



# Annual Review 2024



Malvern Hills Trust



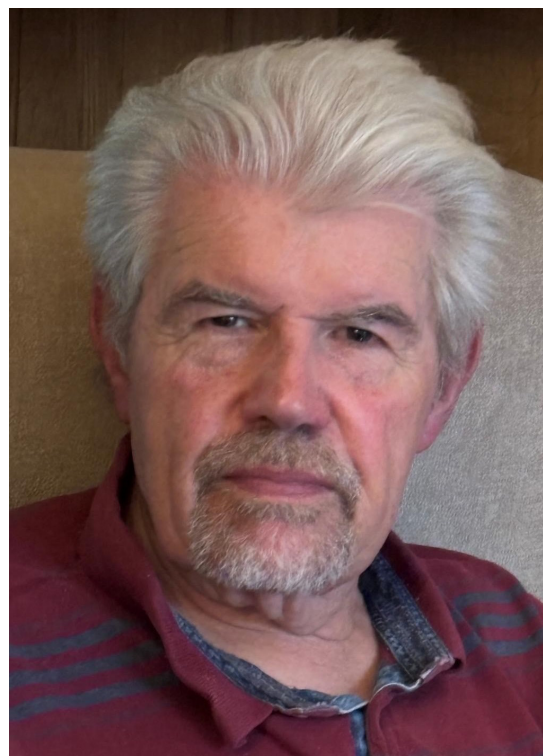
**Malvern Hills Trust**

# Contents

|                                                                                     |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Chair's introduction                                                                | 04 |
| CEO's report                                                                        | 05 |
| Trustees and committees during the period                                           | 06 |
| Staff                                                                               | 08 |
| About us                                                                            | 09 |
| Celebrating 140 years of protecting the<br>Malvern Hills and Commons                | 10 |
| Pupils get planting at a new outdoor classroom                                      | 11 |
| Hand gates open access for visitors                                                 | 12 |
| Ponds restoration                                                                   | 13 |
| The importance of open habitats                                                     | 14 |
| New tools for the Trust                                                             | 15 |
| The value of volunteers                                                             | 16 |
| Review of the financial year 2023/2024                                              | 17 |
| Principal funding sources                                                           | 18 |
| Donations and legacies                                                              | 19 |
| How the charity's money is used                                                     | 20 |
| Statement of financial activities for the year<br>ended 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024 | 21 |
| Balance sheet as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024                                     | 22 |
| 4-year summary of income and expenditure                                            | 23 |

# Chair's introduction

It is my privilege as the newly elected Chair of the Trust to write this introduction, following on from Mick Davies, who will be a hard act to follow. The 2023-2024 year saw quite a change in some of our key personnel. At the end of 2023 we said farewell to Duncan Bridges who had served as our CEO for over 7 years and the Trust was grateful to Helen Stace for stepping into the breach as interim CEO until we were fortunate enough to be able to recruit Deborah Fox to the post which she has already established herself in as an effective and visionary leader.



Please do take your time to read through this report, which highlights all the good work the Trust has achieved during the year and wonder at the extent of the varied landscapes we manage with the resources at our command, which is only achieved through good management and a dedicated team of field and office staff.

Preparation on the new Bill continues to be developed and a further consultation on the proposed contents will take place during this year in order to lodge the finalised Bill with Parliament later in the year.

Finally, my thanks go to all our staff, volunteers and trustees for all that they do in order to support the work of the Trust in maintaining and improving the land in our jurisdiction and keeping it open for the benefit of all to enjoy.

**John Michael, Chair**

# CEO's report



**Making the leap from visiting the Malvern Hills and Commons for over 15 years, to caring for its 1214 Hectares (3,000 acres) on behalf of the nation, feels like a huge privilege to me. I've learned how much hard work goes into protecting and managing this iconic landscape for the nation.**

I've enjoyed meeting a wide diversity of residents and visitors and hearing your stories of what this special place means to you. While you make the memories, we make it memorable for you.

Residents are the primary beneficiaries of our work, since they live here, and the money collected goes directly towards preserving the Hills and Commons. The average band D levy payable in 2023/24 was £45.34 (see page 18). For this we maintain 80 miles of hill paths and empty over 60 bins. Grazing and hay cutting encourages biodiversity on acres of verges and commons, which form the backdrop to daily life for dog walkers, parents or carers walking children to school and individuals gaining healthy exercise.

Protecting local green spaces is important for our health and wellbeing and for the value the natural ecosystem provides. This is important as ever as we tackle new challenges caused by the climate and nature crises.

I've greatly appreciated the sharing of skills and enthusiasm by our trustees and

it makes so much difference given that we are a small charity with just over 20 staff. The conservation volunteers and volunteer wardens have also made a huge contribution.

Our staff team implements Board policy. This year, it meant gearing up for a public consultation on governance changes to take the Trust into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The changes are in order to keep the landscape you enjoy, safe, open and accessible whilst keeping costs down. In moving forward, we will still cherish the rich heritage of the conservators.

I especially look forward to meeting more people who don't know us and to share the important work we do behind the scenes. Without us, the Hills and Commons would no longer be as safe and accessible as they have been for over 140 years. We're always here for you - keeping this iconic landscape open and clean - for your enjoyment and for nature to thrive.

