

RIVER LARK CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP

England & Wales · Charity number 1177318

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2018-02-26

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 24 Northgate Avenue
Bury St. Edmunds
IP32 6BB

Phone 01284488502

Email admin@riverlark.org.uk

Website riverlark.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO CONSERVE, PRESERVE AND IMPROVE THE RIVER LARK AND ITS CATCHMENT AREA FOR THE BENEFIT THE PUBLIC, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY:(I) IMPROVING ACCESS AND ENCOURAGING THE APPROPRIATE USE OF THE RIVER AND ITS ENVIRONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.(II) EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE RIVER AND ITS ENVIRONS (III) FACILITATING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THE CONSERVATION OF THE RIVER (IV) MONITORING THE RIVER & ITS CATCHMENT AND REPORTING ANY ISSUES OR CONCERNS TO THE APPROPRIATE BODIES HAVING STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITY.

Activities: The River Lark Catchment Partnership pursues activities that improve the environmental health, ecological bio-diversity and amenity value of the Lark River for the benefit of the public and stakeholders. These include:-- volunteer lead river restoration and naturalisation projects- projects to re-establish the connectivity of the river for fish and eel passage.

Classification

- **How:** Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- Suffolk

Finances

| Period end | Income | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|------------|---------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| 2025-11-30 | £68,899 | £30,506 | - | - |
| 2024-11-30 | £50,314 | £41,619 | - | - |
| 2023-11-30 | £48,829 | £52,804 | - | - |
| 2022-11-30 | £19,971 | £21,092 | - | - |
| 2021-11-30 | £20,029 | £14,524 | - | - |
| 2020-11-30 | £19,505 | £18,986 | - | - |

Trustees

| Name | Role | Appointed |
|---------------------------|-------|------------|
| Prof Ros King | Chair | 2024-01-25 |
| ANDREW HINCHLEY | | 2018-02-22 |
| Christopher Hainsworth | | 2023-02-01 |
| Dr Peter Christopher Lack | | 2024-01-25 |
| Graham Andrew Showell | | 2022-05-05 |
| James STEPHENS | | 2018-02-22 |
| William James Sutherland | | 2023-10-26 |

RIVER LARK CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP

England & Wales - Charity number 1177318

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period



| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|----|------|-----------|-----------------|----|------|
| | Period start date | | | | Period end date | | |
| From | 01 | 12 | 2024 | To | 30 | 11 | 2025 |

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

River Lark Catchment Partnership

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

1177318

Charity's principal address

24, Northgate Avenue

Bury St Edmunds

Suffolk

Postcode

IP32 6BB

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 | Ros Alexander | Chair | | |
| 2 | Jim Stephens | Treasurer | | |
| 3 | Andrew Hinchley | | | |
| 4 | Graham Showell | | | |
| 5 | Chris Hainsworth | | | |
| 6 | William Sutherland | | | |
| 7 | Peter Lack | | | |
| 8 | | | | |
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Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

| Name | Dates acted if not for whole year |
|------|-----------------------------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

| Type of adviser | Name | Address |
|-----------------|------|---------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

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

Ciaran Shaffrey, Lark Catchment Officer

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

| |
|------------------------------|
| CIO Association Constitution |
| Association |
| Elected by members |

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

Our trustees are nominated and elected directly by our membership and we ensure that trustees are practitioners who bring a full set of competencies for our board to be effective. In this our eight year as a registered charity, we have had seven trustees serving on our board throughout the year. Our constitution allows for a maximum of twelve trustees and our policy is to continue to attract nominees to add to the board to enhance the good governance and functioning of the charity. We also enjoy the strong support of the Cam and Ely Ouse Catchment Partnership within which the Lark Partnership is a sub-catchment. In 2025 RLCP was elected by Cameo's steering group to take over the hosting duties of Cameo from Anglian Water and the Rivers Trust.

We have formally adopted an array of policies covering:-

- risk management
- volunteer management
- safeguarding
- complaints handling
- managing conflict of interest
- ensuring equality.

Section C Objectives and activities

The River Lark Catchment Partnership's objectives are to conserve, preserve and improve the River Lark and its catchment area for the benefit of the public, in particular but not exclusively by:

- (i) Improving access and encouraging the appropriate use of the River and its environs by members of the public.
- (ii) Educating the public about the River and its environs
- (iii) Facilitating community involvement in the conservation of the River
- (iv) Monitoring the River & its catchment and reporting any issues or concerns to the appropriate bodies having statutory responsibility.

The Trustees of RLCP actively engage in the formulation of the charity's annual action plan and in so doing ensure that they have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance. The Trustees constantly reviewed the annual work plan as it was underway for 2025.

Staff recruitment

RLCP recruited its first full-time employee to act as our Catchment Officer in 2025. Ciaran Shaffrey will work hard to advance our Lark catchment stakeholder engagement and volunteer management together with working on and coordinating our diverse activities on the Lark chalk-stream flagship initiative in close rapport with Anglian Water.

Building a community-based organisation to deliver river monitoring and conservation:

The river monitoring and conservation activities we aspire to require us to develop an effective linked community organisation along the full extent of the river. We intend to do this progressively over the next few years. In 2025 we continued our river restoration activities entering into an agreement with Suffolk Wildlife Trust to collaborate on river restoration on their land.

Citizen Science evidence gathering for our catchment:

RLCP is committed to developing a robust approach involving our community and our volunteers to collecting the scientific evidence required for improving our catchment in partnership with Anglian Water, Environment Agency and Natural England as well as our local Authorities and businesses.

RLCP CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECTS

(current and future projects to get involved with)

Water Quality Monitoring

Flow Monitoring

Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring

Sediment Monitoring – MudSpotter

MorPH habitat surveys

Outfall Safari

Invertebrate Monitoring – Riverfly and SmartRivers



We continue to build our Citizen Science programme with volunteer training, water quality and flow gauging activities, GIS mapping and collaboration through the national 'Catchment Systems Thinking Cooperative (CaSTCo)' project. In 2025 we pursued our Lark catchment monitoring and evidence gathering activities with grants from St Edmundsbury Town Council and Anglian Water's Get River Positive programme.

Outreach and public engagement:

Educating the public and engaging with our catchment stakeholders is a high priority. In 2025 we pursued these aims with:-

- Community education
- River awareness for local schools
- Engagement with catchment landowner and farming stakeholders
- Water Resources East (WRE) and Lark Water Forum Lark catchment workshops.

The River Lark chalk-stream Flagship Project:

The National Chalk Stream Restoration Strategy was launched in October 2021 as a 'Catchment Based Approach' (CaBA) initiative sponsored by DEFRA, EA and Ofwat by CaBA's chalk stream restoration group which is made up of representatives from the Environment Agency, Natural England, Ofwat, Water UK, WWF, Angling Trust, Salmon and Trout Conservation, The Rivers Trust, Wild Trout Trust and Wildlife Trusts. In 2022 Anglian Water selected the Lark to be the chalk stream 'Flagship' in its area guided by the following criteria:

- Local Passion**—The creation and development of the River Lark Catchment Partnership charity. Lots of public interest/involvement (Mildenhall & Bury St Edmunds).
- Landowners**—Anglian Water are currently building a landowner network for AMP7 WINEP delivery and there are known connections through local partnerships.
- Scale**—The Lark catchment is large, but the chalk stream sections are of the right scale for this proposal.
- Designation**—The River Lark currently has no legal designation.
- Condition**—Across the Lark catchment, waterbodies have moderate or worse ecological status. There is a clear opportunity for improvement (as seen in targeted stretches of the Lark already), but there are also challenges around technical feasibility and timescales of improvements.

We recognised the close alignment of our action plan for the Lark with the chalk stream recovery strategy and engaged with AW as the key community-based partner for the initiative. In September 2023 we entered into a Partnering Agreement with Anglian Water for the Flagship project which will be implemented through AW's 2025 to 2030 business plan. Through 2025 we have undertaken preparation activities for flagship for project planning and RLCP capacity building.

Wider water sector collaboration and engagement:

The River Lark is a sub-catchment of the Cam and Ely-Ouse catchment (CamEO). Throughout the year we have participated in the regular CamEO 'collaboration and engagement' meetings and other events where we interacted vibrantly with our partners across the region.

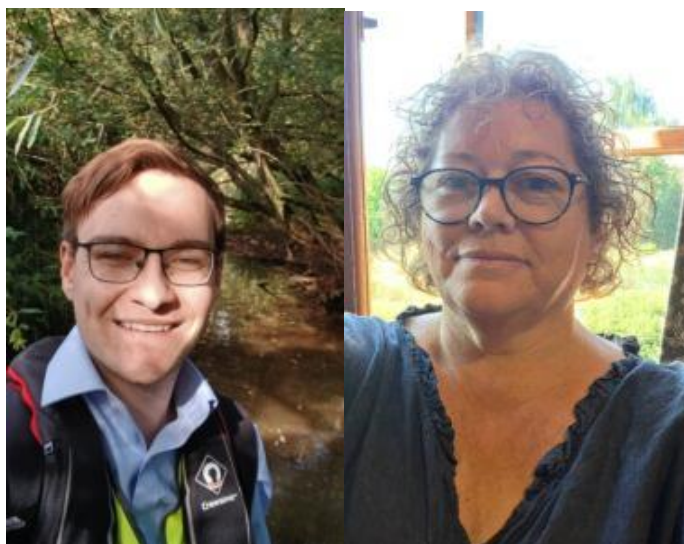
In September RLCP took over the hosting of CamEO from Anglian Water and the Rivers Trust.

RLCP capacity building in 2025:

2025 has been a step up for our charity as we have been able to recruit a full time River Lark catchment officer. Ciaran Shaffrey joined RLCP in September to fulfil the following job description:

- working with partners to develop the current River Lark Catchment Plan into a succession of projects ready for delivery
- maintaining and developing RLCP's GIS capability
- gathering baseline data, including biodiversity surveys and invertebrate sampling to inform proposed works, and monitor the effectiveness of completed work
- overseeing the delivery of larger projects
- working with RLCP volunteers to deliver river restoration works
- helping to build productive relationships with stakeholders and riparian owners
- encouraging regenerative or catchment friendly farming practices in the region
- helping ensure RLCP's medium to long term stability by identifying grant opportunities:
 - applying for small grants
 - assisting in the preparation of larger grants
- developing RLCP as an effective CamEO host and acknowledged leader in the delivery of BNG disseminating information and good practice amongst the wider CamEO catchment organisations contributing to a programme of public engagement and education.

We have also engaged Becky Poynter to support our core administration including managing our website and web-based communication



Ciaran Shaffrey
Lark catchment officer

Becky Poynter
RLCP admin support

River restoration work:

In 2025 there has been a pause in our river restoration activities as we take into consideration the conclusions and recommendations we have been receiving from the Lark Fluvial audit which we report on below.

We have maintained our engagement with the Brecks project post BFER and our chair has been appointed to the board of a new Brecks Landscape Partnership which has been set up to unite communities, landowners, conservation bodies, and local authorities in a shared mission to protect and enhance the Brecks.

In October 2025 we entered into a partnership agreement with Suffolk Wildlife Trust to work on Lark river restoration projects within their land. We carried our preparatory works for restoring the river within Lackford Lakes immediately upstream of the West Stow water recycling site which will be carried out in 2026.



RLCP volunteers doing instream habitat work in spring 2025

Controlling Non-Native Invasive Species and Litter Picking:

In the Lark streams there is a proliferation of Himalayan Balsam which left uncontrolled is very damaging to our native flora. Himalayan balsam colonises the banks of rivers, streams and ditches. Its shallow roots and annual growth habit do little to stabilise the soil along banks, leading to habitat alteration and degradation. RLCP volunteers have been routinely carrying out summer 'Himalayan Balsam Bashing' campaigns and are moving towards establishing a control and eventual eradication approach for the catchment.



