



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date 01/04/20
end date 31/03/21

To

Period

Charity name: Snodhill Castle Preservation Trust

Charity registration number: 1165749

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	To preserve for the benefit of the people of the Hamlet of Snodhill, the Parishes of Dorstone and Peterchurch, Herefordshire and the Nation ("the beneficiaries"), the historic, architectural and constructional heritage that exists in and around the Castle of Snodhill ("the area of benefit") in buildings (including any building as defined in Section 336 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) of particular beauty or historical, architectural or constructional interest, including but without limiting the generality of the foregoing acquiring, renovating, restoring and utilising for the benefit of the beneficiaries the structure, curtilages, site and environs of Snodhill Castle, Snodhill, Herefordshire and to educate the general public in the geography, history, natural history, architecture and economic and social history of the area of benefit ("the Objects")
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	<p>The aim of the charity is to rescue, restore and open up to the community for research, education and enjoyment the remains and site of Snodhill Castle – a little-known but highly significant Marcher castle set in Herefordshire's Golden Valley. Decades-long neglect by its owners had led to the 10-acre site becoming impassably overgrown, leaving the castle's standing remains perilously close to collapse and loss. Thanks to the persistent lobbying of a few individuals, English Heritage and latterly Historic England were drawn to the plight of this unique structure and temporary works were undertaken; while the local community and enthusiasts assembled a Trust to start clearing the site, obtain ownership of it, and commence its rescue and restoration (including its landscape setting) for the enjoyment and enrichment of the community, the county and the nation.</p> <p>During the year in review the charity continued to</p>

	<p>pursue its Objects despite the Covid-19 pandemic and the nationwide lockdown necessarily curtailing the scope of its activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We continued to involve the local community with the objects, including through contact with the media - We maintained as far as was possible practical participation in the pursuit of those objects through regular volunteering sessions - We maintained contact with our supporters through the 'Friends' scheme and the continued publication of 'The Turret', our newsletter - We reviewed our visitor arrangements in the context of pandemic restrictions and kept regular contact with our liability insurers - We maintained our fund raising activity, seeking donations and grants to assist in the pursuit of the objects - including reports to funders - We continued to work with relevant conservation bodies, local and national
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued on Public Benefit through all the conduct and activities of the charity. Details of the activities of the Trust during the year are set out below.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policy on grant making	The charity does not grant funds
Policy on social investment including program related investment	The charity has no investments
Contribution made by volunteers	The Trust runs volunteering sessions on a weekly basis throughout the autumn, winter and early spring. After decades of neglect and overgrowth the effort of the volunteers has had an enormous impact on the site in terms of clearing the overgrowth and making the castle once again visible on the landscape. Covid restrictions limited volunteer activities for the period 2020/21 and volunteer hours were down from the previous period (368 in 2019/20). During the year under review volunteers contributed 250 hours of work.
Other	

Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.

The charity has continued to focus on our areas of activity:

- Overseeing the restoration works
- Research, investigation and excavation
- Improving public access and appreciation
- Administration, grants and finance
- Land management
- Community outreach

1) Overseeing Restoration Work

The Trust continued to make progress in the investigation and restoration of the standing remains, specifically:

North Tower

In early 2020 the excavations of the North Keep were completed. After lockdown restrictions eased, consolidation of the Keep recommenced through late summer until the autumn of 2020 when work on the Keep halted and the remains were protected from the winter weather. Work is due to resume in Spring 2021.

High Keep

Plans to consolidate and put on display the High Keep spiral staircase and mark out the Keeps entrance with carefully placed stones were postponed from 2020 into 2021.

South Curtain Wall

A small 10m portion of the wall had not been fully conserved in previous work and in 2020 this was completed, with the wall consolidated and soft-capped.

South Rampart Restoration

The surplus soil from the North Keep excavations was used to restore the defensive bank on the south of the castle that had been eroded over the centuries and exposed the foundations of the South Curtain wall. Careful placement of the soil has completely restored the defensive bank and secured the foundations of the walls above.

The completion of the South Curtain Wall project and landscaping was marked in November 2020, and recorded in The Turret, our newsletter.