**Deborah Fox, CEO**

# Trustees and committees during the period (1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024)

2023 was an election year and elections were held on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023.

| Elected Trustees   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Priory Ward        | David Watkins FAR (resigned 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2023)<br>Mary Turner FAR (elected 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2023)                                                                                                                                      |
| Chase Ward         | Mary Turner LM (elected 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2022-31 <sup>st</sup> October 2023) Richard Fowler FAR (elected 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2023)                                                                                                                 |
| Wells Ward         | Richard Fowler SC (to 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2023)<br>Robert Berry FAR (elected 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2023)                                                                                                                                           |
| West Ward          | Charles Penn FAR. SC and GC from 18 November 2023                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Dyson Perrins Ward | Trevor Parsons LM (resigned 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2023)<br>John Raine FAR, SC, GC (elected 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2023)                                                                                                                               |
| Malvern Link Ward  | Richard Bartholomew LM to 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2023.<br>FAR, SC, GC from 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2023                                                                                                                                               |
| Pickersleigh Ward  | David Core FAR & GC (Board Vice-Chair from 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2023)                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Colwall Parish     | Helen Stace LM & GC (resigned 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2023)<br>Allan Cottam FAR (elected 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2023)<br>Stephen Braim LM & GC (resigned 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2023)<br>Felicity Robinson LM (elected 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2023) |
| Guarlford Parish   | David Fellows FAR & GC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Mathon Parish      | Christopher Rouse LM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

| Worcestershire County Council on behalf of the following parishes |                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Castlemorton                                                      | Chris Atkins LM & GC (resigned 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2023)<br>Mike Wilkinson LM (appointed 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2023) |
| Newland                                                           | Duncan Westbury LM                                                                                                           |
| Powick                                                            | Michelle Alexander LM (appointed 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2023, resigned 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2024)                       |



## Nominated Trustees

|                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Malvern Hills District Council</b> | <p>Mick Davies FAR &amp; SC (Board Chair to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023, resigned 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023)</p> <p>Mark Driscoll LM (appointed 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023)</p> <p>John Michael LM, GC</p> <p>Jeremy Owenson LM (appointed 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023)</p> <p>Cynthia Palmer LM &amp; SC (Board Vice Chair to 18<sup>th</sup> November 2023, Board Chair from 18<sup>th</sup> November 2023)</p> <p>Frances Victory LM &amp; SC (appointed 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023)</p> <p>3 vacancies</p> |
| <b>Colwall Parish Council</b>         | Paul Clayburn LM & GC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Mathon Parish Council</b>          | David Baldwin LM & SC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Church Commissioners</b>           | No longer appoint                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Herefordshire Council</b>          | <p>Helen I'Anson SC (resigned 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023)</p> <p>John Stock LM (appointed 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023)</p> <p>Sheila Wren LM, SC (appointed 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Worcestershire County Council</b>  | <p>John Raine FAR, SC &amp; GC (to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023)</p> <p>Lucy Hodgson FAR</p> <p>Malcolm Victory LM (appointed 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

## Notes

**FAR** – sat on Finance, Administration and Resources Committee

**GC** – sat on Governance Committee

**LM** – sat on Land Management Committee

**SC** – sat on Staffing Committee

# Staff

|                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chief Executive Officer</b>            | Deborah Fox (appointed 04.03.2024)<br>Helen Stace (appointed 11.12.2023 contract ended 20.03.2024)<br>Duncan Bridges (resigned 31.12.2023)                                                |
| <b>Secretary to the Board</b>             | Alison Marlow (appointed 13.11.2023)<br>Susan Satchell (resigned 31.01.2024)                                                                                                              |
| <b>Governance Change Officer</b>          | Susan Satchell (appointed 01.02.2024)                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Conservation Manager</b>               | Jonathan Bills                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Operations Manager</b>                 | Peter Kelsall                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Finance and Administration Manager</b> | Nicky Gutteridge (appointed 12.02.2024)<br>Sarah Deacon (appointed 30.05.2023 resigned 02.11.2023)<br>Cheryl Gentry (resigned 31.05.2023)                                                 |
| <b>Conservation Officer</b>               | Andy Pearce                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Community and Conservation Officer</b> | Beck Baker                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Finance Officer</b>                    | Lisa Curtis                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Administrative Assistant</b>           | Lea Gleeson (appointed 20.02.2024)<br>Cindy Parish (resigned 31.01.2024)                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Administrative Support</b>             | Cheryl Morris                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Wardens</b>                            | Simon Roberts<br>Ben Taylor (resigned 11.06.2023)<br>Richard Vale<br>Conor Willmott (resigned 19.05.2023)<br>Angela Norton (appointed 27.06.2023)<br>Michael Price (appointed 05.07.2023) |
| <b>Estate Supervisor</b>                  | George Banner                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Field Staff</b>                        | Martin Cottrell<br>Simon Davies<br>Katie McEvoy (appointed 11.04.2023)<br>Duncan Patterson<br>Neil Tilley                                                                                 |

**In December 2023, we said goodbye to Duncan Bridges after more than seven years at the Trust. We'd like to thank him for his hard work and dedication.**

In the early part of 2024, Helen Stace was appointed interim CEO to lead the

organisation and to provide a handover to the new CEO Deborah Fox (appointed in March 2024). We warmly welcome Deborah to the team as we end this financial year and look forward to the next period under her leadership.

# About us

Malvern Hills Trust was established by an Act of Parliament in 1884 and four subsequent Acts (1909, 1924, 1930 and 1995). It is an unincorporated charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, number 515804. Malvern Hills Trust is the working name of the Malvern Hills Conservators.



**Malvern Hills Trust was set up to protect the Hills and Commons under its jurisdiction, in particular to:**

- Preserve the natural aspect of the hills
- Protect and manage trees, shrubs, turf and other vegetation
- Prevent unlawful digging and quarrying
- Keep the hills open, unenclosed and unbuilt on as open spaces for the recreation and enjoyment of the public

**Malvern Hills Trust is also obliged under other legislation to:**

- Conserve and enhance biodiversity, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Scheduled Monuments on its land.

The Trust owns and manages 1214 Hectares (3,000 acres) of the iconic Malvern Hills landscape from the open hilltops, wooded slopes, to the wide, tree-lined verges and the lowland commons.

