

BRIARS FIELD FOREST SCHOOL AND MINDFULNESS FOR SEN

England & Wales · Charity number 1205569

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2023-11-03

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

Contact

Address Briars Field
Gracious Pond Road
Chobham
Woking
GU24 8HJ

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Website <https://www.briarsfield.com>

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE IN LIFE AND RELIEVE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS OR DISABILITIES, THROUGH:(A) THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL AND LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES PROVIDED IN THE INTEREST OF SOCIAL WELFARE, DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE; AND(B) THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT THROUGH THE PROVISION OF A FOREST SCHOOL TO ENABLE ACCESS TO INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGH QUALITY AND VARIED EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES IN THE NATURAL WORLD.

Activities: Briars Field is a Forest School Mindfulness and Well-Being facility for SEN children and young people set in 2 acres in Chobham, Surrey. We offer a fully safe area for outdoor and forest activities plus pony therapy. The need we fill is for moderate and severely disabled young people and those with mental health diagnosis who often cannot access outdoor spaces. Over 200 children a year attend.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Disability
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Surrey

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£49,919	£26,439	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alexandra Helena Turner	Chair	2023-04-01
Bruce Wilson Turner		2023-04-01
Caroline Pascale Shrubbs		2023-04-01
Laura Frances Strutt		2023-04-01

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	03	11	2023		31	03	2025

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Briars Field forest School and mindfulness for SEN
Other names charity is known by	N/A

Registered charity number (if any)	1205569
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Charity's principal address	Eight Grindstone Handle Corner	
	Knaphill, Woking	
	Surrey	
	Postcode	GU21 2SD

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	Alexandra Turner	Chair		
2	Bruce Turner			
3	Caroline Shrubbs	Treasurer		
4	Laura Strutt	Secretary		
5	Sally Wilkinson Pinto			
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Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
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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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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	<p>Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.</p> <p>In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.</p>

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

<p>As we work with vulnerable children and young people our safeguarding policy is integral to our operation.</p> <p>We have comprehensive risk Benefit Assessment procedures in place. We ask attending organisations to complete their own risk assessments and sign our memorandum of understanding</p>
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Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The objects of the CIO are:

To advance in life and relieve needs of children and young people with special education needs or disabilities, through:

the provision of recreational and leisure time activities provided in the interest of social welfare, designed to improve their conditions of life; and

the advancement of education for public benefit through the provision of a forest school to enable access to increased opportunities for high quality and varied educational experiences in the natural world.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Briars Field Ethos is for young people with SEN needs to feel free to find joy in new experiences in nature. We offer children and young people aged between 2 and 21 years, that either have a diagnosis of SEN or are in the process of receiving one, the opportunity to experience time to just 'be' in nature, experience outdoor and forest school activities and to spend time in a safe outdoor space.

We try to offer the use of the field free so all children and young people have the opportunity to attend regardless of financial situation.

to physical and mental health by offering access to a safe rural setting, equipped with Forest School and Mindfulness facilities and activities that suit our SEN client group. Our goal is to allow these children and young people the opportunity to relax, feel brave, experience the outdoors, feel free and just be in nature.

Our attendees can be on the autistic spectrum, have genetic disorders, a range of physical disabilities or teenagers with social anxiety, often with underlying diagnosis of ASD and PDA.

This client group are often restricted when out in public by embarrassed or cautious parents so the activities in the field are set up so they can get wet, muddy, be free to run, jump, climb, swing, read or just hide in the den.

Severe anxiety is often one of the main symptoms of SEN conditions and therefore familiarity within an environment plays a huge part in how people with these conditions participate. Feeling safe in the environment is essential which we achieve by ensuring the setup is always the same.

The changes a visit to Briars Field makes to a child or young person is clearly beneficial witnessed by smiles and happy behaviour.

Briars Field caters for all children and young people with a disability or SEND diagnosis in Surrey, or any child prepared to or able to travel to us. We have over 200 children and young people each year. They come in groups during school holidays from respite providers LinkAble and White Lodge. Families come direct via a school or social service referral. Surrey Care Trust wellbeing mentoring brings young people with social anxiety. In term time we have classes from local special needs schools, from Surrey A2E (access to education), Pond Meadow School, Woking High School, Salesians School Chertsey and families that have children not attending school.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

We started out with all sessions are staffed by our wonderful trustees and volunteers. Their contribution of ideas, commitment, expertise and enthusiasm make Briars Field the success it is. Following its success we have started to work alongside freelancers to deliver sessions.

