

GAVIN MENZIES RESEARCH FOUNDATION UK

England & Wales · Charity number 1198599

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2022-04-12

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

Contact

Address Finsbury Business Centre
40 Bowling Green Lane
London
EC1R 0NE

Phone 02074157000

Email gavinmenziesresearchfoundation@gmail.com

Website www.GavinMenziesResearchFoundation.org

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC BY PROMOTING RESEARCH INTO THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF PRE COLUMBIAN MARITIME EXPLORATION INCLUDING THE STUDY OF ARCHIVES, DATA AND LITERATURE AND TO DISSEMINATE TO THE PUBLIC THE FINDINGS OF SUCH RESEARCH.

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Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£11,365	£667	-	-
2023-12-31	£5,000	£0	-	-
2022-12-31	£0	£0	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Marcella Menzies		2022-04-12
SAMANTHA MURRAY		2022-04-12
VANESSA CLAUDIA TIZIANA MENZIES		2022-04-12

GAVIN MENZIES RESEARCH FOUNDATION UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1198599

Accounts

Gavin Menzies Research Foundation (GMRF)

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

1. Charity Information

Charity Name: Gavin Menzies Research Foundation

Charity Registration Number: 1198599

Registered Address: Unit 302,

Finsbury Business Centre

40 Bowling Green Lane

LONDON

EC1R 0NE

Phone: 02074157000

Email: contact@GavinMenziesResearchFoundation.org

Website: <https://www.GavinMenziesResearchFoundation.org>

Trustees serving during the year:

- Marcella Menzies
- Vanessa Menzies
- Samantha Menzies
- Ian Hudson

2. Structure, Governance and Management

The Foundation is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), governed by its Constitution. The Trustees meet regularly throughout the year to oversee the Foundation's activities, finances, and long-term strategy. Day-to-day management of the Foundation's communications, fundraising initiatives, and research support is overseen by Ian Hudson.

During 2024, the Foundation was entirely volunteer-led, which limited the pace of progress. While this model ensures strong commitment and low overheads, it also means that operational development has been gradual. Despite these constraints, 2024 marked a significant step forward toward our strategic goals.

3. Objectives and Activities

The Foundation exists to preserve, develop and promote the legacy of the late Gavin Menzies, supporting public understanding of global maritime exploration before the voyages of Columbus. Key charitable purposes

include:

- Funding and publishing original historical research
- Supporting public engagement through events, exhibitions, and media
- Developing partnerships with academics and institutions, globally
- Ensuring Menzies' work remains accessible and relevant to future generations

4. Achievements and Performance (2024 Highlights)

During 2024, the Foundation made significant strides in stabilising its operations and preparing for future growth:

- The Foundation received royalty contributions and donations from the estate of Gavin Menzies.
- The Foundation continued correspondence and support for research into multiple maritime archaeology projects.
- Ian Hudson delivered lectures and talks, via webinar and in person, including an event at the Bristol Adult Learning Centre.
- New academic partnerships were initiated in UK, and Southeast Asia, notably with the ASEAN Archaeometry Institute and Commonwealth of World Chinatowns
- Collaborative groundwork was laid with City St George's University, London for the "1421 AI Project," structuring 25 years of historical research data for use with artificial intelligence.
- The Foundation "soft-launched" an updated website with new blog functionality that enabled it to disseminate research findings to the public.

This year marked a transition from foundational setup to active charitable operations. Following initial registration in 2022 and infrastructure development in 2023, the Foundation undertook its first major steps in research activity and public engagement in 2024.

5. Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. The Gavin Menzies Research Foundation provides public benefit by supporting educational research, public lectures, exhibitions, and media relating to global maritime exploration before the European Age of Discovery. These activities are freely shared with the public via lectures, newsletters, and digital content, and are designed to

promote historical understanding and inspire curiosity about our global past.

6. Financial Review

- Opening balance (1 Jan 2024): £5000
- Total income: £16,365
- Total expenditure: £667
- Closing balance (31 Dec 2024): £15,698

Income includes a £5,000 donation originally received in 2023 and carried forward to support 2024 activities. Additional income in 2024 came from estate royalties.

7. Receipts & Payments Account (2024)

Receipts	Amount (£)
Donations (individuals)	5,000
Royalties (estate)	5,000
Counter credit (estate)	1,365
Total Receipts	11,365

Payments	Amount (£)
Website/email services	630
Bank charges	37
Total Payments	667

Bank balance at start of year: £5,000

Bank balance at end of year: £15,698

8. Plans for the Future

Looking ahead to 2025, the Foundation aims to:

- Secure new funding to support a sustainably salaried research and development post
- Develop academic and fieldwork partnerships in UK, Malaysia, Indonesia, Mexico and Western Australia
- Launch the “1421 AI Project” in collaboration with City St George’s University, which will develop an online, searchable archive of key documents, maps, and correspondence
- Expand the charity’s international network of researchers and supporters
- Recruit an expanded volunteer advisory council to support archaeological

fieldwork projects.

9. Declaration and Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees on 29th October 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Signed: ___ Marcella Menzies ___

Trustee

Date: ___ 29/10/2025 ___

Accounts for the Year Ending 31st December 2024

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)

**Income and Expenditure Account for
the year ended 31/12/2024**

	2024	2023
	£	£
INCOME		
Donations	5,000	5,000
Donations	5,000	
Donations	1,365	
	<u>11,365</u>	<u>5,000</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Bank Charges	37	
Charity Set Up Expenses	630	
	<u>667</u>	<u>0</u>
Accumulated Funds for the Year		
Add Opening Bank Balance	10,698	5,000
TOTAL GMRF funds 31/12/24	<u>15,698</u>	<u>5,000</u>

Notes to the Accounts

- Donation Income: The Foundation received donations totaling £16,365 in 2024.
- Expenditure: £667.00 was spent on bank charges and charity setup expenses.
- Funds Carried Forward: The remaining balance of £15,698 is carried forward to support future activities.

