

THE HURST WATER MEADOW TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1191096

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2020-09-01

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

Contact

Address 11 Queen Street
Dorchester-on-Thames
Wallingford
OX10 7HR

Phone 01865343798

Email hurstwatermt@gmail.com

Website www.hurst-water-meadow.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 1. TO PROMOTE, FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT OF HURST WATER MEADOW AND ANY OTHER LAND ACQUIRED BY THE TRUST, ITS TERRESTRIAL AND AQUATIC LIFE AND THEIR HABITATS 2. TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE STUDY AND RESEARCH OF LAND OWNED OR MANAGED BY THE TRUST AND ITS CONSERVATION AND THE DISSEMINATION OF THE USEFUL RESULTS OF SUCH RESEARCH;3. TO PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION OF THE PUBLIC AT LARGE WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE.

Activities: To preserve, conserve and protect The Hurst Water Meadow and any other land acquired by the Trust, its terrestrial and aquatic life and their habitats for the benefit of the public. To advance public education in the study and research of Dorchester on Thames' water meadows and their conservation and the dissemination of the useful results of such research.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage, Recreation
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** TO
- Oxfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£25,701	£10,125	-	-
2024-03-31	£17,318	£19,098	-	-
2023-03-31	£24,629	£9,420	-	-
2022-03-31	£9,745	£14,464	-	-
2021-03-31	£0	£0	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Roger Seabrook	Chair	2020-09-01
Christopher Smith		2020-09-01
David Randolph Paul Wilkinson BA, MLitt		2022-01-01
GRAHAM BELAND		2020-09-01
Mary Louise Beland		2023-01-01
Richard Tilley BSc		2022-01-01
Sally Bell		2024-05-01
Sandra Harding		2024-02-22
Sophia Stewart-Liberty		2022-01-01
Thomas Parry Airs		2022-01-01

THE HURST WATER MEADOW TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1191096

Accounts



THE HURST WATER MEADOW TRUST

REGISTERED CHARITY: 1191096



Annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

Reference and administration details

The Hurst Water Meadow Trust was formed on 13 October 1995 to acquire the land and fishing rights to an ancient water meadow in Dorchester on Thames, Oxfordshire. It was transformed into a Foundation Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 1st April 2021.

Charity's principal address

11 Queen Street, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, OX10 7HR

The Trustees

The trustees who have served during the period are as follows:

- Thom Airs (Media)
- Graham Beland (Land and tree management)
- Louise Beland (Volunteer coordinator)
- Sally Bell (Honorary Secretary)
- Sandra Harding (Education)
- Roger Seabrook (Chairman)
- Sophia Stewart-Liberty (Arts)
- Chris Smith (Honorary Treasurer)
- Richard Tilley (Ecology)
- David Wilkinson (Archaeology and ecology)

Main advisers

Independent examiner

Malcolm Lucas (Chartered Accountant), Watling Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames

Bank

CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Trustees' annual report for the year ended 31 March 2025

www.hurst-water-meadow.org.uk

Registered Charity 1191096. hurstwatermt@gmail.com Page 1

Structure, Governance and Management

Type of governing document and constitution

The organisation is a Foundation Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which assumed the responsibilities for the Hurst Water Meadow Trust on 1st April 2021.

Trustee selection policy

The Trust aims to have a maximum of ten trustees which there were on 31st March 2025. New trustees are selected by majority vote of standing trustees, with reference to their commitment to the charity's aims and expertise. Eight of the ten trustees must be local residents. Dorchester Parish Council has the power to appoint a Parish Councillor as an additional trustee.

Trustee training

New trustees are introduced to the operating procedures of the Hurst. Trustees are regularly informed of important matters and updated on significant changes in Charity Law.

Decision-making processes

The day-to-day management of the charity rests with the trustees. Specific projects such as land acquisition, fundraising and site improvement are managed by committees formed to carry out these tasks.

Risk policy

The Trustees monitor health and safety and would employ specialist advisors if required. New projects of a capital nature involving risks which are not normally encountered in day-to-day management are undertaken, taking special care to understand the risks involved and with funding in place.

Objectives and Activities

Objects

The objects of the Trust as set out in the Trust Deed are:

- to preserve, conserve and protect The Hurst Water Meadow and any other land acquired by the Trust, its terrestrial and aquatic life and their habitats for the benefit of the public.
- to advance public education in the study and research of Dorchester on Thames' water meadows and their conservation and the dissemination of the useful results of such research.
- to provide on such land appropriate facilities for recreation for the benefit of the public with the object of improving the conditions of life of said public.

Main activities carried out by the Trust

- The priority is the care and appropriate management of the land currently owned by the Trust, using volunteers and contractors as needed.
- Special attention is given to the creation of a 'riparian wildlife corridor' along the river Thames.
- Provision of educational facilities for school parties and other visitors to the meadows.

Objectives for 2025-2026

- As we look forward, our aims and objectives remain unchanged and the main active project which could potentially impact the Hurst Water Meadow is the fish passage which is being proposed by the River Thames Conservation Trust (RTCT). They are the lead organisation, responsible for delivering all aspects and managing all risks of the project. At the time of writing this, the project has received planning permission

and the trustees are encouraging the RTCT to consult the public, especially those who live close to the meadows, to ensure that those voices are heard as the project proceeds.

- We are pleased that we have been able to continue our practice of providing a grant to support St Birinus Forest School and we hope to continue to welcome other groups of young people, via the Earth Trust and Icknield Community college, to the meadows to increase their understanding and appreciation of these wonderful places.
- We continue to implement the land management plan prepared by an independent consultant, to enhance biodiversity.
- Review the new wetland areas in Old Bridge Meadow and the new eco-hydrology arrangement in the Hurst Water Meadow to ensure that they progress in line with the intended outcomes agreed when the projects were approved.
- Observe wildlife populations on the meadows.

Plans for the future

- The Trust is keeping alert for any opportunity for it to acquire (by purchase and/or cooperative agreement) land between the Hurst and the Old Bridge Meadow that it does not currently own, thus extending the riparian wildlife corridor and opening up the possibility of allowing walkers direct access to the two areas without using a road.

Volunteers

The Trust is grateful for the services and gifts in kind donated by its many volunteers. The Trust does not have a policy to measure the economic value of these activities. Major regular gifts of time and services include accountancy, administration, biodiversity advice, bookkeeping, education, fundraising, site maintenance and development. In addition, other professional services are received as and when the situation requires.

Achievements and Performance

Review of charitable activities

Aside from general maintenance of the meadows and encouraging enjoyment of the meadows by members of the public, the Trust made a grant of £2,904 to St Birinus school to support educational activities undertaken by the Forest School.

Fundraising

During the year the Trust continued its fundraising activities to enable it to finance the on-going maintenance of the meadows.

Public response

The Trust continues to receive positive feedback from users of the meadow and its providers of funds.

Financial review

Finances

Income for the past year was £25,701 (2024, £17,318) and expenditure £ 10,125 (2024, £19,098) resulting in a surplus of £15,576 (2024, deficit of £1,780). Donations increased by £3,880 (+ 85%), reflecting a significant one-off donation by a local business. Grant income increased by £3,924, reflecting the timing of education payments from DEFRA. The income for the year comprised entirely unrestricted funds. Unrestricted expenditure was £10,125.

Bank balances total £89,871 (2024, £74,294) of which nil is restricted, (2024 £0 was restricted). This means that £89,871 is available to manage the Hurst (2024, £74,294).

Reserves policy

Through the continued support from voluntary donations and grants the Trust has maintained adequate reserves to manage and enhance the water meadows and deal with any unexpected setbacks. Unrestricted reserves were £89,871 at the end of the year (2024, £74,294). The trustees have designated £21,000 to cover unexpected setbacks, £25,000 for tree surgery, £7,000 for legal fees, £10,800 replacement of equipment leaving £26,071 (2024, £24,094) unallocated reserves.

