

Charity No. SC045806



**FINDHORN HINTERLAND TRUST
SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)**

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

31 March 2024

Scottish Charity No SC045806

FINDHORN HINTERLAND TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity registration number: SC045806

TRUSTEES

Jonathan Caddy (Chair)

Judith Bone (Secretary)

David Hammond (Treasurer)

Christopher Raymont

Jacqueline Buckingham

Alan Watson Featherstone

Dr Arunkumar Patel

REGISTERED OFFICE

228 Pineridge,
The Park, Findhorn,
Moray, Scotland
IV36 3TB

ACCOUNTANT

Fasil Bogale
Chartered Accountant
15 Jameson Wynd,
Forres
IV36 2AP

FINDHORN HINTERLAND TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements and the independent examiner's report for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The trustees

The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Jonathan Caddy (Chair)

Judith Bone (Secretary)

David Hammond (Treasurer)

Jacqueline Buckingham

Christopher Raymont

Alan Watson Featherstone

Dr Arunkumar Patel

Organisational structure

Constitution

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a SCIO). It was registered on 15 July 2015. It took over much of the work of the now dissolved unincorporated association, the Findhorn Hinterland Group whose assets were transferred to the Trust on the 30th of March 2016. The SCIO has a two-tier structure with appointed trustees and a membership.

Trustees and Membership

Membership is open to anyone over the age of 16 who has an interest in the objectives of the SCIO. They have the power to appoint trustees at the annual general meeting and change the constitution. The trustees meet four times a year and up to ten can be elected at the AGM by members. Up to six can be co-opted by trustees from local organisations that have an interest in the land. The maximum number of trustees is sixteen and a quorum of three are needed to make decisions at meetings.

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes

Apart from a small 0.6ha piece of land run as a green burial site in the middle of Wilkies Wood, Findhorn Hinterland Trust does not at present own land but works with landowners in the local area to help integrate land management and involve the local community. Its specific purposes are: -

- The advancement of environmental protection and improvement with particular reference to the habitats of the Findhorn area, Moray, Scotland.
- The advancement of education of the local community and wider public especially related to the outdoor and environmental opportunities provided by the Findhorn Hinterland habitats and environs.

FINDHORN HINTERLAND TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

- The advancement of community development by encouraging community cooperation, development and resilience through activities related to land on the Findhorn Hinterland and its management.
- The provision of recreational facilities and activities with the object of improving the conditions of life for local people and others in West Moray and beyond.

At present the FHT has formal agreements with two of the Findhorn peninsula's landowners - the Findhorn Foundation and Duneland Ltd - to manage particular areas of their land. (In the next year or two it expects to be gifted much of this land it presently manages for these organisations.) This is carried out through implementing the 2019-2023 agreed five-year management plan which has been extended to cover up to 2025 due to delays in implementation because of the pandemic.

Activities/ Achievements and Performance:

Much has been achieved on many fronts this year with activities and events that often simultaneously promote all four of the charity's purposes. Some of the most prominent have been:

1. Conservation and Educational Events on or Related to the Land

This year there were a couple of important initiatives including an exploration of how the charity might carry out larger scale **dune restoration work** to decrease the area of gorse and trees on the land it manages, in order to help maintain and develop the biodiversity of this rare habitat. This had been proposed some years ago in the FHT Local Biodiversity Action plan, which forms part of the FHT Management Plan, but this is the first year it was decided to develop this idea. **Ecologist Sean Reed took the lead in developing a plan** and connecting to similar projects locally. This resulted in **visits to the RSPB dune restoration project** on the Old Bar at Culbin and the **Butterfly Conservation 'Species on the Edge' project** at Nairn.

There were also several meetings with the neighbouring charity **Findhorn Dunes Trust** to see if we might develop a joint project together, but factors such as funding and differing timings make this less likely at this time. The project helped the charity put together a **star species list of rare organisms** that inhabit the land we manage. This was made possible thanks to specialist biodiversity surveys arranged by trustee Alan Watson Featherstone.

