

FRIENDS OF THE LOWER DERWENT VALLEY CONSERVATION GROUP

England & Wales · Charity number 1183986

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2019-06-20

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Natural England
Church Lane
Wheldrake
York
YO19 6FE

Phone 07714650762

Email m_f_jackson@yahoo.co.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE LOWER DERWENT VALLEY, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY CONDUCTING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT WORKS AND PROVIDING OR ASSISTING IN THE PROVISION OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES RELEVANT TO THE SPECIES AND THE HABITAT OF THE LOWER DERWENT VALLEY AND TO PUBLISH THE USEFUL RESULTS THEREOF.TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE LOWER DERWENT VALLEY.

Activities: The objective of the CIO is the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the Lower Derwent Valley.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- City Of York
- East Riding Of Yorkshire
- North Yorkshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£107,212	£74,784	-	-
2024-12-31	£72,943	£143,813	-	-
2023-12-31	£101,575	£168,794	-	-
2022-12-31	£59,615	£7,822	-	-
2021-12-31	£55,514	£21,563	-	-
2020-12-31	£48,451	£5,223	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Michael Frederick Jackson	Chair	2017-08-31
JOHN MATTHEW STONE		2017-08-31
Josephine Jean Thorpe M.B.E.		2019-08-31
Nicholas Carter		2019-05-31
Sandra Lesley Carter		2025-10-24

Accounts

Charity Number: 1183986

FRIENDS OF THE LOWER DERWENT VALLEY CONSERVATION GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Period ended

31 December 2024

Phoenix Accountancy and Business Consultancy Limited

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For the period ended 31 December 2024**

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Trustees Annual Report
For the period ending 31 December 2024

The Trustees present their report with the independently examined financial statements of Friends of the Lower Derwent Valley Conservation Group, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers.

Name of charity: Friends of the Lower Derwent Valley Conservation Group

Charity Registration Number: 1183986

Contact Address: Friends of the Lower Derwent Valley Conservation Group
Natural England
Church Lane
Wheldrake
York
YO19 6FE

Trustees

Names of trustees who served during the period were as follows:

Michael Frederick Jackson
Josephine Jean Thorpe MBE
Nicholas Carter
John Matthew Stone

Independent Examiner Rebecca Triffitt MAAT
Phoenix Accountancy and Business Consultancy Limited
Morley's Cottage
Morley's Yard
Walkergate
Beverley
East Yorkshire
HU17 9BY

Trustees Annual Report
For the period ending 31 December 2024

Bankers

HSBC
Market Place
Selby
North Yorkshire
Goole
YO8 4PA

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Friends of the Lower Derwent Valley Conservation Group is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by its constitution (Foundation model), registered with the Charity Commission on 20 June 2019.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The Constitution outlines the procedure for the appointment of Trustees. There must be a minimum of 3 trustees and there is no maximum number of Trustees.

Trustees are elected for a term of two 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.

Trustee Induction and Training

All Trustees are provided with a copy of the Constitution, Charity Commission guidance "The Essential Trustee" and a copy of the CIO's latest Trustees Annual Report and financial statements.

Organisational Structure

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.

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Risk Management

The major risks to which the charity is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, are regularly reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks.

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"To promote for the public benefit the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the Lower Derwent Valley, in particular but not exclusively by conducting environmental improvement works and providing or assisting in the provision of research activities relevant to the species and the habitat of the Lower Derwent Valley and to publish the useful results thereof.

To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the Lower Derwent Valley."

The Trustees have given regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Achievement and Performance

Review of Activities 2024

2024 was another successful year with many positive developments including more strategic land purchases and continuing conservation management of our existing land holdings in the Valley. Further ongoing survey and research was undertaken to help underpin the charity's aims. It is pleasing to note that we remain in a strong financial position with additional income streams, and a continued recovery in accessing grants again to support our ambitions.

Land purchase

We continue to look for opportunities, acting either on our own behalf or working in partnership with other conservation organisations, to acquire land of conservation value within the Valley.

**Trustees Annual Report
For the period ending 31 December 2024**

Achievement and Performance

Review of Activities 2024 (continued)

As planned, the land at Acaster Malbis on which we completed the purchase in 2023 continued to be held and managed as a traditional hay meadow during 2024. The ownership of this land will be transferred to the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust in exchange for land which they own within the Lower Derwent Valley plus the difference in agreed value being paid to us in cash.

Working in partnership with Carstairs Countryside Trust we were able to complete on the purchase of 15 acres at Melbourne and Thornton lngs, including SSSI and non SSSI meadows. We also worked with Carstairs Countryside Trust to purchase most of land at North Duffield lngs which remained outside of the ownership of conservation bodies. This was in addition to a 9-acre parcel of traditional meadow at North Duffield lngs which we were able to purchase acting on our own behalf and which completed just before the end of 2024

Once these transactions are completed, we will have a total of 8 landholdings in the Valley covering 60 acres (24 hectares). Of these 18 acres fall outside the existing formal conservation designated network but which enable the existing conservation areas to be buffered from development pressures. Our landholding is in five different sites across the Valley giving us a voice in wider conservation management policy.

All land holdings are in or planned to be in the pipeline for Countryside Stewardship and as such provide a valuable source of income for land management and our further ongoing activities.

Land Management

New Meadow – North Duffield Carrs

Having completed the land purchase and early hedge planting at 'New Meadow' – the 11-acre arable reversion site adjacent to North Duffield Carrs, habitat management work continued during the first half of 2024. Over 1500 hedging plants were planted to complete a new dividing hedge, the field was fenced with access gates and the two halves were sown as a wild flower meadow and wild bird mix. Both crops grew well and the new wild flower meadow was topped in mid-September to thicken the sward and then was grazed off by a local farmer in late November. This area proved attractive for butterflies and damselflies during the year and up to 40 Brown Hares were using the site in autumn, whilst the wild bird mix attracted flocks of feeding Linnet (up to 150) and Goldfinch. Signage and a new viewing screen were provided to further public enjoyment of the North Duffield Carr's visitor facilities and these were well used.

