**Root & Branch Westmill** 

**Charity No. 1143294** 

**Company No. 07685042** 

**Trustees' Report and** 

**Accounts 31 March 2025** 

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# **Directors and Trustees**

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity, for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The Directors of the charitable company are its Trustees for the purposes of charity law.

The following Directors and Trustees served during the year:

**David Atkins** 

Colin Bell

Martyn Cooper

**Neil Griffiths** 

Nick Daisley

Carolyn Place

Victoria Silk

**Richard Taylor** 

Emma Welch

**Rosemary Wheeler** 

## **Accountants**

Case Accounting Ltd 20 Goodwood Way Cepen Park South Chippenham Wiltshire SN14 OSY

# Registered office

Westmill Farm
Watchfield
Oxfordshire SN6 8TH

## Who We Are

Root & Branch is an independent charity based on an organic farm near Swindon and within the Vale of the White Horse, offering transformative support for adults facing significant mental health difficulties.

# **Our Purpose**

We believe in the healing power of nature. Through therapeutic gardening, rural crafting, cookery, and inclusive community activities, we help individuals regain self-esteem, learn new skills, and reconnect with society. Our goal is to empower people to manage their own wellbeing and lead lives filled with purpose, confidence, and connection.

# Our Approach

- ✓ Therapeutic Gardening & Nature-Based projects
- ✓ Creative & Educational activities
- ✓ Compassionate, Inclusive Support
- ✓ Tailored person-centred goals, coaching and interventions
- ✓ Focus on Mental Health Recovery & Personal Growth

Participants typically stay with us for 2 to 3 years, developing skills and confidence that enable them to move on to employment, volunteering, or further education—with the option to return for support if needed.

# **Our Impact**

We measure wellness through both objective and subjective outcomes—tracking personal progress, gathering stories, and monitoring engagement. Our staff and volunteers are continuously trained, supported, and equipped to provide the highest quality of care.

## Structure

Root & Branch is part of a broader provision of services across Oxfordshire provided by the Oxfordshire Mental

Health Partnership. They provide about 25% of our funding, which comes through **Restore**, a separate charity (no. 274222). In all other respects Root & Branch is fully independent of Restore. It should be noted that we also accept Participants from Wiltshire and Swindon Borough as close neighbours.



# **Public Benefit**

When planning activities, the trustees followed the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The charity operates in Watchfield, Oxfordshire, focusing on therapeutic work for residents of the Vale of the White Horse and towns/villages close to the border with Swindon. It also organises activities to connect and engage with the local community.

# Volunteers

Our charity relies heavily on the regular and generous contributions from dedicated volunteers, who provide around 5,000 hours (about 31 volunteers supporting 110 session months) of unpaid work. The board of trustees deeply values their ongoing enthusiasm and commitment, which is crucial to our success.

## Charitable Activities

The dedication, commitment, and professionalism of our staff and volunteers empower us to provide effective support to adults with enduring mental health challenges, increasingly recognized as a vital part of the local healthcare system.

We have a reputation for quality with a genuinely caring approach recognised by local health professionals and the wider community. Alongside this we offer extraordinary value for our funding as our delivery costs equate to around £65 per person a day.

# **Participants**

In 2024-2025, we had capacity for 45 sessions a week and about 30 Participants regularly attended. Each participant sets personal goals in collaboration with our staff and is provided with a wide range of opportunities to achieve them through participation in our services and activities.

Participants have been offered support to explore:

- Volunteering
- Courses and Education
- Introduction into work
- External Tutor led physical and wellbeing activities
- Tutor-led crafts, workshops and cooking, talks and visits
- Signposted support service, & signposting to external agencies
- Benefits and housing advice

# Staff and Volunteers

We are proud to have a team of experienced professionals who create a safe, supportive environment, fostering calm, confidence, and structure. Their expertise enables participants to take positive steps toward their personal goals and recovery. The trustees would like to express their gratitude for the ongoing professionalism and dedication demonstrated by our staff.

The trustees also wish to acknowledge and thank everyone who supports the charity through volunteer effort or through financial donations, which makes our important work possible.

As a charity, we rely heavily on corporate volunteers.

This year we have also been able to engage local groups such as the Rotary Club Faringdon, Zurich Insurance, Sophos, Fiscal Technologies, Adkin Rural and Commercial Surveyors to help us with construction and maintenance work. We are tremendously grateful for their invaluable support.

We have continued to invest in training and in the therapeutic garden. We have six members of staff (all part time, totalling 105 hours a week) supported by over thirty volunteers. We have a pension scheme offered to all employed staff with both Root & Branch and employees contributing.



