



Great Ouse Valley Trust
Our landscape for life

**Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements for the
Year Ending 31 December 2023**

www.greatousevalleytrust.org

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registration number 1179977

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Great Ouse Valley Trust

The Trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31st December 2022

Trustees

Helen Boothman
Graham Campbell – Chairman
Mark Ellis – Treasurer
Bridget Flanagan
Ian Jackson
Michael Krause
Mick Jones
Phil Rothwell
Lucas Tatek

GOVT address

Town Hall
Market Hill
The Old Riverport
St Ives
Cambs PE27 5AL

Charitable Incorporated Number

1179977 (England and Wales)

Bankers

Lloyds, Treasurers Account

Website

www.greatousevalleytrust.org.uk

Email

sendanenquiry@greatousevalleytrust.org.uk

Facebook

facebook.com/GreatOuseValleyTrust/

2. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Great Ouse Valley Trust is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation which was set up in September 2018. The Trust is governed by its Constitution approved by the Charities Commission at that time.

Appointment and Recruitment of Trustees

As set out in the Constitution, one third of elected Trustees, who make up the Trustee Board, shall retire from office every year at the Annual General Meeting. The elected Trustees will determine amongst themselves the officers of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. New Trustees are found through word of mouth, newsletters and website promotions. All new Trustees receive a copy of the Charity's constitution, the Charity Commission's Essential Trustee Guide and a full induction

Organisation

The Board of Trustees meets monthly in order to manage the affairs of the charity. The Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits.

The Board is occasionally joined by invited specialists who give their time and expertise, but they do not have a vote.

Risk management.

The charity has reviewed its risk, in line with Charity guidance. The Charity does not have any significant regular outgoings so has minimal risk. Any planned activities have to be fully funded prior to commitment of any funds.

Financial reserves policy

Sufficient income is retained for six months planned work. This is reviewed on a regular ongoing basis.

Fundraising statement

In recognition of the Charities Act 2016 any fundraising undertaken by the charity or a third part operating on behalf of the charity will conform to the Code of Fundraising practice.

Related Parties

The Charity works with its Partner Members in delivering its objectives.

The Great Ouse Valley Trust is a member of CPRE.

Advisers

The Charity is extremely grateful to everyone who gives their advice and expertise freely.

Charity Object

The object of the CIO is to promote for public benefit the conservation, restoration and enjoyment of the landscape, wildlife and heritage of the Great Ouse Valley and its environs in the county of Cambridgeshire. We referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when setting up the Charity and will review our activities against the public benefit in our future planning.

3. Chairman's Report for year ending December 31, 2023

I can report another very busy year with plenty of success on all fronts. All our work has been well publicised in our newsletter, The Valley, and also through our web site and Facebook page and via our monthly column in the Hunts Post.

The Great Ouse Valley Trust is a coalition of Partner Members and each of our members has been doing brilliant work all year. The Trust seeks to bring together all these different stakeholders and celebrate their commitment to our very special landscape especially through our "Living Landscape Workshops".

This year we held our second full day "workshop" covering the area between St Ives and Earith. This was another success with stimulating debate and hard work from all those involved. We have recently published the results and the list of the priorities that emerged from the discussions and we look forward to developing strategies around these priorities in the coming year.

Work on the five priorities from the first workshop covering Huntingdon to St Ives has continued this year: increasing the tree canopy, restoring our wild flower meadows, improving access for all, pursuing formal designation of our wonderful landscape and finally restoring river health.

Our tree planting programmes have continued on various sites. We continue to work with the Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire Wild Life Trust linking the Trust with farmers and landowners where possible for wildflower meadow restoration. It has been difficult to establish proper maintenance regimes for our footpaths to ensure year round access but much progress has been made. We continue to promote the Ouse Valley Way Long Distance Footpath and hope to see it recognised as a National Trail in the future. We have made much progress with the journey towards full designation for the Great Ouse and Washes Landscape. The Mayor and the Board of the Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority are supporting us in this endeavour. We still hope for National Landscape recognition but will in any case ensure that the Great Ouse and Washes is established as a protected landscape in some form.

