

The Companies Act 2006
Company Limited by Guarantee
and not having a Share Capital

Articles of Association
of
Dorset Wildlife Trust

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THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital

**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION
OF
DORSET WILDLIFE TRUST**

1 NAME

The name of the company is Dorset Wildlife Trust (the “**Charity**”).

2 REGISTERED OFFICE

2.1 The registered office of the Charity is to be in England.

3 OBJECTS

3.1 The objects of the Charity are:

3.1.1 To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment both on land and sea, in particular but not exclusively in Dorset by:

- (a) establishing and maintaining nature reserves, wildlife habitats and natural spaces;
- (b) surveying, recording, researching and studying the natural environment; and
- (c) engaging people with their environment through events, centres, volunteering and/or other means.

3.1.2 To advance the education of the public in and inform them about the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment, and the natural sciences both on land and sea in particular but not exclusively in Dorset by:

- (a) providing walks, talks, events, meetings, digital and other means of communication; and
- (b) advocating good practice and promoting environmentally sustainable lifestyles and working.

3.2 This Article 3 may be amended by special resolution but only with the prior written consent of the Commission.

4 POWERS

The Charity has the following powers, which may be exercised only in promoting the Objects:

- 4.1 to provide advice or information;
- 4.2 to carry out campaigning and advocacy, provided that the Trustees are satisfied that any proposed campaigning and advocacy will further the Objects to an extent justified by the resources committed and that such activity is not the dominant means by which the Charity promotes the Objects;
- 4.3 to carry out, or access, research and to publish and distribute the results;

- 4.4 to print, publish, issue, distribute and commission papers, periodicals, books, circulars, pamphlets, leaflets, journals, films, tapes and other matter on any media;
- 4.5 to promote, market and advertise in such manner as may be thought expedient;
- 4.6 to co-operate with other bodies and to exchange information and advice with them. To act in concert or make any arrangements with any corporation, county council, district council, parish council, improvement commissioners, or other local authority, now or hereafter constituted, or with any public body or government department, or with any company, society, association, university, school, charity, or other organisation or body, or with any residents or property owners, or with any other persons having rights, duties, access or other legitimate interests with regard to land, rivers, harbours, sea or property or other matters relevant to the Objects, with a view to promoting any of the Objects;
- 4.7 to support, administer or set up other charities or to establish charitable trusts for any particular purposes of the Charity and to act as trustee of any charity or special charitable trust whether established by the Charity or otherwise and generally to undertake and execute any charitable trust which may lawfully be undertaken by the Charity and may be conducive to its Objects;
- 4.8 to accept gifts and to raise funds (including by issuing debt instruments but not by means of Taxable Trading) and in its discretion to disclaim any particular contribution;
- 4.9 to receive and administer bequests and donations;
- 4.10 to borrow money and give security for loans or other obligations (but only in accordance with the restrictions imposed by the Charities Act) including entering into any related derivative arrangement, but only where the derivative arrangement is:
 - 4.10.1 ancillary to the transaction;
 - 4.10.2 an integral part of managing the Charity's debt entered into in order to manage risk associated with the transaction; and
 - 4.10.3 not a purely speculative transaction;
- 4.11 to acquire or hire or lease property of any kind, and to alter and maintain any such property as may be required from time to time;
- 4.12 to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of property of any kind (but only in accordance with the restrictions imposed by the Charities Act);
- 4.13 to make grants or loans of money and to give guarantees provided that where any payment is made to the treasurer or other proper official of a charity the receipt of such treasurer or official shall be a complete discharge to the Trustees;
- 4.14 to set aside funds for special purposes or as reserves against future expenditure but only in accordance with a written policy about reserves;
- 4.15 to deposit or invest in funds in any manner (but to invest only after obtaining such advice from a Financial Expert as the Trustees consider necessary and having regard to the suitability of investments and the need for diversification) provided that the Charity shall have power to retain any investments donated to it;
- 4.16 to delegate the management of investments to a Financial Expert, but only on terms that:
 - 4.16.1 the investment policy is set down in writing for the Financial Expert by the Trustees;
 - 4.16.2 timely reports of all transactions are provided to the Trustees;
 - 4.16.3 the performance of the investments is reviewed regularly with the Trustees;
 - 4.16.4 the Trustees are entitled to cancel or revise the delegation arrangement at any time;

- 4.16.5 the investment policy and the delegation arrangement are reviewed at least once a year;
- 4.16.6 all payments due to the Financial Expert are on a scale or at a level which is agreed in advance and are notified promptly to the Trustees on receipt; and
- 4.16.7 the Financial Expert must not do anything outside the powers of the Trustees;
- 4.17 to arrange for investments or other property of the Charity to be held in the name of a nominee company acting under the direction of the Trustees or controlled by a Financial Expert acting under their instructions and to pay any reasonable fee required;
- 4.18 to deposit documents and physical assets with a company registered or having a place of business in England or Wales as custodian, and to pay any reasonable fee required;
- 4.19 to insure the property of the Charity against any reasonable foreseeable risk and take out other insurance policies to protect the Charity when required;
- 4.20 to provide indemnity insurance for the Trustees in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 189 of the Charities Act;
- 4.21 subject to Article 5 to employ paid or unpaid agents, staff or advisers;
- 4.22 to enter into contracts to provide services to or on behalf of other bodies;
- 4.23 to establish, hold shares in, or acquire subsidiary companies, other companies or entities; and to enter into any partnership or joint venture arrangement with any other body for any of the Objects;
- 4.24 to acquire, merge with or enter into any partnership or joint venture arrangement with any other charity for any of the Objects;
- 4.25 to pay out of the funds of the Charity the costs of forming and registering the Charity both as a company and as a charity; and
- 4.26 to do anything else within the law which promotes, helps to promote or is conducive or incidental to the promotion of the Objects.

