

SOUTH WEST COAST PATH ASSOCIATION

UNAUDITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

SOUTH WEST COAST PATH ASSOCIATION

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SOUTH WEST COAST PATH ASSOCIATION

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Trustees	Mr K Carter, Trustee Mr R Mark, Chair Mr K Thomas, Trustee (appointed 10 November 2022) Ms K Ash, Trustee (appointed 10 November 2022) Mr M Davis, Secretary (resigned 1 December 2022) Mr G Keene, Trustee Mr P Spencer, Vice Chair (from November 2022) Ms L Daniel, Trustee Mrs C Grant, Vice Chair (to August 2022) (resigned 1 August 2022) Ms H Dinsdale, Treasurer Mr D Morris, Trustee Ms E Bampton-Wilton, Trustee (resigned 10 November 2022)
Charity registered number	1163422
Principal office	Unit 11 Residence 2 Royal William Yard Plymouth PL1 3RP
Chief executive officer	Julian Gray
Accountants	Bishop Fleming LLP Chartered Accountants Salt Quay House 4 North East Quay Sutton Harbour Plymouth PL4 0BN

**TRUSTEES REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

Welcome on behalf of the Board of Trustees to the South West Coast Path Association Report and Accounts for 2022. During the period, the Country has been hit by the cost-of-living shocks associated with the tragedy of the Ukraine War, in terms of soaring energy, and wider inflationary blows to an economy now widely recognised as already struggling to adjust from Brexit, and to recover from the Covid pandemic. The Association, its partners, business supporters, and members, have not been immune from these challenges, and the Board are extremely grateful for the continuing strong support we enjoy from all our stakeholders.

One of our achievements during 2022 has been to create a new five-year business plan which builds on previous successes and adapts to the very different economic circumstances which now prevail. Forecasting for the next 5-years, after the turbulence of the previous 5, is as much art as science. There are however some points of departure around which Trustees and Staff have been able to build. A very large proportion of grant funds on which the Association and Trail Partners could rely for Path improvement and storm damage repairs in the previous plan, came from the Rural Development Grant Programme for England (RDPE). Although administered by DEFRA, this legacy fund operated under an EU formula which was particularly favourable to the South West. The path gained by approximately £2M additional investment over the five years to 2019. It is arguable that this external source of funding cushioned Trail Partners to some extent from the gradual decline over that period in the central government maintenance grant. Post 2019, the Trustees and Trail Partners hoped that the UK Shared Prosperity Fund would offer at least broadly the same framework and opportunities as the RDPE. The Government has chosen to implement a much more complex grant framework with numerous smaller, competitive, pots of money. To ensure adequate investment in the Path in the face of increasing costs and environmental pressures, it was apparent that the Charity had to adapt. This new funding regime requires more agility, administration, and staff engagement to secure grants.

Trustees agreed to utilise reserves, sustained by the continuing loyalty of Association members and supporters through Covid and bolstered in 2022 by a generous grant from the Peter Reid Trust and a substantial legacy in a previous year from a German member, to strengthen the staff team's fund-raising capacity. Trustees also supported the Chair of the SW Trail Partnership and the Association Director's efforts to build stronger links with the other National Trails and central funders, notably DEFRA and Natural England, to ensure that the case for the economic, and health and well-being aspects of the family of National Trails is heard and prioritised when central Government funding choices are being made. The Board are pleased to report that negotiations for a new Trail Partner funding settlement proceeded well. It has therefore been possible to plan ahead with some degree of certainty to ensure that the Trail is regularly maintained and that improvement projects go forward. Albeit that the delay to the National Trail grant payment necessitated action by the Association to bridge the gap using its reserves, until payment issues were resolved. Without adequate reserves it would have been difficult for the Association to pay the salaries of National Trail staff employed by the Association on Natural England's behalf. On the positive side, DEFRA and Natural England have had the confidence to award the Association and Trail Partners capital grants to deliver improvement projects. The challenge for the future is to be able to ensure that awards made by central Government late in the financial year (FY) can be delivered before the grant term expires at the end of the appropriate FY.

Although operational costs are higher as a proportion of expenditure, the amount that the Association has been able to leverage through working with partners, while using its own funds as 'matched funding' or 'enabling grants' to ensure projects hit by, for example, unexpected inflationary material costs, has been substantial and is reflected in the improving standard of the path infra-structure tabulated in this report. The Association is particularly grateful for the Path volunteers who so thoroughly survey each stretch of the path to ensure that we, and our Trail

**TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

Partners, have the appropriate data to prioritise spending and to make the case for further investment in a strongly competitive environment.

Turning to other business plan priorities, the Trustees are particularly pleased that the National Heritage Lottery Fund awarded a substantial two-year grant in late 2022, to build on the Health and Well-being pilots that the Charity has delivered. The Coast Path Connectors project follows our strategy of identifying gaps in the provision for the less-able, and for disadvantaged groups, to access the beauty of the coast-path. Other organisations have caring skills which we do not intend to replicate. However practical assistance to these disadvantaged sections of our community through the training and development of a cadre of qualified volunteer walk-leaders who can provide the necessary skills to encourage people onto appropriate sections of the Path, who might otherwise not have the opportunity, is now a realistic prospect.

In addition to its concern with maintaining focus on activities for path sustainability or improvement and those in pursuit of its health and wellbeing agenda, a further area of significant concern is that of the catastrophic decline in the UK's nature diversity.

The World Wildlife Fund has assessed England as one of the most nature-depleted countries in the World. The Government has responded through the provisions of the Environment Act with a series of ambitious targets to halt and reverse this decline. The Charity has proposed that the coastal margin defined as part of the England Coast Path should be used to deliver a coastal wild-belt for nature and people. Allowing those landowners in the coastal margin, outside of designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) or National Parks, to access enhanced environmental subsidies to restore and appropriately manage nature habitats. The Board are pleased that enthusiasm for this idea is gaining traction with our partners and stakeholders and we hope that the opportunity to pilot this scheme in the South West, creating corridors and space for nature to adapt to the additional pressures which climate change is bringing, will occur within the span of our new 5-year plan.

Finally, to complete this introduction the Board wishes to reiterate its thanks for the staff, volunteers, and you the members, business supporters, and partner organisations who make this work possible. Without you the South West Coast Path would not be the magnificent Trail it is today. We look forward to celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Association in 2023 together.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Objectives of the Charity, as set out in the Constitution, are:

1. To secure the protection, improvement and conservation of the South West Coast Path and public access to it in order to improve the health and wellbeing of the general public.
2. To educate the general public to a greater knowledge of, respect and care for, the coast and countryside by promoting the South West Coast Path.

In furtherance of these Objectives the Association aims to work for and assist in:

- Providing information about the South West Coast Path and its corridor to the public;
- The effective administration of the organisation directed at the improvement and maintenance of the South West Coast Path; and
- Providing a forum in which different interests connected with the South West Coast Path (including its corridor) and its use can discuss problems of mutual concern.

**TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

Vision and Mission

The Association's **Vision** is to protect and improve the South West Coast Path as one of the world's great trails, now and for future generations. In our **mission** to achieve this, we will champion the South West Coast Path to help people access, enjoy and protect the National Trail.

Our Strategies

As a charity we need to be self-sufficient in our core running costs. We also need to ensure efficient use of our supporters' donations so that the maximum benefit is given to the Coast Path. To be as cost-effective in our efforts as possible, our strategies focus on working in partnership where practicable. Our business plan prioritises the following strategies:

Enhancement of the South West Coast Path National Trail

- Improve quality of access to and along the Trail and enhance health and wellbeing
- Seize opportunities to improve the green infrastructure of the coastal margin
- Support and coordinate the Trail Partnership
- Have a voice in the planning system to protect and enhance the Trail
- Support economic activity that sustains the Trail
- Advocate at a national level to support the family of National Trails
- Work at a regional level to support wider access to the coast and countryside

Engagement with people using and supporting the Coast Path

- Listen and give a voice to users of the Coast Path
- Engage with people about conservation of the coast and countryside – helping create a sense of place
- Inspire people to use and enjoy the Coast Path, promoting access for all

Capacity Building of the Association and SWCP Trails Partnership to support the Trail

- Fundraise to help protect, promote and improve the Path
- Provide a way for people to give back to the South West Coast Path
- Enable others to support the Path to do more through leveraging of funding
- Be bold to test new ideas to enhance the trail experience

REPORTING CRITERIA 2022

The charity's Business Plan sets out financial and non-financial performance measures to ensure the Association is meeting its objects, vision and mission. The Business Plan was reviewed and updated between June and October 2021 with the revised plan adopted by the Board of Trustees in November 2021 setting out the strategic aims and objectives for the Association including a detailed action plan and budget for 2022. This year was the final year of the charity's current Business Plan. As such, a new five-year plan was developed over the year and was adopted by the Board of Trustees in November 2022.

