

FRIENDS OF PAXTON PITS NATURE RESERVE

England & Wales · Charity number 1125221

Details

Other names	FPPNR
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2008-07-28
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address Paxton Pits Nature Reserve
Visitor Centre
High Street
Little Paxton
St. Neots
PE19 6ET

Phone 01480406795

Email friends@paxton-pits.org.uk

Website www.paxton-pits.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 1) TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT OF PAXTON PITS NATURE RESERVE BY PROMOTING BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY;2) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

Activities: Through volunteer action, The Friends works to: enhance habitat and create new habitat for wildlife at Paxton Pits; achieve expansion of the nature reserve; enhance visitor facilities and the visitor experience; promote and provide information about the Reserve and its wildlife through public events, publications and the Reserve website, and support informal and formal educational activities.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** CAMBRIDGSHIRE
- Cambridgeshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£88,301	£70,003	-	-
2023-12-31	£92,736	£152,364	-	-
2022-12-31	£67,405	£75,589	-	-
2021-12-31	£90,144	£52,598	-	-
2020-12-31	£57,166	£47,697	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Michael Arthur Anderson-Brown	Chair	2021-02-17
Alison Jean Barwell		2020-11-18
Carina Jasmine McKee		2024-04-14
David Wilson		2017-09-19
Ian Michael Crosby		2021-02-17
Jane Woodhead		2024-04-14
Martin Runchman		2014-06-04
Maxine Biggs		2024-04-14
Mike Thomas		2013-10-28
Neal Parkin		2021-11-17
Stephen Matthews		2024-04-14

FRIENDS OF PAXTON PITS NATURE RESERVE

England & Wales - Charity number 1125221

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/01/2024 Period start date To 31/12/2024 Period end date

Charity name: Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

Charity registration number: 1125221

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. to promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve (PPNR) by promoting biological diversity.2. to advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection, and improvement of the physical and natural environment.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17, 1.18 and 1.19	<p>FPPNR is involved in a range of activities which further its objectives. The activities can be broadly classified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• enhancement of habitat and creation of new habitat for wildlife through funding and volunteer action• action to achieve expansion of PPNR• engagement with planning issues which have the potential to impact on PPNR• support for wildlife monitoring on PPNR by volunteers• enhancement of visitor facilities through funding and volunteer action• running public events and promoting PPNR and its wildlife• enhancement of the 'visitor experience' through support for the Visitor Centre Volunteers Scheme and running the Group Visit programme• support for informal and formal educational activities• provision of information about PPNR through publications and the PPNR's website <p>FPPNR engaged in all of these activities during 2024 and this would not have been possible without the support of the membership of FPPNR, the active volunteers (ca.110 in 2024) and FPPNR's many other supporters.</p>

Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	<p>The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, "Charities and Public Benefit". The guidance was considered in determining and planning the activities noted above, at BoT meetings and at meetings of the Management Groups.</p> <p>FPPNR delivers this public benefit through the range of activities noted above. PPNR is open to everyone at all times, so each visitor benefits from the activities of FPPNR to improve the range and quantity of wildlife which visitors might see during their time on PPNR. Equally relevant to this goal are efforts to expand PPNR and support of wildlife monitoring. Likewise, work to achieve a favourable 'visitor experience', the availability of appropriate and welcoming visitor facilities and a range of events to enable the public to better enjoy PPNR's wildlife are of direct benefit to the visiting public. An important measure of the extent of the public benefit deriving from FPPNR's activities is the number of visitors to PPNR. The total number of visits in 2024 is estimated to be in excess of 120,000. Good access for those with mobility problems is a feature of PPNR, with a high proportion of the nature trails being accessible using mobility aids.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	Funds raised by FPPNR are invested into PPNR to achieve the purposes of the charity in the form of grants to the managing agency.
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<p>About 110 active volunteers supported PPNR and its managing agency, Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) CS, donating time equivalent to around four full time workers.</p> <p>FPPNR helps to recruit volunteers and supports their activities through provision of materials, information, advice and encouragement, and organisational services. Volunteer activities range through staffing the Visitor Centre, provisioning the Visitor Centre, habitat management, improvement of visitor facilities, organising and running events, leading guided walks, publicity and</p>

		promotion, administration, advocacy, planning and wildlife monitoring.
Other		<p>Contributions from members and supporters</p> <p>Without the support of its members and the enthusiasm and energy of its volunteers, FPPNR would not be able to achieve its aims.</p> <p>Membership of the charity was 1866 on 1st January 2024, and 1768 on 31st December 2024.</p> <p>Income from membership fees for 2024 was £14008.</p> <p>Members receive a newsletter; four editions of which were published in 2024.</p>

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>Habitat enhancement</p> <p>FPPNR ran 32 volunteer work parties on Sundays and Thursdays during 2024. Habitat management was carried out on PPNR and in Little Paxton Quarry. The main activities undertaken by volunteers were generating habitat for the summer migrant birds, maintaining survey routes, installation of kingfisher nest boxes, management of bird ringing net runs, specialist habitat management for Grizzled Skipper butterfly, maintaining areas of rough grassland and cutting specialist areas for invertebrate habitat. Some of this work is visible from the footpaths through the site and can be appreciated by the public.</p> <p>FPPNR is grateful to Aggregate Industries (AI), operators of Little Paxton Quarry, for their support and to HDC CS for staff involvement and equipment.</p> <p>FPPNR continued to work with AI to enhance the quality of the wildlife habitat which has been created within the company's quarry. These areas will be part of the planned extension to PPNR (see below).</p>

Action to achieve expansion of PPNR

In October 2007, agreements were signed between AI, landowners, Cambridgeshire County Council and HDC for a phased extension to PPNR increasing the size of PPNR by 3.7 times to ca. 700 acres. FPPNR had played a central role in achieving this outcome, being involved with planning, advocacy, negotiations, and provision of habitat management expertise throughout the development period.

During 2024, FPPNR continued to work in partnership with AI and HDC (as the future managing agency for the extension to PPNR) to enhance habitat in those parts of the quarry which will become part of PPNR in the near future (as described above).

The planned extension to PPNR was delayed as quarrying activities were suspended for a number of years. The quarry reopened in January 2016 and extraction commenced in April 2016. FPPNR have held regular meetings with AI and were involved in producing an updated environmental management plan for the quarry. The first phases of the extension were expected to be incorporated into PPNR in 2019, unfortunately this was not achieved due to delays with the completion of the necessary legal formalities, although the contractors appointed by AI commenced restoration works in April 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in further delays. The first phases are now expected to be incorporated into PPNR in 2025 with full completion by 2029.

Future management of PPNR

FPPNR started a dialogue in 2013 with HDC, as managing agency for PPNR, to consider the long-term future of PPNR. This was prompted by the fast-changing funding situation for local authorities. HDC appointed consultants in 2018 to produce a report on investment options for the future of PPNR. Actions from this report are ongoing and a restructuring within the council affecting PPNR is due to be implemented in 2025.

During 2024 FPPNR continued to work with AI, HDC and the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, and Northamptonshire (WTBCN) to implement the management plan for the extended PPNR covering the period 2017-2027.

Support for wildlife monitoring

FPPNR organised the annual Breeding Bird Survey (in its 26th year and involving 30+ volunteers). The survey is designed to monitor breeding bird success and thus inform habitat management. Analysis and reporting of the results were carried out by a FPPNR volunteer.

The FPPNR Wildlife Survey Group continued to gather data on a wide range of *Taxa* at PPNR during 2024 recording species at sites throughout PPNR. Specialist surveys for Fungi, Dragonflies, Butterflies, Bats, small mammals using traps and large mammals using trail cameras. These results are routinely made available to those planning habitat management on PPNR and in AI's quarry and to the iRecord data recording system.

FPPNR again supported British Trust for Ornithology volunteer bird ringers in their operation of a 'Constant Effort Site' on PPNR by habitat management in the ringing area. The results of these studies are of direct use in planning habitat management on PPNR and are of key importance in national estimates of the abundance and breeding success of small passerines.

The national Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) has been carried out by a team of volunteers at PPNR for several decades, giving a long-running and useful data set. FPPNR supports the survey by recruiting volunteers and facilitating site visits.

These activities enabled FPPNR to produce a report for 2024 on the bird and wildlife of PPNR which is available on the PPNR website.

During 2024 a number of projects were financed by the Friends including

- Installation of new storage container £3,240
- Purchase of water quality measuring equipment £3,042
- Purchase of a pontoon £10,795.

Enhancement of visitor facilities

Some of the major expenditure projects from 2023 continued into 2024 without significant further funding.

The other significant funding was £11,000 to upgrade the pedestrian path from the

Moorings Meadow to the boundary of the Reserve.

Other items of expenditure included:

- FPPNR rents three moorings on the River Great Ouse from HDC, for the exclusive use of visitors to PPNR as a 'River Viewpoint' (£1.4k in 2022).
- The network of benches scattered along PPNR's nature trails was maintained.
- Bird feeders at the Visitor Centre and at a bird hide on PPNR are maintained by FPPNR, at an estimated cost of £400 pa.

Funding of apprenticeship

In 2022, the trustees agreed to fund a 30-month, level 4 Countryside Ranger apprenticeship, managed by Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC). The cost to the charity over the full period was to be approximately £50,000. The first apprenticeship started on 1st January 2023 but in 2024 the apprentice was appointed to a permanent ranger's post by HDC and the apprenticeship ended. The trustees agreed to fund another apprenticeship commencing in 2025.

The apprentice is based on the Reserve and contributes to all aspects of its management, including staffing the visitor centre, practical habitat conservation and wildlife record-keeping. The trustees are actively engaged in monitoring the work of the apprentice.

Running public events and promoting PPNR and its wildlife

FPPNR ran a range of events in 2024. These included monthly guided walks, talks on a range of wildlife topics and wildlife watching events. All were open to the public.

In July 2024 we organised a Dragonfly and Butterfly Day, with guided walks, and featuring an activity stand run by a representative of the British Dragonfly Society.

Enhancement of the 'visitor experience'

FPPNR supports the volunteers in their role of keeping the Visitor Centre open and providing a friendly and informative welcome to visitors. Following the Covid-enforced closure of the Visitor Centre in

2020 and 2021, we took the opportunity to reorganise the Centre to improve the visitor experience. FPPNR provide refreshments and the opportunity for visitors to purchase a limited selection of conservation-related goods (e.g. bird seed and feeders, wildlife identification guides, nest boxes, etc.). Their main role, however, is to make visits to PPNR as enjoyable as possible through friendly interaction and sharing their knowledge of PPNR and its wildlife. Support from FPPNR is provided through volunteer contributions to the administration of the Visitor Centre Volunteers Scheme, funding improvements to the Visitor Centre, provision of free hot drinks to volunteers on duty and special events for participants in the Scheme.

FPPNR facilitates visits by organised groups to PPNR. Group visits are booked to ensure they can be accommodated, Visitor Centre facilities and parking are guaranteed, and a leader is offered for a guided walk. Participants are invited to give a small donation in return for this service.

Support for informal and formal educational activities

PPNR's Environmental Education Centre (EEC), run by the WTBCN, is used for both formal and informal education for a wide range of age groups. Around 4,000 participants use the Centre each year, including classes from many schools in the local area, and public 'drop-in' sessions during the school holidays. The Trust's "Little Bugs Club" for pre-school children, Wildlife Watch Group for children of ages from ca. 5 years to 11 years and "Greenwatch" group for teenagers are important contributions to wildlife education.

Although not directly involved in the work with children, FPPNR continues to support this project because it makes a substantial contribution to delivering objective 2 for the Charity. Cooperation is ensured by the WTBCN's EEC Manager being a member of the FPPNR's Events Team and Members and Visitors Group.

Provision of information about PPNR

FPPNR's website, www.paxton-pits.org.uk, is designed and maintained by one of our trustees. The site aims to report developments, provide a resource for information about PPNR, its history and future plans, and to keep visitors to the site

		<p>up to date with latest wildlife sightings. PPNR is listed on <i>Trip Advisor</i> as the number one attraction in the St Neots area.</p> <p>A monthly MailChimp 'What's Around' is sent to members.</p> <p>FPPNR and the Rangers attempt to keep PPNR and the activities on offer in the public eye through regular reporting to the local media.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

<p>Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period</p>	<p>Para 1.21</p>	<p>During 2024 the charity had a surplus of £16641.</p> <p>The charity remains in a strong financial position to achieve its purposes and to meet future challenges.</p>
<p>Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held</p>	<p>Para 1.22</p>	<p>Purpose The purpose of this policy is to explain why FPPNR holds Financial Reserves and so demonstrate that the Charity's finances are managed in a responsible way to allow for planned and unplanned funding requirements. It is written against the background that Charity Law requires any income received by a charity to be spent within a reasonable period of receipt. Trustees must, therefore, be able to justify the holding of income as Reserves.</p> <p>Definition Financial Reserves are those parts of a charity's unrestricted funds which are freely available to be spent on any of the charity's purposes.</p> <p>Policy FPPNR has elected to divide its Financial Reserves into two elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• accumulated over time to pay for planned major projects which cannot be funded from a single year's income.• set aside to cover unexpected and unplanned events. <p>FPPNR has an overriding Financial Policy not to make any financial commitment for which it does not have sufficient funds.</p> <p>Planned Projects. PPNR is being developed under a rolling management plan which includes periodic, major projects to restore gravel workings to a condition suitable for both wildlife and public access. These projects cannot be funded from any single year's income and thus money is set aside year on year. The size of the Financial Reserve will be calculated on the basis of expected income and the planned date for the particular project. It will be reviewed regularly and, in any event, not less than once per year. Where possible these Financial Reserves will be placed in risk-free, short-term, interest-earning bank accounts. The</p>

