

BEDFORDSHIRE GREAT OUSE VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1198830

Details

Other names BedsGOVET

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2022-05-05

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

Contact

Address 58 Green End
Renhold
Bedford
MK41 0LJ

Phone 07768961783

Email info@bedsgovet.org

Website www.bedsgovet.org

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE GREAT OUSE VALLEY AND ENVIRONS IN BEDFORDSHIRE THROUGH A PROGRAM OF RIVER MONITORING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND BY THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPORTANCE OF RIVER QUALITY ON BIODIVERSITY, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ACTIVITY.

Activities: Furthering the objectives of the charity

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Bedford
- Central Bedfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-01	£33,017	£24,167	-	-
2024-11-30	£121,117	£93,404	-	-
2023-05-31	£500	£209	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alan Horn	Chair	2023-09-11
Anthony James Thomas Gilbert		2025-11-19
Henry Lafferty		2024-06-26
Inga Tanya Wells		2025-06-18
Michael Clifton		2023-09-11
William Armitage		2025-02-20

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Trustees Annual Report Year Ending 30 Nov 2025

Our Aims

- 1 Monitoring the water quality in the River Great Ouse through Bedfordshire.
- 2 Identifying the nature and sources of pollution in the river and informing the Environment Agency.
- 3 Working with and through the Environment Agency to ensure that our processes are legal and accurate.
- 4 Working with Bedfordshire Borough Council to ensure that the help we require in accessing testing sites are agreed.
- 5 Working with departments within Bedford Borough Council to identify potential sources of pollution from outfalls.
- 6 Increasing awareness of the problems of pollution in the river through education in schools and through local press.

Our testing programme will complete 3 full years in early 2026 and we have developed enough data to convince Bedford Borough Council and the Environment Agency that our work is of a very high standard and fully accepted. This work will continue into 2026 with the added investment in procuring or sharing monitors (“sondes”) that will give us 24/7 data on pollution “hot spots”.

We have successfully built a working relationship with the Geography and Environment Department of Birmingham University. We will be sharing equipment and data.

Funding

The Wells family continue to support us and we continue to seek funds to allow us to undertake increased testing as follows-

Dry Day testing

Water companies are not allowed to spill untreated sewage on dry days. They often do so and our programme will be to work with Birmingham University, using a series of mini sondes that will detect turbulence on dry days and inform us immediately thus allowing sampling.

Outfall Safari

We are fully aware that there are a number of sites where we record high levels of E.coli with no apparent source. We are undertaking a 2 year programme to identify outfalls and test the water at these points.

Extending the monthly testing programme

We will increase the sites to 20 thus covering the Great Ouse through the whole of Bedfordshire.

Volunteers

Our "citizen scientists" now number 40



Accounts for Period 30th November 2024 to 1st December 2025

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Starting Bank Balance	£28,004	RS Hydro Proteus Sondes support	£ 2,896
		E.Coli Testing laboratories	£ 4,675
DIL Motion	£ 1,375	Water Testing Chemicals	£ 2,788
National Highways	£ 8,275	Water Testing Equipment	£ 4,088
Charles Wells	£10,000	Admin & Website costs	£ 5,027
Bedford Rural Fund	£ 2,749	Insurance - Liability & Sonde insurance	£ 2,618
Wixamtree Charity	£10,000	Expenses	£ 2,075
Insurance credit	£ 618		
		TOTAL	£24,167
TOTAL	£33,017		
current bank balance 30/11	£36,854		
TOTAL INCOME =	£ 33,017	TOTAL EXPENDITURE =	£ 24,167

**Beginning Bank Balance £28,004 + Income £33,017 - Expenditure £24,167
= Current Bank Balance : £36,854**

ASSETS

In-Situ Sonde = £ 9,898
Kayak + Trailer = £ 2,159
Testing Equipment = £2,100

Independent Examiners Report : 2024-25

Bedfordshire Great Ouse Valley Environmental Trust



BedsGovet Audit2.pdf



BedsGovet Audit1.pdf

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Trustees Annual Report Year Ending 30 Nov 2024

Our Aims

The two key aims are-

- 1 Monitoring the water quality in the Great Ouse through Bedfordshire.
- 2 Increasing awareness of the problems of pollution in the river through education in schools.

Our testing programme will complete 2 full years in early 2025 and we have developed enough data to convince Bedford Borough Council and the Environment Agency that our work is of a very high standard and fully accepted. This work will continue into 2025 with the added investment in procuring monitors (“sondes”) that will give us 24/7 data on pollution “hot spots”.

