



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 2 September 2024 to 31 December 2025

Charity name: Friends of Old Park & Chequers Wood

Charity registration number: 1209838

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The objects of the CIO are: 1 To promote and conserve Old Park and Chequers Wood (OPCW) as a protected open space to be used for the benefit of the community and future generations. 2 To preserve and protect the flora and fauna of Old Park and Chequers Wood and to promote research into the wildlife of the area. 3 To work with landowners and other partners to conserve and manage the rare habitats of the area, particularly the acid grassland, alder carr and ancient woodland and to protect the sites of archaeological importance. 4 To raise public awareness of the environmental importance of the area and to encourage the active involvement of local residents and community organisations. 5 To engage with schools, youth groups, sports and other organisations to promote the use of Old Park and Chequers Wood for educational and leisure purposes. 6 To work together with other Friends groups to ensure that Old Park and Chequers Wood are an integral part of the open space network of the city
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	The Friends of Old Park & Chequers Wood work in a variety of ways to promote and conserve OPCW as a protected open space to be used for the benefit of the community and future generations. The main activities include the following: Working with naturalists to document the flora and fauna of OPCW and to publish the information collected. This information was the basis for the creation of a Local Wildlife Site across the non-SSSI parts of

		Old Park and for an application to Natural England to extend the SSSI. Working with the City Council and wildlife organisations to plan for the future of the area. Much of the area is still owned by the MoD, but negotiations are in progress about the purchase of the area for the benefit of the wildlife and the local community Liaising with the team of archaeologists from Cambridge University to protect the site of archaeological importance and to increase public understanding that this is the oldest excavatable site in the UK and one of the oldest in Europe. Organising meetings and producing newsletters to raise public awareness of the environmental importance of the area, particularly the acid grassland, alder carr and ancient woodland, and to encourage the active involvement of local residents. Engaging with schools and youth groups, such as Parkside School, the Prince of Wales Youth Club, Canterbury College and local Universities to promote the use of Old Park and Chequers Wood for educational, research and leisure purposes. Working together with other Friends groups and with the City Council to ensure that Old Park and Chequers Wood are an integral part of the open space network of the city.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Trustees, in promoting the objects of the CIO, 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
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	N/A

Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	The Friends of OPCW has several hundred members, many of whom get involved in volunteering in the area. Other volunteers come from local wildlife organisations and community groups, schools and universities, and local residents. Activities by volunteers include surveying flora and fauna, carrying out litter picks, removing fly tipping, leading walks to hear nightingales and turtle doves, organising events to learn about butterflies and moths, clearing and marking footpaths, and reporting misuse of the Old Park by motorcyclists and others to the police and other agencies.
Other		N/A

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 main achievements of the charity have been to make local people aware of this extraordinary open space, to collect and share information about the wildlife of the area, to educate people about its archaeology and its history, to encourage use of the area by schools and youth groups, and generally to open up for the use of local people an area which has been out of bounds because of its former use by the military. For the last 200 years or so most of Old Park was owned by the MoD and use by local people was discouraged and often completely banned. The setting up of the Friends of OPCW coincided with the withdrawal of the MoD from regular use of the area, which is now up for sale. Recently local people were asked to provide evidence about their on-going use of the Old Park and the ways in which they benefit from it. The result was over 200 compelling accounts which underlined the great variety of different ways in which Old Park is used and in which it enhances the lives of those who know and love it.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	Objective: to set up a successful Friends Group for the Old Park. Achievement: the Friends of OPCW was set up in 2021 and is now a flourishing organisation with several hundred members, regular newsletters and social media posts, a programme of talks and walks, and a respected position in the local community. Objective: to research and record the wildlife of the area. Achievement: specialists have documented the flora and fauna of Old Park, and have shared the results both with wildlife organisations and with local people. The evidence so collected is currently the basis for an application to Natural England for an extension of the SSSI. Objective: to increase understanding about the archaeology and history of the area. Achievement: Local people have become more aware of the significance of the site, through the publication of studies on its history, and through walks and talks. These new discoveries have also increased the interest of visitors to Canterbury. The site is adjacent to the UNESCO World Heritage Site. Objective: to ensure the future of OPCW Achievement: An Action Plan for the period 2024-2030 sets out plans for the future. These include the acquisition of the MoD land for the community, protecting the buffer zones round the SSSI, improving management and public access, increasing public engagement, curbing anti-social behaviour and ensuring organisational stability. Objective: to protect the area as an Asset of Community Value. Achievement: an application for the area to be registered as an ACV has been accepted by Canterbury City Council and is now with the MoD.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	N/A

Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	N/A
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The charity has sufficient funds to continue for the foreseeable future
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	To facilitate the possible purchase of the site or to improve it
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£11,393
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A

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	Donations
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	N/A
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	N/A
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	The Charity is a 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	Appointments are made by existing Trustees with due regard to the skill set required.

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	The Friends of OPCW is run on a day-to-day basis by the main committee, which includes members with expertise in finance and planning, in wildlife and the environment, in history and archaeology, in footpaths and leisure and in publicity and social media. Members of the committee have regular meetings with the Environment Team at Canterbury City Council and with local councillors. In addition, at an early stage, an Expert Advisory Group was set up which brings together leading experts from local wildlife organisations. This meets when necessary to advise on the work of the main committee. There are also significant links with organisations for young people, including the Prince of Wales Youth Club, primary and secondary schools and Canterbury College. These links are particularly important because the Old Park is located near to some of the most disadvantaged communities in the city. Access to this great open space provides opportunities for young people to develop skills, knowledge and confidence. The Friends of OPCW is part of a network of Friends groups across the city. These include the Friends of Kingsmead Field,

		Love Hambrook Marshes, the Friends of Westgate Parks, Canterbury Cemetery Friends and others. Friends' groups are supported by an officer at the City Council and meet twice a year under the umbrella of the Canterbury Parks Forum.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	See above
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Friends of Old Park & Chequers Wood
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1209838
Charity's principal address	8 Longport Canterbury Kent CT1 1PE

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	Patricia Edwards	Chair		
2	Hilary Adams	Treasurer	Appointed 15.12.25	
3	Kathleen Lovell	Secretary		
4	Kathryn Allberry			
5	Peta Boucher			
6	Jean Butcher			
7	Jan Pahl			
8	Sian Pettman			
9	William Rowlandson		Appointed 3.3.25	
10				
11				
12	Past members			
13	Dane Buckman		Resigned 26.5.25	
14	Michael Smith		Resigned 3.3.25	
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

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

[illegible]

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

[illegible]

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)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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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)	P Edwards	
Full name(s)	Patricia Edwards	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	17.2.26	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Friends of Old Park and Chequers Wood

No (if any)

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
2.9.24

To

Period end date
31.12.25

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					
Donations	16,178	-	-	16,178	-
Gift Aid	271	-	-	271	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	16,449	-	-	16,449	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	16,449	-	-	16,449	-
A3 Payments					
Website	1,709	-	-	1,709	-
Promotional material	2,217	-	-	2,217	-
Software	835	-	-	835	-
Insurance	295	-	-	295	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	5,056	-	-	5,056	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	5,056	-	-	5,056	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	11,393	-	-	11,393	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	11,393	-	-	11,393	-

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	11,393	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	11,393	-	-
	(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)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
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	
	P Edwards	P EDWARDS	2.3.26	