

# Mourne Heritage Trust

Northern Ireland · Charity number 105840

## Details

Status	Received
Company number	<a href="#">32946</a>
Registered	2016-12-23
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register</a>

## Contact

Address	19 Causeway Road Newcastle Bt33 0DL BT33 0DL
Phone	028 4372 4059
Email	<a href="mailto:mht@mourne.co.uk">mht@mourne.co.uk</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.mournelive.com">www.mournelive.com</a>

## Activities

**Purposes:** The Company is established to protect, conserve and enhance the environment, historic buildings and cultural heritage of the Mourne and Slieve Croob area of Outstanding Natural Beauty for the benefit of the general public.

**What the charity does:** The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science, The advancement of environmental protection or improvement

**How the charity works:** Cultural, Environment/sustainable development/conservation, Heritage/historical, Rural development, Volunteer development

**Who the charity helps:** Children (5-13 year olds), Ethnic minorities, General public, Learning disabilities, Mental health, Voluntary and community sector, Volunteers, Youth (14-25 year olds)

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£1,124,119	£1,198,179	£-191,201	23

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Cllr James Glyn Hanna		
Mr Alastair Archie Chestnutt		
Mr David Maginn		
Mr David Thompson		
Mr Robert James Agnew		
Mr Seamus Doyle		
Mr Sean Thomas John Fitzpatrick		
Mr Vincent Anthony Mcalinden		
Mr William John Martin		
Ms Deirdre Mary Baxter		
Ms Jill Angela Truesdale		
Ms Maureen Killen		

**Mourne Heritage Trust**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105840

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# Accounts

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**MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Note	Restricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
<b>Income and endowments</b>					
Donations & legacies	2	-	408,654	408,654	402,575
Investments	4	-	10,002	10,002	7,501
Charitable activities	3	322,646	380,197	702,843	570,240
Other income	3	2,620	-	2,620	2,761
<b>Total income</b>		<b>325,266</b>	<b>798,853</b>	<b>1,124,119</b>	<b>983,077</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Fundraising	6	-	6,125	6,125	2,804
Charitable activities	7,8	318,192	873,862	1,192,054	1,010,670
Other		-	-	-	-
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>318,192</b>	<b>879,987</b>	<b>1,198,179</b>	<b>1,013,474</b>
<b>Net income/expenditure</b>		<b>7,074</b>	<b>(81,134)</b>	<b>(74,060)</b>	<b>(30,397)</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	11	<b>(12,759)</b>	<b>12,759</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(5,685)</b>	<b>(68,375)</b>	<b>(74,060)</b>	<b>(30,397)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds at 1 April 2024	15	71,698	1,103,650	1,175,348	1,205,745
<b>Total funds at 31 March 2025</b>	<b>15,16</b>	<b>66,013</b>	<b>1,035,275</b>	<b>1,101,288</b>	<b>1,175,348</b>

All activities relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 18 to 30 form part of these financial statements.


# MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE

(A company limited by guarantee)

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	£	2025	£	2024	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>						
Tangible assets	12		165,449			175,715
<b>Current assets</b>						
Debtors	13	405,758		223,289		
Cash at bank and in hand		721,282		941,428		
		1,127,040		1,164,717		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(191,201)		(165,084)		
<b>Net current assets</b>			935,839			999,633
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			1,101,288			1,205,745
<b>Net assets</b>			<b>1,101,288</b>			<b>1,175,348</b>
<b>Charity Funds</b>						
Restricted funds	15		66,013			71,698
Unrestricted funds:						
General funds	15	542,122		589,650		
Designated funds		493,153		514,000		
Total unrestricted funds			1,035,275			1,103,650
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>15,16</b>		<b>1,101,288</b>			<b>1,175,348</b>

The financial statements were approved by the Directors on 27/11/2025 and signed on their behalf, by:

  
.....  
David Maginn  
Chairman

  
.....  
Vincent McAlinden  
Vice Chairman

The notes on pages 18 to 30 form part of these financial statements.

**MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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	Note	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	17	(202,064)	845,323
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		10,002	7,501
Purchase/sale of property, plant and equipment		(28,084)	(59,053)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<b>(18,082)</b>	<b>(51,552)</b>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		<b>(220,146)</b>	<b>793,771</b>
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		941,428	147,657
<b>Cash and cash equivalents carried forward</b>	18	<b>721,282</b>	<b>941,428</b>

# **MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**

**(A company limited by guarantee)**

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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### **1. Accounting policies**

#### **1.1 General Information**

Mourne Heritage Trust is a private company limited by guarantee and is incorporated and registered in Northern Ireland under Company Registration Number Registered number NI032946. The Company is also registered with the Charity Commission under Registration Number NIC 105840 and HMRC Charity Number XR23015. The Mourne Heritage Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The company's registered office is situated at 19 Causeway Road, Newcastle, Co Down, Northern Ireland, BT33 0DL.

#### **1.2 Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

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

The Financial Statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity. A summary of the more important accounting policies, which have been applied consistently, is set out below.

#### **1.3 Judgements and Key Estimates**

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that effect the amounts reported. The estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are considered to be reasonable under the circumstances.

#### **1.4 Income**

Turnover represents grants and donations from the government and other bodies, and sundry income from certain activities undertaken by the company.

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

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

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

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

# **MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**

(A company limited by guarantee)

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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### **1.5 Fund apportionment**

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

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Directors 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 to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the company for particular purposes.

### **1.6 Expenditure**

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

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure headings.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the company.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the company and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

### **1.7 Cash flow**

The company provided a cash flow statement on the basis of FRS 102 using the indirect method.

### **1.8 Operating leases**

Rentals under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

### **1.9 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

L/Term Leasehold Property	-	5% per annum on a straight-line basis
Plant & machinery	-	15% per annum on a reducing balance basis
Motor vehicles	-	25% per annum on a reducing balance basis
Fixtures & fittings	-	15% per annum on a reducing balance basis

# **MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**

(A company limited by guarantee)

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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### **1. Accounting policies (continued)**

#### **1.10 Stocks**

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

#### **1.11 Debtors**

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

#### **1.12 Pensions**

The company operates a defined benefit pension scheme. The fund is valued annually by a professionally qualified independent actuary, the rates of contribution payable being determined by the trustees of the scheme based on the advice of the actuary. Pension costs are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a systematic basis based on the actuary's calculations. The company pays no other post-retirement benefits to its employees.

The company also operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged directly to the Statement of Financial Activities.

#### **1.13 Cash at Bank and in hand**

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

#### **1.14 Creditors and provisions**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the company 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.

#### **1.15 Financial instruments**

The company has only financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transactional value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

#### **1.16 Accumulated funds**

Unrestricted funds are funds that are expendable in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by the donors as to how they may be used.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the directors for specific purposes.

**MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**1.17 Going Concern**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Directors do not believe that there are any factors or material uncertainties which would impact on their assessment of this.

**2 Income from donations and legacies**

	<b>Restricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>
Donations	-	606	606	2,575
Core Grants NIEA	-	408,048	408,048	400,000
Total donations and legacies	-	408,654	408,654	402,575

**3. Unrestricted Funds Income**

**Charitable Activity**

**Protection and conservation – Mourne**

	<b>2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
Core funding NMDDC (TNI -2024)	311,000	376,000
RPS Mourne Walls	25,000	25,000
Friends of Mourne	380	390
MBR Bicycle wash	170	692
Active Lifestyles - Trees	1,000	1,500
NI Water Erosion Control	41,000	-
Route cards	122	-
Sundry	1,525	649
	380,197	404,231

**MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**3. Restricted Funds Income**

**Charitable Activity**

**Protection and conservation – Mourne**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Woodland Trust	-	16,386
Mourne Erosion Control	202,500	40,234
Mourne Ranger Service	18,000	35,000
Heritage Lottery Fund - CRESNI	37,724	35,091
NI Water Grazing Ranger	42,000	21,499
Mourne Mountain Landscape Partnership	17,800	17,800
Recharged projects	4,622	-
	<u>322,646</u>	<u>166,010</u>

**Social fund**

**Staff social fund**

2,620	2,761
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<u>2,620</u>	<u>2,761</u>
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**4. Investment income**

	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>
	<b>2025</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Bank interest received	-	10,002	10,002	7,501
	<u>-</u>	<u>10,002</u>	<u>10,002</u>	<u>7,501</u>

**5. Income from charitable activities**

	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>
	<b>2025</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Protection and conservation - Mourne	325,266	380,197	705,463	570,240
	<u>325,266</u>	<u>380,197</u>	<u>705,463</u>	<u>570,240</u>

Income from charitable activities was £705,463 (2024 - £570,240) of which £325,266 (2024 - £166,010) was restricted and £380,197 (2024 - £404,230) was unrestricted.

**MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

6. Fundraising

	Restricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Advertising & publications	-	6,125	6,125	2,804

Costs of generating voluntary income was £6,125 (2024 - £2,804) all of which was unrestricted.

7. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type - **Protection and conservation - Mourne**

	Restricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Protection and conservation - Mourne	318,192	873,862	1,192,054	1,010,670

Expenditure on charitable activities re the protection and conservation of Mourne was £1,192,054 (2024 - £1,010,670) of which £318,192 (2024 - £179,459) was restricted and £873,862 (2024 - £831,211) was unrestricted.

Summary by expenditure type

	Staff costs 2025 £	Depreciation & fixed asset 2025 £	Other costs 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Protection and conservation - Mourne	778,907	38,350	374,797	1,192,054	1,010,670

	Staff costs 2024 £	Depreciation & fixed asset 2024 £	Other costs 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Protection and conservation - Mourne	721,279	35,856	253,535	1,010,670

**MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**8. Charitable Activities – Activities Undertaken Directly**

	<b>Basis of Allocation</b>	<b>Protect and conserve</b> £	<b>Total 2025</b> £	<b>Total 2024</b> £
Ranger	Actual	-	-	255
Mourne Ranger Service	Actual	2,146	2,146	2,055
Mourne Mountain Bike Ranger	Actual	10,428	10,428	13,033
Active Lifestyles	Actual	949	949	1,582
Mourne Erosion Control	Actual	181,668	181,668	70,878
Woodland Trust	Actual	72	72	2,696
Trees for Mourne	Actual	9,161	9,161	2,907
NI Water Grazing Range	Actual	3,053	3,053	1,856
Heritage Lottery Fund - CRESNI	Actual	3,188	3,188	5,205
Wages and salaries	Actual	435,571	435,571	383,973
National insurance	Actual	39,672	39,672	33,482
Pension cost	Actual	27,896	27,896	23,658
		713,804	713,804	541,580

**Charitable Activities - Support costs**

	<b>Basis of Allocation</b>	<b>Protect and conserve</b> £	<b>Total 2025</b> £	<b>Total 2024</b> £
Other support costs	Actual	143,922	143,922	139,010
Wages and salaries	Actual	230,654	230,654	233,315
National insurance	Actual	18,663	18,663	18,908
Pension cost	Actual	26,452	26,452	27,943
Depreciation & fixed asset disposal	Actual	38,350	38,350	35,856
Governance	Actual	20,209	20,209	14,058
		478,250	478,250	469,090
Total Charitable Activities		1,192,054	1,192,054	1,010,670

**MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**9. Income**

This is stated after charging:

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets: - owned by the charity	38,350	37,328

During the year, no Directors received remuneration (2024 - £NIL).

During the year, no Directors received benefits in kind (2024 - £NIL).

During the year, no Directors received a reimbursement for expenses incurred (2024 - £NIL).

Key management personnel are referred to in note 21 Related Parties.

Audit fees for the year ended 31 March 2025 amounted to £4,323 (2024 - £4,115). Accounting and other consulting services during the year amounted to £1,392 (2024 - £nil).

The major source of core operating income is grants received from Northern Ireland Environment Agency. The other source of core operating income includes the support grants/service level agreements from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC). Project funding was received from the NMDDC, National Lottery Heritage Fund, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Sport NI and NI Water.

**10. Staff costs**

Staff costs were as follows:

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	666,225	617,288
Social security costs	58,335	52,390
Other pension costs	54,348	51,601
	<b>778,908</b>	<b>721,279</b>

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

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Staff	23	23

One employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 during the year (2024 – 1).

**11. Transfer between funds**

Mourne Heritage Trust has acted as a match funder for specific restricted projects, transferring £14,164 from unrestricted to restricted funds.

Ongoing work with the Mourne Mountain Landscape Partnership led to the release of deferred income of £17,800 during the year, transferring funds from restricted to unrestricted funds. Additionally, £9,122 was transferred from restricted to unrestricted funds for the Grazing Ranger and CRESNI projects.

Overall, this resulted in a net transfer of £12,759 from restricted to unrestricted funds.

**MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**12. Tangible fixed assets**

	L/Term Leasehold Property £	Plant & machinery £	Motor vehicles £	Fixtures & fittings £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2024	24,357	158,020	197,773	115,021
Additions	-	8,999	17,300	1,785
At 31 March 2025	24,357	167,019	215,073	116,806
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2024	24,357	99,186	107,555	88,358
Charge for the year	-	9,500	24,717	4,133
At 31 March 2025	24,357	108,686	132,272	92,491
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 March 2025	-	58,333	82,801	24,315
At 31 March 2024	-	58,834	90,218	26,663
				<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2024				495,171
Additions				28,084
At 31 March 2025				523,255
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2024				319,456
Charge for the year				38,350
At 31 March 2025				357,806
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 March 2025				165,449
At 31 March 2024				175,715

**MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**13. Debtors**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade debtors	349,447	199,950
Prepayments and accrued income	55,926	18,290
Other debtors	385	5,049
	<u>405,758</u>	<u>223,289</u>

**14. Creditors:**  
**Amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Bank loans and overdrafts	-	-
Trade creditors	106,834	58,834
Accruals and deferred income	84,367	106,250
	<u>191,201</u>	<u>165,084</u>

	<b>£</b>
<b>Deferred income</b>	
Deferred income at 1 April 2024	63,237
Resources deferred during the year	-
Amounts released	<u>(17,800)</u>
Deferred income at 31 March 2025	<u>45,437</u>

**MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**15. Statement of funds**

	Brought Forward £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers in/out £	Carried Forward £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
<b>General Funds</b>	589,650	798,853	(879,987)	33,606	542,122
<b>Designated Funds</b>					
Staffing/Capacity	295,000	-	-	-	295,000
Equipment/machinery	89,000	-	-	(20,847)	68,153
Match funding/Capital	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
Volunteer expenses	30,000	-	-	-	30,000
	1,103,650	798,853	(879,987)	12,759	1,035,275
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Restricted Funds - all funds	71,698	325,266	(318,192)	(12,759)	66,013
Total of funds	71,698	325,266	(318,192)	(12,759)	66,013
<b>Summary of funds</b>					
	Brought Forward £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers in/out £	Carried Forward £
Unrestricted funds	1,103,650	798,853	(879,987)	12,759	1,035,275
Restricted funds	71,698	325,266	(318,192)	(12,759)	66,013
	1,175,348	1,124,119	(1,198,179)	-	1,101,288

**16. Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Restricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	56,639	108,810	165,449	175,715
Current assets	145,292	981,748	1,127,040	1,164,717
Creditors due within one year	(135,918)	(55,283)	(191,201)	(165,084)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	-	-	-
	66,013	1,035,275	1,101,288	1,175,348

**MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**17. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Net income (deficit) for the year (as per Statement of financial activities)	(74,060)	(30,397)
<b>Adjustment for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	38,350	37,328
(Profit) /loss on the sale of FA	-	(1,470)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(10,002)	(7,501)
Increase/(decrease) in provision for define benefit pension liability	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	-	-
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(182,469)	891,668
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	26,117	(44,305)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>(202,064)</b>	<b>845,323</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**18. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Cash in hand	721,282	941,428
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	721,282	941,428
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**19. Operating lease commitments**

At 31 March 2025 the company was committed to making the following total payments under non-cancellable operating leases:

	<b>Land and buildings</b>		<b>Other</b>	
	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Due not later than one year	3,333	8,750	11,956	10,534
Due between two and five years	-	3,333	4,621	7,086
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**20. Contingent Liabilities**

The company has a liability to refund grant monies received by it, should it fail to comply with the relevant conditions as set out in the letter of offer.

# **MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**

(A company limited by guarantee)

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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### **21. Related Parties**

The directors are the ultimate controlling party of the charity.

The directors neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year (2024: £Nil). See note 10.

The charity considers its' key management personnel to be the Chief Executive and the four individuals of the management team. The total remuneration paid to key management personnel was £187,151 (2024 - £181,166). Employer pension contributions totalling £30,457 (2024 - £29,230) were also made in relation to these employees.

During the year the Charity held meetings at business premises owned by director David Maginn. Commercial room hire charges, totalling £240 (2024 - £500) were paid to the business with regard to provision of this service.

### **22. Going Concern Review**

The Charity's operating activities, together with the factors likely to affect its future development and position are set out in the Mourne AONB Management Plan referred to in the Directors' Report on page 9. The financial position of the charity is detailed in the Financial Statements on page 16.

The Charity is reliant on its Core Funding from a number of third-party organisations. The current economic conditions create some uncertainty particularly over the ability of the charity to secure core funding.

The Charity has considered the impact of the current environment on the financial performance and cash flow of the organisation. The organisation has commenced the process of engagement with core funders for the year ended 31 March 2027. At this stage funds have been secured from the Environment Fund until March 2028. There are no indications of any problems in obtaining similar funding and service level agreements to those historically negotiated with our other core funder, the local authority.

The surplus received on exiting the NILGOSC pension scheme has significantly increased the reserves of the charity while significantly reducing the level of uncertainty associated with future pension liabilities.

The Charity's forecast and projections, taking account of reasonably possible changes in its operating performance, show that the Charity should be able to operate within the level of its working capital.

After making enquiries, the directors have a reasonable expectation that the Charity will have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For these reasons, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and accounts.

**Mourne Heritage Trust**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105840

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# Accounts

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**MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Note	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
<b>Income and endowments</b>					
Donations & legacies	2	-	402,575	402,575	230,513
Investments	4	-	7,501	7,501	244
Charitable activities	5	166,010	404,231	570,241	885,555
Other income	3	2,761	-	2,761	2,950
<b>Total income</b>		<b>168,771</b>	<b>814,307</b>	<b>983,078</b>	<b>1,119,262</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Fundraising	6	-	2,804	2,804	2,721
Charitable activities	7,8	179,459	831,211	1,010,670	1,072,236
Other		-	-	-	-
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>179,459</b>	<b>834,015</b>	<b>1,013,474</b>	<b>1,074,957</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>(10,688)</b>	<b>(19,708)</b>	<b>(30,396)</b>	<b>44,305</b>
<b>Extraordinary income</b>					
NILGOSC exit pension scheme surplus	9	-	-	-	436,400
<b>Net income/(expenditure) after extraordinary income</b>		<b>(10,688)</b>	<b>(19,708)</b>	<b>(30,396)</b>	<b>480,705</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	12	<b>(9,440)</b>	<b>9,440</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(20,128)</b>	<b>(10,268)</b>	<b>(30,396)</b>	<b>480,705</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds at 1 April 2023	16	91,826	1,113,919	1,205,745	725,040
<b>Total funds at 31 March 2024</b>	<b>16,17</b>	<b>71,698</b>	<b>1,103,651</b>	<b>1,175,349</b>	<b>1,205,745</b>

All activities relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 17 to 30 form part of these financial statements.

**MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 MARCH 2024**

	Note	£	2024	£	2023
					£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	13		175,715		152,520
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	14	223,289		1,114,957	
Cash at bank and in hand		941,428		147,657	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(165,083)		(209,389)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			999,634		1,053,225
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			1,175,349		1,205,745
<b>Net assets</b>			<b>1,175,349</b>		<b>1,205,745</b>
<b>Charity Funds</b>					
Restricted funds	16		71,698		91,826
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds	16	589,651		1,113,919	
Designated funds	16	514,000		-	
Total unrestricted funds			1,103,651		1,113,919
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>16,17</b>		<b>1,175,349</b>		<b>1,205,745</b>

The financial statements were approved by the Directors on 28/11/2024 and signed on their behalf, by:

*David Maginn*

David Maginn  
Chairman

*John Toner*

John Toner  
Vice Chairman

The notes on pages 17 to 30 form part of these financial statements.

**MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	18	845,323	98,141
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		7,501	244
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets		4,750	244
Purchase/sale of property, plant and equipment		(63,803)	(68,603)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<b>(51,552)</b>	<b>(68,359)</b>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		<b>793,771</b>	<b>29,782</b>
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		147,657	117,875
<b>Cash and cash equivalents carried forward</b>	19	<b>941,428</b>	<b>147,657</b>

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# **MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**

(A company limited by guarantee)

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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### **1. Accounting policies**

#### **1.1 General Information**

Mourne Heritage Trust is a private company limited by guarantee and is incorporated and registered in Northern Ireland under Company Registration Number Registered number NI032946. The Company is also registered with the Charity Commission under Registration Number NIC 105840 and HMRC Charity Number XR23015. The Mourne Heritage Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The company's registered office is situated at 19 Causeway Road, Newcastle, Co Down, Northern Ireland, BT33 0DL.

#### **1.2 Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

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

The Financial Statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

A summary of the more important accounting policies, which have been applied consistently, is set out below.

#### **1.3 Judgements and Key Estimates**

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that effect the amounts reported. The estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are considered to be reasonable under the circumstances.

#### **1.4 Income**

Turnover represents grants and donations from the government and other bodies, and sundry income from certain activities undertaken by the company.

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

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

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

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

# **MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**

(A company limited by guarantee)

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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### **1.5 Fund apportionment**

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

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Directors 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 to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the company for particular purposes.

### **1.6 Expenditure**

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

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure headings.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the company.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the company and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

### **1.7 Cash flow**

The company provided a cash flow statement on the basis of FRS 102 using the indirect method.

### **1.8 Operating leases**

Rentals under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

### **1.9 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

L/Term Leasehold Property	-	5% per annum on a straight-line basis
Plant & machinery	-	15% per annum on a reducing balance basis
Motor vehicles	-	25% per annum on a reducing balance basis
Fixtures & fittings	-	15% per annum on a reducing balance basis

**MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.10 Debtors**

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

**1.11 Pensions**

The company also operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged directly to the Statement of Financial Activities.

**1.12 Cash at Bank and in hand**

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

**1.13 Creditors and provisions**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the company 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.

**1.14 Financial instruments**

The company has only financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transactional value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

**1.15 Going Concern**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Directors do not believe that there are any factors or material uncertainties which would impact on their assessment of this.

**MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**2 Income from donations and legacies**

	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations	-	2,575	2,575	1,243
Grants NIEA	-	400,000	400,000	229,270
Total donations and legacies	-	402,575	402,575	230,513

**3. Unrestricted Funds Income**

<b>Charitable Activity</b>		
<b>Protection and conservation – Mourne</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Core funding NMDDC, NIEA, TNI	376,000	374,990
RPS Mourne Walls	25,000	-
Friends of Mourne	390	400
MBR Bicycle wash	692	521
Artisan Markets	-	9,865
Active Lifestyles - Trees	1,500	-
NI Water Erosion Control	-	27,963
Route cards	-	1,098
Insurance claim	-	1,847
Sundry	649	-
	404,231	416,684

**MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**3. Restricted Funds Income**

**Charitable Activity**

**Protection and conservation – Mourne**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Woodland Trust	16,386	34,506
Mourne Erosion Control	40,234	282,717
Mourne Ranger Service	35,000	136,912
Heritage Lottery Fund - CRESNI	35,091	14,736
NI Water Grazing Ranger	21,499	-
Mourne Mountain Landscape Partnership	17,800	-
	<u>166,010</u>	<u>468,871</u>

**Social fund**

Staff social fund	2,761	2,950
	<u>2,761</u>	<u>2,950</u>

**4. Investment income**

	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Bank interest received	-	7,501	7,501	244
	<u>-</u>	<u>7,501</u>	<u>7,501</u>	<u>244</u>

**5. Income from charitable activities**

	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Protection and conservation - Mourne	166,010	404,231	570,241	885,555
	<u>166,010</u>	<u>404,231</u>	<u>570,241</u>	<u>885,555</u>

Income from charitable activities was £570,241 (2023 - £885,555) of which £166,010 (2023 - £468,871) was restricted and £404,231 (2023 - £416,684) was unrestricted.

**MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**6. Fundraising**

	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Advertising & publications	-	2,804	2,804	2,721

Costs of generating voluntary income was £2,804 (2023 - £2,721) all of which was unrestricted.

**7. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities**

Summary by fund type - **Protection and conservation - Mourne**

	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Protection and conservation - Mourne	179,459	831,211	1,010,670	1,072,236

Expenditure on charitable activities in relation to the protection and conservation of Mourne was £1,010,670 (2023 - £1,072,236) of which £179,459 (2023 - £469,803) was restricted and £831,211 (2023 - £602,433) was unrestricted.

