	11,985	-	-	-	11,985
Remondis UK	5,000	-	-	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
Cheshire West and Chester	904	-	-	904	-	-	-	904
Groundwork	435	-	-	435	-	-	-	435
LEC (Liverpool)	12,000	-	-	12,000	-	-	-	12,000
Lower Dane WFD Interventions	2,820	-	-	2,820	-	-	-	2,820
Karl Vella Group	10,000	-	(10,000)	-	-	-	-	-
Wealth at work	-	2,500	(490)	2,010	-	-	90	2,100
Colliers Moss North	-	8,160	(8,160)	-	14,352	(14,352)	-	-
Griffin Wood	-	-	-	-	776	(776)	-	-
Groundwork	-	-	-	-	300	(300)	-	-
Omega 106 Management	-	-	-	-	26,598	(26,598)	-	-
	<u>43,144</u>	<u>10,660</u>	<u>(18,650)</u>	<u>35,154</u>	<u>42,026</u>	<u>(42,026)</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>35,244</u>

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

16 Restricted funds

(Continued)

The Harbison Walker International fund is for the planting of trees at schools.

The Remondis UK fund is a fund to support Trees for Learning.

The Cheshire West and Cheshire Fund is for the planting of trees at the Countess of Chester Country Park, Upton School and Countess of Chester Hospital.

The Groundwork's fund is for the planting of trees at Risley Moss and Allerton Oak.

The LEC (Liverpool) Ltd, fund is for the provision of Community Green spaces at Lyme & Wood Landfill site and Colliers Moss Common.

The Lower Dane WFD Interventions fund relates to the Water Frame Directive.

The Karl Vella Group supports woodland planting, particularly with schools in the Cheshire area.

Wealth at Work was a donation from a business towards tree planting.

The Colliers Moss North fund is work to support habitat restoration.

Griffin wood is a project part of the Omega 106 money.

Omega 106 management is also part of the 106 money.

Groundwork is Tesco for Bags money that was given to The Reader for Atttherton Oak celebration.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

17 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 July 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers At 30 June 2025	
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	75,719	81,660	(6,781)	(90)	150,508
	<u>75,719</u>	<u>81,660</u>	<u>(6,781)</u>	<u>(90)</u>	<u>150,508</u>
Previous year:	At 1 July 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers At 30 June 2024	
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	48,517	47,316	(20,114)	-	75,719
	<u>48,517</u>	<u>47,316</u>	<u>(20,114)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>75,719</u>

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2025	2025	2025
	£	£	£
At 30 June 2025:			
Current assets/(liabilities)	150,508	35,244	185,752
	<u>150,508</u>	<u>35,244</u>	<u>185,752</u>
	<u>150,508</u>	<u>35,244</u>	<u>185,752</u>
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£
At 30 June 2024:			
Current assets/(liabilities)	75,719	35,154	110,873
	<u>75,719</u>	<u>35,154</u>	<u>110,873</u>
	<u>75,719</u>	<u>35,154</u>	<u>110,873</u>

19 Events after the reporting date

There are no post balance sheet events to report (2024: None)

20 Related party transactions

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

20 Related party transactions

(Continued)

During the year the charity made donations to Community Forest Trust, the parent charity, of £NIL (2024: £25,584).

During the year there was one invoice raised by Community Forest Trust, the parent charity, totalling £36,830. This balance was still due at year end, and relates to costs incurred in Community Forest Trust which relate to Mersey Forest Foundation.

There was also £2,263 owed to Community Forest Trust as at 30 June 2025 relating to insurance costs.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1160790

Accounts

Charity registration number 1160790

Company registration number 09153749 (England and Wales)

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr D McAleavy Mr P Nolan (Chair) Prof D Shaw Mr R Pearson
Charity number	1160790
Company number	09153749
Registered office	14th Floor The Plaza 100 Old Hall Street Liverpool England L3 9QJ
Independent examiner	Anita C Mason BA(Hons) BFP FCA Mitchell Charlesworth Suite 5.1 12 Ttithebarn Street Liverpool L2 2DT
Bankers	Tridos Bank Deanery Road Bristol BS1 5AS
Solicitors	Brabners LLP Horton House Exchange Flags Liverpool L2 3YL

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

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MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Chair's Report

I am pleased to continue as Chairman for this current year. I can report on the following activities, achievements, and performance of Mersey Forest Foundation:

- . Support for the Mersey Forest
 - The foundation continued to support the delivery of The Mersey Forest through projects focused on community engagement.
 - . The foundation will continue to support tree planting projects through delivery of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding from a range of donors.
 - . The Foundation continues to manage the Omega S106 funds that are delivering significant biodiversity uplift across Bold Forest Park and engaging local communities. The fund is also being used to lever in additional funds, to maximise the impact of the S106.
- . Future Priorities
 - The Foundation continues to focus on increasing opportunities for CSR funding to be channelled through the foundation.
 - . The Foundation is assessing opportunities to support the delivery of the new Mersey Forest Plan and play its role in the wider Partnership of organisations that support the delivery of the Plan.
 - . The Foundation is working closely with Mersey Forest Partners to maximise the benefits that can be achieved by the foundation to deliver its charitable objectives.
- . Board Development
 - The foundation has established itself with a moderate amount of funding for projects and is now looking to develop the range of skills available to the foundation with additional board members.

Paul Nolan

Chairman

Dated: 28 March 2025

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Introduction

The trustees of Mersey Forest Foundation, who are also directors of the Company, present their annual report for the period ended 30th June 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note one to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 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 (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Vision, Purpose and Values

Our Vision is to get "More from Trees", through the creation of The Mersey Forest.