**Trustees Annual Report
For the period ending 31 December 2024**

Achievement and Performance

Review of Activities 2024 (continued)

Fleeman's Snippets (North Duffield Carr's) and Carters Corner (Ellerton Ings)

Both sites were well managed during the year with Ragwort pulling and Dock control. Both were cut and grazed under licence to aid their recovery from the long-protracted flooding in the 2023/24 winter. Both sites recovered well, supporting good numbers of wintering and breeding birds as well as good quality MG4 grassland at Carter's Corner. Whilst the sale was yet to complete on a parcel of land at North Duffield Ings, we took over land management control in June and that parcel was cut and grazed and was in good condition by late autumn.

Thornton Ings

Having completed the purchase by late November, work started on these parcels during December, including the provision of access gates and adjacent fencing. Tree works were undertaken as part of a wider project to reinforce and improve some of the remaining scattered hedgerows, planting these up with a mix of native species and additional Crab apple whips supplied by a grant from the Tree Council (see Grants). Works will continue (ground conditions permitting) into early 2025

Research and Monitoring

Both Whimbrel (3) and Black-tailed Godwits (2) were fitted with Global Positioning System (GPS) tags in April and May as part of wider research into these species and their wider use of functionally linked land surrounding the Valley. All five birds produced good quality robust data, providing valuable information of land use outside of the protected site by Whimbrel.

During the autumn, in September and October, 3 Golden Plover were also fitted with similar GPS tags and again produced previously unknown feeding site usage around the reserve. A single Spotted Crake was caught and radio-tagged in June and tracked for several weeks.

All of the work above gave opportunities for the ongoing training of ringers in capture methods and also in fitting tags with this work being supported by a generous grant from the Drax foundation

The Friends also collaborated together in developing a joint project with Spurn Bird Observatory to track the movements of Jack Snipe using the Motus tracking system tags. following a grant from British Birds for this project.

**Trustees Annual Report
For the period ending 31 December 2024**

Achievement and Performance

Review of Activities 2024 (continued)

Cannon netting and the ringing of Wildfowl continued and again proved successful during the year with over 700 ducks caught and ringed. Many were colour-ringed or sampled as part of other research projects nationally including the taking of feather samples from Shelduck for isotope analysis to establish the moulting grounds of the various British populations

The outcomes from such research were shared with partners and also, where appropriate, made public via social media. These results also will be included in a new publication of 'The Birds of the Lower Derwent- Conservation and Migration' which was progressed during the year thanks to a grant from the Drax foundation and which should be ready for publication in early 2025.

Grants & Donations

The Friends continued to be successful in drawing in additional grants throughout the year in addition to the Countryside Stewardship payments and related flood recovery payments. Another Tree Council grant for hedging plants and crab apple whips and trees for Thornton Ings was approved during the year and in addition a Woodland Trust wildlife tree pack was secured and supplied for New Meadow at North Duffield Carrs. We were also successful in applying to the Drax Foundation with a grant application to help support Corncrake reintroduction into the Valley. Other supporters making donations during the year include Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, York Ornithological Club, Yorkshire Coast Nature and Tom Broxup

The Friends of the Lower Derwent Valley continued to meet our conservation objectives with further strategic land acquisition and conservation-based management of our existing land holdings. We have enjoyed success in being awarded Countryside Stewardship schemes and we have completed valuable research work and conservation projects. We have made successful applications for new grants and are in a strong financial position.

None of this would have been possible without our magnificent volunteers whose contributions underpin everything we do. We are extremely grateful to all the volunteers for their hard work in terms of carrying out land management works, both on our sites, but also in supporting Natural England and other partners in the valley and which unlock other streams of income and support. The trustees give their heartfelt thanks to them all for their hard work and continuing support. We are also extremely grateful for the continuing support of Natural England and offer particular thanks to Mr Craig Ralston, Senior Reserve Manager for his invaluable help, expertise and advice.

Trustees Annual Report
For the period ending 31 December 2024

Future Plans

The charity greatly values its close working relationship with key partners whom continue to support the reserve, charity and its aims, whether through donations, purchase of services or supporting each other in grant bids and is grateful for all the on going support it receives. In 2024 the charity has successfully grown its financial reserves and aims to use the funds raised to competitively bid and purchase further land in and around the Lower Derwent Valley National Nature Reserve that is of high conservation value, as and when such land becomes available for purchase. Targeted on going land purchase will be the main use of the charities accumulated funds. Further the charity has continued to undertake on-going scientific monitoring, including the ringing of wildfowl and other bird species on the reserve. In 2025 the charity and its volunteers hope to be involved in tagging and tracking projects of wildfowl and wader species, from which knowledge will be gained of individual species movements and their use of areas of habitat. This knowledge may further inform the charity to target land for purchase by providing evidence of its ecological importance and functional linkage.

Financial Review

Reserves policy

The Trustees regularly review the Reserves policy of the charity to ensure it meets the needs of the Charity. Whilst the charity has only nominal operating costs, e.g., the payment of annual drainage rates for land owned, the charity seeks to hold an absolute minimum of £5,000 in reserve. This level of funds would allow the charity to meet all High-Level Stewardship (HLS) obligations for land owned for a three-year period, given current land ownings. Beyond this level of minimum reserve, the charity aims to ensure that funds in the region of a total of £20,000 are available to capitalise on any opportunities, such as match funding with key partners, such as the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. All other income and cash holdings, i.e., above £20,000 are held principally to support the purchase of new land, the development of new activities or where the Trustees decide it to be financially prudent.

