

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: CE001458 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHAIRTY NUMBER: 1154806

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023
FOR
SUFFOLK PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

**Walter Wright
Chartered Accountants
89 High Street
Hadleigh
Suffolk
IP7 5EA**

SUFFOLK PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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SUFFOLK PRESERVATION SOCIETY

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

TRUSTEES	R Townshend Dip LA CHLI Hon FRBS K Debenham Sir Guy Quilter Mrs L Hunt B Kindred MBE (Resigned June 2023) N Pearson OBE FCSI Mr Thomas Seymour LLB Hons Mr Simon Sturgis AADip RIBA Dr J Tipper PHD Cantab FSA (Resigned June 2023) Mrs J A Ward BA (Hons) Dip.TP MBA MRTPI Ms R Bunn (Appointed June 2023)
REGISTERED OFFICE	Little Hall Market Place Lavenham Sudbury Suffolk CO10 9QZ
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER	CE001458 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	1154806
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Walter Wright Chartered Accountants 89 High Street Hadleigh Ipswich Suffolk IP7 5EA
SOLICITORS	Blocks Arcade Chambers 2-6 Arcade Street Ipswich IP1 1EL
BANKERS	Lloyds Bank Plc 13 Cornhill Ipswich Suffolk IP1 1DG

SUFFOLK PRESERVATION SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purpose of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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) (effective 1 January 2016)

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The Society works to preserve and enhance the buildings, landscape and coastline of Suffolk. It continues to pursue this key aim by making professional informed representations on planning applications arising anywhere in the county where, in the opinion of the Society's professionally qualified planning officers, those developments would harm the interests the Society seeks to protect. This work is critical in preserving the best of the county's common inheritance for the benefit of all.

Review of activities

SPS has had another good year with increased outputs, impacts and successes, all underlined by a steady increase in membership. We thank all our members, new and old, for supporting us in our very important work. Our members give us our mandate, help us to raise crucial income, but more importantly help us to raise our voice and increase our effectiveness. The last twelve months has seen a continued growth in major development across Suffolk; SPS planners have been heavily engaged with this. However, we have also widened the scope of our work with a number of exciting new initiatives.

The Society had an extremely successful and well supported programme of events in 2023 with visits to the Heritage Action Zone in Lowestoft; Ickworth Park; Cockfield Hall and culminating in a one day retrofit seminar, with speakers from SPAB and English Heritage.

Routine planning activities

Through our sustained campaigning work, we have seen some real successes this year in the proposed changes to the Levelling Up Bill. This sees a major planning breakthrough with the scrapping of housing targets which have so often meant damaging development in Suffolk because of top-down targets, disempowering planning authorities and disenfranchising local communities. Other important breakthroughs include a major shift in government policy to prioritise the development on brownfield (previously developed) land over greenfield.

The Society's position remains that the scale and complexity of each of these very large applications has the potential to overwhelm the finite resources of the charity. Accordingly, the trustees have agreed that the Society would provide support, as far as capacity allows, in terms of signposting special interest groups to appropriate specialist expertise, and offering input on their evidence, using our own in-house expertise. The Society has concluded that to fight all of these energy applications

SUFFOLK PRESERVATION SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

'all the way' would prevent it from discharging its duties to the rest of the county where many other pressing applications arose during the year.

Our work with communities in Suffolk has continued to include exciting project work. In 2023 we were successful in a third and final round of funding from CPRE, to reinstate/restore hedgerows in the Dedham Vale AONB as part of the Hedgerow Heroes campaign. SPS has been pleased to work with the Dedham Vale Farmer Cluster to secure vital funding for the last phase of this important restoration work.

We are proud that we have been able to work with and offer support to a number of single-issue campaign groups in Suffolk. In particular, we are pleased to have supported the Say No to Sunnica group campaigning against Sunnica, a solar factory in West Suffolk and East Cambridgeshire.

We have also worked closely with a community group known as CARE Suffolk who are fighting for the best outcomes from 3 solar farms in and around Bramford. We have continued to support the work of SASES and SEAS, who have campaigned tirelessly against the selection of Friston for an energy hub near the east coast. We have supported their work by writing to MPs and ministers at crucial points in their campaign.

Finally, we have been pleased to work alongside the local Amenity Groups in the Suffolk, who are pushing local MPs to resist the proposed pylon lines by National Grid. Together we are standing up for Suffolk, holding our local representatives to account, pushing back on damaging schemes and demanding that affected communities' voices are heard. To this end, the Society, in conjunction with CPRE Essex and Norfolk, have commissioned a report on the Norwich to Tilbury pylon proposals called "Greening the Great Grid Upgrade". This important document has been circulated widely to MPs, Councillors, affected Local Parish Councils, National Grid and a number of other relevant parties.