The purpose of the charity is to:

- support the delivery of the Mersey Forest Plan.
- become the way for people to support The Mersey Forest in their area.
- become a valuable member of The Mersey Forest Partnership.
- promote the role of The Mersey Forest for people, places and a thriving economy.
- be the primary source of unrestricted income for The Mersey Forest Partnership by 2025

The values continue to be:

- to advocate for The Mersey Forest
- working in partnership to get more done
- founded on excellent business practice and corporate governance
- innovative, creative, business-minded thinking

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Objectives and activities

The Objects of the Charity are specifically restricted to the promotion for the benefit of the public generally any charitable purpose within the North West of England or elsewhere as the Trustees shall determine connected with the enhancement and improvement, maintenance and protection of the environment and landscape and in particular to:

- promote, provide and enhance woodland for the benefit of the public;
- promote the general improvement of agriculture and of industry and commerce particularly in relation to woodland or forestry products;
- promote and provide for the improvement of derelict land or harmful sites;
- provide or help to provide for the general public facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation particularly involving the enjoyment of land and woodland as a public amenity (and in furtherance to help to provide safe and convenient routes and modes of transport for the public, for safe cycling, and for the development of facilities including nature trails, reserves and sanctuaries, horse and cycle and footways, parkland and visitor facilities and car parks);
- promote community participation in healthy recreation by providing facilities for playing particular sports;
- educate the public in environmental matters, in ecology and provide better appreciation of the environments and ways of better serving, protecting and improving the same and education and training in all matters relating to the environment and its interaction with the social and economic wellbeing of the community;
- promote the arts within the woodland and natural environments;
- promote for the benefit of the public the ecology and use of the natural environment and all species living in it;
- promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, enhancement and improvement of the environment and to educate the public in the importance of sustainable development in relation to all the activities of the Charity. resources and maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment;
- promote and protect 'green infrastructure' which shall mean the living network of green spaces, water and other environmental features in both rural and urban areas and shall include trees, parks, gardens, road verges, allotments, cemeteries, woodlands, rivers, wetlands, farmland and other natural features that operate as flood protection, carbon storage or water purification; and
- protect the environment against the effects of climate change including the carrying out of activities to mitigate the effects of, and adapt to, climate change.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Statement of Public Benefit

In meeting these objects, the charity's public benefit aim to maintain, complete and apply for funding that supports projects as detailed above. The charity has met its objectives by sticking to the guidelines of the grants applied for.

In setting out policy and planning these activities, the trustees have given consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The Charities Act identifies thirteen charitable purposes as being for the public benefit. Mersey Forest Foundation meets the public benefit principles by focusing on three of those charitable purposes:

- the advancement of education.
- the advancement of health or the saving of lives.
- the advancement of environmental protection or improvement.

The Trustees' remuneration have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Financial review

The foundation's financial position is sound. The core funds stand at £75,719 at the year end (2023: £48,517).

Reserves Policy and Going Concern

Reserves are considered to be that part of the Foundation's funds which are freely available for its general purpose after it has met its commitments and covered its other planned expenditure. These unrestricted funds are needed to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of income and to cover administrative, fundraising and support costs without which the Foundation could not function.

The trustees consider that the ideal level of reserves as at 30th June 2023 would be in the region of £8K being 2 years of core administration costs at their current level for insurance, accounting, governance and general admin. The unrestricted reserves were standing at £75,719 at 30th June 2023 (2023: £48,517) so are deemed to be adequate.

Since the year end there has been no unexpected expenditure and the viability of the charity remains financially sound.

Investment Policies

The charity has a policy of keeping any surplus funds in short-term deposits, which can be accessed readily. On-line banking assists the monitoring of these accounts with a view to achieving best interest rates for amounts held on deposit whilst at the same time ensuring cash flow requirements are met.

Plans for Future Periods

The Foundation intends to continue to play a role in supporting the delivery of the Mersey Forest Plan through its ongoing activities and initiatives. The Foundation will also continue to seek additional funding opportunities to further its mission and objectives.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

The foundation's governing document is its Memorandum and Articles of Association, which were adopted on 23rd July 2014 and registered with the Charity Commission on 9th March 2015. The foundation is a company limited by guarantee, which means that it has no shareholders and its members are not liable for its debts. The foundation's only member is Community Forest Trust Ltd, which is also a charitable company limited by guarantee.

Appointment of Trustees

The trustees are appointed and may be removed by the Community Forest Trust. There is a minimum of three trustees, and the selection process is designed to ensure that the board has the expertise and diversity required to effectively manage the foundation.

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company (the charity) are its trustees for the purpose of charity law. The trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Mr D McAleavy

Mr P Nolan (Chair)

Prof D Shaw

Mr R Rogers

(Resigned 13 October 2023)

Mr R Pearson

Key Personnel

Employees from related organisations have provided their services for the charity:

Business & Finance Manager Mr S Ali (employed by Community Forest Trust) until May 2024 followed by
Mr B Buggy

Organisation

The board of trustees meets quarterly to review the foundation's performance and make strategic decisions. The board liaises with the finance team at Community Forest Trust and the Chair to ensure that it has access to the information it needs to make informed decisions. The board also receives regular updates from the key personnel.

The trustees during the year were trustees of other organisations as follows:

	Community Forest Trust	Community Forest Land Trust
Paul Nolan	N/A	Appointed: 29 Oct 2013
Dave Shaw	Appointed: 15 November 2011	Appointed: 1 October 2019
Rick Rogers	N/A	Appointed: 1 September 2019
Dave McAleavy	N/A	Appointed: 1 October 2019
Roger Pearson	N/A	Appointed: 14 October 2022

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

None of the trustees receive remuneration or other benefit for their work with the charity. Any contractual relationship with a related party must be disclosed in the current year and previous year and are detailed in note 17 of the financial statements.

Risk Management

The monitoring and management of risk is a dynamic process and the charity faces some level of risk in the activities, events and contracts that it engages in. The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity may face.
- the establishment of policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review; and
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact the charity should those risks materialise.

- Governance risks - eg inappropriate organisational structure, difficulties recruiting trustees with relevant skills, conflict of interest.

- Financial risks - eg accuracy and timeliness of financial information, adequacy of reserves and cash flow, diversity of income sources.

- External risks - eg public perception and adverse publicity, demographic changes, government policy.

- Compliance with law and regulation - eg breach of trust law and regulatory requirements of particular activities such as fund-raising.

The charity's review of its risk management will continue to help ensure:

- the charity's aims are achieved more effectively.
- significant risks are known and monitored enabling trustees to make a more effective contribution.
- there is improved forward planning

Small companies provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The report was approved by the board of trustees.

Mr P Nolan (Chair)

Dated: 28 March 2025

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

The trustees, who are also the directors of Mersey Forest Foundation for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year. 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 accounts.
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION OF MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Mersey Forest Foundation (the charity) for the period ended 30 June 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees' remuneration of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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

Anita C Mason BA(Hons) BFP FCA
Mitchell Charlesworth
Suite 5.1
12 Tithebarn Street
Liverpool
L2 2DT

Dated: 28 March 2025

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

		Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	4	8,184	2,500	10,684	18,124	-	18,124
Charitable activities	5	-	8,160	8,160	-	-	-
Investments	6	39,132	-	39,132	19,995	-	19,995
Total income		47,316	10,660	57,976	38,119	-	38,119
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	7	20,114	18,560	38,674	3,454	-	3,454
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds							
		27,202	(7,900)	19,302	34,665	-	34,665
Fund balances at 1 July 2023		48,517	43,054	91,571	13,852	43,054	56,906
Fund balances at 30 June 2024		75,719	35,154	110,873	48,517	43,054	91,571

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	13	10,168		8,360	
Cash at bank and in hand		2,045,996		2,027,226	
		<u>2,056,164</u>		<u>2,035,586</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(1,945,291)		(1,944,015)	
Net current assets			<u>110,873</u>		<u>91,571</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	15		35,154		43,054
Unrestricted funds			75,719		48,517
			<u>110,873</u>		<u>91,571</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 30 June 2024.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

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

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

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees' Remuneration on 28 March 2025

Mr P Nolan (Chair)
Trustee

Company registration number 09153749

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Mersey Forest Foundation is an incorporated charity registered in England and Wales. The registered office is 14th Floor The Plaza, 100 Old Hall Street, Liverpool, England, L3 9QJ.

