

THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST

(Registered Charity No. 1040076)

www.murraydownlandtrust.org.uk

FOURTEENTH REPORT

For the Year ending 31 March 2008

The Trust is a Company Limited by Guarantee
(no. 2873432) incorporated on 19 November 1993

**The Trust's registered office is c/o
Messrs. Jones Avens, Piper House, 4 Dukes Court
Bognor Road, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 8FX**

The Trust's address for correspondence is:

UPPER CRANMORE, HEYSHOTT, WEST SUSSEX, GU29 0DL

The Trust is active in both Sussex and Hampshire.

THE OBJECTS OF THE TRUST

The objects are set out in Clause 3 of the Trust's Memorandum of Association as being:

'for the public benefit, the preservation, protection, development and improvement of areas of land of botanical, zoological, ecological, archaeological, historical or landscape interest or of natural beauty, by the acquisition by gift, purchase, or lease or management by arrangement of downland, grassland, fenland, woodlands, agricultural land, common land and any other land whatsoever.'

RESERVES

The Directors have set out their short and medium term objectives as managing small areas of chalk downland in Sussex and Hampshire, and so establishing a group or 'chain' of reserves. The five reserves under management at 31 March 2008 are at Buriton Down (Hampshire), 'Under Beacon', the 'Devil's Jumps', Heyshott Down and Heyshott Escarpment (West Sussex). The Heyshott sites comprise part of a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest. The Heyshott Down and the 'Devil's Jumps' sites contain Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES

The Directors and Trustees who held office during the period of this report were:

Gerard Charles Ryan	Bayleaves, Bepton, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9RB. (Retired Barrister).
Arthur Stride	123, Sussex Road, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU31 4LB. (Retired Marine Geologist).
Simon Charles Ward	The Estate Office, West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0QZ. (Chartered Surveyor).
Juliet Kay	14, The Croft, Cocking, West Sussex, GU29 0HQ. (Retired Nurse).
Claire Norwood	6, Pains Road, Southsea, Hampshire, PO5 1HE. (Chartered Accountant).
John Girdlestone Murray	Upper Cranmore, Heyshott, West Sussex, GU29 0DL. (Retired Director).
Jean Isobel Perry	11, Wiston Avenue, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 8RJ. (Retired Biologist).
Michael Edwards	Lee-side, Carron Lane, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9LB. (Ecologist).

Mrs. Juliet Kay was re-appointed at the Annual General Meeting held on 7 October 2004.

Mr. John Murray and Mr. Simon Ward were re-appointed at the Annual General Meeting held on 20 October 2005.

Mr. Gerard Ryan, Dr. Arthur Stride and Dr. J. Isobel Perry were re-appointed at the Annual General Meeting held on 12 October 2006.

Dr. Isobel Perry resigned on 17 May 2007, Mrs. Juliet Kay resigned on 5 July 2007 and Mr. Michael Edwards was appointed by the Trustees on 16 August 2007.

Mr. Michael Edwards and Mrs. Claire Norwood were re-appointed at the Annual General Meeting held on 18 October 2007.

Company Secretary and Treasurer

Mrs. Claire Norwood (address as above).

PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

During the year, the Trust benefited from the knowledge and professional advice of the following specialists:

Miss Ann Griffiths BSc ALI MIEEM	Ecology
Mr. M. Heymann FRICS	Land Appraisal
Mr. Mark Taylor MA MIFA	Archaeology
Mr. Richard Williamson	Reserves Management

Honorary Solicitor

Mr. Martin Asscher
Messrs. Johnson and Clarence,
Market Place, Midhurst, West Sussex,
GU29 9NW.

Reporting Accountant

Goodale Mardle, Chartered Accountants, Grange House, Grange Road, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9LS, have kindly agreed to act as Reporting Accountant in relation to the Trust's financial affairs.

Bankers

Lloyds TSB Bank plc
5, The Square, Petersfield, Hampshire,
GU32 3HL

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

Membership Secretary

Mr. Martin Harbord
Instow, 110 Heath Road, Petersfield,
Hampshire, GU31 4EL.