5 BENEFITS AND CONFLICTS FOR MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES

- 5.1 The property and funds of the Charity must be used only for promoting the Objects and do not belong to the Members or the Trustees, and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus, or otherwise by way of profit to the Members of the Charity or the Trustees.
- 5.2 Members who are not Trustees or Connected Persons may be employed by or enter into contracts with the Charity and receive reasonable payment for goods or services supplied.
- 5.3 Subject to compliance with Article 5.6, Members, Trustees and Connected Persons:
 - 5.3.1 may receive interest on money lent to the Charity at a reasonable and proper rate which must be not more than the Bank of England bank rate (also known as the base rate);
 - 5.3.2 may be paid a reasonable rent or hiring fee for property let or hired to the Charity;
 - 5.3.3 who are beneficiaries may receive charitable benefits in that capacity on the same terms as any other members of the beneficial class; and
 - 5.3.4 may take part in the normal trading and fundraising activities of the Charity on the same terms as members of the public.
- 5.4 A Trustee must not receive any payment of money or other material benefit (whether directly or indirectly) from the Charity except:

- 5.4.1 as mentioned in Articles 4.20, 5.3 or 5.5;
- 5.4.2 reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses (including hotel and travel costs) actually incurred in running the Charity;
- 5.4.3 an indemnity pursuant to Article 15 in respect of any liabilities properly incurred in running the Charity (including the costs of a successful defence to criminal proceedings);
- 5.4.4 payment to any company in which a Trustee or a Connected Person has no more than a one per cent shareholding; or
- 5.4.5 in exceptional cases, other payments or benefits but only with:
 - (a) the written consent of the Commission in advance where required under the Charities Act; and
 - (b) the approval or affirmation of the Members where required under the Act.
- 5.5 No Trustee, or Connected Person, may be employed by the Charity except in accordance with Article 5.4.5, but any Trustee or Connected Person may enter into a contract with the Charity, as permitted by the Charities Act to supply goods or services to the Charity in return for a payment or other material benefit but only if:
 - 5.5.1 the contract is in writing and states the maximum to be paid by the Charity;
 - 5.5.2 the goods or services are actually required by the Charity, and the Trustees decide that it is in the best interests of the Charity to enter into such a contract;
 - 5.5.3 the nature and level of the remuneration is no more than is reasonable in relation to the value of the goods or services;
 - 5.5.4 no more than a minority of the Trustees are subject to such a contract in any financial year; and
 - 5.5.5 the Trustee has complied with the procedure set out in Article 5.6.
- 5.6 Subject to Article 5.7, any Trustee who becomes a Conflicted Trustee in relation to any matter must:
 - 5.6.1 declare the nature and extent of his or her interest at or before discussion begins on the matter;
 - 5.6.2 withdraw from the meeting for that item after providing any information requested by the Trustees;
 - 5.6.3 not be counted in the quorum for that part of the meeting; and
 - 5.6.4 be absent during the vote and have no vote on the matter.
- 5.7 When any Trustee is a Conflicted Trustee, the Trustees who are not Conflicted Trustees, if they form a quorum without counting the Conflicted Trustee and are satisfied that it is in the best interests of the Charity to do so, may by resolution passed in the absence of the Conflicted Trustee authorise the Conflicted Trustee, notwithstanding any conflict of interest or duty which has arisen or may arise for the Conflicted Trustee:
 - 5.7.1 to continue to participate in discussions leading to the making of a decision and to vote, except where a Conflicted Trustee or a Connected Person is to receive any payment or material benefit; or
 - 5.7.2 to disclose information confidential to the Charity to a third party; or

- 5.7.3 to take any other action not otherwise authorised, or to refrain from taking any step required to remove the conflict which, in either case, does not involve the receipt by the Conflicted Trustee or a Connected Person of any payment or material benefit.
- 5.8 A Conflicted Trustee who obtains (other than through his or her position as Trustee) information that is confidential to a third party, shall not be in breach of his or her duties to the Charity if he, she or it declares the conflict in accordance with Article 5.6 and then withholds such confidential information from the Charity.
- 5.9 For any transaction or arrangement authorised under Articles 4.20, 5.3, 5.4 or 5.5 the Trustee's duty under the Act to avoid a conflict of interest with the Charity shall be disapplied provided the relevant provisions of Article 5.6 have been followed.
- 5.10 This Article 5 may be amended by special resolution provided that where the result would be to authorise a benefit to a Trustee, Member or Connected Person which was not previously authorised under the Articles, it may only be amended with the prior written consent of the Commission.

