



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01	07	2021		30	06	2022

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name GRIMSARGH WETLANDS TRUST

Other names charity is known by Grimsargh Wetlands Trust, Charity, 1174037

Registered charity number (if any) 1174037

Charity's principal address

204 Preston Road,

Grimsargh,

Preston.

Postcode

PR2 5JS

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.	David Hindle	Chairman		
2.	Lesley Walker	Treasurer		
3.	Jayne Woollam	Secretary		
4.	John Willan		23 rd June, 2022 – co-opted, to be ratified at AGM	Trustees
5.	Phil Atkinson			
6.	Steve Whittam			
7.	Mike Fisher			
8.	Andy Small			
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

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)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation with voting members, other than trustees.
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Trust
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	A yearly re-election of a third of the trustees by the membership at the annual AGM. Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer should stand for re-election annually. Appointment of new trustees is open to anyone who is interested in furthering the Trust's purposes. The role of trustee should be advertised and potential new trustees should be invited to submit a short resume of his/her experience, relevant to the post advertised. A short interview may also take place. Grimsargh Parish Council selected the first trustees, following the submission of a letter of application and an interview.
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.

Section C

Objectives and activities

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

New trustees are advised to read the constitution, the handbook and various policy documents. The charity is a trust which abides by the constitution of a charitable incorporated organisation with voting rights by members. There are potentially 9 trustees. Currently we have 8 trustees, following the resignation of Geoff Carefoot, 2nd March, 2022. John Willan was co-opted Thursday June 23rd, following extensive attempts to recruit new trustees. On the 28th May 2018 Grimsargh Wetlands Trust signed a lease relating to the land, reservoirs and buildings, with Grimsargh Parish Council for a peppercorn rent, for 25 years. Grimsargh Parish Council are the landlords of the site, and the lease does include various caveats, as agreed with Grimsargh Parish Council. Clearly, there are risks associated with managing this type of site. However, the trustees have public liability insurance, the trustees are insured individually, and the trust liaises with United Utililites, the former owners of the site. The trustees have erected multiple signs around the site warning the public of hazards etc. Volunteers regularly repair or reinstate any damage caused by erosion or vandalism. Trustees risk assess the conditions prior to the volunteer days. Volunteer days occur on a fortnightly basis throughout the year, under normal circumstances. Prior to volunteer days, volunteers are advised via email and the new website, as to what to wear and the type of tools that will be required. Power tools are not allowed to be used on site by volunteers. Volunteers are given a talk at the start of each session regarding hazards and uneven ground etc. Children under 16 are not allowed to volunteer unless accompanied by a responsible adult. This information, including a disclaimer, is not on our new website, where most of our volunteers can register their intention to volunteer on a particular day. The Trust has two first aid trained volunteers, Steve Lunt and Neil Hartley (GWT warden).

Mission statement – “The maintenance and enhancement of the biological status of Grimsargh Wetlands for the benefit of the local community”.

The charity is established to promote for the public benefit the conservation, protection and improvement of both the physical and natural environment in the area known as Grimsargh Wetlands, Grimsargh by promoting its biological diversity. At the same time, the charity promotes the provision of facilities for recreation for everyone, irrespective of age, infirmity, disability or social or economic need. The trustees also regularly hold educational guided walks for local groups, including school children, scouts and beavers.

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)

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

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

- policy on grantmaking;

Originally the site was made up of three disused reservoirs, largely neglected and largely inaccessible to the public, especially in winter, as there was no footpath, or the footpath was in a terrible state of disrepair. In five years since the establishment of the Trust, the trustees have constructed footpaths, mobility ramps and steps, erected gates, viewing screens and fences that have made this site accessible to all members of the public, including those with mobility issues, wheelchair users and families with pushchairs. The Trust has also installed a sluice, which allows the trustees to regulate water levels to enhance the habitat for wading birds. Tern rafts have also been installed to try and encourage terns to breed on the site. Grimsargh Wetlands is fully accessible to all. The site is free. The trustees have established volunteering opportunities, educational walks and talks, as well as social activities. It is linking people, who would not otherwise come into contact, with each other and thus is creating a better sense of community, via its volunteering and educational opportunities.