2) Improving public access and appreciation

The site remained open (free of charge) throughout the national lockdown and proved a popular destination and rest spot for locals. Signs were installed at the entrance reminding visitors to take the necessary Covid precautions.

The Trust hosted its first webinar 'How to Save a

Castle' on 25/03/21. The event was hugely popular and tickets sold out. The event raised income from the Trust (which accrued in the next financial year) and feedback from delegates was very positive. The notice board was periodically updated with news of recent restoration works and discoveries.

2) Administration, grants and finance

The Trust appointed General Sir Mark Carleton-Smith KCB CBE ADC Gen as Patron of the Trust.

The Constables continued to meet on a regular basis both in distanced meetings and online to track finances and manage activities (including fundraising) during the pandemic.

The Trust maintained a website providing information on the history of the castle, a picture gallery, forthcoming events and information on how to become a 'Friend'. Website visitors are encouraged to become a 'Friend'.

The Trust continued to take measures to ensure it was compliant with General Data Protection Regulation.

The Trust continued to maintain a good working relationship with Historic England.

During the year in review, the Trust raised donations of £3148.00 and maintained a reserve of £10,000.

Detailed figures are to be found in the Annual Accounts.

3) Land Management

Under the management of Nick Longman (Vice Chairman and volunteer manager) a regular team of volunteers met weekly to clear the brash and overgrowth at the castle site. The clearance work paid due regard to the preservation of the diverse ecology of the site. Selective clearing, felling, burning and brash removal meant erecting fire platforms clear of the ground on this archaeologically sensitive site.

The volunteers contributed 250 hours during the permitted clearance season (whilst adhering to socially distanced Covid rules) and by their efforts the final grant money made over to the Trust via a Management Agreement with Historic England was able to be applied to maximum effect in specialist activities such as spraying, felling and lopping that the volunteers are not qualified or insured to undertake.

The Trust continued in its efforts to restore the site to a combination of woodland, woodland grazing and cropped turf against which the ruins might be best

	<p>displayed, and to maintain safe and secure access by archaeologists, historians, and the public.</p> <p>It was decided not to bring sheep on site to graze as the previous year's flock had trampled some of the turf capping. Sheep grazing continues to be kept under review.</p> <p>Badger activities continued to be monitored around the site (under the supervision of a professional ecologist and under licence from Natural England). Little or no activity was recorded.</p> <p>4) Community Outreach</p> <p>The Trust has an established 'Friends of Snodhill Castle' scheme. For an annual fee of £10 per annum members can hear about events, activities at the castle and support the work of the Trust. During the year under review the Trustees considered strategies for recruiting new members to the scheme. The Trust now has 200 supporters.</p> <p>In September 2020 the Trust hosted a socially distanced visit by the West Midlands Conservation Architects group.</p> <p>The fourth issue of The Turret, the Trust's newsletter, was produced and distributed in November 2020.</p> <p>5) Research and Investigation</p> <p>The discovery of the North Keep in 2019/20 triggered research to discover if other similar towers existed. Research in 2020 found that there were only 5 other such towers in the country (Chepstow, Montgomery, Wilton, Cardigan, Helmsley Castles) and all of these towers were earlier (13th Century) than Snodhill's North Keep which appears to be the last of its type (14th Century) and is thus the only Motte and Bailey Castle in the country with a tower such as this.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	<p>The primary objectives of the Trust were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keep the site open, attractive and safe for visitors throughout the national lockdown.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Trust maintained a funding strategy to cover insurance and other ongoing running costs, as well as to raise funds for specific projects. The sale of leaflets and gate donations produced a small but steady income which contributed to running costs during the year and tours and webinars were a new initiative which have proved popular and effective. Options to bestow 'titles' to significant donors were also explored and the castle awarded its first 'Champion' (a donor of £2000 or more) during the year.
Investment performance against objectives	<p>The charity has no investments</p>

Other	

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	The charity's financial position during the year is set out in the attached Annual Accounts, but ended the year in question with a modest but healthy surplus.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	The Trust maintained a balance of £10,000 as per its reserves policy.
Amount of reserves held	£10,000
Reasons for holding zero reserves	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	There are no funds in deficit during the year in review
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	N/A