Our Balsam bashing volunteers in July 2025

We are also stepping up our litter picking campaigns to keep the River clearer.



Litter picking in Forham and Hengrave in 2025

Citizen Science in the Lark Catchment:

In 2025 our main focus was continuing to deliver into our citizen science monitoring programme as one of the Anglian region's demonstration catchments in the national 'Catchment Systems Thinking Cooperative (CaSTCo)' project. The three-year CaSTCo project sponsored by OFWAT ended in 2025. Our main focus in 2025 has been on improving Lark water quality monitoring with Seneye automatic monitoring as well as continuing with water quality and invertebrate monitoring, and MorPH habitat surveys. Through 2025 we have continued to maintain our links with the Anglian Water, EA and Rivers Trust CaSTCo team as prospective funds for continuing the effort are being sort.

An important activity in 2025 was supporting the Lark Fluvial Audit and restoration strategy being delivered by Southampton University with sediment collecting which was carried out by RLCP's Glenn Smithson and Rob Clapham of the EA.



Installing a sediment collecting tube



Sediment samples ready for dispatch

Public Education:

We have been particularly focused on our charity's objective to educate the public about the river and its environs.

For public engagement RLCP gave talks regarding the river Lark to three organisations in 2025:

- Tuddenham Village on 25th February 2025.
- Long Melford Gardeners on 17th March 2025.
- Lackford Village on 17th May 2025.



Graham Showell giving his talk to Long Melford Gardeners

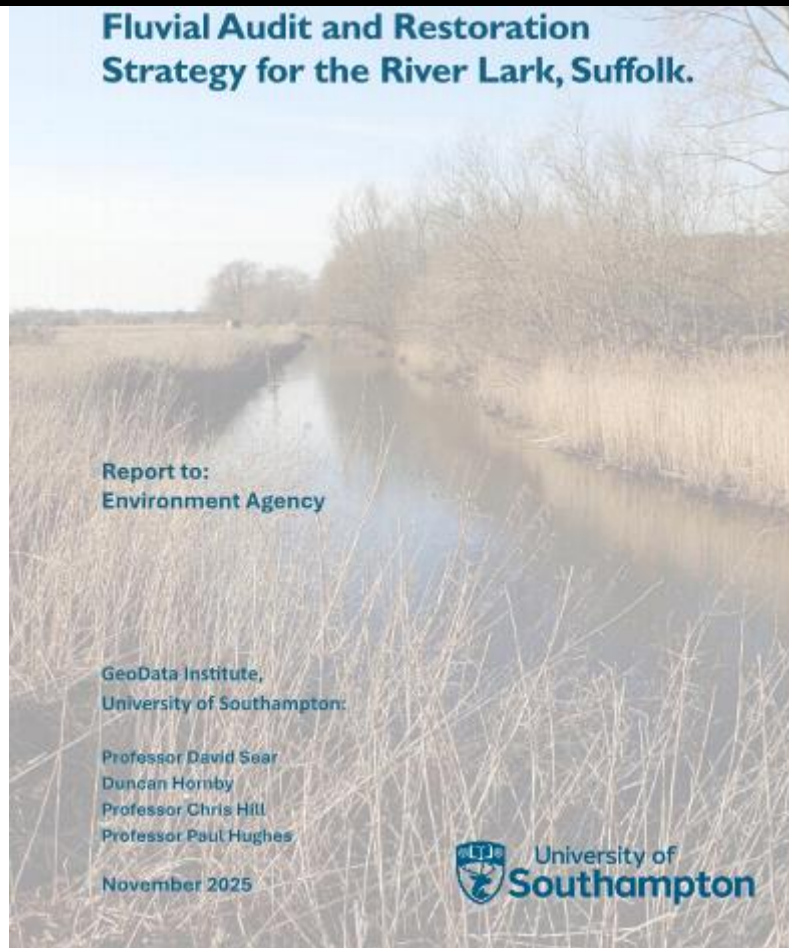
For schools our Chair gave talks to year seven classes at Bury St Edmunds King Edward VI school in May and our newly recruited Catchment Officer gave talks to year 3 classes and a key stage 2 assembly at Bury St Edmunds Guildhall Feoffment primary school in November.

River Lark – Anglian Water’s chalk-stream Flagship Project:

In 2023 RLCP entered into a Partnering Agreement with Anglian Water (AW) for the preparatory and implementation stages of the Lark chalk-stream Flagship Project. From 2025 to 2030 AW will be implementing the project aimed at significantly improving the health of our precious chalk stream. Our Partnership Agreement with AW provides the framework for us to develop our capabilities as AW’s community partner in the project’s implementation. In 2025 we have been provided with a ‘Get Rivers Positive’ grant enabling RLCP to recruit our Catchment Officer and continue with Flagship project development efforts.

With EA taking the lead, we have engaged Southampton University in a collaborative agreement to undertake a research project in order to design, collect and analyse data on the River Lark to guide future flagship restoration actions with the objectives to:

- assess the current state of the Lark and provide recommendations for achieving best possible state by 2030 and beyond
- undertake a combination of desk- and field-based data collection including a fluvial audit and network of sediment samplers to better understand and quantify sediment inputs, storage and transport through the catchment
- undertake sediment coring, paleo-environmental analysis and other analysis, which alongside the fluvial audit will determine the ‘feasibility’ for restoration at specifically agreed sites. The outputs will guide future projects to ‘design-phases during flagship implementation
- Train RLCP volunteers to maintain equipment and undertake additional surveys.



The River Lark Fluvial Audit report is now available and RLCP with our Flagship partners have this vital guide to take us through the implementation period of the project.

Outreach, stakeholder and public engagements in 2025:

Lark Water Forum:

The Lark Water Forum is a regular gathering of the significant water stakeholders across the socio-economic sectors of the Lark catchment. RLCP hosts the initiative and our treasurer Jim Stephens is the convener for the Forum.

In 2025 we invited the Forum delegates to the Lark catchment workshops that were organised by Water Resources East (WRE) and held at Tuddenham Village Hall in July and September.

Cam and Ely Ouse Partnership participation:

We have kept up our participation in CamEO by attending all their partnership engagement events as well as their conference held at Bury St Edmunds Guildhall in November 2024.

CamEO's steering group provides strategic direction to the numerous parties that share the common objective of improving the water environment in the CamEO Catchment Area, and thereby help CamEO progress towards the **vision of a Cam and Ely Ouse catchment with good quality and resilient water environments, that are protected and enhanced and able to benefit communities and businesses.** RLCP is a permanent member of the steering group and is represented at meeting by our chair Ros Alexander and/or our treasurer Jim Stephens.

In September 2025 RLCP took over from The Rivers Trust and Anglian Water the hosting duties for CamEO.

Section D**Achievements and performance****Section E****Financial review**

The charity held a total of £51,042 in funds at the end of the period comprising £49,064 as restricted funds and £1,978 as unrestricted funds.

For the previous year the corresponding sums were a total of £12,649.

For 2025 the charity does not have a reserves policy and does not hold funds in reserve. This will be actively reviewed in 2026 together with considerations about any necessary decisions to have funds in reserve.

The charity registers Receipts & Payments accounts. No funds were materially in deficit in 2025.

Further financial review details (Optional information)

In 2025 the charity received grant funds from the following donors:

- Environment Agency
- Bury St Edmunds Town Council
- Anglian Water
- RC Browne & Sons

Grant funded expenditure has supported our capacity building for catchment-based approach awareness raising, Lark River restoration works and citizen science, activities on the Lark chalk-stream Flagship project, hosting of CamEO and our outreach campaigns.

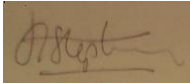

Section F**Other optional information****List of Abbreviations:**

| | |
|--------|---|
| AW | Anglian Water |
| BFER | The Brecks Fen Edge & Rivers Landscape Partnership (funded by National Lottery) |
| CaBA | The Catchment Based Approach |
| CaSTCo | Catchment Systems Thinking Cooperative Project |
| CamEO | The Cam and Ely Ouse Catchment Partnership |
| EA | The Environment Agency |
| GIS | Geographical Information System |
| MorPh | Modular river physical field surveys |
| NRT | Norfolk Rivers Trust |
| RLCP | River Lark Catchment Partnership |
| WRE | Water Resources East |

Section G**Declaration**

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Signature(s) |  |  |
| Full name(s) | James Stephens | Graham Showell |
| Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc) | Treasurer, Trustee | Trustee |
| Date | 24 th April 2026 | |

Receipts & Payments Accounts

Name River Lark Catchment Partnership
 Charity Number 1177318
 For the period from (start date) 1st December 2024 To (end date) 30th November 2025

| Section A | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Receipts & Payments | | | | | |
| | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Endowment funds | Total funds | Last year |
| | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ |
| A1 Receipts | | | | | |
| CamEO Hosting Grant | | 15000 | | 15000 | 2000 |
| Brecks Fen Edge & Rivers LPS Claims | | | | 0 | 698 |
| WfT CaBA WR021 | | | | 0 | 2500 |
| CaBA WR023 | | | | 0 | 5000 |
| BSE Town Council CS Grant 2023 - 2024 | | | | 0 | 3792 |
| BSE Town Council CS Grant 2024 - 2025 | | | | 0 | 3600 |
| EA Partnership for River Restoration 2023 | | | | 0 | 9956 |
| AW GDP Flagship Grant No.1 | | 3000 | | 3000 | 21000 |
| Browne & Son Grant (EA) | | 10000 | | 10000 | |
| AW GDP Flagship Grant No.2 | | 40000 | | 40000 | |
| Donations | 899 | | | 899 | 1768 |
| <i>Sub total</i> | 899 | 68000 | | 68899 | 50314 |
| A2 Asset & investment sales, etc | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| <i>Total receipts</i> | 899 | 68000 | | 68899 | 50314 |
| A3 Payments | | | | | |
| Salaries and NI | | 7567 | | 7567 | |
| HMRC paye | | 354 | | 354 | |
| Payroll Service | | 318 | | 318 | |
| Pension contributions | | 485 | | 485 | |
| RLCP Administration services | 166 | 735 | | 901 | 268 |
| RLCP Donations | 100 | | | 100 | |
| RLCP Annual Insurance Premium | 1336 | | | 1336 | 982 |
| RLCP ARCGIS Licences | | 657 | | 657 | |
| RLCP Entertainment Expenses | | | | 0 | 537 |
| RLCP Admin & Events Expenses | 68 | | | 68 | 667 |
| RLCP Equipment&Materials Expenses | 673 | 2034 | | 2707 | 322 |
| CamEO hosting expenses | | 535 | | 535 | |
| BFER Expenses | | | | 0 | 834 |
| RLCP Governance admin and training | | 960 | | 960 | 1597 |
| GRP Flagship Grant No.1 Engagement and Coordination costs | | 2904 | | 2904 | 17982 |
| GRP Flagship Grant No.2 Growing and Securing RLCP volunteer base costs | | 6792 | | 6792 | |
| EA Partnership for River Restoration 2023 - Procurement and expenses | | | | 0 | 6335 |
| WfT CaBA WR021 - CS Engagement and Equipment Costs | | | | 0 | 1284 |
| CaBA WR023 - Farm Systems Ltd Payments, coordination and expenses | | | | 0 | 4990 |
| BSE Town Council CS equipment and training procurement and expenses | | 1663 | | 1663 | 5821 |
| Hawstead FM Project costs | | 3159 | | 3159 | |
| <i>Sub total</i> | 2343 | 28163 | | 30506 | 41619 |
| A4 Asset & investment purchases, etc | - | - | | - | - |
| <i>Total payments</i> | 2343 | 28163 | | 30506 | 41619 |
| <i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i> | -1444 | 39837 | | 38393 | 8695 |
| A5 Transfers between funds | 1040 | -1040 | | | |
| A6 Cash funds last year end | 2382 | 10267 | | 12649 | 3954 |
| <i>Cash funds this period end</i> | 1978 | 49064 | | 51042 | 12649 |