Principal funding sources

The main funding sources for the financial year were as follows:

- Donations from local residents and businesses towards the general running of the Trust
- Rural Payments Agency (DEFRA) under the Basic Payments Scheme, and Higher Level Countryside Stewardship Scheme.
- Volunteers, gifts of time and services at no charge to the Trust.

Finances for 2025/2026

The Honorary Treasurer estimates that the normal running costs (i.e. excluding grants, projects and unforeseen events) of the Trust should be £12,000 for the year.

Fundraising policy

The Trustees take the view that money invested in fundraising is an investment for the Trust's future and will deliver long-term benefits to the local community, the public and wildlife.

The Trust has been successful in raising funds from the Landfill Community Fund and the Rural Payments Agency, as well as from statutory and voluntary sources to manage and enhance the meadows.

The Trust aims to cover its ordinary activities through the grants and local fundraising. Any significant new projects or land acquisition would require a specific fund-raising initiative.

The Trust welcomes the following:

- Legacies and 'in memoriam' donations
- Pledges to support land acquisition
- Donations of cash, shares and land
- Regular giving to help with annual costs.

How expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity

£1,720 of the unrestricted expenditure was used on the general maintenance of the meadows, tools and wildlife monitoring equipment. Tree and land management cost £4,203, insurance premia and banking fees amounted to £761 and the maintenance of the web-site cost £343. The grants to St Birinus School amounted to £2,904. The remaining spend of £194 was for sundries and other expenditure.

There were no restricted funds received or restricted expenditure incurred this year.

Reporting and keeping the public informed

As a charity the Trust is registered with and regulated by the Charity Commission and complies with its legal requirements and recommendations of best practice.

It operates to the highest standards of financial controls, produces annual accounts which are examined in accordance with the latest Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) regulations. The Independent Examiner is a Chartered Accountant.

The Trust reports regularly to the local community through newsletters published in the local Parish magazine, through its website and notice boards.

Public Benefit Statement

'Public benefit' is the legal requirement that every organisation set up for one or more charitable aims must be able to demonstrate that its aims are for the public benefit if it is to be recognised, and registered, as a charity in England and Wales.

The Hurst Water Meadow, Old Bridge Meadow, Overy Mead Piece and any land acquired by the Trust is open to all members of the public for their enjoyment and education. The Trustees constantly review accessibility issues to the land for all sections of the community. The Trustees therefore confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Commission.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

The charity's Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the income and expenditure of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' report above.
Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees



Sally Bell (Honorary Secretary)

Date:

4th October 2025.

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of the Hurst Water Meadow Trust

I report on the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2025 set out on page 7-10.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Hurst Water Meadow Trust

Basis of independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records.

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.

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity Trustees as a body, for my work or this report.

Malcolm Lucas

Malcolm Lucas FCA DChA
Independent Examiner
Watling Lane
Dorchester on Thames

Date: *4 October, 2025.*

Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

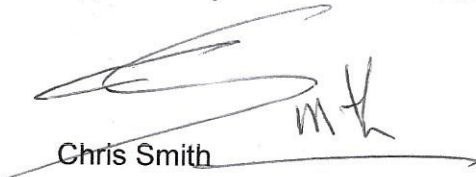
	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Donations		8,445	8,445	4,565
Grants received		14,400	14,400	10,476
Tax recovered		879	879	828
Sale of cards and scrap equipment		0	0	15
Bank interest		1,726	1,726	1,164
Incoming resources from charitable activities	0	25,450	25,450	17,048
Fishing		251	251	270
Total incoming resources	0	25,701	25,701	17,318
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Resources expended on Charitable activities				
Tree & Land Management		4,203	4,203	5,220
Machinery & Tools		607	607	964
Expert Advice		0	0	450
Bank Fees		60	60	60
Insurance		701	701	734
Legal Fees		0	0	0
Fish Pass noticeboards and Website		343	343	4,992
Grant to St Birinus Forest School		2,904	2,904	6,038
Subscriptions		0	0	0
Training		0	0	350
Wildlife monitoring		1,113	1,113	0
Sundries		194	194	290
Total resources expended	0	10,125	10,125	19,098
Net incoming / (expended) resources	0	15,576	15,576	(1,780)
Bank balances				
CAF bank account		147	147	10,082
CAF savings account		89,724	89,724	64,212
TOTAL		89,871	89,871	74,294

Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets	5		
Hurst Water Meadow		34,000	34,000
Old Bridge Meadow		42,475	42,475
Bridge		24,211	24,211
Overy Mead Piece		33,911	33,911
		135,597	135,597
Current assets			
CAF current account		147	10,082
CAF savings account		89,724	64,212
		89,871	74,294
Net assets		225,468	209,891
The funds of the charity:			
Fixed assets fund		135,597	135,597
Restricted income funds		0	0
Unrestricted income funds		89,871	74,294
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		225,468	209,891

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 1 / 2025 and signed on its behalf by Chris Smith

4/10/2025


Chris Smith

Treasurer
Date:

Notes to the accounts

1. Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis and under section 133 of the Charities Act 2011. The principal accounting policies which have been applied on a consistent basis are set out below:

2. Incoming resources

Donations and grants are accounted for when received. Any income tax recoverable on donations under the gift aid scheme is included when the cash is received from the Inland Revenue.

3. Resources expended

The trustees do not consider it appropriate or material to allocate resources expended between the costs of generating funds, charitable activities and governance.

4. Going Concern

The Trust's reliance on volunteers for almost all of its activities enables it to reduce the impact of higher levels of inflation experienced in recent years. With undesignated (free) reserves of £26,071 it is therefore the Trustees' opinion that the going concern basis for the preparation of the accounts continues to be appropriate.

5. Fixed assets and fixed assets fund

Fixed assets comprise land and are stated at original cost. The cost of small tools, agricultural equipment and wildlife monitoring is expensed in the year of acquisition. As the accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis, any depreciation would be shown as a movement on the fixed assets fund.

	2024 £	Additions / (disposals) £	Depreciation £	2025 £
Hurst Water Meadow	34,000			34,000
Old Bridge Meadow	42,475			42,475
Bridge	25,211			25,211
Overy Mead Piece	33,911			33,911
Total	135,597			135,597

6. Trustee expenses

Trustees do not receive remuneration for their services. It is the Trust policy to reimburse Trustees for authorised purchases and expenses incurred on behalf of the Trust.

7. Trustee interest in contracts

There was no trustee interest in contracts to report in the year ended 31st March 2025.

8. Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

9. Purpose of restricted funds

Restricted funds are generated when the donor stipulates how the income may be expended. In most cases there will be a timing difference between when the income is received and when it is spent, resulting in balances being held on these funds at year-end.

There were no Restricted funds as at 31st March 2025 or 2024.

10. Purpose of unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are generated when there is no stipulation from the donor as to how the income may be spent and includes designated funds where the Trustees have set aside moneys for a specific purpose.

The Trustees have agreed to set up the following designated funds and movements for the year:

- A contingency fund representing two years estimated running costs to fund emergency expenditure such as the repairs to the Hurst access bridge in 2019
- An equipment replacement fund: The Trustees have agreed to set aside £600 a year for the replacement of significant equipment
- A land acquisition fund: There are currently no plans to purchase land and therefore no fund has been created for this purpose
- A tree surgery fund: Given the long-term nature and unpredictable timing of tree surgery costs the trustees have decided to establish a fund which seeks to provide sufficient funds to enable the trees on the various meadows to be maintained over a 20-year cycle.
- Legal Fees. In order to maintain the Trust's right of access, in perpetuity, to Overy Mead Piece via Old Bridge Meadow car park, the trust is awaiting invoices for this legal work.