In order to meet its purposes and to conserve this special landscape, the Malvern Hills Trust carries out a programme of conservation and access work as guided by a Land Management Plan.

The Hills and Commons are visited more than 1 million times per year and the Trust keeps the land as open space for the public. We maintain a large network of paths, benches, car parks and information boards to help people enjoy their visit and to help them care for the Hills and Commons too.

Our conservation work is vital in looking after this nationally important landscape and includes maintaining and restoring a variety of diverse habitats, preserving geological heritage, woodland management, implementing several conservation grazing schemes, archaeological repairs, and much more.

This Annual Review highlights some of the key projects undertaken in the financial year 2023/24.

# Celebrating 140 years of protecting the Hills and Commons

In 2024 we celebrated our 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of protecting and conserving the Malvern Hills and Commons.

The Hills and Commons were under threat from encroachment, quarrying and misuse and to protect the iconic ridgeline, habitats and open green space, the Malvern Hills Conservators (now using the working name Malvern Hills Trust) was established by an Act of Parliament in 1884.

To mark the occasion, an exhibition was held along Church Walk as we looked back to our

140 years of history and forwards to what the future may hold.

For over a century, we have been ensuring that this space remains open and accessible to the public, protecting the rich cultural heritage and conserving habitats and wildlife, and we will continue to do so for generations.



A display board from the Church Walk Exhibition

## 140 years of the Malvern Hills Trust

The Malvern Hills Trust celebrates its 140th anniversary in 2024. We have been protecting and conserving much of the Malvern Hills and Commons landscape since 1884 ensuring that important green spaces in and around Malvern remain open to the public. Take a stroll through some images from our archive and hints of what may come over the next 140 years of the Trust...

Man stands beside Ivy Scar Rock (no date, early 1900s)

**140 YEARS**  
ANNIVERSARY 1884-2024

 **Malvern Hills Trust**

*Looking back...*

Manor House, Grange Road,  
Malvern, WR14 3EY  
www.malvernhills.org.uk  
info@malvernhills.org.uk  
Malvern Hills Trust is the working name of the Malvern Hills  
Conservators. Registered charity number 515804

# Pupils get planting at a new outdoor classroom

Pupils from Malvern Wyche Primary School have planted 60 new shrubs at All Saints Wood bringing benefits to both wildlife and the local community (see front cover).



The small woodland, next to All Saints Church on the Wells Road, had long been left without intervention but now has a new lease of life thanks to a project led by the landowner, the Malvern Hills Trust. This partnership between the Trust and the Wyche School is only just beginning as this woodland will now be the location for outdoor learning where children can discover more about the nature around them and benefit from lessons in the fresh air.

A planting day in March 2024 with the Wyche School and attended by the Trust's new CEO Deborah Fox, marked the end of an 18-month project involving woodland management and habitat restoration to improve the quality of the woodland for wildlife and people.

Hazel, Dogwood, Alder buckthorn and Guelder rose saplings were planted, secured and protected with stakes and tree guards by the pupils from the neighbouring school.

Over time, pupils, parents and teachers will be able to watch the shrubs grow and mature.

Richard Turley, Year 6 teacher said, *"We had the children from our youngest class to our oldest class involved with the planting of the saplings, and they all thoroughly enjoyed getting stuck in. We're looking forward to many more visits to the woodland area, and we hope that this will help the children develop a better understanding and appreciation of nature."*

This project was only made possible thanks to Defra's Farming in Protected Landscapes grant programme administered by the Malvern Hills National Landscape ([www.malvernhills-nl.org.uk/MHNL](http://www.malvernhills-nl.org.uk/MHNL), previously Malvern Hills AONB) which also funded new benches and path improvements in the woodland for use by the school and other visitors.

# Hand gates open access for visitors



Pedestrians use a new hand gate at Purlieu Fields

**Access to the foothills of the Malverns has been improved thanks to the installation of new gates.**

A successful application to an Access for All grant from Defra (administered by the Malvern Hills National Landscape) has made areas around the lower slopes of the Malvern Hills more accessible.

In total, nine gates have been installed to replace stiles and large field gates, which impeded access for some visitors.

We hope that this will open up more opportunities for people to explore their

local area and experience nature at locations including the Purlieu Fields, West Malvern and at Colwall Lands on the edge of Colwall. We'd like to thank our funders for their support for this project.

In addition to these new gates, a new brideway bridge has been installed connecting two fields owned by the Trust on Evendine Lane, removing the need to walk along a narrow lane.

# Ponds restoration

**Pond works were undertaken at Castlemorton Common in January 2024. In total five ponds were desilted and reprofiled by a contractor, Pete Hollins.**

Three of the five ponds, two at Berrow Downs and the other at Morton Green were ponds where we previously eradicated New Zealand Pygmy Weed, *Crassula helmsii*, by covering them in black polythene to exclude the light. This treatment worked extremely well and we have not seen any re-emergence of this difficult to control plant to date. The last stage of the work on these particular ponds was to reprofile and desilt which was done at the optimum time when the Great Crested Newts are out of the ponds and in the wider landscape.

Two more ponds were desilted in this time. A fourth pond in the Berrow Downs cluster

was deepened and desilted, across the road from the others, and a large pond adjacent to Baker's Farm on the east side of the common was reprofiled and desilted.

It is likely that all these ponds have had their origins as clay pits for local brick making. The desilting and reprofiling means that they have a higher capacity and can hold water for longer during periods of drought. They are a valuable source of drinking water for livestock on the common as well as being a fantastic wetland wildlife habitat



# The importance of open habitats

More than 60% of the land the Trust cares for is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest primarily for its open grasslands, mire and heathland habitats. These habitats are home to a wide variety of wildlife including reptiles, mammals and birds, and form a focus for the Trust's conservation efforts.