1.1 Reporting period

The financial statements have been prepared for the year 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. In comparison, the period covered in the last set of accounts was 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2023.

1.2 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "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). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies are set out below.

The Charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for Charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

1.3 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees' remuneration have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees' remuneration continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.4 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees' remuneration in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Income

Voluntary income, including donations, gifts and legacies, and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature are recognised where there is entitlement; where any performance conditions have been met; where it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. Income received in advance of a specific project would be deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Grants made to finance the activities of the bureau are credited to the statement of the financial activity in the period to which they relate.

Grants received in advance of the period in which the funder requires the expenditure to be applied will be reflected in deferred income within the balance sheet.

Donated Services and Facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that the economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), volunteer time is not recognised and for this current year there has been no volunteer input.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Interest Receivable

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

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 to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work.

1.6 Expenditure

Expenditure and Irrecoverable VAT

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

- Expenditure on charitable activities includes grants payable and other administration costs to further the purposes of the charity.

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

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and at hand

Cash at bank includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of 3 months or less from the date of deposit.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.8 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.9 Taxation

As a registered charity, the Company benefits from various exemptions from taxation afforded by tax legislation and is not liable to corporation tax on income or gains falling within those exemptions.

The charity is also able to partially recover Value Added Tax. Expenditure that is not recoverable by the charity is recorded in the accounts inclusive of VAT.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

1.12 Creditors

Creditors and accruals are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in a transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Accruals

A provision is made in the accounts for any goods / services received in the year where payments are not processed until after the year-end date.

Deferred Income

A provision is based on the total grant received less any income recognised in the year.

3 Legal Status

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital, In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charity.

4 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	8,184	2,500	10,684	18,124	18,124

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

5 Charitable activities

	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Grants received	8,160	-

6 Investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Interest receivable	39,132	19,995

The charity's investment income of £39,132 (2023: £19,995) arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts and bank interest received.

7 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Project costs	756	8,560	9,316	-	-	-
Insurance	1,042	-	1,042	1,175	-	1,175
Administration costs	338	-	338	42	-	42
Donations payable	15,584	10,000	25,584	-	-	-
	<u>17,720</u>	<u>18,560</u>	<u>36,280</u>	<u>1,217</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,217</u>
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	2,394	-	2,394	2,237	-	2,237
	<u>20,114</u>	<u>18,560</u>	<u>38,674</u>	<u>3,454</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,454</u>
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	20,114	-	20,114	3,454	-	3,454
Restricted funds	-	18,560	18,560	-	-	-
	<u>20,114</u>	<u>18,560</u>	<u>38,674</u>	<u>3,454</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,454</u>

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

8 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2024	Support costs	Governance costs	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Independent examiners fee	-	1,350	1,350	-	1,120	1,120
Accountancy	-	1,044	1,044	-	1,117	1,117
	-	2,394	2,394	-	2,237	2,237
Analysed between Charitable activities	-	2,394	2,394	-	2,237	2,237

9 Trustees' Remuneration

None of the trustees (or any person connected to them) received any remuneration or were reimbursed expenses during the year. (2023: £Nil).

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Total	-	-

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

12 Financial instruments

	2024 £	2023 £
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost	2,046,138	2,027,226
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at amortised cost	13,978	5,862

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

13 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	142	-
Prepayments and accrued income	10,026	8,360
	<u>10,168</u>	<u>8,360</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
	Notes	
Deferred income	1,931,313	1,939,473
Trade creditors	9,364	378
Accruals and deferred income	4,614	4,164
	<u>1,945,291</u>	<u>1,944,015</u>

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

15 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds		Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 July 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Balance at 1 July 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 30 June 2024 £
Harbison Walker International	11,985	-	11,985	-	-	11,985
Remondis UK	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Cheshire West and Chester	904	-	904	-	-	904
Groundwork	435	-	435	-	-	435
LEC (Liverpool)	12,000	-	12,000	-	-	12,000
Lower Dane WFD Interventions	2,820	-	2,820	-	-	2,820
Karl Vella Group	10,000	-	10,000	-	(10,000)	-
Wealth at work	-	-	-	2,500	(400)	2,100
Colliers Moss North	-	-	-	8,160	(8,160)	-
	<u>43,054</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>43,054</u>	<u>10,660</u>	<u>(18,560)</u>	<u>35,154</u>

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

15 Restricted funds

(Continued)

The Harbison Walker International fund is for the planting of trees at schools.

The Remondis UK fund is a fund to support Trees for Learning.

The Cheshire West and Cheshire Fund is for the planting of trees at the Countess of Chester Country Park, Upton School and Countess of Chester Hospital.

The Groundwork's fund is for the planting of trees at Risley Moss and Allerton Oak.

The LEC (Liverpool) Ltd, fund is for the provision of Community Green spaces at Lyme & Wood Landfill site and Colliers Moss Common.

The Lower Dane WFD Interventions fund relates to the Water Frame Directive.

The Karl Vella Group supports woodland planting, particularly with schools in the Cheshire area.

Wealth at Work was a donation from a business towards tree planting.

