

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1190335

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024
for
Knepp Wildland Foundation

Auguste & Auguste
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Knepp Wildland Foundation

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for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

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Knepp Wildland Foundation

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

The trustees of the Knepp Wildland Foundation present their annual report and unaudited accounts for the period ended 31st December 2024. 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.

As of 31st December 2024, the Foundation employed 11 staff, including the Director.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Foundation's objectives are to promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection, and improvement of the physical and natural environment, with a focus on advancing biological diversity.

Our primary activities in pursuit of these aims include:

1. **Nature recovery and landscape connectivity**

Developing and supporting landscape connectivity and nature recovery along natural corridors, working through partnership and strategic landholder engagement.

2. **Habitat restoration**

Expanding areas of scrubland, wetlands and wood pasture, including active interventions in the Knepp estate and partner lands.

3. **Species reintroduction and reinforcement**

Continuing reinforcement and reintroductions of lost native species including the white stork and planning future recovery initiatives.

4. **Education and youth engagement**

Through the Wild Futures programme, residential courses and 100 Mile Classroom, supporting environmental education and career access for young people.

5. **Surveying, monitoring, and research**

Expanding the use and sharing of ecological data to inform practice, policy and participation.

6. **Thought leadership and community building**

Hosting events, contributing to national discussions and supporting the civic nature movement.

MISSION AND ORIGIN

The Knepp Wildland Foundation was created in 2020 to help catalyse nature recovery at scale across Sussex and beyond, drawing on insight arising from the pioneering rewilding work at Knepp. We invest in knowledge, education, data and partnerships, supporting the next generation of rewilders and nature leaders.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024

This year saw a deepening and expansion of the Foundation's programme of work, with a wider programme of project delivery.

- We reached **20,000 hectares pledged** to the **Weald to Waves** nature corridor — a significant national milestone in landscape connectivity. New scrubland habitat was created over 6 core sites in the corridor, in partnership with Natural England, in order to strengthen scope for species recovery.
- Our **Adur River Recovery Project** completed key activities in its development phase, engaging 27 farms and creating blueprints for natural flood management, habitat connectivity, and green finance.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024 CONTINUED...

- The **White Stork Project** was proposed as a new member of the European Stork Village Network – if this is agreed in early 2025 this will be a significant recognition of our work with Knepp and Storrington becoming the UK's only Stork Village. We continued to enrich our programme of community engagement, with 50+ volunteers involved in the project and over 1,000 school children visiting the storks.
- The **Wild Futures programme** hosted a further 550 young people at Knepp and across Sussex through a wide range of residentials, work placements, school visits, and youth-led initiatives.
- We launched the **100 Mile Classroom** in partnership with Sussex Bay, Weald to Waves and others, to expand youth nature education across Sussex.
- The **Wild Data platform** progressed with design and development, supported by two paid internships as part of our partnership with the University of Sussex. The platform, hosting surveys, data stories and species profiles from across Knepp, will go live in mid 2025.

We also introduced a cost-of-living adjustment for staff, conducted salary benchmarking, and strengthened financial systems in preparation for audit.

PROJECT PROGRESS

Weald to Waves Corridor

- Now covering over **20,000 hectares**, the corridor includes estates, farms, and nearly **1,000 registered gardens**.
- A new **Advisory Committee** is in formation, bringing together specialists in ecology, education, green finance, and infrastructure.
- Community engagement and youth participation remain central, including the development of the **100 Mile Classroom** to support local learning and stewardship.

Adur River Recovery

- Continued delivery of a national Landscape Recovery pilot with 27 farms.
- A strong civic engagement programme including festivals, guided walks, citizen science surveys and new creative collaborations.
- Substantial progress on green finance models in partnership with 3Keel and others.
- Key infrastructure and legal groundwork laid for transition into delivery phase in 2025.

