

DOWNS LIGHT RAILWAY TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1195660

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2021-08-31

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

Contact

Address Downs Light Railway Trust
C/O The Downs Malvern
Brockhill Road
Colwall
Worcestershire
WR13 6EY

Phone 01684544100

Email info@DLRTrust.co.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE PUBLIC EDUCATION BY THE RESTORATION, PRESERVATION, MAINTENANCE, OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DOWNS LIGHT RAILWAY AS A HERITAGE ASSET FOR THE PROVISION OF PRACTICAL EDUCATION TO YOUNG PEOPLE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 7 TO 18, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY: A. EDUCATING YOUNG PEOPLE IN ENGINEERING DISCIPLINES, INCLUDING CIVIL, MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL, DESIGN, AND WORKSHOP PRACTICE; AND B. PROMOTING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING FOCUSED ACTIVITIES AND CAREERS.”

Activities: The Downs Light Railway Trust furthers the education of young people aged from 7 years and upwards in practical engineering mediums and railway operation, preserving the world's oldest private miniature railway. These activities promotion of youth engagement and career opportunities for young people in heritage and national railways, and other STEM related industries.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£3,878	£6,362	-	-
2024-03-31	£2,463	£4,617	-	-
2023-03-31	£63,735	£5,526	-	-
2022-03-31	£8,555	£0	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
David John Harvey	Chair	2025-10-15
Dr David Richard Peter Guy		2025-10-15
Dr Sarah Caroline Guy		2025-10-15

DOWNS LIGHT RAILWAY TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1195660

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report

For the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Objectives and Activities

Purposes of the charity

The objects of the CIO are to advance public education by the restoration, preservation, maintenance, operation and development of the Downs Light Railway as a heritage asset for the provision of practical education to young people between the ages of 7 to 18, in particular but not exclusively by: (a) educating young people in engineering disciplines, including civil, mechanical, electrical, design, and workshop practice; and (b) promoting science, technology and engineering focused activities and careers.

Summary of the Main Activities for the public benefit

Policy Objective: Provision of practical activities on the Downs Light Railway to further the education of young people aged from 7 years and upwards in practical engineering mediums and railway operation.

- During 2024-25, 27 children aged between 7 and 13 years from the adjacent school benefited from the provision of extra-curricular activities in railway engineering on Saturday mornings at the railway during term time in the Autumn and Summer terms.
- These open sessions consisted of instruction in general railway maintenance activities and concentrated on track repairs and maintenance.
- All young people participating in railway activities were given the opportunity to operate the railway and learn about safe operating practices.
- The children have the benefit of a Personal Track Safety regime that enhances everyone's safety whilst working on or about the railway. A new Personal Track Safety training document has been approved, printed and distributed to enhance the existing safety instruction regime.
- Training achievements: 5 blue necker qualifications were awarded in the period, recognising the knowledge and skills developed to maintain and operate petrol hydraulic locomotives to haul goods and passenger trains and assist instructing others.
- Events: the railway operated to great acclaim at the Friends of The Downs' Summer Celebration event on 22 June 2024, allowing beneficiaries to showcase their skills running passenger rides with exemplary focus and responsibility.

Policy Objective: Protection and preservation of the Downs Light Railway and its heritage, as the world's oldest private miniature railway, and the only railway directly operated for, and by, young people.

- The railway enjoys three fully operational locomotives in its fleet: Brock, James Boyd & Tim Cadbury. Throughout the period the maintenance schedules and the input of volunteers has ensured these remain serviceable and available for the DLRT's training programmes.

- BROCK underwent professional repairs to defective welds in the dome, and was fitted with new safety valves.
- TIM CADBURY had remedial work to address electric start problems.
- A concentrated effort has been ongoing to improve the railway trackbed, with gravel boards and retaining structures installed to help contain stone ballast under the track and improve operational track stability. As a result, there were no hobbles in the spring term 2025 while key turnouts in the railway yard were lifted and overhauled as part of the ongoing infrastructure maintenance programme.
- Signage improvements around the tunnel have been put in place to enhance safety.
- Two new ballast wagons have been delivered. Built by Peter Beevers, who very kindly donated his time, their smaller size makes these wagons easier and safer for children to use than the existing stock.

Charity Governance

The trustees continued the comprehensive review of the charity's safety and safeguarding structures, including engaging with external experts.

The charity faces ongoing challenges in two primary areas:

- The need to recruit new personnel remains acute, both administrative (trustees, charity secretary), and technical. With our lead steam volunteer shortly moving to another part of the country, the trustees also need to prioritise additional steam expertise.
- The DLR's legacy buildings and container remain inadequate for proper rolling stock storage and workshop instruction, yet redevelopment plans remain stalled due to slow progress on discussions with the landowner.

Active discussions with Malvern College on the buildings are ongoing, and have broadened to explore possible synergies in provision of safeguarding, Health and Safety, first aid and other areas.

