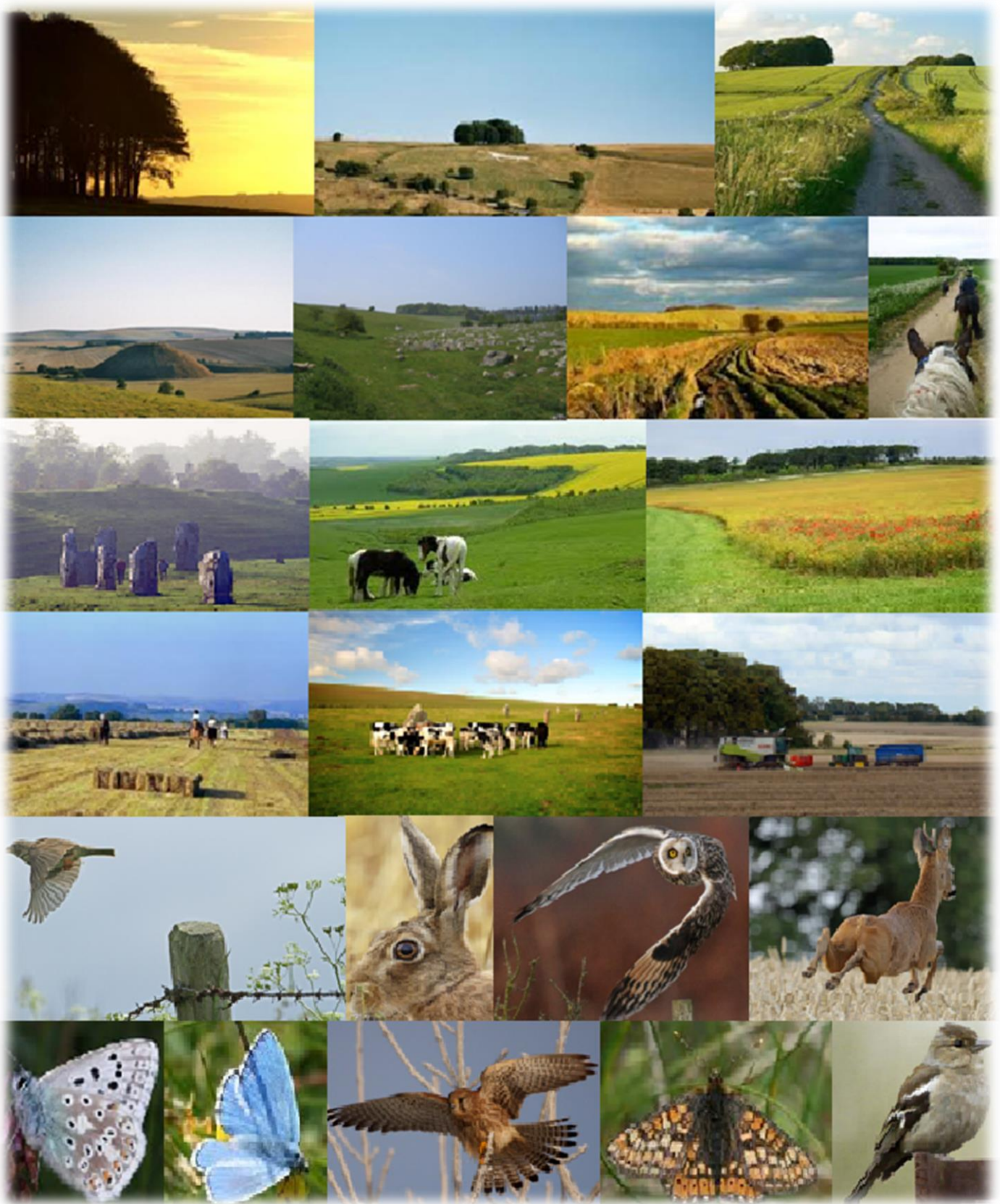
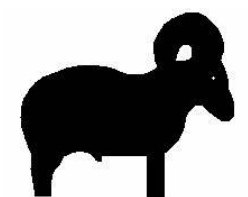


The Marlborough Downs: Space for Nature



Ninth Annual Report



Dr Jemma Batten
Marlborough Downs Space for Nature Project Manager
Black Sheep Countryside Management
Jindabyne – Great Hinton – Wiltshire BA14 6BT

☎ 07855 506112

✉ jemma.batten@blacksheepcountryside.co.uk



The Marlborough Downs
Nature Enhancement Farming Ltd
(A company limited by guarantee)

Report and Unaudited Financial Statements
for the year to 31st March 2021

Company Number : 7907437
Registered Charity Number : 1147925

The Marlborough Downs Nature Enhancement Farming Ltd.

(A company limited by guarantee)

The trustee board presents its directors' report and unaudited financial statements for year to 31 March 2021.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS

Company Registered No : 7907437

Charity Registered No : 1147925

Principal Address: Jindabyne, Great Hinton, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 6BT

Registered address: Jindabyne, Great Hinton, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 6BT

Trustees that served during the period:

- Marcus Robert Cooper - Chair
- Robin Butler
- Gillian Carter
- Peter Lawson
- Matthew Moore
- Victoria Lowes (associate member representative)
- Christopher Musgrave (associate member representative)
- Piers Maynard (associate member representative)

Project Management: Black Sheep Countryside Management – Lead Dr Jemma Batten

Independent Examiner

Helen Frost, HF Bookkeeping Plus, 1 Forest Hill Cottages, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 3HN

Bank

Barclays Bath Branch, 4-5 Southgate Street, Bath BA1 1AQ

The Marlborough Downs Nature Enhancement Farming Ltd.

(A company limited by guarantee)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEE BOARD

1. Chairman's Introduction

I guess every report written for 2020-21 has begun with the same question – how did we fare during the lock downs?

Well, I would like to congratulate all our members for such virtual support. You will note from the following pages that we were kept well up to date by regular bulletins, with updates on the ever-changing plans that DEFRA may or not implement.

