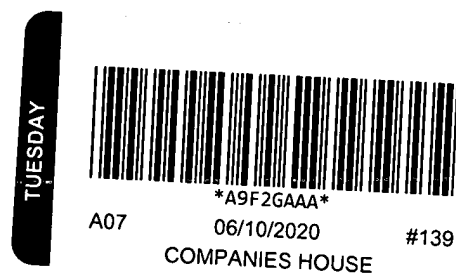


(A company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

Annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st July 2020

Charity No. :- 1126535
Registered No. :- 6661092





Annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st July 2020

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Company information

Trustees	R Findlay (Treasurer) G Haseler R Marston P Mascall S Milan N Siba P Wakeham (Chairman)
Registered office	46 Wilmot Way Banstead Surrey SM7 2PY
Independent examiner	Michael Tuckey FCA FCMA Chartered Accountant The Dutch House 24 The Downsway Sutton Surrey SM2 5RN



Trustees' report for the year ended 31st July 2020

The Trustees present their Annual Report together with the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st July 2020, which also meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

Objectives and Activities

The Downlands Trust was created as a charitable trust in November 2008. It supports countryside conservation and management across north east Surrey and the adjoining urban fringe, including: Addington, Caterham, Chelsham, Woldingham, Warlingham, Salt Box Hill, Kenley, Riddlesdown, Woodmansterne, Chipstead Downs, Banstead Woods and Merstham. This is not an exhaustive list but gives an indication of the range of sites covered.

Many of the sites are of high conservation and scientific significance and encompass a wide variety of environments, including rare and valuable chalk grassland and ancient woodland. The majority are directly managed by the Downlands Partnership on behalf of their local authority owners, but the Trust also provides financial support for local countryside conservation groups.

The Trust's objectives as defined in its Memorandum of Association are to:

- (1) promote for the benefit of the public the conservation of the physical and natural environment through management of the countryside;
- (2) advance the education of the public in the conservation and management of the physical and natural environment.

The Trust achieves its objectives by raising funds via memberships, donations and corporate sponsorship. It then provides grants for investment in the future of the local countryside and also engages in the promotion of conservation and the encouragement of access for all.

Affiliation

The Downlands Trust is not affiliated to any other charity.

Structure and Governance

The Downlands Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee. It is run entirely by volunteer trustees who ensure that the Trust acts in accordance with its published constitution, the rules governing its charitable trust status, and in the best interests of its membership. The administration is governed by the Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association, both dated 15 January 2008.

Based on the founding documents, one-third of trustees are required to retire by rotation at each AGM, with the option to offer to be reappointed. The existing trustees can at any time appoint new trustees, who then need to be reappointed at the next AGM.

Overview 2019/20

The latter part of past year will be remembered for the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact upon organisations and individuals everywhere. For the first 8 months of the Trust's year, our activities were successfully aligned with the objectives that we set out in the annual report for 2018/19. Our principal focus remained that of supporting conservation activities on chalk grassland but we also engaged with the public in a variety of ways in order to raise awareness of the Trust. The national lockdown at the end of March meant that all planned walks, talks and events were cancelled and this impacted upon our plans to raise our profile. On a positive note, electronic communications meant that the processing of grant



applications continued unhindered and the use of video conferencing facilities provided an effective substitute for face to face meetings.

Grants Donated by the Trust

The Downlands Partnership is responsible for the maintenance of most of the green spaces in the Trust's area of activities and continues to be our key partner and beneficiary. Nearly 75% of unrestricted grants awarded by the Trust in the last year went to the Downlands Partnership and ranged from equipment and materials to fencing, site clearance work and livestock for grazing. Of note were grants for the purchase of Sussex cattle (£3,000), tree felling by a contractor in Manor Park for the purpose of restoring chalk grassland (£1,750) and improved access to Hawkthirst Wood (£1,250). This year's lambing at Old Lodge Farm was particularly challenging given that it took place during the Covid-19 lockdown and the Trust was pleased to provide support in a number of ways and we were delighted to hear that a total of 93 lambs were born successfully.

In addition, the Trust has continued to engage with other organisations that undertake conservation work in our area. Grants have been awarded for the purchase of a chainsaw to support work in Happy Valley, Coulsdon; for mowing and brush-cutting equipment at Blanchman's Farm Nature Reserve, Warlingham; for a pond in the grounds of Kenley Primary School; for a brush-cutter for the Sanderstead Plantation Partners; and benches for the site managed by the Woldingham Community Interest Company at Long Hill.

The upward growth in the value of grants awarded by the Trust continued in 2019/20, more than doubling over 2018/19. Grants applications are considered by the trustees according to a number of criteria, the most important being compliance with the Trust's Objects as set out in our Memorandum of Association.