## **Policies**

The trustees and Centre Manager have conducted a major review of all policies.

This included the health and safety policy: its content and practice. This resulted in, amongst other things, an overhaul of all machinery in the workshop and training programmes for volunteers and participants. We also made the decision to replace the forge with a pottery room.

# **Fundraising activities**

Root & Branch must raise significant funds to provide support to our participants. The money we receive through the contract arrangements with Restore covers less than 25% of our total costs, so we also commit energy and imagination to a fundraising process ourselves.

We regularly apply for charitable grants from Foundations and Trusts and occasionally seek larger or local grants.

During the year we were able to complete a long-standing ambition for a complete refurbishment of our kitchen, largely from restricted grants. This modernisation has improved storage and work areas enabling participants to work

alongside our volunteer cooks preparing hot food using our own garden produce in a hygienic space.







We also raise funds through activities like plant and craft sales.

Additionally, we are increasingly leveraging social media and online platforms like JustGiving to expand our reach and enhance the impact of our fundraising efforts.

We have been very pleased to receive a long-term grant from

the National Lottery Community which lasts until the end of 2025, specifically to enable us to employ a Therapeutic Gardener, whose work involves determining ambitions and goals in discussion with Participants and helping them reach their potential through social and therapeutic horticulture.

The charity now employs an experienced fund-raiser on a part-time basis but not during this reporting period.

# Reserves policy

The trustees consider that the reserves carried forward each year must be sufficient to enable the charity to continue to pursue its objectives, so to protect the participants from the consequences of any lack of continuity in the service. As participants experience significant mental health difficulties, it is crucial that we can maintain continuity until alternative support can be put in place for all, which is likely to take at least six months if not longer.

We rely on grants and donations which cannot be guaranteed and require constant fundraising activity: these require appropriate monitoring and reporting.

Our Participants typically attend for two to three years, and, given their vulnerability, we wish to protect them from any reduction in support arising from short-term financial constraints.

Reserves will be maintained to provide continuity of service against a backdrop of fluctuating and uncertain income, and we aim to keep between six and nine months of running costs in reserves.

# **Governing Document**

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 28 June 2011 and registered as a charity on 9 August 2011. The company was established under a 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 £1.

In practice the activities are a continuation of the work begun in 2001 under the former charitable trust of the same name (charity 1088493).

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the finance position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.





- To view the updates on our work, please visit: <u>www.rootandbranch.info</u>
- Facebook: Root and Branch

Signed on behalf of the board and approved on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

The Colonial Colonia

R G Taylor Chair of the Board of Trustees

#### Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Root & Branch Westmill

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Root & Branch Westmill for the year ended 31 March 2025.

#### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act.

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the Charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's financial statements as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

### Independent examiner's statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements under section 396 of the 2006
   Act other than any requirement that the financial statements give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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 financial statements to be reached.

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Case Accounting Ltd.

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20 Goodwood Way

Cepen Park South

Chippenham

Wiltshire

**SN14 0SY** 

6 September 2025

## Root & Branch Westmill Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Income and endowments					
from:					
Donations and legacies	4	67,850	85 <i>,</i> 777	153,627	117,452
Other trading activities	5	16,715	-	16,715	4,732
Total		84,565	85,777	170,342	122,184
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	-	-	-	2,400
Charitable activities	7	59,427	72,626	132,053	112,284
Other	8	23,484	-	23,484	13,818
Total		82,911	72,626	155,537	128,502
Net gains on investments		-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)	9	1,654	13,151	14,805	(6,318)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) before other gains/(losses)		1,654	13,151	14,805	(6,318)
Other gains and losses					
Net movement in funds		1,654	13,151	14,805	(6,318)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		70,063	20,210	90,273	96,591
Total funds carried forward		71,717	33,361	105,078	90,273

# Root & Branch Westmill Summary Income and Expenditure Account

## for the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Income	170,342	122,184
Gross income for the year	170,342	122,184
Expenditure	152,477	125,445
Depreciation and charges for		
impairment of fixed assets	3,060	3,057
Total expenditure for the year	155,537	128,502
Net income/(expenditure) before tax		
for the year	14,805	(6,318)
Net income /(expenditure )for the year	14,805	(6,318)