The Colliers Moss North fund is work to support habitat restoration.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Fund balances at 30 June 2024 are represented by:						
Current assets/(liabilities)	75,719	35,154	110,873	48,517	43,054	91,571
	<u>75,719</u>	<u>35,154</u>	<u>110,873</u>	<u>48,517</u>	<u>43,054</u>	<u>91,571</u>

17 Events after the reporting date

There are no post balance sheet events to report (2023: None)

18 Related party transactions

During the year the charity made donations to Community Forest Trust, the parent charity, of £25,584.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1160790

Accounts

Charity registration number 1160790

Company registration number 09153749 (England and Wales)

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees Mr D McAleavy
Mr P Nolan (Chair)
Prof D Shaw
Mr R Rogers
Mr R Pearson (Appointed 14 October 2022)

Charity number 1160790

Company number 09153749

Registered office Unit 3
Discovery Works Third Avenue
Trafford Park
Manchester
M17 1BW

Independent examiner Anita C Mason BA(Hons) BFP FCA
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MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

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MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

I am pleased to continue as Chairman for this current year. I can report on the following activities, achievements, and performance of Mersey Forest Foundation:

- . Support for the Mersey Forest
 - The foundation continued to support the delivery of The Mersey Forest through projects focused on community engagement.
 - . The foundation will continue to support tree planting projects through delivery of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding from a range of donors.
 - . In 2022/23, the foundation was approached to act as the fund holder and project manager for work in St Helens, one of the Mersey Forest Partner local authorities. This opportunity would provide long-term funding to deliver new woodland and other habitat creation in St Helens and support the development of the next phase of the foundation's work to support delivery of the Mersey Forest.
- . Future Priorities
 - The foundation continues to focus on increasing opportunities for CSR funding to be channelled through the foundation.
 - . The foundation is assessing opportunities for applications to other charitable trusts for funding.
 - . The foundation is working closely with Mersey Forest Partners to maximize the benefits that can be achieved by the foundation to deliver its charitable objectives.
- . Board Development
 - The foundation has established itself with a moderate amount of funding for projects and is now looking to develop the range of skills available to the foundation with additional board members.

Paul Nolan

Chairman

Dated: 16 February 2024

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Introduction

The trustees of Mersey Forest Foundation, who are also directors of the Company, present their annual report for the period ended 30th June 2023. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note one to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 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 (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Vision, Purpose and Values

Our Vision is to get "More from Trees", through the creation of The Mersey Forest.

The purpose of the charity is to:

- support the delivery of the Mersey Forest Plan.
- become the way for people to support The Mersey Forest in their area.
- become a valuable member of The Mersey Forest Partnership.
- promote the role of The Mersey Forest for people, places and a thriving economy.
- be the primary source of unrestricted income for The Mersey Forest Partnership by 2025

The values continue to be:

- to advocate for The Mersey Forest
- working in partnership to get more done
- founded on excellent business practice and corporate governance
- innovative, creative, business-minded thinking

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Objectives and activities

The Objects of the Charity are specifically restricted to the promotion for the benefit of the public generally any charitable purpose within the North West of England or elsewhere as the Trustees shall determine connected with the enhancement and improvement, maintenance and protection of the environment and landscape and in particular to:

- promote, provide and enhance woodland for the benefit of the public;
- promote the general improvement of agriculture and of industry and commerce particularly in relation to woodland or forestry products;
- promote and provide for the improvement of derelict land or harmful sites;
- provide or help to provide for the general public facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation particularly involving the enjoyment of land and woodland as a public amenity (and in furtherance to help to provide safe and convenient routes and modes of transport for the public, for safe cycling, and for the development of facilities including nature trails, reserves and sanctuaries, horse and cycle and footways, parkland and visitor facilities and car parks);
- promote community participation in healthy recreation by providing facilities for playing particular sports;
- educate the public in environmental matters, in ecology and provide better appreciation of the environments and ways of better serving, protecting and improving the same and education and training in all matters relating to the environment and its interaction with the social and economic wellbeing of the community;
- promote the arts within the woodland and natural environments;
- promote for the benefit of the public the ecology and use of the natural environment and all species living in it;
- promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, enhancement and improvement of the environment and to educate the public in the importance of sustainable development in relation to all the activities of the Charity. resources and maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment;
- promote and protect 'green infrastructure' which shall mean the living network of green spaces, water and other environmental features in both rural and urban areas and shall include trees, parks, gardens, road verges, allotments, cemeteries, woodlands, rivers, wetlands, farmland and other natural features that operate as flood protection, carbon storage or water purification; and
- protect the environment against the effects of climate change including the carrying out of activities to mitigate the effects of, and adapt to, climate change.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Statement of Public Benefit

In meeting these objects, the charity's public benefit aim to maintain, complete and apply for funding that supports projects as detailed above. The charity has met its objectives by sticking to the guidelines of the grants applied for.

In setting out policy and planning these activities, the trustees have given consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The Charities Act identifies thirteen charitable purposes as being for the public benefit. Mersey Forest Foundation meets the public benefit principles by focusing on three of those charitable purposes:

- the advancement of education.
- the advancement of health or the saving of lives.
- the advancement of environmental protection or improvement.

The Trustees' have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Financial review

The current year of activity, the core funds stand at £48,517 at the year end (2022: £13,852). The core income came from several donations.

Reserves Policy and Going Concern

Reserves are considered to be that part of the Trust's funds which are freely available for its general purpose after it has met its commitments and covered its other planned expenditure. These unrestricted funds are needed to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of income and to cover administrative, fundraising and support costs without which the Trust could not function. The trustees consider that the ideal level of reserves as at 30th June 2023 would be in the region of £8K being 2 years of core administration costs at their current level for insurance, accounting, governance and general admin. The unrestricted reserves were standing at £48,517 at 30th June 2023 (2022: £13,852) so are deemed to be adequate. Since the year end there has been no unexpected expenditure and the viability of the charity remains financially sound.

Investment Policies

The charity has a policy of keeping any surplus funds in short term deposits, which can be accessed readily. On-line banking assists the monitoring of these accounts with a view to achieving best interest rates for amounts held on deposit whilst at the same time ensuring cash flow requirements are met. Due to wider economic circumstances deposit rates have been depressed in 2021 & 2022. The invested funds held on deposit achieved an average of 0.07% (2022: 0.07%).

Plans for Future Periods

The foundation intends to continue to support the delivery of the Mersey Forest through its ongoing activities and initiatives. The foundation will also continue to seek additional funding opportunities to further its mission and objectives.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

Mersey Forest Foundation is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 23rd July 2014 and was incorporated on 30th July 2014. It was registered as a charity with the Charity Commission on 9th March 2015.

Mersey Forest Foundation has one member being Community Forest Trust Ltd ie the charity is a wholly owned subsidiary of Community Forest Trust Ltd, itself a charitable company limited by guarantee. The liability of the members is limited, and each member agrees to pay £10 in the event that the charity is dissolved.

Appointment of Trustees

The first and current trustees were appointed (and may be removed) by the Community Forest Trust, acting through its board of trustees. There should be a minimum of three trustees and are recruited to ensure that the board of trustees has the requisite range of experience and skills to effectively manage the Trust.