The trustees are protecting and conserving the fauna and flora of the site, while simultaneously, encouraging the whole community to enjoy volunteering activities as well as being able to access the site irrespective of the season. This year encroaching raspberry canes have been removed and that has helped the return of the wild primroses and orchids on the south bank of the Fen. Grimsargh Wetlands is special in that it is really three unique sites in one site. The Fen, the Island Lake and the Mere, each site attracting very different flora and fauna, including red-listed curlews, lapwings, oyster catchers and little ringed plovers. In Spring curlews and lapwings appear in large numbers, proof indeed that Grimsargh Wetlands is an important staging post for rare birds. There are many other species of birds, including, breeding tawny owls, barn owls, many species of ducks and geese, terns, herons, buzzards, kestrels, herons, house martins, swifts, swallows, Mediterranean black backed gulls, and a plethora of crows and jackdaws. Badgers, butterflies, hares, deer, frogs, butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, and many other insects are regularly seen on the Wetlands. The flora is also rather special, including rare hybrid willow, wild primroses, lichens, liverworts, wild orchids and many more species are to be found on the Wetlands. This year an osprey has been seen passing over the Wetlands, as well as a peregrine falcon and a rare garganey duck. In these days of encroaching urbanisation, it provides an oasis for nature in an otherwise overdeveloped urban sprawl to the north of Preston.

We continue to pursue grants from organisations, for example, "Naturesave Trust". However, while we recognise that membership, legacies and fundraising are important sources of revenue, in order to secure the long-term viability of the Trust, we need to plan for its future sustainability. Long-term it is hoped to develop the site further by reinstating an existing building on site from which an income stream could be derived, if it were to be hired out to various groups. Alternatively, a new building could be erected on site for the same purpose. It is also hoped that gift aid and donations will form a realistic income stream. It is hoped that our new website will also attract new sponsors in the coming years.

The pandemic has presented the trustees with several challenges again this year, as volunteers have clearly had concerns about new variants, for example, Omicron in November 2021, which has resulted in fewer people volunteering. However, we have continued to hold fortnightly volunteer days during 2021-2022.

Volunteer Days re-started in September, 2021, and while numbers have not quite reached pre-pandemic levels, a loyal group of approximately 8-16 volunteers, led by the trustees, have volunteered on a fortnightly basis, helping to clear pathways, clear the sluice, install tern rafts, clear stonework, clear scrub, prune trees and bushes, erect birdboxes, plant apple trees etc

Due to concerns about social distancing, the trustees took the decision to postpone the AGM in 2021. The Secretary, contacted a representative of The Charities Commission who advised her that the AGM could be postponed if it was in the "interests of the trust". In April 2021, a representative from the Charities Commission said, "It is essential that members can see and hear the trustees at the AGM and if these conditions cannot be met safely, then the meeting can be postponed. If this is the case, all trustees and officers can remain in post until the next AGM." As several of our members do not have the technology to access Zoom, the decision was made to postpone the AGM in the interests of public safety and members were notified of the postponement. In addition, the trustees also took the decision to postpone membership fees until the next AGM. The trustees are delighted to be able to hold a face-to-face AGM on Wednesday 20th July, 2022 and we look forward to welcoming our members and updating them on the progress that has been made during 2021-2022.

Despite the challenges we have faced, 7 individuals have become new members between 2021 and 2022. Current membership stands at 54.

