

BURY WATER MEADOWS GROUP

England & Wales · Charity number 1185321

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2019-09-16

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

Contact

Address 27 Victoria Street
Bury St. Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 3BB

Phone 01284 704481

Email iancampbell254@gmail.com

Website www.burywatermeadowsgroup.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO CONSERVE, PRESERVE AND IMPROVE THE RIVERS LARK AND LINNET IN BURY ST EDMUNDS AND ADJACENT AREAS FOR THE BENEFIT THE PUBLIC, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY:1. IMPROVING ACCESS AND ENCOURAGING THE APPROPRIATE USE OF THE RIVERS AND THEIR ENVIRONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.2. EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE RIVERS AND THEIR ENVIRONS3. FACILITATING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THE CONSERVATION OF THE RIVER LARK AND LINNET, BURY ST EDMUNDSÆS WATER MEADOWS AND CRITICAL OTHER LOCAL GREEN SPACES4. IMPROVING THE BIODIVERSITY OF THE LARK AND THE LINNET5. WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LIKE-MINDED ORGANISATIONS

Activities: Environmental group helping to conserve, maintain, and improve the rivers Lark and Linnet, and their riparian areas in Bury St Edmunds

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Suffolk

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£19,304	£8,924	-	-
2024-12-31	£8,617	£7,875	-	-
2023-12-31	£5,289	£10,209	-	-
2022-12-31	£14,147	£6,054	-	-
2021-12-31	£12,957	£11,461	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Christopher Cross		2022-02-25
Dr Julian Case		2020-05-14
Gillian Evans		2023-11-20
Ian Campbell		2019-08-15
Richard Counihan		2021-02-26
Ross Britcher		2026-05-18
Susan Feuerhelm		2023-11-20
jillian macready		2019-08-15

BURY WATER MEADOWS GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1185321

Accounts



Bury Water Meadows Group CIO
Charity Number: 1185321

**Trustees' Annual Report & Financial Statements
for the Period
1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025**



Bury Water Meadows Group CIO

Trustees' Annual Report

for the Period from 01-01-2025 to 31-12-2025

Section A: Reference & Administration Details

Charity Name	Bury Water Meadows Group CIO
Registered Number	1185321
Principal Address	27 Victoria Street, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 3BB

Names of the charity trustees who manage the Charity

Name	Office	Date Appointed (if during year)	Resigned (if during year)
Richard Counihan	Chair		
Elizabeth Ranzetta			25/04/25
Ian Campbell	Treasurer		
Julian Case	Secretary		
Jillian Macready	Secretary		
Iain Carruthers-Jones			25/04/25
Christopher Cross			
Gillian Evans			
Susan Feuerhelm			

Names of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

NONE

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

NONE



Section B: Structure, Governance & Management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of Governing Document	Association model constitution with voting members other than its charity trustees
How the Charity is Constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee Selection Methods including details of any constitutional provisions	There must be at least three trustees under the Constitution. We aim to maintain a minimum of six members on the CIO management committee and periodically ask the members via newsletter if anyone is interested in adding their expertise. The member would then attend and participate in the management committee for a three-month trial period and subject to this being successful they are invited to become a trustee. No body external to the charity has any entitlement to appoint trustees.

Additional information (optional)

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	In accordance with the Constitution a copy including any amendments made to it along with a copy of the latest trustees' annual report and statement of accounts will be made available to each new trustee. Having already served on the management committee the new trustee will be familiar with all discussions regarding the running of the CIO.
Other Governance	<p>The CIO management committee normally meets once per month and the secretary maintains minutes of each meeting's actions and decisions.</p> <p>Policies & procedure in respect of the following areas are in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ internal charity financial controls ➤ safeguarding ➤ financial reserves ➤ complaints ➤ serious incident reporting ➤ internal risk management ➤ trustee expenses ➤ trustee conflicts of interest ➤ equality & diversity ➤ volunteer management

Statutory declaration on public benefit

The trustees declare that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

Section C: Objectives & Activities

The purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document are

To conserve, preserve and improve the rivers Lark and Linnet in Bury St Edmunds and adjacent areas for the benefit of the public in particular but not exclusively by:

1. Improving access and encouraging the appropriate use of the rivers and their environs by members of the public
2. Educating the public about the rivers and their environs
3. Facilitating community involvement in the conservation of the rivers Lark and Linnet, Bury St Edmunds' water meadows and critical other local green spaces
4. Improving the biodiversity of the Lark and the Linnet
5. Working in partnership with like-minded organisations

Summary of the main activities in relation to these purposes for the public benefit by Bury Water Meadows Group CIO (BWMG):

➤ Access to the rivers and their environs:

Chalk streams are one of England's most important natural habitats and are globally rare. Both the Lark and the Linnet are chalk streams which flow through the town's floodplains and green spaces but the water that is in the rivers does not derive from the aquifer as it should but is often run-off and polluted both upstream and downstream of the town. This is essentially due to over-abstraction for public water supply along with pollution from agriculture, roads, and water treatment works.

With there being limited scope to impact on the rivers themselves BWMG's main focus here is to maintain and improve the existing accessible green spaces adjoining the rivers through activities including pro-active plant & vegetation management, ditch clearance, footpath maintenance, redundant fence removal, invasive species removal, and litter picking.

➤ River path access:

Public footpaths run alongside the river Linnet from Westley Bottom through Holywater Meadows to the Green King site with further footpaths through the water meadows along both sides of Cullum Road. There are also footpaths alongside the river Lark from Rougham Road past the Abbey Gardens and through Ram Meadow to Compiegne Way. There is then no access before the 13-mile Lark path which starts from Mildenhall Road in the town and continues downstream to Mildenhall.

Progress by Suffolk County Council (SCC)'s Rights of Way dept on the completion of the necessary actions to open a new public river path from the A14 at Fornham Road to Barton Hill is slow but on-going. This would open up green space through wood and meadow areas alongside British Sugar's land, accessed at the Barton Hill end via a strip of land owned by BWMG.

➤ Education and communication:

Our website contains features on work taking place in the various water meadow habitat locations, members newsletters, and a monthly column written for the local press. It also has a link to view the new short film "A Year in the Life of Bury Water Meadows Group". Our active Facebook page educates and informs readers on the regular activities of the group.

➤ Wildlife Festival

The Wildlife Festival event is the annual flagship for BWMG's efforts to increase community involvement in its work on habitat conservation and the maintenance of biodiversity in the water meadow locations in the town. From a tented hub-zone in the Abbey Gardens this was a free, fun and informative event for the public who were invited to come and explore the biodiversity of the water meadows with a series of interactive walks, talks, trails, and art with local

environmental organisations, experts and enthusiasts. Two schools took part on the Friday and the general public was welcomed on the Saturday.

➤ **Habitat conservation management and maintenance:**

The main activity of the charity is to facilitate community involvement in conservation in Bury St Edmunds' water meadow locations through our volunteer work parties. Written management plans that have been agreed with West Suffolk Council (WSC) are in place for the Crankles, No Mans Meadow and Ram Meadow. These provide the framework under which BWMG develops its programme of maintenance and management for these green public areas through the year. The group also ran a monthly programme of litter picking / rubbish removal throughout the town.

➤ **Invasive species control:**

An invasive species is one that out-competes other species in a new environment where it is not native. Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) has become one of the UK's most invasive weed species, colonising riverbanks and reducing native biodiversity. As an annual plant Himalayan balsam dies back in the winter and it can leave riverbanks bare of vegetation and liable to erosion. BWMG's volunteers led by trained in-channel leaders continued their annual summer activity of surveying and pulling these plants from the riverbanks.

White poplar is non-native but naturalised in the UK. It is fast growing and spreads rapidly by suckering. Hemlock is a native poisonous plant that spreads in huge colonies along riverbanks and ditches. It germinates in autumn as a low rosette and then from the spring develops a tall flowering stalk. BWMG's volunteer work parties attempt to restrict the spread of both these invasive species through digging and cutting.

➤ **Biodiversity surveying:**

BWMG's survey volunteers continue to record species of flowering plants, birds, butterflies, moths, mammals, insects, invertebrates, lichen and fungi found across the town's water meadows. This covers Ram Meadow & Ram Meadow East, North and South Crankles, No Mans Meadow, the Abbey Gardens, the Great Churchyard, Saxon Gate Nature reserve, the Butts and Harp Meadow. The surveys continue throughout the year, yielding useful data about the change in species through the seasons and year-to-year.

➤ **Partnerships:**

The charity's role is to work in partnership with other organisations who are set up and structured to engage on river and environmental policy. BWMG is an associate member of the River Lark Catchment Partnership (RLCP), a group of organisations and individuals that have come together to promote a cohesive approach to the environmental challenges facing the Lark. The charity has also built strong links with Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT), both on habitat conservation and in working with their planning officer on planning matters.

BWMG works with WSC to help manage and maintain council owned and leased green spaces and with other conservation groups and local organisations to contribute to their plans. The group has formal links with the Bury Society, the Friends of the Abbey Gardens, Bury in Bloom, and is a member of the Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership.

➤ **Planning Policy:**

The charity continues to work with the Abbey of St Edmunds Heritage Partnership and with the landowners in connection with the West Suffolk Local Plan process focusing on safeguarding the Leg of Mutton as amenity public open space within the town's River Lark corridor.

BWMG also looks to review planning applications that it considers will impact on the rivers Lark and Linnet and adjacent areas from an environmental perspective. Currently this sees the group engaging with SWT's planning officer in relation to the ongoing matter of satisfaction of the River Lark corridor planning condition affecting the Abbots Vale site, and the proposed residential development of the St James School site which overlooks both the River Lark and the landscape setting of the Abbey Ruins Scheduled Monument.

Section D: Achievements & Performance

➤ Membership:

The charity saw an increase in its membership to 241 members at the renewal date of 1st November 2025 compared with the previous year's 238. 35 new members came on board in the year, usually attracted via personal contacts with existing members, through seeing volunteers in action, and from seeing the group's press & online posts.

➤ Education and Communication:

BWMG seeks to engage more residents in the appreciation and recognition of nature and the environment. The main focus of its efforts to increase community involvement was the successful hosting of the fourth Wildlife Festival event (previously called Bioblitz). The group contributed a monthly feature to the local press and continued to publicise its informative newsletter to members and on its website.

One of the trustees, supported by other members with production and music skills, produced a short film "A Year in the Life of Bury Water Meadows Group" which showcased the activities of the charity through the seasons. The first half of the year had its debut showing at the AGM and then at the Wildlife Festival with the full year version shown at the members social event to great acclaim. It's also available to view on the BWMG website.

➤ Wildlife Festival:

The fourth BWMG Wildlife Festival event took place over the weekend of Friday 16th & Saturday 17th May in the town's Abbey Gardens. The overall objective was to continue to raise the status of the Lark & Linnet for the town, and specifically to showcase, explore and raise awareness of the diversity of life in the adjacent water meadows.

Friday was schools' day when students from St Edmundsbury and Sebert Wood schools took part in a programme of guided activity including a species and bug hunt followed by a participatory art drawing activity. Saturday was the public day when visitors had the opportunity to join guided expert nature walks, attend a range of talks from local experts, and visit the tented hub zone staffed by enthusiastic volunteers and supporters from a variety of environmental organisations. The whole event was free, fun and informative and attracted huge numbers. 29 BWMG volunteers contributed 258 hours over the weekend (plus unrecorded planning time).

➤ Habitat conservation management and maintenance:

BWMG volunteers continued to support the charity's activities in the conservation, maintenance and the management of the rivers Lark and Linnet and their surrounding water meadows in Bury St Edmunds. Volunteer work parties typically lasting 2 to 4 hours took place throughout the year with activities including ditch clearance, meadow scything, vegetation & invasive species removal, planting & sowing and path maintenance. 43 work parties were run in the year with 58 members plus 4 non-members taking part clocking up 1171 hours.

Volunteering brings benefits to the individual, to the local community, to wider society, and to the environment. It's good for the mind and body, providing a sense of purpose and helping people stay physically healthy. The social contact aspect of helping and working with others benefits overall psychological well-being and provides a solid support system for people to be in regular contact with other like-minded people.

➤ Litter picking:

Beginning in December 2024 two of our members organised monthly litter picks across the town. These proved to be very popular events with 38 different volunteers contributing 154 hours over the year. The volume of rubbish collected was vast with bagged dog waste and alcohol cans & bottles being the most common items along with abandoned tent encampments. WSC supported the effort by providing bags and importantly by picking up for disposal afterwards and Fornham Parish Council gave funding to buy equipment including a folding trolley. Sadly some areas needed a return visit later in the year to do the job all over again.

➤ Invasive Species:

The annual programme to control Himalayan Balsam (HB) continued on 7km of the accessible sections of the rivers Lark & Linnet in the town. On summer evenings volunteers worked

downstream along the riverbanks, usually at water level, pulling up plants individually by their roots before the seed is set. This effectively kills the plants but the scale of the task and the nature of the habitat with steep riverbanks and nettles makes this very labour-intensive work. The process is working as where they have been pulled HB plants return significantly less abundant in the following year. Volunteers spent 67 hours over 4 sessions on this activity.

BWMG volunteer work parties also undertook hemlock removal along riverbank paths through digging them out in the spring before the plant flowers, and cutting back poplars and digging out suckers which spread through the water meadows.

➤ **Biodiversity:**

The group's dedicated team of volunteers continued with a monthly biodiversity survey programme across the town's green spaces with the observations being collated into monthly summaries and submitted to the national iRecord site. The volunteer time over the year from this small core group of 10 supported by other members equated to 550 hours. The results have identified an astonishing variety of flowering plants, birds, mammals, insects, butterflies & moths, molluscs, fungi and lichen across the year. In a single month there were up to 156 varieties of flowering plants and grasses, 56 species of bird, 92 types of insect and spider, 29 moths and butterflies and 52 different fungi.

The solar-powered remote wildlife trail cameras delivered images of several species of birds and mammals, excitingly including otter and water vole, and a bat detector device was acquired for use in 2026. The group also monitors open fronted bird boxes installed in Ram Meadow and owl boxes in No Mans Meadow.

➤ **Partnerships:**

BWMG is a member of the Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership's Core Group, which works to care for, conserve and enhance the Abbey Precinct (including the Crankles & No Mans Meadows). The Heritage Partnership aims to help people to experience the significance of St Edmund and the historic Abbey whilst BWMG speaks up for the rivers and the associated water meadows. The aim is to help to raise the status of the Lark and Linnet within the Abbey Precinct, with a particular emphasis on influencing the natural environment and biodiversity elements within the Abbey of St Edmund's National Lottery Heritage grant project.

