CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Grith Pioneers Trustees' Annual Report

Year ending: 31st March 2026

Charity registration number: 1188105

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	(a) To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection, and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the land owned and/or managed by Grith Pioneers, by conducting a variety of environmental improvement and woodland management activities. (b) To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the land owned and/or managed by Grith Pioneers, by providing access to the natural environment for camps and outdoor education activities.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	1. To manage the woodland in accordance with the Shining Cliff Woods Management Plan and any other activities which will enhance the biodiversity and/or ecosystem services provided by the woods, in line with the Natural England SSSI citation. 2. To provide and manage areas of the woodland suitable for use as educational and/or recreational activities which enhance members of the public's understanding of the natural environment. 3. To ensure that the assets of Grith Pioneers including the hostel and other buildings are used for the benefit of the general public, not least in extending their understanding of the natural environment.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	We as trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/public-benefit-rules-for-charities

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policy on grant making	Grith Pioneers may support organisations and individuals whose aim is to further the objectives of the CIO.
Contribution made by volunteers	We have volunteer wardens who review campers' permits while walking the woods and checking for dangers and hazards. Volunteers also help to maintain tracks, cut back invasive species and marshal when felling occurs. Volunteers also carry out surveys and counts of flora and fauna. Trustees and council have met two times since the 2025 AGM (2024: 8), sometimes on Zoom, sometimes in the woods, and, as always, many of us also met for working days, walks, and at camps. Grith Pioneers currently has 46 members.

Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	This has been a year marked by increasing volunteer engagement, stable and healthy levels of public activities and access, significant hostel activity and investment, preparations for buying neighbouring woodland, and the embedding of our recently acquired fields into the life and ecological future of Grith Pioneers. On behalf of our members, friends, and the thousands of people who enjoyed Shining Cliff Woods over the last year, I would like to thank the trustees, council members, volunteers, and partner organisations for another extraordinary year of work, care, and stewardship. *Education / Training; Community; Development; Recreation; Activities & Public Benefit* **Booked Camps and Activities** Across the 12-month period from May 2025 to April 2026, the woods hosted 370 adults and 110 children visiting for camping or day sessions: • 163 camping days across both sites • 94 day bookings across the Main Site, Top Corner Site and Ruins Fire Site This continues the strong and diverse engagement seen in previous years. Activities this year included ecotherapy training, women's retreats, yoga, bushcraft, forest school, sessions for refugees and asylum seekers, birthday parties, memorials, CPD workshops, children's activity days, and artist-led events. Wildlings pre-school continued their twice-weekly attendance throughout the year, and use of the ruins fire pit site increased. Despite modest fluctuations between months, overall activity levels remain balanced, diverse, and aligned with our charitable purpose. **Shining Cliff Centre CIC** A total of 1,440 people stayed at the hostel and 700 people accessed woodland sessions between February 2025 and January 2026. Since the start of systematic data collection in 2022, 6,400 overnight users and 3,870 session participants have benefited from CIC activities. The Centre continues to deliver a remarkable range of wellbeing and outdoor learning programmes including woodland home education, women's gatherings, Fettle Kettle & Cake conservation sessions, Chill &

Chat, forest bathing, family events, and more, many supported this year by National Lottery and local authority funding.

Reduced bookings in 2025 were attributed to the insurer's suspension of permission for fire pits after a 2024 personal-injury claim. Although the claim was successfully defended, insurers have only just reinstated fire-pit cover. Operational changes, rebranding of fire-pit areas as "Gathering Circles with BBQ", and reduced expenditure helped offset financial impacts.
The Centre reinvested into improvements including replacing six hostel windows, plumbing, electrical and safety compliance, woodland session resources, repairs and redesign of fire-pit areas, replacement domestic appliances, and a new chainsaw for access-path clearance. Plans include track-access improvements, further upgrades to hostel facilities, and broader listing on accommodation platforms to raise visibility and resilience.

Environment / Conservation / Heritage

Managing Areas of the Woodland for Recreation
The woods continue to be extremely popular for walking, nature connection, recreation, and simple outdoor joy. As in previous years, volunteer work has been central to maintaining safe conditions for visitors. This year included clearing windblown trees and overhanging hazardous branches, stream-culvert grill clearance, and repairs to walls, barriers, chains, and boundaries.
Work by Forest School Camps and Kate's volunteers included hay-raking, wall repair, coppicing, drainage clearing, and tree-planting in the new fields. Volunteer turnout has increased significantly. Planned works include ash-dieback management, reinstatement of the reservoir footbridge handrail, wall repairs, the creation of a pedestrian gate, and – pending planning approval – new field infrastructure to support education and wildlife activities.