However, whatever government throw at the custodians of the land, farmers will continue to shape the countryside on the basis that the responsibility for guardianship is passed down through the generations.

We have many ongoing projects as outlined, but there are at least three highlights to the year. The outstanding, and probably one-off, one was the sheer tranquillity and peace within the countryside, without the intrusion of noise from aircraft, trains, or cars. How we were fortunate enough to appreciate the sounds that are so often muffled. How many I wonder downloaded various bird song apps so they could identify such clear bird song?

How wonderful to see the Reserve coming together that is highlighted on Page 10 onwards. Full marks to Jilly Carter and Jemma for putting together such an extraordinary education centre. The diversity of habitat that has been created will, we are sure, be a Mecca for old and young to visit for many years to come.

Great excitement also with the thermal imaging camera that Matt Prior has so adeptly used. Just to see where our farmland birds are resting at night is already giving us an insight on how overwintered stubble should be managed.

May I take this opportunity to thank the Board for their huge support over the past year, and particularly our enthusiastic Jemma Batten for keeping us on such an amazing upward curve.

Robert Cooper, East Farm

2. Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 12 January 2012 in preparation for the potential success of a bid application submitted to Natural England, which was then awarded on March 2012, and registered as a charity on 3 July 2012. The company was established as 'The Marlborough Downs NIA' under a standard Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10. On 16th December 2015 the Charitable Company was renamed as 'The Marlborough Downs Nature Enhancement Farming'.

Organisational Structure

The Marlborough Downs Nature Enhancement Farming charity has a board made up of farming and non-farming trustees and invited associates. Robert Cooper is the chair of the charity board. The board delegates operational activities to two delivery groups: the Downland Species Group and the Habitats and Heritage Group.

Projects are a collaboration between the farmers of the Marlborough Downs (who are members of the Marlborough Downs Nature Enhancement Farming charity) and two other organisations, Wiltshire Council and Black Sheep Countryside Management. The board meetings are therefore run as project board meetings and for this purposes representatives from partner organisations have been co-opted to the board. They are:

- Richard Broadhead, Rights of Way and Countryside Manager, Wiltshire Council
- Jemma Batten, Senior Consultant, Black Sheep Countryside Management

Other key stakeholders may be invited to attend board meetings from time to time. All strategic decisions are taken at these properly constituted project board meetings. All agenda items are supported by board papers, which include a risk analysis and clear recommendations to be discussed and considered. The decisions are then clearly minuted and these minutes with actions are circulated and made available to all members via the website.

Recruitment & Training

This is the ninth year of the charity and this report covers the year ended 31st March 2021. The charity continues with the same overall aim as in previous years. The majority of trustees are currently or have previously been farmers and represent the farming community in the Marlborough Downs area. Some have been on the board from the start of the charity and

others have joined since. At the 2018 AGM it was agreed that associate members (non-farmers members and members who farm out of the core area) should also be allowed to stand as trustees as long as the majority of the board remains as farmer members. Piers Maynard was elected as a new trustee at the 2020 AGM.

The skills of the project board and their advisers are considered to meet the requirements of the charity's objectives and have been able to meet the ever increasing challenging project targets over the year. Trustees are offered training to fill any further gaps identified and if required additional trustees with new skills are recruited.

3. Financial Review

The income during the year has been mainly from CS Facilitation Fund grant of £9,136 through Black Sheep, with £41,964.14 brought forward from the Kilcreggan Trust (Landscape).

The CS FF grant has been recognised in the accounts as a contribution in kind as the work undertaken was in support of the charity's main aims and is the main income for Landscape and Overheads. The CS FF agreement originally expired in September 2020 but was extended to the end of December 2020 when it ended.

The amount of CS FF grant received was also negatively impacted by Covid-19, as group activities (to which the grant is linked) were severely curtailed. Consequently, much of the Landscape expenditure came from the Kilcreggan Trust fund and was for work on the Space for Nature Reserve (see section 7.1.1.4).

Similarly, Covid-19 restrictions meant that Community activities were also badly impacted and both income (from donations and fundraising events) and expenditure were relatively low, with the only significant expense being £3,100 for a public bird hide on the Reserve paid for using Kilcreggan Trust funds.

Activities	Income	Spend	Under/over-spend
Community	£496.25	£4,557.54	-£4,061.29
Landscape	£7,675.29	£17,336.54	-£9,661.25
Overheads	£1,902.46	£4,378.71	-£2,476.25
Total	£10,074.00	£26,272.79	-£16,198.79

Reserves Policy

The policy on reserves is accepted as being minimal as offices are virtual and all work is undertaken by volunteers or contractors. However, a reserve of £5,000 for unforeseen events is considered adequate as (in a normal year) this could cover half a year's management costs in an emergency plus one quarter's scheduled community activities. As of 31 March 2021 we had £3,177.95 unrestricted funds in reserve. It is recognised that this must be addressed but due to Covid-19 there has been little opportunity to do so during this financial year.

Donations In Kind

In addition to the actual management of the budget, in normal years a significant amount is donated as 'in kind' but again, successive Covid-19 lockdowns resulted in minimal opportunities for volunteer projects and the kind of activities we have undertaken in previous years.

4. Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

The trustees act as custodians and ultimately the controlling group of the funds held. This was limited during the year as explained above. Otherwise, no funds are held on behalf of others.

5. Public benefit statement

The Marlborough Downs Nature Enhancement Farmers Ltd and Charity aims to deliver a more biodiverse, more attractive and more accessible landscape. Alongside these obvious, tangible benefits come a suite of gains that may be more difficult to quantify but are known collectively as ecosystem services. Such gains include improved water quality due to reduced agricultural inputs; a contribution towards the physical and mental health of residents and visitors through access to green spaces and fresh air; mitigation against climate change through building robust ecological networks; better crop pollination; support for a strong rural economy via agriculture, tourism and recreation; and the social, cultural and educational benefits that are a result of interaction with nature.