**Summary by expenditure type**

	Staff costs 2024 £	Depreciation & fixed asset 2024 £	Other costs 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Protection and conservation - Mourne	721,279	35,856	253,535	1,010,670	1,072,236

	Staff costs 2023 £	Depreciation & fixed asset 2023 £	Other costs 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Protection and conservation - Mourne	771,626	29,727	270,883	1,072,236

**MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**8. Charitable Activities – Activities Undertaken Directly**

	<b>Basis of Allocation</b>	<b>Protect and conserve</b> £	<b>Total 2024</b> £	<b>Total 2023</b> £
Friends of Mourne	Actual	-	-	578
Ranger	Actual	255	255	606
Mourne Ranger Service	Actual	2,055	2,055	9,429
Mourne Mountain Bike Ranger	Actual	13,033	13,033	23,028
Active Lifestyles	Actual	1,582	1,582	1,765
Mourne Erosion Control	Actual	70,878	70,878	112,533
Woodland Trust	Actual	2,696	2,696	3,756
Sustainable Tourism - Artisan	Actual	-	-	1,716
Trees for Mourne	Actual	2,907	2,907	-
NI Water Grazing Range	Actual	1,856	1,856	-
Heritage Lottery Fund - CRESNI	Actual	5,205	5,205	2,692
Wages and salaries	Actual	383,973	383,973	451,795
National insurance	Actual	33,482	33,482	36,843
Pension cost	Actual	23,658	23,658	34,517

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541,580      541,580      679,258

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**Charitable Activities - Support costs**

	<b>Basis of Allocation</b>	<b>Protect and conserve</b> £	<b>Total 2024</b> £	<b>Total 2023</b> £
Other support costs	Actual	139,010	139,010	96,732
Wages and salaries	Actual	233,315	233,315	196,816
National insurance	Actual	18,908	18,908	15,109
Pension cost	Actual	27,943	27,943	36,546
Depreciation & fixed asset disposal	Actual	35,856	35,856	29,727
Governance	Actual	14,058	14,058	18,048

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469,090      469,090      392,978

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Total Charitable Activities      1,010,670      1,010,670      1,072,236

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**MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**9. Extraordinary income**

The company has historically participated in a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme in the UK, operated by NILGOSC (see note 22).

On the 31 December 2022 Mourne Heritage Trust, with the support of scheme members, exited the NILGOSC pension scheme. An exit valuation was carried out by the actuary, Aon Solutions UK Limited and in accordance with Regulation 70 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 an exit payment of £436,400 was to be paid to Mourne Heritage Trust on 31 March 2023, being the surplus of fund asset over fund liabilities at the exit date.

**10. Income**

This is stated after charging:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets:		
- owned by the charity	37,328	29,727
	<u>37,328</u>	<u>29,727</u>

During the year, no Directors received remuneration (2023 - £NIL).

During the year, no Directors received benefits in kind (2023 - £NIL).

During the year, no Directors received a reimbursement for expenses incurred (2023 - £NIL).

Key management personnel are referred to in note 23 Related Parties.

Audit fees for the year ended 31 March 2024 amounted to £4,115 (2023 - £3,920). Accounting and other consulting services during the year amounted to £nil (2023 - £nil).

The major source of core operating income is grants received from Northern Ireland Environment Agency. Other sources of core operating income include support grants/service level agreements from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) and the Tourism NI. Project funding was received from the NMDDC, National Lottery Heritage Fund, Sport NI and the Woodland Trust.

**11. Staff costs**

Staff costs were as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	617,288	648,611
Social security costs	52,390	51,952
Other pension costs	51,601	71,063
	<u>721,279</u>	<u>771,626</u>

In addition to the pension costs stated above the charity paid £nil (2023 - £700) in deficit recovery contributions to the NILGOSC Pension scheme.

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

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Staff	23	28
	<u>23</u>	<u>28</u>

One employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 during the year (2023 – Nil).

**MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**12. Transfer between funds**

Mourne Heritage Trust routinely support specific restricted projects as a match funder. This results in a transfer from unrestricted funds to restricted funds during the period.

**13. Tangible fixed assets**

	L/Term Leasehold Property £	Plant & machinery £	Motor vehicles £	Fixtures & fittings £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2023	24,357	145,271	160,768	108,967
Additions	-	15,749	42,000	6,054
Disposals	-	(3,000)	(4,995)	-
At 31 March 2024	24,357	158,020	197,773	115,021
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2023	24,357	93,194	85,105	84,187
Charge for the year	-	8,992	24,165	4,171
On disposals	-	(3,000)	(1,715)	-
At 31 March 2024	24,357	99,186	107,555	88,358
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 March 2024	-	58,834	90,218	26,663
At 31 March 2023	-	52,077	75,663	24,780
<b>Total</b>				
<b>£</b>				
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2023				439,363
Additions				63,803
Disposals				(7,995)
At 31 March 2024				495,171
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2023				286,843
Charge for the year				37,328
On disposals				(4,715)
At 31 March 2024				319,456
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 March 2024				175,715
At 31 March 2023				152,520

**MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**14. Debtors**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Trade debtors	199,950	659,583
Prepayments and accrued income	18,290	14,974
Pension exit debtor - NILGOSC	-	436,400
Other debtors	5,049	4,000
	<u>223,289</u>	<u>1,114,957</u>

**15. Creditors:**  
**Amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Trade creditors	58,834	19,878
Other creditors	5,480	-
Accruals and deferred income	100,769	189,511
	<u>165,083</u>	<u>209,389</u>

	£
<b>Deferred income</b>	
Deferred income at 1 April 2023	116,128
Amounts released	<u>(52,891)</u>
Deferred income at 31 March 2024	<u>63,237</u>

**MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**16. Statement of funds**

	Brought Forward £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers in/out £	Extraordinary income £	Carried Forward £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
<b>General Funds</b>	1,113,919	814,307	(834,015)	(504,560)		589,651
<b>Designated Funds</b>						
Staffing/Capacity	-	-	-	295,000	-	295,000
Equipment/machinery	-	-	-	89,000	-	89,000
Match funding/Cap investment	-	-	-	100,000	-	100,000
Volunteer expenses	-	-	-	30,000	-	30,000
	1,113,919	814,307	(834,015)	9,440		1,103,651
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Restricted Funds - all funds	91,826	168,771	(179,459)	(9,440)	-	71,698
Total of funds	91,826	168,771	(179,459)	(9,440)	-	71,698
<b>Summary of funds</b>						
	Brought Forward £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers in/out £	Extraordinary income £	Carried Forward £
Unrestricted funds	1,113,919	814,307	(834,015)	9,440	-	1,103,651
Restricted funds	91,826	168,771	(179,459)	(9,440)	-	71,698
	1,205,745	983,078	(1,013,474)	-	-	1,175,349

**17. Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	62,412	113,303	175,715	152,520
Current assets	101,343	1,063,374	1,164,717	1,262,614
Creditors due within one year	(92,057)	(73,026)	(165,083)	(209,389)
	71,698	1,103,651	1,175,349	1,205,745

**MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**18. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities**

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income (deficit) for the year (as per Statement of financial activities)	(30,396)	480,705
<b>Adjustment for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	37,328	29,727
(Profit) /loss on the sale of fixed assets	(1,470)	-
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(7,501)	(244)
Increase/(decrease) in provision for define benefit pension liability	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	-	578
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	891,668	(457,214)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	(44,306)	44,589
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>845,323</b>	<b>98,141</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**19. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash in hand	941,428	147,657
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	941,428	147,657
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**20. Operating lease commitments**

At 31 March 2024 the company was committed to making the following total payments under non-cancellable operating leases:

	Land and buildings		Other	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Due not later than one year	8,750	-	10,534	-
Due between two and five years	3,333	20,833	7,086	28,831
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**21. Contingent Liabilities**

The company has a liability to refund grant monies received by it, should it fail to comply with the relevant conditions as set out in the letter of offer.

**MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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**22. Pension**

**Multi- Employer Defined Benefit**

Historically the company participated in a defined benefit scheme in the UK, operated by NILGOSC.

The charity exited the scheme on 31 December 2022 (see note 9). Following an exit valuation by the actuary, Mourne Heritage Trust recognised income of £436,400 for the year ended 31 March 2023, being the surplus of scheme assets over scheme liabilities, at the point of exit. For this reason, the FRS102 defined benefit disclosures are not presented for the 2023 year.

**Multi- Employer Defined Contribution**

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Company to the fund and amounted to £51,601 (2023: £71,063). There were contributions payable to the fund at the balance sheet date of £5,480 (2023: Nil).

**23. Related Parties**

The Directors are the ultimate controlling party of the charity.

The Directors neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year (2023: £Nil). See note 11.

The charity considers its' key management personnel to be the Chief Executive and the four individuals of the management team. The total remuneration paid to key management personnel was £181,166 (2023 - £174,827). Employer pension contributions totalling £29,230 (2023 - £48,793) were also made in relation to these employees.

During the year the Charity held meetings at business premises owned by Director David Maginn. Commercial room hire charges, totalling £500 were paid to the business with regard to provision of this service.

# **MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**

(A company limited by guarantee)

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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### **24. Going Concern Review**

The Charity's operating activities, together with the factors likely to affect its future development and position are set out in the Mourne AONB Management Plan referred to in the Directors' Report on page 9. The financial position of the charity is detailed in the Financial Statements on page 14.

The Charity is reliant on its Core Funding from a number of third-party organisations. The current economic conditions create some uncertainty particularly over the ability of the charity to secure core funding.

The Charity has considered the impact of the current environment on the financial performance and cash flow of the organisation. The organisation has commenced the process of engagement with core funders for the year ended 31 March 2026. At this stage increased funds have been secured for a five-year period from Environment Fund. There are no indications of any problems in obtaining similar funding and service level agreements to those historically negotiated with our other core funders, the local authority and Tourism NI.

The surplus received on exiting the NILGOSC pension scheme on 31/12/2022 has significantly increased the reserves of the charity while significantly reducing the level of uncertainty associated with future pension liabilities.

The Charity's forecast and projections, taking account of reasonably possible changes in its operating performance, show that the Charity should be able to operate within the level of its working capital.

After making enquiries, the Directors have a reasonable expectation that the Charity will have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For these reasons, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

**Mourne Heritage Trust**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105840

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# Annual report

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# **MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**

(A company limited by guarantee)

## **DIRECTORS' REPORT** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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The Trustees (who are also the Directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006) present their annual report with the audited financial statements of The Mourne Heritage Trust (the company) for the year ended 31 March 2024. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

### **Structure, governance and management**

#### **Constitution**

The company is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 17 September 1997.

The company is registered with the Charities Commission NI under Charity Number NIC 105840.

#### **Policies adopted for the induction and training of Directors**

Trustees receive a thorough induction, including receipt of various key documents relating to the operation of the Trust and a briefing with the Chairman and Chief Executive.

#### **Organisational structure and decision making**

Day to day management of the charity is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Martin Carey.

Trustees of Mourne Heritage Trust were originally appointed by The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Environment and Heritage Service of the Department of Environment (now Northern Ireland Environment Agency), Banbridge, Down and Newry and Mourne District Councils (now replaced by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council) and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (now Tourism NI). (The successor agencies named remain funders of the Trust). In addition, a number of other Mourne interests were appointed by the nominated Trustees after expressions of interest and nominations were sought by public advertisement and a selection procedure was carried out.

One third of the Board of Trustees retires from office each year at the Trust's AGM. The retiring Trustees are eligible for re-election. The Trust then fills the vacated office by electing a person thereto and, in default, the retiring Trustee, shall if offering themselves for re-election, be deemed to have been elected.

Persons other than a retiring Trustee can be eligible for election if recommended by the Board of Trustees or by nomination submitted before AGM by a member qualified to attend and vote at the meeting.

Voting if necessary is carried out by a membership panel, composed of accredited bodies and other Mourne Interests.

#### **Risk management**

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charitable company, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

# **MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**

(A company limited by guarantee)

## **DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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### **Objectives and Activities**

The Mourne Heritage Trust provides landscape management and sustainable development services for the Mourne Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Established in 1997, the Trust is a partnership of local and central government, local communities and key stakeholders. The aim of Mourne Heritage Trust is as follows:

*'To sustain and enhance the environment, rural regeneration, cultural heritage and visitor opportunities of the Mourne Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and contribute to the well-being of Mourne's communities.'*

The following are the strategic aims:

#### ***Natural Environment Enhancement and Protection***

'Safeguard, enhance and promote appreciation of the quality and diversity of the landscapes and biodiversity of the Mourne Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and to manage and influence change appropriately'.

#### ***Visitor Management and Visitor Services***

'To provide and maintain opportunities for public enjoyment, education and recreation within the Mourne AONB in ways which safeguard the environment and protect land management and community interests'.

#### ***Built and Cultural Heritage***

'To identify, promote, safeguard and enhance the built and cultural heritage of the Mourne AONB'.

