

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 288749

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Trust

Registered 1984-02-29

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

Contact

Address 55 Elmwood Avenue
Fordingbridge
SP6 1DL

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Activities

Objects: FOR SUCH PURPOSES AS ARE EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF ENGLAND AND WALES AND IN PARTICULAR THE RELIEF OF POVERTY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION AND OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, OTHER PURPOSES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM COMMUNITY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION.

Activities: Forestry managed for conservation, timber production, amenity and public access.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** WORLDWIDE
- Hampshire
- Wiltshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£342,179	£234,108	-	-
2024-03-31	£294,703	£234,659	-	-
2023-03-31	£200,882	£170,388	-	-
2022-03-31	£139,998	£156,654	-	-
2021-03-31	£270,259	£171,159	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANTHONY GODDARD		2015-11-18
Dr PATRICIA MARY WOODRUFFE		
James Fisher		2021-11-11
Jonathan Spencer		2018-02-14
Mark Charles Street		2021-11-11
Steven Bruce Brunt		2020-10-02

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 288749

Accounts

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Charity number: 288749

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of The Bentley Wood Charitable Trust (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the charity comply with current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charity's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) FRS102 "Accounting and Reporting by Charities".

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is managed by the trustees who make strategic decisions and are legally responsible for the management of risks faced by the charity. The day to day management of the wood is delegated to the woodland manager. The trustees seek additional advice from statutory bodies which include the Forestry Commission, Natural England and also Bentley Wood's in-house recorders' group of local interested parties. The woodland manager attends all meetings of the trustees and regularly reports and updates the chairman between the quarterly meetings.

Trustees

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Dr P Woodruffe
Mr A G Goddard
Mr J Spencer
Mr S Brunt
Mr M C Street
Mr J Fisher

Trustees are identified and selected by trustees for their knowledge, skills and experience in relevant fields that they can bring to the charity. Specifically these include, forestry, conservation, financial, trust management, governance and local knowledge.

Investment powers

The Trust is subject to provisions of the Trustee Act 2000.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Trust was established under a deed dated 31 January 1984.

The Trust's main functions are the maintenance of Bentley Wood SSSI and Upper Frenchmoor Copse on the Hampshire/Wiltshire border close to Salisbury and the investment of Trust monies in Shares, Securities and Personality at the absolute discretion of the trustees.

The Trust's objectives are to enhance, with assistance of grants from the Forestry Commission and Natural England, the woodland owned by the Trust and to provide an environment where wildlife can thrive and people's quality of life can be enhanced.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Strategic Report

Achievements and performance

Report from the Chairman of the Bentley Wood Trustees

The past year has been a busy year, in spite of the weather being wet and fickle; we had several good days of sunshine in the spring but most of us only recall the constant, endless grey sky, rain and wind since at least early November. Nevertheless, a considerable amount was quietly pursued throughout the year and several long held ambitions achieved and we managed to put a couple of long-held plans into action.

Chief amongst these was the appointment of an Assistant Forester. After assessment of applications and interviews we appointed a very promising young forester, Matthew Randell. Matthew has come to us with considerable forestry and conservation experience, fresh from working in British Columbia and its forests. The post provides much needed support for David and Martin in the forestry and conservation work at Bentley Wood, but the Trust also has in mind a much longer term aim of exporting our expertise and values to other woods and forests as the postholders gain in training and experience and move on in their careers to woodlands new. Watch out for Matthew in the woods and welcome him to Bentley Wood.

We are also pleased to have received our long planned review of the landscape around the Barn. Roger Worthington's landscape and usage report on the future use of the barn and its environs is now with us and over the coming year we hope to be addressing the needs for change and improvement he has identified.

The management of the woods remains a core activity and in delivering aspects of the Forest Design Plan, we managed to achieve:

- Long rotation coppice expansion in New Berryfield Copse (some 4h. fenced to keep deer out).
- Deer fencing the short rotation coppice expansion near the Forestry Houses to provide a scrubby habitat link between Bentley and Blackmoor Copse.
- Further tubed planting of oak and other native trees on the former Norway spruce windblow site with the aim of further diversifying species and structure in Mapleway Dean Copse (some 1ha).
- Two hectares of mixed native broadleaved planting on the former conifer site in Cowley's Copse; all deer fenced to prevent damage to tree tubes and to encourage rough scrubby habitat for warblers.

Timber harvesting continues of course, though to prevent excessive damage to woodland soils in the fickle wet weather the timber harvesting was cut short. Only half the annual work programme was completed. This is a concern going forward as our autumns and winters are predicted to become warmer and wetter. This presents us with an ecological dilemma as the optimal harvest time on our clayey soils is the end of summer, while some bird species are still nesting or raising young.

Renovation of the timber loading bays across the wood has helped us separate timber loading operations from public access and has been much appreciated by both the hauliers and public.

We have also continued our "outreach" to other foresters with visits last year from the well-respected forestry company Pryor & Rickett Silviculture, and a repeat visit of the Wessex Silviculture Group. Liaison with the Forestry Commission continues, notably to discuss our future response to the felling of Norway Spruce and its potential for infestation by the notorious Spruce bark beetle, *Ips typographus*.

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Report from the Chairman of the Bentley Wood Trustees (continued)

As last year the future of the timber yard on the edge of Bentley Wood continues to worry us as Trustees, though planning legislation and guidance is swinging in our favour and against any developments that threaten ancient woodland and its wildlife. We continue to watch and wait developments.

This year's Nature Notes is particularly rich with contributions from 13 people. Topics include a "Friends Report": from the group's Chairman, "Education Notes" on the usage of the wood as an educational resource, and an account of the last 40 years of the Bentley Wood Trust (reflect on that for a moment.... 40 years ago the Berlin Wall had yet to fall and no one had a mobile phone!). There are reports of wildlife surveys and events covering fungi, butterflies, moth trapping and its delights alongside articles on bird boxes and volunteering in Bentley Woods. The extent of engagement in recording and other activities by so many people is remarkable and a tribute to the foresight of those that bought the wood and established the Trust all those decades ago.

Bentley Wood retains its high profile as a destination for walking and the enjoyment of wildlife, and visitor numbers remain high throughout the year. There is a wider need though for visitors to appreciate the nature of the forestry operations in the wood and their contribution to supporting the diverse wildlife of the woods; a piece for a future article in Nature Notes perhaps? Access to the woods is a privilege and respect for the woods and for other users is really important. The numbers of instances of out-of-control dogs remains high along with the disturbance they bring to wildlife and to our essential deer stalking activities. The numbers of dogs jumping into the ponds is remains a concern, not least because of the growing use of external parasite treatments, which, when washed off in our ponds, has devastating consequences for much loved and important pond life like dragonflies and damselflies. As with last year it is these, and other, perennial headaches that make up much of the discussion held by the Trustees as they work towards ensuring the woodland and other land held by the Trust retains its high quality and character.

As ever much of what was done in 2024 and before needs to continue into the years ahead delivering the forestry and environment plans, the work on ponds and recording, managing the visitors and securing our boundaries. But as with last year, and no doubt next year, it remains really important to ensure the work, for Trustees, employees and volunteers alike, remains fun and rewarding. Bentley Wood is so important to so many people in so many ways; its imperative we sustain its wildlife and its character as a place of quiet and fulfilling enjoyment to all.

Jonathan Spencer
Chairman, Bentley Wood Trust

Forestry Report

Despite careful scheduling and the use of lighter harvesting techniques to mitigate the adverse effects of wet weather, waterlogged ground inevitably affected timber harvesting. I was hopeful that the chances of a dry autumn would be high after such a wet summer, but it didn't turn out that way. The light thinning of the mixed conifer in the continuous cover stands of Livery Copse was completed with little more than unsightly minor damage to the permanent extraction racks where machinery exited onto the hard track. Before thinning, sporadic groups of regeneration from previous group selection fellings and storm damage were evident, and we are trying to recruit these groups by carefully removing individual trees from around them. The increase in light will encourage these saplings to grow up towards the canopy, while any new gaps will be filled with further regeneration. As the harvester moved into the beech and pine stand behind the Barn, the weather worsened, and we had no choice but to postpone our plans to thin the Douglas fir and beech in Richwellsted Copse and the diseased ash in Picked Copse until next year.

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Forestry Report (continued)

Over the year, despite the weather, we managed to progress some elements of the forest design plan. Two hectares were deer fenced in Cowleys Copse, an area that was clearfelled some years ago where, for some reason, natural regeneration had failed to materialise. Within the fenced area, we planted groups of oak and wild service, interspersed with goat willow and crab apple and flanked by flowering shrubs such as guelder rose and hawthorn that will provide nectar and pollen in the spring and summer and fruit and seed later in the year. In the absence of deer, this should scrub over quickly and will soon provide habitat for nesting warblers and dormice. Similarly, on our boundary with Blackmoor Copse, we fenced a slightly smaller area intending to develop a scrub coppice link, which, together with the wide ride we cut a few years ago, will encourage wildlife to move between the two woodlands.

Our ambition to extend the long rotation coppice component across the woodland was advanced by deer fencing several hectares to the east of the Draining Field. Here, the fungal disease (*Dothistroma* needle blight) and exposure to westerly gales had taken their toll on the Corsican pine planted by the Forestry Commission in the 1980s and we have elected instead to grow wood fuel on a 25 to 30 year cycle. This area is popular with visitors hoping to see the elusive purple emperor butterfly so to compliment the oak, aspen, and birch present, we will plant goat willow, the larval foodplant of the purple emperor, in any gaps arising from pine removal.

During late winter, we engaged James Foster of Wessex Working Horses to fell and remove trees that were casting shade on the autumn crocus site at the Birdbath crossroads. Providing the timber is not too heavy and the extraction route is not long, horse logging offers several benefits compared to traditional mechanical extraction, especially on sensitive sites or over wet ground where the horses' lighter footfall causes less compaction and disturbance. However, on a site as large as Bentley, where we must harvest several thousand tonnes of timber each year to keep up with the annual growth rate, horse logging will never meet our needs at scale. Still, we shall certainly look to find more suitable work for James and his two Shires, Flynn and Dime, next year.

I reported the threat posed by the 8 toothed bark beetle *Ips typographus* to Great Britain's forestry and timber industries in last year's Nature Notes. I also predicted that any further expansion of the area designated by the Forestry Commission to prevent the spread of this beetle would likely include Bentley Wood. I was mistaken; instead of spreading westward, the area was extended to address new infestations found in East Anglia. Despite this, the threat of *Ips typographus* still looms large on our horizon. The increasing frequency and intensity of winter storms result in damage to our spruce stands that we are now obligated to tidy up, as windblown timber creates the ideal breeding habitat for the bark beetle. Given the high standing volume of spruce in Bentley Wood, much of it growing on seasonally waterlogged soils, we are thinning as much as we can under the current felling licence to reduce our exposure to any further spread of this pest. In the coming year, we intend to selectively thin spruce in Mapleway Dean Copse and Coalpits Copse which will give us the chance to plant a broad range of native broadleaves.

Looking further into the future, it seems that *Ips typographus* will provide us with the opportunity to diversify the species and structure of these spruce-dominated stands and increase the scrubby wood pasture habitat across the center of the wood that so many of our butterflies depend on.

David Lambert

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Volunteer Group Activities

We held a Bentley Wood Bean Pole Celebration Event on Sunday 14 April, with brilliant help from Chris Loach, Dave Lawman, Geoff Ashton, Lynda Horne, Neil Hawker and Phil Smith. The draw of refreshments, and of course the bean poles and pea-sticks themselves, proved irresistible for about fifty people and we took over £300, to go towards tools, equipment, gloves and refreshments for the Volunteers.

We welcomed eight new volunteers this year, including two local youngsters, Sam and Jenna, undertaking their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze awards, and two of their parents. There are well over 30 regular, active volunteers, which is brilliant! Four volunteers received their "10 task" badges in 2024, five volunteers were awarded certificates for "25 tasks", three for "50 tasks", and one each for "75 tasks", "100 tasks" and "125 tasks". Dave Lawman is closing in on an amazing "150 task" certificate.

Despite the vagaries of the British weather, the Volunteers completed twenty conservation sessions, about 830 person hours, which included removing Lawson Cypress, cutting Birch, maintenance work in and around the Draining Field Pond, and our favourite – hazel coppicing.

The Volunteers' Hedge: back in the autumn of 2023 we planned an exciting new long-term project in the Draining Field to plant a 270-metre hedge of mixed native trees and shrubs (in five sections) and fence it for protection from deer and stock. We fenced section 1 in 2023 and then planted almost 200 shrubs and trees in February 2024 and then in October/November we fenced section 2 and planted 170 shrubs and trees. The young shrubs were supported through the summer with regular watering sessions, although quite a few of these were cancelled because there was PLENTY of rain! Instead, we had to organise many sessions to check the shrub-protection tubes for SLUGS and rehomed hundreds to the Hawksgrove woodland! "Botany volunteers" led by Pat Woodruffe and Diana Cotter, grew native wildflowers and planted them out beside section 1 of the hedge in the autumn, to its north and south. Many more native wildflowers will be planted alongside the hedge in future years.

So, congratulations and a massive thank you to all our wonderful volunteers, and thanks to the Trustees and David Lambert and Martin Parsons for supporting us all!

Sue Walker and Tony Goddard

Friends of Bentley Wood Chairman's report

2024 may have been rain lashed and sodden, but it has been a tremendous year for the FOBW. Membership rose to 198 in December, finally topping 200 in the opening days of 2025 – quite a landmark!

The majority of memberships are "Family" memberships and only one member of each family appears on our records. So, having 200 Friends registered means that, overall, over 400 people are genuinely interested in the activities in the Wood. It also means that membership has risen by over 44% in recent years. This increase has enabled us to avoid having to put up our membership fees (a small saving in difficult times!) whilst allowing us to continue to deliver the FOBW events, and to improve and enhance that offering. The combination of Membermojo and Substack has been central to this, and my thanks go to Jim Orchin, Elaine Bunting and to Myra for their work in this area.

The popularity and awareness of our newsletters published on Substack has also continued to grow. This year, those articles covered: 'Woode in the Wood: 500 years of supply chain from Bentley Wood to Amesbury Abbey', 'Secrets of a Birdwatchers Archive', 'A history of the moths in Bentley Wood', 'Plans for the Wood in 2024' and 'The Felling of an Ancient Wood'. I am very grateful to Elaine and to Myra who write or adapt these, as well as to their contributors: Phil Read, Tony Goddard, John Muggleton, Margaret Baskerville and David Lambert. Do please keep those ideas coming!

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Friends of Bentley Wood Chairman's report (continued)

These articles were originally conceived as part of our plan, not only to make the Wood more accessible (particularly to those who cannot easily get into it due, for example, to distance, illness or infirmity – everyone can stay in touch through the medium of these articles), but also to promote a greater understanding of the activities in the Wood by young and old, enabling an enhanced respect for it. We were, therefore, very pleased that our newsletters during 2024 reached over 6,200 views. We hope this number grows yet further!

What of our equally cherished education initiative? As Alex demonstrated at the December 2024 Celebration gathering, your funds have bought much needed equipment for it (Health and Safety etc looms large in this area!). Alex has also continued to lead and enhance it. A separate article by Alex on this area is included in this edition of Nature Notes.

The Spring and Autumn Drive Thru's that we hold are, to us, special events. They are special because there is a proportion of our membership who cannot, for a variety of reasons, walk or cycle into the Wood to enjoy the blue bells in Spring or the Autumn colours in October/November. These events are designed to allow that group (as well as any other interested members!) to see and enjoy these things; and we host a special welcome at The Barn on these occasions.

It was, therefore, with great sadness that we had to cancel the Spring Drive Thru; but the Autumn event was a huge success and very heavily attended. We hope all those who came enjoyed themselves. My thanks go to all those who brought cakes and food (all eaten!) as well as to David who helped with the car parking and to Janet Burnett who gave me a very welcome and enthusiastic hand with the signage of the route: a time-consuming task made light!

The Summer Picnic at The Barn and the December Friends Celebration were also much enjoyed and very well attended. Thank you all for your RSVPs (as requested!) – these enable us to judge our catering needs so much more accurately, which is important now that food is so expensive, as well as making life so much easier for June who collates your responses and keeps this part of the show on the road – thank you June! These events do not take place by themselves, so I am very grateful to all those who contributed: Cynthia Sherlock, Chris Loach, Helen and Steve Brunt, Pompey Parry, Gordon Verity, Pat Woodruffe and all the Committee Members.

The Summer evening walk with the Bats was another great success and even more of you came than last year, which was excellent. The numbers who came in 2023 had prompted us to use some of your money in 2024 to buy some more bat detectors. Armed with these, and the home-made ones brought by some very enterprising families (well done!), we had a splendid evening watching the progress of the bats across the Millennium Pond. With darkness falling, we made our way home to the car park to find glow worms along the way – an added bonus!

My thanks also go to John Muggleton and to Tony Goodard and Sue Walker and to everyone else who helps with and enables the splendid Morning of Marvellous Moths. Equal thanks go to Ailsa who organises the Autumn Fungus Foray. Whilst neither of these events is properly an FOBW event, they are very much open to FOBW Members and they are deservedly popular. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Trustees for their support over the year.

Where are we going in 2025? The planning for our FOBW events in 2025 has already started. We aim to enhance the Education Initiative further, whilst keeping the overall format of events and to add to them some occasional informal walks through the Wood: watch for announcements by email from Membermojo, and on Substack newsletter if you subscribe! We also hope that it may prove possible to improve some of the facilities at The Barn.

Graham Bennett
Chair of the Friends of Bentley Wood

A full report on the Trust's activities for the year is available to all in the form of 'Bentley Wood Nature Notes 2024' from the secretary.

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Financial Review (including reserves policy)

The attached financial statements show the current state of the finances which the trustees consider to be sound.

During the year it has been the trustees' objective to achieve the greatest possible revenue from sustainable forestry activities such as thinning and felling and to obtain the maximum grant aid from appropriate sources to achieve the Trust's objectives. The financial management policy for the year is driven by the working cash flow budget produced by the forest manager in consultation with the trustees and the trustees' bookkeeper. This cash flow budget aims to identify income from grants and planned sustainable timber harvesting and the expenditure involved in timber production and conservation works. The trustees aim to achieve a cash flow budget that breaks even. The forest manager, working closely with the bookkeeper, manages the cash flow budget and presents quarterly budget reports, collated by the bookkeeper, to the trustees at quarterly meetings. In addition to quarterly meetings the woodland manager frequently reports and updates the trustees individually throughout the year.

In order to assure sustained and sufficient annual revenue to support the Trust's conservation activities in the long term, the Trustees have adopted a strategy of building and maintaining a strategic reserve. In 2009, the Trustees set a target for this reserve of £1M. This figure was based principally on an estimate of income required to be generated from the reserve to support annual conservation expenditure should Government grants be significantly reduced, a situation considered to be likely in the current climate. An additional element was included to provide cash-flow protection for (a) timber and firewood net income variations in future years, and (b) the possible impact on costs and revenue of epidemic tree diseases, feared to pose an increasing risk. To maintain the reserve's capacity to generate required levels of annual income as inflation reduces its value over time, the reserve target has been inflated by a corresponding amount year by year. An additional aim developed by the Trustees in recent years is to protect the integrity of the habitat in Bentley Wood by ensuring the sympathetic management of a buffer zone around the wood. This may be by cooperation with neighbouring landowners but also possibly by land acquisition. To enable the Trustees to act quickly should appropriate land become available an addition to the strategic reserve target has been made. A further increase to the strategic reserve target has been made to allow for rising costs that are affecting our operations. The Trustees have therefore increased the target from £1.2M to £1.7M. During the year our Investments decreased from £1.465M at 31st March 2024 to £1.528M at 31st March 2025 but our cash balances decreased during the year by £137K an overall decrease of £74K in our strategic reserve which now totals £1.585M.

The Trustees' policy is to continue to manage its finances so as to achieve budget surpluses when it is reasonably able to, thereby building the strategic reserve to the level required. Taking into account inflation pressures and other risk factors, the level of the reserve will continue to be reviewed from time to time.

Plans for Future Periods

We are now looking forward to our upcoming ten-year management plan, aiming to build on past restoration efforts as well as taking measures to increase the resilience of the beech stands that dominate the north of the wood and to accelerate our ambitions to increase the area of the wood managed as wood pasture, which will boost habitats for the rare species that make Bentley Wood such a special place. With the help of volunteers, the Trust also intends to increase managed hazel coppice, benefiting wildlife further, and to create more rain-fed wildlife ponds.

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity 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 2015 (FRS102);
- make judgements and 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 charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees



Mr A G Goddard
Trustee

28/11/2025

Date:.....ADFD0000-B57B-EEC7-9646-08DE2CD06256.....

