

Company Number
1994107

CUERDEN VALLEY PARK TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Registered Charity Number: 1002888

CUERDEN VALLEY PARK TRUST

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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF
CUERDEN VALLEY PARK TRUST
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

The Trustees, who act as Directors for the purposes of company law, present their report, which also incorporates the Directors' report as required by company law, and the financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2022.

Reference and administrative details

Cuerden Valley Park Trust is a registered charity, number 1002888, and is a company limited by guarantee, registration number 1994107, incorporated in England and Wales. The address of the principal office is: Cuerden Valley Park Visitor Centre, Berkeley Drive, Bamber Bridge, Preston PR5 6BY and the Company's registered office is: 4 Southport Road, Chorley PR7 1LD. The Park's website is www.cuerdenvalleypark.org.uk

Trustees

The Trustees who served during the year and were serving on the date of the approval of this report are:

Mr. Lawrence Conrad Hayton (Chair to 6 Dec 2021)	Mr. Glenn William Sutton
Mrs. Susan Ann Marsden (Vice Chair)	Cllr Mark Edward Clifford (CBC Councillor)
Mr. Michael Harry Brooks (Chair from 6 Dec 2021)	Mr. Zak James Last
Mr. Peter James Wagstaff	Mr. Andrew Gerrard Dawson
Mr. David Beattie	Mr. Donald Gardner
Mr. Michael James Anyon	

Other Trustees who served during the financial year 2021-22:

Dr. Margaret Ann Service (resigned Aug 2021)
Mr. Vipul Patel (resigned Oct 2021)
Mr. Stuart Nelson (resigned Oct 2021)
Mr. Martin Hathaway (resigned Mar 2022)

The Trustees would like to record their grateful thanks to the former Trustees for their past service to the Trust.

Bankers

The Co-Operative Bank, PO Box 250, Delf House, Southway, Skelmersdale WN8 6WT
Virgin Money, Jubilee House, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4PL

Accountants and Auditors

Smith & Goulding Limited, 2-4 Southport Road, Chorley PR7 1LD

Solicitors

Kevills, Astley House, 5 Park Road, Chorley PR7 1QS
Naphens, 7 Winckley Square, Preston PR1 3JD

Investment Managers

Sanlam Private Investments (UK) Limited, Windsor House, Cornwall Road, Harrogate HG1 2PW

Structure, governance and management

Cuerden Valley Park Trust is a company limited by guarantee and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 28 February 1986.

Until January 2022 the Trustees delegated the day-to-day management of the Trust to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) which was Mrs. Jan Wallwork Clarke until her departure in December 2021, since that time Mrs. Jan Wallwork Clarke and Mr. Simon Thorpe, the former General Manager have assisted the Chair and Vice Chair and Treasurer with the day to day running of the park, on a part-time consultancy basis during the recruitment of a CEO. The incumbent CEO Mr. Andrew Suter will take up his position on the 5 September, 2022. The Trust employs a part time Parkland Project Officer, two Park Rangers, two part time Office Managers, one who also acts as Company Secretary, an Operations Manager who runs the Café and Visitor Centre and a part-time Education officer. They are currently recruiting a full-time digital communication and Marketing officer and a Lead Ranger.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF
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Structure, governance and management continued

The Articles of Association provide for no less than four and not more than fifteen Trustees, of which at least one, but never more than half, shall be a Member or Official of Chorley Borough Council. In practice Chorley Borough Council nominate one councillor, usually from a ward local to the Trust. Other Trustees' appointments are confirmed at the AGM by the members under the normal Companies Act rules.

The Trust advertises online and locally for new Trustees. The recruitment process is the submission of an application and CV for review by the Chair and the Board of Trustees. Following an informal meeting with the Chairman and Company Secretary, the potential Trustees are provided with a copy of the CVPT Trustees Handbook together with relevant documents from the Charities Commission. They are then invited to observe at the next Trustees meeting(s), and having confirmed their willingness to stand, the Trustees will vote on their appointment. This procedure may be streamlined in case of need.

Following their appointment, new Trustees are allocated a mentor from the Board and are invited to engage with staff and volunteers, to visit the Parks' workshops and other facilities and to observe operations in the park. The current training policy for Trustees is mandatory attendance for all Trustees to at least one annual training session delivered by an approved external organisation specialising in charitable trusts, to keep up to date with developments in the charitable sector and to develop those skills identified by the Trustees as key to their role. This programme was affected by the need to deal with the Arson attack at the Visitors Centre in September 2021 and by the resignation of the CEO, due to personal circumstances at short notice. The programme is due to be revived in Autumn 2022.

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the Trust. There is a Directors Liability insurance policy in place which covers all Trustees. The Trustees usually meet bi-monthly to undertake their duties in the strategic direction of the Trust with particular focus and overall responsibility for External Funding, Finance, Risk Management, Governance, the setting of policies and the long-term strategy.

The CEO and staff are responsible for the operational day-to-day management of the Park and other CVPT assets, business planning, meeting regularly and keeping the Trustees informed, supporting the work of the Friends of Cuerden Valley Park Trust, other volunteers and stakeholders, and advising the Trustees.

Remuneration

The remuneration for the key management position of the Chief Executive Officer has been established by consulting the current market for comparable posts, benchmarking similar roles to ensure the market rate for the role is offered. Benchmarking takes place on a regular basis. Salary levels for this and other key roles in CVPT are reviewed annually by the Trustees to take account of market trends and current inflation rates. In recent years, the role and the scale and scope of the attendant responsibilities have increased and the salary level, therefore, has also increased to reflect the greater workload and responsibilities now encompassed in the role, while remaining well within the current market rate for the position.

Risks

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those relating to public liability, operations, reputation and the finances of the Trust. The risks are prioritized in terms of their impact and likelihood of occurrence. The Risk Register is reviewed regularly by the CEO and presented to the Finance Committee meetings for review and comment. The principal risks are:

- Financial sustainability
- A serious event at Clayton Brook Reservoir
- The poor condition of Factory Lane bridge which provides access to the southern end of the park and a number of private residential properties
- Tree health and condition, in particular incidents of disease such as *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (Ash die back) and *Phytophthora ramora*
- Safeguarding – CVPT has a strong education programme in place with regular school visits. The Trust takes safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults seriously, with mandatory training for key staff and the appointment of a Trustee Safeguarding Lead. During this year no safeguarding incidents were reported.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF
CUERDEN VALLEY PARK TRUST
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Objectives and activities

The charity's object and principal activity is to advance the education of the public and provide for the recreation of the public by provision of parkland in the boroughs of Chorley and South Ribble.

In furtherance of the above, the charity has the following main powers:

- a. To promote and preserve Cuerden Valley Park for the benefit of the public.
- b. To acquire equipment for the maintenance of the Park and to carry out works for the improvement and development of the Park.
- c. To provide educational and lecturing facilities at, and tours of, the Park.

