



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date		Period end date	
From	Day 1 Month 9 Year 2023	To	Day 31 Month 8 Year 2024

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name The Ewyas Harold Common Trust

Other names charity is known by EHCT

Registered charity number (if any) 1185140

Charity's principal address

The Prospect	
Ewyas Harold	
Postcode	HR2 0JE

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Madeleine Bradley	Vice Chair / Chair	Until June 2024 / From June 2024 until August 2024	
2	Martin Clayton			
3	Christiana Crouch	Treasurer		
4	Caroline Hanks			
5	Christopher Moughton			
6	Andrew Nixon	Chair	Until June 2024	
7	Thomas Oliver		From March 2024	
8	Helen Shimwell	Chair	Trustee from March 2024 / Chair from August 2024	
9	Gillian Urch			
10	Judith Webb		From March 2024	
11	Susan Young	Secretary		
12				
13				
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19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document <i>(eg. trust deed, or Articles)</i>	Constitution
How the charity is constituted <i>(eg. as a charitable company)</i>	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods <i>(eg. appointed or elected by)</i>	Trustees elected by membership at AGM

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

During the reporting year the trustees have held 6 meetings with an average attendance of 7.

The AGM was held on 7 March 2024 with 21 members present. Two trustees resigned, as required by our constitution and were then re-appointed. Three new trustees were elected. At the end of the reporting year there were 11 trustees.

There are 50 paid members of the EHCT.

During the reporting year solicitors have been drafting an agreement regarding the lease of the necessary land and infrastructure to the Ewyas Harold Common Water Society EHCWS). Meanwhile the EHCWS manages the water supply including all the finances.

During the reporting year the Trust has developed policies in relation to cycling and horse riding.

A reserves policy has also been drafted. Though still to be finalised it has been incorporated in the budget for 2023/24.

During the reporting year the ownership registration of the Trust's lands finally came through. And the Trust was gifted a field (1.25 acres) adjoining the Common which is in the Groundwater Protection Zone for the water supply.

A Deed of Easement for access was drawn up between the EHCT and the owner of land adjoining the Common where permission had been granted for residential use. EHCT will be receiving £25k from this in the next financial year.

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The purposes of the EHCT are set out in the constitution as follows: "To promote, for the benefit of the public, the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of Ewyas Harold Common ("the **Common**") by:

- providing amenity space for the local community and promoting sustainable access
- managing the land to create and maintain biological diversity and to improve and maintain a traditional habitat for wildlife
- maintaining the quantity and quality of the grazing, consistent with the other objects
- advancing the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the Common
- protecting against any action which would be detrimental to overall objects or to the exercise of registered rights."

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Environmental management

There were around 5 volunteer working parties on the Common over the winter – mainly scrub clearance for the benefit of pearl bordered fritillary butterflies.

Contractors were paid for bracken cutting (£1134), for a day with a roboflail (£900) and for scrub clearance (£150). In addition a contractor undertook reptile and amphibian management (£630). BPS claimants and Trust members have also undertaken bracken cutting at no cost to the Trust.

Alongside the grazing by 7 Exmoor ponies and a small flock of commoner's sheep the above management maintained the requirements of the Higher Level Stewardship. The Common was the recipient of some slow worms translocated from a nearby site where development was taking place.

Regular surveys of butterflies and reptiles were undertaken – with both showing that target species are holding their own.

