



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES



## **Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023**

**Yorkshire Rewilding Network (YRN)**

**Charity registration number: 1190992**

### **Objectives and Activities**

The objects of the CIO are to advance biodiversity and environmental improvement through rewilding, principally in Yorkshire, by providing support, education, information and encouragement to the public and other stakeholders, including but not limited to those with an interest in rewilding. In this sense, rewilding is defined as the restoration of ecosystem functions to a point where nature can take care of itself. It seeks to reinstate natural processes and, where appropriate, missing species – allowing them to shape the landscape and the habitats within. Rewilding embraces the role of people – and their cultural and economic connections to the land – working within a wider, healthy ecosystem.

YRN carries out a range of activities to fulfil its purposes, including publishing newsletters and other relevant stories about rewilding, facilitating a discussion forum, hosting publicly available webinars and arranging small group visits to rewilding projects. A significant addition to these ongoing activities was the staging of a Rewilding Festival in June 2023. The Festival incorporated music, storytelling, a panel discussion, family day and rewilders' gathering to increase the diversity of those who engage with us.

YRN adopts an inclusive approach, centring all of activities around public benefit, ensuring that the charity operates in line with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

As a young charity, YRN is rarely in a position to make grants. Where it does so, it refers to its purpose and ensures that any grants are aligned with that purpose.

Social investment does not form a material part of YRN's activities.

The majority of the time and effort on YRN activities during the period covered by this report is voluntary. Volunteers have maintained the YRN website, written material for newsletters and articles and arranged and hosted webinars. Without such contributions, YRN would have been unable to operate. Since autumn 2021, YRN has contracted in a part time Project Officer to supplement volunteer activities and since autumn 2022 YRN has also contracted in a part time Community Engagement Officer to extend its reach across the region.

### **Achievements and Performance**

YRN has connected many individuals with peers and advisors, ranging from those looking for moral support or occasional grazing advice to people concerned that trees would not establish on an exposed coastal site to those wondering how to start rewilding, and many others. It has also signposted people to funding sources such as the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme.

In the corporate/public sector, as well as with landowners, YRN is also seeing opportunities for enabling positive rewilding projects. YRN is increasingly in contact with large estates who are considering nature recovery/rewilding to enable it to make further similar contributions.

YRN has its own website, as well as over 1,000 newsletter subscribers, over 1,000 followers on Twitter (now X) (as at the time of this report, April 2024), an active discussion forum and has staged over 20 well-attended webinars on a range of rewilding topics with local relevance. A number of site visits have taken place and volunteering opportunities for both surveys and wild wood planting have been arranged. A presentation about rewilding has been developed, and delivered to various community groups, aiming to increase the reach and diversity of the network.

Increasingly, YRN is engaging at a senior level with other stakeholders such as Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Yorkshire Water, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and Nidderdale AONB to influence them to include rewilding in their future plans.

In line with the emergent, less structured nature of rewilding, YRN has deliberately avoided fixed, measurable objectives to date, instead following the energy of the network to achieve the most impact.

## Financial Review

YRN's financial position at the end of its third year was healthy when compared to its running costs. The charity was successful in gaining a grant from Rewilding Britain's Innovation Fund, enabling it to contract in a part time Community Engagement Officer and to stage a Rewilding Festival in June 2023. Ongoing fundraising efforts aim to provide sufficient resources to enable part time contractors to continue to be funded.

Funds come from individual and corporate donors and from a range of small grants.

YRN aims to maintain reserves of a minimum of £1,000 which is a sufficient amount to cover its committed costs and to enable an orderly wind-down of the charity if the Trustees take the decision that that is necessary.

The main risk facing YRN is its resources becoming overstretched to cope with the increasing interest in rewilding in Yorkshire and the consequent requests for its services. To manage this risk, the charity prioritises its activities to best meet its purposes and seeks to raise sufficient funds to retain appropriate resources.

## Structure, Governance and Management

As a CIO, YRN has a written constitution, based on the standard proforma for a CIO.

Selection of new trustees is by existing trustees, usually from those who have already engaged with YRN so that potential new trustees know about the charity, its activities and aspirations.

YRN is wholly independent from Rewilding Britain, but liaises with the national charity and with other regional networks regularly.

## Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Yorkshire Rewilding Network
Registered charity number	1190992
Charity's principal address	18 Cheltenham Avenue Ilkley LS29 8BN

**Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Jeff Davitt	Chair		N/A
2	Deborah Davitt	Treasurer		N/A
3	Jenny Watson	Secretary		N/A
4	John Hartshorn			N/A
5	Antonia Beardsall			N/A
6	Samantha Mennell			N/A

No trustees hold title to property belonging to the charity

No funds are held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

**Declarations**

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

Signed on behalf of the charity’s trustees

Signature

Samantha Mennell

Full name(s)

Samantha Mennell

Position

Chair

Date

05 May 2024



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Yorkshire Rewilding Network

1190992

## Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period  
from

01/08/2022

To

31/07/2023

### 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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Individual donation, inc Gift Aid	5,248	-	-	5,248	5,077
Corporate donations	3,433	2,300	-	5,733	600
Grants received	7,850	4,228	-	12,078	1,950
Event sales	1,880	-	-	1,880	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>18,411</b>	<b>6,528</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>24,939</b>	<b>7,627</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>18,411</b>	<b>6,528</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>24,939</b>	<b>7,627</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Software and licences	820	-	-	820	1,158
Insurance	201	-	-	201	88
Bank charges	72	-	-	72	72
Contractors	14,406	-	-	14,406	4,921
FiPL workshops	-	2,727	-	2,727	-
YRN Rewilding Festival events	-	6,406	-	6,406	-
Materials	38	-	-	38	461
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>15,537</b>	<b>9,133</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>24,670</b>	<b>6,700</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>15,537</b>	<b>9,133</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>24,670</b>	<b>6,700</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>2,874</b>	<b>- 2,605</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>927</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>5,258</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,258</b>	<b>4,331</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>8,132</b>	<b>- 2,605</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,527</b>	<b>5,258</b>

## 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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Current account	5,527	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>5,527</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	Agreement Error	OK
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	None	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	None		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	None		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	None		-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
			04/04/2024	