Company registration number: CE000516

Charity registration number: 1152615

Birds of Poole Harbour

(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 March 2026

Charity registration number: 1152615

Birds of Poole Harbour

Contents

Trustees' Report	1 to 19
Reference and Administrative Details	18
Independent Examiner's Report	20
Statement of Financial Activities	21 to 22
Balance Sheet	23
Notes to the Financial Statements	24 to 37

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report

Trustee Report 2025-2026

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable incorporated organisation for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Objects:

Birds of Poole Harbour is a CIO based in Dorset, dedicated to understanding, improving and interpreting the local birdlife through delivering local conservation and outreach projects with national impact. We became established as a charity in 2013, with the core objectives of:

Delivering innovative and high-impact conservation projects focused on reversing ecological population decline as well as initiating habitat creation with project partners.

Delivering a calendar of public engagement events and outreach programmes, including school education programmes, and improving engagement infrastructure across the Poole Harbour area.

Developing a working knowledge of the bird populations and habitats within the Poole Harbour area through commissioning and conducting studies and surveys

Introduction:

From Paul Morton, Chair of Trustees, and Laura Timms, Charity Manager

---

Once again, this has been our most successful year to date for Birds of Poole Harbour, made possible by the continued dedication of our team and the generosity of our supporters. With a strengthened structure and an expanded staff team, we have built on previous successes and continued to grow, particularly in the scale and impact of our public outreach.

A clear reflection of this progress was our recognition at the Dorset Tourism Awards 2025, where we received our second Gold Award for Learning Experience of the Year for our Safari Cruises. We were also selected to represent Dorset at the national VisitEngland Awards, a significant achievement. Although we did not progress to the finals on this occasion, the nomination itself highlights the strength of our work.

We are currently preparing our application for the 2026 Dorset Tourism Awards and intend to enter two categories: Learning Experience of the Year for our Osprey Cruises and the Regenerative Tourism Award.

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report

The Osprey Project has had another fantastic year, with the pair at Carey's Secret Garden successfully rearing four chicks, and the 2nd Nest site had a successful breeding season.

With improvements to the Osprey webcams, we have seen a fantastic number of people engaging with the nest at Carey's this year, and have also benefited from upscaling the tours running in partnership with Carey's Secret Garden.

Our Young Birders Club has gone from strength to strength, with over 200 young people now signed up and continued support from the Cameron Bespolka Trust, providing more free opportunities for young people to engage with nature and our local landscape.

Looking ahead to 2026/27, we will be bringing on Humphrey Keeper into our permanent team to support all things engagement, helping us continue this growth in our engagement work and expand the impact of our conservation projects. Helen Rushby will also be joining us permanently as our Finance and Operations Officer.

Helen joined the team in November on a temporary contract and has been a huge asset and support to Laura and the team. We will also welcome Liv back from maternity leave as our Communications and People Support Officer.

Who we are:

Our Vision:

Inspiring hope for nature

Our vision is simple: that we are able to inspire people through our project work and educational events, so that they feel hopeful for the future of nature in Poole Harbour and beyond. Local nature recovery projects and high-quality, informative events delivered with passion and enthusiasm are essential to achieving this vision.

Our Mission:

To innovate and deliver bold projects and educational events that benefit Poole Harbour's birdlife and local community.

Our Values:

Authentic: Birds of Poole Harbour (BoPH) was founded by people deeply passionate about Poole Harbour's birdlife, and this passion resonates throughout our team and volunteers. We value the individual personalities and opinions of each of our staff and what they bring to their roles. We speak up for what we care about and believe in.

Kind: We strive to always be kind, whether it's to our environment, employees or customers. We appreciate that everyone comes from different backgrounds, has various levels of experience and knowledge, and are joining our events for their own reasons. We seek to make everyone feel welcome and ensure that they get the most out of our events.

Ambitious: Our ambition is two-fold. Firstly, we aim to be innovative and bold with the projects that we deliver to support our birdlife and the local environment. Secondly, we are driven to run our events to the highest possible standard, working hard to keep our information up to date, interesting, and engaging for all who attend.

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report

Effective: We operate as a small team, so being effective is essential. We don't want to waste time or money getting tied up with unnecessary bureaucracy. We want to identify ways we can support our local environment and its community and make it happen.

Our Impact:

Conservation Projects:

Poole Harbour Osprey Project

The 2025 Osprey breeding season was once again the best we could have possibly hoped for, with multiple key successes. For the second time in 2-years, our resident breeding pair raised four chicks. This is an incredible achievement for the project, with 3 males and 1 female being raised, meaning there's a high chance one or two will return to the Poole Harbour area to breed in future years.



2025 Carey Osprey Chicks 5R6, 5R4, 5R3 & 5R5 from the nest before fledging

Not only did we achieve success here within Poole Harbour, but we also saw the successful establishment of a second nest, which is brilliant news. Based on our findings and planning back in 2024, we were able to take an educated guess on where our second pair may establish in 2025, and by building a relationship with a landowner in that area, we were able to secure the establishment of the second nest. The male from that nest was one of our translocated male Ospreys '374', and the female, '1H1', is a wild-fledged bird from the Rutland area. They successfully raised 2 young, which we believed to have been 2 females. The evolution of the project didn't end there, as we saw the return of two juveniles that had fledged from our nest at Carey Secret Garden, a female known as '5H1' and a male known as '5H3'. Remarkably, female '5H1' established a territory up near Rutland, very close to where her Mum fledged 10 years previously, with 5H1 raising 3 young of her own. This is a big milestone for the project as we're beginning to see multi-generational success and an interconnectivity with other UK populations. Our new returning male '5H3' spent the whole of the summer in Poole Harbour, actively visiting multiple different nest sites.

This bodes well for the Spring of 2027, when we hope the project will see a third nest established in Southern England.

Brittany's PhD

In 2025/26 Brittany made more excellent progress with her PhD. She completed writing her first chapter and submitted it as a paper to a prestigious academic journal: the British Ecological Society's Journal of Animal Ecology. This paper was still under the review process at the end of the financial year. This is a significant milestone for both her own research career and for Birds of Poole Harbour as our first submission to a peer review journal. Brittany also completed analysis for her second chapter and wrote up the methods and results, alongside continuing analysis for her third chapter. She is due to hand in her thesis in July 2026 and will complete her viva examination towards the end of 2026.

Recovering Populations:

Dorset Swift Communities

Introduction from 2023/24: In February 2023, the Dorset Swift Network was established to coordinate the monitoring of Swift populations in Dorset and their conservation. The network comprises conservation partners across Dorset, including BoPH, BCP Council, Dorset Council, Dorset Bird Club, Christchurch Harbour Ornithological Group, Purbeck and Swanage Swift Group, Dorchester Bird Club, Dorset Wildlife Trust, the Parks Foundation and Wimborne Swifts.

From 2024 to 2025, the Dorset Swift Network continued to provide an important opportunity for groups to share contacts and advice for Swift box installation, conservation, and public engagement. Back in 2023, we fundraised through the Aviva Save our Wild Isles Fund, raising £9,705. The funding criteria stated that the majority of the money must be spent in areas of higher deprivation, to benefit local communities. Data from Swift Mapper and Indices of Multiple Deprivation were used to produce priority postcodes.

In 2025/26, the Swift Project developed considerably, with a new free Swift Box initiative launched in the Autumn. We received over 160 applications from the public across Dorset, which were then analysed to find locations that were in priority areas for Swifts. Over the winter we were able to deliver over 40 boxes and callers to properties across the county, from Poole to Charminster. A further 50 boxes were distributed to Swifts groups, as well as Weymouth Town Council, as part of the Dorset Swift Network, all purchased from John Stimpson. BoPH continued to coordinate the Dorset Swift Network, with quarterly meetings enabling groups to discuss ideas to further support local Swift populations. In early Spring 2026, we contacted Adam Day of FPCR to see if we could get a live webcam setup in his Swift box in Wareham. Using the Swift fund we were able to get this set-up ready for the pair to return.

From 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, a further £4,314.89 was spent from the Swift fund, largely on Swift boxes and callers.

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report



Swift Boxes Installed on



Swift Network

Purbeck Chough Reintroduction Feasibility Study

The Purbeck Chough Reintroduction Project is a collaboration with the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation, the National Trust and Natural England, seeking to restore breeding Choughs to the Purbeck coast after 120 years' absence. Discussions started in 2022, and in August 2025 we completed our feasibility study and submitted a license application to Natural England. Progress with this application and the project as a whole has been delayed whilst waiting for the national statutory nature agencies to produce Chough translocation guidelines, alongside challenges in gaining support for the project from the groups who monitor nests in Cornwall and Wales (the proposed donor populations), who are cautious about the impacts of collection on their population trends. To address their concerns, Brittany conducted Population Viability Analysis (PVA) modelling on each population, which demonstrated that the proposed collection numbers had a very low probability of negatively impacting either population. At the end of the financial year, David Brown at the National Trust organised a meeting with senior colleagues in the summer to help secure permission for collection from them as landowners. We hope to gain final landowner permissions and be granted a licence in Autumn 2026 and to begin the translocation process in May 2027.

Surveys:

WeBS (Wetland Bird Survey)

The Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) scheme is managed nationally by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and assesses the health of important wetland bird populations across the UK, including Poole Harbour, through volunteer-led surveys. The winter assemblage of wetland birds in Poole Harbour is a qualifying feature of the Poole Harbour Special Protection Area (SPA), and so it is important that WeBS is accurately coordinated and carried out each winter. Birds of Poole Harbour manages these surveys, giving us the opportunity to educate the public about the importance of WeBS and the impact of citizen science projects in protecting our local landscape. The surveys are conducted by 32 dedicated volunteers, many of whom have been involved for over 10 years. Their contributions to the WeBS surveys directly contribute to Poole Harbour's ongoing protection and designation.

We also commissioned a Winter Corvids of Poole Harbour Study, which is now published free on our website. This survey was to assess the change in status of all corvid species (Jackdaw, Rook, Carrion Crow and Raven) across Poole Harbour to understand roost and feeding sites for a family of birds that are often largely overlooked and ignored.

In May 2025 we conducted our annual survey on the important gull breeding islands in Poole Harbour which host breeding Black-headed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull and Oystercatcher, as well as two Poole Harbour SPA (Special Protection Area) feature species, Mediterranean Gull and Sandwich Tern.

Trustees' Report

With the Mediterranean Gull being a protected Schedule 1 species, we need to conduct these surveys under licence from Natural England, which we do with help from professional surveyor David Chown. The survey in 2025 was carried out on May 14th, and the results were somewhat disappointing. Having had a record number of Mediterranean Gull nests in 2023 (278 nests), we were disappointed with a return of only 43 nests in 2025. This is still important data and will allow us to start assessing how we can help support this species elsewhere in the harbour and how we can potentially secure and safeguard these islands in both the near and distant future.

Having been able to build and grow our Public Bird Boat offer, this has allowed us to assess the harbour in great detail right through the calendar year. Each trip now allows us to survey and record birds seen during the trip, with the data from each trip getting uploaded onto the online platform eBird. This data is then extracted and used within the Dorset Bird Club annual report publication, which assesses bird populations and trends across Dorset.