#### ***Sustainable Tourism***

'To promote regeneration through the development and facilitation of appropriate sustainable tourism initiatives in the Mourne AONB'.

#### ***Creating Awareness and Promoting Understanding***

'To create awareness and promote greater understanding of the Mourne AONB as a unique and special area to local, regional, national and international audiences'.

Each key objective is pursued through core operations and priority projects. Core operations are provided from the Trust's on-going core funding, and largely reflect the Trust's Service Level Agreements and/or grant applications with its core funders. The core resources also provide the base from which priority projects are developed for complementary additional activities and for which the Trust seeks specific project funding.

Key Core activities revolve around coordination and implementation of the Mourne AONB Management Plan. Environmental protection and enhancement services include heathland management, wildfire prevention and erosion control as well as various projects to enhance biodiversity in line with the Mourne Biodiversity Action Plan. This is complemented by visitor management services in which the Trust maintains car parks and amenity sites, forest walking trails and mountain bike trails, Public Rights of Way, stiles, cycle routes, interpretive panels and undertakes weekly litter collection at visitor amenities. A Mourne Ranger Service is provided to monitor environmental issues and countryside access and promote positive links and understanding between landowners, local communities, visitors, business sectors and volunteers. Also important in core activity are visitor servicing and raising awareness of the special qualities of the Mourne AONB through, among other things, publications and online platforms including the Mournelive website and social media sites. The development of sustainable tourism initiatives with local communities and tourism businesses includes a range of activities agreed annually with Tourism NI.

# **MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**

(A company limited by guarantee)

## **DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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*Priority Projects in 2023/24 included:*

*Eastern Mournes Habitat Management* – Heathland and peatland restoration through survey, management interventions and targeted grazing.

*Engagement Rangers* – Promotion of responsible recreation and environmental awareness.

*Trees for Mourne* – Native woodland creation.

Key Objectives and detailed activities and targets in pursuit of the various core activities and key projects areas are set out in the Mourne AONB Management Plan and Action Plan.

Mourne Heritage Trust makes significant use of volunteers in the course of undertaking a wide range of both core and project activities.

### **Achievements and performance**

#### **Review of activities**

The Trust's main activities and outcomes in 2023/24 include the following:

#### **Natural Environment Enhancement and Protection**

- Ranger Service (1 x full and 2 x part-time staff) retained providing proactive identification and mitigation of environmental issues.
- At least weekly litter patrol covering 12 key sites and ad hoc clearance of approximately 1100 kgs of accumulated litter, abandoned camps and fly tipping at other locations.
- Four key survey programmes in the eastern Mournes of, respectively, peat depth, heathland habitat condition, erosion in access corridors and invasive species and staff capacity training in GIS recording.
- Participation in Northern Ireland Peatland Partnership and Practitioners Groups respectively.
- Development and submission, with partners, of major funding application for peatland and heathland enhancement to PEACE Plus (European Funds).
- Completion of Eastern Mournes Special Area of Conservation Management Plan and coordination of landowner input and implementation.
- Development and deployment of a Mourne Grazing Ranger Service for Eastern Mournes Catchment (1 part-time post).
- Four key habitats and species enhancement programmes as follows:
  - Red squirrel in 2 core sites and 3 'satellite' sites.
  - Native hedge plants and wildflower establishment and enhancement at 6 sites.
  - Pollinators including maintenance of apiary, support to local beekeepers and awareness raising. (Activity immediately above also benefitting pollinators).
  - Juniper propagation including processing of 126 cuttings and 22 seeds along with planting out of 12 semi-mature plants.
- Agreement with partners (National Trust, NI Water and Woodland Trust) of governance arrangements for the Forever Mournes partnership, prioritisation of work programme and attraction of funding for the following:
  - Car park & Visitor Facilities Review (High Mournes)
  - Accessibility Audit (Forest Parks & Nature Reserve)
  - Forever Mournes joint website
  - Volunteer & Apprenticeship Strategy
  - Interpretation Masterplan

# **MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**

(A company limited by guarantee)

## **DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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- **Natural Environment Enhancement and Protection** (*continued*)
- Native Woodland Creation Programme including:
  - Trees for Mourne planting programme achieving plantation of 2047 trees across 7 small woodland and 3 agro-forestry sites totalling 2.27 hectares and an additional 566 linear metres of boundary planting.
  - Survey and maintenance at 2 previously planted agro-forestry sites.
  - 32,000 trees at 2 sites across 15 hectares in conjunction with Woodland Trust and with Funding from Lloyds TSB.
  - Assistance to 30 landowners with applications for grant assistance for native woodland schemes.
  - Management of contractors planting 75,000 native trees on NI Water land at various locations.
  - Maintenance of 2 tree nursery sites including expansion planning and assessment of requirements for membership / standards assurance certification for both through UK and Ireland Sourced and Grown Assurance Scheme (UKISG).
  - Provision of 600 trees to community groups and individuals for small scale planting.
  - Development of capacity for processing and storing native tree seed, identification of 5 collection sites and gathering of 13.1 kgs of seed of 6 species.
- AONB wide landscape change monitoring through quarterly fixed-point photography at 8 sites.
- Support to NI Fire & Rescue Service in wildfire control, including maintenance and mobilisation as required of specialist vehicles.
- Programme of training and capacity building to enhance GIS survey and recording capability.

### **Visitor Management and Visitor Services**

- Weekly inspection and maintenance at 21 amenity sites throughout the Mourne AONB.
- Maintenance of 52 Public Rights of Way, Green Lanes and Paths, 7 Way-Marked Cycle Routes, 70+ stiles and over 100 interpretative panels.
- Inspection and maintenance of long-distance walking trails – Mourne Way & Newcastle Way (26 and 28 miles respectively) - and key walking routes, including recently upgraded Granite Trail (3 miles) and Silent Valley Nature Trail along with 19 x other accredited Quality Walks.
- Day-to-day trail inspection, maintenance and user engagement at Mourne Mountain Bike Trails (Castlewellan and Rostrevor) and forest walking trails (Castlewellan).
- Refurbishment of mountain bike pump track at Castlewellan.
- Securing of funding for and deployment of Mourne Engagement Ranger Service (Phase III) promoting responsible recreation in 6 key access corridors in the High Mournes plus ad hoc 'outlying' site visits.
- Appointment of Countryside Services Programmes Co-ordinator.
- Recruitment and development of in-house upland erosion control and heathland enhancement team of 3 Countryside Officers.
- Path improvement and Erosion control works at the following upland locations totalling 1879 linear metres protecting corridor areas of 9395 square metres. Detailed condition survey on a further 2.023 kilometres.
  - Lower Glen River, Slieve Donard comprising 43 metres of branch and aggregate path, 53 granite treads and 10 m path widening.
  - Glen River middle section, Slieve Donard (2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> bridge) comprising 258 metres condition survey and 150 metres major works completed.
  - Glen River upper (3<sup>rd</sup> bridge to National Trust boundary) comprising 500m condition survey and 85m maintenance and reconstruction.
  - Brandy Pad at Donard 'Triangle' 790 metres path restoration.
  - Carrick little track to Binnian south tor via Mourne Wall lower section 310 metres digger assisted path reconstruction.
  - Carrick little track to Binnian south tor via Mourne Wall middle & upper sections 1.5km condition survey.

# **MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**

(A company limited by guarantee)

## **DIRECTORS' REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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### **Visitor Management and Visitor Services** *(continued)*

- Carrick little quarry track comprising 393m digger repair work including: 6 rolling dip drainage, 110 metres major track regrading, 40 metres intermediate track regrading and 60 metres of ditching.
- Slieve Gullion 40 metres intensive path repair on gradients of up to 47%.
- Development of outline forward plan for erosion control and heathland enhancement works to 2026.

### **Sustainable Tourism**

- Visitor impact monitoring programme through at least monthly trail corridor inspections.
- Quarterly visitor monitoring (electronic counters) and year-end report.
- Weekly qualitative visitor experience monitoring and year-end report.
- Survey of attitudes to tourism informing development of community tourism engagement and development plan.
- Collation of compendium of ongoing and near future tourism development projects and opportunities in the Mourne destination.
- 2 x focus groups, 12 x bilateral meetings and social media platform engagement informing detailed response to draft NI Tourism Strategy.
- Chairing of Mourne Gullion Strangford Geopark Management Group.
- Eco-tourism networking study visit to County Clare and Burren Geopark.
- Input to formation of Tourism NI led Outdoor Tourism Partnership.
- Responsive tourism business support service including advice on experience development and promotion.
- High Season Programme of Mourne Heritage Talks.

### **Built and Cultural Heritage**

- Annual survey of stiles, maintenance as required and full replacement of three such structures protecting the Mourne Wall.
- Dry stone wall repair at 18 sites on Public Rights of Way network.
- Expert input to Mourne Wall and Historic Estates Steering Group overseeing programmes of repairs on the listed Mourne Wall and various other listed and heritage buildings and structures associated with water supply.
- Input to completion of Silent Valley Masterplan and, with NI Water, submission of major funding application to PEACE Plus (European Funds).
- New signage and way markers at four historic lanes and two benches featuring C.S Lewis quotes at Kilbroney Park and Rostrevor Forest, all using reclaimed timber.
- AONB Photography competition and calendar in conjunction with Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.
- Quarterly AONB co-ordination meetings Council officers and Strangford & Lecale and Ring of Gullion officers.

### **Creating Awareness and Promoting Understanding**

- Mourne Conservation Volunteering Programme delivering 2,086 hours activity through 237 separate individuals in the following key groups:
  - Volunteer path team (membership of 6 maintained) – 37 events
  - Volunteer Nursery Team (membership increased from 2 to 10) - 39 events
  - Corporate and other ad hoc groups – 24 events
  - Special Needs Group – 20 events
  - Mourne Young Ambassadors (10 young people) - 7 events.

# **MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**

(A company limited by guarantee)

## **DIRECTORS' REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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### **Creating Awareness and Promoting Understanding**

- Engagement with circa 2,500 users of main high Mourne access corridors.
- Provision of 12 walks for wellbeing in association with County Down Rural Community Network.
- Delivery of 8 community environmental projects.
- Awareness and engagement stand at 9 large scale local events and festivals.
- 250 heritage and conservation features on Mournelive social media platforms Facebook (20,000 followers) and Instagram (2,000 followers).
- 4 Mourne AONB e-zines and regular updates of Mournelive website.
- Series of Mourne nature talks with Libraries NI also streamed online.
- Establishment of 2 new sub-groups for AONB management liaison – Mourne Graziers Liaison Group and Eastern Mourne SAC Landowners Group – and maintenance of Mourne Outdoor Recreation Forum.
- Collaboration with 5 third level academic studies relevant to the Mourne, including Queens University Belfast, Birmingham University and Manchester University.
- Input to various 10 major policy and strategy development initiatives /consultations including Strategic Way Forward for Wildfires in Northern Ireland, National Lottery Heritage Fund NI Landscape Initiative, Office for Environmental Protection inquiry on management of conservation designations.
- Development of a communications plan to raise awareness of impacts of dogs on grazing animals and wildlife in upland areas.

### **Pension fund**

Consistent with many other charities and not for profit organisations, Mourne Heritage Trust Limited (“MHT”) had partaken in a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme operated by NILGOSC. The Trust exited this scheme effective from 31st December 2022. Following an actuarial valuation on exit, the Charity received a repayment of £436,400, being the fund surplus of assets over liabilities, less professional fees at the exit date.

The charitable company agreed specific defined contribution pension scheme terms with those employees affected by the exit from the NILGOSC scheme. MHT continues to offer the standard defined contribution pension scheme to all new employees.

# MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE

(A company limited by guarantee)

## DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### Financial review

The results for the year are set out on page 14 of the accompanying financial statements.

The Mourne Heritage Trust accounts this year are showing an operation deficit of £30,396 (2023 - surplus £44,305) before taking account of the extraordinary income of £nil (2023- £436,400 actuarial gain) received on exiting the NILGOSC multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme.

The total deficit reported is £30,396 (2023 - surplus £480,705).

**Core funders of The Mourne Heritage Trust are detailed below, and amounts contributed for the year 2023/24:**

- Northern Ireland Environment Agency	£ 400,000
- Newry, Mourne and Down District Council	£ 325,000
- Tourism Northern Ireland	£ 65,000

**Major Project Funders for the year 2023/2024 were as follows:**

Active Lifestyles Programme	CitiGroup Belfast; Department for Communities, National Lottery Heritage Fund
Eastern Mournes Habitat Management	NI Water
Mourne Wall and Historic Estate	NI Water
Engagement Ranger Project	Sport NI
Trees for Mourne	Woodland Trust
Slieve Gullion Erosion Control	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

### Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Going Concern Accounting Policy and Going Concern review (see note 24).