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Annual report November 2023 to March 2025

Christmas 2023 saw us offering 4 days of sessions for both White Lodge and Link Able children. Extra sparkles all over the field and fabulous Santa to give away gifts. Much enjoyed by all, volunteers and 50 children and young people. Thanks to Children With Special Needs Foundation Chobham who donated towards our extra sparkles and lights!

February half term 2024

We opened to a rather soggy wet February half term but managed to run all planned days. Two days LinkAble with large groups of both younger children and teens. Our 1:1 families and a group from White Lodge. Lucky all of us as the actual rain held off and the children and young people enjoyed much squelching in the mud!

February to March Term time saw us welcome Access 2 Education (A2E) weekly sessions for the first time. We saw huge progress in people who attended. Despite the wind, rain and floods they never missed a session.

Pond Meadow School, Bluebells Class, attended every Thursday and were so brave in the cold and wet beaming and playing making the most of the space to run and play. Lovely to see them explore independently. From Summer Term Pond Meadow School will send two key stage 1 classes weekly.

We now have 3 regular 1:1 families that attend weekly and all are making great progress

Easter Holidays April 2024

We held 15 sessions over 10 days, approximately 40 children each week so we are proud of our growing popularity. LinkAble brought large groups of 16 or more and with their brilliant young staff ensured there was a huge outdoor party atmosphere. Surrey Care Trust teens enjoyed walking the ponies despite the rain and White Lodge brought smaller groups who did some lovely crafts and enjoyed the campfires. We were so lucky, despite the mud underfoot, we stayed dry and enjoyed the intermittent sunshine.

Summer Sunshine Finally in 2024!

During Summer term time we were able to utilise the Screwfix grant and install the pony area all weather surface, fence and new equipment play equipment. Pond Meadow attended two sessions a

week, A2E joined us for Fridays. White Lodge Nursery attended for sessions, lovely to welcome them in the good weather.

Summer holidays were busy with Link Able doing double sessions twice a week bringing us 15 children and young people in each group. White Lodge came once a week and Surrey Care Trust twice a week, plus family 1 to 1s. Approximately 70 children attended each week in the sunshine.

Autumn Term September 2024

In September 2024 we opened 3 days a week in term time with a variety of 1:1 families, Pond Meadow School. A2E continued using us as a hub on weekly, with one returning child and one new one. On hearing we were the recipient of a lottery grant we felt able to offer Pond Meadow additional days/time slots so they added an additional session for their key stage 2 children. We had on average 19 children a week

Autumn Half term 2024

We welcome a mixed kids and teens group from LinkAble approx 18 children and young people attended for one longer session. Several 1:1 families and a group of teens from Surrey Care Trust Wellbeing mentoring.

Autumn Term November and December 2024

We opened for the first time throughout the winter!
We were delighted that Pond Meadow school started sending a third class a week. This was an additional 8 key stage 2 children attend weekly. It has been quite wonderful watching the children from Key stage 2 learn to be independent in our environment. They now run off the bus to their favourite activity, water play, mud kitchen, hammocks, slackline (some very impressive balancing- its hard!), ponies or tractors and spend their time happily despite some very challenging weather conditions. The mud and ice were a particularly enjoyed feature. Our A2E students developed skills to work with wood, a whittling knife and a bow saw. Well done to their improved confidence, bravery and commitment to try something new. This term saw an attendance total of 27 children a week.

Christmas 2024

We were so lucky to have a lovely bright if cold day on Monday 23rd December for LinkAble to bring groups both morning and afternoon for field fun with extra Christmas activities and gifts from Santa! Thank you to fabulous trustees and volunteers Ana Sally and Laura plus freelancers Tom and Anna. Which meant we were fully staffed and were able to have over 30 children between the two sessions.

Spring Term 2025

Thanks to our Lottery Community Fund grant, how wonderful to now be running a full four days a week. We now have young people from years 7,8 and 9 who are EMBR (emotional based school refusers) coming from to local state secondary schools. Woking High School and The Salesians Chertsey. Each school attends for 2 and half hour sessions and involves a range of activities including some quite advanced woodwork, gardening and land maintenance, pony therapy, pony exercises and pony games and campfire cooking. Plus, importantly time to encourage communication with peers during relaxed hammock and crafts time.

Our school coordinators report great progress in increased engagement with school and in increased attendance, so we are thrilled and will be expanding this provision throughout this next financial year.