Our Impact: Public Engagement and Education

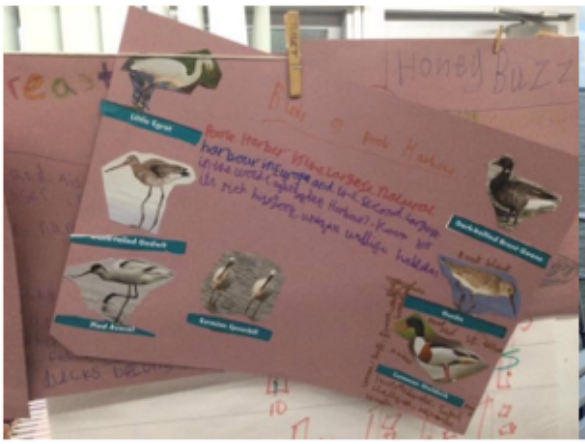
School Bird Boat Project

We have been delivering the School Bird boat Project since the charity was founded, and view it as one of our most important pieces of engagement work. During the winter and early spring, we offer local primary schools free 2-hour harbour boat trips, including travel to and from Poole Quay. With an ever-improving landscape, we feel it’s our duty to not only inspire and enthuse the general public but also inform and showcase this remarkable place to local school children. Over the last few years, these trips have evolved dramatically as we’re now able to show the children the direct results of various conservation projects, including hunting Ospreys and fly-by White-tailed Eagles. This is now starting to change the baseline understanding of what local children consider ‘normal’ within their home areas. White-tailed Eagles and Ospreys have been absent from this landscape for centuries. However, these children will now grow up having experienced these iconic species as being a part of their natural heritage, effectively resetting a historic environmental injustice. On every trip this season, we showed the children one or more of the following: White-tailed Eagle, Marsh Harrier, Peregrine Falcon or Osprey. These exciting and charismatic species will hopefully demonstrate nature recovery and the importance of conservation to all the children on these trips, with memories they will never forget.

Education is a significant part of these trips. Each child receives their own pair of binoculars for the duration of the trip, bringing them even closer to the birds. We demonstrate and discuss with all the children the bountiful nature of Poole Harbour, the important protections, and the busy human aspects of the area. Each child learns to identify a range of birds, interesting facts about the harbour and nature recovery, while also having the opportunity to complete worksheets after the trips. All of this works to give the children an engaging and inspiring outdoor education experience focused on nature and birds.

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report



Posters designed by local primary school children



Children enjoying one of our 2025 School boats

We were able to run these trips free of charge again this year thanks to generous sponsorship from cosmetics company Lush. This funding covered the cost of the boat and coach hire, allowing children from local schools to attend free of charge. Lush has kindly confirmed that they will continue to sponsor the School Bird Boat Project in 2026 - 2027

Over the 2025-2026 School Bird Boat Season, we ran a total of 21 School Bird Boats, with 927 children from 16 schools, thanks to continued funding from Lush. We took out fewer boats than usual due to cancellations caused by bad weather; these will be rescheduled for the 2026/27 season.

Young Birders

In September 2025, we secured funding for a second year of our Poole Harbour Young Birders Club. This project was once again very kindly supported by the Cameron Bespolka Trust, with the idea being to provide free monthly events to 13-18-year-olds on the topic of birds and conservation in Poole Harbour.



Young Birders Christmas Talks & Bird Quiz - December 2025

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report

This year, we've hosted a whole range of exciting events to inspire young people, including visits up to the Osprey Viewing Platform, a Nightjar Walk, 2 Boat Trips including Summer and Winter Birds and Conservation Cruises, bird ringing demos and lots more. One of the most inspiring events was a Bird Talk and Quiz event that was led by our young birders in December 2025. 4 young birders presented to each other on various topics, including Birds of Prey and year-listing.



With very supportive funding from Mark and Mo Constantine, we initiated a project with the Young Birders Club to conduct baseline wildlife surveys across the Carey and Hyde estate. This involved placing 30 trail cameras and 6 sound recorders across land that is undergoing rewilding. This will give the Young Birders fantastic opportunities to learn in the field skills of monitoring equipment and then become remote volunteers for BoPH in analysing the data we collect. 2 workshops are planned, and one took place in March 2026.

After a year and a half of running the Young Birders Project and holding monthly free events for 13-18 year olds, we have a total of 180 young people signed up to the club. They all have access to the free events and receive communications surrounding the project. The project will continue to grow and develop with more young people and run more inspiring events, hopefully inspiring the next generation of birders and conservationists.

Conservation Careers Talks

In November, we launched a new project to develop our education work, thanks to funding from the Cameron Bespolka Trust, to deliver 10 Conservation Careers Talks to secondary schools, colleges, and universities during our quieter periods between November and March. The aim is to inspire local young people about the fantastic nature recovery work happening locally and to show them that conservation is a viable career route, no matter their background or skillset. Over the winter, we delivered 5 talks at different schools, speaking to hundreds of secondary and primary school students and inspiring them to consider a future career in the conservation sector. A particular highlight was giving a talk to 400 year 10s and 11s at Poole High School, with some of them having been on school bird boats when they were younger. Next winter we plan on delivering the remaining 5 talks with the funding we have left.

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report



Our Event Schedule

Our education and engagement events have expanded significantly over the past few years, educating and inspiring a wide range of people. We feel this is such an important part of nature conservation. By providing uplifting, educational engagement, we are hopefully encouraging more and more people to care about nature's recovery. Not only this, but it also benefits people's learning and mental wellbeing, providing connection and access to nature.

People are now travelling from across the country to see and learn about the pioneering nature recovery work taking place here, whether it be species reintroductions, rewilding projects, or landscape-scale nature recovery. Our events interpret this nature recovery in an inspiring, educational way by providing examples of species recovery in action, such as Osprey, White-tailed Eagle, and Spoonbill. We show people these charismatic species of conservation importance while interpreting identification, ecology and conservation in a relaxed and informative manner. We now know that a large proportion of people travel from outside Dorset to attend our events, and many stay for multiple nights in the local area, with the primary reason for travel being to attend a BoPH trip.

The 2025-2026 period was a highly successful and diverse year of public engagement, featuring a strong programme of cruises, guided tours, educational events, and community outreach activities. Participation peaked during the summer months, driven by Osprey-related tourism, and remained consistently strong throughout the rest of the year. Overall, events operated at an average capacity of 84%.

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report



White-tailed Eagle G463 chased down female Osprey CJ7 - Matthew Robbins - 2025

We delivered 385 paid events in total, including 199 osprey tours, 180 boat trips, and a range of additional activities such as ringing demonstrations, guided walks, identification courses, and other specialist wildlife experiences. Through our paid events programme, we engaged approximately 13,000 people, while many more participated in our free activities, including guided walks, pop-up events, local community gatherings, and fairs. Together, these events enabled us to connect with a broad and diverse audience.

BoPH maintained an exceptional standard of event delivery throughout the year, as reflected in 595 TripAdvisor reviews, of which 587 were rated Excellent, and 8 were rated Good. We also continued to attract a high proportion of visitors from outside Dorset, accounting for approximately 50-60% of attendees and making a significant contribution to ecotourism growth in the area.



2025 Dorset Tourism Awards - Gold Winners for Active & Learning Experience of the Year

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report

Carey Osprey Tours were delivered successfully for the third consecutive year. Continued refinements to the structure and interpretation of these experiences resulted in a more interactive and engaging visitor experience, helping to deepen visitors' understanding of Osprey conservation and the wider landscape.

As our events programme has expanded and the number of people we engage with has continued to grow, it has been particularly rewarding to receive recognition for our work. In late 2025, we were proud to be awarded Gold at the Dorset Tourism Awards for the second consecutive year in the Active & Learning Experience of the Year category for our Safari Cruises. This achievement led to a nomination for the national VisitEngland Awards, and we were also delighted to receive a TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice Award for the third consecutive year.

Online Engagement and Sightings

Through our website and social media, we keep the public informed about our project work and local bird news, and provide thousands of people with an opportunity to engage with wildlife via our webcams.

Website & Sightings Blog

We aim for our website to be a hub of valuable information for a range of people interested in wildlife and birds. In addition to providing extensive information about local birding sites, it is regularly updated with blogs about the Osprey project, keeping the public up to date on the project's progress and the nesting pair.



White Tailed Eagle - G466 - Andy Moody - 2025

Trustees' Report

Our sightings blog is completed daily, highlighting bird records from around the harbour in an accessible way and showing the importance of our local area for nature and as a birding destination. The blog is an essential part of public engagement, encouraging birders to report their local sightings and providing write-ups of the wildlife we experience during our events. It is also a valuable resource for visitors to the area. Our daily sightings blog has, on average, c500 views each evening.

Facebook remains our most popular platform for sharing our conservation and outreach stories, with 17.8k+ followers actively engaging with our posts. We've also been developing our Instagram and TikTok accounts, now with 7,065 and 647 followers, respectively. Short-form video content from our events, particularly safari cruises, has been highly engaging, with up to 147k views on some reels. We no longer post on Twitter due to the negative change in content and algorithms, but we regularly update our Bluesky account, which now has 3.2k followers.

Livestream Webcams

Our Osprey nest web cameras continued to be an important source of engagement, enjoyed by thousands of people online, and shown in schools, offices, libraries, shops, and hospital waiting rooms. We received lovely feedback about the impact on well-being from the cameras from several members of the public, including people who had been bedridden for several months and said that the livestreams had helped them through this challenging period. A teacher of students with Special Educational Needs also said that she played the footage to her class at the beginning of each day, and that it had such a calming influence on them that other teachers asked her what it was she was doing to help the students.

Our Team & Partnerships:

Our Staff & Trustee Board

Staff

During 2025-2026, we saw the team grow and undergo a significant restructure.

In late April, our Charity Manager, Liv, went on maternity leave as she prepared to start a family. We said a fond farewell, and we appointed her maternity cover, Mike, until September, after which the charity underwent a management review and restructure. In November, we welcomed Helen to the team in a part-time, temporary role supporting finance and operations. Helen quickly became a valued member of the team, providing support and continuity during a period of transition and helping to strengthen our internal processes.

In mid-December, the Trustees introduced a revised leadership structure designed to strengthen the charity for the future. As part of this change, Laura, our Operations Manager, stepped into the role of General Manager, while Sam, our Events and Engagement Lead, became Deputy Manager.

In January, we were delighted to welcome back Joe Parker, who left the charity in 2023 to move to Lundy Island. After his time on Lundy, Joe decided to relocate back to Dorset, and we were pleased to offer him a role within our Events and Engagement team. Joe has been warmly welcomed back by our customers and supporters, many of whom were delighted to see a familiar face return to the charity.

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report

In April 2026, we welcomed Humphrey to the team as our Engagement Assistant on a permanent 20-hour-per-week contract. He has already made a fantastic impact, and we have received a great deal of positive feedback from customers, volunteers and staff alike about the knowledge, enthusiasm and energy he brings to the role.

We were also pleased to confirm Helen's transition from a temporary to a permanent contract with BoPH. Since joining us in November, Helen has become a real asset to the charity, supporting both finance and operations. She has played a key role in reviewing and improving internal processes while bringing a fresh perspective to the organisation. Later this year, Helen hopes to begin studying towards her CIMA qualification as she works towards becoming a chartered accountant. This exciting development will further strengthen the charity's in-house financial expertise and support our continued growth.

Trustees

There were no changes to the trustee board in 2025/26. Thank you to all of our trustees for the time they give to support Birds of Poole Harbour.

