

Charity registration number 1040076

Company registration number 2873432 (England and Wales)

THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Simon Ward FRICS Claire Norwood BSc FCA CTA J G Murray CDA CDFM Mike Edwards BSc FRES Nicholas Sherwin MA LLM Solicitor Michael Hadley Robert Windle FRICS FAAV Alice Parfitt BSc(Hons) P D Stevens	(Appointed 19 November 2024)
Secretary	Claire Norwood BSc FCA CTA	
Charity number	1040076	
Company number	2873432	
Principal address	Heyshott Farmhouse Leggs Lane Heyshott Midhurst West Sussex GU29 0DJ	
Registered office	Piper House 4 Dukes Court Bognor Road West Sussex Chichester PO19 8FX	
Independent examiner	Alain Mardle FCA Greens Court West Street Midhurst West Sussex GU29 9NQ	
Bankers	Lloyds TSB Bank plc 5 The Square Petersfield Hampshire GU32 3HL	

THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST

CONTENTS

	Page
Trustees' report	1 - 2
Independent examiner's report	3
Statement of financial activities	4
Balance sheet	5
Notes to the accounts	6 - 13

THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the trust's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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)"

Objectives and activities

See Chairman's Report and reserve reports.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the company should undertake.

Achievements and performance

See reserve reports.

Financial review

See Treasurer's Report.

It is the policy of the company that unrestricted funds held in the current bank account which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between six and twelve month's expenditure. The Trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the company's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. Investments are retained at such a level to generate sufficient income to allow activities to be maintained. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

The directors have assessed the major risks to which the company is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management

The trust is a company limited by guarantee (no. 2873432) incorporated on 19 November 1993 and is a registered charity (no. 1040076). The trust's objects are the preservation, protection, development and improvement of land of specific interest or natural beauty. The trust achieves its objects with the help of volunteers and paid contractors as necessary.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Gerard Ryan QC MA Deceased (Resigned 20 November 2024)

Simon Ward FRICS

Claire Norwood BSc FCA CTA

J G Murray CDA CDFM

Mike Edwards BSc FRES

Nicholas Sherwin MA LLM Solicitor

Michael Hadley

Robert Windle FRICS FAAV

Alice Parfitt BSc(Hons)

P D Stevens (Appointed 19 November 2024)

None of the Trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the Trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The charity is administered by a board of 9 directors/trustees who meet approximately 8 times a year including governance meetings and site visits. Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the charity has the power to make any investments which the trustees see fit.

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Nicholas Sherwin MA LLM Solicitor

Trustee

Dated: 15 July 2025

THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST

I report on the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 4 to 13.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner

The company's Trustees, who are also the directors of The Murray Downland Trust for the purposes of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- (i) examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- (ii) to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- (iii) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - (i) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - (ii) to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities;have not been met or
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Alain Mardle FCA

Chartered Accountant
Greens Court
West Street
Midhurst
West Sussex
GU29 9NQ

Dated: 13 November 2025

THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<u>Income from:</u>					
Donations and legacies	3	20,963	-	20,963	206,862
Charitable activities	4	26,135	-	26,135	8,291
Investments	5	18,755	-	18,755	13,116
Total income		<u>65,853</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>65,853</u>	<u>228,269</u>
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
Charitable activities	6	42,407	398	42,805	17,285
Total resources expended		<u>42,407</u>	<u>398</u>	<u>42,805</u>	<u>17,285</u>
Net (losses)/gains on investments	10	5,896	-	5,896	(2,327)
Net movement in funds		<u>29,342</u>	<u>(398)</u>	<u>28,944</u>	<u>208,657</u>
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		<u>458,390</u>	<u>14,789</u>	<u>473,179</u>	<u>264,522</u>
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		<u><u>487,732</u></u>	<u><u>14,391</u></u>	<u><u>502,123</u></u>	<u><u>473,179</u></u>

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

		2025		2024	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		111,729		110,759
Investments	13		245,150		239,253
			<u>356,879</u>		<u>350,012</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	14	14,350		5,000	
Cash at bank and in hand		132,324		119,168	
		<u>146,674</u>		<u>124,168</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	1,430		1,001	
		<u>1,430</u>		<u>1,001</u>	
Net current assets			145,244		123,167
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>502,123</u>		<u>473,179</u>
The funds of the company					
Restricted income funds	16	14,391		14,789	
Unrestricted funds		487,732		458,390	
		<u>502,123</u>		<u>473,179</u>	

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 15 July 2025

Claire Norwood BSc FCA CTA
Trustee

Company registration number 2873432 (England and Wales)

THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Company information

The Murray Downland Trust is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Piper House, 4 Dukes Court, Bognor Road, West Sussex, Chichester, PO19 8FX.