		<p>reason(s) for, and size of, this Financial Reserve will be explained at every AGM.</p> <p>Unexpected and Unplanned Events. It is prudent financial management to allow for unforeseen emergencies or other unexpected needs for funds. Examples include: an unexpected large repair bill, an urgent, unanticipated project or a situation when funds might be needed to give the Trustees time to take action if income falls markedly below expectations. This Financial Reserve has been set at £10,000 to be held in an instant access bank account. This sum is reviewed annually and the reason for, and size of, this Financial Reserve will be explained at every AGM.</p> <p>Implementation of the Policy The Treasurer will normally provide Trustees with a monthly report of income and expenditure, a list of all planned financial commitments and an assessment of the net income against expectations. The report will show current balances and calculate the funds available for planned future projects. The Board of Trustees will formally review the financial position at each of its meetings.</p> <p>Policy Review This policy will be reviewed annually, prior to the AGM.</p>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£253456
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	None
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	None

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	<p>Receipts and payments Income available for application to FPPNR's charitable objects arises from four main sources: membership subscriptions, donations, events, and sales of goods. In 2024, these sources generated £14008 (subscriptions), £9095 (donations), and £36156 (surplus on refreshments and sales). We also received £280 in bequests. <i>The Kingfisher Lottery Club</i>, launched during 2013, generated a net income of £2600 in 2024. Expenditure on FPPNR's charitable objects totalled £12988 in 2024. Funding of the</p>
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		<p>apprenticeship (see above) cost £18326. Servicing the membership, stationery, printing, insurance, etc., amounted to £10258, although much of this expenditure underpinned delivery of the charitable objects. After allowance for expenditure on refreshments and sales, funds applied to the charitable objects and administration costs, a surplus of £16641 resulted.</p>
<p>Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted</p>	<p>Para 1.46</p>	
<p>A description of the principal risks facing the charity</p>	<p>Para 1.46</p>	<p>Risk management Throughout its 27 years of operation, FPPNR has developed policies and procedures which have enabled it to further its objectives while minimising risks to the organisation's finances and reputation. A central principle has been to only undertake activities/projects in pursuit of FPPNR's objectives which could be comfortably funded from the current funds available in the FPPNR bank accounts. This, together with the relatively simple (and low risk) operations of the organisation, has enabled FPPNR to steadily expand its activities and reputation in the community. This approach was continued throughout 2024. Income was mainly derived from four sources: membership subscriptions, donations, and sales of goods compatible with the primary purpose of FPPNR. No staff were employed, and the owned property was minimal – mainly tools for habitat management and some items of shop equipment and stock. A formal Risk Assessment covering Compliance, Law and Regulation; Funds; Property; Liability and Reputation was adopted in January 2013 and is reviewed annually.</p>
<p>Other</p>		<p>Management FPPNR's finances are managed directly by the BoT. The Treasurer reports on the current financial position at each of the BoT meetings.</p> <p>The Treasurer is authorised to pay costs incurred through the routine and recurring activities of FPPNR (e.g. refreshments, bird seed and other sales goods, postage, stationery, fees for visiting speakers, events, etc.).</p> <p>All non-routine expenditure was sanctioned by the BoT and funds for larger projects</p>

		<p>were considered on the basis of written proposals.</p> <p>All cheques were signed by two of six authorised signatories.</p> <p>Independently examined accounts for 2024 were adopted at the AGM on 12th March 2025.</p>
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Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve (FPPNR) was formed through adoption of a Constitution at its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 9th May 1995. Substantial amendments to the Constitution were adopted at its 12th AGM on 23rd February 2007, prior to FPPNR becoming a charity registered in England and Wales on 28th July 2008.
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	FPPNR is an Association consisting of 1768 members (as of 31st December 2024)
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees, including the Officers (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer), are elected annually at the AGM (March). The Managing Agency for Paxton Pits Nature Reserve (PPNR), <i>i.e.</i> Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) have the right to appoint one trustee, but this position has been vacant since September 2023. There can be no fewer than three Trustees and no more than 14 Trustees (including the Officers). If the number of Trustees is less than 14, the Trustees may also appoint any person who is willing to act as a Trustee. All Trustees (including Officers) must retire at the next AGM after his or her appointment but shall be eligible for re-election at that AGM.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	<p>Trustee Induction and Training New Trustees are provided with a selection of Charity Commission guidance and information literature and are engaged in wide ranging discussions with the Chairman of the Trustees and other Trustees. The purpose of these discussions is to enable new Trustees to explore the breadth of activity of FPPNR and to better understand the role expected of them. Most Trustees are members of at least one of the two Management Groups, and this enhances their knowledge of the organisation. Nine of the Trustees who had served during 2023 were re-elected at the AGM in 2024.</p> <p>Trustees – voluntary role All Trustees give their time voluntarily and received no remuneration or other benefits during 2024.</p>
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<p>The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works</p>	<p>Para 1.51</p>	<p>Organisation The Board of Trustees (BoT) is required to meet at least quarterly; Five meetings were held in 2024. The BoT is supported by two Management Groups, the Members and Visitors Group (MVG) and the Conservation and Volunteers Group (CVG). The Management Groups are chaired by Trustees or non-Trustee members of FPPNR and are composed of Trustees and members of FPPNR with particular expertise or experience. In accordance with Clause 29 of the Constitution, the BoT has approved Rules which, together with additional protocols/guidance, set out the responsibilities and procedures for the BoT and the Management Groups. It follows from Clause 29 (5) that the Rules made by the BoT only concern matters which are additional to, or derived from, those governed by the Constitution. Each Management Group has clearly defined responsibilities for progressing particular areas of FPPNR's activities. The BoT receives reports and recommendations from the Management Groups at each of its meetings, determines policies and has responsibility for the good governance of the charity and ensuring that all FPPNR activities are compatible with its charitable objectives. In its role as voluntary support group for PPNR, FPPNR sets a high priority on maintenance of good communications between Trustees/ Management Group members and volunteers on the one hand, and HDC Countryside Services (HDC CS) staff on the other. This is facilitated through appointment of one of the Trustees by HDC CS and by the almost daily contact between some Trustees and HDC CS staff.</p>
<p>Other</p>		

Reference and Administrative details

<p>Charity name</p>	<p>Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve</p>
<p>Other name the charity uses</p>	<p>FPPNR</p>
<p>Registered charity number</p>	<p>1125221</p>
<p>Charity's principal address</p>	<p>Paxton Pits Nature Reserve Visitor Centre High Street Little Paxton St Neots PE19 6ET</p>

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Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Martin Runchman			Members at AGM
2	Mike Thomas			Members at AGM
3	David Wilson			Members at AGM
4	Sophie Baker			Members at AGM
5	Alison Barwell (formerly Inwood)			Members at AGM
6	Mike Anderson-Brown	Chairman		Members at AGM
7	Ian Crosby	Secretary		Members at AGM
8	Neal Parkin			Members at AGM
9	Rita Brooke	Treasurer		Members at AGM
10	Sian Therese		Resigned 13/03/2024	Members at AGM
11	Maxine Biggs		Appointed 14/04/2024	Members at AGM
12	Carina McKee (formerly Watson)		Appointed 14/04/2024	Members at AGM
13	Jane Woodhead		Appointed 14/04/2024	Members at AGM
14	Stephen Matthews		Appointed 14/04/2024	Members at AGM
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
None		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
None		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
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Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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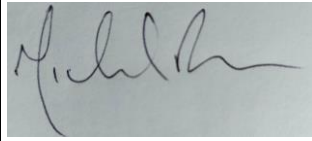
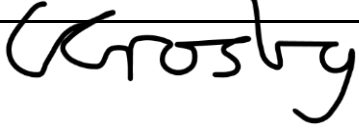
Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
	Full name(s) Michael Anderson-Brown	Ian Crosby
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Secretary
Date	22/10/2025	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve	Charity No. 1125221
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Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2024	To	Period end date 31/12/2024
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
VC & Bird Food Sales	56,285	-	-	56,285	53,076
Donations & Gift Aid	8,563	-	-	8,563	16,627
Bequests	280	-	-	280	110
Lottery Membership	4,790	-	-	4,790	4,910
Membership Fees	14,008	-	-	14,008	14,184
Banks Interest	4,375	-	-	4,375	3,828
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	88,301	-	-	88,301	92,736
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	88,301	-	-	88,301	92,736
A3 Payments					
Lottery Prizes	2,190	-	-	2,190	1,875
Admin & Computings	2,801	-	-	2,801	2,919
Conservation & Projects	12,988	-	-	12,988	87,887
VC Card Services	2,037	-	-	2,037	1,665
Stationery Printing & Post	4,478	-	-	4,478	7,873
Banking & Insurance	942	-	-	942	918
Visitor Centre Purchases	20,138	-	-	20,138	23,905
Apprentice	16,660	-	-	16,660	20,012
Visitor Centre Enhancements	7,769	-	-	7,769	5,311
Sub total	70,003	-	-	70,003	152,364
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	70,003	-	-	70,003	152,364
Net of receipts/(payments)	18,298	-	-	18,298	- 59,628
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	233,303	-	-	233,303	292,931
Cash funds this year end	251,601	-	-	251,601	233,303

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at Bank	251,505	-	-
	Stock Till & Petty Cash	2,164	-	-
	Total cash funds	253,669	-	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

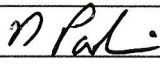
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Other Accounts Payable	Various	2,068	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Neal Parkin	21/08/2025
	Michael Anderson-Brown	21/08/2025



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity name: Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

On accounts for the year ended

31st December 2024 Charity no (if any) 1125221

Set out on pages

1 and 2 of Form CC16a

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed: [Signature]

Date: 27/09/2025

Name: David Stephen Jones FCA

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Fellow of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address:

6 Murrell Close, St Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 1LN

FRIENDS OF PAXTON PITS NATURE RESERVE

England & Wales - Charity number 1125221

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/01/2023 Period start date To 31/12/2023 Period end date

Charity name: Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

Charity registration number: 1125221

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. to promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve (PPNR) by promoting biological diversity.2. to advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection, and improvement of the physical and natural environment.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17, 1.18 and 1.19	<p>FPPNR is involved in a range of activities which further its objectives. The activities can be broadly classified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• enhancement of habitat and creation of new habitat for wildlife through funding and volunteer action• action to achieve expansion of PPNR• engagement with planning issues which have the potential to impact on PPNR• support for wildlife monitoring on PPNR by volunteers• enhancement of visitor facilities through funding and volunteer action• running public events and promoting PPNR and its wildlife• enhancement of the 'visitor experience' through support for the Visitor Centre Volunteers Scheme and running the Group Visit programme• support for informal and formal educational activities• provision of information about PPNR through publications and the PPNR's website <p>FPPNR engaged in all of these activities during 2023 and this would not have been possible without the support of the membership of FPPNR, the active volunteers (ca.110 in 2023) and PPNR's many other supporters.</p>

Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	<p>The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, "Charities and Public Benefit". The guidance was considered in determining and planning the activities noted above, at BoT meetings and at meetings of the Management Groups.</p> <p>FPPNR delivers this public benefit through the range of activities noted above. PPNR is open to everyone at all times, so each visitor benefits from the activities of FPPNR to improve the range and quantity of wildlife which visitors might see during their time on PPNR. Equally relevant to this goal are efforts to expand PPNR and support of wildlife monitoring. Likewise, work to achieve a favourable 'visitor experience', the availability of appropriate and welcoming visitor facilities and a range of events to enable the public to better enjoy PPNR's wildlife are of direct benefit to the visiting public. An important measure of the extent of the public benefit deriving from FPPNR's activities is the number of visitors to PPNR. The total number of visits in 2023 is estimated to be in excess of 120,000. Good access for those with mobility problems is a feature of PPNR, with a high proportion of the nature trails being accessible using mobility aids.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	Funds raised by FPPNR are invested into PPNR to achieve the purposes of the charity in the form of grants to the managing agency.
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<p>About 110 active volunteers supported PPNR and its managing agency, Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) CS, donating time equivalent to around four full time workers.</p> <p>FPPNR helps to recruit volunteers and supports their activities through provision of materials, information, advice and encouragement, and organisational services. Volunteer activities range through staffing the Visitor Centre, provisioning the Visitor Centre, habitat management, improvement of visitor facilities, organising and running events, leading guided walks, publicity and</p>

		promotion, administration, advocacy, planning and wildlife monitoring.
Other		<p>Contributions from members and supporters</p> <p>Without the support of its members and the enthusiasm and energy of its volunteers, FPPNR would not be able to achieve its aims.</p> <p>After several years with no increase in membership fees, the charity was barely breaking even on membership after printing and postage costs. The trustees decide to double membership fees from £4 to £8 per year (for individual members). As a consequence, membership fell from 2,294 on 1st January 2023 to 1,866 on 31st December 2023. However, income from membership fees increased from £9,052 in 2022 to £14,184 in 2023 (excluding Gift Aid).</p> <p>Members receive a newsletter; four editions of which were published in 2023.</p>

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>Habitat enhancement</p> <p>FPPNR ran 23 volunteer work parties on Sundays and Thursdays during 2023. Habitat management was carried out on PPNR and in Little Paxton Quarry. The main activities undertaken by volunteers were generating habitat for the summer migrant birds, maintaining survey routes, completion of sand martin nest boxes, installation of kingfisher nest boxes and cutting specialist areas for invertebrate habitat. Some of this work is visible from the footpaths through the site and can be appreciated by the public.</p> <p>FPPNR is grateful to Aggregate Industries (AI), operators of Little Paxton Quarry, for their support and to HDC CS for staff involvement and equipment.</p> <p>FPPNR continued to work with AI to enhance the quality of the wildlife habitat which has been created within the company's quarry. These areas will be part of the planned extension to PPNR (see below).</p>

Action to achieve expansion of PPNR

In October 2007, agreements were signed between AI, landowners, Cambridgeshire County Council and HDC for a phased extension to PPNR increasing the size of PPNR by 3.7 times to ca. 700 acres. FPPNR had played a central role in achieving this outcome, being involved with planning, advocacy, negotiations, and provision of habitat management expertise throughout the development period.