Section B

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

| B1 Cash funds | Details | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Endowment funds |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ |
| | Receipts | 899 | 68000 | 0 |
| | Payments | 2343 | 28163 | 0 |
| | Cash funds last year end | 3422 | 9227 | 0 |
| | <i>Total cash funds</i> | 1978 | 49064 | 0 |

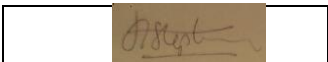
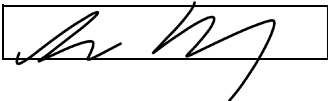
| B2 Other monetary assets | Details | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Endowment funds |
|--------------------------|---------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | |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

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

| B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|--|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| | | IT Equipment | unrestricted | |
| Gardening equipment | unrestricted | | | |
| Water Quality Testing equipment | unrestricted | | | |
| River restoration tools | unrestricted | | | |
| River restoration materials | restricted | | | |
| PPE (Waders, Gauntlets, etc) | unrestricted | | | |
| Display kit and Banners | unrestricted | | | |

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

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

| Signature | Print name | Date of approval |
|---|----------------|------------------|
|  | James Stephens | 14th April 2026 |
|  | Ros Alexander | 14th April 2026 |

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of River Lark Catchment Partnership CIO

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the River Lark Catchment Partnership CIO (the Charity) for the year ended 30 November 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

Signed: *Ian Campbell*

Name: Ian Campbell

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies:
Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants
Affiliate Member of the Association of Independent Examiners

Address: 27 Victoria Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3BB

Date: *24th April 2026*

RIVER LARK CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP

England & Wales - Charity number 1177318

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period



| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|----|------|-----------|-----------------|----|------|
| From | Period start date | | | To | Period end date | | |
| | 01 | 12 | 2023 | | 30 | 11 | 2024 |

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

River Lark Catchment Partnership

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

1177318

Charity's principal address

24, Northgate Avenue

Bury St Edmunds

Suffolk

Postcode

IP32 6BB

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 | Ros Alexander | Chair (from 4 th March 2024) | 25 th January 2024 to 30 th November 2024 | |
| 2 | Andrew Hinchley | Chair (to 4 th March 2024) | | |
| 3 | Jim Stephens | Treasurer | | |
| 4 | Will Cranstoun | | 1 st December 2023 to 2nd May 2024 | |
| 5 | Graham Showell | | | |
| 6 | Caroline Chamberlain | | 1 st December 2023 to 2nd May 2024 | |
| 7 | Chris Hainsworth | | | |
| 8 | William Sutherland | | | |
| 9 | Peter Lack | | 25 th January 2024 to 30 th November 2024 | |
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Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

| Name | Dates acted if not for whole year |
|------|-----------------------------------|
| | |
| | |

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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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

| |
|------------------------------|
| CIO Association Constitution |
| Association |
| Elected by members |

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

Our trustees are nominated and elected directly by our membership and we ensure that trustees are practitioners who bring a full set of competencies for our board to be effective. In this our sixth year as a registered charity, we have had seven trustees serving on our board throughout the year. Our constitution allows for a maximum of twelve trustees and our policy is to continue to attract nominees to add to the board to enhance the good governance and functioning of the charity. We also enjoy the strong support of the Cam and Ely Ouse Catchment Partnership within which the Lark Partnership is a sub-catchment.

We have formally adopted an array of policies covering:-

- risk management
- volunteer management
- safeguarding
- complaints handling
- managing conflict of interest
- ensuring equality

Section C Objectives and activities

The River Lark Catchment Partnership's objectives are to conserve, preserve and improve the River Lark and its catchment area for the benefit of the public, in particular but not exclusively by:

- (i) Improving access and encouraging the appropriate use of the River and its environs by members of the public.
- (ii) Educating the public about the River and its environs
- (iii) Facilitating community involvement in the conservation of the River
- (iv) Monitoring the River & its catchment and reporting any issues or concerns to the appropriate bodies having statutory responsibility.

The Trustees of RLCP actively engage in the formulation of the charity's annual action plan and in so doing ensure that they have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance. The Trustees constantly reviewed the annual work plan as it was underway for 2024.

Building a community-based organisation to deliver river monitoring and conservation:

The river monitoring and conservation activities we aspire to require us to develop an effective linked community organisation along the full extent of the river. We intend to do this progressively over the next few years. In 2024 we continued our river restoration activities through the Brecks Fen Edge & Rivers Landscape Partnership Scheme (BFER).

Citizen Science evidence gathering for our catchment:

RLCP is committed to developing a robust approach involving our community and our volunteers to collecting the scientific evidence required for improving our catchment in partnership with Anglian Water, Environment Agency and Natural England as well as our local Authorities and businesses.

RLCP CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECTS

(current and future projects to get involved with)

- Water Quality Monitoring
- Flow Monitoring
- Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring
- Sediment Monitoring – MudSpotter
- MorPH habitat surveys
- Outfall Safari
- Invertebrate Monitoring – Riverfly and SmartRivers



We continue to build our Citizen Science programme with volunteer training, water quality and flow gauging activities, GIS mapping and collaboration through the national 'Catchment Systems Thinking Cooperative (CaSTCo)' project. In 2024 we pursued our Lark catchment monitoring and evidence gathering activities with grants from St Edmundsbury Town Council and Anglian Water's Get River Positive programme.

Outreach and public engagement:

Educating the public and engaging with our catchment stakeholders is a high priority. In 2024 we pursued these aims with:-

- River awareness for local schools
- Engagement with catchment landowner and farming stakeholders
- Meetings of the Lark Water Forum.

The River Lark chalk-stream Flagship Project:

The National Chalk Stream Restoration Strategy was launched in October 2021 as a 'Catchment Based Approach' (CaBA) initiative sponsored by DEFRA, EA and Ofwat by CaBA's chalk stream restoration group which is made up of representatives from the Environment Agency, Natural England, Ofwat, Water UK, WWF, Angling Trust, Salmon and Trout Conservation, The Rivers Trust, Wild Trout Trust and Wildlife Trusts. In 2022 Anglian Water selected the Lark to be the chalk stream 'Flagship' in its area guided by the following criteria:

- Local Passion**—The creation and development of the River Lark Catchment Partnership charity. Lots of public interest/involvement (Mildenhall & Bury St Edmunds).
- Landowners**—Anglian Water are currently building a landowner network for AMP7 WINEP delivery and there are known connections through local partnerships.
- Scale**—The Lark catchment is large, but the chalk stream sections are of the right scale for this proposal.
- Designation**—The River Lark currently has no legal designation.
- Condition**—Across the Lark catchment, waterbodies have moderate or worse ecological status. There is a clear opportunity for improvement (as seen in targeted stretches of the Lark already), but there are also challenges around technical feasibility and timescales of improvements.

We recognised the close alignment of our action plan for the Lark with the chalk stream recovery strategy and engaged with AW as the key community-based partner for the initiative. In September 2023 we entered into a Partnering Agreement with Anglian Water for the Flagship project which will be implemented through AW's 2025 to 2030 business plan. Through 2024 we have undertaken preparation activities for flagship for project planning and RLCP capacity building.

Wider water sector collaboration and engagement:

The River Lark is a sub-catchment of the Cam and Ely-Ouse catchment (CamEO). Throughout the year we have participated in the regular CamEO 'collaboration and engagement' meetings and other events including the annual conference held in November at Bury St Edmunds Guildhall where we interacted vibrantly with our partners across the region.

Celebrating the year's achievements:

In August we held our Evening Summer Garden Party at Fullers Mill where some 50 of our members and volunteers attended. We are so grateful to the team at [Fullers Mill](#) for allowing us to use their beautiful setting, and a big thankyou to Steph Holland for organising the event. For those that couldn't make it, we hope you can join us next year!

River restoration work in 2024:

This was the last year of the five year of our Lark River Channel Restoration Project within the Brecks Fen Edge & Rivers Landscape Partnership Scheme (BFER).

The year's river restoration works completed our improvement of the river from the outskirts of Bury St Edmunds into the South end of the Lark Valley golf course.



We have now completed the RLCP five-year BFER project and we hit or exceeded our delivery targets for restored channel works, volunteers trained and engaged, training events and workshops and various other technical development and public awareness metrics. The only target we were not in a position to deliver was for tree planting which was dropped early in the programme. Well done to our more than forty volunteers who contributed so vibrantly to the project.

Citizen Science in the Lark Catchment:

In 2024 our main focus was delivering into our citizen science monitoring programme as one of the Anglian region's demonstration catchments in the national 'Catchment Systems Thinking Cooperative (CaSTCo)' project. Our main focus has been on water quality monitoring. However we have actively participated in flow monitoring, invertebrate monitoring and MorPH habitat surveys.

We received two grants from Bury St Edmunds Town Council this year which have supported our programme. The first received in December 2023 was an equipment grant which funded purchasing water quality instruments and annex equipment as well as peripheral IT. The second received in May 2024 was a volunteer training and development grant specifically aimed at Mud spotter training and the establishment through CaSTCo of a public access portal for the citizen science data and evidence gathering for the Lark catchment.

**River Lark – Anglian Water’s chalk-stream Flagship Project:**

In 2023 RLCP entered into a Partnering Agreement with Anglian Water (AW) for the preparatory and implementation stages of the Lark chalk-stream Flagship Project. From 2025 to 2030 AW will be implementing the project aimed at significantly improving the health of our precious chalk stream. Our Partnership Agreement with AW provides the framework for us to develop our capabilities as AW's community partner in the project's implementation. We have also benefitted from a first grant made to us under the partnership agreement from Anglian Water's 'Get River Positive' scheme to support our participation in the preparation for Flagship from mid-2023 through to the end of 2024

In 2024 we progressed Flagship preparation by supporting Norfolk Rivers Trust (NRT) who have been

commissioned by Anglian Water to deliver a catchment development plan for the Lark and Wissey catchments. We have also been busy developing and promoting our vision for Flagship implementation. In May Anglian Water issued its public facing promotional document for the project which you can download by visiting the RLCP website (<https://www.riverlark.org.uk>). We held coordination and technical development meetings throughout the year with our partners, AW, EA and NRT and we reported progress to our catchment stakeholders at Lark Water Forum meetings.



The front cover of the promotional document for the Lark Chalk-Stream Flagship Project

With EA taking the lead, we have engaged Southampton University in a collaborative agreement to undertake a research project in order to design, collect and analyse data on the River Lark to guide future flagship restoration actions with the objectives to:

- assess the current state of the Lark and provide recommendations for achieving best possible state by 2030 and beyond
- undertake a combination of desk- and field-based data collection including a fluvial audit and network of sediment samplers to better understand and quantify sediment inputs, storage and transport through the catchment
- undertake sediment coring, paleo-environmental analysis and other analysis, which alongside the fluvial audit will determine the 'feasibility' for restoration at specifically agreed sites. The outputs will guide future projects to 'design-phases during flagship implementation
- Train RLCP volunteers to maintain equipment and undertake additional surveys.

In 2024 we have established the sediment monitoring sites and prepared the way for this important preparatory project for the Flagship project which will deliver through next year.

Outreach, stakeholder and public engagements in 2024:***Lark Water Forum:***

The Lark Water Forum is a regular gathering of the significant water stakeholders across the socio-economic sectors of the Lark catchment. RLCP hosts the initiative and our treasurer Jim Stephens is the convener for the Forum.

We held Lark Water Forum meetings in December 2023 and April and November 2024. These meetings included presentations from our stakeholders on Bury St Edmunds industrial water use, Agricultural water use and on how West Suffolk council views its role for Lark water management.

