

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 275076

Details

Other names EPPING FOREST CENTENARY TRUST, EFCT

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [01339783](#)

Registered 1978-02-08

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

Contact

Address Warren Lodge
Nursery Road
Loughton
IG10 4RN

Phone 02085089061

Email enquiries@efht.org.uk

Website www.efht.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO SUPPORT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC MEASURES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE NATURAL ASPECT, FEATURES AND ANIMAL AND PLANT LIFE OF EPPING FOREST. (FOR FURTHER DETAILS SEE CLAUSE 3 OF THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION).

Activities: We have a vision of Epping Forest being a thriving forest, rich in biodiversity, heritage and culture; enjoyed and conserved now and for generations to come. To achieve this we deliver work against our 3 strategic objectives to:1. educate and inspire people about the Forest2. do hands on work to conserve and grow the Forest3. protect the Forest through research and advocacy.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Disability, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage, Recreation, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** EPPING FOREST
- Essex
- Throughout London

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£219,658	£254,731	-	-
2024-03-31	£95,771	£235,760	-	-
2023-03-31	£40,131	£201,638	-	-
2022-03-31	£71,425	£155,855	-	-
2021-03-31	£24,296	£65,620	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
James Philip Harrington	Chair	2023-01-17
David Alexander William Pitwood		2023-09-05
Derek Johann Seume		2025-12-16
Joanna Clare Blackman		2023-01-17
Josephine Helen Kedens Richardson		2023-09-05
Lucy Anne Dawes		2025-12-16
Mx Abi Young		2025-12-16
Neil Duncan		2025-12-16
PATRICIA MOXEY		2018-04-25
Rosie Perry-Gosling		2023-01-17

Accounts

Company Registration No. 01339783 (England and Wales)

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
CHARITY ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Trustees (who are also directors)	J L Adams	(resigned 19 October 2024)
	J Blackman	
	F Castro	(appointed 10 September 2024)
	J P Harrington	
	P A Moxey	
	C Pantling	
	R Perry-Gosling	
	D Pitwood	
	J Richardson	
	G Scott Spicer	
	L Vacher	
Company number	01339783	
Registered Charity number	275076	
Registered office	The Warren Lodge Loughton Essex IG10 4RN	
Website	https://efht.org.uk/	
Chief Executive Officer	P Lewis	
Accountants	Hern Pocknells Limited Chartered Accountants Suites 1 & 2, Nash House Hackman's Lane, Purleigh Chelmsford Essex CM3 6RP	
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited West Malling Kent ME19 4TA	

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
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EPHING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025. The Trustees, who are also Directors for the purposes of company law and who served during the year and up to the date of this report are shown in the Administrative Details section.

The Trustees have prepared this Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law including the Charities Act 2006, United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, our Articles of Association and with the accounting principles set out in the notes to these financial statements.

Since the Company qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the Strategic Report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

A. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

For the benefit of the public in general (and in particular, but without limitation, the communities in and around Epping Forest):

- (a) To preserve and promote the natural, historical and cultural heritage of Epping Forest and to promote environmental conservation, protection and improvement in Epping Forest; and
- (b) to advance education by promoting greater knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Epping Forest.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance, published by the Commission, in determining the activities undertaken by the charity. The trustees are satisfied that the aims and objectives of the charity, and the activities reported on below to achieve the aims, meet these principles.

B. ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Summary review of activities

This has been the final year of our Strategic Plan 2022-25, with the planned investment from our dedicated reserves ensuring huge progress in delivering our overarching priority for the year of building our community around Epping Forest. It has also seen us develop our new Strategic plan 2025-2030, which we launched in May 2025.

We were also delighted to appoint our former Chair, Judith Adams, as our Honorary Life President, and for our Vice Chair, James Harrington to step into the Chair role, supported by Rosie Perry-Gosling as Vice Chair.

We report our activities against our Strategic Objectives:

1. We will educate and inspire people about Epping Forest

With support from Essex County Council Locality Fund we developed 7 new information boards for the Visitor Centre at High Beach and updated a variety of our information materials. We also hosted a well-received exhibition of photos about the longhorn cattle.

Our 27 dedicated volunteers contributed over 1,900 hours of volunteer time to welcome over 11,400 (9,400 in 2023/24) visitors to the Forest over the course of the year, representing a 21% increase on the previous year, and providing each one of them with helpful information for their visit.

**EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Summary review of activities (continued)

1. We will educate and inspire people about Epping Forest (continued)

In July we celebrated the 10th anniversary of running the Visitor Centre at High Beach on behalf of the City of London Corporation. Over the 10 years our volunteers have welcomed over 145,000 visitors to the Forest.

Our 13 fantastic walk leader and walk marshal volunteers continued to lead our highly-valued Forest-wide free monthly guided walks programme, contributing 408 hours of volunteer time (up from 268 in 2023/24) to deliver 17 walks (14 in 2023/24) and enabling 470 people (up from 341 in 2023/24) to learn more about the Forest while getting some much-welcomed outdoor exercise.

We are very grateful to local artists Sharon Drew, Hugh Hamshaw Thomas and Alison Chaplin for partnering with us on an art walk as part of the Urban Tree Festival; Maymana from FungiFutures bringing their particular expertise and knowledge to share with walk participants on a fungi walk and RSPB North East London for partnering on a birding walk in Highams Part supported by the Highams Park Planning Group.

One participant fed back "It was a treat to be out in the Forest with a diverse and friendly group, and with the benefit of the most interesting commentary from volunteers and staff of the trust. Thank you!"

Our monthly e-mail newsletter grew to reach over 3,400, up from 2,900 in 2023/24, and in total our social media reach through Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, LinkedIn and Eventbrite reached over 6,700 people up from 4,500 the year before.

We distributed 3 editions of our Trust in the Forest magazine to our 1,000 plus members around the Forest.

With support from the City of London Central Grants programme we were also delighted to build significantly on our pilot Community Engagement Programme with 32 wonderful, different partner organisations collaborating with us to engage 1,089 people (up from 9 organisations and 362 people in 2023/24) from diverse communities with the Forest, most of whom had never visited the Forest before. We presented on our successes and the learnings from the pilot Community Engagement programme to the Epping Forest and Commons Committee in September. Noreen Niazi and Amy Liu from the team were also asked to present at Locality's national conference about our community engagement activity.

Our fantastic walk leader and walk marshal volunteers gave over 54 hours of volunteer time to deliver the walk with 200 participants with Muslim Hikers.

Participant feedback on our community engagement programme has been particularly touching. For example: Lewis Garland, from Fences and Frontiers
"Partnering with Epping Forest Heritage Trust has helped us to explore beautiful parts of Epping Forest, and engage with the forest creatively."

In 2024, we ran two activities with EFHT. The first, part of the Urban Tree Festival, took us through woodlands, past Iron Age earthworks and Tudor hunting lodges, and to gravel pit lakes filled with moorhens and Mandarin ducks.

The second activity involved a walk around Wanstead Flats for artistic inspiration, followed by an afternoon of collage (and impromptu Persian dance) at Rabbit Road Press.

Our participants come from diverse backgrounds, and connecting with nature is vital for their mental health, especially for those living in limbo in asylum hotels. We're impressed by EFHT's efforts towards democratising access to green spaces and can't wait to collaborate again!"

'Immersed in the beauty of Epping Forest, we learn more about its trees and wildlife while connecting with like-minded souls! Thanks so much to the team at EFHT for our guided walk' Nazia, Sustainably Muslim.

EPHING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Summary review of activities (continued)

1. We will educate and inspire people about Epping Forest (continued)

Leilei from VaChina in relation to a bespoke conservation activity

"Our collaborative activity with the Epping Forest Heritage Trust (EFHT) provided an exceptional opportunity for our Chinese women and LGBTQ+ community members to connect with nature and participate in the conservation process, which is often exclusive to white and local communities. Not only did we gain specific conservation knowledge and skills, but we also learned about the history of Epping Forest. We deeply appreciate the work of EFHT and their efforts to make nature more accessible to marginalised groups."

In September, our volunteers led over 150 people in total on the 14-mile Epping Forest Big Walk (previously the Centenary Walk) from Manor Park in the south of the Forest to Epping in the north of the Forest. We were delighted to have political support all along the route, with newly elected Leyton and Wanstead MP Calvin Bailey welcoming participants to the start and walking with us, and newly elected MP for Epping, Neil Hudson, joining us to walk from High Beach and offering words of congratulations to participants when they reached Bell Common.

We are also grateful to The City of London Corporation for the support from their keepers, and to Ben Murphy, Chair of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee, Jacqueline Egglestone, Superintendent of Epping Forest and Gordon Turpin, from Highams Park Planning Group, for their insightful speeches on

Volunteer walk leaders, marshals and refreshment volunteers contributed over 100 hours of their time to make the Big Walk a success.

With funding support from the Essex County Council Locality Fund, the Charles S French Trust and Tesco Stronger Starts, and with support from the City of London Corporation, we launched our new walking app for the Forest, which has since been downloaded by over 5,000 people, helping them to explore and understand more about the Forest.

We delivered a range of talks to local community organisations over the year including to the Loughton History Society, Royal Wharf Primary School and Loughton Methodist Church.

We were also delighted to partner with the Essex Cultural Diversity Project and artist Talia Randall to develop and publish the Voices of Epping Forest Podcast, bringing to the fore often unheard voices of people visiting the Forest.

2. We will conserve and grow the Forest

We continued the expansion of our conservation activities over the last year thanks to funding from the City Bridge Foundation, as well as through bespoke community and corporate conservation sessions. This meant we were able to deliver more conservation sessions across the whole of the Forest, with a mixture of open sessions for members of the public, targeted sessions for women, non-binary and trans people and bespoke sessions designed to meet the needs of our corporate and community partners – all improving the biodiversity of the Forest.

In total, over the last year, 301 individual volunteers between them delivered 4,865 hours of conservation activity (up from 3,043 hours of conservation activity in 2023/24 – a 62% increase in our conservation

The sessions funded by City Bridge Foundation involved 125 different individuals (67 in 2023/24) who between them delivered over 1300 hours of conservation activity (350 hours in 2023/24).

These sessions enabled us to reach new audiences in the south of the Forest with over 20% of participants coming from Waltham Forest, the majority of participants being women and over a quarter being from Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic Communities. Half of the participants were under 35.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Summary review of activities (continued)

2. We will conserve and grow the Forest (continued)

Feedback from these sessions has been incredibly positive, with a Net Promoter Score of 92 and individual comments including:

"This was a really accessible, friendly session and a great way to do coppicing for the first time. I came along to learn about conservation and get some fresh air, and both were accomplished! Robyn [one of our Conservation Officers] is really knowledgeable and helpful, and this provides a great way to feel connected to the natural world, especially while living in London." Ellie

"A really well organised session with a great and diverse group of women. We worked very hard and I came out of it with a great sense of well-being, feeling that I had achieved something worthwhile." Women's* session participant

As part of our approach to engaging more people from more diverse communities in conservation we also partnered with 6 organisations for bespoke walk conservation sessions involving 61 people who between them delivered 159 hours of conservation activity.

We also continued to grow our Green Team on Thursdays, who last year included 40 different individuals over the course of the year (up from 33 in 2023/24) and completed 37 conservation sessions delivering 1,408 hours of volunteer time, up from 1,173 hours the year before.

The Green Team also worked with the City of London's Environmental Resilience Team to build 4 Leaky Dams in Hawk Wood, helping to capture more water in the Forest and reduce flooding.

Our team of people with learning disabilities, the Happy Loppers, undertook 36 sessions involving 18 people including their support workers delivering 1,641 hours of volunteer time, up from 1,520 hours in 2023/24.

The groups worked on 8 separate sites across the Forest including Chingford Plain, Barn Hoppit, Bury Wood, Epping Thicks and Loughton Brook, removing dense stands of holly to open up the Forest floor to increase ground level flora and open "halos of light" around ancient pollarded trees.

Kerry, a Happy Lopper, said "I like the Forest - it is peaceful. I like clearing the holly, feeding the cattle and letting the sunlight through".

We made good progress on delivering against the Halo project, with a total 57 Ancient pollards released from shade by end of March 2025, (34 in 2023-24).

The City of London Corporation Conservation Team have reported that our work along Loughton Brook is supporting their work to increase invertebrate populations on the adjoining Baldwins Hill site.

All our conservation sessions seek to make habitat improvements to improve species diversity in the Forest as well as creating habitat piles to provide refuge areas for reptiles and amphibians.

3. We will protect and preserve the Forest

The last year was challenging with a significant increase in planning activity as Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) and Waltham Forest Borough Council (WFBC) developed and implemented their Local Plans. Alongside the large scale "masterplan" developments in the north of the Forest, there was also an increase in smaller scale planning applications.

In addition, the new Government introduced a number of changes to the planning system which affect the Forest, in particular the creation of a new category of land called "grey belt" designed to facilitate housing development in the Green Belt. The Trust commented on the proposals and we remain very concerned over their potential impact on the Forest which we will continue to monitor.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Summary review of activities (continued)

3. We will protect and preserve the Forest (continued)

The Government also introduced changes which are likely to require both Local Authorities to provide additional housing on top of that required in their existing Local Plans which may also have an impact on the Forest. Again, we will continue to monitor this.

The work was led by a dedicated team of 3 volunteers, supported by our Chief Executive Peter Lewis and Trustee Tricia Moxey.

The Trust has responded to a wide range of planning applications. We have:

- Provided briefing notes to the EFDC Planning Committees which considered specific applications including the South Epping Strategic Masterplan and two sites in the Green Belt, the Netherhouse Farm and West Essex Golf Club solar Farm, Planning permission for which was refused, and Days Farm, Planning permission for which was approved.
- Commented on the suitability of sites selected by WFBC to be used as Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGs) to mitigate the impact on the Forest of the large new housing developments in the Borough.
- Responded to EFDC's South Epping Masterplan and the Epping Town Plan consultations, proposing changes which will help to better protect the Forest based on its designation as a Special Area of Conservation and SSSI.
- In addition, the new Government introduced a number of changes to the planning system which affect the Forest, in particular the creation of a new category of land called "grey belt" designed to facilitate housing development in the Green Belt and proposed changes to how damage caused by developments is assessed and mitigated. The Trust commented on the "grey belt" proposals and we remain very concerned over the potential impact of these changes on the Forest which we will continue to monitor.
- Responded to 29 individual planning applications between April 2024 and March 2025 (up from 12 in 2023/24), and a further 12 up to 28th August contributing, as at the date of this report, to the refusal of 14 applications (of which five went to Appeal three of which were Dismissed with two outstanding), while we await the outcome of a further 16 applications.

