

Charity registration number 205245 (England and Wales)

THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

Mrs P Arnold
Ms D J Barber MBE
Ms S J Taylor
Ms R R Marriott
Mr W N Lovett
Ms H J Randall
Ms J Wirdnam

Charity number

205245

Independent examiner

Oliver Read FCCA ACA
James Todd & Co Limited
Drayton House
Drayton Lane
Chichester
West Sussex
PO20 2EW

THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

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THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

The objects, as laid down in the constitution are:

- by voluntary effort to assist in the conservation of Ashdown Forest and the implementation of the charitable purpose of the Forest Act;
- to provide funds for the purpose of supplementing in such a manner as the charity think fit the resources available to the Board of Conservators; and
- to encourage interest in the conservation, maintenance, preservation and peaceful enjoyment of the Forest by such means as the Charity deems fit.

The policies adopted in furtherance of these objects are to publicise the existence of the Charity by whatever means are thought fit and to raise funds by way of donations, subscriptions and legacies and there has been no change in these during the year.

The committee members have paid due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake regarding public benefit.

Achievements and performance

Significant activities and achievements against objectives

The committee have continued to work, in a wholly voluntary capacity, to represent your interests in assisting the conservation, preservation and educational aspects of Ashdown Forest.

During this financial year, we have continued to support the funding of the Forest Centre Education Programme. The academic year 2023/24 has been another successful one for the team and over 2,700 children have visited the site. The team has again conducted outreach sessions in local schools, as well as running parent and toddler groups and a series of events for families and children, including a trial of a monthly Wildlife Explorers Club for parents and their children aged 6-12. The monthly Youth Volunteer Group for young people from the age of thirteen up to sixth form age continues to be popular, with many activities from pulling bracken, bramble clearance and cutting Christmas trees to name but a few. As school budgets are increasingly tight and coach travel is becoming even more expensive, some of the schools continue to take up the travel bursaries provided by the Friends.

Financial review

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

Plans for future periods

The demands on the Friends are likely to remain for the foreseeable future and our mission is to continue to support the Conservators where we can in these uncertain financial times. In light of recent funding cuts to the Forest and the pressure on their re-structured staff team, it is still envisaged we shall not be actively seeking opportunities to purchase land in the future. We shall continue to support the Forest Centre Education Programme, and this remains a priority. We shall also endeavour to help fund other projects as they arise in times to come, including improvements to the Ashdown Forest Visitor Centre.

THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Structure, governance and management

The charity was established by a charitable trust deed on the 2nd of December 1961.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mrs P Arnold

Ms D J Barber MBE

Ms S J Taylor

Ms R R Marriott

Mr W N Lovett

Ms H J Randall

Ms J Wirdnam

Total aggregate amount of donations received from the Trustees amounted to £362 (2023: £362) made up as follows:

P Arnold £36, H Randall £120, N Lovett £24, J Wirdnam £36, D Barber £60, R Marriott £36, S Taylor £50.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Mrs P Arnold

Trustee

7 December 2024

THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Friends of Ashdown Forest (the charity) for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared the financial statements in accordance with the relevant version of the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn. I understand that this has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act 2011.
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

Oliver Read FCCA ACA

James Todd & Co Limited
Drayton House
Drayton Lane
Chichester
West Sussex
PO20 2EW
England

Dated: 9 December 2024

THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

		Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	82,909	-	82,909	23,534	-	23,534
Investments	4	880	-	880	443	-	443
Total income		83,789	-	83,789	23,977	-	23,977
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	5	5,170	-	5,170	7,770	-	7,770
Charitable activities	6	27,733	-	27,733	14,560	-	14,560
Total expenditure		32,903	-	32,903	22,330	-	22,330
 Net gains on investments	 11	 20,323	 -	 20,323	 8,408	 -	 8,408
Net income and movement in funds		71,209	-	71,209	10,055	-	10,055
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 July 2023		206,458	388	206,846	196,403	388	196,791
Fund balances at 30 June 2024		277,667	388	278,055	206,458	388	206,846

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

		2024		2023	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Investments	13		215,555		146,626
Current assets					
Debtors	14	183		191	
Cash at bank and in hand		63,847		61,367	
		64,030		61,558	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(1,530)		(1,338)	
Net current assets			62,500		60,220
Total assets less current liabilities			278,055		206,846
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	16		388		388
Unrestricted funds	17		277,667		206,458
			278,055		206,846

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 7 December 2024

Mrs P Arnold
Trustee

Mr W N Lovett
Trustee

THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Friends of Ashdown Forest is a charity registered with the Charities Commission of England and Wales, number 205245. The charity is governed by a Trust Deed dated 8 November 2012, as detailed in the Trustees' Report.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.8 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.9 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Donations and gifts	69,877	23,534
Legacies	2,554	-
Other	10,478	-
	<u>82,909</u>	<u>23,534</u>

THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Interest receivable	880	443

5 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Fundraising and publicity		
Seeking donations, grants and legacies	5,170	7,770

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Direct costs		
Charitable donations	1,872	-
Grant funding of activities (see note 7)	11,584	9,320
Share of support and governance costs (see note 8)		
Support	12,747	3,806
Governance	1,530	1,434
	27,733	14,560
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	27,733	14,560

7 Grants payable

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Grants to institutions:		
Education and school travel	11,584	9,320

THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

8 Support costs allocated to activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Printing, postage and stationery	1,168	1,251
Insurance	239	240
Podcast	10,750	2,000
Website costs	120	90
Miscellaneous expenses	338	225
Governance costs	1,662	1,434
	<u>14,277</u>	<u>5,240</u>
Analysed between:		
Unrestricted funds	<u>14,277</u>	<u>5,240</u>

9 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Total	-	-

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

11 Gains and losses on investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Gains/(losses) arising on:		
Revaluation of investments	<u>20,323</u>	<u>8,408</u>

12 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

13 Fixed asset investments

	Unlisted investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 July 2023	146,626
Additions	48,606
Valuation changes	20,323
	<hr/>
At 30 June 2024	215,555
	<hr/>
Carrying amount	
At 30 June 2024	215,555
	<hr/> <hr/>
At 30 June 2023	146,626
	<hr/> <hr/>

14 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Prepayments and accrued income	183	191
	<hr/>	<hr/>

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Accruals and deferred income	1,530	1,338
	<hr/>	<hr/>

16 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 July 2023 £	At 30 June 2024 £
Chelwood Vachery	388	388
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Previous year:	At 1 July 2022 £	At 30 June 2023 £
Chelwood Vachery	388	388
	<hr/>	<hr/>

THE FRIENDS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

16 Restricted funds

(Continued)

The fund labelled Chelwood Vachery consists of amounts received with the restricted purposes of reclaiming and improving an area of Ashdown Forest known by this name.

17 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 July 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	At 30 June 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	206,458	83,789	(32,903)	20,323	277,667
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Previous year:	At 1 July 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	At 30 June 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	196,403	23,977	(22,330)	8,408	206,458
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£
At 30 June 2024:			
Investments	215,555	-	215,555
Current assets/(liabilities)	62,112	388	62,500
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	277,667	388	278,055
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£
At 30 June 2023:			
Investments	146,626	-	146,626
Current assets/(liabilities)	59,832	388	60,220
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	206,458	388	206,846
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>