Cam and Ely Ouse Partnership participation:

We have kept up our participation in CamEO by attending all their partnership engagement events as well as their conference in April. In April CamEO initiated a steering group with the primary purpose *to provide strategic direction to the numerous parties* that share the common objective of improving the water environment in CamEO Catchment Area, and thereby help CamEO progress towards the **vision of a Cam and Ely Ouse catchment with good quality and resilient water environments, that are protected and enhanced and able to benefit communities and businesses.**

RLCP is a permanent member of the steering group and is represented at meeting by our chair Ros Alexander and/or our treasurer Jim Stephens.

Section E Financial review

The charity held a total of £12,649 in funds at the end of the period comprising £10,267 as restricted funds and £2,382 as unrestricted funds.

For the previous year the corresponding sums were a total of £3,954.

For 2024 the charity does not have a reserves policy and does not hold funds in reserve. This will be actively reviewed in 2025 together with considerations about any necessary decisions to have funds in reserve.

The charity registers Receipts & Payments accounts. No funds were materially in deficit in 2024.

Further financial review details (Optional information)

In 2024 the charity received grant funds from the following donors:

- Environment Agency
- The Catchment Based Approach (CaBA) Water Resources Communications and Engagement Fund administered by The Rivers Trust
- Heritage Lottery Funded Brecks Fen Edge and Rivers Landscape Partnership (BFER)
- Bury St Edmunds Town Council
- Anglian Water

Grant funded expenditure has supported our capacity building for catchment-based approach awareness raising, Lark River restoration works, preparation for the Lark chalk-stream Flagship project, pollution action plan and citizen science monitoring efforts, and our outreach campaigns.

Section F Other optional information



List of Abbreviations:

| | |
|--------|---|
| AW | Anglian Water |
| BFER | The Brecks Fen Edge & Rivers Landscape Partnership (funded by National Lottery) |
| CaBA | The Catchment Based Approach |
| CaSTCo | Catchment Systems Thinking Cooperative Project |
| CamEO | The Cam and Ely Ouse Catchment Partnership |
| EA | The Environment Agency |
| GIS | Geographical Information System |
| MorPh | Modular river physical field surveys |
| NRT | Norfolk Rivers Trust |
| RLCP | River Lark Catchment Partnership |

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Signature(s) |  |  |
| Full name(s) | James Stephens | Graham Showell |
| Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc) | Treasurer, Trustee | Trustee |

Date 7th May 2025

Receipts & Payments Accounts

Name River Lark Catchment Partnership
 Charity Number 1177318
 For the period from (start date) 1st December 2023 To (end date) 30th November 2024

| Section A | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Receipts & Payments | | | | | |
| | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Endowment funds | Total funds | Last year |
| | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ |
| A1 Receipts | | | | | |
| CamEO Hosting Grant | 2000 | | | 2000 | 2000 |
| Brecks Fen Edge & Rivers LPS Claims | 698 | | | 698 | 1000 |
| Water for Tomorrow Grant | | | | | 7597 |
| WFT CaBA WR021 | | 2500 | | 2500 | 7500 |
| Localities - Citizen science grants | | | | | 1074 |
| BSE Town Council CS Grant 2023 - 2024 | | 3792 | | 3792 | |
| BSE Town Council CS Grant 2024 - 2025 | | 3600 | | 3600 | |
| EA Partnership for River Restoration 2022 | | | | | 7358 |
| EA Partnership for River Restoration 2023 | | 9956 | | 9956 | |
| AW Lark flagship Support MOU | | | | | 17000 |
| AW GDP Flagship Grant No.1 | | 21000 | | 21000 | |
| CaBA WR023 | | 5000 | | 5000 | 5000 |
| Donations | 1768 | | | 1768 | 300 |
| <i>Sub total</i> | 4466 | 45848 | | 50314 | 48829 |
| A2 Asset & investment sales, etc | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| <i>Total receipts</i> | 4466 | 45848 | | 50314 | 48829 |
| A3 Payments | | | | | |
| RLCP Administration services | 268 | | | 268 | 0 |
| RLCP Annual Insurance Premium | 982 | | | 982 | 1194 |
| RLCP Web Hosting | | | | 0 | 29 |
| RLCP Entertainment Expenses | 537 | | | 537 | 785 |
| RLCP Admin & Events Expenses | 667 | | | 667 | 25 |
| RLCP Equipment&Materials Expenses | 322 | | | 322 | 94 |
| BFER Glenn Smithson Ltd Support Services | | | | 0 | 1000 |
| BFER Expenses | 834 | | | 834 | 35 |
| NCVO Training (AW flagship support MOU) | | 1597 | | 1597 | 8041 |
| GRP Flagship Grant No.1 Engagement and Coordination | | 17982 | | 17982 | 2802 |
| Water for Tomorrow Grant Payments | | | | 0 | 13389 |
| Localities Citizen Science Grants - Water Quality | | | | | |
| Equipment purchases | | | | 0 | 1822 |
| EA Partnership for River Restoration 2022 - Costs | | | | | 7359 |
| EA Partnership for River Restoration 2023 - Procurement and expenses | | 6335 | | 6335 | 3551 |
| Wft CaBA WR021 - Admin & Coordination | | | | 0 | 4604 |
| Wft CaBA WR021 - CS Engagement and Equipment Costs | | 1284 | | 1284 | 3574 |
| CaBA WR023 - Farm Systems Ltd Payments, coordination and expenses | | 4990 | | 4990 | 4500 |
| BSE Town Council CS equipment and training procurement and expenses | | 5821 | | 5821 | |
| <i>Sub total</i> | 3610 | 38009 | | 41619 | 52804 |
| A4 Asset & investment purchases, etc | - | - | | - | - |
| <i>Total payments</i> | 3610 | 38009 | | 41619 | 52804 |
| <i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i> | 856 | 7839 | | 8695 | -3975 |
| A5 Transfers between funds | 187 | -187 | | | |
| A6 Cash funds last year end | 1339 | 2615 | 0 | 3954 | 9050 |
| <i>Cash funds this period end</i> | 2382 | 10267 | 0 | 12649 | 5075 |

Section B

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

| B1 Cash funds | Details | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Endowment funds |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ |
| | Receipts | 4466 | 45848 | 0 |
| | Payments | 3610 | 38009 | 0 |
| | Cash funds last year end | 1526 | 2428 | 0 |
| | <i>Total cash funds</i> | 2382 | 10267 | 0 |

| B2 Other monetary assets | Details | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Endowment funds |
|--------------------------|---------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the 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) |
|--|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| | | IT Equipment | unrestricted | |
| Gardening equipment | unrestricted | | | |
| Water Quality Testing equipment | unrestricted | | | |
| River restoration tools | unrestricted | | | |
| River restoration materials | restricted | | | |
| PPE (Waders, Gauntlets, etc) | unrestricted | | | |
| Display kit and Banners | unrestricted | | | |

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

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

Signature

Print name

Date of approval



James Stephens

27th January 2025

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of River Lark Catchment Partnership CIO

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the River Lark Catchment Partnership CIO (the Charity) for the year ended 30 November 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

Signed: 

Name: Ian Campbell

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies:
Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants
Affiliate Member of the Association of Independent Examiners

Address: 27 Victoria Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3BB

Date: 9th May 2025

RIVER LARK CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP

England & Wales - Charity number 1177318

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period



| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|-------------------|------|-----------|-----------------|----|------|
| | | Period start date | | | Period end date | | |
| From | 01 | 12 | 2022 | To | 30 | 11 | 2023 |

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

River Lark Catchment Partnership

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

1177318

Charity's principal address

24, Northgate Avenue

Bury St Edmunds

Suffolk

Postcode

IP32 6BB

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 | James Stephens | Treasurer | | |
| 2 | Andrew Hinchley | Chairman | | |
| 3 | William Cranstoun | | | Suffolk Wildlife Trust |
| 4 | David Palmer | | 1 st December 2022 to 31 st January 2023 | |
| 5 | Graham Showell | | | |
| 6 | Caroline Chamberlain | | | |
| 7 | Chris Hainsworth | | 1 st February 2023 to 30 th November 2023 | |
| 8 | William Sutherland | | 26 th October 2023 to 30 th November 2023 | |
| 9 | | | | |
| 10 | | | | |
| 11 | | | | |
| 12 | | | | |
| 13 | | | | |
| 14 | | | | |
| 15 | | | | |
| 20 | | | | |

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

| Name | Dates acted if not for whole year |
|------|-----------------------------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

| Type of adviser | Name | Address |
|-----------------|------|---------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

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

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

| |
|------------------------------|
| CIO Association Constitution |
| Association |
| Elected by members |

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

Our trustees are nominated and elected directly by our membership and we ensure that trustees are practitioners who bring a full set of competencies for our board to be effective. In this our fifth year as a registered charity, we have had six trustees serving on our board throughout the year and we have added a further trustee from October 2023. Our constitution allows for a maximum of twelve trustees and our policy is to continue to attract nominees to add to the board to enhance the good governance and functioning of the charity. We also enjoy the strong support of the Cam and Ely Ouse Catchment Partnership within which the Lark Partnership is a sub-catchment.

We have formally adopted an array of policies covering:-

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- volunteer management
- safeguarding
- complaints handling
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The River Lark Catchment Partnership's objectives are to conserve, preserve and improve the River Lark and its catchment area for the benefit of the public, in particular but not exclusively by:

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- (iii) Facilitating community involvement in the conservation of the River
- (iv) Monitoring the River & its catchment and reporting any issues or concerns to the appropriate bodies having statutory responsibility.

The Trustees of RLCP actively engage in the formulation of the charity's annual action plan and in so doing ensure that they have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance. The Trustees constantly reviewed the annual work plan as it was underway for 2023. Statutory declaration on public benefit.

Building a community-based organisation to deliver river conservation:

The conservation activities we aspire to be in line with the charity's objectives require us to develop an effective linked community organisation along the full extent of the river. We intend to do this progressively over the next few years. In 2023 we were able to progress our river restoration activities through the Brecks Fen Edge & Rivers Landscape Partnership Scheme (BFER) and matching grants made to us by the Environment Agency.



Installing brushwood bundles on the Lark near the Lark Valley Golf Course in April

Citizen Science evidence gathering for our catchment:

RLCP is committed to developing a robust approach to collecting the scientific evidence required for improving our catchment in partnership with Anglian Water, Environment Agency and our local Authorities and businesses.

In 2023 we continued to build our Citizen Science programme with volunteer training, water quality and flow gauging activities, GIS mapping and collaboration through the national 'Catchment Systems Thinking Cooperative (CaSTCo)' project.



Preparations for flow gauging at the Linnet Tributary site

Outreach and public engagement:

Educating the public and engaging with our catchment stakeholders is a high priority. In 2023 we pursued these aims with:-

- Webinars and public speaking events

- Establishing a pilot to engage with landowner and farming stakeholders in the Linnet Tributary
- Launching the Lark Water Forum.



Charles Rangeley-Wilson leading DEFRA's Chalk-Stream strategy, at the lectern in Bury St Edmunds

The River Lark chalk-stream Flagship Project:

The National Chalk Stream Restoration Strategy was launched in October 2021 as a 'Catchment Based Approach' (CaBA) initiative sponsored by DEFRA, EA and Ofwat by CaBA's chalk stream restoration group which is made up of representatives from the Environment Agency, Natural England, Ofwat, Water UK, WWF, Angling Trust, Salmon and Trout Conservation, The Rivers Trust, Wild Trout Trust and Wildlife Trusts. In 2022 Anglian Water selected the Lark to be the chalk stream 'Flagship' in its area guided by the following criteria:

- **Local Passion**—The creation and development of the River Lark Catchment Partnership charity. Lots of public interest/involvement (Mildenhall & Bury St Ed).
- **Landowners**—Anglian Water are currently building a landowner network for AMP7 WINEP delivery and there are known connections through local partnerships.
- **Scale**—The Lark catchment is large, but the chalk stream sections are of the right scale for this proposal.
- **Designation**—The River Lark currently has no legal designation.
- **Condition**—Across the Lark catchment, waterbodies have moderate or worse ecological status. There is a clear opportunity for improvement (as seen in targeted stretches of the Lark already), but there are also challenges around technical feasibility and timescales of improvements.