These individual applications include:

- Proposals for large-scale housing developments at Latton Priory, North Weald Bassett, Thornwood and Sewardstone.
- A number of "Permitted Developments" involving the conversion of agricultural buildings to housing;
- Requests for pre-application advice on proposed solar farms and battery storage areas.
- A number of rebuilds adjacent to the Forest with increased building size and car parking spaces, potentially increasing visitor footfall and vehicle pollution or affecting the visual amenity, which we believe could have a detrimental impact on the Forest.

During the period of this report a further nine applications, on which we commented in the previous reporting year (2023-2024), were decided with five approved and four refused with one of the latter going to Appeal which was Upheld. Decisions are also pending on another four applications on which we commented in 2023-2024 including conversions of stables to housing and a solar farm adjacent to the Forest.

We have also maintained a watching brief on pollution levels in the north of the Forest where an exchange of letters suggests pollution levels are reducing, but also makes clear that Epping Forest District Council still needs to do more to satisfy Natural England that pollution levels will continue to reduce taking into account future house building plans in EFDC.

In liaison with Epping Forest Transport Action Group, and with the support of two volunteers, we have continued to encourage Essex Highways to improve their road safety plans for the A104 Epping New Road for the benefit of Forest visitors by reducing the speed limit to 30mph, and introducing dedicated crossing points between the east and west of the Forest.

**EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Summary review of activities (continued)

3. We will protect and preserve the Forest (continued)

We also engaged with Waltham Forest Borough Council to try and improve their plans for a revised cycling path layout around Hollow Ponds, based on concerns expressed by a number of our members about accessibility and dangers to walkers and wheelchair users.

It was also a busy election year, with a General Election, London Mayoral and Assembly elections and a full election of all councillors in Epping Forest District Council. We secured cross party support from 37 candidates in the EFDC Council election, 17 London assembly candidates and 3 London Mayoral candidates. We also secured the support of key local MPs in the General election, including returning MPs Sir Stephen Timms, Stella Creasy and Sir Iain Duncan Smith as well as new MPs Neil Hudson and Calvin Bailey.

This political support is vital for the future protection of the Forest, and also supports our outreach into local communities.

4. We will develop our governance and operations

We staged a successful AGM in October at Lopping Hall in Loughton, with over 60 members in attendance, and with a presentation from the Head of Conservation at the City of London Corporation, followed by a panel discussion, about the future conservation plans for the Forest. As a part of the AGM our members voted to agree that our former Chair, Judith Adams, should become our Honorary Life President. We were delighted that she was later granted Freedom of the City of London in recognition of her years of service to the Forest.

We recruited a new Trustee, Francis Castro, London Nature Recovery Policy and Programme Manager at the Greater London Authority, who was subsequently elected at the AGM.

Over the course of the year we developed a new 5-year strategy for the Trust, which we launched on 23rd May 2025, setting out our ambition to do more for the Forest, especially in relation to advocacy and campaigning on its behalf.

We also launched our Business Partner scheme, and secured our first 5 business partners, JJNet, The Outflow, Photomart, Attwaters and Colourflow, each demonstrating their commitment to the Forest through their support to us.

We would like to thank all our staff, volunteers, partners, donors, supporters and funders for their role in delivering our work.

C. LOOKING FORWARD TO 2025/26

Our focus in 2025/26 will be on beginning to deliver our new Strategy 2025-30, with the theme of “**Standing up and Standing out.**”

Specifically we aim to:

- Secure longer-term funding for our community engagement activities, and continue to build meaningful links with communities around the Forest, including with local community organisations and local businesses
- Boost our walking app through publishing at least one new walk, and continuing to grow the scale and
- Continue to grow our conservation work, especially through delivering more bespoke corporate team activities
- Increase our resources and impact in our policy and campaigning activities to help protect the Forest from further harm
- Develop a whole new range of relationships with trusts and foundations who support our work.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. Headline plans

In 2025-26 our key deliverables will be:

A. Educating and inspiring people about the Forest

1. Secure NLHF funding for a long-term community engagement programme that welcomes new people to the Forest.
2. Increase the number of people participating in our monthly guided walk programme and other specialist walks
3. Optimise the impact of the Visitor Centre at High Beach while maintaining current model of operation.

B. Conserve and grow

4. Grow our hands-on conservation activities, with a focus on optimising numbers on our existing programmes and growing our bespoke sessions for corporate partners.

C. Protect

5. Complete a review of our campaigning activities and agree our new approach and priorities
6. Prepare effectively for the London borough elections, and potential elections in Essex, in May 2026
7. Respond impactfully to all planning policy proposals which would have a significant negative impact on the Forest.

D. Organisational Priorities

8. Grow the number and generosity of our members and supporters, investing time and resources in their recruitment and stewardship
9. Secure at least £100k of new trust and foundation income, with at least £80k of that being allocatable to core costs
10. Agree a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of London.

D. VOLUNTEERS, GRANTS & DONATIONS

Our work to protect and conserve the Forest relies on the generosity of our members, supporters, legacy donors, in memoriam donors, funding partners and other stakeholders, along with the dedication and commitment of our volunteers.

We are hugely grateful to all those individuals and organisations that love and care about the Forest and who support our work.

In particular we want to express our thanks to our 376 individual volunteers (up from 160 in 2023/24), who have between them helped people enjoy the Forest through their advice at the Visitor Centre at High Beach, have delivered our hands-on conservation activities in the Forest, have led and marshalled our growing guided walks programme and have spearheaded our work to respond to, and brief our members on, important planning proposals around the Forest.

We would also like to thank the City of London Corporation for its ongoing investment in the Visitor Centre at High Beach, as well as providing offices and tool storage for the Trust in Warren Lodge and on the Warren site. They have also been generous in their Keeper support on the Big Walk and with our walk with Muslim

Thanks also to Councillor Stephen Murray, our ambassador, for his ongoing support.

We were delighted to receive funding from a range of partners including the City Bridge Foundation, The City of London Central Grants Programme, Essex County Council, Loughton Town Council, The Garfield Weston Foundation, the D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, The Postcode Places Trust, the Baily Thomas Charitable Trust, The Cobb Charity, The Swire Charitable Trust, Awards for All, The Niniveh Charitable Trust, the Big Give, Haslers Foundation, Tesco Stronger Starts and Sharegift to help us deliver our strategic priorities, and we are grateful to them all for their support.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

D. VOLUNTEERS, GRANTS & DONATIONS (continued)

In addition, the Trust is very grateful to have been able to work with a group of fantastic partners and collaborators over the past year including Black Girls Hike, Muslim Hikers, the Wren Conservation Group, Epping Forest Transport Action Group, CPRE London, The Hive, The Urban Tree Festival, Essex Cultural Diversity Project, VaChina - SOAS group, Epping Forest Pride, Royal Wharf Primary School, Redbridge Rainbow Group, Fences and Frontiers, The Moja Collective, Home Girls Unite, The Trinity Centre group Behnu-Ki-Millan, The Big Help Out, Kings College London, The Tower Project, Muslim Women Connect, Leytonstone School, Chats Palace, Carers4Carers, The Centenary Way Artist Project, the East African Collective, Loughton Methodist Church, Stories and Supper, Islamic Relief, Loughton Historical Society, Wanderers of Colour, ALFA Active, Skills Within and the Davies Lane Walk Group (Wanstead).

FINANCIAL REVIEW

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

b. Reserves policy

The Trust's unrestricted free reserves as at 31st March 2025 were £188,406 (last year £136,745). The increase in unrestricted free reserves is due to the release of the designated fund which has been successfully invested to grow the impact and sustainability of the Trust over the last 3 years.

The total deficit from 2024/2025 of £44,322 includes restricted funds of £16,508 (last year, £952). The operating deficit was fully covered by the funds designated to deliver the Strategic Plan 2022-2025.

In order to ensure the ongoing security of the Trust, and to ensure that the Trust has adequate resources to continue for the foreseeable future, the Trustees' aim is for income consistently to equal or exceed expenditure, with free reserves of between 6 and 9 months' operating expenditure to cover the risks of operating in a volatile funding environment.

c. Material investments policy

The Board has power to invest funds not immediately required for operational purposes in such investments, securities or properties as it thinks fit subject to any restrictions within the Articles of Association.

d. Principal risks and uncertainties

The Directors have reviewed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and systems have been established to mitigate those risks. The risk register was last reviewed in March 2025.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Trust was incorporated on 21st November 1977 as a company limited by a guarantee and is governed by its Articles of Association. It was registered as a charity on 8th February 1978. It changed its name from Epping Forest Centenary Trust to Epping Forest Heritage Trust with effect from 12th April 2018 and its Articles of Association took effect on 17th April 2018. On that date the former charity, The Friends of Epping Forest (Charity No. 299970), transferred its assets to Epping Forest Heritage Trust and thereby amalgamated with it. Its Articles of Association set out the objects and powers of the Trust and the way it is governed.

The Trust is governed by a Board of Trustees, with a minimum membership of three.

At the end of March 2025, there were 10 trustees.

A recruitment process was held in the summer of 2024 and Francis Castro joined the Board.

Judith Adams stepped down as Chair and a Trustee of the Trust in October 2024, when James Harrington became Chair. Rosie Perry-Gosling became Vice Chair.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity.

Any person who is willing to act as a trustee, and who would not be disqualified from acting under the provisions of Article 26, may be elected to be a trustee by members by ordinary resolution for a period of three years, renewable up to a maximum term of 9 years.

The Board of Trustees may appoint any person willing to be a Trustee for the period up to the following Annual General Meeting.

In the year to 31st March 2025, the Board met formally four times, with an additional planning session in December. The Finance Committee (a sub-committee of the Board) met three times. In addition, trustees provided significant ongoing support to the organisation throughout the year.

The full membership of the Trustee Board, who are also directors under the terms of the Companies Act, are set out above. The members of the Trustee Board have no beneficial interest in the group or charity.

The Trustee Board delegates responsibility for the day-to-day activities of the organisation to the Chief Executive, Peter Lewis who reports to the Board at Trustee meetings, and who produces reports on the activities undertaken in managing the charity including management accounts that explain the financial position of the charity.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees must prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

**EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue to operate.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 8th September 2025 and signed on their

On behalf of the board



James Harrington
Chair of Trustees

**EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

TO THE TRUSTEES OF EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

I report to the trustees (who are also directors for the purpose of company law) on my examination of the financial statements of Epping Forest Heritage Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and related notes.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charitable company you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charitable company's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('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 2011 Act.

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the financial statements. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

**EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)**

TO THE TRUSTEES OF EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the charitable company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
- the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.



12 September 2025

Philip Robert Hern FCCA
for and on behalf of Hern Pocknells Limited
Chartered Accountants
Suites 1 & 2, Nash House
Hackman's Lane, Purleigh
Chelmsford
Essex

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025
INCLUDING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:					
Donations, legacies and grants	3	107,427	106,207	213,634	86,657
Investments	4	6,024	-	6,024	9,114
		<u>113,451</u>	<u>106,207</u>	<u>219,658</u>	<u>95,771</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	5	165,032	89,699	254,731	235,760
Total expenditure		<u>165,032</u>	<u>89,699</u>	<u>254,731</u>	<u>235,760</u>
Net expenditure before net (losses) / gains on investments		(51,581)	16,508	(35,073)	(139,989)
Net (losses) / gains on investments		(9,249)	-	(9,249)	22,472
Net expenditure for the year	15	<u>(60,830)</u>	<u>16,508</u>	<u>(44,322)</u>	<u>(117,517)</u>
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	15	249,236	952	250,188	367,705
Transfers	15	-	-	-	-
Total funds carried forward		<u>188,406</u>	<u>17,460</u>	<u>205,866</u>	<u>250,188</u>

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

		2025		2024	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Non-current assets					
Investments	12		117,422		176,671
			<u>117,422</u>		<u>176,671</u>
Current assets					
Investments	12	58,000		58,000	
Debtors due within one year	13	3,302		1,332	
Cash at bank and in hand		41,028		27,775	
		<u>102,330</u>		<u>87,107</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(13,886)		(13,590)	
Net current assets			<u>88,444</u>		<u>73,517</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>205,866</u>		<u>250,188</u>
Funds of the Charity					
Operational funds	15		188,406		136,745
Designated funds	15		-		112,491
			<u>188,406</u>		<u>249,236</u>
Unrestricted funds					
Restricted income funds	15		17,460		952
			<u>205,866</u>		<u>250,188</u>

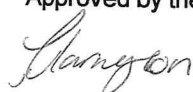
For the year ending 31 March 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the Board for issue on 8 September 2025



J P Harrington
Chair of Trustees



J Richardson
Treasurer and Trustee

Company Registration No. 01339783
Charity Registration No. 275076

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 General information

Epping Forest Heritage Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales. The charitable company constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102 (1A) "the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland". The registered office is: The Warren Lodge, Essex, IG10 4RN. The financial statements have been prepared in pounds sterling which is the functional currency of the charitable company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

2 Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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 Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Epping Forest Heritage Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except as noted in note 2.6 Investments. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

2.2 Going concern

The trustees have not identified any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue as a going concern.

2.3 Incoming resources

All income is recognised once the Company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Company has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Company, can be reliably measured.

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2 Accounting policies (continued)

2.4 Expenditure and depreciation

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.

Assets costing more than £3,000 are depreciated evenly over 5 years. IT equipment costing more than £3,000 is depreciated evenly over 3 years.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Company's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 Investment income

Investment income, including interest on funds held on deposit and dividends from a managed investment portfolio, are included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Company; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.6 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Statement of Financial Activities.

2.7 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.9 Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Company anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2 Accounting policies (continued)

2.10 Fund Accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked for a particular project.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Donations	29,963	6,979	36,942	37,357
Legacies and in memoriam	37,575	-	37,575	100
Grants	31,500	99,228	130,728	42,500
Fees for services	8,389	-	8,389	6,700
	<u>107,427</u>	<u>106,207</u>	<u>213,634</u>	<u>86,657</u>
Total 2024	<u>26,540</u>	<u>60,117</u>	<u>86,657</u>	

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Income from listed investments	5,618	-	5,618	8,847
Interest	406	-	406	267
	<u>6,024</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,024</u>	<u>9,114</u>
Total 2024	<u>9,114</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,114</u>	

EPHING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

5	Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities Summary by fund type	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
	Charitable activities	165,032	89,699	254,731	235,760
	Total 2024	175,635	60,125	235,760	
6	Analysis of expenditure by activities	Activities undertaken directly 2025 £	Support costs 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
	Charitable activities	179,546	75,185	254,731	235,760
	Total 2024	174,148	61,612	235,760	
Analysis of direct costs				Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
	Educate & Inspire			108,679	112,825
	Conserve & Grow			51,661	52,201
	Protect			19,206	9,122
				179,546	174,148
Analysis of support costs				Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
	Governance			11,344	7,246
	Organisational development			38,511	31,305
	Operations			25,330	23,061
				75,185	61,612
7	Net expenditure for the year			2025 £	2024 £
	Net expenditure for the year is stated after charging:				
	Independent examiner's remuneration - independent examination			3,000	2,520
	- other financial services			-	-

EPHING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

8 Taxation

The company is not subject to corporation tax on its investment income as it is a charity, which is exempt from tax.