Minutes Secretary

Dr. J. Isobel Perry
11, Wiston Avenue, Chichester,
West Sussex, PO19 8RJ.

Annual Report Editor

Dr. Jack Izatt
39, Harberton Crescent, Chichester,
West Sussex, PO19 5NY.

INTRODUCTION

Our colourful, species-rich nature reserves provide five varied examples of what large areas of the South Downs looked like when shepherds and their flocks held sway there, long before the Second World War, while the associated tumuli, cross-dykes and ditches provide glimpses of the unploughed land surface that is still much as it was during the Bronze Age (2,300 to 700 years B.C.). During the past year the vital fieldwork that maintains and improves these reserves was carried out by our volunteers, together with Chichester Conservation Volunteers, the South Downs Voluntary Rangers, staff of E.D.F. Energy on day-release, as well as by contractors.

The Trust is seeking additional downland sites for conservation, in order to narrow the gaps between nature reserves and so encourage the spread of species and, at the very least, maintain their rich bio-diversity. Our Under Beacon Reserve is expected to benefit from the proximity at its northern end of the species-rich older downland of the Beacon Hill S.S.S.I. Many years hence, portions of the rich floras of our two Heyshott reserves can be expected to mingle, now that the intervening field has been given over to the development of downland. The eastern end of Heyshott Down Reserve already has a potential link with grassland further east, since the intervening woodland was removed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

John Murray

Another year has passed by and it is pleasing to report that the year has been one of consolidation and improvement for the five reserves. Much of the work to improve them has been done by volunteers. We have also been fortunate in that some of the reserves have been grazed by cattle and sheep for the first time for a number of years. This is an ongoing requirement if we are to continue to improve the chalk grassland sward.

At last year's Annual General Meeting, we had a most interesting talk by our Director and Trustee, Mike Edwards, on 'Management of Reserves'. How we manage our reserves and how we move our management plans forward for the future has provoked much discussion at our board meetings. The spring meeting talk was given by David Ball (Hampshire ranger) on the hangers north of Petersfield. He gave a very vivid picture of the history and the importance of this area, in the past, to the local community. Our Trustee and Director, Simon Ward, was instrumental in arranging for Juliet Stevenson to give a series of readings in the Barn at West Dean in February; the event was extremely well attended and much enjoyed by all. We are very grateful to The Edward James Foundation for donating half the proceeds to the Trust.

We had a very interesting visit in May to Magdalen Hill Down Reserve with Lynn Formison, the warden, showing us a great range of butterflies and plants. A visit to

Bentley Station Meadow was planned for early July but unfortunately had to be cancelled because of rain. Following our visit to Magdalen Hill Down Reserve, I subsequently met Lynn and Neil Hulme on the Heyshott Reserves where they were carrying out a Duke of Burgundy count. Out of this meeting a new Duke of Burgundy area was proposed and implementing that formed a major part of our winter volunteers' work.

During the year we received a very generous anonymous donation of £50,000 with the suggestion that, if possible, it should be used for the purchase of land for conservation. The Directors and Trustees have considered the various options available and have decided to invest this sum for the future, to enhance our income for conservation work, while we investigate the possibility of acquiring small areas of chalk downland close to our existing reserves.

The annual three day plant sale, organised once again so successfully by Gerard Ryan, produced an excellent result for our funds. The amount of work he and Sheila put in to make the event a success is very much appreciated and the Trust would be the poorer if it did not take place.

The stand at the West Dean Garden Event was again very successful and we are indebted to Simon Ward and the Trustees of the Edward James Foundation for allowing us this opportunity to attract new members to the Trust. I should also thank those members who helped man the stand over the two days.

We are grateful to Bruce Middleton for taking on the task of obtaining 'Higher Level Stewardship' for the Reserves to obtain better funding.

In closing I would like to pay tribute to our volunteer reserve site managers, Arthur Stride at Buriton, Roger Mullenger at Under Beacon, and Naomi Barnett at Devil's Jumps. Without their enthusiasm and the support of many other volunteers, the work of the Trust would scarcely be possible. I would also like to thank Gerard Ryan and Simon Ward for their support throughout the year, Claire Norwood for her expertise, time and patience with our finances, and Jacqui Middleton who has been our excellent secretary and minute taker. Last but not least I should thank Martin Harbord our membership recorder and web-master, Jack Izatt our editor and others who have helped the Trust throughout the year.