### Reserves policy

The Trustees have established a policy to designate funds for particular purposes, if decided necessary by the Board, and to restrict funds which are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor.

Trustees have confirmed that the charity's assets are available and adequate to fulfil the obligations of the charity. The funds historically held by the charity have been boosted significantly following the charity's exit from the NILGOSC pension scheme. The level of uncertainty that the charity historically had to plan for has also been reduced.

At the balance sheet date, the unrestricted reserves of the charity amounted to £1,103,651 (2023 - £1,113,919). Within this total the General fund held reserves of £589,651 (2023 - £1,113,919), approximately six months core wage & overhead costs, and £514,000 (2023 - £nil) of funds which were designated for specific purposes by the Board in line with current spending priorities (see note 16).

**MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**DIRECTORS' REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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At the balance sheet date, the restricted reserves of the charity amounted to £71,698 (2023 - £91,826).

**Future developments**

Our work will be guided by the Mourne AONB Management Plan and AONB Action Plan for 2023 - 2027. Copies are available on [www.Mournelive.com](http://www.Mournelive.com).

**Directors' responsibilities statement**

The Directors (who are also Directors of The Mourne Heritage Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Directors' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

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

**Disclosure of information to auditor**

The Directors have confirmed that there is no information which they are aware of which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditors are aware of such information.

**Auditors**

A resolution to re-appoint UHY Hacker Young Fitch Limited will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

This report was approved by the Directors and authorised for issue on 28/11/2024 and signed on their behalf by:



.....  
David Maginn  
Chairman

**Mourne Heritage Trust**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105840

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# Annual return

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# **MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**

(A company limited by guarantee)

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST**

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### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The Mourne Heritage Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024, which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and The Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP (FRS102) second edition – January 2019).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### **Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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# **MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**

(A company limited by guarantee)

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST (CONTINUED)**

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### **Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Directors Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- The Director's Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.
- the Directors were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies' exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report.

### **Responsibilities of Trustees**

As explained more fully in the Directors' responsibilities statement, the Trustees (who are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

## **MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**

(A company limited by guarantee)

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST (CONTINUED)**

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#### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)**

The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities, and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations. As part of the audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercised professional judgement and maintained professional scepticism throughout the audit. We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with Directors and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector and we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2022, Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, taxation legislation and Data Protection Act 2018, anti-bribery, employment, environmental and health and safety legislation.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected, and alleged fraud and considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations. We obtained an understanding of internal controls relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that were appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of the Company's internal controls.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships; tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions; evaluated the appropriateness of accounting policies used, including managements' use of the going concern basis of accounting, and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management; and investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included but were not limited to agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation; reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission, or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditors' report.

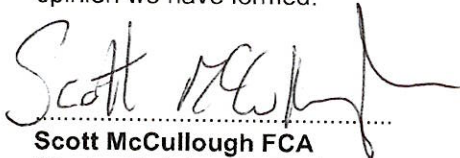
**MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE  
MEMBERS OF THE MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST (CONTINUED)**

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**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinion we have formed.



**Scott McCullough FCA**  
(Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of

**UHY Hacker Young Fitch Limited**  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

Suite 2.06  
Custom House  
Custom House Square  
Belfast  
BT1 3ET

Date: 28th November 2024

UHY Hacker Young Fitch Limited are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of Companies Act 2006.

**Mourne Heritage Trust**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105840

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# Accounts

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**MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	Note	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
<b>Income and endowments</b>					
Donations & legacies	2	-	230,513	230,513	279,838
Investments	4	-	244	244	21
Charitable activities	5	468,871	416,684	885,555	668,390
Other income	3	2,950	-	2,950	2,065
<b>Total income</b>		<b>471,821</b>	<b>647,441</b>	<b>1,119,262</b>	<b>950,314</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Fundraising	6	-	2,721	2,721	1,240
Charitable activities	7,8	469,803	602,433	1,072,236	906,176
Other		-	-	-	-
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>469,803</b>	<b>605,154</b>	<b>1,074,957</b>	<b>907,416</b>
<b>Net income/expenditure</b>		<b>2,018</b>	<b>42,287</b>	<b>44,305</b>	<b>42,898</b>
<b>Extraordinary income</b>					
NILGOSC exit pension scheme surplus	9	-	436,400	436,400	-
<b>Net income/expenditure after extraordinary income</b>		<b>2,018</b>	<b>478,687</b>	<b>480,705</b>	<b>42,898</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	12	35,494	(35,494)	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>					
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension schemes		-	-	-	318,000
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>37,512</b>	<b>443,193</b>	<b>480,705</b>	<b>360,898</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds at 1 April 2022	17	54,314	670,726	725,040	364,142
<b>Total funds at 31 March 2023</b>	<b>17,18</b>	<b>91,826</b>	<b>1,113,919</b>	<b>1,205,745</b>	<b>725,040</b>

All activities relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 18 to 32 form part of these financial statements.

# MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE

(A company limited by guarantee)

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

			2023		2022
	Note	£		£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	13		152,520		113,644
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks	14	-		578	
Debtors	15	1,114,957		657,743	
Cash at bank and in hand		147,657		117,875	
		1,262,614		776,196	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(209,389)		(164,800)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			1,053,225		611,396
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			1,205,745		725,040
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	23		-		-
<b>Net assets including pension scheme liabilities</b>			<b>1,205,745</b>		<b>725,040</b>
<b>Charity Funds</b>					
Restricted funds	17		91,826		54,314
Unrestricted funds:					
Unrestricted funds excluding pension liability	17	1,113,919		670,726	
Pension reserve		-		-	
Total unrestricted funds			1,113,919		670,726
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>17,18</b>		<b>1,205,745</b>		<b>725,040</b>

The financial statements were approved by the Directors on 30/11/2023 and signed on their behalf, by:

*David Maginn*

David Maginn  
Chairman

*John Toner*

John Toner  
Vice Chairman

The notes on pages 18 to 32 form part of these financial statements.

**MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	19	98,141	(294,856)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		244	21
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(68,603)	(34,184)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>			
		(68,359)	(34,163)
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>			
		29,782	(329,019)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		117,875	446,894
<b>Cash and cash equivalents carried forward</b>			
	20	147,657	117,875

# **MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**

(A company limited by guarantee)

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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### **1. Accounting policies**

#### **1.1 General Information**

Mourne Heritage Trust is a private company limited by guarantee and is incorporated and registered in Northern Ireland under Company Registration Number Registered number NI032946. The Company is also registered with the Charity Commission under Registration Number NIC 105840 and HMRC Charity Number XR23015. The Mourne Heritage Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The company's registered office is situated at 19 Causeway Road, Newcastle, Co Down, Northern Ireland, BT33 0DL.

#### **1.2 Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

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

The Financial Statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity. A summary of the more important accounting policies, which have been applied consistently, is set out below.

#### **1.3 Judgements and Key Estimates**

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that effect the amounts reported. The estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are considered to be reasonable under the circumstances.

#### **1.4 Income**

Turnover represents grants and donations from the government and other bodies, and sundry income from certain activities undertaken by the company.

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

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

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

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

# MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE

(A company limited by guarantee)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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### 1.5 Fund apportionment

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

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Directors 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 to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the company for particular purposes.

### 1.6 Expenditure

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

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure headings.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the company.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the company and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

### 1.7 Cash flow

The company provided a cash flow statement on the basis of FRS 102 using the indirect method.

### 1.8 Operating leases

Rentals under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

### 1.9 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

L/Term Leasehold Property	-	5% per annum on a straight-line basis
Plant & machinery	-	15% per annum on a reducing balance basis
Motor vehicles	-	25% per annum on a reducing balance basis
Fixtures & fittings	-	15% per annum on a reducing balance basis

# **MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**

(A company limited by guarantee)

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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### **1. Accounting policies (continued)**

#### **1.10 Stocks**

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

#### **1.11 Debtors**

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

#### **1.12 Pensions**

The company operates a defined benefit pension scheme. The fund is valued annually by a professionally qualified independent actuary, the rates of contribution payable being determined by the trustees of the scheme based on the advice of the actuary. Pension costs are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a systematic basis based on the actuary's calculations. The company pays no other post-retirement benefits to its employees.

The company also operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged directly to the Statement of Financial Activities.

#### **1.13 Cash at Bank and in hand**

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

#### **1.14 Creditors and provisions**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the company 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.

#### **1.15 Financial instruments**

The company has only financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transactional value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

#### **1.16 Accumulated funds**

Unrestricted funds are funds that are expendable in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by the donors as to how they may be used.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the directors for specific purposes.

**MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**1.17 Going Concern**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Directors do not believe that there are any factors or material uncertainties which would impact on their assessment of this.

**2 Income from donations and legacies**

	<b>Restricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2022 £</b>
Donations	-	1,243	1,243	35,568
Grants	-	229,270	229,270	244,270
	-	230,513	230,513	279,838
<b>Total donations and legacies</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>230,513</b>	<b>230,513</b>	<b>279,838</b>

**3. Unrestricted Funds Income**

<b>Charitable Activity</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Protection and conservation – Mourne</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Core funding NMDDC, NIEA, TNI	374,990	374,950
Friends of Mourne	400	210
MBR Bicycle wash	521	1,085
National Trust	-	11,080
Narnia Experience	-	2,347
Artisan Markets	9,865	8,575
Active Lifestyles- Trees	-	1,000
NI Water Erosion Control	27,963	2,997
Route cards	1,098	-
Insurance claim	1,847	-
Sundry	-	115
	416,684	402,359

# MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE

(A company limited by guarantee)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 3. Restricted Funds Income

<b>Charitable Activity</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Protection and conservation – Mourne</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Woodland Trust	34,506	38,939
National Trust	-	-
Mourne Erosion Control	282,717	137,450
Mourne Ranger Service	136,912	64,473
Sustainable Tourism Silent Valley AR	-	-
Sustainable Tourism CS Lewis	-	25,169
Heritage Lottery Fund - CRESNI	14,736	-
Newcastle Community Orchard	-	-
Slieve Gullion Path & Corridor	-	-
NI Water Erosion Control	-	-
Corona Virus Job Retention Scheme	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	468,871	266,031
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
<b>Social fund</b>		
Staff social fund	2,950	2,065
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,950	2,065
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

### 4. Investment income

	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Bank interest received	-	244	244	21
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

### 5. Income from charitable activities

	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Protection and conservation - Mourne	468,871	416,684	885,555	668,390
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Income from charitable activities was £885,555 (2022- £668,390) of which £468,871 (2022 - £266,031) was restricted and £416,684 (2022 - £402,359) was unrestricted.

# MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE

(A company limited by guarantee)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 6. Fundraising

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Advertising & publications	-	2,721	2,721	1,240

Costs of generating voluntary income was £2,721 (2022 - £1,240) all of which was unrestricted.

### 7. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type - **Protection and conservation - Mourne**

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Protection and conservation - Mourne	469,803	602,433	1,072,236	906,176

Expenditure on charitable activities re the protection and conservation of Mourne was £1,072,236 (2022 - £906,176) of which £469,803 (2022 - £272,597) was restricted and £602,433 (2022 - £633,579) was unrestricted.

#### Summary by expenditure type

	Staff costs 2023 £	Depreciation & fixed asset 2023 £	Other costs 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Protection and conservation - Mourne	771,626	29,727	270,883	1,072,236	906,176

	Staff costs 2022 £	Depreciation & fixed asset 2022 £	Other costs 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Protection and conservation - Mourne	589,764	23,890	292,522	906,176

# MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE

(A company limited by guarantee)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 8. Charitable Activities – Activities Undertaken Directly

	Basis of Allocation	Protect and conserve £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Friends of Mourne	Actual	578	578	780
Ranger	Actual	606	606	3,042
Wildfire Fund	Actual	-	-	551
Mourne Ranger Service	Actual	9,429	9,429	17,223
Mourne Mountain Bike Ranger	Actual	23,028	23,028	21,574
Active Lifestyles	Actual	1,765	1,765	2,183
Mourne Erosion Control	Actual	112,533	112,533	53,720
Woodland Trust	Actual	3,756	3,756	10,827
Sustainable Tourism -Artisan	Actual	1,716	1,716	1,407
Sustainable Tourism CS Lewis	Actual	-	-	22,798
Newcastle Community Orchard	Actual	-	-	162
Heritage Lottery Fund - CRESNI	Actual	2,692	2,692	-
Upland paths	Actual	-	-	8,599
Subcontractors	Actual	-	-	14,812
Wages and salaries	Actual	451,795	451,795	309,014
National insurance	Actual	36,843	36,843	24,442
Pension cost	Actual	34,517	34,517	29,708
		679,258	679,258	520,842

### Charitable Activities - Support costs

	Basis of Allocation	Protect and conserve £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Other support costs	Actual	96,732	96,732	106,214
Wages and salaries	Actual	196,816	196,816	174,462
National insurance	Actual	15,109	15,109	13,191
Pension cost	Actual	36,546	36,546	38,947
Depreciation & fixed asset disposal	Actual	29,727	29,727	23,890
Governance	Actual	18,048	18,048	28,630
		392,978	392,978	385,334
Total Charitable Activities		1,072,236	1,072,236	906,176

# MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE

(A company limited by guarantee)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 9. Extraordinary income

The company has historically participated in a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme in the UK, operated by NILGOSC (see note 23).

