Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust CIO
Reference and administration information

Charity number

Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust CIO: 1185309

Also known as FODST

Registered office and operational address

c/o Forestry England
Bank House, Bank Street
Coleford, Gloucestershire
GL16 8BA

Trustees

Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:
Sarah Bowden (Chair)
Grace Storey (Deputy Chair, Retired 03/06/2026)
Leo Goatley (Treasurer until 17/04/2026)
Andrew Stonyer
Jonathan Wood
Mike Penny
Barnaby Page (Appointed 09/09/2025; Treasurer from 17/04/2026)
Susie Olczak (Appointed 04/06/2026)

Nominated representatives

The following are nominated to the board to represent Forestry England:
Judith Lack
Emily Fergusson
Hazel Stone (National Curator for Contemporary Art)

Personnel

No appointees in this period.

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc

FOREST OF DEAN SCULPTURE TRUST CIO
Report for the year ended 31 March 2026

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the memorandum and articles of association and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Objectives and activities

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives of the Charity that have been set.

The object of the Charity is to advance public appreciation of and education in the arts, in particular the art of sculpture.

The way the Charity performs this function is defined by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Charity and Forestry England, signed in June 2021 and due for renewal after five years. This MOU replaced the previous Concordat and defines the areas when the Charity will work with Forestry England to make a contribution to the Sculpture Trail. These are:

- Provision of new and replacement artworks
- Decommissioning of artworks
- Providing information of relevance to managing the trail
- Publicity and promotion
- Fundraising

The trustees review the aims, objectives and activities of the charity each year. This report looks at what the Charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the charity has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The review also helps the trustees ensure the Charity's aims, objectives and activities remained focused on its stated purposes.

Achievements and performance

The Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust's main activities and who it tries to help are described below. All its charitable activities focus on maintaining and developing the Sculpture Trail at Beechenhurst and are undertaken to further its charitable purposes for the public benefit.

The fundraising environment remains challenging for FODST due to spending constraints placed on Forestry England that mean they are currently unable to commit funds towards further sculpture commissioning. In October 2024 trustees opted to "cease generating new initiatives. Charity board meetings oversee the accounts and trail reports, until such a time that policies change, fundraising prospects improve, new partnerships emerge, or the charity is closed." In order to prepare for a time when conditions improve, FODST is continuing to develop partnerships, lobby politicians, and update its digital offer.

In April 2025, trustees Sarah Bowden, Mike Penny and Andrew Stonyer, along with FE colleagues Judith Lack and Emily Ferguson, met with Matt Bishop MP for Forest of Dean to raise awareness of our position. He and his staff are very supportive of the trail and our aims. AS had second meeting to clarify our position and discuss previous support from local businesses. A letter to Chris Bryant, Minister for Creative Industries, Arts and Tourism, was forwarded from Matt Bishop's office.

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In January 2026 we were updated by Matt Bishop's office, who forwarded Ian Murray's ministerial response, which offered a full endorsement of our work and advice on arts funding. The letter in part advocated for dedicated funds to Forestry England to develop its accessible cultural offer in the nation's forests, but the minister did not mention FE. We trust that Matt Bishop continues to advocate for more funding to the Forest of Dean and to Forestry England, specifically to develop their cultural offer. The trust continues to monitor shifting political currents and maintains contact with Matt Bishop's office.

Early in 2025 we applied for a small amount of funding from Gloucestershire Communities Fund to update the audio-descriptions available on our website to improve the experience of partially-sighted visitors. These had been out-of-date since Gathering and Meander had been installed in 2023. There was some delay to the receipt of funding, however by March 2026 the project was completed by industry experts VocalEyes and the new audio-descriptions uploaded.

In May 2025 Chair Sarah Bowden attended the opening of new facilities at Beechenhurst funded by DEFRA Access for All. Facilities include a new accessible Glade Trail and refurbished playground, a Changing Places suite and an all-terrain tramper (mobility scooter).