To remain compliant with its legal responsibilities, the Trust is committed to high standards of maintenance and conservation of the Park so that it is an accessible, safe, and attractive resource for all users. Within the physical setting of the park informal recreation, educational activities, the promotion of health and well-being, wildlife protection and enhancement all take place within the open air and in natural surroundings.

Free access is available all year round to all pedestrians and cyclists. A parking fee is charged for vehicular access which represents a significant part of the Trust's income. There are 28 pedestrian entrances and five small car parks.

The objectives for this past year were:

- Maintain the park to the highest possible standards as an amenity for all
- Ensure that Cuerden Valley Café Ltd remains commercially viable
- Research and apply for relevant and applicable external grant funding to sustain the Park both now and into the future
- Agree and progress the disposal of Lower Wood End Farm to generate funds for capital investment in the future maintenance and conservation of the Park
- Review the Trust's medium- and long-term Strategy and Business Plan
- Develop and progress a recruitment strategy to develop the skills and capacity of the Board of Trustees as part of succession planning for improved governance.

The CEO deploys their team and available financial resources to achieve these objectives, which are reviewed bi-monthly review with the Trustees. The Trust's strategy is to generate income sufficient to operate profitably and to maintain surplus capital for future investment in the long-term.

Public benefit statement

The Chair and the Board of Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duties in delivering public benefit in accordance with the Trust's Aims and for the purposes of the advancement of education, citizenship, heritage and environmental protection and improvement. They have had due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charities Commission in exercising their duties. The charity's work on the preservation and improvement of the park's facilities ensures the public is able to benefit from access to the park and take part in any activities that further its aims.

Achievements and performance

Cuerden Valley Park continues to enable a diverse and increasing number of users to benefit from its facilities and the learning, health and well-being activities provided and supported by the Trust. The park remains an enormously popular place to relax, exercise and socialise. The Trust has continued to see significant visitor numbers despite the reduction in Café facilities following the arson attack in September 2021. Such visitor numbers bring increased litter, wear and tear, erosion, damage and unfortunate incidents of vandalism. A key achievement in 2021 has been the repair of significant sections of footpath and the introduction of additional resting points which includes accessible benches.

Education

Our curriculum-led education programme is highly regarded by teachers across Lancashire and Greater Manchester, and we are designated as a 'safe site' by education authorities. Once Covid restrictions allowed our education programme to resume, from April 2021 and for the remainder of that academic year we saw a successful return of schools with a full diary of 21 school visits totaling in excess of 500 pupils and young learners.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF
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Education continued

The Visitor Centre arson attack meant the loss of the critical education room and a month of educational visits had to be cancelled. The Trust approached the new owner of Cuerden Hall for help and much-needed space in the hall was made available, enabling our education programme to continue. The Trust wrote to the owner to express their gratitude for the practical help provided.

The academic year 2021-2022 has been very successful with visits from 1,200 pupils from 43 schools. The 'Forest Camp' school holiday programme, delivered in partnership with Wood-Sage Outdoor education, resumed in August 2021 and to date we have delivered 10 camps with numbers steadily increasing and a return to full capacity by the end of August 2022.

Health & wellbeing

Cuerden Valley Health Walks are part of a national initiative aimed at encouraging less active or isolated people to get out and enjoy some gentle exercise. The programme was launched in 2010 with an average of 40 people taking part weekly. From April 2020 the Health Walks were suspended due to the impact of Covid 19. During the suspension, there was an announcement from Walking for Health, the national umbrella body, that they had lost Sport England funding which provided insurance and training. The Friends of Cuerden Valley Park Trust group and our volunteers made the decision to successfully continue the programme in-house, and the Cuerden Valley Park Community Health Walks took over from the National Walking for Health Walks in June 2021. The walks take place every Tuesday and Thursday morning, offering an organised group gentle walk around the park which users say boosts their health and brings welcome social engagement in an informal and friendly setting (there is no booking required).

Between June 2021 and March 2022 84 walks took place with a total of 1,977 individual attendances.

Conservation & maintenance

This period has been one of change for the Ranger Team, with several staff leaving and joining. Further change is likely once the incumbent CEO takes up post in autumn 2022 and a new Lead Ranger is recruited. A new Emergency Flood Plan as directed by the Ministry responsible for the Reservoirs Act, has been prepared and the Board accepted and the team implemented the Plan, a key Health & Safety operational document ahead of the deadline.

The Reservoir is a welcome feature on the visitor route for the Park.

Recent annual engineering inspections have highlighted the hydro engineering structures are in need of remedial repair or replacement. We commissioned an Engineers' Report to include costings for the works and we have applied to Homes England for financial support.

The Park is fortunate to have National Cycle route 55 running through its core path network, and in May was approached by Lancashire County Council to implement a large-scale resurfacing and repairs project with national funding from DfT (Department for Transport).

The Parkland Manager liaised with the county authorities' Footpath Project Manager and acted as the Trust's client lead to form a strong working partnership group, carrying out the works over 3 phases to minimise access interruption. The programme of works totaled 7 weeks. This major investment of improvement works was completed on time bringing a much-welcomed multiuser path to the core of the park and estate.

In addition, the national agency Sustrans has approached the Trust to develop and improve the access and gateway principal points and has indicated that grant support for the park to achieve an "Access for All" status may be available. These works would build on the initial path project works. Feedback from regular park users has been encouraging along with first time visitors who intend to return for repeat visits.

Another notable project underway is the Meadow & Link Bridge Project, delayed by the Covid years, this has just commenced having recently received planning approval for the creation of a linking path, meadow plots and replacement of a defunct timber bridge across the river valley. This will create better access for all with an easy gradient path, directly from the valley floor level to the Visitor Centre & Cafe. It will also be a green learning asset for the Education team.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF
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Conservation & maintenance continued

Plans to apply for what would have been the Park's 13th Green Flag Award at the beginning of the year were put on hold following an in-house audit which highlighted the poor state of the infrastructure and landscape likely to have seen our application refused. The Board supported the strategy of delaying the application for 12 months to enable necessary repairs to all known areas with defects and deficiencies, using the 8 core principles of the award. This audit was useful in highlighting the need for major capital investment required to improve the standards of maintenance. Grant funding may be available for some of these works and will be a priority for the incoming CEO to progress.

The known presence of *Hymenoscyphus fagineus* (Ash die back) on the estate and its woodland compartments has been a concern for the Parks management team. The costs for controlled felling and removal is beyond the current small department budget, mainly because the affected trees are adjacent to highways which requires specialist arboriculture contractors and potential costly temporary traffic restrictions. These works are beyond the capacity of the in-house Ranger service and will raise the issue of extra funding for the Board to meet its general Duty of Care and add financial pressure to cash flow and income streams. This issue is added to the Risk Register.

The Park and Ranger service continue to work in partnership with our local support groups, such as the Friends and volunteers' group, actively assisting on fund raising events and supporting environmental protection projects or survey works critical to the environmental protection of the estate's diverse habitats.