The three Sub-Committees of the Board of Trustees have responsibility for governance and oversight of delivery of one of each of the three strategic aims:

- Path Committee - enhancement of the Coast Path experience.
- Membership and Fundraising Committee - fundraising to support the Coast Path; and
- Finance and Human Resources Committee - running the Charity.

This 2022 Trustees Report has been structured to reflect the charity's work across these three areas.

**TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN TO FURTHER THE CHARITY'S PURPOSES FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT

ENHANCEMENT OF THE COAST PATH EXPERIENCE

Over 2022 the charity transitioned from the previous two years of Covid-19 crisis management. Partners and stakeholders along the Coast Path rebuilt teams and working practices as we moved away from lockdowns and furlough. This has started to unblock a backlog of improvement projects across the National Trail, delayed by bottlenecks in labour and materials. It also allowed the charity to have the confidence to invest reserves in developing the team to improve its effectiveness and capacity, both to support the trail in impact fundraising and help deliver our new Coast Path Connectors project, building our volunteer capacity and helping more people access the coast.

However, the impacts of pandemic management measures continue with more permanent changes in working and leisure patterns. This affects the local economy and coastal communities. Businesses along the coast are seeing different use of the trail, with more local people using the Path for daily recreation and fewer international visitors. We are monitoring these impacts, including continuing our visitor economy research, to help inform our work.

This year saw the successful completion of our current business plan. Over the year we undertook a review of our activities and developed a new five-year plan. The biggest challenge in developing our plans was to learn the lessons from the past two years, especially in how we can rapidly adapt activities in the face of change. This allows us more effectively to address the future challenges of connecting people to nature, climate change and nature in crisis along the coastal corridor.

Path Improvement Projects

The charity's Path Committee supported 14 improvement projects along the Coast path that were completed in 2022, including:

- £2.5K for St Marys Project Torbay which saw numerous improvements along a length of the trail in Torbay, linking-in with local councils and Ramblers groups for additional funding. The projects included new waymarker posts, replacement steps, stone surfacing of very muddy sections of the path and new drainage gullies. The successful fundraising for this project enabled some additional path surfacing works in the area to be completed.
- £850 towards path improvements at Watermouth harbour to eliminate the steep crossfall and narrow width of the path as well as repairing fencing and surfacing the path to improve accessibility.
- £2.3K towards improvements at Cuddon Point to install 71 granite steps and 3 water breaks at intervals to make the slope easier to walk, as well as divert the water off the path to minimise erosion.
- £1.7K towards redefinition and regrading of 4 sections of coast path around Bosigran cliff castle, including installation of 50 granite steps and 5 granite drainage water breaks.
- £5k towards Torcross reinstatement works to reopen the coast path after it had to be diverted following a cliff fall in 2018. The reopened section allows the coast path to run on the most seaward route and for walkers to once again be able to enjoy the iconic views along Slapton sands. The whole project cost £145k with most funding being sourced from England Coast Path establishment grant and the SWCPA contribution covered 27% of the shortfall costs which occurred due to the steeply rising costs of materials and labour.
- £4k towards Branscombe Gateway Project which included four gateway improvements on East Cliff, and one on West Cliff in Branscombe, including one stile being changed to a gateway.
- £0.7k towards changing a stile at Sharkham Point to a kissing gate to make access easier on this section of trail but still keeping the meadows stock proof.

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)
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- £5K towards Chynhalls Cliff to complete 4 improvements; replacement of an existing bridge which was in need of renewing, replacement of an existing boardwalk as the structure had come to the end of its life, an additional handrail to an existing Oak bridge for visitor safety and an old pinch stile was removed and replaced with a new kissing gate.
- £5.2K for step boards through the *Step-Up* Appeal across the trail.
- £8K for Waymarkers and fingerposts across the trail area through the *Find Your Way* Appeal.

In addition, the Path Committee allocated a further £31k towards nine improvement projects which were started in 2022 but due to be completed in 2023.

We continued our support for the South Devon AONB **Life on the Edge** project. This National Lottery Heritage Fund supported project is helping deliver habitat restoration along the coastal margin for nature recovery of specific keystone insect species. Our support is specifically to deliver new public access and appropriate public information within the project.

This year saw an uplift grant from Natural England providing an additional £83K (an increase of around 19% to the NE grant) funding going towards capital access works. This funding is part of **new access funding** investing in access/accessibility improvement across National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Trails over the next three years. We received confirmation of the funding stream in October specifically targeted at capital works to improve accessibility. We asked all the Trails Partners to submit projects the funding could be used for and received four project proposals, one in Cornwall and three in Dorset. All four projects will be funded through this additional grant.

This is a very welcome uplift but unfortunately still does not ease the financial maintenance costs of the partners and the charity will continue to champion for an increase in core maintenance budget to ensure the trail remains to the high-quality standard expected of a National Trail.

At the end of 2021 we were successful in acquiring £91k additional funding from Natural England for capital improvement works. This funded 28 projects across the trail which were completed in early 2022. At the end of 2022 we were successful drawing in a further Natural England grant of which £167k along with match funding from our partners and SWCPA and this will hopefully be spent on supporting nine path improvement projects with a total investment of £223k. The timescales are tight as all works must be completed by the end of March 2023.

MANAGING IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

With the Trail running around the edge of the SW peninsular we are impacted by storms no matter the direction they come from. One impact of climate change is that not only are we seeing more frequent and stronger storms, but also more extreme weather events. So, the threat to the Coast Path corridor is not only the acceleration of coastal erosion, but also wind damage, run-off from significant rainfall events and increased fire risk during heatwaves.

The 2021/22 storm season saw six named storms across the South West, with three storms (Dudley, Eunice and Franklin) all hitting within one week in February. These storms produced two rare red weather warnings and the highest wind speeds recorded in over 30 years, gusting at over 81mph. These three storms wreaked havoc on the North Devon Coast in particular in Exmoor which saw hundreds of trees blown over. Damage to the Path was significant, especially from lifted root balls of fallen trees. Exmoor National Park Authority and the Exmoor National Trust team managed a three-month clear up operation to re-open the Trail. To support this work the charity ran a successful Storm Damage Appeal fundraising £12.5k towards this work.

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Over the year there were nine coastal erosion incidents leading to diversions and roll back of the path. There were also numerous smaller cliff slips where sections of the Trail now need to be regularly monitored and plans put in place ready to divert or roll back the path before it is deemed no longer safe.

With a warming climate we have experienced longer growing seasons over the last few years. As such, some areas of the trail are now requiring three and sometimes even four vegetation cuts a year to keep the path clear and accessible. This increase in vegetation cutting combined with ever rising costs of labour and materials has had a financial impact on the Trail Partnership leading to **rising maintenance costs**. The majority of the Trail Partners are now funding significantly over the statutory 25% of maintenance costs (the other 75% coming as Natural England grant). Maintenance costs are now rising to over 50% for some of the Highways Authorities and National Trust. This shows just how vital the work of the Association and Trail Partnership is in bringing in extra investment to support the funding for the National Trail.

A summer of record-breaking temperatures and a prolonged dry spell saw a number of wildfires occur which closed sections of the path for a few days until they were safe to reopen. Large scale wildfires occurred at Zennor Head in Cornwall, Baggy Point in North Devon, Bolberry Down in South Devon and Studland in Dorset, devastating unique and fragile coastal habitats.

Visitor Economy

The latest update to the *Visitor Economy of the South West Coast Path* Research was undertaken by the SW Research Company. Based on 2020 visitor data, the research shows the impact of the first year of the pandemic and associated restrictions and lockdowns which significantly impacted the tourism sector. The headline results show 30% decline in tourists using the SW Coast Path which is accounted for by the decrease in staying visitors to the SW region. Local evidence suggests that residential non-tourism usage increased significantly during the year and resulted in increased usage of the path overall as people were working from home or furloughed from work and the local populations sought their permitted daily exercise on the coastal path. The 6.2 million SWCP tourists accounted for 7% of all visitors to the SW region during 2020 (88.9 million). A total direct spend of £300.2m was estimated to be attributable to SWCP users during 2020; 74% of this spend was attributable to staying visitors (£222.8m) and 26% (£77.4m) day visitors and accounts for 5% of all direct tourism spend in the SW region during 2020 (£5,464m). The total local business turnover supported by SWCP activity in 2020 is estimated to be £455m.

PATH SURVEY AND CONDITION REPORT

Between October 2021 and March 2022 85% of the National Trail was surveyed. Path volunteers walked the Trail recording observations on hand-held tablets against National Trail Quality Standards, following the same methodology of previous surveys. The previous year's survey had been impacted by covid restrictions, meaning only 50% of the trail surveyed in the 20/21 Winter season. This year's increase to 85% is incredible and yet again we are so grateful for the support and dedication of our path rep volunteers. Investment in new android tablets combined with an upgrade to the survey software also made it easier for volunteers to undertake the survey, speeding up the download of base maps and giving more storage for photographs showing the condition of path infrastructure.