We have made good advances this year in setting up monitoring of water quality and in creating programmes designed to ensure that our river is kept as clean and free from rubbish as we can.

We continue to monitor planning matters. We had success in ensuring the private takeover of river frontage along the thicket by a developer for its own purposes has been reversed and put back to public access.

We have been fortunate in obtaining funding from the Postcode Lottery to fund our second workshop and also our third workshop which will cover the area from St Neots to Huntingdon. This will take place in October this year.

So the Trust continues to Promote, Protect and Enhance our wonderful landscape. This only a snapshot of the work going on. There are very many ideas and projects in place at the moment.

We are very supportive of the work being carried out by Huntingdonshire District Council on its Landscape Recovery Strategy and through its Biodiversity for All programme. I am greatly heartened by the work of many of our farmers and landowners in their work to enhance the

environment and I look forward to the talk at the AGM by the CEO of the Nature Friendly Farming Group.

Another exciting but demanding year is in prospect. Our aim must be to bring together all parties that have a commitment to this landscape and want to see it continue as a green lung for our still fast developing towns and villages. We all recognise how essential the Great Ouse Valley is to the physical, mental and economic health of our area.

4. Financial Overview (attached)

In 2023 we received a grant of £15,470 from the Postcode Places Trust, a grant giving charity funded by the players of People's Postcode Lottery, for the second stage in the Living landscapes project. Work on this commenced in January 2024. The first stage was completed in 2023 with a support of £847 from our unrestricted funds.

A balance of £1,375 was brought forward from our tree planning fund and a further £1,071 was spent on trees in the year. The balance carried forward of £303 has been spent in 2024.

In the year £1,428 was raised from a summer event. It is hoped that this will be increased in 2024 when the application for gift aid is submitted.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position of the charity and enable them to comply with SORP. All donations received in the period had no restrictions on the expenditure of those funds.

Trustees declare that they approved this report on April 7th , 2024

Signed: *Graham Campbell*, Chairman

The Great Ouse Vally Trust

Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

Cash Basis

Income for the period	Tree Planting	Living Landscapes 2	Living Landscapes 1	Unrestricted	Total	2023	2022
Donations				1,437.82	1,437.82	40.00	
Specific grants		15,470.00			15,470.00	13,002.00	
Transfers			847.39	- 847.39	-		
Member organisations				930.00	930.00	380.00	13,422.00
Expenditure							
Contractor			4,042.50		4,042.50	7,322.14	
Website				820.00	820.00	120.00	
Publications				469.00	469.00	252.00	
Trees and associated expenses	1,070.98				1,070.98	-	
Bank charges					-	12.00	
IT				14.39	14.39		
Office supplies				36.00	36.00		
Donations				100.00	100.00		
Membership				36.00	36.00	293.29	
Meetings		50.00		285.55	335.55	1,187.28	9,186.71
Surplus of income over expenditure	- 1,070.98	15,420.00	- 3,195.11		<u>10,913.40</u>		<u>4,235.29</u>
Restricted funds b/f	1,374.87		3,195.11		-		
Restricted funds c/f	<u>303.89</u>	<u>15,420.00</u>	<u>-</u>				
Bank accounts brought forward					<u>14,417.70</u>		<u>10,182.41</u>
Bank account balances as at 31 December					<u>25,331.10</u>		<u>14,417.70</u>
Lloyds Bank					25,317.88		14,404.48
PayPal					13.22		13.22
					<u>25,331.10</u>		<u>14,417.70</u>
Restricted funds					15,723.89		4,569.98
Unrestricted funds					9,607.21		9,847.72
					<u>25,331.10</u>		<u>14,417.70</u>

Approved by:

Mark Ellis FCA, Treasurer.