SUFFOLK PRESERVATION SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Routine planning activities

SPS has had a good year with a range of strong outputs, impacts and successes, all underlined by a 6% increase in membership. We thank all our members, new and old, for supporting us in our very important work. Our members give us our mandate, help us to raise crucial income, but more importantly help us to raise our voice and increase our effectiveness. The last twelve months has seen a continued growth in some major development across Suffolk, especially large scale commercial solar; SPS planners have been heavily engaged with this. However, we have also widened the scope of our work including enhanced campaigning on the upgrading of the energy transmission that will have a major impact upon our countryside.

Increasing the income of the Society is key and to this end corporate supporters have been recruited, each for a five-year period: Castleacre Insurance Services Ltd; Birketts (Ipswich) and Reeman Dansie Auctions. It is the Society's intention to continue to recruit corporate sponsors in 2024.

The Society had an extremely successful and well supported programme of events in 2023 with visits to the Heritage Action Zone in Lowestoft; Ickworth Park; Cockfield Hall and culminating in a one day retrofit seminar, with speakers from SPAB and English Heritage.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commissioner's General Guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in formulating future plans.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

Investment income provided £10K (24%) and remains stable as the Society's fund managers CCLA maintained its dividend. Overall, a good year. The Society's redoubled efforts have seen significant progress towards reducing our deficit. But there is still much further to go: In 2022 our recurring income covered one-third of our costs: in 2023 it covered one-half. Despite impressive reserves, the Society must continue to seek every opportunity to increase income – to ensure that it is able to continue to pursue their activities in the face of inevitable higher demand.

SUFFOLK PRESERVATION SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Society's long-term policy of maintaining strong reserves has been entirely vindicated, but the Society has continued to build up its activities and works to rebuild its still strong balance sheet.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Investment Policy

CCLA continue to advise the Society, based on a moderate risk strategy which resulted in a steady increase in fund into the third and final quarter of the year.

Reserves Policy

The Society will continue to husband its reserves with caution, and the importance of these reserves has become increasingly important as effects of the global economic downturn and increasing overheads continue to bite.

FUTURE PLANS

The key objective of the Society during the continuing adverse phases of the global and national economic downturn must be to control its finances wisely and to control its costs where it can whilst focussing energy of staff and trustees on sustaining the valuable planning work output of the team. If the Society can continue do this it will be fulfilling its charitable objects and striving to protect and enhance the natural and man-made beauty of the whole of Suffolk.

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document based on the "associated" model Charitable Incorporated Organization constitution published by the Charity Commission, adopted on 25 November 2013. The Charity's constitution was updated during 2021 and adopted on 5 November 2021. However, Trustee Thomas Seymour, has proposed a few minor amendments for the purpose of clarification which we hope will be approved by our members at this AGM.

The Charity commenced its undertaking as a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO) number 1154806 on 1 January 2014 having taken over the liabilities and assets of the previous charity number 249981.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The Society is a registered charity and is supported by a number of Trustees who constitute the Board. New Trustees are nominated by the Board drawing on their experience and, subject to approval are co-opted on to the Board of the Society. They will become full Trustees by confirmation of their status by a vote at the following AGM together with being a full member of the CIO.

SUFFOLK PRESERVATION SOCIETY

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees continued

On becoming a Trustee, the candidate is given a welcome package including details of meetings, the organization of the Society and duties and obligations of being a Trustee, as identified in Charity Commission guidance.

Rachel Bunn was appointed as a trustee by members at the AGM on 10 June 2023. Longstanding trustees Bob Kindred and Dr Jess Tipper retired with our thanks and appreciation for their efforts on behalf of the Society.

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Organisational structure

The Board is supported by a paid Director, who is both a qualified Planning Officer and a Conservation Officer, a Planning Officer and an Office Manager, all of whom are part time. The Chairman and Director are available to answer any questions the Trustees may have.

Decision making

The Trustees comprise the Board which sets policy and strategy and has an overriding duty to ensure the Society acts within its remit and manages its assets wisely and prudently.

Relationship with other Charities and with related parties

The Society acts as the Suffolk representative of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) to whom CPRE members pay their subscriptions direct at rates determined from time to time by the CPRE. The CPRE determines the share of each individual subscription which the Society is entitled to receive back in respect of its numbers. For the year to 31 December 2023 the Society received 50% of the total subscriptions paid by its members direct to the CPRE.

