



Trustees Annual Report period 2023

Overview of operations

2023 was our busiest year so far. We received, treated and cared for 32 otter cubs, releasing 24 with the remaining animals for this period being released early in 2024.

Currently in 2024 January to the end of March, we have 20 in our care. The expectation is that we will potentially receive more this year than 2023.

What we did in 2023

During this period, we re-laid our car parking, pathways and access tracks with 110 tons of type 1 aggregate. This has enabled a more user-friendly environment as it involved removing some extremely muddy areas in the process.

We have started to raise the height of all of our outdoor enclosures, again to make more user friendly in terms of operational catch ups and maintenance aspects.

We have redesigned our freezer and fish prep rooms as well as improving our indoor cub rooms.

Plans for 2024

The team are now focused on purchasing our own land which will secure our future. Currently, we enjoy the hospitality of our Hon. President the Earl of Lichfield. However, moving forward we feel the need to add security to our already fantastic organisation.

The plan moving forward is to purchase our own land and rent out for a period of up to 5 years to generate another income stream. The land would be a large extension of our existing facility but would also incorporate a large woodland which would be returned to wildlife. We would be looking to secure a building project that would see a potential for 30 enclosures, a purpose-built barn that would hold a minimum of 12 cubs plus associated storage with running water to each enclosure with purpose-built ponds and drainage facilities within the complex. In addition to this, the area would be ring fenced.

Finances

2023 has seen an upturn in our donations, largely due to generous donation from Oban along with some smaller bequeaths. Our operational costs have risen as expected due to cost demand on fish for the cubs.

As an organisation, we still do not pay anyone within UKWOT and we currently have no requirement for this however, in the long term plan we would be looking to secure at least one full time paid staff member and 1 part time staff member to assist in and help with the anticipated growth of the organisation and its needs moving forward.

END OF REPORT

Dated: 18/03/2024

Signed Digitally: **Dave Webb**

Founder/CEO/Trustee

UK WILD OTTER TRUST

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 2nd MAY 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
RECEIPTS		
Grants	3,500.00	500.00
Donations & adoptions	62,018.01	33,715.41
Sale of merchandise	6,063.01	5,275.00
Gift aid	1,155.68	152.90
Training	750.00	-
Fundraiser	550.00	-
Bank interest received	21.61	0.13
	74,058.31	39,643.44

PAYMENTS

Purchases of merchandise (adjusted for stock)	8,630.13	5,159.72
Feed and bedding	9,502.69	4,562.64
Veterinary costs	117.46	346.86
Equipment	-	849.86
Repairs & maintenance	14,631.19	20,263.27
Workwear	389.03	153.00
Motor expenses	6,167.44	2,314.51
Public liability insurance	528.99	144.20
Advertising	-	141.48
Postage & stationery	623.52	164.63
Computer costs	116.01	80.74
Subscriptions & sundries	971.88	289.79
Van hire	-	105.00
Professional fees	231.00	263.20
Water charges	85.24	41.22
Rent	500.00	-
Light & heat	1,535.40	-
Phone costs	185.84	-
Donations	475.70	-
Bank fees	1.87	-

	44,693.39	34,880.12
Balance(s) brought forward (from previous year)	11,412.73	6,649.41
Balance(s) in hand at year-end	40,777.65	11,412.73

Independent Examiners Report

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement:

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and 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 the 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 presented a true and fair view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statements below.

Independent Examiner's Statement:

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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

Signed: *Carole Barnert*

Date: *28 FEBRUARY 2024.*

Name: *CAROLE BARNERT*

Relevant professional qualification or body:

ICAEW (Fellow)