	Restricted	Unrestricted					Total £
		Undesignated	Designated				
		Free £	Contingency £	Legal Fees £	Equipment £	Tree Surgery £	
At 1st April 2025		24,094	18,000	0	10,200	22,000	74,294
Surplus (Deficit) for year		15,576					15,576
Increase Contingency fund		(3,000)	3,000				
Increase Legal Fees				7,000			
Increase Tree surgery fund		(3,000)				3,000	
Increase Equipment replacement fund		(600)			600		
At 31st March 2026	0	26,071	21,000	7,000	10,800	25,000	89,871

Small numerical differences are due to roundings

THE HURST WATER MEADOW TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1191096

Accounts



Annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

Reference and administration details

The Hurst Water Meadow Trust was formed on 13 October 1995 to acquire the land and fishing rights to an ancient water meadow in Dorchester on Thames, Oxfordshire. It was transformed into a Foundation Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 1st April 2021.

Charity's principal address

11 Queen Street, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, OX10 7HR

The Trustees

The trustees who have served during the period are as follows:

- Thom Airs (Media)
- Graham Beland (Land and tree management)
- Louise Beland (Volunteer coordinator)
- Sally Bell (incoming trustee)
- Richard Farrant (Chairman)
- Sandra Harding (Education)
- Roger Seabrook (Honorary Treasurer)
- Sophia Stewart-Liberty (Arts)
- Chris Smith (Honorary Secretary)
- Richard Tilley (Ecology)
- David Wilkinson (Archaeology and ecology)

Main advisers

Independent examiner

Malcolm Lucas (Chartered Accountant), 19 Watling Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames

Bank

CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Structure, Governance and Management

Type of governing document and constitution

The organisation is a Foundation Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which assumed the responsibilities for the Hurst Water Meadow Trust on 1st April 2021.

Trustee selection policy

The Trust aims to have a maximum of ten trustees. On 31st March 2024 we had eleven to facilitate a smooth handover of responsibilities after Richard Farrant's decision to stand down as Chairman. New trustees are selected by majority vote of standing trustees, with reference to their commitment to the charity's aims and expertise. Eight of the ten trustees must be local residents. Dorchester Parish Council has the power to appoint a Parish Councillor as an additional trustee.

Trustee training

New trustees are introduced to the operating procedures of the Hurst. Trustees are regularly informed of important matters and updated on significant changes in Charity Law.

Decision-making processes

The day-to-day management of the charity rests with the trustees. Specific projects such as land acquisition, fundraising and site improvement are managed by committees formed to carry out these tasks.

Risk policy

The Trustees monitor health and safety and would employ specialist advisors if required. As a matter of good practice, the trust is reviewing its risk assessments and Health and Safety policy. New projects of a capital nature involving risks which are not normally encountered in day-to-day management are undertaken taking special care to understand the risks involved and with funding in place.

Objectives and Activities

Objects

The objects of the Trust as set out in the Trust Deed are:

- to preserve, conserve and protect The Hurst Water Meadow and any other land acquired by the Trust, its terrestrial and aquatic life and their habitats for the benefit of the public.
- to advance public education in the study and research of Dorchester on Thames' water meadows and their conservation and the dissemination of the useful results of such research.
- to provide on such land appropriate facilities for recreation for the benefit of the public with the object of improving the conditions of life of said public.

Main activities carried out by the Trust

- The priority is the care and appropriate management of the land currently owned by the Trust, using volunteers and contractors as needed.
- Special attention is given to the creation of a 'riparian wildlife corridor' along the river Thame.
- Provision of educational facilities for school parties and other visitors to the meadows.

Objectives for 2024-2025

- Continue to implement the land management plan prepared by an independent consultant, to enhance biodiversity.
- Monitor the new wetland areas in Old Bridge Meadow and the new eco-hydrology arrangement in the Hurst Water Meadow to ensure that they progress in line with the intended outcomes agreed when the projects were approved.
- Observe wildlife populations on the meadows.
- Partner with the River Thame Conservation Trust in its project to construct a fish pass in Buck Pool, with the immediate objective for 2024 being to obtain planning permission and come up with a viable project proposal.

Plans for the future

- The Trust is keeping alert for any opportunity for it to acquire (by purchase and/or cooperative agreement) land between the Hurst and the Old Bridge Meadow that it does not currently own, thus extending the riparian wildlife corridor and opening up the possibility of allowing walkers direct access to the two areas without using a road.
- The Trust is working with the River Thames Conservation Trust to investigate the possibility of creating a fish pass and the replacement of the current weir in the Hurst meadow. Consultation with interested stakeholders is still ongoing. If it proceeds, the project will be led by the River Thames Conservation Trust.

Volunteers

The Trust is grateful for the services and gifts in kind donated by its many volunteers. The Trust does not have a policy to measure the economic value of these activities. Major regular gifts of time and services include accountancy, administration, biodiversity advice, bookkeeping, education, fundraising, site maintenance and development. In addition, other professional services are received as and when the situation requires.

Achievements and Performance

Review of charitable activities

Aside from general maintenance of the meadows and encouraging enjoyment of the meadows by members of the public, the Trust made two grants totalling £6,038 to St Birinus school to support educational activities undertaken by the Forest School.

Fundraising

During the year the Trust continued its fundraising activities to enable it to finance the on-going maintenance of the meadows.

Public response

The Trust continues to receive positive feedback from users of the meadow and its providers of funds.

Financial review

Finances

Income for the past year was £17,318 (2023, £24,629) and expenditure £19,098 (2023, £9,420) resulting in a deficit of £1,780 (2023, surplus of £15,209). Donations declined by £760 (-14%) and grant income was down £7,399, reflecting the timing of payments from the Rural Payments Agency. The income for the year comprised entirely unrestricted funds. Unrestricted expenditure was £14,353 and restricted £4,745. The unrestricted surplus of £2,965 was added to unrestricted reserves.

Bank balances total £74,294 (2023, £76,074) of which nil is restricted, (2023 £4,745 was restricted). This means that £74,294 is available to manage the Hurst (2022, £71,329).

Reserves policy

Through the continued support from voluntary donations and grants the Trust has maintained adequate reserves to manage and enhance the water meadows and deal with any unexpected setbacks. Unrestricted reserves were £74,294 at the end of the year (2023, £71,329). The trustees have designated £18,000 to cover unexpected setbacks, £22,000 for tree surgery and £10,200 for the replacement of equipment leaving £24,094 of unallocated reserves. Restricted reserves have been fully utilised now the grant from the LandFill Community Fund has been spent on the Fish Pass noticeboard project.

Principal funding sources

The main funding sources for the financial year (other than for the fish pass signage project which was funded by specific grants) were as follows:

- Donations from local residents towards the general running of the Trust
- Rural Payments Agency (DEFRA) under the Basic Payments Scheme, and Higher Level Countryside Stewardship Scheme.

- Volunteers, gifts of time and services at no charge to the Trust.

Finances for 2024/25

The Honorary Treasurer estimates that the normal running costs (i.e. excluding grants, projects and unforeseen events) of the Trust should be £12,000 for the year.

Fundraising policy

The Trustees take the view that money invested in fundraising is an investment for the Trust's future and will deliver long-term benefits to the local community, the public and wildlife.

The Trust has been successful in raising funds from the Landfill Community Fund and the Rural Payments Agency, as well as from statutory and voluntary sources to manage and enhance the meadows.

The Trust aims to cover its ordinary activities through the grants and local fundraising. Any significant new projects or land acquisition would require a specific fund-raising initiative. The Trust welcomes the following:

- Legacies and 'in memoriam' donations
- Pledges to support land acquisition
- Donations of cash, shares and land
- Regular giving to help with annual costs.

How expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity

£1,314 of the unrestricted expenditure was used on the general maintenance of the meadows, tools and training. Tree and land management cost £5,220, insurance premia and banking fees amounted to £794 and the maintenance of the web-site cost £247. The grants to St Birinus School amounted to £6,038. The remaining spend of £740 was for expert advice, subscriptions and other expenditure.

