



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date			Period end date			
	01	04	2022		31	03	2023
From				To			

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

Charity's principal address

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	Alan Miller	Chair		
2	Geraldine Lines	Secretary		
3	Sally Amery	Treasurer		
4	Marie Rolfe			
5	John Rolfe			
	Ann Edwards			
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Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

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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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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Constitution adopted 26th January 2017

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Every trustee must be appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Blyth Woods is affiliated to Green Light Trust (registered charity# 1000977) whose mission is "Bringing people and nature together".

Blyth Woods works closely with the Wenhasston Commons Group, who manage the commons surrounding the village of Wenhasston.

Blyth Woods is the official tree warden for the parish of Wenhasston with Mells, and Trustees are regularly in touch with the Tree Warden network.

Blyth Woods has a child protection policy and an equal opportunities policy in place and produces activity and place risk assessments as necessary.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment in the parish of Wenhasston, Suffolk and surrounding parishes of the Blyth Valley, and the creation of community woodland and green spaces for the public at large, with the object of improving their education and condition of life.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

At meetings of the Blyth Woods steering group, we have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when planning our activities for the year ahead.

We have been able to follow our programme with the primary school children. A bioblitz was organised followed by a picnic for all our volunteers.

Management work on the Trust's property continued, with maintenance of Grove Piece and Malsters Little Field: weeding, replacing saplings and cutting rides. Green hay was obtained from a local species rich common and spread on the grassland we are turning into a hay meadow.

Blyth Woods includes the management of Vicarage Grove, an adjoining piece of ancient woodland. This is in the third year of a 5-year renewable lease, at peppercorn rent from the local church.

The group continued to maintain new fruit trees in the Community Orchard.

The large pond in the north boundary was restored.

Articles continue to be written for the local village newsletters to keep the public informed, as well as the website and Facebook.

All records of flora and fauna are submitted to the local county records office.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

Blyth Woods is supported entirely by volunteers of all ages and backgrounds from the local communities.

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The main work involved weeding and maintaining the new trees and replacing any failures. The path network was mown for easy access and a meadow area established in Little Malsters Field was augmented with green hay from a local common. Last winter's work was mainly removing the invasive holly from the ancient woodland and included help from the AONB volunteer team who used the cut remains to build a dead hedge around our experimental coppice plot. This should stop deer browsing the cut stools as they regrow.

Various additional wildflowers have been introduced including ragged robin, cowslip, and oxeye daisy grown by volunteers and yellow rattle seed.

The restoration of the overgrown pond was completed by a local contractor.

We are now in our 4th year of carrying out a full breeding bird survey in Grove Woods which includes Grove Piece, Vicarage Grove, Little Malsters and Ian Copse. To date 30 different species of birds have been recorded as nesting including for the first-time barn owls who raised two chicks.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

A proportion of funds are kept in reserve for future land purchases. The balance has been used to pursue our action plan of maintenance and planting and acquiring the necessary tools for this.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

It was agreed to hold £2600 in reserve over each year to cover expected expenditure.

Not applicable

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Section F**Other optional information****Section G****Declaration**

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Alan Roy Miller

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair

Date

11/10/2023

Blyth Woods Charity Reg No 1172343						
Receipts and Payments Account Year ended 31st March 2023						
	Unrestricted 2023	Restricted 2023	Total 2023	Unrestricted 2022	Restricted 2022	Total 2022
Income						
Friends - annual	£24.00		£24.00	£54.00		£54.00
Friends - lifetime	£500.00		£500.00	£400.00		£400.00
Grants and donations - restricted		£425.00	£425.00	£0.00		£0.00
Donations - unrestricted	£359.26		£359.26	£296.21		£296.21
Sale of cards and produce etc	£97.40		£97.40	£50.70		£50.70
Equipment		£348.00	£348.00			£0.00
Events inc AGM - floats	£30.00		£30.00			£0.00
Bank interest and compensation	£120.69		£120.69	£0.00		£0.00
Refunds	£0.00		£0.00	£96.00		£96.00
Wilder Wenhaston (ringfenced)		£500.00	£500.00			£0.00
Total income	£1,131.35	£1,273.00	£2,404.35	£896.91	£0.00	£896.91
Expenditure						
Hall hire, affiliation fee and loft storage	£92.50		£92.50	£45.00		£45.00
Event costs inc AGM - Speakers, refreshments and floats	£91.20		£91.20	£94.30		£94.30
Insurance	£231.05		£231.05	£0.00		£0.00
Printing, postage, computer, website and stationery	£170.87		£170.87	£97.77		£97.77
Plants and timber		£361.27	£361.27		£105.00	£105.00
Equipment		£696.00	£696.00		£2,683.73	£2,683.73
Sundry small items	£0.00		£0.00	£19.46		£19.46
Accountancy fees	£0.00		£0.00	£300.00		£300.00
Pond work	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00		£0.00
Wilder Wenhaston (ringfenced)		£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00
Total expenditure	£585.62	£1,057.27	£1,642.89	£556.53	£2,788.73	£3,345.26
Surplus (Deficit) of Income over expenditure	£545.73	£215.73	£761.46	£340.38	-£2,788.73	-£2,448.35
Treasurers Bank balance brought forward	£6,125.89	£15,276.27	£21,402.16	£5,785.51	£18,065.00	£23,850.51
Business Instant bank balance brought forward	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Adjustment for expenditure from 2018 to 2021 from Unrestricted expenditure to Restricted expenditure for interpretation board, pond work, trees and timber, equipment and tools all covered by grants awarded.	£4,187.00	-£4,187.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total carried forward	£10,858.62	£11,305.00	£22,163.62	£6,125.89	£15,276.27	£21,402.16
Bank balances carried forward						
Treasurers bank balance			£21,580.93			£21,402.16
Business bank Instant bank balance			£582.69			£0.00
Total carried forward			£22,163.62			£21,402.16
Reserves Policy:	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total			
Wilder Wenhaston (ringfenced)		£500.00	£500.00			
Pond Work in The Copse - invoice due		£5,000.00	£5,000.00			
Professional fees for land purchase		£3,000.00	£3,000.00			
Information board - in progress		£250.00	£250.00			
Insurance	£150.00		£150.00			
Events - planned	£250.00		£250.00			
Maintenance - expected	£500.00		£500.00			
Total	£900.00	£8,750.00	£9,650.00			