The partnership is driven by the fact that despite decades of conservation effort, many of our habitats and species are at best stable and at worst in decline and while most of the farmers in the area have long been involved in environmental schemes, we have shown that the farmer-led, bottom-up approach of this initiative can lead to far greater and more wide-reaching benefits as a result of the 'ownership' conferred on us by this project. We are also convinced that the potential for the long term delivery of this project is far higher than for others that rely upon financial incentives rather than personal commitment. We understand

that a landscape-scale approach cannot succeed without widespread farmer involvement and we ensured that all farmers in the area had the opportunity to contribute to the development of the project.

As well as environmental and conservation benefits there is an emphasis on education of the public through volunteer activities to support the project as well as direct educational activities provided by the project. These activities are community based and work with existing groups so also promote community working and cohesion as groups and individuals are brought together with a common aim. We are working with students and local communities to encourage more involvement in the countryside and to promote greater awareness of landscape, wildlife and farming. We are keen to enthuse people about the countryside and get the non-farming community involved with activities on and about the Downs through events and activities, workshops and work parties. We are working to provide better public access and information to encourage people to enjoy and understand the landscape while improving their health and wellbeing.

We have seen that the relationships developed during the initial pilot project, both within the partnership and with external agencies and organisations, have continued, and the shared commitment to improving the nature of the Marlborough Downs is having a long-lasting impact upon the area.

6. Objectives and activities

The objectives as laid out for the Company in the initial incorporation document were:

- To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment.
- To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the environment.
- To promote sustainable development for the benefit of the public by the preservation, conservation and the protection of the environment and the prudent use of resources.
- The promotion of sustainable means of achieving economic growth and regeneration.

7. Achievements and performance Year 9 (April 2020 to March 2021)

OBJECTIVE 1 – To deliver evidence-based conservation activities on a landscape scale

1.1 Biodiversity tailoring

Detailed knowledge of what's happening beyond individual farm boundaries has enabled us to deliver on a landscape scale.

1.1.1 Existing Stewardship agreements

The project management team continues to support members in their delivery of individual Environmental Stewardship (ES) and Countryside Stewardship (CS) agreements. The map below shows the coverage of Stewardship agreements across the Downs as of March 2021.

MAGiC

Stewardship on the Marlborough Downs

Legend

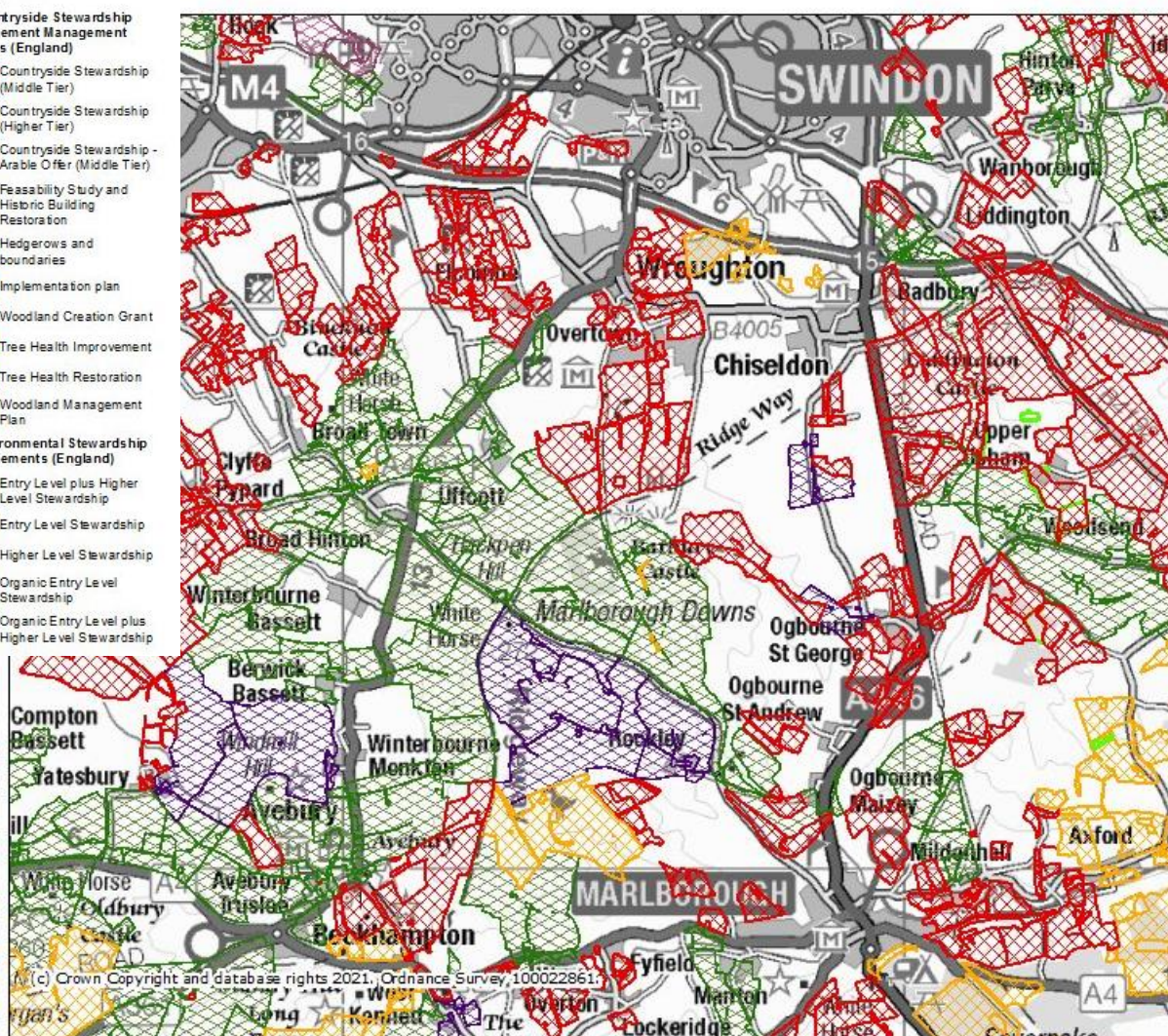
Countryside Stewardship Agreement Management Areas (England)