White Stork Project

- Proposed new member of the European Stork Village Network – would be the first UK site to be accepted.
- 12 active nests recorded in 2024 with 26 fledglings.
- Significant youth outreach through school partnerships, Stork Schools, and public engagement events.
- Preparations underway for a proposed **Stork Festival** in May 2025.

Wild Futures Youth Programme

- Hosted **78 students** through the Operation Wallacea residential course, including **10 full bursaries**.
- Piloted a **Duke of Edinburgh Gold Residential week**.
- Held the third **Youth Rewilding Summit – Overgrowth**, with peer-led learning and national speakers.

Wild Futures Youth Programme continued...

- Developed a **Young Guides Programme**, training and employing four youth guides to support education delivery.

Data and Insights

- Continued development of our **Wild Data** knowledge hub, with new data-sharing features, story content and a robust and scalable backend infrastructure.
- Ongoing partnerships with **Archetype digital** and our paid Data Internship programme with the University of Sussex is helping to prepare for 2025 launch.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

- **Total income** for 2024 was **£931,788**, up significantly from **£344,061** in 2023 due to an increased in restricted project delivery.
- **Total expenditure** was **£821,265**, delivering a **net surplus of £110,523**.
- The Foundation closed the year with **£240,725 in total funds**, comprising **£126,459 in restricted funds** and **£114,266 in unrestricted funds**.
- We maintained the agreed reserve of three months' core operating costs.
- Core costs for 2024 were approximately **£100,000**, in line with the charity's sustainability strategy. Most delivery costs were project-specific and funded through restricted grants.
- The largest grants were received from DEFRA (for Adur River Recovery), Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Garfield Weston Foundation, and Lloyds Bank Foundation.
- In preparation for future audits, financial controls were strengthened and reviewed in line with the charity's growth.

LOOKING AHEAD

2025 will be a pivotal year for the Knepp Wildland Foundation as we:

- Submit our **delivery phase proposal** for the **Adur River Recovery Project** to Defra. This will set out a **20+ year plan** for river recovery alongside productive farmland.
- Launch the **Wild Data** platform to share our data stories with a wider public audience.
- Expand **Weald to Waves** governance, infrastructure and educational reach, refreshing our strategy for action and delivery.
- Deliver the first **Stork Festival** alongside our first public celebration of our **Stork Village** status with Euronatur. We will continue to support populations at Knepp and Wadhurst, while deepening our schools engagement.
- Secure long-term funding for the **Wild Futures programme**, pilot a new Sussex-based nature curriculum and continue scaling youth engagement along the Weald to Waves corridor.
- Continue to invest in our **governance, internal controls and operational systems**, with the first hire of a Finance and Administrative Manager and a new board member.
- Seek to stabilise the organisation with investment in raising **core funds** and **longer-term funding partnerships**.

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



**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 2024 to 31 December 2024.

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
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Brighton
East Sussex
BN1 1BS

Knepp Wildland Foundation

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	<i>Notes</i>		Year ended	Year ended
	Unrestricted	Restricted	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
	Funds	Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	3	£	£	£
Grants	3,000	717,973	720,973	199,559
Donations and legacies	41,678	81,301	122,979	89,217
Charitable activities	37,708	4,324	42,032	55,285
Other trading activities	44,704	1,100	45,804	-
EXPENDITURE ON	4			
Fundraising	(26,216)	(24,015)	(50,231)	(24,069)
Charitable activities	(73,832)	(697,202)	(771,034)	(269,688)
NET INCOME	27,042	83,481	110,523	50,304
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds at brought forward	87,224	42,978	130,202	79,898
TOTAL FUNDS AT CARRIED FORWARD	114,266	126,459	240,725	130,202

Knepp Wildland Foundation

Balance Sheet for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

		Year ended 31.12.2024	Year ended 31.12.2023
	Total Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	
	Notes		
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	9	25,551	16,925
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank and in hand		423,442	177,251
Prepayments		-	560
Accrued income		45,579	50,576
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(253,847)	(115,110)
NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)		<u>215,174</u>	<u>113,277</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>240,725</u>	<u>130,202</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds	7	114,266	87,224
Restricted		126,459	42,978
TOTAL FUNDS		<u><u>240,725</u></u>	<u><u>130,202</u></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

Knepp Wildland Foundation

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

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
Motor equipment - 25% on cost

Knepp Wildland Foundation

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

2. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the period ended 31 December 2024.