During 2023, FPPNR continued to work in partnership with AI and HDC (as the future managing agency for the extension to PPNR) to enhance habitat in those parts of the quarry which will become part of PPNR in the near future (as described above).

The planned extension to PPNR was delayed as quarrying activities were suspended for a number of years. The quarry reopened in January 2016 and extraction commenced in April 2016. FPPNR have held regular meetings with AI and were involved in producing an updated environmental management plan for the quarry. The first phases of the extension were expected to be incorporated into PPNR in 2019, unfortunately this was not achieved due to delays with the completion of the necessary legal formalities, although the contractors appointed by AI commenced restoration works in April 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in further delays. The first phases are now expected to be incorporated into PPNR in 2024 with full completion by 2029.

Future management of PPNR

FPPNR started a dialogue in 2013 with HDC, as managing agency for PPNR, to consider the long-term future of PPNR. This was prompted by the fast-changing funding situation for local authorities. HDC appointed consultants in 2018 to produce a report on investment options for the future of PPNR. Actions from this report are ongoing and a restructuring within the council affecting PPNR is due to be implemented in 2024.

During 2023 FPPNR continued to work with AI, HDC and the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, and Northamptonshire (WTBCN) to implement the management plan for the extended PPNR covering the period 2017-2027.

Support for wildlife monitoring

FPPNR organised the annual Breeding Bird Survey (in its 26th year and involving 30+ volunteers). The survey is designed to monitor breeding bird success and thus inform habitat management. Analysis and reporting of the results were carried out by a FPPNR volunteer.

The FPPNR Wildlife Survey Group continued to gather data on a wide range of *Taxa* at PPNR during 2023 recording species at sites throughout PPNR. Specialist surveys for Fungi, Dragonflies, Butterflies, Bats, small mammals using traps and large mammals using trail cameras. These results are routinely made available to those planning habitat management on PPNR and in AI's quarry and to the iRecord data recording system.

FPPNR again supported British Trust for Ornithology volunteer bird ringers in their operation of a 'Constant Effort Site' on PPNR by habitat management in the ringing area. The results of these studies are of direct use in planning habitat management on PPNR and are of key importance in national estimates of the abundance and breeding success of small passerines.

The national Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) has been carried out by a team of volunteers at PPNR for several decades, giving a long-running and useful data set. FPPNR supports the survey by recruiting volunteers and facilitating site visits.

These activities enabled FPPNR to produce a report for 2023 on the bird and wildlife of PPNR which is available on the PPNR website.

During 2023 a number of projects were financed by the Friends including

- Installation of new storage container £3,240
- Purchase of water quality measuring equipment £3,042
- Purchase of a pontoon £10,795.

Enhancement of visitor facilities

Some of the major expenditure projects from 2022 continued into 2023 without significant further funding.

The other significant funding was £11,000 to upgrade the pedestrian path from the Moorings Meadow to the boundary of the Reserve.

Other items of expenditure included:

- FPPNR rents three moorings on the River Great Ouse from HDC, for the exclusive use of visitors to PPNR as a 'River Viewpoint' (£1.4k in 2022).
- The network of benches scattered along PPNR's nature trails was maintained.
- Bird feeders at the Visitor Centre and at a bird hide on PPNR are maintained by FPPNR, at an estimated cost of £400 pa.

Funding of apprenticeship

In 2022, the trustees agreed to fund a 30-month, level 4 Countryside Ranger apprenticeship, managed by Huntingdonshire District Council. The cost to the charity over the full period is approximately £50,000. The apprentice is based on the Reserve and contributes to all aspects of its management, including staffing the visitor centre, practical habitat conservation and wildlife record-keeping. The trustees are actively engaged in monitoring the work of the apprentice. The apprenticeship started on 1st January 2023.

Running public events and promoting PPNR and its wildlife

FPPNR ran a range of events in 2023. These included monthly guided walks, talks on a range of wildlife topics, wildlife watching events and a photography competition. All were open to the public.

In July 2023 we organised a Dragonfly and Butterfly Day, with guided walks, and featuring an activity stand run by a representative of the British Dragonfly Society.

Enhancement of the 'visitor experience'

FPPNR supports the volunteers in their role of keeping the Visitor Centre open and providing a friendly and informative

welcome to visitors. Following the Covid-enforced closure of the Visitor Centre in 2020 and 2021, we took the opportunity to reorganise the Centre to improve the visitor experience. FPPNR provide refreshments and the opportunity for visitors to purchase a limited selection of conservation-related goods (e.g. bird seed and feeders, wildlife identification guides, nest boxes, etc.). Their main role, however, is to make visits to PPNR as enjoyable as possible through friendly interaction and sharing their knowledge of PPNR and its wildlife. Support from FPPNR is provided through volunteer contributions to the administration of the Visitor Centre Volunteers Scheme, funding improvements to the Visitor Centre, provision of free hot drinks to volunteers on duty and special events for participants in the Scheme.

FPPNR facilitates visits by organised groups to PPNR. Group visits are booked to ensure they can be accommodated, Visitor Centre facilities and parking are guaranteed, and a leader is offered for a guided walk. Participants are invited to give a small donation in return for this service.

Support for informal and formal educational activities

PPNR's Environmental Education Centre (EEC), run by the WTBCN, is used for both formal and informal education for a wide range of age groups. Around 4,000 participants use the Centre each year, including classes from many schools in the local area, and public 'drop-in' sessions during the school holidays. The Trust's "Little Bugs Club" for pre-school children, Wildlife Watch Group for children of ages from ca. 5 years to 11 years and "Greenwatch" group for teenagers are important contributions to wildlife education.

Although not directly involved in the work with children, FPPNR continues to support this project because it makes a substantial contribution to delivering objective 2 for the Charity. Cooperation is ensured by the WTBCN's EEC Manager being a member of the FPPNR's Events Team and Members and Visitors Group.

Provision of information about PPNR

FPPNR's website, www.paxton-pits.org.uk, is designed and maintained by one of our trustees. The site aims to report developments, provide a resource for

		<p>information about PPNR, its history and future plans, and to keep visitors to the site up to date with latest wildlife sightings. PPNR is listed on <i>Trip Advisor</i> as the number one attraction in the St Neots area.</p> <p>A monthly MailChimp 'What's Around' is sent to members.</p> <p>FPPNR and the Rangers attempt to keep PPNR and the activities on offer in the public eye through regular reporting to the local media.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

<p>Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period</p>	<p>Para 1.21</p>	<p>During 2023 the charity was able to fund a number of projects which resulted in a deficit of £59,628.</p> <p>The charity remains in a strong financial position to achieve its purposes and to meet future challenges.</p>
<p>Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held</p>	<p>Para 1.22</p>	<p>Purpose The purpose of this policy is to explain why FPPNR holds Financial Reserves and so demonstrate that the Charity's finances are managed in a responsible way to allow for planned and unplanned funding requirements. It is written against the background that Charity Law requires any income received by a charity to be spent within a reasonable period of receipt. Trustees must, therefore, be able to justify the holding of income as Reserves.</p> <p>Definition Financial Reserves are those parts of a charity's unrestricted funds which are freely available to be spent on any of the charity's purposes.</p> <p>Policy FPPNR has elected to divide its Financial Reserves into two elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• accumulated over time to pay for planned major projects which cannot be funded from a single year's income.• set aside to cover unexpected and unplanned events. <p>FPPNR has an overriding Financial Policy not to make any financial commitment for which it does not have sufficient funds.</p> <p>Planned Projects. PPNR is being developed under a rolling management plan which includes periodic, major projects to restore gravel workings to a condition suitable for both wildlife and public access. These projects cannot be funded from any single year's income and thus money is set aside year on year. The size of the Financial Reserve will be calculated on the basis of expected income and the planned date for the particular project. It will be reviewed regularly and, in any event, not less than once per year. Where possible these Financial Reserves</p>

		<p>will be placed in risk-free, short-term, interest-earning bank accounts. The reason(s) for, and size of, this Financial Reserve will be explained at every AGM.</p> <p>Unexpected and Unplanned Events. It is prudent financial management to allow for unforeseen emergencies or other unexpected needs for funds. Examples include: an unexpected large repair bill, an urgent, unanticipated project or a situation when funds might be needed to give the Trustees time to take action if income falls markedly below expectations. This Financial Reserve has been set at £10,000 to be held in an instant access bank account. This sum is reviewed annually and the reason for, and size of, this Financial Reserve will be explained at every AGM.</p> <p>Implementation of the Policy The Treasurer will normally provide Trustees with a monthly report of income and expenditure, a list of all planned financial commitments and an assessment of the net income against expectations. The report will show current balances and calculate the funds available for planned future projects. The Board of Trustees will formally review the financial position at each of its meetings.</p> <p>Policy Review This policy will be reviewed annually, prior to the AGM.</p>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£233,974
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	None
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	None

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	<p>Receipts and payments Income available for application to FPPNR's charitable objects arises from four main sources: membership subscriptions, donations, events, and sales of goods. In 2023, these sources generated £14184 (subscriptions), £16630 (donations, grants, Gift Aid), and £29171 (surplus on refreshments and sales). We also received £110 in bequests. <i>The Kingfisher Lottery Club</i>, launched during 2013, generated a net income of £3035 in 2023.</p>
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		<p>Expenditure on FPPNR's charitable objects totalled £87887 in 2023. A new, additional expenditure was the funding of the apprenticeship (see above) at a cost of £20012. Servicing the membership, stationery, printing, insurance, etc., amounted to £13374, although much of this expenditure underpinned delivery of the charitable objects. After allowance for expenditure on refreshments and sales, funds applied to the charitable objects and administration costs, a deficit of £59628 resulted.</p>
<p>Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted</p>	<p>Para 1.46</p>	
<p>A description of the principal risks facing the charity</p>	<p>Para 1.46</p>	<p>Risk management Throughout its 27 years of operation, FPPNR has developed policies and procedures which have enabled it to further its objectives while minimising risks to the organisation's finances and reputation. A central principle has been to only undertake activities/projects in pursuit of FPPNR's objectives which could be comfortably funded from the current funds available in the FPPNR bank accounts. This, together with the relatively simple (and low risk) operations of the organisation, has enabled FPPNR to steadily expand its activities and reputation in the community. This approach was continued throughout 2023. Income was mainly derived from four sources: membership subscriptions, donations, and sales of goods compatible with the primary purpose of FPPNR. No staff were employed, and the owned property was minimal – mainly tools for habitat management and some items of shop equipment and stock. A formal Risk Assessment covering Compliance, Law and Regulation; Funds; Property; Liability and Reputation was adopted in January 2013 and is reviewed annually.</p>
<p>Other</p>		<p>Management FPPNR's finances are managed directly by the BoT. The Treasurer reports on the current financial position at each of the BoT meetings.</p> <p>The Treasurer is authorised to pay costs incurred through the routine and recurring activities of FPPNR (e.g. refreshments, bird seed and other sales goods, postage,</p>

		<p>stationery, fees for visiting speakers, events, etc.).</p> <p>All non-routine expenditure was sanctioned by the BoT and funds for larger projects were considered on the basis of written proposals.</p> <p>All cheques were signed by two of six authorised signatories.</p> <p>Independently examined accounts for 2023 were adopted at the AGM on 13th March 2024.</p>
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Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve (FPPNR) was formed through adoption of a Constitution at its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 9th May 1995. Substantial amendments to the Constitution were adopted at its 12th AGM on 23rd February 2007, prior to FPPNR becoming a charity registered in England and Wales on 28th July 2008
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	FPPNR is an Association consisting of 1866 members (as of 31st December 2023)
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees, including the Officers (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer), are elected annually at the AGM (March). One Trustee is appointed by the Managing Agency for Paxton Pits Nature Reserve (PPNR), <i>i.e.</i> Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC). There can be no fewer than three Trustees and no more than 14 Trustees (including the Officers). If the number of Trustees is less than 14, the Trustees may also appoint any person who is willing to act as a Trustee. All Trustees (including Officers) must retire at the next AGM after his or her appointment but shall be eligible for re-election at that AGM.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	<p>Trustee Induction and Training New Trustees are provided with a selection of Charity Commission guidance and information literature and are engaged in wide ranging discussions with the Chairman of the Trustees and other Trustees. The purpose of these discussions is to enable new Trustees to explore the breadth of activity of FPPNR and to better understand the role expected of them. Most Trustees are members of at least one of the two Management Groups, and this enhances their knowledge of the organisation. Eleven of the Trustees who had served during 2022 were re-elected at the AGM in 2023.</p> <p>Trustees – voluntary role All Trustees give their time voluntarily and received no remuneration or other benefits during 2023.</p>

The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	<p>Organisation</p> <p>The Board of Trustees (BoT) is required to meet at least quarterly; Four meetings were held in 2023. The BoT is supported by two Management Groups, the Members and Visitors Group (MVG) and the Conservation and Volunteers Group (CVG). The Management Groups are chaired by Trustees or non-Trustee members of FPPNR and are composed of Trustees and members of FPPNR with particular expertise or experience. In accordance with Clause 29 of the Constitution, the BoT has approved Rules which, together with additional protocols/guidance, set out the responsibilities and procedures for the BoT and the Management Groups. It follows from Clause 29 (5) that the Rules made by the BoT only concern matters which are additional to, or derived from, those governed by the Constitution. Each Management Group has clearly defined responsibilities for progressing particular areas of FPPNR's activities. The BoT receives reports and recommendations from the Management Groups at each of its meetings, determines policies and has responsibility for the good governance of the charity and ensuring that all FPPNR activities are compatible with its charitable objectives. In its role as voluntary support group for PPNR, FPPNR sets a high priority on maintenance of good communications between Trustees/ Management Group members and volunteers on the one hand, and HDC Countryside Services (HDC CS) staff on the other. This is facilitated through appointment of one of the Trustees by HDC CS and by the almost daily contact between some Trustees and HDC CS staff.</p>
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve
Other name the charity uses	FPPNR
Registered charity number	1125221
Charity's principal address	Paxton Pits Nature Reserve Visitor Centre High Street Little Paxton St Neots PE19 6ET