1.1 Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the company's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019). The company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The company has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the company.

1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the company is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the company has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the date of receipt.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the company has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and represents amounts receivable for goods and services provided in the normal course of business, net of discounts, VAT and other sales related taxes.

1.5 Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised on an accruals basis.

Charitable expenditure includes those expenses directly related to charitable activities and includes related support costs.

Reserve expenditure includes £16,863 in relation to replacement fencing.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Land and buildings	No depreciation
Equipment	20% Straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset for which the estimates of future cash flows have not been adjusted.

If the recoverable amount of an asset is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised immediately in income/ (expenditure) for the year, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation decrease.

Recognised impairment losses are reversed if, and only if, the reasons for the impairment loss have ceased to apply. Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but so that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately, unless the relevant asset is carried in at a revalued amount, in which case the reversal of the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation increase.

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.10 Financial instruments

The company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the company's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Donations and gifts	5,072	105,929
Membership fees	1,541	933
Legacies	14,350	100,000
	<u>20,963</u>	<u>206,862</u>

4 Charitable activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Performance related grants	<u>26,135</u>	<u>8,291</u>

THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Income from listed investments	13,770	12,547
Interest receivable	4,985	569
	<u>18,755</u>	<u>13,116</u>

6 Charitable activities

	Nature reserve care 2025 £	Support costs 2025 £	Sundry expenditure 2025 £	Legal and professional fees 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Depreciation and impairment	1,379	-	-	-	1,379	910
Operating costs	37,023	357	-	-	37,380	13,365
Other expenditure	-	-	1,235	2,811	4,046	3,010
	<u>38,402</u>	<u>357</u>	<u>1,235</u>	<u>2,811</u>	<u>42,805</u>	<u>17,285</u>
	<u>38,402</u>	<u>357</u>	<u>1,235</u>	<u>2,811</u>	<u>42,805</u>	<u>17,285</u>
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	38,004	357	1,235	2,811	42,407	17,285
Restricted funds	398	-	-	-	398	-
	<u>38,402</u>	<u>357</u>	<u>1,235</u>	<u>2,811</u>	<u>42,805</u>	<u>17,285</u>
For the year ended 31 March 2024						
Unrestricted funds	13,637	638	708	2,302		17,285

Reserve expenditure includes £16,863 in relation to replacement fencing.

7 Description of charitable activities

Conservation of grassland
Upkeep of nature reserves

8 Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the company during the year, but 5 (2024: 6) of them were reimbursed a total of £4,389 (2024: £3,208) for postage, printing, stationery and sundries.

THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

9 Employees

There were no employees during the year.

10 Net (losses)/gains on investments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Revaluation of investments	5,896	(2,327)

11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2024	107,121	4,548	111,669
Additions	-	2,349	2,349
At 31 March 2025	107,121	6,897	114,018
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 April 2024	-	910	910
Depreciation charged in the year	-	1,379	1,379
At 31 March 2025	-	2,289	2,289
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2025	107,121	4,608	111,729
At 31 March 2024	107,121	3,638	110,759

THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

13 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 31 March 2024	239,253
Valuation changes	5,896
	<hr/>
At 31 March 2025	245,149
	<hr/>
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2025	245,149
	<hr/> <hr/>
At 31 March 2024	239,253
	<hr/> <hr/>

Fixed asset investments revalued

The historic cost of the investments is £224,635 (2024 - £224,635).

14 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other debtors	14,350	5,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other creditors	710	281
Accruals and deferred income	720	720
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,430	1,001
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

16 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2024 £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2025 £
Warden Fund	7,000	-	7,000
Ash Tree Fund	7,789	(398)	7,391
	<u>14,789</u>	<u>(398)</u>	<u>14,391</u>
Previous year:	At 1 April 2023 £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2024 £
	14,789	-	14,789
	<u>14,789</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,789</u>

17 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	At 31 March 2025 £
General funds	458,390	65,853	(42,407)	5,896	487,732
	<u>458,390</u>	<u>65,853</u>	<u>(42,407)</u>	<u>5,896</u>	<u>487,732</u>
Previous year:	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	At 31 March 2024 £
General funds	249,733	228,269	(17,285)	(2,327)	458,390
	<u>249,733</u>	<u>228,269</u>	<u>(17,285)</u>	<u>(2,327)</u>	<u>458,390</u>

Unrestricted

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Fund balances at 31 March 2025 are represented by:			
Tangible assets	111,729	-	111,729
Investments	230,759	14,391	245,150
Current assets/(liabilities)	145,244	-	145,244
	<u>487,732</u>	<u>14,391</u>	<u>502,123</u>