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Charity Number	288749
Registered Office	55 Elmwood Avenue Fordingbridge Hampshire SP6 1DL
Trustees	Dr P Woodruffe Mr A G Goddard Mr J Spencer Mr S Brunt Mr M C Street Mr J Fisher
Key management	David Lambert
Bankers	HSBC Bank plc 27 High Street Ringwood Hants BH24 1BE
Investment managers	Atomos Wealth & Financial Wellbeing Solent House Cannin Street Lymington SO41 9BR
Independent examiner	Nick Jones FCCA Fawcetts LLP Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors Windover House St. Ann Street Salisbury SP1 2DR

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

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



Nicholas Jones FCCA
Chartered Accountants
Fawcetts LLP
Windover House
St. Ann Street
Salisbury
SP1 2DR

28/11/2025

Date:.....
===== ADFD9888-B27B-E5C7-967C-88DECCD9856 =====

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	Funds			2025	2024
		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total £	Total £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:						
Donations and legacies		2,032	-	-	2,032	4,678
Charitable activities	2	306,882	-	-	306,882	258,169
Investments	3	33,265	-	-	33,265	31,856
Total income and endowments		342,179	-	-	342,179	294,703
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Investments - management fees		-	-	2,022	2,022	3,475
Charitable activities	4	216,022	-	16,064	232,086	231,184
Total expenditure		216,022	-	18,086	234,108	234,659
Net gains/(losses) on investments	13	-	-	15,301	15,301	31,207
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		126,157	-	(2,785)	123,372	91,251
Transfers between funds	13	-	-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		126,157	-	(2,785)	123,372	91,251
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:						
Total funds brought forward		269,667	-	3,129,148	3,398,815	3,307,564
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		395,824	-	3,126,363	3,522,187	3,398,815

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.

There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.

The notes form part of these financial statements

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
BALANCE SHEET**

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	8	1,719,515	1,748,789
Investments	9	<u>1,528,620</u>	<u>1,465,342</u>
		<u>3,248,135</u>	<u>3,214,131</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks		1,800	1,692
Debtors	10	240,433	5,037
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>57,804</u>	<u>194,255</u>
		300,037	200,984
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	11	<u>25,985</u>	<u>16,300</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		274,052	184,684
NET ASSETS		<u><u>3,522,187</u></u>	<u><u>3,398,815</u></u>
CHARITY FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds	13	395,824	269,667
Restricted funds	13	-	-
Endowment funds	13	3,126,363	3,129,148
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS	12	<u><u>3,522,187</u></u>	<u><u>3,398,815</u></u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on

..... and were signed on its behalf by:

28/11/2025

ADFD0000-B57B-EEC3-8637-88D6CDD00056



Mr A G Goddard

Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of listed investments which are included on a market value basis, and in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards in the United Kingdom, the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) FRS102 "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" and the Charities Act 2011.

1.2 INCOME

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Dividends on listed investments are recognised when the underlying security is quoted as ex-dividend.

Revenue in respect of timber and venison sales is recognised at the date of delivery to the customer.

1.3 EXPENDITURE

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure includes attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

1.4 ALLOCATION AND APPORTIONMENT OF COSTS

All costs are allocated between expenditure categories in the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly; others are apportioned on an appropriate basis.

1.5 FUND ACCOUNTING

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

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

Endowment funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by the charity. Income arising on the endowment funds can be used in accordance with the objects of the charity and is included as unrestricted income. Any capital gains or losses on the investments form part of the fund. Investment management charges and legal advice relating to the fund are charged against the fund.

1.6 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Land and woodlands	not depreciated
Land and woodlands - infrastructure	5% straight line basis
Buildings	10% straight line basis
Motor vehicles	25% straight line basis
Computers and equipment	25% straight line basis

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.7 INVESTMENTS

Listed investments held in a portfolio are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction cost. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in net gains/(losses) on investments in the SoFA if the shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably.

Investment property is shown at most recent valuation. Any aggregate surplus or deficit arising from changes in fair value is recognised in the SoFA.

1.8 STOCKS

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

1.9 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Debtors are measured at their recoverable amount. Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1.10 TAXATION

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Forestry income	61,974	-	-	61,974	75,099
Venison sales	830	-	-	830	1,190
Grants received	234,728	-	-	234,728	171,680
Rents received	9,350	-	-	9,350	10,200
	<u>306,882</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>306,882</u>	<u>258,169</u>

3. INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Dividends from equities	33,173	-	-	33,173	31,794
Bank interest	92	-	-	92	62
	<u>33,265</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,265</u>	<u>31,856</u>

4. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Wages (note 5)	70,300	-	-	70,300	59,999
Contract forestry work	54,091	-	-	54,091	33,221
Conservation work	12,278	-	-	12,278	21,029
Planting	6,197	-	-	6,197	4,178
Road maintenance	7,246	-	-	7,246	16,860
Repairs	19,482	-	-	19,482	28,860
Rental expense	1,500	-	-	1,500	14,250
Depreciation	15,632	-	16,064	31,696	33,504
(Profit)/loss on disposal of asset	-	-	-	-	551
Subscriptions & membership fees	-	-	-	-	-
Support costs	17,267	-	-	17,267	10,999
Travel expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Training	640	-	-	640	-
Miscellaneous expenses	7,810	-	-	7,810	4,016
Trustees' and volunteer expenses	982	-	-	982	1,086
Accountancy fees	2,500	-	-	2,500	2,500
Bank charges	97	-	-	97	131
	<u>216,022</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,064</u>	<u>232,086</u>	<u>231,184</u>

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

5. STAFF COSTS AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Staff costs during the year were as follows:	2025	2024
	£	£
Charitable Activities:		
Salaries and wages	64,401	53,991
Employers' National Insurance costs	2,312	1,124
	<u>66,713</u>	<u>55,115</u>
Pension contributions	3,587	4,884
	<u>70,300</u>	<u>59,999</u>

The above also represents the key management personnel remuneration.

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:	2025	2024
	No.	No.
Management	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

There were no employees who earned in excess of £60,000 per annum or more (including taxable benefits) during the year (2024: £nil).

6. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trustee remuneration	630	496
Independent examiner's remuneration	2,500	2,500
	<u>3,130</u>	<u>2,996</u>

7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trustees' expenses reimbursed (delivery costs/travel)	<u>630</u>	<u>496</u>
Number of trustees receiving expenses	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>

With the exception of the above, none of the trustees received any remuneration in respect of their duties as trustees during the year (2024: £nil).

There were no other related party transactions during the year.

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land & woodlands £	Buildings £	Motor vehicles £	Computers & equipment £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 April 2024	1,673,765	217,312	13,316	77,754	1,982,147
Additions	-	-	-	2,421	2,421
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025	<u>1,673,765</u>	<u>217,312</u>	<u>13,316</u>	<u>80,175</u>	<u>1,984,568</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2024	53,183	118,094	13,176	48,905	233,358
Charge for the year	3,670	20,172	35	7,818	31,695
On disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025	<u>56,853</u>	<u>138,266</u>	<u>13,211</u>	<u>56,723</u>	<u>265,053</u>
Net Book Value					
At 31 March 2025	<u>1,616,912</u>	<u>79,046</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>23,452</u>	<u>1,719,515</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,620,582</u>	<u>99,218</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>28,849</u>	<u>1,748,789</u>

9. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Investment portfolio £	Investment property £	2025 £	2024 £
Movement in market/fair value:				
Market/fair value at 1 April	1,054,144	377,613	1,431,757	1,468,287
Acquisitions at cost	799,795	-	799,795	423,933
Disposal proceeds	(750,246)	-	(750,246)	(491,670)
Realised gains/(losses) on disposals	78,883	-	78,883	(14,961)
Unrealised gains/(losses) on revaluation	(63,582)	-	(63,582)	46,168
Market/fair value at 31 March	1,118,994	377,613	1,496,607	1,431,757
Cash held as part of portfolio	32,013	-	32,013	33,585
Total investments	<u>1,151,007</u>	<u>377,613</u>	<u>1,528,620</u>	<u>1,465,342</u>
Historical cost	<u>1,145,167</u>	<u>377,613</u>	<u>1,522,780</u>	<u>1,390,371</u>

Analysis of investments:

	Funds		2025	2024
	Unrestricted £	Endowment £	Total £	Total £
Listed investments: UK quoted shares	-	1,118,994	1,118,994	1,054,144
UK cash held as part of portfolio	-	32,013	32,013	33,585
UK investment property	-	377,613	377,613	377,613
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,528,620</u>	<u>1,528,620</u>	<u>1,465,342</u>

In the opinion of the trustees the market value of the investment property remains unchanged as at 31 March 2025.

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

10. DEBTORS	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income	240,433	5,037
VAT	-	-
	<u>240,433</u>	<u>5,037</u>

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	20,764	10,089
Accruals and deferred income	4,325	3,752
VAT	334	1,417
Other creditors	562	1,042
	<u>25,985</u>	<u>16,300</u>

12. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS	Fixed assets	Investments	Net current assets	Total
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted general funds	55,247	-	274,052	329,299
Unrestricted designated funds	16,527	-	-	16,527
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-
Endowment funds	1,647,741	1,528,620	-	3,176,361
	<u>1,719,515</u>	<u>1,528,620</u>	<u>274,052</u>	<u>3,522,187</u>
Net Assets at the end of the year	<u>1,719,515</u>	<u>1,528,620</u>	<u>274,052</u>	<u>3,522,187</u>

Comparative balances for the year ended 31 March 2024:

	Fixed assets	Investments	Net current assets	Total
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted general funds	64,787	-	184,684	249,471
Unrestricted designated funds	20,197	-	-	20,197
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-
Endowment funds	1,663,805	1,465,342	-	3,129,147
	<u>1,748,789</u>	<u>1,465,342</u>	<u>184,684</u>	<u>3,398,815</u>
Net Assets at the end of the year	<u>1,748,789</u>	<u>1,465,342</u>	<u>184,684</u>	<u>3,398,815</u>

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

13. FUNDS

	Balance at 01/04/2024	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Gains/ (losses)	Transfers	Balance at 31/03/2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds						
General fund	249,470	342,179	(212,352)	-	(50,000)	329,297
Designated fund	20,197	-	(3,670)	-	-	16,527
	<u>269,667</u>	<u>342,179</u>	<u>(216,022)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(50,000)</u>	<u>345,824</u>
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Endowment funds						
Expendable endowment	3,129,148	-	(18,086)	15,301	50,000	3,176,363
Total funds	<u><u>3,398,815</u></u>	<u><u>342,179</u></u>	<u><u>(234,108)</u></u>	<u><u>15,301</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>3,522,187</u></u>

Comparative balances for the year ended 31 March 2024:

	Balance at 01/04/2023	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Gains/ (losses)	Transfers	Balance at 31/03/2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds						
General fund	66,215	294,703	(211,450)	-	100,002	249,470
Designated fund	23,867	-	(3,670)	-	-	20,197
	<u>90,082</u>	<u>294,703</u>	<u>(215,120)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>100,002</u>	<u>269,667</u>
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Endowment funds						
Expendable endowment	3,217,482	-	(19,539)	31,207	(100,002)	3,129,148
Total funds	<u><u>3,307,564</u></u>	<u><u>294,703</u></u>	<u><u>(234,659)</u></u>	<u><u>31,207</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>3,398,815</u></u>

General fund: This represents funds which have been accumulated for the general purposes of the charity.

Designated fund: This has been created in respect of fixed assets which were grant funded. The annual depreciation of the assets is charged against this fund.

Restricted fund: No restricted fund was received in the year.

Endowment fund: The expendable endowment represents the capital of the Trust established by the Trust Deed dated 31 January 1984 plus further funds held in the investment portfolio. Income on the endowment investments is treated as unrestricted income.

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

14. COMPARATIVE BALANCES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Funds			2024 Total £
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:				
Donations and legacies	4,678	-	-	4,678
Charitable activities	258,169	-	-	258,169
Investments	31,856	-	-	31,856
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total income	294,703	-	-	294,703
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Investments - management	-	-	3,475	3,475
Charitable activities	215,120	-	16,064	231,184
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenditure	215,120	-	19,539	234,659
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	31,207	31,207
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	79,583	-	11,668	91,251
Transfers between funds	100,002	-	(100,002)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	179,585	-	(88,334)	91,251
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:				
Total funds brought forward	90,082	-	3,217,482	3,307,564
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	269,667	-	3,129,148	3,398,815
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THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 288749

Accounts

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Charity number: 288749

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of The Bentley Wood Charitable Trust (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the charity comply with current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charity's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) FRS102 "Accounting and Reporting by Charities".

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is managed by the trustees who make strategic decisions and are legally responsible for the management of risks faced by the charity. The day to day management of the wood is delegated to the woodland manager. The trustees seek additional advice from statutory bodies which include the Forestry Commission, Natural England and also Bentley Wood's in-house recorders' group of local interested parties. The woodland manager attends all meetings of the trustees and regularly reports and updates the chairman between the quarterly meetings.

Trustees

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Dr P Woodruffe
Mr A G Goddard
Mr J Spencer
Mr S Brunt
Mr M C Street
Mr J Fisher

Trustees are identified and selected by trustees for their knowledge, skills and experience in relevant fields that they can bring to the charity. Specifically these include, forestry, conservation, financial, trust management, governance and local knowledge.

Investment powers

The Trust is subject to provisions of the Trustee Act 2000.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Trust was established under a deed dated 31 January 1984.

The Trust's main functions are the maintenance of Bentley Wood SSSI and Upper Frenchmoor Copse on the Hampshire/Wiltshire border close to Salisbury and the investment of Trust monies in Shares, Securities and Personality at the absolute discretion of the trustees.

The Trust's objectives are to enhance, with assistance of grants from the Forestry Commission and Natural England, the woodland owned by the Trust and to provide an environment where wildlife can thrive and people's quality of life can be enhanced.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Strategic Report

Achievements and performance

Report from the Chairman of the Bentley Wood Trustees

The past year, 2024, has been a quietly busy year with a lot accomplished in putting long-held plans into action.

The Barn roof was renovated after giving many years of service. Its replacement and repair were long overdue and marks the first stage in developing plans for the future use of the Barn and its immediate surrounds in pursuit of the Trust's educational ambitions.

The environmental programme of improvements at Forestry Houses and the workshops ... loft insulation and roof renovation, the installation of solar photovoltaics supporting our energy consumption and reducing our carbon footprint, and the installation of battery storage and an electric vehicle charging point, have all been completed.

And more prosaically, we have completed the restoration of the Ben Lane entrance track and re-fenced the roadside boundary along West Dean Lane.

Management of the forest and its important wildlife habitats continues, all part of the cyclic yearly round of forestry activity and nature conservation management. As per the Forest Design and Conservation Plans, we have installed new cattle handling infrastructure in Barnridge to accommodate our future wood pasture expansion ambitions and have removed the Norway Spruce in preparation of the same planned expansion of wood pasture habitat.

We continue to slowly diversify the beech dominated stands in Beechways Copse, using group regeneration (at present using areas created by the demise and removal of groups of diseased ash) replanting these areas with oak, whitebeam, hornbeam, hazel and wild service, a mix reflecting the composition of woods long before their conversion to hazel dominated coppice in earlier centuries and to beech plantations in the 20th.

A similar diversification of Norway Spruce dominated stands in Mapleway Dean Copse has been pursued via group regeneration in windblow areas and replanting with a similar mix of oak, whitebeam, hazel and wild service tree, this time enhanced with disease resistant elms in the valley bottom.

And we have continued with trials of biodegradable tree tubes, (made from sheep's wool reinforced with a shellac varnish derived from cashew nut husks). It will be some years yet before the durability of these tree tubes becomes clear. They will need to last for about 10 years, but they appear to have weathered the first few years well.

The number of deer across our part of the county remains as the single largest threat to the biodiversity and management of the woods; not only Bentley Wood but all the woods surrounding us. We continue to manage the deer, with the aim of reducing their impact driven by the sheer number of fallow deer in the area. Deer are a vital and enjoyable part of the ecology of our native woodlands but their numbers, supported by highly productive surrounding arable land, a complete absence of natural predators and very mild winters, is having a big impact. Two developments in 2023 are worth noting. The drone survey undertaken across Bentley Wood and the surrounding countryside has given us a far better appreciation of the numbers of deer and their distribution. This survey will be repeated again in coming years. But numbers remain excessively high, so a decision has been made to increase the area of woodland to be fenced against deer in 2024. An unfortunate but necessary development sadly, but one we hope will eventually become unnecessary as landowners and others find ways to manage the burgeoning numbers of deer in southern England.

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Report from the Chairman of the Bentley Wood Trustees (continued)

Thanks to the skill and expertise of our forest management team Bentley Wood is regarded as one of the best managed ancient woodlands in the country and as a result we have many requests by foresters and silviculturists to visit the wood guided by David Lambert, our forester and conservation manager. In 2023 these “outreach” visits included parties from the Wessex Silvicultural Group, who visited in May, a party from English Woodlands, a private forestry company looking into the possibilities of continuous cover forestry and nature conservation management in other similar woods across southern England, and from the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust looking at woodland management for butterflies at a Trust organised training workshop. Last year, 2023, also saw the initiation of discussions with the newly appointed CEO of the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust over joining up action, planning and the sharing of expertise between Bentley Wood and its staff and WWT staff in the future management of the both the adjacent Blackmoor Copse nature reserve and their recent major acquisition at Great Wood, in the north of the county near Swindon.

As in previous years the future of the timber yard on the edge of Bentley Wood continues to worry us as Trustees. As said in previous reports, the prospect of large numbers of houses brings with it the possibility of more disturbance on the edge of the woods (and of course the nearby Wiltshire Trust Blackmoor Reserve), associated light pollution affecting rare moths and bats, along with possible encroachment from neighbouring gardens and an inevitable increase in people and their pets using the wood. These concerns are shared by the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. Events unfolded very slowly in 2023, with the site being tidied up and cooperation with the new owners and the Trust allowing for both the debris to be cleared on both sides of the fence and for the repair of some inexplicable vandalism to the boundary fence. The coming year is likely to be the year when a planning application is submitted, determining the future of the site.

Bentley Wood remains, as intended by its founders, a destination for walking and the enjoyment of wildlife. Visitor numbers remained high throughout the year. As in previous years the numbers of instances of out-of-control dogs remains high, along with the disturbance they bring to wildlife and to our essential deer stalking activities. How to manage this increase in dog usage and reduce disturbance has become a keen topic for discussion. The numbers of dogs jumping into the ponds remains a growing concern because of the growing use of external parasite treatments, which, when washed off in our ponds, has devastating consequences for pond life like dragonflies and damselflies. We continue to address some of the unwelcome parking issues at the congested Winterslow entrance. This is not a recognised car park and parking here only hampers and occasionally prevents access by the woodland management team and potentially by the emergency services should their help ever be required. It is these perennial headaches and problems that make up much of the discussion held by the Trustees.

The coming year will see a further unfolding of our now approved Forest Design Plan and the major extension of the lightly grazed wood pasture areas, where so many of the rarer butterflies, moths, plants and other wildlife are to be found. We intend to connect them to each other with much wider rides and open glades connecting areas of woodland. The overall aim remains the creation of far more wildlife habitat across the woodland, connected by open rides and open glades, areas of native woodland rich in oak and other species suited to our warming summers, while retaining a core asset of Douglas timber supporting the costs of the management of the woods while supplying goods and materials that will be in growing demand in the future. These changes are intended to make all aspects of the wood’s wildlife and management more resilient against the evident changes in climate, as the weather becomes more extreme in coming years, with expected droughts in the summer and far wetter winters.

Volunteer activities continue to be important with a lot of conservation activity undertaken due to their hard work and commitment in organising tasks and events. Indeed 2023 saw the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the volunteer group, marked by a meeting one very sunny Saturday in early September, with refreshments, speeches, and a guided tour of both sallows and butterfly rich rides led by the nation’s leading expert of Purple Emperors and their fascinating ecology, Matthew Oates.

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Report from the Chairman of the Bentley Wood Trustees (continued)

Supporting all this change and activity are our excellent Trustees, also unpaid volunteers offering up their time and expertise, who put in such a lot of work to secure the future of Bentley Wood. We have had no changes to the make-up of the board of Trustees this past year which has contributed significantly to both continuity and ongoing commitment to plans and ambitions. As ever much of what was done in 2022 and 2023 needs to continue into the years ahead to secure these changes and embed them in the woodland, delivering the forestry and environment plans, further work on ponds and recording, managing the visitors and securing our boundaries. But as with last year it remains really important to ensure the work, for Trustees, employees and volunteers alike, remains fun, rewarding and fulfilling and that Bentley Wood continues to sustain its wildlife and its character as a place of quiet and fulfilling enjoyment to all.

Jonathan Spencer
Chairman, Bentley Wood Trust

Forestry Report

I wrote in last year's report about the negative impact of the 2022 drought on the woodland (more on this later) but it turns out there were also unexpected benefits. It is generally accepted that a wet summer following an unusually warm July in the previous year will, in the absence of spring frosts, trigger a heavy mast year in beech woodland. In the UK, given the rarity of warm summers, this only happens every 5 to 15 years. 2023 was one of those years and in autumn the sheer volume of mast audibly crunched underfoot. It was the first time for many years that there was a noticeable 'nut' in the characteristic triangular husk. Much of this seed falls victim to fungal attacks, predation by insects, wood mice, bank voles and birds - notably wood pigeons, of which there were a huge number in the beech stands this winter. Cold weather also takes its toll. Temperatures below minus 6 degrees Celsius are reported to kill any exposed beech seed but some, either trodden into the ground by fallow deer or surviving under a protective blanket of leaf litter and brash, will germinate in the following spring and, with the number of deer gradually reducing, we hope to recruit some of this natural regeneration to nurse the small groups of enhancement planting we have put in over the last few years. Last year's light thinning of the overstorey in Beechwood Copse was timely in this respect and some natural regeneration in response to more light reaching the forest floor will certainly boost our ambition to diversify the structure of the beech stands, if not the diversity.