9 Staff costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	161,067	145,654
Social security costs	9,114	7,123
Pension costs	4,912	4,780
	<u>175,093</u>	<u>157,557</u>

One employee receives employee benefits between £60,000 and £70,000 (2024 - no employees received over £60,000).

10 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
Chief executive officer	1	1
Conservation Officer	2	2
Marketing	1	1
Education	1	1
Finance	1	1
Community Engagement	1	1
	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>

Staffing levels on a full time equivalent basis were:

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
Chief executive officer	1.0	0.8
Conservation Officer	0.8	0.9
Education	0.2	0.2
Marketing	1.0	1.0
Finance	0.4	0.4
Community Engagement	0.4	0.4
	<u>3.8</u>	<u>3.7</u>

Role of volunteers

Over the course of the year the Trust benefited from the time and expertise of over 350 volunteers in relation to running the Visitor Centre at High Beach, leading walks, including the Big Walk and undertaking hands-on conservation activities (2024 - 200). In total volunteers contributed over 8,000 hours of their time over the year (2024 - 6,500).

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

11 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2024 - £nil).

During the year ended 31 March 2025, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2024 - £nil).

12 Investments	Listed investments £
Valuation	
At 1 April	234,671
Disposals	(50,000)
Revaluations	(9,249)
At 31 March 2025	<u>175,422</u>

We hold a significant amount of our reserves in a CCLA COIF Charities Investment Fund which is a managed fund of a mixture of equities, bonds and property aimed at long term growth and reliable income distribution. It reduced from a value of £234,671 at the start of the financial year to £175,422 at the end of the financial year as result of drawings of £50,000 to invest in our new strategy and a negative revaluation of £9,249. It is accessible on one week's notice.

Because of the ability to access the funds at short notice, £58,000 of the investment has been reclassified from a fixed asset investment to a current asset investment during the year ended 31 March 2025.

The investment is measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

13 Debtors	2025 £	2024 £
Due within one year		
Other debtors	1,700	-
Prepayments	1,602	1,332
	<u>3,302</u>	<u>1,332</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2025 £	2024 £
Accruals	11,450	12,927
Other creditors	2,436	663
	<u>13,886</u>	<u>13,590</u>

EPHING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

15 Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance 1 April 2024	Transfers	Increased / (Decreased)	Balance 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
Operational reserves	136,745	112,491	(60,830)	188,406
Designated funds				
Investment fund	112,491	(112,491)		-
General funds - all funds	249,236	-	(60,830)	188,406
Restricted funds	952	-	16,508	17,460
	250,188	-	(44,322)	205,866

Restricted funds

	Balance 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	Balance 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
Ken Hoy - Talks	952	-	(583)	369
NLCF Awards for All	-	14,940	(6,049)	8,891
Baily Thomas Charitable Trust	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
Big Give Happy Loppers	-	10,821	(10,821)	-
Big Give Policy and Planning	-	7,396	(7,396)	-
City Bridge Foundation	-	34,250	(34,250)	-
City of London Central Grants	-	14,700	(14,700)	-
D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust	-	4,000	(4,000)	-
Essex County Council Locality Fund	-	1,200	(1,200)	-
Loughton Town Council	-	500	(500)	-
Newby Trust	-	1,000	-	1,000
The Nineveh Charitable Trust	-	2,500	-	2,500
The Swire Charitable Trusts	-	9,400	(4,700)	4,700
Tesco Community Fund	-	500	(500)	-
	952	106,207	(89,699)	17,460

We are very grateful to have received a variety of funding which has been restricted for specific charitable purposes of the year. These are as follows:

Inspire and educate

- Ken Hoy Fund. This fund was established to support talks about the Forest and we spent £200 of it to secure the expertise of a fungi expert for a guided walk and talk and £383.10 on the talk about the future conservation of the Forest ahead of our AGM in October.
- National Lottery Community Fund Awards for All. We were awarded a grant of £14,940 in November 2024 towards the running of the Visitor Centre at High Beach, our free walks programme and the Big Walk. We have spent £6,049 of that funding.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

15 Statement of funds - continued

Restricted funds - continued
Inspire and educate - continued

- In 2023 we set up a restricted fund to develop our new Walking App for Epping Forest, and were delighted to receive £500 the Tesco Community Fund towards this project.
- The City of London Corporation's Central Grants Programme contributed £14,700 and the Newby Trust £1,000 towards our community engagement work.
- Essex County Council Locality Fund awarded us £1,200 towards volunteer training and the development of refreshed information boards in the Visitor Centre at High Beach.
- The Nineveh Charitable Trust awarded us £2,500 towards our walks programme and conservation sessions for the Happy Loppers.

Conserve and grow

- The City Bridge Foundation. We were awarded a grant of £67,500 from the City Bridge Foundation over the course of two year towards new conservation activities in the south of the Forest designed to increase the diversity of our conservation volunteers as well as increase the biodiversity of the Forest. This grant started in June 2023, and we have spent £34,250 of those restricted funds in this financial year.
- Baily Thomas Charitable Trust (£5,000) and the D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust (£4,000) awarded us grants towards providing conservation sessions for our team of conservation volunteers with learning disabilities, the Happy Loppers.
- The Big Give Christmas Challenge. We received match funding of £2,500 from the Big Give through Champion Sharegift, with £1,400 from the Haslers Foundation and £6,921 from individual donors to support the provision of conservation sessions for the Happy Loppers.
- Loughton Town Council (£500) and The Swire Charitable Trusts (£9,400, of which we spent £4,700 this year) awarded us grants towards the activities of our Green Team of conservation volunteers.

Protect

- The Big Give Green Match Fund "Standing up to protect Epping Forest". We received match funding of £2,500 from the Big Give alongside individual donations of £4,896 towards our work raising awareness of the Forest and responding to planning applications.

Unrestricted Funds - Funds that are available to be spent for any purposes of the charity.

- We are also particularly grateful to the Garfield Weston Foundation who contributed £20,000 of unrestricted funds.

Investment Fund - As noted in the Trustees' Report on page 8, the designated investment fund has been released back in to operating funds.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

15 Statement of funds - continued

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance 1 April 2023	Transfers	Increased / (Decreased)	Balance 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
Operational reserves	136,745	117,509	(117,509)	136,745
Designated funds				
Investment fund	230,000	(117,509)	-	112,491
General funds - all funds	366,745	-	(117,509)	249,236
Restricted funds				
NLCF: Awards 4 All Walks with BGH and Muslim Hikers	-	10,000	(10,000)	-
City Bridge Conservation activities	-	27,500	(27,500)	-
Big Give - Halo 50	-	7,274	(7,274)	-
Walking App - Charles S French Charitable Trust	-	3,000	(3,000)	-
Walking App - Essex CC Locality Fund	-	2,000	(2,000)	-
Aviva Wild Isles Community Fund	-	10,343	(10,343)	-
Ken Hoy - Talks	960	-	(8)	952
	960	60,117	(60,125)	952
	367,705	60,117	(177,634)	250,188

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Unrestricted funds	2025 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Investments	-	-	175,422	175,422
Other current assets	23,210	-	21,120	44,330
Creditors due within one year	(5,750)	-	(8,136)	(13,886)
	17,460	-	188,406	205,866

	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Unrestricted funds	2024 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Investments	952	112,491	121,228	234,671
Current assets	10,149	-	18,958	29,107
Creditors due within one year	(10,149)	-	(3,441)	(13,590)
	952	112,491	136,745	250,188

17 Related party transactions

The Company has not entered into any related party transaction during the year, nor are there any outstanding balances owing between related parties and the Company at 31 March 2025.

Members of key management received remuneration (including employer's pension and employer's national insurance contributions) of £77,635 (2024 - £59,508).

18 Post balance sheet events

Since 31st March 2025 the charity has been awarded core grants from the City Bridge Foundation (£34,425), Essex Community Foundation (£4,000) and the Foyles Foundation (£4,000), as well as £3,000 from the Vandervell Foundation towards our Green team activities and £750 from the David Solomons Charitable Trust towards conservation sessions for the Happy Loppers.

The charity has also been awarded £189,614 over three years by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to deliver our Epping Forest Heritage For All project.

We have also received £41,382 from three different legacy donations and have been notified of a further legacy donation estimated to be worth £10,000.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES' INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Accounts

Company Registration No. 01339783 (England and Wales)

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
CHARITY ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Trustees (who are also directors)	J L Adams	
	J Blackman	
	J Gilbert	(resigned 19 March 2024)
	J Harrington	
	P A Moxey	
	M Murphy	(resigned 5 September 2023)
	C Pantling	
	R Perry-Gosling	
	D Pitwood	(appointed 5 September 2023)
	J Richardson	(appointed 5 September 2023)
	G Scott Spicer	
	M A Smith	(resigned 19 March 2024)
	L Vacher	
Company number	01339783	
Registered Charity number	275076	
Registered office	The Warren Lodge Loughton Essex IG10 4RN	
Website	https://efht.org.uk/	
Chief Executive Officer	P Lewis	
Accountants	Hern Pocknells Limited Chartered Accountants Suites 1 & 2, Nash House Hackman's Lane, Purleigh Chelmsford Essex CM3 6RP	
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited West Malling Kent ME19 4TA	

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

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EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024. The Trustees, who are also Directors for the purposes of company law and who served during the year and up to the date of this report are shown in the Administrative Details section.

The Trustees have prepared this Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law including the Charities Act 2006, United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, our Articles of Association and with the accounting principles set out in the notes to these financial statements.

Since the Company qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the Strategic Report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

A. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The charity's objectives are:

For the benefit of the public in general (and in particular, but without limitation, the communities in and around Epping Forest):

- (a) To preserve and promote the natural, historical and cultural heritage of Epping Forest and to promote environmental conservation, protection and improvement in Epping Forest; and
- (b) to advance education by promoting greater knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Epping Forest.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance, published by the Commission, in determining the activities undertaken by the charity. The trustees are satisfied that the aims and objectives of the charity, and the activities reported on below to achieve the aims, meet these principles.

B. ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Summary review of activities

This has been the second year of delivery of our Strategic Plan 2023-25, with the planned investment from our dedicated reserves delivering huge progress in delivering our overarching priority for the year of building our community around Epping Forest.

We were delighted that our Chair, Judith Adams, deservedly received the 2023 Acorn Award at the London Tree Awards, jointly awarded by the Mayor of London and the Forestry Commission, to the individual who has made a particular difference to promoting and conserving trees.

We report our activities against our new Strategic Objectives:

1. We will educate and inspire people about Epping Forest

We refreshed the look and feel of the Visitor Centre at High Beach, hosted our first exhibition about important people in the history of the Forest, and held two well attended children's book readings by local authors. Our 27 dedicated volunteers contributed over 2,200 hours of volunteer time to welcome over 9,400 visitors to the Forest over the course of the year, providing them with helpful information for their visit. We also hosted the Chigwell & Epping Forest Orienteering Club's annual event at the Visitor Centre, welcoming over 200 orienteers on the day.

EPHING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Summary review of activities (continued)

1. We will educate and inspire people about Epping Forest (continued)

Our 16 fantastic walk leader and walk marshal volunteers continued to lead our highly-valued Forest-wide free monthly guided walks programme, contributing over 264 hours of volunteer time, and enabling 341 people to learn more about the Forest while getting some much-welcomed outdoor exercise. We are very grateful to the Wren Group and RSPB Northeast London Group for partnering on two of these walks, bringing their particular expertise and knowledge to share with walk participants.

"It was a privilege to experience the wonders hidden in the Forest." Sally, walk participant.

Our monthly e-mail newsletter grew to reach over 2,900 readers, up from 650 in 2023, and we distributed 3 editions of our Trust in the Forest magazine to our 1,000 plus members around the Forest.

We were also delighted to pilot a new community engagement programme, with successful partnership walks with Muslim Hikers, Black Girls Hike, Muslim Women Connect and Sustainably Muslim, Transfemme Social and Hiking in Skirts, Wanderlust Women and Wanderers of Colour, attracting over 362 people from diverse communities to the Forest.

Our walk leader and walk marshal volunteers gave over 72 hours of volunteer time to deliver the walk with Muslim Hikers.

We ran two successful Forest Talks to engage different audiences in discussion about the Forest. The first, Feral Forest, hosted very kindly by Waltham Forest Council at their Town Hall, and introduced by Councillor Rosalind Dore, welcomed over 50 attendees and focused on the Forest and culture, with local artists Melissa Moore and Danny Treacy alongside local author Will Ashon, talking about how the Forest inspired their, and other artists' work.

The second, kindly hosted by Forest School in Walthamstow, involved over 60 participants, and discussed how best to represent nature in the local, regional and national elections planned for 2024. It featured Crispin Truman OBE, former Chief executive of CPRE, the countryside charity, Bridgit Fox, Regional External Affairs Office at the Woodland Trust and Kathryn Machin, Head of Community Engagement Campaigns, WWF-UK, involved in the development of the People's Plan for Nature.

In order to encourage more people to use public transport and walking to access the Forest we partnered with the City of London Corporation, Transport for London, Epping Town Council and Loughton Town Council to install signage at Epping and Loughton underground stations, with waymarked walking routes to the Forest. We would like to thank the City of London Corporation's Central Fund for their support for this work.

In September, our volunteers led over 150 people in total on the 14 mile Epping Forest Big Walk from Manor Park in the south of the Forest to Epping in the north of the Forest. We were delighted to have political support all along the route, with Newham MP Sir Stephen Timms welcoming participants to the start and walking the whole route with us, Council Leader Grace Williams welcoming people to Waltham Forest in Highams Park and Conservative Group Chair Holly Whitbread congratulating participants when they reached Bell Common in Epping. We are also grateful to The City of London for the support from their keepers, and to Ben Murphy, Chair of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee, Paul Thomson, former Superintendent of Epping Forest and Gordon Turpin, from Highams Park Planning Group, for their insightful speeches on route.

Volunteer walk leaders, marshals and refreshment volunteers contributed over 72 hours of their time to make the Big Walk a success.

We delivered a range of talks to local community organisations over the year including to the Chigwell WI, the 4th Epping Forest cubs group at Bancroft School and the Loughton History Society as well as attending the first national All Things Fungi Festival to promote Epping Forest and its huge diversity of fungi.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Summary review of activities (continued)

1. We will educate and inspire people about Epping Forest (continued)

We were also delighted to partner with the Essex Cultural Diversity Fund to design and then commission an artist to deliver a programme of activity designed to introduce new people to Epping Forest. We selected Talia Randall as the artist, and they will deliver their series of podcasts during 2024-25.

