



**Great Ouse Valley Trust**  
*Our landscape for life*

**Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements for the  
Year Ending 31 December 2021**

[www.greatousevalleytrust.org](http://www.greatousevalleytrust.org)

**Charitable Incorporated Organisation**

**Registration number 1179977**

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# Great Ouse Valley Trust

The trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

## 1. Trustees

### Trustees

Helen Boothman  
Graham Campbell – Chairman  
Peter Downes  
Mark Ellis – Treasurer  
Bridget Flanagan  
Ian Jackson  
Phil Rothwell  
Graham Wilson – Resigned May 2021

### GOVT address

Town Hall  
Market Hill  
The Old Riverport  
St Ives  
Cambs PE27 5AL

### Charitable Incorporated Number

1179977 (England and Wales)

### Bankers

Lloyds, Treasurers Account

### Website, email address and facebook

[www.greatousevalleytrust.org.uk](http://www.greatousevalleytrust.org.uk)  
[sendanenquiry@greatousevalleytrust.org.uk](mailto:sendanenquiry@greatousevalleytrust.org.uk)

## **2. Structure, Governance and Management**

### **Governing Document**

The Great Ouse Valley Trust is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation which was set up in September 2018. The Trust is governed by its Constitution approved by the Charities Commission at that time.

### **Appointment and Recruitment of Trustees**

As set out in the Constitution, one third of elected the trustees, who make up the Trustee Board, shall retire from office every year at the Annual General Meeting. The elected trustees will determine amongst themselves the officers of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. New Trustees are found through word of mouth, newsletters and website promotions. All new Trustees will receive a copy of the Charity's constitution, The Charity Commission's Essential Trustee Guide and a full induction.

### **Organisation**

The Board of Trustees meets regularly in order to manage the affairs of the charity. The trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits. The Board is occasionally joined by invited specialists who give their time and expertise, but they do not have a vote.

### **Risk management**

The charity has reviewed its risk, in line with Charity guidance. The charity does not have any significant regular outgoings so has minimal risk. Any planned activities have to be fully funded prior to commitment of any funds.

### **Financial reserves policy**

Sufficient income has been retained from the first period of trading to ensure regular meetings can be held for the following 6 months.

### **Fundraising statement**

In recognition of the Charities Act 2016 any fundraising undertaken by the charity or a third party operating on behalf of the charity will conform to the Code of Fundraising practice.

### **Related Parties**

The charity works with its Partner Members in delivering its objectives.  
The Great Ouse Valley Trust is a member of CPRE.

### **Advisers**

The charity is extremely grateful to everyone who gives their advice and expertise freely.

### **Charity Object**

The object of the CIO is to promote for public benefit the conservation, restoration and enjoyment of the landscape, wildlife and heritage of the Great Ouse Valley and its environs in the county of Cambridgeshire. We referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when setting up the charity and will review our activities against the public benefit in our future planning.

## **3. Chairman's Report 2021**

The Great Ouse Valley Trust is now in its fourth year and we can look back on another year of success on many fronts. A lot has been achieved and all the trustees have put in a huge amount of time and effort.

**We strive to promote the concept of the Great Ouse Valley Trust as a very special and identifiable landscape. We seek to encourage a pride in our countryside for our communities and a recognition that the landscape is of national significance.**

The Trust has 30 partner members and together we look to support the work of all our towns and parishes and local groups as they take on challenges.

The Trustees have met every month via Zoom at the early part of the year but are now back to face-to-face meetings. Partner Meetings have taken place initially via Zoom but last November we were able to hold a successful conference with a Tourism theme and Emma Thornton as a key note speaker. The conference was attended by more than 45 members.

With grants from AstraZeneca and the Looker Foundation we have continued with our riverside black poplar planting opposite Brampton Mill. We have worked with our partners to create new woodland. This has involved all parts of the community including the schools.

Following last year's successful campaign against the new elevated roadway across our finest landscape we have campaigned on a number of planning issues. We were quick to report and stop the illegal removal of trees on the edge of Portholme Meadow. We have submitted our objections to the proposed solar farm on the meadows adjacent to the Offords and Buckden. We have sought assurances from National Highways that the million new trees that have died along the A14 will be replanted as soon as possible and maintained.

Following our project to design and install information boards and way-marking we continue to try and ensure the proper maintenance of the Ouse Valley Way long-distance footpath through our liaison with the County Council and the organisation of volunteer groups. We have successfully liaised with the Environment Agency and pressured National Highways to deal with the collapsing banks of the Ouse Valley Way under the A14, and work should commence on site later this year.

Our website and Facebook pages are now well established. We have a regular feature in the Hunts Post and use local media to spread the word as much as we can on local radio stations and in local newspapers and magazines. Our Trustees give talks and presentations in our community.

The Trust continues to be involved with the development of a local Rivers Trust for the Great Ouse. To this end we are in discussion with our friends in Bedfordshire and with the national Rivers Trust body. We remain concerned about water quality and sewage discharge.

The Great Ouse Valley is one of six priority landscapes in the county identified by Natural Cambridgeshire and we have established a partnership with RSPB, Natural England, The Wildlife Trust, NFU, Farmers Wildlife Advisory Group and the District Council. The project has gained seed corn funding from Natural England and we have now appointed a consultant to plan a programme of community engagement towards nature recovery and "doubling nature". The implementation of the project is aided by a further £8,000 grant from the National Lottery "Together for our Planet" fund for which we are very grateful.

One of the original aims of the Trust was to achieve recognition and designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. However, the Government's Glover Report has proposed a new approach to landscape protection, working towards an ambition of 30% of the total UK land area protected for nature. At our recent Tourism conference, the concept of "self-designation" as a Great Ouse Valley National Park was mooted, and we are in a process of evaluating the Trust's position and holding discussions with the District Council.

This year we hope to expand the number of Trustees and to make full use of a number of our specialist advisers to help us on specific issues.

**The precious landscape of the Great Ouse Valley is surrounded by rapidly developing infrastructure making it very vulnerable to visual depreciation and habitat loss. The pressures are immense and made more acute as a result of the energy crisis. The Trust will need to use all its resources to ensure not only that the landscape survives and flourishes, but also that it can be improved and natural habitats brought back from the brink.**

#### **4. Financial Overview**

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position of the charity and enable them to comply with SORP (?). All donations received in

the period had no restrictions on the expenditure of those funds. Already in 2022 we have exceeded the income for 2021 with grants for tree planting and community engagement.

Report and accounts for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2021

Income for the period		<b>2021</b>		<b>2020</b>
Donations	9,551.88		692.20	
Member organisations	450.00	10,001.88	210.00	902.20
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Website	195.00		200.00	
Marketing	221.60			
Trees	625.13			
Training	-		40.00	
Bank fees	2.35		1.78	
Membership	36.00		36.00	
Cost of meetings	150.00	1,230.08	-	277.78
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Surplus of income over expenditure		<u>8,771.80</u>		<u>624.42</u>
Bank accounts brought forward		<hr/> 1,410.61		<hr/> 786.19
Bank account balances as at 31 December		<u>10,182.41</u>		<u>1,410.61</u>
Lloyds		10,157.19		1,385.39
PayPal		<hr/> 25.22		<hr/> 25.22
		<u>10,182.41</u>		<u>1,410.61</u>
		-		-

Approved by:

Mark Ellis FCA, Treasurer.

Trustees declare that they approved this report on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2022

Signed:

*Graham Campbell*

April 12, 2022