The heavy mast was not just restricted to beech. Many trees produced a bumper crop of seed last autumn. Wild service trees we planted in 2014 and 2016 flowered and fruited for the first time and the late summer rains swelled the sweet chestnut seed in the husk. Most of this was eaten by fallow deer but in the newly fenced enclosure in Park Copse we pushed some seed into the ground to hide it from squirrels and we look forward to seeing whether any of this germinates in the spring. We adopted a similar approach with acorns that Diana Cotter had collected and carefully sorted to exclude those bored into by weevils but these, oak being more light demanding, we planted in groups beneath carefully chosen gaps in the canopy. It was a year of mixed fortunes for our oak trees. Those growing as a minor component of the canopy in the north of the wood seeded prolifically whereas those in the south of the wood, where oak is dominant on the heavy clay soils, little or no acorn production was evident. In May we hosted a visit of the Wessex Silvicultural Group, and the health and quality of our oak stands were much commented upon. Come June and these same stands were for the third year in succession almost entirely defoliated by larvae of tortrix and winter moths and in late summer any subsequent Lammas growth was smothered by powdery mildew. These oaks simply have not had the opportunity to build the reserves required

Walking along some of the wood's extensive ride network in early summer I was pleased to see that not all but most of the alder buckthorn, hawthorn and goat willow I had seen defoliated following the drought of the previous year were showing signs of recovery. Similarly, there were no significant signs of the previous year's drought in the beech stands as I feared there might be. That is not to say that there will not be an impact - trees are long-lived organisms and can harbour stress induced fungal infections and diseases for many years before they take effect. The 1976 drought has been cited as the cause of much beech 'snap' - the name given to the stem of otherwise healthy-looking trees snapping at height to leave

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Forestry Report (continued)

just a stem some 15 feet or more high which subsequently dies. Beech snap is caused by a wood decay fungus that follows a previous infection by a fungal pathogen on trees weakened by sustained drought. These tall stumps are actually a useful source of standing dead wood until they collapse and are routinely colonised by woodpeckers whose nest holes are also used by bats and other birds. We leave them together with the fallen tops where we can – there are several in Beechwood Copse that can be seen from the hard tracks.

It has been our policy in recent years to thin out the Norway spruce from the mixed stands in the south of the wood and to heavily thin Norway spruce where it forms a monoculture across the central belt. Occasionally, storms have and will continue to accelerate this policy but marketing the produce has recently been complicated by the closure of the local sawmill. Giddings, as it was known locally (although it was purchased by Binderholz Timber Group and renamed in 2014) had been processing locally grown soft wood since 1942 and was the end point for almost all our spruce logs. Its closure means that produce must now travel as far as Wales to find a market which consequently increases both financial and environmental costs. To make matters worse there are two further problems on the horizon. First, storms are predicted to increase both in number and ferocity because of climate change and the south and particularly the south-east of England are predicted to become too dry to grow Norway spruce. Second, is the arrival of *Ips typographus* - the eight toothed spruce bark beetle. Infestations of this visitor from the continent were first discovered in Kent in 2018 and there have been annual influxes since then. *Ips typographus* is a serious pest of spruce plantations in Europe. It normally feeds and breeds in dead or dying spruce or aged trees exposed to drought but following windblow events the availability of suitable breeding habitat increases to such an extent that a population can attack living trees in numbers able to overwhelm even a healthy tree's natural defences. There is now in place a revised demarcated area encompassing the south-east (as far west as Winchester) within which the Forestry Commission must be notified of harvesting operations in spruce stands to enable, if necessary, mitigating measures to prevent the spread of infected material. All trees in stands where *Ips typographus* is found must be felled whether infected or not. Although we are outside the current demarcated area, we must be mindful of the possibility of it being extended again – in which case we would almost certainly be in it. The general advice is to remove Norway spruce and replant with less susceptible species - something that we intended to do anyway but maybe not quite so urgently.

David Lambert

Recorder's Group Report: Recording in the Wood

The annual Recorders' Group meeting, scheduled for late February 2024, was held to review the previous year and plan the forthcoming season.

A lot of time and effort went into the 2023 season. Examples include the butterfly transect data, breeding bird and nest box recording and the annual fungus foray. The Trustees are aware that there are under-recorded groups, particularly invertebrates, and some work is being done by experts in their field to address this matter. There are also many fungi records from the early years (1980s and '90s) which needed to be updated. We have been fortunate to commission an expert to do this for us over the 2023 -24 seasons.

As you will see in the following articles, we now have records of one species not only new to the wood but also to Britain, several species of wasp that are new to the wood, over fifty new fungi and some very exciting discoveries made during bat surveys.

As the woodland structure has changed so much in the past 40 years, it is important to know about our gains and losses and whether these can be attributed to our management, to climate change, to the impact of so many more visitors or to the general loss of biodiversity in the wider landscape. We are very aware that pollution of the atmosphere and of water by fertilisers, herbicides, insecticides and a multitude of other chemicals from a whole range of different sources, has impacts far from their point of origin and that nature reserves are not immune to these threats. No longer is it enough to manage our wood responsibly, although we certainly need to, but we need to be alert to so many threats from the wider environment, over which we have no direct control.

Pat Woodruffe

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Volunteer Group Activities

The Volunteers had our famous Bentley Wood Bean Pole Celebration Event on Saturday 14 April. Thanks to all the volunteer helpers, and to local woodland craftsman for their thatching spar and hurdle-making demos. The photo exhibition about the Vols and How We Produce Our Woodland Products was appreciated by many visitors. The draw of refreshments and woodland crafts, and of course the bean poles and pea-sticks themselves, proved irresistible for some 80 people and we took a record-breaking £705, which will go towards tools, equipment, gloves and refreshments for the Vols.

Despite Covid and the vagaries of British weather the Volunteers completed 19 conservation sessions, about 690 person hours, that included removing Lawson Cypress, cutting Birch, maintenance work in and around the Draining Field pond and our favourite – hazel coppicing.

The Volunteers celebrated their 10th anniversary with a special event in the wood in September. There's a piece about this elsewhere in Nature Notes.

In the autumn we started an exciting new long-term project to plant a 270-metre hedge of mixed native trees and shrubs in the Draining Field and fence it to protect it from deer and stock. Native wild flowers will also be grown and planted out along the hedge in future years.

There are currently well over 30 regular, active volunteers and we have welcomed 7 new volunteers this year. Six volunteers received their "10 task" badges in 2023, two volunteers were given "25 task" certificates, and one each got "50 task", "75 task" and "100 task" certificates. Congratulations and a massive thank you to all our wonderful volunteers and thanks to the Trustees and David Lambert for supporting us all!

Sue Walker and Tony Goddard

Friends of Bentley Wood Chairman's Report

I ended last year's report by saying that I hoped you would join with me in welcoming the changes, and new initiatives, that we had agreed with the Trustees. So how have we got on, and what has the reaction been?

We suggested change but not radical change. So, the key events remained: the Spring and Autumn Drive Thru's, the Spring AGM and the Christmas Party. We continued to host the very popular Bean Pole Celebration run by the Volunteers, as well as the Fungus Foray.

We did, though, change the Summer Party, combining it with the Morning of Marvellous Moths and over 50 of you came, making a lot of hard work well worth it. My thanks go to everyone who helped. We also added an evening with the bats where over 30 enjoyed themselves and, as an added bonus, we found glow worms on the way home!

The education initiative that we had also promised, became a reality in June when the 1st Lockerley Brownies and Rainbows came into the Wood to explore, learn and pond dip. Twenty six children from Winterslow Primary School followed in July, as did the Landford Brownies. One comment made afterwards said it all: "Just wanted to say a huge thank you to you and your team. The children had such a lovely time exploring the Wood". Again, thanks to all who helped. We will, I am sure, be continuing with this one. I am very concerned to make the Wood accessible to the young in a safe way and, through access, to educate. Good habits acquired young, tend to stick, and the young (and their parents!) are the future for the Wood.

Looking forward, 2024 is likely to be a year of consolidation as we refine these new initiatives. We also hope that the Trustees will make part of the Barn available to us, particularly because we badly need somewhere to take the local Schools, Brownies and Rainbows on wet days.

Graham Bennett
Chair of the Friends of Bentley Wood

A full report on the Trust's activities for the year is available to all in the form of 'Bentley Wood Nature Notes 2023 from the secretary.

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Financial Review (including reserves policy)

The attached financial statements show the current state of the finances which the trustees consider to be sound.

During the year it has been the trustees' objective to achieve the greatest possible revenue from sustainable forestry activities such as thinning and felling and to obtain the maximum grant aid from appropriate sources to achieve the Trust's objectives. The financial management policy for the year is driven by the working cash flow budget produced by the forest manager in consultation with the trustees and the trustees' bookkeeper. This cash flow budget aims to identify income from grants and planned sustainable timber harvesting and the expenditure involved in timber production and conservation works. The trustees aim to achieve a cash flow budget that breaks even. The forest manager, working closely with the bookkeeper, manages the cash flow budget and presents quarterly budget reports, collated by the bookkeeper, to the trustees at quarterly meetings. In addition to quarterly meetings the woodland manager frequently reports and updates the trustees individually throughout the year.

In order to assure sustained and sufficient annual revenue to support the Trust's conservation activities in the long term, the Trustees have adopted a strategy of building and maintaining a strategic reserve. In 2009, the Trustees set a target for this reserve of £1M. This figure was based principally on an estimate of income required to be generated from the reserve to support annual conservation expenditure should Government grants be significantly reduced, a situation considered to be likely in the current climate. An additional element was included to provide cash-flow protection for (a) timber and firewood net income variations in future years, and (b) the possible impact on costs and revenue of epidemic tree diseases, feared to pose an increasing risk. To maintain the reserve's capacity to generate required levels of annual income as inflation reduces its value over time, the reserve target has been inflated by a corresponding amount year by year. An additional aim developed by the Trustees in recent years is to protect the integrity of the habitat in Bentley Wood by ensuring the sympathetic management of a buffer zone around the wood. This may be by cooperation with neighbouring landowners but also possibly by land acquisition. To enable the Trustees to act quickly should appropriate land become available an addition to the strategic reserve target has been made. A further increase to the strategic reserve target has been made to allow for rising costs that are affecting our operations. The Trustees have therefore increased the target from £1.2M to £1.7M. During the year our Investments decreased from £1.537M at 31st March 2023 to £1.465M at 31st March 2024 however our cash balances increased during the year by £147K an overall increase of £75K to our strategic reserve.

The Trustees' policy is to continue to manage its finances so as to achieve budget surpluses when it is reasonably able to, thereby building the strategic reserve to the level required. Taking into account inflation pressures and other risk factors, the level of the reserve will continue to be reviewed from time to time.

Plans for Future Periods

Our successful application for a further five years of support under Countryside Stewardship will enable the Trust to continue with the restoration of a significant proportion of Bentley Wood SSSI and Upper Frenchmoor Copse. This work will involve extending our existing wood pasture, and pushing back ride edges to create glades that will increase habitat for those rare species that make Bentley Wood such a special place. The Trust also aims, with the help of the Volunteer group, to increase the area of managed hazel coppice which will further benefit wildlife and there are also plans to create more rain fed wildlife ponds. Also, with the help of the volunteers and local school children, canopy gaps arising from storm damage will be replanted with native broadleaves and shrubs to diversify both the species mix and age structure of the woodland.

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

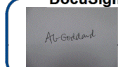
The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity 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 2015 (FRS102);
- make judgements and 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 charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees

DocuSigned by:

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Mr A G Goddard
Trustee

Date: 10 January 2025

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Charity Number	288749
Registered Office	55 Elmwood Avenue Fordingbridge Hampshire SP6 1DL
Trustees	Dr P Woodruffe Mr A G Goddard Mr J Spencer Mr S Brunt Mr M C Street Mr J Fisher
Key management	David Lambert
Bankers	HSBC Bank plc 27 High Street Ringwood Hants BH24 1BE
Investment managers	Sanlam Wealth Planning UK Ltd Monument Place 24 Monument Street London EC3R 8AJ
Independent examiner	Nick Jones FCCA Fawcetts LLP Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors Windover House St. Ann Street Salisbury SP1 2DR

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.


Independent examiner's statement

I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

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

DocuSigned by:

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Nicholas Jones FCCA
Chartered Accountants
Fawcetts LLP
Windover House
St. Ann Street
Salisbury
SP1 2DR

Date: 10 January 2025.....

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Funds			2024	2023
		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total £	Total £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:						
Donations and legacies		4,678	-	-	4,678	645
Charitable activities	2	258,169	-	-	258,169	175,774
Investments	3	31,856	-	-	31,856	24,463
Total income and endowments		294,703	-	-	294,703	200,882
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Investments - management fees		-	-	3,475	3,475	5,563
Charitable activities	4	215,120	-	16,064	231,184	164,825
Total expenditure		215,120	-	19,539	234,659	170,388
Net gains/(losses) on investments	13	-	-	31,207	31,207	(103,004)
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		79,583	-	11,668	91,251	(72,510)
Transfers between funds	13	100,002	-	(100,002)	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		179,585	-	(88,334)	91,251	(72,510)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:						
Total funds brought forward		90,082	-	3,217,482	3,307,564	3,380,074
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		269,667	-	3,129,148	3,398,815	3,307,564

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.

There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.


The notes form part of these financial statements

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
BALANCE SHEET**

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	8	1,748,789	1,723,954
Investments	9	<u>1,465,342</u>	<u>1,537,612</u>
		<u>3,214,131</u>	<u>3,261,566</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks		1,692	1,116
Debtors	10	5,037	4,400
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>194,255</u>	<u>47,194</u>
		200,984	52,710
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	11	<u>16,300</u>	<u>6,712</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		184,684	45,998
NET ASSETS		<u><u>3,398,815</u></u>	<u><u>3,307,564</u></u>
CHARITY FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds	13	269,667	90,082
Restricted funds	13	-	-
Endowment funds	13	3,129,148	3,217,482
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS	12	<u><u>3,398,815</u></u>	<u><u>3,307,564</u></u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 10 January 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

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Mr A G Goddard
Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of listed investments which are included on a market value basis, and in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards in the United Kingdom, the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) FRS102 "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" and the Charities Act 2011.

1.2 INCOME

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Dividends on listed investments are recognised when the underlying security is quoted as ex-dividend.

Revenue in respect of timber and venison sales is recognised at the date of delivery to the customer.

1.3 EXPENDITURE

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure includes attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

1.4 ALLOCATION AND APPORTIONMENT OF COSTS

All costs are allocated between expenditure categories in the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly; others are apportioned on an appropriate basis.

1.5 FUND ACCOUNTING

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

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

Endowment funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by the charity. Income arising on the endowment funds can be used in accordance with the objects of the charity and is included as unrestricted income. Any capital gains or losses on the investments form part of the fund. Investment management charges and legal advice relating to the fund are charged against the fund.

1.6 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Land and woodlands	not depreciated
Land and woodlands - infrastructure	5% straight line basis
Buildings	10% straight line basis
Motor vehicles	25% straight line basis
Computers and equipment	25% straight line basis

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.7 INVESTMENTS

Listed investments held in a portfolio are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction cost. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in net gains/(losses) on investments in the SoFA if the shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably.

Investment property is shown at most recent valuation. Any aggregate surplus or deficit arising from changes in fair value is recognised in the SoFA.

1.8 STOCKS

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

1.9 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Debtors are measured at their recoverable amount. Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1.10 TAXATION

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Forestry income	75,099	-	-	75,099	92,168
Venison sales	1,190	-	-	1,190	1,306
Grants received	171,680	-	-	171,680	72,100
Rents received	10,200	-	-	10,200	10,200
	<u>258,169</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>258,169</u>	<u>175,774</u>

3. INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Dividends from equities	31,794	-	-	31,794	24,451
Bank interest	62	-	-	62	12
	<u>31,856</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,856</u>	<u>24,463</u>

4. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Wages (note 5)	59,999	-	-	59,999	52,522
Contract forestry work	33,221	-	-	33,221	10,933
Conservation work	21,029	-	-	21,029	15,441
Planting	4,178	-	-	4,178	6,174
Road maintenance	16,860	-	-	16,860	3,263
Repairs	28,860	-	-	28,860	21,701
Rental expense	14,250	-	-	14,250	4,342
Depreciation	17,440	-	16,064	33,504	26,473
(Profit)/loss on disposal of asset	551	-	-	551	-
Subscriptions & membership fees	-	-	-	-	-
Support costs	10,999	-	-	10,999	10,065
Travel expenses	-	-	-	-	1,089
Miscellaneous expenses	4,016	-	-	4,016	7,987
Trustees' and volunteer expenses	1,086	-	-	1,086	2,281
Accountancy fees	2,500	-	-	2,500	2,400
Bank charges	131	-	-	131	154
	<u>215,120</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,064</u>	<u>231,184</u>	<u>164,825</u>

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

5. STAFF COSTS AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Staff costs during the year were as follows:	2024	2023
	£	£
Charitable Activities:		
Salaries and wages	53,991	49,082
Employers' National Insurance costs	1,124	810
	<u>55,115</u>	<u>49,892</u>
Pension contributions	4,884	2,630
	<u>59,999</u>	<u>52,522</u>

The above also represents the key management personnel remuneration.

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:	2024	2023
	No.	No.
Management	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

There were no employees who earned in excess of £60,000 per annum or more (including taxable benefits) during the year (2023: £nil).

6. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trustee remuneration	496	464
Independent examiner's remuneration	2,500	2,400
	<u>2,996</u>	<u>2,864</u>

7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trustees' expenses reimbursed (delivery costs/travel)	<u>496</u>	<u>464</u>
Number of trustees receiving expenses	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

With the exception of the above, none of the trustees received any remuneration in respect of their duties as trustees during the year (2023: £nil).

There were no other related party transactions during the year.

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land & woodlands £	Buildings £	Motor vehicles £	Computers & equipment £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 April 2023	1,673,765	177,922	13,316	66,603	1,931,606
Additions	-	39,390	-	22,000	61,390
Disposals	-	-	-	(10,849)	(10,849)
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,673,765</u>	<u>217,312</u>	<u>13,316</u>	<u>77,754</u>	<u>1,982,147</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2023	49,513	97,922	13,130	47,087	207,652
Charge for the year	3,670	20,172	46	9,616	33,504
On disposals	-	-	-	(7,798)	(7,798)
At 31 March 2024	<u>53,183</u>	<u>118,094</u>	<u>13,176</u>	<u>48,905</u>	<u>233,358</u>
Net Book Value					
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,620,582</u>	<u>99,218</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>28,849</u>	<u>1,748,789</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,624,252</u>	<u>80,000</u>	<u>186</u>	<u>19,516</u>	<u>1,723,954</u>

9. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Investment portfolio £	Investment property £	2024 £	2023 £
Movement in market/fair value:				
Market/fair value at 1 April	1,090,674	377,613	1,468,287	1,480,647
Acquisitions at cost	423,933	-	423,933	252,650
Disposal proceeds	(491,670)	-	(491,670)	(162,006)
Realised gains/(losses) on disposals	(14,961)	-	(14,961)	(8,964)
Unrealised gains/(losses) on revaluation	46,168	-	46,168	(94,040)
Market/fair value at 31 March	<u>1,054,144</u>	<u>377,613</u>	<u>1,431,757</u>	<u>1,468,287</u>
Cash held as part of portfolio	33,585	-	33,585	69,325
Total investments	<u>1,087,729</u>	<u>377,613</u>	<u>1,465,342</u>	<u>1,537,612</u>
Historical cost	<u>1,012,758</u>	<u>377,613</u>	<u>1,390,371</u>	<u>1,527,790</u>
Analysis of investments:				
	Funds		2024	2023
	Unrestricted £	Endowment £	Total £	Total £
Listed investments: UK quoted shares	-	1,054,144	1,054,144	1,090,674
UK cash held as part of portfolio	-	33,585	33,585	69,325
UK investment property	-	377,613	377,613	377,613
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,465,342</u>	<u>1,465,342</u>	<u>1,537,612</u>

In the opinion of the trustees the market value of the investment property remains unchanged as at 31 March 2024.

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

10. DEBTORS	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income	5,037	3,607
VAT	-	793
	<u>5,037</u>	<u>4,400</u>

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	10,089	4,058
Accruals and deferred income	3,752	2,578
VAT	1,417	-
Other creditors	1,042	76
	<u>16,300</u>	<u>6,712</u>

12. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS	Fixed assets	Investments	Net current assets	Total
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted general funds	64,787	-	184,684	249,471
Unrestricted designated funds	20,197	-	-	20,197
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-
Endowment funds	1,663,805	1,465,342	-	3,129,147
	<u>1,748,789</u>	<u>1,465,342</u>	<u>184,684</u>	<u>3,398,815</u>

Comparative balances for the year ended 31 March 2023:

	Fixed assets	Investments	Net current assets	Total
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted general funds	20,216	-	46,000	66,216
Unrestricted designated funds	23,867	-	-	23,867
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-
Endowment funds	1,679,869	1,537,612	-	3,217,481
	<u>1,723,952</u>	<u>1,537,612</u>	<u>46,000</u>	<u>3,307,564</u>

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

13. FUNDS

	Balance at 01/04/2023	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Gains/ (losses)	Transfers	Balance at 31/03/2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds						
General fund	62,545	294,703	(211,450)	-	100,002	245,800
Designated fund	27,537	-	(3,670)	-	-	23,867
	<u>90,082</u>	<u>294,703</u>	<u>(215,120)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>100,002</u>	<u>269,667</u>
Restricted funds						
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Endowment funds						
Expendable endowment	3,217,482	-	(19,539)	31,207	(100,002)	3,129,148
	<u>3,307,564</u>	<u>294,703</u>	<u>(234,659)</u>	<u>31,207</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,398,815</u>

Comparative balances for the year ended 31 March 2023:

	Balance at 01/04/2022	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Gains/ (losses)	Transfers	Balance at 31/03/2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds						
General fund	107,629	200,882	(148,761)	-	(97,205)	62,545
Designated fund	27,537	-	-	-	-	27,537
	<u>135,166</u>	<u>200,882</u>	<u>(148,761)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(97,205)</u>	<u>90,082</u>
Restricted funds						
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Endowment funds						
Expendable endowment	3,244,908	-	(21,627)	(103,004)	97,205	3,217,482
	<u>3,380,074</u>	<u>200,882</u>	<u>(170,388)</u>	<u>(103,004)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,307,564</u>

General fund: This represents funds which have been accumulated for the general purposes of the charity.