Over the last 12 months, 3 hectares (7.4 acres) including land at Old Hills, British Camp, Castlemorton Common and Swinyard Hill have been restored through the thinning of trees and removal of scrub. These areas then benefit from our annual maintenance regimes, which may include livestock grazing, mowing and/or bracken control. Work to conserve these open habitats is a massive way of supporting nature.

Cattle and sheep are essential conservation 'tools', eating saplings and regrowth to keep the restored areas open and free of dense vegetation and trees. They're as close as we can come to the natural large herbivores that once would have been present in the UK. This style of grazing is called 'naturalistic grazing'.



Grazier with cattle and sheep on End Hill

To aid the conservation of the Hills and Commons, the Trust exercises its power to use temporary fencing set out in Section 15 of the 1995 Act. Over the past 12 months, temporary fencing has been used:

- For the protection of flora and fauna, following advice from Natural England, in the Northern Hills, Central Hills, Castlemorton Common and Southern Hills. This takes the form of temporary
- fencing compartments that are rotated around the areas to deliver conservation grazing. Public access is permitted via handgates.
- For the protection of flora, following advice from Natural England, on the southern ridgeline of Summer Hill. Here temporary fencing excludes the public from the ridge where it has been badly eroded in order to allow recovery.

- For the protection and restoration of natural beauty on open areas of Old Hills. Here temporary fencing is used to contain livestock for conservation grazing. There is no public access to these compartments.

The location of temporary fencing used for conservation grazing is advertised in 'Stockwatch' on the MHT website, social media and appears on a weekly basis in the Malvern Gazette newspaper.

## New tools for the Trust

**The Warden and Field Staff teams have recently benefitted from new tools and equipment to better enable them to carry out practical conservation and land management in the landscape.**

Thanks to Defra's Farming in Protected Landscapes grant, administered by the Malvern Hills National Landscape, an electric chainsaw and electric multi-tool have been added to the warden team's kit.

Wardens may be called to attend to fallen branches or small trees that block paths. These may be far away from where there is vehicular access and up a steep slope.

Compared to the fuel-powered equipment, the electric tools are much lighter making them easier to carry up the hillside and to harder to reach places. They're also much quieter making them more pleasant for staff to use.

The Field Staff have taken delivery of several pieces of equipment to replace those coming to the end of their working lives. This includes a small tractor and a side arm. The small size of the machine means that it can be used to access more remote areas on the Hills that larger vehicles cannot reach.

The new side arm makes clearing vegetation beside paths, to keep them open and accessible, more efficient than using hand tools. Keeping equipment up to date is



essential for the safety of the people using it as well as making land management tasks as efficient as possible with limited staff resources.

# The value of volunteers

Volunteers continue to be instrumental in supporting the charity's work in conserving this special landscape for people and nature.



Conservation volunteers clear scrub from the ramparts of British Camp

We are extremely grateful to all those who dedicate their time and efforts to helping look after the Malvern Hills and Commons landscape.

In addition to our regular conservation volunteer tasks, volunteer litter pickers and volunteer wardens have also continued their invaluable work reporting issues and keeping the area free of rubbish.

Where possible we also support businesses, groups and organisations to volunteer with us throughout the year including:

- Local people attended a community litter pick at the Community Woodland, Townsend Way.

- Malvern Panalytical removed scrub and other vegetation to conserve the open habitats of the Old Hills and Pinnacle Hill.
- Earth Heritage Trust cleared vegetation from quarries, re-exposing fascinating geology at Westminster Quarry.
- Environment Agency staff cleared vegetation from paths at Hollybush Roughts to improve access.

**A huge thank you to all those who volunteer their time in support of our charity. In total, over 3,000 hours of volunteer time was donated by our regular volunteer groups and indoor volunteers (over 500 hours more than 2022/23).**

# Review of the financial year 2023/2024

The most recent audited accounts covered the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. The accounts received an unqualified audit report. Significant events (and their financial impact) during that period were:

- Car park takings exceeded budget and last year's figures, despite overall poor weather during the year.
- The Trust has a 5-year programme for managing Ash Dieback. Following the annual survey to identify infected trees that required work for safety reasons, the level of expenditure in 2023/24 of £38,614 has not been as high as was anticipated, but the Trust now faces the management of Acute Oak Decline, which will require funds going forward.
- Building of a shed in Colwall at a cost of £41,095.
- The Board maintained its policy of updating vehicles, plant and machinery, spending £71,891, which included the purchase of a compact tractor, quad bike and trailer.
- The cost of the election process in 2023 was £26,730 leaving the fund in deficit at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. The overspend was primarily due to the fact that both an election and bi-election were held during the year and there were three contested seats. Costs have also increased because we need to check ID at polling stations.

## Acknowledgements

Malvern Hills Trust gratefully acknowledges the financial support of Defra Rural Development Programme for England, Worcestershire County Council, Herefordshire Council, Malvern Hills District Council, Malvern Civic Society, the Forestry Commission's Urban Tree Challenge Fund and the Farming in Protected Landscapes scheme run by the Malvern Hills National Landscapes Partnership.