Several years of fundraising efforts by the Friends group will now see the Wildflower Meadows Project begin the Planning phase led by our specialist Ranger. The Project will deliver a 3-year Meadow Creation scheme which will address a national deficiency in species-rich grasslands and meadow lands. The Board recognises that the tremendous input of many hours of free time given by the Friends' and volunteer groups working alongside the Rangers on a shared vision of improving the environment and landscape. The Board and the Heads of Department would like to register their profound gratitude for the combined efforts which have brought this project to fruition.

A recruitment campaign to develop and build capacity within the volunteer groups has begun in order to engage more local help with our core work.

Other partnerships developed include a strong link with DNata, a global company with Head Offices close to the Park. Led by the Park and Education Heads of Department a project to build a multi-purpose Centre to enable the necessary increase in education facilities was begun in 2021 and has since moved to the feasibility stage. This will support the Trusts' environmental education ethos and bring capacity for other associated events and activities.

The estate has for many years raised and sold wood for domestic burning, a recent audit has concluded this side function is not financially viable, notwithstanding the recent introduction of a national registration process with registration annual fees and associated costs totaling more than our timber sales income has led to the cessation of wood sale for burning. It also has to be recognised that as an environmental entity the trust and estate need to lower its' carbon footprint and recognise the ecological benefit of leaving felled woodland timber at "woodland floor" for natural sequestration and diversity values.

The Park and estate continue to serve its core functions under increasing financial pressure and with an infrastructure that is not fit for purpose with a small, dedicated team supported by a proactive Board and a professional and dedicated Ranger service. The strategic direction is clear and shared across the whole team and the need to develop the resources necessary to deliver greater benefits is recognised as a challenge. However, the team are as committed as ever because the land they protect matters more than ever to a greater and more diverse audience.

Fundraising

In past years the Trust's fundraising activity was heavily weighted towards events. Covid 19 and the loss of the CEO has affected this over the last two years, with the initial cancellation of all physical events, followed by an uncertain period where the public and volunteers were unsure about restarting the programme. The Trust has had to diversify its approach, in common with many other charities, towards digital and online platforms for fundraising. The plan is to add capacity to the team by recruiting a Digital Communications officer to develop the online marketing and fundraising opportunities.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF
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Fundraising continued

A programme of events is now under way following the disruptions of the last two years. Summer camps are proving very popular, and they incorporate educational elements for the participating children. The incoming CEO brings experience in the organisation of events including light shows over water which are being considered at Clayton Brook Reservoir. The Christmas with Stickman incorporating Santa's Grotto, is also planned again for this year to give children and their parents a special memory at Christmas.

The Trust plans to engage with the traditionally hard-to-reach elements of our local communities. For example, we are exploring the incorporation of Diwali celebrations in October 2022 and family Iftars at the Visitor Centre during Ramadan 2023.

The Friends' Committee organised a second very popular online Dog Show event in 2021 which raised significant funds for new equipment for the Rangers and a pond dipping platform for the Education programme.

Visitor Centre

In February 2018 the Trust moved into the new Visitor Centre. The Trust leases part of the building to its wholly owned trading subsidiary, Cuerden Valley Café Ltd, to operate the café business. The Café (trading as Cuerden View Café) performed beyond expectations in the first two years' trading. The Trust's education programme and administration functions are run from the remainder of the Visitor Centre.

The café trading figures were recovering post COVID 19 and reaching those of 2019 when the Arson attack of September 2021, as previously detailed, impacted on both the café and also the educational programme of the Trust.

The popularity of the Café and the Educational programme has made it clear to the Trustee's that the building in its current form is insufficient for the two elements to expand to meet demand alongside each other. Architectural drawings, structural calculations and kitchen expansion plans have been drawn up to increase the capacity of the Café and the kitchen. There are also plans to expand the outdoor seating area, linking into the wildflower meadow path. It is envisaged that this seating area will provide a surface that is accessible for all, with sensory planting for example, expanding the appeal of the Park to all.

Any changes to the Café must support Education and as such the planned expansion of the educational programme and its base going forward will be detailed later in this report.

Car parks

The Trust has outsourced car park management and uses a solar-powered ANPR system, which has improved the revenue performance of parking and reduced anti-social behaviour and out-of-hours littering. Car parking income is the largest and most cost-effective source of income for the Trust.

However, Car park management issues remains a key element of the Park's operation that invites negative comments from the visitors. To mitigate this, the Trustees and the CEO will explore more user-friendly options to minimise visitor complaints.

The Trustees are also looking to increase car park capacity at the northern end of the park where it adjoins the M6 motorway. Here there is potential for an electric vehicle charging facility with a Trust food and beverage outlet. This would increase revenue and provide an additional service to the wider community. Provision of electric-charging points enhances the commitment to minimising the impact of travel on the environment.

Volunteering

Volunteers are essential to the success of the park and Trustees are grateful for all the time and skills given. Volunteering spans every area of activity including Office Administration, assisting the Education Officer with school groups, setting up events such as the monthly Food & Craft Market, and working alongside the Rangers to maintain the Park.

The Rangers host monthly Conservation Sundays, focusing on specific tasks and these are an ideal starter day for potential volunteers wishing to get involved in the maintenance and conservation of the Park.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF
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Volunteering continued

The number of volunteer days recorded for the year was 456 (based on 7 hours a day). The figures relate to 95 individuals conducting between 1 to over 250 hours each. This is a 230% increase on the previous year and 66% of the 2019-2020 figures. Whilst the impact of Covid restrictions had been removed many volunteers have chosen different paths of volunteering. The impact of the Arson attack in September 2021 also affected the hours normally worked by some volunteers.

The Trust are also aware that more support hours are carried out on a variety of tasks that are not fully captured. The volunteer contribution has an equivalent value of £48,792 or 2.5FTE. The Trust hopes to considerably expand the volunteer programme following the appointment of a new CEO who has a proven track record of delivering successful volunteer programmes.

The volunteer programme assists across varied tasks including Admin, Balsam-removal, Education, Estate work, Events, F&C markets, Health Walk leaders, Litter picking, Orchard/gardening and assisting the Wildlife Officer. We also have scout groups and school groups who come to do litter picking and balsam bashing.

Friends of Cuerden Valley Park

The active membership of the Trust (Friends) was 175 (including 102 family memberships) on 31 March 2022, an approximate 10% increase on 2021.

At the AGM in October 2021, the committee members were elected with two Trustees, Susan Marsden and David Beattie co-opted onto their Board. The remaining nine places filled by ordinary Members. The committee then selected officers at its meeting on 2 November (via Zoom) with Jack Spickett elected Chair, Janet Clark -Treasurer and Sheila Tuffrey - Membership Secretary with David Beattie taking the Vice Chair position.

The Friends' income is held as restricted funds to be used for the purpose of funding specific projects and equipment for use in the park.

