



Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

Vision

The natural beauty of the Shropshire Hills is secured forever as a place where wildlife, people, landscape and heritage thrive in harmony.

Mission

We will inspire people, communities, and organisations to actively support the Shropshire Hills National Landscape and secure its natural beauty for the future

Objectives

The Shropshire Hills Landscape Trust (working name) is dedicated to promoting the conservation and enhancement of the of the Shropshire Hills. Most of our work is achieved through the Conservation Fund. This makes grant awards to small community groups to support practical projects that help the Shropshire Hills to be a beautiful landscape where nature and people thrive together. Priority areas for projects are:

- Conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, landscape, wildlife or heritage of the Shropshire Hills.
- Educational and awareness-raising activities relating to the area and its conservation, especially involving young people.

Governance

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation established in 2016, working alongside the Shropshire Hills National Landscape Partnership and Team. The constitution allows for eight Trustees: four appointed by existing trustees (three-year terms), the National Landscape Team manager (ex officio), and up to three Partnership nominees (two-year terms). Trustees may serve a maximum of three consecutive terms.

- Appointed Trustees: George Chancellor (Treasurer), Janet Cobb, Anthony Morgan, Neil Willcox
- Nominated Trustees: Rachel Cockett (Chair), Charles Edwards,
- Ex officio Trustee: Phil Holden (Secretary)

Four Trustees meetings were held alongside the Annual General Meeting to review finances and determine policy. Trustees met in March 2025 to consider Conservation Fund applications and award grants. The National Landscape staff team provided administrative support, with day-to-day work carried out by Trustees working individually or in groups with staff and external support as needed.

Performance Against 2024-2027 Business Plan

Conservation Fund

Fifteen projects were awarded a total of £20,947 during 2024-25. The awards continued to fulfill the underlying principle of supporting community groups aiming to care for the natural environment in their local area.

Two projects focused on butterfly conservation, with grants supporting habitat restoration for the Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary in the Stiperstones area and the nationally significant Wood White butterfly populations around Bury Ditches Iron-Age hill fort. The Trust was pleased to support wildlife monitoring efforts, including a study of pine martens and dormice in Morville Parish, building on survey work in nearby areas.

Conservation of traditional landscapes was promoted through a project creating a publicly accessible wildflower meadow at St George's and community hedgerow regeneration work, while the Trust supported an innovative approach to heritage conservation by funding work with all 65 burial grounds within the National Landscape to enhance their biodiversity value.

Three projects specifically aimed to help young people appreciate the countryside, including the Hill Stories digital media project and the Youth Forum Rangers programme working with 11-18 year olds in the Clee Hill area.

Other supported activities included wildlife training events in the Rea Valley, comprehensive river monitoring in Bishop's Castle, Edgton Parish's Nature Recovery Plan, a woodland conference, interpretation projects, and woodland management at the Millennium Coppice.

Details of all the activities supported and reports on their outcomes are available on the Trust's web pages <https://www.shropshirehills-nl.org.uk/help-to-look-after/shropshire-hills-landscape-trust/conservation-fund-projects>.

Increasing our Reach

We widened our geographic and organisational reach in 2024-25 with 8 successful new applicants to the Conservation fund. We engaged with all 63 Parish Councils in the Shropshire Hills National Landscape and received invitations to speak at 11 meetings. We presented talks on the work of the trust at three conferences Shropshire Hills National Landscape Forum, Clee Hill (13/06/24), National Meadow Groups Conference 2024, Bishops Castle (15/11/24) and the Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) Conference, Church Stretton (06/12/24).

Fundraising

The Friends of the Shropshire Hills was established in 2008 on the 50th anniversary of the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. With the creation of the Trust in 2016 the Friends' membership fees are paid directly to the Trust and support the Conservation Fund.

The Trust is most grateful to those who donated money to support the Conservation Fund. In particular, we thank the Millichope Foundation, our business supporters, Britpart (Border Holdings) the Castle Hotel (Bishops Castle), Moonshine & Fuggles,

parish councils, Edgton, Mainstone with Colebatch, Morville, and Pontesbury, and the many Friends of the Shropshire Hills.

Governance and Operations

The Trust has strengthened its governance framework during 2024-25 by reviewing the trustees' Register of Interests and implementing a new Conflict-of-Interest procedure specifically for grant award discussions. A safeguarding policy has also been developed and adopted. To enhance the Trust's capacity and broaden trustee recruitment opportunities, a constitutional review has been planned for 2025-26, which will enable recruitment from a wider trustee pool and create additional capacity for the Trust's growing work programme.

Financial review

The majority of the Trust's money is used to award grants from its Conservation Fund. The Trust holds all its financial assets in a current account with Barclays Bank. At the start of the year the bank balance was £24,876 and the total income during the year was £31,819. £21,383 was paid out to grant recipients whose projects had completed and £14,630 was carried forward to cover expected claims from projects still in progress. Administrative services were kindly provided at no cost by members of the National Landscape team, hence minimal annual operating costs of £153. At the end of the year the Trust had a bank balance of £35,139.