**Trustees Annual Report
For the period ending 31 December 2024**

Statement of Disclosure of Information to the Independent Examiner

We, the trustees of the Charity who held office at the date of approval of these financial statements, 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.

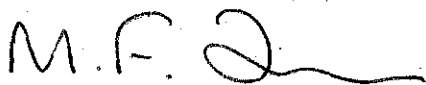
The Trustees confirm that the accounts comply with the above requirement. The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with 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 Rebecca Triffitt, MAAT, Chartered Management Accountant, Director of Phoenix Accountancy and Business Consultancy Limited.

By order of the Board,



Michael Frederick Jackson
Chairperson

Date: 25th APRIL 2025

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Friends of the Lower Derwent Valley
Conservation Group**

I report on the accounts of The Friends of the Lower Derwent Valley Conservation Group for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 12 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this financial period under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145 (5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

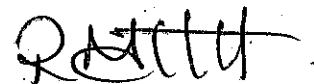
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 and 131 of the Charities Act; and
 - b. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Rebecca Triffitt, MAAT
Phoenix Accountancy and Business Consultancy Limited
Morley's Cottage, Morley's Yard, Walkergate
Beverley, East Yorkshire HU17 9BY



Date: 31/5/25

**Receipts and Payments Account
For the year ending 31 December 2024**

		2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
		£	£	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS	1						
Grants	2	-	21,991	21,991	-	26,200	26,200
Donations		1,193	-	1,193	17,622	-	17,622
Conservation Services		37,645	-	37,645	29,920	-	29,920
Countryside Stewardship		6,876	-	6,876	1,685	-	1,685
Sale of logs and wildflower seeds		24,008	-	24,008	25,362	-	25,362
Interest		3,221	-	3,221	786	-	786
		72,943	21,991	94,934	75,375	26,200	101,575
PAYMENTS							
Land Purchases		129,000	-	129,000	162,000	-	162,000
Conservation Work		2,372	1,991	4,363	-	1,200	1,200
Insurance		264	-	264	277	-	277
Rates		93	-	93	54	-	54
Legal and Professional Fees		11,503	-	11,503	4,683	-	4,683
Publisher		-	8,971	8,971	-	-	-
Bank Charges		101	-	101	100	-	100
Accounts Fee		480	-	480	480	-	480
		143,813	10,962	154,775	167,594	1,200	168,794
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the period		(70,870)	11,029	(59,841)	(92,219)	25,000	(67,219)
Monetary balances brought forward		107,755	25,000	132,755	199,974	-	199,974
Monetary balances carried forward		36,885	36,029	72,914	107,755	25,000	132,755

The notes on pages 14 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As at 31 December 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Monetary Assets			
Current Account		22,773	81,967
Savings Account		50,141	50,788
Total Monetary Assets		72,914	132,755
Comprising:			
Unrestricted Funds		36,885	107,755
Restricted Funds	3	36,029	25,000
		<u>72,914</u>	<u>132,755</u>
Non-Monetary Assets			
Fixed Assets for the Charity's Use (at cost)			
Land – North Duffield		25,000	25,000
Land – Ellerton Ing's		18,000	18,000
Land – Naburn, York		51,000	51,000
Land – between Bubwith & North Duffield		111,000	111,000
Land – Stubbins Land, Thornton		80,000	-
Land – Bubwith Ings, North Duffield		49,000	-
Motus Tracking Electronics		614	614
		<u>334,614</u>	<u>205,614</u>
Debtors		-	-
Creditors			
Accounts Fees		(480)	(480)
		<u>(480)</u>	<u>(480)</u>

These financial statements were approved by the committee on 25/04/2025 (date) and signed on its behalf by:

M. F. Jackson

Michael Frederick Jackson, Chairperson

Matthew Stone

Matthew Stone, Treasurer

The notes on pages 14 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the period ended 31 December 2024

Notes

1 Basis of Preparation

These accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments (R&P) basis in line with Charity Commission guidance for a charity of this size.

2 Grants

	2024 Unrestricted	2024 Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Unrestricted	2023 Restricted	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Drax Foundation	-	20,000	20,000	-	25,000	25,000
The Tree Council	-	1,991	1,991	-	-	-
City of York Council	-	-	-	-	1,200	1,200
	-	21,991	21,991	-	26,200	26,200

3 Restricted Funds

	Balance At 01/12/2024	Movement in Resources			Balance At 31/12/2024
		Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	
Drax Foundation	25,000	-	(8,971)	-	16,029
Drax Foundation	-	20,000	-	-	20,000
The Tree Council	-	1,991	(1,991)	-	-
	25,000	21,991	(10,962)	-	36,029

A brief description of the restricted funds are given below:

Drax Foundation

Restricted funding was received from Drax Foundation for the funding which comprises £15,000 towards a scientific monitoring and GPS tagging of birds and also £10,000 towards the publication of 'The birds of the Lower Derwent Valley' book. During 2024 another £20,000 was received from Drax Foundation to support Corncrake reintroduction.

The Tree Council

Restricted funding was received from The Tree Council for the funding of planting new hedging plants, crab apple whips and trees for Thornton Ings.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the period ended 31 December 2024

4 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.

5 Taxation

Friends of the Lower Derwent Valley Conservation Group 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.

Accounts

Charity Number: 1183986

FRIENDS OF THE LOWER DERWENT VALLEY CONSERVATION GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Period ended

31 December 2022

Phoenix Accountancy and Business Consultancy Limited

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To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the Lower Derwent Valley."

