

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023
for
Knepp Wildland Foundation

Auguste & Auguste
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Knepp Wildland Foundation

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for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

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Knepp Wildland Foundation

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

The trustees of the Knepp Wildland Foundation present their annual report and unaudited accounts for the period ended 31st December 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

This report covers:

- Structure, governance and management
- Objectives and activities
- Achievements and performance
- Financial review
- Future plans

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Knepp Wildland Foundation is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales on 9th July 2020 (Charity Number 1190335).

The Registered office is Knepp Castle Estate Office, West Grinstead, Horsham, RH13 8LJ. The CIO is not known by any other name.

The CIO is governed by a constitution and its trustees are:

Dr Anthony Malcolm Whitbread	<i>Chair</i>
Isabella Elizabeth Nancy Tree	<i>Trustee</i>
Sir Charles Raymond Burrell Bt	<i>Trustee</i>
David Anthony Green	<i>Trustee</i>
Helen Chapman	<i>Trustee</i>

The CIO has no corporate trustees.

The CIO commits to the recruitment and appointment of at least one new charity trustee in the next reporting period, based on election to post by the current trustees.

Libby Drew is Director of the Foundation.

At the 31st December 2023 there were 6 employees including Libby Drew.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objects of the CIO are:

- To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment; and/or
- To promote for the benefit of the public, the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment by promoting biological diversity.

Our charitable activities are:

1. Land management for nature conservation

Including instigating new nature recovery projects elsewhere in the UK, including through land purchase for rewilding.

2. Habitat restoration

Extending habitat restoration work to parts of the estate currently outside the rewilding project, including fencing to protect valuable habitats, and creation of additional wetland habitats.

3. Species reintroduction and reinforcement

The reintroduction and reinforcement of species missing from our landscape.

4. Supporting wildlife education

Community outreach, including providing experience in nature conservation for young people at Knepp.

5. Wildlife survey, recording and research projects

Ongoing wildlife surveys and recording work associated with important natural breeding populations within the Knepp rewilding project.

6. Contributing to the national nature conservation debate

Including participation and conducting workshops and conferences at Knepp.

MISSION AND ORIGIN

The Knepp Wildland Foundation was founded to galvanise nature recovery across Sussex and beyond, contributing to our global effort to reverse our biodiversity crisis. We were established to harness evidence, knowledge and inspiration from the pioneering work of Knepp to support nature recovery at scale, with a particular focus on communities, corridors and the next generation.

Established in 2020, we have set out to invest in nature education, research, reporting, and landscape-scale recovery. This year marked the initiation of our charitable activities within these strategic pillars and the first stages of team development.

ACHIEVEMENTS

This year, Knepp Wildland Foundation made significant strides across its portfolio of projects, reflecting both growth and innovation, as well as consolidating key partnerships and early work on the Weald to Waves corridor. Fundraising efforts secured £352,161, with an additional £80,000 for 2024, signalling strong support for KWF's mission.

ACHIEVEMENTS CONTINUED..

Our work is aligning with the growing national focus on conservation at scale, laying the groundwork for sustainable river and landscape recovery that integrates both biodiversity and community engagement. At the heart of our organisation, Weald to Waves is growing in momentum towards a transformative 100-mile nature corridor initiative. This year has seen an exciting new leap towards new digital mapping and communication tools alongside on farm and field work that, together, go a long way to fostering collaboration and civic participation.

2023 marked the first year that Knepp Wildland Foundation took on management of The White Stork Project from the Knepp Estate to continue and expand its pioneering work in both species reintroduction and public engagement. Our new youth engagement programme, Wild Futures, has launched, equipping the next generation of environmental leaders with skills for green jobs. We are also expanding our data-driven approach with the development of Wild Data, a new online platform to open up two decades of Knepp's biodiversity data to both the public and specialist audiences. These initiatives fit into the wider momentum around nature recovery, targeted funding interventions, and preparing new generations for careers in the green economy.

PROJECT PROGRESS

Weald to Waves

Weald to Waves has seen notable progress in defining a 100-mile primary route for biodiversity, connecting pledged land with local wildlife sites and priority habitats. Over 12% of farmland and estates in the corridor now pledged and the first smaller plots now registered under a new Gardens and Greenspaces network. Our new digital home launched mid-April, offering interactive maps, blogs, and resources for land managers and the community. This platform will facilitate civic engagement, track impact and provide a comprehensive overview of the corridor's environmental and social pressures. Funding for this work has been secured from Natural England, The Chalk Cliff Trust, Woodroffe Benton Foundation, Garfield Weston Foundation, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, the Woodspring Trust and Patagonia. Additionally, we have secured further funding from Natural England to invest in new areas of scrubland along the corridor. Working with farms and estates, this will introduce and enhance dense thorny scrubland as part of our efforts to boost numbers of scrubland birds such as nightingales, cuckoos and turtle doves, as well as prepare for a possible reintroduction of the red-backed shrike and the black-veined white butterfly.

