

Heart of Wales Geopark/Geoparc Calon Cymru



Charity number 1208355

Trustees' Annual Report for 2024

Heart of Wales Geopark/Geoparc Calon Cymru is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), charity number 1208355.

Its registered address is Chatsworth, Spa Road, Llandrindod, LD1 5EY.

The charity currently has eight trustees:

Dr. Joseph Peter Botting (Geopark Chair)

Dr. Lucy Anne Muir

Robert Frank Loveridge

Victoria Douel

Cllr. Pete Roberts

Michelle Thomas (Geopark Treasurer)

Xenia Alexandra Warren

Berwyn Francis Powell (Geopark Secretary).

The charity was set up in May 2024, and officially launched on 27 July 2024. The charity's accounting year runs from 1 January to 31 December, so this report covers the period from 22 May to 31 December 2024. We do not have a membership model, but are rather based on a committee of trustees who are the decision makers, together with additional volunteers.

The aims of the charity are to advance the education of the public in the geology of the Builth-Llandrindod Inlier and surrounding areas, its importance and its influences on the biodiversity, landscape, and heritage of the local area. We do this by providing educational materials and resources including information boards, website content, self-guided walks and running volunteer-led events, as well as facilitating research and scientific collaboration.

The Geopark was officially launched at the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod, on 27 July 2024. It was introduced by Cllr. Pete Roberts, with speeches from Lady Kathryn Silk (High Sheriff of Powys), Dr. Caroline Buttler (Head of Collections Development at Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales), and Dr. Joe Botting (Chair of the Geopark). Other events on the day were a fossil handling session at the Radnorshire Museum, and guided walks of geological sites in Llandrindod.

Other Geopark public events held in 2024 were a talk about the Geopark in the Wyeside Centre, Builth Wells, on 3 August; a fossil handling session at the Radnorshire Museum on 16 August; and a fossil handling activity at Powys County Council's Autumn Adventure Weekend at Elan Valley Visitor Centre on 27 October. Two guided walks were held: one around the Llandrindod geology trail on 28 July, and one (with Julian Ravest) around Rhogo and Castle Bank on 27 August. In total, more than 170 members of the public attended geopark events in 2024, not including visitors to the more general Elan Valley event at which we participated.

The Geopark produced and printed 1,000 copies of a first leaflet in 2024: a geology trail around Llandrindod. This leaflet was distributed to local business and organisations, and given to visitors at events. It is also available on the Geopark website, along with more detailed content for those who wish to learn more.

Geopark volunteers also started working on their site conservation role on May 11th, 2024, by clearing vegetation from the large erratic boulder on Temple Street, Llandrindod. This important part of Llandrindod's geological heritage was made accessible again.

The Geopark provides educational material, and publicises Geopark events, on its website (<https://heartofwalesgeopark.org.uk/>) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/HeartofWalesGeopark>). The website is being developed steadily, with much more content planned.

All of the above highlights the obvious work that has been done, but it is important to appreciate, in these early stages, that a great deal has been going on behind the scenes. This is especially true in setting up policies and procedures, learning how to be responsible trustees, and laying the groundwork for future public-facing events and resources. There has been a great deal of work speaking to local councils, organisations, and businesses, and building up relationships. More leaflets are in the process of being produced, and the coming year should see the first information boards. Plans for highlighting a network of public trails are being developed, encouraging locals and visitors to explore the area and its remarkable geology, biodiversity and history. We are also looking to host joint events with other bodies, such as Radnorshire Wildlife Trust; the list goes on.

The objectives in the first year were to establish ourselves both as a charity and within the public consciousness, and begin to develop public engagement to fulfil our primary goal of public understanding of geology and heritage. This has necessarily involved a focus on face-to-face events, as the permanent and self-led resources take longer to develop fully. As the geopark develops, we will aim to have many more activities available as permanently accessible resources, rather than needing to be led by members of the geopark in person.

We wish to formally acknowledge at this point the extraordinary support and public enthusiasm that we have encountered at every turn. It has been truly wonderful to see the response of the local community, businesses, and community and town councils, who all see the value in celebrating this incredible local heritage. The publicity we received from local media was also enormously appreciated, and we appeared in local newspapers on numerous occasions.

In the coming year we aim to build on what we have achieved so far, to expand the range of events and resources we can offer, and build up more and richer relationships with local people.

Financial report

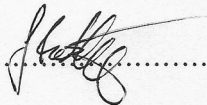
Our accounts in the first year are relatively straightforward. We received £788.50 in donations, and £357.00 in events income, while spending £253.68 over the course of the year. The main expenses have been insurance and IT hosting, together with a range of small costs that have enabled us to begin fundraising, promoting and advertising what we do.

- We currently have no debts.
- We have a reserve policy that at this stage sets aside £250; this will be reassessed annually, as our income and expenditure increase.
- We do not have any funds held as a custodian trustee.

Note that our total income is less than £25,000, and as such there is no need for an external audit.

I would like to thank Michelle, our treasurer, for all her hard work on keeping everything by the book.

Signed by Dr Joseph P Botting

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Date:.....12th April 2025.....



HEART OF WALES GEOPARK – GEOPARC CALON CYMRU

Charitable Incorporated Organisation No 1208355

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

YEAR-ENDING:

31 December 2024

31 December 2023

INCOME

Donations Received	£788.50	£0.00
Grants Received – Restricted	£0.00	£0.00
Grants Received – Unrestricted	£0.00	£0.00
Events Income	£357.00	£0.00
TOTAL INCOME	£1,145.50	£0.00

EXPENDITURE

Promotions and Advertising	£23.70	£0.00
Leaflets	£0.00	£0.00
Restricted Costs	£0.00	£0.00
Cost of Fundraising	£41.80	£0.00
IT Costs	£31.18	£0.00
Insurance	£157.00	£0.00
Events Costs	£0.00	£0.00
Trustee Training	£0.00	£0.00
Trustee Expenses	£0.00	£0.00
Volunteer Training	£0.00	£0.00
Volunteer Expenses	£0.00	£0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£253.68	£0.00
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	£891.82	£0.00

HEART OF WALES GEOPARK – GEOPARC CALON CYMRU

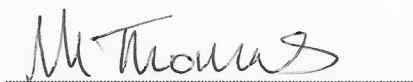
Charitable Incorporated Organisation No 1208355

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

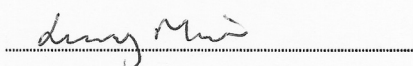
YEAR-ENDING:	31 December 2024	31 December 2023
ASSETS		
CASH FUNDS		
Cash At Bank	£855.27	£0.00
Cash At Hand	£36.55	£0.00
TOTAL CASH FUNDS	£891.82	£0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	£891.82	£0.00
LIABILITIES		
TOTAL LIABILITIES	£0.00	£0.00
TOTAL ASSETS / (LIABILITIES)	£891.82	£0.00

Signed by:

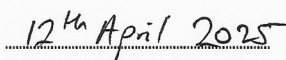
Mrs Michelle Thomas
Trustee / Treasurer



Dr Lucy Muir
Trustee



Date of Approval:



NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS:

1. The Geopark has not entered into any guarantee.
2. The Geopark has no outstanding debts at the end of this period.
3. The Geopark has received a non-monetary donation of goods with a value of £135.
4. Trustees have received reimbursement for goods/services bought on behalf of the Geopark.