➤ **Access to the rivers and their environs:**

The charity's trustees conducted several meetings in 2025 with the landowners of the Leg of Mutton farmland adjacent to the river Lark to discuss their ideas for a farm shop and permanent public open space habitat. The charity's trustees are supportive of the concept as it is considered that the current local plan site designation of open space / informal recreational is unlikely to be upheld in future plans in which case the alternatives could be potentially worse. The next step is for the landowners to work up a proposal to discuss with councils and planners. There were also further meetings with SCC Rights of Way on site at Barton Hill to progress the actions needed to open up the new section of the Lark river path.

➤ **Water quality & habitat improvement policy:**

Using grant funding BWMG commissioned a habitat survey report and ecological advice for wetland restoration works at the Ram Meadow scrape. This led to the identification of a programme of works and subsequent successful grant bids to fund this though the work has been delayed to the autumn of 2026 to avoid the spring bird breeding season.

➤ **Purchases & Equipment:**

Aside from grant expenditure the major expense in the year was £3,726 for the Wildlife Festival event which was fully 3rd party funded, £1,056 on chainsaw training and £710 on work party tools and PPE.

➤ **Training:**

During the year one BWMG volunteer completed chainsaw use refresher training and a second volunteer completed chainsaw maintenance and cross-cutting training.

Section E: Financial Review

Review of the financial position at the end of the period

The charity held a total of £20,191 in funds at the end of the period, of which £8,992 was held as restricted funds and £11,199 as unrestricted funds.

The corresponding sum last year was a total of £9,811 comprising £3,000 held as restricted funds and £6,811 as unrestricted funds.

Principle sources of funds

The charity's total income in the period was £19,304, compared with £8,617 last year.

The charity received grant contributions totalling £7,000 from WSC & the HD Wills 1965 Charitable Trust to mechanically increase the open water area of the Ram Meadow scrape and £250 from Fornham Parish Council to support litter picking.

Funding of £3,867 was received from Abbey 1000 CIC to cover the costs of the 2025 Wildlife Festival event and the balance of income of £8,187 was received from membership dues, donations & gift aid.

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The charity's aim is to broadly match its annual income with its expenditure but it will keep financial reserves on the following basis:

The charity's operational spend is mostly discretionary with a low level of fixed overhead (eg insurance). This spend is more than covered by the annual membership income, gift aid and donations which can be reliably expected to be in the range of £3,000.

However, there is also the intention to maintain a commitment to annual public events with the centrepiece being the Wildlife Festival. These event costs have so far been covered by 3rd party funding but this is not expected to be the case for 2026. The group is also aware of the risk of having to meet the cost of an unexpected need (eg the replacement of the storage container or high value equipment), or of the need to spend money ahead of funding being received.

The total reserve target to cover these requirements will be held equivalent to a regular annual membership, gift aid and donations income of £3,000 plus event funding for 2026 of £3,000.

The actual level of reserves at £11,199 has increased from last year primarily due to a significant one-off donation received near to the end of the year and a multi-year gift aid reclaim and so remains higher than the reserves policy target. The trustees are confident that this excess will be spent on activities in line with the group's charitable purposes.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

The Trustees declare that the charity had no funds which were materially in deficit at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

Particulars of any outstanding guarantee given by the charity

The trustees declare that the charity has given no guarantee where potential liability is outstanding at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.


Particulars of any outstanding debt

The trustees declare that the charity has no outstanding debts which are secured by an express charge on any of the assets of the charity at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature	
Full name	Ian Campbell
Position	Trustee & Treasurer
Date	16 th March 2026



Receipts and payments accounts

For the period
from

01-Jan-25

To

31-Dec-25

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Membership & Donations	7,099			7,099	2,144
Booklet Sales				-	23
Gift Aid	1,088			1,088	-
Fornham Parish Council Litterpick		250		250	-
Abbey 1000 CIC Wildlife Day	3,867			3,867	3,450
West Suffolk Council Wetland Study				-	3,000
Ram Meadow Scrape Open Water Habitat		7,000		7,000	-
				-	-
Sub total	12,054	7,250	-	19,304	8,617
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
				-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total Receipts	12,054	7,250	-	19,304	8,617
A3 Payments					
Work Party Tools & PPE	581			581	1,012
Scythes	54			54	97
Chainsaw & PPE	75			75	60
Wildflower Planting				-	303
Contractor Expenses	243			243	289
Work Party Expenses	186			186	388
Survey Expenses	233			233	354
Training	1,056			1,056	200
Wildlife Day Expenses	3,726			3,726	3,450
Litterpick Expenses		250		250	-
Fencing Repair	387			387	-
Wetland Feasibility Study		1,008		1,008	-
Printing & Stationery	52			52	-
Signage				-	541
Insurance	331			331	326
Webinar/Website Expenses	156			156	220
Trustee/Membership Event Expenses	563			563	453
Equipment Storage	23			23	144
Publicity				-	31
Other				-	7
				-	-
Sub total	7,666	1,258	-	8,924	7,875
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
				-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	7,666	1,258	-	8,924	7,875
Net of receipts/(payments)	4,388	5,992	0	10,380	742
A5 Transfers between funds				0	0
A6 Cash funds last year end	6,811	3,000	-	9,811	9,069
Cash funds this year end	11,199	8,992	-	20,191	9,811

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current Account	11,199	8,992	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	11,199	8,992	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

OK

OK

OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Land for Footpath Entrance	Unrestricted	-	-
	Work Party Tooling & Equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
	Personal Protective Equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
	Publicity Display Material	Unrestricted	-	-
	Storage Container for Equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
<i>Ian Campbell</i>	IAN CAMPBELL	16/03/2026

BURY WATER MEADOWS GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1185321

Accounts



Bury Water Meadows Group CIO
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for the Period
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Bury Water Meadows Group CIO

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➤ BioBlitz Wildlife Day

The BioBlitz Wildlife Day event is flagship for BWMG's efforts to increase community involvement in its work on habitat conservation and the maintenance of biodiversity in the water meadow locations in the town. From a tented hub-zone in the Abbey Gardens this was a free, fun and informative event for the public who were invited to come and explore the biodiversity of the water meadows with a series of interactive walks, talks, trails, and art with local environmental organisations, experts and enthusiasts. Two schools took part on the Friday and we welcomed the general public on the Saturday.

➤ **Habitat conservation management and maintenance:**

The main activity of the charity is to facilitate community involvement in conservation in Bury St Edmunds' water meadow locations through our volunteer work parties. Written management plans that have been agreed with WSC are in place for the Crankles, No Mans Meadow and Ram Meadow. These provide the framework under which BWMG develops its programme of maintenance and management for these green public areas through the year.

poplar.

➤ **Invasive species control:**

An invasive species is one that out-competes other species in a new environment where it is not native. Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) has become one of the UK's most invasive weed species, colonising riverbanks and reducing native biodiversity. As an annual plant Himalayan balsam dies back in the winter and, where it grows in river systems, it can leave riverbanks bare of vegetation and liable to erosion. BWMG's volunteers led by trained in-channel leaders continued with its annual summer activity of surveying and pulling these plants from the riverbanks in partnership with River Lark Catchment Partnership (RLCP) volunteers who work downstream.

White poplar is non-native but naturalised in the UK. It is fast growing and spreads rapidly by suckering. Hemlock is a native poisonous plant that spreads in huge colonies along riverbanks and ditches. It germinates in autumn as a low rosette and then from the spring develops a tall flowering stalk. BWMG's volunteer work parties attempt to restrict the spread of both these invasive species through digging and cutting.

➤ **Biodiversity surveying:**

BWMG's survey volunteers continued to record species of birds, butterflies, moths, mammals, plants, insects, invertebrates and fungi found across the town's water meadows covering Ram Meadow & Ram Meadow East, North and South Crankles, No Mans Meadow, the Abbey Gardens, the Great Churchyard, Saxon Gate Nature reserve, the Butts and Harp Meadow. The surveys continue throughout the year, yielding useful data about the change in species through the seasons.

➤ **Partnerships:**

The charity's role is to work in partnership with other organisations who are set-up and structured to engage on river and environmental policy. BWMG is a founding member of the Chalk Aquifer Alliance which unites independent chalk stream groups to both raise awareness of and to campaign on the plight of chalk streams. BWMG is also an associate member of the River Lark Catchment Partnership (RLCP), a group of organisations and individuals that have come together to promote a cohesive approach to the environmental challenges facing the Lark.

BWMG works with WSC to help manage and maintain council owned and leased green spaces and with other conservation groups and local organisations to contribute to on what they are planning. We have formal links with the Bury Society, the Friends of the Abbey Gardens, Bury in Bloom, and we are a member of the Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership. We have built strong links with Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT), both on the water vole habitat project and in working with their planning officer, and with Bury St Edmunds Rugby club who allowed us to install our equipment storage container on their site and in return we help maintain the ditches and the river Lark that border their lower playing fields.

➤ **Planning Policy:**

We look to review planning applications that we consider will impact on the rivers Lark and Linnet and adjacent areas from an environmental perspective. Currently this sees us working closely with SWT's planning officer in relation to the ongoing matter of satisfaction of the River Lark corridor planning condition affecting the Abbots Vale site, and the proposed residential development of the St James School site which overlooks both the River Lark and the landscape setting of the Abbey Ruins Scheduled Monument. We also worked with the Abbey of St Edmunds Heritage Partnership to participate in the West Suffolk Local Plan Examination in Public (held in December 2024) focusing on keeping the Leg of Mutton as amenity public open space within the town's River Lark corridor.

Section D: Achievements & Performance

➤ Membership:

The charity saw a small increase in its membership through the period at 238 members at the renewal date of 1st November 2024 compared with the previous year's 230. We attracted 27 new members in the year. New members are often attracted through personal contacts with existing members, through seeing volunteers in action, and through our press & online presence.

➤ Education and Communication:

We believe that there is an on-going need to seek to engage more residents in the appreciation and recognition of nature and the environment. The main focus of BWMG's efforts to increase community involvement was the successful hosting of the third Bioblitz event. The group contributed a monthly feature to the local press and continues to publicise its informative newsletter on its website.

➤ BioBlitz Wildlife Day:

The third BWMG BioBlitz Wildlife Day event took place over the weekend of Friday 17th & Saturday 18th May in the Abbey Gardens. The overall objective was to continue to raise the status of the Lark & Linnet for the town, and specifically to showcase, explore and raise awareness of the diversity of life in the adjacent water meadows.

Friday was schools' day when students from St Edmundsbury and Sebert Wood schools took part in a programme of guided activity including a species and bug hunt followed by a participatory art activity making bunting flags showing the species found.

Saturday was the public day when visitors had the opportunity to join guided expert nature walks, attend a range of talks from local experts, and visit the tented hub zone staffed by enthusiastic volunteers and supporters from a variety of environmental organisations. The whole event was free, fun and informative. 28 BWMG volunteers contributed 174 hours over the weekend (plus significant unrecorded planning time).

➤ Habitat conservation management and maintenance:

BWMG volunteers continued to support its activities in the conservation, maintenance and the management of the rivers Lark and Linnet and their surrounding water meadows in Bury St Edmunds. Volunteer work parties typically lasting 2 to 4 hours take place throughout the year with activities including ditch clearance, meadow scything, vegetation & invasive species removal, planting & sowing and path maintenance. 43 work parties were run in the year with 67 members plus 12 non-members taking part clocking up 1248 hours.

At the end of 2024 two of our members re-started a programme of monthly litter picks which are both popular with volunteers and bring an obvious benefit to the public.

We have seen first-hand that volunteering brings benefits to the individual, to the local community, to wider society, and to the environment. It is good for the mind and body, providing a sense of purpose and helping people stay physically healthy. The social contact aspect of helping and working with others benefits overall psychological well-being and provides a solid support system with people keeping in regular contact with others.

➤ Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Corporate Volunteering:

As part of their ESG policies to support local communities two companies sent volunteers during paid working hours to support BWMG's habitat maintenance activities through scything, raking and hemlock removal. In particular this helped BWMG to add part of the Great Churchyard area to our scything programme.

➤ Invasive Species:

BWMG volunteers have for several years undertaken a programme to control Himalayan Balsam (HB) on 7km of the accessible sections of the rivers Lark & Linnet in the town. On summer evenings we worked downstream along the riverbanks, usually at water level, pulling up plants individually by their roots before the seed is set. This action effectively kills the plants but the scale of the task and the nature of the habitat with steep riverbanks and nettles makes this very labour-intensive work. The good news is that the process is working. Where we have

previously pulled HB plants they return significantly less abundant in the following year and because of this we were able in 2024 to complete the full stretch of the Lark in the town from Rougham bridge to Fornham bridge in less time than previously. Altogether volunteers clocked up 57 hours over 4 sessions on this activity.

BWMG volunteer work parties undertook hemlock removal along riverbank paths through digging them out in the spring before the plant flowers, and a resource-limited programme of cutting back poplars and digging out suckers which spread through the water meadows.

➤ **Biodiversity:**

The group's dedicated team of volunteers take part in a monthly biodiversity survey across the town's green spaces producing around 70-80 hours of observation per month. The results have identified up to 129 varieties of flowering plant and grasses in a single month (July), 53 species of bird (May), 57 types of insect and spider (July), and 17 moths and butterflies (July).

Mammals, fish, invertebrates, fungi, lichens and mosses were also recorded. Observers have increased their knowledge of insects and fungi leading to an expansion in the monthly species reports which can be found on BWMG's website.

Following a trial with two basic trail cameras, two solar-powered remote wildlife trail cameras were purchased and installed to look for evidence of water voles. The group has 6 open fronted bird boxes installed in Ram Meadow though no nesting has been recorded. In No Mans Meadow one of the two owl boxes was used by barn owls but no fledging was observed.

➤ **Partnerships:**

We are a member of the Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership's Core Group, which works to care for, conserve and enhance the Abbey Precinct (including the Crankles & No Mans Meadows). The Heritage Partnership aims to help people to experience the international significance of St Edmund and the historic Abbey whilst BWMG speaks up for the rivers and the associated water meadows. We are working with the Partnership to help raise the status of the Lark and Linnet within the Abbey Precinct, with a particular emphasis on influencing the natural environment elements within the Abbey of St Edmund's National Lottery Heritage grant project.

We continued to work with SWT's planning officer in relation to the ongoing Abbots Vale planning application and the new St James School planning application.

➤ **River flow and water quality policy:**

Under the river Lark Flagship chalk stream recovery project Anglian Water Services (AWS) entered into partnering agreements in 2023 with Norfolk Rivers Trust (NRT) for the project design and with RLCP as the community partner to which BWMG contributed. At the time of publication of this report the project design is not yet published.

➤ **Purchases & Equipment:**

The major expenditure in the year was £3,450 for the BioBlitz event which was fully 3rd party funded. The group spent £1,012 on work party tools & PPE with the most expensive item being an electric brush cutter. New signage to explain the water vole habitat and the circular walk cost £541.