Based on the analysis of data collected between October 2021 and April 2022, we have seen the condition for furniture and signs improving by 5% over year (from 75.4% to 80.4%). This improvement is predominantly due to path managers (and contractors) being able to complete a greater number of improvements works than the previous two pandemic-impacted years. In addition, a number of England Coast Path establishment works were completed in 2022 improving the condition of the path in certain locations. The results of the survey are summarised in the graph below:

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Table 1: The percentage of Coast Path infrastructure meeting National Trail Quality Standards 2001 to 2022:

Criteria	2001	2005	2009	2012	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Furniture	73%	81%	86%	89%	86%	85%	85%	85%	84%	80%	87%
Signs	46%	58%	69%	79%	74%	73%	72%	76%	75%	69%	74%
All infrastructure	62%	71%	78%	84%	81%	80%	79%	81%	80%	75%	80%

Improving Equity of Access

Our work addressing equity of access over the past five-years took a significant step forward this year, with new funding to scale up our Connecting Actively to Nature work. We successfully bid for a new National Lottery Heritage Fund grant to deliver our **Coast Path Connectors** Project, which began in late 2022. This is a two-year project which will focus around five areas around the Coast Path with significant social deprivation: Plymouth, Torbay, Cornwall, Dorset and North Devon. A project officer will be based in each area. Their role will be delivering sessions for local community groups to help local people explore their local Coast Path, learn about its heritage and wildlife and health and enjoy its health and wellbeing benefits. We will also be recruiting and training up 60 new volunteers who will help support people in getting out and exploring the Coast Path and who will make links with social prescribing workers and networks.

The charity's Health and Wellbeing Working Group co-ordinated the second phase of our **Health and Wellbeing research**, working with the University of Exeter's Centre for Rural Policy Research. This new Research focused on the mental health and wellbeing benefits of walking, being in green space and being by water. Natural England helped fund the work and a research report was published in May and is available to download from the charity's website. This is a new and rapidly growing area of research and it is important that the charity remains up-to-date with emerging evidence in relation to benefits of green and blue space, including commissioning additional local research. We also need to ensure that the charity integrates assessments of health and wellbeing economic benefits when looking at increasing equity of access.

During 2022, we completed our **Connecting Actively to Nature (CAN)** programme, with two new projects in Plymouth and North Devon. These projects target inactive older people to encourage their engagement with the outdoors through use of the Coast Path. We engaged with over 40 people in walking and learning about their local stretches of the National Trail. In Plymouth we worked with Elder Tree Befriending and in north Devon we partnered with the Stroke Association. One participant summed up the benefits of these walks as '*company, socialising, exercise, fresh air, informative*'. We have now successfully delivered 10 CAN projects. A report demonstrating the value and learnings of the first eight projects was published in April 2022 and is available to download from our web site.

We are continuing to improve information about walks on the Coast Path by producing new **Easy Access** guides. These guides help people understand the levels of accessibility for walks; vital information for people with specific access needs before they travel to the Coast Path. We are working with the Disabled Ramblers in Devon, Dorset and Somerset, and Cornwall Rolling Ramblers in Cornwall. Over the year we visited each county for site visits with disabled ramblers and our local Path volunteers. Our volunteers have worked hard on assessing the walks, putting together the information and adding it to our website. There are now over 10 Easy Access guides on the website and more in production.

In July we organised a very successful **Saltlines** Community Day with over 40 people joining us from Improving Lives Plymouth, Devon and Cornwall Refugee Support and Elder Tree Befriending. Staff and Path volunteers led a coastal walk to Kingsand where author and SWCPA

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TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Ambassador Raynor Wynn gave a talk. This was followed by a concert from the folk band Gigspanner Big Band. This project aimed to give people, who might not otherwise have the opportunity, to get out on the Coast Path and experience the live music. Cindy from Improving Lives Plymouth, who supports people with long-term health issues, said of the day *"It was amazing and made even more special by one of our group taking my hand and thanking me for such a wonderful day. He doesn't smile often so it was a real pleasure to see the look of genuine happiness on his face."*

Throughout 2022, we continued to support our monthly walks with **Devon and Cornwall Refugee Support**, leading short introductory walks along the Plymouth coastline for asylum seekers. We also undertook training to support the four volunteers helping to lead these walks. One volunteer has said *"The encounters I make during our walks are so rich and lovely, I really appreciate walking the coast path surrounded by an international group of people. I feel nourished after every walk and I hope that each one in the group does too."* A walk booklet has been produced with participants and is available online.

In June we worked with **Community Environmental Education Therapy CIC (CEET)** to lead exploration sessions with young people on the Coast Path in North Devon. This work was supported by the North Devon AONB's Sustainable Development fund. Participants explored the Coast Path and were given training on GoPro cameras. Two groups of young people from Marland School and Pilton College explored a section of Coast Path between Barnstaple and Braunton in North Devon. Along the journey students created videos and took photographs. One aim of the project was to show how accessible this stretch of Coast Path is and to showcase what there is to discover along the way, including its rich heritage and beautiful wildlife. Students were taught how to get the best shots with expert coaching from Fotonow CIC. Sarah Jellard, programme leader said, *"CEET really benefited from working with SWCPA and Fotonow. The session was incredibly engaging, and the students have since been asking when they can continue learning about photography on the SWCP. Thank you all so much."* We also continued to support **Planet Earth Games** in their sustainability and healthy lifestyle challenges during August 2022 by providing a number of video challenges for young people to undertake along the Coast Path.

Path Completers

Completer numbers increased from 2020 as virus control measures were generally less restrictive for outdoor access for longer during 2021. Non-member completer numbers were the highest the charity has seen with 179 walkers contacting us for a certificate. We introduced new SW Coast Path section completion certificates in 2021 and 59 walkers requested certificates, with the Somerset and Exmoor section having the most interest (also the shortest section at 35 miles).

Table 2. Walkers of the Coast Path requesting a completers certificate 2016 to 2022.

Completers	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Members	90	97	91	101	73	90	90
Non members	75	95	150	151	112	179	187

South West Coast Path Trail Partnership

The Trail Partnership oversees the management, maintenance, improvement, and promotion of the South West Coast Path National Trail for the benefit of the public. It champions the protection, enhancement and access to the landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage of the Coast Path corridor. The Delivery Group comprises six Highway Authorities (Cornwall and Dorset Councils, Devon County Councils, Torbay Council, Plymouth City Council and Exmoor National Park Authority), the National Trust, Natural England (NE) and the SWCP Association with Ken Carter the independent Chair.

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

As set out in A New Deal for National Trails, Natural England provides an annual grant to the SWCP Trail Partnership to help maintain the Coast Path to the higher quality National Trail standards. This grant funds a maximum of 75% of the day-to-day maintenance of the National Trail, paid directly to the Highways Authorities, who, with the National Trust fund the remaining 25% (as noted above in climate change this has risen to 50% with increasing costs and liabilities). The 2022/23 NE grant settlement was £441k plus an additional £84k for capital access works. The grant allocation is set out in a Delivery Framework and based on percentage of path within each jurisdiction.

Table 3. Percentage allocation of Natural England grant allocated towards maintenance by Highway Authority area:

Highway Authority	Proportion of grant
Cornwall	48.4%
Devon	30.1%
Dorset	11.9%
Exmoor	4.8%
Plymouth	1.0%
Torbay	3.8%

A proportion of the NE grant is used to fund regional co-ordination work on behalf of the Partnership by the **National Trail Team** including the National Trail Officer and is managed by the Association. The SWCP Trails Partnership delivery group met twice over 2022. The main topics considered included: establishment of England Coast Path; mitigation of climate change impacts; development of a Coastal Wildbelt to promote nature recovery; managing planning issues along the National Trail corridor; and continuing impacts of the pandemic and virus control measures.

The Partnership agreed to continue to invest in the SWCP **Trails Partnership Project** (TPP) for a further three years. The TPP helps build capacity of the charity to generate extra investment in the Coast Path. For the last three years the Partnership invested £145K into the TPP. This was used by the charity to co-ordinate grant applications, engage with business and supporters to fundraising almost £2m for the National Trail. This included:

- Using £100k of the charity's reserves to match-fund four Rural Development Programme for England grants bringing in a total of £750k investment to the Path.
- Generating over £200k income through campaigns to fundraise for mitigating the impact of climate change including storm damage and around £40k for steps, fingerposts and waymarkers through the *Step Up* and *Find Your Way* appeals.
- Investing £100k of the charity's funds through the Path Committee to support almost 60 projects which, in turn, generated over £500k improvements along the trail.

In 2022 the TPP priorities included: championing a stronger voice for the wider family of National Trails to help secure government funding and wider support; protecting the 2022/23 core maintenance grant and securing additional access funding; and securing match-funding for improvement projects to maximise the impact of the maintenance grant. Table four below shows the annual investment by the partners in the Trails Partnership Project for 2022.

