

Company Registration No. 01339783 (England and Wales)

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
CHARITY ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Trustees (who are also directors)	J Blackman	
	F Castro	(appointed 10 September 2024, resigned 4 January 2026)
	L Dawes	(appointed 1 January 2026)
	N Duncan	(appointed 1 January 2026)
	J P Harrington	
	P A Moxey	
	C Pantling	(resigned 1 January 2026)
	R Perry-Gosling	(resigned 15 June 2026)
	D Pitwood	
	J Richardson	
	G Scott Spicer	(resigned 8 September 2025)
	D Seume	(appointed 1 January 2026)
	L Vacher	(resigned 11 October 2025)
	A Young	(appointed 1 January 2026)
Company number	01339783	
Registered Charity number	275076	
Registered office	The Warren Lodge Loughton Essex IG10 4RN	
Website	https://efht.org.uk/	
Chief Executive Officer	P Lewis	
Accountants	Hern Pocknells Limited Chartered Accountants Suites 1 & 2, Nash House Hackman's Lane, Purleigh Chelmsford Essex CM3 6RP	
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited West Malling Kent ME19 4TA	

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
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EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2026. The Trustees, who are also Directors for the purposes of company law and who served during the year and up to the date of this report are shown in the Administrative Details section.

The Trustees have prepared this Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law including the Charities Act 2006, United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, our Articles of Association and with the accounting principles set out in the notes to these financial statements.

Since the Company qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the Strategic Report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

A. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The charity's objects are:

For the benefit of the public in general (and in particular, but without limitation, the communities in and around Epping Forest):

- (a) To preserve and promote the natural, historical and cultural heritage of Epping Forest and to promote environmental conservation, protection and improvement in Epping Forest; and
- (b) to advance education by promoting greater knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Epping Forest.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance, published by the Commission, in determining the activities undertaken by the charity. The trustees are satisfied that the aims and objectives of the charity, and the activities reported on below to achieve the aims, meet these principles.

B. ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

This was the first year of our new Strategic Plan 2025-26, which we launched in May 2025, building on our successful growth 2022-2025.

Our theme for the year was Standing up and Standing Out, emphasising the strong steer given to us by our members to invest more, and advocate more to protect the Forest, through the consultations on our new Strategy.

Our Trustees responded quickly and positively recruiting our new, part-time Policy and Campaigns Manager, Ishmael Tikly, to lead our advocacy work. It proved an incredibly busy year in this area as a result of the government's changes to national planning legislation and regulations, meaning there were a number of large-scale applications to the north of the Forest outside Epping Forest District Council's Local Plan to which we had to respond. On top of that, we ran successful awareness campaigns in elections across all of the local authority areas covered by the Forest securing pledges of support from over 140 candidates, 40 of whom were elected. Over the course of next year we will build on this engagement to ensure local politicians do all that they can to protect and preserve the Forest.

**EPHING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

B. ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE (continued)

1. Educate and Inspire

Over the course of the year we were delighted to secure funding from both the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) to support community engagement in the heritage of the Forest and from the National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF) to support broad engagement of the local community in the Forest, with a focus on climate change and the environment.

We increased digital reach by 36%, with over 14,000 subscribers to our email newsletter and social media channels, and welcomed over 12,500 people to the Forest at the Visitor Centre at High Beach run by our team of 26 volunteers.

In March 2026 the City of London put the Visitor Centre site out for tender, looking for a commercial return on the site which we would be unable to meet. We are incredibly proud of the fact that in the 12 years of running the Visitor Centre our volunteers have welcomed over 170,000 visitors to the Forest, sharing information about the Forest and inspiring them to care for it.

As an integral part of our broader community engagement activities we ran 14 free guided walks covering the whole of the Forest, engaging 305 people, as well as the Big Walk, which attracted 150 people on the day to walk the full 14 miles of the Forest south to north.

We also supported more than 1,109 people to connect with Epping Forest through our community engagement programme, delivering 28 community engagement activities in partnership with community organisations, informal networks and local groups. These included guided heritage walks, conservation sessions, creative workshops, family activities, movement sessions, community events and opportunities for hands-on learning.

