

WOOLSTON EYES CONSERVATION GROUP ANNUAL REPORT

This short report has been prepared for the purposes of the Charity Commission. It summarises our activities during the financial year 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020.

PURPOSE OF THE GROUP

The purpose of the Woolston Eyes Conservation Group (WECG) is to maintain and enhance the environment of the Woolston Eyes deposit grounds owned and managed by Peel Holdings/Manchester Ship Canal Company (the owners). The deposit grounds are a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). In addition, we facilitate access to the Reserve by managing a permit system on behalf of the owners. We also provide facilities so that visitors can observe and enjoy the wildlife.

In cooperation with the owners WECG undertakes three types of activity to achieve its purpose.

Data Collection

The wardens and permit holders collect data on the fauna and flora of the site by:

- Monthly Wetland Bird Surveys from September to April
- Breeding Bird Surveys between March and July.
- Bird ringing on Deposit Beds 1 and 3 carried out throughout the year by members of the Merseyside Ringing Group.
- Regular surveys of butterflies and dragonflies.
- Occasional surveys of other flora and fauna types, such as moths, beetles, wildflowers and fungi

A report for 2020 on the fauna and flora of the Reserve is currently in preparation and will be published later in the year. Fauna and flora reports from previous years can be found via our website www.woolstoneyes.com. In addition, all the data collected on birds and butterflies is entered into RECORD, a biodiversity information system serving Cheshire, Halton, Warrington and Wirral

The data we collect is used by the WECG to guide habitat management activity and by Natural England when re-designation of the SSSI status occurs and to inform their relationship with the owners to ensure that the quality of the habitat is maintained.

Habitat management

A major new expansion on the Reserve is the development of No.4 bed into an extensive new wetland. This will more than treble the amount of wetland habitat on the Reserve. The first stage was completed in March 2020. WECG were successful in obtaining a Countryside Stewardship grant of £485,000 for Phase 2 of the development which commenced in June 2020 and is progressing well. The completion date is expected to be December 2021. Thanks are due to Peel Ports for the consents involved and to our colleagues in the RSPB and Natural England for their unstinting support.

In addition to this we have continued the habitat management on No.3 bed. We were able to continue an agreement with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) for them to second to WECG a warden to carry out and supervise the habitat maintenance works agreed with Natural England.

Unfortunately because of COVID-19 it has not been possible to organise any volunteer parties to work on the Reserve in 2020. We hope to restart our volunteer work programme as soon as restrictions allow.

Visitor Access

WECG currently has approximately 650 permit holders who pay an annual fee for access to the Reserve of £15 per annum for an individual permit and £25 per annum for a family permit. The support of our permit holders is very much appreciated and is vital to the management activities. Most of the funding for our warden post is derived from the sale of permits (the balance coming from a Countryside Stewardship Grant).

In line with other nature reserves, the Reserve was closed during the first COVID lockdown in the spring and early summer. We have been able to keep the Reserve open for the remainder of the year however by limiting visitor numbers in hides and providing hand and surface sanitising equipment.

Because of COVID 19 we did not feel it appropriate to allow any group visits or ran any training workshops in 2020. Normally we have strong demand for group visits by organisations such as bird clubs, RSPB groups and the U3A. In recent years we have also ran training workshops for members of the local communities and university students on bird, butterfly and dragonfly surveying methods as well as bird ringing demonstrations.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

The accounts show that we remain in a sound position. At the end of 2020 we have £41,113 cash in the bank. Allowing for an estimated £106,000 we owe the RSPB for their services between 2016 to 2020 and £116,000 we expect to receive from the Rural Payment Agency for work done in 2020 for the No.4 bed development, there will be an additional £10,000 surplus.

David Spencer Secretary/Treasurer
11th May 2021

Charity Registration No 700362

86 Edward Gardens
Woolston
Warrington
WA1 4QT

01925 831170
davidspencer@outlook.com



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name: Woolston Eyes Conservation Group and No 700362

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01/01/2020

To

Period end date
31/12/2020

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Gift Aid	3,127	-	-	3,127	2,899
Permits, ets	14,620	-	-	14,620	14,855
Donations	5,023	-	-	5,023	7,296
Misc.	205	-	-	205	1,282
Rural Payment Agency		30,422	-	30,422	26,618
No.4 Bed Wetland Development Phase 1		64,506	-	64,506	39,847
Heritage Lottery Fund Grant					
No.4 Bed Wetland Development Phase 2		56,280	-	56,280	57,342
Countryside Stewardship Grant					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	22,975	151,208	-	174,183	150,139
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	22,975	151,208	-	174,183	150,139
A3 Payments					
Admin & Insurance	4,096	-	-	4,096	4,492
Reserve Management	5,783	2,040	-	7,823	2,016
Bird Food	608	-	-	608	1,036
Miscellaneous Expenses	113	-	-	113	48
No.4 Bed Phase 1		99,960	-	99,960	59,286
No.4 Bed Phase 2		177,960	-	177,960	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	10,600	279,960	-	290,560	66,878
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	2,500
Sub total	-	-	-	-	2,500
Total payments	10,600	279,960	-	290,560	69,378
Net of receipts/(payments)	12,374	- 128,752	-	- 116,377	80,761
A5 Transfers between funds	- 70,529	70,529	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	62,153	95,337	-	157,490	76,754
Cash funds this year end	3,998	37,114	-	41,113	157,515

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Accounts	3,998	-	-
	Countryside Stewardship Account	-	37,048	-
	Savings Account	-	66	-
	Total cash funds	3,998	37,114	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Money in the process of being claimed from the RPA for 2020 work	-	115,740	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Amount due for RSPB Assistant Warden duties	Restricted and Unrestricted	106,000	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

B.R. Ankers

B.R. ANKERS

27/6/21

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Woolston Eyes Conservation Group

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Woolston Eyes Conservation Group for the year ended 31 December 2020

Responsibilities and basis of the 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 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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records

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.


Signed

Name: Stephen Williams

Address: 90 Edward Gardens, Woolston, Warrington, WA1 4QT

Date: 12/05/2021