Volunteers

Much of the work we do as a charity is achieved with the support of our generous volunteers, including on our Osprey Project, School Bird Boat Project and Young Birders Club. We are extremely grateful for the huge effort made this year, with a total of 1220.5 hours given by our team of volunteers during the year, across the following projects:

• Osprey project: 990 hours total
• Osprey monitoring: 498 hours
• Assisting with Carey Osprey Tours: 492 hours
• Event support: 99 hours total
• Fairs and open days: 36 hours
• Osprey pop-up watches: 43 hours
• Nightjar walks: 20 hours
• Young Birders events: 25.5 hours
• School Bird Boat project: 106 hours

Partnership Working

Developing strong partnerships is an essential part of our charity’s work, ensuring we work towards a common goal with organisations to benefit both wildlife and people in the local area. We have highlighted some of the key partnerships that have played an essential role in our work this year.

Greenslade Pleasure Boats: We strengthened our relationship with our boat providers this year, with Greenslade Pleasure Boats continuing to deliver our public trips and taking on our School Bird Boat delivery for the 2024-25 season. We are continually grateful for the high standard of service that Greenslades deliver, allowing us to take pride in the way we run our events with them.

Wareham Arc: Birds of Poole Harbour have sat on the PACEE and Species Recovery sub-groups for the Wareham Arc Landscape Recovery Project planning phase. We are very supportive of this ambitious initiative and look forward to being involved in 2025-26.

Careys Secret Garden: We delivered several events in partnership with Careys Secret Garden this year, including our new Carey Osprey Tours, as well as ringing demonstrations and Osprey-themed events for their Migration Festival in January. (Image: Ringing Demo for National Trust at Careys Secret Garden)

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report

Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation: The Foundation is a long-standing partner of Birds of Poole Harbour, being a key partners in the Osprey Project. This year, our relationship has further developed through our work on the Purbeck Chough feasibility study.

Stour Ringing Group: We delivered our Sunnyside Ringing Demos in partnership with Stour Ringing Group again this year, with the group receiving a share of the profit made from these educational events. We're grateful for their support with these events, which wouldn't be possible without them.

Forestry England: The White-tailed Eagle reintroduction has been a huge success already, galvanising people's excitement for nature recovery. The project was a joint project between Forestry England and the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation. During the course of the year we welcome the Eagle Project team, Steve Eggerton-Read and Imogen Lloyd onto our cruises to talk about the project and how their work complements ours here in Poole Harbour.

The National Trust: The National Trust Purbeck team are responsible for a whole range of great projects in and around the Purbeck landscape. They're also significant landowners in this area; therefore, we've decided to partner with the NT Purbeck team for our proposed chough reintroduction. We've worked closely with their team to identify suitable release sites and to help build relationships with the Cornish NT teams.

Financial Overview:

Overall income and key drivers

Total income increased by £158,033 compared with the previous year, representing a growth of 43.9%. Higher donation levels and strong performance from paid events primarily drove this improvement.

Income from paid events increased by £61,651 (24.4%), reflecting continued demand and successful delivery of the charity's events programme.

Cost of sales - Events

Cost of sales increased by £41,780 (33.9%), reflecting higher events activity during the year. However, income growth exceeded cost increases, resulting in a stronger gross surplus position.

Operating expenses and staffing

Total operating expenses increased by £64,664 (31.3%). The largest element of this increase related to staffing costs, with salary expenditure rising by £60,809 (36.7%). This reflects the investment in staffing resources required to support the charity's activities and growth.

Operating performance

The charity reported an increase in operating surplus of £51,589 compared with the previous year. This reflects the overall strength of income growth, which more than offset increases in both direct costs and operating expenditure.

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report

Summary

The financial results for the year show a positive overall performance, supported by strong growth in donations and paid-event income. While operating costs increased, particularly in staffing, these investments supported higher events programme activity and were accompanied by improvements in both gross surplus and operating surplus. The charity remains focused on maintaining sustainable income streams while managing costs effectively to support its charitable objectives.

Fundraising & Reserves

Fundraising

Our most significant fundraising income is generated online, primarily through our website using JustGiving Checkout, and via specific campaigns hosted on the JustGiving Fundraising. We also fundraise at our events using donation buckets and portable card machines, all of which are optional and entirely donor-led.

In 2025/26, we ran multiple fundraisers throughout the year via JustGiving, alongside our JustGiving Checkout, which allows supporters to make either regular or one-off donations. platform. These included the following campaigns:

- Poole Harbour Osprey Project: 2025 Season
- Purbeck Seabird Survey Fundraiser
- Osprey Project Nest Platforms and Cameras

For our Osprey Project fundraiser, donors could contribute through our public JustGiving page or directly via the JustGiving Checkout on our website. Thanks to their generosity, we raised £5571 in total.

In addition, our General Appeal via JustGiving Checkout raised £7,525 (+ £1,592 in Gift Aid) in unrestricted funds.

Through Gift Aid, we reclaimed a total of £14,195 this year. Please note that this figure does not necessarily relate solely to fundraising activities undertaken in 2025/26, as Gift Aid claims can take a significant amount of time to be processed and received.

Birds of Poole Harbour does not employ professional fundraisers and does not operate a membership scheme.

Donation and grant income summary

Total donation and grant income for 2026 was £197,399, comprising:

- £148,862 unrestricted income, including £130,167 in individual donations, £14,195 Gift Aid and £4,500 unrestricted grants.
- £48,537 restricted income, comprising £28,400 in donations and £20,137 in restricted grants.

This means approximately 75.4% of the total income was unrestricted, providing the charity with flexibility to use these funds where they are most needed.

Birds of Poole Harbour does not employ professional fundraisers and does not operate a membership scheme.

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report

Reserves Statement

Birds of Poole Harbour has established a reserves policy whereby unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets should be maintained at a level sufficient to address the red flag risks identified in our Risk Register. This amount is currently set at £47,287.

Looking ahead to 2026/27, as our team continues to grow, we aim to increase our reserves to cover approximately 3 months of staff salaries, thereby enhancing the charity's financial resilience.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to all our supporters who have donated to the charity or attended our events this year. Special thanks to the following people and organisations for their donations and support this year.

- The Beryl Evetts & Robert Luff Animal Trust
- Lush Cosmetics Ltd
- Mark and Mo Constantine
- BTO
- Tesco Groundworks Program
- Greenslades Pleasure Boats
- Excelsior Coaches
- Stour Ringing Group
- Dorset Tourism Awards
- Visit England
- Careys Secret Garden
- DeterTech
- Dorset Bird Club
- Dorset Police
- Dorset Wildlife Trust
- The Esslemont Trust
- Lord Rockley Trust
- Roy Dennis Foundation
- National Trust
- Natural England
- Wild Justice
- Stephen Norway
- Linda Myers
- Paul Bromley
- The Cameron Bespolka Trust
- Opticron
- Osprey Europe
- BCP Council
- Kong Ltd

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report

Small companies provision statement
This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on ..... and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Paul Morton
Chairman

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report

Reference and Administrative Details

Chairman	Paul Morton
Trustees	Ian Alexander
	Margaret Constantine
	Sam Jolliffe
Charity Registration Number	1152615
	The charity is incorporated in England and Wales.
Principal Office	Carey House Carey Wareham Dorset BH20 7PG
Independent Examiner	PKF Francis Clark Accountants and Statutory Auditors Towngate House 2 - 8 Parkstone Road Poole Dorset BH15 2PW
Bankers	Co-Operative Bank 1 Baloon Street Manchester M4 4BE
	Metro Bank One Southampton Row London WC1B 5HA

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Birds of Poole Harbour for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

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

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 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 charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that can disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable incorporated organisation 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.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on ..... and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Paul Morton
Chairman

Birds of Poole Harbour

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Birds of Poole Harbour ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of Birds of Poole Harbour (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

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

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

*** DRAFT NOT SIGNED BY THE EXAMINER ***

Birds of Poole Harbour

Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 March 2026
(Including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2026 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	2	148,862	48,537	197,399
Charitable activities	3	319,630	-	319,630
Investment income	4	1,049	-	1,049
Total income		469,541	48,537	518,078
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	5	(408,237)	(30,273)	(438,510)
Total expenditure		(408,237)	(30,273)	(438,510)
Net income		61,304	18,264	79,568
Transfers between funds		1,227	(1,227)	-
Net movement in funds		62,531	17,037	79,568
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		100,758	41,869	142,627
Total funds carried forward	15	163,289	58,906	222,195

Birds of Poole Harbour

Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 March 2026
(Including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	2	59,596	42,439	102,035
Charitable activities	3	256,816	-	256,816
Investment income	4	1,193	-	1,193
Total Income		317,605	42,439	360,044
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	5	(317,809)	(28,917)	(346,726)
Total Expenditure		(317,809)	(28,917)	(346,726)
Net (expenditure)/income		(204)	13,522	13,318
Net movement in funds		(204)	13,522	13,318
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		100,962	28,347	129,309
Total funds carried forward	15	100,758	41,869	142,627

The funds breakdown for 2025 is shown in note 15.

Birds of Poole Harbour

(Registration number: CE000516)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2026

	Note	2026 £	2025 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	24,767	26,606
Current assets			
Stocks	12	279	834
Debtors	13	16,887	4,732
Cash at bank and in hand		294,229	213,797
		311,395	219,363
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	(113,967)	(103,342)
Net current assets		197,428	116,021
Net assets		222,195	142,627
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		58,906	41,869
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		163,289	100,758
Total funds	15	222,195	142,627

The financial statements on pages 21 to 37 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on ..... and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Paul Morton
Chairman

Birds of Poole Harbour

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

1 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates
The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance
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)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation
Birds of Poole Harbour meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern
The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The trustees consider there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

The charity adopted Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statemenet in these financial statements.

Income and endowments
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 the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Deferred income

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Investment income

Bank interest is recognised when it is received.

Charitable activities

Engagement centre sales are recognised when goods are sold.

Boat trips and tour income is recognised when the trips take place.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation
Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Office equipment and website	3 and 5 years straight line
Furniture and fixtures	5 years straight line
Conservation assets	3 and 5 years straight line
HQ equipment	3 years straight line
Motor vehicles	10 years straight line

Trade debtors
Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors
Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Fund structure
Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations
The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Donations and legacies;				
Donations from individuals	134,667	28,400	163,067	86,977
Gift aid reclaimed	14,195	-	14,195	15,058
Grants, including capital grants;				
Grants	4,500	20,137	24,637	-
	153,362	48,537	201,899	102,035

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Total 2026 £
Product Sales	418	418
Public Bird Boat Income	262,534	262,534
Other income	52,178	52,178
	315,130	315,130

	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Total 2025 £
Product Sales	939	939
Public Bird Boat Income	204,926	204,926
Other income	50,951	50,951
	256,816	256,816

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Interest receivable and similar income;			
Interest receivable on bank deposits	1,049	1,049	1,193

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Insurance	4,006	4,571
School boat trip costs	14,968	16,359
Surveys	19,013	6,111
Conservation work	11,233	2,199
Repairs, renewals and equipment	2,423	1,961
People engagement	2,781	1,701
Telephone costs	1,322	1,022
Travel and subsistence	2,530	1,819
Computer costs	5,587	6,790
Printing, postage and stationery	735	675
Training	3,744	2,343
Refreshments	-	938
Equipment hire	537	1,272
Public boat trip costs	94,245	72,338
Other costs	1,691	11,870
Publicity	1,324	3,081
Consultancy	780	1,135
Recruitment cost	1,486	555
Student Grant costs	-	2,163
Wages and Salaries	223,958	165,937
Bank charges	651	265
Office costs	1,239	-
Credit card charges	7,067	4,640
Depreciation	15,707	12,736
Governance costs (see note 6)	8,043	11,918
VAT adjustment relating to prior period	-	12,327
Event costs	13,440	-
	438,510	346,726

6 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Unrestricted General £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Independent examiner fees			
Examination of the financial statements	5,950	5,950	5,940
Accountancy Fees	2,093	2,093	5,978
	8,043	8,043	11,918

7 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net incoming resources for the year include:

	2026 £	2025 £
Depreciation of fixed assets	15,707	12,736
Independent Examination Fee	5,950	5,940
Accountancy Fees	2,093	5,978

8 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

9 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2026 £	2025 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	199,920	151,962
Social security costs	17,115	8,693
Pension costs	6,923	5,282
	223,958	165,937

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2026 No	2025 No
Average number of employees	8	6

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

10 Taxation

Birds of Poole Harbour is a registered charity and its activities are therefore exempt from taxation.

