



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01 April 2024 To 31 March 2025

Charity name: WARSHIP HAZARDOUS PROJECT CIO

Charity registration number: 1203039

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The object of the Warship <i>Hazardous Prize</i> CIO is to provide an incorporated charity, with legal identity, to support:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The preservation and protection for the public benefit of the historic wreck site of Warship <i>Hazardous Prize</i> (1706) and its archaeological heritage in Bracklesham Bay, West Sussex and conservation, storage, research, analysis, curation and display of artefacts recovered from the wreck site. 2. To advance education for the public benefit in the historical and archaeological significance of the historic wreck site of Warship <i>Hazardous Prize</i> (1706) in Bracklesham Bay, West Sussex and the artefacts recovered from the site and in the development of techniques for investigation, recording and monitoring underwater archaeological sites, especially by volunteer groups.
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	<p>Following establishment of the CIO as a legal entity and registered CIO in 2023, we have continued to undertake various activities to promote the CIO's objectives as described above. In particular:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Support archaeological work on the wreck of Warship <i>Hazardous</i> including fieldwork, archive and administration (2) Promote and facilitate public access to the archaeological site (access is controlled under the Protection of Wrecks Act (1973)) (3) Project outreach and dissemination about the wreck and archaeological project for public benefit. (4) Continued liaison with Historic England and the UK Receiver of Wreck on matters relating to the wreck site and its archive. (5) Continue liaison with, and representation on, various bodies working to raise awareness of maritime archaeology, and develop skills in the discipline.

		(6) Continue to seek a future permanent home for the project archive and artefacts.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	We 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 – The CIO does not issue grants. Like most small charities, the CIO is finding it extremely challenging to secure any external funding. Presently its activities are largely supported by its volunteers, plus a small amount of funds inherited from the Warship Hazardous Project Group.
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	n/a
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	The CIO has no staff, only volunteer Trustees who support the work of the other volunteers who assist us in the archaeological work.
Other		

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	<p>(1) Support archaeological work on the wreck of Warship <i>Hazardous</i> including fieldwork, archive and administration</p> <p>The archaeological activity of the Warship <i>Hazardous</i> Project Group, which previously was a separate entity comprising a non-incorporated group of individuals, but which possessed no legal identity, has now been incorporated into the CIO to avoid any confusion and to allow all activity to be undertaken under the auspices of the CIO as a body with legal identity. As part of the incorporation, all funds held by the Warship <i>Hazardous</i> Project Group have been transferred to the CIO and so are reported in this and future CIO annual returns. This incorporation also overcomes some legal hurdles concerning the project archives and greatly facilitates prevention of dispersal of the project archive and artefacts, to preserve them for public benefit.</p> <p>A successful fieldwork season was undertaken on the wreck site (which lies underwater in 6-9m in Bracklesham Bay, West Sussex). Over the winter of 2023-2024, violent stormy conditions resulted in a structural collapse within the main site (where the ship ended up and the remains of the timber hull are found). One of the large iron cannon from the gundeck, which previously was located about 1m off the seabed and was held in place by iron corrosion products, broke away and fell into the hull. In doing so, it gave access to the rear of the surviving gundeck, which previously had been inaccessible. This allowed us to extend the forward gundeck excavation (2023) further aft. We did not complete the excavation in 2024, but progress was recorded by periodic photography, video and photogrammetry before backfilling the excavation with gravel bags to protect the timbers over winter 2024-2025. In total, 12 diving days were undertaken, representing 81 hours of underwater work. 24 artefacts were recovered during the season, across the various archaeological areas. These included sounding weights, brass dividers fittings and buckles, pewter spoons, leather, ceramics and cordage. All are undergoing passive conservation.</p> <p>A new wet store was constructed to securely hold artefacts undergoing passive conservation and artefacts transferred into it.</p> <p>The Warship Hazardous Project Group had previously held grant funding from Historic England for an agreed agenda of fieldwork. A formal closing report for this project was written by the CIO, submitted to Historic England and accepted, resulting in payment of the final instalment of grant funding.</p> <p>A new Project Design for future fieldwork was written, submitted to Historic England and accepted, resulting in re-issue of excavation permissions for the wreck site.</p> <p>The CIO continues to analyse, collate consolidate and archive the historical records of work on the designated wreck site of Warship <i>Hazardous</i>. In particular, documentation on all artefacts recovered from the site has been curated, consolidated and cross referenced to the photograph collection.</p>

(2) Promote and facilitate public access to the archaeological site

Under good conditions, the archaeological site of Warship *Hazardous* provides an excellent training site for diving archaeology students and interested divers. A group of students from the University of Southampton were hosted on the site for 2 days, providing them with their first sea dives, first boat dives and first experience of a genuine underwater archaeological site. A new physical diver trail around the site was trialled with the students and will be further developed in 2025. Repeated attempts to run additional visits for groups of sports divers in association with The Nautical Archaeology Society's "Protected Wreck Days" initiative (<https://www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org/protected-wreck-days>) were thwarted by weather conditions.