Our work focused on building stronger relationships between Epping Forest and communities who have traditionally been less likely to access, participate in or feel represented within nature and heritage spaces. Through developing trusting partnerships, we reached new local groups and created welcoming opportunities for people to explore the Forest's natural, cultural and social heritage.

During the year, we developed and strengthened relationships with organisations representing women and girls, people of colour, LGBTQ+ communities, faith communities, neurodivergent people, older people, families and parents of young children.

Partners included Black Girls Hike, Muslim Hikers, ESEA Outdoors, Redbridge Rainbows, Transfemme Social, Home Girls Unite, Muslim Women Connect, Blaze Trails, VaChina, Moja Collective and Trekkers UK.

We also worked closely with organisations based in and around the Forest, including OrganicLea, Community Apothecary, Epping Forest Pride and Epping for Everyone. These partnerships helped us to link local communities with Epping Forest and co-create activities that reflected participants' interests, identities and

By working through trusted community organisations, we were able to reach people who may not otherwise have visited the Forest. For many participants, these activities provided their first opportunity to experience Epping Forest.

Moving forward, we hope our new premises, on a Forest High Street, will help us continue to broaden our audiences and reach deeper into the Forest community.

2. Conserve and grow

We continued to deliver important hands-on conservation sessions across the Forest, with activities taking place from Wanstead Park in the south, helping restore the ornamental waters, all the way up to Epping Thicks.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

B. ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE (continued)

2. Conserve and grow (continued)

This year, for the first time, we worked more directly on helping to make the Forest more resilient to climate changes through working with the City of London's Carbon Resilience team to help capture carbon by planting hedges, and slow down water in the Forest by building leaky dams. Between September and March our Green Teams built 24 leaky dams, and between the Green Teams and the Happy Loppers we planted 4,040 individual hedgerow whips (small trees).

Our Thursday Green Team (Green Team 1) ran 34 conservation sessions, delivering 678 hours of conservation activity through 245 individual volunteer sessions from 47 different individuals. For the first time ever the majority of Green Team 1 participants were women (25).

Our Green Team 2, operating in the south of the Forest, delivered 68 conservation sessions, totalling 1530 hours of conservation activity, comprising of 423 individual volunteer sessions from 247 different individuals. 216 of those people said it was their first time undertaking conservation activity in Epping Forest.

Over 70% of these volunteers were under 45, 65% were women and 48% were from Black, Asian or other minority ethnic communities. 21% of the volunteers lived in Waltham Forest, 16% in Newham and 9% in each of Redbridge and Essex. The remainder came from a wide spread of London boroughs including over 5% from Tower Hamlets.

Our amazing team of conservation volunteers with learning disabilities, the Happy Loppers, delivered 36 sessions of conservation activity, adding up to 1615 hours of activity and 371 individual volunteer sessions from 25 different individuals.

We are particularly pleased that 6 community organisations, who we engaged with initially through our community engagement programme, asked us to create bespoke conservation sessions for people from their communities. This shows the progression of engagement we are endeavouring to create: first co-creating walks for communities who would not otherwise visit the Forest, sharing information about the ecology and heritage of the Forest, and then working with them to directly help conserve the Forest. Over the course of the year we partnered on 6 community conservation sessions, engaging 77 different people and delivering 201 hours of conservation activity.

We also ran 12 corporate conservation sessions in the Forest, involving 125 individuals from 12 different corporate partners, and delivering 454 hours of conservation activity. The interesting thing for us in working with these corporate groups is that through them we engage with a large number of people who would not otherwise visit or help conserve the Forest, so they represent an excellent method of engaging new people in the Forest.

Altogether, over the course of the year, we delivered 156 conservation sessions, involving 521 different individuals; and delivering 4,371 hours of conservation activity from 1,244 individual volunteer sessions. This is a significant increase from 2024-25 when we delivered 97 conservation sessions involving 282 individual volunteers which contributed 3,053 hours of conservation activity.