In November 2024, we presented to a group of 50 school heads and one of the most influential schools (as it has a significant number of river users) wants to work with us.

Funding

Our reputation has led to grants from local and rural funds plus significant grants from Garfield Weston, National Highways and a local brewer, The Wells family funds all our laboratory testing costs. We are financially viable.

Volunteers

Our “Citizen Scientists” number around 30 and they all invariably turn out on testing mornings rain, hail or shine. We split the teams into 4 groups over the (current) 12 sites thus enabling us to

Achievements

We have now acquired 3 sondes and two are semi permanently in place up and down stream from a hot spot. We intend to use the data that they produce to illuminate doubt and argument about the potential sources of pollution and allow us and the Environment Agency to focus on the polluter(s).

Alan D Horn BSc BA(Hons) MBA
Chair



Accounts for Period 31st May 2023 to 30th November 2024

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Starting Bank Balance	£ 291	In-Situ Europe Sonde	£ 9,898
Start-Up Donations	£ 800	RS Hydro Proteus Sondes	£20,000
Bedford Borough Council	£11,302		£38,807
National Highways	£60,720	Totalling = £67,082	£ 8,275
Garfield Weston	£25,000	Simplex Labs / Glenfield Testing Labs	£ 4,800
Charles Wells	£14,000		£ 5,759
Bedford Rural Fund	£ 8,275	Totalling = £10,719	£ 160
Robinson Charity	£ 1,000	RS Hydro Installation costs	£ 2,133
Bank Interest	£ 20	Test Kits	£ 152
		Kayak	£ 549
(current bank balance 30/11	£28,004)	Kayak Trailer	£ 1,610
		Zurich Insurance	£ 314
		Sundry Expenses	£ 919
		Software Support	£ 28
TOTAL INCOME =	£121,117	TOTAL EXPENDITURE =	£ 93,404

Beginning Bank Balance £291 + Income £121,117 – Current Bank Balance £28,004
= Total expenditure over the year = £93,404

ASSETS

Proteus Sondes = £67,082
In-Situ Sonde = £ 9,898
Kayak + Trailer = £ 2,159

Ernest Services Limited
66 De Parys Avenue
Bedford
MK40 2TP

Tel: 01234 347094 07860587502
fitzgeraldmike@btconnect.com

5th March 2025

To Whom It May Concern

Re: The Income and Expenditure Accounts of BedsGovet, A Registered Charity (Reg.No 11198830)

Ernest Services Ltd , a registered HMRC Agent, has been asked by Trustees of the above charity to review/approve the charity's first set of accounts. This for its financial year ending 30th November, 2024.

Our Finance Director, Mike FitzGerald has agreed to the request – on a Pro Bono basis.

The charity is entitled to exemption from taxation and audit requirements

I can confirm that to the best of my knowledge, endeavours, and review the BedsGovet Charity has produced a true and fair "Income and Expenditure Account" for the period ending 30th November 2024. – see attached

Yours


Mike FitzGerald FCMA
Director, Ernest Services Limited

Registered in England and Wales 06699635

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CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date: 5th May 2022

Period end date: 4th May 2023

Charity name: Bedfordshire Great Ouse Valley Environmental Trust

Charity registration number: 1198830

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the Great Ouse Valley and environs in Bedfordshire through a programme of river monitoring and community engagement and by the advancement of the public in the understanding of the importance of river quality on biodiversity, economic and social activity.
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	Our primary objectives are: A: To monitor and support regeneration of the Great Ouse 1 Establish citizen science projects in partnership with academia, funding trusts and local organisations to assess water quality and its impact on river ecology. 2 Create data and evidence on river pollution and pollutions sources through citizen science. 3 Understand the impact of climate extremes such as flooding, heat waves and droughts on water quality and river ecology through citizen science. 4 Work with Upper and Bedford Ouse Catchment Partnership to: (a) Reduce pollution improve water quality. (b) Increase biodiversity of river and valley. (c) Increase resilience of river and valley to adverse impacts of heat, drought, and flood climate extremes. B: Educate and engage with local communities 1 Recruit and train volunteers to support citizen science projects and gather data on water quality, river ecology, wildlife, and the impact of climate extremes on the river and valley area as well as supporting the wider objectives of Bedsgovet.

