

Charity number: 287160

Landscape Research Group

Report of the Trustees and Unaudited Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

Landscape Research Group
Contents Page
For the year ended 31 December 2023

Report of the Trustees	1 to 5
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees	6
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Statement of Financial Position	8
Notes to the Financial Statements	9 to 14

Landscape Research Group
Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31 December 2023

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements for the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The objects for which Landscape Research Group is established are: "to advance education and research, encourage interest and exchange information for the public benefit in the field of landscape and any related field".

The trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

Landscape Research Group
Report of the Trustees Continued
For the year ended 31 December 2023

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Significant activities

The main charitable activities of LRG in 2023 of supporting research and dissemination of results continued, with a mixture of in-person meetings and field visits, and hybrid and online events. The LRG continues to build on the increased worldwide reach enabled by the development of online and hybrid activity during pandemic lockdowns. They have allowed us to build much more cohesive and communicative network of members, especially through our coffee mornings and online meet-ups and it is a goal to expand this outreach yet further in the coming year.

Advancing Research: In 2023 LRG supported landscape-themed research by providing grants to 4 researchers working on 10 projects, selected competitively from number of strong applications. This year's theme was Care - inspired by LRG Landscapes of Care / Care of Landscapes event, held online in September. The Trustees approved a financial commitment totalling £114,947 for the 2023 financial year. Outputs in the form of reports from the research projects funded in 2022 are being returned, with the completed reports are showcased at online symposia and then placed on LRG's websites. Some projects have resulted in articles already published in Landscape Research, and a Special Issue on the theme of care is currently in the peer review process.

Publication of Landscape Research Journal:

A new Editor-in-Chief, Professor Hannes Palang, was appointed at the beginning of the year, with a number of other changes in staff. Professor Emma Waterton has now stepped down from her role as Consulting Editor, having remained to assist in the handover to Prof Palang, and the trustees are grateful to her for her huge contribution to the journal over the years.

Eight issues of the journal Landscape Research were produced in Volume 48 during 2023. LRG continued to benefit from publishing agreement with Taylor and Francis which provides payments to the charity in the form of a share of publishing royalties, and also a contribution towards the editorial expenses. Fruitful discussions have been held with Taylor and Francis about responding to the changing pattern of academic journal publication, especially the increased requirement to offer Open Access as part of the publishing portfolio.

Community Development:

- Events: 2023 was a busy year for LRG with a number of online, hybrid and in-person events.
- Two LRG research fund showcases took place online in March and June 2023 - sharing reports of research projects undertaken in 2021 Landscape, virtue and the common good.
- An online panel discussion The complexity of contested landscapes took place on 26th June 2023. Scheduled to coincide with the publication of the special issue of LRJ - the panel was led by Dr Matthew Rofe and Professor Michael Ripmeester
- An event took place at the IALE 2023 World Congress <https://iale2023.org/about/pre-conference-workshops> in Nairobi Kenya, on 10th July 2023. This was a hands-on capacity building workshop for graduate students and early career researchers to advise on how to write and submit articles to scientific journals, using Landscape Research Journal: <https://landscaperesearch.org/journal/> as a case study.
- An online event coinciding with the AGM took place on 8 September 2023 on 'Landscapes of Care' <https://landscaperesearch.org/landscape-research-journal-commissioned-essay-2022/> / Care of Landscapes' in anticipation of a forthcoming Special Issue Journal issue. Chaired by the Guest Editors leading the creation of this special issue Zannah Matson and Prof Tim Waterman, the session included short presentations on the subject, then an open discussion.
- A panel discussion led by the Guest Editor - Professor Ian Mell - and some authors of a Special Issue of the Landscape Research Journal <https://landscaperesearch.org/journal/>, exploring the theme of Rethinking the 'Green City' took place online on Wednesday 13th September at 16.00 BST
- A Critical Field Study to Dunkirk took place over 3 days in October 2023. A group of LRG members explored the layers of Dunkirk's landscape, weaving the town's war history, its industrial activity and its forward-looking initiatives in the realms of ecology, culture and urbanism.
- An LRG online symposium took place on 8th December 2023 - the title was Ripples of Resilience - exploring the impact of fire and water sustainability in African landscapes. Speakers were Dr Blal Adem Esmail, Professor (Emeritus) Aziz Ballouch, Gaby Hensen and Dr Manel Ouaret Ladjouze.
- Our Chair, Tim Waterman, served as a judge for the International Schools Prize at the Barcelona Landscape Biennial in Autumn 2023, and delivered a keynote lecture, 'A Poem and a Remedy'. He also represented the LRG and its long association with IFLA at the June roundtable: IFLA 75: The History and the Impact of a Professional Network. He spoke and toured extensively, representing both his university and LRG.
- Early Career Research Forum: An initiative started by LRG to provide a regular meeting forum for early career researchers has continued to grow, and these events have now become regular monthly activities in the events calendar. In addition to the two established networks in the Americas and in Europe, an additional forum was created focusing on the Philippine and Southeast Asia. UPDATED CM