RESERVE REPORTS

Buriton Down Reserve

Arthur Stride

Fourteen years of management have brought about a marked change from widespread scrub and tall grasses to the present transition state where downland plants can be seen over much of the reserve, not just in a narrow band along the top. Bird's-foot trefoil,

cowslips, lady's bedstraw, marjoram, common spotted orchid and salad burnet were among the species that were first seen to become widespread. Now, even the short stemmed flowers of eyebright, fairy flax and colourful milkwort are more visible as the grasses are shorter and finer. Some of the clumps of cowslips are up to about a metre wide while the horseshoe vetch occupies about half of the width of the narrowest part of the grassland and the dwarf thistles provide ever more opportunities to cause discomfort to the unwary person when sitting down. In all, some 120 grassland herb and woodland-edge species have been recorded, as well as 16 species of grasses spotted in 2007 (see table) and the additional four noted in 2000. Only the round-headed rampion still seems to be limited to the thinnest, driest soil at the top of the reserve. When our Trustees visited the site in July, it was the sizeable yellow patches of lady's bedstraw and the purple patches of marjoram that provided most of the colour, together with the blue of small scabious and the bright yellows of bird's-foot trefoil and St. John's-wort.

BURITON - GRASS SURVEY
(Shirley Wright, June 2007)

<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	False Brome
<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking-grass
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot
<i>Festuca ovina</i>	Sheep's Fescue
<i>Festuca rubra ssp rubra</i>	Red Fesque
<i>Helictotrichon pratense</i>	Meadow Oat-grass
<i>Helictotrichon pubescens</i>	Downy Oat-grass
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog
<i>Holcus mollis</i>	Creeping Soft-grass
<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	Crested Hair-grass
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Smooth Meadow-grass
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough Meadow-grass
<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>	Yellow Oat-grass

Much of the overabundant hemp-agrimony was pulled up in June, so as to lessen their shading-out of shorter downland plants. However, this year a band of these plants was left to reach maturity along the southern edge of the reserve, together with the coarse grasses and nettles, in order to impoverish the soil there (that had resulted from the many years of leaf-drop from the adjacent beech wood). The reduced cover of hemp-agrimony, that we have brought about, has allowed dewberry plants to prosper and spread to such an extent that they have now provided an unwanted dense cover in mid-reserve where they blank out choicer plants. Accordingly, an east-west segment of that ground was cut by a contractor in July. There had been satisfactorily little regrowth of dewberry by the following winter, but it was known from an experimental cut, elsewhere in the reserve, that several successive summer as well as winter cuts would be needed to eliminate it. The whole site was grazed by the Bray Family's sheep in October-November and the remaining vegetation cut by a contractor in November.

Volunteers carried out the last task of the year, that of raking up and burning the material cut by the contractor. During the year as a whole, the volunteers from Buriton,

Havant and Petersfield contributed to 253 hours of work. Over the past 14 years the number of hours required for such work has gradually decreased, while yet bringing the downland into progressively better condition each year. Alan Catchpole, one of our longest serving volunteers has now retired after putting in almost 600 hours of vital fieldwork. Our Trust is very grateful for his considerable contribution at the Buriton reserve. He also gave significant help in a member's reserve on Wheatham Hill, as well as on the Hampshire Wildlife Trust's reserve at Coulters Dean.

Fauna noted on the reserve included 16 species of butterfly, a slow-worm, brown lizards, voles and rabbits. The turning-over of sizeable chunks of an anthill suggests the activity of a badger.

Butterfly Recorder: John Phillips
Grass Recorder: Shirley Wright

Under Beacon Reserve

Roger Mullenger

The reserve continues to make progress and although the problem of ragwort has not been solved, it has been significantly reduced. The main outstanding problems are those of low brambles and wild parsnip.