6 MEMBERSHIP

- 6.1 The Charity must maintain a register of the names and address of the Members.
- 6.2 The first Members of the Charity shall be the subscribers to the Memorandum.
- 6.3 Subsequent Members of the Charity shall be any person who:
- (a) consents in writing to become a Member;
 - (b) is interested in furthering the Objects;
 - (c) applies to the Charity in the form approved by the Trustees and pays the subscription set by the Trustees; and
 - (d) is approved by the Trustees.
- 6.4 Trustees must arrange for the names and required details of Members to be entered into the Charity's statutory membership register, and keep a record of the type of membership provided.
- 6.5 The Trustees may only refuse an application for membership if, acting reasonably and properly, they consider it to be in the best interests of the Charity to refuse the application. The Trustees must inform the applicant in writing of the reasons for the refusal within twenty one Clear Days of the decision. The Trustees must consider any written representations the applicant may make within 14 Clear Days of being notified about the decision. The Trustees' decision following any written representations must be notified to the applicant in writing but shall be final.
- 6.6 Membership is terminated if the Member concerned:
- 6.6.1 gives written notice of resignation to the Charity unless, after the resignation, there would be less than two Members;
 - 6.6.2 dies or, if it is an organisation, ceases to exist;
 - 6.6.3 is three months in arrears in paying the relevant subscription (if any) (but in such a case the Member may be reinstated on payment of the amount due); or
 - 6.6.4 is removed from Membership by resolution of the Trustees on the ground that in their reasonable opinion the Member's continued Membership is harmful to the Charity (but only after notifying the Member in writing and considering the matter in the light of any written representations which the Member concerned puts forward within fourteen Clear Days after receiving notice).

- 6.7 Membership of the Charity is not transferable.
- 6.8 The Trustees may establish different classes of Membership and recognise one or more classes of supporters who are not Members (but who may nevertheless be termed “members”) and set out their respective rights and obligations in rules or bye laws in accordance with Article 11.7.
- 6.9 Any corporate organisation that is a Member of the Charity may nominate any person to act as its duly authorised representative at any meeting of the Charity by resolution of its directors or other governing body provided that:
- 6.9.1 the organisation must give written notice to the Charity of the name of its representative. The nominee shall not be entitled to represent the organisation at any meeting unless the notice has been received by the Charity. The nominee may continue to represent the organisation until written notice to the contrary is received by the Charity; and
- 6.9.2 any notice given to the Charity will be conclusive evidence that the nominee is entitled to represent the organisation or that his or her authority has been revoked. The Charity shall not be required to consider whether the nominee has been properly appointed by the organisation.
- 6.10 Any unincorporated organisation that is a Member of the Charity may nominate any person to act as its duly authorised representative at any meeting of the Charity, provided that:
- 6.10.1 the organisation must give written notice to the Charity of the name of its representative. The nominee shall not be entitled to represent the organisation at any meeting unless the notice has been received by the Charity. The nominee may continue to represent the organisation until written notice to the contrary is received by the Charity;
- 6.10.2 any notice given to the Charity will be conclusive evidence that the nominee is entitled to represent the organisation or that his or her authority has been revoked. The Charity shall not be required to consider whether the nominee has been properly appointed by the organisation;
- 6.10.3 the duly authorised representative of an unincorporated organisation shall be entered in the register of Members as the Member, with the name of the unincorporated organisation which they represent noted next to them.

7 LIABILITY OF MEMBERS AND GUARANTEE

The liability of Members is limited to a sum not exceeding £1, being the amount that each Member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Charity in the event of its being wound up while he, she or it is a Member or within one year after he, she or it ceases to be a Member for:

- 7.1.1 payment of those debts and liabilities of the Charity incurred before he, she or it ceased to be a Member;
- 7.1.2 payment of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up the Charity; and
- 7.1.3 the adjustment of rights of contributors among themselves.

8 GENERAL MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

8.1 Attendance

- 8.1.1 Members are entitled to attend general meetings.

8.2 Notice

- 8.2.1 A general meeting may be called at any time by the Trustees and must be called on a request from at least five percent of the Members having the right to vote at general meetings of the Charity if the request is issued in accordance with the Act.
- 8.2.2 Subject to Article 8.2.3, general meetings are called on at least fourteen Clear Days' notice (unless the Act requires a longer notice period) specifying:
- (a) the time, date and place of the meeting;
 - (b) the general nature of the business to be transacted;
 - (c) the terms of any proposed special resolution; and
 - (d) notifying Members of their right to appoint a proxy under section 324 of the Act and Article 8.8.
- 8.2.3 A general meeting may be called by shorter notice if ninety per cent of the Members entitled to vote upon the business to be transacted agree.
- 8.2.4 Notice of general meetings should be given to every Member and Trustee, and to the Charity's auditors.
- 8.2.5 The proceedings at a general meeting shall not be invalidated because a person who was entitled to receive notice of the meeting did not receive it because of an accidental omission by the Charity.

8.3 Quorum

- 8.3.1 No business shall be transacted at any meeting unless a quorum is present. There is a quorum at a general meeting if the number of Members present in person or by proxy or by the duly authorised representative of an organisation, is twelve.
- 8.3.2 If such a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting, or if during a meeting such a quorum ceases to be present, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and place or to such time and place as the Trustees may determine.