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TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Table 4: Annual breakdown of investment into the Trail Partnership Project by the SWCP Trails Partnership.

Trail Partnership Project investment 2022/23	
Cornwall Council	£9,248
Devon County Council	£5,688
Dorset Council	£3,087
Exmoor National Park Authority	£1,036
National Trust	£15,000
Plymouth City Council	£320
South West Coast Path Association	£15,000
Torbay Council	£621
Total	£50,000

Planning

The Association continues to make representations to the relevant Local Planning Authorities and other appropriate bodies whenever proposals or plans might have an adverse impact on the Coast Path and the experience of its users. In this role it is helped by its four volunteer planning advisors, who between them cover the whole 630 miles of the Coast Path.

During 2022 the Association had sufficient concern to make representations on 16 planning applications. Of these, ten were formal objections to the development applications. The six remaining applications were commented on, including asking for constraints during construction not to impact on the route, or noting specific issues that needed to be addressed. For example, the removal of some buildings from an application due to their detrimental impact on the ability to roll-back the National Trail as the coastline erodes. The Association also reserved the right to object to one pre-application if specific issues were not considered and addressed.

Over the year the Association made representations to the Planning Inspectorate on three planning appeals:

- In 2019 an application was made for a large-scale development on the site of the former Yelland Power Station. At that time the Association objected to details of the proposal which would have had an adverse impact on the Coast Path and its setting. The application was refused by North Devon District Council in 2021. This decision was appealed in 2022 and outline planning permission granted.
- Carbis Bay Hotel had appealed in November 2021 against an enforcement notice by Cornwall Council regarding development which had taken place without planning permission. The Association had submitted a statement of support for the Council, given that the development was adjacent to the Coast Path. In February 2022 the appeal was dismissed and the applicant ordered to restore the land to its former condition.
- In 2020 the Association objected to an application for the erection of a dwelling close to the Coast Path at Rame Head. Although this application was subsequently approved, following the outcome of a Judicial Review the approval was quashed. A second application was submitted in June 2021, to which the Association also objected, and this one was denied. Following this, in February 2022 the applicant appealed against the decision. The Association submitted a statement requesting that the appeal be dismissed, on visual, landscape character and both local and national policy grounds.

**TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

In addition, the Association's advisors have looked at several other applications which have been brought to their attention but which, following detailed consideration, it has been decided do not warrant an Association representation.

The Planning Working Group met in June to co-ordinate the charity's planning work and identify ways to maximise the effectiveness and impact of our efforts, noting that much of the work undertaken is through volunteers. Notification of relevant planning applications around the Coast Path remains an issue over most of its length. As such, the Association continues to rely on local volunteers and other interested parties to notify us of proposals. One of the issues raised by the Working Group is how the Association can comment on issues which impact not only on the line of the Coast Path itself but on the impact on the wider trail corridor and how this should be defined. Associated with this is the issue of ensuring the National Trail corridor is given material consideration within Planning Policy and whether this is best achieved by formally defining the purpose of National Trails to align with the rest of the protected landscapes family.

England Coast Path

Natural England continues to co-ordinate the designation of the **England Coast Path** (ECP) National Trail with additional ECP sections along the SWCP due to start opening later in 2023. Establishment works for improvements or new sections of the route can be undertaken once these sections are approved by the Secretary of State. Many sections of the ECP in the SW are already in the planning or delivery phase of the establishment works. The SWCP Trails Partnership will manage both the SWCP and ECP in the SW, with both National Trails sharing significant sections.

We received a further grant of £8.5k from Natural England to co-ordinate signage and interpretation along sections of the ECP in Cornwall (building on planning work the Association undertook in 2021). Specifically, the work addresses wildlife disturbance issues as well as providing the most up-to-date information for route amendments. Information panels and plaques are being designed for estuary crossing locations to provide all options available, whether by ferry or showing the best route to walk around the estuary.

Natural England has set up a new team to help co-ordinate a series of events to celebrate the ECP in 2023 and 2024. In the South West these events will be held in Ilfracombe, Weymouth and Plymouth. The celebrations will coincide with the 2023 Year of the Coast celebrations and the 50th anniversary of the Association.

National Trails UK

National Trails UK (NTUK) was hosted by the Association in 2022 to help get the new charity established. The aim of NTUK is to give a stronger voice for the family of National Trails and to promote and maximise the public benefit of the network. A recruitment campaign was run for trustees and a new Board voted in at the March AGM. Three members of the National Trails Alliance Working Group which set the charity up were voted onto the Board, including the Association's Director.

NTUK successfully advocated to secure core funding for the family of National Trails. The 2022/23 NE grant has been augmented with a 19% uplift for accessibility works. National Parks and AONBs also received funding for accessibility programmes which will result in improvements within the Trails network.

Funding has also been secured from Defra to support the establishment of NTUK, specifically to ensure trails can play a role in the emerging protected landscapes partnership with National Parks England, AONB Association and Natural England. This new partnership is being developed to help deliver some of the ambitions from the Glover Review and will secure funding for equity of access, nature recovery and green finance across the protected landscapes family.

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

World Trails Network

The biennial World Trails Conference was held in Skiathos, Greece in October. The SW Coast Path was represented at the conference with presentations on: managing Covid-19 impacts; valuing the public benefit of trails; measuring the value of health and wellbeing; the England Coast Path; and creating a voice for UK National Trails. A short film commissioned by the charity showing the health and wellbeing benefits of walking the SW Coast Path was included in the World Trails Film Festival which ran in conjunction with the conference. The objective of participation is to help maintain the profile of the SWCP as one of the World's Great Trails and to share and learn from the experiences and ideas of other trails around the world.

FUNDRAISING TO SUPPORT THE COAST PATH

We received over £225k in funding from trusts and grants in 2022, which accounted for 21% of our income for the year. This was a 27% increase on 2021 income, partly a result of capacity increasing, following the initial pandemic slowdown, amongst partners and stakeholders to undertake improvement works. All funds were restricted to specific projects, specifically: £91k to the SWCP National Trail Team; £35k to the SWCP Trails Partnership Project; £73k to path improvements, volunteers and National Trails development; £11k to England Coast Path signage and interpretation; £11k for Coast Path Connectors project; £2.4k for Connecting Actively with Nature; and £1.2k CEET/North Devon AONB project.

Table 5: List of reportable Trusts and Grants received by the Charity during 2022:

Trusts	
Schroder Charitable Trust	£2,000
Grants	
Active Devon	£2,831
Brixham Town Council	£1,000
Devon County Council	£23,126
National Lottery Heritage Fund	£8,548
Natural England	£152,817
SWCP Trail Partnership Project	£35,000

Association Membership

We received around £136k from Membership in 2022, an increase of 5% on 2021 and accounting for over 20% of the year's income, see table 6 below:

Table 6. Membership income 2015 to 2022

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Membership Income	£76,384	£94,664	£96,267	£108,167	£114,660	£129,333	£135,897

The number of members of the Association continues to grow with a 25% increase in membership income over the past five years after accounting for increases in membership fee costs.

For the past five years we've allocated £10 from each membership¹ to a Path Fund to support work protecting and promoting the National Trail. This year we've made a change which increases and future-proofs the amount invested into the Path from membership income by changing the figure to 50% of each membership fee now being invested into the Path Fund. This helps show members that their support is making a real difference on the ground.

¹ Joint Membership counts as one Membership and Life Members not included (as the scheme was introduced after new Life Membership was discontinued).

**TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

Donations

Over the year the charity received donations totalling £122k, accounting for just under 20% of our income. This was an increase of 132% from last year, mainly due to a very generous donation of £67k from the Peter Reid Trust. Individual donations and gift aid remained strong over the year. Our *Find Your Way* and *Step Up* appeals also ran over the year with £1k raised through 18 gifts. A *Storm Damage* appeal was launched to Life Members following the February storms. We received 36 gifts to the appeal, totalling over £12k including almost £8k from Athletic Brewing and £1k from Plymouth Coastal Runners. A new Calendar appeal was launched in winter receiving 88 gifts raising over £2k. A *12 Miles of Christmas* community fundraising appeal over the same period raised just under £1k. Other community fundraising generated over £6k over the year, including £1.4k from @keepingtheseaontheright.

Every Mile Matters remained our flagship fundraising campaign over 2022 and will be superseded in 2023 by our 50th Anniversary *Trailblazing* campaign. These campaigns help articulate the charity's cause across environment, people and economy. The 50th celebrations will also have a strong focus on all the volunteers who have championed the Coast Path over the last 50 years. Legacy income is much more variable year-to-year and this year we received one legacy of £1k and a £1.4k in-memory Mile Maker gift. An Impact Fundraiser was appointed this year, using legacy income, with an aim to develop our donor, celebration, legacy and in-memory fundraising.