Ecology of the New Fields
This has been an extraordinary year for the two fields acquired in 2024. Over 1,000 native tree whips were planted (elder, dogwood, dog rose, rowan, hawthorn, wild cherry, blackthorn, lime, oak, birch, spindle, crab apple, hazel), mostly along Jackass Lane, with biodegradable guards and protective corks. Tree-whip maintenance will continue through the year, and self-seeded oak saplings are being marked to ensure natural regeneration also proceeds.
We are leaving the fields to develop into a wildflower meadow – one of the UK's rarest habitats. Baseline surveys have recorded 40 species of wildflowers and grasses, abundant insect life, day-flying moths, bees, crickets, grasshoppers, butterflies (including ringlets, meadow browns, orange tips, red admirals, small coppers), and animals such as grass snakes, voles, hares, and deer. Bird life recorded includes buzzards, lapwings, fieldfares, meadow pipits, mistle thrushes, redwings, and blackcaps. Ecologists have confirmed that parts of the meadow display CHEGD grassland characteristics – an indicator of a high-quality, traditionally managed grassland ecosystem. Ragwort control is planned to allow hay-cutting. Monthly photographic monitoring continues, with the number of volunteer surveyors expanding significantly.

Woodland Ecological Management
This year Shining Cliff Woods have benefited from the regular rhododendron removal, hazel coppicing and sycamore pruning. Soft-dams have been created in some streams, and surroundings cleared in some areas to allowing in more light.

	New Woodland Acquisition We are in the process of acquiring an additional 5 acres of SSSI woodland, our first woodland expansion in 94 years. Completion is expected in April 2026. This will further strengthen our ecological continuity, habitat protection, and long-term conservation vision. **Planned Environmental and Infrastructure Work for 2026** Work being discussed includes: Creating a wildlife pond (pending planning); Widening the lower field gate and creating six low-impact parking spaces; Adding a wooden field shelter for education & wildlife observation; More bird, bat and owl boxes; Expanded surveys (wildflowers, fungi, birds, butterflies, invertebrates, bryophytes); Sycamore reduction, ride widening, hazel coppicing, and rhododendron removal. These reflect a maturing ecological vision for both woodland and meadow habitats. This year has been one of **deepening ecological stewardship**, **strong public engagement**, **major land consolidation**, and **ongoing community commitment**. **Membership** We currently have **46 members** listed. Five new members joined since the last AGM, with five more applications to consider. Membership continues to grow gradually, helping sustain governance capacity and volunteer commitment. Our volunteers, members, trustees, staff, and supporters have achieved a huge amount – though physical work on the land, education, financial generosity, and collective care for Shining Cliff Woods and its growing surrounding habitats. With the imminent acquisition of new woodland, the continuing development of our meadows, the resilience of the hostel, the time commitment of our council officers, and the energy of our volunteers, the future of Grith Pioneers looks more exciting and ecologically rich than ever. Dr Ian J Graham, Chair of Grith Pioneers Council

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	Total income for the year to 31st March 2026 was £46,486 (2025: £82,985), with unrestricted income funds of £7,515 (2025: £7,854). During the year Grith was given a further opportunity to expand the woodland, funds raised for this purpose to 31st March 2026 total £27,213. Further restricted income received of £11,758 relating to Gift Aid on previously received donations enabled Grith to repay the loans noted in 2025 accounts of £9,695. In 2025 Grith raised £75,131 restricted income funds to purchase land, Lot E, from the Nether Park Farm auction, including £9,695 in loans to Grith repaid in 2026. Unrestricted income is mainly from the rental of the hostel, with some income from camping/booking fees and memberships. Expenditure in the year amounted to £12,557 (2025: £106,346), £1,895 related to unrestricted/general expenditure (2025: £2,505) supporting the routine costs, insurance, maintenance and work of the charity. A further £10,662 was paid from restricted income funds; £9,695 related to the repayment of loans for the land purchase, £311 was for costs related to planting saplings in the fields with £656 relating to professional and Crowdfunder fees, (2025: £103,841 for purchase of the fields). There was a small surplus of £5,620 on unrestricted income funds, allowing Grith to increase the unrestricted income funds held in reserves. Shining Cliff Woods and the hostel are Grith Pioneers CIO's assets and are currently held at nil value. New land purchased December 2024 is held at purchase value: £103,205.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Grith Pioneers CIO is fortunate to have a reserve of unrestricted income funds to enable the ongoing management of the woodland. The woodland management plan is prepared for several years in advance, however there is an element of unpredictability eg there might be occasion to remove trees more immediately than planned due to storm damage or invasive disease. Trustees will always seek the best price for major works. The reserves of the CIO need to be sufficient to cover these planned and unplanned costs. The income of the CIO may drop due to unexpected external factors, such as Covid-19, it is necessary to have enough reserves to protect the continuity of charitable objectives.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	Grith Pioneers CIO has a balance of £24,525 (2025: £18,905) in Unrestricted income reserves and £28,309 held in Restricted income reserves (2025: nil) with no Endowment Income reserves.
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	The trustees consider that the level of reserves held is sufficient to ensure the CIO continuing as a going concern.