8.4 Chair of the Meeting

- 8.4.1 The Chair or (if the Chair is unable or unwilling to do so) some other Trustee elected by the board of Trustees presides at a general meeting.
- 8.4.2 If no Trustee is willing to act as chair, or if no Trustee is present within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, the Members present and entitled to vote shall choose one of their number to be chair. Save that a proxy who is not a Member entitled to vote shall not be entitled to be appointed as chair.

8.5 Adjournment

The chair may, with the consent of a meeting at which a quorum is present (and shall if so directed by the meeting), adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place to place, but no business shall be transacted at an adjourned meeting other than business which might properly have been transacted at the meeting had the adjournment not taken place. When a meeting is adjourned for fourteen Clear Days, or more, at least seven Clear Days' notice shall be given specifying the time and place of the adjourned meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted. If the meeting is adjourned for less than fourteen days it shall not be necessary to give any such notice.

8.6 Voting General

- 8.6.1 Except where otherwise provided by the Articles or the Act, every issue is decided by an ordinary resolution.
- 8.6.2 On a poll or a show of hands, votes may be given either personally or by the duly authorised representative of an organisation or by proxy in accordance with the provisions of Article 8.8.
- 8.6.3 On a show of hands or a poll every Member who has paid his or her subscription due to the Charity (being an individual) is present in person or by proxy or (being an organisation) is present by a duly authorised representative or by proxy, shall have one vote, unless the proxy (in either case) or the duly authorised representative is a Member in their own right entitled to vote in which case they shall be entitled to a vote in their own right and a vote as a proxy.
- 8.6.4 A Member in respect of whom an order has been made by any court having jurisdiction (whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere) in matters concerning mental incapacity may vote, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, by his or her deputy, registered attorney, curator bonis or other person authorised in that behalf appointed by that court, and any such deputy, registered attorney, curator bonis or other person may, on a show of hands or on a poll, vote by proxy. Evidence to the satisfaction of the Trustees of the authority of the person claiming to exercise the right to vote shall be deposited at the Charity's registered office, or at such other place as is specified in accordance with these Articles for the deposit of instruments of proxy, not less than forty eight hours (excluding public holidays and weekends) before the time appointed for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the right to vote is to be exercised and in default the right to vote shall not be exercisable.
- 8.6.5 No objection shall be raised to the qualification of any voter except at the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote objected to is tendered, and every vote not disallowed at the meeting shall be valid. Any objection made in due time shall be referred to the chair whose decision shall be final and conclusive.

8.7 Poll Voting

- 8.7.1 A resolution put to the vote of a meeting shall be decided on a show of hands unless before, or on the declaration of the result of, the show of hands a poll is duly demanded. Subject to the provisions of the Act, a poll may be demanded:
- (a) by the chair; or
 - (b) by at least five Members having the right to vote at the meeting; or
 - (c) by a Member or Members representing not less than ten percent of the total voting rights of all the Members having the right to vote at the meeting;
- and a demand by a person as proxy for a Member, or as the duly authorised representative of a Member (being an organisation) or as proxy for a duly authorised representative of an organisation, shall be the same as a demand by the Member.
- 8.7.2 Unless a poll is duly demanded a declaration by the chair that a resolution has been carried or carried unanimously, or by a particular majority, or lost, or not carried by a particular majority and an entry to that effect in the minutes of the meeting shall be conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against the resolution.
- 8.7.3 A demand for a poll may be withdrawn if the poll has not yet been taken; and the chair consents to the withdrawal. A demand so withdrawn shall not be taken to have invalidated the result of a show of hands declared before the demand was made.

- 8.7.4 A poll shall be taken as the chair directs and he or she may appoint scrutineers (who need not be Members) and fix a time and place for declaring the result of the poll. The result of the poll shall be deemed to be the resolution of the meeting at which the poll was demanded.
- 8.7.5 A poll demanded on the election of a chair or on a question of adjournment shall be taken immediately. A poll demanded on any other question shall be taken either immediately or at such time and place as the chair directs not being more than thirty days after the poll is demanded. The demand for a poll shall not prevent the continuance of a meeting for the transaction of any business other than the question on which the poll was demanded. If a poll is demanded before the declaration of the result of a show of hands and the demand is duly withdrawn, the meeting shall continue as if the demand had not been made.
- 8.7.6 No notice need be given of a poll not taken immediately if the time and place at which it is to be taken are announced at the meeting at which it is demanded. In any other case at least seven Clear Days' notice shall be given specifying the time and place at which the poll is to be taken.