Corporate Engagement

South West Water remained lead sponsor of our *Every Mile Matters* campaign in 2022. The South West Business Council continued to support the Association through their Charity of the Year programme. Waterside Holiday Group joined as section sponsors of the Jurassic Coast. Overall corporate sponsorship was up 10% on 2022 with £36k income to the charity. A number of businesses have already signed up to support the 2023 50th anniversary Trailblazing celebrations.

The *Way Makers* business engagement programme grew 6% on last year, generating over £18.5k in 2022. We have positioned the programme to show how tourism businesses are part of the Coast Path experience. The launch of the *Coast Path Passport* trial generated much interest from walkers and tourism businesses. Over 100 Way Maker businesses have signed up to be passport stamping points and this programme will help the Way Maker program develop in 2023.

The charity's *Mile Maker* programme continues to grow with businesses and individuals supporting the costs of maintaining the Coast Path along an average one-mile stretch. St Austell Brewery, Action Challenge and Beer 52 became business *Mile Makers* in 2022. Our *Coast Path Friendly* programme raised just over £1k for path maintenance to mitigate against the impacts of events along the National Trail.

Marketing and Communications

Following two years of the Covid pandemic it was heartening to see visitors returning to the south west to explore all the area has to offer. With the South West Coast Path such an important element of the tourism economy and the businesses along its route, it was exciting for us to be able to launch the long-awaited Coast Path Passport in July.

The *Coast Path Passport* was revealed on Alex Polizzi's, The Hotel Inspector, followed by a social media push. Interest in the passport exceeded our expectations with the first print run selling out within 24 hours. Comments about the passport included; 'Great idea, can't wait to try it out!' 'These are so nice! Might have to rewalk the coast path just for this.' We secured almost 100 Way Maker stamping points for the launch of the passport, with many more points coming on board since. Next year a 50-anniversary edition will be created with the support of Coast Path Passport sponsor Luxury Coastal.

**TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

Trailblazing remained our flagship member bi-annual publication that includes news from the charity, our members, trustees, and guest articles exploring issues pertinent to the care and protection of the National Trail. The spring issue was themed around 'nature and wellbeing' and the autumn issue explored some of the incredible 'culture and heritage' you can see and experience along the Path.

Our 2021 photo competition had over 1200 entries with an image of Godrevy Lighthouse selected as the winner. The competition continues to be a great way for us to engage with our growing social media followers and increase the imagery in our photography archive. In September 2022 we increased the number of categories in the competition to include Nature; Urban and Industrial Heritage; My Path; Climate Change; and a Young Photographer of the Year Award. St Austell Brewery came on board as the competition sponsor, with the view that this year's competition would culminate in an exhibition at Royal William Yard in 2023, as part of our 50th anniversary celebrations.

Content on the website was updated throughout the year. In 2022 the number of users and visits decreased across the site to pre-pandemic levels. This is a combination of a number of factors including: people having less leisure time; a return to overseas travel for some; and a shift in using social media as a means to source information rather than web sites. In 2022 we posted 30 blogs that were viewed by 8,883 visitors – an increase of 32% compared to 2021.

Social Media and eCommunications

Throughout 2022 we issued two eNews every month to members and wider supporters – reaching almost 8,000 people each month. Quarterly updates were also provided to our Way Makers that included information on the Association as well as relevant tourism research and news. Social media engagement continued to grow over the year with Facebook followers increasing by 29%, Twitter 2.6%, and Instagram by 45.6%, reaching a combined audience of 90k. Instagram is the fastest-growing channel with 36k followers at the end of 2022.

Our eNews continues to include information on the charity (Path News); Fundraising (Make a Difference); Explore (Walks); Shop; and a Members section for the members eNews. Our open rates are above the national average, with member eNews at 60% and supporters eNews at 40%. Taking into consideration our social media channels, blog site, and eNews, we are talking to a combined audience of 98.5k.

In the News

Over 2022 the South West Coast Path featured across a broad range of publications locally, regionally, and nationally. 2022 proved to be a calmer tourism season compared to 2021 as people had the freedom to travel overseas for the first time in two years. The Coast Path Passport received a lot of press and media attention when it first launched and was featured in several regional glossy magazines as well as being revealed on The Hotel Inspector.

50th Anniversary

During 2022 a lot of planning time has been devoted to the 50th anniversary celebration in 2023. Part of this has been the securing of high-profile sponsors, organising the Trailblazer Walk, South West Coast Path Photographer of the Year exhibition at Royal William Yard, 630 Miles podcast; development of the 50th anniversary edition of the Coast Path Passport; and supporting some of our amazing fundraisers such as Emma Scattergood who is painting 50 pictures of the Coast Path as she walks around the entire route.

SOUTH WEST COAST PATH ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Maps, Guides and Merchandise

The charity's retail income grew by 5% compared to 2021. Maps, guides and books accounted for over 62% of the overall retail income. Sales of the Complete Guide matched the 2021 levels which were a 50% growth from 2020. Sales of Path Descriptions increased significantly compared to previous years which also may explain the drop in A-Z Map sales.

Table 8. Number of Maps and Guides sold by the Association 2016 to 2022

Publications	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Complete Guide	636	542	1,103	1,191	1,404	2,130	2,129
Reverse Guide	N/A	132	153	179	289	348	248
Path Descriptions	1,981	3,166	3,446	2,804	2,778	2,920	3,732
A-Z Maps	293	315	371	344	546	594	298

RUNNING THE CHARITY

Governance

Key governance issues for the Board over the year included: oversight and adoption of a new five-year business plan; trustee recruitment; and ensuring transition to new ways of working as we move away from the first two years of pandemic crisis management.

Carol Grant stepped down as Vice Chair and as a Trustee in August. Eve Bampton-Wilton resigned as a Trustee in November. Martin Davis, resigned as Hon. Secretary and as a Trustee in December. Bob Mark was re-elected as the Chair and Hilary Dinsdale as Treasurer following the June AGM. Philip Spencer was elected Vice Chair at the November Board meeting. Following a recruitment campaign two new trustees were co-opted the Board in November: Katie Ash and Kevin Thomas.

Annual General Meeting

The Association's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was scheduled again as a face-to-face meeting. However, as with 2021 it became clear that this would not be the most sensible or inclusive approach. Instead, a virtual AGM was convened on Friday 10th June. We had 81 attendees which is lower than 2021 and reflects a wider reduction in attendance for virtual events. The AGM was preceded by an online Forum with nine speakers covering issues impacting the Coast Path across three streams: people, environment, and economy. Videos of the AGM and Forum presentations are available on our web site and YouTube channel for members unable to join online on the day. Four guided walks were hosted along the Coast Path over the 11th and 12th June for members, trustees, staff, and local/area reps.

Human Resources

The team continued to work effectively despite the challenging and changing working environment. The Thursday 'smile' meeting set up during the first lockdown to make sure we supported each other remains part of the working week. The team Health and Wellbeing group continues to review and improve our working environment as we shift to a more permanent form of hybrid working.

There were a number of changes in the team over 2022. The Finance Manager retired, and their replacement successfully recruited. The Operations Manager also left during the year. A new Impact Fundraiser was recruited on a fixed-term contract. Recruitment of the new Coast Path Connectors project team started with the Project Manager and Plymouth Project Officer posts successfully recruited.

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The Finance and HR Committee and team's Health and Wellbeing Group completed the review of the charity's HR Policies and a new Complete Guide to the Charity was adopted along with revised HR Policies, replacing the Staff Handbook.

Enquiries and Complaints:

The charity continues to receive over 1,000 enquiries a month, with only a third of these coming from members. Similar to the previous two years, much of the engagement was via email, web and phone.

The charity dealt with several issues and complaints over the year. Most complaints were related to our web site and the online shop (which will be replaced with a more robust shopping platform in 2023). There were also issues with fulfilment and the automatic renewal system for direct debits resulting in some memberships being cancelled and then re-subscribed – apologies to any members inconvenienced by this.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Key Achievements

The pandemic impacted on much of the charity's work over the past two years. However, during 2022 we were able to shift gear from crisis management to having a longer-term perspective. Developing and adopting a new five-year business plan gave the opportunity to refocus our work to maximise the public benefits delivered by the SW Coast Path. Our priorities will be for programmes that enhance the Coast Path experience not only for people who use and enjoy the path, but also those who are currently excluded from this national resource. Securing a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the *Coast Path Connectors* project is a great boost for this work.

The pandemic also allowed us to review our relationship with businesses whose livelihoods are linked to the National Trail. The business *Way Maker* programme was created in 2020 as a direct response to the virus control measures and how this impacted tourism businesses. Developing products such as the *Coast Path Passport* and linking to the *Way Makers* - with over 100 businesses agreeing to be stamping points in the Passport trial - starts to show the synergies with businesses along the Trail corridor. Specifically, how these businesses are part of the Coast Path experience (a lesson learned from the Camino, which has had centuries of experience in its development).

