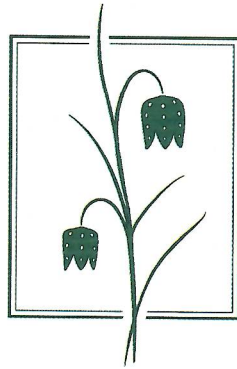


Charity Number: 1176457



DARLANDS
CONSERVATION TRUST

**Trustee's Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

The Darlands Conservation Trust

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The Darlands Conservation Trust

Reference and administrative details

Structure: Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

The name of the CIO: The Darlands Conservation Trust

Charity number: 1176457

The first charity trustees: -

Terrence Bannister
Kerin Conn (Resigned 7 August 2020)
Eileen Eskenzi
John Hart
Deborah Hobson
John Living (Resigned 31 May 2022)
Dianne Murphy (Deputy Chairman)
Caroline Stock (Chairman)
Michael Worms

Trustees appointed since formation of the CIO: -

Paul Flashman (Appointed 4 April 2022)
Valerie Duschinsky (Appointed 23 May 2022)
Jeffrey Duckett (Appointed 4 September 2023)

Treasurer: Mark Turner

Bankers: Lloyds Bank Plc, Park Lane Branch, London

Solicitors: Edwin Coe LLP, London WC2A 3TH

Correspondence address: PO Box 57691, London, NW7 0GR

Website: www.darlandsconservationtrust.org

The Darlands Conservation Trust

Statement of trustee's responsibilities

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare receipts and payments accounts and statement of assets and liabilities for each financial year, which properly present the charity's receipts and payments for the year together with its assets and liabilities at the end of the year.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable Accounting Standards and Statements of Recommended Practice and the regulations made under Section 154 of the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Report of the trustees

The trustees present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with the charity's constitution dated 22 December 2017 (as amended on 7 Sep 2022) and the recommendations of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice and comply with applicable law.

Structure governance and management

The charity is under the governance of its Trustees, as set out on page 2 of the Financial Statements. The day-to-day management of the Charity is undertaken by the Trustees.

The objects of the CIO

The object of the CIO is to promote for the benefit of the public the conservation protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of Darlands Nature Reserve.

When planning the activities for the year, the trustees have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The Darlands Conservation Trust

Achievements and performance

During 2023/24, the Trust organised 51 volunteering workdays, creating opportunities for 49 individual volunteers who contributed a total of 1,214 hours. These sessions provided the local community with inclusive opportunities to work as a team in nature, regardless of the weather.

Key achievements included:

- Improving access to the nature reserve: construction of a footbridge over a ditch, widening of paths, clearing logs and debris from the lake, fencing and post repairs, grass cutting/mowing, coppicing along the dam, clearing and repairing culverts, and extensive bramble clearance.
- Preparations for meadow restoration: installation of new stock fencing.

The Trustees extend their heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who generously gave their time and energy throughout the year.

We continued our programme to control Giant Hogweed, a hazardous invasive plant that can cause serious burns upon contact with its sap. Despite its establishment in parts of the reserve, progress has been made through annual treatments by licensed contractors. This work is only possible due to the generous donations from the local community, businesses, and charitable Trusts and Foundations.

Our 'Help Save Darlands' appeal remains active, inviting everyone who loves the reserve to contribute toward its regeneration, lake restoration, and long-term maintenance.

Significant preparations were undertaken for the lake desilting project, scheduled to commence in the first half of 2024/25. Fundraising efforts are focused on securing the remaining funds required for this essential project.

The Charity successfully achieved its objectives for the year, as outlined above.

Financial review

The charity's activities resulted in net incoming resources on the Unrestricted Income Fund for the year of £8,784 (2022/23: £153,720). In the prior years, the trustees had designated the Millennium Fayre income, towards the cost of desilting the Darlands Lake and the wider Save Darlands appeal. These funds were originally raised by the local community in 2000. In the current year £4,521 (2022/23: £153,014) of the 2023/24 Unrestricted Income Fund has been allocated to the Designated 'Help Save Darlands' appeal funds.

The Darlands Conservation Trust

The trustees are confident that through a combination of different income streams, they will receive sufficient income to enable the charity to meet its objectives.

The trustees have determined that there is no material uncertainty that casts doubt on its ability to continue as a going concern.

Plans for future periods

In 2024/25 the trustees will arrange for contractors to commence the desilting of Darlands Lake and continue conducting ecological surveys, produce a 10-year management plan and to commence works to maintain and enhance safe public access to the nature reserve. Our ecological group are developing a ten-year management plan, incorporating the results and recommendation of these surveys.

Strategies for sustainable fundraising, communications and the recruitment of volunteers will be developed to support the management plan.

Community engagement will be at the forefront of future activities.

This report was approved and authorised for issue by the trustees on 9 January 2025, and signed on their behalf by:



Chairman

The Darlands Conservation Trust

Income and Expenditure Account For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Donations and legacies				
Local business	580	-	580	3,122
Local community	3,514	-	3,514	74,515
Trusts & Foundations	427	-	427	10,795
Total Donations and legacies	4,521	-	4,521	88,432
Community events	-	-	-	62,532
Other Income	4,263	-	4,263	19,061
Total Income	8,784	-	8,784	170,025
Expenses				
Charitable Activities				
Community events	-	-	-	22,321
Independent examination fee	-	-	-	200
Woodland management	16,023	-	16,023	2,698
Repairs and maintenance	754	-	754	2,721
Total Charitable Activities	16,777	-	16,777	27,940
Insurances	760	-	760	981
Sundry expenses	424	-	424	330
Cost of raising funds	9	-	9	4,706
Total Expenses	17,970	-	17,970	33,957
Net Operating Income	(9,186)	-	(9,186)	136,068
Reconciliation of funds:	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Total funds brought forward	19,811	208,462	10,169	238,442
Income	4,263	4,521	-	8,784
Expenditure	(6,030)	(11,940)	-	(17,970)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Total funds carried forward	18,044	201,043	10,169	229,256

The Darlands Conservation Trust

Balance Sheet As at 31 March 2024

	As at 31 March 2024	As at 31 March 2023
	£	£
Current assets		
Cash at bank	229,256	222,842
Gift Aid recoverable	-	15,800
Prepaid Expenses	-	-
	<u>229,256</u>	<u>238,642</u>
Current liabilities		
Accruals	-	200
	<u>-</u>	<u>200</u>
Total net assets	<u>229,256</u>	<u>238,842</u>
Charity funds		
Restricted funds	10,169	10,169
Designated unrestricted funds	201,043	208,462
Unrestricted income fund	18,044	19,811
	<u>229,256</u>	<u>238,442</u>
Total funds	<u>229,256</u>	<u>238,442</u>

The financial statements on pages 6 and 7 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 9 January 2025, and signed on their behalf by:



Chairman