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The River Lark is a sub-catchment of the Cam and Ely-Ouse catchment (CamEO). Throughout the year we have participated in the regular CamEO 'collaboration and engagement' meetings and other events including the annual conference held in April where interacted vibrantly with our partners across the region.

Celebrating the year's achievements:

In August we held our Evening Summer Garden Party at Fullers Mill where some 50 of our members and volunteers attended. We are so grateful to Annie, Maddie and the team at [Fullers Mill](#) for allowing us to use their beautiful setting, and a big thankyou to Steph Holland for organising the event. For those that couldn't make it, we hope you can join us next year!

River restoration work in 2023:

The year's river restoration works within the Brecks Fen Edge & Rivers Landscape Partnership Scheme (BFER) delivered about a 1km stretch of the river from the outskirts of Bury St Edmunds into the South end of the Lark Valley golf course.



The Co-op to Golf Course Reach of the River Lark on the outskirts of Bury St Edmunds

Towards the end of 2022 we worked on all the preparations for the project, particularly the permitting and the engagement with the riparian landowners for their consent. This year we went on to carry out our planned twelve work parties from December through to May 2023 along the reach.

The first work parties carried out in the winter months in all kinds of weather including snow involved shifting masses of material along the long access footpath to our worksite with our trolleys, importing loads of brush bundles and stakes for the construction of flow deflectors, berms and bank protection along the reach and then hauling out vast quantities of trash and litter from the reach.



Taking the litter out – and hauling the materials in



Nothing like a warm drink on a cold day!



Making progress with the brush bundles

Later into the spring we pushed hard to get the works in place in time before we suspended the activities for the bird nesting season.

In April and May, despite unusually wet weather and high flows in the river we managed to fit in two more work parties to start installing pre-planted coir rolls and planting other riparian plants along the reach. We had programmed to continue with the planting of coir grass rolls in the autumn, but the very unusual wet weather led to the river being too flooded and we've postponed the works into next year.



Another flow deflector installed



Coir grass planting

All in all the restoration has worked well, increasing the sinuosity of the river, with the flow deflectors and large woody material promoting scour which mobilised sections of bed material and the brush shelves assisting in collecting some of the fine materials released by the scour process and providing habitat. A huge thankyou to our restoration volunteers led by Glenn for putting up with the rough conditions and pushing through with the work this year.

Citizen Science in the Lark Catchment:

Great strides were made in 2023 in our efforts to develop our citizen science capabilities. We now have volunteers trained and active in:

- Water quality sampling
- Water flow gauging
- Modular river physical field surveys (MoRPh)
- GIS mapping.

Since September 2022, we have been regularly sampling the water from Sicklesmere to Hengrave on the main River Lark, as well as revisiting our tributaries project. Over the year we purchased and trialled handheld Hanna colorimeters, with mixed results and trained several new volunteers to help us collect and test samples as well as adding flow monitoring and dissolved oxygen to what we can investigate. By

Section D

Achievements and performance

May ten of our volunteers had completed two days of SmartRivers training. We had to pause our regular sampling between June and August due to low levels and high vegetation making use of that time to hold another training session for volunteers to learn how to sample and to test the samples and we had our Lovibond equipment re-calibrated. We also carried out flow monitoring for the Linnet tributary in the Ickworth Estate and have been using our new dissolved oxygen metre to test the water on the Linnet.

In November we teamed up with our CaSTCo partners to take part in a filming day at Ickworth, highlighting the importance of citizen science and the collaborative work we do with the Environment Agency and Norfolk Rivers Trust. We also co-hosted two landowner engagement events with Natural England and Norfolk Rivers Trust to encourage landowners to get involved with Citizen Science.



River Lark – Anglian Water’s chalk-stream Flagship Project:

In 2023 RLCP has entered into a Partnering Agreement with Anglian Water (AW) for the preparatory and implementation stages of the Lark chalk-stream Flagship Project. From 2025 to 2030 AW will be implementing the project aimed at significantly improving the health of our precious chalk stream. Our Partnership Agreement with AW provides the framework for us to develop our capabilities as AW’s community partner in the project’s implementation. We have also benefited from a first grant made to us under the partnership agreement from Anglian Water’s ‘Get River Positive’ scheme to support our participation in the preparation for Flagship from mid-2023 through to the end of 2024

In 2023 we progressed Flagship preparation by supporting Norfolk Rivers Trust who have been commissioned by Anglian Water to deliver a catchment development plan for the Lark and Wissey catchments. We have also been busy developing and promoting our vision for Flagship implementation.

Outreach, stakeholder and public engagements in 2023:***Lark Water Forum:***

Following on from the very successful Lark Water Conference held in November 2022 we inaugurated the Lark Water Forum with a first meeting held at West Suffolk House in March 2023. The Lark Water Forum is a regular gathering of the significant water stakeholders across the socio-economic sectors of the Lark catchment. In 2023 we held meetings in March, June and 1st December. RLCP hosts the initiative and our treasurer Jim Stephens is the convener for the Forum.

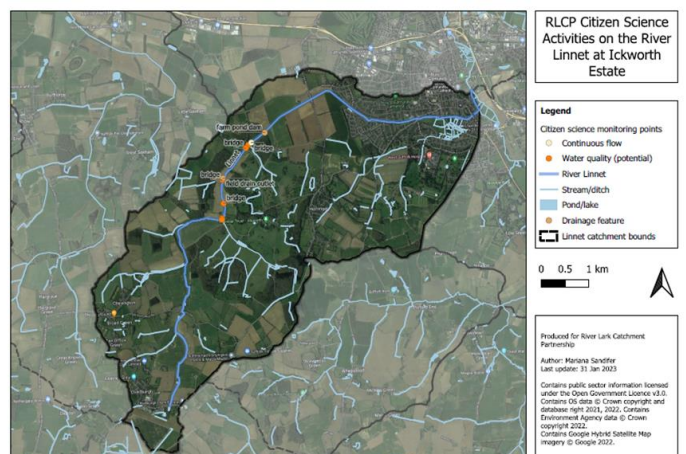
Farmer and landowner engagement:

We made huge strides in 2023 with our farmer and landowner engagement, particularly making use of our ‘water for tomorrow’ grant.

The main effort on landowner and farm business engagement has been trained on the Linnet tributary catchment. Once we have gained experience and tangible results by piloting our effort there, we envisage rolling out the acquired know-how across the Lark more generally. In doing so we have harnessed the relationship we have built with the National Trust Ickworth Estate which occupies a significant portion of the Linnet’s catchment area. Together with NT we have co-invested in building our understanding of the river and its catchment by:

- Assigning Wild Trout Trust to do a detailed walk over survey of the Linnet River. The survey was carried out in January and was followed up by an on-river presentation by WTT of the findings with RLCP, NT, NRT and EA participation in early August
- Carrying out joint citizen science water quality and flow monitoring in the catchment
- Using the powerful attraction of the Ickworth Estate as a visitor and events site for public engagement.

The engagement campaign targeted upwards of thirty landowners and farm businesses, introducing them to the challenges and opportunities of catchment management and more specifically how organisation through a ‘landscape scale’ landowner and farm cluster in a Linnet pilot could address the needs for upland catchment landscape management directed at reducing the loss of fertile soil and the heavy sedimentation loads in the streams at times of storms and floods.



The campaign involved contacting the Linnet farmers by email and phone to notify them, register their interest and then sending them the pamphlet prepared specifically for the campaign. Based on the recorded interest we invited the farmers to an event in October at the NT Ickworth Estate to discuss a prospective Linnet pilot. This was followed up by our participation in a larger farmer contacting event in November hosted by Norfolk Rivers Trust and the Environment Agency for the wider Lark catchment.

Feedback has helped us understand how crucial it is to invest in publicising events so that farmers get the message and are motivated to attend. We need a step change in how we invest in that and we have to consider further investing in appropriate professional media support.

- I. Farmer motivation is very centric on their business advantage. Sharpening up on the link between catchment management needs and the prospective DEFRA payments to farmers for environmental and climate goods and services (through Environmental Land Management (ELMS) schemes: Sustainable Farming Initiative (SFI), Countryside Stewardship (CS) and Landscape Recovery) will be important.
- II. It is key to get leading farm businesses pro-actively involved to stimulate wider farmer engagement.



Linnet farmer engagement pamphlet

Public speaking events:

We organised two evening talks by Dr Robin Price, Anglian Water's Director of Quality and Environment in May and by Charles Rangeley-Wilson, Chair of the DEFRA sponsored 'Catchment Based Approach (CaBA)' Chalk Stream Restoration Group in July. Both talks were advertised on-line by Bury Free Press and were well attended in Bury St Edmunds with audiences of about 50 in the room and the same again attending virtually.

The talk by Robin Price summarised the plans for the Lark chalk stream Flagship Project and Anglian Water's 'Get River Positive' initiative in joint venture with Severn Trent. Robin then went on to inform us on AW's Strategic Pipeline Alliance (SPA) water transfer pipeline project which is in construction to bring treated water from the Humber into our region as well as the longer-term reservoir storage projects aimed at relieving the public water supply dependency on the chalk aquifer.



Andrew Hinchley, Jim Stephens, Robin Price and Steph Holland after the talk

The talk by Charles Rangeley-Wilson was on chalk-stream recovery using the rich experience gained over the last two decades or so restoring and regenerating chalk stream habitats in Norfolk, particularly the Nar river. The broad ranging talk gave us all important insights about restoring these sensitive habitats that we can take on board for our Lark flagship project and where our restoration and citizen science programmes can contribute significantly.

Cam and Ely Ouse Partnership participation:

We have kept up our participation in CamEO by attending all their partnership engagement events as well as their conference in April. In April CamEO initiated a steering group with the primary purpose *to provide strategic direction to the numerous parties* that share the common objective of improving the water environment in CamEO Catchment Area, and thereby help CamEO progress towards the **vision of a Cam and Ely Ouse catchment with good quality and resilient water environments, that are protected and enhanced and able to benefit communities and businesses.**

RLCP is a permanent member of the steering group and is represented at meeting by our chairman Andrew Hinchley or treasurer Jim Stephens.

Section E

Financial review

The charity held a total of £3,954 in funds at the end of the period comprising £2,615 as restricted funds and £1,339 as unrestricted funds.

For the previous year the corresponding sums were a total of £7,929.

For 2023 the charity does not have a reserves policy and does not hold funds in reserve. This will be actively reviewed in 2024 together with considerations about any necessary decisions to have funds in reserve.

The charity registers Receipts & Payments accounts. No funds were materially in deficit in 2023.

Further financial review details (Optional information)

In 2023 the charity received grant funds from the following donors:

- Environment Agency
- The Catchment Based Approach (CaBA) Water Resources Communications and Engagement Fund administered by The Rivers Trust
- Heritage Lottery Funded Brecks Fen Edge and Rivers Landscape Partnership (BFER)
- Locality grants from West Suffolk Council and St Edmundsbury Town Council
- Anglian Water

Grant funded expenditure has supported our capacity building for catchment-based approach awareness raising, Lark River restoration works, preparation for the Lark chalk-stream Flagship project, pollution action plan and citizen science monitoring efforts, and our outreach campaigns.