8.8 Proxy Voting

- 8.8.1 The appointment of a proxy shall be executed by or on behalf of the appointor and shall be in a form approved by the Trustees which shall without limitation:
- (a) state the name and address of the Member, or the duly authorised representative of an organisation, appointing the proxy;
 - (b) identify the person appointed to be that Member's, or the duly authorised representative of an organisation's, proxy and the general meeting in relation to which that person is appointed;
 - (c) be executed by or on behalf of the Member, or the duly authorised representative of an organisation, appointing the proxy; and
 - (d) be delivered to the Charity in accordance with these Articles and any instructions contained in the notice of the general meeting to which the proxy relates.
- 8.8.2 The appointment of a proxy and any authority under which it is executed or a copy of such authority certified notarially or in some other way approved by the Trustees may:
- (a) in the case of an instrument in Hard Copy Form be deposited at the Charity's registered office or at such other place within the United Kingdom as is specified in the notice convening the meeting or in any instrument of proxy sent out by the Charity in relation to the meeting not less than forty eight hours (excluding public holidays and weekends) before the time for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the person named in the instrument proposes to vote; or
 - (b) in the case of an appointment contained in an Electronic Form, where an address has been specified for the purpose of receiving information by Electronic Means:
 - (i) in the notice convening the meeting, or
 - (ii) in any instrument of proxy sent out by the Charity in relation to the meeting, or
 - (iii) in any invitation which is sent by Electronic Means to appoint a proxy issued by the Charity in relation to the meeting,

be received at such address not less than forty eight hours (excluding public holidays and weekends) before the time for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the person named in the appointment proposes to vote;

- (c) in the case of a poll taken more than forty eight hours (excluding public holidays and weekends) after it is demanded, be deposited or received as aforesaid after the poll has been demanded and not less than twenty four hours (excluding public holidays and weekends) before the time appointed for the taking of the poll; or
- (d) where the poll is not taken immediately but is taken not more than forty eight hours (excluding public holidays and weekends) after it was demanded, be delivered at the meeting at which the poll was demanded to the chair;

and an appointment of proxy which is not deposited, delivered or received in a manner so permitted shall be invalid.

8.8.3 An appointment of a proxy may be revoked by delivering to the Charity a notice given by or on behalf of the person by whom or on whose behalf the proxy notice was given. A notice revoking the appointment of a proxy only takes effect if it received by the Charity at its registered office or at such other place at which the instrument of proxy was duly deposited or, where the appointment of the proxy was sent by Electronic Means, at the address at which such appointment was duly received before the commencement of the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote to which it relates is given or the poll demanded or (in the case of a poll taken otherwise than on the same day as the meeting or adjourned meeting) the time appointed for taking the poll.

8.8.4 A vote given or poll demanded by the duly authorised representative of an organisation or by proxy shall be valid notwithstanding the previous determination of the authority of the person voting or demanding a poll unless notice of the determination was effective in accordance with Article 8.8.3.

8.9 AGMs

8.9.1 Except at first, the Charity must hold an AGM in every year which all Members are entitled to attend. The first AGM must be held within eighteen months after the Charity's incorporation.

8.9.2 At an AGM the Members:

- (a) receive the accounts of the Charity for the previous financial year;
- (b) receive the Trustees' report on the Charity's activities since the previous AGM;
- (c) accept the retirement of those Trustees who wish to retire or who are retiring by rotation;
- (d) elect persons to be Trustees to fill vacancies arising; and
- (e) deal with any other business put before them by the Trustees.

8.10 EGMs

Any general meeting which is not an AGM is an EGM.

9 **THE TRUSTEES**

- 9.1 The Trustees as Charity Trustees have control of the Charity and its property and funds.
- 9.2 The Trustees as at the date of the adoption of these Articles are, and shall retire at the end of the AGM held in the following years:

PETER GUNNER	2017 AGM
GILES PUGH	2017 AGM
NIGEL WEBB	2017 AGM
BARRY WELCH	2017 AGM
ANNE WHEATCROFT	2017 AGM
KELVYN DERRICK	2018 AGM
JOHN GAYE	2018 AGM
JIM WHITE	2018 AGM
TONY BATES	2019 AGM
JO DAVIES	2019 AGM
MARK KIBBLEWHITE	2019 AGM
JOHN RAYMOND	2019 AGM
ALICK SIMMONS	2019 AGM
JEREMY THOMAS	2019 AGM

- 9.3 Future Trustees shall be appointed as subsequently laid out in these Articles. No one may be appointed as a Trustee if he or she would be disqualified from acting under the provisions of Article 9.11 or is not a Member of the Charity.
- 9.4 The minimum number of Trustees that may be appointed shall be seven and the maximum number of Trustees that may be appointed shall be fifteen.
- 9.5 Every Trustee must sign a declaration of willingness to act as a Charity Trustee of the Charity before he or she is eligible to act as a Trustee and/or vote at any meeting of the Trustees.
- 9.6 Trustees shall be appointed by the Members at an AGM for a term of three years. In this Article a 'year' means the period between one AGM and the next.
- 9.7 A retiring Trustee shall be eligible for re-election.
- 9.8 All Trustees shall be subject to a formal performance review process to be agreed by the Trustees.
- 9.9 No person other than a Trustee retiring by rotation shall be appointed or re-appointed a Trustee at an AGM unless:
 - 9.9.1 He or she is recommended by the Trustees; or

