

The Devenish Bradshaw Charitable Trust

Laverstock Meadows, Cow Lane, Laverstock, Salisbury

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2022

Trustees Annual Report

The Trustees present their report with the independently examined financial statements of The Devenish Bradshaw Charitable Trust, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Charity Name: The Devenish Bradshaw Charitable Trust

Contact Address: 24 Highbury Avenue, Salisbury, SP2 7EX

Registration Number: 1177823

How it is managed

The charity is managed by the Board of Trustees and is responsible for all strategic decisions. Trustees are made aware that any conflicts of interest must be declared and minuted.

Names of Trustees:

David Burton/Sue Gallagher/Samantha Gill/Ben Parker/Duncan Scott/Amy Whetstone/Jane Wilkinson

Independent Examiner:

Karen Crawford Limited

Chapps Farmhouse, Slaughterford Mill, Slaughterford, Chippenham, SN14 8RJ

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Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The Constitution outlines the procedure for the appointment of Trustees. Prospective Trustees are recruited based on relevant skills and experience. There must be a minimum of 3 Trustees and a maximum of 8.

Trustees are elected for a minimum term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the Charity Trustees. Any person retiring as a Charity Trustee is eligible for reappointment.

Induction and Training

All Trustees are provided with a copy of the Constitution and a copy of the CIO's latest Trustees Annual Report and financial statements.

Achievements and Performance including reporting on public benefit

The following notable achievements and evidence of performance were made in this reporting year in pursuit of our Charitable Objectives and corresponding Management Plan Aims and Actions.

Charitable Objective 1:

To preserve, conserve and protect the land known as the Water Meadows, in Laverstock, and its chalk valley riverine habitats

Management Plan Aim:

To manage each of the habitats present on the meadows to promote their biodiversity.

Action: Implement the actions in our Higher Tier Agreement working closely with the adjacent Community Farm, sheep graziers, our volunteer teams, and community organisations, carrying out practical conservation work to help achieve the aims of the Higher Tier Agreement – on going.

Woodland

Action - Encourage the retention of dead standing trees and fallen timber as per the Royal Forestry Society guidance.

We have ensured the majority of our woodland habitat has dead standing trees and fallen timber present, particularly in our riparian woodland by the river. Where trees have fallen onto fence lines or access infrastructure, we have cleared a minimum amount of the fallen timber.

Action - Carry out an annual visual health and safety check on all trees near paths following the National Tree Safety Group/ Forestry Commission Research Guide – ‘Common sense risk management of trees’ to ensure tree safety, and to manage trees to a proportionate level to the low risk presented by wind-blown trees and branches to visitors to the site.

We carried out annual visual health and safety checks. We have identified a large multi stem Ash tree which is suffering from Ash die-back on our boundary with a restricted public byway. Plans are in hand to contract remedial tree surgery work to manage the dying tree so that it does not present a hazard to people

Action - Check paths after storm conditions and temporarily close paths where windblown trees present a medium to high risk to visitors.

We proactively checked trees in areas next to public and permissive paths following periods of extreme weather

Action - Extend scattered trees and shrubs in water meadows fringing the river. – this “mantle and saum” type habitat is especially rich for wildlife and will also enhance the landscape value of the site by partially screening the houses in Laverstock and the fringe the river to the East.

We installed the fencing and gate infrastructure with part of the funding from our Landfill Communities grant (final instalment of £1000 received in this planning year) and Countryside Stewardship Capital Grant (fencing installed and claims made for replacement of ditch boundary fencing for each field in which we are creating mantle and saum type habitat). We have consulted with residents who overlook the meadows as regards the re-establishment of some shrubs and management of some sections of the habitat to reduce the percentage and height of scattered shrubs. Under the terms of our Countryside Stewardship agreement prescription for these areas we are committed to ensuring that the bulk of the area is flower rich grassland with the following structure:

"Manage the area of grassland to the eastern end of the fields adjacent to the river (15% of field area) by late summer grazing (after the 30 June) only, to achieve a mosaic of taller grazed grassland with areas of shorter grass mostly between 5-15 cm and taller tussocks which may be over 60 cm" In this context the scattered shrubs that colonise are seen as positive features providing they are maintained at a low level (less than c 5 % of total area).

Action - Manage large willows in ditches/riverside through pollarding (as per Higher Tier Agreement) to increase light to ditches. – Increased light to the temporary pools formed in the ditches will correspond with increased freshwater life. Pollarded trees have high cultural value and will enhance the landscape value of the site.

We fenced off the coppiced willows with funding from our Countryside Stewardship Capital Grant scheme prior to the adjoining fields being grazed by cattle and sheep. All coppice stools have exhibited rigorous regrowth this year and a Cetti's warbler set up territory in the area in late summer indicating the enhanced biodiversity value we have already achieved from this work.

River

Action - Create buffer strips between grazing meadows and river to reduce disturbance from dogs.

