Dean Trail Volunteers
Trustees' Annual Report

Year Ended 1 April 2026

1 REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Name: Dean Trail Volunteers

Charity Number: 1208988

Principal Office: Forest of Dean Cycle Centre, Cannop, Coleford, GL16 7EH

Trustees who served during the year:

- Andrew Davies – Chair/Dig Coordinator
- Sara Packer - Secretary (stood down Sept 2025)
- Ben Herycz – Treasurer (stood down Dec 2025)
- Neil Wheeler - Health & Safety Officer/Membership Officer
- Ian Officer - Non Executive Officer/Chair
- Alan Grist - Non Executive Officer
- Rebecca Prayoga - Marketing Trustee
- Robert Yates - Fundraising Trustee
- Rob Lake – Health and Safety Trustee
- Ruth Hallett – Data, Digital and Compliance Trustee
- Morgan Jones – Inclusion and Diversity Trustee

Hazlewoods completed Independent Examination.

2 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document: The charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and is governed by a Constitution dated 4 July 2024.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees: Trustees are appointed by members at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with the constitution. All trustees retire by rotation with half retiring each year.

Trustee Induction and Training: The charity commission provides free training on their website a series of training videos have been watched at the start of Trustee meetings, such as Safeguarding, making

decision, managing charity finances. The charity is also linked into Gloucestershire VCSE network and have attended a number of their courses.

Organisational Structure: The charity is managed by a board of trustees who meet regularly to oversee the strategic direction and ensure proper governance. The board met 6 times in the period.

Risk Management: The charity has a risk log which is regularly updated, available to all Trustees via Teams and on the agenda for each Trustee meeting.

3 OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable Objects: The objects of the CIO are:

- The advancement of the amateur sport of Mountain Biking in the Forest of Dean for the public benefit by the assistance in the provision of facilities for participation in the sport of Mountain Biking at the Forest of Dean Cycle Centre
- To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment within the Forest of Dean Cycle Centre

Main Activities: During the year, our main activities included:

- Total volunteer hours contributed: 3,748 hours (up from 3298 hours in 2024/25)

Public Benefit: Our activities provide public benefit by:

- Maintaining and improving the Mountain Bike trails that are freely accessible to the public helping promote physical activity and outdoor recreation improving health and wellbeing
- Modest advances in protecting and enhancing the natural environment around the heavy volume of visitors we get at the Cycle Centre.
- Building community engagement with partnerships with local businesses and schools.
- The trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Key Statistics for the Year:

- Total volunteer hours: 3,748 (14% increase from 2025)
- Occasional volunteers (under 15 hours): (2025: 168 =749 hours total)
- Cumulative volunteer hours since 2021: 12458
- Number of regular dig programmes: 3 (Wednesday, Friday and Saturday)
- Conservation activities: Erosion control trials on 2 trails using rock protection.
- Community events and fundraising: 600 hours (2025:277 hours) on table sales and events

4 ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

4.1 TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT:

4.1.1 Relationship with Forestry England

- The Forest England Partnership is again working very well this year, with a high level of trust between the Ranger team and the Dig Leads. Inclusion of FOD Night Rider activities have improved inclusion and awareness across the Forest.

4.1.2 Environment Stewardship

- Friends of the Cotswolds funding used to purchase rock to reduce erosion on key areas such as Sheepskull.
- Litter Pick partnership with Trash Free Trails: three events held through 2025
- Environmental protection integrated into all trail maintenance work

4.1.3 Fund Raising

- Disabled bike access project supported by Barnwood Trust funding (£4,400) is expected to be spent in 2027 supporting a Accessibility Takeover Day at the cycle centre.
- Regular Table Sales support: 600 hours fundraising for the charity with £14007 (2025: £12293) raised in total.

4.2 HEALTH & SAFETY

- Additional tools, high viz and signage acquired during the year.
- One near miss recorded.

4.3 MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

- New website launched, content and platform now controlled by DTV on WordPress.

4.4 VOLUNTEERS & MEMBERSHIP

- Eligible members achieving 15+ hour threshold: 61 (2025: 51 volunteers qualified for membership)
- Much improved membership regular communication via email developed through the year.

4.5 IT & DATA

- Trustees now have access to documents and can discuss key documents via Microsoft Teams
- The consent process for those signing up has been strenghtened to ensure GDPR compliance
- We have sought guidance from ICO regarding transfer of data with moving from a volunteer group to a charity and have started with a new list with the correct consent arrangements

4.6 Finance Update

Income for the Year:	£16,954	(2025: £47,871)
Table sales:	£14,007	(£12,293)
Other donations:	£2,946	(£35,578)

Expenditure for the Year: £7,127 (£19,409). The majority of expenditure in 2025/6 was spent on the refurbishment project of Corkscrew by VeloSolutions.

