

WOOTTON CONSERVATION TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1163549

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2015-09-14

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

Contact

Address 32 Castle Road
Wootton
Woodstock
Oxfordshire
OX20 1EG

Phone 07940707312

Email pclp@btinternet.com

Activities

Objects: 1. TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, ALL FORMS OF WILDLIFE IN THE AREA-OF-BENEFIT AND TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC REGARDING WILDLIFE AND TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF NATURE, ITS VALUE AND NEED FOR CONSERVATION.2. TO PROMOTE THE EVOLUTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE LANDSCAPE AND3. THE PROVISION, PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY OVER FOOTPATHS AND OTHER WAYS FOR THE USE AND GENERAL ENJOYMENT OF THE SAID INHABITANTS.

Activities: Manages country wildlife site with public access

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Oxfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£5,255	£5,513	-	-
2023-12-31	£3,819	£3,421	-	-
2022-12-31	£2,474	£4,037	-	-
2021-12-31	£6,987	£1,990	-	-
2020-12-31	£7,335	£7,647	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
David John Fairweather		2021-08-11
Edward Taylor		2017-09-05
Malcolm John Barnicoat		2021-04-09
Marcus John William Brown		2021-04-17
Philip Christopher Liam Parker		2015-09-14
SARAH BROWN		2021-09-18

WOOTTON CONSERVATION TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1163549

Accounts

Wootton Conservation Trust
Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registered Charity No 1163549

Trustees Annual Report
For the year ending 31 December 2024

Trustees:

Philip Parker (Chair)

David Fairweather (Treasurer)

Edward Taylor

Malcolm Barnicoat

Marcus Brown

Sarah Brown

Address:

c/o Yew Trees House, 32 Castle Road, Wootton OX20 1EG

Objectives

Wootton Conservation Trust CIO ("WCT CIO" or "the CIO") was established in 2015 by the Trustees of the Wootton Conservation Trust, registered charity 1070246 ("WCT" or "the original Trust").

The objectives of the CIO and the original Trust are to preserve and protect for the public benefit all forms of wildlife in the civil parish of Wootton, and to advance education of the public regarding wildlife and to increase understanding and appreciation of nature, its value and its conservation, in particular by the promotion of the evolution and enhancement of the landscape and the promotion of access to the land through provision of permissive paths, subject to certain restrictions.

The CIO was established with the intention that the property and activities of the WCT Trust be transferred to the CIO, in order to simplify the administration of the charities, and in particular to allow the CIO to own the land directly, which is not possible for the original Trust as it is an unincorporated trust.

On 30th September 2019 the trustees transferred the Trust's property and activities to the CIO, since which time the CIO has taken over the activities of the Trust and the management of Wootton water meadows and adjacent limestone grassland.

Activities and Finances

The CIO received income of £5,255 in 2024 and incurred expenditure of £5,513, a yearly deficit of £268. Total funds at the end of the year were £9,268.

Income rose 38% in 2024 due to the receipt of a large payment of £2,895 from the Rural Payment Agency related to repairs and clean up costs from flooding. Income from the Trust's Higher Level Stewardship agreement with the RPA remained the largest regular source of income (£1,930), with fundraising / donations amounting to £430, a fall on the record year in 2023 but above medium term averages. Despite the Trust's best efforts, including a number of meetings held, the Trust did not receive a grant from Wootton Parish Council during the year (2023: £600).

Expenditure rose 61% compared with 2023, largely due to the purchase by the Trust of a ride on mower and trailer to facilitate maintenance of the meadows (£3,650). Another significant item of expenditure was £713 for trees and tools to enable volunteers to plant a Community Orchard on the meadows; this project was the subject of a successful grant application from West Oxfordshire District Council and the funds should be reimbursed in 2025. Other items of expenditure totalled £1,149, notably insurance, hedge cutting / field topping and the hire of a skip for maintenance. There was no expenditure on replacement fencing in 2024; this is lumpy but has averaged around £1800 pa in the past, and there was also no payment made to Oxford Conservation Volunteers.

Its also important to note that a programme of traditional hedge laying was undertaken in 2024 on the Trust's land, which the Trustees feel has improved the environment. We are very grateful to Wild Oxfordshire for funding this work; as this was paid directly by Wild Oxfordshire to the contractors this does not appear in our accounts.