	Year ended 31.12.2024	Year ended 31.12.2023
	£	£
3. INCOME		
Grants	720,973	199,559
Donations and legacies	122,979	89,217
Charitable activities	42,032	55,285
Other trading activities	45,804	-
	<u>931,788</u>	<u>344,061</u>

4. EXPENDITURE

Fundraising Costs	50,231	24,069
Charitable Activities	705,325	248,704
Support Costs (See note 5)	65,709	20,984
	<u>821,265</u>	<u>293,757</u>

5. SUPPORT COSTS

Legal / Professional Fees	1,900	328
Accountancy Fees	9,879	3,774
Office Costs	11,768	2,454
Computer running costs	2,433	2,444
Marketing costs	268	659
Bank Charges	108	110
Staff costs	18,946	4,086
Travel	11,851	2,695
Depreciation	6,447	4,434
Motor running costs	13	-
Repairs and maintenance	2,096	-
	<u>65,709</u>	<u>20,984</u>

6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Accruals & deferred income	216,149	105,507
Creditors	36,214	8,832
Social Security	1,484	771
	<u>253,847</u>	<u>115,110</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 01.01.2024	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.2024
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	87,224	27,042	114,266
Restricted funds			
Knowledge and Influence	1,603	5,327	6,930
Landscape Recovery	11,419	19,652	31,071
New Generation	9,207	23,782	32,989
Species Recovery	20,749	34,720	55,469
TOTAL FUNDS	130,202	110,523	240,725

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	127,090	(100,048)	27,042
Restricted funds			
Knowledge and Influence	42,618	(37,291)	5,327
Landscape Recovery	590,726	(571,074)	19,652
New Generation	78,882	(55,100)	23,782
Species Recovery	92,472	(57,752)	34,720
TOTAL FUNDS	931,788	(821,265)	110,523

8. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Charles Raymond Burrell Trustee	Isabella Elizabeth Nancy Tree Trustee
Donation made to the charity of £3,906	Donation made to the charity of £3,906
Repayment of expenses incurred of £265.45	

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. Most significant costs are funding capital costs of on-site research, room hire and recharge rates of specialist staff. The charity can pay the related company for goods/services at market rate or less, as long as this is demonstrably in the charity's best interests. The following transactions were made during the year ended 31 December 2024:

Knepp Wildland Foundation

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

8. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES continued

<i>Expenditure incurred</i>	
Knepp Farms LLP	£52,443.09
Knepp Castle Estate	£5,829.47
Knepp Swallows Ltd	£1,062.97

The Knepp Farms LLP figure of £52,443.09 included an invoice of £6,204 for room hire costs and an invoice of £24,620.49 for research costs.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

9.	COST	Plant and equipment	Computer equipment	Motor vehicle	Totals
		£	£	£	£
At 1 January 2024		22,856	1,790	-	24,646
Additions		7,381	5,492	2,200	15,073
At 31 December 2024		30,237	7,282	2,200	39,718

DEPRECIATION

At 1 January 2024	7,525	196	504	7,720
Charge for year	5,309	633	504	6,447
At 31 December 2024	12,834	829	504	14,167

NET BOOK VALUE

At 31 December 2024	17,403	6,453	1,696	25,551
At 1 January 2024	15,331	1,594	-	16,925

STAFF COSTS

10.	STAFF COSTS	31.12.24	31.12.23
		£	£
	Salary staff	258,228	115,836
	Social security costs	20,098	5,897
	Other pension costs	5,949	2,695
		284,275	124,428

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

	Employees	31.12.24	31.12.23
		8	6

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