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment and website £	Motor vehicles £	Furniture and fixtures £	Conservation assets £	HQ equipment £	Total £
Cost						
At 1 April 2025	54,372	12,500	1,034	113,570	7,825	189,301
Additions	-	-	-	14,017	-	14,017
Disposals	-	-	-	(149)	-	(149)
At 31 March 2026	54,372	12,500	1,034	127,438	7,825	203,169
Depreciation						
At 1 April 2025	54,372	1,354	1,034	98,110	7,825	162,695
Charge for the year	-	1,250	-	14,457	-	15,707
At 31 March 2026	54,372	2,604	1,034	112,567	7,825	178,402
Net book value						
At 31 March 2026	-	9,896	-	14,871	-	24,767
At 31 March 2025	-	11,146	-	15,460	-	26,606

12 Stock

	2026 £	2025 £
Stocks	279	834

13 Debtors

	2026 £	2025 £
Trade debtors	2,517	932
Prepayments	5,053	3,800
Other debtors	9,317	-
	16,887	4,732

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2026 £	2025 £
Trade creditors	33,516	10,368
Other taxation and social security	7,205	11,983
Pension scheme creditor	1,189	889
Accruals	15,734	20,428
Deferred income	56,323	59,674
	113,967	103,342

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

15 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2025 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2026 £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
General Funds	100,758	469,541	(408,237)	1,227	163,289
Restricted funds					
Osprey Infrastructure	4,283	6,855	(5,261)	-	5,877
Swift City Project	8,174	-	(4,296)	-	3,878
PHD - Osprey	7,326	-	-	-	7,326
Conservation Career Talk Project	-	786	(72)	-	714
Feeder Camera	-	2,604	(245)	-	2,359
Puffin and Seabird Survey	-	985	-	-	985
Chough Reintroduction Project	-	4,000	(5,248)	-	(1,248)
School Bird Boats	238	16,560	(14,481)	(1,227)	1,090
Young Birders Club	1,848	3,851	(670)	-	5,029
Holesbay Platform	20,000	12,896	-	-	32,896
Total restricted funds	41,869	48,537	(30,273)	(1,227)	58,906
Total funds	142,627	518,078	(438,510)	-	222,195

Birds of Poole Harbour

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted funds				
General				
General Funds	100,962	317,605	(317,809)	100,758
Restricted				
Osprey Infrastructure	7,039	2,936	(5,692)	4,283
Swift City Project	9,610	-	(1,436)	8,174
PHD - Osprey	9,487	-	(2,161)	7,326
School Bird Boats	2,211	15,044	(17,017)	238
Gull Survey	-	350	(350)	-
Young Birders Club	-	2,464	(616)	1,848
Holesbay Platform	-	20,000	-	20,000
School Binocular Fundraiser	-	1,645	(1,645)	-
Total restricted funds	28,347	42,439	(28,917)	41,869
Total funds	129,309	360,044	(346,726)	142,627

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Osprey Infrastructure - A pioneering 5-year reintroduction program, trying to restore Osprey, a large fish eating bird of prey, to its former breeding grounds after a 200-year absence. The project see's 6 week old Osprey chicks brought down from Scotland and raised and released here in Poole Harbour, in the hope they'll eventually breed here. As part of this project we have launched a fundraiser to cover the cost of some of the infrastructure to help us monitor and engage with the public in the future. Part of this is our Osprey cameras.

The Swift City Project - Swifts are summer visitors to the UK, returning in late April to nest in crevices of older buildings. Sadly, their population has declined by more than 50% in the past 20 years, primarily due to reduced food supply (insects) and loss of suitable nesting sites. Modern building designs no longer provide the cavities swifts need.In response, Birds of Poole Harbour partnered with Saltwater Stone in 2019 to launch the "Swift City" project, installing nest boxes across Old Town Poole and other key sites.

In 2024, this initiative was expanded through the Dorset Swift Communities Project, supported by the Aviva “Save Our Wild Isles Community Fund.” Funds raised were used to purchase and install swift boxes in priority areas across Dorset, identified by the Dorset Swift Network-a partnership including Birds of Poole Harbour, Dorset Bird Club, Swanage Swift Group, Christchurch Harbour Ornithological Group, BCP Council, and Dorset Council. Through this project, 150 nest boxes will be made and offered free of charge for homeowners and building owners in targeted areas, while also encouraging communities to take ownership of local swift populations through engagement, monitoring, and long-term protection efforts.

Osprey PHD placement - For the first time, we have been able to provide funding for a local student to pursue a postgraduate degree in avian biology. Brittany Maxted is a member of the Birds of Poole Harbour team, who has been involved in the Osprey Project since its inception and has managed the translocations for the last three years. The funding we provide covers the costs of her research and tuition fees, whilst she remains employed full-time at Birds of Poole Harbour, dividing her time between work and research, and allowing her to maintain her current role as Osprey Project Officer alongside her studies.

Conservation Careers Talks Project - Birds of Poole Harbour has expanded its offer for young people by offering free conservation careers talks for secondary schools, sixth forms, and colleges in the Poole Harbour area. We are offering 10 free conservation careers talks for 16-18-year-olds. The 45-minute talks with Q&A will include: a variety of conservation career paths with examples; how young people can be involved in nature's recovery in Dorset; and advice on gaining experience in the conservation field. The aim is to inspire and educate the next generation to pursue a career in conservation whilst raising awareness that working with nature is for everyone, no matter your background.

Feeder Camera Fund - We received a grant from a UK trust to fund a new feeder camera to be set up and live -streamed through our website. We know from prior experience that our cameras reach thousands of viewers through livestreams and footage, often shown in schools, public libraries, and hospitals, bringing a diverse, large audience an accessible opportunity. We hope that the cameras will provide engaging and educational insights into birds in our local area for people around the country. This will hopefully deliver numerous benefits for viewers' health and mental well-being, while providing an accessible connection to nature for those who may otherwise be unable to experience it.

Puffin and Seabird Survey Fund - Purbeck's incredible coastline plays host to a small but important range of breeding seabirds, with some species faring better than others. Monitoring these populations is an important ongoing commitment, with many colonies having been assessed since the 1960's. Guillemots and Razorbills are a common sight along the cliffs at Durlston each spring and summer, whilst Kittiwake and Fulmar have been struggling since surveys began. Purbeck's Puffins are also an important and popular feature of this coastline, but with peak numbers now rarely reaching double figures, understanding and assessing their plight is a critical task each year. The National Trust Purbeck team, in partnership with Durlston Country Park (Dorset Council) have done an incredible job coordinating these surveys over the last 15 years, and this year we're looking to help support the partnership by raising funds to ensure the 2026 Purbeck seabird survey can be completed. Funds will be used to charter the survey boat, assign trained seabird surveyors, analyse the data and write up a final report.

Chough Reintroduction Project - This project aims to restore a breeding population of a lost bird species, the Red -billed Chough, to Purbeck in Dorset. We have developed a new methodology which sees 3-4 week old Chough collected from wild nests in healthy populations, translocated to the Purbeck coast, and released into the landscape to establish a new breeding population. The project aims to run for 5 years from 2027 to 2031. The project is funded through philanthropic donations and may be supplemented by grants and public fundraisers.

School Bird Boat Project - Our School Bird project continues to go from strength to strength, and is designed to connect local school children with their local environment. Poole Harbour is an important habitat for a range of species but also for industry and tourism. The focus of the trips is to highlight the link between all of the harbours important dynamics and how those relationships are managed in.

Young Birders Club - At Birds of Poole Harbour, we recognise the importance of inspiring the next generation of conservationists. Our Young Birders Club, for ages 13-18, provides a welcoming community for young people passionate about wildlife. The club runs free events throughout the year, including guided bird ID walks, bird ringing demonstrations, wildlife cruises, and talks from conservationists. Members also gain insights into ecology, bird identification, and conservation practices. No prior experience is required from our members, and we provide assistance with local transport to ensure inclusivity. This initiative has been made possible thanks to the generous support of the Cameron Bespolka Trust.

H**oles Bay Platform** - We are in early discussions with BCP Council regarding the installation of a new public viewing platform overlooking Holes Bay, one of the most important areas of the harbour for birdlife, especially in winter. Similar to the Ham Common Viewpoint, the structure would provide an accessible way for the local community to connect with the area's wildlife. Costs are estimated between £18,000-£30,000. We are grateful to a generous member of the public who has pledged £20,000 towards this project.

School Bird Boat Binoculars Fundraiser - For the past 11 years, our charity has run School Bird Boats, giving up to 1,200 local primary school children each winter the chance to explore and learn about the unique wildlife of Poole Harbour. These trips are provided free of charge thanks to the generous sponsorship of local cosmetics company Lush. Each two-hour trip, run in partnership with Greenslades Pleasure Boats from Poole Quay, takes children across the harbour's diverse habitats. Led by our staff and volunteers, the experience introduces pupils to topics such as bird migration, species adaptations, human livelihoods, and the harbour's designation as a Special Protection Area (SPA).

In recent years, sightings of White-tailed Eagles, Marsh Harriers, and Peregrine Falcons have become highlights of the School Bird Boats. These encounters not only inspire young people but also demonstrate the reality of species recovery and reintroduction projects, bringing conservation to life for the next generation.To ensure every child has the best experience, we provide each participant with a pair of binoculars. After more than a decade of use, many of our school optics had become damaged or worn. While Opticron kindly replaced nearly half of the binoculars free of charge in 2023, we still needed to update the remainder.

In December 2024, we ran a public fundraiser to replace the remaining sets. Thanks to the generosity of supporters, we were able to secure new, high-quality binoculars well-suited to young birders. Any of our usable older binoculars have since been donated to schools for use in classrooms, lessons, and holiday birdwatching kits.

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2026 £
Tangible fixed assets	24,767	-	24,767
Current assets	252,489	58,906	311,395
Current liabilities	(113,967)	-	(113,967)
Total net assets	163,289	58,906	222,195

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	26,606	-	26,606
Current assets	177,494	41,869	219,363
Current liabilities	(103,342)	-	(103,342)
Total net assets	100,758	41,869	142,627

17 Related party transactions

During the year the charity made the following related party transactions:

Lush Ltd
(One of the charity's trustees is also a director of Lush Limited)
During the year ended 31 March 2026, the charity received income of £21,593 (2025 - £23,107) from Lush Limited relating principally to School Bird Boat Project donations and private charter activities. The charity incurred expenditure of £3,378 (2025 - £4,007) with Lush Limited in respect of business tools, software subscriptions, travel, telecommunications and other operating costs. All transactions were conducted on normal commercial terms and at arm's length. At the balance sheet date the amount due to/from Lush Ltd was £Nil (2025 - £Nil).