The Trust reported a deficit of £268 in 2024 compared with the surplus of £398 in 2023.

The Trustees have developed a plan for long term management of the land which will necessitate spending these additional accumulated resources. Notably there is a need to replace at least of one of the bridges on the Trust's land, as well as a material need for replacement fencing in various areas of the land, for pollarding of trees and trimming and/or laying of overgrown hedgerows. Plans to install an information panel at the meadows explaining about the local flora and fauna and the conservation mission of the Trust remain active and this should be realised in 2025. These items are expected to

represent a material cash outlay over the next few years. The overall reserves of the Trust remain healthy but the Trustees expect that expenditure will exceed income in 2025/26. This will deplete our reserves, but we remain confident that the Trust is on a sustainable financial footing.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 20 January 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Fairweather', written in a cursive style.

David Fairweather (Treasurer)

Receipts and Payments
for the 12 months ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds
	£	£
Receipts – donations and grants	5,255	3,819
Total receipts	<hr/> 5,255	<hr/> 3,819
Expenditure	5,513	3,421
Net income/(expenditure)	<hr/> (268)	<hr/> 398
Other recognised gains/(losses)	0	0
Net movement in funds	<hr/> (268)	<hr/> 398
Reconciliation of funds:		
Total cash funds last year end	9,526	9,128
Total cash funds this year end	<hr/> <hr/> 9,268	<hr/> <hr/> 9,526

Balance Sheet

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the period

As at 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash funds	9,268	9,526
Other monetary assets	0	0
Assets for the charity's own use	0	0
Liabilities	0	0
Total funds at this year end	<u>9,268</u>	<u>9,526</u>

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 20 January 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Chairman
Philip Parker



Treasurer
David Fairweather

Notes

1. WCT owns the freehold to approximately 32 acres of land near the village of Wootton, Oxfordshire, comprising largely water meadows and adjacent limestone grassland. As this was transferred from the old Trust to the CIO for nil consideration and is intended to be held in perpetuity this land is carried at zero book value.

WOOTTON CONSERVATION TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1163549

Accounts

Wootton Conservation Trust
Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registered Charity No 1163549

Trustees Annual Report
For the year ending 31 December 2023

Trustees:

Philip Parker (Chair)

David Fairweather (Treasurer)

Edward Taylor

Malcolm Barnicoat

Marcus Brown

Sarah Brown

Address:

c/o Yew Trees House, 32 Castle Road, Wootton OX20 1EG

Objectives

Wootton Conservation Trust CIO ("WCT CIO" or "the CIO") was established in 2015 by the Trustees of the Wootton Conservation Trust, registered charity 1070246 ("WCT" or "the original Trust").

The objectives of the CIO and the original Trust are to preserve and protect for the public benefit all forms of wildlife in the civil parish of Wootton, and to advance education of the public regarding wildlife and to increase understanding and appreciation of nature, its value and its conservation, in particular by the promotion of the evolution and enhancement of the landscape and the promotion of access to the land through provision of permissive paths, subject to certain restrictions.

The CIO was established with the intention that the property and activities of the WCT Trust be transferred to the CIO, in order to simplify the administration of the charities, and in particular to allow the CIO to own the land directly, which is not possible for the original Trust as it is an unincorporated trust.

On 30th September 2019 the trustees transferred the Trust's property and activities to the CIO, since which time the CIO has taken over the activities of the Trust and the management of Wootton water meadows and adjacent limestone grassland.

Activities and Finances

The CIO received income of £3,819 in 2023 and incurred expenditure of £3,421. Total funds at the end of the year were £9,526.

Income rose significantly (+54%) in 2023, driven by a large increase in income from fund raising events (notably the very successful Indian food events), and also by the return of a grant from Wootton Parish Council. Income from the Trust's Higher Level Stewardship agreement with the RPA remained the largest source of income (£1,930, around half the total), with fundraising / donations amounting to £1,289 and the Parish Council grant £600.

