The Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club

Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 December 2025

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity Reference number	521000
Registered Office:	Woolhope Room, Hereford Library, Broad Street, Hereford, HR4 9AU
Correspondence address:	49 Old Hollow, Malvern, W14 4NP

As the Hereford Library is currently closed, please use the correspondence address.

Website: https://www.woolhopeclub.org.uk/

President	Dr Howard C. Tomlinson	
Vice Presidents	Prof. Rachel Jenkins	
	Mr David Whitehead	
	Dr John C. Eisel	
	Dr Janet Cooper	
Hon. Secretary	Dr Jane Adams	
Hon. Treasurer	Mr Jonathan Comber	
Hon. Librarian	Mrs Marianne Percival	
Hon. Field Secretary	Mrs Sue Olver	
Hon. Editor	Mr Terry Morgan	
Other Trustees	Mr Toby Cusworth	#
	Mr Joseph Goldsmith	*
	Miss Anne Harbour	*
	Mr Duncan James	*
	Mrs Moira Jenkins	$
	Mr David Lovelace	#
	Mr Christian Montez	$
	Mrs Marianne Percival	*
	Prof. Keith Ray	#
	Mr Will Watson	$

retires 2028
* retires 2027
$ retires 2026

WOOLHOPE NATURALISTS' FIELD CLIUB
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 8 and comply with the Society's Rules, applicable law and the requirements of the Charities Commission.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objects of the WOOLHOPE NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB are to promote the practical study in all branches of the natural history, geology, history, and archaeology of Herefordshire and the district immediately adjacent. These objects are achieved by producing an annual journal, "Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists Field Club" with volume 71 (2023) published in early 2025 and volume 72 (2024) in early 2026, with articles on original research in these subject areas. Online access is available via the Club's website at www.woolhopeclub.org.uk. The Club arranges a programme of talks and field trips for members and the general public.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Club's governing document is the Rules adopted at the Winter Annual Meeting held on 24 November 2018.

The Club is governed by a Central Committee (the Board of Trustees) which meets at least four times a year, Membership of this body consists of an Honorary President, 4 Honorary Vice-Presidents, an Honorary Treasurer, an Honorary Secretary, a field secretary, an editor and twelve ordinary committee members. The twelve ordinary members serve for three-year terms but are eligible for re-election. The office holders hold office for one year but can be re-elected.

Meetings of the Trustees in 2025

The Trustees met 5 times during the year on 14 February, 13 March, 9 May, 15 August and 14 November.

Annual General Meeting 2025

The Annual General Meeting of the charity was held on 15 March 2025.

Trustees

The current trustees are listed on the administrative details page

Major Risks

The Woolhope Room in the Hereford Museum and Library building in Broad Street, Hereford, is closed for refurbishment as part of a major redevelopment of the county museum by Herefordshire Council. As a result, the Club Library has been closed throughout the year. During the year the Library collection was moved to secure and appropriate accommodation in Hereford Archives and Records Centre and Hereford Town Hall. The Club has not been notified of a date for the re-opening of the building.

Other Matters

The trustees supported an application for registration of The Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club of Herefordshire CIO. This registration was approved by the Charity Commission on 19 March 2025 as Charity Number 1212600. It is expected that the CIO will become operational in 2026 at which point activities will transfer from the old charity to the new one.

Membership of the Society

At 31st December the Society had 696 members (2024: 632), of which 25 (2024: 24) were institutions. Subscription rates for the year remained at £13 for UK individuals and institutions, £15 for UK family, and £25 for overseas institutions. From 1st Jan 2026 these rates increased to £20 for UK individuals and institutions, £25 for UK family, and £25 for overseas institutions.

Events

8 Meetings of the Club were held on Saturday afternoons, including the F. C. Morgan lecture on the 11th October 2025, which was given by Michael Colquhoun on 'Rare bird sightings in Herefordshire over 2 decades'. The annual presidential lecture was given by Lucinda Orr on the 15th March 2025 who spoke on 'Valuing the Herefordshire Hoard'. There were also 6 geology meetings during the winter. A programme of 8 field trips were held during the summer.

The club participated in the inaugural Herefordshire Histories Festival held in May 2025, delivering a half-day event at Moccas Church and a schedule of events at Herefordshire Archives and Record Centre, comprising three talks, an exhibition, 'Exploring the Woolhope Club Transactions', and a display of rocks and fossils.

On 8th October 2024 a one-day conference 'In Celebration of Libraries' was held to mark the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Free Library in Broad Street on 8th October 1874.

All events were open to members and the general public.

In 2026 & 2027 a series of special events are being held to mark the Club's 175th anniversary. Current plans are for 2 conferences to be held, one in 2026 and the other in 2027.

Publications

Volume 71 of the *Transactions* (2023) was published early in 2025, and the 2024 volume will follow early in 2026. Both editions make original research on Herefordshire available across the range of topics in which the Club is active. Established contributors continue to provide strong material, whilst twelve authors have written or contributed to papers for the first time in the last three years, a healthy trend which the publications team encourages. Proposals made for inclusion in the next edition are also very promising. Our knowledgeable recorders keep the publication up to date with key events and how thinking in and about Herefordshire is progressing, a record that is important now and will retain its value for our successors.