Company registration number: CE000516

Charity registration number: 1152615

Birds of Poole Harbour

(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 March 2026

Charity registration number: 1152615

Birds of Poole Harbour

Contents

Trustees' Report	1 to 19
Reference and Administrative Details	18
Independent Examiner's Report	20
Statement of Financial Activities	21 to 22
Balance Sheet	23
Notes to the Financial Statements	24 to 37

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report

Trustee Report 2025-2026

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable incorporated organisation for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Objects:

Birds of Poole Harbour is a CIO based in Dorset, dedicated to understanding, improving and interpreting the local birdlife through delivering local conservation and outreach projects with national impact. We became established as a charity in 2013, with the core objectives of:

Delivering innovative and high-impact conservation projects focused on reversing ecological population decline as well as initiating habitat creation with project partners.

Delivering a calendar of public engagement events and outreach programmes, including school education programmes, and improving engagement infrastructure across the Poole Harbour area.

Developing a working knowledge of the bird populations and habitats within the Poole Harbour area through commissioning and conducting studies and surveys

Introduction:

From Paul Morton, Chair of Trustees, and Laura Timms, Charity Manager

---

Once again, this has been our most successful year to date for Birds of Poole Harbour, made possible by the continued dedication of our team and the generosity of our supporters. With a strengthened structure and an expanded staff team, we have built on previous successes and continued to grow, particularly in the scale and impact of our public outreach.

A clear reflection of this progress was our recognition at the Dorset Tourism Awards 2025, where we received our second Gold Award for Learning Experience of the Year for our Safari Cruises. We were also selected to represent Dorset at the national VisitEngland Awards, a significant achievement. Although we did not progress to the finals on this occasion, the nomination itself highlights the strength of our work.

We are currently preparing our application for the 2026 Dorset Tourism Awards and intend to enter two categories: Learning Experience of the Year for our Osprey Cruises and the Regenerative Tourism Award.

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report

The Osprey Project has had another fantastic year, with the pair at Carey's Secret Garden successfully rearing four chicks, and the 2nd Nest site had a successful breeding season.

With improvements to the Osprey webcams, we have seen a fantastic number of people engaging with the nest at Carey's this year, and have also benefited from upscaling the tours running in partnership with Carey's Secret Garden.

Our Young Birders Club has gone from strength to strength, with over 200 young people now signed up and continued support from the Cameron Bespolka Trust, providing more free opportunities for young people to engage with nature and our local landscape.

Looking ahead to 2026/27, we will be bringing on Humphrey Keeper into our permanent team to support all things engagement, helping us continue this growth in our engagement work and expand the impact of our conservation projects. Helen Rushby will also be joining us permanently as our Finance and Operations Officer.

Helen joined the team in November on a temporary contract and has been a huge asset and support to Laura and the team. We will also welcome Liv back from maternity leave as our Communications and People Support Officer.

Who we are:

Our Vision:

Inspiring hope for nature

Our vision is simple: that we are able to inspire people through our project work and educational events, so that they feel hopeful for the future of nature in Poole Harbour and beyond. Local nature recovery projects and high-quality, informative events delivered with passion and enthusiasm are essential to achieving this vision.

Our Mission:

To innovate and deliver bold projects and educational events that benefit Poole Harbour's birdlife and local community.

Our Values:

Authentic: Birds of Poole Harbour (BoPH) was founded by people deeply passionate about Poole Harbour's birdlife, and this passion resonates throughout our team and volunteers. We value the individual personalities and opinions of each of our staff and what they bring to their roles. We speak up for what we care about and believe in.

Kind: We strive to always be kind, whether it's to our environment, employees or customers. We appreciate that everyone comes from different backgrounds, has various levels of experience and knowledge, and are joining our events for their own reasons. We seek to make everyone feel welcome and ensure that they get the most out of our events.

Ambitious: Our ambition is two-fold. Firstly, we aim to be innovative and bold with the projects that we deliver to support our birdlife and the local environment. Secondly, we are driven to run our events to the highest possible standard, working hard to keep our information up to date, interesting, and engaging for all who attend.

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report

Effective: We operate as a small team, so being effective is essential. We don't want to waste time or money getting tied up with unnecessary bureaucracy. We want to identify ways we can support our local environment and its community and make it happen.

Our Impact:

Conservation Projects:

Poole Harbour Osprey Project

The 2025 Osprey breeding season was once again the best we could have possibly hoped for, with multiple key successes. For the second time in 2-years, our resident breeding pair raised four chicks. This is an incredible achievement for the project, with 3 males and 1 female being raised, meaning there's a high chance one or two will return to the Poole Harbour area to breed in future years.



2025 Carey Osprey Chicks 5R6, 5R4, 5R3 & 5R5 from the nest before fledging

Not only did we achieve success here within Poole Harbour, but we also saw the successful establishment of a second nest, which is brilliant news. Based on our findings and planning back in 2024, we were able to take an educated guess on where our second pair may establish in 2025, and by building a relationship with a landowner in that area, we were able to secure the establishment of the second nest. The male from that nest was one of our translocated male Ospreys '374', and the female, '1H1', is a wild-fledged bird from the Rutland area. They successfully raised 2 young, which we believed to have been 2 females. The evolution of the project didn't end there, as we saw the return of two juveniles that had fledged from our nest at Carey Secret Garden, a female known as '5H1' and a male known as '5H3'. Remarkably, female '5H1' established a territory up near Rutland, very close to where her Mum fledged 10 years previously, with 5H1 raising 3 young of her own. This is a big milestone for the project as we're beginning to see multi-generational success and an interconnectivity with other UK populations. Our new returning male '5H3' spent the whole of the summer in Poole Harbour, actively visiting multiple different nest sites.

This bodes well for the Spring of 2027, when we hope the project will see a third nest established in Southern England.

Brittany's PhD

In 2025/26 Brittany made more excellent progress with her PhD. She completed writing her first chapter and submitted it as a paper to a prestigious academic journal: the British Ecological Society's Journal of Animal Ecology. This paper was still under the review process at the end of the financial year. This is a significant milestone for both her own research career and for Birds of Poole Harbour as our first submission to a peer review journal. Brittany also completed analysis for her second chapter and wrote up the methods and results, alongside continuing analysis for her third chapter. She is due to hand in her thesis in July 2026 and will complete her viva examination towards the end of 2026.

Recovering Populations:

Dorset Swift Communities

Introduction from 2023/24: In February 2023, the Dorset Swift Network was established to coordinate the monitoring of Swift populations in Dorset and their conservation. The network comprises conservation partners across Dorset, including BoPH, BCP Council, Dorset Council, Dorset Bird Club, Christchurch Harbour Ornithological Group, Purbeck and Swanage Swift Group, Dorchester Bird Club, Dorset Wildlife Trust, the Parks Foundation and Wimborne Swifts.

From 2024 to 2025, the Dorset Swift Network continued to provide an important opportunity for groups to share contacts and advice for Swift box installation, conservation, and public engagement. Back in 2023, we fundraised through the Aviva Save our Wild Isles Fund, raising £9,705. The funding criteria stated that the majority of the money must be spent in areas of higher deprivation, to benefit local communities. Data from Swift Mapper and Indices of Multiple Deprivation were used to produce priority postcodes.

In 2025/26, the Swift Project developed considerably, with a new free Swift Box initiative launched in the Autumn. We received over 160 applications from the public across Dorset, which were then analysed to find locations that were in priority areas for Swifts. Over the winter we were able to deliver over 40 boxes and callers to properties across the county, from Poole to Charminster. A further 50 boxes were distributed to Swifts groups, as well as Weymouth Town Council, as part of the Dorset Swift Network, all purchased from John Stimpson. BoPH continued to coordinate the Dorset Swift Network, with quarterly meetings enabling groups to discuss ideas to further support local Swift populations. In early Spring 2026, we contacted Adam Day of FPCR to see if we could get a live webcam setup in his Swift box in Wareham. Using the Swift fund we were able to get this set-up ready for the pair to return.

From 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, a further £4,314.89 was spent from the Swift fund, largely on Swift boxes and callers.

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report



Swift Boxes Installed on



Swift Network

Purbeck Chough Reintroduction Feasibility Study

The Purbeck Chough Reintroduction Project is a collaboration with the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation, the National Trust and Natural England, seeking to restore breeding Choughs to the Purbeck coast after 120 years' absence. Discussions started in 2022, and in August 2025 we completed our feasibility study and submitted a license application to Natural England. Progress with this application and the project as a whole has been delayed whilst waiting for the national statutory nature agencies to produce Chough translocation guidelines, alongside challenges in gaining support for the project from the groups who monitor nests in Cornwall and Wales (the proposed donor populations), who are cautious about the impacts of collection on their population trends. To address their concerns, Brittany conducted Population Viability Analysis (PVA) modelling on each population, which demonstrated that the proposed collection numbers had a very low probability of negatively impacting either population. At the end of the financial year, David Brown at the National Trust organised a meeting with senior colleagues in the summer to help secure permission for collection from them as landowners. We hope to gain final landowner permissions and be granted a licence in Autumn 2026 and to begin the translocation process in May 2027.

Surveys:

WeBS (Wetland Bird Survey)

The Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) scheme is managed nationally by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and assesses the health of important wetland bird populations across the UK, including Poole Harbour, through volunteer-led surveys. The winter assemblage of wetland birds in Poole Harbour is a qualifying feature of the Poole Harbour Special Protection Area (SPA), and so it is important that WeBS is accurately coordinated and carried out each winter. Birds of Poole Harbour manages these surveys, giving us the opportunity to educate the public about the importance of WeBS and the impact of citizen science projects in protecting our local landscape. The surveys are conducted by 32 dedicated volunteers, many of whom have been involved for over 10 years. Their contributions to the WeBS surveys directly contribute to Poole Harbour's ongoing protection and designation.

We also commissioned a Winter Corvids of Poole Harbour Study, which is now published free on our website. This survey was to assess the change in status of all corvid species (Jackdaw, Rook, Carrion Crow and Raven) across Poole Harbour to understand roost and feeding sites for a family of birds that are often largely overlooked and ignored.

In May 2025 we conducted our annual survey on the important gull breeding islands in Poole Harbour which host breeding Black-headed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull and Oystercatcher, as well as two Poole Harbour SPA (Special Protection Area) feature species, Mediterranean Gull and Sandwich Tern.

Trustees' Report

With the Mediterranean Gull being a protected Schedule 1 species, we need to conduct these surveys under licence from Natural England, which we do with help from professional surveyor David Chown. The survey in 2025 was carried out on May 14th, and the results were somewhat disappointing. Having had a record number of Mediterranean Gull nests in 2023 (278 nests), we were disappointed with a return of only 43 nests in 2025. This is still important data and will allow us to start assessing how we can help support this species elsewhere in the harbour and how we can potentially secure and safeguard these islands in both the near and distant future.

Having been able to build and grow our Public Bird Boat offer, this has allowed us to assess the harbour in great detail right through the calendar year. Each trip now allows us to survey and record birds seen during the trip, with the data from each trip getting uploaded onto the online platform eBird. This data is then extracted and used within the Dorset Bird Club annual report publication, which assesses bird populations and trends across Dorset.