- Countryside Stewardship (Middle Tier)
- Countryside Stewardship (Higher Tier)
- Countryside Stewardship - Arable Offer (Middle Tier)
- Feasibility Study and Historic Building Restoration

- Hedgerows and boundaries
- Implementation plan
- Woodland Creation Grant
- Tree Health Improvement
- Tree Health Restoration
- Woodland Management Plan

Environmental Stewardship Agreements (England)

- Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship
- Entry Level Stewardship
- Higher Level Stewardship
- Organic Entry Level Stewardship
- Organic Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship



In 2019 we undertook to review the HLS prescriptions for grassland management for harriers and short-eared owls which is being carried out by five of our members. We were able to begin discussions with our Natural England adviser about this between lockdowns in November 2020, and a derogation was issued to allow all members delivering this option to winter-graze land not shut up as foraging and roosting habitat. We had hoped to be able to amend agreements to also allow light grazing on foraging areas during the growing season, but unfortunately have been unable to secure agreement for this as yet.



1.1.2 New Stewardship agreements

Two applications were supported in 2020. One was submitted by a member who already has an extensive HLS agreement across his land and so the new application only covered new land recently purchased. The application included options to protect a winterbourne which flows into the River Og and ultimately the Kennet, as well as provision for foraging plots for invertebrates and farmland birds, management of hedges and a chalk grassland County Wildlife Site, and reversion of arable land to extend the grassland area to create a more viable grazing unit and to further protect the winterbourne. The second application covered water quality capital works only as the farm is already covered by an HLS agreement.

Both applications were supported by the Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer for the Kennet area and both were successful, with agreements starting on 1 January 2021.

1.1.3 Dissemination of best practice

Due to successive Covid-19 lockdowns that started in March 2020 and the restrictions on meetings and other gatherings that remained in place during the intervening periods, group activities were virtually suspended during the whole of this year. However, we were able to hold some virtual meetings and best practice events, and also kept up-to-date via the website (www.spacefornature.net), social media, and email.

Activities we were able to deliver during this unsettled year included:

- Monthly updates (May, June, July, August, September, October, December)
- Board and Delivery Group meetings via Zoom (April, May, June, July, September, October, November, January)

- Development of an online library of ID guides, factsheets and habitat management guidance (see <https://www.spacefornature.net/information-and-guidance>)
- Project risk review
- Short video on how to create a wildflower meadow (see weblink above), filmed on location on three member farms whilst at the same time giving interviews about pollinators for Radio 4's farming programme.



- Visit to Devon to see Andrew Davis's Wildlife Reserve (August)
- Annual Seasonal Supper via Zoom (November), during which founder member Chris Musgrave received the 2020 Wildlife Champion Award
- West Country Buzz online event (November), hosted by Bumblebee Conservation Trust
- FABulous Farmers online event (February) on conservation agriculture (with the Soil Association)

The facilitator also kept members updated on details of the many excellent webinars and other online activities that took place throughout the year, on subjects as diverse as the brown hare, the proposed new environmental land management scheme, soil health, wildlife-friendly farming, ecological intensification, natural capital, and track management.

Other 'best practice' activities associated with particular habitats and/or species are detailed under the relevant Objective headings below.

1.1.4 Space for Nature Reserve

While most activities ground to a halt, one of the projects we could get on with was the development of the Space for Nature Reserve. 2020-21 saw cables buried, grassland established, and the creation of a swimming pond, chalk pit, tree sparrow village, and bird hide.



1.2 Supporting local conservation businesses

Several local businesses have been engaged in the development of the Reserve, including contractors to clear scrub and dangerous and non-native trees, spray off rank vegetation and invasive plants, reprofile the site, dig out the pond and the chalk pit, supply seed, and build a bespoke bird hide on sleds so it can be moved around the Reserve as required.

OBJECTIVE 2 – To enable appropriate management of semi-natural wildlife habitat

2.1 Tree sparrow habitat

Thanks to a couple of hardy volunteers and a donation of shrubs, guards and stakes from the Woodland Trust, we were able to create a tree sparrow village on the Space for Nature Reserve, and a scrubby border to the nearby dew pond which will provide great cover for birds and mammals attracted by the water.



2.2 Wildlife corridors and stepping stones

2.2.1 Chalk grassland

In March we joined forces with the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology in a project which looks at Restoring Resilient Ecosystems. CEH ecologists are monitoring plant and insect diversity in reversion grassland belonging to several members with the aim of identifying the most effective establishment and management techniques for restoring chalk grassland.

We now have at least seven different sites at various stages from arable or improved grassland towards semi-natural, species-rich priority habitat. Pictured right is one of our earlier efforts – in 2013 this was semi-improved species-poor agricultural grassland and now look at it!



These regenerating swards lie amongst other older, more established areas of grassland in the landscape, and provide important links between previously isolated sites.

2.2.2 Wilding the Downs

Two of our members are planning wilding schemes, with one expecting to submit a Countryside Stewardship grant application in 2021 to fund fencing to allow an area of abandoned grassland, fallow arable and willow scrub to be grazed by free-ranging cattle and ponies.

2.3 Better water management

At least two members created new ponds on their farms to add to the network that we have been developing since the beginning of the project back in 2012. Having learnt that those



with some scrubby habitat nearby are most likely to attract birds and mammals, both new ponds have a diverse range of shrub species planted up around them. Although they may not look like much yet, experience has shown us that these small bodies of water rapidly become important wildlife habitats and support many species that would otherwise be absent from the generally arid Downs.