We installed wooden gates as well as buffer strip fencing (reported under "Woods") and trialled dog access with the buffer strip fencing in place. This proved effective and welcome by both the majority of dog walkers and wildlife. Herons, Egrets, Grey Partridge, Reed Bunting, Sedge Warbler, wintering Snipe and Buzzards were all observed utilising the buffer strips. Dog walkers are pleased to have dog friendly areas to exercise their pets, free from the previous five strand barbed wire fencing.

Action - Liaise with other local river owners and environmental organizations to promote positive care for the river and reduce negative impacts e.g. dumping of grass clippings in the river.

We received a grant of £700 from Laverstock & Ford Parish Council for our "Chalk Stream Challenge" project with the Wessex Rivers Trust, which involves establishing a trail for use by community youth groups and school groups to learn about the Chalkstream river and the water meadows. Wessex Rivers Trust began preliminary work on the project in the Financial Year, working with us and local youth groups to establish the key places and activities for the trail. We liaised with neighbouring residents with river ownership with some success to raise awareness of the need to follow best practice for river care. One resident was inspired by our work to restore wildflowers in the grassland by the river to do the same in their garden. Another resident stopped the practice of leaving composted grass clippings on the riverbank.

Action - Leave fallen trees in the river – it is a statutory offence and a potentially damaging operation to remove trees from the river. The Environment Agency will assess fallen trees for potential flood risk and remove them sensitively if required. However, in the majority of cases on our stretch of the river fallen trees will help slow the river flow and reduce the risk of flooding as well as providing essential habitat for fish, water birds and other river life.

We successfully bid for a grant to produce an interpretative panel explaining the need to leave fallen trees in the river where possible. The panel has drawn a lot of interest from visitors to the water meadows. We also set up a viewing screen and bench with some of the funding from the Landfill fund and began to restore the river dipping platform in the river with a grant from Wessex Water Community Fund. The

interpretative board, viewing bench and dipping platform with easy access boardwalk have improved access and a grant from Salisbury City Council together with a contribution from River Bourne Community Farm enabled us to removed electric fencing and replace it with dog and young people friendly sheep netting permanent fencing to create wide paths down to the river in our Barn Field.

Meadows

Action - Restore wildflower rich meadows and/or wildflower rich grazed wet grassland.

We have carried out further Countryside Stewardship Capital Works and Community Landfill Grant work to restore our meadow and pasture grasslands to a wildflower rich condition. The positive indicator wildflower species as set out in the Countryside Stewardship Grant prescriptions for this action are increasing in abundance and diversity in all fields although Bridge Field remains the least wildflower rich meadow.

Hedgerows

Action - Maintain existing hedges and scrub

We purchased brush cutters and hand tools with Countryside Stewardship Area payment funding, which we have put to good use in managing existing scrub and hedge habitat particularly in 'Top Field' where we have cleared back scrub to open vistas and improve scrub habitat by cutting and allowing scrub to re-grow.

Action - Lay short stretches of hedgerow along permissive paths

We did not lay any stretches of hedgerow in this reporting year.

Action - Plant up hedgerows and shelterbelts with native shrubs and trees where necessary.

We were successful in an application to Woodland Trust and also received a Charitable donation from CPRE South Wiltshire branch for hedgerow trees. We purchased native trees including a large consignment of Alder, which is currently poorly represented on the water meadows. We have begun to plant a hedge with this planting material adjacent to the northern boundary of the Water meadows next to a heavily used public path between Laverstock and Bishopdown.

Action - Leave at least a 2m uncut margin alongside hedgerows when haymaking. Either cut hedge margin in August or bi-annually on rotation

We ensured uncut areas of varying widths were left in fields where hay cutting was undertaken this year through close liaison with the Community Farm and the use of temporary roped off sections of fields prior to hay cutting.

Action - Manage areas of blackthorn on rotation for brown hairstreak. Trim hedges only once every 3 to 5 years and do not cut all the hedges in any one area in the same year – On going.

We have begun this rotational management of blackthorn in Top Field utilising the power tools and hand tools purchased from Countryside Stewardship Area Payment funds as previously reported in "Hedges and Shrub" section.

Charitable Objective 2:

To advance the education of the community in Laverstock and the surrounding areas, in agriculture, horticulture and environmentally based education projects concerning the preservation, conservation and management of the Water Meadows.

Management Plan Aim:

To improve the knowledge of the importance and biodiversity value of downland water meadows to the local community through interpretation and public engagement.

Action - Install welcome/information signs at major entry points to the site

We maintained welcome/information signs installed in previous Planning Years.

Action - Seek funding for sensitive low-key on-site interpretation highlighting habitats and wildlife supported by the meadows

We utilised a grant from Wessex Water Community Fund to install the interpretation panel previously reported in the "River Section" of this report.

Action - Put on a programme of events with other local environmental organisations to engage and inform the local community

We hosted educational access visits for school groups and community groups run by River Bourne Community Farm. We also hosted local WATCH activities. Our weekly Saturday morning volunteer work parties included educational activities for our volunteers, particularly volunteers completing their Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteering with us.