Landscape Research Group
Report of the Trustees Continued
For the year ended 31 December 2023

- Research Networks: Funding and support has been provided to develop regional Landscape Research Networks (LRNs). Several of these networks that were in development during the pandemic had approval from LRG for funding and technical support, but they were unable to carry out the planned programme of meetings, and the annual funding allocation has been brought forward into the budgets for 2023. The research networks that have been supported by LRG previously continue to have meetings and generate publications that are shared through LRG's social media and on other platforms.

The German-speaking network held a number of events and compiled a book for release entitled *Landscapes for Future Landscapes and Social-ecological Transitions* for release in late 2023, early 2024. In addition they organised sessions at the German Congress of Geography.

LRG's Maghreb Landscape Research Network aims to bring together landscape researchers and practitioners from countries across North Africa covering Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria. Led by one of our Trustees, Marouen Hedhlie, the group's purpose is to identify and raise awareness of local landscape issues in the region, and to explore themes common to these interconnected landscapes.

Areas of interest for this Network include:

- Developing the European Landscape Convention as a model for the Maghreb
- Landscape democracy and environmental action
- Colonial landscapes
- Tourism and landscape - blessing or blight?
- Landscape, language and culture
- Environmental pollution and landscape inequality

The Maghreb LRN committee organised a conference for 22-23 May 2023 at the Department of Architecture, USTO-M Oran, Algeria in which they discussed working towards a Landscape Convention for the Maghreb. There was also an exhibition of the landscape architect Kamel Louafi's work.

- Communications. During 2023 Emily Shakespeare, LRG's Communications and Membership Manager continued to work with Members and Trustees to develop a portfolio of online resources and meeting opportunities provided by the Landscape Exchange (LEX) website. This website supports the research and education activity of the charity by providing a platform for multimedia contributions. The charity's reach and network continued to grow; using social media as a tool to promote landscape studies to a wider global audience. Coffee mornings for early career researchers continued to be very popular and there are now similar groups in the US and the Philippines and we will continue to support and develop these valuable networks.

Achievements against objectives

LRG has continued to develop support for research and delivery of education in landscape-related subject areas. The LRG-owned journal *Landscape Research* continues to thrive with a growing impact factor year-on-year, with plans in place for a redesign and refresh during 2024 to ensure its continuing relevance and vibrancy. Through continuing to offer online and hybrid networking events there has been a continued growth in members and supporters from a much wider network of landscape research practice, from both UK, and abroad. Implementation of the policy to diversify age, gender and location of both LRG's membership, and also that of the Trustees, has progressed during 2023.

Landscape Research Group
Report of the Trustees Continued
For the year ended 31 December 2023

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Significant events

The LRG's principal financial ambition for the financial year ended 31 December 2023 has been to reduce total funds carried forward from previous years marked by reduced expenditure due to the pandemic, and reinvest accumulated funds into the charity's overarching objectives: i) to advance education and research, ii) encourage interest and exchange information for the public benefit in the field of landscape and any related field, while exploring options to diversify income streams.