OBJECTIVE 3 – To consolidate populations of species of national and local importance

3.1 Space for Birds: Marlborough Downs farmland bird project

Between lockdowns, Matt Prior continues to co-ordinate our three-pronged approach to farmland bird conservation:

1. Year-round feeding opportunities for adults and spring/summer insect food for chicks
2. Nesting habitat
3. Protection from predators where predation significantly threatens breeding success

3.1.1 Feeding and foraging habitat

Most of our members continue to provide overwinter stubbles, sown wild bird mixes and/or nectar mix plots via existing ELS or HLS agreements, and/or do so on a voluntary basis.



3.1.2 Supplementary feeding

Members continue to feed over 20 tonnes of seed annually to our farmland birds over winter, and sunflowers have again been planted to provide more seed to distribute across the Downs.

3.2 Widespread species

3.2.1 Thermal imaging camera

MDNEP members and supporters raised over £1,000 towards a thermal imaging camera which is used to monitor how wildlife uses the landscape after dark.

Information gathered using the camera will be invaluable in helping us to make decisions about how to manage grassland and stubbles, for example, to create better habitat for farmland birds and mammals.

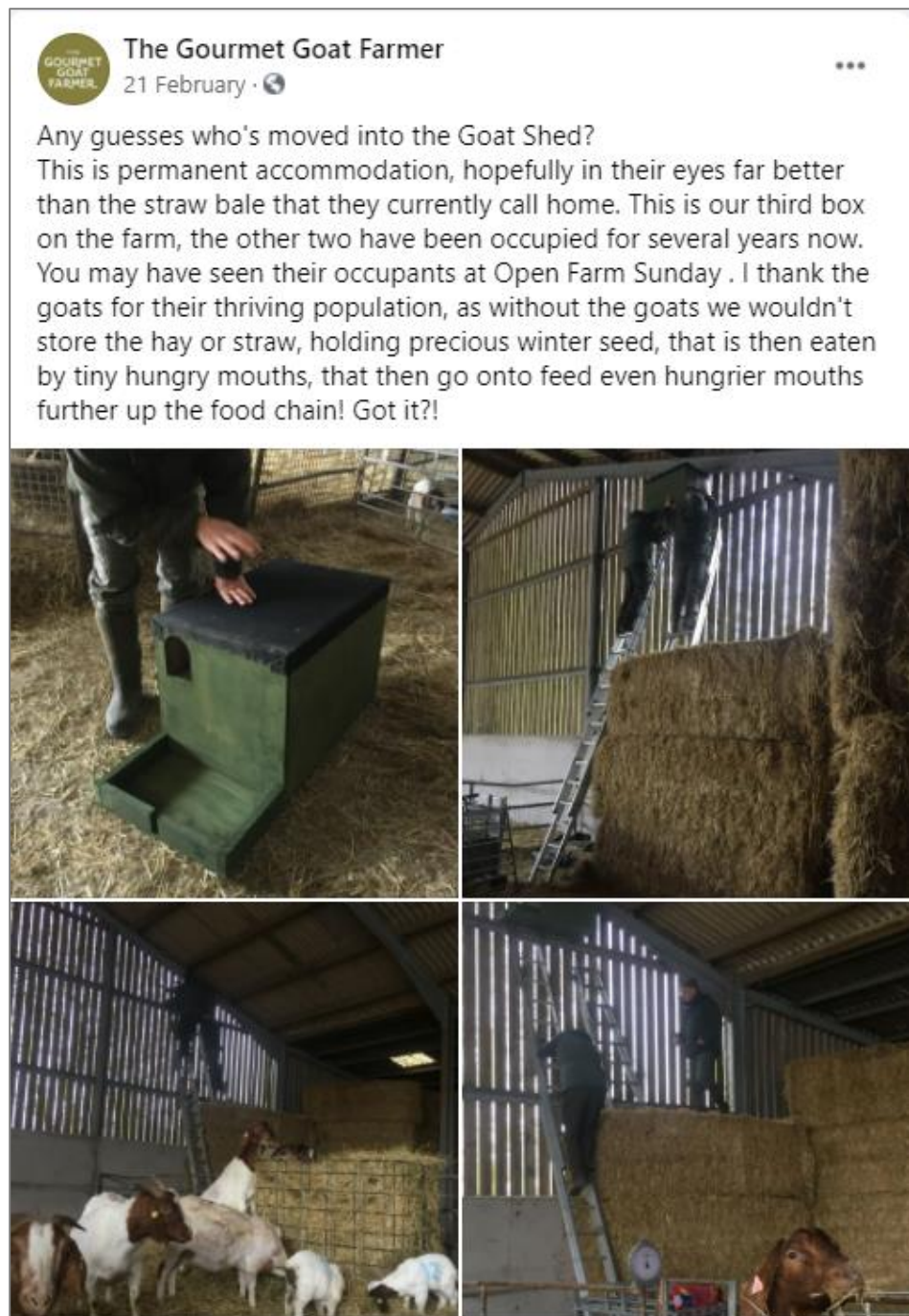


3.2.1 Barn owls

In early 2021 we were approached by GWCT to join a project to provide barn owl nest boxes to our members. The boxes will be monitored during the breeding season, with feedback provided to farmers. Adult barn owls will be GPS-tracked to better understand their use of arable habitats for foraging and enable our members to see the effects of their conservation efforts.

Unfortunately, due to the third national lockdown, plans for a February workshop to build 10 nest boxes for various sites on the Downs had to be cancelled, though we hope to reschedule for a date later in 2021.

