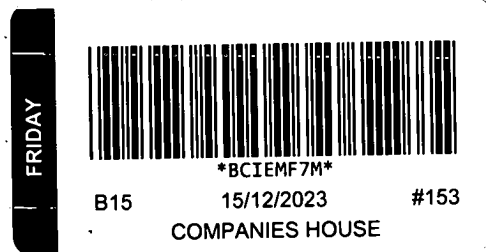


CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: SC020979  
COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: SC194024

**Hillswick Wildlife Sanctuary Trust**  
**Financial Statements**  
**31 March 2023**



# **Hillswick Wildlife Sanctuary Trust**

## **Financial Statements**

**Year ended 31 March 2023**

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# Hillswick Wildlife Sanctuary Trust

## Trustees' Annual Report

Year ended 31 March 2023

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The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023.

### Reference and administrative details

**Registered charity name** Hillswick Wildlife Sanctuary Trust (Limited by Guarantee)

**Charity registration number** SC020979

**Company registration number** SC194024

**Principal office** The Booth  
Hillswick  
Shetland  
ZE2 9RW

**The Directors** Alice Bacon  
Anne Barron  
Jan Bevington  
Peter Bevington  
Sian Bryant  
Tracey Leith  
Alison Riley  
Richard Riley  
Katherine Robinson  
Sara Scott

*Jan Bevington*  
JAN BEVINGTON

**Secretary** Peter Bevington

**Accountants** Tregonning & Co Ltd  
Chartered accountants  
Staney Brae  
Dunrossness  
Shetland  
Scotland  
ZE2 9JG

### Structure, governance, and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and was incorporated on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1999. The company has the right to dispense with the description "Limited by Guarantee" after its name.

The Directors named above served throughout the year and are appointed/reappointed by the members annually.

The Directors Act as Trustees in terms of The Charities Act.

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# Hillswick Wildlife Sanctuary Trust

## Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

**Year ended 31 March 2023**

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### **Objectives and activities**

The charity's objectives and principal activity is to rescue, rehabilitate and release marine wildlife, especially otters and seals, in and around the Shetland Islands and to provide education about the general, and specifically the marine environment. The charity's activities are funded by grants and donations and are assisted by volunteers for whom the charity provides food, accommodation and transport.

### **Achievements and performance**

2022/3 was another busy year at Hillswick Wildlife Sanctuary marked by an increase in visitor numbers, a reduction in common seals, a whale rescue and concerns about avian flu spreading to marine mammals.

This was the second year the new look wildlife sanctuary was open to the public, bringing a substantial increase in visitor numbers and an increase in donations at the door. Local volunteers Richard and Alison Riley helped staff the visitor centre during summer weekends, and a number of local craftmakers produced goods to raise funds, including bobble hats knitted in Switzerland!

The sanctuary's financial position has strengthened as a result, helped by a small number of substantial donations, including £1,000 from Unst Drama Group. Meanwhile slow progress continues to be made in retrieving the VAT paid to HMRC for the building project. We thank Shetland Charitable Trust for their patience as we wait to repay their bridging loan.

We received £10,000 from the Shetland Business Transition Fund, towards the cost of upgrading the sanctuary's website and installing heat pumps in the animal facilities. We replaced the seal unit's front door after it was damaged in a storm, and erected a new sign on the visitor centre.

The sanctuary's profile has increased over the year with appearances on STV, Agence France Press, and The Dodo. Our following grew to more than 25,000 on Facebook and more than 1,000 on Instagram.

The grey seal season was relatively busy, rescuing and releasing five during the course of the year, while a sixth seal died shortly after being rescued. We received many call outs to seals that did not need rescuing.

For the first time in the sanctuary's 35 years there were no common seals rescued in Shetland. The same situation occurred in Orkney and Caithness, and the SSPCA Wildlife Rescue Centre in Fishcross reported one third their usual intake. The Fishcross centre's water treatment facility broke down, so they flew four common seal pups to Hillswick. Two died shortly after arrival, but two were rehabilitated and released.

We received several calls about seals entangled in plastic, but were unable to reach any as they were in or beside the water. We were able to assist with the rescue of a stranded juvenile minke whale during the summer.

The sanctuary was kept busy with otters, successfully rescuing and releasing four during the year, while two sadly died within hours of being rescued. We also received several calls throughout the year about otters killed on Shetland's roads. Disturbingly, one otter was found in Shetland that had died with avian flu and concerns were raised about common seals contracting the disease on the US east coast.

Two non-local volunteers assisted this summer, both of whom had volunteered here before. We remain on the lookout for long term assistance.

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# Hillswick Wildlife Sanctuary Trust

## Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

**Year ended 31 March 2023**

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### **Achievements and performance** *(continued)*

The sanctuary hosted a popular training workshop for the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme; we retain membership of the Shetland Oiled Wildlife Network; we participated in a campaign to end industrial gill net fishing around Scotland; and we revised the sanctuary's constitution to bring it up to date.

### **Financial review**

The company has maintained a steady flow of donations during the year thanks to the new visitor centre attracting a growing number of tourists and local people. However the lack of common seals during the early summer season did have some impact on the number of visitors. Our regular supporters have continued to be generous in their support.

The building redevelopment has been completed and all the invoices have been paid, however some extra work will need to be carried out to meet the conditions for the building completion certificate. The company is seeking external funding for this work.