On the 31 December 2022 Mourne Heritage Trust, with the support of scheme members, exited the NILGOSC pension scheme. An exit valuation was carried out by the actuary, Aon Solutions UK Limited and in accordance with Regulation 70 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 an exit payment of £436,400 was to be paid to Mourne Heritage Trust on 31 March 2023, being the surplus of fund asset over fund liabilities at the exit date.

### 10. Income

This is stated after charging:

	2023 £	2022 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets: - owned by the charity	29,727	23,890

During the year, no Directors received remuneration (2022 - £NIL).

During the year, no Directors received benefits in kind (2022 - £NIL).

During the year, no Directors received a reimbursement for expenses incurred (2022 - £NIL).

Key management personnel are referred to in note 24 Related Parties.

Audit fees for the year ended 31 March 2023 amounted to £3,920 (2022 - £3,560). Accounting and other consulting services during the year amounted to £nil (2022 - £2,710).

The major source of core operating income is grants received from Northern Ireland Environment Agency. Other sources of core operating income include support grants/service level agreements from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) and the Tourism NI. Project funding was received from the NMDDC, National Lottery Heritage Fund, Sport NI and the Woodland Trust.

### 11. Staff costs

Staff costs were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	648,611	483,476
Social security costs	51,952	37,633
Other pension costs (Note 23)	71,063	68,655
	771,626	589,764

In addition to the pension costs stated above the charity paid £700 (2022 - £700) in deficit recovery contributions to the NILGOSC Pension scheme.

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

	2023	2022
Staff	28	21

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

# MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE

(A company limited by guarantee)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 12. Transfer between funds

Mourne Heritage Trust routinely support specific restricted projects as a match funder. This results in a transfer from unrestricted funds to restricted funds during the period.

### 13. Tangible fixed assets

	L/Term Leasehold Property £	Plant & machinery £	Motor vehicles £	Fixtures & fittings £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2022	24,357	123,331	122,473	100,599
Additions	-	21,940	38,295	8,368
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	24,357	145,271	160,768	108,967
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2022	24,357	85,940	66,267	80,552
Charge for the year	-	7,254	18,838	3,635
On disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	24,357	93,194	85,105	84,187
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 March 2023	-	52,077	75,663	24,780
At 31 March 2022	-	37,391	56,206	20,047
				<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2022				370,760
Additions				68,603
Disposals				-
At 31 March 2023				439,363
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2022				257,116
Charge for the year				29,727
On disposals				-
At 31 March 2023				286,843
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 March 2023				152,520
At 31 March 2022				113,644

# MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE

(A company limited by guarantee)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 14. Stocks

	2023 £	2022 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	-	578

### 15. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Debtors	659,583	639,565
Prepayments and accrued income	14,974	14,178
Pension exit debtor - NILGOSC	436,400	-
Other debtors	4,000	4,000
	1,114,957	657,743

### 16. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Bank loans and overdrafts	-	6,816
Creditors	19,878	45,361
Accruals and deferred income	189,511	112,623
	209,389	164,800

#### Deferred income

	£
Deferred income at 1 April 2022	82,664
Resources deferred during the year	35,091
Amounts released	(1,627)
Deferred income at 31 March 2023	116,128

# MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE

(A company limited by guarantee)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 17. Statement of funds

	Brought Forward £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers in/out £	Extraordinary income £	Carried Forward £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General Funds	670,726	647,441	(605,154)	(35,494)	436,400	1,113,919
Pension reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-
	670,726	647,441	(605,154)	(35,494)	436,400	1,113,919
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Restricted Funds - all funds	54,314	471,821	(469,803)	35,494	-	91,826
Total of funds	54,314	471,821	(469,803)	35,494	-	91,826
<b>Summary of funds</b>						
	Brought Forward £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers in/out £	Extraordinary income £	Carried Forward £
Unrestricted funds	670,726	647,441	(605,154)	(35,494)	436,400	1,113,919
Restricted funds	54,314	471,821	(469,803)	35,494	-	91,826
	725,040	1,119,262	(1,074,957)	-	436,400	1,205,745

### 18. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	82,670	69,850	152,520	113,644
Current assets	169,766	1,092,848	1,262,614	776,196
Creditors due within one year	(160,610)	(48,779)	(209,389)	(164,800)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	-	-	-
	91,826	1,113,919	1,205,745	725,040

# MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE

(A company limited by guarantee)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 19. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income (deficit) for the year (as per Statement of financial activities)	480,705	360,898
<b>Adjustment for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	29,727	23,890
(Profit) /loss on the sale of FA	-	-
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(244)	(21)
Increase/(decrease) in provision for define benefit pension liability	-	(299,000)
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	578	780
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(457,214)	(386,202)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	44,589	4,799
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>98,141</b>	<b>(294,856)</b>

### 20. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash in hand	147,657	117,875
Total	147,657	117,875

### 21. Operating lease commitments

At 31 March 2023 the company was committed to making the following total payments under non-cancellable operating leases:

	Land and buildings		Other	
	2023 £	2022 £	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Expiry date:</b>				
Within 1 year	-	-	-	1,747
Between 2 and 5 years	20,833	2,250	28,831	23,680

### 22. Contingent Liabilities

The company has a liability to refund grant monies received by it, should it fail to comply with the relevant conditions as set out in the letter of offer.

# MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE

(A company limited by guarantee)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 23 Pension costs

#### Multi- Employer Defined Benefit

Historically the company participated in a defined benefit scheme in the UK, operated by NILGOSC. The charity exited the scheme on 31 December 2022 (see note 9) after discussions and the agreement from the employees who were in the scheme. Following an exit valuation by the actuary, Mourne Heritage Trust were paid £436,400 30 31 March 2023, being the surplus of scheme assets over scheme liabilities, at the point of exit. For this reason the FRS102 defined benefit disclosures are presented for the comparative year only (2022).

The FRS 102 Accounting Results Schedule for 31 March 2022 was compiled by Aon and it reported a surplus on the pension fund of £105,000. As this pension fund was part of a multi-employer pension scheme and the assets and liabilities of the scheme were combined with those of other parties, further fees were to be incurred to verify this surplus. However, as it was not certain that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund the Directors did not recognise this asset in these accounts in accordance with FRS102 para 28.3(a)

The major assumptions used by the actuary were:	2022 % p.a.
Rate of increase in salaries	4.40
Rate of increase in pension payment	2.90
Pension accounts revaluation rate	2.90
Discount Rate	2.70
CPI inflation	2.90
Post- retirement morality	
Members aged 65 at accounting date - male	21.80
Members aged 65 at accounting date - female	25.00
Members aged 45 at accounting date - male	23.20
Members aged 45 at accounting date - female	26.40

#### Asset allocation & reconciliation of fund status to Balance Sheet

	2022 %	2022 £
Equities	42.9%	1,129,986
Bonds	26.9%	708,546
Property and other assets	13.1%	345,054
Cash	4.0%	105,360
Multi- asset credit	13.1%	345,054
Total market value of assets	86.9%	2,634,000
Present value of scheme liabilities		2,529,000
Fund Status		105,000
Asset recognition adjustment (see above)		(105,000)
<b>Asset/(Liability) recognised on the balance sheet</b>		<b>-</b>

#### Amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities

	2022 £
<b>Operating costs</b>	
Current Service Cost	69,000
<b>Financing costs</b>	
Interest on net defined benefit liability	6,000
<b>Pension expense recognised in Statement of Financial Activities</b>	<b>75,000</b>

# MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE

(A company limited by guarantee)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 23 Pension costs (continued)

Amounts recognised in other Comprehensive income	2022 £
Asset gains/(losses) arising during the period	130,000
Liability gains/(losses) arising during the period	293,000
Asset recognition adjustment	(105,000)
	<hr/>
<b>Total gains/(losses) arising during the period</b>	<b><u>318,000</u></b>

Changes to present value of the defined benefit obligation	2022 £
Opening defined benefit obligation	2,697,000
Current service cost	69,000
Past service cost	-
Interest expense on defined benefit obligation	57,000
Contributions by members	10,000
Actuarial losses/(gains) on liabilities	(293,000)
Net benefits paid out	(11,000)
	<hr/>
<b>Closing defined benefit obligation</b>	<b><u>2,529,000</u></b>

Changes to the fair value of assets	2022 £
Opening fair value of employer assets	2,398,000
Interest income on assets	51,000
Contributions by members	10,000
Contributions by employer	56,000
Remeasurement gains/(losses) on assets	130,000
Net benefits paid out	(11,000)
	<hr/>
<b>Closing fair value of assets</b>	<b><u>2,634,000</u></b>

Actual return on assets	2022 £
Interest income on assets	51,000
Gain/(loss) on assets	130,000
	<hr/>
<b>Actual return on assets</b>	<b><u>181,000</u></b>

# **MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**

(A company limited by guarantee)

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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### **24. Related Parties**

The directors are the ultimate controlling party of the charity.

The directors neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year (2022: £Nil). See note 11.

The charity considers its' key management personnel to be the Chief Executive and the four individuals of the management team. The total remuneration paid to key management personnel was £174,827 (2022 - £154,900). Employer pension contributions totalling £48,793 (2022 - £53,076) were also made in relation to these employees.

### **25. Going Concern Review**

The Charity's operating activities, together with the factors likely to affect its future development and position are set out in the Mourne AONB Management Plan referred to in the Directors' Report on page 10. The financial position of the charity is detailed in the Financial Statements on page 15.

The Charity is reliant on its Core Funding from a number of third-party organisations. The current economic conditions create some uncertainty particularly over the ability of the charity to secure core funding.

The Charity has considered the impact of the current environment on the financial performance and cash flow of the organisation. The organisation has commenced the process of engagement with core funders for the year ended 31 March 2025. At this stage increased funds have been secured for a five-year period from Environment Fund. There are no indications of any problems in obtaining similar funding and service level agreements to those historically negotiated with our other core funders, the local authority and Tourism NI.

The surplus received on exiting the NILGOSC pension scheme on 31/12/2022 has significantly increased the reserves of the charity while significantly reducing the level of uncertainty associated with future pension liabilities.

The Charity's forecast and projections, taking account of reasonably possible changes in its operating performance, show that the Charity should be able to operate within the level of its working capital.

After making enquiries, the directors have a reasonable expectation that the Charity will have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For these reasons, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and accounts.

**Mourne Heritage Trust**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105840

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# Annual report

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# **MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**

(A company limited by guarantee)

## **DIRECTORS' REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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The Trustees (who are also the directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006) present their annual report with the audited financial statements of The Mourne Heritage Trust (the company) for the year ended 31 March 2023. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

### **Structure, governance and management**

#### **Constitution**

The company is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 17 September 1997.

The company has now been officially registered with the Charities Commission NI under Charity Number NIC 105840.

#### **Policies adopted for the induction and training of Directors**

Trustees receive a thorough induction, including receipt of various key documents relating to the operation of the Trust and a briefing with the Chairman and Chief Executive.

#### **Organisational structure and decision making**

Day to day management of the charity is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Martin Carey.

Trustees of Mourne Heritage Trust were originally appointed by The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Environment and Heritage Service of the Department of Environment (now Northern Ireland Environment Agency), Banbridge, Down and Newry and Mourne District Councils (now replaced by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council) and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (now Tourism NI). (The successor agencies named remain funders of the Trust). In addition, a number of other Mourne interests were appointed by the nominated Trustees, after expressions of interest and nominations were sought by public advertisement and a selection procedure was carried out.

One third of the Board of Trustees retires from office each year at the Trust's AGM. The retiring Trustees are eligible for re-election. The Trust then fills the vacated office by electing a person there to and, in default, the retiring Trustee, shall if offering themselves for re-election, be deemed to have been elected.

Persons other than a retiring Trustee can be eligible for election if recommended by the Board of Trustees or by nomination submitted before AGM by a member qualified to attend and vote at the meeting.