Section F

Other optional information

List of Abbreviations:


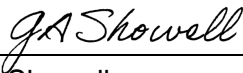
| | |
|--------|---|
| AW | Anglian Water |
| BFER | The Brecks Fen Edge & Rivers Landscape Partnership (funded by National Lottery) |
| CaBA | The Catchment Based Approach |
| CaSTCo | Catchment Systems Thinking Cooperative Project |
| CamEO | The Cam and Ely Ouse Catchment Partnership |
| DEFRA | The Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs |
| EA | The Environment Agency |
| ELMS | DEFRA's Environmental Land Management Scheme |
| GIS | Geographical Information System |
| MoRPh | Modular river physical field surveys |
| NRT | Norfolk Rivers Trust |
| NT | National trust |
| RLCP | River Lark Catchment Partnership |
| WTT | Wild Trout Trust |

Section G

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Signature(s) |  |  |
| Full name(s) | James Stephens | Graham Showell |
| Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc) | Treasurer, Trustee | Trustee |
| Date | 2nd April 2024 | |

Receipts & Payments Accounts

Name **River Lark Catchment Partnership**
 Charity Number **1177318**
 For the period from (start date) **1st December 2022** To (end date) **30th November 2023**

| Section A | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Receipts & Payments | | | | | |
| | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Endowment funds | Total funds | Last year |
| | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ |
| A1 Receipts | | | | | |
| CamEO Hosting Grant | 2000 | | | 2000 | 2000 |
| EA Vol Restoration (PG/2021/WEIF/EAN/001) and (PG/2122/WEIF/EAN/020) | | | | | 5000 |
| Brecks Fen Edge & Rivers LPS Claims | 1000 | | | 1000 | |
| Water for Tomorrow Grant | | 7597 | | 7597 | 7500 |
| WfT CaBA WR021 | | 7500 | | 7500 | |
| Localities - Citizen science grants | | 1074 | | 1074 | 2850 |
| EA Partnership for River Restoration 2022 | | 7358 | | 7358 | 2621 |
| EA Partnership for River Restoration 2023 | | | | 0 | |
| AW Lark flagship Support MOU | | 17000 | | 17000 | |
| CaBA WR023 | | 5000 | | 5000 | |
| Donations | 300 | 0 | | 300 | |
| <i>Sub total</i> | 3300 | 45529 | | 48829 | 19971 |
| A2 Asset & investment sales, etc | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| <i>Total receipts</i> | 3300 | 45529 | | 48829 | 19971 |
| A3 Payments | | | | | |
| RLCP Administration services | 0 | | | 0 | 935 |
| RLCP Annual Insurance Premium | 1194 | | | 1194 | 373 |
| RLCP Web Hosting | 29 | | | 29 | 286 |
| RLCP Entertainment Expenses | 785 | | | 785 | 1097 |
| RLCP Events Expenses | 25 | | | 25 | |
| RLCP Materials Expenses | 94 | | | 94 | 268 |
| BFER Glenn Smithson Ltd Support Services | 1000 | | | 1000 | |
| BFER Expenses | 35 | | | 35 | |
| NCVO Training (AW flagship support MOU) | | 8041 | | 8041 | |
| GRP Flagship Engagement and Coordination | | 2802 | | 2802 | |
| Fornham Equipment Grants WSC 2019-20 | | | | 0 | 330 |
| EA vol restoration (PG/2122/WEIF/EAN/020) - Permit services G Smithson Ltd | | | | 0 | 500 |
| Water for Tomorrow Admin & Coordination | | 2648 | | 2648 | 5323 |
| Water for Tomorrow - CU Abstraction Pilot Contract final payment of 50% on completion | | 7001 | | 7001 | |
| Water for Tomorrow - Citizen Science Water Quality and Flow Equipment purchases | | 1652 | | 1652 | 1065 |
| Water for Tomorrow - LAG support payment | | | | 0 | 1800 |
| Water for Tomorrow - Training and CS support | | 2088 | | 2088 | 150 |
| EA river restoration (PG/2122/WEIF/EAN/020) - Costs | | | | 0 | 4260 |
| Localities Citizen Science Grants - Water Quality Equipment purchases | | 1822 | | 1822 | 2084 |
| EA Partnership for River Restoration 2022 - EA Permit application EPR/WB3892YM | | | | 0 | 255 |
| EA Partnership for River Restoration 2022 - Wildfish smart rivers training | | | | 0 | 1165 |
| EA Partnership for River Restoration 2022 - Vole Survey | | | | 0 | 101 |
| EA Partnership for River Restoration 2022 - Coordination services | | 510 | | 510 | 600 |
| EA Partnership for River Restoration 2022 - Permit services Glenn Smithson Ltd | | | | 0 | 500 |
| EA Partnership for River Restoration 2022 - Procurement of materials and equipment | | 6849 | | 6849 | |
| EA Partnership for River Restoration 2023 - Procurement of materials and equipment | | 3551 | | 3551 | |
| WfT CaBA WR021 - Admin & Coordination | | 4604 | | 4604 | |
| WfT CaBA WR021 - CS Engagement and Equipment Costs | | 3574 | | 3574 | |
| CaBA WR023 - Farm Systems Ltd Payments | | 4500 | | 4500 | |
| <i>Sub total</i> | 3162 | 49642 | | 52804 | 21092 |
| A4 Asset & investment purchases, etc | - | - | | - | - |
| <i>Total payments</i> | 3162 | 49642 | | 52804 | 21092 |
| <i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i> | 138 | -4113 | | -3975 | -1121 |
| A5 Transfers between funds | 0 | 0 | | | |
| A6 Cash funds last year end | 1201 | 6728 | 0 | 7929 | 9050 |
| <i>Cash funds this period end</i> | 1339 | 2615 | 0 | 3954 | 7929 |

Section B

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

| | | Unrestricted funds to the nearest £ | Restricted funds to the nearest £ | Endowment funds to the nearest £ |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| B1 Cash funds | Details | | | |
| | Receipts | 3300 | 45529 | 0 |
| | Payments | 3162 | 49642 | 0 |
| | Cash funds last year end | 1201 | 6728 | 0 |
| | <i>Total cash funds</i> | 1339 | 2615 | 0 |

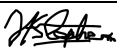

| | | Unrestricted funds to the nearest £ | Restricted funds to the nearest £ | Endowment funds to the nearest £ |
|---------------------------------|---------|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| B2 Other monetary assets | Details | | | |
| | | | | |
| |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

| | | 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 | | | |
| | Laptop Computer | unrestricted | | |
| | Gardening equipment | unrestricted | | |
| | Water Quality Testing equipment | unrestricted | | |
| | River restoration tools | unrestricted | | |
| | River restoration materials | restricted | | |
| | PPE (Waders, Gauntlets,etc) | unrestricted | | |
| Display kit and Banners | unrestricted | | | |

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

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

| Signature | Print name | Date of approval |
|---|-----------------|------------------|
|  | James Stephens | 2nd April 2024 |
|  | Andrew Hinchley | 2nd April 2024 |

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of River Lark Catchment Partnership CIO

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the River Lark Catchment Partnership CIO (the Charity) for the year ended 30 November 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

Signed: 

Name: Ian Campbell

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies:
Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants
Affiliate Member of the Association of Independent Examiners

Address: 27 Victoria Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3BB

Date: 

RIVER LARK CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP

England & Wales - Charity number 1177318

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period



| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|----|------|-----------|-----------------|----|------|
| From | Period start date | | | To | Period end date | | |
| | 01 | 12 | 2021 | | 30 | 11 | 2022 |

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

River Lark Catchment Partnership

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

1177318

Charity's principal address

24, Northgate Avenue

Bury St Edmunds

Suffolk

Postcode

IP32 6BB

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 | James Stephens | Treasurer | | |
| 2 | Andrew Hinchley | Chairman | | |
| 3 | William Cranstoun | | | Suffolk Wildlife Trust |
| 4 | Chris Gregory | | 01/12/2021 to 11/3/2022 | |
| 5 | David Palmer | | | Lark Valley Association |
| 6 | James Meadows | | 01/12/2021 to 11/3/2022 | Lark Angling and Preservation Society |
| 7 | Graham Showell | | From 06/05/2022 | |
| 8 | Caroline Chamberlain | | From 06/05/2022 | |
| 9 | | | | |
| 10 | | | | |
| 11 | | | | |
| 12 | | | | |
| 13 | | | | |
| 14 | | | | |
| 15 | | | | |
| 20 | | | | |

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

| Name | Dates acted if not for whole year |
|------|-----------------------------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

| Type of adviser | Name | Address |
|-----------------|------|---------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

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

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

| |
|------------------------------|
| CIO Association Constitution |
| Association |
| Elected by members |

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

Our trustees are nominated and elected directly by our membership and we ensure that trustees are practitioners who bring a full set of competencies for our board to be effective. In this our fourth year as a registered charity, we have continuously had six trustees serving on our board. Our constitution allows for a maximum of twelve trustees and our policy is to continue to attract nominees to add to the board to enhance the good governance and functioning of the charity. We also enjoy the strong support of the Cam and Ely Ouse Catchment Partnership within which the Lark Partnership is a sub-catchment.

We have formally adopted an array of policies covering:-

- risk management
- volunteer management
- safeguarding
- complaints handling
- managing conflict of interest
- ensuring equality

Section C Objectives and activities

To conserve, preserve and improve the River Lark and its catchment area for the benefit of the public, in particular but not exclusively by:

- (i) Improving access and encouraging the appropriate use of the River and its environs by members of the public.
- (ii) Educating the public about the River and its environs
- (iii) Facilitating community involvement in the conservation of the River
- (iv) Monitoring the River & its catchment and reporting any issues or concerns to the appropriate bodies having statutory responsibility.

The Trustees of RLCP actively engage in the formulation of the charity's annual action plan and in so doing ensure that they have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance. The Trustees constantly reviewed the annual work plan as it was underway for 2022.

This was the year where we emerged from the Covid pandemic and reacquainted ourselves with our more normal face to face meetings, gatherings and celebratory events; whilst still being mindful and precautious because, as was repeatedly emphasised in the media 'Covid hasn't gone away'.

Building community-based organisation to deliver river conservation:

The conservation activities we aspire to be in line with the charity's objectives require us to develop an effective linked community organisation along the full extent of the river. We intend to do this progressively over the next few years. In 2022 we were able to progress our river restoration activities through the Brecks Fen Edge & Rivers Landscape Partnership Scheme (BFER) and matching grants made to us by the Environment Agency. In all we carried out some ten work parties across the year with more than 20 volunteers participating. We also delivered 'smart rivers' training to nine of our volunteers. In 2022 we have launched our programme of citizen science activities aimed at establishing a greatly enhanced evidence base of ecological, stream water quality and stream flow data across the catchment. We are signed up as a pilot catchment through CamEO for the national citizen science water quality project - Catchment Systems Thinking Cooperative (CaSTCo) and we will work in partnership for that with the River Wensum team in Norfolk.

The River Lark chalk-stream Flagship Project:

In 2022 RLCP has entered into a partnering relationship with Anglian Water (AW) for the preparatory stage of the Lark chalk-stream Flagship Project. From 2025 to 2030 AW will be implementing the project aimed at significantly improving the health of our precious chalk stream. Our memorandum of understanding with AW looks to build on our Action Plan for the river and also to develop our capabilities as their community partner in the project's implementation.

The RLCP Water for Tomorrow project:

In September 2021 RLCP was grant funded a project to deliver services for enhancing:-

- Shared river abstraction and water management by farm businesses in the Lark
- Communication and Engagement to develop RLCP Catchment Water Management attributes.

This project funds an array of water management and citizen science activities from September 2021 to April 2023. In November 2022 we added a further communication and engagement grant from Water for Tomorrow to fund our outreach and engagement efforts with farmers and other landowners across the catchment and to boost our citizen science activities.

The River Lark is a sub-catchment of the Cam and Ely-Ouse catchment (CamEO). Throughout the year we have participated in the regular CamEO 'collaboration and engagement' meetings and other events including the annual conference held in October where we show cased our activities.

Celebrating the year's achievements:

On 5th December 2021 we held our first in person gathering for our members, partners and volunteers since the perdure of the pandemic. This Showcase event at Fullers Mill Gardens was to celebrate the achievements of our fantastic volunteers, and to provide an opportunity for our members to meet some of our partners and stakeholders. There were a variety of talks and presentations given, a delicious lunch provided by Casa, generously funded by CamEO, a Q&A session and the unveiling of our information board by the river. A huge thanks to everyone who attended, especially to those volunteers who helped on the day and everyone that contributed.



