

Berkshire Lowland Search and Rescue

Trustees Annual Report 2025

This is the annual report from the Trustees of Berkshire Lowland Search and Rescue for 2025.

Berkshire Lowland Search and Rescue is a group of approximately 80 volunteers who are trained to be able to support Thames Valley Police (TVP) in searching for high risk, vulnerable missing people who have been reported to the police. This service is available free of charge to the police, and is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Whilst most of our members are operational searchers, as identified below some of our volunteers conduct important support roles. In addition to supporting TVP the team also provide support to Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFPS) in water rescue and providing drone capability at the scene of major incidents. In addition to these services the team are also able to provide support to Local Authorities and other statutory bodies such as the NHS.

The team currently have 99 members and in 2025 attended 43 incidents, and were involved in 145 events. Of these incidents there were 30 call outs.

Since becoming a CIO, the Trustees have ensured that the team operates on a secure bedrock of policies and practices in order to carry out their responsibilities. This is still work in progress as the Trustees continue to be involved with providing strategic oversight to the running of the team. The Trustees can report that for the financial year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 the team is in a firm financial position with the team employing recognised practices to manage the team finances and to identify any challenges to this position.

Income for the team came from a variety of sources during 2025. These funding streams consist of grants, donations and money raised for services provided by the team such as medical and stewarding services. The majority of the money raised is spent on the operational costs of running the team. Extra income is spent on replacing, or enhancing existing equipment used by the team such as a mega-sled used for flood rescue and better equipped drones.

The most significant objective for the Trustees during this year has been recruitment to the Leadership Team. The Trustees are responsible for the process of identifying, and nominating to the membership suitable individuals to take up lead roles on the Leadership Team (LT), which manages the day-to-day operational running of the team. Early in the year at a Strategy Day it was identified that the vacancies on the LT were hampering the team's ability to carry out basic functions. Trustees visited several Volunteer Fairs and were able to recruit suitable volunteers to fill the identified roles. Importantly these individuals were recruited for their professional knowledge and experience, and not as operational searchers. This allowed the Trustees to make strategic appointments to roles such as Business Support,

PR and Marketing, Membership (HR) and a Project Officer. As a result, there are now no vacancies on the LT and this is already producing results.

Another significant objective for the Trustees has been progressing a new base for the team to operate from. The team has a fleet of vehicles and trailers, along with associated equipment which all requires secure storage. For the last few years, the team have been using premises owned by a Local Authority. We have now been informed that we need to move on and a new base identified. To give this project the urgency it requires a Trustee is now leading the search assisted by the Project Officer. They regularly report to the Trustees and LT regarding progress. Financially the team have significant reserves built up to offset major expenses related to a new base. This project is now making progress and the team should be housed in a new base later in 2026.

Berkshire Lowland Search & Rescue (BLSAR)

Toutley Depot, Forest Road, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 5QP

treasurer@BerkshireRescue.org.uk www.BerkshireRescue.org.uk Tel: 0300 321 0384



ACCOUNTS

FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD

1 APRIL 2024 – 31 MARCH 2025

Charity No: 1202260

Section A Receipts and payments (12 months)

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	12 month ended 31/03/2024 to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Training Courses and Event Services	14,800	-	-	14,800	8,243
Grants and Donations	33,321	1,000	-	34,321	29,924
Merchandise and Equipment Sales	1,083	-	-	1,083	671
Team reimbursements	2,541	-	-	2,541	1,013
Merger of Charities	-	-	-	-	132,341
Other income	2,059	-	-	2,059	826
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	53,804	1,000	-	54,804	173,017
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	53,804	1,000	-	54,804	173,017
A3 Payments					
Departmental Operations except Fundraising	14,974	5,263	-	20,237	18,125
Fleet upkeep & fuel	2,712	-	-	2,712	3,239
Training	9,722	-	-	9,722	3,455
Insurance & Affiliation	8,539	-	-	8,539	6,635
HQ Costs	53	-	-	53	-
Misc/Admin	1,602	-	-	1,602	140
Cost of Courses and Event Services	-	-	-	-	40
Fundraising Costs	75	-	-	75	109
Sub total	37,677	5,263	-	42,939	31,743
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	4,858
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	4,858
Total payments	37,677	5,263	-	42,939	36,601
Net of receipts /(payments)	16,127	- 4,263	-	11,864	136,416
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	131,008	5,408	-	136,416	
Cash funds this year end	147,135	1,145	-	148,280	136,416



Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the 12m period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current Accounts	13,918	1,146	-
	Reserve Accounts	132,202		
	Paypal	56		
	Cash	959	-	
	Total cash funds	147,135	1,146	-
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	Unclaimed VAT rebate	288		-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	N/A		-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Land SAR Equipment	Unrestricted		2,697
	Medical Equipment eg defibrillators	Unrestricted		399
	Water SAR Equipment	Unrestricted		479
	Sonar - Humminbird	42 - Morrisons Foundation		1,292
	Water Rescue Vehicle and boat trailer	DfT Maritime Fund 2019		1,173
	Incident Control Unit	Unrestricted		23,264
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)

*The restricted funds relate to:

	Opening Balance	Received	Spent	Closing Balance
3: Nurture Holdings - Equipment	£ 2,408.36	£ -	£ 1,262.78	£ 1,145.58
4: Berkshire Community Foundation - Defibs	£ 3,000.00	£ -	£ 3,000.00	£ -
5: Baylis Trust		£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00	£ -
				£ -
Total	£ 5,408.36	£ 1,000.00	£ 5,262.78	£ 1,145.58

Signed by the treasurer and one trustee on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date Approved
	Nick McLean	30/01/26
	Samantha Wild	30/01/26



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Berkshire Lowland Search and Rescue CIO

On accounts for the year
ended

31 March 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1202260

Set out on pages

1 – 4

(number which includes the page numbers of any notes)

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 CIO, 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. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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:

M Taylor

Date:

30/1/26

Name:

M Taylor

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

ACCA

Address:

1 CARNEGIE RD, NEWBURY
BERKS RG14 5DJ

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

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