Not wanting to wait though, at least one of our members went ahead and built and installed a box for their goat shed



OBJECTIVE 4 – To offer a range of opportunities for people to engage with the landscape of the Marlborough Downs

OBJECTIVE 5 – To provide high quality access for all

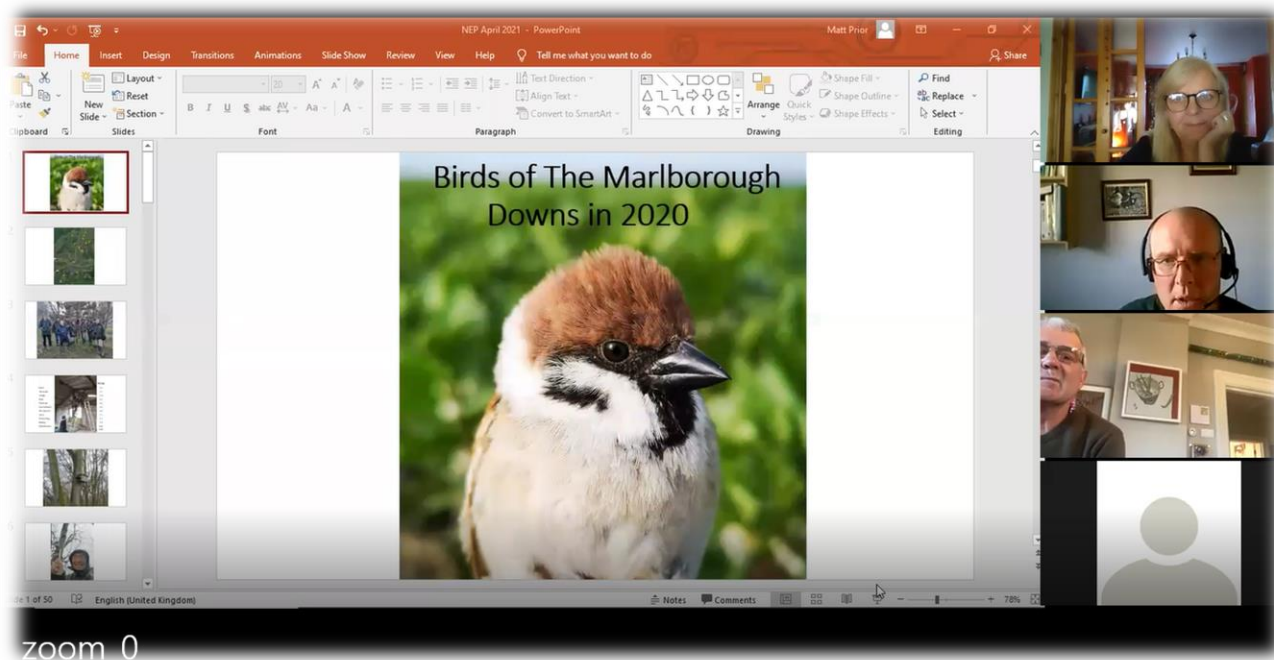
4.1 Marlborough Downs Space for Nature events

Covid-19 lockdowns and intervening restrictions on group gatherings effectively closed down our community programme and volunteer group for the year from April 2020.

We did hold a couple of online events, though it was agreed that there were so many going on that we didn't need to spend precious dwindling resources competing for audiences when we had no income.

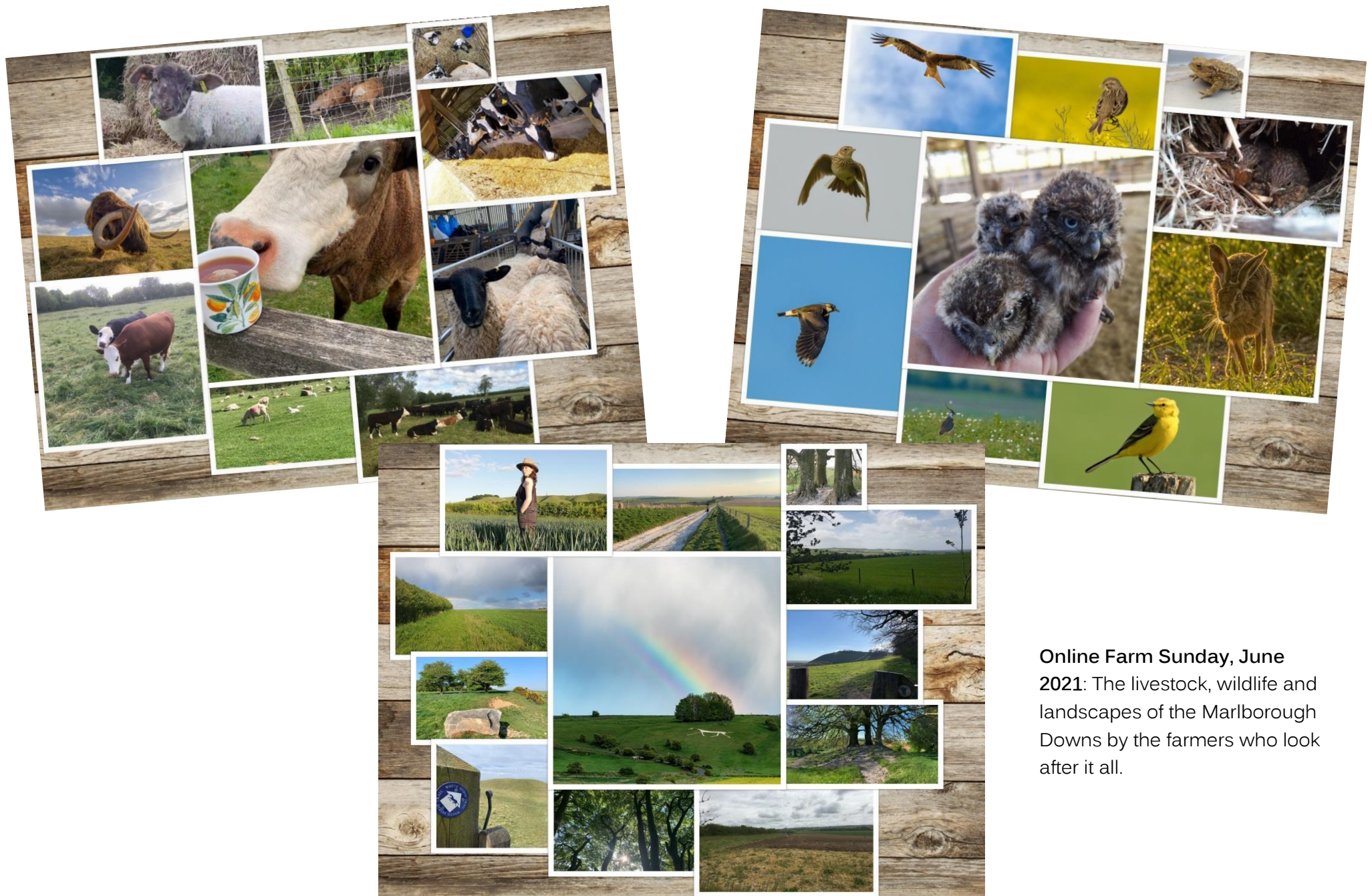
4.1.1 Farmland birds – online talk by Matt Prior (May)