Adur River Recovery

Knepp Wildland Foundation is proud to coordinate one of the first national river recovery pilots under the new Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS). Funded by DEFRA and managed through grants by the Environment Agency, the Adur River Recovery project is one of the largest collaborations in the country. It involves 27 farms working alongside councils and conservation partners to develop a sustainable model for restoring the River Adur in West Sussex.

Adur River Recovery continued

A steering committee, composed of land managers and representatives from partner organisations, has been formed to guide key decisions. We are actively collaborating with consultants on natural capital market research, baseline surveys, and legal advisory work. Community engagement is central to the project, with river user surveys and outreach to local businesses, schools, and heritage groups. This development phase will continue until spring 2025, at which point the project will transition into the delivery phase, informed by the ecological, financial, and governance frameworks established.

White Stork Project

We took on management of the successful White Stork Project in May this year. Based at Knepp Estate, with a second site at Wadhurst Park, the project aims to re-establish a wild, breeding population of white storks in the UK. Historically native to the British Isles, white storks were once widely distributed, with records of sightings from 1958 until 1983, when they were considered a regular species. However, due to a lack of breeding, they were unlikely to return without intervention. In partnership with Cotswolds Wildlife Park and the Roy Dennis Foundation, the project has successfully established a thriving population at Knepp, with the goal of increasing public engagement.

To support this, we recruited a new project officer, an experienced educator with a background in biology and science communication. Her role combines practical tasks with community engagement and education. This year, the project recorded 12 stork nests and 26 successful fledglings. Over 400 students visited the stork sites and learned more through school assemblies. Understanding the storks' autumn migration is crucial for the project's success, and we have raised funds for satellite tags to track and share their journeys via an online map. Donations from the Lochlands Trust and Skylark Coffee have helped cover project costs.

Wild Futures Youth Engagement programme

Young people are central to our strategy, and we've launched the Wild Futures youth engagement programme to provide skills, networks, and opportunities for 12-25 year olds, while learning from their ideas and experiences. This initiative includes six weeks of summer residential courses, delivered in collaboration with Operation Wallacea (OpWall), which equipped over 100 young participants and volunteer staff with transferable skills in survey and habitat work. Additionally, we introduced our first bursary programme, offering support to five young people from underrepresented backgrounds, generously funded by the D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust.

This year, we also piloted two paid placements for graduates, offering hands-on experience in biodiversity and nature recovery careers. These placements will become a key part of our strategy to create more paid work opportunities for young people in Sussex alongside

We hosted the second annual youth-led summit, Resurgence, in partnership with Heal and Young Wilders. The event brought together over 100 young people at Knepp for two days of workshops focused on access to the countryside, diversity and inclusion in the green sector, and environmental connectivity. The summit was generously supported by SkyLark Coffee and the Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust, and the insights gained continue to shape our youth engagement and nature education strategies.

Data and Insights

Data and Insights is a new strategic focus for KWF, aimed at making Knepp's data accessible to a wider audience. Data is crucial for driving effective conservation efforts, informing decision-making, and enhancing public understanding of ecosystems. We are developing an initial platform, Wild Data, that showcases species and habitat data. Supported by Rewilding Britain's Innovation Fund and Virgin Media O2, this interactive platform will be populated with surveys, data sets, and science stories in the coming months. By providing transparent access to this data, we hope to empower researchers, students, conservationists, and encourage new interest across public audiences. We are aiming for an initial launch in winter 2024.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

For the year ended 31 December 2023, there was a surplus of £50,304 (2022: £70,343)

There was a balance of £87,224 of unrestricted funds (2022: £79,898) and £42,978 of restricted funds (2022: £nil).

The trustees agreed to maintain three months of operational reserves to ensure the smooth ongoing day to day operations of the charity.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number 1190335

Principal address

Estate Office
Knepp Castle
West Grinstead
HORSHAM
RH13 8LJ

Approved by order of the board of trustees on and signed on its behalf by:

C Burrell - Trustee

A Whitbread - Chair



23 Oct 2024

23 Oct 2024

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Knepp Wildland Foundation**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the Knepp Wildland Foundation

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Knepp Wildland Foundation (the Trust) for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

