



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date 05/04/23

To

Period end date 04/04/24

Charity name: Snodhill Castle Preservation Trust

Charity registration number: 1165749

Objectives and Activities

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| 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") |
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| <p>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> | <p>The aim of the charity is to rescue, restore and make open to the community for research, education and enjoyment the remains and site of Snodhill Castle – a still little-known and little-understood but highly significant Marcher castle set in Herefordshire’s Golden Valley.</p> <p>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 undertaken while the local community and enthusiasts assembled a trust to start clearing the site, obtaining ownership of it, then commence its rescue and restoration (including its landscape setting) for the enjoyment and cultural enrichment of the community, the county and the nation.</p> <p>As the restoration has continued, so have the discoveries, and so have the trust’s efforts to involve and engage wider constituencies of interested parties in our endeavours.</p> <p>During the year in review (Apr 2023 – 2024) the charity aimed to fulfil its objects by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - launching an appeal for the research, investigation and conservation of the newly uncovered Royal Free Chapel site within the castle’s bailey; - holding a launch event for the appeal attended by 100 VIPs and Friends, presented by TV’s Nik Gowing with readings and performances; - welcoming Alice Roberts and the BBC’s Digging for Britain TV production crew to film at the castle; - hosting further archaeological excavations of the site by students from Manchester University, Cardiff University and the Institute of Field Research (US) - hosting a multi-faith ‘Hedgerow communion’ and Samhain ceremony on Beltane/ All Hallows eve; - continuing to involve the local community with the objects, including the ‘castle in a box’ project at Fairfield High School - initiating trust-wide preparations for a grant application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - hosting a comprehensive moth survey of the site, identifying over 140 species - Undertaking over 2000 hours of volunteer work during the year - inviting donations for tours, craft objects and leaflets from the site - producing christmas cards and seasonal artworks for sale; - conducting a series of well-attended Expert guided tours over Easter 2024; - liaising with other mutual interest groups during the year, including the Mortimer History Society, Hay Castle and Hereford Museum and Art Gallery (full details below); - continuing to engage with local and national media, including the BBC, Daily Mail, and the Oldie magazine as well as the Hereford Times and BBC H&W - installing a generously donated new shipping container for the storage of display and maintenance equipment - continuing restoration work at the site of the South East bastion (chapel) - maintaining public access to the site, with updated information boards and signage, and required insurances - appointing a distinguished Patron, General Sir Mark Carleton-Smith GCB, CBE, DL and further Trustees |
| 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:

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| Policy on grant making | The charity does not grant funds |
| Policy on social investment including program related investment | The charity has no investments |

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| <p>Contribution made by volunteers</p> | <p>ARCHAEOLOGY</p> <p>As part of the 'Beneath Hay Bluff' project, we once again welcomed some 40 archaeology students, supervised by Tim Hoverd, Archaeological Projects Manager, Herefordshire Council, and staff. During the overall 16 days duration over 5500 student and volunteer hours plus over 800 professional staff hours were contributed. The results of their work is detailed below.</p> <p>SITE MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT</p> <p>The Trust runs volunteering sessions on a weekly basis throughout the autumn, winter and early spring, dedicated to clearing overgrowth, removing felled timber and maintaining the site's amenity and accessibility for visitors. The volunteers contributed some 300 hours in the year under review.</p> <p>PROJECT MANAGEMENT, ADMINISTRATION AND MARKETING</p> <p>The Trust is managed by four officers ('constables') and 14 trustees whose volunteer hours during the year in review exceeded 2000.</p> |
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Achievements and Performance