Through the initiative of a volunteer, Marion Bertuzzo, we also initiated a monthly Epping Forest book review in our email newsletter, to whom we offer great thanks for her recommendations and reviews.

2. We will conserve and grow the Forest

We expanded our conservation activities over the last year thanks to funding from the City Bridge Foundation and support through the Big Give for our "Halo 50" Appeal. This meant we were able to deliver new conservation sessions in the south of the Forest, with a mixture of open sessions for members of the public and targeted sessions for women, non-binary and trans people.

These sessions introduced 67 new volunteers to conservation activities in the Forest. Together they took part in 21 hands-on conservation sessions, delivering over 350 hours of voluntary activity. These sessions enabled us to reach new audiences in the south of the Forest with the majority of people coming from Waltham Forest, the majority of participants being women and over a third being from Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic Communities. Half were under 35, 25% had never come to the Forest before and for over 80% these were the first conservation activities they had ever participated in.

Feedback from these new sessions has been incredibly positive, with a Net Promote Score of 91, and individual comments including:

"This was the most fulfilling day I have had for a very long time. Helping with conservation at Epping Forest, nothing better! I would highly recommend it to anyone who likes being outdoors."

"It was fun being with like-minded women and doing physical work" Womens Volunteer session.

As part of our approach to engaging more people from more diverse communities in conservation we also partnered with 2 organisations for a combined bespoke walk and conservation session, both of which had wonderful feedback. 18 people attended an event we hosted with Trans Femme/Hiking in Skirts, a group for trans people to get together to support one another in the natural environment. 32 people attended an event we hosted with Wanderlust Women, who are a group for "Muslim women to connect together, with Allah and with nature by going on hikes and adventures".

We also continued to grow our Green Team on Thursdays, who last year included 33 different individuals over the course of the year (a 100% increase from active participants compared to March 2023's 16) and completed 35 conservation sessions delivering 1,173 hours of volunteer time.

The City of London Corporation conservation team have reported that the diversity of grassland species has significantly increased on Fairmead Glade since our repeat visits.

Our team of people with learning disabilities, the Happy Loppers, undertook 36 sessions involving 23 people including their support workers delivering 1,520 hours of volunteer time. The groups worked on 12 separate sites removing dense stands of holly to open up the Forest floor to increase ground level flora and open "halos of light" around ancient pollarded trees.

James' mum said "As always, your support and kindness to James when he attends the Happy Loppers sessions is very much appreciated by both of us and the Loppers sessions mean so much to James. He says that it's his favourite activity in the week (I think that's probably when the weather is kind)!"

EPHING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Summary review of activities (continued)

2. We will conserve and grow the Forest (continued)

Danny said

"Being a Happy Lopper gives one a sense of achievement"

We made good progress on delivering against the Halo project, with 34 Ancient pollards released from shade by the end of March 2023.

Whilst all our conservation sessions seek to make habitat improvements to improve species diversity in the Forest, we have added an additional approach to how we utilise the materials taken from tree cuttings. Habitat piles are always created to provide refuge areas for reptiles and amphibians. We are now also carefully placing pruning's and logs in shallow ditch areas to create mini 'leaky dams'. This aims to retain vital water in the Forest for longer and slow down water which might otherwise cause a flood risk further downstream.

3. We will protect and preserve the Forest

Over the course of the year we have been able to increase our activity advocating on behalf of the Forest. This increased activity has been particularly focused on responding to planning proposals which might have an adverse impact on the Forest. The work has been led by a dedicated team of 3 volunteers, supported by our Chief Executive Peter Lewis and Trustee Tricia Moxey.

We have:

- responded to Epping Forest District Council's Masterplan and other consultations on Latton Priory and North Weald Basset, securing changes which will help to better protect the Forest based on its designation as a Special Area of Conservation and SSSI.
- responded to 12 individual planning applications and commented on the South Epping Masterplan consultation, on the environmental review of the construction of a Low Carbon Mobility Hub in Waltham Abbey and the Essex Minerals Local Plan Review, contributing to the refusal of seven applications as at the date of this report, with imposition of conditions secured on one application while we await the conclusion of a further seven applications, of which four relate to applications from the period of the last report. One application submitted before the period of the current report was approved where we contributed to the imposition of conditions. These individual applications include
 - o proposals for solar farms immediately adjacent to the Forest, potentially impacting on its biodiversity and the natural aspect;
 - o the creation of a quarry next to the River Roding near Abridge which could increase traffic and airborne pollution in the Forest;
 - o the construction of a new care home adjacent to Walthamstow Forest;
 - o proposals for large-scale housing developments at Barnfield Stables on Sewardstone Road and at Tudor House in Thornwood;
 - o a number of rebuilds with increased footprints and car parking spaces adjacent to the Forest with the potential to increase visitor footfall and vehicle pollution which we believe, if built as planned, could have a detrimental impact on the Forest.
- produced briefs on the Epping Forest District Council Local Plan and the Waltham Forest Local Plan.
- objected to the further expansion of City airport.
- in liaison with Epping Forest Transport Action Group and London Cycling Campaign, encouraged Essex Highways to improve their road safety plans for the A104 Epping New Road for the benefit of Forest visitors by reducing the speed limit to 30mph, and introducing dedicated crossing points between the east and west of the Forest for the benefit of walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

We continued to play an active part, informed by our members' views, in the Epping Forest Consultative Group, convened by the City of London Corporation. We also submitted responses to their consultation on their Corporate Plan, their Equality Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and their consultation on their Natural Environment Strategies. We have been delighted to see that a number of our priorities in relation to equality, community engagement, increasing biodiversity, collaboration and partnership, and developing masterplans for locations across the Forest have been incorporated into their 4 Natural Environment Strategies.

EPHING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Summary review of activities (continued)

3. We will protect and preserve the Forest (continued)

We continued to develop our relationships with community organisations around the Forest so that together we can be better informed about different aspects and locations in the Forest, and partner together on initiatives as appropriate.

We completed a very successful awareness campaign ahead of the local elections in May 2023 in Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) where a third of Council seats were up for election. We secured pledges of support from candidates across all of the main parties in EFDC, 14 of whom were elected, representing Loughton Residents Association, the Green Party, the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats as well as some independent councillors.

To help raise the profile of Epping Forest at a Londonwide level we continued to play an active role in the More Natural Capital Coalition, which brings together a range of environmental organisations including CPRE London, London Wildlife Trust, the Woodland Trust, London National Park City, the Open Spaces Society and Trees for Cities to advocate for the London Mayor and London local authorities to do more to protect green spaces and increase biodiversity across the capital.

4. We will develop our governance and operations

We staged a successful AGM in October in Forest School in Walthamstow, with over 60 members in attendance. As a part of the AGM our members voted to agree a revised form of Articles of Association in order to strengthen and simplify our governance.

We recruited two new Trustees with significant financial experience to the Board in September 2023 in order to manage a smooth handover from two of our longstanding Trustees, including our Treasurer, who both stepped down in March 2024.

We embedded our new CRM system, Donorfy, to streamline our administrative functions in relation to members and supporters, and improved our handling of data.

Over the course of the year we received funding from a range of partners including the City Bridge Foundation, The Charles S French Charitable Trust, Essex County Council, Awards for All, the Big Give and the Aviva Wild Isles Community Fund to help us deliver our strategic priorities, and we are grateful to them all for their support.

We would like to thank all our staff, volunteers, partners, donors, supporters and funders for their role in delivering our work.

C. LOOKING FORWARD TO 2024/25

Our focus in 2024/25 will be “Building our Community”. Specifically we plan to build our community by extending our pilot engagement activities with community organisations interested in exploring Epping Forest, launching a new Corporate Supporter scheme, running awareness campaigns about the Forest in the run up to the local, regional and national elections, launching a new Walking App for Epping Forest, and involving a wider diversity of people and community organisations in our conservation activities.

We also plan to enhance our impact in responding to planning proposals around the Forest through the efforts of a small number of expert volunteers supported by the Chief Executive.

From an organisational development point of view our focus is now firmly on growing our membership and fundraising, as the requisite systems and structures are now in place to support this growth.

We will continue to develop the expertise of our staff, trustees and volunteers by investing in their training.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. Headline deliverables for 2024-25 as set out against our Strategic Priorities

a) Educating and inspiring people about the Forest

- Launch a new walking app for the Forest, reaching a wider audience and enabling them to navigate easily through the Forest
- Secure partner funding to build on our pilot community engagement programme, welcome new people to the Forest and enhances our visitor welcome and walks programme
- Increase the number of people participating in our free monthly guided walk programme and host walks with Black Girls Hike, Muslim Hikers and at least 6 other community organisations
- Optimise the impact of the Visitor Centre at High Beach in welcoming people to the Forest while maintaining current model of operation

b) Conserving and growing the Forest

- Consolidate our hands-on conservation activities, with a greater variety of hands-on conservation being undertaken by a more diverse set of participants, recruited both as individuals and through partnerships with at least 6 community organisations.

c) Protecting the Forest

- Deliver successful awareness campaigns in the run up to the local elections in Epping Forest District Council and the London Mayoral and Assembly elections in May
- Respond impactfully to planning policy proposals which would have a significant negative impact on the Forest.

d) Organisational Priorities

- Grow the number and generosity of our members and supporters, investing time and resource in recruiting and supporting them, for the benefit of the Forest
- Secure at least £100k of new trust and foundation partnership income to support the delivery of our charitable objectives.

e) Governance priority

- Develop a new strategy for the organisation to take effect from April 2025.

D. VOLUNTEERS, GRANTS & DONATIONS

Our work to protect and conserve the Forest relies on the generosity of our members, supporters, legacy donors, in memoriam donors, funding partners and other stakeholders, along with the dedication and commitment of our volunteers.

We are hugely grateful to all those individuals and organisations that love and care about the Forest and who support our work.

In particular we want to express our thanks to our 160 plus volunteers over the past year, who have between them helped people enjoy the Forest through their advice at the Visitor Centre at High Beach, have delivered our hands-on conservation activities in the Forest, have led and marshalled our growing guided walks programme and have spearheaded our work to respond to planning proposals around the Forest and brief our members on important planning proposals around the Forest.

We would also like to thank the City of London Corporation for its ongoing investment in the Visitor Centre at High Beach, as well as providing offices and tool storage for the Trust in Warren Lodge and on the Warren site. They have also been generous in their Keeper support on the Big Walk and with our walk with Muslim Hikers.

Thanks also to Councillor Stephen Murray, our honorary ambassador, for his ongoing support.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

D. VOLUNTEERS, GRANTS & DONATIONS (continued)

In addition, the Trust is very grateful to have been able to work with a group of fantastic partners and collaborators over the past year including Black Girls Hike, Muslim Hikers, the Wren Conservation Group, Epping Forest Transport Action Group, CPRE London, The Hive, Wanderlust Women, Muslim Women Connect, Sustainably Muslim, Transfemme Social, Hiking in Skirts, Epping Pride, The William Morris Gallery, Wanderers of Colour, and the Urban Tree Festival.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

b. Reserves policy

The Trust's total free reserves as at 31 March 2024 were £136,745 (last year £136,745). The level of reserves is principally due to the Trustees' decision in 2022/23 to establish a designated fund of £230,000 to support the implementation of their strategic plan to conserve and protect the Forest for years to come. The total deficit from 2023/2024 of £117,509, which includes a year-end positive investment revaluation of £22,472 (in March 2023 the revaluation showed a loss of £19,394) will be subtracted from the designated reserve, leaving £112,491 remaining for the strategic plan.

As part of the development of its new strategy the Board is clear that the Forest is currently facing unprecedented threats and will continue to face these and other threats for the foreseeable future. These threats include neighbouring development, high levels of pollution, high levels of footfall and climate change.

In order for the Forest to be conserved and protected now, and for generations to come, the Board believe that the work set out in our new strategic plan will be needed on an ongoing basis: the Forest will need people to care for it and advocate on its behalf for years to come.

The Board's approach is therefore to develop programmes of work that are sustainable long into the future. In order to achieve this the Trustees designated £230,000 in 2023 towards investment in our strategy, being primarily an investment in organisational development, fundraising, marketing and membership. Fundraising income in 2023/2024 was 3 times higher than 2022/2023 due to this investment. The budgeted deficit for 2024/25 is £58,000.

The Trustees' long-term aim is for income consistently to equal or exceed expenditure, with reserves of 6 months' operating expenditure. In the short term we are incurring planned deficits as we invest in our future strategy and growth. We anchor our free reserves to 6 months' operating expenditure at our projected size beyond April 2025, which is in the region of £270,000.

c. Material investments policy

The Board has power to invest funds not immediately required for operational purposes in such investments, securities or properties as it thinks fit subject to any restrictions within the Articles of Association.

d. Principal risks and uncertainties

The Directors have reviewed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and systems have been established to mitigate those risks. The risk register was last reviewed in March 2024.

EPHING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Trust was incorporated on 21st November 1977 as a company limited by a guarantee and is governed by its Articles of Association. It was registered as a charity on 8th February 1978. It changed its name from Epping Forest Centenary Trust to Epping Forest Heritage Trust with effect from 12th April 2018 and its Articles of Association took effect on 17th April 2018. On that date the former charity, The Friends of Epping Forest (Charity No. 299970), transferred its assets to Epping Forest Heritage Trust and thereby amalgamated with it. Its Articles of Association set out the objects and powers of the Trust and the way it is governed.

The Trust is governed by a Board of Trustees, with a minimum membership of three.

At the end of March 2024, there were 10 trustees. A recruitment process was held in the summer of 2023 and 2 new trustees joined the board in September 2023.

Judith Adams continued as Chair of the Trust. James Harrington became the Vice Chair in December 2023.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity.

Any person who is willing to act as a trustee, and who would not be disqualified from acting under the provisions of Article 26, may be elected to be a trustee by members by ordinary resolution for a period of three years, renewable up to a maximum term of 9 years.

The Board of Trustees may appoint any person willing to be a Trustee for the period up to the following Annual General Meeting.

In the year to 31st March 2024, the Board met formally three times, with an additional planning session in December. The Finance Committee (a sub-committee of the Board) met three times. In addition, trustees provided significant ongoing support to the organisation throughout the year.

The full membership of the Trustee Board, who are also directors under the terms of the Companies Act, are set out above. The members of the Trustee Board have no beneficial interest in the group or charity.

The Trustee Board delegates responsibility for the day-to-day activities of the organisation to the Chief Executive, Peter Lewis who reports to the Board at Trustee meetings, and who produces reports on the activities undertaken in managing the charity including management accounts that explain the financial position of the charity.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees must prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

**EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue to operate.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 9th September 2024 and signed on their behalf

On behalf of the board



JL Adams

Chair of Trustees

EPHING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

I report to the trustees (who are also directors for the purpose of company law) on my examination of the financial statements of Epping Forest Heritage Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charitable company you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charitable company's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('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 2011 Act.