The restricted expenditure of £4,745 related to information boards to communicate the plans for the fish pass project.

Reporting and keeping the public informed

As a charity the Trust is registered with and regulated by the Charity Commission and complies with its legal requirements and recommendations of best practice.

It operates to the highest standards of financial controls, produces annual accounts which are examined in accordance with the latest Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) regulations. The Independent Examiner is a Chartered Accountant. The Treasurer is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants.

The Trust reports regularly to the local community through newsletters published in the local Parish magazine, through its website and notice boards.

Public Benefit Statement

'Public benefit' is the legal requirement that every organisation set up for one or more charitable aims must be able to demonstrate that its aims are for the public benefit if it is to be recognised, and registered, as a charity in England and Wales.

The Hurst Water Meadow and any land acquired by the Trust is open to all members of the public for their enjoyment and education. The Trustees constantly review accessibility issues to the land for all sections of the community.

The Trustees therefore confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Commission.

Inflation

The trustees have considered the possible effects of markedly higher inflation on the Trust's viability. Almost all its activities are undertaken by volunteers, and Trustees are satisfied that inflation should not add significant risk to the Trust's ability to operate as a going concern.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

The charity's Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the income and expenditure of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' report above.
Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees

C SMITH

Mr C Smith (Honorary Secretary)
28th August 2024

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of the Hurst Water Meadow Trust

I report on the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2024 set out on page 7-10.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Hurst Water Meadow Trust

Basis of independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records.

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.

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity Trustees as a body, for my work or this report.

MJ LUCAS

Malcolm Lucas FCA DChA
Independent Examiner
Watling Lane
Dorchester on Thames
28th August 2024

Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Donations		4,565	4,565	5,325
Grants received		10,476	10,476	17,875
Tax recovered		828	828	915
Sale of cards and scrap equipment		15	15	149
Bank interest		1164	1164	95
Incoming resources from charitable activities	0	17,048	17,048	24359
Fishing		270	270	275
Total incoming resources	0	17,318	17,318	24,629
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Resources expended on Charitable activities				
Tree & Land Management		5,220	5,220	1,800
Machinery & Tools		964	964	0
Expert Advice		450	450	63
Bank Fees		60	60	72
Insurance		734	734	801
Legal Fees		0	0	0
Fish Pass noticeboards and Website	4,745	247	4,992	270
Grant to St Birinus Forest School		6,038	6,038	6,380
Subscriptions		0	0	35
Training		350	350	0
Wildlife monitoring		0	0	0
Sundries		290	290	0
Total resources expended	4,745	14,353	19,098	9,420
Net incoming / (expended) resources	(4,745)	2,965	(1,780)	15,209
Bank balances				
CAF bank account			10,082	76,074
CAF savings account			64,212	0
TOTAL			74,294	76,074

Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets	5		
Hurst Water Meadow		34,000	34,000
Old Bridge Meadow		42,475	42,475
Bridge		25,211	25,211
Overy Mead Piece		33,911	33,911
		135,597	135,597
Current assets			
CAF current account		10,082	76,074
CAF savings account		64,212	0
		74,294	76,074
Net assets		209,891	211,671
The funds of the charity:			
Fixed assets fund		135,597	135,597
Restricted income funds		0	4,745
Unrestricted income funds		74,294	71,329
		209,891	211,671

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 28th August 2024 and signed on its behalf by Roger Seabrook

Roger Seabrook

Roger Seabrook

Trustee

Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared under section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.

The principal accounting policies which have been applied on a consistent basis are set out below:

1. Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis.

2. Incoming resources

Donations and grants are accounted for when received. Any income tax recoverable on donations under the gift aid scheme is included when the cash is received from the Inland Revenue.

3. Resources expended

The trustees do not consider it appropriate or material to allocate resources expended between the costs of generating funds, charitable activities and governance.

4. Going Concern

The Trust's reliance on volunteers for almost all of its activities enables it to reduce the impact of higher levels of inflation experienced in recent years. With undesignated reserves of £27,729 it is therefore the Trustees' opinion that the going concern basis for the preparation of the accounts continues to be appropriate.

5. Fixed assets and fixed assets fund

Fixed assets are stated at original cost. As the accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis, any depreciation would be shown as a movement on the fixed assets fund.

	2023 £	Additions / (disposals) £	Depreciation £	2024 £
Hurst Water Meadow	34,000			34,000
Old Bridge Meadow	42,475			42,475
Bridge	25,211			25,211
Overy Mead Piece	33,911			33,911
Total	135,597			135,597

6. Trustee expenses

Trustees do not receive remuneration for their services. It is the Trust policy to reimburse Trustees for authorised purchases and expenses incurred on behalf of the Trust.

7. Trustee interest in contracts

Karen Hadley is the wife of Roger Seabrook. During the year ended 31st March 2024 she provided project management services for the Fish pass noticeboards for which she received payment of £385.

8. Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

9. Purpose of restricted funds

Restricted funds are generated when the donor stipulates how the income may be expended. In most cases there will be a timing difference between when the income is received and when it is spent, resulting in balances being held on these funds at year-end.

There were no Restricted funds as at 31st March 2024.

10. Purpose of unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are generated when there is no stipulation from the donor as to how the income may be spent and includes designated funds where the Trustees have set aside moneys for a specific purpose. The Trustees have agreed to set up the following designated funds and movements for the year:

- A contingency fund representing two years estimated running costs to fund emergency expenditure such as the repairs to the Hurst access bridge in 2019
- An equipment replacement fund: The Trustees have agreed to set aside £600 a year for the replacement of significant equipment
- A land acquisition fund: There are currently no plans to purchase land and therefore no fund has been created for this purpose
- A tree surgery fund: Given the long-term nature and unpredictable timing of tree surgery costs the trustees have decided to establish a fund which seeks to provide sufficient funds to enable the trees on the various meadows to be maintained over a 20-year cycle.

	Restricted	Unrestricted				Total £
		Undesignated	Designated			
	New Scrapes £	Free £	Contingency £	Equipment £	Tree Surgery £	
At 1st April 2023	4,745	27,729	15,000	9,600	19,000	76,074
Surplus / (Deficit) for year	(4,745)	2,965				(1,780)
Increase Contingency fund		(3000)	3000			
Increase Tree surgery fund		(3,000)			3,000	
Increase Equipment replacement fund		(600)		600		
At 31st March 2024	0	24,094	18,000	10,200	22,000	74,294

THE HURST WATER MEADOW TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1191096

Accounts



Annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

Reference and administration details

The Hurst Water Meadow Trust was formed on 13 October 1995 to acquire the land and fishing rights to an ancient water meadow in Dorchester on Thames, Oxfordshire. It was transformed into a Foundation Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 1st April 2021.

Charity's principal address

11 Queen Street, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, OX10 7HR

The Trustees

The trustees who have served during the period are as follows:

- Thom Airs (Media)
- Graham Beland (Land and tree management)
- Louise Beland (Volunteer co-ordinator) – from 1st January 2023
- Richard Farrant (Chairman)
- Roger Seabrook (Honorary Treasurer)
- Sophia Stewart-Liberty (Arts)
- Chris Smith (Honorary Secretary)
- Mike Southon (Land management/volunteer co-ordinator) – retired as trustee on 31st December 2022
- Richard Tilley (Ecology)
- David Wilkinson (Archaeology and ecology)

Main advisers

Independent examiner

Malcolm Lucas (Chartered Accountant), 19 Watling Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames

Bank

CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Structure, Governance and Management

Type of governing document and constitution

The organisation is a Foundation Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which assumed the responsibilities for the Hurst Water Meadow Trust on 1st April 2021.

Trustee selection policy

The Trust aims to have a maximum of ten trustees. New trustees are selected by majority vote of standing trustees, with reference to their commitment to the charity's aims and expertise. Eight of the ten trustees must be local residents. Dorchester Parish Council has the power to appoint a Parish Councillor as an additional trustee.