#### **Root & Branch Westmill**

**Balance Sheet** 

As at 31 March 2025

**Fixed assets** 

Tangible assets	11	1	3,061
	_	1	3,061
Current assets			
Debtors	12	775	654
Cash at bank and in hand		104,992	87,213
	_	105,767	87,867
Creditors: Amount falling due within one year	13	(690)	(655)
Net current assets		105,077	87,212
Total assets less current liabilities		105,078	90,273
Net assets excluding pension asset or liability		105,078	90,273
Total net assets		105,078	90,273
The funds of the charity			
Restricted funds	14		
Restricted income funds		33,361	20,210
	_	33,361	20,210
Unrestricted funds	14		
General funds		71,717	65,349
Designated funds		-	4,714
	_	71,717	70,063
Total funds	=	105,078	90,273

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

For the year ended 31 March 2025 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

Approved by the board on 6 September 2025

And signed on its behalf by:

R G Taylor

Trustee

### for the year ended 31 March 2025

## 1. Accounting policies

## **Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Fund accounting	
Unrestricted funds	These are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity.
Designated funds	These are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.
Revaluation funds	These are unrestricted funds which include a revaluation reserve representing the restatement of investment assets at their market values.
Restricted funds	These are available for use subject to restrictions imposed by the donor or through terms of an appeal.
Income	
Recognition of income	Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity becomes entitled to, and virtually certain to receive, the income and the amount of the income can be measured with sufficient reliability.
Income with related expenditure	Where income has related expenditure the income and related expenditure is reported gross in the SoFA.
Donations and legacies	Voluntary income received by way of grants, donations and gifts is included in the the SoFA when receivable and only when the Charity has unconditional entitlement to the income.
Tax reclaims on donations and gifts	Income from tax reclaims is included in the SoFA at the same time as the gift/donation to which it relates.
Donated services and facilities	These are only included in income (with an equivalent amount in expenditure) where the benefit to the Charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material.
Volunteer help	The value of any volunteer help received is not included in the accounts.
Investment income	This is included in the accounts when receivable.
Gains/(losses) on	This includes any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value
revaluation of fixed assets	at the end of the year.
Gains/(losses) on	This includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments.

# Root & Branch Westmill Notes to the Accounts

**Expenditure** 

Recognition of expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it

relates.

Expenditure on raising funds

These comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income, fundraising

trading costs and investment management costs.

Expenditure on charitable activities

These comprise the costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services in the furtherance of its objects, including the making of grants and

governance costs.

Grants payable All grant expenditure is accounted for on an actual paid basis plus an accrual for

grants that have been approved by the trustees at the end of the year but not yet

paid.

Governance costs These include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory

requirements of the Charity, including any audit/independent examination fees, costs linked to the strategic management of the Charity, together with a share of

other administration costs.

Other expenditure These are support costs not allocated to a particular activity.

#### **Taxation**

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

### Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life:

Fixtures & fittings 20 - 33% Straight line

#### Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and on hand, demand deposits with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. In the statement of financial position, bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings or current liabilities. In the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the company's cash management.

#### Trade and other creditors

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

#### 2. Company status

The company is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital.

## 3. Statement of Financial Activities - prior year

5. Statement of Final Idea / Idea   Prior	yeu	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total funds 2024
		£	£	£
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies		71,284	46,168	117,452
Other trading activities		4,732	-	4,732
Total		76,016	46,168	122,184
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds		2,400	-	2,400
Charitable activities		77,998	34,286	112,284
Other		13,818	-	13,818
Total		94,216	34,286	128,502
Net income		(18,200)	11,882	(6,318)
Net income before other gains/(losses)		(18,200)	11,882	(6,318)
Other gains and losses:				
Net movement in funds		(18,200)	11,882	(6,318)
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward		88,263	8,328	96,591
Total funds carried forward		70,063	20,210	90,273
4. Income from donations and legacies	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	_	_	2025	2024
Develope	£	£	£	£
Donations	30,988	- 0F 777	30,988	23,203
Grants	36,862	85,777	122,639	94,249
	67,850	85,777	153,627	117,452
5. Income from other trading				
activities		Unrestricted	Total	Total
			2025	2024
		£	£	£
Internal fundraising		16,715	16,715	4,732
-		16,715	16,715	4,732

## 6. Expenditure on raising funds

			<b>-</b> 1	<b>-</b> 1
			Total	Total
			2025	2024
			£	£
Fundraising trading costs				
External fundraising				2,400
			-	2,400
7. Expenditure on charitable activities				
·	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
			2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on charitable				
activities				
Therapeutic activities	59,427	72,626	132,053	112,284
	59,427	72,626	132,053	112,284
8. Other expenditure				
or Caner expenditure		Unrestricted	Total	Total
		• · · · • · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	2025	2024
		£	£	£
Depreciation of fixed		3,060	3,060	3,057
assets				
Conoral administrative costs		19,734	19,734	10,107
General administrative costs			•	
Legal and professional costs		690	690	654
		23,484	23,484	13,818
9. Net income/(expenditure) before				
transfers		2025		2024
This is stated after charging:		£		£
Depreciation of owned fixed assets		3,060		3,057
10. Staff costs				