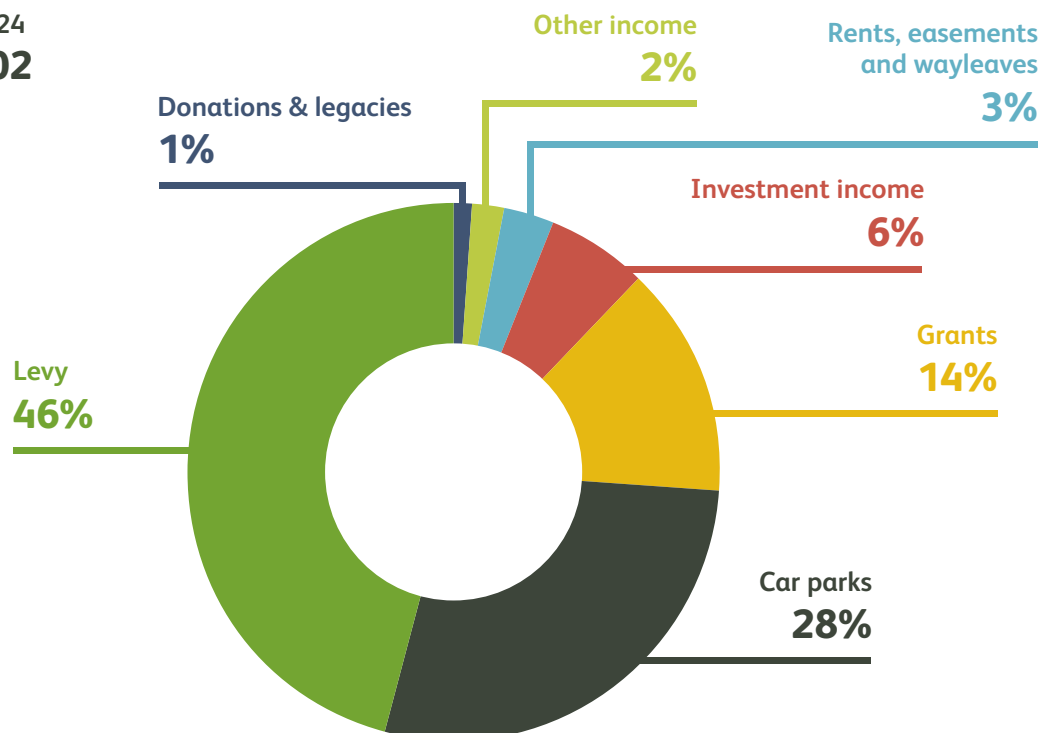


Primroses in Spring

# Principal funding sources

The total income to the Trust for the period 2023/24 was £1,441,202, an increase compared to £1,273,061 in the previous year. The split of the 2023/24 figure across the six main income sources is shown below:

Income 2023/24  
**£1,441,202**



Under powers in the Malvern Hills Acts, the Trust charges a levy to Council Tax payers in the Malvern Hills District Council wards of Chase, Dyson Perrins, Malvern Link, Pickersleigh, Priory, Wells and West Malvern and the parishes of Guarlford, Colwall and Mathon. The average band D levy payable in 2023/24 was £45.34 (2022/23 £41.34). The total levy received by the charity was £663,800 (2022/23 £595,300). Malvern Hills Trust is grateful for the levy payers' contribution. Information for levy payers is on the website [www.malvern hills.org.uk/living-in/levy-payers/](http://www.malvern hills.org.uk/living-in/levy-payers/)

Revenue from car parks is the second principal funding source. The total received in 2023/24 was £398,720 (2022/23 £360,753). Car park takings are used to fund the Trust's work, including maintaining the car parks for public use.

Agri-environment grants, most significant of which are those from Countryside Stewardship Scheme, are the third largest source of funds. £148,536 was received in 2023/24 (£106,612 was received in 2022/23). An additional sum of £59,673 for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 (2022/23 £51,172) was received by the CS Castlemorton Delivery Group, which is accounted for as custodian funds under the terms of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. The entire income and expenditure of this delivery group does not form part of the Malvern Hills Trust accounts, but rather the applicable share, as agreed via the required internal agreement. In, 2023/24 this amounts to £1,000 admin fee (2022/23 £1,000) and £5,098 non grazing delivery services (2022/23 £4,667).

# Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are an important part of our income and help to fund special projects in addition to the ongoing work on the Hills and Commons. The trustees and staff are very grateful for all donations and legacies made to support our work.

Donations and legacies received in 2023/24 totalled £18,243 (£13,878 in the previous year).

## Our thanks

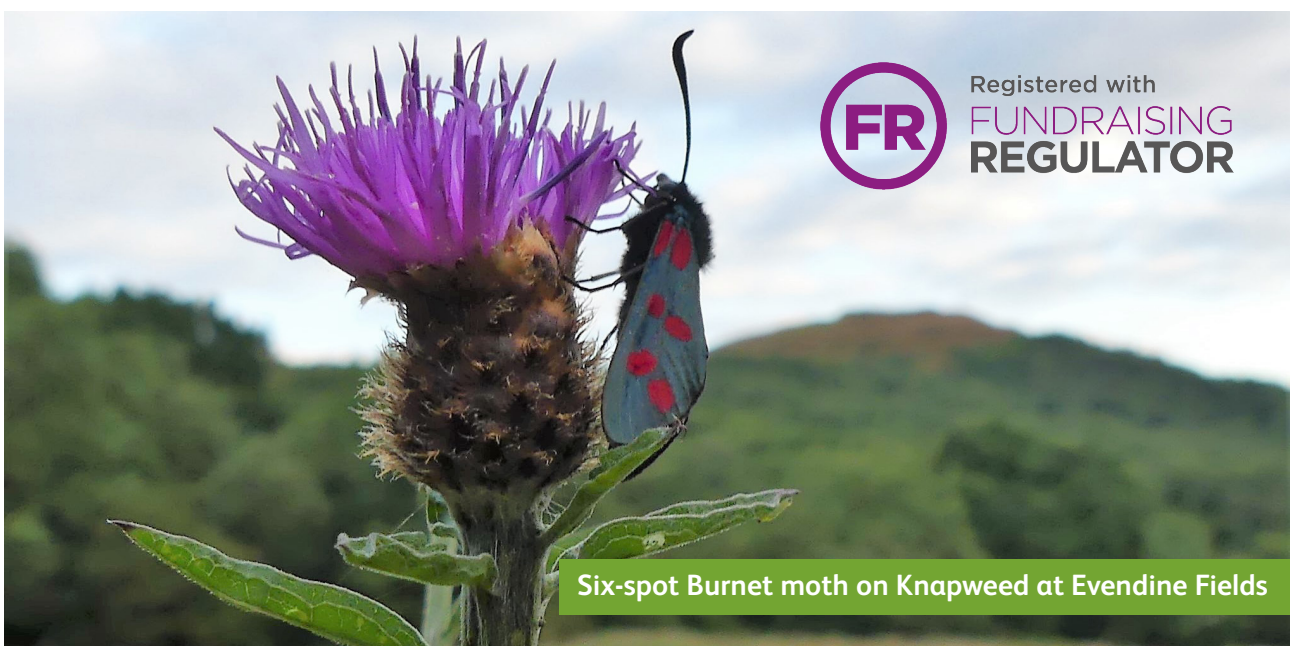
We would like to thank all of our supporters who have generously given to our charity. It is sadly not possible to name all of the individuals who have kindly contributed, but no matter how large or small, your donations enable us to protect and conserve the Malvern Hills and Commons landscape for the future.