Designated fund: This has been created in respect of fixed assets which were grant funded. The annual depreciation of the assets is charged against this fund.

Restricted fund: No restricted fund was received in the year.

Endowment fund: The expendable endowment represents the capital of the Trust established by the Trust Deed dated 31 January 1984 plus further funds held in the investment portfolio. Income on the endowment investments is treated as unrestricted income.

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

14. COMPARATIVE BALANCES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Funds			2023
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:				
Donations and legacies	645	-	-	645
Charitable activities	175,774	-	-	175,774
Investments	24,463	-	-	24,463
Total income	200,882	-	-	200,882
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Investments - management	-	-	5,563	5,563
Charitable activities	148,761	-	16,064	164,825
Total expenditure	148,761	-	21,627	170,388
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	(103,004)	(103,004)
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	52,121	-	(124,631)	(72,510)
Transfers between funds	(97,204)	-	97,204	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(45,083)	-	(27,427)	(72,510)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:				
Total funds brought forward	135,166	-	3,244,908	3,380,074
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	90,083	-	3,217,481	3,307,564

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 288749

Accounts

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Charity number: 288749

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of The Bentley Wood Charitable Trust (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the charity comply with current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charity's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) FRS102 "Accounting and Reporting by Charities".

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is managed by the trustees who make strategic decisions and are legally responsible for the management of risks faced by the charity. The day to day management of the wood is delegated to the woodland manager. The trustees seek additional advice from statutory bodies which include the Forestry Commission, Natural England and also Bentley Wood's in-house advisory group of local interested parties. The woodland manager attends all meetings of the trustees and regularly reports and updates the chairman between the quarterly meetings.

Trustees

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Dr P Woodruffe
Mr A G Goddard
Mr J Spencer
Mr S Brunt
Mr M C Street
Mr J Fisher

Trustees are identified and selected by trustees for their knowledge, skills and experience in relevant fields that they can bring to the charity. Specifically these include, forestry, conservation, financial, trust management, governance and local knowledge.

Investment powers

The Trust is subject to provisions of the Trustee Act 2000.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Trust was established under a deed dated 31 January 1984.

The Trust's main functions are the maintenance of Bentley Wood SSSI and Upper Frenchmoor Copse on the Hampshire/Wiltshire border close to Salisbury and the investment of Trust monies in Shares, Securities and Personalty at the absolute discretion of the trustees.

The Trust's objectives are to enhance, with assistance of grants from the Forestry Commission and Natural England, the woodland owned by the Trust and to provide an environment where wildlife can thrive and people's quality of life can be enhanced.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Strategic Report

Achievements and performance

Report from the Chairman of the Bentley Wood Trustees

Compared to the busy years of 2020 and 2021, the past year has been comparatively quiet. A year of planning and decision making, looking ahead and considering the future.

The future of the timber yard on the edge of Bentley Wood continues to worry us as Trustees though, as the prospect of large numbers of houses brings with it the possibility of more disturbance on the edge of the woods (and of course the nearby Wiltshire Trust Blackmoor Reserve), light pollution affecting rare moths and bats in what at present is a dark stretch of woodland, along with possible encroachment from neighbouring gardens and an inevitable increase in people and their pets using the wood. But over the past year, and since the boundary was agreed and fenced, little has changed, and the owners have done a lot of work tidying up the derelict buildings and amassed rubbish and waste on the site. We have in turn tidied up on our side of the fence, and continue to collect and dispose of rubbish that has accumulated and spilled over the boundary into our neck of the woods.

Bentley Wood has retained its high profile as a destination for walking and the enjoyment of wildlife, and visitor numbers remained high throughout the year. The numbers of instances of out-of-control dogs have clearly increased, along with the disturbance they bring to wildlife and to our essential deer stalking activities needed to control the numbers of deer making use of the wood. How to discourage this increase in dog usage and reduce disturbance has become a keen topic for discussion. The numbers of dogs jumping into the ponds is also a growing concern, not least because of the growing use of external parasite treatments, which, when washed off in our ponds, has devastating consequences for much loved and important pond life like dragonflies and damselflies. We continue to address some of the unwelcome parking issues at the congested Winterslow entrance. It is worth stating again here that this is not a recognised car park and parking here only hampers and occasionally prevents access by the woodland management team and potentially by the emergency services should their help ever be required. It is these perennial headaches and problems that make up much of the discussion held by the Trustees as they work towards ensuring the woodland and other land held by the Trust retains its high quality and character.

More positively, the year has seen the culmination of a lot of planning and preparation work. We have secured our Countryside Stewardship from Natural England and the Forestry Commission for the coming 5-year period (starting in Jan 2023 as I write) which will allow us to now press ahead with plans to enhance the wood for wildlife while continuing to ensure the steady flow of timber and other wood products that support both local employment and the use of renewable materials in the transition to a low carbon economy.

Our agreed plans, now embedded in the Forestry Commission approved Forest Design Plan, includes some major extensions of the lightly grazed wood pasture areas, where so much of the rarer butterflies, moths, plants and other wildlife is to be found, along with their connection to each other with much wider rides and open glades connecting areas of woodland. There are now agreed plans to slowly restore much of the beech plantation, very vulnerable at present to summer droughts, with far more mixed native woodland of oak, beech, cherry, hornbeam hazel and lime. We have an agreed area of beech that will be lightly opened up and allowed to grow on indefinitely into the ancient trees of the future. A large core area of Douglas Fir will be retained, managed as continuous cover forestry, while areas of plantation pine and spruce in other parts of the southern end of the woodland will be thinned and felled. Some of these areas will become part of the wood pasture areas while others will be replaced with oak high forest. The overall aim is to create far more wildlife habitat across the woodland, connected by open rides and open glades, core areas of native woodland rich in oak and other species suited to our warming summers, while retaining a core asset of Douglas timber which supports the costs of the management of the woods while supplying goods and materials that will be in growing demand in the future. These changes are intended to make all aspects of the wood's wildlife and management more resilient against the slings and arrows of outrageous change we are facing as the climate warms and becomes more extreme in coming years. These changes will take much longer than the five years of the plan of course but the direction of travel and some of the open space changes will be very evident by the end of this planned period.

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Report from the Chairman of the Bentley Wood Trustees (continued)

The pond creation programme has continued this past year, with a suite of 12 ponds now in place, and the benefits to wildlife are already beginning to be seen. More ponds will be added in the future as the changes in the distribution of open rides, glades and wood pasture develops, offering further opportunities to add to the ponds that Bentley Wood could support. We remain in discussions as to whether some native newts and amphibians should be reintroduced to this growing pond network. Ponds have such a positive impact on wildlife that having ponds throughout the wood in clusters and groups is a clear benefit.

Along with all the forest planning and securing the support of the statutory bodies, Natural England and the Forestry Commission, we have also been busy establishing and implementing our environmental upgrade; the Environment Plan.... this plan aims to wean ourselves as far as possible off fossil fuels and plastics. This has entailed plans to add solar panels to buildings at the Forestry Houses, improve insulation, and explore the use of reconstituted fuels for machinery (based on used cooking oils), though we have yet to set up electric vehicle charging points or find suitable electric replacements for chain saws or working vehicles. We continue to explore the use of biodegradable and non-plastic tree guards. As stated last year, all these activities have risen in importance given the year round news coverage highlighting the biodiversity crisis both worldwide and across the UK, the climate change issues raised by the COP26 Conference on Climate Change held in Glasgow in November 2021 and the more recent Montreal meeting COP 15 held in late 2022. The most visible example of the Environment Plan in action has been the purchase of an electric bike upon which the woodland manager, David, can be seen, saving hundreds of miles otherwise undertaken using fossil fuel. It has the added benefit of making him a happier and fitter member of the Trust's management team!

Volunteer activities continue to be important with a lot of conservation activity undertaken due to their hard work and commitment in organising tasks and events.

Supporting these changes are our excellent Trustees who put in such a lot of work to secure the future of Bentley Wood. We have had no changes to the make-up of the board of Trustees this past year which has added a very useful air of continuity and ongoing commitment that has proved such a boon in a year of planning, decision making and looking ahead.

As ever much of what was done in 2022 and before needs to continue into the years ahead delivering the forestry and environment plans, the work on ponds and recording, managing the visitors and securing our boundaries. But as with last year it remains really important to ensure the work, for Trustees, employees and volunteers alike, remains fun, rewarding and fulfilling. Bentley Wood is so important to so many people in so many ways; it is imperative we sustain its wildlife and its character as a place of quiet and fulfilling enjoyment to all.

Jonathan Spencer
Chairman, Bentley Wood Trust

Forestry Report:

2022 was the final year of a five-year programme of work supported by Countryside Stewardship Scheme agreements with both the Forestry Commission and Natural England. With much of the work already completed a relatively quiet year was anticipated. Then, on the 18th February, storm Eunice arrived and with it 77mph winds that made rather a mess of some of our remaining Norway spruce stands. The damage, although localised and quite widely spread, nevertheless took a lot of time and effort to tidy up. Softwood sawlog prices were down markedly on what we had been offered in previous years due to reduced demand, a result of continued economic uncertainties, and an increase in energy prices which resulted in greater harvesting and haulage costs.

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Forestry Report continued:

In 2022 England had its joint hottest summer, tied with 2018, with temperatures exceeding 36°C in July and 35°C in August, the latter during a prolonged hot spell that saw seven consecutive days of temperatures over 30°C (lovely cycling weather). The rain gauge at the Forestry Houses recorded only a little over 2 inches of rain between June and August. The wood, needless to say, was beginning to look a little parched. Trees have developed various physiological responses to periods of drought. One of the more obvious to us is when leaves are shed out of season – a mechanism to reduce transpiration and hence conserve moisture. Hazel, willow and birch growing on the well-drained ride side earth banks appeared to be the first affected. Shortly after, the leaves of alder buckthorn and hawthorn appeared to turn brown and shrivel in situ. Oaks chose either to drop their acorns before they were fully developed and save their resources for growing or to produce as many acorns as possible. It certainly looked as though autumn had come early in certain parts of the wood.

Beech trees are particularly poorly adapted to drought. Beech is a shallow rooting species often growing on thin soils with little capacity to retain water. Recent studies on the continent have demonstrated that beech becomes weakened following successive hot drought years, which in turn leads to a delayed mortality from insect and fungal outbreaks. Beech has not developed the ability to shed leaves to save water during drought periods and instead evidence of leaf shedding is symptomatic of dieback rather than a preventative. This appeared to be evident in some of our beech stands on shallow rendzina soils where parts of the crown of individual trees appeared to turn yellow and die back. It will be interesting to see if there is any evidence of long-term crown dieback this summer.

Our two hottest summers have now occurred in the last four years and it seems very likely now that these were not anomalies but rather symptomatic of long-term changes in our climate. Droughts are predicted to occur more often and be more severe. The summer of 1976 demonstrated nationwide just how catastrophic drought can be in pure beech stands.

Some years ago, Forest Research developed a classification system designed to match site characteristics with the ecological preferences of individual tree species. This system helps land managers select trees not only suited to the site but also to predicted changes in future climate. Because droughts are predicted to become more frequent beech, obviously, does not fare well, but the good news is that there are a number of native species that are predicted to do well under the various climate scenarios. We don't have as many choices as they do on the continent; France supports 138 native tree species, the UK 32. The greater diversity of the European forest ecosystem allows for more redundancy in the face of changes in climate. Perhaps in the future we may have to look further afield – but not yet. For the time being oak, hornbeam, wild service and others will do. As for the exotic species; Douglas fir, Scots pine and western red cedar should also do well, but shallow rooted Norway spruce is predicted to struggle.

Over the coming year we will continue the group selection felling of the beech on the shallow, less moisture retentive soils before planting any canopy gaps arising from this felling with a mixture of oak, hornbeam, whitebeam, wild service and hazel later in the season. The young trees will be protected by the same biodegradable tree tubes we started trialling last year (which have so far been successful). We will also be applying the same selection system to the oak dominated stands in the south of the wood where the removal of diseased ash trees and also some remnant Norway spruce will leave gaps in which we will plant willow and crab apple together with a further cohort of oak in order to diversify the structure and species composition of the stand. Elsewhere, and dependent on an improvement in the softwood sawlog market, we hope to thin the Douglas fir dominated stand in Livery Copse. Regeneration of the fir is well advanced in parts here and work will require the careful removal of selected trees to give the next generation room to grow and also to enable the creation of the permanent extraction racks that are fundamental to the management of continuous cover stands. In Redman's Gore we intend to thin the pine to improve airflow around the tree crowns and at the same time remove any diseased ash and drought affected beech before under planting the remaining pine with mixed native broadleaves. In Park Copse we intend to continue the restoration programme we started in 2016 by thinning out further Norway spruce to the benefit of the broadleaves and we intend to increase the area of the neighbouring short rotation coppice coup by removing much of the adjacent Lawson cypress and extending the deer fencing.

David Lambert

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

The Recorders' Group:

The Group was able to meet in person this year on a reasonably warm day in late October. The change from the well-established Advisory Group has meant that more of those who record in the wood can be invited and feel involved. It also means that members of a project, such as Butterfly Transect Recording, can meet up and exchange thoughts.

During the course of 2022 it became evident that some planning applications for land adjacent to the wood might be submitted. In theory The Trust should be informed of any development that might affect the wood but it is clear, from the Emperor's Close development to the south of Winterslow, that this is not always the case. We know that any proposed development within 500m of the woodland edge (including the perimeter of Blackmoor Copse) should be accompanied by an environmental impact assessment. This is carried out on behalf of the developer and may not be totally impartial, nor be carried out over a sufficiently long time period to reflect the true impact on the wood.

Members of the Recorders' Group are now working towards as complete an inventory of the woodland inhabitants as we can hope to achieve. So many thousands of records have been noted over the years but a central depository for them has been lacking. Fortunately many, but by no means all, have been lodged with the County Records Office in Devizes and can be accessed. Of greater significance is the identity of both plants and animals which have been noted either (or both) for their level of threat or for their conservation value. Threatened species are those which are declining, even if still fairly common, such as the Greenfinch. The Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP species) comprises lists of plants and animals that merit extra protection when management is being considered. A significant number of the woodland butterflies, birds and moths which we have in Bentley fall into this category. It is these species in particular that it is important to consider when evaluating the impact of a planning application.

My thanks to members who have sent in observations throughout the year. It is often a matter of chance (being in the right place at the right time) and such sightings are much appreciated.

Pat Woodruffe

Volunteer Group Activities:

The BW Volunteers regularly work from early October to late March in a large area of hazel coppice in the centre of the wood that straddles Donkey and Dean Copses.

The area has been divided into 7 "coupes" and has external and internal fencing to protect the hazel by excluding deer and hares. The volunteers work in one coupe each autumn/winter season, cutting the hazel back to ground level and producing woodland products such as bean poles and material for a local spar maker to make thatching spars. The sale of high-quality bean poles helps to make the volunteers essentially self-financing.

Coppicing hazel keeps it healthy and long-lived and benefits many types of woodland flora and fauna. Rare butterflies like pearl and small pearl-bordered fritillaries and birds like willow warbler, chiffchaff and blackcap can all occupy hazel coppice at various stages in the coppice cycle. Flowers like primroses, violets, common spotted orchids and helleborines have an increased chance of flourishing in coppiced areas.

The complete enclosure of the area by deer-fencing has the bonus of excluding dogs and so ground-nesting warblers, woodcock and dormice benefit too.

The area has been coppiced yearly since 2014 so 2022 saw the volunteers complete Coupe 1 and start on Coupe 2, each for the second time.

Despite Covid and the vagaries of British weather the volunteers attended 22 sessions that included removing Lawson Cypress and carrying out safety work on 2 small bridges and replacing a handrail as well as our much-loved hazel coppicing.

There are some 40 volunteers currently active and we welcomed 4 new volunteers. Fourteen volunteers received their "10 task" badges in 2022, five volunteers were given "25 task" certificates, one each got "50 task" and "75 task" certificates and one achieved an amazing "125 task" certificate. Congratulations and thanks to all our wonderful volunteers!

Sue Walker and Tony Goddard

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Friends of Bentley Wood Chairman's report:

Bentley Wood in 2022 saw members enjoying a full set of events as "situation normal" returned to the wood, at last! Each of the Bean Pole Day, the Early Morning Birdsong Walk, the Pop up Café, the Morning of Marvellous Moths, the Summer Barbeque (recharacterized as a picnic since barbeques were clearly not a good idea in the sweltering heat), the Bats evening, the two Drive Thru's, the Fungus Foray as well as the AGM and the Christmas Party, all returned with unabated enthusiasm. Thank you all for coming!

Thank you, as always, to those who worked so hard to enable these: each of the Committee Members as well as Chris Loach, Janet Stevens, Gordon Verity and Pompey Parry, each of whom worked hard to keep the events moving. And thanks also go to Ailsa McKee for her work on the Fungus Foray and to Tessa Fisher who organises the Riding Permits.

The year, however, has also signalled some change. Sadly, both Tony Goddard and Steve Brunt have resigned from the Committee, preferring to concentrate their efforts on their Trustee roles, so we have not lost them entirely. Tony, though, was the Treasurer of the Friends and we do badly need a replacement. Tony has kindly agreed to prepare this year's accounts for you all – many thanks, Tony! If anyone has the formal training necessary to fulfil his role, do please get in touch (my email is at the end of this piece!).

As a Committee, we have, over the course of the last few months, been discussing changing the way that we do things going forward into 2023, whilst also wanting to add to our range of activities. In our view, change is apposite for several reasons.

First, the demographic of the Friends is steadily getting a little older, with fewer young people joining. We want to maintain our current Friends and encourage younger members to join, to create succession. We also want to do that in a way that is easily recognisable by that younger group. I describe our chosen solution, Substack, below.

We wish to move the former concentration on the AGM and the Christmas Party, each of which take place outside the Wood, to a concentration on the Summer Picnic which takes place inside the wood at the Barn – it is, after all, the wood that is the first point of focus! At the same time, we want the Summer Party to become a gathering at which several of the events that have proved a mainstay of our programme all take place on the same day, giving something for everyone in one larger event, rather than spreading them out over the year, as formerly occurred.

By the same token, we want to do more for those who are disabled, as well as more for those with limited mobility. We will, of course, maintain the Spring and Autumn Drive Thru's (these are fundamental, on lots of levels). However, at the same time, we want to get more information out to you all, about what is going on in the wood and to inform you about different aspects of the wood. In this way, we hope that everyone who is interested can, by one means or another, stay in touch with the wood and its events and developments whether or not you can actually get access to the wood on a regular basis.

Education is also very high on our agenda. We would like to see more school visits to the wood and to do our part in enabling those visits.

We have discussed these ideas with the Trustees and they have confirmed their approval. So, the Programme for 2023, will look slightly different from previous years. Whilst many of the former events will remain unchanged (for example, the Bean Pole Celebration organised by the Volunteers and the Spring and Autumn Drive Thru's as well as the Fungus Foray), the Summer Party will become a morning brunch in the Wood at the Barn combined with, at least, The Morning of Marvellous Moths as well as Phil Read's fascinating display of animal skulls (both are great crowd pleasers!) to create a single Bentley Wood based Friends annual event.

Over 2023, we will also be launching an education initiative. This will comprise visits from local schools to the wood intended to enable engagement with the young in these schools (and, through them, with their parents) to create awareness of, and a better understanding of, the Wood and what it has to offer.

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Friends of Bentley Wood Chairman's report continued:

At the same time, we will be launching our information initiative. In due course, members will receive an email asking them to subscribe, for free, to the Friends of Bentley Wood email Newsletter. Subscribers will then be able to receive the newsletter. It will be sent using a platform called Substack. It is intended to send out the FOBW Newsletter some three or four times a year, as appropriate. Sending information in this way enables us:

1. To remind members quickly and simply of forthcoming events; and
2. to advise members (with the assistance of the Trustees who will give the information in advance) of particular things that are going to happen in the wood (eg tree felling and clearances) and the principal reasons for those events.

We intend to use Substack as an educational tool for members who have a special interest in the nature/ecology/history of the wood. For example, past editions of Nature Notes can be loaded onto it for ease of reference; and information on the progress of principal initiatives, such as the Ponds Project, can simply be disseminated using it. It happily supports photographs and videos etc so media rich content of this variety can also be included.

As such, it is an ideal way of enabling those who are interested in the wood but who are too busy to attend events in the wood, or who now live too far away from it, or who are unable to get into it by reason of lack of mobility or disability, to stay up to date and in touch with events occurring there.

2023 will in these respects be a trial year. I hope you will join me in welcoming these intended initiatives and changes, and I thank you all for your support in respect of them.

Graham Bennett,
Chair of the Friends of Bentley Wood

A full report on the Trust's activities for the year is available to all in the form of 'Bentley Wood Nature Notes 2022' from the secretary.

Financial Review (including reserves policy)

The attached financial statements show the current state of the finances which the trustees consider to be sound.