Action - Produce educational packs designed for different age groups for use by schools and youth groups.

The Chalkstream Challenge project reported under "Rivers" section of this report will be an important contributor to this aim once completed.

Liaise with neighbouring properties over our management of meadows and the river and encourage adoption of positive management practices that enhance the river.

Reported under "River" section of this report.

Charitable Objective 3:

To provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation for the benefit of the public in the interest of their social welfare.

Management Aim:

To promote and sensitively manage public usage of the site.

Action - Put in grant applications to fund improved access and interpretation infrastructure, potential including a cycle path constructed from board walk and unbound aggregate surfaces.

We made good progress improving access and interpretation infrastructure with the funded projects reported in previous sections.

Action - Enhance infrastructure and management procedures for educational activities delivered by others including River Bourne Community Farm, Woodstock Therapeutic Centre, U3A Nature at the Farm and Two Bird Experiences

We have made good progress improving infrastructure to educational activities delivered by others through the funded projects including restoration of dipping platform/viewing area, creation of mantel and saum habitat with access for education groups into these new wildlife rich areas and commencement of Chalkstream Challenge project with Wessex Rivers Trust.

Charitable Objective 4:

To advance, promote or carry out such other Charitable Purposes as the charity trustees in their absolute discretion from time to time think fit.

Aims:

To ensure the local water meadows or associated land is managed as according to the area's status of SAC, SSSI and/or Protected Habitat

Action - Seek to acquire or manage additional water meadows and other high environmental value land within the local area.

We actively pursued potential opportunities to acquire or manage additional water meadows and other high environmental value land in the local area but without success in this reporting year.

Statement of Disclosure of Information to the Independent Examiner

We, the trustees of the Charity, each confirm that so far as we are aware:

- There is no relevant information of which the Charity's Independent Examiner is unaware.
- All steps have been taken to make ourselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the Charity's Independent Examiner is aware of that information.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities:

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the excess of income over expenditure for that period.


The Trustees confirm that the accounts comply with the above requirement. 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 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.

During the period the income of the Charity was below £250,000, therefore in line with Charity Legislation the trustees have elected to prepare their accounts on the Receipts and Payments basis.

Independent Examiner:

The Independent Examination was undertaken by Karen Crawford Ltd – Chartered Accountants

By order of the Board



Date: 30 January 2023

Jane Wilkinson

Chair

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Devenish Bradshaw Charitable Trust

I report on the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Devenish Bradshaw Charitable Trust for the year ended 31 March 2022, which are set out on pages 1 to 2.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

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. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do 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.

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.

Name: Karen Crawford

Relevant professional qualification or body: ICAEW

Address: Chapps Farmhouse, Slaughterford Mill, Slaughterford, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN14 8RJ.

Date: 28.01.23

2021-2022 Account for Devenish Bradshaw Charitable Trust
Registered Charity England and Wales No. 1177823

From 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

Income		Unrestricted	Restricted	2020-2021
Grants	£ 31,939.74	£ -	£ 31,939.74	£ 10,500.00
Rental Income on land	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 4,500.00
Bank Interest	£ 1.44	£ 1.44	£ -	£ 0.20
Total	£ 31,941.18	£ 1.44	£ 31,939.74	£ 15,000.20

Expenditure				
Donation to River Bourne Farm	£ 2,025.00	£ 2,025.00	£ -	£ 4,050.00
Insurance	£ 254.55	£ 254.55	£ -	£ 274.40
Bank Charges	£ 112.00	£ 112.00	£ -	£ 57.70
Sundry Expenses	£ 47.29	£ -	£ 47.29	£ 1,000.00
Project/Grant Expenses	£ 34,325.68	£ -	£ 34,325.68	£ -
Total	£ 36,764.52	£ 2,391.55	£ 34,372.97	£ 5,382.10

Brought forward balance	£ 11,217.00	Bank balance on 1st April 2021	£ 1,598.90
Receipts	£ 31,941.18		£ 15,000.20
Expenses	£ 36,764.52		£ 5,382.10
Funds at end of year	£ 6,393.66	Bank balance on 31st March 2022	£ 11,217.00

Completed by Samantha Gill, Trustee and Treasurer January 2023

These financial statements were approved by the committee on: 30 Jan 2023
and signed on its behalf by:

J. Wilkinson Jane Wilkinson, Chair

S. Gill Samantha Gill, Treasurer

Notes to the Financial Statements for the period ended 31 March 2022:

Payments to Trustees

No remuneration directly or indirectly out of the funds of the Charity was paid or payable for the financial period to any Trustee. There was no reimbursement of travel expenses in respect of the financial period.

Taxation

The Devenish Bradshaw Charitable Trust is a registered charity. All the Charities' income is applied to its charitable objectives and the association is therefore exempt under current legislation from most forms of taxation. The charity is not VAT registered and all expenditure includes irrecoverable VAT.