Voting if necessary is carried out by a membership panel, composed of accredited bodies and other Mourne Interests.

#### **Risk management**

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charitable company and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

# MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE

(A company limited by guarantee)

## DIRECTORS' REPORT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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### Objectives and Activities

The Mourne Heritage Trust provides landscape management and sustainable development services for the Mourne Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Established in 1997, the Trust is a partnership of local and central government, local communities, and key stakeholders. The aim of Mourne Heritage Trust is as follows:

*'To sustain and enhance the environment, rural regeneration, cultural heritage and visitor opportunities of the Mourne Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and contribute to the wellbeing of Mourne's communities.'*

The following are the strategic aims:

#### **Natural Environment Enhancement and Protection**

'Safeguard, enhance and promote appreciation of the quality and diversity of the landscapes and biodiversity of the Mourne Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and to manage and influence change appropriately'.

#### **Visitor Management and Visitor Services**

'To provide and maintain opportunities for public enjoyment, education, and recreation within the Mourne AONB in ways which safeguard the environment and protect land management and community interests'.

#### **Built and Cultural Heritage**

'To identify, promote, safeguard and enhance the built and cultural heritage of the Mourne AONB'.

#### **Sustainable Tourism**

'To promote regeneration through the development and facilitation of appropriate sustainable tourism initiatives in the Mourne AONB'.

#### **Creating Awareness and Promoting Understanding**

'To create awareness and promote greater understanding of the Mourne AONB as a unique and special area to local, regional, national and international audiences.'

Each key objective is pursued through core operations and priority projects. Core operations are provided from the Trust's ongoing core funding, and largely reflect the Trust's Service Level Agreements and/or grant applications with its core funders. The core resources also provide the base from which priority projects are developed for complementary additional activities and for which the Trust seeks specific project funding.

Key Core activities revolve around coordination and implementation of the Mourne AONB Management Plan. Environmental protection and enhancement services include heathland management, wildfire prevention and erosion control as well as various projects to enhance biodiversity in line with the Mourne Biodiversity Action Plan. This is complemented by visitor management services in which the Trust maintains car parks and amenity sites, forest walking trails and mountain bike trails, Public Rights of Way, stiles, cycle routes, interpretive panels and undertakes weekly litter collection at visitor amenities. A Mourne Ranger Service is provided to monitor environmental issues and countryside access and promote positive links and understanding between landowners, local communities, visitors, business sectors and volunteers. Also important in core activity are visitor servicing and raising awareness of the special qualities of the Mourne AONB through, among other things, publications and online platforms including the Mourne live website and social media sites. The development of sustainable tourism initiatives with local communities and tourism businesses includes a range of activities agreed annually with Tourism NI.

# **MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**

(A company limited by guarantee)

## **DIRECTORS' REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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*Priority Projects in 2022/23 included:*

*Active Lifestyles Programme* – Provision of a programme of volunteer activity with an emphasis on vulnerable adults and other specific target groups.

*Erosion Control Upland Path Repair* – Repair and protection of routes in key access corridors including Slieve Donard, Annalong Valley and Slieve Binnian.

*Engagement Rangers* – Promotion of responsible recreation and environmental awareness.

*Trees for Mourne* – Native woodland creation.

Key Objectives and detailed activities and targets in pursuit of the various core activities and key projects areas are set out in the Mourne AONB Management Plan and Action Plan.

Mourne Heritage Trust makes significant use of volunteers in the course of undertaking a wide range of both core and project activities. These include the Mourne Conservation Volunteer programme which offers people the chance to make a practical and worthwhile contribution to the conservation of the environment.

### **Achievements and performance**

#### **Review of activities**

The Trust's main achievements in 2022/23 are elaborated in our online Annual Report at [www.caringformourne.com](http://www.caringformourne.com). Highlights include the following:

#### **Natural Environment Enhancement and Protection**

- Oversight and coordination of AONB Management Plan 2017 to 2022.
- Development of AONB Management Plan 2023 – 2027 informed by public survey, policy and strategy analysis and key partner consultations.
- Completion of draft Eastern Mournes Special Area of Conservation Management Plan in conjunction with NI Environment Agency, informed by detailed research, stakeholder workshops and landowner consultation.
- Ranger Service retained providing proactive identification and mitigation of environmental issues.
- At least weekly litter patrol covering Moneyscalp; Trassey Track; Ott; Happy Valley; Dree Hill; Windy Gap; Carrick little; Banns Road; Leitrim Lodge/ Sandbank Road; Kilfeaghan; Spelga/Deers Meadow; Donard.
- Clearance of abandoned camps and fly tipping, sites including Slieve Donard, Annalong Valley and Leitrim Lodge.
- Completion, through the Mournes Partnership (National Trust, NI Water and Woodland Trust) of a major research project funded by the UK Communities Renewal Fund comprising nine studies to inform more cohesive habitat management approaches and effective community engagement in and around the high Mournes.
- Liaison with, and advice, to NI Water on grazing management and habitat conservation approaches in line with its management plan for the Mournes catchment.
- Survey of invasive alien species, rhododendron and cotoneaster, in Silent Valley environs, including Ben Crom and southern slopes of Slieve Binnian and liaison with landowner on eradication measures.
- Support of NI Fire & Rescue Service in wildfire control, including maintenance of specialist vehicles and equipment a Mournes Wildfire Group partner mobilisation and familiarisation day at Murlough on 27th March.
- Input, including presentation on Mourne Wildfire Project, to UK Wildfire Conference in Belfast in November 2022.
- Other wildfire best practice sharing with Ulster Wildlife Trust (UWT) including demonstration-controlled burn for an instructional video and input to land management workshop.
- Contribution to GIS MSc modelling wildfire risk in counties Down and Antrim.

# **MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**

(A company limited by guarantee)

## **DIRECTORS' REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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- Survey of 12 priority heathland recovery sites in the high Mournes, including phase 2 and rapid condition assessment of Priority 1 & 2 wet heath restoration sites including Binnian, Banns Road and Bloody Bridge.
- Digitisation of peat depth survey and recording of previous wet heath restoration interventions and development of criteria to assess progress of rewetting and habitat improvement due to interventions.
- Arrangement of APEM photogrammetry survey of areas of known peat deposition with wet heath in Eastern Mournes SAC (including Binnian Lough to Blue lough, Binnian /Lamagan Col/ Carn Mountain to Doan across to Slieve Bearnagh) to feed into potential PEACE plus bid and development of management plans.
- Design of methodology for peat depth survey in the high Mournes by in house teams and volunteers and commencement of measurement programme.
- Commencement of collaborative approach with Ulster Wildlife Trust to produce LIDAR surveys for heathland/peatland areas at Binnian Lough to Binnian Lamagan Col.
- Trees for Mourne partnership with Woodland Trust, including deployment of dedicated Project Officer, engaging 14 landowners in woodland grant schemes and achieved planting of a total of 7.1 hectares with 7,500 trees.
- Monitoring and control of grey squirrels and maintenance of red squirrel feeders in Silent Valley, Mourne Park, Kilkeel River corridor, Annalong River corridor, Rostrevor and Dunnywater.
- Mourne juniper programme including nursery propagation of specimens and care of planting sites at Drinneever and Millstone Quarries and the Silent Valley nature trail.
- Wildflower and native hedge plants sympathetic maintenance regime implemented on green lane / Public Rights of Way network and native seed sowing at various locations.
- Development of Community Orchard project in Donard Park, Newcastle and attraction of partners and funding.
- Support to Amphibian & Reptile Group UK (ArgUK), Council and the Herpetological Society of Ireland on Dragons in the Hills (3-year National Lottery Heritage Fund project).
- Landscape change monitoring through fixed point photography regime at eight sites.

### **Visitor Management and Visitor Services**

- Weekly inspection and maintenance at 21 amenity sites throughout the Mourne AONB.
- Maintenance of 52 Public Rights of Way, Green Lanes and Paths, 7 Way-Marked Cycle Routes, 70+ stiles and over 100 interpretative panels.
- Inspection and maintenance of long-distance walking trails – Mourne Way & Newcastle Way (26 and 28 miles respectively) - and key walking routes, including recently upgraded Granite Trail (3 miles) and Silent Valley Nature Trail along with 19 x other accredited Quality Walks.
- Day to day trail inspection, maintenance, and user engagement at Mourne Mountain Bike Trails (Castlewellan and Rostrevor) and forest walking trails (Castlewellan) addressing issues including vegetation control, surface repair, dealing with wind-blown trees, post event remediation works.
- Assessment of impacts of natural trail mountain biking use at Rostrevor and spill over from walking trails onto private lands at the same location and management works as agreed with landowners.
- Input to workshop at Cave Hill Country Park on management of 'natural' mountain bike trails.
- Securing of funding for and deployment of Mourne Engagement Ranger Service (Phase II) promoting responsible recreation in the High Mournes, focussing on site engagement at key access corridors – Glen River, Bloody Bridge, Carrick Little, Trassey, Ott, Banns Road – complemented by online activity and meetings with various stakeholder and interest groups.
- Securing of funding for and engagement of temporary in-house path team delivering, with some contractor input, major erosion control/ path works at the following upland locations totalling 1,610 linear metres across a corridor area of 7,355 square metres.
  - Carrick little quarry track
  - Carrick little track towards Binnian Summit
  - Binnian Back (Middle) Castles to North Tor
  - Binnian route to North Tor above 'the pancakes'
  - Binnian Crag
  - Percy Bysshe (Annalong Valley)
  - Glen River 1st to 2nd bridge section
  - Glen River 2nd to 3rd bridge section
  - Glen River (Slieve Donard) 3rd bridge to NT boundary

# **MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**

(A company limited by guarantee)

## **DIRECTORS' REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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### **Visitor Management and Visitor Services (continued)**

- Volunteer led completion of Ben Crom to Binnian Lamagan col path.
- Erosion control works at Slieve Gullion on behalf of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.
- In-house training in erosion control techniques of 8 x path workers, 4 x regular volunteers.
- Liaison with NIEA Geologist regarding appropriate sourcing of stone for Eastern Mournes Special Area of Conservation (SAC) erosion control and agreement of sites and conditions of use. The Quarry license was renewed with Kilmorey Estate and helicopter lift of materials for future use undertaken.
- Survey of stiles and other visitor infrastructure (fences, signs, way-markers etc.) on key routes and repair and replacement as required.
- Contribution to Amber level survey of the path network across the high Mournes, through Mournes Partnership.
- Leading, on behalf of Mournes Partnership, audit of participation in outdoor recreation in the High Mournes and development of proposals for enhancing involvement, particularly among underrepresented groups.
- Development, with Newry, Mourne & Down District Council of an interim signage plan for Slieve Donard and proposals for further interpretation and way marking development at Glen River/ Slieve Donard trail.

### **Sustainable Tourism**

- Visitor impact monitoring programme through trail corridor inspections.
- Maintenance of network of electronic visitor counters and dissemination of findings to key stakeholders.
- Membership of Management Group for Geopark development culminating in successful application to UNESCO.
- Expert advice on NI Water visitor masterplan for the Silent Valley site and development of funding applications.
- Provision of information relevant to further investigation of a Mourne Gateway Project under Belfast City Deal.
- Membership of Working Group for 'Unlocking the Outdoors', Tourism NI Strategy on outdoor recreation.
- Input to Atlantic CultureScapes experience development project.
- Individual Tourism Business support including advice on experience development, promotion, and funding.
- Liaison with outdoor activity providers on minimising promotional materials at key access routes.
- Maintenance of 'Litter Picker Stations' at tourism hubs including Leave No Trace messaging.
- AONB Photography competition and calendar produced in conjunction with Council.
- Participation in and promotion of Tourism NI 'Leaner and Greener Tourism Businesses' Sustainability Masterclasses.
- Delivery of Mourne Artisan Markets.
- Input to Council led Mourne multi-agency group on visitor management.
- Input to 'The Right side of Outside' campaign to raise awareness of appropriate visitor behaviour and dissemination of Leave No Trace messages on social media platforms.
- Provision of article to Mountaineering Ireland's quarterly publication, Mountain Log, on responsible recreation.
- Facilitation of familiarisation visit to the Mournes for staff of Failte Ireland.
- Development of suite of films on the Mourne AONB including script writing and story boarding.
- Facilitation of media inquiries including German television documentary on Mourne Wall and environs and French 'Trek Magazine' article.
- Delivery of MHT Heritage Week with a programme of daily events including 'Walks with the Ranger'.
- Audit of interpretation resources in the Mourne AONB.
- Support to Green Space Dark Skies event outdoor arts event on Slieve Donard, linking with the highest peaks in other UK jurisdictions.
- Sustainable tourism and heritage related inputs to various events and conferences including Tourism NI Conference 2022 and 'Empowering Newry, Mourne and Down' events.
- Input to the CASCADE: the Conservation and Sustainability Consortium of Academic Institutions which brings together leading conservation researchers from 28 universities on research needs in Mourne AONB and NI.
- Participation in TNI led sustainable tourism 'learning journey' to County Clare in March.