The main source of income for the Charity is through the revenue from royalties under a publishing agreement with Taylor and Francis. During 2021 terms were agreed to continue this arrangement for four more years. The level of income from this source has seen a marginal increase in 2023.

The LRG has seen a marginally lower income from membership subscriptions, expected in line with the progression of LRG policy to diversify LRG membership and accessibility.

Building-up on the pilot of the Isle of Arran Critical Field Study in October 2022, the LRG has conducted another Critical Field Study in 2023. The intention set in 2022 was that such activities should in future attempt to generate a surplus through sponsorship but a decision has been taken to deprioritise profit and instead lower fees to make the event as accessible as possible while breaking even.

In developing plans and setting budgets for the next years, LRG Trustees have continued the previously approved policy to begin to utilise some of the accumulated surpluses to develop the organisation especially by a) diversifying income streams; and b) expanding its membership to better deliver charitable activity in the future. Doing so, expenditure related to communications and membership staff has seen a significant increase, which is expected to rise again in the coming year with the intention to offset this cost item through progressing abovementioned.

Although there has been no significant progress in diversifying income streams in 2023, the charity finances remain in strong position, with accumulated surpluses over and above the reserves held (see below) being available for re-allocation for charitable delivery and organisational development in the next year.

Reserves

In line with the LRG policy last reviewed in May 2021, the Trustees confirmed the level of reserves should remain at £100,000 to be held on deposit. This amount represents a level sufficient to cover the charity's operational expenses for approximately one year. A review of how reserves are held is currently underway to spread the risk, and safeguard reserve funds under the FSCS guarantee scheme.

The next financial years (2025, and 2026) will require the Charity to review both income and expenditure to assess progress made towards the diversification of income streams and the opening-up of new sources of income which are required to offset the increase in expenditure related to staff and support cost.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Since the foundation of the charitable company in 1983 LRG has operated under Articles and Memorandum drafted at that time, which had remained unchanged. An exercise to update the constitution and legal structure commenced in 2019 to review the options to bring the governing document up to date, and conform to the requirements set out in the 2006 Companies Act.

A special resolution to make a constitutional change was put to LRG Members at the AGM on 18th June 2020 and this was approved by the required majority. As a result LRG was converted from a charity and limited company to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation during November 2021 - retaining the same charitable registration number and filing history as the predecessor LRG Ltd.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Trustees are elected by the Members at an AGM. Under the rules of the charitable company the trustees were elected for one year term. Under the new CIO constitution this has changed to a term of three years.

The AGM held on 8th September 2023 was held by videoconference using Zoom.

Three Trustees stepped down before the AGM, and two new Trustees were elected to fill vacancies.

LRG has adopted a policy to encourage a regular turnover of Trustees, and seeks to maintain a diverse representation, as far as possible. New Trustees are inducted by the Chair, and directed to Charity Commission guidance document "Essential Trustees", and to the "Charity Governance Code"

**Landscape Research Group
Report of the Trustees Continued
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Name of Charity	Landscape Research Group
Charity registration number	287160
Principal address	Unit 23837 PO Box 7169 Poole Dorset BN15 9EL

Trustees

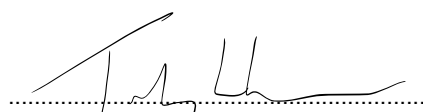
The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Ms Linda Marie Bjerketvedt
(Resigned: 08 September 2023)
Dr Amanda Byer
Prof Vanesa Castan Broto
(: 08 September 2023)
Ms Juliette Desportes
Mr Jens Haendeler **Mr Jens Haendeler (Treasurer from 1 Jan 2024)**
Mr Marouen Hedhlie
Ms Merham Keleg
Prof Karen Ruth Jones
Dr Gillian Lawson
Dr Ian Mell (Treasurer) **Dr Ian Mell (Treasurer to 31 Dec 2023)**
Prof Hannes Palang
Prof Ingrid Sarlov Herlin
Dr Timothy Laurence Waterman (Chair)
Dr Emma Louise Waterton (Editor-in-Chief)
Prof Laura Alice Watt
Dr Mengyixin Li
Prof Theano S. Terkenli