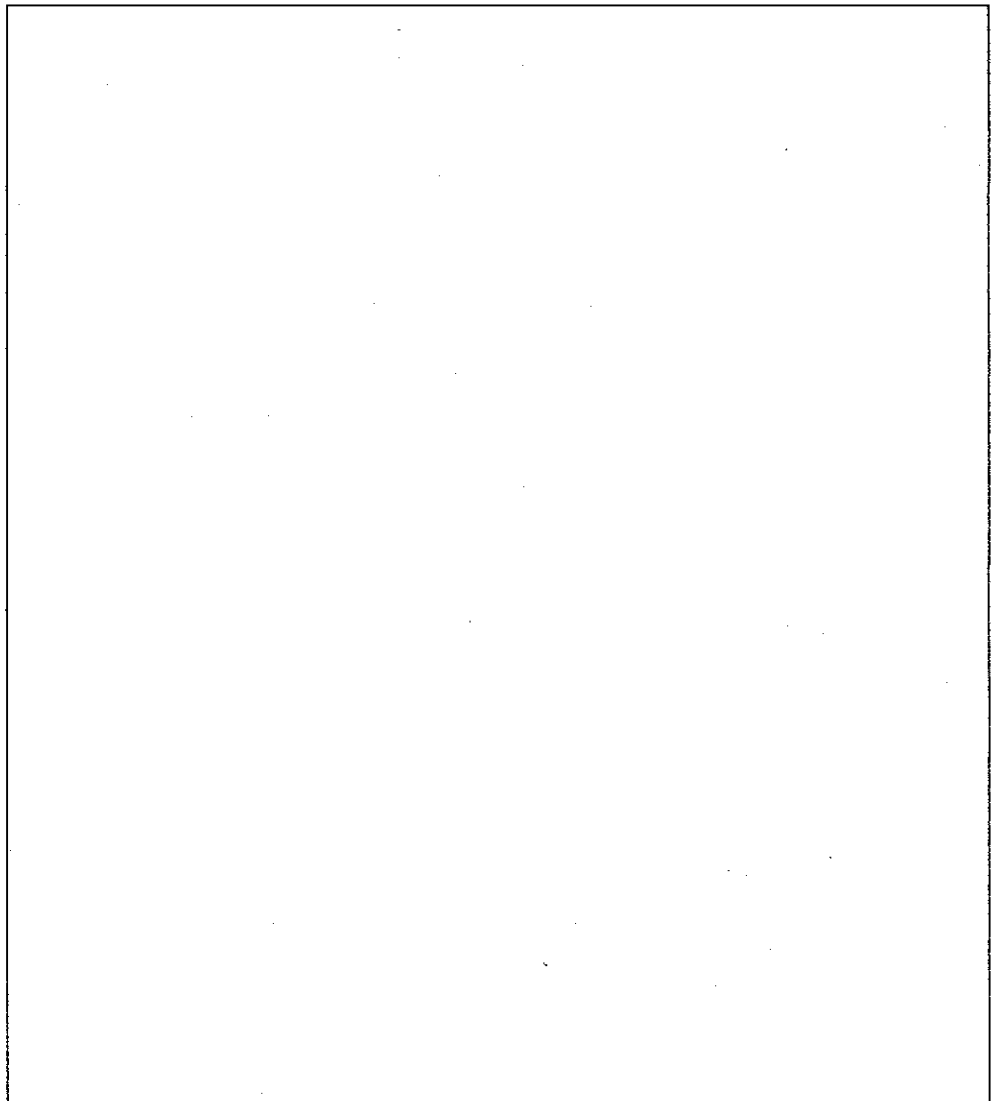
The Environmental Stewardship agreement continues until March 2028. Work has begun on a longer term management plan with consideration being given to making a move to a new RPA scheme and applying for SSSI designation.

Amenity Use

The Common is extensively used by locals for walking. During wet weather this can create muddy conditions on some well used paths. For this reason we have developed policies restricting cycling and horse riding. We are also looking into some limited path improvements to provide better access for local walkers.

Unfortunately some of the signs installed at the 3 main entrances (to indicate that cycling, horse riding, lighting fires and camping is generally not permitted and encouraging adherence to the countryside code as regards dog walking) have been removed. We are in contact with the neighbourhood police regarding this and other antisocial behaviour. Longer term, we are planning to replace the noticeboards at the entrances.