Legacies have also been instrumental in past years, allowing us to secure additional funding for projects by contributing as match funding. They have unlocked access to grants, which has enabled us to complete important projects including the restorations of the donkey shed and the Guarlford trough, without which support, would not be possible.

**Thanks for all donations, large and small. Even a small gift can make a huge difference to the success of larger projects.**

Donations towards specific purposes are appreciated. However, leaving an unrestricted gift in a will can be even more valuable to us. In these changing times when we face the impacts of devastating tree diseases, climate change and ever-increasing costs of caring for these precious places, unrestricted gifts help us focus the funds where they are most needed.

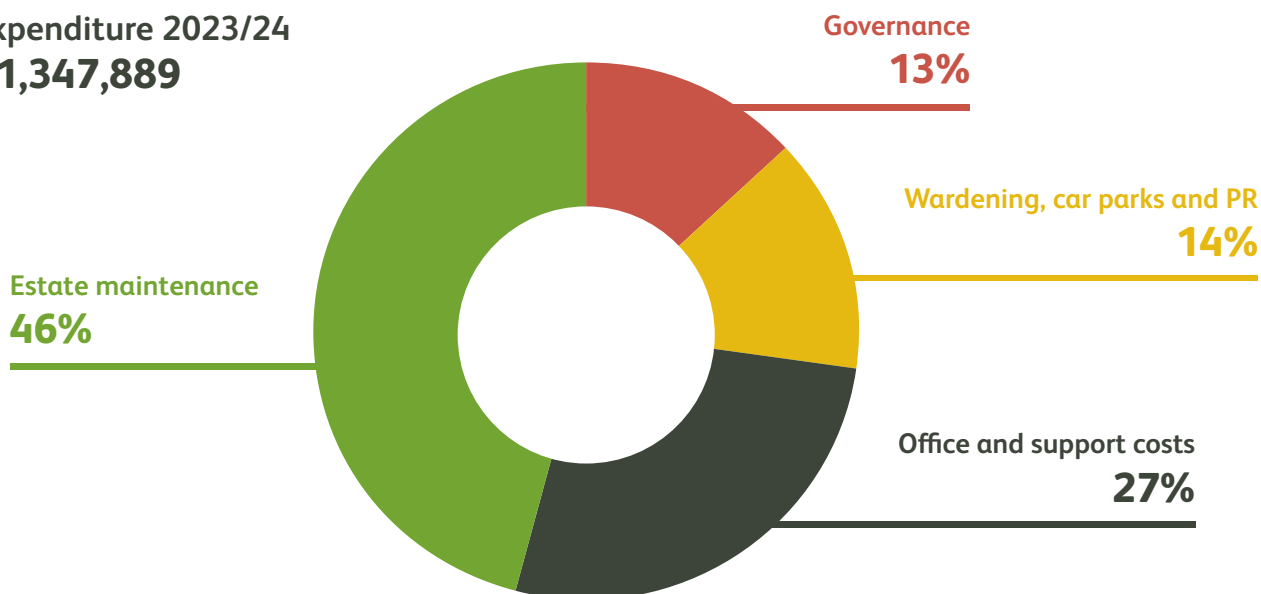
If you would like to support our work through a donation please contact our offices or visit our Just Giving page [www.justgiving.com/malvernhillstrust](https://www.justgiving.com/malvernhillstrust). For further information on legacies, leaving the Trust a gift in your will or considering the gifting of land, please contact us on [info@malvern hills.org.uk](mailto:info@malvern hills.org.uk).



# How the charity's money is used

The Trust spent £1,347,889 during the year, slightly up from £1,303,834 in 2022/23. This expenditure is shown on a percentage basis across the five main areas of costs below.

Expenditure 2023/24  
**£1,347,889**



46% of the total expenditure was on Estate maintenance, which includes:

- Salaries of the field staff and conservation team
- Grazing costs
- Direct land management costs such as tree work, contractors and equipment hire
- Depreciation charges on land management equipment purchased by the charity
- Legal fees relating to land management issues
- Insurance

In addition, a further 14% of the total expenditure was spent on visitor services including wardens' salaries,

repair and maintenance of the car parks, visitor information, interpretation and public relations.