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the financial statements. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the charitable company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
- the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.

**EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)**

TO THE TRUSTEES OF EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.



11 September 2024

Philip Robert Hern FCCA
for and on behalf of Hern Pocknells Limited
Chartered Accountants
Suites 1 & 2, Nash House
Hackman's Lane, Purleigh
Chelmsford
Essex

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024
INCLUDING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations, legacies and grants	3	26,540	60,117	86,657	27,196
Investments	4	9,114	-	9,114	12,935
		<u>35,654</u>	<u>60,117</u>	<u>95,771</u>	<u>40,131</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	5	175,635	60,125	235,760	201,638
Total expenditure		<u>175,635</u>	<u>60,125</u>	<u>235,760</u>	<u>201,638</u>
Net expenditure before net gains					
/(losses) on investments		(139,981)	(8)	(139,989)	(161,507)
Net gains /(losses) on investments		22,472	-	22,472	(19,394)
		<u>(117,509)</u>	<u>(8)</u>	<u>(117,517)</u>	<u>(180,901)</u>
Net expenditure for the year	15				
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	15	366,745	960	367,705	548,606
Transfers	15	-	-	-	-
Total funds carried forward		<u>249,236</u>	<u>952</u>	<u>250,188</u>	<u>367,705</u>

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

		2024		2023	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Non-current assets					
Investments	12		176,671		352,199
			<u>176,671</u>		<u>352,199</u>
Current assets					
Investments	12	58,000		-	
Debtors due within one year	13	1,332		3,194	
Cash at bank and in hand		27,775		19,202	
		<u>87,107</u>		<u>22,396</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(13,590)		(6,890)	
Net current assets			<u>73,517</u>		<u>15,506</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>250,188</u>		<u>367,705</u>
Funds of the Charity					
Operational funds	15		136,745		136,745
Designated funds	15		112,491		230,000
			<u>249,236</u>		<u>366,745</u>
Unrestricted funds					
Restricted income funds	15		952		960
			<u>250,188</u>		<u>367,705</u>

For the year ending 31 March 2024 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the Board for issue on 9 September 2024

J L Adams
Chair of Trustees



J Richardson
Treasurer and Trustee



Company Registration No. 01339783
Charity Registration No. 275076

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 General information

Epping Forest Heritage Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales. The charitable company constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102 (1A) "the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland". The registered office is: The Warren Lodge, Essex, IG10 4RN. The financial statements have been prepared in pounds sterling which is the functional currency of the charitable company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

2 Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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 Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Epping Forest Heritage Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except as noted in note 2.6 Investments. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

2.2 Going concern

The trustees have not identified any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue as a going concern.

2.3 Incoming resources

All income is recognised once the Company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Company has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Company, can be reliably measured.

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2 Accounting policies (continued)

2.4 Expenditure and depreciation

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.

Assets costing more than £3,000 are depreciated evenly over 5 years. IT equipment costing more than £3,000 is depreciated evenly over 3 years.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Company's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 Investment income

Investment income, including interest on funds held on deposit and dividends from a managed investment portfolio, are included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Company; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.6 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Statement of Financial Activities.

2.7 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.9 Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Company anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2 Accounting policies (continued)

2.10 Fund Accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked for a particular project.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations	19,740	17,617	37,357	18,991
Legacies and in memoriam	100	-	100	2,650
Grants	-	42,500	42,500	-
Similar incoming resources	6,700	-	6,700	5,555
	<u>26,540</u>	<u>60,117</u>	<u>86,657</u>	<u>27,196</u>
Total 2023	<u>27,196</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,196</u>	

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from listed investments	8,847	-	8,847	12,841
Interest	267	-	267	94
	<u>9,114</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,114</u>	<u>12,935</u>
Total 2023	<u>12,935</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,935</u>	

EPHING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

5	Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities Summary by fund type	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		funds 2024 £	funds 2024 £	funds 2024 £	funds 2023 £
	Charitable activities	175,635	60,125	235,760	201,638
	Total 2023	193,067	8,571	201,638	
6	Analysis of expenditure by activities	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
	Charitable activities	174,148	61,612	235,760	201,638
	Total 2023	132,201	69,437	201,638	
Analysis of direct costs				Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
	Educate & Inspire			112,825	73,716
	Conserve & Grow			52,201	31,755
	Protect			9,122	26,730
				174,148	132,201
Analysis of support costs				Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
	Governance			7,246	10,095
	Organisational development			31,305	38,234
	Operations			23,061	21,108
				61,612	69,437
7	Net expenditure for the year			2024 £	2023 £
	Net expenditure for the year is stated after charging:				
	Independent examiner's remuneration - independent examination			2,520	2,700
	- other financial services			-	540

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

8 Taxation

The company is not subject to corporation tax on its investment income as it is a charity, which is exempt from tax.

9 Staff costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	145,654	110,432
Social security costs	7,123	5,509
Pension costs	4,780	4,267
	<u>157,557</u>	<u>120,208</u>

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

Members of key management received remuneration (including employer's pension and national insurance contributions) of £59,508 (2023 - £56,548).

10 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Chief executive officer	1	1
Conservation Officer	2	1
Administration	1	1
Education	1	1
Finance	1	-
Community Engagement	1	-
	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>

Staffing levels on a full time equivalent basis were:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Chief executive officer	0.8	0.8
Conservation Officer	0.9	0.6
Education	0.2	1.2
Administration	1.0	1.0
Finance	0.4	-
Community Engagement	0.4	-
	<u>3.7</u>	<u>3.6</u>

Role of volunteers

Over the course of the year the Trust benefited from the time and expertise of over 200 volunteers in relation to running the Visitor Centre at High Beach, leading walks, including the Big Walk and undertaking hands-on conservation activities (2023 - 60). In total volunteers contributed over 6,500 hours of their time over the year (2023 - 4,500).

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

11 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2023 - £nil).

During the year ended 31 March 2024, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2023 - £nil).

12 Investments

**Listed
investments
£**

Valuation

At 1 April	352,199
Disposals	(140,000)
Revaluations	22,472
At 31 March 2024	<u>234,671</u>

We hold a significant amount of our reserves in a CCLA COIF Charities Investment Fund which is a managed fund of a mixture of equities, bonds and property aimed at long term growth and reliable income distribution. It reduced from a value of £352,199 at the start of the financial year to £234,671 at the end of the financial year as result of drawings of £140,000 to invest in our new strategy and a positive revaluation of £22,472. It is accessible on one week's notice.

Because of the ability to access the funds at short notice, and the intention to expend these funds in line with our strategic plan, £58,000 of the investment has been reclassified from a fixed asset investment to a current asset investment during the year ended 31 March 2024.

The investment is measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

13 Debtors

**2024
£**

**2023
£**

Due within one year

Other debtors	-	2,609
Prepayments	1,332	585
	<u>1,332</u>	<u>3,194</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

**2024
£**

**2023
£**

Accruals	12,927	6,121
Other creditors	663	769
	<u>13,590</u>	<u>6,890</u>

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

15 Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance 1 April 2023	Transfers	Increased / (Decreased)	Balance 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
Operational reserves	136,745	117,509	(117,509)	136,745
Designated funds				
Investment fund	230,000	(117,509)		112,491
General funds - all funds	366,745	-	(117,509)	249,236
Restricted funds	960	-	(8)	952
	960	-	(8)	952
	367,705	-	(117,517)	250,188

Restricted funds

	Balance 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Balance 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
NLCF: Awards 4 All Walks with BGH and Muslim Hikers	-	10,000	(10,000)	-
City Bridge Conservation activities	-	27,500	(27,500)	-
Big Give - Halo 50	-	7,274	(7,274)	-
Walking App - Charles S French Charitable Trust	-	3,000	(3,000)	-
Walking App - Essex CC Locality Fund	-	2,000	(2,000)	-
Aviva Wild Isles Community Fund	-	10,343	(10,343)	-
Ken Hoy - Talks	960		(8)	952
	960	60,117	(60,125)	952

We are very grateful to have received a variety of funding which has been restricted for specific charitable purposes of the year. These are as follows:

- National Lottery Community Fund Awards for All. £10,000 for our walks programme with Muslim Hikers and Black Girls Hike, with the Hive as a supporting partner. These funds were distributed to our partners and incurred by us in the delivery of the walks programme over the year.
- The City Bridge Foundation. We were awarded a grant of £67,500 from the City Bridge Foundation over the course of two year towards new conservation activities in the south of the Forest designed to increase the diversity of our conservation volunteers as well as increase the biodiversity of the Forest. This grant started in June 2023, and we have spent £27,500 of those restricted funds.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

15 Statement of funds - continued

Restricted funds - continued

- The Big Give Green Match Fund Halo 50 project. We received match funding from the Big Give towards our Halo 50 programme of work increasing the health and longevity of ancient trees by creating a circle of light around them. We raised £7,274 for this restricted programme of work from a range of individual donors and the match funding.
- Aviva Wild Isles Community Fund. We received two to one match funding towards our community engagement activities from a mixture of individual donations and the match funding. We raised £10,343 through this programme and fully spent the funds on our various community engagement activities over the year.
- We set up a restricted fund to develop our new Walking App for Epping Forest, and were delighted to receive support from the Charles S French Charitable Trust (£3,000) and Essex County Council Locality Fund (£2,000) towards this project.
- Ken Hoy Fund. This fund was established to support talks about the Forest and we spent £8 of it on our debate about how best to represent nature ahead of the elections planned for 2024.

Unrestricted Funds - Funds that are available to be spent for any purposes of the charity.

Investment Fund - The trustees have designated funds to deliver its strategy of developing the organisation, its fundraising, marketing and membership. This fund is expected to be fully utilised by 31 March 2026.

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance 1 April 2022	Transfers	Increased / (Decreased)	Balance 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
Operational reserves	540,517	(231,442)	(172,330)	136,745
Designated funds				
Investment fund	-	230,000	-	230,000
General funds - all funds	540,517	(1,442)	(172,330)	366,745
Restricted funds				
In memory of Ken Hoy	1,114	-	(154)	960
City of London Central Grant (signage)	6,975	1,442	(8,417)	-
	8,089	1,442	(8,571)	960
	548,606	-	(180,901)	367,705

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

				2024
	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Unrestricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Investments	952	112,491	121,228	234,671
Other current assets	10,149	-	18,958	29,107
Creditors due within one year	(10,149)	-	(3,441)	(13,590)
	<u>952</u>	<u>112,491</u>	<u>136,745</u>	<u>250,188</u>

				2023
	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Unrestricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed asset investments	-	230,000	122,199	352,199
Current assets	960	-	21,436	22,396
Creditors due within one year	-	-	(6,890)	(6,890)
	<u>960</u>	<u>230,000</u>	<u>136,745</u>	<u>367,705</u>

17 Related party transactions

The Company has not entered into any related party transaction during the year, nor are there any outstanding balances owing between related parties and the Company at 31 March 2024.

18 Post balance sheet events

On 31 May 2024, the charity received a legacy of £9,000 from the estate of Gerald William Goddard. We have also received a grants of £20,000 from Garfield Weston to support our core activities, been awarded £14,7000 from Central City Grants for community engagement work and received £2,500 from the Big Give Green Match Fund, which was used to raise a further £4,895 in donations and related Gift Aid towards our policy and planning work.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES' INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

EPHING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
ANALYSIS OF DIRECT COSTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024	2023
DIRECT COSTS		
Educate & Inspire		
Visitor Centre		12,431
Sales of Stock	12,876	
Donations	9,551	
Walks		
The Big Walk	4,382	236
Monthly Walk Programme	1,710	44
Walking App	9,845	-
Community Engagement Walks	13,234	-
Subscriptions	4,023	14,104
Donations		
Appeals	4,521	-
In Memoriam	3,096	-
Legacy	3,096	-
Trust in the Forest Magazine	13,738	7,080
Website		9,283
Main website development/Ads	9,509	
eCommerce	3,253	
Identity	-	17,590
Social Media	3,354	12,544
Talk Programme	1,678	-
Urban Tree Festival & Others	-	404
NLHF: Community Engagement Manager	14,959	-
Educate & Inspire Total	112,825	73,716
Conserve & Grow		
Green Team	8,669	14,955
Happy Loppers charges	12,495	13,110
Big Give or similar	27,658	-
Local Grants	3,379	-
Other Conservation Projects	-	3,690
Conserve & Grow Total	52,201	31,755
Protect		
Local Election Campaign	5,252	10,245
City of London Community / TFL Signage	-	8,417
Partner Subscriptions	1,019	4,034
Conservation Policy	2,851	4,034
Protect Total	9,122	26,730
TOTAL DIRECT ACTIVITIES	174,148	132,201

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024	2023
SUPPORT COSTS		
Governance		
AGM	3,252	1,723
Trustee Training	-	1,076
Publishing Strategy	-	1,076
Accountancy	3,994	4,316
Recruit New Trustees	-	1,904
Governance Total	7,246	10,095
Organisational development		
IT	-	16,923
CRM Ongoing	17,157	-
Fundraising Consultancy	9,511	15,932
Training & Development	4,637	-
Inclusion	-	5,379
Organisational Development Total	31,305	38,234
Operations		
Finance and Office Administration	15,235	14,390
Insurance/IT/Telephones	7,826	-
Unallocated Operational Costs	-	6,718
Operations Total	23,061	21,108
TOTAL SUPPORT COSTS	61,612	69,437

Accounts

Company Registration No. 01339783 (England and Wales)

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

CHARITY ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Trustees (who are also directors)	J L Adams J Blackman J Gilbert J Harrington P A Moxey M Murphy C Pantling R Perry-Gosling G Scott Spicer M A Smith L Vacher	(appointed 17 January 2023) (appointed 17 January 2023)
Company number	01339783	
Registered Charity number	275076	
Registered office	The Warren Lodge Loughton Essex IG10 4RN	
Website	https://efht.org.uk/	
Chief Executive Officer	P Lewis	
Accountants	Hern Pocknells Limited Chartered Accountants Suites 1 & 2, Nash House Hackman's Lane, Purleigh Chelmsford Essex CM3 6RP	
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited West Malling Kent ME19 4TA	

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

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EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2023. The Trustees, who are also Directors for the purposes of the company law and who served during the year and up to the date of this report are shown on the Administrative Details.

The Trustees have prepared this Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law including the Charities Act 2006, United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, our Articles of Association and with the accounting principles set out in the notes to these financial statements.

Since the Company qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the Strategic Report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The charity's objects are:

For the benefit of the public in general (and in particular, but without limitation, the communities in and around Epping Forest):

- (a) To preserve and promote the natural, historical and cultural heritage of Epping Forest and to promote environmental conservation, protection and improvement in Epping Forest; and
- (b) to advance education by promoting greater knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Epping Forest.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance, published by the Commission, in determining the activities undertaken by the charity. The trustees are satisfied that the aims and objectives of the charity, and the activities reported on above to achieve the aims, meet these principles.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Summary review of activities

This has been a year of transition and transformation for the Trust, with Trustees investing in a Chief Executive and a small staff team to drive forward a new Strategic Plan which was launched in July 2022 with a new visual identity for the Trust based on three new strategic objectives.