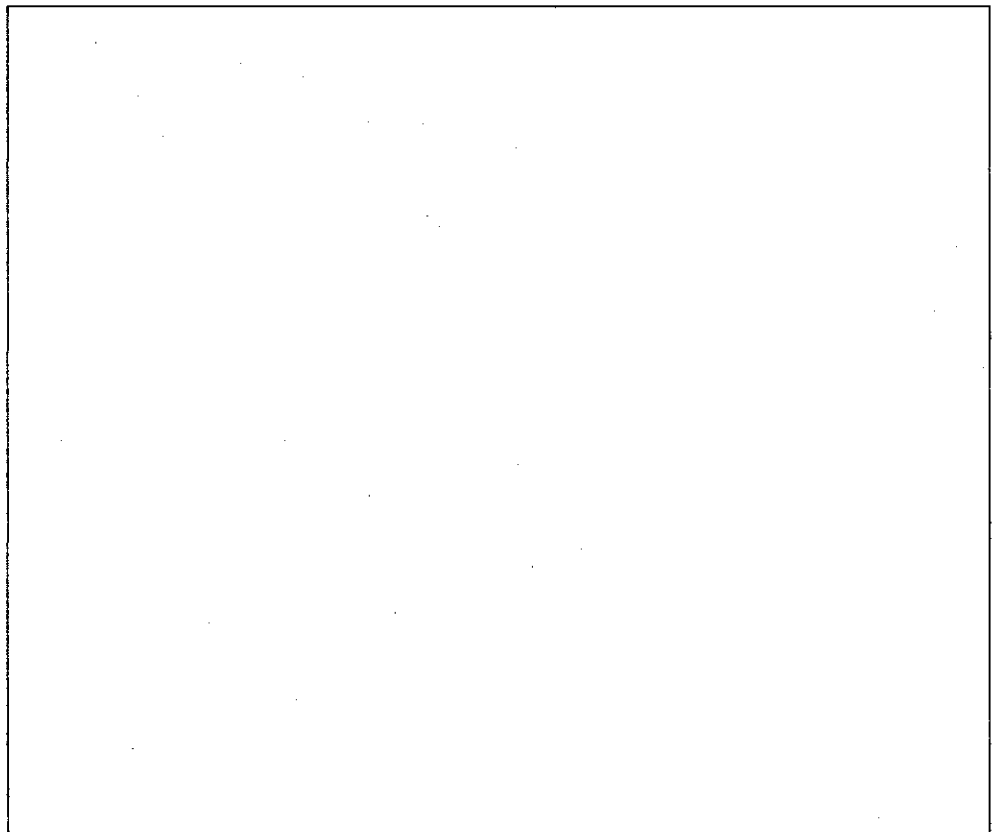
We believe that in all our activities we have complied with the duty in section 4 of the 2006 Act to have due regard to guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission.



Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.



**Summary of the main
achievements of the charity
during the year**

EHCT has continued to provide a welcome place for members of the public to walk and relax. The Common is well used.

Even though the Common is a popular recreational venue, EHCT has managed to maintain its value for wildlife. Necessary management undertaken by the Trust has meant that the numbers of protected species have continued to hold their own.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

With all the legacy loans paid back and the finances of the water supply taken over by the Ewyas Harold Common Water Society it has been possible to begin to consider budgeting for 2024/25 and developing a reserves policy. The latter will maintain approximately 6 months of regular expenditure as reserves.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Our principle source of funding remains the Higher Level Stewardship (about £5k per annum), membership subscriptions and donations. The costs involved in running the water supply have been off loaded. The HLS money is ring fenced for habitat management. The other main expenditure is for public liability insurance. In addition to expenditure on habitat management our budget envisages spending on preparation of the management plan, new noticeboards and footpath improvement.

Section F

Other optional information


Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



S.E. Young

Full name(s)

ANDREW NIXON

SUSAN YOUNG

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

CHAIR

SECRETARY

Date

20/02/25