This year Alan arranged for Joe Botting to carry out a **survey of true bugs** and a group of specialists from the south of England who carried out a **moth survey**. All this work generated some very interesting **conservation-related articles** for the local press, the community weekly magazine and our own quarterly newsletter. More than £2000 was raised for this project through a **Go Fund Me appeal** at Christmas. A screening in the Hall of the **environmental film 'When the Bough Breaks'** helped raise awareness and provided further fundraising. **Public presentations and walks** on the land to inform the public of our intended work also took place in March.

Next year we plan further fundraising and project development to enable on-the-ground work to begin during Autumn/Winter 2024/25. The dune restoration work was also given a real boost by **four special work parties** during the winter. Local volunteers were joined by almost **30 asylum seekers from Elgin**. Together they cleared a large area of trees to the north of Wilkies Wood. This was arranged in conjunction with the **Moray Supports Migrants and Refugees (MSMR)** charity and the **Moray Council** with some funding help through the **Volunteering Scotland Earth Action** fund.

FINDHORN HINTERLAND TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Another new initiative was to put together a more **ambitious educational programme for the following year** to see if we could develop this aspect of the trust further. Programmes in 2023/24 were a little disappointing and some longer retreats had to be cancelled. but others such as the **Sharing Nature programme** put on by Roy Simpson were well received. We hope to build upon this in 2024/25.

In addition to these new initiatives the normal series of **monthly work parties** continued with particularly well attended events on bees in the Spring and a Summer event in the Woodland Garden. **Celebration events** such as the **May Day Celebration**, a **Summer Solstice** event, our traditional **Christmas tree/winter gathering** at the Woodland Shelter and **Santa's Grotto special event** at the Conservation Hub were all appreciated and continue to help build a sense of local community through fun and nature connection. **The Forres Academy Biology Field Trip** in June is also turning into a much appreciated annual event. This year more than 50 young people using the charity land to carry out meaningful study.

2. **Building Projects** - One of the projects that was completed this year was the **Shepherd's Hut** which was moved on site during the Mayday celebration. It was soon housing a **couple of long-term volunteers; Louna Kornobis and Mitch Tarbit** who in turn helped with projects such as the **painting of the tractor trailer** and the **re-roofing of the wood store roof** - an extension of the Conservation Hub.

A new building project was a **couple of chunky benches** that an older member of the community commissioned to be placed in the landscape for all to use. The benches were created by **woodworker Steven Porter** who inspired volunteers to help with this creative and worthwhile venture.

3. **Green Burial Activity** - This has been the second full year that the four strong burial team has been in operation and one of them, **Laura Shreenan**, has now **taken on the sale of lairs** from Will Russell, the previous one-man coordinator. All has been working well with **four new burials** taking place this year including three events involving **community members: Dee Sunshine 26/11/2023, George Ripley 03/02/2024 and Astrid Gobbett 11/03/2024**. This brings the **total number of burials to 57** with a further **72 lairs reserved**.

4. **Woodland Garden - Draeyk van der Horn** has continued to coordinate this aspect of the trust's work despite the considerable workload as the Moray Council Green Councillor. There have been fewer garden volunteers this year which has meant the support of a couple of larger work parties at critical times of the year has been particularly appreciated. **The Outdoor Learning Space** continues to be enjoyed by many people who take time to visit the garden.

5. **Membership and Publicising the Work of the Trust**. This is the fourth year of running the trust's **paid membership scheme** with a slight increase this year from 180 to 196 members. Our **quarterly newsletter** has been appreciated by many and has been very useful in promoting our work to grant givers and prospective new members. **The Conservation Hub information boards** continue to promote our work alongside the **high-quality posters and promotional material** produced by our **marketing person, Birgit Carow**.

6. **Personnel and Administrative Successes** - The **trustee group has remained stable**, and our part time **Land Manager Kajedo Wanderer** continues to underpin much of what the FHT does on the land. **Regular land management, finance, beekeeping and green burial subgroup meetings** have served the work of the trust well, allowing us time to discuss and make decisions on important operational matters out with trustee meetings.

FINDHORN HINTERLAND TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH

Financial review

The statement of financial activities shows a deficit for the year of £722 (2023 £13,393 surplus). The charity's reserves were in surplus of £74,020 (2023 £74,742, surplus) at the year-end.