Expenditure fell 15% compared with 2022 and was below the 10 year average. The largest bucket of expenditure remained fencing and gates (£2,590) with the installation of a new of new gates and a small amount of additional fencing. This amount was smaller than in 2022 as no large fencing runs were replaced, but the Trustees expect to have to incur higher expenditure in 2024. Other items of expenditure totalled £831, notably insurance, contributions to Oxford Conservation Volunteers in exchange for work done, and a small amount of hedge cutting. This amount is significantly below the long run average of around £1,800, mainly due to the lack of significant hedge cutting / pollarding / mowing costs in 2023.

As a result of the increase in income and the lower expenditure, the Trust reported a surplus of £398 in 2023, a large improvement compared with the deficit of £1,564 in 2022.

The overall reserves of the Trust remain healthy, largely resulting from the accumulation of reserves that resulted from the generous donation of the proceeds of the Wootton Village Hall Talks between the summer of 2019 and March 2020 – these totalled £4,960 but no further funds have been received for almost four years. The Trustees have developed a plan for long term management of the land which will necessitate spending these additional accumulated resources. There is a material need for replacement fencing in various areas of the land, for pollarding of trees and trimming and/or laying of overgrown hedgerows. The Trust is also planning to install an information panel at the meadows explaining about the local flora and fauna and the conservation mission of the Trust. These items are expected to represent a material cash outlay over the next few years. The Trustees expect that expenditure will exceed income in 2024-2025, which will deplete our reserves, but remain confident that the Trust is on a sustainable financial footing.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 5 January 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

David Fairweather (Treasurer)

Receipts and Payments
for the 12 months ended 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds
	£	£
Receipts – donations and grants	3,819	2,474
Total receipts	<u>3,819</u>	<u>2,474</u>
Expenditure	3,421	4,037
Net income/(expenditure)	398	(1,564)
Other recognised gains/(losses)	0	0
Net movement in funds	<u>398</u>	<u>(1,564)</u>
Reconciliation of funds:		
Total cash funds last year end	9,128	10,691
Total cash funds this year end	<u><u>9,526</u></u>	<u><u>9,128</u></u>

Balance Sheet

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the period

As at 31 December 2023

		2022	2021
		£	£
Cash funds		9,526	9,128
Other monetary assets		0	0
Assets for the charity's own use	Note 1	0	0
Liabilities		0	0
Total funds at this year end		9,526	9,128

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 5 January 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Chairman
Philip Parker

Treasurer
David Fairweather

Notes

1. WCT owns the freehold to approximately 32 acres of land near the village of Wootton, Oxfordshire, comprising largely water meadows and adjacent limestone grassland. As this was transferred from the old Trust to the CIO for nil consideration and is intended to be held in perpetuity this land is carried at zero book value.

WOOTTON CONSERVATION TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1163549

Accounts

Wootton Conservation Trust
Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registered Charity No 1163549

Trustees Annual Report
For the year ending 31 December 2022

Trustees:

Philip Parker (Chair)

David Fairweather (Treasurer)

Edward Taylor

Malcolm Barnicoat

Marcus Brown

Sarah Brown

Address:

c/o Yew Trees House, 32 Castle Road, Wootton OX20 1EG

Objectives

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The objectives of the CIO and the original Trust are to preserve and protect for the public benefit all forms of wildlife in the civil parish of Wootton, and to advance education of the public regarding wildlife and to increase understanding and appreciation of nature, its value and its conservation, in particular by the promotion of the evolution and enhancement of the landscape and the promotion, preservation and protection of public rights of way over footpaths in the parish.

The CIO was established with the intention that the property and activities of the WCT Trust be transferred to the CIO, in order to simplify the administration of the charities, and in particular to allow the CIO to own the land directly, which is not possible for the original Trust as it is an unincorporated trust.

On 30th September 2019 the trustees transferred the Trust's property and activities to the CIO, since which time the CIO has taken over the activities of the Trust and the management of Wootton water meadows and adjacent limestone grassland.

Activities and Finances

The CIO received income of £2,474 in 2022 and incurred expenditure of £4,037. Total funds at the end of the year were £9,128.

Income in 2022 consisted principally of income from the Trust's Higher Level Stewardship agreement with the RPA (£1,930), as well as proceeds from the Curry Breakfast fundraising (£270) and other smaller donations.