Over the past five-years the charity has shifted its role, now fully taking on the management of the National Trail team and receiving the hosting grant directly from Natural England. This improves the efficiency of the charity's fundraisers, being able to work directly alongside the National Trail Officer and target fundraising where the Coast Path needs resources. Through our involvement with National Trails UK we are influencing future funding opportunities to ensure the SW Coast Path receives the investment needed to ensure it remains one of the world's great trails. Additional NE funding for accessibility projects is the first indication of the potential impact of this work.

As we move into our 50th anniversary celebrations we should recognise the achievements of our volunteers who have made the charity what it is today. Volunteers ensure oversight of the charity as trustees. Our local and area reps are undertake the annual conditions survey and are our eyes and ears on the ground, keeping the charity informed of local issues and planning applications. New community engagement volunteer rangers are the latest addition in the long history of volunteers along the Coast Path and will be an additional legacy of the Coast Path Connectors project.

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees have reviewed the activities of the Charity in the light of the guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit. The Trustees are satisfied that the Charity's activities are for the public benefit. The areas where public benefit is being provided are:

- making improvements to the Path so that people using it gain the maximum enjoyment;
- supporting path improvements to increase accessibility to and along the Coast Path for the public;
- promoting the health and wellbeing benefits of walking along the Path;
- encouraging recognition of the benefits of the path corridor for wider nature recovery;
- improvements to increase the use of the Path out of season;
- increased publicity to promote the walk to the widest section of the population;
- working with partners to identify and address barriers to access; and
- close working with other National Trails and world trails to promote the public benefits they offer.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Key Financial Performance Indicators 2022 Annual Report

The Charity receives income from a variety of sources and for 2022 this comprised:

Income	
Grants & Trusts	35%
Memberships	21%
Donations, Gift Aid and Legacies	24%
Way Makers & Corporate Sponsorship	8%
Shop Sales	11%
Other Income	1%
Total	100%

The Charity faced continuing challenges arising from the wider economic climate. However, it continued to adopt a proactive approach to income generation and income generated was £61k over the budget.

The Charity spent funds on a range of activities and for 2022 this comprised:

Expenditure	
Charitable Activities Support	58%
Raising Funds	13%
Path Improvements	15%
Memberships	7%
Promotion & Development	4%
Guides & Maps	3%
Total	100%

The percentage spent by the Charity on *charitable activities* and *path improvements* rose by 2% compared to 2021, whilst *raising funds* dropped by 2%. The percentage of funds spent on *membership costs* rose by 2% whilst *promotion & development* and *guides & maps* dropped by 1% each when compared to 2021 costs.

**TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

During the year ending 31 December 2022, the charity received total income of £645k and incurred total expenditure of £731k which resulted in net expenditure of £86k. Some investment in capacity building for the charity was delayed by the ongoing impacts of the pandemic and difficulties in the wider economic environment and will be pushed back to 2023/24. As such, the expenditure of the charity in 2022 was almost £158k under budget.

Investment Policy and Performance

The Charity has a policy of low-risk investment in financial institutions which offer ethical products. All reserves are placed in interest bearing cash deposits within a variety of accounts, in order to keep within the Financial Services Compensation Scheme limit of £85k. The Finance and HR Committee and Trustees receive regular reports relating to account balances and interest rates.

Going Concern

An entity prepares financial statements on a going concern basis when, under the going concern assumption, the entity is viewed as continuing in business for the foreseeable future. After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The principal risks, based on likelihood and impact, faced by the Charity in 2022 were:

- Reduction of funding by local and national government
- Impact on grant funding by the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union
- The effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on the ability to operate effectively and generate income.

Trustees manage these risks by recording them in a Register and defining a set of activities to reduce, manage or mitigate the risk were it to be realised. Trustees regularly review these activities to ensure the Charity is appropriately prepared.

Other risks identified in the risk register include:

- Insufficient governance / leadership at Trustee level
- Loss of key management personnel
- Failing in the Trail Partnership
- Impact of the economic climate on financial sustainability
- Insufficient or failing administration or IT systems
- Environmental disasters in the South West impacting on the Path or the ability to access the countryside
- Damage to SWCPA Reputation and Brand.

Reserves Policy

At the year end the Charity had total reserves of £647k which comprise:

- Restricted reserves of £78k – restricted for specific uses as specified in the conditions attached to their source from legacies, grants and donations.
- Designated reserves of £422k - designated by the Trustees for capacity building, contribution towards the delivery of the Trail Partnership Project and to promote and protect the Coast Path.
- Unrestricted reserves of £147k - these reserves are needed to bridge any gaps that arise between spending and income received due to unforeseen circumstances which are outside of the Association's control. For example, this might include the impact of national economic conditions on our ability to generate income or the need to deal with emergency repairs.

**TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

The Charity's reserves policy is intended to ensure the Charity has sufficient unrestricted reserves to meet up to 6 months of our day to day running ("operational") costs. The level of reserves is reviewed at least twice a year by the Finance and HR Committee, and not only reflects the relevant period in the current financial year but also takes into account the pressures on our budget moving forward. The Reserves Policy target was met in 2022.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The South West Coast Path Association is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by its Constitution approved by members on 28th March 2015 and subsequently accepted by the Charity Commission on 4th September 2015. It is registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission.

Method of Appointment or Election of Trustees

The management of the charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Constitution. Trustees are elected every year by members at the AGM, serving until the following AGM. All Trustees are eligible for re-election each year. The procedure governing this process is set out in the Constitution and Rules. Officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Hon Secretary and Treasurer) are elected by the Trustees at the first meeting of the Board of Trustees following AGM. Members are informed at AGM of the names of those Trustees intending to stand for the Officer positions. A maximum of twelve Trustees are permitted under the current Constitution. Trustees may co-opt additional Trustees between AGMs, so long as the total does not exceed twelve.

Organisational Structure and Decision Making

The Board of Trustees hosts four formal meetings a year at Headquarters or virtually with occasional conference calls, as required, between meetings. A further two meetings are held to focus upon project delivery with a site visit including relevant staff in the spring, and the second to consider the progress and review of the Business Plan in the autumn. The Board has established and monitors the overall governance of the Charity and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures of committees and other groups. It receives reports and recommendations from its committees for ratification. All Trustees have access to the minutes of committees allowing scrutiny of their discussions and activities. The Board has the power to create Working Groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale.

The following decisions are reserved to the Board of Trustees: to consider any proposals for changes to the status or constitution of the Charity and its committee structure, to appoint or remove the Chair and/or Vice Chair, to approve the budget, to approve changes to membership subscription rates.

The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting a Business Plan and budget, approving the statutory accounts, monitoring Charity performance with the use of budgets and other data, evaluating and mitigating risks, and making major decisions about the direction of the Charity, capital expenditure and resources. Over 2022 the Association's new *Complete Guide to the Charity* replaced the previous *Staff Handbook* and associated HR Policies were updated and adopted. The Expenses Policy was also updated. A new five-year Business Plan was considered by the Board and approved in November.

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Committees and Working Groups

There are three committees and three working groups:

Path Committee

This is the primary group which looks after operational matters concerned with the Path. It meets four times a year allowing all Trustees to attend as observers. Membership is comprised of the Area Reps, a Rambler's representative, the National Trail Officer, two Trustees, the Association Director and an independent Chair. One of its main purposes is to review requests and approve the allocation of the Charity's own resources to projects. The Committee is chaired by Steve Church.

Finance and Human Resources Committee

This meets at least three times a year and is responsible for all substantial matters of finance including human resources. This includes, but is not limited to, approving funding bids, approving the Charity's quarterly management accounts, approval of the annual budget and the appointment of the Charity's legal and financial advisers. Finance policies are developed by the Committee and approved by the Board of Trustees whereas finance procedures are owned and maintained by the Committee. Membership includes the Chairman, Treasurer, Finance Manager, Director plus at least one other Trustee. The Committee is chaired by the Treasurer, Hilary Dinsdale.

Membership and Fundraising Committee

The Membership and Fundraising Committee's main objectives are to oversee the fundraising and engagement work of the Charity set out in the Business Plan. This includes membership, corporate support, trusts and grants, individual giving, events, trading activity and communications. Membership of the Committee comprises at least three Trustees and two voting Association staff. Other non-voting staff are co-opted to the Committee and is chaired by Philip Spencer.

Planning Working Group

The Planning Working Group has oversight of planning policy impacting on the Coast Path. In addition, it responds to planning applications, advises on neighbourhood plans and inputs to policy (e.g. Green infrastructure and National Planning Policy Framework). The Group comprises the Chair of the SWCP Trail Partnership, Path Committee Chair, Volunteer Planning Advisers, Association's Director and the National Trail Officer. This Working Group reports to the Path Committee.

Trustee Recruitment Working Group

The Trustee Recruitment Working Group addresses issues around skills and diversity in membership of the Board. A review of the Trustees skills and diversity matrix was completed and reported back to the Board. The Working Group comprises three Trustees and the Association's Director and reports to the Board of Trustees and is chaired by Lucy Daniel.