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	The principal sources of funds in the period 2020/21 were donations from individuals and groups, membership income from the 'Friends of Snodhill Castle' scheme and earned income from the sale of leaflets.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	The Trust has no investments
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Public and employers' liability insurance was taken out to protect volunteers and visitors. Risk assessments and method statements have been prepared to cover this activity. The use of chainsaws was restricted to those qualified to use them, and the site's co-ordinates are known to the emergency services.
Other	

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:	
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Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g. unincorporated association, CIO)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Elected and appointed by existing trustees

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	All new trustees are provided with a copy of the constitution, a copy of meeting minutes, access to all the Trust's documents via a shared network (Dropbox), a link to the Charity Commission's guidance on becoming a trustee (The Essential Trustee) as well as an opportunity to have a guided tour of the castle.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	The charity is governed by a board of trustees, among whom certain management duties are undertaken by 'constables': they are Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. Specific and time-limited projects are undertaken by Working Groups as necessary. The Trust was saddened to record the death of Vanessa Hembling, Trustee, in December 2020.
Relationship with any related parties	The charity has informal links with the Dorstone History Society, the Longtown and District Historical Society, the Castle Studies Group, The Hay Festival, Kilvert Society, Wellington Historical Society, the Woolhope Club and the Sutton Walls Conservation Group. We have a close relationship with Historic England, and we aim to strengthen links with other like-minded bodies regionally, nationally and internationally.
Other	

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	The Snodhill Castle Preservation Trust
Other name the charity uses	SCPT
Registered charity number	1165749

Charity's principal address	The Green, Snodhill, Dorstone, Herefordshire HR3 6BH
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Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Garry Crook	Chair		
2	Bridie Sullivan	Secretary		
3	Surrey Garland	Treasurer		
4	Nick Longman	Vice-Chair		
5	Bridget Knight			
6	Louise McIntyre			
7	Ruth Woolmer			
8	Susannah Garland			
9	Kate Hayward			
10	Jade Leigh-Beresford			
11	Joe Emmett			
12	Tom Oliver			
13				
14				

Corporate trustees - names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustee

Signature(s)

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Full name(s)

Bridie Sullivan	Surrey Garland
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**Position (eg
Secretary, Chair, etc)**

Secretary	Treasurer
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Date

17 th January 2022

Snodhill Castle Preservation Trust

Accounts

5th April 2020 – 4th April 2021

1) INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

OPENING BALANCES:

Current account:	£226.01
Savings account:	£71,617.57
TOTAL:	£71,843.58

INCOME:

Interest	£26.61
Donations (friends, jam jar)	£3,898.00
RPA (LEADER) grant	£5,350.00
Events	£7.04
Refund re duplication of expenses to SG	£168.38
TOTAL INCOME:	£9,450.83

EXPENDITURE:

Insurance (Hayes Parsons)	£566.55
Ground maintenance	£215.00
Architects fees (Nick Joyce)	£2,703.62

Restoration:

Stone Mason (Masons Yard)	£1,680.00
Hereford archaeology (Tim Hoverd)	£7,850.00
Conservation building (Oliver Fookes)	£38,891.95

TOTAL EXPENDITURE:	£51,907.12
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EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME	£42,456.29
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BALANCE AT YEAR END	£29,387.29
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2) BALANCE SHEET

FIXED ASSETS

Land and buildings	£1.00
DEPRECIATION	nil

VALUE OF FIXED ASSETS	£1.00
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CURRENT ASSETS

Bank account – current	£7,471.64
Bank account – savings	£21,915.65
Cash	£0.00
Amount receivable	
Prepayments	£0.00

TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS:	£29,387.29
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LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES:	£0.00
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TOTAL LIABILITIES:	£0.00
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NET ASSETS AT 04/04/2021:	£29,387.29
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SIGNED:  SURREY GARLAND, TREASURER

SIGNED:  BRIDIE SULLIVAN, SECRETARY

DATE: 29 Jan 2022