➤ **Training:**

In the year two BWMG Trustees completed NSPCC child protection training, and two trustees completed Emergency First Aid training. Trustees and members attended a training day run by SWT on water voles and otters.

Section E: Financial Review

Review of the financial position at the end of the period

The charity held a total of £9,811 in funds at the end of the period, of which £3,000 was held as restricted funds and £6,811 as unrestricted funds.

The corresponding sum last year was a total of £9,069 all held as unrestricted funds.

Principle sources of funds

The charity's total income in the period was £8,617, compared with £5,289 last year.

The charity received a contribution of £3,000 from West Suffolk Council for an urban wetlands feasibility study, and £3,450 from Abbey 1000 CIC for the costs of the 2024 BioBlitz event.

The balance of income of £2,167 was primarily received from membership dues and donations.

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The charity's aim is to broadly match its annual income with its expenditure but will keep financial reserves on the following basis:

The charity's operational spend is mostly discretionary with a low level of fixed overhead (eg insurance). This spend is more than covered by the annual membership income and donations which can be reliably expected to be in the range of £2,500.

However, we also have the intention to maintain our commitment to annual public events with the centrepiece being the Bioblitz. These event costs have so far been covered by 3rd party funding but there is no guarantee that this will continue to be the case.

We should also be aware of the risk of having to meet the cost of an unexpected need (eg) the replacement of storage container or high value equipment, or to be able to spend money ahead of funding being received as has been the case with the water vole habitat project.

The total reserve to cover these requirements will be held equivalent to the annual membership and donations income of £2,500.

The actual level of reserves at £6,811, though reduced from last year remains higher than the reserves policy. The trustees are confident that this excess will be spent on activities in line with the group's charitable purposes.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

The Trustees declare that the charity had no funds which were materially in deficit at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

Particulars of any outstanding guarantee given by the charity

The trustees declare that the charity has given no guarantee where potential liability is outstanding at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

Particulars of any outstanding debt

The trustees declare that the charity has no outstanding debts which are secured by an express charge on any of the assets of the charity at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature	<i>Ian Campbell</i>
Full name	Ian Campbell
Position	Trustee & Treasurer
Date	21 st April 2025



Receipts and payments accounts

For the period
from

01-Jan-24

To

31-Dec-24

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Membership & Donations	2,144			2,144	2,540
Booklet Sales	23			23	24
West Suffolk Hive CIC				-	1,225
Suffolk Wildlife Trust Water Vole Project				-	1,500
Abbey 1000 CIC Bioblitz	3,450			3,450	
West Suffolk Council Wetland Study		3,000		3,000	
				-	-
Sub total	5,617	3,000	-	8,617	5,289
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
				-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total Receipts	5,617	3,000	-	8,617	5,289
A3 Payments					
Work Party Tools & PPE	1,012			1,012	763
Scythes	97			97	-
Chainsaw & PPE	60			60	-
Wildflower Planting	303			303	370
Contractor Expenses	289			289	-
Work Party Expenses	388			388	99
Survey Expenses	354			354	228
Training	200			200	174
BioBlitz Expenses	3,450			3,450	1,334
Water Vole Project				-	5,109
Bird Boxes				-	568
Deer Exclosures				-	380
Signage	541			541	-
Insurance	326			326	319
Legal & Professional				-	6
Zoom/Webinar Expenses	220			220	491
Trustee/Membership Event Expenses	453			453	301
Equipment Storage	144			144	67
Publicity	31			31	-
Other	7			7	-
				-	-
Sub total	7,875	-	-	7,875	10,209
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
				-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	7,875	-	-	7,875	10,209
Net of receipts/(payments)	(2,258)	3,000	0	742	(4,920)
A5 Transfers between funds				0	0
A6 Cash funds last year end	9,069	-	-	9,069	13,989
Cash funds this year end	6,811	3,000	-	9,811	9,069

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current Account	6,811	3,000	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	6,811	3,000	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Land for Footpath Entrance	Unrestricted	-	-
	Work Party Tooling & Equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
	Personal Protective Equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
	Publicity Display Material	Unrestricted	-	-
	Storage Container for Equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	<i>Ian Campbell</i>	IAN CAMPBELL	21/04/2025

BURY WATER MEADOWS GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1185321

Accounts



Bury Water Meadows Group CIO
Charity Number: 1185321

**Trustees' Annual Report & Financial Statements
for the Period
1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023**



Bury Water Meadows Group CIO

Trustees' Annual Report

for the Period from 01-01-2023 to 31-12-2023

Section A: Reference & Administration Details

Charity Name	Bury Water Meadows Group CIO
Registered Number	1185321
Principal Address	27 Victoria Street, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 3BB

Names of the charity trustees who manage the Charity

Name	Office	Date Appointed (if during year)	Resigned (if during year)
Elizabeth Ranzetta	Chair		
Ian Campbell	Treasurer		
Julian Case	Secretary		
Jillian Macready	Secretary		
Iain Carruthers-Jones			
Richard Counihan			
Christopher Cross			
Gillian Evans		20/11/2023	
Susan Feuerhelm		20/11/2023	

Elizabeth Ranzetta is also a trustee of Bury St Edmunds Rickshaw with charity registration number 1189132.

Names of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

NONE

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

NONE



Heritage Fund logo: Made possible with the Heritage Fund

Abbey Alive!

Saturday 20th May 2023
A natural history and living history activity day in and around the Abbey Gardens in Bury St Edmunds

West Suffolk Hive and Bury Water Meadows Group invite you to come and explore the past life and the wildlife at the Abbey of St Edmund with a series of interactive walks, talks, trails, entertainment and a BioBlitz survey with local environmental and historical organisations, experts and enthusiasts.

BioBlitz

ART AROUND TOWN

West Suffolk Family Eco Centre logo: The Hive

BURY WATER MEADOWS GROUP logo

10am-4pm FREE ENTRY
Tickets for talks and guided walks available at:
www.westsuffolkhive.org.uk/abbeyalive
#abbeyalive #burybioblitz

Kindly supported by: West Suffolk Council logo

BURY ST EDMUNDS logo

Section B: Structure, Governance & Management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of Governing Document	Association model constitution with voting members other than its charity trustees
How the Charity is Constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee Selection Methods including details of any constitutional provisions	There must be at least three trustees under the Constitution. We aim to maintain a minimum of six members on the CIO management committee and periodically ask the members via newsletter if anyone is interested in adding their expertise. The member would then attend and participate in the management committee for a three-month trial period and subject to this being successful they are invited to become a trustee. No body external to the charity has any entitlement to appoint trustees.

Additional information (optional)

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	In accordance with the Constitution a copy including any amendments made to it along with a copy of the latest trustees' annual report and statement of accounts will be made available to each new trustee. Having already served on the management committee the new trustee will be familiar with all discussions regarding the running of the CIO.
Other Governance	<p>The CIO management committee normally meets once per month and the secretary maintains minutes of each meeting's actions and decisions.</p> <p>Policies & procedure in respect of the following areas are in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ internal charity financial controls ➤ safeguarding ➤ financial reserves ➤ complaints ➤ serious incident reporting ➤ internal risk management ➤ trustee expenses ➤ trustee conflicts of interest ➤ equality & diversity ➤ volunteer management



Section C: Objectives & Activities

The purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document are

To conserve, preserve and improve the rivers Lark and Linnet in Bury St Edmunds and adjacent areas for the benefit of the public in particular but not exclusively by:

1. Improving access and encouraging the appropriate use of the rivers and their environs by members of the public
2. Educating the public about the rivers and their environs
3. Facilitating community involvement in the conservation of the rivers Lark and Linnet, Bury St Edmunds' water meadows and critical other local green spaces
4. Improving the biodiversity of the Lark and the Linnet
5. Working in partnership with like-minded organisations

Summary of the main activities in relation to these purposes for the public benefit by Bury Water Meadows Group CIO (BWMG):

➤ Access to the rivers and their environs:

Chalk streams are one of England's most important natural habitats and are globally rare. The Lark and the Linnet are chalk streams which flow through the town's floodplains and green spaces but are suffering from a lack of water and from poor water quality. The water that is in the rivers does not derive from the aquifer as it should but is often run-off and polluted both upstream and downstream of the town essentially due to over-abstraction for public water supply along with pollution from agriculture, roads, and water treatment works.

With there being limited scope to impact on the rivers themselves BWMG's main focus here remains to maintain and improve the existing accessible green spaces adjoining the rivers through activities including pro-active plant & vegetation management, ditch clearance, footpath maintenance, redundant fence removal, invasive species removal, and litter picking.

➤ River path access:

Public footpaths run alongside the river Linnet from Westley Bottom through Holywater Meadows to the Green King site with further footpaths through the water meadows along both sides of Cullum Road. There are also footpaths alongside the river Lark from Rougham Road past the Abbey Gardens and through Ram Meadow to Compiegne Way. There is then no access before the 13-mile Lark path which starts from Mildenhall Road in the town and continues downstream to Mildenhall. BWMG has continued to lobby West Suffolk Council (WSC) to complete the necessary consultations and actions so that a new river path from the A14 at Fornham Road to Barton Hill can be opened which would open up green space through extensive wood and meadow areas alongside British Sugar's land. However, the process remains bogged down with no timetable to progress.

➤ Education and communication:

Our website contains features on work taking place in the various water meadow habitat locations, members newsletters, and the monthly column written for the local press. Our active Facebook page educates and informs readers on the regular activities of the group.

➤ BioBlitz:

In conjunction with West Suffolk Hive CIC we ran the second BWMG BioBlitz event over the weekend of Friday 19th & Saturday 20th May under the Abbey Alive! banner. From a tented hub-zone in the Abbey Gardens this was a free, fun and informative event for the public who were invited to come and explore past life and wildlife with a series of interactive walks, talks, trails and entertainment with local environmental and historical organisations, experts and enthusiasts. Three schools took part on the Friday and on the Saturday we welcomed the general public.

The BioBlitz event has become the focus of BWMG's efforts to increase community involvement in our work on habitat conservation and the maintenance of biodiversity in the water meadow locations in the town. By engaging the public and the town's schools in biodiversity we have now developed and begun an associated schools' education programme.

➤ **Habitat conservation management and maintenance:**

The main activity of the charity is to facilitate community involvement in conservation in Bury St Edmunds' water meadow locations through our volunteer work parties. Written management plans that have been agreed with WSC are in place for the Crankles, No Mans Meadows and Ram Meadow. These provide the framework under which BWMG develops its programme of maintenance and management for these green public areas through the year.

• **The Crankles and No Mans Meadows**

The five core management objectives for this area are:

- to enhance its nature conservation value;
- to improve its ecological function as an adjunct to the rivers Lark and Linnet;
- to optimise its hydrological conditions for aquatic, wetland and riparian habitat;
- to respect and conserve historical heritage value by protecting any archaeological remains; and
- to optimise the function of the site as a recreational facility which contributes to the well-being of the local population.

The Crankles site is bounded by the two rivers and divided by a designated cycle path. BWMG maintains the meadow areas suppressing nettles by scything. The objective for the south section is habitat management with a transition from rough ground and nettle dominance to a wildflower meadow with a variety of trees for pollinators. In the north section the objective is now habitat maintenance through scything pathways through the nettles.

The larger No Mans Meadows site is also bounded by the two rivers to the east and west, by the Crankles to the north and by the rugby club fields to the south. It comprises four open livestock grazing meadows dating from medieval times crossed by drainage ditches. We have continued with a programme of clearing fallen deadwood and debris from the ditches and with selective suppression control of some willow, poplar and nettles.

There were two major new activities in 2023 in No Mans Meadow. The first, in partnership with Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT), was the creation of a new permanent backwater connected to the river Lark for water vole habitat. The second was the creation of an enhanced wetland habitat connected to the existing ditch network in Linnet Meadow. These projects which involved the use of a contractor represented a significant step-change for BWMG.

• **The Great Churchyard**

A new activity for 2023 was the start of a collaboration with the new landscape team at WSC to trial scything & raking an area in the Great Churchyard. The objective was to substitute the somewhat indiscriminate mowing/strimming regime with a more sympathetic scything cut to help maintain the flora and fauna being surveyed there.

• **Abbey Gardens bankside west & River Lark path bankside east**

BWMG is also active in maintaining the wildflower area between the path and the riverbank in the Abbey Gardens. Along the river Lark path we also scythe to suppress nettles and we cut down hemlock.

• **Ram Meadow**

The objectives for Ram Meadow are to enhance nature conservation, in particular perpetuating "a biodiverse mosaic of habitats including a sensitive chalk stream (the river Lark) and other wetland habitats and their inhabiting wildlife, along with the restoration of a series of formerly neglected flood meadows and associated ditch network to optimise their value for threatened and protected species".

Bounded to the east and north by the river Lark and Compiegne Way, and to the south by the football ground this site is part of the river Lark's floodplain consisting of low-lying meadow with

a network of drainage ditches but the ditch neglect and the choking of the scrape through willow and bur-reed have combined to threaten the site's habitats.

We continued with the fourth year of a multi-year rotation management plan to selectively increase the scrape's open water, by scything and raking nettles to promote public access along the river paths and ditches, and by selective tree cutting to limit the spread of white poplar.

➤ **Invasive species:**

Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) has become one of the UK's most invasive weed species, colonising riverbanks. It successfully competes with native plant species for space, light, nutrients and pollinators, and excludes other plant species, thereby reducing native biodiversity. As an annual plant Himalayan balsam dies back in the winter and, where it grows in river systems, it can leave riverbanks bare of vegetation and liable to erosion.

BWMG's volunteers led by trained in-channel leaders continued with our annual summer activity of surveying and pulling these plants from the riverbanks in partnership with River Lark Catchment Partnership (RLCP) volunteers who work downstream.

Muntjac grazing can have a serious impact in woodlands where the deer can browse all ground vegetation, destroying cover and food for small mammals and birds and preventing tree regeneration which affects plant diversity and all wildlife. With WSC's support BWMG worked with a local expert to establish trial muntjac exclusion zones to measure their effectiveness over a multi-year period.

➤ **Biodiversity surveying:**

With a core group of 12 team members, BWMG's survey activity has been able to build on the expansion begun in the 2nd half of 2022. The surveys continue throughout the year, yielding useful data about the change in species through the seasons. The original geographic coverage of Ram Meadow, North and South Crankles and No Mans Meadow has been extended to include Ram Meadow East, the Abbey Gardens, the Great Churchyard, Saxon Gate Nature reserve, the Butts and Harp Meadow. In addition, the expertise and enthusiasm of the volunteer group has increased the original focus on birds, butterflies, moths, mammals and plants to also now include insects, invertebrates and fungi.