The 40th Anniversary film commissioned by FODST in 2024 with the artist Sam Williams, *Common Ground*, was screened by Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol between 12-15 June 2025. A public talk took place between Sam Williams, Sarah Bowden, and Rupert Martin, one of the original curators of the trail and former curator at Arnolfini.

In July 2025, FE restored the water course through the site of David Nash's sculpture, *Fire and Water Boats*. One 'boat' was relocated away from deep water and all boats were properly secured. David Nash was consulted and was very happy with the resolution.

In October 2025 trustees and FE colleagues conducted the Annual Review with the FODST archive at the University of Gloucestershire. We also accessioned Peter Randall-Page's two ink drawings of a pine cone and an acorn into the archive, which were produced at the time of his commission in 1988. UoG provided the correct archival materials to protect the drawings.

In January 2026, announcing the start of a year's celebration of the first sculptures installed in the woods near Speech House (now the sculpture trail), trustees and Forestry England met Martin Orrom (formerly of the Forestry Commission and primary instigator of the sculpture trail) and Rupert Martin for a walk of the trail and a review of its achievements. Notably, Rupert Martin stated that by the end of the second phase of sculptures installed in 1988, they imagined the trail was complete and did not anticipate the ongoing development and stewardship that has taken place over the past 40 years.

Forestry England produced some nice films to mark the 40th anniversary in June 2026 for their social media outlets. One included Chair Sarah Bowden and another with Rupert Martin. Sarah Bowden was also invited to an interview on BBC Radio Gloucestershire.

In October 2025, Forest of Dean District Council announced they were recruiting for a new role of Arts, Culture and Heritage Officer. In March 2026 Sally Reader was appointed and met with FODST in April at Beechenhurst. The first Creating Communities networking event for FOD arts, culture and heritage organisations was held in July 2026 and Sally Reader is working towards producing a cultural strategy for the District Council.

In June 2026 FODST began the process of recruiting a new co-Chair to work alongside our current Chair in preparation for the end of her third term as trustee in 2028. The opportunity was widely advertised as an open call. The co-Chair will be appointed at a Board meeting in October 2026.

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The Memorandum of Understanding with Forestry England which expired in June 2026 has been through a few updates and revisions and will be signed at the Board meeting in October 2026.

Barnaby Page has taken on responsibility for FODST social media and has produced some insightful posts giving the background to sculptures on the trail, past and present, on our new Instagram page @forestofdeansculpturetrail

Beneficiaries of our services

The main beneficiaries of the charity's activities are members of the public who visit the Sculpture Trail.

Financial Review

During the year, total income from charitable activities was £3665 of this £2225 related to unrestricted and £1440 related to restricted activities. The CIO spent £2646 during the year with £1206 spent on unrestricted activities and £1440 on restricted activities. At 31 March 2026, unrestricted free reserves were £5943 and restricted reserves were £0.

Reserves policy

The aim of the reserves policy is to ensure that the charity's ongoing and future activities are reasonably protected from unexpected fluctuations in its income and expenditure. The reserves policy is set at a minimum level of unrestricted general funds, also known as free reserves, of £5,000. At its current level of activity, £5,000 will cover more than one year of the Charity's liabilities and expenses if it needed to be wound up. The policy is reviewed annually.

Free reserves are slightly above the target of £5,000 at year end thanks to an increase in the bi-annual income received from FE from the sale of sculpture trail leaflets. The Charity aims to continue building free reserves through fundraising activities including developing sales of merchandise and creating donation points at Beechenhurst café.

Structure, governance and management

The charity was originally named The Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust and was established as a Charitable Trust (CT) by a trust deed on 20 May 1996, registered charity number 1059078. Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust CIO was established by a Constitution on 4 September 2019, amended 29 November 2021, and is a registered charity, number 1185309.