The Trustees have given regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Achievement and Performance

Review of Activities 2022

In line with our constitutional objectives, we have completed the purchase of a strategic piece of land adjacent to the River Derwent. We have successfully managed our existing land holding to produce excellent conservation outcomes. Our Countryside Stewardships are generating a continuing income stream and we anticipate that this will continue and grow as we acquire more land holdings. Due once again to the magnificent efforts of our volunteers we have continued to grow our reserves throughout the year. Our volunteers made substantial contributions to the completion of several projects of conservation value and carried out important conservation monitoring. In the aftermath of Covid grant opportunities in our sector have been very limited but despite this we have had another successful year and are in a strong position going forward

**Trustees Annual Report
For the period ending 31 December 2022**

Achievement and Performance

Review of Activities 2022 (continued)

Land purchase and management

We completed our purchase of a small but strategically positioned plot of land from North Duffield PC which we have designated as Thorpe's Tangle. This acquisition completes ownership by conservation bodies of the riverside between Bubwith Bridge and North Duffield Carrs. The plot allows us to become an owner of riparian habitat adjacent to the River Derwent itself and we intend to manage it to provide benefits for Willow Tits and pollinators.

We have had an offer accepted for a plot of land near Acaster Malbis on Acaster South Ings. We are working with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to eventually transfer the land to them in return for an equivalent plot in the Lower Derwent Valley. We were able to step in and secure this land for conservation ownership using our land acquisition fund and act on a timescale which is not always possible for other conservation bodies and a good example of our close partnership with other local conservation bodies

Land Management of Existing Land Holdings

We have applied for a Higher-Level Stewardship under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme in respect of Carter's Corner which if successful will generate an ongoing income. We received our payments under the Countryside Stewardship scheme for Fleeman's Snippets. On the practical side land management was carried out successfully at both Fleemans Snippets and Carters Corner, delivering our conservation objectives and meeting our Countryside Stewardship requirements, the hay making also providing a useful additional income.

The group also continued to offer advice and practical habitat management assistance to other Conservation Groups in their nature recovery projects, providing materials such as hay meadow seed which provided a further source of income for the Friends.

Research and Monitoring

On our land holdings Curlew bred successfully, and also supported Black-tailed Godwits on their spring passage north, Ruff lekking prior to breeding, summering Garganey, Snipe, Redshank, Quail and Willow Tits. Our land was used as part of the wider Lower Derwent Valley ringing, research and monitoring programme with several Icelandic Black-tailed Godwits caught and ringed at Fleemans Snippets on spring passage.

For the period ending 31 December 2022

Achievement and Performance

Review of Activities 2022 (continued)

Common Terns once again bred on the rafts provided at Wheldrake Ings, to the enjoyment of numerous visitors to the hides and elsewhere in the valley where fishing birds could be seen. Our third colour-ringed tern resighting was received from the Farne Islands in Northumberland. Unfortunately the Sand Martin banks weren't used in 2022 following a poor return spring passage of the species.

The Motus tracking station continued to produce results with two Starlings from the Netherlands picked up by the station. This represents cutting edge bird and mammal migration tracking abilities of newly developed technology and is only the second site in Yorkshire and second inland site in the UK. We also hosted several visits by individuals/groups/organisations to see the station and learn about installing and operating the station. At least two groups have subsequently ordered stations for sites at Humberhead Peatlands NNR in south Yorkshire and on the Isle of Man.

Reedbed and reed fen creation projects continued to flourish at North Duffield Carrs, Bank Island, Wheldrake and Thornton Ellers thanks to previous grants from Yorkshire Water and Bettles Tree for Life. Cetti's warblers bred for the first time in the valley (with juveniles caught and ringed) and are known to have used these areas during the year. The increase in reed in the valley may also have helped in the recording of Webbs Wainscot (a new moth for the valley and still rare in Yorkshire) during the year. Towards the end of the year one of the wintering Hen Harriers was seen to use the area of reedbed/reed fen at Bank Island to roost during the day.

The Friends also forged a successful working relationship with the Derwent Lions in parishes around the area. A grant was secured to replace 60 Barn Owl boxes as part of the long running nest box scheme in the area. Natural England confirmed that 95% of all Barn Owls in the area were now breeding using nest boxes – compared with 49% in 2000, confirming the importance of this project. Members of the Lions Club attended an evening hosted by the Friends at Bank Island for feedback and to experience the Friends' wider work. All boxes were constructed by young people from Ad Astra, community volunteers and corporate volunteer groups for local organisations, with 28 nest boxes placed in suitable locations by the end of 2022.

Over 1100 waterfowl were caught and ringed using the Cannon Nets provided by the Friends in partnership with NE, WWT, YWT and BASC, providing a considerable evidence base both locally and on a national and international basis for waterfowl conservation.

For the period ending 31 December 2022

Achievement and Performance

Review of Activities 2022 (continued)

Conclusion

The Friends of the Lower Derwent Valley continued to make good progress with further land acquisitions and valuable research work and conservation projects completed. None of this would have been possible without our magnificent volunteers whose contributions underpin everything we do. The trustees give their heartfelt thanks to them all. We are also extremely grateful for the continuing support of Natural England and offer particular thanks to Mr Craig Ralston, Senior Reserve Manager for his invaluable help, support and advice.

Future Plans

The charity greatly values its close working relationship with key partners whom continue to support the reserve, charity and its aims, whether through donations, purchase of services or supporting each other in grant bids and is grateful for all the on going support it receives. In 2022 the charity has successfully grown its financial reserves and aims to use the funds raised to competitively bid and purchase further land in and around the Lower Derwent Valley National Nature Reserve that is of high conservation value, as and when such land becomes available for purchase. Targeted on going land purchase will be the main use of the charities accumulated funds. Further the charity has continued to undertake on-going scientific monitoring, including the ringing of wildfowl and other bird species on the reserve. In 2023 the charity and its volunteers hope to be involved in tagging and tracking projects of wildfowl and wader species, from which knowledge will be gained of individual species movements and their use of areas of habitat. This knowledge may further inform the charity to target land for purchase by providing evidence of its ecological importance and functional linkage.