K. Auguste - ACA 1590984
Auguste & Auguste
1 Dukes Passage
Brighton
East Sussex
BN1 1BS

Knepp Wildland Foundation

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

				Year ended 31.12.2023	Year ended 31.12.2022
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	3	£	£	£	£
Grants		-	199,559	199,559	-
Donations and legacies		44,095	45,122	89,217	128,827
Charitable activities		3,735	51,550	55,285	49,911
EXPENDITURE ON	4				
Fundraising		(24,069)	-	(24,069)	-
Charitable activities		(16,435)	(253,253)	(269,688)	(108,395)
NET INCOME		<u>7,326</u>	<u>42,978</u>	<u>50,304</u>	<u>70,343</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds at brought forward		79,898	-	79,898	9,555
TOTAL FUNDS AT CARRIED FORWARD		<u>87,224</u>	<u>42,978</u>	<u>130,202</u>	<u>79,898</u>

Knepp Wildland Foundation

Balance Sheet
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

		Year ended 31.12.2023	Year ended 31.12.2022
		Total Funds £	Total Funds £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	9	16,925	16,238
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank and in hand		177,251	68,299
Prepayments		560	536
Accrued income		50,576	-
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(115,110)	(5,175)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>113,277</u>	<u>63,660</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		113,277	63,660
NET ASSETS		<u>130,202</u>	<u>79,898</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds	7	87,224	79,898
Restricted		42,978	-
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>130,202</u>	<u>79,898</u>

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on
and were signed on its behalf by:

A Whitbread - Chair



C Burrell - Trustee



The notes form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Going Concern

The Trustees have reviewed the Financial Position of the Foundation and consider that the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate. There are no material uncertainties in relation to the going concern status of the Foundation.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity.

Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and equipment - 20% on cost

Computer equipment - 20% on cost

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

2. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the period ended 31 December 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the period ended 31 December 2023

	Year ended 31.12.2023 £	Year ended 31.12.2022 £
3. INCOME		
Grants	199,559	-
Donations and legacies	89,217	128,828
Charitable activities	55,285	49,911
	<u>344,061</u>	<u>178,739</u>
4. EXPENDITURE		
Fundraising Costs	24,069	-
Charitable Activities	248,704	66,091
Support Costs (See note 5)	20,984	42,304
	<u>293,757</u>	<u>108,395</u>
5. SUPPORT COSTS		
Legal / Professional Fees	328	990
Accountancy Fees	3,774	3,207
Office Costs	2,454	367
Computer running costs	2,444	-
Marketing costs	659	-
Bank Charges	110	117
Staff costs	4,086	34,167
Travel	2,695	169
Depreciation	4,434	3,287
	<u>20,984</u>	<u>42,304</u>
6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
Accruals & deferred income	105,507	2,472
Creditors	8,832	2,477
Social Security	771	226
	<u>115,110</u>	<u>5,175</u>

Knepp Wildland Foundation

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 01.01.2023	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.2023
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	79,898	7,326	87,224
Restricted funds			
Knowledge and Influence	-	1,603	1,603
Landscape Recovery	-	11,419	11,419
New Generation	-	9,207	9,207
Species Recovery	-	20,749	20,749
TOTAL FUNDS	79,898	50,304	130,202

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	47,830	(40,504)	7,326
Restricted funds			
Knowledge and Influence	17,582	(15,979)	1,603
Landscape Recovery	172,177	(160,758)	11,419
New Generation	62,489	(53,282)	9,207
Species Recovery	43,983	(23,234)	20,749
TOTAL FUNDS	344,061	(293,757)	50,304

8. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Charles Raymond Burrell & Isabella Elizabeth Nancy Tree
Trustee
Joint donation of £10,000

Isabella Elizabeth Nancy Tree
Trustee
Donation of £3,000

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

8. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES continued

The charity has a very close relationship with Knepp Farms LLP, Knepp Castle Estate and Knepp Swallow Ltd, all of which enable the charity to carry out its charitable objectives. The following transactions were made with those entities during the year ended 31 December 2023:

Expenditure incurred

Knepp Farms LLP	£1,531.96
Knepp Castle Estate	£2,016.29
Knepp Swallows Ltd	£143.85

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and equipment	Computer equipment	Totals
COST	£	£	£
At 1 January 2023	19,525	-	19,525
Additions	3,331	1,790	5,121
At 31 December 2023	<u>22,856</u>	<u>1,790</u>	<u>24,646</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 January 2023	3,287	-	3,287
Charge for year	4,238	196	4,434
At 31 December 2023	<u>7,525</u>	<u>196</u>	<u>7,721</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2023	<u>15,331</u>	<u>1,594</u>	<u>16,925</u>
At 1 January 2023	<u>16,238</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,238</u>

10. STAFF COSTS	31.12.23	31.12.22
	£	£
Salary staff	115,836	29,885
Social security costs	5,897	3,510
Other pension costs	2,695	772
	<u>124,428</u>	<u>34,167</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.12.23	31.12.22
Employees	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.