➤ **Partnerships:**

At policy level the charity's role is primarily to work in partnership with other organisations who are set-up and structured to tackle river and environmental policy. BWMG is a founding member of the Chalk Aquifer Alliance that formed in 2019 to unite independent chalk stream groups to raise awareness of and to campaign on the plight of chalk streams. BWMG is an associate member of the RLCP, a group of organisations and individuals that have come together to promote a cohesive approach to the environmental challenges facing the Lark.

We work with WSC to help manage and maintain council owned and leased green spaces and with other conservation groups and local organisations both to contribute to and also to add our perspective on what they are planning. We have formal links with the Bury Society, the Friends of the Abbey Gardens, Bury in Bloom, and are a member of the Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership.

We worked with West Suffolk Hive CIC to put on the 2023 BioBlitz event and have built strong links with Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT), both on the water vole habitat project and in working with their planning officer. We also partner with Bury St Edmunds Rugby club who allowed us to install our equipment storage container on their site and in return we maintain the ditches and the river Lark that border their lower playing fields.

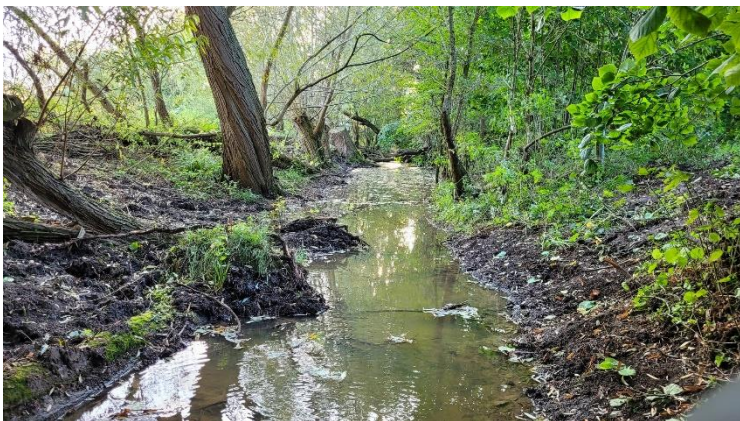
➤ **Planning Policy:**

We look to review planning applications that we consider will impact on the rivers Lark and Linnet and adjacent areas from an environmental perspective. Currently this sees us working closely with SWT's planning officer in relation to the ongoing matter of satisfaction of the River Lark corridor planning condition affecting the Abbots Vale site, and the proposed residential development of the St James School site which overlooks both the River Lark and the landscape setting of the Abbey Ruins Scheduled Monument.

We will also be reviewing and submitting comments upon the policies contained within the draft Local Plan issued by West Suffolk Council, insofar as these bear on the charitable purposes of BWMG during the course of the forthcoming third round of consultation upon this document.

Statutory declaration on public benefit

The trustees declare that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.



Section D: Achievements & Performance

➤ **Membership:**

The charity saw a small reduction in its membership through the period at 230 members at the renewal date of 1st November compared with the previous year's 245. We attracted 27 new members in the year. New members are often attracted through personal contacts with existing members, through seeing volunteers in action, and through our press & online presence.

➤ **Education and Communication:**

We believe that there is an on-going need to seek to engage more residents in the appreciation and recognition of nature and the environment. The main focus of BWMG's efforts to increase community involvement was the successful hosting of the second Bio-blitz event, covered below. The group contributed a new monthly feature to the local press and continues to publicise its informative newsletter on our website. The programming of online webinars that was developed through the Covid-restricted years of 2020 & 2021 has now been scaled back.

➤ **BioBlitz:**

Following on from its successful launch in 2022 the second BWMG BioBlitz event took place over the weekend of Friday 19th & Saturday 20th May in the Abbey Gardens in conjunction with West Suffolk Hive CIC under the Abbey Alive! banner. Friday was schools' day when students from three schools - Guildhall Feoffment, Westgate and Priory – took part in a programme of an accompanied species discovery & identification walk and an associated participatory art activity.

Saturday was the public day when visitors had the opportunity to join guided expert nature walks, attend a range of talks from local experts, and visit the tented hubzone staffed by enthusiastic volunteers and supporters from a variety of environmental organisations. There were also heritage actors, arts & crafts and facepainting activities. The whole event was free, fun and informative. Our overall objective was to continue to raise the status of the Lark & Linnet for the town, and specifically to showcase, explore and raise awareness of the diversity of life in the adjacent water meadows with a focus on engaging young people in schools. 13 BWMG volunteers contributed 151 hours over the weekend (plus unrecorded planning time).

In the autumn, one of our members organised a follow-up programme where school students made a field trip to the Lark as part of their National Curriculum studies – the idea being that the BioBlitz is not just a once-a-year event.

➤ **Habitat conservation management and maintenance:**

BWMG volunteers continued to support our activities in the conservation, maintenance and the management of the rivers Lark and Linnet and their surrounding water meadows in Bury St Edmunds. Volunteer work parties typically lasting 2-4 hours take place throughout the year with activities including ditch clearance, meadow scything, vegetation & invasive species removal, planting & sowing and path maintenance. 40 work parties were run in the year with 68 members plus 6 non-members taking part clocking up 1292 hours.

We have seen first-hand that volunteering brings benefits to the individual, to the local community, to wider society, and to the environment. It is good for the mind and body, providing a sense of purpose and helping people stay physically healthy. The social contact aspect of helping and working with others benefits overall psychological well-being and provides a solid support system with people keeping in regular contact with others.

• **The Crankles**

In the Crankles to the south of the cycle path we continued with our third year of work to encourage a more herb-rich and florally diverse sward through a scything programme and we are very pleased to see that this is working. Between March and September trained volunteers using traditional Austrian scythes implemented a schedule of regular cutting to suppress nettles and other rank vegetation. This involved regular cuts to both the margins and to the meadow itself, the removal of plants such as thistles and comfrey along with the sowing of yellow rattle and a wildflower seed mix. An equivalent number of volunteers are needed to rake clear the arisings otherwise the soil becomes too nutrient-rich. In the northern Crankles area a more

limited nettle scything and hemlock removal plan was conducted to help maintain the site and keep open access pathways.

- **New Water Vole Habitat and Wetland Habitat in No Mans Meadows**

In partnership with SWT, involving months of work to specify and obtain the necessary approvals, BWMG implemented two important new projects during the year. The first was to create a backwater habitat connected to the river Lark. This is an area of still water connected to the main river to act as a refuge for fish and river invertebrates providing habitat for other river wildlife, such as the endangered water vole, the target species for this habitat enhancement project. The backwater was created by employing a contractor to dig out an existing ditch between the Crankles and No Mans Meadows which will now hold river water all year round. A scrape pond feature was also created at the end of the ditch. The work was accompanied by some sensitive tree clearance to reduce leaf litter and to allow sunlight to reach the backwater, encouraging wetland plants to grow thus providing food and shelter for water voles.

The second project was the re-digging of a grip system in Linnet Meadow. This area is bounded by two ditches to the north and to the south, both of which act as overflow channels to the Lark and Linnet rivers which bound to the east and west. The meadow is a flood-meadow, being naturally covered in shallow water by seasonal river flooding. However, there is evidence from the field patterns that this land was historically a water-meadow which was managed grassland subject to controlled irrigation. This irrigation did not aim to flood the ground, but to keep it continuously damp (a working water-meadow has no standing water). Irrigation in early spring kept frosts off the ground and so allowed grass to grow several weeks earlier than otherwise, and in dry summer weather irrigation kept the grass growing. It also allowed the ground to absorb any plant nutrients or silt carried by the river water which fertilised the grassland, and incidentally also reduced eutrophication of the river water by nutrient pollution. The grass could have been used both for making hay and for grazing by livestock.

Our project involved the contractor deepening the existing shallow grip channels and the Linnet ditch in order to hold water longer in the meadow, thus creating an enhanced wetland habitat.

- **No Mans Meadows**

In No Mans Meadows activity was limited to the winter months to respect the bird breeding season. Work parties were run to clear a section of riverbank at the junction where the river Linnet doglegs in No Mans Meadows from what may have been its original course (now Linnet ditch) to create more light. We also dug out returning invasive poplar suckers from another meadow and spread woodchip along the public pathways.

Following the creation of the permanent backwater work parties were organised to prepare the ground for wetland wildflower meadow planting, to build a dead hedge around the scrape pond feature, to lay footpath chippings and to clear a flightpath to the existing owl box.

- **Abbey Gardens bankside west & River Lark path bankside east**

Along the Lark path our main volunteer activity was in cutting down hemlock to reduce the dominance of this plant along with a scything & raking programme to suppress nettles. Along the Abbey Gardens bank volunteers cleared excess vegetation and planted plug plants.

- **Ram Meadow**

We continued in the autumn with the 4th year of the agreed multi-year habitat management programme for the scrape. Trained chainsaw volunteers with support volunteers coppiced a further segment of willow growth which both blocked light from the scrape and hid the habitat from the public's view along the adjacent footpath. Volunteers supervised by in-water trained leaders then went into the scrape and pulled branched bur-reed by hand from the centre out to the margins. These heavy reeds were floated to the water's edge and left in habitat piles to decompose on the side. Though not connected to the rivers the scrape is never dry and we've noticed that reeds can re-grow in the year following being pulled, and that new different vegetation has now established itself on the cleared fringe of the scrape. However, we have not yet seen evidence of new fauna being attracted to the open water habitat created.

Other volunteer work in the year included scythe cutting & raking of nettles between the path and the football ground, and spring maintenance work parties to create more light and access to a large area bounded by the West, South and F1 ditches.

➤ **Purchases & Equipment**

The major expenditure in the year was £5,109 for the cost of the permanent backwater and meadow wetland habitat projects which was mostly funded through the brought-forward grant balance and the SWT contribution leaving £1,107 to come from unrestricted funds, whilst the £1,334 cost for the BioBlitz was fully grant funded.

The group spent £763 on work party tools on a variety of pitchforks, rakes, shovels, saws and a post rammer. The majority were for additional tools to meet the increased scope of the work party activities and to recognise health and safety requirements.

➤ **Training**

Two new BWMG Trustees completed roles and duties of trustees training through the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) in the year. Four volunteer members each successfully renewed their RLSS Water Safety training renewal and several members attended the Understanding your communities river seminar.

➤ **Invasive Species:**

BWMG volunteers have for several years undertaken a programme to control Himalayan Balsam on the rivers Lark & Linnet. There are 7km of accessible sections of the rivers in the town and on summer evenings we worked downstream along the riverbanks, usually at water level, pulling up plants individually by their roots before the seed is set. This action effectively kills the plants but the scale of the task and the nature of the habitat with steep riverbanks and nettles makes this very labour-intensive work. The good news is that the process is working. Where we have previously pulled HB plants they return significantly less abundant in the following year and because of this we were able in 2023 to complete the full stretch of the Lark in the town from Rougham bridge to Fornham bridge from where our partners in RLCP start their efforts. Altogether volunteers clocked up 71 hours over 6 sessions on this project.

Muntjac deer are now common in the town. They are notorious browsers, eating the shoots from shrubs, as well as woodland herbs and brambles. This clearing of woodland understory has been linked to declines in species such as nightingales. Whilst the local councils consider how to deal with this problem species, BWMG has established 5 trial muntjac exclusion zones under the guidance of an expert across the areas in which we operate. These enclosure cages will stop the deer consuming the vegetation inside compared with a control zone outside.

➤ **Biodiversity:**

The group's dedicated team of volunteers, half of whom are different to the work party volunteers, take part in the monthly biodiversity survey across our town's green spaces. This has allowed a further increase in data recording from an average of around 50 hours of observation per month at the end of 2022 to between 70-100 hours per month (depending on the time of year) in 2023.

The results have identified up to 178 varieties of flowering plant and grasses in a single month. Other monthly maximums include 43 species of bird, 57 types of insect and spider, 17 moths and butterflies, and 32 different fungi, lichens and mosses.

New bird boxes were installed: 1 for owls, 1 for kestrels, and 6 open fronted for small birds such as nuthatch and robins, and 2 others are awaiting installation for wagtails. 12 swift nest cabinets were installed on St Mary's church.

➤ **Partnerships:**

We are a member of the Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership's Core Group, which works to care for, conserve and enhance the Abbey Precinct (including the Crankles & No Mans Meadows). The Heritage Partnership aims to help people to experience the international significance of St Edmund and the historic Abbey whilst BWMG speaks up for the rivers and the associated water meadows. We are working with the Partnership to help raise the status of the Lark and Linnet within the Abbey Precinct.

We worked with SWT in the year both on the backwater habitat project, and with their planning officer in relation to the ongoing Abbots Vale planning application and the new St James School planning application.

➤ **River flow and water quality policy:**

Anglian Water Services' (AWS) current Water Resources Management Plan includes a commitment to invest in river restoration on chalk streams. Where AWS public water supply abstraction is contributing to the rivers failing the Water Framework Directive (WFD) flow targets a programme of habitat improvement work has been agreed with the Environment Agency whereby river restoration will be used to mitigate this impact. Under this AWS has awarded a contract to Jacksons for work on the Lark at Tuddenham and Cavenham, the Linnet, Kennett-Lee Brook, and the Lee Brook. In January 2023 BWMG Trustees were invited to meet AWS, Jacksons and WSC along the river Linnet where we were shown outline plans involving gravel channel creation, benching (terracing the bank), tree/scrub clearance and re-planting. Our takeaway from this consultation exercise is that the proposed work will not achieve much real benefit with an ongoing continuing severe seasonality of water flow in the Linnet.

Under the river Lark Flagship chalk stream recovery project AWS has entered into partnering agreements with Norfolk Rivers Trust (NRT) for the project design and with RLCP as the community partner. In July 2023 BWMG Trustees met with NRT and RLCP along the river Lark to contribute to this. At the time of publication of this report we have not had any further feedback.



Section E: Financial Review

Review of the financial position at the end of the period

The charity held a total of £9,069 in funds at the end of the period, all as unrestricted funds. For the previous year the corresponding sums were a total of £13,989 comprising restricted £7,195 and unrestricted £6,794.

Principle sources of funds

The charity's total income in the period was £5,289, compared with £14,147 last year.

The charity received a contribution of £1,500 from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust to support the creation of a water vole habitat and a contribution of £1,225 from West Suffolk Hive CIC for the costs of the 2023 BioBlitz event.

The balance of income of £2,564 was primarily received from membership dues and donations.

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The charity's aim is to broadly match its annual income with its expenditure but will keep financial reserves on the following basis:

The charity's operational spend is mostly discretionary with a low level of fixed overhead (eg insurance). This spend is more than covered by the annual membership income and donations which can be reliably expected to be in the range of £2,500.

