

SUSSEX OUSE RESTORATION TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1198840

Details

Other names SORT

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2022-05-05

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

Contact

Address ℅ 4 THE SQUARE
High Street
Leigh
Tonbridge
TN11 8RJ

Phone 07771930546

Email info@sort.org.uk

Website www.sort.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE THE RESTORATION OF STRUCTURES (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO LOCKS, BRIDGES AND WEIRS) ON THE SUSSEX RIVER OUSE NAVIGATION (FROM HAMSEY NEAR LEWES, EAST SUSSEX TO UPPER RYELANDS BRIDGE NEAR BALCOMBE, WEST SUSSEX) WHERE THEIR RESTORATION WOULD BE A BENEFIT TO THE PUBLIC. TO PROMOTE THE PRESERVATION FROM FURTHER DETERIORATION OF STRUCTURES (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO LOCKS, BRIDGES AND WEIRS) ON THE NAVIGATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC. TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE HISTORY AND USE OF THE SUSSEX OUSE NAVIGATION AND OTHER CANALS AND WATERWAYS. TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE SUSSEX RIVER OUSE NAVIGATION BY IMPROVING BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY.

Activities: The restoration and preservation of appropriate structures on the Sussex River Ouse Navigation. Providing information and education to the general public using the navigation and adjacent footpaths. Maintaining and improving the bio-diversity of the navigation.

Classification

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

Geography

- East Sussex
- West Sussex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£2,026	£3,091	-	-
2023-12-31	£4,696	£2,608	-	-
2022-12-31	£0	£0	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
David Alexander Evans	Chair	2022-05-05
Brian Newbury		2022-05-05
Roy Sutton		2022-05-05

SUSSEX OUSE RESTORATION TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1198840

Accounts



2024 Annual Report

This report is for the second full year (2024) of the Sussex Ouse Restoration Trust (SORT) as a CIO and includes an operational plan for the next twelve months for members to consider and hopefully agree.

Administration Update

SORT continues to be a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), adhering to the requirements imposed by the Charity Commission and remains in a very strong position financially with over £40,000 of cash assets, most of it invested, which brings in significant funds from the dividends paid.

In view of the resolution which was passed at the last AGM to investigate the best way of closing down the charity, the Trustees have been conducting research and liaison on how to achieve a satisfactory and sensible end position. This includes keeping key information developed and held by SORT accessible to those who may have an interest. Consequently, we have been talking to the East Sussex Record Office (The Keep) about its hosting an archive of 'our material', which would be a mixture of paper and electronic records.

A first tranche of material will have been sent to The Keep between the issue of this report and the AGM to be held on 20 February 2025 in order for The Keep and SORT to develop further the best format for the archive.

At an appropriate point in the coming year, perhaps at AGM 2025 and when a firm closure date is more in mind, members will be asked to suggest and agree to where SORT's assets should be donated. Recipients will have to be charities with similar charitable purposes to SORT, agreed by the Charity Commission and accept how SORT requires how any donated funds may be used.

The Trustees have already noted the suggestion of two members. There is no compulsion for all of SORT's assets go to a single charity. Other members may have recommendations for other organisations, which should be emailed to me at chair@sort.org.uk. The Trustees will consider all suggestions, make sure they have the potential to comply with the requirements of the Charity Commission and then put the resulting potential recipient charities to a members' vote which would include the values of donations to be made.

Work Activities

Over the last year our work at Isfield Lock has been much the same as the year before in that it has been restored as far as currently possible so our recent work there continues to be to keep the area looking as neat as possible by mowing, strimming, etc. We have also refurbished further the 'bridge' over the lock. And we have pulled as much Himalayan Balsam as possible to try to restrict the growth of this invasive plant.

In June we hosted a corporate day out involving some local employees of Coca Cola. A group of them came along to spend the day with us at Isfield Lock on a team-building day to help a local charity. They learned about the navigation and the restoration of the lock and also tried throwing rescue ropes and life-rings into the lock's cut. Much more difficult to throw than people think. They also mowed and strimmed for us, refreshed the paintwork on the ground paddle posts and scaffold bridge and pulled a lot of Himalayan Balsam. They all enjoyed themselves in the sunshine and did SORT a favour at the same time.



In August we installed an interpretation board at Isfield Lock. We had spent a lot of time working out the best text and photos for the Interpretation Board to tell the story of the Sussex Ouse Navigation and restoration of Isfield Lock. There are also graphics showing the course of the navigation and how a lock works. Once the two sheets of graphics were received, we made a 'monolith' stand from sweet chestnut sleepers, which will silver nicely in due course, and fixed the sheets to the stand.