Our Impact: Public Engagement and Education

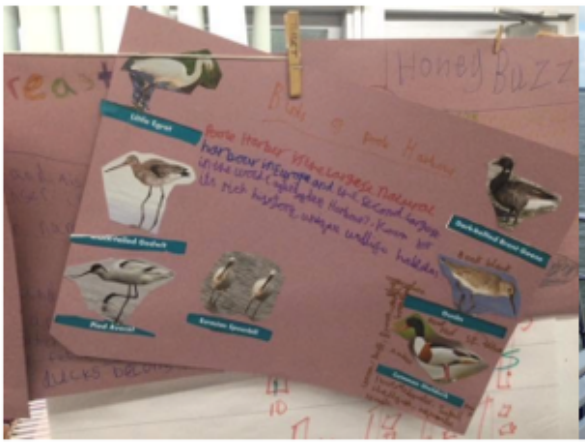
School Bird Boat Project

We have been delivering the School Bird boat Project since the charity was founded, and view it as one of our most important pieces of engagement work. During the winter and early spring, we offer local primary schools free 2-hour harbour boat trips, including travel to and from Poole Quay. With an ever-improving landscape, we feel it’s our duty to not only inspire and enthuse the general public but also inform and showcase this remarkable place to local school children. Over the last few years, these trips have evolved dramatically as we’re now able to show the children the direct results of various conservation projects, including hunting Ospreys and fly-by White-tailed Eagles. This is now starting to change the baseline understanding of what local children consider ‘normal’ within their home areas. White-tailed Eagles and Ospreys have been absent from this landscape for centuries. However, these children will now grow up having experienced these iconic species as being a part of their natural heritage, effectively resetting a historic environmental injustice. On every trip this season, we showed the children one or more of the following: White-tailed Eagle, Marsh Harrier, Peregrine Falcon or Osprey. These exciting and charismatic species will hopefully demonstrate nature recovery and the importance of conservation to all the children on these trips, with memories they will never forget.

Education is a significant part of these trips. Each child receives their own pair of binoculars for the duration of the trip, bringing them even closer to the birds. We demonstrate and discuss with all the children the bountiful nature of Poole Harbour, the important protections, and the busy human aspects of the area. Each child learns to identify a range of birds, interesting facts about the harbour and nature recovery, while also having the opportunity to complete worksheets after the trips. All of this works to give the children an engaging and inspiring outdoor education experience focused on nature and birds.

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report



Posters designed by local primary school children



Children enjoying one of our 2025 School boats

We were able to run these trips free of charge again this year thanks to generous sponsorship from cosmetics company Lush. This funding covered the cost of the boat and coach hire, allowing children from local schools to attend free of charge. Lush has kindly confirmed that they will continue to sponsor the School Bird Boat Project in 2026 - 2027

Over the 2025-2026 School Bird Boat Season, we ran a total of 21 School Bird Boats, with 927 children from 16 schools, thanks to continued funding from Lush. We took out fewer boats than usual due to cancellations caused by bad weather; these will be rescheduled for the 2026/27 season.

Young Birders

In September 2025, we secured funding for a second year of our Poole Harbour Young Birders Club. This project was once again very kindly supported by the Cameron Bespolka Trust, with the idea being to provide free monthly events to 13-18-year-olds on the topic of birds and conservation in Poole Harbour.



Young Birders Christmas Talks & Bird Quiz - December 2025

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report

This year, we've hosted a whole range of exciting events to inspire young people, including visits up to the Osprey Viewing Platform, a Nightjar Walk, 2 Boat Trips including Summer and Winter Birds and Conservation Cruises, bird ringing demos and lots more. One of the most inspiring events was a Bird Talk and Quiz event that was led by our young birders in December 2025. 4 young birders presented to each other on various topics, including Birds of Prey and year-listing.



With very supportive funding from Mark and Mo Constantine, we initiated a project with the Young Birders Club to conduct baseline wildlife surveys across the Carey and Hyde estate. This involved placing 30 trail cameras and 6 sound recorders across land that is undergoing rewilding. This will give the Young Birders fantastic opportunities to learn in the field skills of monitoring equipment and then become remote volunteers for BoPH in analysing the data we collect. 2 workshops are planned, and one took place in March 2026.

After a year and a half of running the Young Birders Project and holding monthly free events for 13-18 year olds, we have a total of 180 young people signed up to the club. They all have access to the free events and receive communications surrounding the project. The project will continue to grow and develop with more young people and run more inspiring events, hopefully inspiring the next generation of birders and conservationists.

Conservation Careers Talks

In November, we launched a new project to develop our education work, thanks to funding from the Cameron Bespolka Trust, to deliver 10 Conservation Careers Talks to secondary schools, colleges, and universities during our quieter periods between November and March. The aim is to inspire local young people about the fantastic nature recovery work happening locally and to show them that conservation is a viable career route, no matter their background or skillset. Over the winter, we delivered 5 talks at different schools, speaking to hundreds of secondary and primary school students and inspiring them to consider a future career in the conservation sector. A particular highlight was giving a talk to 400 year 10s and 11s at Poole High School, with some of them having been on school bird boats when they were younger. Next winter we plan on delivering the remaining 5 talks with the funding we have left.

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report



Our Event Schedule

Our education and engagement events have expanded significantly over the past few years, educating and inspiring a wide range of people. We feel this is such an important part of nature conservation. By providing uplifting, educational engagement, we are hopefully encouraging more and more people to care about nature's recovery. Not only this, but it also benefits people's learning and mental wellbeing, providing connection and access to nature.

People are now travelling from across the country to see and learn about the pioneering nature recovery work taking place here, whether it be species reintroductions, rewilding projects, or landscape-scale nature recovery. Our events interpret this nature recovery in an inspiring, educational way by providing examples of species recovery in action, such as Osprey, White-tailed Eagle, and Spoonbill. We show people these charismatic species of conservation importance while interpreting identification, ecology and conservation in a relaxed and informative manner. We now know that a large proportion of people travel from outside Dorset to attend our events, and many stay for multiple nights in the local area, with the primary reason for travel being to attend a BoPH trip.

The 2025-2026 period was a highly successful and diverse year of public engagement, featuring a strong programme of cruises, guided tours, educational events, and community outreach activities. Participation peaked during the summer months, driven by Osprey-related tourism, and remained consistently strong throughout the rest of the year. Overall, events operated at an average capacity of 84%.

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report



White-tailed Eagle G463 chased down female Osprey CJ7 - Matthew Robbins - 2025

We delivered 385 paid events in total, including 199 osprey tours, 180 boat trips, and a range of additional activities such as ringing demonstrations, guided walks, identification courses, and other specialist wildlife experiences. Through our paid events programme, we engaged approximately 13,000 people, while many more participated in our free activities, including guided walks, pop-up events, local community gatherings, and fairs. Together, these events enabled us to connect with a broad and diverse audience.

BoPH maintained an exceptional standard of event delivery throughout the year, as reflected in 595 TripAdvisor reviews, of which 587 were rated Excellent, and 8 were rated Good. We also continued to attract a high proportion of visitors from outside Dorset, accounting for approximately 50-60% of attendees and making a significant contribution to ecotourism growth in the area.



2025 Dorset Tourism Awards - Gold Winners for Active & Learning Experience of the Year

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report

Carey Osprey Tours were delivered successfully for the third consecutive year. Continued refinements to the structure and interpretation of these experiences resulted in a more interactive and engaging visitor experience, helping to deepen visitors' understanding of Osprey conservation and the wider landscape.

As our events programme has expanded and the number of people we engage with has continued to grow, it has been particularly rewarding to receive recognition for our work. In late 2025, we were proud to be awarded Gold at the Dorset Tourism Awards for the second consecutive year in the Active & Learning Experience of the Year category for our Safari Cruises. This achievement led to a nomination for the national VisitEngland Awards, and we were also delighted to receive a TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice Award for the third consecutive year.

Online Engagement and Sightings

Through our website and social media, we keep the public informed about our project work and local bird news, and provide thousands of people with an opportunity to engage with wildlife via our webcams.

Website & Sightings Blog

We aim for our website to be a hub of valuable information for a range of people interested in wildlife and birds. In addition to providing extensive information about local birding sites, it is regularly updated with blogs about the Osprey project, keeping the public up to date on the project's progress and the nesting pair.



White Tailed Eagle - G466 - Andy Moody - 2025

Trustees' Report

Our sightings blog is completed daily, highlighting bird records from around the harbour in an accessible way and showing the importance of our local area for nature and as a birding destination. The blog is an essential part of public engagement, encouraging birders to report their local sightings and providing write-ups of the wildlife we experience during our events. It is also a valuable resource for visitors to the area. Our daily sightings blog has, on average, c500 views each evening.

Facebook remains our most popular platform for sharing our conservation and outreach stories, with 17.8k+ followers actively engaging with our posts. We've also been developing our Instagram and TikTok accounts, now with 7,065 and 647 followers, respectively. Short-form video content from our events, particularly safari cruises, has been highly engaging, with up to 147k views on some reels. We no longer post on Twitter due to the negative change in content and algorithms, but we regularly update our Bluesky account, which now has 3.2k followers.

Livestream Webcams

Our Osprey nest web cameras continued to be an important source of engagement, enjoyed by thousands of people online, and shown in schools, offices, libraries, shops, and hospital waiting rooms. We received lovely feedback about the impact on well-being from the cameras from several members of the public, including people who had been bedridden for several months and said that the livestreams had helped them through this challenging period. A teacher of students with Special Educational Needs also said that she played the footage to her class at the beginning of each day, and that it had such a calming influence on them that other teachers asked her what it was she was doing to help the students.

Our Team & Partnerships:

Our Staff & Trustee Board

Staff

During 2025-2026, we saw the team grow and undergo a significant restructure.

In late April, our Charity Manager, Liv, went on maternity leave as she prepared to start a family. We said a fond farewell, and we appointed her maternity cover, Mike, until September, after which the charity underwent a management review and restructure. In November, we welcomed Helen to the team in a part-time, temporary role supporting finance and operations. Helen quickly became a valued member of the team, providing support and continuity during a period of transition and helping to strengthen our internal processes.

In mid-December, the Trustees introduced a revised leadership structure designed to strengthen the charity for the future. As part of this change, Laura, our Operations Manager, stepped into the role of General Manager, while Sam, our Events and Engagement Lead, became Deputy Manager.

In January, we were delighted to welcome back Joe Parker, who left the charity in 2023 to move to Lundy Island. After his time on Lundy, Joe decided to relocate back to Dorset, and we were pleased to offer him a role within our Events and Engagement team. Joe has been warmly welcomed back by our customers and supporters, many of whom were delighted to see a familiar face return to the charity.

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report

In April 2026, we welcomed Humphrey to the team as our Engagement Assistant on a permanent 20-hour-per-week contract. He has already made a fantastic impact, and we have received a great deal of positive feedback from customers, volunteers and staff alike about the knowledge, enthusiasm and energy he brings to the role.

We were also pleased to confirm Helen's transition from a temporary to a permanent contract with BoPH. Since joining us in November, Helen has become a real asset to the charity, supporting both finance and operations. She has played a key role in reviewing and improving internal processes while bringing a fresh perspective to the organisation. Later this year, Helen hopes to begin studying towards her CIMA qualification as she works towards becoming a chartered accountant. This exciting development will further strengthen the charity's in-house financial expertise and support our continued growth.

Trustees

There were no changes to the trustee board in 2025/26. Thank you to all of our trustees for the time they give to support Birds of Poole Harbour.