Expenditure in 2022 was principally related to replacing 250 metres length of fencing in the Meadows (£2,780), as well as smaller amounts relating to gate repairs, to maintaining the land (topping the grass, contributions to Oxford Conservation Volunteers in exchange for work done etc) and insurance costs.

The Trust ran a deficit for the year of £1,564, reflecting capital expenditures in line with the long term plan developed. Between the summer of 2019 and March 2020 WCT benefitted from the generous donation of the proceeds of the Wootton Village Hall Talks (totalling £4,960), resulting in an accumulation of reserves. The Trustees have developed a plan for long term management of the land which will necessitate spending these additional accumulated resources. There is a material need for replacement fencing in various areas of the land, for pollarding of trees and trimming of overgrown hedgerows. These items are expected to represent a material cash outlay over the next few years. The Trustees expect that expenditure will materially exceed income in 2023-2024, which will deplete our reserves, and are looking into sources of additional funding to help with the planned works.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 4 October 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

David Fairweather (Treasurer)

Receipts and Payments
for the 12 months ended 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds
	£	£
Receipts – donations and grants	2,474	6,987
Total receipts	<hr/> 2,474	<hr/> 6,987
Expenditure	4,037	1,990
Net income/(expenditure)	<hr/> (1,564)	<hr/> 4,997
Other recognised gains/(losses)	0	0
Net movement in funds	<hr/> (1,564)	<hr/> 4,997
Reconciliation of funds:		
Total cash funds last year end	10,691	5,695
Total cash funds this year end	<hr/> <hr/> 9,128	<hr/> <hr/> 10,691

Balance Sheet

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the period

As at 31 December 2022

		2022	2021
		£	£
Cash funds		9,128	10,691
Other monetary assets		0	0
Assets for the charity's own use	Note 1	0	0
Liabilities		0	0
Total funds at this year end		9,128	10,691

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 4 October 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Chairman
Philip Parker

Treasurer
David Fairweather

Notes

1. WCT owns the freehold to approximately 32 acres of land near the village of Wootton, Oxfordshire, comprising largely water meadows and adjacent limestone grassland. As this was transferred from the old Trust to the CIO for nil consideration and is intended to be held in perpetuity this land is carried at zero book value.

WOOTTON CONSERVATION TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1163549

Accounts

Wootton Conservation Trust
Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registered Charity No 1163549

Trustees Annual Report
For the year ending 31 December 2021

Trustees:

Philip Parker (Treasurer to 11 August 2021, Chair from 23 April 2021)

David Fairweather (Treasurer from 11 August 2021)

Mel Leggett (to 15 December 2021)

Edward Taylor

Malcolm Barnicoat (from 9 April 2021)

Marcus Brown (from 17 April 2021)

Sarah Brown (from 18 October 2021)

Address:

c/o Yew Trees House, 32 Castle Road, Wootton OX20 1EG

Objectives

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The CIO was established with the intention that the property and activities of the WCT Trust be transferred to the CIO, in order to simplify the administration of the charities, and in particular to allow the CIO to own the land directly, which is not possible for the original Trust as it is an unincorporated trust.

On 30th September 2019 the trustees transferred the Trust's property and activities to the CIO, since which time the CIO has taken over the activities of the Trust and the management of Wootton water meadows and adjacent limestone grassland.

Activities and Finances

The CIO received income of £6,987 in 2021 and incurred expenditure of £1,990. Total funds at the end of the year were £10,691.

Income in 2021 consisted principally of a grant from Wild Oxfordshire (£4,892) and income from the Trust's Higher Level Stewardship agreement with the RPA (£1,930). The grant from Wild Oxfordshire covered the cost of new fencing along the ditch between Dorn and Glyme water meadows; the Trust paid for this work in 2020.

Expenditure in 2021 was principally related to maintaining the land (topping the grass, contributions to Oxford Conservation Volunteers in exchange for work done etc) as well as insurance. Adjusting the timing of the payment for the new fencing to match the corresponding grant income, the expenditure in 2021 would have been £6,882 compared with income of £6,987, leading to a surplus of £105 for the year.