(3) Continue project outreach and dissemination about the wreck and archaeological project for public benefit.

Project outreach and dissemination was undertaken in a variety of ways including:

- project web site (www.hazardousproject.info) which was updated and moved to a new hosting service under the CIO's direct control.
- social media (especially a series of "dig diaries" on youtube (<https://www.youtube.com/@pascoearchaeology1665/featured>)).
- a talk and artefact handling session for Chichester and District Archaeological Society.
- annual licensee report to Historic England and annual CIO report to the Charity Commission.

(4) Continue liaison with Historic England and the Receiver of Wreck on matters relating to the wreck site and its archive.

We have undertaken regular liaison with Historic England and the UK's Receiver of Wreck, to progress resolution of outstanding legal matters concerning the project archive that resulted from the Warship Hazardous Project having no formal legal identity.

(5) Continue liaison with, and representation on, various bodies working to raise awareness of, and develop skills in, maritime archaeology.

The CIO, through its chair, continues to represent the wider community who work on the UK's wreck heritage through membership of the committee and working groups of the Nautical Archaeology Society (<https://www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org/>), and the Protected Wreck Association (<https://protectedwrecks.org.uk/>), where we are able, through our experience on the designated wreck site, to offer information and guidance to those working on other heritage wreck sites.

The CIO, through its chair, continues to act as a representative of the Protected Wreck Association on the UK's Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee (<https://jnapc.org/>) where it is able,

		<p>through its experience on the designated wreck site, to assist the Committee in its deliberation, policy making, consultation responses and lobbying efforts.</p> <p>(6) Continue to seek a future permanent home for the project archive.</p> <p>The CIO continues to explore options for a future permanent home for the entire project archive (documents and artefacts) in an accredited museum which would facilitate access for research and display. Dispersal of the archive is proscribed by the Annex to the UNESCO Convention on Underwater Cultural Heritage, which the UK Government follows, and whilst the CIO, as a legal entity, can hold title to the artefacts and hold them in trust to prevent dispersal, it is not in a realistic position to establish and run an accredited museum of its own.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	<p>With the caveats that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the CIO's fieldwork aims and objectives are dependent on weather conditions being benign enough to allow safe diving from small boats, and underwater conditions being good enough to undertake archaeological work to the highest standards, (2) site changes resulting from natural forces mean that responsive-mode fieldwork often takes priority over preplanned activities, <p>we believe that we have made positive progress on many fronts. We have continued site fieldwork, project outreach and dissemination and work on the artefacts and archive and we have successfully completed a Historic England-funded project and developed an ambitious Project Design for the next decade that Historic England has agreed to.</p> <p>Where progress is slower than we would wish is in those areas where we are dependent on the actions of other agencies; in particular, in re-uniting the project artefacts as a complete assemblage, acquiring their title in trust for the public benefit and securing a permanent home for them in an accredited museum.</p>
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	<p>No specific formal fundraising activities were planned or undertaken in the reporting period. The new Project Design that has been accepted by Historic England for ongoing research and management of the archaeological site contains some work</p>

		packages which will require external funding once they are started.
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	n/a, none undertaken
Other: Relationship between CIO and WHPG		During its first reporting period (2023-2024), the CIO maintained a separate identity, distinct from the group of volunteers who formed the Warship Hazardous Project Group (WHPG). From the start of the current reporting period, it was mutually-agreed to incorporate the WHPG and its activities into the CIO and to transfer the WHPG's funds and bank account to the CIO. Those funds comprised a cash float which is used to pay for boat fuel, unrestricted funds in the bank account and restricted funds in the bank account (being the remainder of Historic England grant funding for project HE7210MAIN awarded to WHPG). Project HE7210MAIN was formally closed in February 2025, when the remaining restricted funds became unrestricted, though our intention is to still use them to finance those aims of project HE7210MAIN which remain to be completed.

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>No specific formal fundraising activities were planned or undertaken in the reporting period. However, during the reporting period, we received the final (formal grant closure) payment from Historic England for project HE7210MAIN and a donation from Chichester and District Archaeology Society for a talk given. We also received regular small voluntary donations from members of the project team specifically to cover boat fuel costs. These kept the CIO in a healthy financial position with the funds needed to continue its work.</p> <p>Whilst some components of the work contained in our new Project Design agreed with Historic England will require funding at some future stage, we are not yet at that stage.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Currently the CIO has no formal reserves policy or formal reserve level.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	No formal reserves are set / held
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	As a small, volunteer-run CIO with no premises or paid staff, it is not deemed necessary to hold a reserve - our funds exist to support our ongoing work.
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A - the CIO is run by volunteers, and its initial aims and objectives are not inherently financial in nature, although the CIO's constitution does allow for such activity when relevant.
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	The principal risk to the CIO remains the backlog of uncleared droits in the Receiver of Wreck's office (over a decade), which is outside of our control and if the Receiver declines to transfer title to artefacts to the CIO (though such eventuality is deemed unlikely as it would be in breach of salvage law under the Merchant Shipping Act).