However, we also have the intention to maintain our commitment to annual public events with the centrepiece being the Bioblitz. These event costs have so far been covered by grant funding but there is no guarantee that this will continue to be the case.

We should also be aware of the risk of having to meet the cost of an unexpected need (eg) the replacement of storage container or high value equipment, or to be able to spend money ahead of funding being received as has been the case with the water vole habitat project.

The total reserve to cover these requirements will be held equivalent to the annual membership and donations income of £2,500.

The actual level of reserves at £9,069 is higher than the reserves policy. The trustees are confident that this excess will be spent on activities in line with the group's charitable purposes.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

The Trustees declare that the charity had no funds which were materially in deficit at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

Particulars of any outstanding guarantee given by the charity

The trustees declare that the charity has given no guarantee where potential liability is outstanding at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.


Particulars of any outstanding debt

The trustees declare that the charity has no outstanding debts which are secured by an express charge on any of the assets of the charity at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature	
Full name	Ian Campbell
Position	Trustee & Treasurer
Date	19 th February 2024



Receipts and payments accounts

For the period
from

01-Jan-23


To

31-Dec-23

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Membership & Donations	2,540			2,540	3,317
Booklet Sales	24			24	25
Zoom/Web Hosting				-	50
Grant Bury St Edmunds Town Council				-	9,255
Abbey1000 Millennium Celebrations				-	1,500
West Suffolk Hive CIC	1,225			1,225	-
Suffolk Wildlife Trust Water Vole Project		1,500		1,500	-
				-	-
Sub total	3,789	1,500	-	5,289	14,147
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
				-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total Receipts	3,789	1,500	-	5,289	14,147
A3 Payments					
Work Party Tools & PPE	488	275		763	922
Scythes				-	29
Chainsaw & PPE				-	73
Wildflower Planting	140	230		370	1,224
Contractor Expenses				-	450
Work Party Expenses	71	28		99	51
Survey Expenses	68	160		228	-
Training	60	114		174	410
BioBlitz Expenses		1,334		1,334	1,554
Water Vole Project	1,107	4,002		5,109	-
Bird Boxes	171	397		568	80
Deer Enclosures		380		380	-
Printing/Stationery				-	-
Insurance	319			319	346
Legal & Professional	6			6	-
Signage				-	-
Publicity				-	138
Zoom/Webinar Expenses	241	250		491	194
Retirement Gift				-	94
Membership Event Expenses	301			301	191
Equipment Storage	42	25		67	289
Other				-	9
				-	-
Sub total	3,014	7,195	-	10,209	6,054
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
				-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	3,014	7,195	-	10,209	6,054
Net of receipts/(payments)	775	(5,695)	0	(4,920)	8,093
A5 Transfers between funds	1,500	(1,500)		0	0
A6 Cash funds last year end	6,794	7,195	-	13,989	5,896
Cash funds this year end	9,069	-	-	9,069	13,989

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current Account	9,069	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	9,069	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Land for Footpath Entrance	Unrestricted	-	-
	Work Party Tooling & Equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
	Personal Protective Equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
	Publicity Display Material	Unrestricted	-	-
	Storage Container for Equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		IAN CAMPBELL	19/02/2024	

BURY WATER MEADOWS GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1185321

Accounts



Bury Water Meadows Group CIO

Charity Number: 1185321

Trustees' Annual Report & Financial Statements for the Period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022



Bury Water Meadows Group CIO

Trustees' Annual Report

for the Period from 01-01-2022 to 31-12-2022

Section A: Reference & Administration Details

Charity Name	Bury Water Meadows Group CIO
Registered Number	1185321
Principal Address	27 Victoria Street, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 3BB

Names of the charity trustees who manage the Charity

Name	Office	Date Appointed (if during year)	Resigned (if during year)
Elizabeth Ranzetta	Chair		
Ian Campbell	Treasurer		
Julian Case	Secretary		
Jillian Macready	Secretary		
Iain Carruthers-Jones			
Richard Counihan			
Christopher Cross		25/02/2022	
Andrew Hinchley			25/02/2022

Elizabeth Ranzetta is also a trustee of Bury St Edmunds Rickshaw with charity registration number 1189132.

Andrew Hinchley is also a trustee of the River Lark Catchment Partnership with charity registration number 1177318.

Names of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

NONE

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

NONE

Section B: Structure, Governance & Management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of Governing Document	Association model constitution with voting members other than its charity trustees
How the Charity is Constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee Selection Methods including details of any constitutional provisions	There must be at least three trustees under the Constitution. We have aimed to maintain a minimum of six members on the CIO management committee and periodically ask the members via newsletter if anyone is interested in adding their expertise. The member would then attend and participate in the management committee for a three-month trial period and subject to this being successful they are invited to become a trustee. No body external to the charity has any entitlement to appoint trustees.

Additional information (optional)

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	In accordance with the Constitution a copy of the Constitution including any amendments made to it along with a copy of the latest trustees' annual report and statement of accounts will be made available to each new trustee. Having already served on the management committee the new trustee will be familiar with all discussions regarding the running of the CIO.
Other Governance	<p>The CIO management committee normally meets once per month and the secretary maintains minutes of each meeting's actions and decisions.</p> <p>Policies in respect of the following areas are in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Equality & Diversity ➤ Conflicting Interests ➤ Volunteer Management ➤ Complaints Handling ➤ Risk Management ➤ Safeguarding Vulnerable Beneficiaries



Section C: Objectives & Activities

The purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document are

To conserve, preserve and improve the rivers Lark and Linnet in Bury St Edmunds and adjacent areas for the benefit of the public in particular but not exclusively by:

1. Improving access and encouraging the appropriate use of the rivers and their environs by members of the public
2. Educating the public about the rivers and their environs
3. Facilitating community involvement in the conservation of the rivers Lark and Linnet, Bury St Edmunds' water meadows and critical other local green spaces
4. Improving the biodiversity of the Lark and the Linnet
5. Working in partnership with like-minded organisations

Summary of the main activities in relation to these purposes for the public benefit by Bury Water Meadows Group CIO (BWMG):

➤ **Access to the rivers and their environs:**

Chalk streams are one of England's most important natural habitats and are globally rare. The Lark and the Linnet are chalk streams which flow through the town's floodplains and green spaces but are suffering from a lack of water and from poor water quality. The water that is in the rivers does not derive from the aquifer as it should but is often run-off and polluted both upstream and downstream of the town essentially due to over-abstraction for public water supply along with pollution from agriculture, roads, and water treatment works.

With there being limited scope to impact the rivers themselves BWMG's main focus in this activity has been to maintain and improve the existing accessible green spaces adjoining the rivers through activities including ditch clearance, redundant fence removal, pro-active plant & vegetation management, invasive species removal, litter picking, and footpath maintenance.

➤ **Extending river path access:**

BWMG continues to lobby West Suffolk Council (WSC) to complete the necessary consultations and actions so that a new river path from Barton Hill to Bury St Edmunds station hill can be opened. This would double the length of the existing river paths in the town and open up green space through extensive wood and meadow areas but the process has become bogged down with little sign of a breakthrough. The ultimate aim is then to connect from Barton Hill to the one remaining stretch between Tollgate Bridge and the current end of the 13-mile River Lark path behind the UPS depot off Mildenhall Road.

➤ **Education and communication:**

We have continued to host online webinars to bring an accessible broad range of subjects and high-quality speakers to both our membership and to the general public. Our website contains recordings of these talks for anyone to view, as well as features on the work taking place in the various habitat locations and the Water Meadows Chronicles blog. Work is underway to revamp the website to further improve our communication and presentation. Our active Facebook page educates readers on the regular activities of the group.

➤ **BioBlitz:**

Following months of planning we ran the first BWMG BioBlitz event over the weekend of Friday 20th & Saturday 21st May. From a tented hub-zone in the Abbey Gardens this was a free, fun and informative event for nature lovers and budding ecologists young and old who took part in a large biodiversity survey along with talks and demonstrations given by local and national expert naturalists. Three schools - Guildhall Feoffment, Westley Middle and Priory took part on the Friday and on the Saturday we welcomed the general public.

Building on our existing volunteer surveys and on our conservation activities we plan to make the BioBlitz an annual event. This will become the focus of BWMG's efforts to increase

community involvement in our work on habitat conservation and the maintenance of biodiversity in the water meadow locations in the town. By engaging the public and the town's schools in biodiversity we will also be able to measure changes and develop an associated schools' education programme.

➤ **Habitat conservation and maintenance:**

Facilitating community involvement in conservation in Bury St Edmunds' water meadow locations through our volunteer work parties has become the main activity of the charity. Written management plans that have been agreed with WSC are in place for Ram Meadow, the Crankles and No Mans Meadows. These provide the framework under which BWMG develops its programme of maintenance and management for these green public areas through the year.

• **Ram Meadow**

The stated plan for Ram Meadow is to enhance nature conservation, in particular perpetuating "a biodiverse mosaic of habitats including a sensitive chalk stream (the River Lark) and other wetland habitats and their inhabiting wildlife and the restoration of a series of formerly neglected flood meadows and associated ditch network, to optimise their value for threatened and protected species including water voles, otters, water shrew, bats and reptiles, along with a range of notable invertebrates, birds and characteristic flora". Bounded to the east and north by the river Lark and Compiègne Way, and to the south by the football ground this site is part of the river's floodplain consisting of low-lying meadow with a network of drainage ditches but the ditch neglect and the drying out of the scrape through willow and bur-reed have combined to threaten the site's habitats. We continued with the third year of a multi-year rotation management plan to selectively increase the scrape's open water, by scything and raking nettles, and also by planting snowdrops and aconites at site entrances.

A second triangular area on the other side of the Lark bounded by the railway line to the north, by the A14 to the east and by the river to the south was vacated by travellers in 2021. Behind the area of new spoil now already colonised by plants lies largely unspoiled wetland and woodland habitats. The site has not been opened to the public and our plan remains to create a maintenance plan in conjunction with WSC to keep this wonderful wild site as it is.

• **The Crankles and No Mans Meadows**

The five core management objectives for this area are to enhance its nature conservation value, to improve its ecological function as an adjunct to the Rivers Lark and Linnet, to optimise its hydrological conditions for aquatic, wetland and riparian habitat, to respect and conserve its historical heritage value by protecting any archaeological remains, and to optimise the function of the site as a recreational facility which contributes to the well-being of the local population.

The Crankles are bounded by the two rivers and divided by a designated cycle path. We are maintaining the meadow areas through suppressing nettles by scything in place of a previous machine mowing regime. Our objective for the south section is to continue the transition from rough ground and nettle dominance to a wildflower meadow with a variety of trees for pollinators. In the north section the objective is nettle control through scything: maintenance rather than habitat management.

The larger No Mans Meadows site is also bounded by the two rivers to the east and west, by the Crankles to the north and by the rugby club fields to the south. It comprises four open livestock grazing meadows dating from medieval times crossed by drainage ditches. We have continued with a programme of clearing fallen deadwood and debris from the ditches and with selective suppression control of some willow, poplar and nettles.

We are actively working on a project for 2023 to create a new wetland habitat connected to the existing ditch network, to form a permanent backwater for water vole habitat, and to use some of the spoil created to build up the public footpath along the Lark bank which is often flooded after periods of rain.

• **Abbey Gardens bankside west & River Lark path bankside east**

BWMG is also active in maintaining the wildflower area between the path and the riverbank in the Abbey Gardens and we continue scything to suppress nettles and hemlock along the river Lark path.

➤ **Invasive species:**

Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) has become one of the UK's most invasive weed species, colonising riverbanks. It successfully competes with native plant species for space, light, nutrients and pollinators, and excludes other plant species, thereby reducing native biodiversity. As an annual plant Himalayan balsam dies back in the winter and, where it grows in river systems, it can leave riverbanks bare of vegetation and liable to erosion.

BWMG's volunteers led by trained in-channel leaders continued with our annual summer activity of surveying and pulling these plants from the riverbanks in partnership with River Lark Catchment Partnership (RLCP) volunteers who work downstream.

Muntjac grazing can have serious impacts in woodlands where the deer can clear shrubs and prevent tree regeneration, affecting other wildlife including birds and butterflies. BWMG is working with a local expert and with WSC to establish trial muntjac exclusion zones to measure their effectiveness.

➤ **Biodiversity survey:**

Two owl boxes and two kestrel boxes were installed in March in No Mans Meadows following recorded sightings there of both species. None of the boxes have yet been successfully occupied by their intended inhabitants and it may be that our large population of corvids has been a disincentive as they have been seen to mob barn owls and kestrels. Further bird boxes for other species are planned for 2023 in both No Mans Meadows and Ram Meadow.

In addition to the BioBlitz we continued our regular surveying activity, re-commencing in February with three members in the survey team. We had a terrific response to a recruitment drive in the local press in the early spring, increasing to 12 team members by the end of the year and so for the first time we can continue survey activity through the winter. This increase in volunteer numbers has also given us other opportunities in two ways. Firstly, we have extended our survey area. To begin with we covered Ram Meadow, North and South Crankles and No Mans Meadow but we are now also covering Ram Meadow East, the Abbey Gardens, the Great Churchyard, Saxon Gate Nature reserve, the Butts and Harp Meadow. Secondly, we have been able to take advantage of the expertise and enthusiasm that the new tranche of volunteers has brought to our work. At the beginning of the year our focus was on birds, butterflies, moths, mammals and plants. Surveying has now been extended to insects, invertebrates and fungi.

➤ **Partnerships:**

At policy level the charity's role is primarily to work in partnership with other organisations who are better set-up and structured to tackle the root causes of these problems such as Water Resources East (WRE), the strategic advisory group charged with planning for the water needs of the environment and the public for the next 25 years in East Anglia. We are an associate member of the RLCP, a group of organisations and individuals that have come together to enable a cohesive approach to the environmental challenges facing the Lark. BWMG is a founding member of the Chalk Aquifer Alliance that formed in 2019 to unite independent chalk stream groups to raise awareness of and campaign on the plight of chalk streams.

We work closely with WSC to help manage and maintain council owned and leased green spaces and with other conservation groups and local organisations both to contribute and to add our perspective to what they are planning. We have formal links with the Bury Society, the Friends of the Abbey Gardens, Bury in Bloom, and are a member of the Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership.

We are working with Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT) on an exciting new project to create an enhanced water vole habitat through a permanently wet backwater connected to the river Lark in No Mans Meadow.

We are also working with SWT's planning officer to respond to the planning application for the development of the large Abbots Vale site which borders the river Lark upstream from Rougham Bridge insofar as this relates to the planning condition requiring the developers to submit for approval a scheme for the treatment and restoration of the River Lark corridor within the application site. In addition we have reviewed and submitted comments upon the policies

contained within the draft Local Plan issued by WSC which bear on BWMG's charitable purposes.