Glenn Smithson giving his 'in-river' restoration talk at our showcase event

In August we hosted an MPs visit to the River Lark. The original intention of the visit instigated by Jo Churchill Hon MP for Bury St Edmunds, was to invite Rebecca Pow, the Environment Minister at DEFRA responsible for rivers, to discuss the Lark River and its issues as a chalk stream. Rebecca Pow is well acquainted with the CaBA movement. The Minister's visit was originally proposed for March/April as an important initiative in the context of our unfolding Lark action plan together with Government's development of policy for Chalk Stream restoration. In the event, after considerable effort to prepare the visit it had to be delayed to late July; then of course the Johnson Government collapsed. However, at Jo Churchill's request the visit went ahead in August with an impressive entourage of Lark stakeholders including Anglian Water, Environment Agency, Lark Farming Abstractors and environmental managers. Rebecca Pow has since been reinstated at DEFRA as Minister for Environmental Quality and Resilience.



Jo Churchill MP and Rebecca Pow MP at Fullers Mill Garden

At the event an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) was signed between Anglian Water and RLCP covering the two years of planning for implementing the Flagship project at the end of 2024. The Lark Flagship is one of 12 chalk streams identified as a national priority. At the Chalk Stream Flagship national launch in 2021, Rebecca Pow Environment Minister stated: “Chalk streams are both incredibly rare and a hugely important part of our environmental heritage”.



Anglian Water's Chris Gerrard and RLCP's Jim Stephens signing the flagship MOU

Also in August we held our Evening Summer Garden Party at Fullers Mill where some 50 of our members and volunteers attended. We are so grateful to Annie, Maddie and the team at [Fullers Mill](#) for allowing us to use their beautiful setting, and to Maria from Casa for feeding us with such a delicious dinner again. For those that couldn't make it, we hope you can join us next year!



RLCP's 2022 Summer Garden Party at the beautiful Fuller Mill Gardens

River restoration projects in 2022:

The year's river restoration works within the Brecks Fen Edge & Rivers Landscape Partnership Scheme (BFER) were delivered our volunteer led restoration works in the reaches of Flempton Bridge, Fullers Mills Gardens and of West Stow in collaboration with the Bury St Edmunds Trout Club. This year's work completed the BFER restoration activities at Fullers Mill and Flempton Bridge amounting to an accumulated kilometre of restored river.

We also provided the funds through BFER to Bury St Edmunds Trout Club so that they could execute a contract in September and October to deliver their major project in the upper reach of West Stow called 'Alder Carr' to complete the wonderful restoration of the Lark through the West Stow nature park. The contract has established five alternating tree/brush ledges created to push the flow for side to side in an overwide reach of the river. The ledges were topped up where necessary with gravel along with gravel augmentation of the bed.

Much to our satisfaction, flow diversity is already creating much more interesting pathways and local scour of the fine sediment that hitherto dominated the reach.



Big machinery placing tree ledges for flow deflection at the Alder Carr reach at West Stow, October 2022

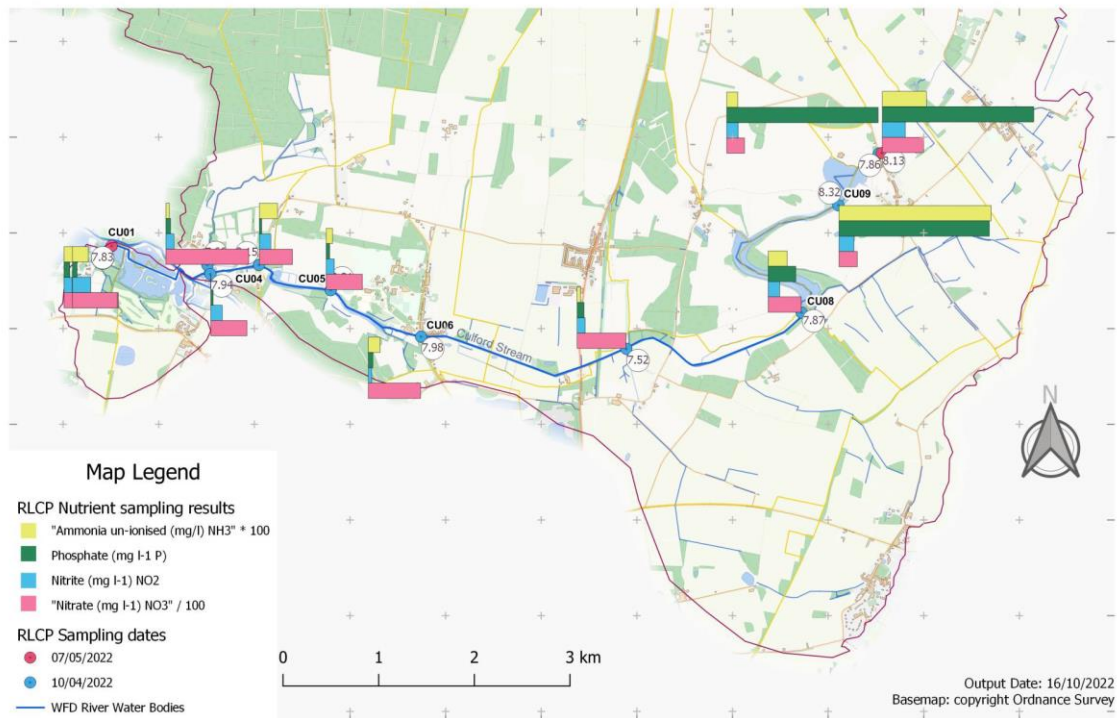
The next phase of BFER will be addressing about a 1km stretch of the river from the outskirts of Bury St Edmunds into the South end of the Lark Valley golf course. Towards the end of 2022 we worked on all the preparations for that, particularly the permitting and the engagement with the riparian landowners for their consent. We then went on to carry out the first three work parties on the reach. The work

programme for next year will be largely taken up by continuing work parties on the reach to complete the restoration.

Citizen Science in the Lark Catchment:

Over the course of the year we trained volunteers in water quality monitoring and progressively developed our skills to deliver an effective programme. We started up by establishing our water quality sampling in tributaries earlier in the year and then moved on to the main River Lark. In September, we chose eleven sampling points upstream to downstream of the Tollgate Coop to Golf Course restoration project, from Tollgate Bridge to Mill Rd, Hengrave. We will be monitoring here before and after the BFER restoration work is completed over the next few years.

Culford Stream Sampling Points - Nutrient Results



Results presented up of our water quality sampling for the Culford Stream Tributary

In October we entered into an agreement with the National Trust to collaborate on Citizen Science efforts for the Linnet tributary which largely occupies their Ickworth Estate parkland.

Activities and Outcomes of the Project

The RLCP Tributaries Water Quality Monitoring Project will carry out testing on the Linnet and its ditches for the standard Environment Agency measures for river quality, aligned with the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD).

Regular testing will be carried out to monitor flow, pH, temperature, suspended solids, ammonia, nitrates and phosphates. Monitoring for invertebrates as a measure of river health will also be beneficial. All results collated will be shared with the National Trust and relevant riparian land owners. RLCP volunteers will adhere to the RLCP Tributaries Water Quality Monitoring Project Guidance Notes and will always inform the National Trust Ranger department prior to visiting the site.



Martin Gilbert from National Trust, Ickworth and Andrew Hinchley from RLCP signing the MOU on 3rd October 2022 at Ickworth Park

River Lark – Anglian Water’s chalk-stream Flagship Project:

The Chalk Stream Restoration Strategy was launched in October 2021 as a ‘Catchment Based Approach’ (CaBA) initiative sponsored by DEFRA, EA and Ofwat by CaBA’s chalk stream restoration group which is made up of representatives from the Environment Agency, Natural England, Ofwat, Water UK, WWF, Angling Trust, Salmon and Trout Conservation, The Rivers Trust, Wild Trout Trust and Wildlife Trusts. In 2022 Anglian Water selected the Lark to be the chalk stream ‘Flagship’ in its area.

Water companies were asked to consider 5 main criteria in selecting a suitable chalk streams for the flagship submission. AW’s key decisions were as follows:-

- Local Passion**–The creation and development of the River Lark Catchment Partnership charity. Lots of public interest/involvement (Mildenhall & Bury St Ed).
- Landowners**–Anglian Water are currently building a landowner network for AMP7 WINEP delivery and there are known connections through local partnerships.
- Scale**–The Lark catchment is large, but the chalk stream sections are of the right scale for this proposal.
- Designation**–The River Lark currently has no legal designation.
- Condition**–Across the Lark catchment, waterbodies have moderate or worse ecological status. There is a clear opportunity for improvement (as seen in targeted stretches of the Lark already), but there are also challenges around technical feasibility and timescales of improvements.

We recognised the close alignment of our action plan for the Lark with the chalk stream recovery strategy and since mid-June have invested in our preparatory efforts to engage with AW as the key community-based partner for the initiative.

The August 2022 major engagement event at Fullers Mill Garden for Flagship was coordinated between RLCP and Anglian Water and the parties signed up to a memorandum of understanding for this preparatory phase which we aspire will lead to a full partnership agreement to deliver the Flagship implementation from 2025 onwards.

Here’s what Rebecca Pow, DEFRA’s Minister responsible for this area had to say in her introduction to CaBA’s chalk-stream restoration Implementation Plan in October 2022:

This summer, I had the pleasure of visiting ONE stretch of the River Lark in Bury St Edmunds which is a remarkable example of what a chalk stream can look like when it has been restored. Its clean water and the banks alongside it are now teeming with wildlife. Yet not all chalk streams are in such good condition. Indeed much of the River Lark itself is in a poor condition. Chalk Streams are an internationally rare and irreplaceable habitat, as well as an important element of our nation’s natural heritage. England is home to the majority of chalk streams across the globe, with 85% of the streams found in England alone. They are a vital water resource and provide a habitat for a diverse group of wildlife from the damselfly to salmon. However, they are under increasing pressure from climate change, development, pollution, and abstraction.

Lark Water Management Conference:

On 4th November 2022 we held a water management conference for the Lark basin as part of our delivery into the Water for Tomorrow programme. The conference attracted some forty stakeholders across the sectors including water abstractors, Anglian Water, Farm businesses, British Sugar and Greene King; basin environment stewards, the Environment Agency, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Natural England and West Suffolk Council and Fishing Groups, Lark Angling and Preservation Society and Bury St Edmunds Trout Club.



Jo Churchill MP leading the Q&A with the conference presenters

Presentations were given by WfT project manager Dr. Ukwuori Fadayiro, RLCP's water resources lead Jim Stephens, Anglian Water's water resources environmental manager Martin Bowes and the Lark Farm Businesses Abstractor's Group chairman Lindsay Hargreaves followed by a Q&A session chaired by our MP Jo Churchill. At the conference the catchment's licenced water abstractors and key environmental stakeholders committed to participating in a permanent Lark basin Water Management Forum and RLCP will convene the first meeting in February/March 2023 with the intention of setting up routine meetings on a semi-annual or annual basis.

Catchment collaboration and engagement events in 2022:

RLCP is a sub-catchment partner of the Cam and Ely Ouse (CamEO) catchment partnership which is hosted by the Rivers Trust and Anglian Water. In 2022 we attended all the CamEO collaboration and engagement meetings and the annual conference event in October.

Section E Financial review

For 2022 the charity does not have a reserves policy and does not hold funds in reserve. This will be actively reviewed in 2023 together with considerations about any necessary decisions to have funds in reserve.

The charity registers Receipts & Payments accounts. No funds were materially in deficit in 2022.