During this year the Friends provided grants to the Trust for the purchase of:

- New sack truck to enable safe transportation of items needed for the Food and Craft market.
- Defibrillator, mainly from donations raised at the Food and Craft market. Installed on the wall of the Visitor Centre and available, if needed, for all park users.
- Hidden Wildlife cameras used by the Park Wildlife Officer to better monitor animal activities around the park.
- Sand Martin nesting boxes on the edge of the reservoir, creating an educational opportunity for the Trust's programme as well as enhancing the habitat available for these protected birds.
- Friends organised another successful online Dog Show in December 2021 which raised funds for Educational and Rangers equipment/projects £1,500.

The Wildflowers project launched June 2021, designed to enhance the pollinators' vegetation corridors throughout the Park, has been warmly welcomed by the local community and we had raised £2,250 towards a target of £3,000 by March 2022.

Meeting our objectives

The Trust has despite encountered and overcome many hurdles to meet its objectives for the year, not least of which was the maintenance of a healthy cashflow and operating within the budget.

The end of the Covid 19 pandemic, loss of the CEO and Parkland Manager and an arson attack significantly affecting the F&B offer and Education provision which impacted on the Trusts ability to generate income. As the Trust emerges from this period of uncertainty, it is now well placed with an experienced new CEO in place and multiple projects under consideration.

The Trust are also in the process of recruiting a Digital Communication Engagement Officer to ensure the digital footprint and reach the Trust is contemporary and effective. The focus remains building brand, reputation, and positive visitor experiences to underpin fundraising efforts and income generation. The CEO has confirmed his intention to work closely with the Trustees on strategic development opportunities, including potential development of surplus assets such as Lower Wood End Farm.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF
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Meeting our objectives continued

The Trust is now finalising its a new Strategy, and this will be completed under the new CEO in the Autumn of 2022. This will ensure that the Trust continues to meet the needs of its communities and fulfil its charitable objects, while addressing issues of infrastructure investment and statutory obligations.

Overall, the Trust has emerged from a testing 12 months without any impact on the safe working practices for staff and visitors. 2022 marks the start of a recovery. The Trust's activities and performance have been affected by various factors, some of which, remain outside its control. The steps taken by the Trustee's with the support of specialist consultants and a committed workforce during the year have ensured it has continued benefit the park's users and to work towards achieving its long-term objectives.

Financial review

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year is set out on page 15 of the Financial Statements.

The Trustees approve a detailed budget of income and expenditure prior to the start of each year as the basis for the programme of the work to be undertaken during the year. During this year the Trust set a budget accounting for returning to normality post Covid. This Budget looked to make savings and reduce spending in some areas, to maintain a positive cashflow during a time of impending crisis in the charity sector.

The Trust's two main sources of income during the year which are key to supporting the Trust's objectives, are car parking, and profit donation by trading subsidiary company. This year we saw car parking reduce significantly post Covid, and fundraising has not yet returned to pre-Covid levels. The income that the Trust derives from the investment of the original endowment and subsequent small additions to unrestricted funds, continues to be an important and reliable income stream.

Budgeted income was planned to remain static, however this was updated at the start of the financial year based on the lower-than-expected parking revenue. A number of maintenance events have also fallen into this financial year, a number of these works were required to ensure the park met the required safety standards. Overall, the lower income and increased expenditure initially led to a deficit for the year, however a number of investments have matured, and we will be drawing down on those which will take us to a neutral position at year end. Reductions in other cost areas also meant that while the accounts showed a deficit for the year before revaluations, the overall reductions in both income and expenditure led to a similar deficit to that originally included in the budget.

The final result as shown by the Statement of Financial Activities however also reflects the movement in the investments during the year which is effectively outside the Trust's control and is therefore not included within the annual budget. The movement of the stock market continues to impact on our investments and the low rise in financial markets generally over the year has resulted in an increase of £8,584 in the value of the Trust's investment portfolio, after the large rise in the markets in the 2020/21 financial year as a re-adjustment of the pre-Covid losses. The result also includes the annual depreciation charge, both for the farm buildings situated in the park and the Visitor Centre, which are also not included in the budget, as a non-cash expense, as well as the recent revaluation of the farmland and buildings.

The final net result as set out on page 15 of the accounts was a surplus of £261,223, subject to the gains on the revaluation of the tangible fixed assets and the investments.

The Trust remained in a stable financial position at the year-end as shown by the Balance Sheet and the net assets total had improved as a result of the rise in the valuation of the tangible fixed assets and the investments over the year. The results and the year end position were however not significantly affected by other events during the year.

Reserves

In March 2020 the Trust adopted a Reserves Policy to ensure adequate unrestricted free cash is held to cover unforeseen eventualities, such as a drop-in income or unexpected repair bills. The Trust set the level of reserves at between 3 and 6 months-operating costs (currently £1,012 per day). The funds set aside as free-cash reserves at 31 March 2020 were about £30,000 which is considerably less than the minimum required and sufficient for 30 days operating cost. Insufficient cash reserves are a significant risk to the Trust given the scale and breadth of its activities and liabilities and the Trustees are pursuing development plans to produce capital receipts that will address this risk.

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Reserves continued

Out of the total funds at the year-end of £3,762,537 as shown on the Balance Sheet, £188,066 represents restricted funds not available for general purposes. A further £2,047,500 represents the funds arising from the inclusion of farm land and buildings at valuation which cannot be disposed of without triggering the clawback provision from the Home and Communities Agency as set out further in the detailed notes to the accounts. The remaining balance of funds of £1,526,971 is mainly held as investments and other liquid assets for the purpose of the ongoing generation of income.

Investment policy and return

The Trustees are authorised by the Memorandum and Articles of Association to make and hold investments under the powers available in the Trustees Act 2000. These powers have been exercised on behalf of the Trust by the fund managers Sanlam Private Investments (UK) Ltd who were reappointed in March 2017. Currently the Trust does not constrain the investment policy with social, environmental or ethical matters. The investment policy is reviewed on an annual basis.

The objective of the charity investment policy is to maximise income consistent with maintaining the value of the capital in real terms. This has been implemented by investment in mainly fixed income and UK equities with some exposure to international equities, alternatives and cash but there has been a greater emphasis on investment in the US equity market in recent years to benefit from the more stable environment for investments and the greater capital growth within that market.

The Trust's aim was to generate income from its Portfolio during the year of about £36,000 but a lower return of £33,049 was achieved at an annual income yield of 2.57%, a little down on the return in the last three years. This return still reflects an earlier move into a greater exposure in the US equity market where the level of income return tends to be lower while achieving a greater degree of capital growth. However, investment in technology stocks has been restricted to avoid subsequent reversals after initial short-term gains.

After the fall in the market during 2019/20 due to concerns over the Covid pandemic, there was a significant rise in the value of the Trust's investments in 2020/2021 as the market re-adjusted in the subsequent period. After this general market improvement however, the market was much quieter in 2021/22 and there was a reduced overall return for the Portfolio for the year of about 5% which is in line with the ARC Charity Balanced Asset Index, the benchmark used to measure performance by the fund managers.