We have been able to be more proactive externally, raising our social media and web profile and completing a successful awareness campaign about the Forest in the run up to the local elections in May 2022.

Our hands-on conservation work to increase biodiversity in the Forest delivered by our fantastic cohort of volunteers in the Green Team and our amazing Happy Lopper participants, has continued two days per week, and our volunteers have continued to lead monthly walks and operate the Visitor Centre at High Beach, welcoming visitors to, and informing them about, the Forest.

We report our activities against our new Strategic Objectives:

EPHING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

Summary review of activities (continued)

1. We will educate and inspire people about Epping Forest

Our dedicated volunteers continued to operate the Visitor Centre at High Beach, contributing over 2,200 hours of volunteer time and welcoming over 9,000 visitors to the Forest, providing them with helpful information for their visit.

Our volunteers also continued to lead our highly-valued Forest-wide guided walks programme, contributing over 100 hours of volunteer time, and enabling 380 people to learn more about the Forest while getting some much-welcomed outdoor exercise. Sarah, one of the walk attendees said, 'Guided walks in Epping Forest are superb. We are learning about the Forest, its trees and wildlife from expert guides.'

Our e-mail newsletter secured over 650 readers and we distributed 3 editions of our Trust in the Forest magazine to our 1,000 plus members around the Forest.

We were also delighted to partner with Fences & Frontiers to run both a walk and a family event for refugees, and with Black Girls Hike, to run their first ever family event in partnership with the Hive (formally Suntrap). We developed a partnership with Muslim Hikers, and developed a new walk in the north of the Forest for a partnership walk with them later in 2023.

We ran two successful Forest Talks to engage different audiences in discussion about the Forest. The first, as part of the Urban Tree Festival with Mark Gorman and Tricia Moxey, focused on the saving of Epping Forest, and the second, with keynote speaker Tony Juniper, CBE, Chair of Natural England, focused on the role of Epping Forest in nature recovery across the UK.

In order to encourage more people to use public transport and walking to access the Forest we partnered with the City of London Corporation and Transport for London to develop signage at Epping and Loughton underground stations, with waymarked walking routes to the Forest. This signage and the waymarked routes will be installed in 2023. We would like to thank the City of London Corporation's Central Fund for their support for this work.

In September, in partnership with the West Essex Ramblers and the City of London Corporation, our volunteers led over 200 people in total on the 14 mile rebranded Epping Forest Big Walk (previously the Centenary Walk) from Manor Park in the south of the Forest to Epping in the north of the Forest. Volunteer walk leaders and marshals contributed over 100 hours of their time to make the Big Walk a success.

To mark the relaunch of this walk after the COVID pandemic we also published a new Epping Forest Big Walk map, detailing the 14 mile walking route from the south to the north of the Forest, enabling people to undertake the walk in their own time, and in stages should they wish to do so. We ran a Facebook sponsored ad campaign offering people a copy of the map for free. As a result we received over 1,500 requests for these free maps, and 95% of those people asked to be added to our mailing list to enable them to continue to hear about Epping Forest.

2. We will conserve and grow the Forest

We continued to manage our two teams of conservation volunteers. Our Green Team included 24 different individuals over the course of the year and completed 31 conservation sessions delivering 719 hours of volunteer time.

The City of London Corporation conservation team have reported that the diversity of grassland species has significantly increased on Fairmead Glade since our repeat visits.

Our team of people with learning disabilities, the Happy Loppers, undertook 35 sessions involving 18 people including their support workers delivering 1,417 hours of volunteer time. The groups worked on 7 separate sites removing dense stands of holly to open up the Forest floor to increase ground level flora and open "halos of light" around ancient pollarded trees.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

Summary review of activities (continued)

2. We will conserve and grow the Forest (continued)

Whilst all our conservation sessions seek to make habitat improvements to improve species diversity in the Forest, we have added an additional approach to how we utilise the materials taken from tree cuttings. Habitat piles are always created to provide refuge areas for reptiles and amphibians. We are now also carefully placing pruning's and logs in shallow ditch areas to create mini 'leaky dams'. This aims to retain vital water in the Forest for longer and slow down water which might otherwise cause a flood risk further downstream.

We were delighted to receive funding support from City Bridge Trust for a new project to double the scale of our conservation activities in the Forest, with a focus on increasing the diversity of our conservation volunteers, including piloting women only conservation sessions. This project will start in the summer of 2023.

In support of our application to City Bridge Trust, Geoff Sinclair, then Head of Operations in the City of London's Epping Forest team stated of our work:

"I am pleased to confirm that the volunteer works program at Epping Forest is very much over and above the core work that City of London Epping Forest team would undertake. The volunteer delivered works allow greater focus on some tasks than we would normally undertake and allows for a much higher standard of delivery than we would normally achieve. The increased task ownership in local areas also allows additional work to be delivered in those areas than we would normally be able to achieve, eg at Highams Park volunteers from the EFHT initiated work to create landscape views from the formal park to the lake which local residents through another volunteer group have subsequently maintained. This work has opened the Park up for more people to explore and is widely appreciated but is a project that we would never have undertaken had it not been for the volunteer support. This is important with tasks in more visible areas and also with some particular habitat management operations, eg pond management and heathland restoration are habitat management tasks where the added focus volunteer teams bring is particularly beneficial."

3. We will protect and preserve the Forest

We continued to play an active part, informed by our members' views, in the Epping Forest Consultative Group, convened by the City of London Corporation.

We fed our views into a substantial consultation by the City of London Corporation on the approach to future habitat management of the Forest, stressing the importance of the work to increase biodiversity in the Forest, protecting it from damage by appropriately surfacing paths where necessary and suggesting more work to capture water in the Forest.

We wrote to all of the successful candidates in the City of London Corporate elections who were elected to each of the Open Spaces and Epping Forest and Commons Committee.

We developed our relationships with community organisations around the Forest in order that together we can be better informed about different aspects and locations in the Forest, and partner together on initiatives as appropriate.

We completed a very successful awareness campaign ahead of the local elections in May 2022, securing the support of 84 candidates in the local elections to put the Forest "at the heart of their decision-making". 40 candidates who made the pledge were subsequently elected, and since the election we have built on those relationships with productive discussions with the Council Leaders and/or Cabinet Members in each Waltham Forest, Redbridge and Newham.

EPHING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

Summary review of activities (continued)

3. We will protect and preserve the Forest (continued)

In order to protect the Forest from developments that would have an adverse effect on it we also contributed our views to a number of planning issues, including submitting a formal response to a further consultation on the Epping Forest District Council Local Plan, stressing the importance of properly protecting the Forest as a part of its plan.

We also expressed strong opposition to the development of a new Next distribution centre on Dowding Way in Epping due to the increased vehicle trips and pollution it would create, attended the Appeal hearing, and were delighted when the appeal by Next was refused and the development blocked. We also fed in comments on the planned Latton Priory Development, expressing our concerns about the impact of the development on car traffic and pollution through the Forest.

We were delighted to become a part of the “A More Natural Capital Coalition” of environmental organisations who collaborate to encourage the London Mayor and local authorities in London to focus more efforts on nature recovery across the capital. As London’s largest open green space we are keen that the Mayor, the City of London Corporation and adjacent local authorities invest sufficiently to protect and help nature recover in Epping Forest.

4. We will develop our governance and operations

We finalised and launched our new strategy and new identity in July, and over the course of the next few months agreed a Fundraising Strategy Framework, to inform our approach to, and investment in, fundraising for the next 3 years.

We were delighted to recruit 5 new Trustees through an open recruitment process. They bring a range of skills and experiences that will enhance those of our existing Trustees and strengthen our Board as a whole.

We staged a successful AGM in October in Lopping Hall in Loughton, with over 60 members in attendance.

We researched and introduced the Trust’s first ever CRM system to enable us to improve our engagement with our members and supporters. We improved the functionality of, and content on, our website to improve the experience of our members, supporters and the general public in finding out about the Forest and our events.

We would like to thank all our staff, volunteers, partners and funders for their role in delivering our work.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2023/24

The major focus of the year will be expanding our community. The Forest needs a younger and more diverse group of people to care about protecting and conserving it in the longer term, and it is part of our role to engage and inspire this new, wider community.

In order to achieve that, and our wide strategic objectives, the Board of Trustees have agreed the following key objectives for 2023/24.

A. Educating and inspiring people about the Forest

- 1 Gain a better understanding of visitors to the Forest, and the barriers some people and communities face.
- 2 Seek partner funding for a community engagement programme that welcomes new people to the Forest, manages our visitor welcome and walks programme.
- 3 Increase the number of people participating in our free monthly guided walk programme and host walks with Black Girls Hike and Muslim Hikers.
- 4 Optimise the impact of the Visitor Centre at High Beach while maintaining current model of operation.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

B. Conserve and grow

5. Extend our hands-on conservation work to 4 days per week, with a greater variety of hands-on conservation being undertaken by a more diverse set of participants.

C. Protect

6. Deliver a successful awareness campaign in the run up to the local elections in Epping Forest District Council in May as a platform to secure greater support for the Forest from EFDC Councillors.
7. Develop stronger relationships with local authorities and community groups around the Forest to help deliver our shared objectives.
8. Strengthen our conservation policy capacity.

D. Governance and Organisational development

Governance

9. Optimise the impact of the expertise and experience of our existing and new Trustees through effective meetings and engagement in specific areas of our work.
10. Develop a baseline of the existing diversity of the organisation, building on staff and Trustee data to included volunteers, members and participants.

Executive

11. Grow the number and generosity of our members and supporters, investing time and resource in their recruitment and stewardship.
12. Implement the new Strategic Fundraising Framework, investing time in bid writing, legacy and in memoriam giving as a priority.

VOLUNTEERS, GRANTS & DONATIONS

Our work to protect and conserve the Forest relies on the generosity of our members, supporters, legacy donors, in memoriam donors, funding partners and other stakeholders, along with the dedication and commitment of our volunteers.

We are hugely grateful to all those individuals and organisations that love and care about the Forest and who support our work.

In particular we want to express our thanks to our 60 plus volunteers over the past year, who have between them helped people enjoy the Forest through their advice at the Visitor Centre at High Beach, have delivered our hands-on conservation activities in the Forest and have developed and led our free Guided Walks programme.

We want to wish our longstanding volunteer, Mike Hacker, a wonderful retirement, having volunteered for us for over 40 years, guiding and supporting our hands-on conservation activities.

We also had some very sad news over the year, with the deaths of two of our most longstanding and committed conservation volunteers, Stephen Clements and Alan Bailey. They are sadly missed.

We were really touched to receive £2,157.86 from an in memoriam fund set up by the family of Stephen Clements, our long-term volunteer. Thank you so much to all of Stephen's family and friends who contributed.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

VOLUNTEERS, GRANTS & DONATIONS (continued)

We are also extremely grateful to have received £1k from the estate of an anonymous donor who was a local resident although not a member. Gratefully received too were donations in memory of Joyce Dongray and Jennifer Boking.

Many thanks also to Sharegift, who surprised us with a gift of £1k before Christmas, and to Buckhurst Hill Yoga who raised £412 on National Yoga Day.

We would also like to thank the City of London Corporation for its ongoing investment in the Visitor Centre at High Beach, as well as providing offices and tool storage for the Trust in Warren Lodge and on the Warren site.

Thanks also to Councillor Stephen Murray, our honorary president, for his ongoing support.

In addition, the Trust is very grateful to have been able to work with a group of fantastic partners and collaborators over the past year including Fences & Frontiers, Black Girls Hike, Muslim Hikers, the Wren Conservation Group, Friends of Wanstead Parklands, Epping Forest Transport Action Group, Bushwood Area Residents Association, CPRE London, The Hive and The Urban Tree Festival.

We would also like to thank the following individuals who have given us specialist advice on a voluntary basis over the last year in relation to the implementation of our CRM and our social media: Dominic Tinley, Elizabeth Gilbert and her partner, Ben, Alex Xavier, Ian Wright.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

b. Reserves policy

The Trust's total free reserves as at 31st March 2023 were £136,745 (last year £540,517). The reduction in reserves is principally due to the Trustees' decision to establish a designated fund of £230,000 to support the implementation of their strategic plan to conserve and protect the Forest for years to come. The reserves were also impacted by a year-end negative investment revaluation of £19,394 (in March 2022 the revaluation showed a gain of £40,300) and by the planned investment of £154,378 to support our charitable activities.

As part of the development of its new strategy the Board is clear that the Forest is currently facing unprecedented threats and will continue to face these and other threats for the foreseeable future. These threats include neighbouring development, high levels of pollution, high levels of footfall and climate change.

In order for the Forest to be conserved and protected now, and for generations to come, the Board believe that the work set out in our new strategic plan will be needed on an ongoing basis: the Forest will need people to care for it and advocate on its behalf for years to come.

The Board's approach is therefore to develop programmes of work that are sustainable long into the future. In order to achieve this the Trustees have designated £230,000 towards investment over the next two years in our strategy for beyond April 2025, being primarily an investment in organisational development, fundraising, marketing and membership.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Financial review (continued)

b. Reserves policy (continued)

The Trustees' long-term aim is for income consistently to equal or exceed expenditure, with reserves of 6 months' operating expenditure. In the short term we are incurring planned deficits as we invest in our future strategy and growth.

Trustees will monitor the Trust's financial performance and projections of the level of its reserves against this model with a view to ensuring the Trust's long-term sustainability which they believe is essential to protect and preserve the Forest for generations to come.

c. Material investments policy

The Board has power to invest funds not immediately required for operational purposes in such investments, securities or properties as it thinks fit subject to any restrictions within the Articles of Association.

d. Principal risks and uncertainties

The Directors have reviewed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and systems have been established to mitigate those risks. The risk register was last reviewed in May 2023.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Trust was incorporated on 21st November 1977 as a company limited by a guarantee and is governed by its Articles of Association. It was registered as a charity on 8th February 1978. It changed its name from Epping Forest Centenary Trust to Epping Forest Heritage Trust with effect from 12th April 2018 and its Articles of Association took effect on 17th April 2018. On that date the former charity, The Friends of Epping Forest (Charity No. 299970), transferred its assets to Epping Forest Heritage Trust and thereby amalgamated with it. Its Articles of Association set out the objects and powers of the Trust and the way it is governed.

The Trust is governed by a Board of Trustees, with a minimum membership of three.

At the end of March 2023, there were 11 trustees. A recruitment process was held in the autumn of 2023 and 5 new trustees joined the board in January 2023.