Secretary	Mr David Jonathan Saunders Rachel Dominy
------------------	---------------------------------------------

Independent examiner	Caroline Clarke ACA 66 High Street Lewes East Sussex BN7 1XG
-----------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by


.....
Dr Timothy Laurence Waterman (Chair)

10 September 2024

**Landscape Research Group
Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 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 all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiners statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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

Caroline Clarke

.....
Caroline Clarke ACA
66 High Street
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 1XG

17th September
2024

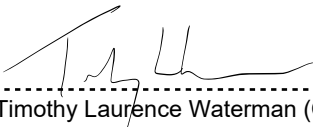
Landscape Research Group
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	202
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	2	7,636	9,921
Charitable activities	3	122,544	118,421
Investments	4	325	11
Total		130,505	128,371
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	5/6	(144,842)	(131,181)
Total		(144,842)	(131,181)
Net expenditure		(14,337)	(2,801)
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward		195,896	198,701
Total funds carried forward		181,559	195,891

**Landscape Research Group
Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 December 2023**

	Notes	2023 £	2022
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	282	562
		282	562
Current assets			
Debtors	13	44,258	36,802
Cash at bank and in hand		152,875	169,802
		197,133	206,604
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(15,856)	(11,272)
Net current assets		181,277	195,332
Total assets less current liabilities		181,559	195,894
Net assets		181,559	195,894
The funds of the charity			
Unrestricted income funds	15	181,559	195,894
Total funds		181,559	195,894

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board and signed on its behalf by:



Dr Timothy Laurence Waterman (Chair)
Trustee

10 September 2024

Landscape Research Group
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for investments which are included at market value and the revaluation of certain fixed assets and in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Charities Act 2011.

Landscape Research Group meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Going concern

The financial statements are prepared, on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention.

Statement of cash flows

The Trustees have taken advantage of the exemption in SORP FRS 102 from including a cash flow statement in the financial statements on the grounds that the charity is small.

Funds

The charity maintains a general unrestricted fund which represents funds which are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. Such funds may be held in order to finance both working capital and capital investment.

Designated funds comprise of unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds have been provided to the charity for particular purposes, and it is the policy of the board of trustees to carefully monitor the application of those funds in accordance with the restrictions placed upon them.

There is no formal policy of transfer between funds or on the allocation of funds to designated funds, other than that described above

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the Charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as resources expended when there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Charity to the expenditure.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets, other than freehold land, are stated at cost or valuation less depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is included in the Statement of Financial Activities, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Landscape Research Group
Notes to the Financial Statements Continued
For the year ended 31 December 2023

2. Income from donations and legacies

	2023	2022
	£	
Unrestricted funds		
Donations received	-	51
Subscriptions received	7,636	7,85
Sponsorships received	-	2,02
	7,636	9,92
	7,636	9,92

3. Income from charitable activities

	2023	2022
	£	
Unrestricted funds		
<i>Production of landscape research</i>		
Event support	2,276	5,96
Royalties	120,268	112,38
Sale of publications	-	8
	122,544	118,42
	122,544	118,42

4. Investment income

	2023	2022
	£	
Unrestricted funds		
Bank interest receivable	325	1
	325	1
	325	1

Landscape Research Group
Notes to the Financial Statements Continued
For the year ended 31 December 2023

5. Costs of charitable activities by fund type

	2023 £	2022
Unrestricted funds		
Production of landscape research	53,136	42,521
Research and Information Activity Networks	12,940	14,591
Research and policy development	13,484	17,101
Support costs	65,282	56,961
	144,842	131,184