3. Protect the Forest through advocacy and campaigning

We ran a powerful awareness campaign ahead of the local elections in each of the local authority areas around the Forest in May 2026. 140 candidates signed-up to our 9 Manifesto pledges, 40 of whom were elected, including the leader of the Waltham Forest Green Party, who are now the party in power in Waltham Forest, the Green leader, and now Council Chair, in Newham, the Labour cabinet members for the Environment, Health and for Climate in Redbridge, and the Conservative leader of the Council in Epping Forest District Council.

**EPHING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

B. ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE (continued)

3. Protect the Forest through advocacy and campaigning (continued)

Between April 2025 and March 2026, we responded to 29 individual planning applications. We objected to 20 application and commented on 9. Of those applications 5 are pending, 12 were approved, 11 were refused and 1 was withdrawn. Of those we objected to, 5 are pending, 7 were approved and 8 were refused. Also, 13 applications to which we responded to in 2024-2025 have since been decided. 4 were approved and 9 were refused.

We also responded to 3 local plan consultations: the Epping Town Plan; the Waltham Forest Local Plan Part 2, and the Waltham Abbey North Strategic Masterplan.

We produced policy briefs on Solar Farms and the government's new Grey Belt policy, focusing on their potential impact on the Forest.

Over the course of the year we have had the benefit of the time and expertise of ten policy specific volunteers (seven of whom were recruited over the last year). Together they delivered over 450 hours of expertise and commitment.

4. We will develop our governance and operations

We staged a successful AGM in October at Murray Hall in Loughton, with over 40 members in attendance. We held a fascinating, cross-generational discussion, about campaigning to protect the Forest over the years, from the people of the East end rising up to tear down fences in the 1860s and 1870s, to the successful campaign to ensure the M25 was buried under the Forest at Bell Common, to our current campaigning against increasing levels of pollution and adjacent development.

We were sorry to see five Trustees resign from the Board due to different work roles and relocations: our Vice Chair, Rosie-Perry Gosling, Caroline Pantling, Gail Scott-Spicer, Louise Vacher and Francis Castro. Our huge thanks to them for their leadership and guidance over the years.

We were also delighted to recruit 4 new Trustees, Lucy Dawes, a retired civil servant, who has taken on the role of Vice Chair, Derek Seume, an HR and EDI specialist, Neil Duncan, a lawyer and Abi Young, a Forest educator who works at the Hive.

We launched our new Strategy 2025-2030 on 23rd May 2025, setting out our ambition to do more for the Forest, especially in relation to advocacy and campaigning on its behalf, with politicians around the Forest welcoming its launch.

We grew our Business Partner scheme, with our business partners now including The Royal Forest, Sprint Integration, Storex, The Epping Society, The Outflow, Photomart, Attwaters, Stow Brothers, and Colourflow, each demonstrating their commitment to the Forest through their support to us.

We would like to thank all our staff, volunteers, partners, donors, supporters and funders for their role in delivering our work.

C. LOOKING FORWARD TO 2026/27

Bringing together our named funded projects (Epping Forest Heritage for All (NLHF) and Epping Forest Together (NLCF)), as well as our election awareness campaigns and work mobilising conservation volunteers, the theme for 2026/27 will be Epping Forest Together, also reflecting our value of inclusion and our approach towards our volunteers, members and supporters.

**EPHING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

C. LOOKING FORWARD TO 2026/27 (continued)

Headline priorities are:

Educate and inspire:

- Secure new premises, ideally on a Forest High Street, to enable greater audience engagement
- Be creative around our community engagement activities
- Grow our walks programme, with potentially more walks with partner organisations.

Conservation

- Continue to grow our conservation activities with a range of different audiences and with a range of different funding arrangements

Protect

- Run effective election awareness campaigns in the EFDC, Essex, Newham, Redbridge and Waltham Forest elections, growing our relationship with local councillors
- Develop an overarching campaign in relation to protecting the Forest from adjacent development, and other threats
- Continue to grow the impact of our planning responses through better engagement with officers and politicians.

Organisationally

- Secure, design and open new premises that will help us reach a wider audience and deliver income
- Continue to invest in our Trustee, staff and volunteer team through effective training and development.