The Society rents an office within Little Hall in Lavenham, in a building owned by the Suffolk Building Preservation Trust. A four-year rental agreement which expired in October 2023 and will be renegotiated in 2024.

The Trustees have given careful consideration to the question of ‘going concern’. In the light of the financial information given in the report above, and excluding any speculative valuation on the balance of the Jeanne Walker legacy, the Trustees are of the opinion that it is appropriate to continue to prepare its accounts on the ‘going concern basis’ during the 12 months from the date of approval of these accounts.

Approved by order of the board of trustees onand signed on its behalf
by:

.....
Robert Townshend Dip.LA, CMLI, Hon FRBS (Chairman)

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
SUFFOLK PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Suffolk Preservation Society ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (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 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company 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

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 the Company 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

M A Wallace TEP CTA FCA
Walter Wright Chartered Accountants
89 High Street
Hadleigh
Ipswich
Suffolk
IP7 5EA

Date:

**SUFFOLK PRESERVATION SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Notes	2022 Total funds £	2023 Restricted funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations, legacies, and grants		222,000	8,963
Other trading activities	2	31,904	34,886
Investment income	3	10,251	10,292
Other income: events		4,104	19,616
Total		<u>270,259</u>	<u>73,757</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds			
Other trading activities		3,962	6,169
		<u>3,962</u>	<u>6,169</u>
Charitable activities			
Salaries		108,101	112,524
Management and administration		21,600	23,303
Total		<u>133,663</u>	<u>135,827</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		(44,838)	32,162
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		136,960	(29,908)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward		453,397	560,427
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>590,355</u>	<u>592,589</u>

SUFFOLK PRESERVATION SOCIETY

**BALANCE SHEET – CONTINUED
AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small company's regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on
and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
R Townshend Dip LA CHLI Hon FRBS – Chairman

**SUFFOLK PRESERVATION SOCIETY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland': - the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows; - the requirement of Section 33 Related Party Disclosure paragraph 33.7.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Life subscriptions are brought into incoming resources over a period of ten years from the year of receipt.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Intangible fixed assets

The computer software cost relates to the charity's new website. The website did not go live until January 2021 and will be amortized on a straight-line basis over five years from 2021.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Office equipment - 20% on reducing balance

**SUFFOLK PRESERVATION SOCIETY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

SUFFOLK PRESERVATION SOCIETY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2022	2023
	£	£
Subscriptions	29,456	34,886
Functions income	4,101	15,586
SPS Newsletter income	<u>3,800</u>	<u>4,030</u>
	<u>37,357</u>	<u>54,502</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2022	2023
	£	£
Investment income	<u>10,251</u>	<u>10,292</u>

4 INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(credited)

	2022	2023
	£	£
Depreciation – owned assets	971	1,371
Other operating leases	4,000	4,000
Computer software amortisation	<u>685</u>	<u>548</u>

5 TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2022 nor for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Trustees' Expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2022 nor for the year ended 2023.

6 STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2022	2023
Management and administration	1	1
Direct charitable expenditure	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

SUFFOLK PRESERVATION SOCIETY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

7. INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer Software £
COST	
At 1 January 2023	<u>1,665</u>
AMORTISATION	
Charge for year	<u>548</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 December 2023	<u>1,117</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>1,665</u>

8 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment £
COST	
At 1 January 2023	37,372
Additions	400
At 31 December 2023	<u>37,772</u>
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 January 2023	34,700
Charge for year	982
At 31 December 2023	<u>33,718</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 December 2023	<u>2,309</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>2,672</u>

**SUFFOLK PRESERVATION SOCIETY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

9. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

Listed
Investments
£

MARKET VALUE

At 1 January 2023

344,559

At 31 December 2023

476,721

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

At 31 December 2023 the Society's investments at market value were:-

COIF Charities Investment Fund Income Units

476,221

10. STOCKS

2022 2023

£ £

Stock of books and trails leaflets

3,490 3,490

11. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

2022 2023

£ £

Payments and accrued income

6,726 5,159

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

2022 2023

£ £

Social security and other taxes

1796 1919

Life subscriptions

3580 5100

Accrued expenses

2242 1842

7618 8861

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

2022 2023

£ £

8,451 6,767

**SUFFOLK PRESERVATION SOCIETY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

14. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	2022	2023
	£	£
Contracted but not provided for in the financial statements	-	-

15. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2023.