

The responsibility for maintaining the fabric of the Grade 2 listed Old Lower Lighthouse and cottage whilst improving standards for visitor experiences is a constant one, especially given its exposed geographical position deep into the English Channel.

The recent generous bequests, aided by a final tranche from our latest one, enabled initial plans for renovation and refurbishment of the Old Lower Lighthouse itself and the non-listed garage/accommodation to be further developed, with a view to submit a detailed planning application in 2025.

The Lighthouse cottage although improved over the years has never been fully insulated and remained damp especially in the winter months but work commenced in November with local builders familiar with old limestone on the insulation and refurbishment of the warden's and visitor accommodation. The installation of planned underfloor heating will enable better maintenance of the building's fabric and greatly improve staff accommodation and extend guest visiting to all months of the year. The plans envisage completion ready for the spring migration of birds and the first guests in early April 2025.

The charity's farming and conservation work to improve the biodiversity of the south Portland Bill area continued under our second DEFRA Mid-Tier Stewardship agreement and a key field area was purchased next to part of the Culverwell SSSI, which the Observatory helps to manage.

The Observatory was pleased to receive a visit from the family of one of the recent donor bequests and they were delighted with the land that had been purchased along with the Portland Stone memorial bench placed in a key position overlooking the Bill area.

The Observatory's educational and public interaction was maintained by the daily blog which continues to provide detailed observational information and news of the many scientific studies being undertaken by the staff and visitors on the Isle of Portland. BBC Springwatch again used our facilities to film sequences of our work for national broadcast, whilst on the scientific front there was news as a result from the recent commissioned MOTUS installation: the tagging of a rare Siberian migrant, Yellow-browed Warbler,

under a major European programme resulted in a hit at the Observatory of one tagged in the Netherlands a few days before, providing new information on the recent changes in their migration strategy.

The membership remains steady at 750 providing a key source of revenue which with other income enabled an overdue staff review resulting in improved conditions of employment, reflecting their unstinting work and efforts through the COVID years to the present.

Two new Trustees were appointed at the AGM - Dr Ian Davidson and Mrs Susan Murphy – both of whom will bring skills to assist in the observatory's planned developments.

Peter J Morgan

Chairman

PORTLAND BIRD OBSERVATORY AND FIELD CENTRE

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

AND

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

We hereby approve the attached statements:

Treasurer

Secretary

Date: 19 July 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of "Portland Bird Observatory and Field Centre"

We report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 1 to 3.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the account (under section 145 of the Charities Act):
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5) (b) of the Charities Act): and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

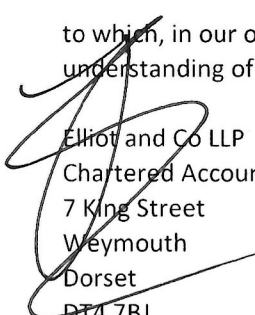
Basis of independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention.

- which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
- to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Elliot and Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
7 King Street
Weymouth
Dorset
DT4 7BJ

Date: 23rd June 2025

PORTLAND BIRD OBSERVATORY AND FIELD CENTRE

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>INCOME RECEIPTS</u>		
Accommodation	43,814.00	41,975.00
Bank Interest and Dividends Received	79,971.35	75,972.78
Bookshop Sales (Note 1)	3,345.28	3,343.51
Donations Received	1,175.45	2,302.81
Farming Income (Note 2)	2,328.71	0.00
Membership Fees	14,924.00	14,444.00
Exceptional Income - Bequests (Note 3)	<u>48,226.70</u>	<u>442,648.66</u>
<u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u>	193,785.49	580,686.76
<u>DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE</u>		
Bank Charges and Merchant Fees	1,734.93	1,069.81
Bird Ringing and Moth Studies	4,779.27	7,867.05
Farming Costs (Note 2)	0.00	776.15
Insurance	3,317.35	3,120.24
Light and Heat	12,029.34	8,117.91
Office, Cleaning and Meeting Costs	2,552.15	5,260.44
Professional Fees	1,110.00	1,130.70
Rates and Water	2,576.84	2,438.09
Rent	450.00	900.00
Repairs and Maintenance	11,343.55	33,213.59
Subscriptions and Donations Made	713.60	1,229.30
Telephone and Internet	9,988.47	11,616.50
Wages, Pensions and Payroll Taxes	71,687.75	55,337.64
Exceptional Expenses - Land Purchases (Note 3)	110,319.98	0.00
Exceptional Expenses - Renovation Project (Note 3)	<u>59,100.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<u>TOTAL PAYMENTS</u>	291,703.23	132,077.42
<u>NET (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</u>	<u>(97,917.74)</u>	<u>448,609.34</u>
 BANK & CASH BALANCE AT 31 DECEMBER 2023	 <u>566,203.56</u>	 <u>117,594.22</u>
BANK & CASH BALANCE AT 31 DECEMBER 2024	<u>468,285.82</u>	<u>566,203.56</u>
 <u>NET (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR EXCLUDING EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS</u>	 23,275.54	 5,960.68

PORTLAND BIRD OBSERVATORY AND FIELD CENTRE

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>MONETARY ASSETS</u>		
Balance at Santander Current Account attributable to the Charity	468,185.82	565,953.56
Cash at Hand	100.00	250.00
	<u>468,285.82</u>	<u>566,203.56</u>

NON-MONETARY ASSETS

- Old Lower Lighthouse including the Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage and attached annexe
- Approximately 31 acres of land at Portland Bill including the Crown Estate Field
- Stock of books with an approximate value of £25,000
- Agricultural equipment

OTHER ASSETS (NON-ENDOWED)

1. Held for investment purposes

- M & G Investments – Income units held as at 31 December 2024

Value at 31/12/2024 £1,308,331.25

Value at 31/12/2023 £1,275,089.82

PORTLAND BIRD OBSERVATORY AND FIELD CENTRE

NOTES TO THE RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

- 1 Bookshop sales have been shown as a net income figure rather than showing sales and purchases, as requested by the Trustees. This does not affect the overall accounts. This category includes the sale of Observatory-branded merchandise.
- 2 Farming costs are shown net of government grants received under the Mid Tier Countryside Stewardship scheme. This has resulted in an income position in 2024 (2023: deficit).
- 3 During 2024 the Charity was the beneficiary of a final receipt from the estate of Mrs Julie Spivey, in addition to the sums received in 2023.

The Charity made purchases of two pieces of land on Portland during the year in furtherance of its aim to safeguard habitats on the Island for conservation purposes.

The Charity also commenced a significant project of renovation and modernisation works, using bequests received in recent years, in order to maintain the Old Lower Lighthouse as a facility suitable for its ongoing aims of conservation and environmental education. This project is likely to continue for several years.

PORTLAND BIRD OBSERVATORY AND FIELD CENTRE

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AND

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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Secretary

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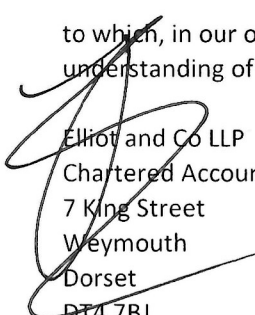
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