D. VOLUNTEERS, GRANTS & DONATIONS

Our work to protect and conserve the Forest relies on the generosity of our members, supporters, legacy donors, in memoriam donors, funding partners and other stakeholders, along with the dedication and commitment of our volunteers.

We are hugely grateful to all those individuals and organisations that love and care about the Forest and who support our work.

In particular we want to express our thanks to our 571 individual volunteers (up from 376 in 2024/25), who have between them helped people enjoy the Forest through their advice at the Visitor Centre at High Beach, have delivered our hands-on conservation activities in the Forest, have led and marshalled our growing guided walks programme and have spearheaded our work to respond to, and brief our members on, important planning proposals around the Forest.

We would also like to thank the City of London Corporation for the support of their Keepers on the Big Walk and with our walk with Muslim Hikers.

Thanks also to Councillor Stephen Murray, our ambassador, for his ongoing support.

We were delighted to receive funding from a range of wonderful partners including the City Bridge Foundation, the Foyle Foundation, Epping Forest Community Lottery, Essex Community Foundation, the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Joseph and Lillian Sully Foundation, the Newby Trust, the Swire Charitable Trust, the City of London Central Grants Programme, National Lottery Community Fund Awards for All, the Niniveh Charitable Trust, the Vandervell Foundation, the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the David Solomon Charitable Trust, Essex Locality Fund, the Big Give and the Haslers Foundation, to help us deliver our strategic priorities, and we are grateful to them all for their support.

In addition, the Trust is very grateful to have been able to work with a group of fantastic partners and collaborators over the past year including the Wren Conservation Group, Highams Park Action Group, The Epping Society, The Wanstead Parklands Group, The Ramblers, CPRE London, The Hive, The Urban Tree Festival, the RSPB, Mens Walk and Talk, Epping Forest Pride, Community Apothecary, Organiclea, Redbridge Rainbows, Black Girls Hike, Touch grass, Steppers Women of Colour, ESEA Outdoors, North Chingford Heritage Collaborative, CareCurrent, ECPAT UK, Transfemme Social, Redbridge Rainbows, Home Girls Unite, Muslim Hikers, VaChina, Moja Collective, Epping for Everyone, Muslim Women Connect, Blaze Trail and Rabbits Road Press.

**EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

FINANCIAL REVIEW

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

b. Reserves policy

The Trust's unrestricted free reserves as at 31st March 2026 were £181,787 (last year £188,406). The decrease in unrestricted free reserves is due to a small deficit within the year of £6,619 in unrestricted funds partially offset by a surplus of £5,107 in restricted funds.

Strategically over the past three years the trustees have invested free reserves to grow the impact of the organisation. Our deficit as a percentage of overall income was 0.5% and 3.2% of total funds and unrestricted funds respectively.

In order to ensure the ongoing security of the Trust, and to ensure that the Trust has adequate resources to continue for the foreseeable future, the Trustees' aim is for income consistently to equal or exceed expenditure, with free reserves of between 6 and 9 months' operating expenditure to cover the risks of operating in a volatile funding environment. Using 2025/2026 accounts this indicates a range of £139,543 – £209,314 suggesting the reserves are within the range.

c. Material investments policy

The Board has power to invest funds not immediately required for operational purposes in such investments, securities or properties as it thinks fit subject to any restrictions within the Articles of Association.

d. Principal risks and uncertainties

The Directors have reviewed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and systems have been established to mitigate those risks. The risk register was last reviewed in March 2026.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Trust was incorporated on 21st November 1977 as a company limited by a guarantee and is governed by its Articles of Association. It was registered as a charity on 8th February 1978. It changed its name from Epping Forest Centenary Trust to Epping Forest Heritage Trust with effect from 12th April 2018 and its Articles of Association took effect on 17th April 2018. On that date the former charity, The Friends of Epping Forest (Charity No. 299970), transferred its assets to Epping Forest Heritage Trust and thereby amalgamated with it. Its Articles of Association set out the objects and powers of the Trust and the way it is governed.

The Trust is governed by a Board of Trustees, with a minimum membership of three.