In the spring the grass was mown with a flail, primarily to remove the coarser weeds and bramble and in the hope that it would make the grazing by sheep more effective. There was the risk of damaging the established ant hills but in the event the effect was minimal. During the summer volunteers from EDF Energy helped with controlling the ragwort and hemp agrimony. The ragwort has become much less of a problem, but still needs more pulling to avoid re-growth. Unfortunately, one end of the reserve is surrounded by land with a severe infestation. In the autumn and winter we had a few Shetland cattle for an extended period which helped by browsing the remains of the summer grasses. See photograph 4 on page 17. During January, with the help of the South Downs Ranger Volunteers, some stubborn areas of bramble were tackled using a rotary mower - we shall have to wait to see the full effect. Photograph 5 on page 17 shows the work in progress.

Over the next few years there will be an on-going challenge to control some of the weed infestation. Looking at the positive side, there have been several comments on the good state of the grassland.

My thanks go to all those members, EDF Energy and the South Downs Ranger Volunteers whose work has allowed us to continue making great strides at this reserve. I also wish to thank Mr. and Mrs. Chew whose cattle grazed the reserve in the winter.

The Devil's Jumps Reserve

Naomi Barnett

The site was visited regularly during the year, and on all occasions it was peaceful, with no signs of vandalism or damage. In August 2006 the bracken was sprayed by a contractor to try and stop it spreading. Unfortunately, this seemed to have little effect and will have to be done again in 2008. The yew tree which was damaging one of the large tumuli was removed in the winter to allow cattle to graze in the future.

We are grateful to Mr. A. Mitchell who once again put his sheep to graze on the site during February and March. He was reimbursed by the Trust for his efforts.

Heyshott Reserves (Heyshott Down and Heyshott Escarpment)

John Murray

**TABLE 1: HEYSHOTT ESCARPMENT RESERVE
BIRD OBSERVATIONS (Virginia Stevens)**

Year 2007	Month Day	Mar	Apr	Apr	May	Aug	Sep
		27	9	30	19	27	15
	Blackbird	5	10	5	6	1	
	Blackcap		1	2	2		
	Blue tit	1	3	1			4
	Buzzard	1	2				1
	Chaffinch	9	11	10	11	2	
	Chiffchaff	2	5	1		1	
	Great spotted woodpecker		1				
	Great tit	7	6				
	Green woodpecker		1			1	
	Greenfinch	2	5	1	5		
	Hedge sparrow		1				
	Magpie		1	1	1	1	2
	Nuthatch	1	1				
	Robin	10	12	6	12	2	2
	Skylark	1	2	3	2		
	Song thrush		2		2		
	Spotted Flycatcher					2	
	Swallow				2		
	Tawny owl	1					1
	Whitethroat			2	5		
	Wren	2	4	1		1	1
	Yellowhammer	2	2		1		

**TABLE 2: HEYSHOTT ESCARPMENT
BUTTERFLY OBSERVATIONS
(Rohan Amick and Virginia Stevens)**

YEAR 2007	Month	Mar	Apr	Apr	May	Jul	Aug	Aug	Sep
	Day	27	9	30	19	10	4	27	15
Small Skipper						9			
Large Skipper						12			
Dingy Skipper				9	2				
Grizzled Skipper				2	1				
Clouded Yellow									
Brimstone		5	10	27	6		5	7	
Large White				1					
Small White			2	7	4	7	5	5	4
Green-veined White									
Orange Tip				3	2				
Green Hairstreak									
Small Copper				1					
Brown Argus									
Common Blue					5		10	3	2
Chalkhill Blue							4		
Holly Blue				2					
Duke of Burgundy				2					
Red Admiral		1		2	2	2	1	3	
Painted Lady									
Small Tortoiseshell		2							
Peacock		2	2						
Comma			2	1		4			
Dark Green Fritillary						1			
SW Fritillary									
Speckled Wood				3		3	2	3	
Marbled White						7			
Gatekeeper						3	11	1	
Meadow Brown						25	7	2	
Ringlet						18			
Small Heath						5	8	1	

I took on the two reserves following Juliet Kay's retirement - an extremely daunting task as I was following in the footsteps of an expert who had an extensive knowledge of the habitat.

