



Great Ouse Valley Trust
Our landscape for life

**Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements for the
Year Ending 31 December 2025**

www.greatousevalleytrust.org.uk

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 2025

Trustees

Helen Boothman
Graham Campbell – Chairman
Mark Ellis – Treasurer
Bridget Flanagan
Ian Jackson
Michael Krause – resigned November 2025
Mick Jones
Lucas Tatek
Francis Mizuro
Karen Paterson – joined September 2025

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 regularly reviews its risk, in line with Charity guidance. The Charity undertakes Risk Assessments prior to events and activities undertaken. 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, 2025

It's now 8 years since our launch conference in Godmanchester when around 80 people gathered to hear expert speakers talk about their passion for the Great Ouse Valley. There were four presentations covering the History, Wildlife, Archaeology and Cultural Life of our wonderful area. There were local councillors, our MP, national conservation groups, local businesses and people from all walks of life, all of whom shared an enthusiasm for our landscape.

Since the launch, much has been achieved particularly in bringing the value of the Great Ouse Valley to a wider public. We have continued to keep everyone informed via our twice yearly newsletter "The Valley", via Facebook, radio broadcasts and monthly articles in the Hunts Post. We have worked closely with the District Council, the County Council and the Combined Authority.

Now, as a result of our three highly successful **Community Engagement Workshops**, we have a clear focus on our aims and ambitions. These are our 4 Themes:

ACCESS

The big success this year has undoubtedly been the first **"WOW Walk the Ouse Way Day"** held in July. The number of walkers exceeded our expectations and we were surprised how many chose to walk either the whole distance from Earith to St Neots or at least half way to the central point in Godmanchester. Thanks to funding from HDC and from Bloor Homes we were able to offer free T shirts to those who passed at least three of the nine hubs en route. Such was the success that we are now well-advanced in planning this year's event. The day was a celebration of our very special long-distance footpath. It also helps focus the volunteers and the County Council on the task of maintaining this great asset. We worked with the Hunts Society for the Blind who will be joining us again for the event for 2026. We have also welcomed the Hunts Ramblers to help with the organising for this year's event on July 12th. Once again, we will be running the ferry from Holywell across the river to the RSPB Reserve throughout the day.

We are pleased to support the St Ives Electric Riverboat Company in its work to give access to parts of the river that many don't see. Jones Boatyard continue to help us with expertise and advice on boating and flooding issues. We continue to support active travel programmes but we have campaigned against the proposals for a new tarmac, elevated cycle path across the precious water meadows between Huntingdon and St Ives – particularly because there is an existing well-used route close by. This route needs improving as does the cycle/footpath alongside the Guided Busway which continues to be out of use for commuters for several months in the winter because of flooding.

MORE NATURE

Our Partner Member meeting this year included a talk on the introduction of beavers at Rushden Lakes. Our programme of tree planting, meadow restoration and biodiversity work has continued on numerous locations. These include Noble's Field in St Ives with HDC Biodiversity4All, on Godmanchester West Meadow opposite Brampton Mill, in our woodland next to the Ouse Valley Way and in our partnership with Suez Reclamation in maintaining and monitoring the Wetland Nature Reserve and further tree planting on the landfill site. The proposed landscape designation should allow our nature expansion programme to increase massively.

We have continued to push for National Highways to resolve the failed tree planting on the new A14 and especially to get them to commit to remove redundant tree guards that pollute the landscape.

WATER QUALITY

Our water quality monitoring has expanded with more sophisticated equipment and our results will be used in the national database. We are very conscious of the problems of invasive species and we will be continuing our work to remove Himalayan Balsam. We are represented in the new Fen Reservoir advisory committee and continue to express our concern about water levels and the effect on the boating community and tourism. We are pleased that the Great Ouse Boating Association is a Partner Member.

LANDSCAPE DESIGNATION

Over the last few years, we have had great support from many people and organisations for the concept of Self Designation of our special landscape. Supporters include the Mayor of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (past and present), Huntingdonshire District Council, Ben Obese-Jecty MP and all our Partner Members.

This year we have seen the publication of the “**Business Case for Self-Designation of the Landscape**”, the result of great work by consultants Arkwood. Consultants were appointed at the suggestion of Huntingdonshire District Council who had long recognised the value of working with the Trust because of our shared aims to protect the landscape and create “Pride in Place”. The appointment was a big step for the Trust as it meant committing a large sum to the project shared equally with HDC.

The conclusions of the **Arkwood Report** are overwhelmingly positive especially in identifying the clear economic benefits.

We are now moving forward with the process of self-designation of the landscape with the **Heritage Landscape Action Group** which will develop a long term plan for governance and management.

NEXT YEAR

The development of the designated landscape creates a new impetus for the Trust and an opportunity to move to another level: a new era when we will hopefully be able to access funding for major landscape projects including improvements to the status of the Ouse Valley Way Long Distance Footpath, more ‘joined-up nature’ via trees and hedge planting and meadow restoration, more sophisticated water testing and actions to improve water quality and much, much more. These are exciting times for the Trust going forward.

It has been a privilege to work with such dedicated, hard-working trustees since 2018. **There are vacancies for new trustees and The Trust would welcome any one with a passion for our landscape to contact us on 07952 754763 or by email.**

4.Financial Overview (attached)

The opening balances for the year were £16,123, of which only £8,000 was definitely designated for work on Noble’s Field. The National Landscape work took up £7,272 of our funds which were enhanced by WoW day and further donations of £672. At the start of 2026 we had £17,895 available of which £8,000 is designated for Noble’s Field. We aim to maintain a minimum of £1,000 available to cover the annual costs of meetings and similar needs, otherwise we want to put whatever resources we get to improving our valley!

The Trustees declare that they approved this report on April 1st, 2026

Signed: *Graham Campbell*, Chairman



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Great Ouse Valley Trust

2021/22

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/04/2021



To

31/03/2022

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					
Donations	672		-	672	586
PARTNER ORGANISATIONS	1,280		-	1,280	1,080
Wow Day	5,531		-	5,531	-
Nobles Field Trust		8,000	-	8,000	3,240
Living landscapes 2			-	-	-
Other income			-	-	970
Bank interest	138		-	138	139
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	7,621	8,000	-	15,621	6,015
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	7,621	8,000	-	15,621	6,015
A3 Payments					
Marketing & website	5,125		-	5,125	1,381
Memberships & donations	51		-	51	36
Meetings	122	372	-	493	3,014
Banking			-	-	9
Contractor		6,900	-	6,900	7,500
Tree planting	531	261	-	792	3,283
Publications			-	-	-
Water testing	365		-	365	-
Office & IT	125		-	125	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	6,317	7,533	-	13,850	15,223
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	6,317	7,533	-	13,850	15,223
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,304	468	-	1,771	- 9,208
A5 Transfers between funds	- 1,502	1,502	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	10,093	6,030	-	16,123	25,331
Cash funds this year end	9,895	8,000	-	17,894	16,123

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	Lloyds bank	9,847	8,000	
	Paypal	47		-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	9,895	8,000	-
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
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	
		Mark Ellis FCA	18/04/2025	
		Graham Campbell	18/04/2025	