As a result, a total of 60% was spent in the management and maintenance of the land under the Trust's jurisdiction. Governance costs accounted for 13% of total expenditure. Office and support costs accounted for 27% of the year's costs. This included:

- Salaries of the office staff
- IT costs, office equipment and maintenance
- Office rates and services (power, water, telephones and broadband)
- Printing, postage and stationery
- Bank charges

# Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

|                                                            | Unrestricted<br>funds (£) | Restricted<br>funds (£) | Total funds<br>2024 (£) | Total funds<br>2023 (£) |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Income and endowments from:</b>                         |                           |                         |                         |                         |
| Donations and legacies                                     | 13,697                    | 4,546                   | 18,243                  | 13,879                  |
| <b>Charitable activities:</b>                              |                           |                         |                         |                         |
| Management of the hills and commons                        | 831,527                   | 39,036                  | 870,563                 | 756,190                 |
| Car parks                                                  | 398,720                   | 0                       | 398,720                 | 360,753                 |
| Other trading activities                                   | 50,931                    | 0                       | 50,931                  | 78,407                  |
| <b>Investments:</b>                                        |                           |                         |                         |                         |
| Bank deposits                                              | 39,354                    | 6,780                   | 46,134                  | 9,518                   |
| Investment portfolio                                       | 0                         | 33,698                  | 33,698                  | 37,785                  |
| Other                                                      | 22,913                    | 0                       | 22,913                  | 16,529                  |
| <b>Total income</b>                                        | <b>1,357,142</b>          | <b>84,060</b>           | <b>1,441,202</b>        | <b>1,273,061</b>        |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>                                     |                           |                         |                         |                         |
| Charitable activities                                      | 1,290,495                 | 48,315                  | 1,338,810               | 1,287,897               |
| Other expenditure                                          | 1,729                     | 7,350                   | 9,079                   | 15,937                  |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>                                   | <b>1,292,224</b>          | <b>55,665</b>           | <b>1,347,889</b>        | <b>1,303,834</b>        |
| Net gains on investments                                   | 0                         | 88,332                  | 88,332                  | (90,627)                |
| <b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>                            | <b>64,918</b>             | <b>116,727</b>          | <b>181,645</b>          | <b>(121,400)</b>        |
| <b>Transfers between funds</b>                             | <b>25,090</b>             | <b>(25,090)</b>         | <b>0</b>                | <b>0</b>                |
| <b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>                     |                           |                         |                         |                         |
| Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension scheme | 77,000                    | 0                       | 77,000                  | 1,541,000               |
| <b>Net movement in funds</b>                               | <b>167,008</b>            | <b>91,637</b>           | <b>258,645</b>          | <b>1,419,600</b>        |
| <b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>                            |                           |                         |                         |                         |
| Total funds brought forward                                | 597,275                   | 2,999,397               | 3,596,672               | 2,177,072               |
| <b>Total funds carried forward</b>                         | <b>764,283</b>            | <b>3,091,034</b>        | <b>3,855,317</b>        | <b>3,596,672</b>        |

This table is extracted from the audited Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, which received an unqualified audit report. Copies of the full report are available to download from our website [www.malvern hills.org.uk/looking-after/annual-review-and-accounts/](http://www.malvern hills.org.uk/looking-after/annual-review-and-accounts/).