We are indebted to our volunteers who put in 254 hours over seven working parties. The first task was to cut the footpaths and the area behind the 'camels humps' and

collect the brush for disposal. Following the visit by Lynn Formison and Neil Hulme, who identified a new site for Duke of Burgundy butterflies just off the Chalky Track above the second sign board and over the stile, work started in February to cut back the scrub to open up the bowl area. We were very pleased to have John Glover who used his chain saw to cut down the large scrub so that it could be manhandled onto the bonfire. Mike Edwards used a mattock over about a third of the area to encourage new germination of cowslip plants. Further work will be done on the site to clear the northern side of the area of scrub.

John Glover very kindly offered to clear the scrub on the south entrance to Compartment 3 as it was shading out the round headed rampion. This had been recommended by Bruce Middleton as the plant numbers were declining. Further work will be needed to clear the area up to the water tank. The scrub in this compartment has been cut for the last four years. Grazing of the area has been a problem due to the number of yew trees. Following conversations with Roger Matthews of Natural England, we have been given permission to cut and remove about 30 of the single yew trees and to fence off the three major clumps so that animals can graze safely.

Compartment 10 was scrub cut over five weeks by Simon Thomas. This has been done every other year and each time it becomes more expensive to keep the area from being overrun by thorn, wild rose and dogwood. Grazing is essential to maintain the downland sward and the trustees are actively considering possible methods; one favoured option is donkeys but we need to solve the problem of how to get water on the site.

We had a very interesting afternoon walk in July led by Bruce Middleton with eight visitors from the Wisborough Green Bee Club, along with members, who were shown the very varied butterflies and plants to be found on the reserve. Most were totally unaware of the tremendous diversity the site supports, as was ably demonstrated by Bruce.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The Trustees wish to thank the following for permission to publish photographs: Arthur Stride (1, 2), John Murray (3) and Roger Mullenger (4 and 5).

TREASURER'S REPORT

Claire Norwood

I am pleased to report on the financial statements of the Murray Downland Trust for the year ended 31 March 2008.

During the year the Trust was fortunate to receive a single anonymous donation of £50,000. The full statutory accounts show that the income for the year, including the donation of £50,000, was £65,857 (£17,746:2007) and expenditure totalled £14,956 (£17,706:2007). The breakdown of income and expenditure is shown on the Statement of Financial Activities on page 3 of the accounts and there is further detail in the supporting notes. As usual the large majority of expenditure related to work on the reserves and administrative expenses were kept to a minimum.

In summary, the accounts show a surplus of £26,288, but this includes the donation of £50,000 and a decrease in value of investments of £24,613, without which the surplus was £901. During the year the donation of £50,000 plus £3,000 of past surpluses were invested to secure future income for the Trust.

The Trust was also fortunate to receive the following grant in the year which was gratefully received:-

Natural England – Heyshott	<u>£1,000</u>
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The accounts were reviewed by Goodale Mardle, Chartered Accountants of Midhurst and we are grateful to them for not charging a fee for this review.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Trust is open to everyone who wants the satisfaction of making a personal contribution towards the preservation of these small but vital areas of traditional downland which are rich in plants and animals, but which are under the relentless threat of extinction. Sponsorship of particular sites or species would also be welcome, if feasible, and there is always practical work to be done in the countryside for members who wish to be more closely involved. No special knowledge is required.

It is possible to become a subscribing member or a working member, though there is nothing to prevent a subscribing member from working on the reserves! A working member pays a reduced subscription in return for a commitment to work for a limited period each year on one or other of the Trust's reserves. The simple basis of substituting work for funds is that for a reduction in subscription from £25 to £10 a member commits himself or herself to 15 hours work a year.

Members will be kept informed of the Trust's acquisitions, programmes and progress on a regular basis. Except when conservation needs require an area to remain temporarily undisturbed, access to the Trust's sites will be available at all times. Where land managed by the Trust remains in private hands, the Trust encourages owners to allow public access, if it is reasonable to do so.