This was attended by around 40 people, both MDNEP members and others, and reminded us how important it is that we keep up the good work even in lockdown.



4.1.2 Online Farm Sunday (June)

Marlborough Downs farmers flooded our social media accounts with video clips and photos of farming, landscape and wildlife as part of this national online event. It was hoped that 'live' Open Farm Sunday could be rescheduled to September, but Covid restrictions prevented it. Overleaf are just a few of the many photos posted by our members

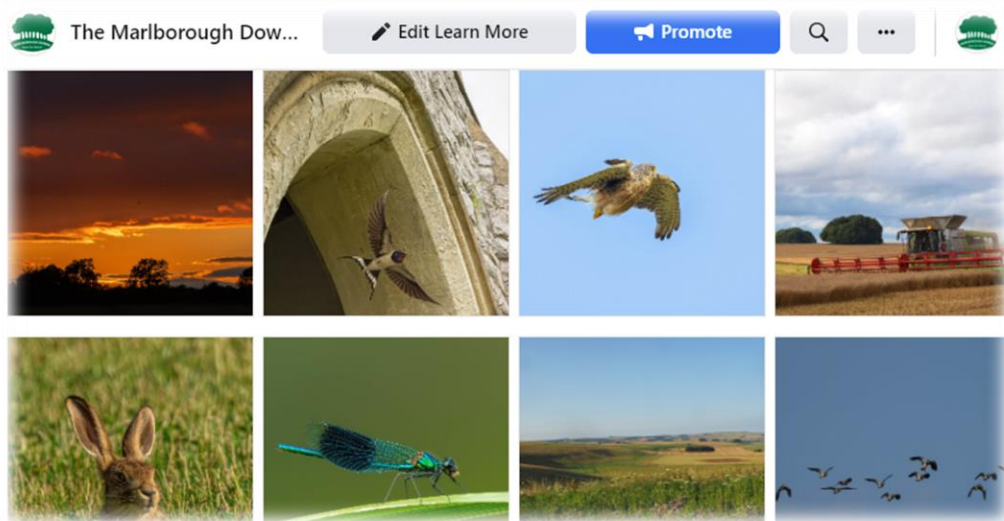


Online Farm Sunday, June 2021: The livestock, wildlife and landscapes of the Marlborough Downs by the farmers who look after it all.

OBJECTIVE 6 – To increase local and national awareness of the work, achievements and impact of the Space for Nature Project

We continue to take every opportunity to promote the project, our work, and the link between food, farming, landscape and wildlife. During the year to 31 March, this included:

- Networking – everyone involved promotes the project in whatever context possible and to a wide audience including politicians, civil servants, local and national NGOs, charities and other organisations, businesses, the media, special interest groups, other farmer groups, etc., albeit largely online this year.
- Partnership working – we continue to maintain contacts with a wide range of stakeholders including Wiltshire Council, Wiltshire Trust for Ornithology, Transition Marlborough, Action for the River Kennet, and various other local community and youth groups, though for reasons previously stated have had limited opportunity to undertake any shared activities.
- Media engagement – we have good relationships with local media outlets such as BBC Radio Wiltshire and Marlborough News Online, and appreciate the support we get in promoting the project and our community events.
- Membership – as of 31 March 2020 we had 59 members (farmers and other land managers) representing 31 holdings covering over 10,000 hectares (25,000 acres).
- Online – we post regular website – www.spacefornature.net – and social media updates. We have almost 2,000 followers on facebook, over 500 on Instagram, and 160 on twitter and are very grateful to the handful of talented photographers – members and friends of the project – who regularly post beautiful pictures and interesting snippets of information about our farms and wildlife, and the work we do to look after our much-loved landscape.



8. Progress Planned for future Years

As we were prevented from undertaking our usual programme of activities this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we spent the time as productively as possible in planning for the future. We carried out a full membership survey and based upon the priorities and aspirations this identified, the board and delivery groups came up with a framework for the next stage of the Space for Nature project. The roles of the delivery groups were reviewed and both renamed, with the Biodiversity and Landscape Group taking responsibility for activities that will be delivered on members' farms to support wildlife, soil health, landscape character, water quality, the historic environment and so on, and the Community Outreach group focusing on our relationships and activities with those beyond the membership.

For the past five years, the Countryside Stewardship (CS) Facilitation Fund grant has covered project management time and overheads associated with supporting the delivery of CS priorities, which focus on landscape and biodiversity objectives. As has been mentioned, the grant period came to an end on 30 December 2020 after a three month extension after the enforced hiatus in activity due to Covid-19. At the eleventh hour we were offered the opportunity to submit an application for a further extension to the end of September 2021. However, it was decided not take this up for several reasons not least because,

- a. due to continuing restrictions due to Covid-19, we were unsure when we might be able to restart activities; and
- b. we have secured funding from another source to fund planned activity once that time arrives.

We continue to seek funding to deliver our community outreach ambition, and watch closely the development of environmental trading opportunities which could form an essential part of farm income in the coming years.