Health and Wellbeing Working Group

The Trustee Health and Wellbeing Working Group gives strategic direction to health and wellbeing work across the charity, looking to maximise impact of our programmes across the Coast Path. The Working Group comprises three Trustees and the Association's Director and reports to the Path Committee and is chaired by David Morris.

Key Management

The Board of Trustees have devolved responsibility for day-to-day management of the Charity to the Director. The Director implements the policies laid down by the Trustees and reports back to them on performance.

**TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

The Trustees have approved a Scheme of Delegation between the Trustees and Director. This forms part of the Charity's Rules and grants the Director latitude to act within the scope of the approved annual or project budget and within the Business Plan. The Business Plan has identified Lead Trustees for specific work items and the Director is authorised to proceed subject to consultation with the Lead Trustees, rather than the full Board. Discretionary spend up to £2,000 on items not in either the annual budget or project budgets is permitted by the Scheme.

Related Party and Other Connected Charities and Organisations

None of our Trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the Charity. Trustees are required to complete an annual Declaration of Interests as well as to state any conflicts of interest before the start of each Board meeting. Trustees are also required to pass the HMRC "fit and proper" test as the Charity makes claims for tax relief.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Future Developments

Our priority for the Association in 2023 will be to deliver the new five-year Business Plan as efficiently and effectively as possible under challenging economic and physical environment conditions. At time of writing there are some specific programmes of activity we will focus on over 2023, including:

- celebrate the 50th anniversary of the charity in 2023 including the Trailblazing Walk;
- liaise with the England Coast Path designation team to maximise benefits for coastal access along the Path corridor and champion the best route for the England Coast Path in the South West;
- deliver the National Lottery Heritage Fund supported Coast Path Connectors project - scaling up our Connecting Actively with Nature/Couch to Coast health and wellbeing projects and building the charities volunteer management capacity;
- leverage partnerships to reconnect people with the coastal environment with a strong focus on mental health and equity of access;
- develop the Coastal Wildbelt concept to maximise the public benefits from the ECP coastal margin;
- improving our data sharing with highways authorities to ensure the conditions survey feeds into future maintenance of the trail;
- develop our plans for an affordable accommodation offer for long-distance hikers
- build a partnership with Plymouth Observatory and Environment Agency to develop our spatial data analysis capability through a new Geographical Information System;
- develop a new awareness and fundraising campaign to show how the Coast Path is delivering the sustainability agenda;
- increase our understanding of the Coast Path and its public benefits working with academia;
- develop the charity's fundraising capacity;
- secure long-term core funding for maintenance of National Trails in parity with the rest of the protected landscape family, working with government and National Trails UK;
- work with the National Trails UK to ensure the National Trails family has a voice and active role in the Protected Landscapes Partnership;
- work with Natural England to promote the opening of the England Coast Path,;
- trial digital engagement and fundraising on the trail to innovate and test technology;
- develop the Coastal Wildbelt concept to maximise the public benefits from the ECP coastal margin;
- work with the World Trails Network to promote trail corridors for nature recovery; and
- promote Year of the Coast 2023, working with VisitBritain & National Coastal Tourism Academy.

SOUTH WEST COAST PATH ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

The Trustees 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).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales 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 of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- 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 proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and 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 Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. 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.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees and signed on their behalf, by:



Mr R Mark
(Chair of Trustees)

Date: 10 May 2023 .

SOUTH WEST COAST PATH ASSOCIATION

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SOUTH WEST COAST PATH ASSOCIATION ('the Charity')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2022.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the Trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

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

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the Charity has prepared the accounts in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

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 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

SOUTH WEST COAST PATH ASSOCIATION

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE OF SOUTH WEST COAST PATH ASSOCIATION
(CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed:

Bishop Fleming LLP
Pamela Tuckett
FCA, DChA

Dated:

23 May 2023

BISHOP FLEMING LLP
Chartered Accountants
Salt Quay House
4 North East Quay
Sutton Harbour
Plymouth
PL4 0BN

SOUTH WEST COAST PATH ASSOCIATION

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies	4	71,193	83,407	154,600	91,063
Charitable activities	5	186,967	225,321	412,288	356,061
Other trading activities		74,008	-	74,008	68,863
Investments	7	3,995	-	3,995	3,950
TOTAL INCOME		336,163	308,728	644,891	519,937
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	8	96,106	-	96,106	92,064
Charitable activities	9	353,850	281,121	634,971	508,637
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		449,956	281,121	731,077	600,701
Net (expenditure)/income		(113,793)	27,607	(86,186)	(80,764)
Transfers between funds	19	(17,107)	17,107	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(130,900)	44,714	(86,186)	(80,764)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		700,397	32,946	733,343	814,107
Net movement in funds		(130,900)	44,714	(86,186)	(80,764)
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	19	569,497	77,660	647,157	733,343

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

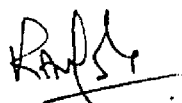
The notes on pages 28 to 42 form part of these financial statements.

SOUTH WEST COAST PATH ASSOCIATION

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks	13	7,289	6,641
Debtors	14	115,381	31,897
Investments	15	513,030	597,549
Cash at bank and in hand		154,302	211,120
		<u>790,002</u>	<u>847,207</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(124,918)	(95,725)
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>665,084</u>	<u>751,482</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	17	(17,927)	(18,139)
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u><u>647,157</u></u>	<u><u>733,343</u></u>
CHARITY FUNDS			
Restricted funds	19	77,660	32,946
Unrestricted funds	19	569,497	700,397
TOTAL FUNDS		<u><u>647,157</u></u>	<u><u>733,343</u></u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Mr R Mark
(Chair of Trustees)

Date: 10 May 2023

The notes on pages 28 to 42 form part of these financial statements.

SOUTH WEST COAST PATH ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

South West Coast Path Association is a charitable incorporated organisation, registered in England and Wales. The registered office is Unit 11, Residence 2, Royal William Yard, Plymouth, PL1 3RP.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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 2015), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

South West Coast Path Association meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 INCOME

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Charity has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Charity, can be reliably measured.

On receipt, donated professional services and facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the company which is the amount it 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.

Grants are included in the statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation. Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

Income received for Life Memberships are credited to deferred income and from there recognised as income in 15 equal annual installments.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.3 EXPENDITURE

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.4 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 institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.5 STOCKS

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

2.6 DEBTORS

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.7 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.8 LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the statement of financial activities as a finance cost.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

2.9 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.10 PENSIONS

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Charity to the fund in respect of the year.

2.11 FUND ACCOUNTING

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

3. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND AREAS OF JUDGEMENT

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Life memberships are deferred over the expected term of the membership. This has been assumed to be 15 years.

SOUTH WEST COAST PATH ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

4. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Donations & Gift Aid	70,193	83,407	153,600
Legacies	1,000	-	1,000
	71,193	83,407	154,600
	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
	-	-	-
Donations & Gift Aid	82,816	2,656	85,472
Legacies	5,591	-	5,591
	88,407	2,656	91,063

SOUTH WEST COAST PATH ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

5. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Membership Subscriptions	135,897	-	135,897
Waymaker Business Memberships	7,556	-	7,556
Sale of Guides & Maps	43,514	-	43,514
Trail Partnership Project	-	35,000	35,000
CAN Project Grants	-	3,641	3,641
Path Improvements Grant	-	1,000	1,000
National Trail Team Grants	-	91,428	91,428
Natural England Grants	-	83,704	83,704
Coast Path Connectors Grant	-	10,548	10,548
	186,967	225,321	412,288

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Membership Subscriptions	129,333	-	129,333
Waymaker Business Memberships	7,912	-	7,912
Sale of Guides & Maps	41,677	-	41,677
Trail Partnership Project	-	35,000	35,000
CAN Project Grants	-	4,354	4,354
Path Improvements Grant	-	5,000	5,000
National Trails Team Grant	-	86,637	86,637
Natural England Grant	-	46,148	46,148
	178,922	177,139	356,061

SOUTH WEST COAST PATH ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

6. FUNDRAISING INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Sale of Merchandise	26,336	26,336
Waymaker Business Sponsorships	11,015	11,015
Corporate Sponsorships	35,916	35,916
Misc Income	741	741
	<u>74,008</u>	<u>74,008</u>
	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Sale of Merchandise	25,981	25,981
Waymaker Business Sponsorships	9,299	9,299
Corporate Sponsorships	32,327	32,327
Misc Income	1,256	1,256
	<u>68,863</u>	<u>68,863</u>

7. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Bank Interest	3,995	3,995	3,950
	<u>3,995</u>	<u>3,995</u>	<u>3,950</u>

All prior year funds were unrestricted funds.