Volunteers

Much of the work we do as a charity is achieved with the support of our generous volunteers, including on our Osprey Project, School Bird Boat Project and Young Birders Club. We are extremely grateful for the huge effort made this year, with a total of 1220.5 hours given by our team of volunteers during the year, across the following projects:

• Osprey project: 990 hours total
• Osprey monitoring: 498 hours
• Assisting with Carey Osprey Tours: 492 hours
• Event support: 99 hours total
• Fairs and open days: 36 hours
• Osprey pop-up watches: 43 hours
• Nightjar walks: 20 hours
• Young Birders events: 25.5 hours
• School Bird Boat project: 106 hours

Partnership Working

Developing strong partnerships is an essential part of our charity’s work, ensuring we work towards a common goal with organisations to benefit both wildlife and people in the local area. We have highlighted some of the key partnerships that have played an essential role in our work this year.

Greenslade Pleasure Boats: We strengthened our relationship with our boat providers this year, with Greenslade Pleasure Boats continuing to deliver our public trips and taking on our School Bird Boat delivery for the 2024-25 season. We are continually grateful for the high standard of service that Greenslades deliver, allowing us to take pride in the way we run our events with them.

Wareham Arc: Birds of Poole Harbour have sat on the PACEE and Species Recovery sub-groups for the Wareham Arc Landscape Recovery Project planning phase. We are very supportive of this ambitious initiative and look forward to being involved in 2025-26.

Careys Secret Garden: We delivered several events in partnership with Careys Secret Garden this year, including our new Carey Osprey Tours, as well as ringing demonstrations and Osprey-themed events for their Migration Festival in January. (Image: Ringing Demo for National Trust at Careys Secret Garden)

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report

Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation: The Foundation is a long-standing partner of Birds of Poole Harbour, being a key partners in the Osprey Project. This year, our relationship has further developed through our work on the Purbeck Chough feasibility study.

Stour Ringing Group: We delivered our Sunnyside Ringing Demos in partnership with Stour Ringing Group again this year, with the group receiving a share of the profit made from these educational events. We're grateful for their support with these events, which wouldn't be possible without them.

Forestry England: The White-tailed Eagle reintroduction has been a huge success already, galvanising people's excitement for nature recovery. The project was a joint project between Forestry England and the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation. During the course of the year we welcome the Eagle Project team, Steve Eggerton-Read and Imogen Lloyd onto our cruises to talk about the project and how their work complements ours here in Poole Harbour.

The National Trust: The National Trust Purbeck team are responsible for a whole range of great projects in and around the Purbeck landscape. They're also significant landowners in this area; therefore, we've decided to partner with the NT Purbeck team for our proposed chough reintroduction. We've worked closely with their team to identify suitable release sites and to help build relationships with the Cornish NT teams.

Financial Overview:

Overall income and key drivers

Total income increased by £158,033 compared with the previous year, representing a growth of 43.9%. Higher donation levels and strong performance from paid events primarily drove this improvement.

Income from paid events increased by £61,651 (24.4%), reflecting continued demand and successful delivery of the charity's events programme.

Cost of sales - Events

Cost of sales increased by £41,780 (33.9%), reflecting higher events activity during the year. However, income growth exceeded cost increases, resulting in a stronger gross surplus position.

Operating expenses and staffing

Total operating expenses increased by £64,664 (31.3%). The largest element of this increase related to staffing costs, with salary expenditure rising by £60,809 (36.7%). This reflects the investment in staffing resources required to support the charity's activities and growth.

Operating performance

The charity reported an increase in operating surplus of £51,589 compared with the previous year. This reflects the overall strength of income growth, which more than offset increases in both direct costs and operating expenditure.

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report

Summary

The financial results for the year show a positive overall performance, supported by strong growth in donations and paid-event income. While operating costs increased, particularly in staffing, these investments supported higher events programme activity and were accompanied by improvements in both gross surplus and operating surplus. The charity remains focused on maintaining sustainable income streams while managing costs effectively to support its charitable objectives.

Fundraising & Reserves

Fundraising

Our most significant fundraising income is generated online, primarily through our website using JustGiving Checkout, and via specific campaigns hosted on the JustGiving Fundraising. We also fundraise at our events using donation buckets and portable card machines, all of which are optional and entirely donor-led.

In 2025/26, we ran multiple fundraisers throughout the year via JustGiving, alongside our JustGiving Checkout, which allows supporters to make either regular or one-off donations. platform. These included the following campaigns:

- Poole Harbour Osprey Project: 2025 Season
- Purbeck Seabird Survey Fundraiser
- Osprey Project Nest Platforms and Cameras

For our Osprey Project fundraiser, donors could contribute through our public JustGiving page or directly via the JustGiving Checkout on our website. Thanks to their generosity, we raised £5571 in total.

In addition, our General Appeal via JustGiving Checkout raised £7,525 (+ £1,592 in Gift Aid) in unrestricted funds.

Through Gift Aid, we reclaimed a total of £14,195 this year. Please note that this figure does not necessarily relate solely to fundraising activities undertaken in 2025/26, as Gift Aid claims can take a significant amount of time to be processed and received.

Birds of Poole Harbour does not employ professional fundraisers and does not operate a membership scheme.

Donation and grant income summary

Total donation and grant income for 2026 was £197,399, comprising:

- £148,862 unrestricted income, including £130,167 in individual donations, £14,195 Gift Aid and £4,500 unrestricted grants.
- £48,537 restricted income, comprising £28,400 in donations and £20,137 in restricted grants.

This means approximately 75.4% of the total income was unrestricted, providing the charity with flexibility to use these funds where they are most needed.

Birds of Poole Harbour does not employ professional fundraisers and does not operate a membership scheme.

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report

Reserves Statement

Birds of Poole Harbour has established a reserves policy whereby unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets should be maintained at a level sufficient to address the red flag risks identified in our Risk Register. This amount is currently set at £47,287.

Looking ahead to 2026/27, as our team continues to grow, we aim to increase our reserves to cover approximately 3 months of staff salaries, thereby enhancing the charity's financial resilience.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to all our supporters who have donated to the charity or attended our events this year. Special thanks to the following people and organisations for their donations and support this year.

- The Beryl Evetts & Robert Luff Animal Trust
- Lush Cosmetics Ltd
- Mark and Mo Constantine
- BTO
- Tesco Groundworks Program
- Greenslades Pleasure Boats
- Excelsior Coaches
- Stour Ringing Group
- Dorset Tourism Awards
- Visit England
- Careys Secret Garden
- DeterTech
- Dorset Bird Club
- Dorset Police
- Dorset Wildlife Trust
- The Esslemont Trust
- Lord Rockley Trust
- Roy Dennis Foundation
- National Trust
- Natural England
- Wild Justice
- Stephen Norway
- Linda Myers
- Paul Bromley
- The Cameron Bespolka Trust
- Opticron
- Osprey Europe
- BCP Council
- Kong Ltd

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report

Small companies provision statement
This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on ..... and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Paul Morton
Chairman

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report

Reference and Administrative Details

Chairman	Paul Morton
Trustees	Ian Alexander
	Margaret Constantine
	Sam Jolliffe
Charity Registration Number	1152615
	The charity is incorporated in England and Wales.
Principal Office	Carey House Carey Wareham Dorset BH20 7PG
Independent Examiner	PKF Francis Clark Accountants and Statutory Auditors Towngate House 2 - 8 Parkstone Road Poole Dorset BH15 2PW
Bankers	Co-Operative Bank 1 Baloon Street Manchester M4 4BE
	Metro Bank One Southampton Row London WC1B 5HA

Birds of Poole Harbour

Trustees' Report

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Birds of Poole Harbour for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

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

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 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 charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that can disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable incorporated organisation 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.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on ..... and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Paul Morton
Chairman

Birds of Poole Harbour

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Birds of Poole Harbour ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of Birds of Poole Harbour (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

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

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

*** DRAFT NOT SIGNED BY THE EXAMINER ***

Birds of Poole Harbour

Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 March 2026
(Including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2026 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	2	148,862	48,537	197,399
Charitable activities	3	319,630	-	319,630
Investment income	4	1,049	-	1,049
Total income		469,541	48,537	518,078
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	5	(408,237)	(30,273)	(438,510)
Total expenditure		(408,237)	(30,273)	(438,510)
Net income		61,304	18,264	79,568
Transfers between funds		1,227	(1,227)	-
Net movement in funds		62,531	17,037	79,568
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		100,758	41,869	142,627
Total funds carried forward	15	163,289	58,906	222,195

Birds of Poole Harbour

Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 March 2026
(Including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	2	59,596	42,439	102,035
Charitable activities	3	256,816	-	256,816
Investment income	4	1,193	-	1,193
Total Income		317,605	42,439	360,044
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	5	(317,809)	(28,917)	(346,726)
Total Expenditure		(317,809)	(28,917)	(346,726)
Net (expenditure)/income		(204)	13,522	13,318
Net movement in funds		(204)	13,522	13,318
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		100,962	28,347	129,309
Total funds carried forward	15	100,758	41,869	142,627

The funds breakdown for 2025 is shown in note 15.

Birds of Poole Harbour

(Registration number: CE000516)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2026

	Note	2026 £	2025 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	24,767	26,606
Current assets			
Stocks	12	279	834
Debtors	13	16,887	4,732
Cash at bank and in hand		294,229	213,797
		311,395	219,363
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	(113,967)	(103,342)
Net current assets		197,428	116,021
Net assets		222,195	142,627
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		58,906	41,869
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		163,289	100,758
Total funds	15	222,195	142,627

The financial statements on pages 21 to 37 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on ..... and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Paul Morton
Chairman

Birds of Poole Harbour

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

1 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates
The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance
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)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation
Birds of Poole Harbour meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern
The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The trustees consider there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

The charity adopted Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statemenet in these financial statements.

Income and endowments
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 the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Deferred income

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Investment income

Bank interest is recognised when it is received.

Charitable activities

Engagement centre sales are recognised when goods are sold.

Boat trips and tour income is recognised when the trips take place.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation
Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Office equipment and website	3 and 5 years straight line
Furniture and fixtures	5 years straight line
Conservation assets	3 and 5 years straight line
HQ equipment	3 years straight line
Motor vehicles	10 years straight line

Trade debtors
Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors
Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Fund structure
Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations
The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Donations and legacies;				
Donations from individuals	134,667	28,400	163,067	86,977
Gift aid reclaimed	14,195	-	14,195	15,058
Grants, including capital grants;				
Grants	4,500	20,137	24,637	-
	153,362	48,537	201,899	102,035

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Total 2026 £
Product Sales	418	418
Public Bird Boat Income	262,534	262,534
Other income	52,178	52,178
	315,130	315,130

	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Total 2025 £
Product Sales	939	939
Public Bird Boat Income	204,926	204,926
Other income	50,951	50,951
	256,816	256,816

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Interest receivable and similar income;			
Interest receivable on bank deposits	1,049	1,049	1,193

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Insurance	4,006	4,571
School boat trip costs	14,968	16,359
Surveys	19,013	6,111
Conservation work	11,233	2,199
Repairs, renewals and equipment	2,423	1,961
People engagement	2,781	1,701
Telephone costs	1,322	1,022
Travel and subsistence	2,530	1,819
Computer costs	5,587	6,790
Printing, postage and stationery	735	675
Training	3,744	2,343
Refreshments	-	938
Equipment hire	537	1,272
Public boat trip costs	94,245	72,338
Other costs	1,691	11,870
Publicity	1,324	3,081
Consultancy	780	1,135
Recruitment cost	1,486	555
Student Grant costs	-	2,163
Wages and Salaries	223,958	165,937
Bank charges	651	265
Office costs	1,239	-
Credit card charges	7,067	4,640
Depreciation	15,707	12,736
Governance costs (see note 6)	8,043	11,918
VAT adjustment relating to prior period	-	12,327
Event costs	13,440	-
	438,510	346,726

6 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Unrestricted General £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Independent examiner fees			
Examination of the financial statements	5,950	5,950	5,940
Accountancy Fees	2,093	2,093	5,978
	8,043	8,043	11,918

7 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net incoming resources for the year include:

	2026 £	2025 £
Depreciation of fixed assets	15,707	12,736
Independent Examination Fee	5,950	5,940
Accountancy Fees	2,093	5,978

8 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

9 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2026 £	2025 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	199,920	151,962
Social security costs	17,115	8,693
Pension costs	6,923	5,282
	223,958	165,937

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2026 No	2025 No
Average number of employees	8	6

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

10 Taxation

Birds of Poole Harbour is a registered charity and its activities are therefore exempt from taxation.