Statement of Public Benefit

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of education and heritage protection.

Contribution made by volunteers

The Downs Light Railway Trust is a volunteer led organisation, with no paid staff. In addition to the three trustees, there are several other regular and occasional volunteers who contribute their time and expertise to the running of the Downs Light Railway. These include instruction in miniature railway operation, contributing track maintenance expertise, help with fundraising and at events, and contributing time, expertise and equipment for special projects such as infrastructure or engineering works.

In 2024 – 2025, our non-trustee volunteers carried out instruction for educational activities, assisted with track maintenance, helped at events and assisted with locomotive maintenance and engineering works.

Achievements and Performance

The Downs Light Railway Trust has made a difference to the lives and educational experience of the young people who engage in our activities, through the development of their practical STEM skills. Our feedback from parents and carers demonstrates that our activities are extremely beneficial to those young people who take part, through enhancing their skills, confidence and teamwork, and raising their awareness of STEM and heritage related careers.

Heritage rail is a vital component of our cultural heritage and tourism industry and currently heritage railways are finding it challenging to attract young people. Our activities through education and engagement of young people represent the delivery of wider benefits to society by raising the awareness of heritage rail as a career or volunteering opportunity, to support the ongoing operation and preservation of our industrial and cultural heritage.

Financial Review

The charity's accounts are set out below. The accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis and were subjected to an independent examination (report attached).

The £2,484 deficit in the year results from expenditure on the 2 new ballast wagons and remedial work to BROCK's dome, combined with the decrease in revenue due to the pause of Hobbies provision in the Lent term. More broadly, over the last 5 years there has been a general decline in public donations and significant increase in insurance costs. A realignment of hobbies charges is anticipated, pending the outcome of the ongoing discussions with Malvern College which impact the charity's fixed cost base.

Policy for Holding Reserves

The Charity holds two specific reserve funds, identified as the Locomotive Maintenance Fund (LMF) and the Centenary Development Fund (CDF). Funds raised in anticipation of development or acquisition costs are also held on reserve until the time of such expenditure.

The LMF provides a sinking fund of unrestricted monies for the purpose of planned preventive maintenance costs on the locomotive assets.

The CDF is a restricted fund whose use is restricted to expenditure incurred towards achieving the Centenary Development Programme with the aim of providing new buildings and infrastructure.

Statement of Financial Activity

Downs Light Railway Trust

Receipts & Payments Account	31/03/2025	31/03/2025	31/03/2025	31/03/2024	Notes
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total	
Receipts					
Donations	£345	£0	£345	£497	
Grants/Funding	£2,345	£0	£2,345	£808	
Sales	£561	£0	£561	£455	
Other	£42	£585	£628	£703	
	£3,292	£585	£3,878	£2,463	
Payments					
Administration	-£2,922	£0	-£2,922	-£2,976	
Operations	-£3,440	£0	-£3,440	-£1,642	
Publicity	£0	£0	£0	£0	
	-£6,362	£0	-£6,362	-£4,617	
Transfers of Funds	£0	£0	£0	£0	
Net movement of funds	-£3,070	£585	-£2,484	-£2,155	
Total Funds b/f	£7,670	£56,939	£64,609	£66,764	
Total Funds c/f	£4,600	£57,525	£62,125	£64,609	

Registered Charity no. 1195660

HMRC reference ZD17159

Downs Light Railway Trust
Statement of Assets & Liabilities

Assets	at y/e		31/03/2025	31/03/2024	Notes
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total	
Cash Resources					
Petty Cash	£0	£0	£0	£0	
Bank – General	£1,792	£0	£1,792	£2,972	
Bank – LMF	£2,808	£0	£2,808	£4,698	
Bank – CDF	£0	£57,525	£57,525	£56,939	
	£4,600	£57,525	£62,125	£64,609	1
Other Monetary Assets					
- Receivables	£0	£0	£0	£1,300	
	£4,600	£57,525	£62,125	£65,909	

Significant Assets

	Cost (opt)	Value (opt)
- Petrol-hydraulic locomotive TIM		
- Steam locomotive JAMES BOYD		
- Steam locomotive BROCK		
- 4No. passenger carriages		
- 5No. works carriages		
- Laid trackwork (approx. 650m)		
- Tools and Equipment		

Liabilities	at y/e		31/03/2025	31/03/2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
Short-term Liabilities				
- Uncleared payments (payables)	£99	£0	£99	£53
Other Liabilities				
- [None]	re Fund	Timing (opt)	Amount (opt)	

Notes

Note 0

These accounts are drawn up on a receipts and payments basis

Note 1

Cash Resources represent	Fund ID	Type	31/03/2025	31/03/2024
- General Administration Fund	General	Unrestricted	£1,792	£2,972
- Locomotive Maintenance Fund	LMF	Unrestricted	£2,808	£4,698
- Centenary Development Fund	CDF	Restricted	£57,525	£56,939
			£62,125	£64,609

Registered Charity no. 1195660

HMRC reference ZD17159

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Constitution dated 21 April 2023.