During the year it has been the trustees' objective to achieve the greatest possible revenue from sustainable forestry activities such as thinning and felling and to obtain the maximum grant aid from appropriate sources to achieve the Trust's objectives. The financial management policy for the year is driven by the working cash flow budget produced by the forest manager in consultation with the trustees and the trustees' bookkeeper. This cash flow budget aims to identify income from grants and planned sustainable timber harvesting and the expenditure involved in timber production and conservation works. The trustees aim to achieve a cash flow budget that breaks even. The forest manager, working closely with the bookkeeper, manages the cash flow budget and presents quarterly budget reports, collated by the bookkeeper, to the trustees at quarterly meetings. In addition to quarterly meetings the woodland manager frequently reports and updates the

In order to assure sustained and sufficient annual revenue to support the Trust's conservation activities in the long term, the Trustees have adopted a strategy of building and maintaining a strategic reserve. In 2009, the Trustees set a target for this reserve of £1m. This figure was based principally on an estimate of income required to be generated from the reserve to support annual conservation expenditure should Government grants be significantly reduced, a situation considered to be likely in the current climate. An additional element was included to provide cash-flow protection for (a) timber and firewood net income variations in future years, and (b) the possible impact on costs and revenue of epidemic tree diseases, feared to pose an increasing risk. To maintain the reserve's capacity to generate required levels of annual income as inflation reduces its value over time, the reserve target has been inflated by a corresponding amount year by year. An additional aim developed by the Trustees in recent years is to protect the integrity of the habitat in Bentley Wood by ensuring the sympathetic management of a buffer zone around the wood. This may be by cooperation with neighbouring landowners but also possibly by land acquisition. To enable the Trustees to act quickly should appropriate land become available an addition to the strategic reserve target has been made. A further increase to the strategic reserve target has been made to allow for rising costs that are affecting our operations. The Trustees have therefore increased the target from £1.2m to £1.7m. However during the year the strategic reserve decreased from £1.564m at 31st March 2022 to £1.537m at 31st March 2023 because of unrealised investment losses.

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Financial Review (including reserves policy) continued

The Trustees' policy is to continue to manage its finances so as to achieve budget surpluses when it is reasonably able to, thereby building the strategic reserve to the level required. Taking into account inflation pressures and other risk factors, the level of the reserve will continue to be reviewed from time to time.

Plans for Future Periods

Our application for a further five years of support under Countryside Stewardship has been successful. This will enable the Trust to continue with the restoration of a significant proportion of Bentley Wood SSSI and Upper Frenchmoor Copse. Elements of this work will involve extending our existing wood pasture, and pushing back ride edges to create glades thereby increasing habitat for those rare species that make Bentley Wood such a special place. The Trust also aims, with the help of the Volunteer group, to increase the area of managed hazel coppice which will further benefit wildlife and there are also plans to create more rain fed wildlife ponds. Also, with the help of the volunteers and local school children, canopy gaps arising from storm damage will be replanted with native broadleaves and shrubs to diversify both the species mix and age structure of the woodland.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity 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 2015 (FRS102);
- make judgements and 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 charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees



Mr A G Goddard
Trustee

Date:.....16 December 2023

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Charity Number	288749
Registered Office	55 Elmwood Avenue Fordingbridge Hampshire SP6 1DL
Trustees	Dr P Woodruffe Mr A G Goddard Mr J Spencer Mr S Brunt Mr M C Street Mr J Fisher
Key management	David Lambert
Bankers	HSBC Bank plc 27 High Street Ringwood Hants BH24 1BE
Investment managers	Sanlam Wealth Planning UK Ltd Monument Place 24 Monument Street London EC3R 8AJ
Independent examiner	Nick Jones FCCA Fawcetts LLP Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors Windover House St. Ann Street Salisbury SP1 2DR

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

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


Nicholas Jones FCCA
Chartered Accountants
Fawcetts
Windover House
St. Ann Street
Salisbury
SP1 2DR

Date: 16 December 2023

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Funds			2023 Total £	2022 Total £
		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £		
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:						
Donations and legacies		645	-	-	645	1,200
Charitable activities	2	175,774	-	-	175,774	120,324
Investments	3	24,463	-	-	24,463	18,474
Total income		200,882	-	-	200,882	139,998
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Investments - management fees		-	-	5,563	5,563	6,253
Charitable activities	4	164,825	-	-	164,825	150,401
Total expenditure		164,825	-	5,563	170,388	156,654
Net gains/(losses) on investments	12	-	-	(103,004)	(103,004)	50,915
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		36,057	-	(108,567)	(72,510)	34,259
Transfers between funds	12		-		-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		36,057	-	(108,567)	(72,510)	34,259
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:						
Total funds brought forward		135,166	-	3,244,908	3,380,074	3,345,815
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		171,223	-	3,136,341	3,307,564	3,380,074

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.

There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.

The notes form part of these financial statements

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
BALANCE SHEET**

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	7	1,723,952	1,747,092
Investments	8	<u>1,537,612</u>	<u>1,546,177</u>
		<u>3,261,564</u>	<u>3,293,269</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock		1,116	600
Debtors	9	4,400	3,261
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>47,196</u>	<u>108,094</u>
		52,712	111,955
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	10	<u>6,712</u>	<u>25,150</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		46,000	86,805
NET ASSETS		<u>3,307,564</u>	<u>3,380,074</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds	12	171,223	135,166
Restricted funds	12	-	-
Endowment funds	12	<u>3,136,341</u>	<u>3,244,908</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	11	<u>3,307,564</u>	<u>3,380,074</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on *16 December 2023*
and were signed on its behalf by:

A G Goddard
Mr A G Goddard
Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of listed investments which are included on a market value basis, and in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards in the United Kingdom, the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) FRS102 "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" and the Charities Act 2011.

1.2 INCOME

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Dividends on listed investments are recognised when the underlying security is quoted as ex-dividend.

Revenue in respect of timber and venison sales is recognised at the date of delivery to the customer.

1.3 EXPENDITURE

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure includes attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

1.4 ALLOCATION AND APPORTIONMENT OF COSTS

All costs are allocated between expenditure categories in the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly; others are apportioned on an appropriate basis.

1.5 FUND ACCOUNTING

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

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

Endowment funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by the charity. Income arising on the endowment funds can be used in accordance with the objects of the charity and is included as unrestricted income. Any capital gains or losses on the investments form part of the fund. Investment management charges and legal advice relating to the fund are charged against the fund.

1.6 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Land and woodlands	not depreciated
Land and woodlands - infrastructure	5% straight line basis
Buildings	10% straight line basis
Motor vehicles	25% straight line basis
Computers and equipment	25% straight line basis

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.7 INVESTMENTS

Listed investments held in a portfolio are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction cost. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in net gains/(losses) on investments in the SoFA if the shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably.

Investment property is shown at most recent valuation. Any aggregate surplus or deficit arising from changes in fair value is recognised in the SoFA.

1.8 STOCK

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

1.9 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Debtors are measured at their recoverable amount. Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1.10 TAXATION

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

2. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - INCOME

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Forestry income	92,168	-	-	92,168	125,748
Venison sales	1,306	-	-	1,306	1,553
Grants received	72,100	-	-	72,100	(17,177)
Rents received	10,200	-	-	10,200	10,200
	<u>175,774</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>175,774</u>	<u>120,324</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Dividends from equities	24,451	-	-	24,451	18,471
Bank interest	12	-	-	12	3
	<u>24,463</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,463</u>	<u>18,474</u>

4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Wages (note 5)	52,522	-	-	52,522	50,666
Contract forestry work	10,933	-	-	10,933	24,722
Conservation work	15,441	-	-	15,441	3,631
Planting	6,174	-	-	6,174	1,381
Road maintenance	3,263	-	-	3,263	2,628
Repairs	21,701	-	-	21,701	21,267
Rental expense	4,342	-	-	4,342	1,558
Depreciation	26,473	-	-	26,473	27,551
(Profit)/loss on disposal of asset	-	-	-	-	(1,973)
Subscriptions & membership fees	-	-	-	-	98
Support costs	10,065	-	-	10,065	11,569
Travel expenses	1,089	-	-	1,089	1,363
Miscellaneous expenses	7,987	-	-	7,987	3,403
Trustees' and volunteer expenses	2,281	-	-	2,281	285
Accountancy fees	2,400	-	-	2,400	2,225
Bank charges	154	-	-	154	27
	<u>164,825</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>164,825</u>	<u>150,401</u>

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

5. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Charitable Activities:		
Salaries and wages	49,082	46,798
Employers' National Insurance costs	810	1,238
	49,892	48,036
Pension contributions	2,630	2,630
	52,522	50,666

The above also represents the key management personnel remuneration.

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
Management	1	1

There were no employees who earned in excess of £60,000 per annum or more (including taxable benefits) during the year (2022: £nil).

6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trustees' expenses reimbursed (delivery costs/travel)	464	285
Number of trustees receiving expenses	1	1

With the exception of the above, none of the trustees received any remuneration in respect of their duties as trustees during the year (2022: £nil).

There were no other related party transactions during the year.

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land & woodlands £	Buildings £	Motor vehicles £	Computers & equipment £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 April 2022	1,673,765	177,922	13,316	63,270	1,928,273
Additions	-	-	-	3,333	3,333
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,673,765</u>	<u>177,922</u>	<u>13,316</u>	<u>66,603</u>	<u>1,931,606</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2022	45,843	81,689	13,067	40,582	181,181
Charge for the year	3,670	16,233	63	6,507	26,473
On disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	<u>49,513</u>	<u>97,922</u>	<u>13,130</u>	<u>47,089</u>	<u>207,654</u>
Net Book Value					
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,624,252</u>	<u>80,000</u>	<u>186</u>	<u>19,514</u>	<u>1,723,952</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>1,627,922</u>	<u>96,233</u>	<u>249</u>	<u>22,688</u>	<u>1,747,092</u>

8. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Investment portfolio £	Investment property £	2023 £	2022 £
Movement in market/fair value:				
Market/fair value at 1 April	1,103,034	377,613	1,480,647	1,358,628
Acquisitions at cost	252,650	-	252,650	283,505
Disposal proceeds	(162,006)	-	(162,006)	(212,401)
Realised gains/(losses) on disposals	(8,964)	-	(8,964)	21,210
Unrealised gains/(losses) on revaluation	(94,040)	-	(94,040)	29,705
Market/fair value at 31 March	1,090,674	377,613	1,468,287	1,480,647
Cash held as part of portfolio	69,325	-	69,325	65,530
Total investments	<u>1,159,999</u>	<u>377,613</u>	<u>1,537,612</u>	<u>1,546,177</u>
Historical cost	<u>1,150,177</u>	<u>377,613</u>	<u>1,527,790</u>	<u>1,403,396</u>

Analysis of investments:

	Funds		2023 Total £	2022 Total £
	Unrestricted £	Endowment £		
Listed investments: UK quoted shares	-	1,090,674	1,090,674	1,103,034
UK cash held as part of portfolio	-	69,325	69,325	65,530
UK investment property	-	377,613	377,613	377,613
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,537,612</u>	<u>1,537,612</u>	<u>1,546,177</u>

In the opinion of the trustees the market value of the investment property remains unchanged as at 31 March 2023.

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

9. DEBTORS	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income	3,607	3,261
VAT	793	-
	<u>4,400</u>	<u>3,261</u>

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	4,058	3,635
Accruals and deferred income	2,578	5,025
Social security and other taxes	-	16,490
Other creditors	76	-
	<u>6,712</u>	<u>25,150</u>

11. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS	Fixed assets	Investments	Net current	Total
	£	£	assets	£
			£	
Unrestricted general funds	20,216	-	46,000	66,216
Unrestricted designated funds	23,867	-	-	23,867
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-
Endowment funds	1,679,869	1,537,612	-	3,217,481
	<u>1,723,952</u>	<u>1,537,612</u>	<u>46,000</u>	<u>3,307,564</u>

Comparative balances for the year ended 31 March 2022:

	Fixed assets	Investments	Net current	Total
	£	£	assets	£
			£	
Unrestricted general funds	20,824	-	86,805	107,629
Unrestricted designated funds	27,537	-	-	27,537
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-
Endowment funds	1,698,731	1,546,177	-	3,244,908
	<u>1,747,092</u>	<u>1,546,177</u>	<u>86,805</u>	<u>3,380,074</u>

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

12. FUNDS

	Balance at 01/04/2022 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Gains/ (losses) £	Transfers £	Balance at 31/03/2023 £
Unrestricted funds						
General fund	107,629	200,882	(145,091)	-	(97,205)	66,215
Designated fund	27,537	-	(3,670)	-	-	23,867
	<u>135,166</u>	<u>200,882</u>	<u>(148,761)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(97,205)</u>	<u>90,082</u>
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Endowment funds						
Expendable endowment	3,244,908	-	(21,303)	(103,328)	97,205	3,217,482
Total funds	<u>3,380,074</u>	<u>200,882</u>	<u>(170,064)</u>	<u>(103,328)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,307,564</u>

Comparative balances for the year ended 31 March 2022:

	Balance at 01/04/2021 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Gains/ (losses) £	Transfers £	Balance at 31/03/2022 £
Unrestricted funds						
General fund	173,297	139,998	(130,666)	-	(75,000)	107,629
Designated fund	31,207	-	(3,670)	-	-	27,537
	<u>204,504</u>	<u>139,998</u>	<u>(134,336)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(75,000)</u>	<u>135,166</u>
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Endowment funds						
Expendable endowment	3,141,311	-	(21,261)	49,858	75,000	3,244,908
Total funds	<u>3,345,815</u>	<u>139,998</u>	<u>(155,597)</u>	<u>49,858</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,380,074</u>

General fund: This represents funds which have been accumulated for the general purposes of the charity.

Designated fund: This has been created in respect of fixed assets which were grant funded. The annual depreciation of the assets is charged against this fund.

Restricted fund: No restricted fund was received in the year.

Endowment fund: The expendable endowment represents the capital of the Trust established by the Trust Deed dated 31 January 1984 plus further funds held in the investment portfolio. Income on the endowment investments is treated as unrestricted income.

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
<u>FORESTRY</u>		
Forestry income		
Sales - conifers and hardwood pulp and permits	91,258	124,689
Forestry Commission Grant (50%)	36,050	34,747
Forestry Commission Grant (50%) - over accrued	-	(43,336)
Venison sales	1,306	1,553
	<u>128,614</u>	<u>117,653</u>
Forestry expenses		
Contract forestry work	6,023	14,686
Deer stalking (contract forestry)	4,910	6,583
Wages	26,261	25,336
Repairs	1,685	1,314
Road maintenance	3,263	2,628
Planting	6,174	1,381
Travel	388	396
Miscellaneous	6,661	2,154
	<u>55,365</u>	<u>54,478</u>
	<u>73,249</u>	<u>63,175</u>
Forestry net surplus		
<u>73,249</u>		
<u>63,175</u>		
<u>CONSERVATION</u>		
Conservation income		
Forestry Commission Grant (50%)	36,050	34,747
Forestry Commission Grant (50%) - over accrued	-	(43,336)
Other income	-	-
	<u>36,050</u>	<u>- 8,589</u>
Conservation expenses		
Wages	15,757	15,202
Conservation work	15,441	7,084
Travel expenses	459	237
Repairs	13,861	19,954
Planting	-	-
Miscellaneous	854	638
	<u>46,372</u>	<u>43,115</u>
	<u>(10,322)</u>	<u>(51,704)</u>
Conservation net surplus/ (deficit)		
<u>(10,322)</u>		
<u>(51,704)</u>		
OPERATING SURPLUS CARRIED FORWARD		
	<u>62,927</u>	<u>11,471</u>

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The following pages do not form part of the statutory financial statements.

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

13. COMPARATIVE BALANCES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Funds			2022 Total £
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:				
Donations and legacies	1,200	-	-	1,200
Charitable activities	120,324	-	-	120,324
Investments	18,474	-	-	18,474
	<u>139,998</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>139,998</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Investments - management	-	-	6,253	6,253
Charitable activities	134,336	-	16,065	150,401
	<u>134,336</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,318</u>	<u>156,654</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	50,915	50,915
	<u>5,662</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,597</u>	<u>34,259</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)				
Transfers between funds	(75,000)	-	75,000	-
	<u>(69,338)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>103,597</u>	<u>34,259</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS				
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:				
Total funds brought forward	204,504	-	3,141,311	3,345,815
	<u>135,166</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,244,908</u>	<u>3,380,074</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD				

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
OPERATING SURPLUS BROUGHT FORWARD	62,927	11,471
<u>RENTAL</u>		
Rental income		
Rental income	10,200	10,200
Rental expenditure		
Rental expenditure	4,342	1,558
Net rental surplus / (deficit)	<u>5,858</u>	<u>8,642</u>
<u>ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUST</u>		
Administration income		
Dividends and interest received	24,463	18,474
Other income	1,555	2,260
	<u>26,018</u>	<u>20,734</u>
Administration expenses		
Wages	10,504	10,128
Depreciation	26,473	27,551
Accountancy fees	2,400	2,225
Subscriptions and membership fees	-	98
Travel expenses	242	730
Trustees' and volunteer expenses	2,281	285
Bank charges	154	27
(Profit)/loss on disposal of fixed assts	-	(1,973)
Repairs	6,155	-
Miscellaneous	472	631
Investment management fees	5,239	6,253
<i>Support Costs</i>		
Insurance	4,375	4,243
Book keeping	1,745	3,741
Professional fees	382	-
Photocopying, printing and office expenses	3,563	3,564
	<u>63,985</u>	<u>57,503</u>
Net administration surplus / (deficit)	<u>(37,967)</u>	<u>(36,769)</u>
Overall net operating surplus	<u>30,818</u>	<u>(16,656)</u>
Gains / (losses) on investment assets		
Realised	(14,526)	21,210
Unrealised	(88,802)	29,705
	<u>(103,328)</u>	<u>50,915</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	<u>(72,510)</u>	<u>34,259</u>

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 288749

Accounts

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Charity number: 288749

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of The Bentley Wood Charitable Trust (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the charity comply with current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charity's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) FRS102 "Accounting and Reporting by Charities".

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is managed by the trustees who make strategic decisions and are legally responsible for the management of risks faced by the charity. The day to day management of the wood is delegated to the woodland manager. The trustees seek additional advice from statutory bodies which include the Forestry Commission, Natural England and also Bentley Wood's in-house advisory group of local interested parties. The woodland manager attends all meetings of the trustees and regularly reports and updates the chairman between the quarterly meetings.

Trustees

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Dr P Woodruffe
Mr A G Goddard
Mr J Spencer
Mr S Brunt

Other changes in trustees who served are as follows:

Mr MC Street - appointed 11 November 2021
Mr J Fisher - appointed 11 November 2021

Trustees are identified and selected by trustees for their knowledge, skills and experience in relevant fields that they can bring to the charity. Specifically these include, forestry, conservation, financial, trust management, governance and local knowledge.

Investment powers

The Trust is subject to provisions of the Trustee Act 2000.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Trust was established under a deed dated 31 January 1984.

The Trust's main functions are the maintenance of Bentley Wood SSSI and Upper Frenchmoor Copse on the Hampshire/Wiltshire border close to Salisbury and the investment of Trust monies in Shares, Securities and Personality at the absolute discretion of the trustees.

The Trust's objectives are to enhance, with assistance of grants from the Forestry Commission and Natural England, the woodland owned by the Trust and to provide an environment where wildlife can thrive and people's quality of life can be enhanced.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Strategic Report

Achievements and performance

Report from the Chairman of the Bentley Wood Trustees

Last year's report started with the observation that we can all agree 2020 was a year unlike any other. Well, this year's report is going to look and sound a little like the 2020 report. The limitations of the Covid pandemic were much reduced though the impact of visitors remained high. The lockdown may have eased, and we have been able to move around with a lot more freedom, but we have retained many of the same challenges that presented themselves in 2020, and Bentley Wood now has a far higher profile as a destination amongst many more people. High numbers of visitors, lots of dog walkers, numbers of incidents where visitors have not adhered to (or even known of!) the guidance that allows both wildlife to thrive and for all visitors to feel welcome and enjoy the extra special environment that Bentley Wood offers, have all been features of 2021. As such it has been far harder to write the report for 2021 than it was for 2020. Time has flown past, and it has sometimes been difficult to clearly recall distinctions between years! The weather though has made a huge difference to the wildlife; 2020 was one of the great butterfly years but the wet summer of 2021 one of the most disappointing.

We have started to address some of the unwelcome parking issues at the congested Winterslow entrance. It is worth stating here that this is not a recognised car park and parking here hampers and occasionally prevents access by the woodland management team and potentially by the emergency services should their help ever be required. We have completed a successful programme of forestry operations and nature conservation operations in spite of the poor weather conditions. We have also been engaged in a rather challenging boundary issue determining a new fenceline with the old sawmill near Forestry Houses; this situation has yet to be fully resolved. Volunteer activities have continued though they have been and continue to be restricted and curtailed by Covid complications. Again, our thanks go to Sue Walker and her team for their hard work in organising tasks and events and tackling the difficulties presented by the shifting sands of Covid regulations and ever impending changes to the rules. Wildlife recording has continued.

A great deal of work was completed on the ambitious ponds project, which was started some years back. The first ponds have been created, with three new ponds excavated in late summer in the Eastern Clearing area. They have now filled with water (unsurprisingly) and, to allow the water to clear, have been fenced against deer to help them establish as wildlife resources. We are in discussions as to whether some native newts and amphibians should be reintroduced to this pond

Another interesting development has been the use of GPS collars to monitor the activity and whereabouts of the Shetland cattle using the Eastern Clearing and Barnridge Meadows. The data should prove really useful in the planned extension of the grazing areas aimed at bolstering the populations of rare butterflies and plants that are largely confined to these open wood pasture enclosures.