Statutory declaration on public benefit

The trustees declare that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.



Section D: Achievements & Performance

➤ **Membership:**

The charity was successful in maintaining its membership through the period, at 245 members, compared with 244 last year at the renewal date of 1st November. We attracted 28 new members in the year. New members are often attracted through personal contacts with existing members, through seeing volunteers in action and through our press & online presence.

➤ **Education and Communication:**

We believe that there is an on-going need to seek to engage more residents in the appreciation and recognition of nature and the environment. Our significant new achievement in this area in 2022 was the hosting of the first Bio-blitz event, covered below.

The programming of online webinars that was developed through the Covid-restricted years of 2020 & 2021 was scaled back to a target of one per month with the re-opening of society. Hosting of the Chalk Aquifer Alliance talks was paused in line with that group's strategy. BWMG-sponsored webinar talks are open to both members and non-members and are free to join. Presentations were made on topics including 'How to read an insect' by BioBlitz expert Dr Ross Piper, the topical 'Grassland habitat in a time of drought' with Dr Frances Giaquinto, and 'Understand the wild side of your garden and meadow' by our scything supporter Richard Brown. These talks continue to be a key part of our capacity to educate and inform our audience from a high-quality range of speakers including nationally renowned experts whom we would not have been able to bring to the town to speak.

➤ **BioBlitz:**

BWMG's first ever BioBlitz - a stocktake of living species - took place over the weekend of Friday 20th and Saturday 21st May under the umbrella of the town's Abbey 1000 celebrations. The overall objective was to continue to raise the status of the Lark & Linnet for the town, and specifically to showcase, explore and raise awareness of the diversity of life in the adjacent water meadows with a focus on engaging young people in schools.

Friday was schools' day and Saturday was the public day. Specialist conservationists and keen amateurs surveyed the abbey precinct area covering the Abbey Gardens, the Great Churchyard, the Crankles and No Mans Meadow finding and recording as many species of plant, animal and fungus as possible. At our BioBlitz hub-zone specialists helped participants with identification and there were stalls hosting activities for children and offering further information. A programme of guided walks on the Saturday, starting with an early morning bird walk, proved very popular.

Over 500 records were collected of about 336 species, including 18 species of spider, 36 of birds and 23 of butterflies and moths. Insect highlights included an Alder leaf beetle (*Agelastica alni*) once classed as 'Extinct' in the UK, and a spectacular Wasp Beetle (*Clytus arietus*). A Reed Bunting was recorded here for the first time and notable plants were Wild Clary (*Salvia verbenaca*) and Black Spleenwort (*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*), a kind of fern.

This was a major event for BWMG and proved to be a fantastic boost to our biological recording of the wildlife of Bury St Edmunds. The Town Council grant means we can run a BioBlitz in subsequent years both boosting our biodiversity monitoring work, but also as a great way of engaging with schools and the public on the beauty and variety of our town's natural environment.

➤ **Habitat conservation and maintenance:**

We continued to mobilise our volunteer base in the conservation, maintenance and the management of the rivers Lark and Linnet and their surrounding water meadows in Bury St Edmunds. Volunteer work parties typically last 2-4 hours taking place on a weekly basis throughout the year with activities including ditch clearance, meadow scything, vegetation & invasive species removal, litter picking, and planting & sowing. 57 members have been involved in 54 different work parties this year clocking up 1390 hours – an increase on the previous year when events were restricted in the first quarter by Covid regulations.

Volunteering brings benefits to the individual, to the local community, to wider society, and to the environment. We have seen first-hand that volunteering is good for the mind and body, helping people stay physically healthy and providing a sense of purpose. The social contact aspect of helping and working with others can profoundly benefit overall psychological well-being and provides a solid support system with people keeping in regular contact with others.

➤ **Ram Meadow Management Plan**

We continued in the autumn with the 3rd year of the agreed multi-year habitat management programme for the scrape. Our trained chainsaw volunteers with support volunteers coppiced willow which both blocks light from the scrape and hides the habitat from the public's view along the adjacent footpath. This 150m³ of cut willow branches can be converted into woodchip when needed to be laid along the Ram Meadow paths. Volunteers with in-water training then went into the scrape and pulled branched bur-reed in the newly opened section by hand. These heavy reeds were floated to the water's edge, loaded onto wheelbarrows by supporting volunteers and left in habitat piles on the side. The result was to create a new sector of open water connected with the areas previously opened up. Other volunteers were busy managing poplar coppicing and laying out wood-chipped willow from the previous year's activity onto the public footpaths.

The scrape is never dry and we've noticed that reeds have re-grown in some areas in the year following being pulled which makes operating a 5 to 7 year rotation plan a challenge. However, we're proud of being able to make a big difference already mid-way through our programme and we look forward to seeing whether species are attracted to the habitat created.

Other volunteer work in the year included planting snowdrops & aconites at one of the public entrances, two scything cuts & raking of nettles in an area near to another public entrance, poplar & hemlock cutting along fence lines and paths, and litter picking.

• **The Crankles and No Mans Meadows Management Plan**

The implementation of a practical formal plan for the habitat maintenance and management of No Mans Meadows and the Crankles guided by the nature conservation management plan and hydrological report commissioned last year represents a significant step-change in operation for BWMG in the co-management with WSC of these floodplain meadows.

In the Crankles to the south of the cycle path we continued with our second year of a three-year process to encourage a more herb-rich and florally diverse sward through scything and we are very pleased to see this now emerging. Between March and September trained volunteers using traditional Austrian scythes implemented a schedule of regular mowing in selected areas to suppress nettles and other rank vegetation. The programme involved regular cuts to the margins with two cuts to the meadow part and the sowing of yellow rattle and a wildflower seed mix. An equal number of volunteers are needed on these work parties to rake clear the arisings. In the northern Crankles area a more limited nettle scything and hemlock removal plan was conducted to help maintain the site.

In No Mans Meadows we continued with a programme to clear the ditch network in order to create more light and reduce blockages, running over 10 work parties working on 4 different ditches. This activity is limited to the winter months in order to respect the bird breeding season. We also dug out more invasive poplar suckers from one meadow, planted snowdrops near the rugby club bridge entrance, spread woodchip along the pathways and completed the removal of derelict fencing alongside the Lark.

• **Abbey Gardens bankside west & River Lark path bankside east**

Along the Lark path the main volunteer activity was hemlock cutting to reduce the dominance of this plant along with a scything & raking programme to suppress nettles. Along the Abbey Gardens bank volunteers cleared excess vegetation & scrub and planted bulbs supporting the Head Gardener's plan.

• **Other Volunteer Work Parties**

We organised several litter picking parties during the year, cleaning up around the public pathways along the Lark and the Linnet from Rougham Road to the Abbey Gardens, in Ram Meadow and by the Lark path on Mildenhall Road.

There were also in-channel sessions to clear blockages and detritus from sections of rivers and ditches in order to help them better perform their natural function. This included an ancient ditch on the Butts connecting under Cullum Road to the Linnet at Friars Lane.

➤ **Equipment**

The grant of £9,255 received in the year from the Town Council means we are funded to replace worn out equipment and to add any new equipment needed to meet our habitat management objectives. In the year we added to our PPE stock of waders and buoyancy aids for in-channel work and purchased additional work party tools. We also bought a fitted cover for the 20 ft container sited at the town's community rugby club in which we store our stock of equipment and tooling.

➤ **Training**

All BWMG Trustees completed roles and duties of trustees training through the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) in the year. Two volunteer members each successfully completed 48 hours of City & Guilds training in the use of chainsaws in work parties (paid for in 2021) and six more volunteers completed scything training in the year. One work party leader completed an Emergency Outdoor First Aid course.

➤ **Invasive Species:**

Our volunteers continued to make a major contribution to controlling Himalayan Balsam on the rivers Lark & Linnet in the town. In June we surveyed the 7km of accessible sections of the rivers using the iRecord App so that we have an on-going benchmark for future years. On July evenings we then worked downstream along the riverbanks, usually at water level, pulling up plants individually by their roots before the seed is set. This action effectively kills the plants but the scale of the task and the nature of the habitat with steep riverbanks and nettles makes this very labour-intensive work. Altogether volunteers clocked up 95 hours over 12 sessions on this project, mostly in very hot temperatures. The good news is that where we have previously pulled plants they return significantly less abundant in the following year. Because of this we were able to go much further downstream than in 2020 & 2021, almost completing the stretch to Fornham bridge from where our partners in RLCP start their efforts.

➤ **Biodiversity:**

The big boost in volunteers participating in biodiversity surveying meant that we were able to increase data recording from an average of 16 hours of observation work per month at the beginning of the year to an average of more than 50 hours of observation per month by the end of the year. A decision was taken to continue observation throughout the year rather than take a winter break as in previous years.

We can now report a year-round resident population of quite a number of bird species including wrens, robins, blackbirds, pigeons, mallards, moorhens, little egrets, kingfishers, woodpeckers, wagtails and tits (blue, coal, great and long-tailed). We also have a large population of corvids including magpies, which have been seen to bully other species and be territorial so there is ambivalence about their high numbers. Raptors seen include buzzards, kestrels, sparrowhawks and red kites. None have nested in the water meadows as far as we know but there are reports of kites nesting in a couple of locations within 5 miles of the town.

Our greatest challenge this year has been in insect and fungi identification. This is both immensely challenging and enjoyable. There are more than 20,000 species of insects in Britain and they are small and elusive. Patience and perseverance are required qualities, and the same holds for fungi.

➤ **Award Winner**

BWMG won the Gold Award & Trophy in the prestigious Anglia in Bloom Wildlife and Conservation category in recognition of our volunteer efforts in the Great Churchyard and Water Meadows.

➤ **Partnerships:**

We are a member of the Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership's Core Group, which works to care for, conserve and enhance the Abbey Precinct (including the Crankles and No Mans

Meadows). The Heritage Partnership aims to help people to experience the international significance of St Edmund and the historic Abbey whilst BWMG speaks up for the rivers and the associated water meadows. We are working with the Partnership to help raise the status of the Lark and Linnet within the Abbey Precinct.

Our conservation and volunteer activities were part of the Bury Society's Bury in Bloom gold award winning entry in the Anglia in Bloom large town competition.

Bury St Edmunds Rugby club readily agreed to our request to install our equipment storage container on their site at the end of 2021 and in return we have continued to maintain & manage the ditches and the river Lark that border their playing fields.

➤ **River flow and water quality policy:**

Contact was made in 2021 with Highways England (now National Highways) as to the remediation works required to the retention pond which should be controlling the level of pollution from the A14 affecting the River Lark where it flows alongside Ram Meadow. We have been advised by our contact there that the works have now been programmed but we await hearing as to a start date. We will continue to monitor this issue.



Section E: Financial Review

Review of the financial position at the end of the period

The charity held a total of £13,989 in funds at the end of the period comprising £7,195 in restricted funds and £6,794 in unrestricted funds. For the start of the period the corresponding sums were total £5,896, restricted £1,555 and unrestricted £4,341

Principle sources of funds

The charity's total income in the period was £14,147, up from £12,957 last year.

The charity received grant funding totalling £9,255 from Bury St Edmunds Town Council. This was awarded to fund a programme of activities to continue to raise the status of the Lark & Linnet for the town, and specifically to showcase, explore and raise awareness of the diversity of life in the adjacent water meadows with a focus on engaging young people in schools through the BioBlitz event. To date the grant has been used to fund much of BWMG's activities including equipment, tooling & work party PPE, and trustee & member training. £1,500 funding was received from the Abbey 1000 Millennium Celebrations for the costs of the BioBlitz event.

The balance of income in the year of £3,392 was primarily received from membership dues and donations. Our annual membership runs from 1st November each year.

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The charity does not have a reserves policy and does not hold funds in reserve.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

The Trustees declare that the charity had no funds which were materially in deficit at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

Particulars of any outstanding guarantee given by the charity

The trustees declare that the charity has given no guarantee where potential liability is outstanding at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

Particulars of any outstanding debt

The trustees declare that the charity has no outstanding debts which are secured by an express charge on any of the assets of the charity at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature	<i>Ian Campbell</i>
Full name	Ian Campbell
Position	Trustee & Treasurer

Date	27 th February 2023
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Receipts and payments accounts

For the period
from

01-Jan-22

To

31-Dec-22

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Membership & Donations	3,317			3,317	2,270
Booklet Sales	25			25	45
Zoom/Web Hosting	50			50	365
Grant Bury St Edmunds Town Council		9,255		9,255	9,277
Grant HD Wills				-	500
Grant Waitrose				-	500
Abbey1000 Millennium Celebrations		1,500		1,500	-
				-	-
Sub total	3,392	10,755	-	14,147	12,957
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
				-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total Receipts	3,392	10,755	-	14,147	12,957
A3 Payments					
Professional Surveys & Reports				-	3,150
Bird Boxes		80		80	440
Container for Equipment		289		289	1,286
Signage				-	240
Work Party Tools & PPE		922		922	836
Scythes		29		29	825
Chainsaw & PPE	30	43		73	627
Wildflower Planting		1,224		1,224	-
Contractor Expenses	450			450	45
Work Party Expenses	10	41		51	46
Survey Expenses				-	20
Training		410		410	2,545
BioBlitz Expenses		1,554		1,554	-
Printing/Stationery				-	118
Insurance	346			346	161
Publicity		138		138	200
Water Quality				-	160
Zoom/Webinar Expenses		194		194	712
Retirement Gift	94			94	-
Membership Event Expenses		191		191	-
Other	9			9	50
				-	-
Sub total	939	5,115	-	6,054	11,461
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	939	5,115	-	6,054	11,461
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,453	5,640	0	8,093	1,496
A5 Transfers between funds				0	0
A6 Cash funds last year end	4,341	1,555	-	5,896	4,400
Cash funds this year end	6,794	7,195	-	13,989	5,896

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current Account	6,794	7,195	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	6,794	7,195	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK


Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Land for Footpath Entrance	Unrestricted	-	-
	Work Party Tooling & Equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
	Personal Protective Equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
	Publicity Display Material	Unrestricted	-	-
	Storage Container for Equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
				-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	IAN CAMPBELL	27/02/2023