## 10. Staff costs

No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

The average monthly number of full time equivalent employees during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
Administration	1	1
Services	2	2

# Root & Branch Westmill Notes to the Accounts

## 11. Tangible fixed assets

		Fixtures & fittings	Total
		£	£
Cost or revaluation			
At 1 April 2024		49,053	49,053
At 31 March 2025	_	49,053	49,053
Depreciation and			
impairment			
At 1 April 2024		45,992	45,992
Depreciation charge for the		3,060	3,060
year	<u>-</u>		
At 31 March 2025		49,052	49,052
Net book values			
At 31 March 2025		1	1
At 31 March 2024		3,061	3,061
12. Debtors			
	2025		2024
	£		£
Other debtors	775		654
	<u>775</u>		654
13. Creditors:			
amounts falling due within one year			
	2025		2024
	£		£
Accruals	690		655
	<u>690</u>		<u>655</u>

## 14. Movement in funds

	At 1 April	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 March 2025
	2024	£	£	£
Restricted funds:			-	-
Restricted income funds:				
Nineveh Charitable Trust	481	-	(481)	-
Rotary Club (Dragon's Den)	930	900	(1,320)	510
Souter Trust	781	-	(781)	-
Oxford Communities Foundation (Oct 23)	5,031	-	(5,031)	-
Oxford Communities Foundation (Jan 24)	8,085	-	(8,085)	-
Oxford Communities Foundation (Jan 25)	-	20,000	(2,499)	17,501
19 <sup>th</sup> May 1961	2,100	3,000	(5,100)	-
Oxfordshire C.C. Healthy Hearts	2,820	-	(2,820)	-
Helen Roll	-	3,600	(3,600)	-
NG	-	4,500	(4,500)	-
Lottery	-	15,617	(14,280)	1,337
Lottery uplift (24-25)	-	4,960	(4,936)	24
Thriving in Nature	-	25,000	(11,211)	13,789
Wiltshire Community Foundation	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
NPT Transatlantic	-	200	-	200
Farringdon Town Council	<u> </u>	3,000	(3,000)	-
Total	20,210	85,777	(72,626)	33,361
Unrestricted funds:				
General funds	65,349	84,565	(78,197)	71,717
Designated funds:				
Kitchen Project (Joan Strutt				
Trust)	4,714	-	(4,714)	-
Total	4,714	-	(4,714)	-
Total friends	00 272	170 242	(155 527)	105 070
Total funds	90,273	170,342	(155,537)	105,078

# Root & Branch Westmill Notes to the Accounts

## 15. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	1	-	1
Net current assets	71,716	33,361	105,077
	71,717	33,361	105,078

## **16. Related party transactions**

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital; thus no single party controls the company.

# Root & Branch Westmill Detailed Statement of Financial

## for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies				
Donations	30,988	-	30,988	23,203
Grants	36,862	85,777	122,639	94,249
	67,850	85,777	153,627	117,452
Other trading activities				
Internal fundraising	16,715		16,715	4,732
	16,715	-	16,715	4,732
Total income and endowments Expenditure	84,565	85,777	170,342	122,184
on:				
Costs of other trading activities				
External fundraising				2,400
	<del>-</del> -			2,400
Total of expenditure on raising funds	-	-	-	2,400
Charitable activities				
Therapeutic activities				
	59,427	72,626	132,053	112,284
Total of expenditure on charitable activities	59,427	72,626	132,053	112,284
General administrative costs,	59,427	72,626	132,053	112,284
including depreciation				
Depreciation of Fixtures & fittings	3,060	-	3,060	3,057
Sundry expenses	19,734	-	19,734	10,107
	22,794	-	22,794	13,164
Legal and professional costs				
Independent examination	690	-	690	654
fees				
	690		690	654
Total of expenditure of other costs	23,484	-	23,484	13,818
Total expenditure	82,911	72,626	155,537	128,502
Net gains on investments	-	-	-	-
-				
Net income/(expenditure)	1,654	13,151	14,805	(6,318)
Net income/(expenditure) before other gains/(losses)	1,654	13,151	14,805	(6,318)
Other Gains	-	-	-	-

# Root & Branch Westmill Detailed Statement of Financial

Net movement in funds	1,654	13,151	14,805	(6,318)
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	70,063	20,210	90,273	96,591
Total funds carried forward	71,717	33,361	105,078	90,273