On 14 February 2022 a resolution was passed by the CT trustees to dissolve The Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust Charitable Trust according to Clause 16 of the Deeds and to enable the transfer of assets to Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust CIO. The CT was closed on 12 April 2022 and the transfer of assets was accepted by the CIO on 9 June 2022.

Sarah Bowden remained as Chair of the Board of Trustees throughout the period of this report. Grace Storey retired as a trustee and Deputy Chair in June 2026. Leo Goatley was replaced as Treasurer by Barnaby Page. The Chair and Treasurer meet regularly to review finances and report to Board meetings. Barnaby Page was appointed as a trustee in September 2025 and Susie Olczak was appointed as a trustee in June 2026. During the summer of 2026 the Trust actively recruited for a co-Chair to work alongside our current Chair and prepare for her succession.

Recruitment and Appointment of Management Board

The CIO Constitution provides for a minimum of three trustees with no maximum. New trustees may be recruited and appointed by existing trustees. Forestry England may nominate representatives to attend and contribute to Board meetings.

Induction of new trustees

The Chair of Trustees is responsible for the induction of new trustees. New trustees are given an introduction to the work of the CIO and provided with information they need to fulfil their role. This includes information about the role and responsibility of trustees, Charity law and the Charity Commission document 'The Essential Trustee: What you need to do'.

Organisational Structure

The Board of Trustees manage the CIO. General Board meetings are usually held every two to three months. The administration of the CIO is carried out by the Chair and Treasurer. All trustees give of their time freely and no remuneration other than legitimate expenses was paid by the CIO in the year.

Risk Management

The Board has considered the major risks to which the CIO is exposed, with measures taken to mitigate those risks. All procedures are reviewed annually to ensure that they still meet the needs of the organisation.

Project Management

Freelance Project Managers and Producers are engaged to manage the artistic programme and report to the Chair and Board of Trustees.

Acknowledgments

Trustees are hugely grateful for the contribution of Grace Storey to the Board. Trustees also appreciate the ongoing commitment of Judith Lack, Emily Ferguson and colleagues at Forestry England for the care and maintenance of the Sculpture Trail. Many thanks to Anne Pengelly at the University of Gloucestershire for continuing to care for the trust's archive.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

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The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 22/09/2026 and signed on their behalf by



Sarah Bowden, Chair of the Board of Trustees

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust CIO	1185309

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/04/2025		31/03/2026

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Forestry England donation	2,150	-	-	2,150	2,539
Other donations	75	-	-	75	96
Sales	-	-	-	-	-
GCF funding	-	1,440	-	1,440	-
Refunds	-	-	-	-	88
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
***Sub total** (Gross income for AR)*	2,225	1,440	-	3,665	2,723
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	2,225	1,440	-	3,665	2,723
A3 Payments					
Audience/community engagement	291	1,440	-	1,731	-
Artwork	83	-	-	83	3,311
Marketing	166	-	-	166	159
Accountancy	306	-	-	306	720
Board Expenses	265	-	-	265	394
Other Expenditures	96	-	-	96	135
Project managers	-	-	-	-	1,000
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	1,206	1,440	-	2,646	5,719
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	1,206	1,440	-	2,646	5,719
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,019	-	-	1,019	- 2,996
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	4,924		-	4,924	7,920
Cash funds this year end	5,943	-	-	5,943	4,924

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Current Account	5,943	-	-
		-	-	-

		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	**5,943**	**-**	**-**
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds	**Restricted funds**	**Endowment funds**
	Details	**to nearest £**	**to nearest £**	**to nearest £**
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Details	**Fund to which asset belongs**	**Cost (optional)**	**Current value (optional)**
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	**Fund to which asset belongs**	**Cost (optional)**	**Current value (optional)**
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	**Fund to which liability relates**	**Amount due (optional)**	**When due (optional)**
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval
	Barnie Page	Barnie Page		21/09/2026
	Sarah Bowden	Sarah Bowden		21/09/2026