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| <p>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.</p> | <p>In addition to maintaining the site for public access, during the year under review the charity focused on three areas of activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuing the archaeological investigation and restoration works - Widening awareness, appreciation and engagement of the trust's work - Developing 'Fortifying the Future', a three-year strategy to develop the trust's resilience, widen our community outreach and so secure the castle's long-term future <p>1) Archaeological investigation and restoration</p> <p>The Trust continued to make rewarding progress in the archaeological investigation and restoration of the standing remains. During the year, the particular focus was on the postern gate area and the newly exposed chapel site. The postern gate was located and excavated, and revealed as a structure of great complexity, adding to the growing evidence of the castle's high status fortifications. The chapel was further excavated, revealing a wall sequence, a nave much longer than previously thought and evidence of its deliberate destruction rather than demolition. Limited precautionary works were undertaken here prior to the Chapel appeal fundraising initiative (see below) bearing fruit. The archaeology works in progress were inspected by Professor Alice Roberts and the crew of Digging for Britain, which was broadcast in January 2024.</p> <p><i>Royal Free Chapel Event</i></p> <p>Following the discoveries made in 2022, the Trust launched the Royal Free Chapel Appeal Fund with an event in May 2023 hosted by Nik Gowing. This was attended by some 100 distinguished guests, including the High Sheriff of Herefordshire Robert Robinson, Lord Lipsey and representatives of His Majesty's Chapels Royal. Prayers were offered on the site and a dedication given by the Rt Rev John Oliver, Bishop of Hereford 1990-2003. The event raised some £4000 on the day.</p> <p>2) WIDENING AWARENESS, APPRECIATION AND ENGAGEMENT</p> <p>The castle remained open (free of charge) throughout the year and we invited enthusiasts from a wide range of interest groups to explore the site, including lepidopterists and those seeking spiritual nourishment both Pagan and Christian, as well as castle enthusiasts, nature lovers, pilgrims, walkers, ley line enthusiasts, families, picnickers and locals, as well as those simply curious to view findings from the digs. We secured an official place in the 2024 Hay Festival programme, offering expert guided tours on</p> |
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three days during festival week, and the transmission of BBC's Digging for Britain on Jan 4th 2024 (showcasing Alice Roberts' visit to the summer 2023 student excavations in which she was accompanied by Tim Hoverd, Archaeological Projects Manager, Herefordshire Council) had a positive impact on the overall awareness of the castle and our mission.

3) 'FORTIFYING THE FUTURE' – THE TRUST'S 3-YEAR STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

During the year in review we began the formulation of a three-year grant-aided programme to strengthen the trust's infrastructure - enhancing governance, upgrading digital systems, and broadening volunteer and community engagement in order to safeguard the trust's and the castle's long-term sustainability. **'Fortifying the Future'** is a bold and innovative plan designed to expand our reach, engage entirely new audiences - and harness their passions, expertise and interests in support of the castle's long-term preservation.

During this development period, a diverse range of organisations and individuals visited the site and pledged their support, including groups focused on mental health and 'green well-being' - notably the Cart Shed, the Family Place Foundation, and Herefordshire armed forces veterans—as well as educational and cultural institutions such as NMITE (Herefordshire's new university), the new Hereford Museum and Art Gallery, the Woolhope Club, the Mortimer History Society, Hereford Civic Society and others.

These activities built on the momentum of a successful **Expression of Interest** presentation to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, who encouraged us to move forward with a full application for a Development Grant. The application was submitted towards the end of the review year.

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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

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| Achievements against objectives set | The Trust achieved its objectives of successfully launching a chapel appeal fund and engaging with, and subsequently applying to, the National Lottery Heritage Fund. |
| Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set | The Trust was delighted to receive donations totalling £9271.61 during the year in review, of which £4558.07 were restricted funds supporting the Royal Free Chapel appeal. The sale of Christmas cards, lino cuts, leaflets and conducted tours contributed £875.00. |
| Investment performance against objectives | The charity has no investments, but maintains a reserve fund of £10,000 for contingencies. |

Financial Review

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| 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. Income was less than £25,000 and therefore did not meet the threshold for independent examination. |
| 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:

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| The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising) | The principal sources of funds in the period 2023-4 were donation income from individuals, and earned income from the sale of leaflets, cards, artwork and tours. |
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| 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 visitors and volunteers. 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 coordinates are known to the emergency services. |

Structure, Governance and Management

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| Description of charity's trusts: | N/A |
| 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:

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| 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, 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. |