Financial Review

Reserves policy

The Trustees regularly review the Reserves policy of the charity to ensure it meets the needs of the Charity. Whilst the charity has only nominal operating costs, e.g., the payment of annual drainage rates for land owned, the charity seeks to hold an absolute minimum of £5,000 in reserve. This level of funds would allow the charity to meet all High-Level Stewardship (HLS) obligations for land owned for a three-year period, given current land ownings. Beyond this level of minimum reserve, the charity aims to ensure that funds in the region of a total of £20,000 are available to capitalise on any opportunities, such as match funding with key partners, such as the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. All other income and cash holdings, i.e., above £20,000 are held principally to support the purchase of new land, the development of new activities or where the Trustees decide it to be financially prudent.

Trustees Annual Report
For the period ending 31 December 2022

Statement of Disclosure of Information to the Independent Examiner

We, the trustees of the Charity who held office at the date of approval of these financial statements, 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 Rebecca Triffitt, MAAT, Chartered Management Accountant, Director of Phoenix Accountancy and Business Consultancy Limited.

By order of the Board,



Michael Frederick Jackson
Chairperson

Date: 27th September 2023

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Friends of the Lower Derwent Valley
Conservation Group**

I report on the accounts of The Friends of the Lower Derwent Valley Conservation Group for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 11 to 14.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this financial period under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145 (5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

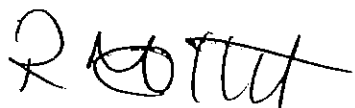
Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 and 131 of the Charities Act; and
 - b. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Rebecca Triffitt, MAAT
Phoenix Accountancy and Business Consultancy Limited
Morley's Cottage, Morley's Yard, Walkergate
Beverley, East Yorkshire HU17 9BY

Date: 2/10/23 .



Receipts and Payments Account
For the year ending 31 December 2022

	Notes	2022 Unrestricted £	2022 Restricted £	2022 Total £	2021 Unrestricted £	2021 Restricted £	2021 Total £
RECEIPTS	1	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grants	2	-	-	-	-	1,244	1,244
Donations		1,537	-	1,537	1,543	-	1,543
Conservation Services		36,005	-	36,005	30,032	-	30,032
Countryside Stewardship		710	-	710	1,420	-	1,420
Sale of logs and wildflower seeds		21,363	-	21,363	21,275	-	21,275
		59,615	-	59,615	54,270	1,244	55,514
PAYMENTS							
Land Purchases		5,000	-	5,000	18,000	-	18,000
Conservation Works		-	-	-	-	1,244	1,244
Rates		49	-	49	12	-	12
Legal and Professional Fees		2,177	-	2,177	2,302	-	2,302
Bank Charges		116	-	116	5	-	5
Accounts Fee		480	-	480	-	-	-
		7,822	-	7,822	20,319	1,244	21,563
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the period		51,792	-	51,792	33,951	-	33,951
Monetary balances brought forward		148,182	-	148,182	114,231	-	114,231
Monetary balances carried forward		199,974	-	199,974	148,182	-	148,182

The notes on pages 13 form part of these financial statements.

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As at 31 December 2022**

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Monetary Assets			
Current Account		199,974	148,182
Total Monetary Assets		199,974	148,182
Comprising:			
Unrestricted Funds		199,974	148,182
Restricted Funds	3	-	-
		<u>199,974</u>	<u>148,182</u>
Non-Monetary Assets			
Fixed Assets for the Charity's Use (at cost)			
Land – North Duffield		25,000	20,000
Land – Ellerton Ing's		18,000	18,000
Motus Tracking Electronics		614	614
		<u>43,614</u>	<u>38,614</u>
Debtors		-	-
Creditors			
Accounts Fees		(480)	(480)
		<u>(480)</u>	<u>(480)</u>

These financial statements were approved by the committee on 26/09/2023 (date) and signed on its behalf by:

M. F. Jackson

Michael Frederick Jackson, Chairperson

Matthew Stone

Matthew Stone, Treasurer

The notes on pages 13 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the period ended 31 December 2022

Notes

1 Basis of Preparation

These accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments (R&P) basis in line with Charity Commission guidance for a charity of this size.

Prior years accounts were prepared on the accruals basis, these have been restated to the receipts and payments basis.

2 Grants

	2022	2022	2022	2021	2021	2021
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
The Tree Council	-	-	-	-	1,244	1,244
	-	-	-	-	1,244	1,244

3 Restricted Funds

No restricted funds for this year.

4 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.

5 Taxation

Friends of the Lower Derwent Valley Conservation Group 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.

Accounts

Charity Number: 1183986

FRIENDS OF THE LOWER DERWENT VALLEY CONSERVATION GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Period ended

31 December 2021

Phoenix Accountancy and Business Consultancy Limited

FRIENDS OF THE LOWER DERWENT
VALLEY CONSERVATION GROUP

Charity Number: 1183986

**Contents to the Financial Statements
For the period ended 31 December 2021**

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Statement of Assets and Liabilities	12
Notes to the Financial Statements	13

Trustees Annual Report
For the period ending 31 December 2021

The Trustees present their report with the independently examined financial statements of Friends of the Lower Derwent Valley Conservation Group, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers.

<u>Name of charity:</u>	Friends of the Lower Derwent Valley Conservation Group
<u>Charity Registration Number:</u>	1183986
<u>Contact Address:</u>	Friends of the Lower Derwent Valley Conservation Group Natural England Church Lane Wheldrake York YO19 6FE

Trustees

Names of trustees who served during the period were as follows:

Michael Frederick Jackson
Josephine Jean Thorpe MBE
Nicholas Carter
John Matthew Stone

<u>Independent Examiner</u>	Sian Broughton ACMA, CGMA, DChA, MAAT Chartered Management Accountant, Director of: Phoenix Accountancy and Business Consultancy Limited Morley's Cottage Morley's Yard Walkergate Beverley East Yorkshire HU17 9BY
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Trustees Annual Report
For the period ending 31 December 2021

Bankers

HSBC
Market Place
Selby
North Yorkshire
Goole
YO8 4PA

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Friends of the Lower Derwent Valley Conservation Group is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by its constitution (Foundation model), registered with the Charity Commission on 20 June 2019.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The Constitution outlines the procedure for the appointment of Trustees. There must be a minimum of 3 trustees and there is no maximum number of Trustees.