6. Costs of charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	2023 £	2022
Support costs				
Production of landscape research	53,136	9,969	63,105	54,961
Research and Information Activity Networks	12,940	45,344	58,284	46,661
Research and policy development	13,484	9,969	23,453	29,551
	79,560	65,282	144,842	131,184

7. Analysis of support costs

	Production of landscape research £	Research and Information Activity Networks £	Research and policy development £	2023 £	2022
Chief executive	6,413	6,413	6,413	19,239	21,571
Comms and membership	-	35,375	-	35,375	19,621
Staffing and recruitment	1,184	1,184	1,184	3,552	1,021
Archiving	150	150	150	450	451
Office costs	632	632	632	1,896	1,841
Finance costs	387	387	387	1,161	981
Governance costs	1,203	1,203	1,203	3,609	11,451
	9,969	45,344	9,969	65,282	56,961

Landscape Research Group
Notes to the Financial Statements Continued
For the year ended 31 December 2023

8. Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2023	2022
	£	
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	282	282
Accountancy fees	1,560	1,560
Staff pension contributions	1,241	831
	53,992	41,197

9. Staff costs and emoluments

Total staff costs for the year ended 31 December 2023 were:

	2023	2022
	£	
Salaries and wages	52,751	40,362
Pension costs	1,241	831
	53,992	41,197

No employee received a salary of more than £60,000 per annum in the period (2022: nil).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the CEO and CMM. The total amount paid to key management in the financial year ended 31 December 2023 including Employers National Insurance and Pension was £52,751 (2022: £41,197).

	2023	2022
Administration	2	
	2	

10. Trustee remuneration and related party transactions

No trustee receives remuneration in respect of their services as trustee. Reimbursements of expenses to trustees for the year was £778 (2022:£4,981). The expenses related to travel for 6 trustees over the year for attendance at board meetings.

11. Comparative for the Statement of Financial Activities

The comparative year values on the Statement of Financial Activities are for unrestricted funds.

Landscape Research Group
Notes to the Financial Statements Continued
For the year ended 31 December 2023

12. Tangible fixed assets

Cost or valuation	Computer equipment
At 01 January 2023	841
At 31 December 2023	<u>841</u>
Depreciation	
At 01 January 2023	281
Charge for year	281
At 31 December 2023	<u>561</u>
Net book values	
At 31 December 2023	<u>281</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>561</u>

13. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	
Amounts due within one year:		
Trade debtors	532	
Prepayments and accrued income	43,726	36,801
	<u>44,258</u>	<u>36,801</u>

14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	
Accruals and deferred income	15,856	11,271
	<u>15,856</u>	<u>11,271</u>

15. Movement in funds

Unrestricted Funds

	Balance at 01/01/2023	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Balance at 31/12/2023
	£	£	£	
<i>General</i>				
General	195,896	130,505	(144,842)	181,559
	<u>195,896</u>	<u>130,505</u>	<u>(144,842)</u>	<u>181,559</u>

Landscape Research Group
Notes to the Financial Statements Continued
For the year ended 31 December 2023

Unrestricted Funds - Previous year

	Balance at 01/01/2022	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Balance at 31/12/2023
	£	£	£	
<i>General</i>				
General	198,705	128,376	(131,185)	195,896
	198,705	128,376	(131,185)	195,896

Purpose of unrestricted Funds

General

To advance education and research, encourage interest and exchange information for the public benefit in the field of landscape and any related fields.

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets	Net current assets / (liabilities)	Net Asset
	£	£	
Unrestricted funds			
<i>General</i>			
General	282	181,277	181,559
	282	181,277	181,559

Previous year

	Tangible fixed assets	Net current assets / (liabilities)	Net Asset
	£	£	
Unrestricted funds			
<i>General</i>			
General	565	195,331	195,896
	565	195,331	195,896