Trustees voted to keep membership fees at the same level as the previous year, 2021-2022. The following are the subscriptions: Individual, £20.00; Volunteer/Student, £10.00; Life, £250.00; Corporate Sponsor, £100.00. As the Corporate "Members" do not have voting rights at the AGM, it was agreed that they would be redesignated, "Sponsors" rather than "Members". Membership fees were agreed by trustees at a meeting on the 16th December, 2020. Currently, new members receive: a membership card; a Grimsargh Wetlands Trust sticker; an exclusive guided walk; an invitation to the AGM with voting rights; a quarterly newsletter and new members receive a calendar.

Achievements of Grimsargh Wetlands Trust, 2021-2022

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, Grimsargh Wetlands has continued to thrive and while it has been a challenging year in some ways, and we have faced challenges trying to return to some semblance of "normality", much has been achieved:

1. Meetings - July 2021-June 2022

The last 12 months have been challenging for the trustees, not least because, for the most part, we have been unable to hold face-to-face meetings. However, we have held 10 general meetings in total, 8 via Zoom, and 2 socially distanced meetings in the Secretary's Garden. We hope to be able to continue to hold face-to-face meetings, but the

Autumn could present challenges; however, we are now equipped to revert to Zoom meetings should the need arise. We currently, have 8 trustees, although our constitution allows for 9. John Willan's appointment in May 2022 needs to be considered and ratified at the AGM. The appointment of a new trustee arose following the resignation of Geoff Carefoot, whose contribution to Grimsargh Wetlands has been huge, project managing the installation of the sluice, overseeing, and procuring funding for the new ramp and screens at the Fen, project managing the reprofiling of the islands, procuring the container and overseeing the installation of the tern rafts.

We currently have a vacancy for one trustee.

Meetings have been highly productive, and a lot has been achieved throughout the year. Full attendance by trustees at the meetings is nearly always recorded, as noted in the minutes. Trustees are committed and proactive.

2. The Website

The redeveloped website, launched in December 2020, providing information for visitors to the reserve, along with an on-line map showing the location of all the access points and viewing screens, together with a database of the wildlife likely to be seen at the Wetlands. There is also an on-line shop and membership of the Trust can be renewed on-line. Future events, from volunteer days to guided walks are also bookable online. The quarterly newsletter is also available on-line. Previous newsletters are now archived on the website. The website has already elicited more engagement from the local community and wider public and the trustees believe that it has been a significant achievement for the Trust. It also generates income through its shop. We acknowledge the immense support of HAN Communications in assisting Trustees to manage this enterprise.

In April 2022, the trustees approved funding for the ongoing website hosting and phase II of development. There was a need to make the site more secure and to ensure the ongoing maintenance of the site. Given that our current provider, can no longer continue to host and maintain the site, the Trust now needs to pay to host the website with a professional provider.

As ID Design, redeveloped the website, it was agreed that ID Designs should host the website. There was an initial transfer cost of £200.00. Phase II of the development will incur costs for allowing video content and PDFs etc. ID Designs offered a rate of 50% discount on the industry rate, to support the Trust as a charity.

This transfer will see the site hosted professionally and securely by the company who built it, whilst allowing the Trust to make improvements to the CMS that sits behind it, allowing us to continue to present a professional image for Grimsargh Wetlands Trust to both the community and potential funders.

Many of the photos on our website have been taken by two local

photographers and we are very grateful to Gerry and Richard for also updating our Facebook page on almost a daily basis. Their excellent photographs stimulate engagement with the community and also serve to log the fauna and flora on the site.

3. Fundraising 2021-2022

The trustees are very grateful to trustee Andy Small for his herculean fundraising efforts this year at a time when the pandemic has had a serious impact on our fundraising ability. However, Andy has continued with his weekly book stall and "Click and Collect" sales; while fundraising opportunities have been limited. The Trust organised printing of a Calendar at Christmas to fund raise which again was a success. However, much of our costs are the "unglamorous" ongoing costs of insurance and maintenance; securing funding for these costs presents the Trust with a continuing challenge!