SOUTH WEST COAST PATH ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

8. EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Cost of Merchandise	26,275	26,275	24,037
Donations and Legacies Costs	9,375	9,375	6,609
Corporate and Waymaker Sponsorship Costs	11,767	11,767	11,406
Staff Costs	48,689	48,689	50,012
	<u>96,106</u>	<u>96,106</u>	<u>92,064</u>

9. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES

	Activities undertaken directly 2022 £	Support costs 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Promotion, Protection & Improvement of Coast Path	208,927	423,522	632,449
Coast Path Connectors Project	2,522	-	2,522
	<u>211,449</u>	<u>423,522</u>	<u>634,971</u>

	Activities undertaken directly 2021 £	Support costs 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Promotion, Protection & Improvement of Coast Path	158,126	350,511	508,637

SOUTH WEST COAST PATH ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

9. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Staff Salaries & Employer Costs	304,063	243,798
Professional Fees	753	1,887
Volunteer Expenses	2,863	6,122
Other Staff Costs	15,990	13,968
Governance Costs	8,442	4,439
Premises Costs	23,772	22,877
Administration Costs	2,149	1,614
IT Expenses	48,667	40,934
Website Costs	86	-
Accountancy Fees	3,750	4,470
Irrecoverable VAT	12,987	10,402
	423,522	350,511

10. INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REMUNERATION

The independent examiner's remuneration amounts to an independent examiner fee of £3,750 (2021: £4,470).

11. STAFF COSTS

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	308,798	258,509
Social security costs	25,904	19,946
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	18,050	15,355
	352,752	293,810

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year was as follows:

	2022 No.	2021 No.
Support Staff	9	9

SOUTH WEST COAST PATH ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

11. STAFF COSTS (CONTINUED)

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

The key management personnel of the Charity comprises of Trustees, who do not receive remuneration for their roles as in note 12, and the senior management team as set out on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel for their services to the charity was £55,103 (2021: £47,908).

The Charity's volunteers take roles as Trustees, technical experts on one of our Committees or Working Groups or as Area or Local Representatives looking after a specific section of the Path. The latter walk the Path regularly, undertake an annual condition survey and report on any Path matters, they come together as the Path Committee to make important recommendations about projects that may need funding from Association or grant funds.

12. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2021: £Nil).

During the year ended 31 December 2022, expenses totalling £1,369 were reimbursed or paid directly to 3 Trustees (2021: £486 to 5 Trustees).

13. STOCKS

	2022 £	2021 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	7,289	6,641

14. DEBTORS

	2022 £	2021 £
DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
Trade debtors	14,933	1,401
Other debtors	1,334	1,515
Prepayments and accrued income	99,114	28,981
	115,381	31,897

15. CURRENT ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash investments	513,030	597,549

SOUTH WEST COAST PATH ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

16. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	37,157	7,274
Accruals and deferred income	87,761	88,451
	<u>124,918</u>	<u>95,725</u>

17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Deferred income	17,927	18,139
	<u>17,927</u>	<u>18,139</u>

Deferred income due after more than 1 year includes amounts relating to income from Lifetime Memberships, which is being released over a period of 15 years straight line. In the current year, deferred income of £2,380 is due after more than 1 year in relation to TPP grants income from Devon Council and Exmoor NPA (2021: £Nil).

The aggregate amount of liabilities payable or repayable wholly or in part more than five years after the reporting date is:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Deferred income	5,179	7,770
	<u>5,179</u>	<u>7,770</u>

18. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

	2022	2021
	£	£
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure	667,332	808,669
	<u>667,332</u>	<u>808,669</u>

Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure comprise cash in hand and at bank and current asset investments.

SOUTH WEST COAST PATH ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

19. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
DESIGNATED FUNDS					
Promote and Protect Path	212,610	-	(60,417)	40,043	192,236
Capacity Building	41,500	-	(2,131)	(417)	38,952
Legacies	232,869	-	(56,229)	-	176,640
National Trails Alliance	35,324	-	(21,395)	-	13,929
	<u>522,303</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(140,172)</u>	<u>39,626</u>	<u>421,757</u>
GENERAL FUNDS					
General Funds	178,094	336,163	(309,784)	(56,733)	147,740
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>700,397</u>	<u>336,163</u>	<u>(449,956)</u>	<u>(17,107)</u>	<u>569,497</u>
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Promote and Protect Path	8,013	70,694	(4,927)	893	74,673
Trail Partnership Project	3,021	35,000	(53,021)	15,000	-
National Trails Team	7,189	91,428	(98,191)	-	426
Donations	13,456	13,683	(24,761)	-	2,378
Outreach Projects	1,267	3,671	(5,570)	797	165
Natural England	-	83,704	(83,686)	-	18
Coast Path Connectors	-	10,548	(10,965)	417	-
	<u>32,946</u>	<u>308,728</u>	<u>(281,121)</u>	<u>17,107</u>	<u>77,660</u>
TOTAL OF FUNDS	<u>733,343</u>	<u>644,891</u>	<u>(731,077)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>647,157</u>

SOUTH WEST COAST PATH ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

19. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Promote & Protect Path - Promotion & protection of the South West Coast Path, at the discretion of the Trustees.

Capacity Building - Match funding designated for RDPE South West Coast Path Improvement Projects.

Legacies - Legacies designated for improving the Coast Path experience, & to build the capacity & long-term benefits of the Charity.

National Trails Alliance - Charity contribution to establish a new CIO promoting the UK National Trails.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Promote & Protect Path - Improvements to the South West Coast Path, restricted by conditions from the donor or funder.

Trail Partnership Project - Delivery of the Trail Partnership Project, funded by its partners comprising 6 Highways Authorities & the National Trust.

National Trails Team - Hosting the South West Coast Path National Trails Team, funded by a grant from Natural England.

Donations - Specific improvements to the South West Coast Path, funded by donations from Appeals and Memorials.

Outreach Projects - Projects to support equity of access on the Coast Path for disadvantaged adults, funded by Active Devon and N Devon AONB.

Natural England - National Trails Alliance development work, ECP signage, Coast Path improvements & Volunteers support, funded by grants from Natural England.

Coast Path Connectors- Charity contribution to establish a new CIO promoting the UK National Trails.

SOUTH WEST COAST PATH ASSOCIATION

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

19. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2021 £
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
DESIGNATED FUNDS					
Promote and Protect Path	215,010	-	(46,400)	44,000	212,610
Trail Partnership Project	9,625	-	-	(9,625)	-
Capacity Building	86,686	-	(45,186)	-	41,500
Legacies	303,948	-	(11,079)	(60,000)	232,869
Natural Trails Alliance	-	-	(24,676)	60,000	35,324
	<u>615,269</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(127,341)</u>	<u>34,375</u>	<u>522,303</u>
GENERAL FUNDS					
General Funds	<u>169,219</u>	<u>340,142</u>	<u>(280,812)</u>	<u>(50,455)</u>	<u>178,094</u>
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>784,488</u>	<u>340,142</u>	<u>(408,153)</u>	<u>(16,080)</u>	<u>700,397</u>
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Promote and Protect Path	9,941	5,000	(8,008)	1,080	8,013
Trail Partnership Project	-	42,500	(54,479)	15,000	3,021
National Trails Team	-	79,137	(71,948)	-	7,189
Donations	19,678	2,551	(8,773)	-	13,456
Outreach Projects	-	4,459	(3,192)	-	1,267
Natural England	-	46,148	(46,148)	-	-
	<u>29,619</u>	<u>179,795</u>	<u>(192,548)</u>	<u>16,080</u>	<u>32,946</u>
TOTAL OF FUNDS	<u>814,107</u>	<u>519,937</u>	<u>(600,701)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>733,343</u>

SOUTH WEST COAST PATH ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

20. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Current assets	708,772	81,230	790,002
Creditors due within one year	(123,728)	(1,190)	(124,918)
Creditors due in more than one year	(15,547)	(2,380)	(17,927)
TOTAL	569,497	77,660	647,157

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Current assets	799,754	47,453	847,207
Creditors due within one year	(81,218)	(14,507)	(95,725)
Creditors due in more than one year	(18,139)	-	(18,139)
TOTAL	700,397	32,946	733,343

21. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the group in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Charity to the fund and amounted to £18,050 (2021: £15,355). Contributions totalling £2,213 (2021: £171) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors

22. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At 31 December 2022 the Charity had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Not later than 1 year	30,537	11,665
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	43,004	-
	73,541	11,665

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

23. MEMBERS' LIABILITY

Each member of the Charity undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Charity in the event of it being wound up while he/she is a member, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £Nil for the debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member.

24. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

None of the Trustees receive remuneration or other benefits from their work with the Charity. Trustees are required to complete an annual 'declaration of interests' as well as stating any conflicts of interests before the start of each Board of Trustees meetings. As such, no related party transactions occurred in the year.

25. CONTROLLING PARTY

The ultimate controlling party is the Trustees. No individual member has ultimate control.