Trustee training

New trustees are introduced to the operating procedures of the Hurst. Trustees are regularly informed of important matters and updated on significant changes in Charity Law.

Decision-making processes

The day-to-day management of the charity rests with the trustees. Specific projects such as land acquisition, fundraising and site improvement are managed by committees formed to carry out these tasks.

Risk policy

The Trustees monitor health and safety and would employ specialist advisors if required. New projects of a capital nature involving risks which are not normally encountered in day-to-day management are undertaken taking special care to understand the risks involved and with funding in place.

Objectives and Activities

Objects

The objects of the Trust as set out in the Trust Deed are:

- to preserve, conserve and protect The Hurst Water Meadow and any other land acquired by the Trust, its terrestrial and aquatic life and their habitats for the benefit of the public.
- to advance public education in the study and research of Dorchester on Thames' water meadows and their conservation and the dissemination of the useful results of such research.
- to provide on such land appropriate facilities for recreation for the benefit of the public with the object of improving the conditions of life of said public.

Main activities carried out by the Trust

- The priority is the care and appropriate management of the land currently owned by the Trust, using volunteers and contractors as needed.
- Special attention is given to the creation of a 'riparian wildlife corridor' along the river Thame.
- Provision of educational materials & facilities for school parties and other visitors to the meadows.

Objectives for 2023-2024

- Continue to implement the land management plan prepared by an independent consultant, to enhance biodiversity.
- Monitor the new wetland areas in Old Bridge Meadow and the new eco-hydrology arrangement in the Hurst Water Meadow to ensure that they progress in line with the intended outcomes agreed when the projects were approved.
- Observe wildlife populations on the meadows.
- Partner with the River Thame Conservation Trust in its project to construct a fish pass in Bucks Pool, with the immediate objective for 2023 being to come up with a viable project proposal.

Plans for the future

- The Trust is keeping alert for any opportunity for it to acquire (by purchase and/or cooperative agreement) land between the Hurst and the Old Bridge Meadow that it does not currently own, thus extending the riparian wildlife corridor and opening up the possibility of allowing walkers direct access to the two areas without using a road.

Volunteers

The Trust is grateful for the services and gifts in kind donated by its many volunteers. The Trust does not have a policy to measure the economic value of these activities. Major regular gifts of time and services include accountancy, administration, biodiversity advice, bookkeeping, education, fundraising, site maintenance and development. In addition, other professional services are received as and when the situation requires.

Achievements and Performance

Review of charitable activities

Aside from general maintenance of the meadows and encouraging enjoyment of the meadows by members of the public, the Trust made a grant of £6,380 to St Birinus school to support educational activities undertaken by the Forest School.

Fundraising

During the year the Trust continued its fundraising activities to enable it to finance the on-going maintenance of the meadows.

Public response

The Trust continues to receive positive feedback from users of the meadow and its providers of funds.

Financial review

Finances

Income for the past year was £24,629 (2022, £9,745) and expenditure £9,420 (2022, £14,464) resulting in a surplus of £15,209 (2022, deficit £4,720). Donations held up well and grant income was higher than in 2022, particularly due to the educational grant income from Natural England. The income for the year comprised entirely unrestricted funds. Unrestricted expenditure was £9,420 and restricted £nil. The unrestricted surplus/deficit of £15,209 was added to unrestricted reserves.

Bank balances total £76,074 (2022, £60,865) of which £4,745 is restricted, (2022 £4,745). This leaves £71,329 available to manage the Hurst (2022, £56,120).

Reserves policy

Through the continued support from voluntary donations and grants the Trust has maintained adequate reserves to manage and enhance the water meadows and deal with any unexpected setbacks. Unrestricted reserves were £71,329 at the end of the year (2022, £56,121). The trustees have designated £15,000 to cover unexpected setbacks, £19,000 for tree surgery and £9,600 for the replacement of equipment leaving £27,729 of unallocated reserves.

Principal funding sources

The main funding sources for the financial year (other than for the eco-hydrology projects which were funded by specific grants) were as follows:

- Donations from local residents towards the general running of the Trust
- Natural England under the Environment Stewardship Entry- and Higher-Level Schemes, and Countryside Stewardship Scheme.
- Volunteers, gifts of time and services at no charge to the Trust.

Finances for 2023/24

The Honorary Treasurer estimates that the normal running costs (i.e. excluding projects and unforeseen events) of the Trust should be £9,000 for the year.

Fundraising policy

The Trustees take the view that money invested in fundraising is an investment for the Trust's future and will deliver long-term benefits to the local community, the public and wildlife.

The Trust has been successful in raising funds from the Landfill Community Fund and Natural England, as well as from statutory and voluntary sources to manage and enhance the meadows.

The Trust aims to cover its ordinary activities through the grants and local fundraising. Any significant new projects or land acquisition would require a specific fund-raising initiative. The Trust welcomes the following:

- Legacies and 'in memoriam' donations
- Pledges to support land acquisition
- Donations of cash, shares and land
- Regular giving to help with annual costs.

How expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity

£3,040 of the unrestricted expenditure was used on the general maintenance of the meadows, insurance, tools and training. Tree management cost £1,800, insurance premia and banking fees amounted to £873 and the maintenance of the web-site cost £270. The remaining spend of £98 was for expert advice and subscriptions.

Reporting and keeping the public informed

As a charity the Trust is registered with and regulated by the Charity Commission and complies with its legal requirements and recommendations of best practice.

It operates to the highest standards of financial controls, produces annual accounts which are examined in accordance with the latest Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) regulations. The Independent Examiner is a Chartered Accountant. The Treasurer is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants.

The Trust reports regularly to the local community through newsletters published in the local Parish magazine, through its website and notice boards.

Public Benefit Statement

'Public benefit' is the legal requirement that every organisation set up for one or more charitable aims must be able to demonstrate that its aims are for the public benefit if it is to be recognised, and registered, as a charity in England and Wales.

The Hurst Water Meadow and any land acquired by the Trust is open to all members of the public for their enjoyment and education. The Trustees constantly review accessibility issues to the land for all sections of the community.

The Trustees therefore confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Commission.

Inflation

The trustees have considered the possible effects of markedly higher inflation on the Trust's viability. Almost all its activities are undertaken by volunteers, and Trustees are satisfied that inflation should not add significant risk to the Trust's ability to operate as a going concern.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

The charity's Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the income and expenditure of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent

- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' report above.
Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees

Chris Smith

Chris Smith

Mr C Smith (Honorary Secretary)
12th October 2023

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of the Hurst Water Meadow Trust

I report on the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2023 set out on page 7-10.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Hurst Water Meadow Trust

Basis of independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records.

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.

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity Trustees as a body, for my work or this report.

Malcolm Lucas

Malcolm Lucas FCA DChA
Independent Examiner
Watling Lane
Dorchester on Thames
12th October 2023

Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Donations		5,325	5,325	4,647
Grants received		17,875	17,875	3,811
Tax recovered		915	915	1,006
Sale of cards and scrap equipment		149	149	5
Bank interest		95	95	1
Incoming resources from charitable activities	0	24,359	24359	9,470
Fishing		270	270	275
Total incoming resources	0	24,629	24,629	9,745
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Resources expended on Charitable activities				
Tree & Land Management		1,800	1,800	3,810
Machinery & Tools		0	0	649
Expert Advice		63	63	960
Bank Fees		72	72	96
Insurance		801	801	796
Legal Fees		0	0	600
Website and Noticeboards		270	270	3,491
Grant to St Birinus Forest School		6,380	6,380	0
Subscriptions		35	35	35
Groundworks and Approvals (Note 9)		0	0	3,720
Wildlife monitoring		0	0	248
Sundries		0	0	59
Total resources expended	0	9,420	9,420	14,464
Net incoming / (expended) resources		15,209	15,209	(4,720)
Bank balances				
CAF bank account			76,074	60,865
CAF savings account			0	0
TOTAL			76,074	60,865

Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2022

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets	5		
Hurst Water Meadow		34,000	34,000
Old Bridge Meadow		42,475	42,475
Bridge		25,211	25,211
Overy Mead Piece		33,911	33,911
		135,597	135,597
Current assets			
CAF current account		76,074	60,865
CAF savings account		0	0
		76,074	60,865
Net assets		211,671	196,463
The funds of the charity:			
Fixed assets fund		135,597	135,597
Restricted income funds		4,745	4,745
Unrestricted income funds		71,329	56,121
		211,671	196,463

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 12th October 2023 and signed on its behalf by Roger Seabrook

Roger Seabrook

Roger Seabrook

Trustee

Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared under section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.