4. Meetings 2020-2021

The last 12 months have been difficult for the trustees, not least because, for the most part, we have been unable to hold face-to-face meetings. Two trustees have also suffered from serious illness.

We have had 10 general meetings in total, 8 via Zoom, and 2, socially distanced meetings in the Secretary's Garden. We hope to be able to continue to hold face-to-face meetings, but the Autumn could present challenges; we are now equipped to revert to Zoom meetings should the need arise. We currently, have 8 trustees, one pending ratification, although our constitution allows for 9. Meetings have been highly productive, and a lot has been achieved throughout the year, despite the obvious limitations this year. Full attendance by trustees at the meetings is nearly always recorded, as noted in the minutes. The Warden, provides regular updates on his work at meetings. Trustees and GPC are circulated with agendas and minutes.

5. Newsletter 2021-2022

Mike Fisher continues to produce and circulate an excellent quarterly newsletter, updating volunteers and members with news and progress on the Wetlands. Hard copies of the newsletter are also given to new residents to the village and to new members. The newsletter is now archived on the website. Mike also writes a biannual article for Grimsargh Parish Council's newsletter. The newsletter continues to be one of the highlights of the Wetlands, a conduit for the Trust to channel its news and progress to the community and the wider public, and we are extremely grateful for all his talent, hard work and commitment.

6. Grimsargh Parish Council

The trustees continue to have an excellent working relationship with Grimsargh Parish Council. The clerk to the Parish Council and Councillors are invited to attend meetings as necessary to liaise with the Trustees on matters of mutual interest.

7. "Open Day" – 21st August 2021

This marked the formal opening of the viewing screens and access

points, and invitations were sent to all our supporters, including a representative of the LEF, and our Patron, Lord Horam of Grimsargh.

The highlight was the official opening of the screens and access points, followed by a guided walk around the Wetlands and finally afternoon tea in the Secretary's Garden. A good time was had by all!

8. Volunteer Days

In early November 2021, we were joined by a team from the Fylde Ranger Service. In early November, we were joined by members of the Ribble Rivers Trust. Our own regular volunteer sessions have been reasonably well attended throughout the year, and we have been joined by Police Cadets and Scouts on occasions. The schedule of volunteer days is placed on the website and emailed to volunteers by the secretary. All volunteer sessions occur at the weekends, on a fortnightly basis, rotating Saturdays and Sundays. We ask everyone to book onto the volunteer day, using the website. A great deal has been achieved during the year by our volunteers. In the Autumn, Wilkinson's Landscapers were employed for three days to clear scrub from the embankment slopes and embankment tops. This clearance has meant that the wild primroses and orchids have been given the opportunity to flourish in Spring.

In May 2022, trustee Steven Whittam procured several native apple trees. Trustees and volunteers have now planted the trees in the wildflower meadow, and hopefully, the trees will attract pollinating insects. Hopefully, it will become a community orchard.

9. The Community

We honour our commitment to the community by proactively engaging with it. In the autumn 2021, we held a guided walk for the children of Alston Lane School, and Grimsargh St. Michael's School visited the site for the first time on March 2nd, 2022. On Saturday March 12th, we held a Spring Flower Walk for the community, which was very well attended, indeed it was at capacity, and we received excellent feedback. The 1st Grimsargh Beavers attended a guided walk, Wednesday 29th June, 2021.

On the 25th June, Grimsargh Wetlands Trust had a stall at Grimsargh Field Day, and the trustees intend to attend Longridge Show on Saturday 9th July. These events are important for informing the community about the work of Grimsargh Wetlands Trust, as well as presenting us with an opportunity to raise funds.

10. The LEF

LEF representatives attended the 'open day' of the Wetlands and also attended the site in November 2021 in order to take photographs of the site. As one of their flagship projects, the site will feature heavily in their annual report and publicity material. The LEF has very generously funded the site over the last 5 years and the CEO requested a visit of the site on Friday 15th July 2022.