Over the course of the year Gail Scott-Spicer, Francis Castro, Caroline Pantling and Rosie Perry Gosling stepped down as Trustees due to work changes and relocations.

A recruitment process was held in November 2025 and 4 new Trustees, Derek Seume, Abi Young, Lucy Dawes and Neil Duncan joined the Board in January 2026.

At the end of March 2026, there were 10 trustees.

**EPHING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Any person who is willing to act as a trustee, and who would not be disqualified from acting under the provisions of Article 26, may be elected to be a trustee by members by ordinary resolution for a period of three years, renewable up to a maximum term of 9 years.

The Board of Trustees may appoint any person willing to be a Trustee for the period up to the following Annual General Meeting.

In the year to 31st March 2026, the Board met formally four times, including a Board meeting and planning session in December. The Finance Committee (a sub-committee of the Board) also met four times. In addition, trustees provided significant ongoing support to the organisation throughout the year.

The full membership of the Trustee Board, who are also directors under the terms of the Companies Act, are set out above. The members of the Trustee Board have no beneficial interest in the group or charity.

The Trustee Board delegates responsibility for the day-to-day activities of the organisation to the Chief Executive, Peter Lewis who reports to the Board at Trustee meetings, and who produces reports on the activities undertaken in managing the charity including management accounts that explain the financial position of the charity.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees must prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue to operate.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 5th October 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

On behalf of the board



James Harrington
Chair of Trustees

**EPHING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

TO THE TRUSTEES OF EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

I report to the trustees (who are also directors for the purpose of company law) on my examination of the financial statements of Epping Forest Heritage Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2026 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and related notes.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charitable company you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charitable company's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('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 2011 Act.

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the financial statements. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

**EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)**

TO THE TRUSTEES OF EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

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:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the charitable company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the financial statements give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.



6 October 2026

Philip Robert Hern FCCA
for and on behalf of Hern Pocknells Limited
Chartered Accountants
Suites 1 & 2, Nash House
Hackman's Lane, Purleigh
Chelmsford
Essex

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026
INCLUDING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2026 £	Restricted funds 2026 £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Income from:					
Donations, legacies and grants	3	164,463	86,281	250,744	194,143
Charitable activities	4	34,450	-	34,450	19,491
Investments	5	5,403	-	5,403	6,024
		<u>204,316</u>	<u>86,281</u>	<u>290,597</u>	<u>219,658</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	197,912	81,174	279,086	254,731
Total expenditure		<u>197,912</u>	<u>81,174</u>	<u>279,086</u>	<u>254,731</u>
Net income / (expenditure) before net losses on investments		6,404	5,107	11,511	(35,073)
Net losses on investments		(13,023)	-	(13,023)	(9,249)
Net expenditure for the year	16	<u>(6,619)</u>	<u>5,107</u>	<u>(1,512)</u>	<u>(44,322)</u>
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	16	188,406	17,460	205,866	250,188
Transfers	16	-	-	-	-
Total funds carried forward		<u>181,787</u>	<u>22,567</u>	<u>204,354</u>	<u>205,866</u>

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2026

		2026		2025	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Non-current assets					
Investments	13		142,399		117,422
			<u>142,399</u>		<u>117,422</u>
Current assets					
Investments	13	-		58,000	
Debtors due within one year	14	14,227		3,302	
Cash at bank and in hand		112,489		41,028	
		<u>126,716</u>		<u>102,330</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(64,761)		(13,886)	
Net current assets			<u>61,955</u>		<u>88,444</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>204,354</u>		<u>205,866</u>
Funds of the Charity					
Operational funds	16		181,787		188,406
Restricted income funds	16		22,567		17,460
			<u>204,354</u>		<u>205,866</u>

For the year ending 31 March 2026 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 in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

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

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

Approved by the Board for issue on 5 October 2026



J P Harrington
Chair of Trustees



J Richardson
Treasurer and Trustee

Company Registration No. 01339783
Charity Registration No. 275076

EPHING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

1 General information

Epping Forest Heritage Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales. The charitable company constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102 (1A) "the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland". The registered office is: The Warren Lodge, Essex, IG10 4RN. The financial statements have been prepared in pounds sterling which is the functional currency of the charitable company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

2 Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements 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 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Epping Forest Heritage Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except as noted in note 2.6 Investments. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

2.2 Going concern

The trustees have not identified any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue as a going concern.