Reserves Policy

The trustees have reviewed the Reserves Policy in the light of the main risks to the organization and determined that a reserve of £13,000 is adequate for the day to day running of its affairs and that a further sum of £8,850 to cover burial liabilities has been identified. This is a steadily reducing sum as people who could claim 80% refunds or have paid in advance for burial costs are either refunded or buried as planned. Thus, the rest of the Green Burial Restricted Fund has been released to our general Unrestricted Fund.

Responsibilities of the trustees

The law applicable to charities in Scotland requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each 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, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards 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 business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

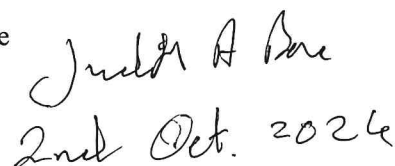
Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Jonathan Caddy
Chair
Date:



1st October 2024.

Judith Bone
Secretary
Date:



2nd Oct. 2024

FINDHORN HINTERLAND TRUST

Independent Examiner's Report

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Findhorn Hinterland Trust.

I report on the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 7 to 13.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10 (1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the directors concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention, which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- To keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met.



Fasil Bogale ACMA,CGMA

Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

FINDHORN HINTERLAND TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generating funds:					
Donation & Legacies	4	3,813	5,436	9,249	8,226
Grants	4	-	1,850	1,850	1,337
Charitable Activities	4	22,481	-	22,481	32,890
Gift Aid	4	988	-	988	-
Investment		690	-	690	1,835
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		27,972	7,286	35,258	44,288
EXPENDITURE					
Charitable activities	5	29,024	6,616	35,640	30,120
Governance costs	6	340	-	340	775
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		29,364	6,616	35,980	30,895
Transfer		24,532	(24,532)	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		23,140	(23,862)	(722)	13,393
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
TOTAL FUND BROUGHT FORWARD		30,754	43,988	74,742	61,349
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		53,894	20,126	74,020	74,742

The Notes on page 10 to 14 form an integral part of these accounts

Charity number SC045806

**FINDHORN HINTERLAND TRUST
BALANCE SHEET
YEAR ENDED 31 March 2024**

	Note	31 March 2024 £	31 March 2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	2	19,847	21,058
Investment	7	37,890	37,890
		57,737	58,948
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year		2,601	1,171
Cash at bank and in hand		22,187	16,555
		24,788	17,726
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		(8,505)	(1,932)
		16,283	15,794
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		16,283	15,794
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		74,020	74,742
LONG TERM LIABILITIES		-	-
NET ASSETS		74,020	74,742
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds	8	53,894	30,754
Restricted funds	8	20,126	43,988
TOTAL FUNDS		74,020	74,742

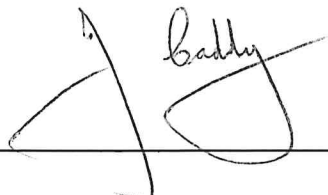
The Notes on pages 9 to 13 form an integral part of these accounts

Charity No **SC045806**

Approved by the trustees on

September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:-

Jonathan Caddy
Chair



Judith Bone
Secretary



FINDHORN HINTERLAND TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 March 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the financial statements, except as noted below.

Basis of accounting

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 for Smaller Entities published on 16th July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015) the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

Fund Accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities. Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the company and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year-end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Related Parties

No other remuneration was paid to the trustees or to any connected persons during the year.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount. Prepayments are valued at the amount paid in advance for future periods.

FINDHORN HINTERLAND TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 March 2024

2. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Plant and machinery – 3 years
Computer -3 years
Building – 20 years

2.1. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Conservation Hub £	Plant and machinery £	Computer £	Freehold Land	Total £
Cost					
At 1 April 2023	20,327	2,523	427	1	23,278
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	20,327	2,523	427	1	23,278
Depreciation					
Previous year charges	1,016	776	427	-	2,219
Charge for the year	1,016	195	-	-	1,211
At 31 March 2024	2,032	971	427	-	3,430
Net book value					
At 31 March 2024	18,295	1,552	-	1	19,848

** Freehold Land: In May 2019, the green burial site in the middle of Wilkies Wood was purchased from the Findhorn Foundation for the price £1.