11. House to House Collection Licence and Street Collection Permit

The Secretary applied for and was granted the above from Preston City Council, 23rd May 2022.

12. Wildlife Highlights 2021-2022

Fauna – In the autumn, a Pectoral Sandpiper was photographed and a Trustee also came across a Water Scorpion. During September 2021, one of our regular photographers sighted a Common Green Grasshopper and a Meadow Grasshopper. In the Spring, good numbers of wildfowl, waders and other birds were noted.

In Spring 2022 there were 300 mallards on site, over 40 shoveler on one occasion, over 30 teal, 13 tufted duck, 12 gadwell, 5 shellduck, 2 pochard, 2 goldeneye, 2 wigeon, terns, tawny owls, 8 moorhen, 2 little grebe, heron and 2 goosander. There have been an encouraging variety of waders reported, over 300 lapwing, 43 curlew, 190 whimbrel, 3 oyster catcher, 3 snipe, 1 common sandpiper, 1 black tailed godwit, 1 redshank. In the Spring there have been many winged visitors, including Mediterranean gulls, greylag geese and Canada geese. Raptors include, kestrel, peregrine falcon, buzzard and a rare sighting of an osprey and a drake garganey. There have also been many songbirds, redwing and fieldfare noted. There are many different varieties of butterfly, damselfly and many other insects. There are regular sightings of roe deer, hare, shrew, rabbit and the occasional rat!

Visitors regularly update the ELOC website, reporting ornithological sightings.

Flora

In spring 2022, following the clearance of the south embankment of the Mere, there was a profusion of wild primroses and orchids noted. There was also an abundance of other spring flowers including, Lesser Celandine, Colt's Foot, and Wood Anemone. The following were recorded during spring 2022, Scarlet Elf Cup, Yellow Brain fungus, Rosy Crust fungus, Jelly Ear fungus, and King Alfred's Cake fungus. The site is rich in mosses, fungi, and liverworts.

13. The Future

While we have faced a challenging twelve months and a lot has been achieved but we are under no illusion of the challenges that face us in 2022/2023. Ongoing maintenance will continue via volunteer days, and the use of professional contractors will help us to face this challenge successfully. We shall look to develop a 5-year plan if resources prove to allow this later this year. We look forward to re-engaging with the public through our volunteer days and guided walks.

Immediate Future Plans:

- a. Butterfly Conservation Walk – Saturday 6th August
- b. 5th Anniversary Guided Walk – Saturday 3rd September
- c. Further development of the website
- d. Installation of beehives, subject to GPC approval.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Details of any funds materially in deficit

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.

Lancashire Environmental Fund, sponsorship, donations, fundraising, membership, book stall, calendar and Christmas cards, click and collect service, sponsors.

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)

Jayne Woollam

Full name(s)

Jayne Woollam

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Secretary

Date. 24th July, 2022.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Grimsargh Wetlands Trust

1174037

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

1st. July 2021

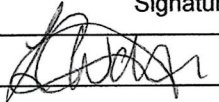
To

30th June 2022

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Membership Fees	176			176	441
Grants	-			-	15,230
Fund Raising & Sales	4,699			4,699	8,514
Parish Council	-			-	15,000
Donations	1,508			1,508	408
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	6,383			6,383	39,593
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Sub total					
Total receipts	6,383			6,383	
A3 Payments					
Insurance	3,397			3,397	2,780
Improvements & Repairs	4,028			4,028	29,015
Equipment	2,236			2,236	6,848
Expenses	305			305	879
Sub total	9,966			9,966	39,522
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Sub total	9,966			9,966	39,522
Total payments	9,966			9,966	39,522
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 3,583			- 3,583	71
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	22,749			22,749	22,678
Cash funds this year end	19,166			19,166	22,749

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Account	19,166		
	Petty Cash Account	20		
	Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	19,186		
		Agreement Error		
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
			LESLEY WALKER	9/8/2022