		2 Publicise the results of citizen science projects by organising public talks and seminars as well as using social media. 3 Work with local landowners, farmers, and businesses to organise public outdoor 'river-based' events to promote the importance of the river Great Ouse, to include Ouse Valley Way walks and river canoe trails. 4 Create on-line promotional and educational material for use by schools and communities. C: Advance social and economic benefits of the river 1 Work towards achieving bathing water status for many stretches of the river Great Ouse. 2 Engage with local businesses and politicians in promoting the importance of a clean ecologically thriving river in achieving social, environmental and economic benefits.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	When taking any strategic decisions, trustees are required to follow Charity Commission guidance 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	Participation in citizen science project currently supports Key Objectives, A1 & A2 and is of direct public benefit.
Other		N/A

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	In the first year of operation we have: • Drafted key policies and good governance policies; financial and fiduciary. • Drafted fidelity, insurance and risk procedures • Communication channels have been established with the public through our www. Bedsgovet.org website and Facebook page • Grant funding proposal to Woodleigh Impact charity for citizen science project have been prepared and submitted. • Presentations made to other organisations including CPRE, BNHS and SLCC • Membership and active participation in Upper and Bedford Ouse Catchment partnership groups ○ volunteer work group ○ river restoration work group ○ Data and evidence work group • Training of 2 trustees as citizen river habitat surveyors and surveys conducted. • Attendance and display stands at public events: Panacea Museum, Mayoral hustings; • Liaison with relevant decision-making bodies; memberships, partnerships, academic partners

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set.	Para 1.41	Objectives A1, A4 and B1 were first year priorities and have been met. The remaining objectives are longer term.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set.	Para 1.41	In the first year, trustee donations enabled progress on governance and priority objectives A1, A4 and B1.
Investment performance against objectives.	Para 1.41	N/A
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period.	Para 1.21	Financial Report agreed at May AGM 2023 Bank account £291.31 in credit at End of financial Year
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held.	Para 1.22	Start-up donations have been made by trustees and supporters. These are held in the Beds GOVET bank account to meet legitimate expenditure. No other funds are currently held.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	0
Reasons for holding zero reserves.	Para 1.22	No reserves have yet been generated. The start-up donations have only enabled us to run at a minimal level of operation
Details of fund materially in deficit.	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern.	Para 1.23	Water quality and environment are very topical issues both locally and nationally. BedsGOVET is confident that it can continue as a going concern.

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	Grant funding fundraising and supporter donations will be a priority in our second year.
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	We face the same financial risks as other small start-up charities in attracting charitable funds and donations. Risks related to river citizen science projects are mitigated by our strong risk assessment policies and any public liability is covered via our insurance cover.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document. (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Trust deed accepted 5 th May 2022
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	New Trustees may be invited to apply by existing trustees or may apply directly to the charity in response to advertising. All trustee applicants are interviewed by trustees and following agreement of existing trustees they are provided with a formal offer together with an induction pack and formal acceptance letter.

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	• Legal duties of trustees • Constitution of Beds GOVET • Registration certificate • essential duties of trustees • Trustee declaration form • Disqualification reasons table • Gift aid declaration
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works.	Para 1.51	Currently the charities activities are organised and directly managed by the trustees. Beds Govet is formally recognised as a participating member of UBOCP (Upper Bedford Ouse Catchment Partnership). Technical input and support provided by Cranfield University
Relationship with any related parties.	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name.	Bedfordshire Great Ouse Valley Environmental Trust
Other name the charity uses.	Beds GOVET
Registered charity number.	1198830
Charity's principal address.	34 Silver Street Stevington Bedford MK43 7QP

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	Patricia Margaret Olney	Chair		
2	Gerald Charles Sansom	Trustee		
3	John Edward Strutt	Strategy Trustee		
4	Lionel Richard Lusby	Trustee	Resigned 8 th Nov 2022	
5	Dorothy Patricia Lennie	Secretary Trustee		
6	William Helmore	Trustee	Started 1 st Sept 2022	
7	Simon Staley Brown	Trustee	Resigned 26 th May 2022	
8				
9				
10				
11				

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

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

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.	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets.	

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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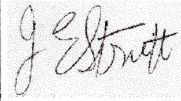
Other optional information

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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)	John Edward Strutt	Dorothy Patricia Lennie
Position (e.g. Secretary, Chair, etc)	Strategy Trustee	Secretary Trustee

Date

09/12/2023