BURY WATER MEADOWS GROUP

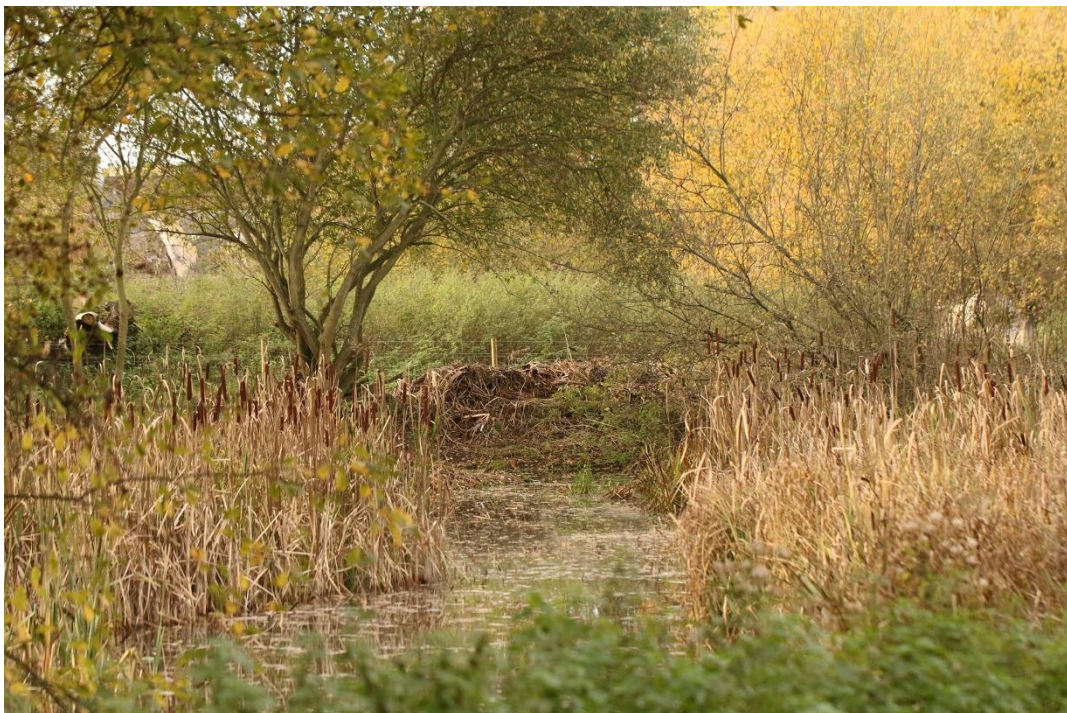
England & Wales - Charity number 1185321

Accounts



Bury Water Meadows Group CIO
Charity Number: 1185321

**Trustees' Annual Report & Financial
Statements for the Period
1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021**



Bury Water Meadows Group CIO

Trustees' Annual Report

for the Period from 01-01-2021 to 31-12-2021

Section A: Reference & Administration Details

Charity Name	Bury Water Meadows Group CIO
Registered Number	1185321
Principal Address	27 Victoria Street, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 3BB

Names of the charity trustees who manage the Charity

Name	Office	Date Appointed (if during year)	Resigned (if during year)
Andrew Hinchley	Chair		
Ian Campbell	Treasurer		
Elizabeth Ranzetta	Secretary		
Jillian Macready			
Stephen Brunner			26/02/2021
Julian Case			
Iain Carruthers-Jones			
Richard Counihan		26/02/2021	

Andrew Hinchley is also a trustee of the River Lark Catchment Partnership with charity registration number 1177318.

Elizabeth Ranzetta is also a trustee of Bury St Edmunds Rickshaw with charity registration number 1189132

Change of Charity Officers at the AGM in February 2022

Andrew Hinchley has been the Chair of BWMG since its formation in 2013 and without his drive the group would probably not have existed. The prospect of losing the Leg of Mutton field with its uninterrupted view of the town for 1000 years led to a successful campaign by BWMG founder members against its development. The housing expansion envisaged in the Vision 2031 plan highlighted an urgent need to preserve what was left of the river floodplains and water meadows: the town as we know it would not be here but for the Lark, with its shallow valley and pure spring-fed water which attracted the medieval settlement in the first place.

BWMG first became involved in work parties in early spring of 2017, when it was in the right place at the right time to organise volunteers from within its membership to plant European White Elms that had been gifted to West Suffolk Council (WSC). Since then, the group's conservation activities have expanded to encompass all the town's public water meadow green spaces, significantly with Ram Meadow from 2019 and No Mans Meadows & the Crankles from 2022 on a co-management basis with WSC. Another key development has been the establishment of volunteer biodiversity surveys which began in 2020. This citizen science contributes to the biological records used in research, education and conservation to find out as much as we can about our animals and plants to prevent their extinction. BWMG formally converted to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) status in 2019.

Andrew has also been the Chair of the River Lark Catchment Partnership (RLCP) since its formation as the Lark sub-catchment partnership under the umbrella CamEO organisation as part of the devolved delivery of the government's Water Framework Directive (WFD). His network of contacts is impressive, illustrated by him recently advising the Duke of Wellington and co-sponsors on the Lords' amendments to the Environment Bill.

Andrew has decided to step down from the Chair of BWMG to spend more time on developing RLCP. In his place we welcome Elizabeth Ranzetta as the new Chair. Julian Case and Jillian Macready will now share the duties of Secretary.

Names of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

NONE

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

NONE



Section B: Structure, Governance & Management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of Governing Document	Association model constitution with voting members other than its charity trustees
How the Charity is Constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee Selection Methods including details of any constitutional provisions	There must be at least three trustees under the Constitution. We have aimed to maintain a minimum of six members on the CIO management committee and periodically ask the members via newsletter if anyone is interested in adding their expertise. The member would then attend and participate in the management committee for a three-month trial period and subject to this being successful they are invited to become a trustee. No body external to the charity has any entitlement to appoint trustees.

Additional information (optional)

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	In accordance with the Constitution a copy of the Constitution including any amendments made to it along with a copy of the latest trustees' annual report and statement of accounts will be made available to each new trustee. Having already served on the management committee the new trustee will be familiar with all discussions regarding the running of the CIO.
Other Governance	<p>The CIO management committee normally meets once per month and the secretary maintains minutes of each meeting's actions and decisions.</p> <p>Policies in respect of the following areas are in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Equality & Diversity ➤ Conflicting Interests ➤ Volunteer Management ➤ Complaints Handling ➤ Risk Management ➤ Safeguarding Vulnerable Beneficiaries



Section C: Objectives & Activities

The purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document are

To conserve, preserve and improve the Rivers Lark and Linnet in Bury St Edmunds and adjacent areas for the benefit of the public in particular but not exclusively by:

1. Improving access and encouraging the appropriate use of the rivers and their environs by members of the public
2. Educating the public about the rivers and their environs
3. Facilitating community involvement in the conservation of the rivers Lark and Linnet, Bury St Edmunds's water meadows and critical other local green spaces
4. Improving the biodiversity of the Lark and the Linnet
5. Working in partnership with like-minded organisations

Summary of the main activities in relation to these purposes for the public benefit:

➤ **River path access:**

Our publication "A Tale of Two Rivers", an illustrated walking guide to the rivers and water meadows of Bury St Edmunds is a good resource. It proved popular with attendees on the two walking tours run by local tour guide and BWMG member Peta Levantis "a walk along two rare chalk streams" as part of the 2021 Heritage Open Days event.

The 13 mile River Lark path from Mildenhall however does not connect with these accessible town centre paths, ending ingloriously by the UPS depot on the outskirts of the town. It is disappointing that it's over two years since BWMG participated in a press launch for a new river path from Barton Hill to Bury St Edmunds station hill, having acquired a plot of land to provide public access at the Barton Hill end. This would double the length of the existing river paths in the town, opening up green space with an extensive wood and meadow but needs WSC to complete the necessary consultations and actions before it can be opened.

This would leave one remaining stretch to complete between Tollgate Bridge and UPS which needs Suffolk County Council to progress the access.

➤ **Education and communication:**

In place of traditional hall-based talks we continued to host an average of 3 online webinars per month, both BWMG-sponsored and those organised by the Chalk Aquifer Alliance, a campaigning network of chalk stream groups. This enabled an accessible broad range of subjects and high-quality national speakers to be brought to our membership and to the general public. Our website contains recordings of these talks for anyone to view, as well as features on the work taking place in the various habitat locations and the Water Meadows Chronicles blog. Our active Facebook page educates readers on the regular activities of the group with pictures and videos.

We also took a prominent stand and made 3 presentations at the town's Green Fair organised by West Suffolk Hive CIC in the Apex, one of the first post-lockdown public events.

➤ **River flow and water quality policy:**

The town's rivers Lark and Linnet are chalk streams which are globally rare. Chalk streams are one of England's most important natural habitats and here flow alongside water meadows which are areas of grassland historically modified with controlled irrigation to increase agricultural productivity. Sadly, our two rivers are suffering from lack of water and the water that is in the rivers does not derive from the aquifer as it should but is often run-off and polluted both upstream and downstream of the town essentially due to over-abstraction for the public water supply and pollution from agriculture, roads, and water treatment works.

At policy level the charity's role is primarily to work in partnership with other organisations who are better set-up and structured to tackle the root causes of these problems. We participate with Water Resources East (WRE), the strategic advisory group charged with planning for the water

needs of the environment and the public for the next 25 years in East Anglia in its study work on reducing extraction. We also work with RLCP on reducing extraction and with the Rivers Trust on sewage pollution from the documented spilled sewage frequency from the Fornham treatment works just downstream from the town.

In conjunction with Sam Hurst of Norfolk Rivers Trust we have been investigating the state and condition of the three outfall locations in the town where road run-off from the A14 enters the Lark. These are at Rougham Road bridge, alongside Ram Meadow, and at Tesco.

➤ **Habitat conservation and maintenance:**

Facilitating community involvement in conservation is probably the main activity of the charity with our volunteer work in the water meadow locations in Bury St Edmunds. Going from north to south the work involved in habitat conservation and maintenance for biodiversity can be briefly summarized as follows:

- **Ram Meadow**

Bounded to the east by the river Lark and the A14, and to the north by Compiegne Way this site is part of the river's floodplain consisting of low-lying meadow with a network of drainage ditches but the silting up of the ditches and the drying out of the scrape through willow and bur-reed have combined to threaten the site's habitats.

We continued with the second year of a multi-year rotation management plan in conjunction with WSC focusing on habitat management benefitting fauna and flora that are less common or vulnerable. The Council has previously indicated its agreement to designate Ram Meadow as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) which would further improve access to people for study, education, or to simply enjoy nature in an urban setting but its decision to place LNR decisions within the massive West Suffolk Plan framework process means progress has stalled.

In December 2020 we received the report from a site survey commissioned at Ram Meadow to assess the possible options to support building a noise barrier to mitigate the impact of the A14 road which runs alongside. This indicated that the project is feasible under different construction scenarios and is a key element in any future discussion with Highways England.

A second area of Ram Meadow to the north and east and bounded by the river to the south, by the A14 to the east and by Compiegne Way to the west was vacated by travellers during the year. Behind the area of new spoil now already colonised by plants lies largely unspoiled wetland and woodland habitats. Our plan is to create a maintenance plan in conjunction with WSC to keep this wonderful wild site as it is.

- **Abbey Gardens bankside west & River Lark path bankside east**

Within the grounds of the Abbey Gardens alongside the west bank of the river Lark from the iron footbridge to the Abbots bridge we previously installed revetments consisting of coir matting, planted marginal plants and faggot bundles of hazel brush to contain the banks and to stop erosion. We continue to maintain the wildflower area between the path and the bank.

Along the area bounded by the east bank of the river Lark and the path running between the Crankles and the Abbey Gardens we continue to suppress nettles and plant wildflower seed with the objective to transition habitat from formal horticulture to a conservation area.

- **The Crankles**

Formerly thought to be the site of the Abbey's monastic fishpond complex, this area is bounded by the two rivers and is divided by a designated cycle path. We are maintaining the meadow areas including nettle suppression by scything replacing the previous mowing regime. During the year from funding awarded by Bury St Edmunds Town Council we commissioned a new nature conservation management plan for the Crankles and No Mans Meadows written by ecologist Susan Deakin. The objective is to maintain a diverse woodland/glade habitat in the north section and a transition from rough ground and nettle dominance to wildflower meadow with a variety of trees for pollinators in the south section.

- **No Mans Meadows**

Also bounded by the two rivers this large area comprises four open meadows dating from medieval times crossed by drainage ditches that were originally created to manage the wet

meadowlands. We have been undertaking suppression control of dominant poplar and nettles and have started a programme of clearing the ditches. Guided by the new nature conservation management plan together with a hydrological report commissioned from Sustainable Water Solutions (also funded by the Town Council grant) we will now develop a practical formal plan for habitat maintenance and management for No Mans Meadows and the Crankles in agreement with WSC.

➤ **Invasive species:**

The charity's in-channel volunteers continued to work in tackling the removal of the invasive species Himalayan Balsam along both the rivers Lark and Linnet in the town. Himalayan Balsam is so invasive that it is illegal in the UK to plant or encourage it to grow in the wild. With each plant capable of producing as many as 800 seeds that remain viable for two years, it soon invades, smothering riverbanks. Once it is allowed to disperse its high velocity seed, it's carried by rivers and streams to other sites downstream and so the cycle continues. This is an on-going annual summer activity in partnership with RLCP volunteers who work downstream.

➤ **Biodiversity survey:**

Volunteers were able to re-commence our second year of biodiversity surveys in March once Covid restrictions were lifted over 5 hectares of green space in the Crankles, No Mans Meadows and Ram Meadow. We commissioned the installation of two owl boxes and two kestrel boxes in No Mans Meadows following multiple sightings of kestrels but only one recorded sighting of a barn owl despite it being described as "classic barn owl territory". We hope that they will be occupied in time for next year's breeding season.

Plans to run a Bio-Blitz event in partnership with the Abbey 1000 millennium celebrations organisation are now advanced whereby a combination of scientists, naturalists, schools and members of the public will work together to discover as many species of plants, animals and fungi as possible over a Friday and Saturday in May 2022.

➤ **Partnerships:**

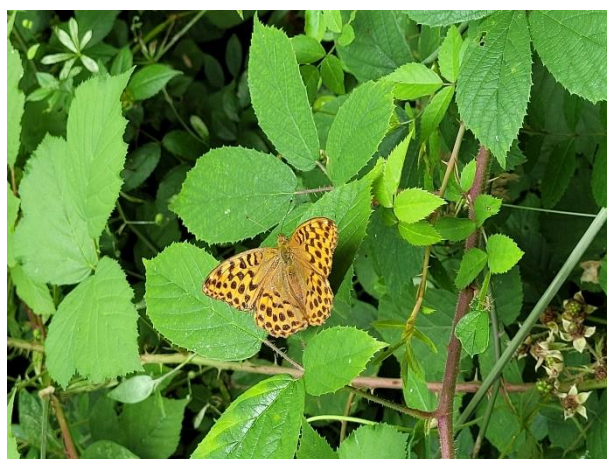
We continue to work in partnership with other conservation groups and local organisations both to contribute and to add our perspective to what they are planning.