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment and website £	Motor vehicles £	Furniture and fixtures £	Conservation assets £	HQ equipment £	Total £
Cost						
At 1 April 2025	54,372	12,500	1,034	113,570	7,825	189,301
Additions	-	-	-	14,017	-	14,017
Disposals	-	-	-	(149)	-	(149)
At 31 March 2026	54,372	12,500	1,034	127,438	7,825	203,169
Depreciation						
At 1 April 2025	54,372	1,354	1,034	98,110	7,825	162,695
Charge for the year	-	1,250	-	14,457	-	15,707
At 31 March 2026	54,372	2,604	1,034	112,567	7,825	178,402
Net book value						
At 31 March 2026	-	9,896	-	14,871	-	24,767
At 31 March 2025	-	11,146	-	15,460	-	26,606

12 Stock

	2026 £	2025 £
Stocks	279	834

13 Debtors

	2026 £	2025 £
Trade debtors	2,517	932
Prepayments	5,053	3,800
Other debtors	9,317	-
	16,887	4,732

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2026 £	2025 £
Trade creditors	33,516	10,368
Other taxation and social security	7,205	11,983
Pension scheme creditor	1,189	889
Accruals	15,734	20,428
Deferred income	56,323	59,674
	113,967	103,342

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

15 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2025 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2026 £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
General Funds	100,758	469,541	(408,237)	1,227	163,289
Restricted funds					
Osprey Infrastructure	4,283	6,855	(5,261)	-	5,877
Swift City Project	8,174	-	(4,296)	-	3,878
PHD - Osprey	7,326	-	-	-	7,326
Conservation Career Talk Project	-	786	(72)	-	714
Feeder Camera	-	2,604	(245)	-	2,359
Puffin and Seabird Survey	-	985	-	-	985
Chough Reintroduction Project	-	4,000	(5,248)	-	(1,248)
School Bird Boats	238	16,560	(14,481)	(1,227)	1,090
Young Birders Club	1,848	3,851	(670)	-	5,029
Holesbay Platform	20,000	12,896	-	-	32,896
Total restricted funds	41,869	48,537	(30,273)	(1,227)	58,906
Total funds	142,627	518,078	(438,510)	-	222,195

Birds of Poole Harbour

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted funds				
General				
General Funds	100,962	317,605	(317,809)	100,758
Restricted				
Osprey Infrastructure	7,039	2,936	(5,692)	4,283
Swift City Project	9,610	-	(1,436)	8,174
PHD - Osprey	9,487	-	(2,161)	7,326
School Bird Boats	2,211	15,044	(17,017)	238
Gull Survey	-	350	(350)	-
Young Birders Club	-	2,464	(616)	1,848
Holesbay Platform	-	20,000	-	20,000
School Binocular Fundraiser	-	1,645	(1,645)	-
Total restricted funds	28,347	42,439	(28,917)	41,869
Total funds	129,309	360,044	(346,726)	142,627

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Osprey Infrastructure - A pioneering 5-year reintroduction program, trying to restore Osprey, a large fish eating bird of prey, to its former breeding grounds after a 200-year absence. The project see's 6 week old Osprey chicks brought down from Scotland and raised and released here in Poole Harbour, in the hope they'll eventually breed here. As part of this project we have launched a fundraiser to cover the cost of some of the infrastructure to help us monitor and engage with the public in the future. Part of this is our Osprey cameras.

The Swift City Project - Swifts are summer visitors to the UK, returning in late April to nest in crevices of older buildings. Sadly, their population has declined by more than 50% in the past 20 years, primarily due to reduced food supply (insects) and loss of suitable nesting sites. Modern building designs no longer provide the cavities swifts need.In response, Birds of Poole Harbour partnered with Saltwater Stone in 2019 to launch the "Swift City" project, installing nest boxes across Old Town Poole and other key sites.

In 2024, this initiative was expanded through the Dorset Swift Communities Project, supported by the Aviva “Save Our Wild Isles Community Fund.” Funds raised were used to purchase and install swift boxes in priority areas across Dorset, identified by the Dorset Swift Network-a partnership including Birds of Poole Harbour, Dorset Bird Club, Swanage Swift Group, Christchurch Harbour Ornithological Group, BCP Council, and Dorset Council. Through this project, 150 nest boxes will be made and offered free of charge for homeowners and building owners in targeted areas, while also encouraging communities to take ownership of local swift populations through engagement, monitoring, and long-term protection efforts.

Osprey PHD placement - For the first time, we have been able to provide funding for a local student to pursue a postgraduate degree in avian biology. Brittany Maxted is a member of the Birds of Poole Harbour team, who has been involved in the Osprey Project since its inception and has managed the translocations for the last three years. The funding we provide covers the costs of her research and tuition fees, whilst she remains employed full-time at Birds of Poole Harbour, dividing her time between work and research, and allowing her to maintain her current role as Osprey Project Officer alongside her studies.

Conservation Careers Talks Project - Birds of Poole Harbour has expanded its offer for young people by offering free conservation careers talks for secondary schools, sixth forms, and colleges in the Poole Harbour area. We are offering 10 free conservation careers talks for 16-18-year-olds. The 45-minute talks with Q&A will include: a variety of conservation career paths with examples; how young people can be involved in nature's recovery in Dorset; and advice on gaining experience in the conservation field. The aim is to inspire and educate the next generation to pursue a career in conservation whilst raising awareness that working with nature is for everyone, no matter your background.

Feeder Camera Fund - We received a grant from a UK trust to fund a new feeder camera to be set up and live -streamed through our website. We know from prior experience that our cameras reach thousands of viewers through livestreams and footage, often shown in schools, public libraries, and hospitals, bringing a diverse, large audience an accessible opportunity. We hope that the cameras will provide engaging and educational insights into birds in our local area for people around the country. This will hopefully deliver numerous benefits for viewers' health and mental well-being, while providing an accessible connection to nature for those who may otherwise be unable to experience it.

Puffin and Seabird Survey Fund - Purbeck's incredible coastline plays host to a small but important range of breeding seabirds, with some species faring better than others. Monitoring these populations is an important ongoing commitment, with many colonies having been assessed since the 1960's. Guillemots and Razorbills are a common sight along the cliffs at Durlston each spring and summer, whilst Kittiwake and Fulmar have been struggling since surveys began. Purbeck's Puffins are also an important and popular feature of this coastline, but with peak numbers now rarely reaching double figures, understanding and assessing their plight is a critical task each year. The National Trust Purbeck team, in partnership with Durlston Country Park (Dorset Council) have done an incredible job coordinating these surveys over the last 15 years, and this year we're looking to help support the partnership by raising funds to ensure the 2026 Purbeck seabird survey can be completed. Funds will be used to charter the survey boat, assign trained seabird surveyors, analyse the data and write up a final report.

Chough Reintroduction Project - This project aims to restore a breeding population of a lost bird species, the Red -billed Chough, to Purbeck in Dorset. We have developed a new methodology which sees 3-4 week old Chough collected from wild nests in healthy populations, translocated to the Purbeck coast, and released into the landscape to establish a new breeding population. The project aims to run for 5 years from 2027 to 2031. The project is funded through philanthropic donations and may be supplemented by grants and public fundraisers.

School Bird Boat Project - Our School Bird project continues to go from strength to strength, and is designed to connect local school children with their local environment. Poole Harbour is an important habitat for a range of species but also for industry and tourism. The focus of the trips is to highlight the link between all of the harbours important dynamics and how those relationships are managed in.

Young Birders Club - At Birds of Poole Harbour, we recognise the importance of inspiring the next generation of conservationists. Our Young Birders Club, for ages 13-18, provides a welcoming community for young people passionate about wildlife. The club runs free events throughout the year, including guided bird ID walks, bird ringing demonstrations, wildlife cruises, and talks from conservationists. Members also gain insights into ecology, bird identification, and conservation practices. No prior experience is required from our members, and we provide assistance with local transport to ensure inclusivity. This initiative has been made possible thanks to the generous support of the Cameron Bespolka Trust.

H**oles Bay Platform** - We are in early discussions with BCP Council regarding the installation of a new public viewing platform overlooking Holes Bay, one of the most important areas of the harbour for birdlife, especially in winter. Similar to the Ham Common Viewpoint, the structure would provide an accessible way for the local community to connect with the area's wildlife. Costs are estimated between £18,000-£30,000. We are grateful to a generous member of the public who has pledged £20,000 towards this project.

School Bird Boat Binoculars Fundraiser - For the past 11 years, our charity has run School Bird Boats, giving up to 1,200 local primary school children each winter the chance to explore and learn about the unique wildlife of Poole Harbour. These trips are provided free of charge thanks to the generous sponsorship of local cosmetics company Lush. Each two-hour trip, run in partnership with Greenslades Pleasure Boats from Poole Quay, takes children across the harbour's diverse habitats. Led by our staff and volunteers, the experience introduces pupils to topics such as bird migration, species adaptations, human livelihoods, and the harbour's designation as a Special Protection Area (SPA).

In recent years, sightings of White-tailed Eagles, Marsh Harriers, and Peregrine Falcons have become highlights of the School Bird Boats. These encounters not only inspire young people but also demonstrate the reality of species recovery and reintroduction projects, bringing conservation to life for the next generation.To ensure every child has the best experience, we provide each participant with a pair of binoculars. After more than a decade of use, many of our school optics had become damaged or worn. While Opticron kindly replaced nearly half of the binoculars free of charge in 2023, we still needed to update the remainder.

In December 2024, we ran a public fundraiser to replace the remaining sets. Thanks to the generosity of supporters, we were able to secure new, high-quality binoculars well-suited to young birders. Any of our usable older binoculars have since been donated to schools for use in classrooms, lessons, and holiday birdwatching kits.

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2026 £
Tangible fixed assets	24,767	-	24,767
Current assets	252,489	58,906	311,395
Current liabilities	(113,967)	-	(113,967)
Total net assets	163,289	58,906	222,195

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	26,606	-	26,606
Current assets	177,494	41,869	219,363
Current liabilities	(103,342)	-	(103,342)
Total net assets	100,758	41,869	142,627

17 Related party transactions

During the year the charity made the following related party transactions:

Lush Ltd
(One of the charity's trustees is also a director of Lush Limited)
During the year ended 31 March 2026, the charity received income of £21,593 (2025 - £23,107) from Lush Limited relating principally to School Bird Boat Project donations and private charter activities. The charity incurred expenditure of £3,378 (2025 - £4,007) with Lush Limited in respect of business tools, software subscriptions, travel, telecommunications and other operating costs. All transactions were conducted on normal commercial terms and at arm's length. At the balance sheet date the amount due to/from Lush Ltd was £Nil (2025 - £Nil).