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company (the charity) are its trustees for the purpose of charity law. The trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Mr D McAleavy

Mr P Nolan (Chair)

Prof D Shaw

Mr R Rogers

Mr R Pearson

(Appointed 14 October 2022)

Key Personnel

Employees from related organisations have provided their services for the charity:

Resource Development Officer Mr C Smethurst (employed by Cheshire West and Chester Council)

Business & Finance Manager Mr S Ali (employed by Community Forest Trust)

Organisation

The board of trustees administers the charity. The trustees meet independently and liaise regularly by email and telephone. The board normally meets quarterly and collates information prepared by the finance team at Community Forest Trust and the Chair. A precis of the reports is made available to the board members of Community Forest Trust. The trustees during the year were trustees of other organisations as follows:

	Community Forest Trust	Community Forest Land Trust
Paul Nolan	N/A	Appointed: 29 Oct 2013
Dave Shaw	Appointed: 15 November 2011	Appointed: 1 October 2019
Rick Rogers	N/A	Appointed: 1 September 2019
Dave McAleavy	N/A	Appointed: 1 October 2019
Robert Pearson	N/A	Appointed: 14 October 2022

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

None of the trustees receive remuneration or other benefit for their work with the charity. Any contractual relationship with a related party must be disclosed in the current year and previous year and are detailed in note 17 of the financial statements.

Risk Management

The monitoring and management of risk is a dynamic process and the charity faces some level of risk in the activities, events and contracts that it engages in. The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity may face.
- the establishment of policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review; and
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact the charity should those risks materialise.

- Governance risks - eg inappropriate organisational structure, difficulties recruiting trustees with relevant skills, conflict of interest.

- Financial risks - eg accuracy and timeliness of financial information, adequacy of reserves and cash flow, diversity of income sources.

- External risks - eg public perception and adverse publicity, demographic changes, government policy.

- Compliance with law and regulation - eg breach of trust law and regulatory requirements of particular activities such as fund-raising.

The charity's review of its risk management will continue to help ensure:

- the charity's aims are achieved more effectively.
- significant risks are known and monitored enabling trustees to make a more effective contribution.
- there is improved forward planning

Small companies provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The report was approved by the board of trustees.

Mr P Nolan (Chair)

Dated: 16 February 2024

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

The trustees, who are also the directors of Mersey Forest Foundation for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year. 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 accounts.
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES' OF MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Mersey Forest Foundation (the charity) for the period ended 30 June 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees' of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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

Anita C Mason BA(Hons) BFP FCA
BWM Chartered Accountants
Suite 5.1
12 Tithebarn Street
Liverpool
L2 2DT

Dated: 22 February 2024

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	4	18,124	-	18,124	3,784	10,000	13,784
Investments	5	19,995	-	19,995	142	-	142
Total income		<u>38,119</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>38,119</u>	<u>3,926</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>13,926</u>
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	6	<u>3,454</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,454</u>	<u>4,178</u>	<u>856</u>	<u>5,034</u>
Net income for the period/ Net movement in funds		34,665	-	34,665	(252)	9,144	8,892
Fund balances at 1 April 2022		<u>13,852</u>	<u>43,054</u>	<u>56,906</u>	<u>14,104</u>	<u>33,910</u>	<u>48,014</u>
Fund balances at 30 June 2023		<u><u>48,517</u></u>	<u><u>43,054</u></u>	<u><u>91,571</u></u>	<u><u>13,852</u></u>	<u><u>43,054</u></u>	<u><u>56,906</u></u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the period.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	12	8,360		1,126	
Cash at bank and in hand		2,027,226		2,000,072	
		<u>2,035,586</u>		<u>2,001,198</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year					
	13	<u>(1,944,015)</u>		<u>(1,944,292)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>91,571</u>		<u>56,906</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	14		43,054		43,054
Unrestricted funds			48,517		13,852
			<u>91,571</u>		<u>56,906</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the period ended 30 June 2023.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

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

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

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees' on 10 February 2024

Mr P Nolan (Chair)
Trustee

Company registration number 09153749

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Mersey Forest Foundation is an incorporated charity registered in England and Wales. The registered office is unit 3, Discovery Works Third Avenue, Trafford Park, Manchester, M17 1BW.

1.1 Reporting period

The financial statements have been prepared for the period 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2023. In comparison, the year covered in the last set of accounts was 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

1.2 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "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). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies are set out below.

The Charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for Charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

1.3 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees' have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees' continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.4 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees' in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.5 Income

Voluntary income, including donations, gifts and legacies, and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature are recognised where there is entitlement; where any performance conditions have been met; where it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. Income received in advance of a specific project would be deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Grants made to finance the activities of the bureau are credited to the statement of the financial activity in the period to which they relate.

Grants received in advance of the period in which the funder requires the expenditure to be applied will be reflected in deferred income within the balance sheet.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

1 Accounting policies

(continued)

Donated Services and Facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that the economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), volunteer time is not recognised and for this current year there has been no volunteer input.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Interest Receivable

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

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 to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work.

1.6 Expenditure

Expenditure and Irrecoverable VAT

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

- Expenditure on charitable activities includes grants payable and other administration costs to further the purposes of the charity.

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

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and at hand

Cash at bank includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of 3 months or less from the date of deposit.

1.8 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

1 Accounting policies

(continued)

Basic financial assets

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.9 Taxation

As a registered charity, the Company benefits from various exemptions from taxation afforded by tax legislation and is not liable to corporation tax on income or gains falling within those exemptions.

The charity is also able to partially recover Value Added Tax. Expenditure that is not recoverable by the charity is recorded in the accounts inclusive of VAT.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

1.12 Creditors

Creditors and accruals are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in a transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Accruals

A provision is made in the accounts for any goods / services received in the year where payments are not processed until after the year-end date.

Deferred Income

A provision is based on the total grant received less any income recognised in the year.

3 Legal Status

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital, In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charity.

4 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2023	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	18,124	3,784	10,000	13,784

5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2023	2022
	£	£
Interest receivable	19,995	142

The charity's investment income of £19,995 (2022: £142) arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts and bank interest received.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

6 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Project costs	-	-	-	239	856	1,095
Insurance	1,175	-	1,175	802	-	802
Administration costs	42	-	42	54	-	54
	<u>1,217</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,217</u>	<u>1,095</u>	<u>856</u>	<u>1,951</u>
Share of governance costs (see note 7)	2,237	-	2,237	3,083	-	3,083
	<u>3,454</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,454</u>	<u>4,178</u>	<u>856</u>	<u>5,034</u>
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	3,454	-	3,454	4,178	-	4,178
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-	856	856
	<u>3,454</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,454</u>	<u>4,178</u>	<u>856</u>	<u>5,034</u>

7 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2023 Support costs £	Governance costs £	2022 £
Independent examiners fee	-	1,120	1,120	-	1,436
Accountancy	-	1,117	1,117	-	1,647
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,237</u>	<u>2,237</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,083</u>
Analysed between Charitable activities	-	2,237	2,237	-	3,083
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,237</u>	<u>2,237</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,083</u>

8 Trustees'

None of the trustees (or any person connected to them) received any remuneration or were reimbursed expenses during the year. (2022: £Nil).