WEBSITE

The Trust's website is: www.murraydownlandtrust.org.uk.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Individual, family, working and also corporate members are welcome.

Individual subscribing member	£25
Individual working member	£10
Individual working member under 25	£5
Family membership (please identify all those included)	£40
Family membership for two or more working members	£16
Corporate bodies and unincorporated associations	£50 minimum
Life membership, aged under 65	£600
Life membership, aged 65 and over	£300

Membership applications should be sent to Martin Harbord, Membership Secretary, Instow, 110 Heath Road, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU31 4EL, cheques made payable to The Murray Downland Trust.

DATA PROTECTION ACT

The Membership Secretary keeps contact and membership details of members on a database on his computer. This information is held solely for Murray Downland Trust purposes, and is not divulged to other organisations or individuals. Members who are happy to receive subscription information by e-mail should send their e-mail address to Martin Harbord at mjharbord@tiscali.co.uk. Any member who has any concerns about these arrangements should write to Martin Harbord at 110, Heath Road, Petersfield, Hampshire GU31 4EL.

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Photograph 1: Buriton Down Reserve in winter, after strimming.



Photograph 2: Buriton Down Reserve in July showing lady's bedstraw and marjoram.



Photograph 3: Members on butterfly expedition to Magdalen Hill.



Photograph 4: A welcome change for Under Beacon Reserve: cattle grazing for the first time.

Photograph 5: A rotary mower on Under Beacon Reserve being used to clear brambles.



Charity Registration No. 1040076

Company Registration No. 2873432 (England and Wales)

THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
DIRECTORS' REPORT AND UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

**THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Directors	Gerard Charles Ryan Arthur Stride Simon Charles Ward Claire Norwood John G Murray Mike Edwards
Secretary	Claire Norwood
Charity number	1040076
Company number	2873432
Principal address	Upper Cranmore Heyshott West Sussex GU29 0DL
Registered office	Piper House 4 Dukes Court Bognor Road Chichester West Sussex PO19 8FX
Accountants	Goodale Mardle Grange House, Grange Road Midhurst West Sussex GU29 9LS
Bankers	Lloyds TSB Bank plc 5 The Square Petersfield Hampshire GU32 3HL

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(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
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THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST

(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

The directors present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2008.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the trust's governing document, the Companies Act 1985 and the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in March 2005.

Structure, governance and management

The trust is a company limited by guarantee (no. 2873432) incorporated on 19 November 1993 and is a registered charity (no. 1040076). The trust's objects are the preservation, protection, development and improvement of land of specific interest or natural beauty. The trust achieves its objects with the help of volunteers and paid contractors as necessary.

The directors who served during the year were:

Gerard Charles Ryan

Arthur Stride

Simon Charles Ward

Juliet Kay

(Resigned 17 May 2007)

Claire Norwood

John G Murray

J Isobel Perry

(Resigned 5 July 2007)

Mike Edwards

(Appointed 16 August 2007)

None of the directors has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the directors are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The charity is administered by a board of 6 directors/trustees who meet approximately 8 times a year. Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the charity has the power to make any investments which the trustees see fit.

The directors have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Objectives and activities

See Chairman's Report and reserve reports.

Achievements and performance

Financial review

See Treasurer's Report.

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to six to twelve month's expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

Asset cover for funds

Note 14 sets out an analysis of the assets attributable to the various funds and a description of the trusts. These assets are sufficient to meet the charity's obligations on a fund by fund basis.

On behalf of the board of directors

John G Murray

Director

Dated: 10 July 2008

THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST (LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS ON THE UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS OF THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST

We report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2008 set out on pages 3 to 11.

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 249C of the Companies Act 1985. Our reporting work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an independent accountants' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our reporting work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of directors and reporting accountants

As described on page 5 the charitable company's directors, who also act as trustees for the charitable activities of The Murray Downland Trust, are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, and they consider that the company is exempt from an audit. It is our responsibility to carry out procedures designed to enable us to report our opinion.