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Trevor Gunton		Resigned 19/3/23	
2	Matt Hall		Resigned 16/9/23	Huntingdonshire District Council as the Managing Agency for Paxton Pits Nature Reserve
3	Martin Runchman			Members at AGM
4	Mike Thomas			Members at AGM
5	David Wilson			Members at AGM
6	Sophie Baker			Members at AGM
7	Alison Inwood	Treasurer until 1/3/23		Members at AGM
8	Mike Anderson-Brown	Chairman		Members at AGM
9	Ian Crosby	Secretary		Members at AGM
10	Neal Parkin			Members at AGM
11	Rita Brooke	Treasurer from 1/3/23	Appointed 1/3/23	Members at AGM
12	Sian Therese		Appointed 1/3/23	Members at AGM
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
None		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
None		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
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Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

--

Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	xxxx	
Full name(s)	Michael Anderson-Brown	Ian Crosby
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Secretary
Date	xxx	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve	No (if any) 11252211
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CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2023	To	Period end date 31/12/2023
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
VC & Bird Food Sales	53,076	-	-	53,076	39,457
Donations & Gift Aid	16,627	-	-	16,627	12,478
Bequests	110	-	-	110	1,234
Lottery Membership	4,910	-	-	4,910	4,942
Membership Fees	14,184	-	-	14,184	9,052
Prior Year Adjustment				-	-
Events		-	-	-	
Bank Interest	3,828	-	-	3,828	242
		-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	92,736	-	-	92,736	67,405
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	92,736	-	-	92,736	67,405
A3 Payments					
Lottery Prizes	1,875	-	-	1,875	1,450
Admin & Computing	2,919	-	-	2,919	1,605
Conservation & Projects	87,887	-	-	87,887	51,754
VC Card Services	1,665	-	-	1,665	1,186
Stationery Printing & Post	7,873	-	-	7,873	4,294
Banking & Insurance	918	-	-	918	1,030
Visitor Centre Purchases	23,905	-	-	23,905	14,270
Apprentice	20,012	-	-	20,012	-
Visitor Centre Enhancements	5,311	-	-	5,311	
Petty Cash/Stock variation		-	-	-	-
Sub total	152,364	-	-	152,364	75,589
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	152,364	-	-	152,364	75,589
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 59,628	-	-	- 59,628	- 8,184
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	292,931	-	-	292,931	301,115
Cash funds this year end	233,303	-	-	233,303	292,931

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at Bank	231,810	-	-
	Stock Till & Petty Cash	2,164	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	233,974	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	Prepayments	30,153	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Accounts Payable	Apprentice	30,824	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Michael Thomas		
		Michael Anderson-Brown		



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	<small>Charity Name</small> Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve		
On accounts for the year ended	31 December 2023	Charity no (if any)	1125221
	Set out on pages 1 and 2 of Form CC16a		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:  **Date:** 6 March 2024

Name: David Stephen Jones FCA

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): Fellow of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address: 6 Murrell Close, St Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 1LN

FRIENDS OF PAXTON PITS NATURE RESERVE

England & Wales - Charity number 1125221

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/01/2022 Period start date To 31/12/2022 Period end date

Charity name: Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

Charity registration number: 1125221

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. to promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve (PPNR) by promoting biological diversity.2. to advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection, and improvement of the physical and natural environment.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17, 1.18 and 1.19	<p>FPPNR is involved in a range of activities which further its objectives. The activities can be broadly classified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• enhancement of habitat and creation of new habitat for wildlife through funding and volunteer action• action to achieve expansion of PPNR• engagement with planning issues which have the potential to impact on PPNR• support for wildlife monitoring on PPNR by volunteers• enhancement of visitor facilities through funding and volunteer action• running public events and promoting PPNR and its wildlife• enhancement of the 'visitor experience' through support for the Visitor Centre Volunteers Scheme and running the Group Visit programme• support for informal and formal educational activities• provision of information about PPNR through publications and the PPNR's website <p>FPPNR engaged in all of these activities during 2022 and this would not have been possible without the support of the membership of FPPNR, the active volunteers (ca.120 in 2022) and PPNR's many other supporters.</p>
Statement confirming	Para 1.18	The Trustees confirm that they have

<p>whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit</p>		<p>complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, "Charities and Public Benefit". The guidance was considered in determining and planning the activities noted above, at BoT meetings and at meetings of the Management Groups.</p> <p>FPPNR delivers this public benefit through the range of activities noted above. PPNR is open to everyone at all times, so each visitor benefits from the activities of FPPNR to improve the range and quantity of wildlife which visitors might see during their time on PPNR. Equally relevant to this goal are efforts to expand PPNR and support of wildlife monitoring. Likewise, work to achieve a favourable 'visitor experience', the availability of appropriate and welcoming visitor facilities and a range of events to enable the public to better enjoy PPNR's wildlife are of direct benefit to the visiting public. An important measure of the extent of the public benefit deriving from FPPNR's activities is the number of visitors to PPNR. The total number of visits in 2022 is estimated to be in excess of 120,000. Good access for those with mobility problems is a feature of PPNR, with a high proportion of the nature trails being accessible using mobility aids.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	Funds raised by FPPNR are invested into PPNR to achieve the purposes of the charity in the form of grants to the managing agency.
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<p>About 120 active volunteers supported PPNR and its managing agency, Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) CS, donating time equivalent to around four full time workers.</p> <p>FPPNR helps to recruit volunteers and supports their activities through provision of materials, information, advice and encouragement, and organisational services. Volunteer activities range through staffing the Visitor Centre, provisioning the Visitor Centre, habitat management, improvement of visitor facilities, organising and running events, leading guided walks, publicity and promotion, administration, advocacy,</p>

		planning and wildlife monitoring.
Other		<p>Contributions from members and supporters</p> <p>Without the support of its members and the enthusiasm and energy of its volunteers, FPPNR would not be able to achieve its aims.</p> <p>The number of members fluctuates during the year with a low point on 1st April, the start of the membership year. Membership as of 1st January 2022 was 2,241 rising to 2,294 by 31st December 2022.</p> <p>Income from membership fees in 2022 was £9052 (excluding Gift Aid).</p> <p>Members receive a newsletter; four editions of which were published in 2022.</p>

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>Habitat enhancement</p> <p>FPPNR ran 18 volunteer work parties on Sundays and Thursdays during 2022. Habitat management was carried out on PPNR and in Little Paxton Quarry. The main activities undertaken by volunteers were removal of willow from reedbeds, pond clearance, maintaining habitat for rare plants and breeding birds, clearance of viewpoints, removal of invasive species and maintenance of exclosures. FPPNR is grateful to Aggregate Industries (AI), operators of Little Paxton Quarry, for their support and to HDC CS for staff involvement and equipment.</p> <p>FPPNR continued to work with AI to enhance the quality of the wildlife habitat which has been created within the company's quarry. These areas will be part of the planned extension to PPNR (see below).</p> <p>Action to achieve expansion of PPNR</p> <p>In October 2007, agreements were signed between AI, landowners, Cambridgeshire County Council and HDC for a phased extension to PPNR increasing the size of</p>

PPNR by 3.7 times to ca. 700 acres. FPPNR had played a central role in achieving this outcome, being involved with planning, advocacy, negotiations, and provision of habitat management expertise throughout the development period.

During 2022, FPPNR continued to work in partnership with AI and HDC (as the future managing agency for the extension to PPNR) to enhance habitat in those parts of the quarry which will become part of PPNR in the near future (as described above).

The planned extension to PPNR was delayed as quarrying activities were suspended for a number of years. The quarry reopened in January 2016 and extraction commenced in April 2016. FPPNR have held regular meetings with AI and were involved in producing an updated environmental management plan for the quarry. The first phases of the extension were expected to be incorporated into PPNR in 2019, unfortunately this was not achieved due to delays with the completion of the necessary legal formalities, although the contractors appointed by AI commenced restoration works in April 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in further delays. The first phases are now expected to be incorporated in PPNR in 2023 with full completion by 2029.

Future management of PPNR

FPPNR started a dialogue in 2013 with HDC, as managing agency for PPNR, to consider the long-term future of PPNR. This was prompted by the fast-changing funding situation for local authorities. HDC appointed consultants in 2018 to produce a report on investment options for the future of PPNR; this report is awaiting implementation by HDC.

During 2021 FPPNR continued to work with AI, HDC and the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, and Northamptonshire (WTBCN) to implement the management plan for the extended PPNR covering the period 2017-2027.

Support for wildlife monitoring

FPPNR organised the annual Breeding Bird Survey (in its 25th year and involving 30+ volunteers). The survey is designed to

monitor breeding bird success and thus inform habitat management. Analysis and reporting of the results were carried out by a FPPNR volunteer.

The FPPNR Wildlife Monitoring Group continued to gather data on a wide range of *Taxa* at PPNR during 2022 recording species at sites throughout PPNR. Specialist surveys for Dragonflies, Butterflies, Bats, small mammals using traps and large mammals using trail cameras. A start was made on moth surveys including the purchase of a moth trap, £500. These results are routinely made available to those planning habitat management on PPNR and in AI's quarry and to the iRecord data recording system.

FPPNR again supported British Trust for Ornithology volunteer bird ringers in their operation of a 'Constant Effort Site' on PPNR by habitat management in the ringing area. The results of these studies are of direct use in planning habitat management on PPNR and are of key importance in national estimates of the abundance and breeding success of small passerines.

The national Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) has been carried out by a team of volunteers at PPNR for several decades, giving a long-running and useful data set. FPPNR supports the survey by recruiting volunteers and facilitating site visits.

These activities enabled FPPNR to produce a report for 2022 on the bird and wildlife of PPNR which is available on the PPNR website.

During 2022 a number of projects were financed by the Friends including

- Replacement cattle corral £3,000
- Two artificial sand martin banks £5,000
- Willow removal along the eastern margin of Diddington Pit £10,000.
- Purchase of a rotavator £600.

Enhancement of visitor facilities

This year continued the major fencing project to prevent access to our sensitive wildlife areas. Initial expenditure by the friends for this work was £47,000 paid over

two years.

Other items of expenditure included:

- Continuation of repair to the boardwalk (£9,000 initially and additional £5,000 in 2022).
- FPPNR rents three moorings on the River Great Ouse from HDC, for the exclusive use of visitors to PPNR as a 'River Viewpoint' (£1.4k in 2022).
- The network of benches scattered along PPNR's nature trails was maintained.
- Bird feeders at the Visitor Centre and at a bird hide on PPNR are maintained by FPPNR, at an estimated cost of £400 pa.
- Repairs to Dragonfly Pond viewing platform £2,000
- Funding to upgrade signage £6,500.
- Upgrading hide windows £500.

Running public events and promoting PPNR and its wildlife

After a limited programme of events during the COVID pandemic we were able to run a full programme in 2022. These included monthly guided walks, three talks, three wildlife watching events and a photography competition. All were open to the public.

In July 2022 we organised a Dragonfly Day, inviting the public to take part in one of our regular surveys, and featuring an activity stand run by a representative of the British Dragonfly Society

Enhancement of the 'visitor experience'

FPPNR supports the volunteers in their role of keeping the Visitor Centre open and providing a friendly and informative welcome to visitors. Following the Covid-enforced closure of the Visitor Centre in 2020 and 2021, we took the opportunity to reorganise the Centre to improve the visitor experience. FPPNR provide refreshments and the opportunity for visitors to purchase a limited selection of conservation-related goods (e.g. bird seed and feeders, wildlife identification guides, nest boxes, etc.).

Their main role, however, is to make visits to PPNR as enjoyable as possible through friendly interaction and sharing their knowledge of PPNR and its wildlife.

Support from FPPNR is provided through volunteer contributions to the administration of the Visitor Centre Volunteers Scheme, funding improvements to the Visitor Centre,

	<p>provision of free hot drinks to volunteers on duty and special events for participants in the Scheme.</p> <p>FPPNR facilitates visits by organised groups to PPNR. Group visits are booked to ensure they can be accommodated, Visitor Centre facilities and parking are guaranteed, and a leader is offered for a guided walk. Participants are invited to give a small donation in return for this service.</p> <p>Support for informal and formal educational activities PPNR's Environmental Education Centre (EEC), run by the WTBCN, is used for both formal and informal education for a wide range of age groups. Around 4,000 participants use the Centre each year, including classes from many schools in the local area, and public 'drop-in' sessions during the school holidays. The Trust's "Little Bugs Club" for pre-school children, Wildlife Watch Group for children of ages from ca. 5 years to 11 years and "Greenwatch" group for teenagers are important contributions to wildlife education.</p> <p>Although not directly involved in the work with children, FPPNR continues to support this project because it makes a substantial contribution to delivering objective 2 for the Charity. Cooperation is ensured by the WTBCN's EEC Manager being a member of the FPPNR's Events Team and Members and Visitors Group.</p> <p>Provision of information about PPNR FPPNR's website, www.paxton-pits.org.uk, is designed and maintained by one of our trustees. The site aims to report developments, provide a resource for information about PPNR, its history and future plans, and to keep visitors to the site up to date with latest wildlife sightings. PPNR is listed on <i>Trip Advisor</i> as the number one attraction in the St Neots area.</p> <p>A monthly MailChimp 'What's Around' is sent to members.</p> <p>FPPNR and the Rangers attempt to keep PPNR and the activities on offer in the public eye through regular reporting to the local media.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