Constitution

The charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee selection methods

New Trustees are appointed by Resolution of a meeting of the Trustees. Selection is based on required skills, experience, and needs of the Trust. There is no provision in the Constitution for nominated or ex officio trusteeships.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name

Downs Light Railway Trust

Registered Charity Number

1195660

Charity's Principal Address

Downs Light Railway Trust
The Downs Malvern
Brockhill Road
Colwall
Worcestershire
WR13 6EY

Trustees

Mr Nick Dodson	<i>Chair</i>
Dr Henry Fletcher Winstanley	<i>Treasurer</i>
Dr Eleanor Jane Brown	

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved this report.
Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature(s)

Full name(s)	Mr Nicholas Dodson	Dr Henry Fletcher Winstanley
Position(s)	Chair	Treasurer

Date



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name Downs Light Railway Trust		
On accounts for the year ended	31/03/2025	Charity no (if any)	1159660
Set out on pages	(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement I have completed my examination using checklist CC32 which is the guidance for examiners as stated by the Charities Commission.

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

Signed:  **Date:** 18/07/2025

Name: Timothy Kenneth Bone

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): Chartered Institute of Management Accountants
FCMA
ID: 1-JNDL

Address: 16 John Williams Close
Priorslee
Telford
TF2 5AA

Section B Disclosure

No concerns to report.

DOWNS LIGHT RAILWAY TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1195660

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report

For the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Objectives and Activities

Purposes of the charity

The objects of the CIO are to advance public education by the restoration, preservation, maintenance, operation and development of the Downs Light Railway as a heritage asset for the provision of practical education to young people between the ages of 7 to 18, in particular but not exclusively by: (a) educating young people in engineering disciplines, including civil, mechanical, electrical, design, and workshop practice; and (b) promoting science, technology and engineering focused activities and careers.

Summary of the Main Activities in relation to those purpose for the public benefit, in particular the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts

Provision of practical activities on the Downs Light Railway to further the education of young people aged from 7 years and upwards in practical engineering mediums and railway operation.

- Following the ending of the suspension of operations (from 16/9/22) by the landlords following an off-site safeguarding issue, railway maintenance and operations restarted in June 2023 and educational activities resumed in September 2023.
- During 2023-24, 15 students aged between 7 and 13 years from the adjacent school benefited from the provision of extra-curricular activities in railway engineering on Saturday mornings at the railway during term time. These open sessions consisted of instruction in general railway maintenance activities and concentrated on track maintenance.
- The charity has also involved new volunteers with expertise in steam locomotive operations and maintaining the railway infrastructure.
- Protection and preservation of the Downs Light Railway and its heritage, as the world's oldest private miniature railway, and the only railway directly operated for, and by, young people.
- Steam locomotive BROCK was returned to the DLR from the South Shore Railroad on 19 February 2024 and students attending hobby periods are enjoying engaging with this locomotive. Ongoing maintenance to steam locomotives BROCK and JAMES BOYD (built in 1991). Ongoing maintenance to the petrol hydraulic locomotive TIM CADBURY (built in 1984). Maintenance activities involve the young people where possible, with support and instruction from our specialist volunteers.
- Specification of two new works carriages for The Downs Light Railway. The existing works carriages are reaching the end of their life so the Trustees have worked with a miniature railway engineering company to design their replacements. Arrangements are being made for a visit by the appointed

engineering company to view the track to inform the design, and to discuss how the carriages will be used by the young people and the railway volunteers.

- In June 2023 the Trustees engaged an external miniature railway expert on a voluntary basis to review the track and associated infrastructure. A new track maintenance plan was then produced and implementation began over the summer of 2023 starting with a concentrated effort by railway volunteers to improve the railway track bed. This included the installation of “gravel boards” to help contain stone ballast under the track and improve operational track stability.
- A second external miniature railway expert was engaged on a voluntary basis to review the railway’s Safety Management System and provide feedback to the Trustees.
- A new Personal Track Safety qualification was developed, and sent out to external miniature railway experts for review.
- A fresh assessment of the type of new workshops and storage facilities has taken place during the year as we head towards our Centenary in 2025. Ongoing discussions were held with our landlord, The Downs Malvern and Malvern College about new railway buildings for our Centenary Development Programme. New buildings will enhance the heritage preservation and educational delivery at the Downs Light Railway as we head towards our Centenary in 2025, via the development of improved workshop and locomotive storage facilities. In early March 2024, Trustees arranged a site visit to another miniature railway to view their buildings with our landlord to inform the development planning.