3. TRUSTEES REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

The following payments were made to a Trustee during the period for services in their normal line of business. Jacqueline Buckingham £457 (2023, £0) & Christopher Raymont £2,137 (2023, £1,900).

Trustees Expenses

One Trustee received reimbursement of expenses in the current year amount to £120 (2023 –£659). Trustees' expenses related to the reimbursement of material expenses incurred on behalf of the charity.

FINDHORN HINTERLAND TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 March 2024

4. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITY ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Tree thinnings	935	-	935	100
Gorse clearance & Pony grazing	1,248	-	1,248	1,128
Green burial lair sale	11,350	-	11,350	18,554
Track use & maintenance fee	1,062	-	1,062	2,332
Other miscellaneous donations	1,192	-	1,192	2,399
Donation for Bee Funds	-	100	100	2,275
Membership	5,111	-	5,111	4,298
Duneland Restoration Project	-	5,336	5,336	-
Retreat and Workshop	990	-	990	5,292
Gift Aid	988	-	988	-
Miscellaneous Sales	4,405	-	4,405	3,048
Donation - EWG	-	-	-	1,690
	27,281	5,436	32,717	41,116

Grants	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
TCV	-	100	100	-
Volunteering Matters	-	250	250	250
Hygeia Foundation	-	1,500	1,500	1,087
	-	1,850	1,850	1,337

5. COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES BY FUND TYPE

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Green Burial	4,387	-	4,387	6,388
Pony field expenses	7	-	7	-
Vehicle expenses	435	-	435	87
Fuel/Oil	511	-	511	450
Management Plan	660	-	660	1,393
Land Management	13,964	-	13,964	11,422
Insurance	508	-	508	440
AGM	41	-	41	-
Tools and Maintenance	647	-	647	1,141
Administration costs	6,166	1,600	7,766	6,721
Bee equipment	-	263	263	1,055
Duneland Restoration Project	-	4,192	4,192	-
Trees Guards and Stakes	843	-	843	-
Retreat and workshop	254	-	254	273
OLS/EWG	-	-	-	220
Shepherds Hut Construction	600	562	1,162	525
	28,843	6,617	35,640	30,115

FINDHORN HINTERLAND TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 March 2024

6. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Minutes Secretary	-	90	90	530
Accountancy fees	-	250	250	250
	-	340	340	780

7. OTHER ASSETS

	Notes	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
		£	£	£	£
Ekopia Share Investment	4a	11,940	25,950	37,890	37,890
Deposit with Seapark Petrol Station,		-	100	100	100
		11,940	26,050	37,990	37,990

The share investment in Ekopia is partly a restricted fund in order to cover inherited burial liabilities for rights to refund and prepaid grave digging costs from the trust's predecessor. This amounts to the sum of £11,940. The rest has been transferred to Unrestricted funds (see section on reserved funds in the Trustees report)

FINDHORN HINTERLAND TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 March 2024

8. INCOME FUNDS:

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
General Funds				
Unrestricted Fund	30,754	27,972	(29,364)	29,362
Transfer	-	24,532	-	24,532
Total Unrestricted Fund	<u>30,754</u>	<u>52,504</u>	<u>(29,364)</u>	<u>53,894</u>
Restricted Funds				
Green Burial Fund	36,472	-	-	36,472
Green Burial Fund Transfer	-	-	(24,532)	(24,532)
Total Green Burial Fund	<u>36,472</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(24,532)</u>	<u>11,940</u>
Bee Fund	1,300	100	(263)	1,137
Sanctuary Rebuild Fund	3,920	-	-	3,920
Outdoor Learning Space/EWG Fund	1,734	1,850	(1,600)	1,984
Shepherd's Hut Fund	562	-	(562)	-
Duneland Restoration Project	-	5,336	(4,191)	1,145
Total Funds	<u><u>74,742</u></u>	<u><u>59,790</u></u>	<u><u>(60,512)</u></u>	<u><u>74,020</u></u>