<p>Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period</p>	<p>Para 1.21</p>	<p>During 2022 the charity was able to fund a number of projects which resulted in a deficit of £8,184.</p> <p>The charity remains in a strong financial position to achieve its purposes and to meet future challenges.</p>
<p>Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held</p>	<p>Para 1.22</p>	<p>Purpose The purpose of this policy is to explain why FPPNR holds Financial Reserves and so demonstrate that the Charity's finances are managed in a responsible way to allow for planned and unplanned funding requirements. It is written against the background that Charity Law requires any income received by a charity to be spent within a reasonable period of receipt. Trustees must, therefore, be able to justify the holding of income as Reserves.</p> <p>Definition Financial Reserves are those parts of a charity's unrestricted funds which are freely available to be spent on any of the charity's purposes.</p> <p>Policy FPPNR has elected to divide its Financial Reserves into two elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accumulated over time to pay for planned major projects which cannot be funded from a single year's income. • set aside to cover unexpected and unplanned events. <p>FPPNR has an overriding Financial Policy not to make any financial commitment for which it does not have sufficient funds.</p> <p>Planned Projects. PPNR is being developed under a rolling management plan which includes periodic, major projects to restore gravel workings to a condition suitable for both wildlife and public access. These projects cannot be funded from any single year's income and thus money is set aside year on year. The size of the Financial Reserve will be calculated on the basis of expected income and the planned date for the particular project. It will be reviewed regularly and, in any event, not less than once per year. Where possible these Financial Reserves</p>

		<p>will be placed in risk-free, short-term, interest-earning bank accounts. The reason(s) for, and size of, this Financial Reserve will be explained at every AGM.</p> <p>Unexpected and Unplanned Events. It is prudent financial management to allow for unforeseen emergencies or other unexpected needs for funds. Examples include: an unexpected large repair bill, an urgent, unanticipated project or a situation when funds might be needed to give the Trustees time to take action if income falls markedly below expectations. This Financial Reserve has been set at £10,000 to be held in an instant access bank account. This sum is reviewed annually and the reason for, and size of, this Financial Reserve will be explained at every AGM.</p> <p>Implementation of the Policy The Treasurer will normally provide Trustees with a monthly report of income and expenditure, a list of all planned financial commitments and an assessment of the net income against expectations. The report will show current balances and calculate the funds available for planned future projects. The Board of Trustees will formally review the financial position at each of its meetings.</p> <p>Policy Review This policy will be reviewed annually, prior to the AGM.</p>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£292,931
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	None
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	None

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	<p>Receipts and payments Income available for application to FPPNR's charitable objects arises from four main sources: membership subscriptions, donations, events, and sales of goods. In 2022, these sources generated £9052 (subscriptions), £12478 (donations, grants, Gift Aid), and £25187 (surplus on refreshments and sales). We also received £1234 in bequests. <i>The Kingfisher Lottery Club</i>, launched during 2013, has continued to grow during 2022, generating a net</p>
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		<p>income of £3492.</p> <p>Expenditure on FPPNR's charitable objects totalled £51754 in 2022. Servicing the membership, stationery, printing, insurance, etc., amounted to £8115, although much of this expenditure underpinned delivery of the charitable objects. After allowance for expenditure on refreshments and sales, funds applied to the charitable objects and administration costs, a deficit of £8184 resulted.</p>
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	<p>Risk management</p> <p>Throughout its 27 years of operation, FPPNR has developed policies and procedures which have enabled it to further its objectives while minimising risks to the organisation's finances and reputation. A central principle has been to only undertake activities/projects in pursuit of FPPNR's objectives which could be comfortably funded from the current funds available in the FPPNR bank accounts. This, together with the relatively simple (and low risk) operations of the organisation, has enabled FPPNR to steadily expand its activities and reputation in the community. This approach was continued throughout 2022. Income was mainly derived from four sources: membership subscriptions, donations, and sales of goods compatible with the primary purpose of FPPNR. No staff were employed, and the owned property was minimal – mainly tools for habitat management and some items of shop equipment and stock. A formal Risk Assessment covering Compliance, Law and Regulation; Funds; Property; Liability and Reputation was adopted in January 2013 and is reviewed annually.</p>
Other		<p>Management FPPNR's finances are managed directly by the BoT. The Treasurer reports on the current financial position at each of the BoT meetings.</p> <p>The Treasurer is authorised to pay costs incurred through the routine and recurring activities of FPPNR (e.g. refreshments, bird seed and other sales goods, postage, stationery, fees for visiting speakers, events, etc.).</p>

		<p>All non-routine expenditure was sanctioned by the BoT and funds for larger projects were considered on the basis of written proposals.</p> <p>All cheques were signed by two of six authorised signatories.</p> <p>Independently examined accounts for 2022 were adopted at the AGM on 17th March 2023.</p>
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Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve (FPPNR) was formed through adoption of a Constitution at its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 9th May 1995. Substantial amendments to the Constitution were adopted at its 12th AGM on 23rd February 2007, prior to FPPNR becoming a charity registered in England and Wales on 28th July 2008
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	FPPNR is an Association consisting of 2,294 members (as of 31st December 2022)
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees, including the Officers (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer), are elected annually at the AGM (March). One Trustee is appointed by the Managing Agency for Paxton Pits Nature Reserve (PPNR), <i>i.e.</i> Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC). There can be no fewer than three Trustees and no more than 14 Trustees (including the Officers). If the number of Trustees is less than 14, the Trustees may also appoint any person who is willing to act as a Trustee. All Trustees (including Officers) must retire at the next AGM after his or her appointment but shall be eligible for re-election at that AGM.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	<p>Trustee Induction and Training New Trustees are provided with a selection of Charity Commission guidance and information literature and are engaged in wide ranging discussions with the Chairman of the Trustees and other Trustees. The purpose of these discussions is to enable new Trustees to explore the breadth of activity of FPPNR and to better understand the role expected of them. Most Trustees are members of at least one of the two Management Groups, and this enhances their knowledge of the organisation. 11 of the Trustees who had served during 2021 were re-elected at the AGM in 2022.</p> <p>Trustees – voluntary role All Trustees give their time voluntarily and received no remuneration or other benefits during 2022.</p>

The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	<p>Organisation</p> <p>The Board of Trustees (BoT) is required to meet at least quarterly; Five meetings were held in 2022. The BoT is supported by two Management Groups, the Members and Visitors Group (MVG) and the Conservation and Volunteers Group (CVG). The Management Groups are chaired by Trustees or non-Trustee members of FPPNR and are composed of Trustees and members of FPPNR with particular expertise or experience. In accordance with Clause 29 of the Constitution, the BoT has approved Rules which, together with additional protocols/guidance, set out the responsibilities and procedures for the BoT and the Management Groups. It follows from Clause 29 (5) that the Rules made by the BoT only concern matters which are additional to, or derived from, those governed by the Constitution. Each Management Group has clearly defined responsibilities for progressing particular areas of FPPNR's activities. The BoT receives reports and recommendations from the Management Groups at each of its meetings, determines policies and has responsibility for the good governance of the charity and ensuring that all FPPNR activities are compatible with its charitable objectives. In its role as voluntary support group for PPNR, FPPNR sets a high priority on maintenance of good communications between Trustees/ Management Group members and volunteers on the one hand, and HDC Countryside Services (HDC CS) staff on the other. This is facilitated through appointment of one of the Trustees by HDC CS and by the almost daily contact between some Trustees and HDC CS staff.</p>
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve
Other name the charity uses	FPPNR
Registered charity number	1125221
Charity's principal address	Paxton Pits Nature Reserve Visitor Centre High Street Little Paxton St Neots PE19 6ET

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	David Butterworth		Resigned 18/3/22	
2	Trevor Gunton			Members at AGM
3	Marilyn McDonough		Resigned 18/3/22	
4	Martin Runchman			Members at AGM
5	Matt Hall			Huntingdonshire District Council as the Managing Agency for Paxton Pits Nature Reserve
6	Mike Thomas			Members at AGM
7	David Wilson			Members at AGM
8	Mark Hill		Resigned 18/3/22	
9	Sophie Baker			Members at AGM
10	Alison Inwood	Treasurer		Members at AGM
11	Mike Anderson-Brown	Chairman		Members at AGM
12	Ian Crosby	Secretary		Members at AGM
13	Tony Clark		Resigned 20/5/22	
14	Neal Parkin			Members at AGM
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
None		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
None		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information


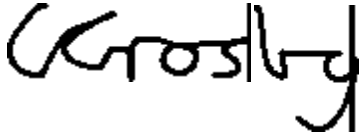
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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

	
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Full name(s)

Michael Anderson-Brown	Ian Crosby
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Position (eg Secretary,
Chair, etc)

Chair	Secretary
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Date

30/10/23



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve	No (if any) 11252211
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CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2022	To	Period end date 31/12/2022
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
VC & Bird Food Sales	39,457	-	-	39,457	20,029
Donations & Gift Aid	12,478	-	-	12,478	13,043
Bequests	1,234	-	-	1,234	42,870
Lottery Membership	4,942	-	-	4,942	4,979
Membership Fees	9,052	-	-	9,052	8,607
Prior Year Adjustment	-	-	-	-	616
Events	-	-	-	-	-
Bank Interest	242	-	-	242	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	67,405	-	-	67,405	90,144
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	67,405	-	-	67,405	90,144
A3 Payments					
Lottery Prizes	1,450	-	-	1,450	2,369
Admin & Computing	1,605	-	-	1,605	3,283
Conservation & Projects	51,754	-	-	51,754	31,981
VC Card Services	1,186	-	-	1,186	1,453
Stationery Printing & Post	4,294	-	-	4,294	4,093
Banking & Insurance	1,030	-	-	1,030	1,025
Visitor Centre Purchases	14,270	-	-	14,270	8,394
Events	-	-	-	-	-
Visitor Centre Enhancements	-	-	-	-	-
Petty Cash/Stock variation	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	75,589	-	-	75,589	52,598
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	75,589	-	-	75,589	52,598
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 8,184	-	-	- 8,184	37,546
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	301,115	-	-	301,115	263,569
Cash funds this year end	292,931	-	-	292,931	301,115

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at Bank	290,767	-	-
	Stock Till & Petty Cash	2,164	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	292,931	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Michael Thomas	
	Michael Anderson-Brown	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

On accounts for the year
ended

31 December 2022

Charity no
(if any)

1125221

Set out on pages

1 and 2 of Form CC16a

(remember to include the page numbers of a additional sheet)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:

Date:

14 March 2023

Name:

David Stephen Jones FCA

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Fellow of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address:

6 Murrell Close, St Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 1LN

FRIENDS OF PAXTON PITS NATURE RESERVE

England & Wales - Charity number 1125221

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/01/2021 Period start date To 31/12/2021 Period end date

Charity name: Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

Charity registration number: 1125221

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. to promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve (PPNR) by promoting biological diversity.2. to advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection, and improvement of the physical and natural environment.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17, 1.18 and 1.19	<p>FPPNR is involved in a range of activities which further its objectives. The activities can be broadly classified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• enhancement of habitat and creation of new habitat for wildlife through funding and volunteer action• action to achieve expansion of PPNR• engagement with planning issues which have the potential to impact on PPNR• support for wildlife monitoring on PPNR by volunteers• enhancement of visitor facilities through funding and volunteer action• running public events and promoting PPNR and its wildlife• enhancement of the 'visitor experience' through support for the Visitor Centre Volunteers Scheme and running the Group Visit programme• support for informal and formal educational activities• provision of information about PPNR through publications and the PPNR's website <p>FPPNR engaged in all of these activities during 2021 and this would not have been possible without the support of the membership of FPPNR, the active volunteers (ca.120 in 2021) and PPNR's many other supporters.</p>

Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	<p>The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, "Charities and Public Benefit". The guidance was considered in determining and planning the activities noted above, at BoT meetings and at meetings of the Management Groups.</p> <p>FPPNR delivers this public benefit through the range of activities noted above. PPNR is open to everyone at all times, so each visitor benefits from the activities of FPPNR to improve the range and quantity of wildlife which visitors might see during their time on PPNR. Equally relevant to this goal are efforts to expand PPNR and support of wildlife monitoring. Likewise, work to achieve a favourable 'visitor experience', the availability of appropriate and welcoming visitor facilities and a range of events to enable the public to better enjoy PPNR's wildlife are of direct benefit to the visiting public. An important measure of the extent of the public benefit deriving from FPPNR's activities is the number of visitors to PPNR. The total number of visits in 2021 is estimated to be in excess of 120,000, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic less than 5,000 recorded as using the Visitor Centre. Good access for those with mobility problems is a feature of PPNR, with a high proportion of the nature trails being accessible using mobility aids.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	Funds raised by FPPNR are invested into PPNR to achieve the purposes of the charity in the form of grants to the managing agency.
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<p>About 120 active volunteers supported PPNR and its managing agency, Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) CS, donating time equivalent to around four full time workers during non-COVID years.</p> <p>FPPNR helps to recruit volunteers and supports their activities through provision of materials, information, advice and encouragement, and organisational services. Volunteer activities range through staffing the Visitor Centre, provisioning the Visitor Centre, habitat management, improvement of visitor</p>

		facilities, organising and running events, leading guided walks, publicity and promotion, administration, advocacy, planning and wildlife monitoring.
Other		<p>Contributions from members and supporters Without the support of its members and the enthusiasm and energy of its volunteers, FPPNR would not be able to achieve its aims.</p> <p>The number of members fluctuates during the year with a low point on 1st April, the start of the membership year. Membership as of 1st January 2021 was 2,217 but reduced slightly to 2,198 by 31st December 2021 due to recruiting difficulties during the COVID-19 pandemic early in the year.</p> <p>The level of financial support in 2021 was £11,838 (including Gift Aid), good considering the circumstances.</p> <p>Members receive a newsletter; four editions of which were published in 2021.</p>

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>Habitat enhancement FPPNR ran 12 volunteer work parties on Sundays and Thursdays during 2021. Habitat management was carried out on PPNR and in Little Paxton Quarry. The main activities undertaken by volunteers were removal of willow from reedbeds, hedge planting, maintaining habitat for rare plants and breeding birds, clearance of viewpoints, removal of invasive species and maintenance of exclosures. FPPNR is grateful to Aggregate Industries (AI), operators of Little Paxton Quarry, for their support and to HDC CS for staff involvement and equipment.</p> <p>FPPNR continued to work with AI to enhance the quality of the wildlife habitat which has been created within the company's quarry. These areas will be part of the planned extension to PPNR (see below).</p>

Action to achieve expansion of PPNR

In October 2007, agreements were signed between AI, landowners, Cambridgeshire County Council and HDC for a phased extension to PPNR increasing the size of PPNR by 3.7 times to ca. 700 acres. FPPNR had played a central role in achieving this outcome, being involved with planning, advocacy, negotiations, and provision of habitat management expertise throughout the development period.