Charity Governance

- The previous Chair resigned on 24/05/23 and a new Chair was appointed.
- The suspension of educational activities was lifted by the landlord and the Serious Incident Report to the Charity Commission was updated.
- The Trustees completed reviews of key Charity policies over the summer of 2023 in readiness for restarting educational activities in September 2023.

Statement of Public Benefit

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit and the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of education and heritage protection.

Contribution made by volunteers

The Downs Light Railway Trust is a volunteer led organisation, with no paid staff. In addition to the trustees, there are several other regular and occasional volunteers who contribute their time and expertise to the running of the Downs Light Railway. These include instructors in miniature railway operation, steam locomotive maintenance and operations instruction, track maintenance expertise, help with fundraising and at events, and contributing time, expertise and equipment for special projects such as infrastructure, site maintenance or engineering works.

In 2023 – 2024, our non-trustee volunteers carried out instruction for educational activities, assisted with track and site maintenance, and assisted with locomotive maintenance and engineering works.

Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole

The Downs Light Railway Trust has made a difference to the lives and educational experience of the young people who engage in our activities, through the development of their practical STEM skills. Our feedback from parents, teachers and carers demonstrates that our activities are extremely beneficial to those young people who take part, through enhancing their skills, confidence and teamwork, and raising their awareness of STEM and heritage related careers.

Heritage rail is a vital component of our cultural heritage and tourism industry and currently heritage railways are finding it challenging to attract young people. Our activities through education and engagement of young people represent the delivery of wider benefits to society by raising the awareness of heritage rail as a career or volunteering opportunity, to support the ongoing operation and preservation of our industrial and cultural heritage. This is particularly important as we head towards the 200th anniversary of passenger rail in 2025.

Financial Review

The charity's accounts are set out below. The accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis and were subjected to an independent examination (report attached).

The suspension of activities on the Downs Light Railway site from 16/09/22 resulted in continued loss of income in the reporting year. Following resumption of activities in Summer 2023, the Trustees believe that the direct financial impact does not jeopardise the future provision of educational activities.

Policy for Holding Reserves

The Charity holds two specific reserve funds, identified as the Locomotive Maintenance Fund (LMF) and the Centenary Development Fund (CDF). Funds raised in anticipation of development or acquisition costs are also held on reserve until the time of such expenditure.

The LMF provides a sinking fund of unrestricted monies for the purpose of planned preventive maintenance costs on the assets.

The CDF is a restricted fund whose use is restricted to expenditure incurred towards achieving the Centenary Development Programme.

Statement of Financial Activity

Downs Light Railway Trust

Receipts & Payments Account	31/03/2024	31/03/2024	31/03/2024	31/03/2023	Notes
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total	
Receipts					
Donations	£447	£50	£497	£1,052	
Grants/Funding	£808	£0	£808	£2,010	
Sales	£455	£0	£455	£455	
Other	£52	£651	£703	£135	
	£1,761	£701	£2,463	£3,652	
Payments					
Administration	-£2,976	£0	-£2,976	-£2,456	
Operations	-£1,642	£0	-£1,642	-£3,070	
Publicity	£0	£0	£0	£0	
	-£4,617	£0	-£4,617	-£5,526	
Extraordinary Items					
Transfer from DLRT 513882	£0	£0	£0	£60,083	
Transfers of Funds	£2,000	-£2,000	£0	£0	1
Net movement of funds	-£856	-£1,299	-£2,155	£58,209	
Total Funds b/f	£8,526	£58,238	£66,764	£8,555	
Total Funds c/f	£7,670	£56,939	£64,609	£66,764	

Registered Charity no. 1195660

HMRC reference ZD17159

Downs Light Railway Trust
Statement of Assets & Liabilities

Assets	at y/e		31/03/2024	31/03/2023	Notes
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total	
Cash Resources					
Petty Cash	£0	£0	£0	£0	
Bank – General	£2,972	£0	£2,972	£3,880	
Bank – LMF	£4,698	£0	£4,698	£4,646	
Bank – CDF	£0	£56,939	£56,939	£58,238	
	£7,670	£56,939	£64,609	£66,764	2
Other Monetary Assets					
- Receivables	£1,300	£0	£1,300	£40	
	£8,970	£56,939	£65,909	£66,804	

Significant Assets

- Petrol-hydraulic locomotive TIM
- Steam locomotive JAMES BOYD
- Steam locomotive BROCK
- 4No. passenger carriages
- 5No. works carriages
- Laid trackwork (approx. 650m)
- Tools and Equipment

Liabilities	at y/e		31/03/2024	31/03/2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
Short-term Liabilities				
- Uncleared payments (payables)	£53	£0	£53	£0
Other Liabilities				
- [None]	re Fund	Timing (opt)	Amount (opt)	

Notes

Note 0

These accounts are drawn up on a receipts and payments basis

Note 1

The transfer from the Centenary Development Fund to general funds followed written permission from the donor to treat the unspent £2,000 donation as unrestricted funds.