BWMG is a founding member of the Chalk Aquifer Alliance that formed in 2019 to unite independent chalk stream groups to raise awareness of and campaign on the plight of chalk streams and we host their webinars that attract attendees from across the country and abroad. We are also an associate member of RLCP, a group of organisations and individuals that have come together to enable a cohesive approach to the environmental challenges facing the Lark.

We work closely with WSC to help manage and maintain council owned and leased green spaces and we have formal links with the Bury Society, the Friends of the Abbey Gardens, Bury in Bloom, and are a member of the Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership.

Statutory declaration on public benefit

The trustees declare that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.



Section D: Achievements & Performance

➤ **Membership:**

The charity was successful in more than maintaining its membership through the period, increasing to 244 members from 237 last year at the renewal date of 1st November. We attracted 41 new members in the year. New members are often attracted through personal contact networking with existing members, through seeing volunteers in action and through our online presence.

➤ **Education and Communication:**

We continue to believe that there is a need to engage more residents in nature appreciation and recognition. The green urban environment provides a common language for all and a shared purpose independent of gender, ethnic background, age, physical ability, mental functioning, socio-economic status or knowledge.

In 2020 the charity developed a programme of online webinars from scratch. This continued through 2021 with an average of 3 online webinars per month both BWMG-sponsored and those organised by the Chalk Aquifer Alliance. Presentations were made on chalk streams and the threats they face and on subjects of general environmental interest with topics including CaBA Chalk Stream Restoration strategy, the river Lark Pollution Review & Action Plan, storm overflows, the impact of HS2 on Aquifers and an update from member Sarah Gull on the first 18 months of owning 15 acres of the Butts water meadows. The webinars are open to both members and non-members and are free to join.

The result has been a significant increase in our capacity to educate and inform our audience. We have attracted a high-quality range of speakers including nationally renowned experts whom we would not have been able to bring to the town to speak.

We also believe that social contact has been promoted through these online talks whilst coronavirus remains a concern, keeping people in regular contact with the benefit to mental health that this brings.

➤ **River flow and water quality policy:**

The investigation into the state and condition of the three outfall locations in the town where road run-off from the A14 enters the Lark revealed that the central outfall location where the Lark runs alongside Ram Meadow should discharge into a retention pond to allow the settling out of particulate pollutants. However, due to lack of maintenance the outfall has become blocked allowing contaminated water to find its own way into the river. We have contacted Highways England who are investigating the remediation works required to the retention pond.

We are also due to meet with the Tesco store manager to discuss what if anything can be done about the northern outfall (and the concrete channel in general) though there is little space here for attenuation or treatment options.

➤ **Habitat conservation and maintenance:**

We mobilised our volunteer base in the conservation, maintenance and in the management of the rivers Lark and Linnet and their surrounding water meadows in Bury St Edmunds. Typical volunteer work parties consist of between 4 and 20 volunteers lasting between 2 to 4 hours taking place on average 3 or 4 times per month throughout the year. Apart from 1 event at New Year work parties were not able to begin until the end of March 2021 due to coronavirus restrictions. 71 members have been involved in 51 different work parties this year clocking up 1050 hours.

With volunteering everyone wins with benefits to the individual, local community, wider society, and the environment. We have seen first-hand through the effects of lockdown that volunteering is good for the mind and body, helping people stay physically healthy and providing a sense of purpose. The social contact aspect of helping and working with others can have a profound effect on overall psychological well-being and helps keep people in regular contact with others to provide a solid support system which in turn protects against depression.

• **Scything**

A key achievement this year has been to implement a schedule of regular cutting in selected

areas with the aim of suppressing nettles and other rank vegetation. This has been done by trained volunteers using traditional Austrian scythes with 2021 being the first year in a three-year process of encouraging a more herb-rich and florally diverse sward. Following the first session last year we ran our second scythe-training day in April, paid for by a grant from HDH Wills increasing the number of trained volunteers to sixteen. Our scythers have become expert with regular practice and some now have their own scythes in addition to the 8 sets now owned by BWMG.

Between April and October we scythed 2, 3 or 4 times in Crankles North, Crankles South, along the Lark path bankside east, and Ram Meadow between the football ground and the river. In Crankles South monthly cuts to the north, east and west margins were complemented by a single cut to the central meadow section where the process is a year further advanced. An equal number of volunteers are needed on these work parties to clear the arisings. We also sowed yellow rattle and a wildflower seed mix. Next year monthly cuts will be repeated on the margins and the meadow part treated to just 2 cuts in April and October. At the request of the head gardener we scythed the new Abbey Gardens labyrinth which is already rich in wildflowers.

- **Ram Meadow Management Plan**

Through the autumn of 2021 we continued with the 2nd year of the multi-year habitat management programme agreed with WSC, running 4 more volunteer events.

The work began by coppicing willow which both blocks light from the scrape and also hides the water habitat from the public's view along the adjacent footpath. Over 2 half days we created a large pile of some 150m³ of cut willow branches. The plan is for this to be converted into woodchip to be laid along the Ram Meadow paths. Over a further 2 half days volunteers with in-water training then went into the scrape and pulled a section of great reedmace (bullrushes) by hand. These heavy reeds up to 2m tall were then floated to the water's edge, loaded onto a wheelbarrow and left in habitat piles on the side. This was different to last year when we pulled mainly branched bur-reed and we noticed that this water has now been colonised by hornwort, a native oxygenating plant.

The result was to open-up a new sector of water meeting up with the area opened up last year. Volunteers were also busy removing poplar suckers, laying out wood-chipped poplar from last year's activity onto the public footpaths, as well as 2 sessions during the spring of hemlock removal on the Lark bank at the north end of Ram Meadow.

- **No Mans Meadows and the Crankles**

In No Mans Meadows we dug out invasive poplar suckers from one meadow, continued with a programme to clear the ditch network in order to create more light and reduce blockages, and with Council approval removed a stretch of derelict fencing alongside the Lark.

Guided by the new nature conservation management plan together with the hydrological report, the development of a practical formal plan for the habitat maintenance and management of No Mans Meadows and the Crankles is underway. The co-management with WSC of these water meadows in addition to Ram Meadow represents a significant step-change in operation for BWMG.

- **Other Volunteer Work Parties**

We organised several litter-picking parties during the year, cleaning up the Linnet at Cullum Road and Friar's Lane, Ram Meadow between the Lark east bank & the A14, Holywater Meadow, the Lark Valley Path at Mildenhall Road and No Man's Meadow. The autumn events included the categorisation and recording of each piece of litter for the Preventing Plastic Pollution project. We partnered with The Bury St Edmunds Rotaract Club who did a great job in clearing litter from the former travellers' site at Ram Meadow.

There were also various in-channel sessions to clear blockages and detritus from sections of our two rivers in order to help them better perform their natural function. These included the Linnet between Friars Lane & Cullum Road, behind Corsbie Close, the ditch by Holywater Meadow, and the Lark in Ram Meadow. We partnered with Bury St Edmunds Rugby club to help them clear blockages in the Lark adjacent to their playing fields.

➤ **Equipment**

In addition to the commission of the nature conservation management plan and hydrological report for No Mans Meadows & the Crankles, the grant of £9277 received in the year from the Town Council enabled the charity to purchase a 20 ft container sited at the town's community rugby club in which to store our increasing stock of equipment and tooling.

We also added 4 wheelbarrows, an electric chainsaw and 4 scything sets along with shears, forks, first aid supplies and tools paid for out of grants and general funds.

➤ **Training**

The Town Council grant has enabled us to enrol our work party leaders in the "NSPCC: an introduction to Child Protection" training to support the development of our policy to open up our work parties to young adults aged 14 and over. The grant has also paid for the training of 2 more members in the use of chainsaws in work parties. As noted earlier 11 more volunteers completed scything training in the year.

Further training of work party leaders and volunteers has been facilitated through RLCP for river restoration, advanced river restoration, RLSS National Water Safety Management Level 1 & Level 2 River, and Emergency Outdoor First Aid.

➤ **Invasive Species:**

Our volunteers continued to make a major contribution to controlling Himalayan Balsam on the rivers Lark & Linnet in the town. In June we again surveyed the 7km of accessible sections of the rivers using the iRecord App so that we have a benchmark for future years. In July we then worked downstream along the riverbanks, usually at water level and pulled up plants individually by their roots before the seed is set. This action effectively kills the plants but the scale of the task and nature of the habitat with steep riverbanks and nettles, makes this very labour-intensive work. Altogether volunteers clocked up 80 hours over 12 sessions on this project and the good news is that where we have pulled plants previously they return in significantly less abundance in the following year. Because of this we were able to pull much further downstream than in 2020 and so this year's efforts upstream should restrict further spread downstream to Fornham, Hengrave and beyond where our RLCP partners operate.

➤ **Biodiversity:**

A significant development over the last 2 years in BWMG has been the creation of a biodiversity group undertaking citizen science. 2021 saw the second year of volunteers recording biodiversity surveys between March and October across the Crankles, No Mans Meadows and Ram Meadow areas.

Our observers recorded a total of 53 different types of bird. Small mammals seen were few but included water vole, hedgehog and moles. Deer, especially muntjac, were regularly seen. Butterfly sightings were mainly of whites and red admirals with other types being scarce, and the group is now encouraging the seeding of plants such as yellow rattle which are known to be attractive hosts to caterpillars. There was an enormous diversity of plants found ranging from tiny violets to large plants including bullrushes, mulleins, indian balsam and hemlock, the latter two being invasive and unwelcome. The Ram Meadow area vacated during the year provided a treasure-trove of plants with over 120 species being recorded in an hour.

All records are fed into iRecord and the detailed monthly recordings by our observers can be found under the Biodiversity Surveying section on our website.

➤ **Partnerships:**

The mailing list of the Chalk Aquifer Alliance has quickly grown to over 600 people, and BWMG's leading role has given us unique access to a range of experts, opportunities, and chalk stream allies. One result was the short trial of a state-of-the-art sonde for measuring water quality earlier this year. One of the main issues in tackling water quality policy has been the limited amount of data available by Anglian Water and the EA and with this equipment measuring dissolved organic matter, providing real-time BOD and DOC data alongside traditional parameters (pH, conductivity, turbidity) the results have assisted RLCP in providing hard data in the ongoing discussion with Anglian Water about sewage spills and water quality in the Lark.

We are a member of the Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership's Core Group, which works to care for, conserve and enhance the Abbey Precinct (including the Crankles and No Mans Meadows). The Heritage Partnership aims to help people to experience the international significance of St Edmund and the historic Abbey whilst BWMG speaks up for the rivers and the associated water meadows. We are working with the Partnership to help raise the status of the Lark and Linnet within the Abbey Precinct.

With Bury in Bloom we have been cheered by the change to peat-free compost for the town's hanging baskets and helped find sites for rainwater harvesting tanks to supply the bowser that trundles round every day in the summer to keep the baskets watered.

Bury St Edmunds Rugby club readily agreed to our request to site our equipment storage container on their site and in return we have started to help them manage the ditches and the river Lark that border their fields.

➤ **Award Winner**

BWMG won the Bury Free Press 2021 Eco Friendly Community Award having been nominated by local residents.



Section E: Financial Review

Review of the financial position at the end of the period

The charity held a total of £5,896 in funds at the end of the period comprising £1,555 in restricted funds and £4,341 in unrestricted funds. For the start of the period the corresponding sums were total £4,400, restricted £738 and unrestricted £3,662

Principle sources of funds

The charity's total income in the period was £12,957. The charity received grant funding totalling £10,277 as follows:

1. £9,277 from Bury St Edmunds Town Council to fund a programme of activities intended to raise the status of the town's rivers and their environs for the public. This was used to purchase the equipment storage container, the No Mans Meadow/Crankles nature conservation management plan and hydrological report, bird boxes, equipment & tooling, and trustee & member training.
2. £500 from the HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust to fund scything for meadow and habitat management. This was used to purchase training for scythers and 2 scythe sets.
3. £500 from Waitrose. This remains unspent at the end of the year.

The balance of income in the year of £2,680 was primarily received from membership dues and donations. Annual membership runs from 1st November each year. The comparative first year reporting period of 15.5 months included two years of membership receipts.

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The charity does not have a reserves policy and does not hold funds in reserve.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

The Trustees declare that the charity had no funds which were materially in deficit at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

Particulars of any outstanding guarantee given by the charity

The trustees declare that the charity has given no guarantee where potential liability is outstanding at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.


Particulars of any outstanding debt

The trustees declare that the charity has no outstanding debts which are secured by an express charge on any of the assets of the charity at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature	
Full name	Ian Campbell
Position	Trustee & Treasurer

Date	25th February 2022
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Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01-Jan-21

To

31-Dec-21

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Membership & Donations	2,270			2,270	2,472
Booklet Sales	45			45	
Web Hosting	365			365	200
Grant Bury St Edmunds Town Council		9,277		9,277	
Grant HD Wills		500		500	
Grant Waitrose		500		500	
Grant Bury St Edmunds Town Council				-	1,500
Grant Suffolk County Council				-	2,046
Grant Canal & Rivers Trust				-	500
				-	
Sub total	2,680	10,277	-	12,957	6,718
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
				-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total Receipts	2,680	10,277	-	12,957	6,718
A3 Payments					
Professional Surveys & Reports		3,150		3,150	3,558
Bird Boxes		440		440	
Container for Equipment		1,286		1,286	
Signage		240		240	
Work Party Tools & PPE	49	592		641	692
Scythes	825			825	786
Chainsaw & PPE	44	583		627	211
In River Tools & PPE		195		195	315
Wildflower Planting				-	1,017
Nettle Cutting	45			45	238
Work Party Expenses		46		46	10
Survey Expenses	20			20	
Training		2,545		2,545	138
Printing/Stationery		118		118	86
Insurance	161			161	161
Legal & Professional				-	23
Water Quality	160			160	
Publicity	200			200	
Speaker Exp/Web Hosting	712			712	611
Shelving/Storage				-	57
Other	50			50	51
				-	
Sub total	2,266	9,195	-	11,461	7,954
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
				-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	2,266	9,195	-	11,461	7,954
Net of receipts/(payments)	414	1,082	0	1,496	(1,236)
A5 Transfers between funds	265	(265)	0	0	0
A6 Cash funds last year end	3,662	738	-	4,400	5,636
Cash funds this year end	4,341	1,555	-	5,896	4,400

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current Account	4,341	1,555	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	4,341	1,555	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK


Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Land for Footpath Entrance	Unrestricted	-	-
	Work Party Tooling & Equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
	Personal Protective Equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
	Publicity Display Material	Unrestricted	-	-
	Storage Container for Equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
				-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	IAN CAMPBELL	25/02/2022