Early in 2025, tables were published in *Transactions Extra* , the Club's channel for publication online only, to provide detailed analysis of the vegetation described in Stuart Hedley's paper on the acid grasslands at Brampton Bryan and Bradnor Hill in the 2023 *Transactions* . This continues an approach that enables research information too extensive to publish in a printed journal to be accessible nonetheless.

A strong, new edition of the Club's geological publication, *Earth Matters* 2024, was published, continuing the annual pattern. Like the geology talks on Friday evening, it contains material of interest to both geological specialists and wider audience and can be found under the 'Publications' tab on the Club website.

Spring and Autumn newsletters were published in 2025 covering a wide range of information. Newsletters will be published as an attachment to a news email from 2026, and they will also be available on the website as today. Members were consulted about whether they would prefer to continue to receive a printed copy, and anyone who expressed that preference will continue to receive newsletters in the post.

Website, and Social and Other Media

During 2025, essential updates have been applied to the website. However, the site dates from 2018, has earlier origins and, as a review showed, had become outdated. The Trustees thus approved a programme to upgrade the site. The improved version will continue to make best use of its great strengths in digitised publications and accompanying search facilities, something which offers so much for researchers, members and the public. At the same time, the upgraded site will play a more dynamic role in engaging with members, visitors, prospective members, and different audiences, and in bringing attention to the Club's current and forthcoming activities. Overall, the intention is to strengthen communication both with members and with visitors to the site, and thus help the Club to achieve its charitable objectives in promoting and disseminating research and understanding of Herefordshire and the surrounding areas.

Progress during 2025 included essential upgrade to the software platform, making it possible to join the Club online and pay for membership for the first time, resulting in a marked increase in new members. A collaborative effort by members with suitable expertise began to bring together new content. This ongoing process will do much to make available knowledge and sources of information about Herefordshire in different specialities, with a focus on areas in which Club members are making significant contributions today (or planning them for the future) as well as on the organisation's heritage. During the first half of 2026, all outdated material will be removed and content freshened throughout.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Total income in 2025 was £34,108 (2024: £13,996). Expenditure in 2025 was £23,089 (2024: £6,582). The net movement in funds for the year was a surplus of £11,019 (2024: £7,414), the 2025 figures include grants of £10,000 for the first £175th conference. The expenditure will be included in the 2026 accounts. We are grateful to Christine Paull for leaving the club a legacy of £2,500 in her will.

Reserves policy

The Club's policy on reserves is to hold approximately 5 years' worth of expenditure in unrestricted reserves as this is considered necessary in order to finance day to day expenditure while leaving a contingency to cover unforeseen expenditure. As at 31st December 2025 unrestricted reserves are equivalent to 6 years of unrestricted expenditure and it is expected that this will drop to around 5 years over the next few years as we engage in a major upgrade of the Club's

The designated funds relate to a legacy left to the Club by G W Smith in 2001 which was 'for the general purposes of the Club including archaeological excavation, preservation of Herefordshire antiquities and publication of records relating to the county.' The Club committee in 2001 decided to set up the fund as an endowment and it was decided that only the interest would be available for grants, after a proportion of that income had been retained to allow for inflation. Any unspent income is rolled over to be available in future years. In recent years, because of higher interest rates and reduced numbers of applicants this unspent income has accumulated significantly. The Committee has recently decided that the existence of the Smith Fund should be advertised more widely to encourage more applications from Club members to use up some of the accumulated income. In 2025 one application has been received towards a project to transcribe and publish all the correspondence of Lady Brilliana Harley, the notable Civil War heroine. The Trustees approved a grant of £2,025 to be made towards the cost of illustrations and for enhancing the images of hitherto illegible text, to make the book as comprehensive as possible. It is expected that payment will be made in 2026-27.

The restricted fund relates to a legacy left by Muriel Tonkin in which she specified that only the interest could be spent and only on repair of books in the library. As very little repairs are required to the library collection, the Trustees decided in 2025 to take advantage of the changes in relation to endowments of £25,000 and under included in the 2022 Charities Act which allow the endowment to be spent on purposes that are similar to the restriction by spending £5,500 on moving the Club's library to safe storage while the Broad Street library is closed. It is expected that the costs of moving the books back in due course will also come out of this fund. The remainder of the legacy is expected to remain as an endowment for the foreseeable future.