Basis of opinion

Our work was conducted in accordance with the Statement of Standards for Reporting Accountants, and so our procedures consisted of comparing the accounts with the accounting records kept by the company, and making such limited enquiries of the officers of the company as we considered necessary for the purposes of this report. These procedures provide only the assurance expressed in our opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- (a) the accounts are in agreement with the accounting records kept by the charitable company under section 221 of the Companies Act 1985;
- (b) having regard only to, and on the basis of, the information contained in those accounting records:
 - (i) the accounts have been drawn up in a manner consistent with the accounting requirements specified in section 249C(6) of the Act; and
 - (ii) the charitable company satisfied the conditions for exemption from an audit of the accounts for the year specified in section 249A(4) of the Act and did not, at any time within that year, fall within any of the categories of companies not entitled to the exemption specified in section 249B(1).

Goodale Mardle

Chartered Accountants
Reporting Accountants
Grange House, Grange Road
Midhurst
West Sussex
GU29 9LS

Dated: 12 September 2008

**THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2008 £	Total 2007 £
<u>Incoming resources from generated funds</u>					
Voluntary income	2	53,836	-	53,836	8,211
Investment income	3	10,021	-	10,021	8,535
		63,857	-	63,857	16,746
Incoming resources from charitable activities	4	1,000	1,000	2,000	1,000
Total incoming resources		64,857	1,000	65,857	17,746
<u>Resources expended</u>					
Charitable activities					
Conservation of chalk downland	5	12,665	2,026	14,691	17,441
Governance costs		265	-	265	265
Total resources expended		12,930	2,026	14,956	17,706
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		51,927	(1,026)	50,901	40
Other recognised gains and losses					
(Losses)/gains on investment assets		(24,613)	-	(24,613)	10,347
Net movement in funds		27,314	(1,026)	26,288	10,387
Fund balances at 1 April 2007		169,117	19,166	188,283	177,896
Fund balances at 31 March 2008		196,431	18,140	214,571	188,283

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

Voluntary income includes a single anonymous donation of £50,000.

**THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008**

	2008	2007
	£	£
Gross income	65,857	17,746
Loss on disposal of investment assets held by income funds	-	(500)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total income	65,857	17,246
Total expenditure from income funds	14,956	17,706
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	50,901	(460)
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The summary income and expenditure account is derived from the statement of financial activities on page 3 which, together with the notes on pages 6 to 11, provides full information on the movements during the year on all funds of the charity.

STATEMENT OF RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

Net income/(expenditure) for the year	50,901	(460)
Unrealised gains on investment assets held by income funds	(24,613)	10,847
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	26,288	10,387
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2008

	Notes	2008		2007	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		6,699		8,804
Investments	10		199,416		171,029
			<u>206,115</u>		<u>179,833</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	11	721		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		8,501		8,802	
		<u>9,222</u>		<u>8,802</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	<u>(766)</u>		<u>(352)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>8,456</u>		<u>8,450</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>214,571</u>		<u>188,283</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	13		18,140		19,166
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted income funds		190,474		138,547	
Revaluation reserve		5,957		30,570	
		<u>196,431</u>		<u>169,117</u>	
			<u>214,571</u>		<u>188,283</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 249A(2) of the Companies Act 1985, for the year ended 31 March 2008. No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 249B(2), requiring an audit of these accounts.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 221 of the Act; and
- (b) preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company at 31 March 2008 and of its profit for the year then ended in accordance with section 226, and otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

The accounts were approved by the Board on 10 July 2008

John G Murray
Director

Claire Norwood
Director

**THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008**

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention modified to include the revaluation of certain fixed assets.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in March 2005 and the Companies Act 1985.

1.2 Incoming resources

All grants are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities when the conditions for their receipt have been met and there is reasonable assurance that they will be received. Grants that are restricted to future accounting periods are deferred and recognised in those future accounting periods.

Turnover represents subscriptions, donations, grants and other income associated with the Charity.

1.3 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fencing	10% Straight line
Equipment	25% Reducing balance

1.4 Investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at market value.

Realised gains or losses arising on the disposal of investments (together with provisions for diminution in value), are credited or debited to the Statement of Financial Activities and subsequently transferred to Unrestricted Funds or to Restricted Funds as appropriate. Investment income (including associated tax credits) is credited to the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. The amounts relating to funds held for restricted purposes are subsequently transferred to those funds.