We also welcome a new school Chobham St Lawrence state primary who sends us one student at the moment. Plus, we continue to host A2E (Access to Education) sessions and three full classes from Pond Meadow school.

Weekly term time attendees are now 39 children and young people.

Funding

We are grateful for a good year of donations, besides covering running costs we have added to our facilities providing water play equipment, much enjoyed by the 4- to 12-year-old attendees. We thank Richard Tear, Surrey County Councillor for donating from his Your Councillor Community Fund for this.

Thanks to Bly Lawson charity who supported us in 2024 and 2025, we have also created a 'risky play' area. There is new research that suggests risky play can help focus attention and the acceptance of authority by those with a diagnosis that makes this difficult. Our risky play element is created around two of our wonderful oak trees and our riverbank. We are finding it hugely benefits our children.

Thanks to Children with Special Needs Chobham we have increased our wheelchair track, so the full field is now wheelchair accessible.

Importantly in November we had a huge boost from the Community Fund for Surrey who enabled us to receive a significant amount of our running costs budget which will enable us to cover costs into the next financial year.

In Spring 2024 Screwfix Foundation gave us an incredible £5,000 grant to improve our facilities. We spent this on our pony therapy area creating an all-weather surface and games area that has meant we are able now to offer the pony handling and therapy the full year-round and as a direct result will now be a year-round facility.

In November 2024 we were thrilled to receive a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund giving us support for the next two years securing our future and enabling us to open an extra day a week in term time to offer more schools the opportunity to attend, improving our facilities and hiring in a freelancer skilled in wood work and gardening to work with our very able secondary school attendees from Woking High and the Salesians Chertsey.

The Future - Moving Forward towards 2026

We aim to continue this pattern of attendance throughout the next year.

Previously all sessions were staffed by our wonderful trustees and volunteers, and they continue to do so. However, due to our National Lottery Funding we have been lucky to be able to afford professional freelance help to deal with this increased workload and will continue to do so.

In this reporting period the number of children attending per term time week has risen from 19 to 39 and we see with greatest joy the improvement in their confidence, skill set, engagement with peers, adults and life generally.

Looking into our next year we are aiming to consolidate our rapid growth, take stock and plan for the future.

All our attendees are booking return trips, so we remain very busy. We can expect approx. 300 children to visit us over the next year.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The CIO does not set out to create any reserve for any of its activities.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

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Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

During the period from 3 rd November 2023 to 31 st March 2025 total income was £50,105 of which £7,903 was unrestricted and £42,202 was restricted. During the period expenditure was £26,439. £6,206 of unrestricted expenditure and £20,233 of restricted expenditure. The accounts show a surplus of £23,666 made up of £1,638 of unrestricted funds and £22,027 of restricted funds. Total funds of the Charity were £23,666 at the end of the period. These funds will be utilised in the coming year.

Section F Other optional information

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Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
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Full name(s)	Alexandra Turner	Caroline Shrubbs
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Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Treasurer
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Date	19 th July 2025
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Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Briars Field forest School and mindfulness for SEN

On accounts for the year ended

Period 3rd November 2023 to 31st March 2025

**Charity no
(if any)**

1205569

Set out on pages

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the period ending from 3rd November 2023 to 31st March 2025

As the charity's trustees, 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 all 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:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

10/6/2025

Name:

John David Butler

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

FCA – Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales

Address:

109 Oak Tree Road, Knaphill

Woking

GU21 2SB

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material 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.

NOT APPLICABLE



Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 03-Nov-23	To	Period end date 31-Mar-25
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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	7,531	-	-	7,531	
Grants	-	42,202	-	42,202	
Bank Interest	186	-	-	186	
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	7,717	42,202	-	49,919	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	7,717	42,202	-	49,919	-
A3 Payments					
Capital	-	530	-	530	
Crafts	455	1,061	-	1,516	
Business	260	-	-	260	
Equipment	425	2,302	-	2,727	
Food Campfire	125	225	-	350	
Field Maintenance	1,655	10,841	-	12,496	
Portaloos	390	1,770	-	2,160	
Repairs & Maintenance	535	501	-	1,036	
DBS	-	-	-	-	
Insurance	1,125	940	-	2,065	
Training	172	-	-	172	
Website costs (hosting)	166	-	-	166	
Salaries	749	2,063	-	2,812	
Accountancy and legal fees	150	-	-	150	
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	6,206	20,233	-	26,439	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	6,206	20,233	-	26,439	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,511	21,968	-	23,479	-
A5 Transfers between funds	- 59	59	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	1,452	22,027	-	23,479	-