We are engaged with Natural England and Defra in the development of the new Environmental Land Management Scheme, and are participating in an ELM trial to explore the best ways in which farmer groups can be supported by the new scheme.

Once Covid-19 restrictions are lifted and funding is confirmed, we will re-start our programme of activities and workshops for farmer members (particularly featuring training in conservation agriculture), and our community events. We will also seek to develop links with other farmer groups on a regional and national scale.

As has been mentioned, we also have ambitions for Wilding the Downs and to continue developing our Space for Nature Reserve.

Board Statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (issued March 2005). In preparing this report, the Trustees have taken advantage of the small companies exemptions provided by section 419 (2) of the Companies Act 2006.

It was approved by the trustee board on _____.

Signed: _____



M. Robert Cooper

Chair

Date: _____

December 7th 2021

Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of The Marlborough Downs Nature Enhancement Farming Ltd

(A Company limited by guarantee)

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2021, which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under part 16 of the 2006 Act and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records are not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair" view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice), FRS102.

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 proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: Helen Frost

Helen Frost
HF Bookkeeping Plus
1 Forest Hill Cottages
Marlborough
Wiltshire SN8 3HN

Date: 3rd January 2022

THE MARLBOROUGH DOWNS NATURE ENHANCEMENT FARMING LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021*

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	886	52	938	7,622
Charitable activities	4	0	9,136	9,136	22,268
Total income		886	9,188	10,074	29,890
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	639	0	639	802
Charitable activities	6	3,339	22,295	25,634	31,917
Total resources expended		3,978	22,295	26,273	32,719
Net income/expenditure for the year/ Net movement in funds		(3,092)	(13,107)	(16,199)	(2,829)
Fund balances at 1 April 2020		7,636	40,740	48,376	51,205
Fund balances at 31 March 2021		4,544	27,633	32,177	48,376

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

THE MARLBOROUGH DOWNS NATURE ENHANCEMENT FARMING LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors		0		0	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>35,459</u>		<u>48,376</u>	
				48,376	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>3,282</u>		<u>0</u>	
Net current assets			<u>32,177</u>		<u>48,376</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds			27,633		40,740
Unrestricted funds			<u>4,544</u>		<u>7,636</u>
			<u>32,177</u>		<u>48,376</u>

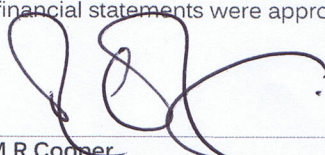
The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

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

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

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on


Mr M R Cooper
Trustee

Company Registration No. 07907437

THE MARLBOROUGH DOWNS NATURE ENHANCEMENT FARMING LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Marlborough Downs Nature Enhancement Farming Limited is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Jindabyne, Great Hinton, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 6BT.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Marlborough Downs Nature Enhancement Farming Ltd ("the company")'s Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "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)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The company has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are as follows:

Restricted fund	Purposes	Uses in 2020/21
Kilcreggan Trust	Creation of nature reserve	Weed control; plant and operator hire; seed; establishment of meadow; mobile bird hide; nestboxes; mowing
	Farmland bird project	Nestboxes
Other restricted	Winter bird seed	None

1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and represents amounts receivable for goods and services provided in the normal course of business.

1.5 Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

This includes £600 for accounts preparation and examination. There are no costs for governance or trustee meetings or constitutional matters.

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.7 Financial instruments

The company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the company's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

26

6 Charitable activities	Charitable expenditure	Charitable expenditure
	2021	2020
	£	£
Provision seed/equipment/contractor	12,375	4,294
Community events	12	856
Workshops	0	2,403
Outreach/promotion/printing	388	90
Donated items and services	9,136	21,826
Bank charges	0	60
Insurance	86	242
Office expenses	15	14
Employee travel	48	81
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	22,060	29,866
Share of governance costs (see note 7)	3,574	2,051
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	25,634	31,917
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Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	3,339	6,880
Restricted funds	22,295	25,037
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	25,634	31,917
	<hr/>	<hr/>
7 Support costs	Governance costs	Governance costs
	2021	2020
	£	£
Legal and professional	2,974	2,051
Accountancy	600	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,574	2,051
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	2,790	108
Restricted funds	784	1,943
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	3,574	2,051
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8 Trustees		
None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the company during the year.		
9 Employees		
There were no employees during the year.		
10 Creditors	2021	2020
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade creditors	3,282	0
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	3,282	0
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ANNEX 1: Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund Grant Detail

		Expenditure			Total for year	Under/ overspend
		AMJ	JAS	OND		
Facilitation fees	Project delivery: delivering advice and facilitating action - farm visits; biodiversity tailoring; review and amendments to agreements; facilitation of collaborative effort between neighbours; arranging/leading workshops and best practice activities	2208.75	2386.88	1959.38	6555.01	-9168.71
	Project management and development: Record-keeping; mapping activities; reporting; new members; outreach & promotion; sourcing additional funding for complementary projects; developing stakeholder relationships; supporting partner activity; organising meetings; consultation, liaison, planning, strategic development	463.13	748.13	344.38	1555.64	
	Admin support: Work required to support group activities	83.13	83.13	154.38	320.64	
Travel	Expenses: travel and subsistence		46.80	22.05	68.85	-631.15
Meeting expenses	Meetings: Board support; accommodation; other meeting expenses	23.98	35.97	35.97	95.92	-1364.08
Workshops	Training events: fees for training providers; venue costs; materials; expenses		500.00		500.00	-1600.00
Educational access (from 10/17)	Schools: Establish links; activities for inset days; farm and classroom events; virtual learning hub; pollinator activity for Open Farm Sunday. <i>NB We are still waiting for NE approval for this amendment to our Facilitation Plan</i>					-
Evaluation	Partnership working: evaluation of progress and mechanisms, feedback to improve provision					-1000.00
Other	Collaboration / engagement / funding		40.22		40.22	-1099.78
Total Facilitation Fund claim		2778.99	3841.13	2516.16	9136.28	-14863.72