Shropshire Hills AONB Trust

Accounts 2024-2025

INCOME

Friends Membership	£ 4,557.16
Business Supporters	£ 600.00
General Donations	£ 20,614.26
Shuttle Supporters Scheme	£ 91.64
Caering for Caradoc Appeal	£ 7.87
Gift Aid Reclaim	£ 927.80
Millichope Foundation	£5,000.00
Grants Received	£5,000.00

Total Income £ 31,798.73

Surplus of Income over Expenditure £ 10,262.06

Additional Income

Pertaining to the financial year but received post-April 1, 2024

Gift Aid Reclaim

Membership	£ 207.50
Membership	£ 198.05
	£ 405.55

Pertaining to previous years but received in the financial year

Gift Aid Reclaim £ 384.37

Adjusted Total Income £ 31,819.91

Adjusted Surplus of Income over Expenditure £ 451.74

EXPENDITURE

LLANFAIR WATERDINE CF/2223/5	11/11/2024	500.00
A M Pettit CF/2324/2	19/04/2024	165.00
Shropshire Ornithological Society CF/2324/1	19/04/2024	1,000.00
DHMAT CF/2324/3	19/04/2024	2,000.00
Grow Cook Learn CF/2324/5	09/05/2024	500.00
Lucy Grove CF/2324/10	22/05/2024	633.50
D T Ground Maintenance CF/2425/1	08/10/2024	720.00
Rob Marpole Landscaping CF2425/1	20/12/2024	636.00
Michael White CF/2425/1	27/02/2025	28.39
Shropshire Mines Trust CF/2425/2	02/08/2024	712.50
Earthcare CF/2425/3	25/11/2024	1,200.00
A M Pettit CF/2425/4	12/12/2024	1,500.00
Snailbeach Village Hall CF/2425/5	02/08/2024	1,425.00
Mrs SP Crichton CF/2425/6	06/09/2024	1,838.75
Stuart Edmonds CF/2425/6	08/10/2024	464.21
Stuart Edmonds CF/2425/6 & 8	25/11/2024	280.00
Little Acorns CF/2425/7	12/11/2024	1,449.78
Stuart Edmonds CF/2425/8	21/05/2024	1,088.34
Shropshire Mammal CF/2425/8	11/11/2024	1,271.66
Marches Meadow Group CF/2425/10	05/12/2024	1,500.00
Friends of Pontesford CF/2425/12	17/02/2025	499.94
Mrs Gillian Boulton CF/2425/20	17/02/2025	670.00
Shropshire Council (Shuttles donations)	02/08/2024	1,300.00

Grants Paid £ 21,383.07

Mrs S D Hackett (INVOICE 56)	19/08/2024	120.00
IONOS Cloud (SSL certificates fees)	19/11/2024	33.60

Operating Costs £ 153.60

Total Expenditure £ 21,536.67

Additional Expenditure

Pertaining to the financial year but paid/to be paid post-April 1, 2025

South Shropshire Youth Forum CF/2425/14	£ 2,500.00
Bishops Castle Walking Festival CF2425/9	£ 1,100.00
Marches Meadow Group CF2425/10	£ 500.00
Piece of String CF2425/11	£ 2,500.00
Shropshire Ornithological Society CF2425/13	£ 2,000.00
Upper Onny Wildlife Group CF2425/3	£ 500.00
Edgton Parish Meeting CF2425/15	£1,630.00
MMCLT CF2425/16	£1,300.00
Abdon Village Hall CF2425/17	£1,500.00
Learning Allowed CF2425/18	£500.00
Glyn's Garden CIC CF 2425/19	£600.00
	£ 14,630.00

Pertaining to previous years but paid in the financial year

Grants (as above) £ 4,798.50

Adjusted Total Expenditure £ 31,368.17

Funds at Bank (1/4/24) £ 24,876.98

Restricted Funds £ 14,947.75

Shuttles Supporters Scheme	Carried over from 2023/24	£ 1,308.51
	Income 2024/25	£ 91.64
	Expenditure 2024/25	£ 1,300.00
	Total	£ 100.15

Caering for Caradoc	Carried over from 2023/24	£ 209.73
	Income 2024/2025	£ 7.87
	Expenditure 2023/24	£ -
	Total	£ 217.60

Grants Carried Over for 2025/26 payment £ 14,630.00

Available Unrestricted Funds £ 20,191.29

Funds at Bank (31/3/25) £ 35,139.04

Independent Examiner's Report.

To the Trustees of Shropshire Hills AONB Trust, Charity Number: 1168432

On the accounts for the year ended 31ST March 2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report:

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2001 ('the Act').

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ('the Trust') for the year end 31.03.2025.

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination in accordance with guidance given by the Charity Commission. My examination has included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and compared to the accounts presented and bank records presented. It also included a review, if required, of any unusual items / disclosures in the accounts where an explanation from the trustees has been required. The procedures I have undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required for an audit and as such, I do not express an auditor's opinion on the accounts.

Upon completion of my examination, I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination, which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- The accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- The accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- The accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

In conclusion, I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report, in order, to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed.....*Jacqueline Madeley*..... Date....13.06.2025

Mrs J E Madeley

Woodhouse Accountancy Ltd
E-innovation Centre, Priorslee, Telford, TF2 9FT