Trustees are elected for a term of two 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.

Trustee Induction and Training

All Trustees are provided with a copy of the Constitution, Charity Commission guidance "The Essential Trustee" and a copy of the CIO's latest Trustees Annual Report and financial statements.

Organisational Structure

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.

**Trustees Annual Report
For the period ending 31 December 2021**

Risk Management

The major risks to which the charity is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, are regularly reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks.

Objectives and Activities

The objects of the charity as set out in the constitution are:

"To promote for the public benefit the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the Lower Derwent Valley, in particular but not exclusively by conducting environmental improvement works and providing or assisting in the provision of research activities relevant to the species and the habitat of the Lower Derwent Valley and to publish the useful results thereof.

To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the Lower Derwent Valley."

The Trustees have given regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Achievement and Performance

Review of Activities 2021

The Covid pandemic and its aftermath continued to have a negative effect on our ability to obtain grant funding. Despite this and due once again to the magnificent efforts of our volunteers we have continued to grow our reserves throughout the year. As a result, we have been able to make acquisitions of suitable parcels of land in line with our constitutional objectives. Our volunteers made substantial contributions to the completion of several projects of conservation value and carried out important conservation monitoring. Despite the difficulties caused by Covid we have had another successful year and are in a strong position going forward.

**Trustees Annual Report
For the period ending 31 December 2021**

Achievement and Performance

Review of Activities 2021 (continued)

Land purchase and management

Our offer for a parcel of land near Ellerton (1.86 ha) was accepted and the purchase was completed. This is an important parcel of land having been managed as a traditional species rich hay meadow for generations and is breeding place for both Curlew and Snipe. We have applied to have the land included in the Higher-Level Countryside Stewardship Scheme and, if successful we anticipate this will generate a valuable income into the future. In recognition of the contributions made by two of our volunteers we have designated the land as Carter's Corner.

Both our existing land holding of Fleemans Snippets and our new holding of Carter's Corner were let for hay cutting and aftermath grazing in line with traditional land management practices and provided an income. In addition, we received our first payments from the Rural Payments Agency under the Countryside Stewardship scheme in respect of our land holding at Fleeman's Snippets.

The acquisition of the small parcel of land from North Duffield council has progressed and we hope the contact for sale will be completed next year. Whilst only relatively small this would be a strategic acquisition as it completes a block in conservation ownership.

Research and Monitoring

Our Volunteers undertook Nocturnal Breeding bird surveys and breeding wader surveys across the Lower Derwent Valley and contributed towards monitoring the endangered Willow Tit population.

Using the cannon nets provided by the Friends our volunteers were once again responsible for ringing nationally significant waterfowl totals. The Friends, alongside Natural England and Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust embarked on a research project with the British Association for Shooting and Conservation as part of a national project to colour ring Wigeon which aims to understand better their migratory movements.

Thanks to a kind donation by the York Ornithological club and additional private donations and using our own funds we were able to buy and install a Motus tracking station. This station allows tagged birds and bats passing through the Lower Derwent Valley to be monitored on a continual basis. Four Blackcaps were fitted with Motus tags on the reserve as a result of this work, adding to our knowledge of length of stay for passage warblers, and the signal from one of these birds was picked up by another Motus station on the South Coast of England as the Blackcap headed south on its autumn migration.

**Trustees Annual Report
For the period ending 31 December 2021**

Achievement and Performance

Review of Activities 2021 (continued)

Grants and Projects

Several grant applications were submitted by the Friends or as partnership applications with other bodies. Unfortunately, these opportunities were limited or unsuccessful, in part due to the focus on covid recovery outcomes. However, several projects were still delivered:

- Grass verges project – working in partnership with Wheldrake parish, City of York Council, and NE to create road side flower rich verges using seed harvested by the friends of its land holdings. This also created an income with other seed contracts delivered to the Environment Agency and City of York Council
- Continued easy access improvement at Bank Island and Wheldrake Ings building on projects started in previous years – with another 600m of easy access of all path surface completed.
- Boardwalk improvement works carried out at Bank Island on behalf of Natural England.

Conclusion

The Friends of the Lower Derwent Valley continued to make good progress with further land acquisitions and valuable research work and conservation projects completed. None of this would have been possible without our magnificent volunteers whose contributions underpin everything we do. The trustees give their heartfelt thanks to them all. We are also extremely grateful for the continuing support of Natural England and offer particular thanks to Mr Craig Ralston, Senior Reserve Manager for his invaluable help, support and advice.

**Trustees Annual Report
For the period ending 31 December 2021**

Future Plans

The charity continues to seek to achieve its objectives and already in 2022 has used reserves held to purchase more land, both at North Duffield and also reaching agreement to buy land at Acaster South Ings. The cost of purchasing this land and associated costs is expected to total around £60,000 once complete, and the charity continues to explore further opportunities to purchase habitat and species rich land of high conservation value. Targeted on going land purchase is likely to be the main use of the charities accumulated funds. Further the charity has continued to undertake ongoing scientific monitoring, including the ringing of wildfowl on the reserve, ringing and monitoring the highest number of migratory ducks; Teal and Wigeon, for any single site in the UK. The charity also highly values its close work and development of key partners who continue to support the reserve, charity and it's aims, whether through donations, purchase of services or supporting each other in grant bids and is grateful for all the ongoing support it receives.

