

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

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For the period ended 31 December 2021**

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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.

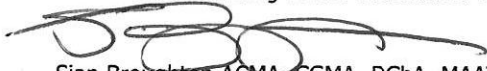
Basis of independent examiner's report

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.