We have continued to develop the Environmental Plan for the Trust, to address the sustainability and carbon footprint of our own activities; most progress here has been on searching for genuinely biodegradable and non-plastic tree guards, and on alternative non fossil oils and fuels for machinery use. We have put further work into the major revisions of the Forestry Management Plan and the nature conservation management plan, ahead of their submission in 2022 and 2023 (the Countryside Stewardship scheme ends in December 2022 but of course both plans have to be complementary, integrated and agreed in principle before submission). All these activities have risen in importance given the news coverage highlighting the biodiversity crisis both worldwide and across the UK, and with the profile of climate change raised by the COP26 Conference on Climate Change held in Glasgow in November.

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Report from the Chairman of the Bentley Wood Trustees (continued)

The coming year will be one of developing plans further, with thought given to making our woodlands more resilient to climate change by establishing or encouraging more mixed native stands, and with more thought given to the extensive beech plantations, which can be prone to disaster and are rather dull biologically. At the moment we are thinking that some areas must be allowed to grow old and grand while others are replaced over time with mixed stands of oak, lime and hornbeam. The bluebells in the area should continue to thrive in the native woodland that emerges from these changes. We intend to retain a core area of tall high forest Douglas fir, providing for both future income for the management of the woods and a source of material for the low carbon economy; timber and fuel and who knows, perhaps feedstocks for the emerging new alternatives to plastics based on plant fibres and cellulose? The careful management, felling and harvesting of trees is a crucial part of moving towards the future low carbon economy.

Supporting these changes, we very warmly welcomed two new Trustees with the appointment of James Fisher and Mark Street. James brings a raft of new talents with expertise in IT, photography and a keen interest in natural history. Mark has long experience as a senior land agent and professional links to both the National Trust, where he manages their Wiltshire and Dorset estate, and to the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust where he is Chairman. James is very much a local, living in Winterslow; Mark is from Wiltshire though living rather further away near Westbury.

Our saddest news records the loss of our bookkeeper Jacquie Elkins, who managed our accounts for some 15 years. Jacquie died earlier in the year after a struggle with cancer.

Much of what was done in 2020 and 2021 needs to continue into the coming year.... developing the forestry and environment plans and working towards their adoption, the work on ponds and recording, managing the visitors and securing our boundaries. But as with last year it remains really important to ensure the work, for Trustees, employees and volunteers alike, remains fun, rewarding and fulfilling. Bentley Wood remains (in my now very extensive experience of UK woods!) one of the most valuable and interesting woods in lowland England and the exciting work ahead makes it even

Jonathan Spencer
Chairman, Bentley Wood Trust

Forestry Report:

This, the penultimate year of our Countryside Stewardship Scheme woodland improvement grant, saw a continuation of our ongoing woodland restoration programme and work carried on in much the same vein as previous years.

The harvesting contractors were delayed by the unseasonably wet weather that blighted much of the summer, but, when they did finally arrive, the rains abated and they were able to work continuously for a couple of months in reasonably dry conditions and we went on to have a productive year. In Barnridge Copse we thinned the Corsican pine with the intention of improving air circulation in the remaining trees' crowns. All the pine stands in Bentley are suffering from Dothistroma needle blight which, left unchecked, kills infected trees. By reducing the humidity in the canopy, we hope to reduce the impact of this fungal disease.

Trees need space both above and below ground to grow into if they are to develop the broad even crowns and extensive root systems that will stand them in good stead in the context of the stresses posed by future climate change and the biological challenges that will inevitably arise in response to it. In Howe Copse West we continued the restoration of the oak plantations by thinning out much of the remnant Norway spruce nurse crop. By and large these oak stands are of very good quality and it is very encouraging to be able to now see the final crop trees. Provided they are regularly, but lightly, thinned over the next 70 years, should go on to make a valuable crop.

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Forestry Report continued:

Ninety-five per cent of Bentley Wood was planted between 1954 –1962 by the Forestry Commission. Coalpits Copse is one of the few plantations that retains trees that predate the FC planting and is one of my favourites stands. In 1940 it was planted with oak and larch and the Forestry Commission beat this up with further oak, beech, Norway spruce and western hemlock in 1960 and this, together with much volunteer ash, made for an attractive mixture. When I thinned this stand back in 2009 I favoured a lot of the ash at the expense of the beech which had been badly damaged by grey squirrels in the past. Sadly, but inevitably, that same ash has now succumbed to ash dieback and we have had to remove much of it. This however will afford the oak the opportunity to broaden their crowns further and, in the long-term, together with some of the beech in the adjacent stand, will be left to develop old growth characteristics.

In October the harvester moved into Pheru Copse to thin out some of the poorer beech together with more diseased ash alongside the adjacent ride. Beech, being intolerant of drought conditions, is one of a number of species predicted to suffer in the future due to changes in our climate. The thinning created a number of small gaps in which we have since planted oak, lime and hornbeam.

In addition to the wool-based tree shelters I reported trialling last year (so far so good) another plastic-free version is in development. This bio shelter differs radically from previous polypropylene types (which at best were only photodegradable) in that after a few years' service the shelter disintegrates and the fragments are recycled by soil bacteria leaving no harmful substances behind. No plastic litter in the wood and no shelters to collect and recycle? It all sounds too good to be true. We have managed to get hold of a few to trial and we will use them to protect the small group regeneration plantings in Pheru Copse from browsing roe deer.

Protecting young trees with tree tubes isn't always practical or appropriate; naturally regenerated tree and shrub saplings for example don't respond well to having a shelter clapped over them when they are already habituated to the existing light and humidity outside a shelter, and fallow bucks seem to regard my tree tubes as little more than 'practice' when warming up for the rutting season proper - I have lost hundreds of trees (and tubes) in this manner and no longer plant anywhere near known rutting stands. So, on the recommendation of some encouraging trials elsewhere, this year we have started testing a deer deterrent product based on a rainfast emulsified solution of sheep's fat, which, using a knapsack sprayer, is applied to selected trees twice a year. Deer, apparently, find the smell disgusting and give the tree a wide berth.

You might have seen some curious green trays whilst walking in the woods this year. In partnership with Liverpool University and Public Health England we are hosting a project looking for a relationship between tree mast production and densities of ticks and Lyme disease infection rates. Tree mast has been shown to increase small animal densities which are important blood hosts for larval ticks and consequently increasing host-seeking (questing) nymph density. The trays, which are located in different stand types; oak, beech and Norway spruce, collect the seed as it falls from the trees. Preliminary results suggest it was a good beech mast year but a terrible year for acorns - possibly due to the oak defoliation in early summer when feeding Tortrix moth larvae entirely defoliated individual oak trees in the south of the wood. I don't think it is a coincidence that very few fallow deer have been seen in the oak stands this winter.

Over the coming year we hope to thin the Douglas fir and red cedar in Richwellsted Copse before moving on to thin the spruce in Dean Copse and Howe Copse East. If the weather is kind, we will also thin the pine east of the Draining Field and continue the group selection felling in the beech. We will also be applying for a further woodland improvement grant which will fund our restoration and conservation programme for another 5 years.

David Lambert

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

The Advisory Group Evolves into the Bentley Wood Recorders' Group:

Long ago, in 1989, one of the founder trustees, Ralph Whitlock, brought together a group of people who had expressed interest in the development of the wood and who had knowledge, skills and experience which The Trust badly needed in those early days.

Although the individuals have, in many cases, changed, the format of the group has remained much the same. Members have undertaken a wide variety of tasks from the building of the barn to recording a staggering 1000+ species of moths. The group's existence gave the Trustees the opportunity to discuss management plans, particularly felling and thinning operations, and to better appreciate any conflicts between forestry operations and conservation interests.

The advent of the pandemic prevented our two or three annual meetings from taking place, although we did manage a meeting outdoors during the summer of 2020. A year later we started to think about an end of season meeting and came to realise that there were many who recorded in the wood who never had the opportunity to come together for discussions and the exchange of ideas. Bird and butterfly transect walkers are good examples. So, in late October 2021 we planned a meeting to which all who helped with the recording effort would be invited. Unfortunately, by this time Covid numbers were once again of concern and we resorted to a Zoom meeting in the interests of safety. Although online discussions proved off-putting to some, it did allow others to participate and indeed to volunteer their help with certain tasks in 2022. It's never too late to come forward so, if you would like to help or to join in with an activity and learn more, please let us

Our aim is to continue with this new format, inviting as many people as possible who are involved with conservation and recording activities. Ideally, we will try to arrange a spring meeting, to plan projects for the season ahead, and an end of season get together to discover what has been achieved. There is also the possibility of a summer walk in the wood to places of particular interest or concern or where management plans are due to be implemented. These changes in emphasis, and the enhanced role of the group now has in supporting and undertaking the biological recording across the woodland and other land managed by the Bentley Wood Trust, has encouraged us to rename the group the Recorders Group. This more accurately describes its main role and the bulk of its activity and interest. The group of course retains an important role in providing conservation advice and input as we strive to enhance the wood and its wildlife.

Tony Goddard and Pat Woodruffe

Volunteer Group Activities:

At the start of 2021 no volunteer tasks were possible but in late March we managed to squeeze in five tasks in Dean Copse over just nine days, with a Covid-safe limit of ten volunteers per task. All the tasks were, amazingly, over-subscribed so we operated a "names in the hat" policy!

Nothing more was possible until early September when we got going again with a limit of sixteen volunteers. Again, we were often over-subscribed and trying to give everyone a chance to participate. So, we arranged three tasks each month instead of the usual two and managed to clear an area of birch and work on the pond at the Draining Field, clear Lawson cypress near Geoff's Seat and continue our long-term hazel coppicing project at Dean Copse. In December we started opening up some paths in the Witt Road area. We kept going, despite Covid Omicron, with safely reduced volunteer numbers (ten to twelve per task). Sadly we decided to cancel a planned task between Christmas and New Year because of Covid and the weather. Safeguarding our volunteers and their families and the NHS was paramount.

In the autumn we were also delighted to have been put forward by one of our volunteers, Mark Greco, to receive funding from the local Waitrose "Give a Little Love" scheme. We were awarded an amazing £1000 – which has allowed us to buy more hand and specialised tools, work and pond gloves, and safety equipment. It also funded two St John Emergency First Aid Training Courses for leaders Tony and Sue.

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Volunteer Group Activities continued:

The Waitrose funding also allowed us to set up a Conservation Volunteer Reward/Award Scheme with an enamel badge awarded after ten tasks and certificates of appreciation after 25, 50, 75, 100, 125 and 150 tasks! By the end of the year we'd awarded fourteen badges and nine certificates – six of them for 25 tasks. Bill Symonds received his 50 tasks certificate, Phil Read his 75 tasks certificate and Dave Lawman his 100 tasks certificate! There are many more badges and certificates to award as we see volunteers during 2022.

A massive thank you to all forty regular volunteers who've "put their names in the selection hat" and turned up again and again. We've also been delighted that ten new volunteers joined the group over the autumn and winter and swelled the happy throng!

Getting double-vaccinated, boosted and using lateral flow tests, plus a thorough Covid risk assessment, followed at all times, allowed us all to enjoy working safely and happily and give lots back to the lovely, special Bentley Wood!

Here's hoping that we can all continue to work through 2022. If anybody is interested in joining in, just get in touch.

Sue Walker and Tony Goddard

Friends of Bentley Wood Chairman's report:

At last! We now do seem to be getting back to something like normal, albeit cautiously. Last year's (first ever) Zoom AGM seems an age away!

This year, therefore, we have planned for you a full set of events, extending over the whole of 2022. You will have received your programme showing the return of the Bean Pole Day, the Early Morning Birdsong Walk, the Pop up Café, the Moth Morning, the Summer Barbeque, the Bats evening and, of course, both of the Drive Thru's as well as the AGM and Christmas Party. The 2021 Christmas party was held at lunchtime in the Winterslow Village Hall. I know that change to the programme was well received, so we will be continuing that. Please come and support these events!

I have, as always, a huge number of people to thank. First, a massive thank you to all 40 of our wonderful volunteers who have, under Sue and Tony, continued their activities, despite the pandemic restrictions, and done a superb job. Over the past year they have completed tasks in Dean Copse and the Draining Field as well as work around Geoff's Seat and at Witt Road, to name but a few projects – well done everyone, we are very grateful. In addition, Marc Greco succeeded in obtaining a Waitrose Award for the Volunteers under their "Give a Little Love" Scheme – a great achievement. Many of you will now also have received the badges that Sue and Tony designed as a mark of your hard work.

Thank you also to the Committee who, despite lockdown, managed to deliver the Summer Barbeque, the Autumn Drive Thru, and the Christmas party. These events could not have taken place without the willing help and skills of Chris Loach, Janet Stevens, Carole Broadbent and Gordon Verity who variously baked cakes, made sandwiches and sorted out the bar! Equal thanks go to Ailsa McKee and to James Macpherson who together organised the ever successful Fungus Foray (I learned a great deal!) as well as to Tessa Fisher who organises the Riding Permits in the Wood.

So, it has not been a year of dead stop. That is true also of some of the changes in the management of the Wood that have seen their genesis this year. Jonathan Spencer, as the new Chair of the Trustees, outlined at the Christmas Party that Bentley Wood is one of the largest and most important ancient woodlands in southern England. He explained that it is important as a nature reserve, as a place of recreation and enjoyment, as a source of timber and wood fuel and as a model for other communities and conservation initiatives elsewhere. The SSSI and Forestry Management Plans are under review. The Trustees plan to upgrade the woodland management to expand its already significant contribution to nature conservation with particular reference to the rarer special species in the Wood, whilst also supporting both timber production and wood fuel production in support of the emerging low carbon economy. Your support for those changes is key. In addition, three new ponds have been dug over this last year as part of the Ponds Project and £1,000 of FOBW funds invested in them. You will also have seen the continued arrival of new benches within the Wood and the smart new

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Friends of Bentley Wood Chairman's report continued:

On a related front, I made representations to the Planning inspectorate, on behalf of you all that Bentley Wood and Frenchmoor Copse be included in the new local Neighbourhood Plan and be accorded "Treasured Asset" status as a further way of safeguarding the Wood for future generations. Those representations have been accepted. Accordingly, if the Referendum on that Plan is successful, then the Wood will have that Planning status for years to come.

A full report on the Trust's activities for the year is available to all in the form of 'Bentley Wood Nature Notes 2021' from the secretary.

Financial Review (including reserves policy)

The attached financial statements show the current state of the finances which the trustees consider to be sound. During the year it has been the trustees' objective to achieve the greatest possible revenue from sustainable forestry activities such as thinning and felling and to obtain the maximum grant aid from appropriate sources to achieve the Trust's objectives. The financial management policy for the year is driven by the working cash flow budget produced by the forest manager in consultation with the trustees and the trustees' bookkeeper. This cash flow budget aims to identify income from grants and planned sustainable timber harvesting and the expenditure involved in timber production and conservation works. The trustees aim to achieve a cash flow budget that breaks even. The forest manager, working closely with the bookkeeper, manages the cash flow budget and presents quarterly budget reports, collated by the bookkeeper, to the trustees at quarterly meetings. In addition to quarterly meetings the woodland manager frequently reports and updates the

In order to assure sustained and sufficient annual revenue to support the Trust's conservation activities in the long term, the Trustees have adopted a strategy of building and maintaining a strategic reserve. In 2009, the Trustees set a target for this reserve of £1M. This figure was based principally on an estimate of income required to be generated from the reserve to support annual conservation expenditure should Government grants be significantly reduced, a situation considered to be likely in the current climate. An additional element was included to provide cash-flow protection for (a) timber and firewood net income variations in future years, and (b) the possible impact on costs and revenue of epidemic tree diseases, feared to pose an increasing risk. To maintain the reserve's capacity to generate required levels of annual income as inflation reduces its value over time, the reserve target has been inflated by a corresponding amount year by year. An additional aim developed this year by the Trustees is to protect the integrity of the habitat in Bentley Wood by ensuring the sympathetic management of a buffer zone around the wood. This may be by cooperation with neighbouring landowners but also possibly by land acquisition. To enable the Trustees to act quickly should appropriate land become available an addition to the strategic reserve target has been made. A further increase to the strategic reserve target has been made to allow for rising costs that are affecting our operations. The Trustees have therefore increased the target from £1.2M to £1.7M. During the year the strategic reserve increased from £1.426M at 31st March 2021 to £1.546M at 31st March 2022.

The Trustees' policy is to continue to manage its finances so as to achieve budget surpluses when it is reasonably able to, thereby building the strategic reserve to the level required. Taking into account inflation pressures and other risk factors, the level of the reserve will continue to be reviewed from time to time.

Plans for Future Periods

December 2022 marks the end of our current Countryside Stewardship grant. Over the course of the year, we will be completing the application process that will secure funding for a further five years enabling the Trust to continue with the restoration of a significant proportion of Bentley Wood and Upper Frenchmoor Copse by the removal of exotic tree species and the promotion of native broadleaves. An element of this work will involve pushing back ride edges to create glades and increase habitat for those rare species that make Bentley Wood such a special place. The Trust also aims, with the help of the Volunteer group, to reinstate further areas of hazel coppice to the benefit of wildlife across the woodland and there are also plans to create more rain fed wildlife ponds. Also, with the help of the volunteers and local school children, canopy gaps arising from storm damage will be replanted with native broadleaves and shrubs to diversify both the species mix and age structure of the woodland.

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES


The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity 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 2015 (FRS102);
- make judgements and 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 charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees

DocuSigned by:

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Mr A G Goddard
Trustee

Date: 10 January 2023

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Charity Number	288749
Registered Office	55 Elmwood Avenue Fordingbridge Hampshire SP6 1DL
Trustees	Dr P Woodruffe Mr A G Goddard Mr J Spencer Mr S Brunt Mr M Street Mr J Fisher
Key management	David Lambert
Bankers	HSBC Bank plc 27 High Street Ringwood Hants BH24 1BE
Investment managers	Sanlam Wealth Planning UK Ltd Monument Place 24 Monument Street London EC3R 8AJ
Independent examiner	Nick Jones FCCA Fawcetts LLP Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors Windover House St. Ann Street Salisbury SP1 2DR

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

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

DocuSigned by:

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Nicholas Jones FCCA
Chartered Accountants
Fawcetts
Windover House
St. Ann Street
Salisbury
SP1 2DR

Date: 10 January 2023.....

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	Funds			2022	2021
		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total £	Total £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:						
Donations and legacies		1,200	-	-	1,200	1,870
Charitable activities	2	120,324	-	-	120,324	254,255
Investments	3	18,474	-	-	18,474	16,190
Total income		139,998	-	-	139,998	272,315
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Investments - management fees		-	-	6,253	6,253	5,196
Charitable activities	4	134,336	-	16,065	150,401	187,503
Total expenditure		134,336	-	22,318	156,654	192,699
Net gains/(losses) on investments	12	-	-	50,915	50,915	172,158
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		5,662	-	28,597	34,259	251,774
Transfers between funds	12	(75,000)	-	75,000	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(69,338)	-	103,597	34,259	251,774
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:						
Total funds brought forward		204,504	-	3,141,311	3,345,815	3,094,041
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		135,166	-	3,244,908	3,380,074	3,345,815

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.

There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.

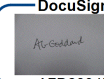
The notes form part of these financial statements

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	7	1,747,092	1,764,849
Investments	8	1,546,177	1,426,515
		<u>3,293,269</u>	<u>3,191,364</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock		600	8,456
Debtors	9	3,261	111,089
Cash at bank and in hand		108,094	60,284
		111,955	179,829
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	10	<u>25,150</u>	<u>25,378</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		86,805	154,451
NET ASSETS		<u>3,380,074</u>	<u>3,345,815</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds	12	135,166	204,504
Restricted funds	12	-	-
Endowment funds	12	3,244,908	3,141,311
TOTAL FUNDS	11	<u>3,380,074</u>	<u>3,345,815</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 10 January 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

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Mr A G Goddard
Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of listed investments which are included on a market value basis, and in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards in the United Kingdom, the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) FRS102 "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" and the Charities Act 2011.

1.2 INCOME

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Dividends on listed investments are recognised when the underlying security is quoted as ex-dividend.

Revenue in respect of timber and venison sales is recognised at the date of delivery to the customer.

1.3 EXPENDITURE

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure includes attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

1.4 ALLOCATION AND APPORTIONMENT OF COSTS

All costs are allocated between expenditure categories in the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly; others are apportioned on an appropriate basis.

1.5 FUND ACCOUNTING

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

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

Endowment funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by the charity. Income arising on the endowment funds can be used in accordance with the objects of the charity and is included as unrestricted income. Any capital gains or losses on the investments form part of the fund. Investment management charges and legal advice relating to the fund are charged against the fund.

1.6 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Land and woodlands	not depreciated
Land and woodlands - infrastructure	5% straight line basis
Buildings	10% straight line basis
Motor vehicles	25% straight line basis
Computers and equipment	25% straight line basis

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.7 INVESTMENTS

Listed investments held in a portfolio are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction cost. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in net gains/(losses) on investments in the SoFA if the shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably.

Investment property is shown at most recent valuation. Any aggregate surplus or deficit arising from changes in fair value is recognised in the SoFA.