Note 2

Cash Resources represent	Fund ID	Type	31/03/2024	31/03/2023
- General Administration Fund	General	Unrestricted	£2,972	£3,880
- Locomotive Maintenance Fund	LMF	Unrestricted	£4,698	£4,646
- Centenary Development Fund	CDF	Restricted	£56,939	£58,238
			£64,609	£66,764

Registered Charity no. 1195660

HMRC reference ZD17159

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Constitution dated 21 April 2023.

Constitution

The charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee selection methods

New Trustees are appointed by Resolution of a meeting of the Trustees. Selection is based on required skills, experience, and needs of the Trust. There is no provision in the Constitution for nominated or ex officio trusteeships.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name

Downs Light Railway Trust

Registered Charity Number

1195660

Charity's Principal Address

Downs Light Railway Trust
The Downs Malvern
Brockhill Road
Colwall
Worcestershire
WR13 6EY

Trustees

Mr Nick Dodson	<i>Chair (Acting Chair till 24-May-2023)</i>
Dr Henry Fletcher Winstanley	<i>Treasurer</i>
Dr Eleanor Jane Brown	
Mr Trevor Stanley Nall	Retired 18-Sep-2023
Mr Timothy Edward Pennock	Suspended 16-Sep-2022, resigned 24-May-2023

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved this report.
Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature(s)

Full name(s)	Mr Nicholas Dodson	Dr Henry Fletcher Winstanley
Position(s)	Acting Chairman	Treasurer

Date



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Downs Light Railway Trust

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31/03/2024	Charity no (if any)	1159660
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Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2024.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination using checklist CC32 which is the guidance for examiners as stated by the Charities Commission.

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

Signed:

Date:

14/01/2025

Name:

Timothy Kenneth Bone

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Chartered Institute of Management Accountants
ACMA
ID: 1-JNDL

Address:

16 John Williams Close
Priorslee
Telford
TF2 5AA

Section B

Disclosure

No concerns to report.

DOWNS LIGHT RAILWAY TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1195660

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report

For the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Objectives and Activities

Purposes of the charity

The objects of the CIO are to advance public education by the restoration, preservation, maintenance, operation and development of the Downs Light Railway as a heritage asset for the provision of practical education to young people between the ages of 7 to 18, in particular but not exclusively by: (a) educating young people in engineering disciplines, including civil, mechanical, electrical, design, and workshop practice; and (b) promoting science, technology and engineering focused activities and careers.

Summary of the Main Activities in relation to those purpose for the public benefit, in particular the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts

Provision of practical activities on the Downs Light Railway to further the education of young people aged from 7 years and upwards in practical engineering mediums and railway operation.

- During 2022-23, 22 students aged between 7 and 13 years from the adjacent school benefited from the provision of extra-curricular activities in railway engineering on Saturday mornings at the railway during term time. Five additional full day sessions open to all were provided for young people in school holidays. These open sessions consisted of instruction in general railway maintenance activities and dedicated locomotive driver training.
- The young people who are involved in the educational activities on the Downs Light Railway also benefit from the opportunity to demonstrate and enhance their skills by running and demonstrating the operation of the railway for visitors. To this end, the young people participated in running the railway for a school Open Day on 02/05/22. On 14/05/22 the Downs Light Railway hosted a special open afternoon for all members' families with the young people demonstrating their practical skills by taking part in a shunting competition.
- All young people participating in railway activities were given the opportunity to operate the railway for train rides at the school's "Summer Celebration" on 25/06/22.
- The charity has also worked with a UK supplier of personal protective equipment to design, develop and test the first fire-retardant coveralls (boilersuit) available in children's sizes. The first full order of these new coveralls has been delivered and they have since been worn by the young people at the Downs Light Railway.

Promotion of youth engagement and career opportunities for young people in heritage and national railways, and other STEM related industries.

- 01/07/22 a small group of Downs Light Railway volunteers and young people with their parents visited Lakeshore Railway in South Shields to participate in their 50th Anniversary celebrations. This enabled the young people to experience another commercially run railway of the same miniature gauge and engage with their staff.
- On 03/09/22 all young people were invited to exhibit the railway and demonstrate their engineering and driving skills to the attending Narrow Gauge Railway Society members on their visit to the Downs Light Railway. This gave the young people the opportunity to discuss engineering, heritage and associated railway opportunities and careers with a wide range of railway professionals and enthusiasts.

Protection and preservation of the Downs Light Railway and its heritage, as the world's oldest private miniature railway, and the only railway directly operated for, and by, young people.