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

9 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the period was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Total	-	-

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

10 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

11 Financial instruments

	2023 £	2022 £
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost	2,027,226	2,000,165
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at amortised cost	5,862	4,819

12 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	-	93
Prepayments and accrued income	8,360	1,033
	8,360	1,126

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
	Notes	
Deferred income	1,939,473	1,939,473
Trade creditors	378	-
Accruals and deferred income	4,164	4,819
	1,944,015	1,944,292

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

14 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds			Movement in funds		
	Balance at 1 April 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Balance at 30 June 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Harbison Walker International	11,895	-	-	11,985	-	11,985
Remondis UK	5,000	-	-	5,000	-	5,000
Cheshire West and Chester	904	-	-	904	-	904
Groundwork	435	-	-	435	-	435
LEC (Liverpool)	12,000	-	-	12,000	-	12,000
Lower Dane WFD Interventions	3,676	-	(856)	2,820	-	2,820
Karl Vella Group	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000
	<u>33,910</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>(856)</u>	<u>43,054</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>43,054</u>

The Harbison Walker International fund is for the planting of trees at schools.

The Remondis UK fund is a fund to support Trees for Learning.

The Cheshire West and Cheshire Fund is for the planting of trees at the Countess of Chester Country Park, Upton School and Countess of Chester Hospital.

The Groundwork's fund is for the planting of trees at Risley Moss and Allerton Oak.

The LEC (Liverpool) Ltd, fund is for the provision of Community Green spaces at Lyme & Wood Landfill site and Colliers Moss Common.

The Lower Dane WFD Interventions fund relates to the Water Frame Directive.

The Karl Vella Group supports woodland planting, particularly with schools in the Cheshire area.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Fund balances at 30 June 2023 are represented by:						
Current assets/(liabilities)	48,517	43,054	91,571	13,852	43,054	56,906
	<u>48,517</u>	<u>43,054</u>	<u>91,571</u>	<u>13,852</u>	<u>43,054</u>	<u>56,906</u>

16 Events after the reporting date

There are no post balance sheet events to report (2022: None)

17 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the period (2022 - none).

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1160790

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1160790

Company Registration No. 09153749 (England and Wales)

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr D McAleavy Mr P Nolan (Chair) Mr I Taylor Prof D Shaw Mr R Rogers
Secretary	Mr Paul Nolan
Charity number	1160790
Company number	09153749
Registered office	6 Kansas Avenue Salford Greater Manchester M50 2GL
Independent examiner	Peter Taaffe BWM Suite 5.1 12 Ttithebarn Street Liverpool L2 2DT
Bankers	Tridos Bank Deanery Road Bristol BS1 5AS
Solicitors	Brabners LLP Horton House Exchange Flags Liverpool L2 3YL

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

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MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

I am pleased to continue as Chair for this current year and to date. I am able to report the following activities, achievements and performance:

Mersey Forest Foundation continued to support the delivery of The Mersey Forest through projects focussed on community engagement. This year over £39,000 was generated through projects and donations.

Income for community projects came mainly from two larger projects, funding for landscape works and a second grant from the Environment Agency for work in on the river Dane in Cheshire on Natural Flood Management, there were also a wide range of smaller donations.

The Foundation has continued to support tree planting projects through delivery of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding from a range of donors. This funding has enabled the purchase of trees for Mersey Forest projects as part of its woodland planting objective.

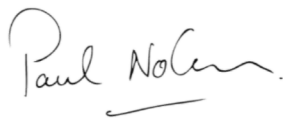
In 2020/21, the Foundation was approached to act at the fund holder and project manager for work in St Helens, one of the Mersey Forest Partner local authorities. This opportunity would provide long term funding to deliver new woodland and other habitat creation in St Helens and support the development of the next phase of the Foundation's work to support delivery of the Mersey Forest.

Future priorities

The Foundation continues to support the delivery of the Mersey Forest with a clear focus on

- Continued Increase in opportunities for CSR programmes to be funded through the Foundation
- Assessing opportunities for applications to other charitable trusts for funding
- Working closely with Mersey Forest Partners to maximise the benefits that can be achieved by the Foundation to deliver its charitable objectives.

Now that the Foundation is established with a moderate amount of funding for projects, the Board will look to develop the range of skills available to the Foundation with additional Board members.



.....
Paul Nolan

Chairman

Dated: 20th December 2021

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Introduction

The trustees of Mersey Forest Foundation, who are also directors of the Company, present their annual report for the year ended 31st March 2021. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note one to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 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 (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Vision, Purpose and Values

Our Vision is to get "More from Trees", through the creation of The Mersey Forest.

The purpose of the charity is to:

- support the delivery of the Mersey Forest Plan.
- become the way for people to support The Mersey Forest in their area.
- become a valuable member of The Mersey Forest Partnership.
- promote the role of The Mersey Forest for people, places and a thriving economy.
- be the primary source of unrestricted income for The Mersey Forest Partnership by 2025

The values continue to be:

- to advocate for the The Mersey Forest
- working in partnership to get more done
- founded on excellent business practice and corporate governance
- innovative, creative, business-minded thinking

Objectives and activities

The Objects of the Charity are specifically restricted to the promotion for the benefit of the public generally any charitable purpose within the North West of England or elsewhere as the Trustees shall determine connected with the enhancement and improvement, maintenance and protection of the environment and landscape and in particular to:

- promote, provide and enhance woodland for the benefit of the public;
- promote the general improvement of agriculture and of industry and commerce particularly in relation to woodland or forestry products;
- promote and provide for the improvement of derelict land or harmful sites;
- provide or help to provide for the general public facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation particularly involving the enjoyment of land and woodland as a public amenity (and in furtherance to help to provide safe and convenient routes and modes of transport for the public, for safe cycling, and for the development of facilities including nature trails, reserves and sanctuaries, horse and cycle and footways, parkland and visitor facilities and car parks);
- promote community participation in healthy recreation by providing facilities for playing particular sports;
- educate the public in environmental matters, in ecology and provide better appreciation of the environments and ways of better serving, protecting and improving the same and education and training in all matters relating to the environment and its interaction with the social and economic wellbeing of the community;

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

- promote the arts within the woodland and natural environments;
- promote for the benefit of the public the ecology and use of the natural environment and all species living in it;
- promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, enhancement and improvement of the environment and to educate the public in the importance of sustainable development in relation to all the activities of the Charity. resources and maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment;
- promote and protect 'green infrastructure' which shall mean the living network of green spaces, water and other environmental features in both rural and urban areas and shall include trees, parks, gardens, road verges, allotments, cemeteries, woodlands, rivers, wetlands, farmland and other natural features that operate as flood protection, carbon storage or water purification; and
- protect the environment against the effects of climate change including the carrying out of activities to mitigate the effects of, and adapt to, climate change.