Funding of the Trust

Overview

The Trust operates in the context of continued financial pressures on local authorities and their need to prioritise essential services, resulting in diminished funding for environmental management and conservation. The economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic can only exacerbate this situation and the Trust continues to actively explore and utilise the various funding opportunities available for habitat management.

As reported last year, we are delighted that Fidelity International has continued to support the Trust for a second year and this has made a significant difference to our achievements in 2020. We are also grateful to Park & Bailey of Caterham-on-the-Hill whose support has benefitted conservation work in the Sanderstead to Whyteleafe Countryside Area and to the Chandos Choir whose donation was used to purchase additional nest boxes for dormice in Happy Valley, Coulsdon.

Finally, the Trust remains grateful for its regular core funding that is derived from membership subscriptions and also for donations received from members and local organisations.

City of London grant - 'Enjoying Green Spaces'

For the second year in succession and supported by a work plan provided by the Downlands Partnership, the Trust successfully secured a grant of almost £15,000 under the City of London Corporation's "Enjoying Green Spaces" initiative. The funding is ring-fenced to meet the cost of volunteer days and grazing on the City's Commons over a 12 month period up to March 2021. It includes grazing at Riddlesdown Quarry, coppicing at Rydon's Wood and Farthing Down and woodland thinning at Riddlesdown. All of these sites are situated within the new South London Downs National Nature Reserve and we are grateful to the City for their continued strong support of the maintenance of their green spaces on the fringes of London and for their confidence in the Trust.



Fidelity International's Environmental Charity of the Year's Grant

The sponsorship of the Trust by Fidelity International has continued for a second year and has made a great difference to the number and value of the grants that we have been able to award; since 1st August 2019, nearly 80% of unrestricted grants by value have been funded by Fidelity. In addition, Fidelity's support has enabled us to update and enhance our marketing materials and equipment, providing us with much improved public engagement capabilities.

The Trust, Fidelity and the Downlands Partnership have continued to enjoy a productive three-way relationship that has included Fidelity staff participating in conservation activities at some of the sites managed by the Partnership. They also enjoyed a day at Old Lodge Farm in December that included Christmas wreath making and practical experience of hedge-laying.

The Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in the cancellation of a number of fundraising initiatives planned by Fidelity that would have benefited the Trust. However, in recognition of the problems being experienced, Fidelity provided a crisis fund for us and a number of grants have been awarded from this source to the Downlands Partnership. In particular, much needed support was provided during the lambing season.

Our relationship with Fidelity has been enjoyable and productive and we will miss working with them when their sponsorship ends in December this year. Their support has made a great difference to our achievements and we are exceptionally grateful to them.

Reserves

As demonstrated by the financial statements, the Trust enjoys comfortable reserves that will ensure its longer-term financial sustainability. The Trust periodically reviews its financial standing and takes this into consideration when making decisions on grants. As a general policy, grants provided by the Trust avoid multi-year commitments or any that create long term dependency of the beneficiary.

Investment Policy

The Trust's Memorandum and Articles of Association provide the power to make investments. Accordingly, the Trust may invest surplus funds, defined as cash not required for the short-term funding of grant applications. To this end it has transferred £50,000 into a 12 month fixed rate savings account with Shawbrook Bank through the Charities Aid Foundation. We benefit from a substantially better interest rate than that previously offered by HSBC and the investment is fully protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

Engagement with the Public

The Trust's plans to increase its visibility and engagement with the public commenced as intended in the autumn of 2019. Talks about the work of the Trust were arranged with a number of organisations involved in the local environment and we have completed the updating and reprinting of all our marketing material including leaflets, posters, banners and business cards. We shared a stand with the Downlands Partnership at the 2019 Carshalton Environmental Fair and had booked to attend a number of similar events in 2020. Unhappily, all events and talks have been cancelled, but we shall reschedule the talks as soon as possible.

We have continued to develop our information technology resources. The Trust's website www.downlandstrust.org.uk has undergone further redesign in order to improve navigation and we continue to enhance the content. Our Facebook and Twitter accounts now benefit from frequent updates and in the last year the number of followers of both accounts has increased significantly.

The Trust's newsletter has been given a major facelift and this year's issues are being printed in colour. As



well as reporting on the work of the Trust, the newsletter now includes articles on a wider range of topics including local wildlife and conservation issues. The feedback that we have received on the new format has been wholly positive.

We have been contacted by St. John's Church in Caterham and also by the Beaverbrook Estate near Dorking, each seeking advice on the management of their chalk grassland. Site meetings were held and guidance offered on best practice.