- Completion of a new boiler for the Downs Light Railway locomotive BROCK to enable it to be used for the education of young people. This historic tank plus tender locomotive was built in 1973. The DLRT worked in partnership with Lakeshore Railroad, another rare 9.5-inch gauge miniature railway, who have kindly assisted with the running in of the new boiler at their location in South Shields, to support us with preparing BROCK for resuming educational activities at the Downs Light Railway post restoration.
- Ongoing maintenance to steam locomotives GEORGE (built in 1939 and on loan to the Downs Light Railway, returned Oct-2022) and JAMES BOYD (built in 1991). Ongoing maintenance to the petrol hydraulic locomotive TIM CADBURY (built in 1984). Maintenance activities involve the young people where possible, with support and instruction from our specialist volunteers.
- Maintaining and enhancing the heritage of the DLRT with the addition of past correspondence and photographs to the physical and digital archives.
- On site track works to preserve and maintain the railway at its location in Colwall, Herefordshire.
- Groundworks for new workshop and storage facilities were completed during 2021-22 and during 2022-23 were monitored and allowed to settle given the topography and hydrology of the site. These represent the initial phase of our Centenary Development Programme to enhance the heritage preservation and educational delivery at the Downs Light Railway as we head towards our Centenary in 2025, via the development of improved workshop and locomotive storage facilities.

Charity Governance

- The transfer of assets and operations of the former Charitable Trust (513882) was completed early in the reporting period and the old charity was dissolved on 14/04/2022.
- Due to an offsite incident away from the railway involving a member of the board of trustees, educational activities on site in Colwall were suspended by the landlord on 16/09/22. This serious incident was reported to the Charity Commission. During the period of suspension, as well as dealing with the incident follow-up, the trustees also carried out a governance and policy review, developed plans for enhancing future educational activities, continued to preserve the onsite heritage and engaged with external railways and professional bodies.

Statement of Public Benefit

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of education and heritage protection.

Contribution made by volunteers

The Downs Light Railway Trust is a volunteer led organisation, with no paid staff. In addition to the five trustees, there are several other regular and occasional volunteers who contribute their time and expertise to the running of the Downs Light Railway. These include instruction in miniature railway operation, contributing track maintenance expertise, help with fundraising and at events, and contributing time, expertise and equipment for special projects such as infrastructure or engineering works.

In 2022 – 2023, our non-trustee volunteers carried out instruction for educational activities, assisted with track maintenance, helped at events and assisted with locomotive maintenance and engineering works.

Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole

The Downs Light Railway Trust has made a difference to the lives and educational experience of the young people who engage in our activities, through the development of their practical STEM skills. Our feedback from parents and carers demonstrates that our activities are extremely beneficial to those young people who take part, through enhancing their skills, confidence and teamwork, and raising their awareness of STEM and heritage related careers.

Heritage rail is a vital component of our cultural heritage and tourism industry and currently heritage railways are finding it challenging to attract young people. Our activities through education and engagement of young people represent the delivery of wider benefits to society by raising the awareness of heritage rail as a career or volunteering opportunity, to support the ongoing operation and preservation of our industrial and cultural heritage.

Unfortunately, due to the suspension of our educational activities on site by our landlord less than halfway through the reporting year, several of our educational, community engagement and onsite heritage preservation plans were postponed and have therefore been carried over to the 2023-24 reporting year and beyond. This includes working in partnership with Colwall Orchard Group to run an apple harvest event at the railway celebrating Colwall's local cultural and natural heritage.

Financial Review

The charity's accounts are set out below. The accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis and were subjected to an independent examination.

The suspension of activities on the Downs Light Railway site from 16/09/22 had a significant negative impact on the charity's income due to cancelled activities and events. The trustees placed the highest priority on resolution of the underlying issue and resumption of activities (in the following reporting period) so as to minimise the financial and reputational impact. The trustees are of the opinion that the charity remains a going concern, with plans underway to recruit new expertise on a volunteer basis to secure our educational offering.

Policy for Holding Reserves

The Charity holds two specific reserve funds, identified as the Locomotive Maintenance Fund (LMF) and the Centenary Development Fund (CDF). Funds raised in anticipation of development or acquisition costs are also held on reserve until the time of such expenditure.

The LMF provides a sinking fund of unrestricted monies for the purpose of planned preventive maintenance costs on the assets.

The CDF is a restricted fund whose use is restricted to expenditure incurred towards achieving the Centenary Development Programme.

Statement of Financial Activity

Downs Light Railway Trust

Receipts & Payments Account	31/03/2023	31/03/2023	31/03/2022	31/03/2022	Notes
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total	
Receipts					
Donations	£452	£600	£1,052	£0	
Grants/Funding	£2,010	£0	£2,010	£0	
Sales	£455	£0	£455	£0	
Other	£10	£125	£135	£0	
	£2,927	£725	£3,652	£0	
Payments					
Administration	-£2,456	£0	-£2,456	£0	
Operations	-£2,572	-£498	-£3,070	£0	
Publicity	£0	£0	£0	£0	
	-£5,028	-£498	-£5,526	£0	
Extraordinary Items					
Transfer from DLRT 513882	£6,072	£54,011	£60,083	£8,555	2
Transfers of Funds	£0	£0	£0	£0	
Net movement of funds	£3,971	£54,238	£58,209	£8,555	
Total Funds b/f	£4,555	£4,000	£8,555	£0	
Total Funds c/f	£8,526	£58,238	£66,764	£8,555	