2.3 Incoming resources

All income is recognised once the Company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Company has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Company, can be reliably measured.

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

EPHING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

2 Accounting policies (continued)

2.4 Expenditure and depreciation

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, 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 classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent.

Assets costing more than £3,000 are depreciated evenly over 5 years. IT equipment costing more than £3,000 is depreciated evenly over 3 years.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Company's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 Investment income

Investment income, including interest on funds held on deposit and dividends from a managed investment portfolio, are included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Company; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.6 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Statement of Financial Activities.

2.7 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.9 Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Company anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

EPHING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

2 Accounting policies (continued)

2.10 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 Company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked for a particular project.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Company 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.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2026 £	Restricted funds 2026 £	Total funds 2026 £	Total funds 2025 £
Donations	25,464	-	25,464	25,840
Legacies and in memoriam	47,472	-	47,472	37,575
Grants	91,527	86,281	177,808	130,728
	<u>164,463</u>	<u>86,281</u>	<u>250,744</u>	<u>194,143</u>
Total 2025	<u>87,936</u>	<u>106,207</u>	<u>194,143</u>	

4 Income from charitable activities

Visitor Centre sales of stock	9,873		9,873	9,616
Loppers fees	7,430		7,430	8,380
Corporate days - sales	5,935		5,935	-
Big Walk/Specialist Walk sales	1,212		1,212	-
City of London contract income	9,000		9,000	-
Other sales	1,000		1,000	1,495
	<u>34,450</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,450</u>	<u>19,491</u>
Total 2025	<u>19,491</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,491</u>	

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

5	Investment income	Unrestricted funds 2026 £	Restricted funds 2026 £	Total funds 2026 £	Total funds 2025 £
	Income from listed investments	4,717	-	4,717	5,618
	Interest	686	-	686	406
		<u>5,403</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,403</u>	<u>6,024</u>
	Total 2025	<u>6,024</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,024</u>	
6	Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities Summary by fund type	Unrestricted funds 2026 £	Restricted funds 2026 £	Total funds 2026 £	Total funds 2025 £
	Charitable activities	197,912	81,174	279,086	254,731
	Total 2025	<u>165,032</u>	<u>89,699</u>	<u>254,731</u>	
7	Analysis of expenditure by activities	Activities undertaken directly 2026 £	Support costs 2026 £	Total funds 2026 £	Total funds 2025 £
	Charitable activities	195,613	83,473	279,086	254,731
	Total 2025	<u>153,220</u>	<u>101,511</u>	<u>254,731</u>	
	Analysis of direct costs			Total funds 2026 £	Total funds 2025 £
	Educate & Inspire			101,583	82,353
	Conserve & Grow			55,854	54,708
	Protect (Policy and Campaigns)			38,176	16,159
				<u>195,613</u>	<u>153,220</u>

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

7 Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs	Total funds 2026 £	Total funds 2025 £
Governance	12,703	11,344
Organisational development (Membership and Fundraising)	70,770	64,837
Operations	-	25,330
	<u>83,473</u>	<u>101,511</u>

In 2025/2026, operations costs have been reallocated to projects, based on full cost recovery principles.

8 Net expenditure for the year

	2026 £	2025 £
Net expenditure for the year is stated after charging:		
Independent examiner's remuneration - independent examination	3,000	3,000
- other financial services	-	-
	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>

9 Taxation

The company is not subject to corporation tax on its investment income as it is a charity, which is exempt from tax.

10 Staff costs

	2026 £	2025 £
Wages and salaries	154,037	161,067
Social security costs	8,576	9,114
Pension costs	9,596	4,912
	<u>172,209</u>	<u>175,093</u>

One employee receives employee benefits between £60,000 and £70,000 (2025 - one employee received between £60,000 and £70,000).