- 9.9.2 not less than eighty nor more than one hundred Clear Days before the date appointed for the meeting, notice executed by a Member qualified to vote at the meeting has been given to the Charity of the intention to propose that person for appointment or re-appointment stating the particulars which would if he or she were so appointed or re-appointed be required to be filed by the Charity at Companies House together with a notice executed by that person of his or her willingness to be appointed or re-appointed (a **“Proposal Notice”**), and this person has been approved by the Trustees in accordance with Article 9.10.
- 9.10 Within fourteen days from the date of receipt of a Proposal Notice, the Trustees shall be entitled to reject a person put forward for election as a Trustee under Article 9.9.2 on the grounds that the appointment of the person proposed is or is likely to be prejudicial to, or incompatible with the Objects, or the Charity’s strategic plans as agreed by the Trustees from time to time. If the Trustees have not sent a written objection within the fourteen days from the date of receipt of the relevant Proposal Notice, then the person proposed is deemed to have been accepted. A Member whose Proposal Notice is rejected may not submit a further notice.
- 9.11 A Trustee’s term of office automatically terminates if:
- 9.11.1 he or she dies;
 - 9.11.2 he or she is disqualified under the Charities Act from acting as a Charity Trustee;
 - 9.11.3 a registered medical practitioner who is treating that person gives a written opinion to the Charity stating that he or she has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a Trustee and may remain so for three months;
 - 9.11.4 he or she is absent without permission of the Trustees from three consecutive meetings and is asked by a majority of the Trustees to resign;
 - 9.11.5 he or she ceases to be a Member;
 - 9.11.6 he or she resigns by written notice to the Trustees (but only if at least seven Trustees will remain in office); or
 - 9.11.7 he or she is removed by resolution passed by the Members present and voting at a general meeting after the meeting has invited the views of the Trustee concerned and considered the matter in the light of any such views.
- 9.12 The Trustees (subject to Article 9.4) may at any time co-opt any person duly qualified to be appointed as a Trustee to fill a vacancy in their number but a co-opted Trustee holds office only until the next AGM.
- 9.13 A Trustee may not appoint an alternate Trustee or anyone to act on his or her behalf at meetings of the Trustees.
- 9.14 A technical defect in the appointment of a Trustee of which the Trustees are unaware at the time does not invalidate decisions taken at a meeting.
- 10 PROCEEDINGS OF TRUSTEES**
- 10.1 The Trustees must hold at least three meetings each year.
- 10.2 The Chair may at any time, and two Trustees jointly may at any time, call a meeting of the Trustees.
- 10.3 Notice of every meeting shall be sent to each Trustee specifying the place, day and hour of the meeting and the business to be discussed.
- 10.4 A quorum at a meeting of the Trustees is five, excluding any Conflicted Trustee who has not been authorised to participate in discussions or a vote under Article 5.

- 10.5 A meeting of the Trustees may be held either in person or by suitable Electronic Means agreed by the Trustees in which all participants may communicate with all the other participants simultaneously but at least one meeting in each year must be held in person.
- 10.6 The Chair or (if the Chair is unable or unwilling to do so) some other Trustee chosen by the Trustees present chairs each meeting.
- 10.7 Every issue may be determined by a simple majority of the votes cast at a meeting but a resolution in writing agreed by all of the Trustees (other than any Conflicted Trustee who has not been authorised to vote under Article 5.7) is as valid as a resolution passed at a meeting provided that:
 - 10.7.1 a copy of the resolution is sent to or submitted to all the Trustees eligible to vote; and
 - 10.7.2 all of the Trustees have signified their agreement to the resolution in an authenticated document or documents which are received at the Charity's registered office within the period of 28 days beginning with the date on which the resolution was circulated to all the Trustees.

For this purpose the resolution may be contained in more than one document and will be treated as passed on the date of the last signature.

- 10.8 Except for the chair of the meeting, who has a second or casting vote, every Trustee present has one vote on each issue.
- 10.9 A Trustee must declare the nature and extent of any interest, direct or indirect, which he or she has in a proposed transaction or arrangement with the Charity or in any transaction or arrangement entered into by the Charity which has not previously been declared; and a Trustee must comply with the requirements of Article 5.
- 10.10 A procedural defect of which the Trustees are unaware at the time does not invalidate decisions taken at a meeting.

11 **POWERS OF TRUSTEES**

The Trustees have the following powers in the administration of the Charity in their capacity as Trustees:

- 11.1 to appoint (and remove) a Chair, Vice-Chair, and other honorary officers as they shall think fit, from among their number on such terms as they shall think fit;
- 11.2 to appoint (and remove) patrons, a president and vice-presidents, who shall not be a Trustee, for terms of three years, without limit on re-appointment for further terms of three years, as they shall think fit;
- 11.3 to invite observers to attend meetings of the Trustees, and to pay their reasonable expenses out of the Charity's funds. For the avoidance of doubt, such observers are not Trustees and shall not count towards the quorum for a meeting, shall not have any power to vote on a matter and shall, if so required by the Chair, leave the meeting when the Trustees vote on a matter;
- 11.4 to delegate any of their functions to committees consisting of two or more individuals appointed by them (but at least one member of every committee must be a Trustee and all proceedings of committees must be reported promptly to the Trustees). The Trustees may:
 - 11.4.1 impose conditions when delegating, including the conditions that:
 - (a) the relevant powers are to be exercised exclusively by the committee to whom they delegate;

- (b) no expenditure may be incurred on behalf of the Charity except in accordance with a budget previously agreed with the Trustees;

11.4.2 revoke or alter a delegation;

11.5 to delegate the day to day management of the affairs of the Charity in accordance with the directions of the Trustees to any person, by such means, to such an extent, in relation to such matters and on such terms and conditions (including the payment of a salary) as they think fit;