During 2021, FPPNR continued to work in partnership with AI and HDC (as the future managing agency for the extension to PPNR) to enhance habitat in those parts of the quarry which will become part of PPNR in the near future (as described above).

The planned extension to PPNR was delayed as quarrying activities were suspended for a number of years. The quarry reopened in January 2016 and extraction commenced in April 2016. FPPNR have held regular meetings with AI and were involved in producing an updated environmental management plan for the quarry. The first phases of the extension were expected to be incorporated into PPNR in 2019, unfortunately this was not achieved due to delays with the completion of the necessary legal formalities, although the contractors appointed by AI commenced restoration works in April 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in further delays. The first phases are now expected to be incorporated in PPNR in 2022 with full completion by 2029.

Future management of PPNR

FPPNR started a dialogue in 2013 with HDC, as managing agency for PPNR, to consider the long-term future of PPNR. This was prompted by the fast-changing funding situation for local authorities. HDC appointed consultants in 2018 to produce a report on investment options for the future of PPNR; this report is awaiting implementation by HDC.

During 2021 FPPNR continued to work with AI, HDC and the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, and Northamptonshire (WTBCN) to implement the management plan for the extended PPNR covering the period 2017-2027.

Support for wildlife monitoring

FPPNR organised the annual Breeding Bird Survey (in its 24th year and involving 30+ volunteers). The survey is designed to monitor breeding bird success and thus inform habitat management. Analysis and reporting of the results were carried out by a FPPNR volunteer.

The FPPNR Wildlife Monitoring Group continued to gather data on a wide range of *Taxa* at PPNR during 2021 recording species at sites throughout PPNR.

Specialist surveys for Dragonflies, Butterflies and Bats were also run during 2021 along with a new small mammal survey. These results are routinely made available to those planning habitat management on PPNR and in AI's quarry and to the iRecord data recording system.

FPPNR again supported British Trust for Ornithology volunteer bird ringers in their operation of a 'Constant Effort Site' on PPNR by habitat management in the ringing area. The results of these studies are of direct use in planning habitat management on PPNR and are of key importance in national estimates of the abundance and breeding success of small passerines.

The national Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) has been carried out by a team of volunteers at PPNR for several decades, giving a long-running and useful data set. FPPNR supports the survey by recruiting volunteers and facilitating site visits.

These activities enabled FPPNR to produce a report for 2021 on the bird and wildlife of PPNR which is available on the PPNR website.

Enhancement of visitor facilities

The Kingfisher Hide, previously destroyed by fire, was rebuilt in 2021 at a cost of £10,600, paid for by the Friends with considerable support from the local community. This year also saw the start of a major fencing project to prevent access to our sensitive wildlife areas. Initial expenditure by the friends for this work was £47,000.

Other items of expenditure included:

- Construction of the Linda Smith viewing platform.
- Start of work to repair the boardwalk (£9,000 initially).

- FPPNR rents three moorings on the River Great Ouse from HDC, for the exclusive use of visitors to PPNR as a 'River Viewpoint' (£1.4k in 2021).
- The network of benches scattered along PPNR's nature trails was maintained.
- Bird feeders at the Visitor Centre and at a bird hide on PPNR are maintained by FPPNR, at an estimated cost of £400 pa.

Running public events and promoting PPNR and its wildlife

Due to restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic FPPNR only staged 3 guided walk events during 2021. All were open to the public except one member only event. There was no charge levied for participation in these events but very few people attended.

In July 2021 we organised a Dragonfly Day, inviting the public to take part in one of our regular surveys, and featuring an activity stand run by a representative of the British Dragonfly Society

Enhancement of the 'visitor experience'

FPPNR supports the volunteers in their role of keeping the Visitor Centre open and providing a friendly and informative welcome to visitors. Due to restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic the Visitor Centre remained closed for much of the early part of 2021. FPPNR provide refreshments and the opportunity for visitors to purchase a limited selection of conservation-related goods (e.g. bird seed and feeders, wildlife identification guides, nest boxes, etc.). Their main role, however, is to make visits to PPNR as enjoyable as possible through friendly interaction and sharing their knowledge of PPNR and its wildlife. Support from FPPNR is provided through volunteer contributions to the administration of the Visitor Centre Volunteers Scheme, funding improvements to the Visitor Centre, provision of free hot drinks to volunteers on duty and special events for participants in the Scheme.

FPPNR facilitates visits by organised groups to PPNR. Group visits are booked to ensure they can be accommodated, Visitor Centre facilities and parking are guaranteed, and a leader is offered for a guided walk. Participants are invited to give a small donation in return for this service.

		<p>Support for informal and formal educational activities PPNR’s Environmental Education Centre (EEC), run by the WTBCN, is used for both formal and informal education for a wide range of age groups. Due to restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic the Centre remained closed for much of 2021. Normally around 4,000 participants use the Centre, including classes from many schools in the local area, and public ‘drop-in’ sessions during the school holidays. The Trust’s “Little Bugs Club” for pre-school children, Wildlife Watch Group for children of ages from ca. 5 years to 11 years and “Greenwatch” group for teenagers are important contributions to wildlife education.</p> <p>Although not directly involved in the work with children, FPPNR continues to support this project because it makes a substantial contribution to delivering objective 2 for the Charity. Cooperation is ensured by the WTBCN’s EEC Manager being a member of the FPPNR’s Events Team and Members and Visitors Group.</p> <p>Provision of information about PPNR FPPNR’s website, www.paxton-pits.org.uk, is maintained by a volunteer member. The site aims to report developments, provide a resource for information about PPNR, its history and future plans, and to keep visitors to the site up to date with latest wildlife sightings. PPNR is listed on <i>Trip Advisor</i> as the number one attraction in the St Neots area.</p> <p>A monthly MailChimp 'What's Around' is sent to members.</p> <p>FPPNR and the Rangers attempt to keep PPNR and the activities on offer in the public eye through regular reporting to the local media.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	

Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

<p>Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period</p>	<p>Para 1.21</p>	<p>Despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the charity was able to make a surplus during 2021.</p> <p>The charity remains in a strong financial position to achieve its purposes and to meet future challenges.</p>
<p>Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held</p>	<p>Para 1.22</p>	<p>Purpose The purpose of this policy is to explain why FPPNR holds Financial Reserves and so demonstrate that the Charity's finances are managed in a responsible way to allow for planned and unplanned funding requirements. It is written against the background that Charity Law requires any income received by a charity to be spent within a reasonable period of receipt. Trustees must, therefore, be able to justify the holding of income as Reserves.</p> <p>Definition Financial Reserves are those parts of a charity's unrestricted funds which are freely available to be spent on any of the charity's purposes.</p> <p>Policy FPPNR has elected to divide its Financial Reserves into two elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accumulated over time to pay for planned major projects which cannot be funded from a single year's income. • set aside to cover unexpected and unplanned events. <p>FPPNR has an overriding Financial Policy not to make any financial commitment for which it does not have sufficient funds.</p> <p>Planned Projects. PPNR is being developed under a rolling management plan which includes periodic, major projects to restore gravel workings to a condition suitable for both wildlife and public access. These projects cannot be funded from any single year's income and thus money is set aside year on year. The size of the Financial Reserve will be calculated on the basis of expected income and the planned date for the particular project. It will be reviewed regularly and, in any event, not less than once per year. Where possible these Financial Reserves will be placed in risk-free, short-term,</p>

		<p>interest-earning bank accounts. The reason(s) for, and size of, this Financial Reserve will be explained at every AGM.</p> <p>Unexpected and Unplanned Events. It is prudent financial management to allow for unforeseen emergencies or other unexpected needs for funds. Examples include: an unexpected large repair bill, an urgent, unanticipated project or a situation when funds might be needed to give the Trustees time to take action if income falls markedly below expectations. This Financial Reserve has been set at £10,000 to be held in an instant access bank account. This sum is reviewed annually and the reason for, and size of, this Financial Reserve will be explained at every AGM.</p> <p>Implementation of the Policy The Treasurer will normally provide Trustees with a monthly report of income and expenditure, a list of all planned financial commitments and an assessment of the net income against expectations. The report will show current balances and calculate the funds available for planned future projects. The Board of Trustees will formally review the financial position at each of its meetings.</p> <p>Policy Review This policy will be reviewed annually, prior to the AGM.</p>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£301,115
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	None
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	None

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	<p>Receipts and payments Income available for application to FPPNR's charitable objects arises from four main sources: membership subscriptions, donations, events, and sales of goods. In 2021, these sources generated £8,607 (subscriptions), £13,043 (donations, grants, Gift Aid), and £20,029 (surplus on refreshments and sales). We also received £42,870 in bequests. <i>The Kingfisher Lottery Club</i>, launched during 2013, has continued to grow during 2021.</p>
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		Expenditure on FPPNR's charitable objects totalled £52,598 in 2021. Servicing the membership, stationery, printing, insurance, etc., amounted to £3,283, although much of this expenditure underpinned delivery of the charitable objects. After allowance for expenditure on refreshments and sales, funds applied to the charitable objects and administration costs, a surplus of £36,930 was generated.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	<p>Risk management</p> <p>Throughout its 27 years of operation, FPPNR has developed policies and procedures which have enabled it to further its objectives while minimising risks to the organisation's finances and reputation. A central principle has been to only undertake activities/projects in pursuit of FPPNR's objectives which could be comfortably funded from the current funds available in the FPPNR bank accounts. This, together with the relatively simple (and low risk) operations of the organisation, has enabled FPPNR to steadily expand its activities and reputation in the community. This approach was continued throughout 2021. Income was mainly derived from four sources: membership subscriptions, donations, and sales of goods compatible with the primary purpose of FPPNR. No staff were employed, and the owned property was minimal – mainly tools for habitat management and some items of shop equipment and stock. A formal Risk Assessment covering Compliance, Law and Regulation; Funds; Property; Liability and Reputation was adopted in January 2013 and is reviewed annually.</p>
Other		<p>Management FPPNR's finances are managed directly by the BoT. The Treasurer reports on the current financial position at each of the BoT meetings.</p> <p>The Treasurer is authorised to pay costs incurred through the routine and recurring activities of FPPNR (e.g. refreshments, bird seed and other sales goods, postage, stationery, fees for visiting speakers, events, etc.).</p>

		<p>All non-routine expenditure was sanctioned by the BoT and funds for larger projects were considered on the basis of written proposals.</p> <p>All cheques were signed by two of six authorised signatories.</p> <p>Independently examined accounts for 2021 were adopted at the AGM on 18th March 2022.</p>
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Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve (FPPNR) was formed through adoption of a Constitution at its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 9th May 1995. Substantial amendments to the Constitution were adopted at its 12th AGM on 23rd February 2007, prior to FPPNR becoming a charity registered in England and Wales on 28th July 2008
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	FPPNR is an Association consisting of 2,198 members (as of 31st December 2021)
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees, including the Officers (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer), are elected annually at the AGM (March). One Trustee is appointed by the Managing Agency for Paxton Pits Nature Reserve (PPNR), <i>i.e.</i> Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC). There can be no fewer than three Trustees and no more than 14 Trustees (including the Officers). If the number of Trustees is less than 14, the Trustees may also appoint any person who is willing to act as a Trustee. All Trustees (including Officers) must retire at the next AGM after his or her appointment but shall be eligible for re-election at that AGM.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	<p>Trustee Induction and Training New Trustees are provided with a selection of Charity Commission guidance and information literature and are engaged in wide ranging discussions with the Chairman of the Trustees and other Trustees. The purpose of these discussions is to enable new Trustees to explore the breadth of activity of FPPNR and to better understand the role expected of them. Most Trustees are members of at least one of the two Management Groups, and this enhances their knowledge of the organisation. 10 of the Trustees who had served during 2020 were re-elected at the AGM in 2021.</p> <p>Trustees – voluntary role All Trustees give their time voluntarily and received no remuneration or other benefits during 2021.</p>

The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	<p>Organisation</p> <p>The Board of Trustees (BoT) is required to meet at least quarterly; four meetings were held in 2021. The BoT is supported by two Management Groups, the Members and Visitors Group (MVG) and the Conservation and Volunteers Group (CVG). The Management Groups are chaired by Trustees or non-Trustee members of FPPNR and are composed of Trustees and members of FPPNR with particular expertise or experience. In accordance with Clause 29 of the Constitution, the BoT has approved Rules which, together with additional protocols/guidance, set out the responsibilities and procedures for the BoT and the Management Groups. It follows from Clause 29 (5) that the Rules made by the BoT only concern matters which are additional to, or derived from, those governed by the Constitution. Each Management Group has clearly defined responsibilities for progressing particular areas of FPPNR's activities. The BoT receives reports and recommendations from the Management Groups at each of its meetings, determines policies and has responsibility for the good governance of the charity and ensuring that all FPPNR activities are compatible with its charitable objectives. In its role as voluntary support group for PPNR, FPPNR sets a high priority on maintenance of good communications between Trustees/ Management Group members and volunteers on the one hand, and HDC Countryside Services (HDC CS) staff on the other. This is facilitated through appointment of one of the Trustees by HDC CS and by the almost daily contact between some Trustees and HDC CS staff.</p>
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve
Other name the charity uses	FPPNR
Registered charity number	1125221
Charity's principal address	6 Lakefield Avenue Little Paxton St Neots PE19 6NZ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	David Butterworth			Members at AGM
2	Trevor Gunton			Members at AGM
3	Marilyn McDonough			Members at AGM
4	Martin Runchman			Members at AGM
5	Matt Hall			Huntingdonshire District Council as the Managing Agency for Paxton Pits Nature Reserve
6	Mike Thomas	Chairman		Members at AGM
7	Trevor Coughlan	Secretary	Resigned 19/03/2021	
8	David Wilson			Members at AGM
9	Janet Prior		Resigned 17/02/2021	
10	Stephen Prior		Resigned 17/02/2021	
11	Mark Hill			Members at AGM
12	Jill Elizabeth Major		Resigned 15/09/2021	
13	Sophie Baker			Members at AGM
14	Alison Inwood	Treasurer		Members at AGM
15	Mike Anderson-Brown		Elected 17/02/2021	
16	Ian Crosby	Secretary from 19/03/21	Elected 17/02/2021	
17	Tony Clark		Elected 17/11/2021	
18	Neal Parkin		Elected 17/11/2021	
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
None		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
None		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
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Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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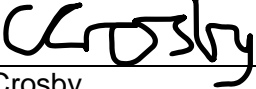
Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Michael Anderson-Brown	Ian Crosby
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Secretary