The principal accounting policies which have been applied on a consistent basis are set out below:

1. Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis.

2. Incoming resources

Donations and grants are accounted for when received. Any income tax recoverable on donations under the gift aid scheme is included when the cash is received from the Inland Revenue.

3. Resources expended

The trustees do not consider it appropriate or material to allocate resources expended between the costs of generating funds, charitable activities and governance.

4. Going Concern

Covid-19 and the associated government actions impacted charities in many ways. The financial impact on the Trust has been minimal. The Trust's reliance on volunteers for almost all of its activities will markedly reduce the impact of higher levels of inflation experienced in the last year. With undesignated reserves of £27,729 it is therefore the Trustees' opinion that the going concern basis for the preparation of the accounts continues to be appropriate.

5. Fixed assets and fixed assets fund

Fixed assets are stated at original cost. As the accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis, any depreciation would be shown as a movement on the fixed assets fund.

	2022 £	Additions / (disposals) £	Depreciation £	2023 £
Hurst Water Meadow	34,000			34,000
Old Bridge Meadow	42,475			42,475
Bridge	25,211			25,211
Overy Mead Piece	33,911			33,911
Total	135,597			135,597

6. Trustee expenses

During the year Trustees received £nil (2022, £nil) in remuneration and expenses incurred in carrying out their duties. It is the Trust policy to reimburse Trustees for authorised purchases made on behalf of the Trust. The Trust took out liability insurance for the Trustees at a premium of £321 (2022, £321).

7. Trustee interest in contracts

There was no trustee interest in contracts to report in the year ended 31st March 2023.

8. Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

9. Purpose of restricted funds

Restricted funds are generated when the donor stipulates how the income may be expended. In most cases there will be a timing difference between when the income is received and when it is spent, resulting in balances being held on these funds at year-end.

Restricted funds amounted to £4,745 on 31st March 2023 reflecting the remaining balance of the grant from the FCC Communities Foundation for the Hurst Water Meadow eco-hydrology project.

10. Purpose of unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are generated when there is no stipulation from the donor as to how the income may be spent and includes designated funds where the Trustees have set aside moneys for a specific purpose. The Trustees have agreed to set up the following designated funds and movements for the year:

- A contingency fund representing two years estimated running costs to fund emergency expenditure such as the repairs to the Hurst access bridge in 2019
- An equipment replacement fund: The Trustees have agreed to set aside £600 a year for the replacement of significant equipment
- A land acquisition fund: There are currently no plans to purchase land and therefore no fund has been created for this purpose
- A tree surgery fund: Given the long-term nature and unpredictable timing of tree surgery costs the trustees have decided to establish a fund which seeks to provide sufficient funds to enable the trees on the various meadows to be maintained over a 20-year cycle.

	Restricted	Unrestricted				Total £
		Undesignated	Designated			
	New Scrapes £	Free £	Contingency £	Equipment £	Tree Surgery £	
At 1st April 2022	4,745	19,120	12,000	9,000	16,000	65,865
Surplus / (Deficit) for year		15,209				15,209
Increase Contingency fund		(3000)	3000			
Increase Tree surgery fund		(3,000)			3,000	
Increase Equipment replacement fund		(600)		600		
At 31st March 2023	4,745	27,729	15,000	9,600	19,000	76,074

THE HURST WATER MEADOW TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1191096

Accounts



Annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022

Reference and administration details

The Hurst Water Meadow Trust was formed on 13 October 1995 to acquire the land and fishing rights to an ancient water meadow in Dorchester on Thames, Oxfordshire. It was transformed into a Foundation Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 1st April 2021.

Charity's principal address

11 Queen Street, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, OX10 7HR

The Trustees

The trustees who have served during the period are as follows:

- Thom Airs (Media) – from 1st January 2022
- Louise Aukland (Education) – retired as trustee on 31st December 2021
- Graham Beland (Land management/volunteer co-ordinator)
- Richard Farrant (Chairman)
- Cllr Christopher Hill (Parish Councillor) – retired as trustee on 31st December 2021
- Gillian Johnson (Honorary Secretary) – retired as trustee on 31st December 2021
- John Metcalfe (Ecologist) – retired as trustee on 31st December 2021
- Shammy Puri (Eco-hydrology) – retired as trustee on 30th September 2021
- Roger Seabrook (Honorary Treasurer)
- Sophia Stewart-Liberty (Arts) – from 1st January 2022
- Chris Smith (Honorary Secretary)
- Mike Southon (Land management/volunteer co-ordinator)
- Richard Tilley (Ecology) – from 1st January 2022
- David Wilkinson (Archaeology and ecology) – from 1st January 2022

Main advisers

Independent examiner

Malcolm Lucas (Chartered Accountant), 16 Abingdon Road, Dorchester-on-Thames

Bank

CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Structure, Governance and Management

Type of governing document and constitution

The organisation is a Foundation Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which assumed the responsibilities for the Hurst water Meadow Trust on 1st April 2021.

Trustee selection policy

The Trust aims to have a maximum of ten trustees. New trustees are selected by majority vote of standing trustees, with reference to their commitment to the charity's aims and expertise. Eight of the ten trustees must be local residents. Dorchester Parish Council has the power to appoint a Parish Councillor as an additional trustee.

Trustee training

New trustees are introduced to the operating procedures of the Hurst. Trustees are regularly informed of important matters and updated on significant changes in Charity Law.

Decision-making processes

The day-to-day management of the charity rests with the trustees. Specific projects such as land acquisition, fundraising and site improvement are managed by committees formed to carry out these tasks.

Risk policy

The Trustees monitor health and safety and would employ specialist advisors if required. New projects of a capital nature involving risks which are not normally encountered in day-to-day management are undertaken taking special care to understand the risks involved and with funding in place.

Objectives and Activities

Objects

The objects of the Trust as set out in the Trust Deed are:

- to preserve, conserve and protect The Hurst Water Meadow and any other land acquired by the Trust, its terrestrial and aquatic life and their habitats for the benefit of the public
- to advance public education in the study and research of Dorchester on Thames' water meadows and their conservation and the dissemination of the useful results of such research
- to provide on such land appropriate facilities for recreation for the benefit of the public with the object of improving the conditions of life of said public

Main activities carried out by the Trust

- The priority is the care and appropriate management of the land currently owned by the Trust, using volunteers and contractors as needed
- Special attention is given to the creation of a 'riparian wildlife corridor' along the river Thame
- Provision of educational materials & facilities for school parties and other visitors to the meadows.

Objectives for 2022-2023

- Continue to implement the land management plan prepared by an independent consultant, to enhance biodiversity
- Monitor the new wetland areas in Old Bridge Meadow and the new eco-hydrology arrangement in the Hurst Water Meadow to ensure that they progress in line with the intended outcomes agreed when the projects were approved
- Observe wildlife populations on the meadows

Plans for the future

- The Trust is keeping alert for any opportunity for it to acquire (by purchase and/or cooperative agreement) land between the Hurst and the Old Bridge Meadow that it does not currently own, thus

extending the riparian wildlife corridor and opening up the possibility of allowing walkers direct access to the two areas without using a road.