Financial Review

Reserves policy

The Trustees regularly review the Reserves policy of the charity to ensure it meets the needs of the Charity. Whilst the charity has only nominal operating costs, e.g., the payment of annual drainage rates for land owned, the charity seeks to hold an absolute minimum of £5,000 in reserve. This level of funds would allow the charity to meet all High-Level Stewardship (HLS) obligations for land owned for a three-year period, given current land ownings. Beyond this level of minimum reserve, the charity aims to ensure that funds in the region of a total of £20,000 are available to capitalise on any opportunities, such as match funding with key partners, such as the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. All other income and cash holdings, i.e., above £20,000 are held principally to support the purchase of new land, the development of new activities or where the Trustees decide it to be financially prudent.

Principal Funding Sources

Our principal funding sources for the current period came from the provision of conservation services and the sale of logs and wildflower seeds.

**Trustees Annual Report
For the period ending 31 December 2021**

Statement of Disclosure of Information to the Independent Examiner

We, the trustees of the Charity who held office at the date of approval of these financial statements, 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 Sian Broughton, ACMA, CGMA, DChA, MAAT, Chartered Management Accountant, Director of Phoenix Accountancy and Business Consultancy Limited.

By order of the Board,

x M. F. 

Michael Frederick Jackson
Chairperson

Date: 19th OCTOBER 2022

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Friends of the Lower Derwent Valley
Conservation Group**

I report on the accounts of The Friends of the Lower Derwent Valley Conservation Group for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 11 to 14.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this financial period under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145 (5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

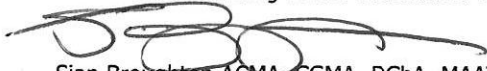
Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 and 131 of the Charities Act; and
 - b. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Sian Broughton ACMA, CGMA, DChA, MAAT
Chartered Management Accountant, Director of
Phoenix Accountancy and Business Consultancy Limited
Morley's Cottage, Morley's Yard, Walkergate
Beverley, East Yorkshire HU17 9BY

Date: 21/10/22

Receipts and Payments Account
For the year ending 31 December 2021

	Notes	2021 Unrestricted £	2021 Restricted £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
RECEIPTS	1				
Grants	2	-	1,244	1,244	10,900
Donations		1,543		1,543	5,880
Conservation Services		30,032	-	30,032	18,600
Countryside					
Stewardship		1,420	-	1,420	-
Sale of logs and wildflower seeds		21,275	-	21,275	13,071
		54,270	1,244	55,514	48,451
PAYMENTS					
Land Purchases		18,000	-	18,000	20,000
Conservation Works		-	1,244	1,244	4,597
Rates		12	-	12	12
Legal and Professional Fees		2,302	-	2,302	-
Bank Charges		5	-	5	-
Equipment		-	-	-	614
		20,319	1,244	21,563	25,223
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the period		33,951	-	33,951	23,228
Monetary balances brought forward		114,231	-	114,231	91,003
Monetary balances carried forward		148,182	-	148,182	114,231

The notes on pages 13 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As at 31 December 2021**

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Monetary Assets			
Current Account		148,182	114,231
Total Monetary Assets		148,182	114,231
Comprising:			
Unrestricted Funds		148,182	114,231
Restricted Funds	3	-	-
		148,182	114,231
Non-Monetary Assets			
Fixed Assets for the Charity's Use (at cost)			
Land – North Duffield		20,000	20,000
Land – Ellerton Ing's		18,000	-
Motus Tracking Electronics		614	614
		38,614	20,614
Debtors		-	-
Creditors			
Accounts Fees		(480)	-
		(480)	-

These financial statements were approved by the committee on 19th OCT 2022 (date) and signed on its behalf by:

M. F. Jackson

Michael Frederick Jackson, Chairperson

M Stone

Matthew Stone, Treasurer

The notes on pages 13 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the period ended 31 December 2021

Notes

1 Basis of Preparation

These accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments (R&P) basis in line with Charity Commission guidance for a charity of this size.

Prior years accounts were prepared on the accruals basis, these have been restated to the receipts and payments basis.

2 Grants

	2021 Unrestricted £	2021 Restricted £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
The Tree Council	-	1,244	1,244	
Natural England	-	-	-	2,000
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	-	-	-	2,000
Two Ridings Community Foundation				
– Betty's Trees	-	-	-	3,900
Yorkshire Water SE	-	-	-	3,000
	-	1,244	1,244	10,900

3 Restricted Funds

Fund	Opening Balance £	Receipts £	Payments £	Closing Balance £
Tree Planting	-	1,244	(1,244)	-
	-	1,244	(1,244)	-

A brief description of the restricted funds are given below:

ERYC

Restricted funding was received from the Tree Council to restore 500m of old traditional hedges at a range of sites in the Lower Derwent Valley NNR – gapping up old hedges and providing “standards” amongst them to replace losses over recent decades. It will also help regenerate and enhance an ancient woodland site including the ongoing restoration of a Victorian duck ‘decoy’.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the period ended 31 December 2021

3 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.

4 Taxation

Friends of the Lower Derwent Valley Conservation Group 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.

Accounts

Friends of the Lower Derwent Valley Conservation Group

Trustee's Report for year ending 31st December 2020

In common with many charities the pandemic had a negative impact on our ability to access funds from institutional donors as many focussed their grants on schemes to aid recovery from the effects of the pandemic. However, despite this and working within the government restrictions our volunteers have once again produced a magnificent performance enabling us to further strengthen our financial position. This has placed us in a good position to further our charitable objectives and to move forward with the acquisition of land of conservation value within the Lower Derwent Valley and to pursue our other objectives in conservation and research.