1.8 STOCK

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

1.9 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Debtors are measured at their recoverable amount. Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1.10 TAXATION

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

2. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - INCOME

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Forestry income	125,748	-	-	125,748	97,313
Venison sales	1,553	-	-	1,553	1,488
Grants received	(17,177)	-	-	(17,177)	145,254
Rents received	10,200	-	-	10,200	10,200
	<u>120,324</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>120,324</u>	<u>254,255</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Dividends from equities	18,471	-	-	18,471	16,031
Bank interest	3	-	-	3	159
	<u>18,474</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,474</u>	<u>16,190</u>

4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Wages (note 5)	50,666	-	-	50,666	49,443
Contract forestry work	24,722	-	-	24,722	13,925
Conservation work	3,631	-	-	3,631	13,980
Planting	1,381	-	-	1,381	1,820
Extraction	-	-	-	-	450
Road maintenance	2,628	-	-	2,628	24,990
Management fees	-	-	-	-	4,000
Repairs	21,267	-	-	21,267	12,839
Rental expense	1,558	-	-	1,558	4,609
Depreciation	11,486	-	16,065	27,551	27,088
(Profit)/loss on disposal of asset	(1,973)	-	-	(1,973)	-
Subscriptions & membership fees	98	-	-	98	680
Support costs	11,569	-	-	11,569	20,580
Travel expenses	1,363	-	-	1,363	733
Miscellaneous expenses	3,403	-	-	3,403	10,068
Trustees' expenses	285	-	-	285	347
Accountancy fees	2,225	-	-	2,225	1,951
Bank charges	27	-	-	27	-
	<u>134,336</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,065</u>	<u>150,401</u>	<u>187,503</u>

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

5. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Charitable Activities:		
Salaries and wages	46,798	45,710
Employers' National Insurance costs	1,238	1,103
	<u>48,036</u>	<u>46,813</u>
Pension contributions	2,630	2,630
	<u>50,666</u>	<u>49,443</u>

The above also represents the key management personnel remuneration.

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
Management	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

There were no employees who earned in excess of £60,000 per annum or more (including taxable benefits) during the year (2021: £nil).

6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trustees' expenses reimbursed (delivery costs/travel)	<u>285</u>	<u>347</u>
Number of trustees receiving expenses	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

With the exception of the above, none of the trustees received any remuneration in respect of their duties as trustees during the year (2021: £nil).

There were no other related party transactions during the year.

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land & woodlands £	Buildings £	Motor vehicles £	Computers & equipment £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 April 2021	1,673,765	180,720	28,566	49,152	1,932,203
Additions	-	-	-	14,118	14,118
Disposals	-	(2,798)	(15,250)	-	(18,048)
At 31 March 2022	<u>1,673,765</u>	<u>177,922</u>	<u>13,316</u>	<u>63,270</u>	<u>1,928,273</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2021	42,173	65,456	26,707	33,018	167,354
Charge for the year	3,670	16,233	83	7,564	27,550
On disposals	-	-	(13,723)	-	- 13,723
At 31 March 2022	<u>45,843</u>	<u>81,689</u>	<u>13,067</u>	<u>40,582</u>	<u>181,181</u>
Net Book Value					
At 31 March 2022	<u>1,627,922</u>	<u>96,233</u>	<u>249</u>	<u>22,688</u>	<u>1,747,092</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>1,631,592</u>	<u>115,264</u>	<u>1,859</u>	<u>16,134</u>	<u>1,764,849</u>

8. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Investment portfolio £	Investment property £	2022 £	2021 £
Movement in market/fair value:				
Market/fair value at 1 April	981,015	377,613	1,358,628	975,288
Acquisitions at cost	283,505	-	283,505	456,926
Disposal proceeds	(212,401)	-	(212,401)	(245,744)
Realised gains/(losses) on disposals	21,210	-	21,210	38,136
Unrealised gains/(losses) on revaluation	29,705	-	29,705	134,022
Market/fair value at 31 March	<u>1,103,034</u>	<u>377,613</u>	<u>1,480,647</u>	<u>1,358,628</u>
Cash held as part of portfolio	65,530	-	65,530	67,887
Total investments	<u>1,168,564</u>	<u>377,613</u>	<u>1,546,177</u>	<u>1,426,515</u>
Historical cost	<u>1,025,783</u>	<u>377,613</u>	<u>1,403,396</u>	<u>1,274,308</u>
Analysis of investments:	Funds		2022	2021
	Unrestricted	Endowment	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Listed investments: UK quoted shares	-	1,103,034	1,103,034	981,015
UK cash held as part of portfolio	-	65,530	65,530	67,887
UK investment property	-	377,613	377,613	377,613
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,546,177</u>	<u>1,546,177</u>	<u>1,426,515</u>

In the opinion of the trustees the market value of the investment property remains unchanged as at 31 March 2022.

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

9. DEBTORS	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	-	20,733
Prepayments and accrued income	3,261	90,356
	<u>3,261</u>	<u>111,089</u>

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	3,635	21,021
Accruals and deferred income	5,025	2,400
Social security and other taxes	16,490	1,957
Other creditors	-	-
	<u>25,150</u>	<u>25,378</u>

11. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS	Fixed assets	Investments	Net current assets	Total
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted general funds	20,824	-	86,805	107,629
Unrestricted designated funds	27,537	-	-	27,537
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-
Endowment funds	1,698,731	1,546,177	-	3,244,908
	<u>1,747,092</u>	<u>1,546,177</u>	<u>86,805</u>	<u>3,380,074</u>

Comparative balances for the year ended 31 March 2021:

	Fixed assets	Investments	Net current assets	Total
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted general funds	18,846	-	154,451	173,297
Unrestricted designated funds	31,207	-	-	31,207
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-
Endowment funds	1,714,796	1,426,515	-	3,141,311
	<u>1,764,849</u>	<u>1,426,515</u>	<u>154,451</u>	<u>3,345,815</u>

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

12. FUNDS

	Balance at 01/04/2021	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Gains/ (losses)	Transfers	Balance at 31/03/2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds						
General fund	173,297	139,998	(130,666)	-	(74,999)	107,630
Designated fund	31,207	-	(3,670)	-	-	27,537
	<u>204,504</u>	<u>139,998</u>	<u>(134,336)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(74,999)</u>	<u>135,167</u>
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Endowment funds						
Expendable endowment	3,141,311	-	(21,261)	49,858	74,999	3,244,907
Total funds	<u><u>3,345,815</u></u>	<u><u>139,998</u></u>	<u><u>(155,597)</u></u>	<u><u>49,858</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>3,380,074</u></u>

Comparative balances for the year ended 31 March 2021:

	Balance at 01/04/2020	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Gains/ (losses)	Transfers	Balance at 31/03/2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds						
General fund	243,470	272,315	(167,489)	-	(174,999)	173,297
Designated fund	34,877	-	(3,670)	-	-	31,207
	<u>278,347</u>	<u>272,315</u>	<u>(171,159)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(174,999)</u>	<u>204,504</u>
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Endowment funds						
Expendable endowment	2,815,694	-	(21,540)	172,158	174,999	3,141,311
Total funds	<u><u>3,094,041</u></u>	<u><u>272,315</u></u>	<u><u>(192,699)</u></u>	<u><u>172,158</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>3,345,815</u></u>

General fund: This represents funds which have been accumulated for the general purposes of the charity.

Designated fund: This has been created in respect of fixed assets which were grant funded. The annual depreciation of the assets is charged against this fund.

Restricted fund: No restricted fund was received in the year.

Endowment fund: The expendable endowment represents the capital of the Trust established by the Trust Deed dated 31 January 1984 plus further funds held in the investment portfolio. Income on the endowment investments is treated as unrestricted income.

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

13. COMPARATIVE BALANCES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Funds			2021 Total £
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:				
Charitable activities	256,125	-	-	256,125
Investments	16,190	-	-	16,190
	<u>272,315</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>272,315</u>
Total income	272,315	-	-	272,315
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Investments - management fees	-	-	5,196	5,196
Charitable activities	171,159	-	16,344	187,503
	<u>171,159</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,540</u>	<u>192,699</u>
Total expenditure	171,159	-	21,540	192,699
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	172,158	172,158
	<u>101,156</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>150,618</u>	<u>251,774</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	101,156	-	150,618	251,774
Transfers between funds	(174,999)	-	174,999	-
	<u>(73,843)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>325,617</u>	<u>251,774</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(73,843)	-	325,617	251,774
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:				
Total funds brought forward	278,347	-	2,815,694	3,094,041
	<u>204,504</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,141,311</u>	<u>3,345,815</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	204,504	-	3,141,311	3,345,815

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The following pages do not form part of the statutory financial statements.

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
<u>FORESTRY</u>		
Forestry income		
Sales - conifers and hardwood pulp and permits	124,689	97,313
Forestry Commission Grant (50%)	34,747	29,291
Forestry Commission Grant (50%) - over accrued	(43,336)	43,336
Venison sales	1,553	1,488
	<u>117,653</u>	<u>171,428</u>
Forestry expenses		
Contract forestry work	14,686	8,221
Deer stalking (contract forestry)	6,583	5,704
Wages	25,336	24,749
Repairs	1,314	66
Road maintenance	2,628	24,990
Planting	1,381	1,820
Extraction	-	450
Depreciation	-	6,180
Travel	396	367
Subscriptions and membership fees	-	60
Miscellaneous	2,154	6,699
<i>Support Costs</i>		
Photocopying, printing and office expenses	-	-
	<u>54,478</u>	<u>79,306</u>
	<u>63,175</u>	<u>92,122</u>
Forestry net surplus		
<u>CONSERVATION</u>		
Conservation income		
Forestry Commission Grant (50%)	34,747	29,291
Forestry Commission Grant (50%) - over accrued	(43,336)	43,336
Other income	-	-
	<u>(8,589)</u>	<u>72,627</u>
Conservation expenses		
Wages	15,202	14,849
Management	-	4,000
Conservation work	7,084	13,980
Travel expenses	237	220
Repairs	19,954	2,292
Planting	-	-
Miscellaneous	638	1,899
<i>Support Costs</i>		
Photocopying, printing and office expenses	-	-
	<u>43,115</u>	<u>37,240</u>
	<u>(51,704)</u>	<u>35,387</u>
Conservation net surplus/ (deficit)		
OPERATING SURPLUS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>11,471</u>	<u>127,509</u>

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	2021	2020
	£	£
OPERATING SURPLUS BROUGHT FORWARD	11,471	127,509
<u>RENTAL</u>		
Rental income		
Rental income	10,200	10,200
Rental expenditure		
Rental expenditure	1,558	4,609
	8,642	5,591
Net rental surplus / (deficit)	8,642	5,591
<u>ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUST</u>		
Administration income		
Dividends and interest received	18,474	16,190
Other income	2,260	1,870
	20,734	18,060
Administration expenses		
Wages	10,128	9,846
Depreciation	27,551	20,907
Accountancy fees	2,225	1,951
Subscriptions and membership fees	98	620
Travel expenses	730	147
Trustees' and volunteers' expenses	285	347
Bank charges	27	-
(Profit)/loss on disposal of fixed assts	(1,973)	-
Repairs	-	10,481
Miscellaneous	631	1,471
Investment management fees	6,253	5,196
<i>Support Costs</i>		
Insurance	4,243	4,041
Book keeping	3,741	3,865
Professional fees	-	7,401
Photocopying, printing and office expenses	3,564	5,273
	57,503	71,546
	(36,769)	(53,486)
Net administration surplus / (deficit)	(36,769)	(53,486)
Overall net operating surplus	(16,656)	79,614
Gains / (losses) on investment assets		
Realised	21,210	38,136
Unrealised	29,705	134,022
	50,915	172,158
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	34,259	251,774

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 288749

Accounts

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Charity number: 288749

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of The Bentley Wood Charitable Trust (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the charity comply with current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charity's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) FRS102 "Accounting and Reporting by Charities".

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is managed by the trustees who make strategic decisions and are legally responsible for the management of risks faced by the charity. The day to day management of the wood is delegated to the woodland manager. The trustees seek additional advice from statutory bodies which include the Forestry Commission, Natural England and also Bentley Wood's in-house advisory group of local interested parties. The woodland manager attends all meetings of the trustees and regularly reports and updates the chairman between the quarterly meetings.

Trustees

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Dr P Woodruffe
Mr A G Goddard
Mr J Spencer
Mr S Brunt

Other changes in trustees who served are as follows:

Mr GV Darrah - retired 14 June 2020
Mr R Burrows - retired 26 February 2021
Mr A J Horner - deceased 15 October 2020

Trustees are identified and selected by trustees for their knowledge, skills and experience in relevant fields that they can bring to the charity. Specifically these include, forestry, conservation, financial, trust management, governance and local knowledge.

Investment powers

The Trust is subject to provisions of the Trustee Act 2000.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Trust was established under a deed dated 31 January 1984.

The Trust's main functions are the maintenance of Bentley Wood SSSI and Upper Frenchmoor Copse on the Hampshire/Wiltshire border close to Salisbury and the investment of Trust monies in Shares, Securities and Personality at the absolute discretion of the trustees.

The Trust's objectives are to enhance, with assistance of grants from the Forestry Commission and Natural England, the woodland owned by the Trust and to provide an environment where wildlife can thrive and people's quality of life can be enhanced.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Strategic Report

Achievements and performance

Report from the Chairman of the Bentley Wood Trustees

One thing that all can agree on is that 2020 was a year that was unlike any other and for which very few were in any way well prepared. Well laid plans and ambitions collapsed across the country, and new challenges, and occasional opportunities, sprang up in their wake. This has certainly been the case with Bentley Wood. Few of the carefully laid projects unfolded to plan; we had ponds projects in train and trial pits dug and tested, but no new ponds were created. We had aspirations for visits and conservation volunteer led tasks that have had to be changed, modified or postponed. Even the regularly held Trustees' meetings had to adapt to socially distanced, often cold, outdoor meetings. On at least one occasion we were socially separated by the leaks in the drafty barn roof that kept us all suitably separated from one another. So, this year has been far from normal.

The most obvious and most visual of consequences has been the major upsurge in visitors enjoying the wood and its wildlife. They have discovered Bentley Wood in large numbers as they accommodated their own lockdown conditions and needs, seeking both exercise and wellbeing in the wood. The vast majority of these are welcome and responsible visitors, and as trustees we see their use of the wood as both an essential good that the woodland provides and as meeting the ambitions of the original benefactor in promoting the enjoyment of the wood as one of the Trusts primary aims.

This surge in usage has created problems. The increase in use of limited parking areas has led to ugly and unsustainable wear and tear at some entry points. A small number of new users, apparently unaware of the law, our guidance and rules to be observed in visiting Bentley Wood, have created problems that, alongside the restricted scope for managing and policing such headaches, have led to unwelcome wear and tear and inappropriate use of the wood. Notable amongst a number of challenges has been the use of large areas within the wood, especially at its northern end, by mountain bike users, building jumps and ramps and creating wide tracks through bluebell rich woodland. It is tempting to blame such users on local children and teenagers, but it is very clear that many have come from far afield to use Bentley Wood. Some clearly arrive by car but some have cycled from far away.... one at least from as far afield as Frome! And many are far from being teenagers; many are full grown responsible men (and it is almost invariably men) who really should know better and behave more responsibly. We have also recorded incidents of overnight camping in the wood and more recently, break ins into vehicles at the car park. Littering, thankfully, has not been a major issue, and certainly not on the scale reported elsewhere during the past year's lockdown. The message is, I fear, that such problems are not readily resolved and solutions impossibly elusive; but they can be managed. The use of the wood by so many welcome and responsible visitors during these unprecedented times of need is to be welcomed; we will need to rely more on all of us that enjoy the wonderful environment of the wood to ensure that it is used respectfully and wisely.

In spite of the constraints of lockdown the forestry and wildlife conservation management has continued with little or no interruption, though the admirable work of volunteers has of course been disrupted and delayed. This last is not only a loss to the wood but of course a loss to the enjoyment had by volunteers. Our thanks go to David and Martin for their diligent work throughout the year under testing conditions, and to the volunteers for the tasks and achievements under the most trying of circumstances. Particular thanks to Sue Walker and her team for organising events in spite of changing guidance and regulations. The work the volunteers undertake is very much appreciated, and those that get the volunteers on track and under way doubly so.

Wildlife recording has proceeded apace, not least perhaps because it is less constrained by lockdown rules and more time possibly available to recorders. Some 800 species of fungi have now been recorded and catalogued in the wood, and recording has continued throughout the year. The roll out of vaccinations and the likely lifting of lockdown restrictions by the end of summer 2021 should have the recording programme back on track soon enough.

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Report from the Chairman of the Bentley Wood Trustees (continued)

2020 also saw some additional challenges and concerns on the boundaries of the woodland. Changes in the ownership at the former woodyard near Livery Gate has led to a need to address boundary disputes and resolution and as a result the Trust shall be undertaking a review of the whole boundary in 2021, to secure its ownership and confirm its bounds. Potential developments on its edges is an ever increasing pressure on the wood and its wildlife.

The broader future of the wood however looks promising, regardless of the human burden incurred by the pandemic and the disruption that this has caused. In the wider world a greater appreciation of the climate challenge and the biodiversity crisis has made us pause and reappraise the future character of Bentley Wood and the ways and means by which it is managed. To address the climate challenge, we are looking at more mixed and diverse native stands of trees, while ensuring that the wood continues to provide timber and fuelwood to support the emerging low carbon economy. And over the coming year or so we shall be looking at an "Environmental Plan" for the Trust examining our use of fossil fuels, the generation of electricity from rooftops and the sustainability issues of plastic in tree guards and fencing. To rise to the national biodiversity challenge, we are looking at greatly expanding the areas of the wood given over principally to wildlife conservation, as coppices, wider rides and extended areas of grazed wood pasture, and perhaps in the longer term, supporting a wider array of species conservation projects. This will be a core part of the revision of the Forest Design Plan, the management agreement we hold with both the Forestry Commission and Natural England which is in effect our licence to operate. The plan comes up for redrafting and renewal in the coming year or so. A lot of work has to be done before then and wide consultation undertaken, with a large number of people, to ensure that there is wide support and appreciation for such changes, and that when the work begins it does not come as a surprise. We also have exciting plans to monitor the state and character of the woods and its open habitats using drone technology and digital aerial photographs... we already have some excellent initial results and look forward to building this into planning and operations in the coming year.

Sadly, 2020 was also the year in which we lost Tony Horner, who died in October after a long illness. Tony had been a Trustee since 1998, and chaired the Advisory Group, and as a local person was very much in touch with local interest and concerns. Tony had been engaged with Bentley Wood from the outset, taking a special interest in its birds and butterflies. His contributions to butterfly and bird recording generated insights and information that has influenced the wood to this day. He will be greatly missed by friends and family.

Lastly, we have in recent weeks said farewell to Ron Burrows, a Bentley Wood Trustee. Ron has stood down as a Trustee after some 15 years of support. Before his term as a Trustee Ron also chaired the Friends of Bentley Wood. Ron's contribution to the work of the Trust was considerable and most valued. His sharp and critical eye kept us all on track with regard to budgets and accounts, spending decisions and Trust management. He shall be sorely missed. Ending on a bright note, his last Trustees meeting in February 21 was held outside the barn on a bright sunny day, with the first brimstones and red admirals of the year on the wing. The Trustees have though welcomed Steve Brunt as a Trustee, a former military man with management experience of Salisbury Plain. Steve's experience will be a welcome addition to the group. The Board of Trustees is now a member down with the retirement of Ron. The Trustees shall be looking to increase their number in the coming year and in particular are looking for experience in accounting budgets and numbers to fill the gap left by Ron.

With the passing of the pandemic, and a lot of work to do to prepare for the future, 2021 looks challenging, hard work and exciting. We must though continue to also make it fun, rewarding and fulfilling. Getting involved with Bentley Wood provides all that and more, and a chance to be part of the future of one of the most exciting forests in southern England.

Jonathan Spencer

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Forestry Report:

Forestry operations over the past year have involved a continuation of the thinning programme underpinned by the current Countryside Stewardship Scheme Woodland Improvement Grant; the emphasis under which is to restore plantations on ancient woodland sites by the removal of the non-native conifer species to the advantage of the native broadleaved trees present.

With the weather set fair, machine harvesting started in early August in the very south of the wood (Churchway Copse). This was a light Norway spruce thin with the intention of removing only those trees beginning to suppress the crowns of neighbouring oaks. The rain, thankfully, stayed away and we were able to extract the timber some distance to rideside with relatively few concerns. In adjacent Upper Highwood Copse the objective was the same. Although still dominated by the oak and spruce planted by the Forestry Commission in the 1950s this stand is one of the most diverse in Bentley Wood; remnants of ancient woodland survive in the form of field maple, elm, aspen, alder, ash, hornbeam and old oak stools that clearly predate the FC planting. It will be interesting to see how these respond now they have some room in which to grow.

In the beech dominated stands on the chalk prevalent in the northern part of Bentley Wood we have taken a different approach and have adopted a group selection system. Here, when we thin the crop on an 8 – 10 year rotation we look for opportunities to fell small groups of poorer trees to create gaps of 0.2 – 0.3 hectares which we can subsequently replant. This gives us the opportunity to diversify both the species and the stand structure over time. On the thin, free-draining Rendzina soils on the western slope we planted whitebeam, hornbeam and hazel. On the deeper soils on the plateau we planted lime together with cherry, rowan and hawthorn which, when mature, will provide nectar for insects and berries for birds. There are environmentally friendly tree tubes in development (we are currently trialling one made of compressed cashew nut husks and sheep wool) but they are as yet unproven in the field and not commercially available. So, for small scale plantings where fencing is not appropriate we have no choice but to continue to protect our planted trees from the attentions of deer by using the tried and tested plastic variety. Fortunately, polypropylene is readily recyclable and we recycle our spent tree tubes through the FarmXS recycling scheme.