Date 28th October 2022



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve	No (if any) 11252211
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CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2021	To	Period end date 31/12/2021
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
VC & Bird Food Sales	20,029	-	-	20,029	13,126
Donations & Gift Aid	13,043	-	-	13,043	27,830
Bequests	42,870	-	-	42,870	-
Lottery Membership	4,979	-	-	4,979	-
Membership Fees	8,607	-	-	8,607	10,367
Prior Year Adjustment	616	-	-	616	-
Events	-	-	-	-	5,689
Bank Interest	-	-	-	-	154
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	90,144	-	-	90,144	57,166
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	90,144	-	-	90,144	57,166
A3 Payments					
Lottery Prizes	2,369	-	-	2,369	-
Admin & Computing	3,283	-	-	3,283	-
Conservation & Projects	31,981	-	-	31,981	29,737
VC Card Services	1,453	-	-	1,453	-
Stationery Printing & Post	4,093	-	-	4,093	5,297
Banking & Insurance	1,025	-	-	1,025	991
Visitor Centre Purchases	8,394	-	-	8,394	6,310
Events	-	-	-	-	2,453
Visitor Centre Enhancements	-	-	-	-	2,398
Petty Cash/Stock variation	-	-	-	-	511
Sub total	52,598	-	-	52,598	47,697
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	52,598	-	-	52,598	47,697
Net of receipts/(payments)	37,546	-	-	37,546	9,469
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	263,569	-	-	263,569	254,100
Cash funds this year end	301,115	-	-	301,115	263,569

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at Bank	298,951	-	-
	Stock Till & Petty Cash	2,164	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	301,115	-	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

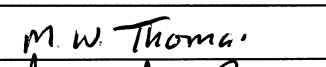

		OK Unrestricted funds to nearest £	OK Restricted funds to nearest £	OK Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Michael Thomas	27/10/22
	Michael Anderson-Brown	27/10/22



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

On accounts for the year
ended

31 December 2021

Charity no
(if any)

1125221

Set out on pages

1 and 2 of Form CC16a

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 12 / 2021 .

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's
statement

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:

Date:

27 October 2022

Name:

David Stephen Jones FCA

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Fellow of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

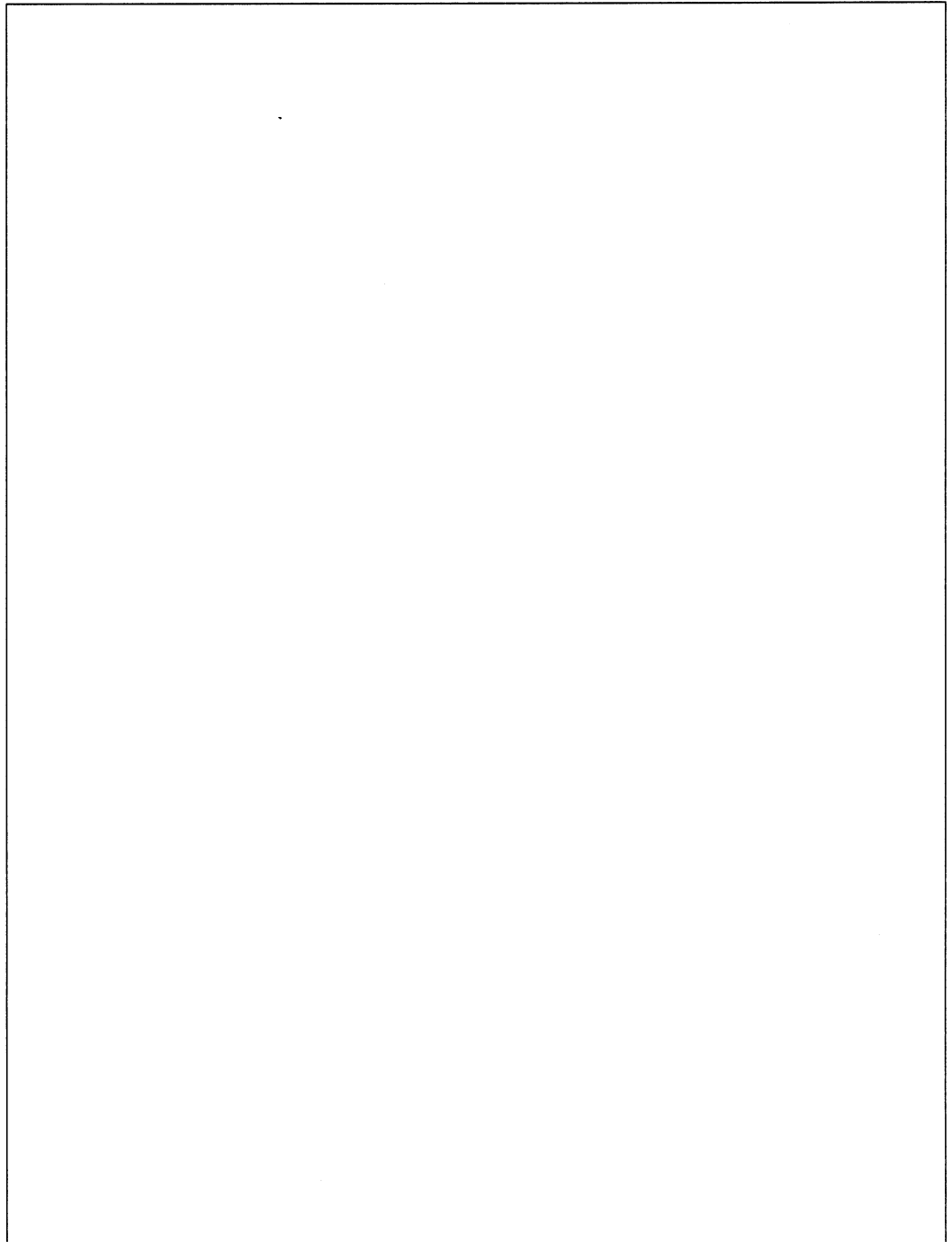
Address:

6 Murrell Close, St Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 1LN

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.



FRIENDS OF PAXTON PITS NATURE RESERVE

England & Wales - Charity number 1125221

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/01/2020 Period start date To 31/12/2020 Period end date

Charity name: Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

Charity registration number: 1125221

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>1. to promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve (PPNR) by promoting biological diversity.</p> <p>2. to advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection, and improvement of the physical and natural environment.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17, 1.18 and 1.19	<p>FPPNR is involved in a range of activities which further its objectives. The activities can be broadly classified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhancement of habitat and creation of new habitat for wildlife through funding and volunteer action • action to achieve expansion of PPNR • engagement with planning issues which have the potential to impact on PPNR • support for wildlife monitoring on PPNR by volunteers • enhancement of visitor facilities through funding and volunteer action • running public events and promoting PPNR and its wildlife • enhancement of the 'visitor experience' through support for the Visitor Centre Volunteers Scheme and running the Group Visit programme • support for informal and formal educational activities • provision of information about PPNR through publications and the PPNR's website <p>FPPNR engaged in all of these activities during 2020 and this would not have been possible without the support of the membership of FPPNR, the active volunteers (ca.140 in 2020) and PPNR's many other supporters.</p>

Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	<p>The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission’s general guidance on public benefit, “Charities and Public Benefit”. The guidance was considered in determining and planning the activities noted above, at BoT meetings and at meetings of the Management Groups.</p> <p>FPPNR delivers this public benefit through the range of activities noted above. PPNR is open to everyone at all times, so each visitor benefits from the activities of FPPNR to improve the range and quantity of wildlife which visitors might see during their time on PPNR. Equally relevant to this goal are efforts to expand PPNR and support of wildlife monitoring. Likewise, work to achieve a favourable ‘visitor experience’, the availability of appropriate and welcoming visitor facilities and a range of events to enable the public to better enjoy PPNR’s wildlife are of direct benefit to the visiting public. An important measure of the extent of the public benefit deriving from FPPNR’s activities is the number of visitors to PPNR. The total number of visits in 2020 is estimated to be in excess of 130,000, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic less than 5,000 recorded as using the Visitor Centre. Good access for those with mobility problems is a feature of PPNR, with a high proportion of the nature trails being accessible using mobility aids.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	Funds raised by FPPNR are invested into PPNR to achieve the purposes of the charity in the form of grants to the managing agency.
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<p>About 140 active volunteers supported PPNR and its managing agency, Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) CS, donating time equivalent to around five full time workers during non-COVID years.</p> <p>FPPNR helps to recruit volunteers and supports their activities through provision of materials, information, advice and encouragement, and organisational services. Volunteer activities range through staffing the Visitor Centre, provisioning the Visitor Centre, habitat management, improvement of visitor</p>

		facilities, organising and running events, leading guided walks, publicity and promotion, administration, advocacy, planning and wildlife monitoring.
Other		<p>Contributions from members and supporters Without the support of its members and the enthusiasm and energy of its volunteers, FPPNR would not be able to achieve its aims.</p> <p>The number of members fluctuates during the year with a low point on 1st April, the start of the membership year. Membership as of 1st January 2020 was 2,548 but reduced to 2,213 by 31st December 2020 due to recruiting difficulties during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The level of financial support in 2020 was £9,469 (including Gift Aid), significantly below previous levels due to the circumstances.</p> <p>Members receive a newsletter; four editions of which were published in 2020.</p>

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>Habitat enhancement FPPNR ran 10 volunteer work parties on Sundays and Thursdays during 2020. Habitat management was carried out on PPNR and in Little Paxton Quarry. The main activities undertaken by volunteers were removal of willow from reedbeds, hedge planting, maintaining habitat for rare plants and breeding birds, clearance of viewpoints, removal of invasive species and maintenance of exclosures. FPPNR is grateful to Aggregate Industries (AI), operators of Little Paxton Quarry, for their support and to HDC CS for staff involvement and equipment.</p> <p>FPPNR continued to work with AI to enhance the quality of the wildlife habitat which has been created within the company's quarry. These areas will be part of the planned extension to PPNR (see below).</p>

	<p>Action to achieve expansion of PPNR In October 2007, agreements were signed between AI, landowners, Cambridgeshire County Council and HDC for a phased extension to PPNR increasing the size of PPNR by 3.7 times to ca. 700 acres. FPPNR had played a central role in achieving this outcome, being involved with planning, advocacy, negotiations, and provision of habitat management expertise throughout the development period.</p> <p>During 2020, FPPNR continued to work in partnership with AI and HDC (as the future managing agency for the extension to PPNR) to enhance habitat in those parts of the quarry which will become part of PPNR in the near future (as described above).</p> <p>The planned extension to PPNR was delayed as quarrying activities were suspended for a number of years. The quarry reopened in January 2016 and extraction commenced in April 2016. FPPNR have held regular meetings with AI and were involved in producing an updated environmental management plan for the quarry. The first phases of the extension were expected to be incorporated into PPNR in 2019, unfortunately this was not achieved due to delays with the completion of the necessary legal formalities, although the contractors appointed by AI commenced restoration works in April 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in further delays. The first phases are now expected to be incorporated in PPNR in 2021 with full completion by 2029.</p> <p>Future management of PPNR FPPNR started a dialogue in 2013 with HDC, as managing agency for PPNR, to consider the long-term future of PPNR. This was prompted by the fast-changing funding situation for local authorities. HDC appointed consultants in 2018 to produce a report on investment options for the future of PPNR; this report is awaiting implementation by HDC.</p> <p>During 2020 FPPNR continued to work with AI, HDC and the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, and Northamptonshire (WTBCN) to implement the management plan for the extended PPNR covering the period 2017-2027.</p>
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	<p>Support for wildlife monitoring FPPNR organised the annual Breeding Bird Survey (in its 23rd year and involving 30+ volunteers). The survey is designed to monitor breeding bird success and thus inform habitat management. Analysis and reporting of the results were carried out by a FPPNR volunteer.</p> <p>The FPPNR Wildlife Monitoring Group continued to gather data on a wide range of <i>Taxa</i> at PPNR during 2020 recording species at sites throughout PPNR. Specialist surveys for Dragonflies, Butterflies and Bats were also run during 2020. These results are routinely made available to those planning habitat management on PPNR and in AI's quarry and to the iRecord data recording system.</p> <p>FPPNR again supported British Trust for Ornithology volunteer bird ringers in their operation of a 'Constant Effort Site' on PPNR by habitat management in the ringing area. The results of these studies are of direct use in planning habitat management on PPNR and are of key importance in national estimates of the abundance and breeding success of small passerines.</p> <p>The national Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) has been carried out by a team of volunteers at PPNR for several decades, giving a long-running and useful data set. FPPNR supports the survey by recruiting volunteers and facilitating site visits.</p> <p>These activities enabled FPPNR to produce a report for 2020 on the bird and wildlife of PPNR which is available on the PPNR website.</p> <p>Enhancement of visitor facilities No major construction projects were undertaken in 2020 although initial actions were taken to make safe the Kingfisher Hide, recently destroyed by fire. Minor items of expenditure included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of new work party tools (£300). • FPPNR rents three moorings on the River Great Ouse from HDC, for the exclusive use of visitors to PPNR as a 'River Viewpoint' (£1.4k in 2020). • The network of benches scattered along PPNR's nature trails was maintained. • Bird feeders at the Visitor Centre and at a bird hide on PPNR are
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maintained by FPPNR, at an estimated cost of £400 pa.

