# Long Mead Foundation

Registered Charity Number: 1196294

Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended

31 March 2024

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# Administrative Information

| | |
|---|---|
| **Trustees** | **Fiona Ravenscroft**<br>**Louise Henson**<br>**Kevin Martin** |
| **Registered address** | **Horseshoe Island**<br>**Oxford Road**<br>**Swinford**<br>**Witney OX29 4DU** |
| **Bankers** | **Metro Bank** |
| **Key management personnel** | **Catriona Bass** |
| **Charity Registration number** | **1196294** |

CAMERONS
ACCOUNTANCY

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Horseshoe Island
Oxford Road
Swinford
Oxfordshire
OX29 4DU

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20th March 2025

To the Trustees of Long Mead Foundation,

I report on the accounts of the charity (registered number: 1196294) for the period ended 31st March 2024.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees of the Company (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent eaxmination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ( "the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination, I have followed the directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act).

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that:

- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006, other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination;
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

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.

Ellen O'Donnell FCA
Camerons Accountancy Consultants Ltd
9 Worton Park
Cassington
Oxfordshire
OX29 4SX

Long Mead Foundation
Year end 31 March 2024

# Report of the Trustees – Year ending 31st March 2024

Long Mead Foundation was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with The Charity Commission in England on 27th October 2021.

All Trustees have been in post throughout the period and have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by The Charity Commission in exercising their duties.

The objects of Long Mead Foundation are:

1. To promote, for the benefit of the public, the conservation protection and enhancement of the natural environment and in particular but not exclusively

   a. To undertake the conservation and enhancement of the biodiversity of the floodplain meadows along the Upper Thames;
   b. To advance the understanding of, and methods to, restore the ecosystems of floodplain meadows working with academic institutions, farmers and landowners;
   c. To advance education of the public about the natural environment, including nature-based solutions for climate-change, particularly in relation to floodplain meadows;

2. To relieve the needs of adults with learning disabilities and autism by offering nature-based activities.

During this financial year, Long Mead Foundation continued to expand its activities on the ground and with the community as part of the Thames Valley Wildflower Meadow Restoration Project and Nature Recovery Network. Since 2018, our meadow creation work has connected up over 210ha of ancient floodplain meadow and meadows under restoration by creating new meadows between them. After 5 years of negotiations with the landowners, (Oxfordshire County Council and Smiths of Bletchingdon), we acquired leases on 50 acres of land along the River Thames adjacent to Long Mead in 2023, for community-led restoration with the Nature Recovery Network, facilitated by LMF. This significantly extends the creation of a connected nature recovery network for floodplain meadows along the Thames above and below Swinford Lock. Work on creating a nature recovery network of floodplain meadows along the Cherwell in Oxford, to buffer the Marston Meads Sites of Special Scientific Interest also continued, with further planting of rare and slow growing hand-propagated plants in Christ Church Meadows and Music and great Meadow, belonging to Merton College.

Restoration work included planting over 500m of hedge and planting out around 4000 hand-propagated plants, engaging the whole community, including the Scouts, Beavers, Primary and Secondary School and many individuals through our *Nature Recovery Network,* community organisation.

Central to our restoration work is the hand-propagation of the rarer and slow-growing species in a way that engages the whole community, including adults with learning disabilities and autism and people facing mental or physical health challenges, students and pensioners all working together. Our partnerships with FarmAbility and Bridewell continue to grow and deepen.

LMF was in demand, for advice and consultation on floodplain meadows, from a wide range of stake-holders from Oxford Colleges to Parish and District Councils, as well as private landowners. In June 2023, a workshop on Long Mead for Natural England's senior Nature Recovery Network advisors from all the England regions to learn about our model of community-driven landscape scale nature recovery. We were also delighted that Christ Church Meadows, whose restoration we began in 2020 and continued through to 2023 was runner-up for Oxford University Vice-Chancellor's Environmental Sustainability Project Award.

A number of talks and workshops were undertaken, articles published and Long Mead welcomed a significant number of visitors. Sponsorship was received from the Open University Floodplain Meadows Partnership, West Oxfordshire District Council and Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (hedgerow plants).

Further details of activities during the year can be found in the Appendix.

The Trustees are grateful for the hard work of Catriona Bass who continues to work largely *pro bono*. They are pleased that new funding in 2024/2025 will pay for administrative support, which will enable to Financial Statement to be submitted on time.

They also thank all volunteers at Long Mead Foundation and the Nature Recovery Network and the contractors, consultants and experts who have contributed to the work of its Thames Valley Wildflower Meadow Restoration Project.

The Trustees offer their thanks for the financial support from the multiple individual donations made to the Foundation and to their sponsors: The Open University and West Oxfordshire District Council, the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Englandl without whom much of this work would not be possible.