# **MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**

(A company limited by guarantee)

## **DIRECTORS' REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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### **Built and Cultural Heritage**

- Membership of Stakeholder Group for Castlewella Heritage Demesne inputting to delivery of National Lottery Heritage Fund project to enhance heritage management, engagement, and interpretation.
- Membership of Mourne Wall and Historic Estates Steering Group overseeing programmes of repairs on the listed Mourne Wall, and various other listed and heritage buildings and structures associated with water supply.
- Membership of Historic Environment Division (Department for Communities) Stakeholder Group and the Culture, Arts & Heritage Strategy Taskforce, convened by the department and Strategic Investment Board to co-design a Culture, Arts and Heritage vision and strategy.
- Research on Mourne Wall for Centenary Year and liaison with NI Water on programme to mark 100th anniversary.
- Installation of new 'Shoddy' Shelter hut and interpretation feature on Granite Trail, Newcastle.
- Ad hoc responses to enquiries on vernacular building restoration.
- Dry Stone Wall repair at locations across the AONB including on the Public Rights of Way network.
- Input to Hilltown Community Association National Lottery Heritage Fund bid.
- Provision of heritage information for interpretive panels in Slieve Croob area to Newry, Mourne & Down DC.
- AONB co-ordination meetings Council officers and Strangford & Lecale and Ring of Gullion officers.
- Input to strategic development framework and conservation management plan for Newcastle Harbour.

### **Creating Awareness and Promoting Understanding**

- Annual General Meeting serving as celebration of 25 years of MHT and showcase of achievements.
- Successful finding application (to the National Lottery Heritage Fund / Department for Communities Covid Recovery Employment Support Initiative) for a Full-Time Volunteer Development Officer for a 3-year period to magnify the scope of our volunteering provision.
- Conservation volunteering programme including provision for groups and individuals with special needs, corporate groups, volunteer path team and Mourne Young Ambassadors engaging in activities including erosion control, juniper and native tree propagation, beach cleans, invasive species removal, tree planting, red squirrel conservation, habitat and species monitoring and heathland restoration. 521 volunteer days delivered in total.
- Mourne Heritage Trust/AONB related articles in local and regional press and facilitation of and/or participation in various broadcast media programmes and features.
- Development of a new Mourne live website as part of a suite including those of our neighbouring AONBs (Gullion and Strangford & Lecale) and the Geopark. Final website completed in shadow form by year end.
- Regular update of Mourne live social media platforms Twitter (6,000 followers) Facebook (18,500 followers) an Instagram profile (1,700 followers).
- Delivery of various schools and community environmental projects e.g., engagement with Bunkers Hill community via Dolmens Climate Action Group and tree planting projects with St Bronagh's Primary School, Rostrevor and South Eastern Regional College, Ballynahinch.
- Participation in Citi Group (Belfast) Environmental Expo.
- Development of a series of online Mourne nature talks with Libraries NI.
- Development of 'Four Seasons of Foraging' activity with Dolmens Community Group.
- Liaison with Keep NI Beautiful on promotion of Adopt a Spot initiative.
- Continued significant liaison with the Innovation Lab (Department for Finance) examination of long-term management structures for the Mournes including a Key Stakeholder workshop. Expert input to associated James Hutton Institute Research 'Mournes - A long term sustainable future: Developing a long-term plan for the future of the Mourne Mountains'.
- Meetings and briefings with legislators and policy makers including local MLAs and site visits with Member of Parliament for South Down and NI Environment Agency Chief Executive.
- Assistance to various academic studies relevant to the Mournes including:
  - DAERA funded, Ulster University research project Behavioural Change in Hill and Upland Farming.
  - International Centre for Local and Regional Development and Maynooth University study on impacts of commuting patterns in the Mourne AONB.
  - Queens University and GSNI PhD student researching human/ landscape interactions in the Holocene period.
  - Queens University MSc Environmental Management course including field visits.
  - Birmingham University, part of the IDEAL Fire Project (UK), on study of heather moisture content across the UK which will contribute to the UK Fire Data Rating System Moisture content survey.

# MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE

(A company limited by guarantee)

## DIRECTORS' REPORT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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### **Creating Awareness and Promoting Understanding (continued)**

- Input to various conferences including:
  - Presentation on landscape and environmental issues to Institute of Water.
  - Field Studies Ireland Environmental Symposium in October including delivery of two workshops.
  - Outdoor Recreation NI 'Creating Healthy People, Communities and the Environment' participating in Health and Outdoor Recreation expert panel and delivering site visit to Slieve Donard path works.
  - National Association of AONBs.
- MHT, acting as Chair of the Northern Ireland Protected Areas Network represented protected landscape areas on regular Environmental NGO leaders' meetings with DAERA /NIEA Environment, Marine, Farm and Fisheries Group senior officers. MHT, also as chair of NIPAN, jointly with NI Environment Link secured funding from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and Action Renewables for a three-year programme led by a NIPAN Development Manager, developing the final job specification by year end.
- Participation in ENGO sector leaders workshop meeting with the newly formed Office for Environmental Protection (England and NI) and input to that body's review of the implementation of environmental assessment regimes.
- Input to various policy and strategy development and consultations including:
  - NI Environment Agency (NIEA) workshop on funding environmental NGO work.
  - NI Biodiversity strategy workshop and submission to Department for Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) on Biodiversity Strategic Direction Paper.
  - Ulster Wildlife Trust survey for DAERA on peatland restoration planning and approaches to delivery with a view to addressing skills and capacity gaps.
  - Environmental NGO workshop on potential for climate action collaboration.
  - NI Environment Link review of the future of Urban Green Spaces in NI.
  - NIEA Ammonia strategy consultation.
  - Outdoor Recreation NI review of NI Outdoor Recreation Action Plan.
  - Forest Service Consultation on Down Forestry Plan.
  - Venture consulting on evaluation of DAERA Funded Forest Park and Community Trails Enhancement Scheme.
  - AFBI Marine Protected Areas Management Plans (MarPAMM) Stakeholder Steering Group for Murlough.
  - National Lottery Heritage Fund Strategy Development, Northern Ireland stakeholder workshop.
  - Review of the Newry Mourne and Down Living Well Together Community Plan.
  - UK wide evaluation of Woodland Trust partnership arrangements.
  - Newry, Mourne & Down District Council on identification of farming & rural needs to inform development of proposals for PEACE+ funding.
  - NIEA Northern Ireland Wildfire Strategy through NI Wildfire Stakeholder Group.
- Input to strategy development and best practice networks, events and consultations including:
  - NI Environment Link (NIEL) and various sub-groups and forums.
  - Europarc Atlantic Isles and Europarc Federation sharing best practice on landscape management.
  - Mourne Outdoor Recreation Forum (MORF), convened by MHT in conjunction with Sport NI, and NI National Outdoor Recreation Forum (NORF).
  - Irish Uplands Forum.
  - South East Area Fisheries Local Action Group.
  - NI Peatland Partnership including peatland training at Glenwherry Hill Farm, Conservation Volunteers NI peatland workshops and Cuilcagh - Slieve Anierin Wildfire Heathland management plans review.
  - NI Water Sustainable Catchment Area Management Practice and High Mournes Working Groups.
  - NI Red Squirrel Forum.

### **Pension fund**

Consistent with many other charities and not for profit organisations, Mourne Heritage Trust Limited ("MHT") had partaken in a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme operated by NILGOSC. The Trust exited this scheme effective from 31st December 2022 after discussions and agreement from the employees who were in the scheme. Following an actuarial valuation on exit, the Charity received a repayment of £434,100, being the fund surplus of assets over liabilities, less professional fees at the exit date.

No pension liability or asset therefore is included in the accounts.

The charitable company agreed specific defined contribution pension scheme terms with those employees affected by the exit from the NILGOSC scheme. MHT continues to offer the standard defined contribution pension scheme to all new employees.

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# MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE

(A company limited by guarantee)

## DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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### Financial review

The results for the year are set out on page 15 of the accompanying financial statements.

The Mourne Heritage Trust accounts this year are showing an actual operation surplus of £44,305 (2022 - £42,898) before taking account of the extraordinary income of £436,400 (2022- £318,000 actuarial gain) received on exiting the NILGOSC multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme.

The total surplus reported is therefore £480,705 (2022 - £360,898).

**Core funders of the Mourne Heritage Trust are detailed below, and amounts contributed for the year 2022/23:**

- Northern Ireland Environment Agency	£ 229,270
- Newry, Mourne and Down District Council	£ 300,000
- Tourism Northern Ireland	£ 65,000

**Major Project Funders for the year 2022/2023 were as follows:**

Active Lifestyles Programme	Citigroup Belfast; Department for Communities and National Lottery Heritage Fund
Upland Path Enhancement	NI Water
Erosion Control	Northern Ireland Environment Agency £283,000
Engagement Ranger Project	Northern Ireland Environment Agency £100,000 Newry, Mourne & Down District Council Sport NI
Trees for Mourne	Woodland Trust

### Going concern

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

### Reserves policy

The Board are in the process of reviewing the needs of the charity and have put in place an interim reserve policy. The Mourne Heritage Trust needs general unrestricted reserves equivalent to six months outgoing resources and an additional £400,000 for working capital cashflow facilities.

The recommended level of general unrestricted reserves at 31 March 2023 is £940,000. The general unrestricted reserves at 31 March 2023 was £1,113,919. At this level, the Trustees feel that they would be able to continue the current activities of the organisation and are developing a more thorough reserves policy as well as an action plan to increase the unrestricted reserves to ensure there will be no issues in performing future activities. The unrestricted reserves of £1.1m comprise net assets, excluding fixed assets, of £1m which are readily available to fund working capital requirements of the Trust. Currently, the Trust has no borrowings, has a strong asset base, which underpins its activities. The funds historically held by the charity have been boosted significantly following the charity's exit from the NILGOSC pension scheme. The level of uncertainty that the charity historically had to plan for has also been reduced.

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# MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE

(A company limited by guarantee)

## DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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The Reserves Policy will be monitored and reviewed at least annually. The Board actively considers the reserves target.

At the balance sheet date, the restricted reserves of the charity amounted to £91,826 (2022 - £54,314).

### Future developments

Our work will be guided by the Mourne AONB Management Plan and AONB Action Plan for 2023 - 2027. Copies are available on [www.Mournelive.com](http://www.Mournelive.com).

### Directors' responsibilities statement

The Directors (who are also directors of The Mourne Heritage Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Directors' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

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

### Disclosure of information to auditor

The Directors have confirmed that there is no information which they are aware of which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditors are aware of such information.

### Auditors

UHY Hacker Young Fitch Limited were appointed as auditors during the period in accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006 and are eligible for reappointment. A resolution to re-appoint UHY Hacker Young Fitch Limited will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

This report was approved by the Directors and authorised for issue on 30/11/2023 and signed on their behalf by:

*David Maginn*

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David Maginn

Chairman

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**Mourne Heritage Trust**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105840

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# Annual return

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# **MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**

(A company limited by guarantee)

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST**

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### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The Mourne Heritage Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and The Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP (FRS102) second edition – January 2019).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### **Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

# **MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**

(A company limited by guarantee)

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST (CONTINUED)**

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### **Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Directors Report for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- The Director's Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.
- the Directors were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies' exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report.

### **Responsibilities of Directors**

As explained more fully in the Directors' responsibilities statement, the Directors (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below

# **MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**

(A company limited by guarantee)

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST (CONTINUED)**

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### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements continued**

The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations. As part of the audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercised professional judgement and maintained professional scepticism throughout the audit. We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with directors and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the education sector and we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, taxation legislation and data protection, anti-bribery, employment, environmental and health and safety legislation.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud and considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations. We obtained an understanding of internal controls relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that were appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of the Company's internal controls.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships; tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions; evaluated the appropriateness of accounting policies used, including managements' use of the going concern basis of accounting, and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management; and investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included but were not limited to agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation; reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

# **MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST - THE**

(A company limited by guarantee)

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST (CONTINUED)**

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### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Michael Fitch*

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**Michael Fitch FCA**  
(Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of

**UHY Hacker Young Fitch Limited**  
Statutory Auditors and Chartered Accountants

Gordon Street Mews,  
27-29 Gordon Street,  
Belfast,  
BT1 2LG

10/01/2024

Date: .....

UHY Hacker Young Fitch Limited are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of Companies Act 2006.