Later in August a splendid new oak gate replaced the existing dilapidated gate in the rustic fence at Isfield Lock. It was made by volunteers with a local charity called The Monday Group. They repair and build wooden stiles, gates, bridges, etc to help keep footpaths and bridleways open and usable. Some of The Monday Group volunteers are also members of SORT. The cost to SORT was for the green oak required for the gate and a small donation to the Monday Group's general funds.



Operational Plan for 2025

1. To continue the administrative work to close down SORT as a charity.
2. To work with The Keep to build their hosting of SORT's archive.
3. To dispose of SORT's ancient set of hand tools and other miscellaneous items of equipment.
4. To cut up and scrap SORT's badly rusting metal former sea-going container.

The costs involved in conducting the above activities will be low and there should also be some income generated from sales of some tools and equipment and the scrap value of the container. The Trustees will consider if it is appropriate to donate some of these physical items to other charitable restoration trusts, as will be happening with cash assets.

Late summer 2025 should see the end of SORT's physical presence on the Sussex Ouse. After this, sadly, the grass and other vegetation in and around Isfield Lock could prosper!

The original group of SORT volunteers back in the late 1990s decided to work for the benefit of the community and had lofty ambitions but, unfortunately, times, attitudes and the physical state of the Sussex Ouse Navigation have changed significantly over the last 25 or so years.

David Evans

Trustee and Chair



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Sussex Ouse Restoration Trust

No (if any)
1198840

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2024	To	Period end date 31/12/2024
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	34	-	-	34	234
Subscriptions Received	-	-	-	-	425
Gift Aid	-	-	-	-	-
Sundry income	28	-	-	28	2 202
Bank interest received	136	-	-	136	98
Dividends received	632	1 196	-	1 828	1 737
Profit/Loss on Investments	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	830	1 196	-	2 026	4 696
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	830	1 196	-	2 026	4 696
A3 Payments					
Restoration expenses	2 503	-	-	2 503	1 776
Insurance	278	-	-	278	630
Computer running costs	237	-	-	237	133
Subscriptions	73	-	-	73	69
Accountancy	-	-	-	-	-
Postage and stationery	-	-	-	-	-
Printing	-	-	-	-	-
Event expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Sundry expenses	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	3 091	-	-	3 091	2 608
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	3 091	-	-	3 091	2 608
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 2 261	1 196	-	- 1 065	2 088
A5 Transfers between funds	1 196	- 1 196	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	14 099	-	-	14 099	-
Cash funds this year end	13 034	-	-	13 034	-

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at Bank	13 034		-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	13 034	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	M&G Charifund	Long Term Fund	10 021	9 785
	M&G Charifund	Investment Fund	10 017	9 782
	M&G Charifund	Life Members	3 200	3 125
	M&G Charifund	Special Donations	7 395	7 225
		-	-	
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	<i>D A Evans</i>	David Evans	21/01/2025	
	<i>D R Beveridge</i>	David Beveridge	21/01/2025	

SUSSEX OUSE RESTORATION TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1198840

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the year 2023

From: 01 Jan 2023

To: 31 Dec 2023

Charity name: Sussex Ouse Restoration Trust

Charity registration number: 1198840

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The restoration and preservation of appropriate structures on the Sussex River Ouse Navigation.• Providing information and education to the general public using the navigation and adjacent footpaths.• Maintaining and improving the bio-diversity of the navigation.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintenance work on Isfield Lock and its immediate surrounding area.• Informing walkers on the Sussex Ouse Valley Way about the navigation, restoration work and canals in general.• Removing invasive plant species from the lock's area.• Sale of redundant assets
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	We did.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	Not applicable.
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	Not applicable.
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	Over 520 hours were worked by volunteers (including trustees) on restoration and administration duties.
Other		Not applicable.

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	The continued upkeep of the restored Isfield Lock and its adjacent area to provide the passing general public with information on the industrial history, archaeology and importance of the Sussex Ouse Navigation; especially in the 19th Century when its commercial significance was at its height.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	Not applicable.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	Not applicable.
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	Not applicable.
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	Operating income exceeded expense largely due to the sale of redundant assets
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	We hold cash reserves to fund future projects. Due to a shortfall in suitable projects, these reserves continue to be high in comparison with our current expenditure levels. We hold additional reserves in an investment fund to provide us with income for our current expenses. These are derived from life membership subscriptions and a single unrestricted bequest.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	Cash in the bank = £14,099 Unrestricted Investment's current value = £10,083
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	Not applicable.
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	Not applicable.

Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	1) Lack of alternative worksites meeting SORT's charitable objectives. 2) Loss of our skilled but ageing volunteer workforce have caused the Trustees to plan to wind up the Charity in an orderly way.
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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	SORT is entirely funded from members' subscriptions and donations.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	We invest in a reputable Charity Specific Investment Fund to provide income to fulfil restoration activities.
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	Lack of volunteers.
Other		

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 (Association)
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	Not applicable in the year. The current trustees were directors of the trust as a limited company prior to its becoming a CIO. Future trustees will be appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

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	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Sussex Ouse Restoration Trust
Other name the charity uses	SORT
Registered charity number	1198840
Charity's principal address	c/o 4 The Square, High Street, Leigh, Tonbridge, TN11 8RJ.