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

11 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2026 Number	2025 Number
Chief executive officer	1	1
Conservation Officer	2	2
Marketing	1	1
Education	1	1
Finance	1	1
Community Engagement	-	1
Policy and campaigns	1	-
	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>

Staffing levels on a full time equivalent basis were:

	2026 Number	2025 Number
Chief executive officer	1.0	1.0
Conservation Officer	0.8	0.8
Education	0.2	0.2
Marketing	1.0	1.0
Finance	0.3	0.4
Community Engagement	-	0.4
Policy and campaigns	0.4	-
	<u>3.7</u>	<u>3.8</u>

Role of volunteers

Over the course of the year the Trust benefited from the time and expertise of over 500 volunteers in relation to running the Visitor Centre at High Beach, leading walks, including the Big Walk and the Muslim Hikers walk, and undertaking hands-on conservation activities (2025 - 350). In total volunteers contributed over 8,000 hours of their time over the year (2025 - 8,000).

12 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2025 - £nil).

During the year ended 31 March 2026, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2025 - £nil).

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

13 Investments	Listed investments £
Valuation	
At 1 April	175,422
Disposals	(20,000)
Revaluations	(13,023)
At 31 March 2026	142,399

We hold a significant amount of our reserves in a CCLA COIF Charities Investment Fund which is a managed fund of a mixture of equities, bonds and property aimed at long term growth and reliable income distribution. It reduced from a value of £175,422 at the start of the financial year to £142,399 at the end of the financial year as result of drawings of £20,000 to invest in our new strategy and a negative revaluation of £13,023. It is accessible on one week's notice.

The last statement received from the fund prior to approval of the financial statements shows the balance to be £152,749 as at 30/06/2026.

The investment is measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

14 Debtors	£	£
Due within one year		
Other debtors	7,603	1,700
Prepayments and accrued income	6,624	1,602
	14,227	3,302

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2026 £	2025 £
Accruals and deferred income	64,413	11,450
Other creditors	348	2,436
	64,761	13,886

16 Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance 1 April 2025 £	Transfers £	Increased / (Decreased) £	Balance 31 March 2026 £
Unrestricted funds				
Operational reserves	188,406	-	(6,619)	181,787
General funds - all funds				
	188,406	-	(6,619)	181,787
Restricted funds				
	17,460	-	5,107	22,567
	205,866	-	(1,512)	204,354

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

16 Statement of funds - continued

Restricted funds

	Balance 1			Balance 31
	April 2025	Income	Expenditure	March 2026
	£	£	£	£
Ken Hoy - Talks	369	-	-	369
City Bridge Foundation	-	5,750	(5,750)	-
NLCF Awards for All	8,891	17,516	(14,580)	11,827
Newby Trust	1,000	-	(1,000)	-
The Nineveh Charitable Trust	2,500	-	(2,500)	-
The Swire Charitable Trusts	4,700	-	(4,700)	-
City of London Open Spaces	-	10,500	(10,500)	-
Vandervell Foundation	-	3,000	(3,000)	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	47,465	(37,094)	10,371
David Solomon Charitable Trust	-	750	(750)	-
Epping Forest District Council	-	1,300	(1,300)	-
	<u>17,460</u>	<u>86,281</u>	<u>(81,174)</u>	<u>22,567</u>

We are very grateful to have received a variety of funding which has been restricted for specific charitable purposes of the year. These are as follows:

Inspire and educate

- Ken Hoy Fund. This fund was established to support talks about the Forest.
- The National Lottery Community Fund Awards for All for a restricted grant of £17,516 towards our walks, community engagement and conservation activities
- The Newby Trust for a grant of £1,000 towards our community engagement activities
- The Niniveh Charitable Trust for a grant of £2,500 towards our free guided walks programme
- The National Lottery Heritage Fund for a grant of £189,612 towards our Epping Forest Heritage for All programme in partnership with Muslim Hikers and Black Girls Hike of which we allocated £47,465 towards this financial year
- The Essex Locality Fund for a grant of £1,300 towards improving the customer experience in the Visitor Centre in High Beach