Registered Charity no. 1195660

HMRC reference ZD17159

Downs Light Railway Trust
Statement of Assets & Liabilities

Assets	at y/e		31/03/2023	31/03/2022	Notes
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total	
Cash Resources					
Petty Cash	£0	£0	£0	£54	
Bank – General	£3,880	£0	£3,880	£501	
Bank – LMF	£4,646	£0	£4,646	£4,000	
Bank – CDF	£0	£58,238	£58,238	£4,000	
	£8,526	£58,238	£66,764	£8,555	1
Other Monetary Assets					
- Receivables	£40	£0	£40	£60	
	£8,566	£58,238	£66,804	£8,615	

Significant Assets	Cost (opt)	Value (opt)	
- Petrol-hydraulic locomotive TIM			
- Steam locomotive JAMES BOYD			
- Steam locomotive BROCK			
- 4No. passenger carriages			
- 5No. works carriages			
- Laid trackwork (approx. 650m)			
- Tools and Equipment			

Liabilities	at y/e		31/03/2023	31/03/2022
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
Short-term Liabilities				
- Uncleared payments (payables)	£0	£0	£0	£0
Other Liabilities				
- [None]				

Notes

Note 1

	Fund ID	Type	31/03/2023	31/03/2022
Cash Resources represent				
- General Administration Fund	General	Unrestricted	£3,880	£555
- Locomotive Maintenance Fund	LMF	Unrestricted	£4,646	£4,000
- Centenary Development Fund	CDF	Restricted	£58,238	£4,000
			£66,764	£8,555

Note 2

Transfer of assets from charity no. 513882 was completed in the period.

Non-monetary assets transferred had an estimated replacement value of £134,044.

Cash-equivalent assets transferred were:

	Fund ID	Type	31/03/2023	31/03/2022
- General Administration Fund	General	Unrestricted	£4,544	£555
- Locomotive Maintenance Fund	LMF	Unrestricted	£1,528	£4,000
- Centenary Development Fund	CDF	Restricted	£54,011	£4,000
			£60,083	£8,555

Registered Charity no. 1195660

HMRC reference ZD17159

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Constitution dated 31 August 2021. (An amended Constitution was adopted on 21 April 2023, shortly after the reporting period).

Constitution

The charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee selection methods

New Trustees are appointed by Resolution of a meeting of the Trustees. Selection is based on required skills, experience, and needs of the Trust. There is no provision in the Constitution for nominated or ex officio trusteeships.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name

Downs Light Railway Trust

Registered Charity Number

1195660

Charity's Principal Address

Downs Light Railway Trust
The Downs Malvern
Brockhill Road
Colwall
Worcestershire
WR13 6EY

Trustees

Mr Timothy Edward Pennock

Chairman (suspended from 16-Sep-2022)

Dr Henry Fletcher Winstanley

Treasurer

Dr Eleanor Jane Brown

Mr Nick Dodson

Acting Chair (from 15-Oct-2022)

Mr Trevor Stanley Nall

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved this report.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature(s)

Full name(s)

Mr Nicholas Dodson

Dr Henry Fletcher Winstanley

Position(s)

Acting Chairman

Treasurer

Date



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Downs Light Railway Trust

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31/03/2023

**Charity no
(if any)**

1159660

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2023.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination using checklist CC32 which is the guidance for examiners as stated by the Charities Commission.

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

Signed:

Date:

31/10/2023

Name:

Timothy Kenneth Bone

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Chartered Institute of Management Accountants
ACMA
ID: 1-JNDL

Address:

16 John Williams Close

Priorslee

Telford

TF2 5AA

Section B

Disclosure

No concerns to report.

DOWNS LIGHT RAILWAY TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1195660

Accounts



Downs Light Railway Trust

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period from 31 August 2021 to 31 March 2022

Objectives and Activities

Purposes of the charity

The objects of the CIO are to advance public education by the restoration, preservation, maintenance, operation and development of the Downs Light Railway as a heritage asset for the provision of practical education to young people between the ages of 7 to 18, in particular but not exclusively by: (a) educating young people in engineering disciplines, including civil, mechanical, electrical, design, and workshop practice; and (b) promoting science, technology and engineering focused activities and careers.

Summary of the Main Activities for the public benefit

The charity was registered on 31 August 2021. For the large majority of the period to 31 March 2022, the charity remained dormant awaiting transfer of assets from registered charity number 513882 in order to commence its charitable activities. Charity Commission Order reference 1536/2122 approving the transfer was received on 30 March 2022. Transfers were initiated on the last day of the period and consequently were only partially complete at the reporting year-end.