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	David Evans	Chair		
2	David Beveridge	Treasurer		
3	Roy Sutton			
4	Brain Newbury		Until 03 Oct 2023	

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

Director name		
Not applicable.		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
Not applicable.		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	Not applicable.
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

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

--

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)

David Evans

David Beveridge

Full name(s)

David Alexander Evans

David R Beveridge

Position
(eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair

Treasurer

Date

02 October 2024



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Sussex Ouse Restoration Trust

No (if any)
1198840

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2023	To	Period end date 31/12/2023
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	234	-	-	234	120
Subscriptions Received	425	-	-	425	568
Gift Aid	-	-	-	-	3,003
Sundry income	2,202	-	-	2,202	321
Bank interest received	98	-	-	98	17
Dividends received	601	1,136	-	1,737	-
Profit/Loss on Investments	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	3,560	1,136	-	4,696	4,029
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	3,560	1,136	-	4,696	4,029
A3 Payments					
Restoration expenses	1,776	-	-	1,776	355
Insurance	630	-	-	630	367
Computer running costs	133	-	-	133	140
Subscriptions	69	-	-	69	54
Accountancy	-	-	-	-	-
Postage and stationery	-	-	-	-	14
Printing	-	-	-	-	-
Event expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Sundry expenses	-	-	-	-	13
Sub total	2,608	-	-	2,608	943
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Long Term Fund	-	10,021	-	10,021	-
Restoration Fund	-	10,017	-	10,017	-
Life Members	3,200	-	-	3,200	-
Special Donations	7,395	-	-	7,395	-
Sub total	10,595	20,038	-	30,633	-
Total payments	13,203	20,038	-	33,241	943
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 9,643	- 18,902	-	- 28,545	3,086
A5 Transfers between funds	1,136	- 1,136	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	22,606	20,038	-	42,644	-
Cash funds this year end	14,099	-	-	14,099	42,464

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at Bank	14,099		-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	14,099	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	M&G Charifund	Long Term Fund	10,021	9,536
	M&G Charifund	Investment Fund	10,017	9,532
	M&G Charifund	Life Members	3,200	3,045
	M&G Charifund	Special Donations	7,395	7,038
		-	-	
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	D Beveridge	David Beveridge	26-Sep-24	
	D Evans	David Evans	26-Sep-24	

SUSSEX OUSE RESTORATION TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1198840

Accounts



The Sussex Ouse Restoration Trust is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation – 1198840.

Report of the Trustees for 05 May 2022 to 31 December 2022

There were no activities conducted, income received or monies spent by the Sussex Ouse Restoration Trust in this first period.

The transfer of assets and responsibilities from the Sussex Ouse Restoration Trust Ltd (04141937) occurred in the following financial / reporting year (2023), after which the Sussex Ouse Restoration Trust Ltd was dissolved.

For the trustees

David Evans

Trustee and Chairman

16 October 2023

Charitable Incorporated Organisation Number 1198840

THE SUSSEX OUSE RESTORATION TRUST

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022



THE SUSSEX OUSE RESTORATION TRUST

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

INFORMATION

Trustees Mr R Sutton
Mr D A Evans
Mr D R Beveridge
Mr B Newbury

Secretary Mrs H C Lintott

Charity number 1198840

Business address 4, The Square,
High Street,
Leigh,
Kent
TN11 8RJ

Bankers Lloyds Bank plc
Victoria Branch
98 Victoria Street,
London
SW1 5JL

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022
	£
Turnover	0
Other income	0
Depreciation and other amounts written off assets	0
Other charges	0
(Loss)/profit	<u>0</u>

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	£	£
Fixed assets		0
Current assets	39,587	
Prepayments and accrued income	-39,587	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>0</u>	
Net current assets		<u>0</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>0</u>
Net assets		<u>0</u>
Capital and reserves		<u>0</u>

The funds of the trust

	£
Restricted Funds	0
Designated Funds	0
Other Unrestricted Funds	0
	<u>0</u>

THE SUSSEX OUSE RESTORATION TRUST

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1 Employees

	2022
Employees	-

Although registered in May 2022, this entity did not operate during 2022. From 1st January 2023, this entity will supersede SORT Ltd, Company Registration Number 04141937 (England and Wales). All activities and assets will be transferred at that point.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting for Charities – Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP2005) and applicable UK Accounting Standards.

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 13 October 2023 and are signed on its behalf by:

David Evans
.....

Mr D A Evans
Trustee and Chairman

David Beveridge
.....

Mr D R Beveridge
Trustee and Treasurer

Charity Number 1198840