Judith Adams continued as Chair of the Trust, and Mike Smith continued as Treasurer, also chairing a newly established Finance Sub-Committee.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity.

No board members resigned during the period.

Any person who is willing to act as a trustee, and who would not be disqualified from acting under the provisions of Article 26, may be elected to be a trustee by members by ordinary resolution for a period of three years, renewable up to a maximum term of 9 years.

The Board of Trustees may appoint any person willing to be a Trustee for the period up to the following Annual General Meeting.

In the year to 31st March 2023, the Board met formally four times, with an additional planning session in December. The Finance Committee (a sub-committee of the Board) met three times. In addition, trustees provided significant ongoing support to the organisation throughout the year.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

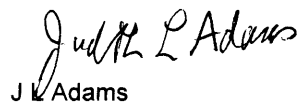
The full membership of the Trustee Board, who are also directors under the terms of the Companies Act, are set out above. The members of the Trustee Board have no beneficial interest in the group or charity.

The Trustee Board delegates responsibility for the day-to-day activities of the organisation to the Chief Executive, Peter Lewis who reports to the Board at Trustee meetings, and who produces reports on the activities undertaken in managing the charity including management accounts that explain the financial position of the charity.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 5 September 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

On behalf of the board



J L Adams
Chair of Trustees

**EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees (who are also the directors for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees must prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue to operate.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 5 September 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

On behalf of the board



J L Adams
Chair of Trustees

EPHING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

I report to the trustees (who are also directors for the purpose of company law) on my examination of the financial statements of Epping Forest Heritage Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charitable company you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charitable company's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('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 2011 Act.

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the financial statements. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the charitable company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
- the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.

**EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)**

TO THE TRUSTEES OF EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

6 September 2023



Philip Robert Hern FCCA
for and on behalf of Hern Pocknells Limited
Chartered Accountants
Suites 1 & 2, Nash House
Hackman's Lane, Purleigh
Chelmsford
Essex

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023
INCLUDING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations, legacies and grants	3	27,196	-	27,196	47,283
Investments	4	12,935	-	12,935	24,142
		40,131	-	40,131	71,425
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	5	193,067	8,571	201,638	155,855
Total expenditure		193,067	8,571	201,638	155,855
Net expenditure before net (losses) / gains on investments					
Net (losses) / gains on investments		(152,936)	(8,571)	(161,507)	(84,430)
		(19,394)	-	(19,394)	40,300
Net expenditure for the year	15	(172,330)	(8,571)	(180,901)	(44,130)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	15	540,517	8,089	548,606	592,736
Transfers	15	(1,442)	1,442	-	-
Total funds carried forward		366,745	960	367,705	548,606

EPHING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

		2023		2022	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Non-current assets					
Investments	12		352,199		531,593
			<u>352,199</u>		<u>531,593</u>
Current assets					
Debtors due within one year	13	3,194		4,831	
Cash at bank and in hand		19,202		15,938	
		<u>22,396</u>		<u>20,769</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(6,890)		(3,756)	
Net current assets			<u>15,506</u>		<u>17,013</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u><u>367,705</u></u>		<u><u>548,606</u></u>
Funds of the Charity					
Operational funds	15		136,745		540,517
Designated funds	15		230,000		-
			<u>366,745</u>		<u>540,517</u>
Unrestricted funds					
Restricted income funds	15		960		8,089
			<u>367,705</u>		<u>548,606</u>

For the year ending 31 March 2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

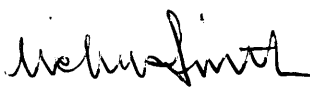
The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the Board for issue on 5 September 2023


J L Adams
Chair of Trustees


M A Smith
Treasurer and Trustee

Company Registration No. 01339783
Charity Registration No. 275076

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 General information

Epping Forest Heritage Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales. The charitable company constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102 (1A) "the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland". The registered office is: The Warren Lodge Essex IG10 4RN. The financial statements have been prepared in pounds sterling which is the functional currency of the charitable company.

2 Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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 Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Epping Forest Heritage Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except as noted in note 2.6 Investments. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

2.2 Going concern

The trustees have not identified any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue as a going concern.

2.3 Incoming resources

All income is recognised once the Company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Company has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Company, can be reliably measured.

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

2 Accounting policies (continued)

2.4 Expenditure and depreciation

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.

Assets costing more than £3,000 are depreciated evenly over 5 years. IT equipment costing more than £3,000 is depreciated evenly over 3 years.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Company's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 Investment income

Investment income, including interest on funds held on deposit and dividends from a managed investment portfolio, are included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Company; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.6 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Statement of Financial Activities.

2.7 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.9 Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Company anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

2 Accounting policies (continued)

2.10 Fund Accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked for a particular project.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Donations	18,991	-	18,991	5,933
Legacies and in memoriam	2,650	-	2,650	419
Grants	-	-	-	37,532
Similar incoming resources	5,555	-	5,555	3,399
	<u>27,196</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,196</u>	<u>47,283</u>
Total 2022	<u>12,901</u>	<u>34,382</u>	<u>47,283</u>	

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from listed investments	12,841	-	12,841	23,965
Interest	94	-	94	177
	<u>12,935</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,935</u>	<u>24,142</u>
Total 2022	<u>24,142</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,142</u>	

EPHING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

5	Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities Summary by fund type	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		funds 2023 £	funds 2023 £	funds 2023 £	funds 2022 £
	Charitable activities	193,067	8,571	201,638	155,855
	Total 2022	115,472	40,383	155,855	
6	Analysis of expenditure by activities	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
	Charitable activities	132,201	69,437	201,638	155,113
	Total 2022	110,699	44,414	155,113	
Analysis of direct costs				Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
	Educate & Inspire			73,716	71,183
	Conserve & Grow			31,755	29,070
	Protect			26,730	10,446
				132,201	110,699
Analysis of support costs				Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
	Governance			10,095	8,222
	Organisational development			38,234	25,595
	Operations			21,108	10,597
				69,437	44,414
7	Net expenditure for the year			2023 £	2022 £
	Net expenditure for the year is stated after charging:				
	Independent examiner's remuneration - independent examination			2,700	2,300
	- other financial services			540	-

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

8 Taxation

The company is not subject to corporation tax on its investment income as it is a charity, which is exempt from tax.

9 Staff costs	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	110,432	80,082
Social security costs	5,509	1,937
Pension costs	4,267	3,200
	<u>120,208</u>	<u>85,219</u>

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

Members of key management received remuneration (including employer's pension and national insurance contributions) of £56,548 (2022 - £18,427).

10 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees (including directors) during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Chief executive officer	1	1
Conservation Officer	1	1
Administration	1	1
Education	1	-
	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>

Staffing levels on a full time equivalent basis were:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Chief executive officer	0.8	0.8
Conservation Officer	0.6	0.6
Education	1.2	1.0
Administration	1.0	1.0
	<u>3.6</u>	<u>3.4</u>

Role of volunteers

Over the course of the year the Trust benefited from the time and expertise of over 60 volunteers in relation to running the Visitor Centre at High Beach, leading walks, including the Big Walk and undertaking hands-on conservation activities. In total volunteers contributed over 4,500 hours of their time over the period.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

11 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2022 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2023, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2022 - £NIL).

12 Fixed asset investments	Listed investments £
Valuation	
At 1 April	531,593
Disposals	(160,000)
Revaluations	(19,394)
At 31 March 2023	<u>352,199</u>

We hold a significant amount of our reserves in a CCLA COIF Charities Investment Fund which is a managed fund of a mixture of equities, bonds and property aimed at long term growth and reliable income distribution. It reduced from a value of £531,593 at the start of the financial year to £352,199 at the end of the financial year as result of drawings of £160,000 to invest in our new strategy and a negative revaluation of £19,394. It is accessible on one week's notice.

The investment is measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

13 Debtors	2023 £	2022 £
Due within one year		
Other debtors	2,609	4,416
Prepayments	585	415
	<u>3,194</u>	<u>4,831</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2023 £	2022 £
Accruals	6,121	-
Other creditors	769	3,756
	<u>6,890</u>	<u>3,756</u>

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

15 Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance 1 April 2022	Transfers	Increased / (Decreased)	Balance 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
Operational reserves	540,517	(231,442)	(172,330)	136,745
Designated funds				
Investment fund		230,000		230,000
General funds - all funds	540,517	(1,442)	(172,330)	366,745
Restricted funds				
In memory of Ken Hoy	1,114	-	(154)	960
City of London Central Grant	6,975	1,442	(8,417)	-
	8,089	1,442	(8,571)	960
	548,606	-	(180,901)	367,705

City of London Central Grant - Grant awarded from the City of London Corporation for development of signage at two underground stations with waymarked walking routes to Epping Forest.

Ken Hoy Fund - Fund is restricted to help the provision of public talks about the Forest.

Unrestricted Funds - Funds that are available to be spent for any purposes of the charity.

Investment Fund - The trustees have designated funds to deliver its strategy of developing the organisation, its fundraising, marketing and membership. This fund is expected to be fully utilize by 31 March 2025.

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance 1 April 2021	Transfers	Increased / (Decreased)	Balance 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General funds - all funds	590,175	(11,529)	(38,129)	540,517
Restricted funds				
National Lottery Heritage Fund	1,447	11,529	(12,976)	-
In memory of Ken Hoy	1,114	-	-	1,114
City of London Central Grant	-	-	6,975	6,975
	2,561	11,529	(6,001)	8,089
	592,736	-	(44,130)	548,606

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

				2023
	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Unrestricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed asset investments	-	230,000	122,199	352,199
Current assets	960	-	21,436	22,396
Creditors due within one year	-	-	(6,890)	(6,890)
	<u>960</u>	<u>230,000</u>	<u>136,745</u>	<u>367,705</u>

				2022
	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Unrestricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed asset investments	-	-	531,593	531,593
Current assets	8,089	-	12,680	20,769
Creditors due within one year	-	-	(3,756)	(3,756)
	<u>8,089</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>540,517</u>	<u>548,606</u>

17 Related party transactions

The Company has not entered into any related party transaction during the year, nor are there any outstanding balances owing between related parties and the Company at 31 March 2023.

Accounts

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

UNAUDITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE COMPANY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Trustees J L Adams
C Bentley (resigned 5 August 2021)
J Gilbert
P A Moxey
M Murphy
D Sice (resigned 5 August 2021)
M A Smith
L Vacher

Company registered number 01339783

Charity registered number 275076

Registered office The Warren Lodge
Loughton
Essex
IG10 4RN

Chief Executive officer P Lewis

Accountants Haslers
Chartered Accountants
Old Station Road
Loughton
Essex
IG10 4PL

Bankers CAF Bank Limited
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4TA

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the Company for the year 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a Directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the Company qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the Strategic Report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

The Trust was incorporated on 21 November 1977 as a company limited by a guarantee and is governed by its Articles of Association. It was registered as a charity on 8 February 1978. It changed its name from Epping Forest Centenary Trust to Epping Forest Heritage Trust with effect from 12 April 2018 and its Articles of Association took effect on 17 April 2018.

Objectives and activities

a. Policies and objectives

The charity's objects are:

For the benefit of the public in general (and, but without limitation, the communities in and around Epping Forest):

- (a) To preserve and promote the natural, historical and cultural heritage of Epping Forest and to promote environmental conservation, protection and improvement in Epping Forest; and
- (b) to advance education by promoting greater knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Epping Forest

Public Benefit: The Trustees have complied with the duty under section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Commission.

b. Activities undertaken to achieve objectives

This has been a year of considerable transition and change for the Trust, not only completing our National Lottery Heritage Fund "Raising the Game" project, but moving to implement its recommendations and recruiting our first ever Chief Executive to lead the work of the Trust moving forward.

With a new Chief Executive in place, supported by a small staff team, we have been able to be more proactive externally, raising our social media and web profile and initiating a successful awareness campaign about the Forest in the run up to the local elections in May 2022, as well as finalising our new Strategic Plan.

Our hands-on conservation work to increase biodiversity in the Forest delivered by our fantastic cohort of volunteers in the Green Team, and our amazing Happy Lopper participants, has continued two days per week, and our volunteers have continued to lead monthly walks and operate the Visitor Centre at High Beach, welcoming visitors to, and informing them about, the Forest.

We report our activities against our newly agreed Strategic Objectives:

EPHING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Objectives and activities (continued)

c. Main activities undertaken to further the Company's purposes for the public benefit

1. We will educate and inspire people about Epping Forest

Our dedicated volunteers continued to operate the Visitor Centre at High Beach when COVID regulations allowed, with 24 volunteers contributing over 1,900 hours of volunteer time and welcoming over 6100 visitors to the Forest, providing them with vital information for their visit.

Our volunteers also continued our highly valued Forest-wide walks programme as permitted by lockdown regulations, engaging 213 people in learning more about the Forest while getting some much-welcomed outdoor exercise.

As well as introducing a new monthly e-mail newsletter in December 2021 we produced 3 hard copy newsletters for our 1,000 plus members around the Forest.

We were also delighted to partner with CPRE London and the Magpie Project from the London Borough of Newham to run three separate sessions, two of which from the Visitor Centre at High Beach, for between 30 and 40 participants each session, introducing single refugee mothers and their children to different aspects of the Forest and undertaking interesting Forest activities.

We also partnered with Vivobarefoot to lead a walk for their employees and present to their staff team about the Forest.

In an exciting new initiative to encourage more public transport and walking access to the Forest we partnered with the City of London Corporation, Epping and Loughton Town Councils and Transport for London to develop signage at two underground stations with walking routes to the Forest, and linking them to the Epping Forest Big Walk, a long distance walking route from the south to the north of the Forest. As a part of this project we will launch in 2022 a new map of the Forest highlighting these walking routes. We would like to thank the City of London Corporation's Central Fund for their support for this work. We would like to continue this programme in future years and sign walking routes to the Forest from all local train and tube stations.

With our new team in place we also refreshed our website, introducing the ability to join and donate online, and began to develop a new visual identity for the Trust, building on the work undertaken to develop a new strategy for the Trust.

2. We will conserve and grow the Forest

We continued to manage our two teams of conservation volunteers. Our Green team included 18 different individuals over the course of the year and completed 34 conservation sessions delivering 851 hours of volunteer time. The City of London Corporation conservation team have reported that the diversity of grassland species has significantly increased on Fairmead Glade since our repeat visits. Our team of people with learning disabilities, the Happy Loppers, undertook 26 sessions involving 13 people including their support workers delivering 999 hours of volunteer time. The groups worked on 7 separate sites removing dense stands of holly to open up the Forest floor to increase ground level flora and open haloes of light around ancient pollard trees. The Green Team also created 119 'faggot' bundles of tree cuttings which will be installed in Forest ponds and lakes to prevent erosion and create underwater habitats.