As always, it is the weather and timber markets that determine the extent of forestry operations but, all being well, over the coming year we plan to thin the Douglas fir in Richwellsted Copse, tidy up the windblown Corsican pine in Barnridge

Report of the Advisory Group:

The group met twice during the course of the year, once in February, when we were blissfully ignorant of the difficulties ahead, and again in early September when we held the meeting out of doors.

Sadly, three members of the group have died during the year, two of whom – Tony Horner and Stuart Pascoe - have been members since its inception in 1988. Stuart Pascoe is best known for the work that he did in the construction of the barn in which we hold our meetings. He also produced a pamphlet in 1998 'Bentley Wood: The Death of a Hardwood Forest and the Aftermath' when he was a mere 97 years young! Tony Hopkins joined the group quite recently and in his few seasons with us greatly increased our records of bees and wasps. All three will be greatly missed.

During the year we also welcomed Steve Brunt, a new Trustee, to the group and Jonathan Spencer attended his first meeting as Chairman of the Trust. Inevitably, many of the plans which were laid down for the coming season did not materialise. Our plans to improve the signage in the wood have developed only slowly but new roadside signs were put in place during the spring and Rhob Williams is making new copse signs which are also being placed around the wood. Eventually, we intend to add small discs to these which will indicate the location within the wood. This is to help people find their way around and also, very importantly, enable requests for help to be pinpointed accurately.

Many of the recording activities which members of this group undertake were able, to a greater or lesser extent, to continue.

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Volunteer Group Activities:

2020 started well with seven Volunteer Tasks by mid-March. Up to twenty volunteers were attending and lots of varied tasks were on the calendar. We had continued coppicing hazel in our Dean Copse and Primrose Hill coupes, improved two areas of ride-side butterfly habitat and bundled up lots of hazel bean poles ready for our famed Bean Pole Celebration at the Barn in mid-April.

We cancelled a task on 18 March as the news of Covid-19 sounded alarm bells and put all tasks on hold as the UK went into National Lockdown on Monday 23 March. During July we prepared a Covid-19 Risk Assessment and Volunteering Guidance Sheet, bought extra equipment and First Aid Kit items and planned a Covid-safe restart of the Volunteers.

We girded our loins and had our first Covid-safe task, with eight volunteers (legal within the Government's Covid Rules) on 12 August, at the Hawksgrove Bomb Crater pond. It was good to be out and about and enjoying working in the fresh air again! Between then and 3 November we managed another eight tasks – preserving the Barn, working at the Draining Field pond, along the Orchid Path near Witt Road, on the Butterfly Transect in Donkey Copse and in a new hazel coppice coupe for 2020/21 in Dean Copse. Unfortunately two other tasks were cancelled because of torrential rain and gales and a third, on 31 October, because of rain, gales and rapidly rising Covid case numbers.

Once again, on 4 November, the Volunteer Programme was put on hold and we chose not to restart it during 2020 to keep everyone safe as a new variant form of Covid-19 spread like wildfire. We did, just the two of us, clean out Swallow Hide at the Draining Field on a bitterly cold New Year's Eve. It had been a year of mixed fortunes for the swallows too.

Friends of Bentley Wood Chairman's report:

I ended my Report for 2019/2020 by suggesting that members might like to come to the Early Morning Birdsong Walk on the 26th April 2020, followed by a cooked breakfast! It has just not been that sort of year!

We do, though, have a great deal to be thankful for. The Wood has provided the retreat that many have craved in the difficult periods of lockdown. It has been a wonderful place, to which lots of you have resorted, to find peace and tranquillity as well as to exercise and let off steam.

I am sure that we will see a good deal more of that use of the Wood in 2021, as we start the year once more in lockdown. There are also a great deal more of us using the Wood on a regular basis.

My request is to ask that everyone looks out for others, and that all of us use the Wood with the greatest of consideration, both for its habitat and for the other user groups resorting to it. Thanks, therefore, to all those dog walkers who did pick up those poo bags, the riders who paid their subscriptions and the cyclists who kept their speed down and cycled with real consideration for others. You have all led the way, many thanks!

Despite all the difficulties, the Volunteers still managed to carry on. Sue Walker's determined efforts and endless research into the Government list of do's and do not's, made sure that some volunteering could continue; and she was, as usual, oversubscribed. Thank you all! My thanks go too, to each member of the Committee (we will get to meet properly soon, I hope, rather than by Zoom!) and to David Lambert and Tessa Fisher for each of their contributions.

Equally, despite the pandemic, things have progressed: replacement picnic tables and benches have been installed, new signage has started to appear at the entrances to the Wood and steps have been taken on the 20:20 Pond Project. So, thank you to all of those involved.

A full report on the Trust's activities for the year is available to all in the form of 'Bentley Wood Nature Notes 2020 from the secretary.

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Financial Review (including reserves policy)

The attached financial statements show the current state of the finances which the trustees consider to be sound.

During the year it has been the trustees' objective to achieve the greatest possible revenue from sustainable forestry activities such as thinning and felling and to obtain the maximum grant aid from appropriate sources to achieve the Trust's objectives. The financial management policy for the year is driven by the working cash flow budget produced by the forest manager in consultation with the trustees and the trustees' bookkeeper. This cash flow budget aims to identify income from grants and planned sustainable timber harvesting and the expenditure involved in timber production and conservation works. The trustees aim to achieve a cash flow budget that breaks even. The forest manager, working closely with the bookkeeper, manages the cash flow budget and presents quarterly budget reports, collated by the bookkeeper, to the trustees at quarterly meetings. In addition to quarterly meetings the woodland manager frequently reports and updates the trustees individually throughout the year.

In order to assure sustained and sufficient annual revenue to support the Trust's conservation activities in the long term, the Trustees have adopted a strategy of building and maintaining a strategic reserve. In 2009, the Trustees set a target for this reserve of £1M. This figure was based principally on an estimate of income required to be generated from the reserve to support annual conservation expenditure should Government grants be significantly reduced, a situation considered to be likely in the current climate.

An additional element was included to provide cash-flow protection for (a) timber and firewood net income variations in future years, and (b) the possible impact on costs and revenue of epidemic tree diseases, feared to pose an increasing risk. To maintain the reserve's capacity to generate required levels of annual income as inflation reduces its value over time, the reserve target has been inflated by a corresponding amount year by year. An additional aim developed this year by the Trustees is to protect the integrity of the habitat in Bentley Wood by ensuring the sympathetic management of a buffer zone around the wood. This may be by cooperation with neighbouring landowners but also possibly by land acquisition.

To enable the Trustees to act quickly should appropriate land become available an addition to the strategic reserve target has been made. The Trustees have therefore increased the target from £1.2M to £1.5M. During the year the strategic reserve increased from £1.085M at 31st March 2020 to £1.426M at 31st March 2021.

The Trustees' policy is to continue to manage its finances so as to achieve budget surpluses when it is reasonably able to, thereby building the strategic reserve to the level required. Taking into account inflation pressures and other risk factors, the level of the reserve will continue to be reviewed from time to time.

Plans for Future Periods

The Trust intends to continue with the restoration of a significant proportion of Bentley Wood and Upper Frenchmoor Copse by the removal of exotic tree species and the promotion of native broadleaves as part of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. This work will involve small-scale fellings and widening ride edges to further increase habitat for butterflies and other transitional open space specialists. The Trust aims, with the help of the Volunteer group, to reinstate further areas of hazel coppice, to the benefit of wildlife, across the woodland. Also, with the help of the volunteers and local school children, canopy gaps resulting from harvesting activities will be replanted with native broadleaves and shrubs to diversify both the species mix and age structure of the woodland. The Trust also intend to dig three new clean water ponds in Cowley's Copse.

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity 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 2015 (FRS102);
- make judgements and 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 charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees



Mr A G Goddard
Trustee

Date:.....19 Jan 2022.....

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Charity Number	288749
Registered Office	55 Elmwood Avenue Fordingbridge Hampshire SP6 1DL
Trustees	Dr P Woodruffe Mr A G Goddard Mr J Spencer Mr S Brunt
Key management	David Lambert
Bankers	HSBC Bank plc 27 High Street Ringwood Hants BH24 1BE
Investment managers	Sanlam Wealth Planning UK Ltd Monument Place 24 Monument Street London EC3R 8AJ
Independent examiner	Nick Jones FCCA Fawcetts LLP Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors Windover House St. Ann Street Salisbury SP1 2DR

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

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



Nicholas Jones FCCA
Chartered Accountants
Fawcetts
Windover House
St. Ann Street
Salisbury
SP1 2DR

Date: 21 January 2022

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	Funds			2021 Total £	2020 Total £
		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £		
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:						
Donations and legacies		1,870	-	-	1,870	8,079
Charitable activities	2	252,199	-	-	252,199	236,653
Investments	3	16,190	-	-	16,190	16,575
Total income		270,259	-	-	270,259	261,307
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Investments - management fees		-	-	5,196	5,196	5,113
Charitable activities	4	171,159	-	16,344	187,503	182,644
Total expenditure		171,159	-	21,540	192,699	187,757
Net gains/(losses) on investments	12	-	-	172,158	172,158	(67,192)
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		99,100	-	150,618	249,718	6,358
Transfers between funds	12	(174,999)	-	174,999	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(75,899)	-	325,617	249,718	6,358
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:						
Total funds brought forward		278,347	-	2,815,694	3,094,041	3,087,683
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		202,448	-	3,141,311	3,343,759	3,094,041

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.

There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.

The notes form part of these financial statements

**THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
BALANCE SHEET**

AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	7	1,764,849	1,782,185
Investments	8	<u>1,426,515</u>	<u>1,084,554</u>
		<u>3,191,364</u>	<u>2,866,739</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock		8,456	4,092
Debtors	9	111,089	85,054
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>60,284</u>	<u>178,865</u>
		179,829	268,011
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	10	<u>25,378</u>	<u>40,709</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		154,451	227,302
		<u>3,345,815</u>	<u>3,094,041</u>
NET ASSETS			
		<u>3,345,815</u>	<u>3,094,041</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds	12	204,504	278,347
Restricted funds	12	-	-
Endowment funds	12	3,141,311	2,815,694
		<u>3,345,815</u>	<u>3,094,041</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	11	<u>3,345,815</u>	<u>3,094,041</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on
and were signed on its behalf by:



Mr A G Goddard
Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of listed investments which are included on a market value basis, and in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards in the United Kingdom, the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) FRS102 "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" and the Charities Act 2011.

1.2 INCOME

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Dividends on listed investments are recognised when the underlying security is quoted as ex-dividend.

Revenue in respect of timber and venison sales is recognised at the date of delivery to the customer.

1.3 EXPENDITURE

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure includes attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

1.4 ALLOCATION AND APPORTIONMENT OF COSTS

All costs are allocated between expenditure categories in the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly; others are apportioned on an appropriate basis.

1.5 FUND ACCOUNTING

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

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

Endowment funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by the charity. Income arising on the endowment funds can be used in accordance with the objects of the charity and is included as unrestricted income. Any capital gains or losses on the investments form part of the fund. Investment management charges and legal advice relating to the fund are charged against the fund.

1.6 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Land and woodlands	not depreciated
Land and woodlands - infrastructure	5% straight line basis
Buildings	10% straight line basis
Motor vehicles	25% straight line basis
Computers and equipment	25% straight line basis

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.7 INVESTMENTS

Listed investments held in a portfolio are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction cost. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in net gains/(losses) on investments in the SoFA if the shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably.

Investment property is shown at most recent valuation. Any aggregate surplus or deficit arising from changes in fair value is recognised in the SoFA.

1.8 STOCK

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

1.9 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Debtors are measured at their recoverable amount. Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1.10 TAXATION

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

2. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - INCOME

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Forestry income	97,313	-	-	97,313	162,266
Venison sales	1,488	-	-	1,488	1,734
Grants received	143,198	-	-	143,198	62,253
Rents received	10,200	-	-	10,200	10,400
	<u>252,199</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>252,199</u>	<u>236,653</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Dividends from equities	16,031	-	-	16,031	16,323
Bank interest	159	-	-	159	252
	<u>16,190</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,190</u>	<u>16,575</u>

4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Wages (note 5)	49,443	-	-	49,443	49,446
Contract forestry work	13,925	-	-	13,925	11,607
Conservation work	13,980	-	-	13,980	13,800
Planting	1,820	-	-	1,820	2,771
Extraction	450	-	-	450	-
Road maintenance	24,990	-	-	24,990	29,225
Management fees	4,000	-	-	4,000	2,000
Repairs	12,839	-	-	12,839	4,770
Rental expense	4,609	-	-	4,609	21,693
Depreciation	10,744	-	16,344	27,088	25,495
(Profit)/loss on disposal of asset	-	-	-	-	(1,059)
Subscriptions & membership fees	680	-	-	680	391
Support costs	20,580	-	-	20,580	12,165
Travel expenses	733	-	-	733	1,186
Miscellaneous expenses	10,068	-	-	10,068	6,366
Trustees' expenses	347	-	-	347	523
Accountancy fees	1,951	-	-	1,951	2,250
Bank charges	-	-	-	-	15
	<u>171,159</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,344</u>	<u>187,503</u>	<u>182,644</u>

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

5. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Charitable Activities:		
Salaries and wages	45,710	44,807
Employers' National Insurance costs	1,103	2,009
	46,813	46,816
Pension contributions	2,630	2,630
	49,443	49,446
	49,443	49,446

The above also represents the key management personnel remuneration.

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2021	2020
	No.	No.
Management	1	1
	1	1

There were no employees who earned in excess of £60,000 per annum or more (including taxable benefits) during the year (2020: £nil).

6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trustees' expenses reimbursed (delivery costs/travel)	347	523
	347	523
Number of trustees receiving expenses	1	1
	1	1

With the exception of the above, none of the trustees received any remuneration in respect of their duties as trustees during the year (2020: £nil).

There were no other related party transactions during the year.

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land & woodlands £	Buildings £	Motor vehicles £	Computers & equipment £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 April 2020	1,673,765	180,720	28,566	39,402	1,922,453
Additions	-	-	-	9,750	9,750
Disposals	-	-	-	-	0
At 31 March 2021	<u>1,673,765</u>	<u>180,720</u>	<u>28,566</u>	<u>49,152</u>	<u>1,932,203</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2020	38,503	48,943	26,087	26,735	140,268
Charge for the year	3,670	16,513	620	6,283	27,086
On disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2021	<u>42,173</u>	<u>65,456</u>	<u>26,707</u>	<u>33,018</u>	<u>167,354</u>
Net Book Value					
At 31 March 2021	<u>1,631,592</u>	<u>115,264</u>	<u>1,859</u>	<u>16,134</u>	<u>1,764,849</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>1,635,262</u>	<u>131,777</u>	<u>2,479</u>	<u>12,667</u>	<u>1,782,185</u>

8. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Investment portfolio £	Investment property £	2021 £	2020 £
Movement in market/fair value:				
Market/fair value at 1 April	597,675	377,613	975,288	976,102
Acquisitions at cost	456,926	-	456,926	209,476
Disposal proceeds	(245,744)	-	(245,744)	(143,098)
Realised gains/(losses) on disposals	38,136	-	38,136	11,893
Unrealised gains/(losses) on revaluation	134,022	-	134,022	(79,085)
Market/fair value at 31 March	981,015	377,613	1,358,628	975,288
Cash held as part of portfolio	67,887	-	67,887	109,266
Total investments	<u>1,048,902</u>	<u>377,613</u>	<u>1,426,515</u>	<u>1,084,554</u>
Historical cost	<u>896,695</u>	<u>377,613</u>	<u>1,274,308</u>	<u>1,082,978</u>

Analysis of investments:

	Funds		2021	2020
	Unrestricted £	Endowment £	Total £	Total £
Listed investments: UK quoted shares	-	981,015	981,015	597,675
UK cash held as part of portfolio	-	67,887	67,887	109,266
UK investment property	-	377,613	377,613	377,613
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,426,515</u>	<u>1,426,515</u>	<u>1,084,554</u>

In the opinion of the trustees the market value of the investment property remains unchanged as at 31 March 2021.

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

9. DEBTORS	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade debtors	20,733	1,047
Prepayments and accrued income	90,356	84,007
	<u>111,089</u>	<u>85,054</u>

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	21,021	9,764
Accruals and deferred income	2,400	3,233
Social security and other taxes	1,957	15,879
Other creditors	2,056	11,833
	<u>27,434</u>	<u>40,709</u>

11. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS	Fixed assets	Investments	Net current assets	Total
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted general funds	18,846	-	152,395	171,241
Unrestricted designated funds	31,207	-	-	31,207
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-
Endowment funds	1,714,796	1,426,515	-	3,141,311
	<u>1,764,849</u>	<u>1,426,515</u>	<u>152,395</u>	<u>3,343,759</u>
Net Assets at the end of the year	<u>1,764,849</u>	<u>1,426,515</u>	<u>152,395</u>	<u>3,343,759</u>

Comparative balances for the year ended 31 March 2020:

	Fixed assets	Investments	Net current assets	Total
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted general funds	16,168	-	227,302	243,470
Unrestricted designated funds	34,877	-	-	34,877
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-
Endowment funds	1,731,140	1,084,554	-	2,815,694
	<u>1,782,185</u>	<u>1,084,554</u>	<u>227,302</u>	<u>3,094,041</u>
Net Assets at the end of the year	<u>1,782,185</u>	<u>1,084,554</u>	<u>227,302</u>	<u>3,094,041</u>

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

12. FUNDS

	Balance at 01/04/2020	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Gains/ (losses)	Transfers	Balance at 31/03/2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds						
General fund	243,470	270,259	(167,489)	-	(174,999)	171,241
Designated fund	34,877	-	(3,670)	-	-	31,207
	<u>278,347</u>	<u>270,259</u>	<u>(171,159)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(174,999)</u>	<u>202,448</u>
Restricted funds						
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Endowment funds						
Expendable endowment	2,815,694	-	(21,540)	172,158	174,999	3,141,311
	<u>3,094,041</u>	<u>270,259</u>	<u>(192,699)</u>	<u>172,158</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,343,759</u>

Comparative balances for the year ended 31 March 2020:

	Balance at 01/04/2019	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Gains/ (losses)	Transfers	Balance at 31/03/2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds						
General fund	270,689	261,307	(162,629)	-	(125,897)	243,470
Designated fund	38,547	-	(3,670)	-	-	34,877
	<u>309,236</u>	<u>261,307</u>	<u>(166,299)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(125,897)</u>	<u>278,347</u>
Restricted funds						
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Endowment funds						
Expendable endowment	2,778,447	-	(21,458)	(67,192)	125,897	2,815,694
	<u>3,087,683</u>	<u>261,307</u>	<u>(187,757)</u>	<u>(67,192)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,094,041</u>

General fund: This represents funds which have been accumulated for the general purposes of the charity.

Designated fund: This has been created in respect of fixed assets which were grant funded. The annual depreciation of the assets is charged against this fund.

Restricted fund: No restricted fund was received in the year.

Endowment fund: The expendable endowment represents the capital of the Trust established by the Trust Deed dated 31 January 1984 plus further funds held in the investment portfolio. Income on the endowment investments is treated as unrestricted income.

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

13. COMPARATIVE BALANCES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Funds			2020 Total £
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:				
Charitable activities	244,732	-	-	244,732
Investments	16,575	-	-	16,575
Total income	261,307	-	-	261,307
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Investments - management fees	-	-	5,113	5,113
Charitable activities	166,299	-	16,345	182,644
Total expenditure	166,299	-	21,458	187,757
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	(67,192)	(67,192)
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	95,008	-	(88,650)	6,358
Transfers between funds	(125,897)	-	125,897	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(30,889)	-	37,247	6,358
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:				
Total funds brought forward	309,236	-	2,778,447	3,087,683
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	278,347	-	2,815,694	3,094,041

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The following pages do not form part of the statutory financial statements.

THE BENTLEY WOOD CHARITABLE TRUST
DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
OPERATING SURPLUS BROUGHT FORWARD	125,453	110,332
<u>RENTAL</u>		
Rental income		
Rental income	10,200	10,400
Rental expenditure		
Rental expenditure	4,609	21,693
	<u>5,591</u>	<u>(11,293)</u>
Net rental surplus / (deficit)		
<u>ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUST</u>		
Administration income		
Dividends and interest received	16,190	16,575
Other income	1,870	8,079
	<u>18,060</u>	<u>24,654</u>
Administration expenses		
Wages	9,846	9,793
Depreciation	20,907	21,410
Accountancy fees	1,951	2,250
Subscriptions and membership fees	620	391
Travel expenses	147	237
Trustees' and volunteers' expenses	347	523
Bank charges	-	15
(Profit)/loss on disposal of fixed assts	-	(1,059)
Repairs	10,481	194
Miscellaneous	1,471	106
Investment management fees	5,196	5,113
<i>Support Costs</i>		
Insurance	4,041	4,212
Book keeping	3,865	4,373
Professional fees	7,401	-
Photocopying, printing and office expenses	5,273	2,585
	<u>71,546</u>	<u>50,143</u>
Net administration surplus / (deficit)	<u>(53,486)</u>	<u>(25,489)</u>
Overall net operating surplus	<u>77,558</u>	<u>73,550</u>
Gains / (losses) on investment assets		
Realised	38,136	11,893
Unrealised	134,022	(79,085)
	<u>172,158</u>	<u>(67,192)</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	<u>249,718</u>	<u>6,358</u>