11.6 to make standing orders consistent with these Articles and the Act to govern proceedings at general meetings;

11.7 to make such reasonable and proper rules or bye laws as they may deem necessary or expedient for the proper conduct and management of the Charity. Such rules or bye laws may regulate the following matters but are not restricted to them:

11.7.1 the admission of Members (including the admission of organisations to membership) and the rights and privileges of such Members, and the entrance fees, subscriptions and other fees or payments to be made by Members;

11.7.2 the conduct of Members in relation to one another and to the Charity's employees and volunteers;

11.7.3 the setting aside of the whole or any part or parts of the Charity's premises at any particular time or times or for any particular purpose or purposes;

11.7.4 the procedure at general meetings and meetings of the Trustees in so far as such procedure is not regulated by the Act or these Articles;

11.7.5 generally, all such matters as are commonly the subject matter of company rules; provided that:

11.7.6 the Charity in general meeting has the power to alter, add to or repeal the rules or bye laws;

11.7.7 the Trustees adopt such means as they think sufficient to bring the rules and bye laws to the notice of the Members;

11.7.8 no rule or bye law shall be inconsistent with, or shall affect or repeal anything contained in, the Articles;

and

11.7.9 the rules or bye laws shall be binding on all Members;

11.8 to establish procedures to assist the resolution of disputes within the Charity;

11.9 to appoint Trustees under Article 9.12 or call a general meeting of the Members if the number of Trustees should fall below the required quorum; and

11.10 to exercise any powers of the Charity which are not reserved to the Members.

12 RECORDS & ACCOUNTS

12.1 The Trustees must comply with the requirements of the Act and of the Charities Act as to keeping financial records, the audit or independent examination of accounts and the preparation and transmission to the Registrar of Companies and the Commission of:

12.1.1 annual reports;

12.1.2 annual returns; and

12.1.3 annual statements of account.

- 12.2 The Trustees must keep records of:
- 12.2.1 all proceedings at general meetings;
 - 12.2.2 all proceedings at meetings of the Trustees;
 - 12.2.3 all reports of committees; and
 - 12.2.4 all professional advice obtained.
- 12.3 Accounting records relating to the Charity must be made available for inspection by any Trustee at any reasonable time during normal office hours at the registered office of the Charity and may be made available for inspection by Members who are not Trustees if the Trustees so decide.
- 12.4 A copy of the Charity's latest available statement of account must be supplied on request to any Trustee or Member, or to any other person who makes a written request and pays the Charity's reasonable costs, within two months.

13 MEANS OF COMMUNICATION TO BE USED

(In this Article "Document" includes without limitation a notice, proxy form, guarantee certificate or other information, except where expressly excluded.)

- 13.1 Any Document to be given to or by any person pursuant to these Articles must be in writing and sent or supplied in Hard Copy Form or Electronic Form, or (in the case of communications by the Charity) by making it available on a website, to an address for the time being notified for that purpose to the person giving the Document.
- 13.2 A Document may only be given in Electronic Form where the recipient has agreed (specifically or generally) that the document or information may be sent in that form, and this agreement has not been revoked.
- 13.3 A Document may only be given by being made available on a website if the recipient has agreed (specifically or generally) that the document or information may be sent in that form, or if the recipient is deemed to have agreed in accordance with the Act.
- 13.4 The Charity may deliver a Document to a Member:
- 13.4.1 by delivering it by hand to the postal address recorded for the Member on the register;
 - 13.4.2 by sending it by post or other delivery service in an envelope (with postage or delivery paid) to the postal address recorded for the Member on the register;
 - 13.4.3 by electronic mail (except a guarantee certificate) to an address notified by the Member in writing;
 - 13.4.4 by a website (except a guarantee certificate) the address of which shall be notified to the Member in writing; or
 - 13.4.5 by advertisement in at least two national newspapers.

This Article does not affect any provision in any relevant legislation or these Articles requiring notices or documents to be delivered in a particular way.

- 13.5 If a Document is delivered by hand, it is treated as being delivered at the time it is handed to or left for the Member.
- 13.6 If a Document is sent by post or other delivery service not referred to below, it is treated as being delivered:
- 13.6.1 forty eight hours after it was posted, if first class post was used; or

13.6.2 seventy two hours after it was posted or given to delivery agents, if first class post was not used;

provided it can be proved conclusively that a Document was delivered by post or other delivery service by showing that the envelope containing the Document was:

13.6.3 properly addressed; and

13.6.4 put into the post system or given to delivery agents with postage or delivery paid.

13.7 If a Document (other than a guarantee certificate) is sent by electronic mail, it is treated as being delivered twenty four hours after it was sent.

13.8 If a Document (other than a guarantee certificate) is sent by a website (in the case of communications by the Charity), it is treated as being delivered when the material was first made available on the website, or if later, when the recipient received (or is deemed to have received) notice of the fact that the material was available on the website.

13.9 If a Document is given by advertisement, it is treated as being delivered at midday on the day when the last advertisement appears in the newspapers.

13.10 A technical defect in the giving of notice of which the Trustees are unaware at the time does not invalidate decisions taken at a meeting.