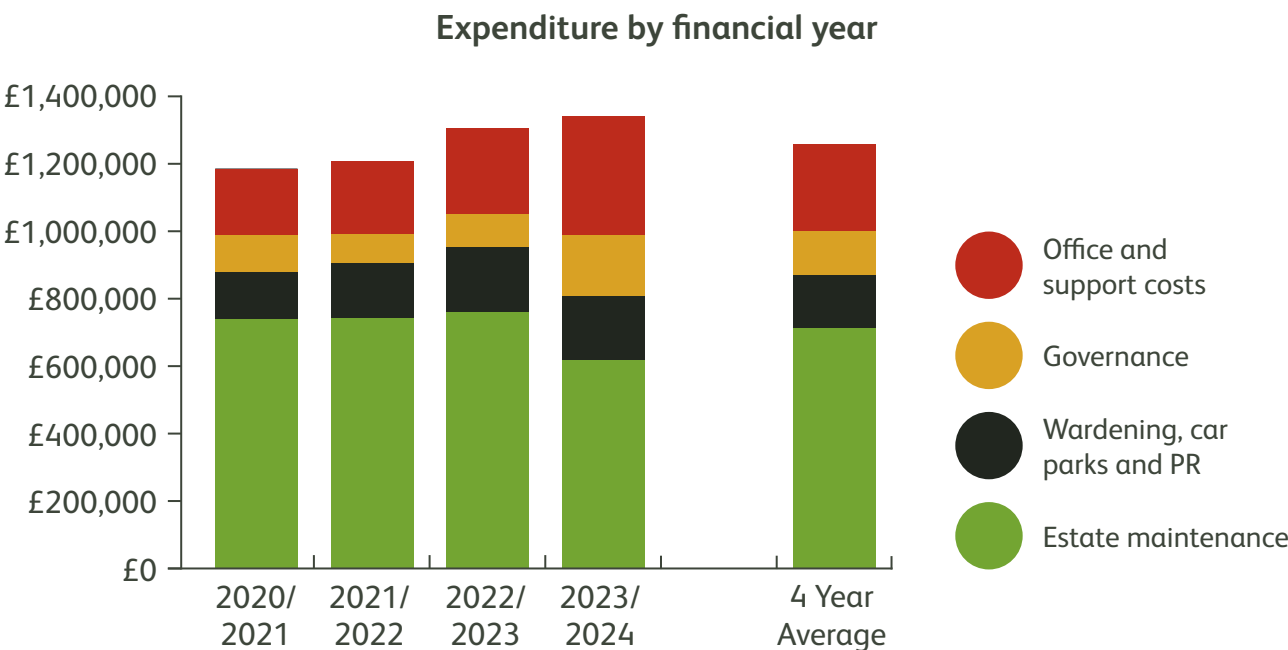
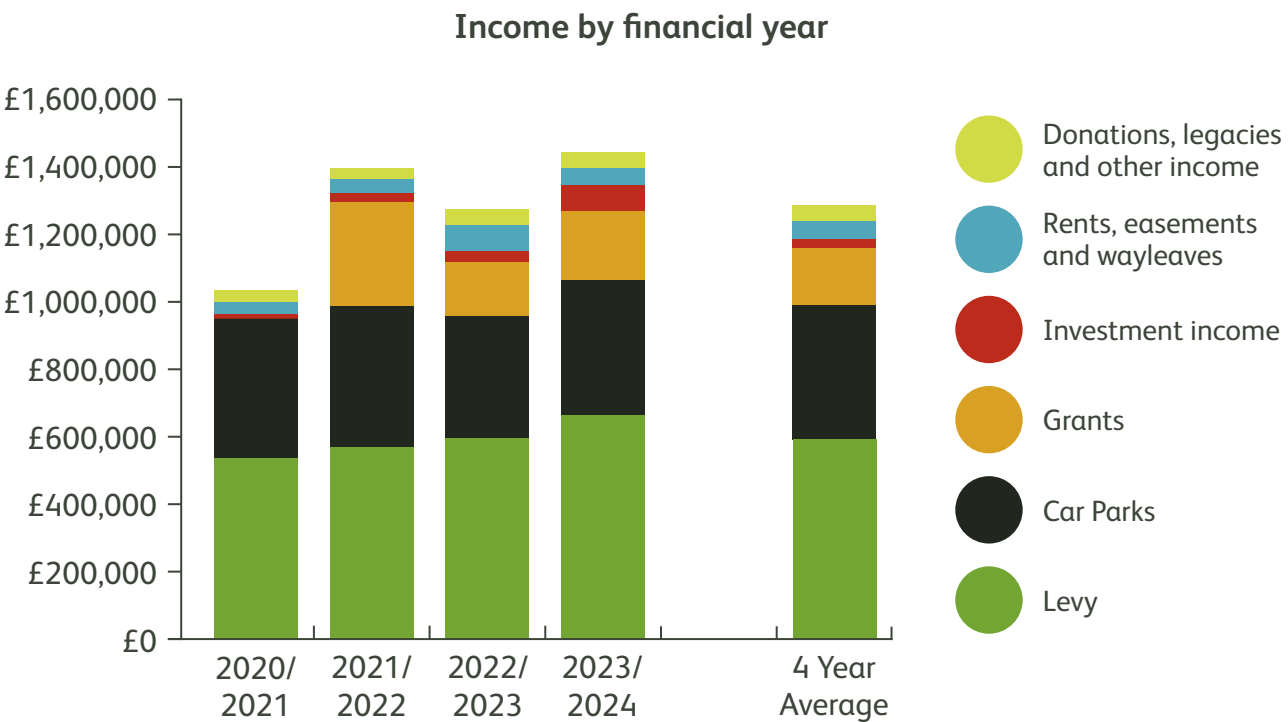
# Balance Sheet as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

|                                                       | 2024 (£)         | 2023 (£)         |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Fixed Assets</b>                                   |                  |                  |
| Tangible fixed assets                                 | 428,748          | 359,078          |
| Heritage assets                                       | 1,346,835        | 1,346,835        |
| Investments                                           | 1,303,281        | 1,206,693        |
| <b>Total fixed assets</b>                             | <b>3,078,864</b> | <b>2,912,606</b> |
| <b>Current Assets</b>                                 |                  |                  |
| Livestock                                             | 31,452           | 31,452           |
| Investments                                           | 424,788          | 84,788           |
| Debtors                                               | 306,520          | 116,932          |
| Short term deposits                                   | 898,082          | 1,334,180        |
| Cash in hand                                          | 176              | 166              |
| <b>Total current assets</b>                           | <b>1,661,018</b> | <b>1,567,518</b> |
| <b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one</b>      | <b>(272,565)</b> | <b>(146,452)</b> |
| <b>Net Current Assets excluding pension liability</b> | <b>1,388,453</b> | <b>1,421,066</b> |
| <b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>         | <b>4,467,317</b> | <b>4,333,672</b> |
| <b>Pension Fund liability</b>                         | <b>(612,000)</b> | <b>(737,000)</b> |
| <b>Net Assets including pension liability</b>         | <b>3,855,317</b> | <b>3,596,672</b> |
| <b>The funds of the charity</b>                       |                  |                  |
| Unrestricted - General Fund                           | 479,130          | 436,588          |
| Unrestricted - Designated Funds                       | 897,153          | 897,687          |
| Unrestricted - Pension Fund                           | (612,000)        | (737,000)        |
| Restricted Funds                                      | 3,091,034        | 2,999,397        |
| <b>Total charity funds</b>                            | <b>3,855,317</b> | <b>3,596,672</b> |

This table is extracted from the audited Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, which received an unqualified audit report. Copies of the full report are available to download from our website as above.

# 4-year summary of income and expenditure

A summary of income and expenditure over the last 4 years is shown below. Read more in the full accounts for the year ending the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 at [www.malvernhill.org.uk/looking-after/annual-review-and-accounts/](http://www.malvernhill.org.uk/looking-after/annual-review-and-accounts/)





**Malvern Hills Trust**

If you'd like to keep up to date with the work of the Trust, view our News page on our website or sign up to our e-newsletter.

Malvern Hills Trust is the working name of the Malvern Hills Conservators.

Registered charity number 515804.

**Malvern Hills Trust**  
Manor House, Grange Road  
Malvern, Worcestershire  
WR14 3EY

 **01684 892002**

 **info@malvernhills.org.uk**

**www.malvernhills.org.uk**

 **@MalvernHillsTrust**

 **@Malvern\_Hills\_Trust**