## Approval of the Trustees

The Trustees of the Long Mead Foundation have approved these, the first financial statement for the period herein and is signed on their behalf by:

*Signature redacted for security*

M L Henson
Trustee

Long Mead Foundation
Year end 31 March 2024

| Statement of Financial Activities | 2023-2024 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| **TOTAL OPENING BALANCE** | **£26,048** | | | |
| RESTRICTED O/B | £16, 714 | | | |
| UNRESTRICTED O/B | £9,335 | | | |
| | | | | |
| **RESTRICTED FUNDS** | **O/BAL** | **INCOME** | **RESTRICTED EXPENDITURE** | **RESTRICTED c/BALANCE** |
| Natural England | £62 | 0 | £62 | 0 |
| Open University | £6,700 | £24,120 | £20,837 | £9,983 |
| Freshwater Habitats Trust | £6,114 | £0 | £6,114 | £0 |
| Oxfordshire County Council | £3,824 | £0 | £3,835 | (£11) |
| West Oxfordshire District Council (paid in 24/25) | £14 | £2,000 | £2,014 | £0 |
| **TOTAL** | **£16,714** | **£26,120** | **£32,862** | **£9,972** |
| | | | | |
| **UNRESTRICTED FUNDS** | **O/BAL** | **INCOME** | **UNRESTRICTED EXPENDITURE** | **UNRESTRICTED C/BALANCE** |
| Donation | | £2,751 | | |
| Gift Aid | | £827 | | |
| Other Income | | £130 | | |
| Plant Sales | | £1,212 | | |
| **TOTAL UNRESTRICTED INCOME** | **£9,335** | **£4,920** | **£2,859** | **£11,396** |
| | | | | |
| **Transfer of Overheads to Core** | | **£7,890** | | |
| | | | | |
| **TOTALS (Restricted and Unrestricted)** | **£26,049** | **£38,929** | **£35,721** | **£29,257** |
| | | | | |
| **EXPENSES** | | | | |
| **EXPENDITURE FROM RESTRICTED FUNDS** | | | | |
| CO-ORDINATION | £4,000 | | | |
| COMMS/ENGAGEMENT | £1,582 | | | |
| DATA MANAGEMENT | | | | |
| OVERHEADS | £7,890 | | | |
| PLANT PROP | £9,348 | | | |
| REFERENCE | | | | |
| RESEARCH | £3,013 | | | |
| RESTORATION | £7,030 | | | |
| **TOTAL** | **£32,864** | | | |
| | | | | |
| **EXPENDITURE FROM UNRESTRICTED FUNDS** | | | | |
| OFFICE/ADMIN | £505 | | | |
| OUTREACH/COMMS | £494 | | | |
| VOLUNTEER EXPENSES | £352 | | | |
| REFERENCE | £63 | | | |
| SITE COSTS/REPAIRS | £94 | | | |
| TRAINING | £1,350 | | | |
| **UNRESTRICTED - TOTAL** | **£2,859** | | | |
| | | | | |
| **TOTAL EXPENSES** | **£35,722** | | | |
| OVERHEADS From grant income | **£7,890** | | | |
| **TOTAL C/B** | **£29,256** | | | |
| | | | | |
| **ACCRUALS 2023-2024** | | | | |
| *Supplier* | *Amount* | | | |
| C Bass Expenses | £2,022 | | | |
| | | | | |
| C Bass Coordinator Fees | £6,400 | | | |
| **Total** | **£8,422** | | | |
| | | | | |
| ACCRUALS Unpaid from 2022 -2023 | | | | |
| *Supplier* | *Amount* | | | |
| C Bass Fees | **£2,500** | | | |
| F Ravenscroft Fees | **£1,050** | | | |
| **Total accruals for Bank balance reconciliation:** | **£11,972** | | | |
| | | | | |
| **Total accruals and c/bal of accounts for bank reconciliation:** | **£39,229** | | | |
| Note: | | | | |
| Balance includes income and expense accruals: | | | | |
| Expense Accruals: £11,972 | | | | |
| Income Accrual: £2000 | | | | |

# Appendix: Details of Activities during 2023-2024

## Meadow Restoration and Management

Meadow creation and restoration took place in the fields listed below, in and around Eynsham and Oxford. It included planting over 500m of hedge and planting out around 4000 plants, engaging the whole community through our *Nature Recovery Network,* community organisation. Early unprecedented flooding meant that planting out of hand-propagated plants was curtailed and the plants had to be carried over to the next season.

- Eynsham Playing Fields, Carnival Meadow
- Dovehouse Close Meadow, Eynsham
- Eynsham Churchyard
- Fishponds Meadow, Eynsham
- Newlands Meadow, Eynsham
- Long Mead Restoration Area
- Changeable Furlongs (Smiths of Bletchingdon)
- Neyotts Meadow (Oxfordshire County Council)
- Christ Church Meadows
- Music Meadow and Great Meadow (Merton College)

Hand-propagated plants were donated to other groups and organisations, including BBOWT (Chimney Meadows National Nature Reserve), Long Hanborough Nature Recovery Network, Church Hanborough Nature Recovery Network, Standlake Nature Recovery Network.