The reduction in short-term deposits held by the Trust following the construction of the Visitor Centre, led the Trust to recommence the withdrawal of income generated by the Portfolio on a monthly basis from 2018 onwards. These continued withdrawals have helped to supplement the income generated from other sources for funding the Trust's activities throughout the year.

Future Plans

The Trust's core purpose is to secure a long-term financial future of the Park. In the next 12 months the following objectives have been set which will help achieve the overall mission and purpose of the Trust:-

- Maintain the park to the highest possible standards as an amenity for all
- Enhance and develop the educational programme
- Ensure the safety of staff, volunteers and public in all our activities
- Agree and achieve a Budget that balances operational needs with financial viability.
- Ensure that Cuerden Valley Café Ltd remains commercially viable and agile, embracing potential expansion to meet the demand of a developing market
- Diversify and develop the fundraising activities
- Explore and apply for external grant funding to build a sustainable future for the Park
- Progress the asset-disposal programme to generate funds for capital investment in the long-term maintenance and conservation of the Park Review the Park Strategy and Business Plan
- Actively seek to recruit new Trustees and develop a succession plan for future governance.

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Future Plans continued

At the time of writing, the Trust has rebuilt its activities following the pandemic with its finances intact. It has suffered an arson attack which impacted on the Education programme and a series of failed recruitment campaigns meant it has been without a CEO for over 9 months, with the Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer dealing with the operational issues which would have been dealt with by the CEO.

As we look forward to the newly appointed CEO taking up the position in September 2022, along with a newly recruited Lead Ranger and Digital Communications Engagement Officer later that month the Trust is embarking on what is expected to be a strong fresh future driven by a dynamic Senior Management team. This team have a proven background in Fundraising, Conservation, Education and Events providing security and vision for the future.

In this context, many of the objectives for this next year to March 2023 reflect the fact that the Trust is now able to address the impact of the last 12 months on the Trust's finances and activities. Maintaining the Park to high standards has been a great challenge due to issues around staff retention and additional workload, in the absence of the CEO for the SMT.

However, high standards remain a constant aim. The Trustees and SMT recognise that there is considerable work to do to catch up with the increased impact of visitors and climate change, against a backlog of conservation work.

The arson attack in late September 2021 at the Visitor Centre resulted in immediate closure of the Café, Classroom and Office for a period of 17 days during post-fire clean up and temporary boarding up of damaged areas. The Trust was fully insured for material damage and business interruption, and full repairs to the building were completed in June 2022, following a closure of 6 weeks. The Trust is still awaiting the business interruption assessment as the insurers carry out their comparison.

This was an additional project for staff and Trustees to manage, resulting in extra work and in the absence of a CEO resulted in delays to other programmes and objectives.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The Trustees (who are also the Directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report, which also incorporates the Directors' Report for company law purposes, and the financial statements in accordance with 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).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which they must not approve unless they are satisfied that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the profit or loss for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Directors are required to:

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

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining 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.

In so far as each of the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the company's auditors in connection with preparing their report) of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF
CUERDEN VALLEY PARK TRUST
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Trustees' responsibilities continued

- the Trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as Trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

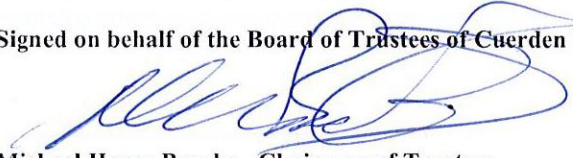
The auditors Smith & Goulding Limited will be proposed for reappointment in accordance with Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011.

Small company rules

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies' regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and in accordance with the Governing Instrument.

This report has been approved by the Board of Trustees and is signed on its behalf.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees of Cuerden Valley Park Trust


Michael Harry Brooks - Chairman of Trustees

Dated:

28/11/22

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS
TO THE TRUSTEES OF CUERDEN VALLEY PARK TRUST

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Cuerden Valley Park Trust (the "Charity") for the year ended 31 March 2022 on pages 15 to 25 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, 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).

This report is made solely to the Charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under Section 154 of that Act. The trustees have elected for the financial statements to be audited in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 rather than the Companies Act 2006 and were not required by s. 399 of the Companies Act 2006 to prepare group accounts for that year. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Charity's trustees those matters that we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 Charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report or for the opinions we have formed.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity's affairs as at 31 March 2022 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;
- 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 Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Charity in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including FRC'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 charity'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 Auditor's 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS
TO THE TRUSTEES OF CUERDEN VALLEY PARK TRUST

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 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;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns;
- we have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit;
- the directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemption from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 7, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they 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 trustees are responsible for assessing the Charity'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 trustees either intend to liquidate the Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's 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 auditor's report that includes our opinion. As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit.

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. 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:

- 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;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charitable company through discussions with trustees and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the charity sector;
- 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 charity, including the Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation and data protection, employment, environmental and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
-

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

TO THE TRUSTEES OF CUERDEN VALLEY PARK TRUST

- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

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.

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; and
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias.

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;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with relevant regulators and the company's legal advisors.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Smith & Goulding Limited

SMITH & GOULDING LIMITED
Chartered Accountants
& Statutory Auditor
2-4 Southport Road
Chorley
Lancashire PR7 1LD

Dated: 30 November 2022

CUERDEN VALLEY PARK TRUST

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
AND STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	Endowment Funds £	Unrest- ricted Income Funds £	Rest- ricted Income Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	2	-	51,832	9,271	61,103	110,966
Other trading activities	3	-	49,930	2,429	52,359	50,431
Income from investments	4	-	33,108	-	33,108	34,180
Income from charitable activities:	5					
Promotion and preservation		-	97,885	-	97,885	104,288
Improvement/development		-	1,972	-	1,972	42,600
Educational activities		-	7,770	-	7,770	175
Total income and endowments		-	242,497	11,700	254,197	342,640
Expenditure on:						
Expenditure on raising funds		-	23,799	-	23,799	35,869
Expenditure on charitable activities:						
Promotion and preservation		-	181,895	-	181,895	186,315
Improvement/development		-	75,825	3,557	79,382	84,155
Educational activities		-	20,779	-	20,779	18,042
Total expenditure	7	-	302,298	3,557	305,855	324,381
Net gains/ (losses) on investments	12	-	41,031	-	41,031	142,182
Net income/(expenditure)	8	-	(18,770)	8,143	(10,627)	160,441
Transfers between funds	15	-	3,029	(3,029)	-	-
		-	(15,741)	5,114	(10,627)	160,441
Gains(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	11	-	271,850	-	271,850	-
Net movement in funds		-	256,109	5,114	261,223	160,441
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		1,201,138	2,117,224	182,952	3,501,314	3,340,873
Total funds carried forward		1,201,138	2,373,333	188,066	3,762,537	3,501,314

All of the above results are derived from continuing operations. There were no incoming resources attributable to geographical markets outside the United Kingdom (2021 none).

All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above.

The net loss for the year on ordinary activities for Companies Act purposes, which comprises the total income less expenditure for the year and realised gains (losses) on investments, was £24,517 (2021 net profit £74,487). The notes on pages 17 to 25 form part of these financial statements.