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Grith Pioneer's principal source of funds continues to be from letting the hostel on a tenancy agreement, to an organisation that shares Grith's values. Members also provide valuable income through their subscription. Fees paid by campers and other woodland users support Grith to maintain the woods for all members of the wider public to access and enjoy. Last year we received significant donations to enable the CIO to purchase land and increase the footprint of the woods, we thought this unlikely to be repeated however we received a further opportunity to purchase mature SSSI woodland adjoining our current land in 2026. Fundraising has continued to enable this purchase, noted in 2026 accounts and is ongoing in 2027, after that we expect income will reduce back to lower levels seen in previous years.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	The trustees do not have an investment policy other than their aim to bank with ethical banks that share Grith's values and principles. To this end Grith Pioneers operate current and deposit account with Triodos Bank, a leading ethical bank. The CIO's cash reserves are fully held with Triodos Bank.
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:	
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Grith Pioneers Charitable Incorporated Organisation with voting members other than its charity trustees
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Membership vote

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Relationship with any related parties	Grith Pioneers CIO is a member organisation with trustees drawn from the membership. Trustees and members volunteer their time and pay membership subscriptions as agreed by members. There are no related party relationships.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Grith Pioneers CIO
Other name the charity uses	Grith
Registered charity number	1188105
Charity's principal address	Mountainside Beggarswell Wood Ambergate DE56 2HF

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Kathleen Moss	Treasurer		
2	Michelle Kershaw-Wright			
3	Michael Cross			
4	Martin Redman		Resigned 30th October 2025	
5	Nicholas Glaister			
6	Steve Bond		Appointed 25th April 2026	
7				
8				
9				

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	*KRMoss*	
Full name(s)	Kathleen Moss	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	

25th April 2026

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Grith Pioneers

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Grith Pioneers Charitable Incorporated Organisation ('the CIO') for the year ended 31st March 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). I report in respect of my examination of the CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



Signed:

Name: Rachael Stevens

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any): ICAEW ACA

Address: Grange Farm, The Street, Old Basing, Hampshire, RG24 7BH

Date: 15/06/2026

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
Grith Pioneers	1188105

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 01/04/2025	To	Period end date 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					
Membership fees	350	-	-	350	310
Rental income hostel	4,992	-	-	4,992	4,992
Camping/booking fees	1,559	-	-	1,559	1,458
Wayleave	64	-	-	64	64
Interest	307	-	-	307	740
Donations	243	12,213	-	12,456	65,726
Grants	-	15,000	-	15,000	-
Gift Aid recovery	-	11,758	-	11,758	-
Loan for land purchase	-	-	-	-	9,695
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	7,515	38,971	-	46,486	82,985
Total receipts	7,515	38,971	-	46,486	82,985
A3 Payments					
Maintenance	-	-	-	-	422
Tree surgery	-	-	-	-	165
Planting		311		311	
Signage	-	-	-	-	405
Insurance	721	-	-	721	721
Subscriptions	87	-	-	87	87
Professional fees	915	440	-	1,355	-
Surveys	150	-	-	150	200
Bank charges	22	-	-	22	25
Crowdfunder charges	-	216		216	636
Meeting expenses	-	-	-	-	480
Loan for land purchase		9,695		9,695	-
Sub total	1,895	10,662	-	12,557	3,141
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Land purchase - 5.115 acres SSSE woodland at bottom of existing woodland	-	-	-	-	-
Land purchase - Lot E Nether Park Farm auction	-	-	-	-	103,206
Sub total	-	-	-	-	103,206
Total payments	1,895	10,662	-	12,557	106,347
Net of receipts/(payments)	5,620	28,309	-	33,929	(23,362)
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
Funds brought forward	18,905	-	-	18,905	35,517
Cash funds this year end	24,525	28,309	-	52,834	18,905

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
Grith Pioneers	1188105

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

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

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

B1 Cash funds

Categories / Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
HSBC Current	-	-	-
Triodos Current	12,726	28,309	-
Triodos Deposit	11,799	-	-
Total cash funds	**24,525**	**28,309**	**-**
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
Shining Cliff Woods	Unrestricted	-	-
Shining Cliff Hostel	Unrestricted	-	-
no monetary value held in accounts		-	-
Land purchase - Field Lot E Nether Park Farm auction December 2024	Restricted	**103,205**	**103,205**
Land purchase - 5.115 acres SSSE woodland at bottom of existing woodland (to be completed 21/04/26)	Restricted	-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
KRMoss	Kathleen Moss	*25th April 2026*