Statement of Public Benefit

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of education and heritage protection.

Achievements and Performance

Summary

This is the first report of the charity, which was registered 31 August 2021.

The charity was dormant until assets were transferred from Downs Light Railway Trust, registered charity 513882, commencing on the last day of the reporting period, 31 March 2022. Accordingly, there are no specific charitable activities to report for the period. In anticipation of the transfer of assets and activities, policies from charity 513882 were reviewed and adopted by the CIO.

Financial Review

The only financial activity in the period was the receipt of initial transfers of cash assets from Downs Light Railway Trust, registered charity 513882, amounting to £4,555 unrestricted funds and £4,000 restricted funds reserved for the Centenary Development

Programme. The remaining transfers of cash- and non-cash assets and activities from charity 513882 occurred in the following period.

Total receipts were £8,555 and no payments were made in the period.

Statement of Financial Activity

Downs Light Railway Trust				Notes
Receipts and Payments				
Account	31/03/2022	31/03/2022	31/03/2022	
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
Receipts				
Donations	£0	£0	£0	
Grants/Funding	£0	£0	£0	
Sales	£0	£0	£0	
Other	£0	£0	£0	
	£0	£0	£0	
Payments				
Administration	£0	£0	£0	
Operations	£0	£0	£0	
Publicity	£0	£0	£0	
	£0	£0	£0	
Extraordinary Items				
Transfer from DLRT 513882	£4,555	£4,000	£8,555	2
Transfers of Funds				
	£0	£0	£0	
Net movement of funds				
	£4,555	£4,000	£8,555	
Total Funds b/f				
	£0	£0	£0	
Total Funds c/f				
	£4,555	£4,000	£8,555	

Registered Charity no. 1195660

HMRC reference ZD17159

Downs Light Railway Trust
Statement of Assets and
Liabilities

Assets	at y/e		31/03/2022	Notes
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
Cash Resources				
Petty Cash	£54	£0	£54	
Bank – General	£501	£0	£501	
Bank – LMF	£4,000	£0	£4,000	
Bank – CDF	£0	£4,000	£4,000	
	<u>£4,555</u>	<u>£4,000</u>	<u>£8,555</u>	3
Other Monetary Assets				
- Receivables	£0	£0	£0	
	<u>£4,555</u>	<u>£4,000</u>	<u>£8,555</u>	

Other Significant Assets

- [None]

	Cost (opt)	Value (opt)

Liabilities	at y/e		31/03/2022
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Short-term Liabilities			
- Uncleared payments (payables)	£0	£0	£0

Other Liabilities	re Fund	Timing (opt)	Amount (opt)
- [None]			

Notes

Note 1

The charity was incorporated on 31-Aug-2021. Accounts are presented for the period 31-Aug-2021 to 31-Mar-2022.

Note 2

Charity Commission approval of transfer of assets from charity no. 513882 was received on 30-Mar-2022. The accounts reflect that part of the transfers completed in the period to 31-Mar-2022. The remaining transfers fall in the next reporting period and were completed prior to charity 513882's removal from the register on 13-Apr-2022.

Note 3

Cash Resources represent	Fund ID	Type	31/03/2022
- General Administration Fund	General	Unrestricted	£555
- Locomotive Maintenance Fund	LMF	Unrestricted	£4,000
- Centenary Development Fund	CDF	Restricted	£4,000
			<u>£8,555</u>

Registered Charity no. 1195660

HMRC reference ZD17159

Policy for Holding Reserves

The Trust aims to hold sufficient reserves to provide for planned preventive maintenance costs on the assets. Funds raised in anticipation of development or acquisition costs are also held on reserve until the time of such expenditure.

Use of the Centenary Development Fund is restricted to expenditure incurred towards achieving the Centenary Development Programme.

Due to the ongoing transfer of assets from charity no. 513882 at the period end, reserve levels shown in these accounts are not fully representative of the charity's policy for holding reserves.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Constitution dated 31 August 2021.

Constitution

The charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee selection methods

New Trustees are appointed by Resolution of a meeting of the Trustees. Selection is based on required skills, experience, and needs of the Trust. There is no provision in the Trust Deed for nominated or ex officio trusteeships.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name

Downs Light Railway Trust

Registered Charity Number

1195660

Charity's Principal Address

Downs Light Railway Trust
The Downs Malvern
Brockhill Road
Colwall
Worcestershire
WR13 6EY

Trustees

Mr Timothy Edward Pennock

Chairman

Dr Henry Fletcher Winstanley

Finance

Dr Eleanor Jane Brown

Safety & Development

Mr Nick Dodson

Mr Trevor Stanley Nall

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved this report.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature(s)

Full name(s)	Mr Nicholas Dodson	Dr Henry Fletcher Winstanley
Position(s)	Acting Chairman	Head of Finance

Date