Volunteers

The Trust is grateful for the services and gifts in kind donated by its many volunteers. The Trust does not have a policy to measure the economic value of these activities. Major regular gifts of time and services include accountancy, administration, biodiversity advice, bookkeeping, education, fundraising, site maintenance and development. In addition, other professional services are received as and when the situation requires.

Achievements and Performance

Review of charitable activities

Two significant projects were completed in the year ended 31st March 2022 to improve the eco-hydrology of the meadows. These are described in the Trust's Annual Review to 31st March 2022 available on the Trust's website. Aside from these projects, general maintenance of the meadows and encouraging enjoyment of the meadows by members of the public, there were no major charitable activities.

Fundraising

During the year the Trust continued its fundraising activities to enable it to finance the on-going maintenance of the meadows. The two significant projects were financed by specific grants.

Public response

The Trust continues to receive positive feedback from users of the meadow and its providers of funds.

Financial review

Finances

Income for the past year was £9,745 (2021, £12,944) and expenditure £14,464 (2021, £8,072) resulting in a deficit of £4,720 (2021, surplus £4,872). Donations held up well although grant income was lower than in 2021. The Income for the year comprised entirely unrestricted funds. Restricted expenditure was £4,680 and unrestricted £9,784. The unrestricted deficit of £40 was taken from unrestricted reserves. Bank balances total £60,865 (2021, £65,585) of which £4,745 is restricted, (2021 £9,425). This leaves £56,120 available to manage the Hurst (2021, £56,160).

Reserves policy

Through the continued support from voluntary donations and grants the Trust has maintained adequate reserves to manage and enhance the water meadows and deal with any unexpected setbacks. Unrestricted reserves were £56,120 at the end of the year (2021, £56,160). The trustees have designated £12,000 to cover unexpected setbacks, £16,000 for tree surgery and £9,000 for the replacement of equipment leaving £19,120 of unallocated reserves.

Principal funding sources

The main funding sources for the financial year (other than for the eco-hydrology projects which were funded by specific grants) were as follows:

- Donations from local residents towards the general running of the Trust
- Natural England under the Environment Stewardship Entry- and Higher-Level Schemes, and Countryside Stewardship Scheme.
- Volunteers, gifts of time and services at no charge to the Trust.

Finances for 2020/21

The Honorary Treasurer estimates that the normal running costs (i.e. excluding projects and unforeseen events) of the Trust should be £7,500 for the year.

Fundraising policy

The Trustees take the view that money invested in fundraising is an investment for the Trust's future and will deliver long-term benefits to the local community, the public and wildlife.

The Trust has been successful in raising funds from the Landfill Community Fund and Natural England, as well as from statutory and voluntary sources to manage and enhance the meadows.

The Trust aims to cover its ordinary activities through the grants and local fundraising. Any significant new projects or land acquisition would require a specific fund-raising initiative. The Trust welcomes the following:

- Legacies and 'in memoriam' donations
- Pledges to support land acquisition
- Donations of cash, shares and land
- Regular giving to help with annual costs.

How expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity

The expenditure on the new scrapes eco-hydrology project was £4,680 in the year. £4,801 of the unrestricted expenditure was used on the general maintenance of the meadows, insurance, tools and training. £3,226 was spent on the design and installation of new notice boards around the sites. The maintenance of the web-site cost £265 and the final instalment of legal fees to enable the creation and transfer of the assets and liabilities of the Hurst to the new Foundation CIO was £600. Insurance premia and banking fees amounted to £892.

Reporting and keeping the public informed

As a charity the Trust is registered with and regulated by the Charity Commission and complies with its legal requirements and recommendations of best practice.

It operates to the highest standards of financial controls, produces annual accounts which are examined in accordance with the latest Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) regulations. The Independent Examiner is a Chartered Accountant. The Treasurer is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants.

The Trust reports regularly to the local community through newsletters published in the local Parish magazine, through its website and notice boards.

Public Benefit Statement

'Public benefit' is the legal requirement that every organisation set up for one or more charitable aims must be able to demonstrate that its aims are for the public benefit if it is to be recognised, and registered, as a charity in England and Wales.

The Hurst Water Meadow and any land acquired by the Trust is open to all members of the public for their enjoyment and education. The Trustees constantly review accessibility issues to the land for all sections of the community.

The Trustees therefore confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Commission.

The effects and implications of the Coronavirus pandemic

Following the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Trustees assessed the impact on the Trust of COVID-19 and associated government actions. Access to the Trust's meadows have remained open for public enjoyment subject to necessary social distancing measures in line with government guidelines. The Trustees keep the matter under review to ensure that people remain safe whilst accessing the meadows. As the Trust's income is derived principally from grants and regular donations, there has not been, and the trustees do not believe there will be, a significant impact on the Trust's resources or reserves.

The Trustees also suspended all communal volunteer maintenance activities in the meadows during the initial COVID-19 shutdowns & restrictions but recommenced volunteer work in April 2021. The impact of COVID restrictions on the three-year rotation maintenance programme, together with the focus on two major projects was higher than desired, but thanks to individual volunteers no lasting ill effects are anticipated.

The Trustees have evaluated whether, taken overall, the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic and associated government actions could impact adversely on the Trust's ability to continue to be viable in its current form. The Trust's facilities have been accessed by the public since the pandemic started to an unprecedented extent and the Trust's visibility and support from the community has never been higher. Given the stability of its income, lack of liabilities and containment of any unforeseen new project risks, the

Trustees are satisfied that the coronavirus pandemic creates no significant risk to the Trust's ability to continue to operate as a going concern.

Inflation

The trustees have also considered the possible effects of markedly higher inflation on the Trust's viability. Almost all its activities are undertaken by volunteers, and Trustees are satisfied that inflation should not add significant risk to the Trust's ability to operate as a going concern.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

The charity's Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the income and expenditure of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' report above.
Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees

Chris Smith

Chris Smith

Mr C Smith (Honorary Secretary)

11th September 2021

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of the Hurst Water Meadow Trust

I report on the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2022 set out on page 7-10.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Hurst Water Meadow Trust

Basis of independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records.

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.

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity Trustees as a body, for my work or this report.

Malcolm Lucas

Malcolm Lucas FCA DChA
Independent Examiner
Abingdon Road
Dorchester on Thames
12th September 2022

Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 * £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Donations		4,647	4,647	4,533
Grants received		3,811	3,811	7,106
Tax recovered		1,006	1,006	1,080
Sale of cards and history report		5	5	0
Bank interest		1	1	25
Incoming resources from charitable activities	0	9,470	9,470	12,744
Fishing		275	275	200
Total incoming resources	0	9,745	9,745	12,944
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Resources expended on Charitable activities				
Tree & Land Management		3810	3,810	2355
Machinery & Tools		649	649	408
Expert Advice	960	0	960	0
Bank Fees		96	96	0
Insurance		796	796	792
Legal Fees		600	600	3,462
Website and Noticeboards		3491	3491	235
Education & Training		0	0	49
Subscriptions		35	35	35
Groundworks and Approvals (Note 9)	3720	0	3720	255
Wildlife monitoring		248	248	448
Sundries		59	59	33
Total resources expended	4,680	9,784	14,464	8,072
Net incoming / (expended) resources	(4,680)	(40)	(4,720)	4,872
Bank balances				
Barclays Business current account			0	6,765
Barclays Premium account			0	57,820
CAF bank account			60,865	1,000
TOTAL			60,865	65,585

* Note. The 2021 figures for comparison relate to the previous Hurst Water Meadow Trust (charity number 1050272), the business, assets and liabilities of which were taken over by the new CIO with the same name on 1 April 2021, after which the previous Trust was dissolved.

Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 * £
Fixed assets	5		
Hurst Water Meadow		34,000	34,000
Old Bridge Meadow		42,475	42,475
Bridge		25,211	25,211
Overy Mead Piece		33,911	33,911
		135,597	135,597
Current assets			
Business current account		60,865	6,765
Bank premium account		0	57,820
Loan to Hurst Water Meadow CIO Foundation Trust		0	1,000
		60,865	65,585
Net assets		196,463	201,182
The funds of the charity:			
Fixed assets fund		135,597	135,597
Restricted income funds		4,745	9,425
Unrestricted income funds		56,121	56,160
		196,463	201,182

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 11th September 2022 and signed on its behalf by Roger Seabrook

Roger Seabrook

Roger Seabrook

Trustee

Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared under section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.

The principal accounting policies which have been applied on a consistent basis are set out below:

1. Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis.

2. Incoming resources

Donations and grants are accounted for when received. Any income tax recoverable on donations under the gift aid scheme is included when the cash is received from the Inland Revenue.

3. Resources expended

The trustees do not consider it appropriate or material to allocate resources expended between the costs of generating funds, charitable activities and governance.

4. Going Concern

Covid-19 and the associated government actions impacted charities in many ways. The financial impact on the Trust to date has been minimal and the trustees believe that this will continue to be the case. The Trust's reliance on volunteers for almost all of its activities will also markedly reduce the impact of higher inflation. It is therefore the Trustees' opinion that the going concern basis for the preparation of the accounts continues to be appropriate.

5. Fixed assets and fixed assets fund

Fixed assets are stated at original cost. As the accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis depreciation is shown as a movement on the fixed assets fund.

	2021 £	Additions / (disposals) £	Depreciation £	2022 £
Hurst Water Meadow	34,000			34,000
Old Bridge Meadow	42,475			42,475
Bridge	25,211			25,211
Overy Mead Piece	33,911			33,911
Total	135,597			135,597

6. Trustee expenses

During the year Trustees received £nil (2020/21, £nil) in remuneration and expenses incurred in carrying out their duties. It is the Trust policy to reimburse Trustees for authorised purchases made on behalf of the Trust. The Trust took out liability insurance for the Trustees at a premium of £321 (2020/21, £321).

7. Trustee interest in contracts

There was no trustee interest in contracts to report in the year ended 31st March 2022.

8. Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

9. Purpose of restricted funds

Restricted funds are generated when the donor stipulates how the income may be expended. In most cases there will be a timing difference between when the income is received and when it is spent, resulting in balances being held on these funds at year-end.

Restricted funds amounted to £4,745 on 31st March 2022 reflecting the remaining balance of the grant from the FCC Communities Foundation for the Hurst Water Meadow eco-hydrology project. Expenditure on the project in the year related to the groundworks to create the new features.

10. Purpose of unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are generated when there is no stipulation from the donor as to how the income may be spent and includes designated funds where the Trustees have set aside moneys for a specific purpose. The Trustees have agreed to set up the following designated funds and movements for the year:

- A contingency fund representing two years estimated running costs to fund emergency expenditure such as the repairs to the Hurst access bridge in 2019
- An equipment replacement fund: The Trustees have agreed to set aside £600 a year for the replacement of significant equipment
- A land acquisition fund: There are currently no plans to purchase land and therefore no fund has been created for this purpose
- A tree surgery fund: Given the long-term nature and unpredictable timing of tree surgery costs the trustees have decided to establish a fund which seeks to provide sufficient funds to enable the trees on the various meadows to be maintained over a 20-year cycle.

	Restricted	Unrestricted				Total £
	New Scrapes £	Undesignated £	Contingency £	Equipment £	Tree Surgery £	
At 1st April 2020	9,425	22,760	12,000	8,400	13,000	65,585
Surplus / (Deficit) for year	(4,680)	(40)				(4,720)
Increase Contingency fund						
Increase Tree surgery fund		(3,000)			3,000	
Increase Equipment replacement fund		(600)		600		
At 31st March 2021	4,745	19,120	12,000	9,000	16,000	60,865

THE HURST WATER MEADOW TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1191096

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day 31	Month August	Year 2020		Day 31	Month March	Year 2021

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

The Hurst Water Meadow Trust

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

1191096

Charity's principal address

11 Queen Street
 Dorchester-on-Thames
 Oxon
Postcode OX10 7HR

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	Richard Farrant	Chairman		
2	Gillian Johnson	Honorary Secretary		
3	Michael Southon	Land/Volunteer Mgt		
4	John Metcalfe	Ecologist		
5	Graham Beland	Land/Tree Mgt		
6	Christopher Hill	Parish Councillor		
7	Shammy Puri	Eco-hydrology		
8	Louise Aukland	Education		
9	Christopher Smith	Project/Volunteer Mgt		
10	Roger Seabrook	Honorary Treasurer		
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

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

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

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

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity’s trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by the Trustees for a period of 3 years. The Dorchester Parish Council may nominate one trustee.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

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

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

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Section C Objectives and activities

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

1. To promote, for the public benefit, the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the Hurst Water Meadow and any other land acquired by the Trust, its terrestrial and aquatic life and their habitats; 2. to advance the education of the public in the study and research of land owned or managed by the Trust and its conservation and the dissemination of the useful results of such research; 3. to provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of the public at large with the object of improving their conditions of life.

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

Main activities carried out by the Trust

- The priority is the care and appropriate management of the land currently owned by the Trust, using volunteers and contractors as needed
- Special attention is given to the creation of a 'riparian wildlife corridor' along the River Thames
- Provision of educational materials & facilities for school parties and other visitors to the meadows

Objectives for 2021-2022

- Implement a plan prepared by an independent consultant, to enhance biodiversity
- Creation of permanent wetland areas in Old Bridge Meadow in cooperation with the Earth Trust and the Environment Agency as part of their 'River of Life II' project (delayed from 2020 because of COVID restrictions)
- Excavation of additional scrapes and deepened channels to improve the biodiversity of the Hurst Water Meadow through the creation of areas which retain rain and flood water for longer periods of the year (delayed from 2020 because of COVID restrictions)
- Study and monitor wildlife populations on the meadows

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

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

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

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The Charity was set up in August 2020 to assume the assets and activities of the pre-existing Hurst Water Meadow Trust (Charity Number 1050272).

No activities were undertaken in the current year. The Trust established a bank account with the CAF Bank using a loan from the pre-existing Hurst Water Meadow Trust.

The assets and activities were then transferred to the new CIO Trust on 1st April 2021.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Trust maintains restricted funds when the donor stipulates how the income may be expended. Where there is a timing difference between when the income is received and spent, the balance will be held in reserves at the year end. Unrestricted funds are received with no stipulation from the donor as to how they can be used. The Trustees can designate these funds for specific purposes.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Not applicable

Further financial review details (Optional information)

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

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

Section F

Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>Roger Seabrook</i>	<i>Richard Farrant</i>
Full name(s)	Roger Seabrook	Richard Farrant
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Hon. Treasurer	Chairman

Date 14 November 2021



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Hurst Water Meadow Trust

No (if any)
1191096

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 31-Aug-20	To	Period end date 31-Mar-21
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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 £
A1 Receipts				
	1,000	-	-	1,000
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	1,000	-	-	1,000
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	1,000	-	-	1,000
A3 Payments				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total payments	-	-	-	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,000	-	-	1,000
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	1,000	-	-	1,000

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF Bank Account	1,000	-
		-	-
		-	-
	Total cash funds	1,000	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		OK	OK

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

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

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Loan from Hurst Water Meadow Trust (Charity Number 1050272)	Cash funds	1,000
			-
			-
			-
			-

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

Signature	Print Name
	Roger Seabrook
	Richard Farrant

CC16a



Last year
to the nearest £

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Endowment funds
to nearest £

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OK

Endowment funds
to nearest £

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Current value (optional)

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Current value (optional)

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When due (optional)

Date of approval