An analysis of the comparative figures for total funds for 2021 is set out in note 6 of the accounts.

CUERDEN VALLEY PARK TRUST
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

			2022		2021
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		2,337,473		2,085,352
Investments	12		<u>1,291,738</u>		<u>1,283,155</u>
Total fixed assets			3,629,211		3,368,507
Current assets					
Debtors	13	64,545		33,345	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>148,435</u>		<u>151,024</u>	
Total current assets		212,980		184,369	
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>79,654</u>		<u>51,562</u>	
Net current assets			<u>133,326</u>		<u>132,807</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>3,762,537</u>		<u>3,501,314</u>
The funds of the charity:					
Endowment funds			1,201,138		1,201,138
Restricted income funds			188,066		182,952
Unrestricted income funds					
General funds		2,054,329		2,083,960	
Revaluation reserve		<u>319,004</u>		<u>33,264</u>	
Total unrestricted funds			<u>2,373,333</u>		<u>2,117,224</u>
Total charity funds	15		<u>3,762,537</u>		<u>3,501,134</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and constitute the annual accounts required by the Companies Act 2006 and are for circulation to members of the company.

For the financial year in question, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006; The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on *28/3/22* and are signed on its behalf by:

Michael Harry Brooks - Chairman of Trustees

Company Registration Number: 1994107

The notes on pages 17 to 25 form part of these financial statements.

CUERDEN VALLEY PARK TRUST

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

1. General information

Cuerden Valley Park Trust is a registered charity, number 1002888, and is a company limited by guarantee, registration number 1994107, incorporated in England and Wales. The address of the Park office is: Cuerden Valley Park Visitor Centre, Berkeley Drive, Bamber Bridge, Preston PR5 6BY and the Company's registered office is: 4 Southport Road, Chorley PR7 1LD.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland'.

3. Accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation

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 parent, and group headed by it, qualify as small as set out in section 383 of the Act and the group is not ineligible as set out in section 384 of the Act. The accounts therefore present information about the charitable company as an individual undertaking and not as a group. The investments in subsidiary companies are carried in the parent's financial statements at cost.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of freehold land and buildings and investments which are shown at market value. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the entity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, in view of its level of reserves and the currently anticipated plans for expenditure. The preparation of the financial statements may require the trustees to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date and the amounts reported for income and expenditure during the year. However, the nature of estimation means that the actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. The judgements that have had the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements relates to the estimate of the useful economic lives of the various fixed assets in the accounts for the purpose of the depreciation charge and the allocation methods used for the apportionment of expenditure between the restricted and unrestricted funds. The carrying value of the fixed assets after depreciation is disclosed in the notes to the accounts.

(b) Fund accounting

Unrestricted income funds comprise accumulated surpluses and deficits on general funds that are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and that have not been designated for other purposes. Restricted income funds are funds subject to special conditions imposed by the donor and are not available for purposes other than those specified by the donor.

(c) Income recognition

Turnover is the amount derived from ordinary activities and is stated net of VAT. All income is 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. Donations and grants are included in incoming resources when they are receivable, except when the donors specify that they must be used in future accounting periods or donors' conditions have not been fulfilled, when the income is deferred. Interest on funds held on deposit and loans to group undertakings is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity. Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due. Rental income is recognised in accordance with the period specified in the rental agreement.

CUERDEN VALLEY PARK TRUST

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

(d) Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals' basis, inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered. Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a 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 including pension costs has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category. Where costs cannot be attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Staff costs are apportioned between activities on the basis of time spent by the individual staff members. Premises expenses are apportioned on the basis of floor space used for the activities.

Fundraising costs and direct charitable costs, which comprise all costs identified as wholly or mainly attributable to achieving the objects of the charity, include staff costs, wholly or mainly attributable support costs and an apportionment of general overheads. Support costs include all expenditure not directly related to fundraising or charitable activities. Where applicable, such costs are apportioned to charitable activities on the basis of total direct costs. Governance costs represent the costs of audit fees and trustees' indemnity insurance.

(e) Pension costs

The Trust operates a defined contribution scheme through the government's Nest scheme for its employees in general and also pays contributions to the individual personal pension schemes of some employees. The pension charge represents the amount payable by the charity to the individual schemes for the year.

(f) Tangible fixed assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation with the exception of freehold land and buildings which are stated at valuation less depreciation. Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost. Heritage assets are not capitalised where there is no reliable cost information or conventional valuation approach available.

The carrying values of tangible fixed assets are reviewed for impairment if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

Land and Buildings	2% straight line
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance basis
Equipment	25% reducing balance basis

(g) Investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The statement of financial activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year. The Trust does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments. Investments in group undertakings are accounted for at cost less impairment losses in the company's accounts as an individual undertaking.

(h) Debtors

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

(i) 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 four months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

CUERDEN VALLEY PARK TRUST

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

(j) Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

(k) Financial instruments

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

2. Donations and legacies

	2022	2021
	£	£
Donations	57,060	89,992
Grants	<u>4,043</u>	<u>20,974</u>
	<u>61,103</u>	<u>110,966</u>

The government grants received of £4,043 (2021 £20,974) relate to the funding from various Covid-19 support packages. The Trust has also benefited from the services of unpaid general volunteers each year, the value of which is not recognised in the accounts. Further information regarding the contribution made by volunteers to the Trust's activities is set out in the Trustees' Report.

3. Other trading activities

	£	£
Income from various non-charitable trading activities	12,212	12,923
Income from fundraising events	5,324	2,655
Income from letting	32,251	33,270
Other income	<u>2,572</u>	<u>1,583</u>
	<u>52,359</u>	<u>50,431</u>

4. Income from investments

	£	£
Listed investments	33,049	33,929
Cash investments	<u>59</u>	<u>251</u>
	<u>33,108</u>	<u>34,180</u>

The investment income from listed investments includes income from non-UK investment assets of £17,792 (2021 £18,462).