## Local Experts group

In March 2024, we convened a meeting of the local experts with a view to planning the restoration of the 50 acres of newly leased land to create a mosaic of habitats and to discuss plans for extending this connecting network further downstream to join up with the SSSI meadows at Wolvercote and Port Meadow, Oxford.

## LMF Facilitated Research

<u>Invertebrate Study</u>

Long Mead Foundation
Year end 31 March 2024

We have continued and expand our research into the diversity and abundance of invertebrate in floodplain meadows. In March 2024, 3 more entomologists joined the team. Our collaboration with Oxford Brookes University in this research continues.

Water Quality
We continue to monitor the water quality in 10 streams and rivers around Eynsham.

Plant Propagation
We continue our research into the growing characteristics and requirements of 50 floodplain meadow species, with 3 years of data now.

Local expert led community surveys in our *Nature Recovery Network* continue to monitor: birds, bats, freshwater invertebrates, water voles and plants in and around Eynsham including the meadows under restoration.

**Training and Workshops delivered by LMF**

- Creating and Restoring Meadows - a Workshop for Facilitators, included staff from BBOWT, FWAg, Slimbridge, NE Cotswold Farmer Cluster and other Ngos.
- Scouts and local Youth Theatre coronation volunteering for plant propagatioon
- Regular Community survey workshops
- County recorder David Morris - Botanical Survey Workshop
- Ecover Staff Corporate Day
- Community Plant Propagation and Meadow Picnic
- Scything Workshop and Community Meadow Management
- Apple Day hosted by Peace Oak Community Orchard

We continue to fund one of our participants who has learning disabilities to attend FarmAbility once a week

**Visits and guided walks to Long Mead Local Wildlife Site**

- Oxford University Nature Conservation Society
- Village environmental group leaders from 8 local villages to discuss further collaborations.
- Cherwell Dairy Farmers
- Officers of the Oxfordshire County Council Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Councillors from West Oxfordshire District Council
- Chair and Cabinet Member for Environment of Oxfordshire County Council
- Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (Oxfordshire Branch)
- Oxford University Botanical Gardens
- Oxford City Council (Oxford Direct Services Staff)

**Talks, Radio and Conference Presentations**
Delivered by LMF CEO Catriona Bass and Prof Kevan Martin

- Rotary Club
- Public Meeting for Oxford's Flood Alleviation Scheme (Hinksey Meadow)
- South and Vale District Council.
- Green Henley
- Open University (Conference presentation- Floodplain Meadows)
- Jack FM Radio
- Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership (Conference presentation - People and Nature)
- Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (Facilitator for Grasslands Group)
- University of the Third Age
- West Oxfordshire District Council (Conference - Women and the Future of West Oxfordshire)
- Wild Oxfordshire (Conference Presentation - Hedgerow Heroes)
- West Oxfordshire District Council (Conference Presentation - Waterways Day)

**Advice and Consultancy includes:**

- Oxford Preservation Trust - Catriona Bass appointed to OPT Green Spaces Committee
- West Oxfordshire District Council - Nature Recovery Plan Scrutiny Committee
- Church Hanborough
- Long Hanborough

**Media and Articles**

We continue to write regularly for the Nature Recovery Network newsletter (700 members) as well as for Eynsham Online. Our work is also disseminated via our Instragram and X accounts and Facebook.

Occasional articles on our work are published in:

- Oxford Mail
- Campaign for the Protection of Rural EnGland
- Wild Oxfordshire

- Jack FM Radio
- Eynsham News

**Funding and Awards**

Christ Church Meadows Restoration - Runner up for Oxford University Vice Chancellor's Environmental Sustainability Project Award 2023.

**Partnerships**

Key partners include:
FarmAbility
Ongoing long-term partnership with FarmAbility which dates back to its founding over 10 years ago. Monthly visits of a group of adults with learning disabilities and autism.

Bridewell Organic Gardens (Mental Health Charity)

Ongoing long-term partnership which dates back over 10 years ago. LMF supports Bridewell to propagate floodplain meadow species on their own site for planting out in the meadows that we are restoring in the landscape.

Eynsham Partnership Academy
Students from the Alternative Curriculum Band - twice monthly visits, Sixth form end of year work experience.

Other partners include:

- Oxford Conservation Volunteers joined our community restoration activities.
- West Oxfordshire District Council
- Environmental Change Institute Nature Recovery Symposium
- Wild Oxfordshire - Oxfordshire Hedgerow Heroes Project
- Campaign for the Protection of Rural England - Oxfordshire Hedgerow Heroes Project
- Oxfordshire County Council - Local Nature Partnership - Nature and Health subgroup
- Open University - Floodplain Meadows Partnership
- Oxford Brookes University - Conservation Ecology Course
- Oxford Botanical gardens
- Local Wildlife Trust - BBOWT

Long Mead Foundation
Year end 31 March 2024