APPROVAL

This report was approved by the Trustees on 14th August 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Keith Ray, President

K Ray DR. KEITH RAY 14.08.2026

Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club

Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

Receipts and Payments Account

		2025				2024 (Restated)			
	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2025	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2024
Receipts		£		£	£				£
2025 Subscriptions		8,224	_	_	8,224	7,345	_	_	7,345
2026 Subscriptions	2	2,770	_	_	2,770	_	_	_	_
Interest		550	5,788	_	6,338	1,048	3,186	_	4,234
Field meetings		1,402	_	_	1,402	1,186	_	_	1,186
Royalties		88	_	_	88	87	_	_	87
Gift Aid		2,576	_	_	* 2,576	* _	_	_	_
Cathedral event		0	_	_	0	1,054	_	_	1,054
Legacy	3	2,500	_	_	2,500	_	_	_	_
Sundry		210	_	_	210	90	_	_	90
175th Conference	4	10,000	_	_	10,000	_	_	_	_
Total receipts		28,320	5,788	_	34,108	10,810	3,186	0	13,996
Payments									
Printing		9,553	_	_	* 9,553	* 2,583	_	_	2,583
Postage		2,572	_	_	2,572	446	_	_	446
Meeting expenses		823	_	_	823	418	_	_	418
Subscriptions		353	_	_	353	478	_	_	478
Legal costs		_	_	_	_	600	_	_	600
Materials		_	_	_	_	59	_	_	59
Website		2,163	_	_	2,163	694	_	_	694
Smith Fund Grants		_	1,680	_	1,680	_	_	_	_
Field meetings		425	_	_	425	251	_	_	251
Cathedral event		_	_	_	_	891	_	_	891
Sundry costs		_	_	_	_	131	_	_	131
Library move	5	_	_	5,520	5,520	_	_	31	31
Total payments		15,889	1,680	5,520	23,089	6,551	0	31	6,582
Net receipts		12,431	4,108	(5,520)	11,019	4,259	3,186	(31)	7,414
Transfer between funds		_	_	_	_	(4,076)	_	4,076	_
Cash funds at last year end		95,567	141,762	25,000	262,329	95,384	138,576	20,955	254,915
Cash funds at 31 March 2026		107,998	145,870	19,480	273,348	95,567	141,762	25,000	262,329

* The prior year figures have been restated to a receipts and payments basis by excluding amounts accrued in the 2024 accounts of £1,307 for gift aid and £6,446 for printing. These amounts now fall into the 2025 accounts.

The Woolhope Naturalists Field Club

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

As at 31 December 2025

List of bank balances	Note	at 31 December 2025 Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	at 31 December 2024 Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
CASH FUNDS									
Current account		24,847			24,847	2,336			2,336
Subscriptions		5,873			5,873	2,318			2,318
Subscriptions reserve		54,809			54,809	24,078			24,078
Field meetings		2,693			2,693	1,841			1,841
Smith Fund current			6,116		6,116		7,652		7,652
Smith Fund reserve			13,000		13,000		13,000		13,000
Stripe account		2,465			2,465				
Library account				19,480	19,480			25,000	25,000
NS&I	6	17,311			17,311	64,994			64,994
United Trust Bank			88,983		88,983		85,000		85,000
Cambridge & Counties			37,771		37,771		36,110		36,110
Total Cash Funds		107,998	145,870	19,480	273,348	95,567	141,762	25,000	262,329

Signed by two Trustees on behalf of all the Trustees:

Signature	Print name	Date of approval
.....	DR KEITH RAY	14.08.2026
.....	C.R. MILTON	14.08.2026

WOOLHOPE NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2025

1. **ACCOUNTING POLICIES**
The Receipts and Payments account has been prepared on a cash basis. Assets and Liabilities at the year end are noted on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

2. **2026 SUBSCRIPTIONS**
A number of members paid their subscriptions for 2026 in 2025. The total amount received was £2,770 (2024 : £-).

3. **LEGACY**
A legacy of £2,500 was received from the estate of a deceased member. No restrictions were placed on what the money could be used for.

4. **175th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE**
A Parkland Conference is being organised in 2026 as part of the Club's 175th Anniversary celebrations. 3 grants totalling £10,000 have been received and these will be used to reduce the ticket price that will be charged for people to attend the conference. All other income and expenditure relating to the conference will be included in the 2026 accounts.

5. **LIBRARY MOVE**
Due to the closure of the library in Broad Street, it was decided to transfer the books in the library to the Herefordshire Archives and Record Centre for safekeeping. The Trustees received legal advice advising that under the Charities Act 2022 part of the Tonkin legacy could be used to cover the costs of the specialist removal company.

6. **NATIONAL SAVINGS & KINVESTMENT ACCOUNT**
As this account is only paying 1% interest, the Trustees have transferred £50,000 from this account with the intention that in 2026 once the banking changes required following the creation of the CIO are completed, this amount will be invested in an account paying a higher interest rate.

The Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club
Charity Reference Number 521000

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club on the accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 6 and 7.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

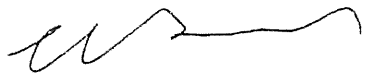
I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the Act.

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 which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- Accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- The accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

Name: Mr AJ Davies
Professional Qualification: FCCA

Address:
59 Hampton Park Road
Hereford. HR1 1TJ.

Date: 21 August 2026.