5. Income from charitable activities:

	£	£
Income from charitable trading activities:		
Provision of parking facilities	93,984	100,087
Grants	5,873	46,801
Income from educational activities	<u>7,770</u>	<u>175</u>
	<u>107,627</u>	<u>147,063</u>

CUERDEN VALLEY PARK TRUST

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

6. Statement of Financial Activities analysis of comparative figures

	Endowment Funds	Unrest- ricted Income Funds	Rest- ricted Income Funds	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	-	102,061	8,905	110,966
Other trading activities	-	49,373	1,058	50,431
Income from investments	-	34,180	-	34,180
Income from charitable activities				
Promotion and preservation	-	104,288	-	104,288
Improvement/development	-	42,600	-	42,600
Educational activities	-	175	-	175
Total income and endowments	-	332,677	9,963	342,640
Expenditure on:				
Expenditure on raising funds	-	35,869	-	35,869
Expenditure on charitable activities:				
Promotion and preservation	-	186,315	-	186,315
Improvement/development	-	80,598	3,557	84,155
Educational activities	-	18,042	-	18,042
Total expenditure	-	320,824	3,557	324,381
Net gains (losses) on investments	-	142,182	-	142,182
Net income/ (expenditure)	-	154,035	6,406	160,441
Transfers between funds	-	8,047	(8,047)	-
	-	162,082	(1,641)	160,441
Gains(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	-	162,082	(1,641)	160,441
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	1,201,138	1,955,142	184,593	3,340,873
Total funds carried forward	1,201,138	2,117,224	182,952	3,501,314

CUERDEN VALLEY PARK TRUST

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

7. Total expenditure

	Direct Costs £	Support Costs £	Total 2022 £	Direct Costs £	Support Costs £	Total 2021 £
Expenditure on raising funds:						
Salaries & wages	8,777	922	9,699	16,957	1,231	18,188
Fundraising events	1,650	-	1,650	8,981	-	8,981
Premises expenses	-	-	-	-	9	9
Depreciation	501	-	501	(1,074)	-	(1,074)
Equipment & maintenance	-	-	-	-	643	643
Telephone & stationery	-	449	449	-	339	339
Legal & professional fees	-	170	170	-	572	572
Promotional costs	541	15	556	539	37	576
Sundry expenses	-	502	502	-	149	149
Rates, light & heat	-	106	106	-	52	52
Governance costs						
Auditors remuneration	-	414	414	-	579	579
Indemnity insurance	-	32	32	-	47	47
Portfolio management fees	-	9,463	9,463	-	6,808	6,808
Restricted funds						
Fundraising events	257	-	257	-	-	-
	<u>11,726</u>	<u>12,073</u>	<u>23,799</u>	<u>25,403</u>	<u>10,466</u>	<u>35,869</u>
Expenditure on charitable activities:						
Unrestricted funds						
Park contract work	12,507	-	12,507	17,968	-	17,968
Car park maintenance	8,476	-	8,476	7,729	-	7,729
Salaries & wages	115,439	18,288	133,727	152,665	12,181	164,846
Motor expenses	8,592	-	8,592	8,823	-	8,823
Premises expenses	-	-	-	287	87	374
Depreciation	15,670	-	15,670	11,015	-	11,015
Equipment & maintenance	15,170	-	15,170	20,880	6,357	27,237
General insurance	20,233	-	20,233	20,466	-	20,466
Telephone & stationery	175	8,901	9,076	-	3,353	3,353
Legal & professional fees	19,082	3,375	22,457	-	5,663	5,663
Promotional costs	282	302	584	3,266	368	3,634
Sundry expenses & recruitment	-	9,967	9,967	-	1,467	1,467
Training	3,050	-	3,050	1,499	-	1,499
Rates, light & heat	5,252	2,107	7,359	3,130	514	3,644
Governance costs						
Auditors remuneration	-	8,218	8,218	-	5,726	5,726
Indemnity insurance	-	641	641	-	464	464
Restricted funds						
Park contract work	990	-	990	-	-	-
Equipment & maintenance	1,782	-	1,782	1,047	-	1,047
Depreciation	3,557	-	3,557	3,557	-	3,557
	<u>230,257</u>	<u>51,799</u>	<u>282,056</u>	<u>252,332</u>	<u>36,180</u>	<u>288,512</u>
Expenditure on raising funds	11,726	12,073	23,799	25,403	10,466	35,869
Expenditure on charitable activities:						
Promotion and preservation	148,673	33,222	181,895	162,865	23,450	186,315
Improvement/development	64,659	14,723	79,382	73,695	10,460	84,155
Educational activities	16,925	3,854	20,779	15,772	2,270	18,042
	<u>241,983</u>	<u>63,872</u>	<u>305,855</u>	<u>277,735</u>	<u>46,646</u>	<u>324,381</u>

CUERDEN VALLEY PARK TRUST

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

8. Net income/expenditure	2022	2021
is stated after charging	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		
- owned by the company	19,729	17,826
Auditors remuneration - audit fees	4,316	3,153
- other financial services	<u>4,316</u>	<u>3,153</u>
9. Staff costs and numbers		
Wages and salaries	130,039	165,397
Social Security costs	6,969	9,265
Employer's contribution to personal pension schemes	<u>6,418</u>	<u>8,372</u>
	<u>143,426</u>	<u>183,034</u>

No employee received employee benefits of £60,000 per annum or more. The total employee benefits of the Trust's key management personnel were £31,046 (2021 £38,098). The total average monthly number of employees, analysed by function was:

	2022	2021
General manager (full time)	1	1
Park manager (full time)	1	-
Park rangers (full time)	2	2
Estate workers (full time)	1	2
Office manager (part time)	1	1
Education officer (part time)	1	1
Marketing officer (part time)	-	1
Operations manager (full time)	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>

10. Trustees remuneration and expenses

The Trustees received no remuneration, benefits or expenses from the Trust during the year (2021 none). There were no related party transactions during the year that require disclosure (2021 none).

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Land and Buildings	Equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£
(a) Cost/valuation				
At 1 April 2021	2,121,000	43,302	49,886	2,214,188
Additions	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	226,500	-	-	226,500
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2022	<u>2,347,500</u>	<u>43,302</u>	<u>49,886</u>	<u>2,440,688</u>
(b) Depreciation				
At 1 April 2021	54,280	37,946	36,610	128,836
Charge for year	15,070	1,339	3,320	19,729
Revaluations	(45,350)	-	-	(45,350)
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2022	<u>24,000</u>	<u>39,285</u>	<u>39,930</u>	<u>103,215</u>
(c) Written down values				
At 31 March 2022	<u>2,323,500</u>	<u>4,017</u>	<u>9,956</u>	<u>2,337,473</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>2,066,720</u>	<u>5,356</u>	<u>13,276</u>	<u>2,085,352</u>

The freehold land and buildings are stated at valuation and the carrying amount under the cost model would have been £2,643,719 (2021 £2,681,018). All tangible fixed assets are used for or to support charitable purposes.

CUERDEN VALLEY PARK TRUST

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

Heritage assets

The Trust owns and manages an area of about 650 acres that comprises parkland and tenanted farmland & buildings that constitute Cuerden Valley Park, as recorded in the title deeds of the properties. The original transfers from the Commission for the New Town include covenants of re-entry and 'clawback' where a change of use might be proposed. This, in effect, prevents the Trust from trying to raise funds from the sale of land. To the best of the Trust's knowledge these covenants run for the 'perpetuity period' of 80 years.