Land Acquisition

As we had looked forward to in last year's report, our first land purchase was completed when we secured a key parcel of SSSI/SAC/SPA Ramsar designated land (2.67 ha) within North Duffield Carrs. This land was one of the last areas which was not in conservation ownership within North Duffield Carrs and one of our key targets. The land comes with a Countryside Stewardship scheme and together with income from hay cutting and grazing will therefore also a modest income into the future. We have named this land "Fleeman's Snippets" to retain the name of the previous owner. Snippets is the local country name of the Snipe whose presence along with other wading birds such Black Tailed Godwits and wintering Whooper Swans make this such a valuable habitat.

Our efforts to arrange the purchase of a key parcel of land around 1ha in size which borders the designated site have met with delays from the local council regarding documentation but we still hope to move ahead with this acquisition.

We made an offer for a further parcel of land near Ellerton (1.86 ha) which we hope will be successful. This is an important parcel of land having been managed as a traditional species rich hay meadow for generations and a is breeding place for both Curlew and Snipe

Working closely with Natural England and other conservation organisations we continue to identify potential purchase conservation targets throughout the Lower Derwent Valley.

Conservation Projects

Reedbed and reed fen creation projects were undertaken taken at North Duffield Carrs and Thornton Ellers thanks to grants from Yorkshire Water

and Betty's Tree for Life. This included earth works and the planting of 12,000 reed plugs, and involved the engagement of volunteers, young people and local communities.

A successful bid and crowd funding campaign, with additional funds from Natural England, saw the delivery of 500m of an easy access for all pathway at Bank Island, from the car park to the observation hides. Earthworks required for raising the path also led to the creation of improved scrapes for breeding and passage waders with enhanced public enjoyment as a result. We also undertook repairs on behalf of Natural England to boardwalks and decking around the reserve base at Bank Island and at North Duffield Carrs for public enjoyment, access and safety. Again, this included volunteers, young people, a social enterprise group and corporate volunteers from Aviva. Another grant from the Tree Council allowed gaps in the hedge adjacent to the path to be planted and new hedges to be planted elsewhere in the Valley.

Research Work

With thanks to a donation from the York Ornithological Club and private donors we were able to complete the purchase of a Motus tracking station during the year although installation is still awaited due to Covid related delays. This represents cutting edge bird and mammal migration tracking abilities of newly developed technology and is only in second for Yorkshire and second inland site in the UK.

Two more two Tern rafts and an additional Sand Martin bank were purchased – a single pair of Common Terns bred on the new raft producing two chicks to fledging which were ringed as part of an ongoing project. Sand Martins once again used the artificial sites at Bank Island and we were able to demonstrate through ringing that this included several returning adults and young from 2019.

We continued to undertake Waterfowl ringing on behalf of the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust and the British Trust for Ornithology. The catches of Wigeon undertaken with the cannon net provided by the Friends were significant at a national level with around 75% of the UK total of Wigeon being caught and ringed in the Lower Derwent Valley. However, training opportunities provided to others were however reduced due to Covid restrictions and distancing requirements.

Conclusion

This year was marked by a key milestone in which we completed our first land acquisition, ensuring that it will be held in conservation ownership into the future. Despite the difficulties and restrictions caused by the pandemic we have delivered projects of great conservation importance and engaged with the local community in their delivery. Once again none of this would have been possible without the continuing efforts of the

volunteers who have worked tirelessly in undertaking works and raising funds. The trustees send heartfelt thanks to them all. We continue to develop our relationships with other key conservation organisations in the Valley such as the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England and have established excellent levels of cooperation. A special thank you is also due to Craig Ralston of Natural England whose expert knowledge and guidance has been vital in all our areas of operation.

The Friends of the Lower Derwent Valley Conservation Group

Accounts

for the year ended 31st December 2020

The Friends of the Lower Derwent Valley Conservation Group

Information

Trustees

John Matthew Stone
Josephine Thorpe
Michael Jackson
Nicholas Carter

Business address

Natural England
Church Lane
Weldrake
York
YO19 6FE

Accountants

Accurate Accounting
69 Boothgate Drive
Howden
Goole
DN14 7EN

The Friends of the Lower Derwent Valley Conservation Group

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The Friends of the Lower Derwent Valley Conservation Group

Accountants' report on the unaudited accounts

As described on page 3 you have approved the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020 as set out on pages 2 to 3.

In accordance with your instructions we have compiled these unaudited accounts from the accounting records, information and explanations supplied to us.

Accurate Accounting
69 Boothgate Drive
Howden
Goole
DN14 7EN

The Friends of the Lower Derwent Valley Conservation Group

Trading and profit and loss account
for the year ended 31st December 2020

	2020	2019
Income		
Sales	26,721	9,805
Donations / Grant Funding	21,730	20,134
	<u>48,451</u>	<u>29,939</u>
Cost of sales		
Purchases	5,223	5,259
	<u>5,223</u>	<u>5,259</u>
	5,223	5,259
Expenses		
Match Funding	0	0
Legal & Professional		1,958
	<u>0</u>	<u>1,958</u>
	0	-1,958
Profit for the period	<u>43,228</u>	<u>22,722</u>

The Friends of the Lower Derwent Valley Conservation Group

Balance sheet
as at 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020	2019
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets		20,000	
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		91,003	91,003
		<u>91,003</u>	<u>91,003</u>
Current liabilities			
Other creditors (Grant repayable)		11,300	11,300
		<u>11,300</u>	<u>11,300</u>
Net current assets		<u>79,703</u>	<u>79,703</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		99,703	79,703
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		0	0
Net assets		<u>99,703</u>	<u>79,703</u>
Capital Accounts			
Balance at start of period		79,703	56,981
Net Profit		43,228	22,722
		<u>122,931</u>	<u>79,703</u>

We approve these accounts and confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.

John Matthew Stone

Josephine Thorpe

Michael Jackson

Nick Carter

Dated

John Matthew Stone
J. J. Thorpe
M. F. Jackson
Nick Carter
 22nd October 2021