1.5 Accumulated funds

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 set out in the notes to the accounts.

**THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008**

2 Voluntary income

	2008	2007
	£	£
Donations and gifts	53,836	8,211
Donations and gifts		
Unrestricted funds:		
Donations	51,869	1,074
Subscriptions	1,937	2,067
Walks and talks	30	70
	53,836	3,211
Restricted funds:		
Donations and gifts	-	5,000
	-	5,000

3 Investment income

	2008	2007
	£	£
Income from listed investments	9,424	8,340
Interest receivable	597	195
	10,021	8,535

4 Incoming resources from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2008	Total 2007
	£	£	£	£
Grants receivable	1,000	1,000	2,000	1,000

THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

5 Total resources expended

	Depreciation	Other costs	Total	Total
	£	£	2008	2007
			£	£
Charitable activities				
<u>Conservation of chalk downland</u>				
Activities undertaken directly	2,105	12,586	14,691	17,441
Governance costs	-	265	265	265
	<u>2,105</u>	<u>12,851</u>	<u>14,956</u>	<u>17,706</u>

6 Activities undertaken directly

	2008	2007
	£	£
Other costs relating to conservation of chalk downland comprise:		
Nature reserve rents	213	155
Subcontract labour	10,095	13,760
Small tools	248	41
Insurance	518	489
Printing, postage and stationery	410	353
Sundry expenses	852	519
Legal & Professional	250	-
	<u>12,586</u>	<u>15,317</u>

7 Directors

None of the directors (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year, but 3 (2007: 3) of them were reimbursed a total of £190 (2007: £109) for postage, printing, stationery, and sundries.

8 Employees

There were no employees during the year.

THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Fencing £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2007 and at 31 March 2008	27,142	2,316	29,458
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2007	18,570	2,084	20,654
Charge for the year	2,047	58	2,105
At 31 March 2008	20,617	2,142	22,759
Net book value			
At 31 March 2008	6,525	174	6,699
At 31 March 2007	8,572	232	8,804

10 Fixed asset investments

	Quoted £
Market value at 1 April 2007	171,029
Acquisitions at cost	53,000
Change in value in the year	(24,613)
Market value at 31 March 2008	199,416
Historical cost:	
At 31 March 2008	193,459
At 31 March 2007	140,459

Investments exceeding 5% of total market value

79,670.76 (2007: 57,072.18) M&G Charibond Income Shares value £94,888 (2007: £63,164).
7,640.414 (2007: 6,299.634) M&G Charifund Equity Shares value £100,083 (2007: £102,624).

**THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008**

11 Debtors	2008	2007
	£	£
Other debtors	721	-
	<u>721</u>	<u>-</u>

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2008	2007
	£	£
Other creditors	766	352
	<u>766</u>	<u>352</u>

13 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance at	Movement in funds		Balance at 31
	1 April 2007	Incoming	Resources	March 2008
	£	£	£	£
Heyshott - general	-	1,000	(1,000)	-
Gate at Heyshott Down	60	-	(30)	30
Vehicle Fund	7,550	-	-	7,550
Fencing grants	4,243	-	(683)	3,560
Under Beacon	313	-	(313)	-
Warden	7,000	-	-	7,000
	<u>19,166</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>(2,026)</u>	<u>18,140</u>

**THE MURRAY DOWNLAND TRUST
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008**

14 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2008 are represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	3,422	3,277	6,699
Investments	184,866	14,550	199,416
Current assets	8,909	313	9,222
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(766)	-	(766)
	<u>196,431</u>	<u>18,140</u>	<u>214,571</u>
Unrealised gains included above:			
On investments	5,957	-	5,957
	<u>5,957</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,957</u>
Reconciliation of movements in unrealised gains			
Unrealised gains at 1 April 2007	30,570	-	30,570
Net gains on revaluations in year	(24,613)	-	(24,613)
Unrealised gains at 31 March 2008	<u>5,957</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,957</u>