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

16 Statement of funds - continued

Conserve and grow

- The City of London Central Grants Programme for a grant of £10,500 towards our Green Team and Happy Loppers programmes
- The City Bridge Foundation. We were awarded a grant of £67,500 from the City Bridge Foundation over the course of two year towards new conservation activities in the south of the Forest designed to increase the diversity of our conservation volunteers as well as increase the biodiversity of the Forest. This grant started in June 2023, and we spent the final £5,750 of these restricted funds in this financial year.
- The Vandervell Foundation for a grant of £3,000 towards our conservation activities
- Haslers Foundation for a grant of £1,400 towards the Happy Loppers programme
- The Swire Charitable Trusts. We were awarded a restricted grant of £9,400 in 2025, of which we spent the final £4,700 this year towards the activities of our Green Team of conservation volunteers.
- The David Soloman Charitable Trust for a grant of £750 towards the Happy Loppers programme

Unrestricted Funds - Funds that are available to be spent for any purposes of the charity.

We are particularly grateful for core, unrestricted grants from:

- the Garfield Weston Foundation who contributed £20,000 of unrestricted funds
- the City Bridge Foundation for a core, continuation grant for one year, of which we allocated £25,819 to this financial year
- the Foyle Foundation for a core grant of £4,000
- Epping Forest Community Lottery for a grant of £887 towards our core activities
- Essex Community Foundation for a core grant of £4,000
- the Joseph and Lillian Sully Foundation for a core grant of £5,000
- the Newby Trust for a core grant of £5,000
- the Swire Charitable Trust for a core grant of £15,000
- the Big Give for a match funding grant of £8,953

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

16 Statement of funds - continued

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance 1 April 2024	Transfers	Increased / (Decreased)	Balance 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
Operational reserves	136,745	112,491	(60,830)	188,406
Designated funds				
Investment fund	112,491	(112,491)	-	-
General funds - all funds	249,236	-	(60,830)	188,406
	Balance 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	Balance 31 March 2025
Restricted funds				
Ken Hoy - Talks	952	-	(583)	369
NLCF Awards for All	-	14,940	(6,049)	8,891
Baily Thomas Charitable Trust	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
Big Give Happy Loppers	-	10,821	(10,821)	-
Big Give Policy and Planning	-	7,396	(7,396)	-
City Bridge Foundation	-	34,250	(34,250)	-
City of London Central Grants	-	14,700	(14,700)	-
D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust	-	4,000	(4,000)	-
Essex County Council Locality Fund	-	1,200	(1,200)	-
Loughton Town Council	-	500	(500)	-
Newby Trust	-	1,000	-	1,000
The Nineveh Charitable Trust	-	2,500	-	2,500
The Swire Charitable Trusts	-	9,400	(4,700)	4,700
Tesco Community Fund	-	500	(500)	-
	952	106,207	(89,699)	17,460
	250,188	106,207	(150,529)	205,866

EPPING FOREST HERITAGE TRUST
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Unrestricted funds	2026 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Investments	-	-	142,399	142,399
Other current assets	22,567	-	104,149	126,716
Creditors due within one year	-	-	(64,761)	(64,761)
	<u>22,567</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>181,787</u>	<u>204,354</u>

	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Unrestricted funds	2025 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Investments	-	-	175,422	175,422
Current assets	23,210	-	21,120	44,330
Creditors due within one year	(5,750)	-	(8,136)	(13,886)
	<u>17,460</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>188,406</u>	<u>205,866</u>

18 Related party transactions

The Company has not entered into any related party transaction during the year, nor are there any outstanding balances owing between related parties and the Company at 31 March 2026.

Members of key management received remuneration (including employer's pension and employer's national insurance contributions) of £81,192 (2025 - £77,635).

19 Post balance sheet events

Since 31st March 2026 the charity has begun to deliver a new programme of work, Epping Forest Together, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, to a total of £152,894 over 3 years. We have also been awarded a core grant of £20,000 by the Green Community Grants Fund, a grant of £4,700 from the Grocers Company towards our conservation activities, a gift in kind to the value of an estimated £300 by the Worshipful Company of Glovers, and a grant of £2,000 from Waltham Forest Council for providing community walks.