Statement of Public Benefit

In meeting these objects, the charity's public benefit aim to maintain, complete and apply for funding that supports projects as detailed above. The charity has met its objectives by sticking to the guidelines of the grants applied for.

In setting out policy and planning these activities the trustees have given consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The Charities Act identifies thirteen charitable purposes as being for the public benefit. Mersey Forest Foundation meets the public benefit principles by focusing on three of those charitable purposes:

- the advancement of education.
- the advancement of health or the saving of lives.
- the advancement of environmental protection or improvement.

The Trustees' have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Financial review

The current year of activity has seen a decrease in the core funds to the effect that the core funds stand at £14,104 at the year end (2020: £18,017). The core income came from several donations.

Reserves Policy and Going Concern

Reserves are considered to be that part of the Trust's funds which are freely available for its general purpose after it has met its commitments and covered its other planned expenditure. These unrestricted funds are needed to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of income and to cover administrative, fundraising and support costs without which the Trust could not function. The trustees consider that the ideal level of reserves as at 31st March 2021 would be in the region of £7K being 2 years of core administration costs at their current level for insurance, accounting, governance and general admin. The unrestricted reserves were standing at £14,104 at 31st March 2021 (2020: £18,017) so are deemed to be adequate. Since the year end there has been no unexpected expenditure and the viability of the charity remains financially sound.

Investment Policies

The charity has a policy of keeping any surplus funds in short term deposits, which can be accessed readily. On-line banking assists the monitoring of these accounts with a view to achieving best interest rates for amounts held on deposit whilst at the same time ensuring cash flow requirements are met. Due to wider economic circumstances deposit rates have been depressed. The invested funds held on deposit achieved an average of 0.2% (2020: 0.2%).

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Plans for Future Periods

The charity hasn't made any charitable grant payments since the year end and whilst it continues to build up its funds it has no intention of making any substantial grant payments soon.

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

Mersey Forest Foundation is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 23rd July 2014 and was incorporated on 30th July 2014. It was registered as a charity with the Charity Commission on 9th March 2015.

Mersey Forest Foundation has one member being Community Forest Trust Ltd ie the charity is a wholly owned subsidiary of Community Forest Trust Ltd, itself a charitable company limited by guarantee. The liability of the members is limited, and each member agrees to pay £10 in the event that the charity is dissolved.

Appointment of Trustees

The first and current trustees were appointed (and may be removed) by the Community Forest Trust, acting through its board of trustees. There should be a minimum of three trustees and are recruited to ensure that the board of trustees has the requisite range of experience and skills to effectively manage the Trust.

Mr D McAleavy

Mr P Nolan (Chair)

Mr I Taylor

Prof D Shaw

Mr R Rogers

Organisation

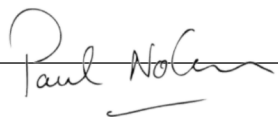
The board of trustees administers the charity. The trustees meet independently and liaise regularly by email and telephone. The board normally meets quarterly and collates information prepared by the finance team at Community Forest Trust and the Chair. A precis of the reports is made available to the board members of Community Forest Trust. The trustees during the year were trustees of other organisations as follows:

	Community Forest Trust	Community Forest Land Trust
Paul Nolan	N/A	Appointed: 29 Oct 2013
Iain Taylor	N/A	Appointed: 29 Oct 2013
Dave Shaw	Appointed: 15 November 2011	Appointed: 1 October 2019
Rick Rogers	Appointed: 26 June 2019	Appointed: 1 September 2019
Dave McAleavy	N/A	Appointed: 1 October 2019

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021



Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

None of the trustees receive remuneration or other benefit for their work with the charity. Any contractual relationship with a related party must be disclosed in the current year and previous year and are detailed in note 12 of the financial statements.

Risk Management

The monitoring and management of risk is a dynamic process and the charity faces some level of risk in the activities, events and contracts that it engages in. The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity may face.
- the establishment of policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review; and
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact the charity should those risks materialise.

- Governance risks - eg inappropriate organisational structure, difficulties recruiting trustees with relevant skills, conflict of interest.

- Financial risks - eg accuracy and timeliness of financial information, adequacy of reserves and cash flow, diversity of income sources.

- External risks - eg public perception and adverse publicity, demographic changes, government policy.

- Compliance with law and regulation - eg breach of trust law and regulatory requirements of particular activities such as fund-raising.

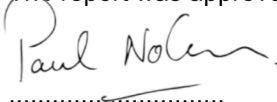
The charity's review of its risk management will continue to help ensure:

- the charity's aims are achieved more effectively.
- significant risks are known and monitored enabling trustees to make a more effective contribution.
- there is improved forward planning

Small companies provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The report was approved by the board of trustees.



.....
Mr P Nolan (Chair)

Dated: 20th December 2021
.....



.....
Mr I Taylor

Dated: 21st December 2021
.....

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The trustees, who are also the directors of Mersey Forest Foundation for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year. 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 accounts.
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES' OF MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Mersey Forest Foundation (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees' of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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



Mr Peter Taaffe FCA CTA DChA
BWM Chartered Accountants
Suite 5.1
12 Tithebarn Street
Liverpool
L2 2DT

Dated: 23/12/2021

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

		Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	4	9,082	-	9,082	11,282	-	11,282
Charitable activities	5	-	30,898	30,898	-	29,461	29,461
Investments	6	98	-	98	252	-	252
Total income		<u>9,180</u>	<u>30,898</u>	<u>40,078</u>	<u>11,534</u>	<u>29,461</u>	<u>40,995</u>
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	7	13,093	29,286	42,379	10,249	20,678	30,927
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net movement in funds		(3,913)	1,612	(2,301)	1,285	8,783	10,068
Fund balances at 1 April 2020		<u>18,017</u>	<u>32,298</u>	<u>50,315</u>	<u>16,732</u>	<u>23,515</u>	<u>40,247</u>
Fund balances at 31 March 2021		<u><u>14,104</u></u>	<u><u>33,910</u></u>	<u><u>48,014</u></u>	<u><u>18,017</u></u>	<u><u>32,298</u></u>	<u><u>50,315</u></u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	12	30,093		3,508	
Cash at bank and in hand		54,624		55,486	
		<u>84,717</u>		<u>58,994</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(36,703)</u>		<u>(8,679)</u>	
Net current assets			48,014		50,315
Income funds					
Restricted funds			33,910		32,298
Unrestricted funds			14,104		18,017
			<u>48,014</u>		<u>50,315</u>

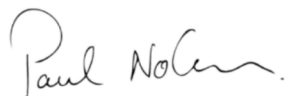
The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

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

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

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees' on 13th December 2021....