GAVIN MENZIES RESEARCH FOUNDATION UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1198599

Accounts

The Gavin Menzies Research Foundation

Trustees' Annual Report For the period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

Section A: Reference and Administration Details

- **Charity Name:** Gavin Menzies Research Foundation
- **Registered Charity Number:** 1198599
- **Principal Address:**
Finsbury Business Centre
40 Bowling Green Lane
London
EC1R 0NE

Trustees Managing the Charity

1. Ian Hudson
2. Marcella Menzies
3. Vanessa Menzies
4. Samantha Murray

Additional Advisers: Not applicable.

Section B: Structure, Governance, and Management

- **Governing Document:** Constitution of the Gavin Menzies Research Foundation
- **Constitution:** The Foundation is established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered as a foundation on 12 April 2022.
- **Trustee Selection:** Trustees are appointed based on family lineage and dedication to promoting the Foundation's objectives.

Additional Governance Information:

The Foundation follows a straightforward structure, with Trustees working collaboratively to manage operations. No additional induction or training was conducted for Trustees in 2023. Major risks are minimal due to the limited financial and operational activities this year.

Section C: Objectives and Activities

- **Mission Statement:**
The Foundation's mission is to educate the public by supporting research into pre-Columbian maritime exploration, including examining archaeological records, archives, and literature. We also aim to share the findings of this research with the public.
- **Main Activities:**
 1. **Website Creation:** Established a digital presence through a new website <https://gavinmenziesresearchfoundation.org/>, intended to host resources, research publications, and news updates.
 2. **Bank Account Setup:** Organised a dedicated bank account to streamline future donations and facilitate financial management.

Public Benefit:

The Trustees confirm they have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit when planning the Foundation's activities, ensuring that all efforts support research and public awareness in line with the charity's objectives.

Section D: Achievements and Performance

- **Main Achievements:**
The Foundation's primary achievements in 2023 were foundational in nature, setting up essential infrastructure:
 - **Donation Received:** A £5,000 donation was received, earmarked to support future activities and initial operating expenses.
 - **Online Platform:** Developed the Foundation's online platform, which will serve as a central repository for research and news about early maritime exploration, fulfilling an educational role.

Section E: Financial Review

- **Reserves Policy:** Given the minimal operational expenditure in 2023, the Foundation has opted to retain the donation received to cover future projects and anticipated operational costs.
- **Principal Sources of Funds:** The Foundation's primary source of funding in 2023 was a single donation of £5,000.

- **Expenditure:** As no expenditure was recorded, the entire donation amount of £5,000 is carried forward into the next financial year to support future activities.

Investment Policy: Not applicable; no investments were made in 2023.

Section F: Other Optional Information

There are no additional details to report.

Section G: Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Annual Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature: _____

Full Name: Ian Alexander Hudson

Position: Trustee

Date:

Gavin Menzies Research Foundation (GMRF)
Accounts for the Year Ending 31st December 2023

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)

Income Amount (£)

Donation 5,000

Total Income 5,000

Expenditure Amount (£)

No Expenditure Recorded 0

Total Expenditure 0

| Net Surplus / (Deficit) | 5,000 |

Balance Sheet as of 31st December 2023

Assets Amount (£)

Cash in Bank 5,000

Total Assets 5,000

Liabilities Amount (£)

No Liabilities Recorded 0

Total Liabilities 0

| Net Assets | 5,000 |

Notes to the Accounts

- **Donation Income:** The Foundation received a single donation of £5,000 in 2023, with no other income generated.
- **Expenditure:** No expenditures were made during this period.
- **Funds Carried Forward:** As no expenditure was recorded, the entire donation amount of £5,000 is carried forward into the next financial year to support future activities.

GAVIN MENZIES RESEARCH FOUNDATION UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1198599

Accounts



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From **12/04/2022** Period start date To **31/12/2022**
Period end date

Charity name: **Gavin Menzies Research Foundation UK**

Charity registration number: **1198599**

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The object of the CIO is to advance the education of the public by promoting research into the archaeology of pre-Columbian maritime exploration, including the study of archives, data and literature, and to disseminate to the public the findings of such research
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	There have been no activities during this period due to events outside of the Trustees control.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	Yes- I confirm that the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	N/A
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	N/A
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	N/A

Other		N/A
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Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
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.	Para 1.20	There have been no activities during this period due to events outside of the Trustees control.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	N/A
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	N/A
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	N/A
Other		N/A

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	There have been no activities during this period due to events outside of the Trustees control.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	There have been no activities during this period due to events outside of the Trustees control.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	0
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	There was a problem setting up the company bank account so no reserves were held.
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	0
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	N/A
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	N/A
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	N/A
Other		N/A

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g. unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	As per our constitution

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	N/A
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	N/A
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	N/A
Other		N/A

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Gavin Menzies Research Foundation UK
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1198599
Charity's principal address	40 Bowling Green Lane London EC1R 0NE

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	Marcella Menzies	Administrator	N/A	N/A
2	Ian Hudson	Secretary	N/A	N/A
3				
4				
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17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
Marcella Menzies		
Vanessa Menzies		
Samantha Murray		
Ian Hudson		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
N/A		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

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

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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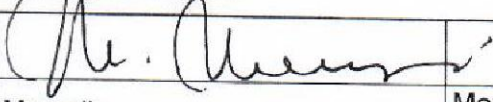
Other optional information

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Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Marcella	Menzies
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair - Administrator	
Date	31.10.23	