Membership

The number of members as at 31st July 2020 was 136 which is little changed from the total of 135 at the same time last year. In a normal year we would expect to recruit new members at the various events that we attend but the opportunity was lost this year and we hope to make up the lost ground next year.

Financial Review of the Year

During the year, the charity received income of £43,713 (2019: £47,937) and incurred expenditure of £39,990 (2019 - £18,841) on charitable activities. Reserves at year-end were £86,544 (2019 - £82,821).

Whilst the pandemic resulted in the loss of some income opportunities, the Trust is fortunate in that unlike many larger charities it has no significant fixed overheads that require funding. Fewer requests for grants were received from local groups which have been unable to work during the pandemic and it is anticipated that there will be increased demand for grants in 2020/21.

Risk Review

The Trustees carry out periodic reviews of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Systems and procedures have been established to mitigate those identified so as to minimise any potential impact on the Trust. Risks to which we pay particular attention are: financial control of our funds, including ensuring that we maintain an adequate reserve to meet future requests; public liability insurance to cover occasions when we interact with the public; safeguarding our members' personal details through a data protection policy that complies with the GDPR.

Outlook

The Trust will maintain its strong support for the Downlands Partnership as its core beneficiary as well as continuing to extend its outreach to other potential grant beneficiaries engaged in the conservation of local green spaces. The wider funding environment for conservation is likely to become more difficult as a result of the pandemic and the Trust will continue to provide active support for countryside management throughout its area to the best of its ability.

We will endeavour to secure a steady flow of donations and other funding and increase our membership base, all of which are particularly important given the current year's lost opportunities. From the beginning of 2021 we will no longer enjoy the sponsorship of Fidelity International and efforts will be made to develop a similar relationship with another large organisation.

We will continue to establish productive links with other organisations in order to better understand overlaps, gaps and opportunities for co-operation, including joint walks with an educational element for our members. The Trust will continue to review its activities for members.

The Trust, together with Banstead U3A, will be organising a major public event in May 2021 as part of the Banstead Arts Festival, a talk entitled 'Surrey Landscapes', re-scheduling the talk that was unavoidably cancelled this year.



Directors and Trustees:

The Trustees who served during the year were as follows:

Peter Wakeham	(Chairman – from 22 October 2019)
Roger Findlay	(Treasurer)
Geof Haseler	(appointed 22 October 2019)
Richard Marston	(appointed 22 October 2019)
Pamela Mascall	
Sarah Milan	
Irena Postlova	(Chairman - resigned 22 October 2019)
Noreen Siba	

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts 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.

The above report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Trustees on 25th August 2020 and signed on their behalf by

Peter Wakeham

Chairman



Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Downlands Trust

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Downlands Trust (the "Charity") for the year ended 31st July 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity (and also its directors for the purpose of the company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act (the 2006 Act).

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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

Michael Tuckey FCA FCMA
Chartered Accountant
The Dutch House
24 The Downsway
Sutton
Surrey
SM2 5RN
Date: 28th September 2020



Balance sheet as at 31st July 2020


	Note	2020	2019
		£	£
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash in hand and at bank		94,738	87,719
Debtors	5	293	-
Current assets		95,031	87,719
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(8,487)	(4,898)
Current liabilities		(8,487)	(4,898)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		86,544	82,821
NET ASSETS		86,544	82,821
FUNDS			
Restricted funds	7	11,543	9,987
Unrestricted funds	7	75,001	72,834
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		86,544	82,821

The company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

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

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

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP.


 Approved by the Trustees on 25th August 2020
 and signed on their behalf by

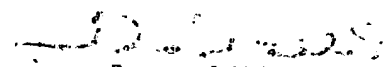
Peter Wakeham
 Chairman of Trustees

Statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31st July 2020

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income					
Donations and Legacies					
Membership subscriptions	1	1,180	-	1,180	1,190
Donations including Gift Aid	2	26,487	15,643	42,130	45,198
Income from other trading activities					
Sale of logs		-	-	-	1,455
Investment Income		403	-	403	94
Total Income		28,070	15,643	43,713	47,937
Expenditure					
Grants	3	22,413	14,087	36,500	14,595
Other expenditure on charitable activities	3	3,490	-	3,490	4,246
Total expenditure on charitable activities	3	25,903	14,087	39,990	18,841
Net income and net movement in funds for the year		2,167	1,556	3,723	29,096
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	6	72,834	9,987	82,821	53,725
Total funds carried forward		75,001	11,543	86,544	82,821

All of the company's operations are classed as continuing. The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities. The movement on reserves is shown above.