3. We will protect and preserve the Forest

We continued to play an active part, informed by our members' views, in the Epping Forest Consultative Committee (recently renamed to be the Epping Forest Consultative Group), convened by the City of London Corporation. We stressed our view that the City need to take a more flexible and sophisticated approach to car parking charges, taking into account the specific location of each car park as well as the needs and circumstances of different visitors to the Forest.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Objectives and activities (continued)

Ahead of the City of London Corporation's budget setting meeting in February we encouraged them to invest more in the Forest in years to come, to redress the cuts to budgets of recent years and to deal with increased wear and tear suffered by the Forest due to increased footfall during the pandemic.

In order to protect the Forest from developments that would have an adverse effect on it we also contributed our views to a number of planning applications including in relation to the proposed redevelopment of Whipps Cross hospital. We successfully opposed the proposed Next distribution centre on land north of Dowding Way and kept an eye on the development of the Local Plans in Waltham Forest and Epping Forest District Council.

4. We will develop our governance and operations

We successfully completed our "Raising the Game" project, part-funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This included:

- The completion of a strategic review
- The development of a membership and marketing strategy
- A review of the role of the Visitor Centre at High Beach; and
- A project evaluation

These 4 pieces of work provided the basis for us to appoint a new Marketing and Membership Manager in September and a new Chief Executive in November. They also provided the basis for the development of a new strategic plan which is scheduled for launch in June 2022, and the foundations for our business planning for 2022-23.

We would like to sincerely thank the National Lottery Heritage Fund for their important support for this work.

In October we held one of our most successful AGM's ever at Copped Hall, in the north of the Forest, attended by 66 members. Many thanks to the Copped Hall Trust for hosting us and providing guided tours for our members.

We also reviewed and refreshed all of our Safeguarding related policies and procedures and made day-to-day financial management of the Trust an executive function with the appointment of a new Finance and Office Manager in January 2022. We began the work to scope a new customer relationship management (CRM) system for the Trust, ensuring it would meet the needs of the new strategy.

We would like to thank all our staff, volunteers, partners and funders for their role in delivering our work.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Achievements and performance

a. Fundraising activities and income generation

GRANTS & DONATIONS

The Trust relies on our members, supporters, legacy donors, in memoriam donors, grants and other donations to fund our work to protect and preserve the Forest, along with support from our volunteers. We are very grateful to all those individuals and organisations that provide support to the Trust.

New in memoriam donations totalling £419 were received with thanks from the estates of D Edmunds and Mrs D Knapp.

We would also like to thank the City of London Corporation for its ongoing investment in the Visitor Centre at High Beach, as well as providing offices and tool storage for the Trust in Warren Lodge and on the Warren site.

In addition, the Trust is very grateful to have received support over the course of the year from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the City of London Corporation Central Grants Fund.

We are also grateful to CPRE London, Vivobarefoot, Fences & Frontiers, the More Natural Capital Coalition and the Magpie Project for their collaboration with us and support.

b. LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022/23

The Board of Trustees have agreed the following key objectives for 2022/23:

1. Educate and inspire

Securing partner funding for a community engagement programme that welcomes new people to the Forest, manages our visitor welcome and walks programme, and begins to explore the development of the Visitor Centre at High Beach.

2. Conserve and grow Epping Forest

We plan to extend our hands-on conservation work to 4 days per week, with a greater variety of hands-on conservation being undertaken by an even more diverse set of participants.

3. Protect and preserve the Forest

We will build on the commitments given through the successful awareness campaign in the run up to the local elections in May as a platform to secure greater support for the Forest from the public and local authorities.

We will work with partners to develop a longer-term approach to increase the resources available to protect and maintain Epping Forest.

4. Governance and organizational development

We need to strengthen the organisation itself to deliver our strategic objectives and to do this we plan to:

- Launch a new 3-year strategy and new identity for the Trust.
- Strengthen and diversify our Board of Trustees.
- Finalise a new fundraising and income plan to sit alongside our strategy.
- Grow the number of our members and supporters and increase the Trust's subscription and donation income.
- Implement a new CRM system; and
- Undertake a review of the inclusivity of our services and implement the recommendations.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Financial review

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

b. Reserves policy

The Trust's total reserves as at 31st March 2022 were £548,606. The reserves benefited from the year end revaluation of £40,300 (in March 2021 the revaluation showed a gain of £94,266).

As part of the development of its new strategy the Board is clear that the Forest is currently facing unprecedented threats and will continue to face these and other threats for the foreseeable future. These threats include neighbouring development, high levels of pollution, high levels of usage and climate change.

In order for the Forest to be conserved and protected now, and for generations to come, the Board believe that the work set out in our new strategic plan will be needed on an ongoing basis: the Forest will need people to care for it and advocate on its behalf for years to come.

The Board's approach is therefore to develop programmes of work that are sustainable long into the future.

The Trustees' long-term aim is for income consistently to equal or exceed expenditure, with reserves of between 6 and 12 months' operating expenditure. In the short term we are incurring planned deficits as we invest in our future strategy and growth.

Trustees will monitor the Trust's financial performance and projections of the level of its reserves against this model with a view to ensuring the Trust's long-term sustainability which they believe is essential to protect and preserve the Forest for generations to come.

c. Material investments policy

The Board has power to invest funds not immediately required for operational purposes in such investments, securities or properties as it thinks fit subject to any restrictions within the Articles of Association.

d. Principal risks and uncertainties

The Directors have reviewed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and systems have been established to mitigate those risks. The risk management plan was last reviewed in February 2022.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

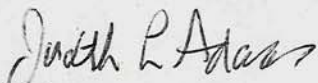
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

Epping Forest Heritage Trust is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 2 September 2022 and signed on their behalf by:


J L Adams
Chair of Trustees

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the Company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 2 September 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



J L Adams
Chair of Trustees

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Epping Forest Heritage Trust ('the Company')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the Trustees of the Company (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Company's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

This report is made solely to the Company's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Company's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.



Signed:

Dated: 2 September 2022

Paul J Thain FCCA, BA (Hons)

Haslers

Chartered Accountants

Old Station Road

Loughton

Essex

IG10 4PL

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

	Note	Restricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	34,382	12,901	47,283	7,962
Investments	4	-	24,142	24,142	16,334
Total income		34,382	37,043	71,425	24,296
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	5	40,383	115,472	155,855	65,620
Total expenditure		40,383	115,472	155,855	65,620
Net expenditure before net gains on investments		(6,001)	(78,429)	(84,430)	(41,324)
Net gains on investments		-	40,300	40,300	94,226
Net (expenditure)/income		(6,001)	(38,129)	(44,130)	52,902
Transfers between funds	15	11,529	(11,529)	-	-
Net movement in funds		5,528	(49,658)	(44,130)	52,902
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		2,561	590,175	592,736	539,834
Net movement in funds		5,528	(49,658)	(44,130)	52,902
Total funds carried forward		8,089	540,517	548,606	592,736

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 14 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 01339783

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Investments	11	531,593	551,293
		531,593	551,293
Current assets			
Stocks	12	-	75
Debtors	13	4,831	1,882
Cash at bank and in hand		15,938	44,184
		20,769	46,141
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(3,756)	(4,698)
Net current assets		17,013	41,443
Total assets less current liabilities		548,606	592,736
Total net assets		548,606	592,736
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	15	8,089	2,561
Unrestricted funds	15	540,517	590,175
Total funds		548,606	592,736

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 01339783

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

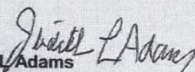
The Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

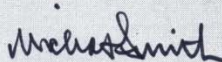
The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 02 September 2022 and signed on their behalf by:


J L Adams
Chair of Trustees


M A Smith
Treasurer and Trustee

The notes on pages 14 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. General information

Epping Forest Heritage Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England. The charitable company constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102 (1A) [the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland]. The registered office is detailed on page 1. The financial statements have been prepared in pounds sterling which is the functional currency of the charitable company.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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 Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Epping Forest Heritage Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 Income

All income is recognised once the Company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Company has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Company, can be reliably measured.

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Expenditure and depreciation

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

Assets costing more than £3000 are depreciated evenly over 5 years. IT equipment costing more than £3,000 is depreciated evenly over 3 years.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Company's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.4 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Company; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.5 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Statement of Financial Activities.

2.6 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

2.7 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.8 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.9 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Company anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

2.10 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Donations	-	5,933	5,933	6,921
Legacies	-	419	419	1,041
Grants	34,382	3,150	37,532	-
Similar incoming resources	-	3,399	3,399	-
	<u>34,382</u>	<u>12,901</u>	<u>47,283</u>	<u>7,962</u>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,962</u>	<u>7,962</u>	

4. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Income from listed investments	23,965	23,965	15,872
Interest	177	177	462
	<u>24,142</u>	<u>24,142</u>	<u>16,334</u>

5. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Restricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	<i>Total 2021 £</i>
Charitable activities	<u>40,383</u>	<u>115,472</u>	<u>155,855</u>	<u>65,620</u>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<u>21,673</u>	<u>43,947</u>	<u>65,620</u>	

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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6. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2022 £	Support costs 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Charitable activities	32,390	123,465	155,855	65,620
	<u>32,390</u>	<u>123,465</u>	<u>155,855</u>	<u>65,620</u>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<u>33,610</u>	<u>32,010</u>	<u>65,620</u>	

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2022 £	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Staff costs	28,010	30,679
Visitor centre	782	711
Motor expenses	1,554	1,019
Tools and events insurance	1,232	1,160
Tools, materials and clothing	812	41
	<u>32,390</u>	<u>33,610</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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6. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2022 £	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Staff costs	57,209	8,257
Office supplies	2,353	1,794
IT Support	7,537	2,596
Recruitment fees	-	75
Telephone, light and heat	1,996	1,297
Subscriptions and recruitment	10,942	168
Bank charges	201	138
Fundraising HLF consultant	20,075	6,000
Travel	198	36
Newsletter	6,535	4,383
IT Equipment	2,914	3,509
Information commissioner	98	48
AGM and meeting expenses	670	1,170
Independant examiners fees	2,300	1,996
Payroll management	622	543
Education and staff training	495	-
Happy Loppers Christmas event	448	-
City of London Signage project	7,173	-
Design activity content re Rural Rides	1,099	-
CRM consulting	600	-
	123,465	32,010

7. Independent examiner's remuneration

	2022 £	<i>2021 £</i>
Fees payable to the Company's independent examiner for the independent examination of the Company's annual accounts	2,300	2,100

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

8. Staff costs

	2022 £	<i>2021</i> <i>£</i>
Wages and salaries	85,219	<i>38,940</i>
	<u>85,219</u>	<u><i>38,940</i></u>

The average number of persons employed by the Company during the year was as follows:

	2022 No.	<i>2021</i> <i>No.</i>
Chief Executive Officer	1	<i>-</i>
Project Officer	1	<i>1</i>
Administration	1	<i>1</i>
	<u>3</u>	<u><i>2</i></u>

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

As at the time of this report the Trust employs 4 individual members of staff, equivalent to 2.8 full time equivalent

9. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (*2021 - £NIL*).

During the year ended 31 March 2022, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (*2021 - £NIL*).

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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10. Tangible fixed assets

	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 April 2021	9,900	2,045	11,945
At 31 March 2022	9,900	2,045	11,945
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2021	9,900	2,045	11,945
At 31 March 2022	9,900	2,045	11,945
Net book value			
At 31 March 2022	-	-	-
<i>At 31 March 2021</i>	-	-	-

11. Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 April 2021	551,293
Disposals	(60,000)
Revaluations	40,300
At 31 March 2022	531,593
Net book value	
At 31 March 2022	531,593
<i>At 31 March 2021</i>	551,293

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

12. Stocks

	2022	2021
	£	£
Stocks	-	75
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

13. Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Due within one year		
Other debtors	4,416	1,426
Prepayments and accrued income	415	456
	<u>4,831</u>	<u>1,882</u>
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

14. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other creditors	3,756	4,698
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

15. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds - all funds	590,175	37,043	(115,472)	(11,529)	40,300	540,517
Restricted funds						
National Lottery Heritage Fund	1,447	20,329	(33,305)	11,529	-	-
In memory of Ken Hoy	1,114	-	-	-	-	1,114
City of London Central Grant	-	14,053	(7,078)	-	-	6,975
	2,561	34,382	(40,383)	11,529	-	8,089
Total of funds	592,736	71,425	(155,855)	-	40,300	548,606

National Lottery Heritage Fund - Grant awarded to EFHT entitled 'Raising the Game for Epping Forest's Heritage' to enable the Trust to increase its capacity to deliver programmes and activities to preserve the Forest, engage with the public and to increase the resilience of the Trust.

City of London Central Grant - Grant awarded from the City of London Corporation for development of signage at two underground stations with waymarked walking routes to Epping Forest.

Ken Hoy Fund - Fund is restricted to help the provision of public talks about the Forest.

Unrestricted Funds - Funds that are available to be spent for any purposes of the charity.

At the year end, a transfer was made between restricted and unrestricted funds totalling £11,529. The reason for this transfer was to cover additional spending within restricted funds.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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15. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2020 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2021 £</i>
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds - all funds	515,600	24,296	(43,947)	94,226	590,175
	<u>515,600</u>	<u>24,296</u>	<u>(43,947)</u>	<u>94,226</u>	<u>590,175</u>
Restricted funds					
National Lottery Heritage Fund	23,120	-	(21,673)	-	1,447
In memory of Ken Hoy	1,114	-	-	-	1,114
	<u>24,234</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(21,673)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,561</u>
Total of funds	<u>539,834</u>	<u>24,296</u>	<u>(65,620)</u>	<u>94,226</u>	<u>592,736</u>

16. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
General funds	590,175	37,043	(115,472)	(11,529)	40,300	540,517
Restricted funds	2,561	34,382	(40,383)	11,529	-	8,089
	<u>592,736</u>	<u>71,425</u>	<u>(155,855)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>40,300</u>	<u>548,606</u>

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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16. Summary of funds (continued)

Summary of funds - prior year

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2020 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2021 £</i>
General funds	515,600	24,296	(43,947)	94,226	590,175
Restricted funds	24,234	-	(21,673)	-	2,561
	<u>539,834</u>	<u>24,296</u>	<u>(65,620)</u>	<u>94,226</u>	<u>592,736</u>

17. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Restricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Fixed asset investments	-	531,593	531,593
Current assets	8,089	12,680	20,769
Creditors due within one year	-	(3,756)	(3,756)
Total	<u>8,089</u>	<u>540,517</u>	<u>548,606</u>

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	<i>Restricted funds 2021 £</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2021 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Fixed asset investments	-	551,293	551,293
Current assets	2,561	43,580	46,141
Creditors due within one year	-	(4,698)	(4,698)
Total	<u>2,561</u>	<u>590,175</u>	<u>592,736</u>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

18. Related party transactions

The Company has not entered into any related party transaction during the year, nor are there any outstanding balances owing between related parties and the Company at 31 March 2022.