Mr P Nolan (Chair)
Trustee



Mr I Taylor
Trustee

Company Registration No. 09153749

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Mersey Forest Foundation is an incorporated charity registered in England and Wales. The registered office is 6 Kansas Avenue, Salford, M50 2GHL.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, 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 (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £. The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below. The Charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for Charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees' in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Voluntary income, including donations, gifts and legacies, and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature are recognised where there is entitlement; where any performance conditions have been met; where it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. Income received in advance of a specific project would be deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1 Accounting policies

(continued)

Donated Services and Facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that the economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), volunteer time is not recognised and for this current year there has been no volunteer input.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Interest Receivable

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

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 to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure and Irrecoverable VAT

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

- Expenditure on charitable activities includes grants payable and other administration costs to further the purposes of the charity.

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

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and at hand

Cash at bank includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of 3 months or less from the date of deposit.

1.7 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1 Accounting policies

(continued)

Basic financial assets

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.8 Taxation

Corporation Tax

As a registered charity, the Company benefits from various exemptions from taxation afforded by tax legislation and is not liable to corporation tax on income or gains falling within those exemptions.

1.9 Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

1.10 Creditors

Creditors and accruals are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in a transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

3 Legal Status

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital, In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charity.

4 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2021	2020
Donations and gifts		
Donations	9,082	5,122
Donated services - staff time	-	4,576
Donated services - support costs	-	1,584
	<u>9,082</u>	<u>11,282</u>

5 Charitable activities

	Charitable Income	Charitable Income
	2021	2020
	£	£
Grants received	<u>30,898</u>	<u>29,461</u>

6 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2021	2020
	£	£
Interest receivable	<u>98</u>	<u>252</u>

The charity's investment income of £98 (2020: £252) arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

7 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Grants payable	-	26,324	26,324	-	6,165	6,165
Project costs	8,643	2,962	11,605	-	14,513	14,513
Insurance	605	-	605	592	-	592
Administration costs	396	-	396	84	-	84
Donated services	-	-	-	4,576	-	4,576
	<u>9,644</u>	<u>29,286</u>	<u>38,930</u>	<u>5,252</u>	<u>20,678</u>	<u>25,930</u>
Share of support costs (see note 8)	532	-	532	2,113	-	2,113
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	2,917	-	2,917	2,884	-	2,884
	<u>13,093</u>	<u>29,286</u>	<u>42,379</u>	<u>10,249</u>	<u>20,678</u>	<u>30,927</u>
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	13,093	-	13,093	10,249	-	10,249
Restricted funds	-	29,286	29,286	-	20,678	20,678
	<u>13,093</u>	<u>29,286</u>	<u>42,379</u>	<u>10,249</u>	<u>20,678</u>	<u>30,927</u>

8 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2021 £	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2020 £
General office	532	-	532	2,113	-	2,113
Independent examiners fee	-	1,272	1,272	-	1,200	1,200
Accountancy	-	1,645	1,645	-	1,684	1,684
	<u>532</u>	<u>2,917</u>	<u>3,449</u>	<u>2,113</u>	<u>2,884</u>	<u>4,997</u>
Analysed between Charitable activities	<u>532</u>	<u>2,917</u>	<u>3,449</u>	<u>2,113</u>	<u>2,884</u>	<u>4,997</u>

9 Trustees'

None of the trustees (or any person connected to them) received any remuneration or were reimbursed expenses during the year. (2020: £Nil).

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2021	2020
	Number	Number
Total	-	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

11 Financial instruments

	2021	2020
	£	£
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost	93	3,508
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at amortised cost	36,703	8,679
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

12 Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	93	3,508
Prepayments and accrued income	30,000	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	30,093	3,508
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	26,324	596
Accruals and deferred income	10,379	8,083
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	36,703	8,679
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

14 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds			Movement in funds			Balance at 31 March 2021 £
	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	
Harbison Walker International	11,895	-	-	11,985	-	-	11,985
Remondis UK	5,000	-	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Cheshire West and Chester	5,000	1,500	(5,596)	904	-	-	904
Mersey Rivers Trust	1,165	-	(1,165)	-	-	-	-
Groundwork	455	1,000	(194)	1,261	-	(826)	435
LEC (Liverpool)	-	12,000	-	12,000	-	-	12,000
Environmental Agency	-	14,961	(13,723)	1,238	1,377	(2,615)	-
Lower Dane WFD Interventions	-	-	-	-	30,000	(26,324)	3,676
	<u>23,515</u>	<u>29,461</u>	<u>(20,678)</u>	<u>32,298</u>	<u>31,377</u>	<u>(29,765)</u>	<u>33,910</u>

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

14 Restricted funds

(continued)

The Harbison Walker International fund is for the planting of trees at schools.

The Remondis UK fund is a fund to support Trees for Learning.

The Cheshire West and Cheshire Fund is for the planting of trees at the Countess of Chester Country Park, Upton School and Countess of Chester Hospital.

The Mersey Rivers Trust Fund was for the supply of tree whips at Bidston Golf Clun.

The Groundwork's fund is for the planting of trees at Risley Moss and Allerton Oak.

The LEC (Liverpool) Ltd, fund is for the provision of Community Green spaces at Lyme & Wood Landfill site and Colliers Moss Common.

The funding from the Environment Agency relates to the Warmingham Seepage Barrier Project.

The Lower Dane WDD Interventions fund relates to the Water Frame Directive.

MERSEY FOREST FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2021 are represented by: Current assets/ (liabilities)	14,104	33,910	48,014	18,017	32,298	50,315
	<u>14,104</u>	<u>33,910</u>	<u>48,014</u>	<u>18,017</u>	<u>32,298</u>	<u>50,315</u>

16 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2020 - none).