The notes on pages 11 to 14 form part of these financial statements.





Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st July 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

The accounts 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 (FRS102) (effective 1st January 2015), with FRS102 and with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Downlands Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

Currency and rounding

The accounts are presented in sterling and rounded to the nearest £1.

Income recognition

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

Membership income is recognised when received.

Resources expended

- Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.
- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about Downlands Trust's ability to continue as a going concern.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st July 2020 (continued)

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2020	2019
	£	£
Donations for Unrestricted Funds		
Fidelity International	23,463	3,701
Members	1,267	857
Chandos Choir	230	-
Banstead Residents' Association	100	-
St Mark's Woodcote	243	-
Tadworth Beavers	-	482
Other donations	341	31,029
Easyfundgiving, Amazon, Paypal and Virgin Money	370	30
Gift Aid	473	550
Total Unrestricted	26,487	36,649
Donations for Restricted Funds		
City of London	14,843	7,349
Park & Bailey	800	1,200
Total Restricted	15,643	8,549
Total donations and legacies	42,130	45,198

3. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Un-restricted costs 2020	Restricted costs 2020	Total Costs 2020	Un-restricted costs 2019	Restricted costs 2019	Total Costs 2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grants to:						
Downlands Partnership	16,883	13,774	30,657	11,708	1,713	13,421
Sanderstead to Whyteleafe	-	313	313	-	767	767
Woldingham CIC	662	-	662	407	-	407
Other local groups	4,868	-	4,868	547	-	547
Total grants payable	22,413	14,087	36,500	12,662	2,480	15,142
Support costs						
Support costs	2,101	-	2,101	1,182	-	1,182
Administration	914	-	914	367	-	367
Governance	55	-	55	50	-	50
Accountancy	-	-	-	1,500	-	1,500
Independent Examiner	420	-	420	600	-	600
Total Support Costs	3,490	-	3,490	3,699	-	3,699
Total Expenditure on charitable activities	25,903	14,087	39,990	16,361	2,480	18,841



Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st July 2020 (continued)

4. STAFF AND TRUSTEES

The charity had no employees during the year or the previous period.

The charity trustees were not paid and did not receive any benefits from the charity during the period. No expenses were reimbursed to trustees and no charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity.

5. CURRENT ASSETS

	2020	2019
	£	£
Accrued interest Shawbrook Bank	293	-

6. CURRENT LIABILITIES

	2020	2019
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year	8,487	4,898

7. ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS

Movement in funds in current year

	Balance 1 August 2019	Income	Expenditure	Trans- fers	Balance 31 July 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds					
General fund	71,591	28,070	(25,241)	-	74,420
Designated Fund Woldingham CIC	1,243	-	(662)	-	581
Total Unrestricted Funds	72,834	28,070	(25,903)	-	75,001
Restricted Funds					
Sanderstead to Whyteleafe	4,351	800	(313)	-	4,838
City of London	5,636	14,843	(13,774)	-	6,705
Total Restricted Funds	9,987	15,643	(14,087)	-	11,543
Total Funds	82,821	43,713	(39,990)	-	86,544

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st July 2020 (continued)

Movement in funds in prior year

Previous Year	Balance 1 August 2018	Income	Expenditure	Trans- fers	Balance 31 July 2019
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds					
General fund	49,807	39,388	(15,954)	(1,650)	71,591
Designated Fund Woldingham CIC	-	-	(407)	1,650	1,243
Total Unrestricted Funds	49,807	39,388	(16,361)	-	72,834
Restricted Funds					
Sanderstead to Whyteleafe	3,918	1,200	(767)	-	4,351
City of London	-	7,349	(1,713)	-	5,636
Total Restricted Funds	3,918	8,549	(2,480)	-	9,987
Total Funds	53,725	47,937	(18,841)	-	82,821

The designated fund is a grant of £1,650 awarded to Woldingham CIC in October 2018 for work and grazing on their site by the Downlands Partnership between February 2019 and July 2020. Payments are made as the work is completed.

The restricted fund shown as "Sanderstead to Whyteleafe" represents donations received specifically for use in the Sanderstead to Whyteleafe Recreation Area. The warden of that area must obtain the Trustees' approval before spending from this fund.

The restricted fund shown as "City of London" relates to a grant awarded by the City of London Corporation for work done by the Downlands Partnership on specific sites. More detail is given in the Trustees' report.

8. FUTURE COMMITMENTS

At 31st July 2020 the Trust had no outstanding commitments (2019: £3,000).

The Trust is also committed to fund work by the Downlands Partnership specified under the City of London grant (see note 7).

9. COMPANY STATUS

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.