In the earlier years of the charity, following discussions with the Trusts' land agents, the assets had not been included as part of tangible fixed assets since no reliable cost information was readily available, nor were there any conventional valuation approaches that were sufficiently reliable. However, the Trust consulted its land agent and other valuers to see whether a valuation could be determined for the tenanted farmland & buildings and, as a result, these assets have subsequently been included at valuation in the accounts, less depreciation to date for the farm buildings, as part of the figure for freehold land and buildings under tangible fixed assets

The farmland was valued by the independent chartered surveyors SHP Valuers Limited in 2022 at £1,535,000 on the basis of its open market value. The independent chartered surveyors AJP Surveyors Limited valued the farm buildings in 2022 at a figure of £512,500 and also valued the Visitor Centre in 2018 at £300,000 on the basis of their current values in use. The carrying value of the heritage assets in the accounts at the year-end after the annual depreciation charge was £2,047,500 (2021 £1,784,720). The remaining parkland has not been capitalised since there is still no reliable cost information or valuation approach that can be applied to this asset. The gain on the revaluation of the freehold land and buildings is disclosed as gains/ (losses) on revaluation of fixed assets in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 15 of the accounts.

	2022	2021
	£	£
12. Fixed asset investments		
Listed investments	1,291,738	1,283,154
Equity investments in group undertaking	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>1,291,739</u>	<u>1,283,155</u>
Listed investments		
Market value at 1 April 2021	1,283,155	1,147,728
Additions	446,628	301,591
Disposal proceeds	(479,076)	(308,346)
Gains (losses) on disposal	27,141	56,228
Gains on revaluation	<u>13,890</u>	<u>85,954</u>
Market value at 31 March 2022	<u>1,291,738</u>	<u>1,283,155</u>
Historic cost at 31 March 2022	<u>1,147,983</u>	<u>1,153,289</u>
UK investments	668,804	627,641
Non-UK investments	<u>622,934</u>	<u>655,514</u>
	<u>1,291,738</u>	<u>1,283,155</u>

The market value of listed investments includes cash pending of £81,806 (2021 £114,890) held as part of the investment portfolio. All the listed investments are held to provide an investment return for the charity and are not programme related investments made primarily as part of the Trust's charitable activities. At the year end the Trust's listed investments included holdings of 53,985 units valued at £65,484 in the Fidelity Strategic Bond Y Class, 65,000 units valued at £73,807 in the Royal London Sterling Extra Yield Bond and 6,314 units valued at £62,640 in the Stewart Asia Leaders Fund which exceeded 5% of the total market value of investments at 31 March 2022 and are therefore considered material in the context of the investment portfolio (2021 108,140 units valued at £71,059 in the Jupiter Strategic Bond, 53,985 units valued at £70,665 in the Fidelity Strategic Bond Y Class, 65,000 units valued at £75,289 in the Royal London Sterling Extra Yield Bond, 568 units valued at £62,498 in the Sanlam GBP Hybrid Capital Fund and 6,314 units valued at £60,241 in the Stewart Asia Leaders Fund).

CUERDEN VALLEY PARK TRUST

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

Group undertaking

The Trust owns the 1 issued ordinary share in Cuerden Valley Café Limited, a company incorporated in England and Wales, registered number 09864122, whose registered office is 4 Southport Road, Chorley PR7 1LD. The company has been set up to run the café in the Trust's Visitor Centre. At its year end on 31 March 2022 the aggregate amount of its capital and reserves was in credit by £59,705. The company's aggregate assets and liabilities at the year-end were £89,680 and £29,975 respectively. The turnover for the period was £443,844, the expenditure was £421,196 which included a donation paid to the Trust during the year of £37,900 (2021 £68,163) and the profit for the period was £22,648.

	2022	2021		
	£	£		
13. Debtors				
Trade debtors	16,048	45		
Other debtors	4,760	161		
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>43,737</u>	<u>33,139</u>		
	<u>64,545</u>	<u>33,345</u>		
14 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	£	£		
Trade creditors	16,237	37,337		
Accruals and deferred income	53,834	8,125		
Taxes and social security costs	<u>9,583</u>	<u>6,100</u>		
	<u>79,654</u>	<u>51,562</u>		
15. Total charity funds				
Unrestricted income funds	Expendable endowment	General funds	Revaluation, reserve	Total
	£	£	£	£
Fund balances b/fwd at 1 April 2021	1,201,138	2,083,960	33,264	3,318,362
Income	-	242,497	-	242,497
Expenditure	-	(302,298)	-	(302,298)
Transfer	-	3,029	-	3,029
Revaluation	-	-	271,850	271,850
Gains and losses	-	27,141	13,890	41,031
Fund balances c/fwd at 31 March 2022	<u>1,201,138</u>	<u>2,054,329</u>	<u>319,004</u>	<u>3,574,471</u>

The unrestricted funds relate to the original endowment granted to the Trust for the maintenance of the parkland, together with further subsequent funds generated and invested for the same purpose. The Trust also received a further endowment during 2014 from the Homes & Communities Agency for the upkeep of a parcel of land situated on Sheep Hill Lane.

Restricted income funds	Friends of CVP	Visitor Centre	Total
	£	£	£
Fund balances b/fwd at 1 April 2021	15,757	167,195	182,952
Income	11,700	-	11,700
Expenditure	-	(3,557)	(3,557)
Transfer	(3,029)	-	(3,029)
Revaluation	-	-	-
Fund balances c/fwd at 31 March 2022	<u>24,428</u>	<u>163,638</u>	<u>188,066</u>

The restricted fund of £24,428 (2021 £15,757) represents income received by the Friends of Cuerden Valley Park which is earmarked for particular expenditure projects for the Trust and funds of £3,029 (2021 £8,047) were transferred from the restricted fund for this purpose during the year. The restricted funds of £163,638 (2021 £167,195) represent donations and grants received for funding part of the cost of the new Visitor Centre. The directors consider that the resources of each fund are held in the appropriate form to meet the fund's requirements.

CUERDEN VALLEY PARK TRUST

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

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2022 are represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	2,173,835	163,638	2,337,473
Investments	1,291,738	-	1,291,738
Current assets	188,552	24,428	212,980
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>(79,654)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(79,654)</u>
 Total net assets	 <u>3,574,471</u>	 <u>188,066</u>	 <u>3,762,537</u>

17. Share capital

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital.

18. Capital commitments

At the year end the Trust had not entered into any contracts of a material nature which are not included in this year's accounts (2021 none).

19. Pension commitments

The Trust pays monthly contributions into a defined contribution scheme through the government's Nest scheme for its employees in general and also pays contributions to the individual personal pension schemes of some employees. The pension charge represents contributions payable by the Trust to the various schemes and amounted to £6,418 for the year (2021 £8,372) in respect of eleven members of staff (2021 nine). At the Balance Sheet date, there were no unpaid contributions due by the Trust (2021 none).

20. Events after the reporting date

In late September 2021, a fire at the Visitor Centre caused a limited amount of damage but the impact reduced the level of the activities of the Trust and its subsidiary company particularly while the remedial work on the building was being carried out in the immediate post Balance Sheet period. As a result of the consequent reduction in income generated both in the immediate aftermath of the fire and during the repair work, an insurance claim has been made which is expected to cover all of the relevant costs and loss of earnings with no impact on the Trust's assets or ongoing resources. A final claim has recently been submitted and is now being reviewed by the insurance adjustors for settlement in due course.