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| Relationship with any related parties | <p>The charity has informal links with Hay Castle Trust, St Faith's Church (Dorstone), 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, the Sutton Walls Conservation Group, the Eaton Camp Historical Group, the Mortimer History Society, the Abbey Cwm Hir Heritage Trust, The Leintwardine History Group, the Cambrian Archaeology Society and the Hereford Civic Society.</p> <p>We have a close relationship with Historic England, and we aim to strengthen links with other like-minded bodies regionally, nationally and internationally.</p> |
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Reference and Administrative details

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| Charity name | The Snodhill Castle Preservation Trust |
| Other name the charity uses | SCPT |
| Registered charity number | 1165749 |
| Charity's principal address | <p>The Green, Snodhill, Dorstone, Herefordshire HR3 6BH</p> |

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) |
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| 1 | Garry Crook | Chair | | |
| 2 | Louise Macintyre | Secretary | 01/01/2024 | |
| 3 | Surrey Garland | Treasurer | | |
| 4 | Nick Longman | Vice-Chair | | |
| 5 | Bridget Knight | | | |
| 6 | Bridie Sullivan | | | |
| 7 | Ruth Woolmer | | | |
| 8 | Susannah Garland | | | |
| 9 | Kate Hayward | | | |
| 10 | Jade Leigh-Beresford | | | |
| 11 | Joe Emmett | | | |
| 12 | Tom Oliver | | | |
| 13 | Sarah Lewis | | 10/08/2022 | |
| 14 | William Klemperer | | 11/01/2023 | |

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

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| Director name | n/a | |
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Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

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| Trustee name | Dates acted if not for whole year | |
| | n/a | |

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

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| 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 |

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| Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation | N/A |
| of such assets from the charity's own assets | |

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

| Type of adviser | Name | Address |
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Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure


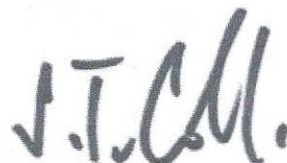
Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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DECLARATION

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

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| Signature(s) |  |  |
| Full name(s) | Louise Macintyre | Surrey Garland |
| Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc) | Secretary | Treasurer |
| Date | 31/01/2025 | |

Snodhill Castle Preservation Trust

Accounts

5th April 2023 – 4th April 2024

1) INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

OPENING BALANCES:

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| Current account: | £ 2,455.32 |
| Savings account: | £ 9,787.45 |
| TOTAL: | £12,242.77 |

INCOME:

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| Interest | £153.19 |
| Donations (friends, jam jar) | £4,713.54 |
| Sales (cards, tours) | £875.00 |
| Restricted Donations (Royal Free chapel appeal) | £4,558.07 |
| TOTAL INCOME: | £10,299.80 |

EXPENDITURE:

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| Insurance | £917.22 |
| Container | £4,188.00 |
| Website | £478.15 |
| Mower (repair & fuel) | £149.37 |
| Booklets | £55.00 |
| Toilet hire | £114.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE: | £5,901.74 |

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| EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE | £4,398.06 |
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| BALANCE AT YEAR END | £16,640.83 |
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2) BALANCE SHEET

FIXED ASSETS

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| Land and buildings | £1.00 |
| DEPRECIATION | nil |

VALUE OF FIXED ASSETS **£1.00**

CURRENT ASSETS

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|------------------------|------------|
| Bank account – current | £514.45 |
| Bank account – savings | £16,126.38 |
| Cash | £0.00 |
| Amount receivable | |
| Prepayments | £0.00 |

TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS: **£16,640.83**


LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES:

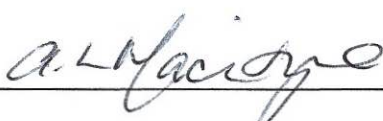
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| BBQ monies owed to SG (22-23) | £54.76 |
| Unpaid book keeping invoice (22-23) | £50.00 |

TOTAL LIABILITIES: **£104.76**

NET ASSETS AT 04/04/2024: **£16,536.07**

NOTES:

SIGNED:  SURREY GARLAND, TREASURER

SIGNED:  LOU MACINTYRE, SECRETARY

DATE: 31/01/25