HMRC have agreed to reclassify the building work as zero-rated for VAT, so we expect to be repaid the VAT for the work, which will allow the bridging loan to be repaid to Shetland Charitable Trust.

The directors' annual report was approved on 9 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Peter Bevington  
Trustee

**TREGONNING & CO.**  
Chartered Accountants

**Hillswick Wildlife Sanctuary Trust**  
**Independent Examiner's Report**  
**Year ended 31 March 2023**

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I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 5 to 8.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (a) to (c) of the 2006 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 2006 Accounts Regulations. 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 trustees 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:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - o to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations
  - o to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulationshave not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*Tregonning and Co Ltd*

**TREGONNING & CO LTD**  
Chartered accountant

Staney Brae  
Dunrossness  
Shetland  
Scotland  
ZE2 9JG

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# Hillswick Wildlife Sanctuary Trust

## Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 March 2023

		2023		2022	
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
<b>Income and endowments</b>					
Donations and legacies	4	53,916	-	43,916	39,231
Grants received		-	-	-	149,336
Visitor income		280	-	280	
Interest received		52	-	52	178
<b>Total income</b>		<b>54,248</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>54,248</b>	<b>39,409</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Expenditure on charitable activities	5,7,	49,351	20,756	70,107	88,472
Fundraising costs		345		345	216
Governance	6	640		640	540
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>50,336</b>	<b>20,756</b>	<b>71,092</b>	<b>46,260</b>
<b>Net expenditure and net movement in funds</b>		<b>3,912</b>	<b>(20,756)</b>	<b>(16,844)</b>	<b>99,517</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		52,246	362,281	414,527	315,010
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>56,158</b>	<b>341,525</b>	<b>397,683</b>	<b>414,527</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 7 to 8 form part of these financial statements.

# Hillswick Wildlife Sanctuary Trust (Limited by guarantee)

## Statement of Financial Position

Year ended 31 March 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Tangible fixed assets	400,970	424,265
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash at bank and in hand	24,751	17,682
VAT Recoverable	73,992	73,970
	98,743	91,652
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Amounts falling within one year	66,581 (102,030)	83,645 (101,390)
<b>Total current assets less current liabilities</b>	<u>(3,287)</u>	<u>(9,738)</u>
<b>Total assets less liabilities</b>	<u>397,683</u>	<u>414,527</u>
<b>Funds of the charity</b>		
Restricted funds	338,986	369,746
Unrestricted funds	56,697	49,243
<b>Total charity funds</b>	<u>397,683</u>	<u>414,527</u>

For the financial year in question, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.


The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entities' provisions.

These financial statements were approved by the of trustees on 9 December 2023, and are signed on their behalf:



Peter Bevington  
Director



Jan Bevington  
Director

The notes on pages 7 to 8 form part of these financial statements.



# Hillswick Wildlife Sanctuary Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

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### 1. General information

The charity is registered charity in Scotland and is a company limited by guarantee.

### 2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities and Trustee Investment Act 2005 and the Charity Accounts Regulations 2005 (as amended).

### 3. Accounting policies

#### Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

#### Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

#### Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

### 4. Income and donations

	2023		2022	
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
General donations from supporters	53,916		53,916	33,104
Gift aid received				6,127
Grants received for development project				139,336
	53,916	-	53,916	188,567
Visitor income and sales	280		280	
Bank interest	52		52	178
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,248</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>54,248</b>	<b>188,745</b>

# Hillswick Wildlife Sanctuary Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

**Year ended 31 March 2023**

### 5. Expenditure on activities by activity type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
<u>Charitable activities directly undertaken</u>				
Electricity	4,816		4,816	3,778
Animal feed and supplies	3,774		3,774	3,102
Depreciation	2,540	20,756	23,296	4,632
Management costs	20,094		20,094	19,600
Premises costs	6,616		6,616	4,601
General operating costs	11,511		11,511	9,179
VAT adjustment and associated interest		-	-	23,755
	<b>49,351</b>	<b>20,756</b>	<b>70,107</b>	<b>88,472</b>
<u>Fundraising costs</u>				
Just Giving fees	216		216	216
Visitor merchandise	115		115	
Other	14		14	
	<b>345</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>216</b>
<u>Capital Expenditure</u>				
Property development				42,723

### 5. Analysis of funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Cash at bank £	VAT Recover- able £	Current Liabilities £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2020 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	28,954	24,751	3,081	0	49,947	49,947
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Wildlife Sanctuary redevelopment	372,016	0	70,899	(101,390)	341,525	364,580
	<b>400,950</b>	<b>24,751</b>	<b>73,970</b>	<b>(101,390)</b>	<b>414,527</b>	<b>414,527</b>

### 6. Independent examination fees

Independent examination fees payable:

	2023 £	2022 £
- Tregonning and Co Ltd	640	540

## **7. Trustee remuneration and expenses**

Two directors received remuneration totalling £20,094 (2022: £19,600) during the year.

This salary is in respect of both directors working full time in the charity, including providing emergency out of hours cover, as well as regular out of hours feeding and care of sick animals.

The amount paid is approved in advance by the remaining trustees, who consider it reasonable given the work involved, and substantial below what the cost would be to have employed someone, even if such a person could be found.

No trustee expenses have been incurred.