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	<p>N/A at this point in time, although the CIO's constitution allows for such activity when relevant.</p> <p>Members of the project team are all unpaid volunteers who give regular, small donations to the CIO to cover boat fuel costs (break-even level).</p> <p>The CIO largely benefits from "in kind contributions" by members of the volunteer project team, who donate time and pay their own travel and diving costs (personal equipment, equipment servicing, air fills</p>
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		<p>etc.). Additionally, the CIO's chair owns and maintains a rigid inflatable boat which is used by the diving team, free of charge, (annual value to the project of marina fees, insurance, servicing etc. are circa £4,800).</p> <p>When the new Project Design agreed with Historic England moves to objectives that require grant funding to support costs, the CIO will become responsible for fund raising to support this work. The principal source of funding for this will be through grants from heritage agencies and other sympathetic funders.</p>
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	N/A - it is unlikely that the CIO would ever hold sufficient funds to require an investment policy.
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	<p>The CIO's aims and objectives are not inherently financial in nature, although its constitution does allow for financial activities like fundraising activity when relevant.</p> <p>The chief risks to the CIO are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) cutbacks in government and other funding to support heritage through grants. This will restrict the CIO's ability to record and analyse the wreck site for public benefit before nature destroys it. (2) if title to the artefact collection is not ultimately vested in the CIO. Should that situation arise, a primary objective of the CIO, namely, to be a legal entity to secure the future of the site archive and artefact collection for public benefit will cease, and the CIO will have a reduced function.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution approved by The Charity Commission
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Foundation model 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	<p>For specific legal reasons described below, trustee selection for the CIO does not follow conventional practice.</p> <p>The Warship <i>Hazardous</i> Project COI was established specifically to support the team of volunteers who perform underwater archaeological work and historical research into the wreck of Warship <i>Hazardous Prize</i> (1706). In particular, the CIO is a legally-recognised entity with the legal authority to own, hold, manage, promote, disseminate and secure the future of the project archive for public benefit.</p> <p>The wreck site is designated under the Protection of Wrecks Act (1973) (PoWA) and all work on the site is undertaken by volunteers under licence from the Secretary of State at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, managed through Historic England. The PoWA licence (annually renewed) appoints a principal licensee for the wreck site and Historic England nominates an archaeological advisor to oversee the project work.</p> <p>In order to fulfil legal obligations under the PoWA, the CIO constitution specifies that both of the following shall, at all times, be appointed as trustees, provided that they are otherwise eligible to be charity trustees and not prohibited by law from being so:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the person appointed under the PoWA (1973) or any successor legislation as the Principal Licensee of the Warship <i>Hazardous</i> Protected Wreck Site (as CIO Chair). the person appointed under the PoWA (1973) or any successor legislation as the Nominated Archaeological Advisor for the Warship <i>Hazardous</i> Protected Wreck Site (as CIO Vice Chair). <p>On retiring from these roles, the persons concerned shall be required to stand down as charity trustees but are free to stand again as general trustees and be appointed</p>

		by the successor Principal Licensee and Nominated Archaeological Advisor and other trustees.
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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	WARSHIP HAZARDOUS PROJECT CIO
Other name the charity uses	n/a
Registered charity number	1203039
Charity's principal address	Warship Hazardous Project CIO c/o Dr David Johnston, 15 Pointout Close, Southampton, SO16 7LS.

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	Dr David Johnston	Chair		
2	Dr Daniel Pascoe	Vice Chair		
3	Mr Iain Grant	Trustee		
4				
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17				
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20				

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	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

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

No staff

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

N/A

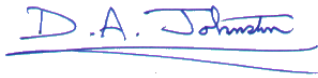
Other optional information

N/A

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)	Dr David A Johnston	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	28/12/2025	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

WARSHIP HAZARDOUS PROJECT CIO

1203039

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

4/1/2024


To

3/31/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Banked funds from Warship Hazardous Project Group	8,228	-	-	8,228	-
Cash funds from Warship Hazardous Project Group	325	-	-	325	-
Donation from Chichester and District Archaeological Society (for talk provided)	50	-	-	50	-
Closing payment from Historic England for grant HE7210MAIN	500	-	-	500	-
Donations from team to cover boat fuel	480	-	-	480	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	9,583	-	-	9,583	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	9,583	-	-	9,583	-
A3 Payments					
boat fuel	469	-	-	469	-
website fees	293	-	-	293	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	762	-	-	762	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	762	-	-	762	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	8,821	-	-	8,821	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	8,821	-	-	8,821	-

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	Bank Account	8,486	-	-
	Cash	336	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	8,822	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
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
			Dr David A Johnston	12/28/2025