Bank balance at Year end: £38,289

Reserves Policy: DTV typically aims to hold 6 to 12 months general operating costs in reserve. Expenditure on major projects can vary subject to contractor availability.

At the year-end, the charity held reserves of £38,289, which the trustees consider appropriate for the charity's current activities and future commitments.

Investment Policy: Funds are held in an easy access Co-operative Bank current account.

5 Charity Matters

5.1 Trustee Updates

- We are actively seeking a new Finance Trustee to oversee the work of our paid book-keeper.
- Marketing Trustee is looking for volunteer assistance to support general communication, Crowdfunding and marketing activities.

6 FUTURE PLANS

Priorities for 2026-27:

- Rebuild of Ski Run downhill trail
- Ongoing maintenance and improvements to Freeminers Trail
- Development of multiple red grade options on Verderers Trail
- Build conservation best practice into every dig.
- Finalise adaptive bike project.
- Membership/volunteers: We have deliberately held back from recruiting new dig volunteers through the year, due to large dig groups being difficult to manage with limited dig leads. In 2026/27 we will be looking to develop more opportunities for smaller digs, plus a bespoke Duke of Edinburgh volunteer scheme and support for table sales, plus looking for support with social media content .

- We will continue to drive membership and donations; clothing, bike parts and financial support.
- Build on membership communications, rides and social events.

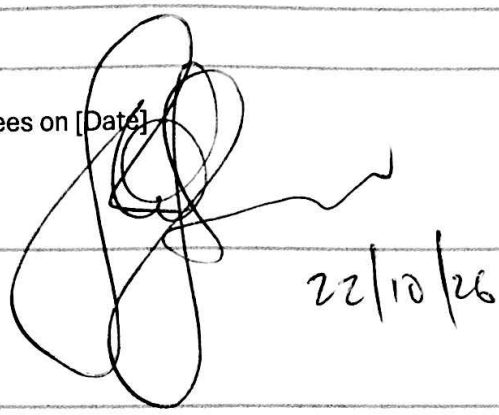
Fundraising Strategy:

DTV will be looking to raise £20,000 per year for general costs, plus £20,000 for specific trail projects. Pedalabikeaway have kindly offered to share 1% of café revenues each year to support DTV – approximately £15,000. The first donation (related to 6 months trading) will be received in October 2026 and the balance in April 2027.

Long-term Vision: DTV will continue to improve and increase the scope of our activity, while developing a strong working relationship with Forestry England. We will be seen as an exemplar volunteer group, working on public land and building on our strong reputation and structures.

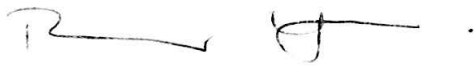
Approved by the Trustees on [Date]

Signed:



Ian Officer
Chair

Ruth Hallett
Secretary



Date: 22/10/26

This report covers the period from 2 April 2025 to 1 April 2026

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Dean Trail Volunteers	1208988

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	01/04/2025	To	31/03/2026

Section A Receipts and payments

	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					
Crowdfunding	-	-	-	-	272
Grant income	-	-	-	-	2,000
Race payments	-	-	-	-	257
Misc donations	2,076	-	-	2,076	16,221
Paypal donations	870	-	-	870	593
Donations for gear	14,008	-	-	14,008	12,293
Net receipts prior to becoming a registered charity					16,235
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	16,954	-	-	16,954	47,871
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	16,954	-	-	16,954	47,871
A3 Payments					
Tools and materials	1,838	-	-	1,838	341
Advertising	977	-	-	977	93
Accountancy software	84	-	-	84	92
Equipment maintenance	717	-	-	717	104
Events	-	-	-	-	856
Insurance	441	-	-	441	431
Subscriptions	370	-	-	370	20
Paypal fees	55	-	-	55	66
Subcontractor fees for builds	173	2,000	-	2,173	16,964
Volunteer suppliers	472	-	-	472	340
Website costs	-	-	-	-	102
Sub total	5,127	2,000	-	7,127	19,409
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	5,127	2,000	-	7,127	19,409
Net of receipts/(payments)	11,827	- 2,000	-	9,827	28,462
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	22,062	6,400	-	28,462	-
Cash funds this year end	33,889	4,400	-	38,289	28,462

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 £
	Co-Operative Bank Account	33,660	4,400	-
	Trail Pixie Paypal Account	66	-	-
	DTV Original Paypal Account	163	-	-
	Paypal	-	-	-
	Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	33,889	4,400	-

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

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 asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
Accrued invoices	Unrestricted	- 12,018	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	1. officer	23/10/26