Between the summer of 2019 and March 2020 WCT benefitted from the generous donation of the proceeds of the Wootton Village Hall Talks (totalling £4,960), resulting in an accumulation of reserves. The Trustees have been considering carefully how to use these resources and have developed a plan for long term management of the land. There is a material need for replacement fencing in various areas of the land, for pollarding of trees and trimming of overgrown hedgerows, and potentially for dredging of the river to help alleviate flooding by the road bridge on Horseshoe Lane. These items are expected to represent a material cash outlay over the next few years. The Trustees expect that expenditure will materially exceed income in 2022-2024, which will deplete our reserves, and are looking into sources of additional funding to help with the planned works.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 4 October 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

David Fairweather (Treasurer)

**Receipts and Payments
for the 12 months ended 31 December 2021**

	2021	2020
	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds
	£	£
Receipts – donations and grants	6,987	7,335
Total receipts	<u>6,987</u>	<u>7,335</u>
Expenditure	1,990	7,647
Net income/(expenditure)	<u>4,997</u>	<u>(312)</u>
Other recognised gains/(losses)	0	0
Net movement in funds	<u>4,997</u>	<u>(312)</u>
Reconciliation of funds:		
Total cash funds last year end	5,695	6,007
Total cash funds this year end	<u><u>10,691</u></u>	<u><u>5,695</u></u>

Balance Sheet

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the period As at 31 December 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
Cash funds	10,691	5,695
Other monetary assets	0	0
Assets for the charity's own use Note 1	0	0
Liabilities	0	0
Total funds at this year end	10,691	5,695

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 4 October 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Chairman
Philip Parker

Treasurer
David Fairweather

Notes

1. WCT owns the freehold to approximately 29 acres of land near the village of Wootton, comprising largely water meadows and adjacent limestone grassland. As this was transferred from the old Trust to the CIO for nil consideration and is intended to be held in perpetuity this land is carried at zero book value.

WOOTTON CONSERVATION TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1163549

Accounts

Wootton Conservation Trust
Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registered Charity No 1163549

Trustees Annual Report
For the year ending 31 December 2020

Trustees:

Jim Fletcher (Chair to 23 April 2021)

Philip Parker (Treasurer to 11 August 2021, Chair from 23 April 2021)

David Fairweather (Treasurer from 11 August 2021))

Mel Leggett

Edward Taylor

Malcolm Barnicoat (from 9 April 2021)

Marcus Brown (from 17 April 2021)

Sarah Brown (from 18 October 2021)

Address:

c/o Yew Trees House, 32 Castle Road, Wootton OX20 1EG

Objectives

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On 30th September 2019 the trustees transferred the Trust's property and activities to the CIO.

Activities and Finances

Since the transfer of land, assets and activities on 30th September 2019 the CIO has taken over the activities of the Trust and the management of Wootton water meadows and adjacent limestone grassland.

Since summer of 2019 the Trust and then the CIO have benefitted from the generous donation of the proceeds of the Wootton Village Hall Talks, resulting in an accumulation of reserves. The Trustees have been considering carefully how to use these new resources, and are developing a plan for long term management of the land.

The CIO received £7,335 in 2020 and incurred expenditure of £7,647. Total funds at the end of the year were £5,644.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on and signed on its behalf by:

Chairman
Philip Parker

Receipts and Payments
for the 12 months ended 31 December 2020

	2020	2019
	Unrestricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £
Receipts – transfer from original Trust	-	4,629
Receipts – donations and grants	7,335	3,563
Total receipts	7,335	8,192
Expenditure	7,647	2,185
Net income/(expenditure)	(312)	6,007
Other recognised gains/(losses)	0	0
Net movement in funds	(312)	6,007
Reconciliation of funds:		
Total cash funds last year end	6,007	0
Total cash funds this year end	5,695	6,007

Balance Sheet

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the period

As at 31 December 2020

	2020	2019
	£	£
Cash funds	5,695	6,007
Other monetary assets	0	0
Assets for the charity's own use	0	0
Liabilities	0	0
Total funds at this year end	<u>5,695</u>	<u>6,007</u>

Note 1

Approved by the Board of Trustees on and signed on its behalf by:

Chairman
Philip Parker

Treasurer
David Fairweather