13.11 A Member present in person, by duly authorised representative of an organisation or by proxy at any general meeting of the Charity shall be deemed to have received notice of the meeting, and where necessary of the purpose for which it was called.

13.12 A Member who does not register an address with the Charity or who registers only a postal address that is not within the United Kingdom shall not be entitled to receive any notice from the Charity.

14 **EXCLUSION OF MODEL ARTICLES**

Any model articles for a company limited by guarantee that may exist (including those constituting Schedule 2 to the Companies (Model Articles) Regulations 2008) are hereby expressly excluded.

15 **INDEMNITY**

15.1 The charity shall indemnify a Trustee against any liability incurred in that capacity, to the extent permitted by sections 232 to 234 of the Act;

15.2 In this Article a "Trustee" means any Trustee or former Trustee of the Charity.

15.3 The Charity may indemnify an auditor against any liability incurred by him or her:

15.3.1 in defending proceedings (whether civil or criminal) in which judgement is given in his or her favour or he, she or it is acquitted; or

15.3.2 in connection with an application under section 1157 of the Act (power of Court to grant relief in case of honest and reasonable conduct) in which relief is granted to him or her or it by the Court.

16 **DISSOLUTION**

16.1 If the Charity is dissolved the assets (if any) remaining after provision has been made for all its liabilities must be applied in one or more of the following ways as the Members may decide before the dissolution:

16.1.1 by transfer to the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (a charity registered with the Commission under number 207238); or

16.1.2 by transfer to one or more other bodies established for exclusively charitable purposes within, the same as or similar to the Objects, which shall prohibit the distribution of its or their income and property among its or their members, to such an extent at least as is imposed on the Charity under Article 5; or

16.1.3 directly for the Objects or for charitable purposes which are within or similar to the Objects; or

16.2 In default in such other manner consistent with charitable status as the Commission or High Court of Justice approves in writing in advance. And if effect cannot be given to this then by application to some charitable object.

16.3 A final report and statement of account must be sent to the Commission.

16.4 This Article may not be amended without the prior written consent of the Commission.

17 INTERPRETATION

17.1 References to an act of parliament are references to that act as amended or re-enacted from time to time and to any subordinate legislation made under it.

17.2 In these Articles expressions not otherwise defined which are defined in the Act have the same meaning.

17.3 In these Articles words importing one gender shall include all genders, and the singular includes the plural and vice versa.

17.4 In these Articles:

“Act” means the Companies Acts as defined in section 2 of the Companies Act 2006, in so far as they apply to the Charity;

“Address” Means a postal address or, for the purposes of electronic communication, an e-mail or postal address or a telephone number for receiving text messages in each case registered with the Charity;

“AGM” means an annual general meeting of the Charity;

“these Articles” means these articles of association;

“Chair” means the Trustee appointed by the Trustees to act as Chair under Article 11.1;

“Charities Act” means the Charities Act 2011

“Charity Trustee” has the meaning prescribed by section 177 of the Charities Act;

“Clear Day” in relation to a period of notice means a period excluding the day when the notice is given or deemed to be given and the day for which it is given or on which it is to take effect;

“Commission” means the Charity Commission for England and Wales or any body which replaces it;

“Conflicted Trustee” means a Trustee in respect of whom a conflict of interest arises or may reasonably arise because the Conflicted

Trustee or a Connected Person stands to receive a benefit from the Charity, or has some separate interest or duty in a matter to be decided, or in relation to information which is confidential to the Charity;

“Connected Person”	means, in relation to a Trustee, a person connected with a director within the meaning of the Act or a person connected with a Charity Trustee or a trustee for a charity within the meaning of the Charities Act;
“document”	includes, unless otherwise specified, any document sent or supplied in electronic form;
“EGM”	means an extraordinary general meeting of the Charity;
“Electronic Form” and “Electronic Means”	have the meanings respectively prescribed to them in the Act;
“Eligible Member”	has the meaning prescribed by the Companies Act 2006;
“executed”	includes any mode of execution;
“Financial Expert”	means an individual, company or firm who is authorised to give investment advice under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000;
“firm”	includes Limited Liability Partnership;
“Hard Copy Form”	has the meaning prescribed by the Companies Act 2006;
“indemnity insurance”	means insurance against personal liability incurred by any Trustee for an act or omission which is or is alleged to be a breach of trust or breach of duty, unless the act or omission amounts to a criminal offence or the Trustee concerned knew that, or was reckless whether, the act or omission was a breach of trust or breach of duty;
“material benefit”	means a benefit, direct or indirect, which may not be financial but has monetary value
“Member” and “Membership”	refer to company law membership of the Charity;
“Memorandum”	means the Charity’s memorandum of association;
“month”	means calendar month;
“Objects”	“Objects” means the Objects of the Charity as defined in Article 3;
“Proposal Notice”	means as defined in Article 9.9.2;

“Taxable Trading”	means carrying on a trade or business in such manner or on such a scale that some or all of the profits are subject to corporation tax;
“Trustee”	means a director of the Charity and “Trustees” means the directors;
“Vice-Chair”	means the Trustee appointed by the Trustees to act as Vice-Chair under Article 11.1;
“written” or “in writing”	means the representation or reproduction of words, symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied, without limitation by, Hard Copy Form, Electronic Means or otherwise; and
“year”	means calendar year.