Running public events and promoting PPNR and its wildlife

Due to restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic FPPNR only staged 6 events during 2020. All were open to the public except one member only event. A small charge was levied for participation in these events which attracted an average of 30 participants.

Enhancement of the 'visitor experience'

FPPNR supports the volunteers in their role of keeping the Visitor Centre open and providing a friendly and informative welcome to visitors. Due to restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic the Visitor Centre remained closed for much of 2020. FPPNR provide refreshments and the opportunity for visitors to purchase a limited selection of conservation-related goods (e.g. bird seed and feeders, wildlife identification guides, nest boxes, etc.). Their main role, however, is to make visits to PPNR as enjoyable as possible through friendly interaction and sharing their knowledge of PPNR and its wildlife. Support from FPPNR is provided through volunteer contributions to the administration of the Visitor Centre Volunteers Scheme, funding improvements to the Visitor Centre, provision of free hot drinks to volunteers on duty and special events for participants in the Scheme.

FPPNR facilitates visits by organised groups to PPNR. Group visits are booked to ensure they can be accommodated, Visitor Centre facilities and parking are guaranteed, and a leader is offered for a guided walk. Participants are invited to give a small donation in return for this service.

Support for informal and formal educational activities

PPNR's Environmental Education Centre (EEC), run by the WTBCN, is used for both formal and informal education for a wide range of age groups. Due to restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic the Centre remained closed for much of 2020. Normally around 4,000 participants use the Centre, including classes from many schools in the local area, and public 'drop-in' sessions during the school holidays. The Trust's "Little Bugs Club" for pre-school children, Wildlife Watch Group for children of ages from ca. 5 years to 11 years and

		<p>“Greenwatch” group for teenagers are important contributions to wildlife education.</p> <p>Although not directly involved in the work with children, FPPNR continues to support this project because it makes a substantial contribution to delivering objective 2 for the Charity. Cooperation is ensured by the WTBCN’s EEC Manager being a member of the FPPNR’s Events Team and Members and Visitors Group.</p> <p>Provision of information about PPNR FPPNR produced programme leaflets for events on PPNR. The leaflet, covering January - June was made widely available to members and the public through a variety of outlets. Events are also publicised on the PPNR website.</p> <p>FPPNR’s website, www.paxton-pits.org.uk, is maintained by a volunteer member. The site aims to report developments, provide a resource for information about PPNR, its history and future plans, and to keep visitors to the site up to date with latest wildlife sightings. PPNR is listed on <i>Trip Advisor</i> as the number one attraction in the St Neots area.</p> <p>A monthly MailChimp 'What's Around' is sent to members.</p> <p>FPPNR and the Rangers attempt to keep PPNR and the activities on offer in the public eye through regular reporting to the local media.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	

Other		

Financial Review

<p>Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period</p>	<p>Para 1.21</p>	<p>Despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the charity was able to make a surplus during 2020.</p> <p>The charity remains in a strong financial position to achieve its purposes and to meet future challenges.</p>
<p>Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held</p>	<p>Para 1.22</p>	<p>The BoT reviewed and confirmed on 18th November 2020 the charity's formal statement of its Financial Reserves Policy, as follows:</p> <p>Purpose The purpose of this policy is to explain why FPPNR holds Financial Reserves and so demonstrate that the Charity's finances are managed in a responsible way to allow for planned and unplanned funding requirements. It is written against the background that Charity Law requires any income received by a charity to be spent within a reasonable period of receipt. Trustees must, therefore, be able to justify the holding of income as Reserves.</p> <p>Definition Financial Reserves are those parts of a charity's unrestricted funds which are freely available to be spent on any of the charity's purposes.</p> <p>Policy FPPNR has elected to divide its Financial Reserves into two elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accumulated over time to pay for planned major projects which cannot be funded from a single year's income. • set aside to cover unexpected and unplanned events. <p>FPPNR has an overriding Financial Policy not to make any financial commitment for which it does not have sufficient funds.</p> <p>Planned Projects. PPNR is being developed under a rolling management plan which includes periodic, major projects to restore gravel workings to a condition suitable for both wildlife and public access. These projects cannot be funded from any single year's income and thus money is set aside year on year. The size of the Financial Reserve will be calculated on the basis of expected income and the planned date for the particular</p>

		<p>project. It will be reviewed regularly and, in any event, not less than once per year. Where possible these Financial Reserves will be placed in risk-free, short-term, interest-earning bank accounts. The reason(s) for, and size of, this Financial Reserve will be explained at every AGM.</p> <p>Unexpected and Unplanned Events. It is prudent financial management to allow for unforeseen emergencies or other unexpected needs for funds. Examples include: an unexpected large repair bill, an urgent, unanticipated project or a situation when funds might be needed to give the Trustees time to take action if income falls markedly below expectations. This Financial Reserve has been set at £10,000 to be held in an instant access bank account. This sum is reviewed annually and the reason for, and size of, this Financial Reserve will be explained at every AGM.</p> <p>Implementation of the Policy The Treasurer will normally provide Trustees with a monthly report of income and expenditure, a list of all planned financial commitments and an assessment of the net income against expectations. The report will show current balances and calculate the funds available for planned future projects. The BoT will formally review the financial position at each of its meetings.</p> <p>Policy Review This policy will be reviewed annually, prior to the AGM.</p>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£263,569
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	None
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	None

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	<p>Receipts and payments Income available for application to FPPNR's charitable objects arises from four main sources: membership subscriptions, donations, events, and sales of goods. In 2020, these sources generated £10,367 (subscriptions), £27,830 (donations, grants, Gift Aid), £5,689</p>
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		<p>(events) and £13,126 (surplus on refreshments and sales).</p> <p><i>The Kingfisher Lottery Club</i>, launched during 2013, has continued to grow during 2020. Expenditure on FPPNR's charitable objects totalled £34,588 in 2020 (£19,729 in 2019). Servicing the membership, stationery, printing, insurance, etc., amounted to £3,707, although much of this expenditure underpinned delivery of the charitable objects. After allowance for expenditure on refreshments and sales, funds applied to the charitable objects and administration costs, a surplus of £9,469 was generated.</p>
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	<p>Risk management</p> <p>Throughout its 26 years of operation, FPPNR has developed policies and procedures which have enabled it to further its objectives while minimising risks to the organisation's finances and reputation. A central principle has been to only undertake activities/projects in pursuit of FPPNR's objectives which could be comfortably funded from the current funds available in the FPPNR bank accounts. This, together with the relatively simple (and low risk) operations of the organisation, has enabled FPPNR to steadily expand its activities and reputation in the community. This approach was continued throughout 2020. Income was mainly derived from four sources: membership subscriptions, donations, events, and sales of goods compatible with the primary purpose of FPPNR. No staff were employed, and the owned property was minimal – mainly tools for habitat management and some items of shop equipment and stock. A formal Risk Assessment covering Compliance, Law and Regulation; Funds; Property; Liability and Reputation was adopted in January 2013 and is reviewed annually.</p>
Other		<p>Management FPPNR's finances are managed directly by the BoT. The Treasurer reports on the current financial position at each of the BoT meetings.</p> <p>The Treasurer is authorised to pay costs incurred through the routine and recurring activities of FPPNR (e.g. refreshments, bird</p>

		<p>seed and other sales goods, postage, stationery, fees for visiting speakers, events, etc.).</p> <p>All non-routine expenditure was sanctioned by the BoT and funds for larger projects were considered on the basis of written proposals.</p> <p>All cheques were signed by two of six authorised signatories.</p> <p>Independently examined accounts for 2020 were adopted at the AGM on 6th June 2021.</p>
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Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve (FPPNR) was formed through adoption of a Constitution at its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 9th May 1995. Substantial amendments to the Constitution were adopted at its 12th AGM on 23rd February 2007, prior to FPPNR becoming a charity registered in England and Wales on 28th July 2008
How is the charity constituted? (e.g. unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	FPPNR is an Association consisting of 2,213 members (as of 31st December 2020)
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees, including the Officers (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer), are elected annually at the AGM (March). One Trustee is appointed by the Managing Agency for Paxton Pits Nature Reserve (PPNR), <i>i.e.</i> Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC). There can be no fewer than three Trustees and no more than 14 Trustees (including the Officers). If the number of Trustees is less than 14, the Trustees may also appoint any person who is willing to act as a Trustee. All Trustees (including Officers) must retire at the next AGM after his or her appointment but shall be eligible for re-election at that AGM.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	<p>Trustee Induction and Training New Trustees are provided with a selection of Charity Commission guidance and information literature and are engaged in wide ranging discussions with the Chairman of the Trustees and other Trustees. The purpose of these discussions is to enable new Trustees to explore the breadth of activity of FPPNR and to better understand the role expected of them. Most Trustees are members of at least one of the two Management Groups, and this enhances their knowledge of the organisation. 13 of the Trustees who had served during 2019 were re-elected at the 2020 AGM.</p> <p>Trustees – voluntary role All Trustees give their time voluntarily and received no remuneration or other benefits during 2020.</p>

The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	<p>Organisation</p> <p>The Board of Trustees (BoT) is required to meet at least quarterly; four meetings were held in 2019. The BoT is supported by two Management Groups, the Members and Visitors Group (MVG) and the Conservation and Volunteers Group (CVG). The Management Groups are chaired by Trustees or non-Trustee members of FPPNR and are composed of Trustees and members of FPPNR with particular expertise or experience. In accordance with Clause 29 of the Constitution, the BoT has approved Rules which, together with additional protocols/guidance, set out the responsibilities and procedures for the BoT and the Management Groups. It follows from Clause 29 (5) that the Rules made by the BoT only concern matters which are additional to, or derived from, those governed by the Constitution. Each Management Group has clearly defined responsibilities for progressing particular areas of FPPNR's activities. The BoT receives reports and recommendations from the Management Groups at each of its meetings, determines policies and has responsibility for the good governance of the charity and ensuring that all FPPNR activities are compatible with its charitable objectives. In its role as voluntary support group for PPNR, FPPNR sets a high priority on maintenance of good communications between Trustees/ Management Group members and volunteers on the one hand, and HDC Countryside Services (HDC CS) staff on the other. This is facilitated through appointment of one of the Trustees by HDC CS and by the almost daily contact between some Trustees and HDC CS staff.</p>
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve
Other name the charity uses	FPPNR
Registered charity number	1125221
Charity's principal address	6 Lakefield Avenue Little Paxton St Neots PE19 6NZ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	David Butterworth	Treasurer		Members at AGM
2	Trevor Gunton			Members at AGM
3	Marilyn McDonough			Members at AGM
4	Martin Runchman			Members at AGM
5	Matt Hall			Huntingdonshire District Council as the Managing Agency for Paxton Pits Nature Reserve
6	Mike Thomas	Chairman		Members at AGM
7	Trevor Coughlan	Secretary		Members at AGM
8	David Wilson			Members at AGM
9	Janet Prior			Members at AGM
10	Stephen Prior			Members at AGM
11	Mark Hill			Members at AGM
12	Roger Kenneth Lloyd		Resigned 13/03/2020	Members at AGM
13	Jill Elizabeth Major			Members at AGM
14	Sophie Baker			Members at AGM
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
None		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
None		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
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Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

--

Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>M. W. Thomas</i>	<i>I Crosby</i>
Full name(s)	Michael Thomas	Ian Crosby
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Secretary

Date 3rd September 2021



Charity Name Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve	No (if any) 1125221
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CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2020	To	Period end date 31/12/2020
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations and Gift Aid	27,830	-	-	27,830	15,985
Grants		-	-	-	254
Membership subscriptions	10,367	-	-	10,367	9,920
Visitors' Centre sales	13,126	-	-	13,126	35,487
Events	5,689	-	-	5,689	8,298
Bank interest	154	-	-	154	128
Value of Stock in Hand variation		-	-	-	109
Till floats & petty cash accounts variation		-	-	-	48
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	57,166	-	-	57,166	70,229
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	57,166	-	-	57,166	70,229

A3 Payments					
Major conservation project	28,381	-	-	28,381	10,431
Minor conservation projects	1,356	-	-	1,356	5,103
Visitor facility enhancements	2,398	-	-	2,398	4,117
Events	2,453	-	-	2,453	2,892
Visitors' Centre sales stock	6,310	-	-	6,310	15,758
Printing, stationery, computer supplies	2,581	-	-	2,581	3,286
Postage	2,716	-	-	2,716	2,327
Insurance	991	-	-	991	981

Independent examination of accounts				-	
Petty cash accounts/stock variation	511	-	-	511	
Sub total	47,697	-	-	47,697	44,895

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-

Total payments	47,697	-	-	47,697	44,895
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Net of receipts/(payments)	9,469	-	-	9,469	25,334
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	254,100		-	254,100	228,766
Cash funds this year end	263,569	-	-	263,569	254,100

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at bank (Less unrepresented cheques)	261,233		-
	Stock value	1,973	-	-
	Till and Petty Cash and Cash in Hand	363	-	-
	Total cash funds	263,569	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
			-	-
			-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Conservation management equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
	Office equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
			-	-

		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
Unpresented cheques	Unrestricted	425	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	David Butterworth	
	Mike Thomas	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st December 2020

**Charity no
(if any)**

1125221

Set out on pages

1 of Receipts and Payments Accounts

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2020.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:

Michael Colsell

Date: 16th March 2021

Name:

Michael Colsell

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Former Associate of the Institute of Bankers

Address:

3 Capulet Close, Eaton Socon

St Neots

Cambridgeshire PE19 8UQ