Further financial review details (Optional information)

In 2022 the charity received grant funds from the following donors:

- Environment Agency Partnership Agreement
- Water for Tomorrow Fund administered by The Rivers Trust
- Heritage Lottery Funds through the Brecks Fen Edge and Rivers Landscape Partnership (BFER)
- Locality grants from Suffolk County council and West Suffolk Council



Grant funded expenditure has supported our capacity building for catchment-based approach awareness raising, Lark River restoration works, pollution action plan and citizen science monitoring efforts, and our outreach campaigns.

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Signature(s) |  |  |
| Full name(s) | James Stephens | Graham Showell |
| Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc) | Treasurer, Trustee | Trustee |
| Date | 10 th April 2023 | |

Receipts & Payments Accounts

Name River Lark Catchment Partnership
 Charity Number 1177318
 For the period from (start date) 1st Dec 2021 To (end date) 30th November 2022

| Section A | Receipts & 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 | | | | | |
| CamEO Hosting Grant | 2000 | | | 2000 | 2000 |
| EA Vol Restoration (PG/2021/WEIF/EAN/001) and (PG/2122/WEIF/EAN/020) | | 5000 | | 5000 | 878 |
| Brecks Fen Edge & Rivers LPS Claims | | | | 0 | 123 |
| Water for Tomorrow Grant | | 7500 | | 7500 | 15000 |
| Localities - Citizen science grants | | 2850 | | 2850 | |
| EA Partnership for River Restoration 2022 | | 2621 | | 2621 | |
| Donations | | | | 0 | 2028 |
| <i>Sub total</i> | 2000 | 17971 | | 19971 | 20029 |
| A2 Asset & investment sales, etc | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| <i>Total receipts</i> | 2000 | 17971 | | 19971 | 20029 |
| A3 Payments | | | | | |
| RLCP Administration services | 935 | | | 935 | 3180 |
| RLCP Annual Insurance Premium | 373 | | | 373 | 373 |
| RLCP Web Hosting | 286 | | | 286 | 815 |
| RLCP Entertainment Expenses | 1097 | | | 1097 | |
| RLCP Materials Expenses | 268 | | | 268 | |
| EA Lark restoration (PG/1920/WEIF/EAN004) -2020/21 costs | | | | 0 | 65 |
| WaterCog Support Expenses | | | | 0 | 381 |
| Fornham Equipment Grants WSC 2019-20 | | 330 | | 330 | 40 |
| CaBA Grant WR001 - 2020 Costs | | | | 0 | 274 |
| EA vol restoration (PG/2021/WEIF/EAN/001) - Flempton and Lackford Permits | | | | 0 | 170 |
| EA vol restoration (PG/2021/WEIF/EAN/001) - Smithson expenses 201220 | | | | 0 | 38 |
| EA vol restoration (PG/2122/WEIF/EAN/020) - Permit services G Smithson Ltd | | 500 | | 500 | 500 |
| BFER - 2021 Costs | | | | 0 | 123 |
| Wallingford Hydraulics visit July 2021 - support services by G Smithson Ltd (invoice 454) | | | | 0 | 125 |
| Water for Tomorrow Admin & Coordination | | 5323 | | 5323 | 1200 |
| Water for Tomorrow - CU Abstraction Pilot Contract 1st payment of 50% on signature | | | | 0 | 7000 |
| Water for Tomorrow - Citizen Science Water Quality Equipment purchase No.1 (Camlab 9291) | | 1065 | | 1065 | |
| Water for Tomorrow - LAG support payment | | 1800 | | 1800 | |
| Water for Tomorrow - First Aid Training | | 150 | | 150 | |
| EA river restoration (PG/2122/WEIF/EAN/020) - Permit Variation EPR/BB3350XC | | 43 | | 43 | |
| EA river restoration (PG/2122/WEIF/EAN/020) -restoration materials/consumables | | 2080 | | 2080 | |
| EA river restoration (PG/2122/WEIF/EAN/020) - training | | 1044 | | 1044 | |
| EA river restoration (PG/2122/WEIF/EAN/020) -WEIF Coordination & display design | | 1093 | | 1093 | |
| Localities Citizen Science Grants - Water Quality Equipment purchases | | 2084 | | 2084 | |
| EA Partnership for River Restoration 2022 - EA Permit application EPR/WB3892YM | | 255 | | 255 | |
| EA Partnership for River Restoration 2022 - Wildfish smart rivers training | | 1165 | | 1165 | |
| EA Partnership for River Restoration 2022 - Vole Survey | | 101 | | 101 | |
| EA Partnership for River Restoration 2022 - Coordination services | | 600 | | 600 | |
| EA Partnership for River Restoration 2022 - Permit services Glenn Smithson Ltd | | 500 | | 500 | |
| <i>Sub total</i> | 2959 | 18133 | | 21092 | 14284 |
| A4 Asset & investment purchases, etc | - | - | | - | - |
| <i>Total payments</i> | 2959 | 18133 | | 21092 | 14284 |
| <i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i> | -959 | -162 | | -1121 | 5745 |
| A5 Transfers between funds | 7 | -7 | | | |
| A6 Cash funds last year end | 2153 | 6897 | 0 | 9050 | 3545 |
| <i>Cash funds this period end</i> | 1201 | 6728 | 0 | 7929 | 9290 |

Section B

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

| | | Unrestricted funds to the nearest £ | Restricted funds to the nearest £ | Endowment funds to the nearest £ |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| B1 Cash funds | Details | | | |
| | Receipts | 2000 | 17971 | 0 |
| | Payments | 2959 | 18133 | 0 |
| | Cash funds last year end | 2160 | 6890 | 0 |
| | <i>Total cash funds</i> | 1201 | 6728 | 0 |


| | | Unrestricted funds to the nearest £ | Restricted funds to the nearest £ | Endowment funds to the 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 | | | |
| | Laptop Computer | unrestricted | 200 | 200 |
| | Gardening equipment | unrestricted | 150 | 100 |
| | Water Quality Testing equipment | unrestricted | 2200 | 2000 |
| | River restoration tools | unrestricted | 4080 | 4000 |
| | River restoration materials | restricted | 4150 | 4150 |
| | PPE (Waders, Gauntlets, etc) | unrestricted | 370 | 300 |
| Display kit and Banners | unrestricted | 245 | 200 | |

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

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

| Signature | Print name | Date of approval |
|---|-----------------|------------------|
|  | James Stephens | 16/02/2023 |
| <i>A J Hinchley</i> | Andrew Hinchley | 16/02/2023 |

RIVER LARK CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP

England & Wales - Charity number 1177318

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period



| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|-------------------|------|-----------|-----------------|----|------|
| | | Period start date | | | Period end date | | |
| From | 01 | 12 | 2020 | To | 30 | 11 | 2021 |

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

River Lark Catchment Partnership

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

1177318

Charity's principal address

24, Northgate Avenue

Bury St Edmunds

Suffolk

Postcode

IP32 6BB

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 | James Stephens | Treasurer | | |
| 2 | Andrew Hinchley | Chairman | | |
| 3 | William Cranstoun | | | Suffolk Wildlife Trust |
| 4 | Chris Gregory | | | |
| 5 | David Palmer | | | Lark Valley Association |
| 6 | James Meadows | | | Lark Angling and Preservation Society |
| 7 | | | | |
| 8 | | | | |
| 9 | | | | |
| 10 | | | | |
| 11 | | | | |
| 12 | | | | |
| 13 | | | | |
| 14 | | | | |
| 15 | | | | |
| 20 | | | | |

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

| Name | Dates acted if not for whole year |
|------|-----------------------------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

| Type of adviser | Name | Address |
|-----------------|------|---------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

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

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

| |
|------------------------------|
| CIO Association Constitution |
| Association |
| Elected by members |

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

Our trustees are nominated and elected directly by our membership and we ensure that trustees are practitioners who bring a full set of competencies for our board to be effective. In this our third year as a registered charity, we continuously had six trustees serving on our board. Our constitution allows for a maximum of twelve trustees and our policy is to continue to attract nominees to add to the board to enhance the good governance and functioning of the charity. We also enjoy the strong support of the Cam and Ely Ouse Catchment Partnership within which the Lark Partnership is a sub-catchment.

We have formally adopted an array of policies covering:-

- risk management
- volunteer management
- safeguarding
- complaints handling
- managing conflict of interest
- ensuring equality

Section C Objectives and activities

To conserve, preserve and improve the River Lark and its catchment area for the benefit the public, in particular but not exclusively by:

- (i) Improving access and encouraging the appropriate use of the River and its environs by members of the public.
- (ii) Educating the public about the River and its environs
- (iii) Facilitating community involvement in the conservation of the River
- (iv) Monitoring the River & its catchment and reporting any issues or concerns to the appropriate bodies having statutory responsibility.

The Trustees of RLCP actively engage in the formulation of the charity's annual action plan and in so doing ensure that they have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance. The Trustees constantly reviewed the annual work plan as it was underway for 2021.

The continuing global COVID pandemic has inevitably impacted heavily on our charity's pursuits in 2021. The trustees have ensured as a first interest that all its activities have been undertaken within the Government's instructions and guidelines.

Building community-based organisation to deliver River conservation:

The conservation activities we aspire to be in line with the charity's objectives require us to develop an effective linked community organisation along the full extent of the river. We intend to do this progressively over the next few years. In 2021 we were able to progress our river restoration activities through the Brecks Fen Edge & Rivers Landscape Partnership Scheme (BFER) and Water Environment Improvement Fund (WEIF, EA) albeit on a limited scope due to the Covid restrictions and the understandable concerns our volunteers had about the impact of the virus on our river. We successfully launched our Modular River Survey (MoRPh) programme for the Lark with training and setting up our volunteer schedules. The Modular River Survey enables river enthusiasts and citizen scientists to get involved with recording and assessing physical habitat and hydromorphological functioning in their local rivers and streams. We will use MoRPh to monitor our river restoration progress through BFER and WEIF.

A Pollution Action Plan for the River Lark:

In 2021 RLCP has established a pollution action plan for the River Lark through intense collaboration with partners and stakeholders and meetings hosted by our MP Jo Churchill. This action plan will direct our activities and inform Anglian Water, the Environment Agency and others going forward.

The RLCP Water for Tomorrow project:

In September 2021 RLCP was grant funded a project to deliver services for enhancing:-

- Shared river abstraction and water management by farm businesses in the Lark
- Communication and Engagement to develop RLCP Catchment Water Management attributes.

This project will fund an array of water management and citizen science activities from September 2021 to April 2023.

The River Lark is a sub-catchment of the Cam and Ely-Ouse catchment (Cam EO). Throughout the year we have participated in the regular CamEO 'collaboration and engagement' meetings which have been continued by remote technology during Covid restrictions.

River restoration projects in 2021:

The year's river restoration works programme within the Brecks Fen Edge & Rivers Landscape Partnership Scheme (BFER) was blighted by the Covid restrictions in 2021 with the lockdown from the start of the year through to May effectively wiping out our main period for the year for these activities. Despite this we still managed to carry out initial works at Flempton Bridge with three very restricted work parties in April and May.



Setting about restoring the river bank downstream of Flempton Bridge in April

The picture was brighter later on in the year as we emerged from Covid restrictions and we were able to carry out very effective works with restricted volunteer work parties at West Stow in collaboration with Bury Trout Club and at Fullers Mill.



A beautiful autumn day at West Stow

A big feature of the year's progress was the big floods we had in December and January which were events we experience every decade or so.



The River Lark at the Old Abbey Bridge in January 2022



The Lark near Lackford in December 2020

The floods had an impressive impact on the river and it was very interesting to see how well our restoration works stood up, particularly at Fullers Mill. We were able to go back to Fullers Mill in the autumn to take stock of the progress and improve on our hard work carried out before the Covid pandemic and the floods struck



The river at Fullers Mill later in 2021 re-establishing the brush island

In July we carried out our annual basic River Restoration training at the outdoors venue at West Stow Country Park. The training was over two sessions for twelve volunteers.



Outdoor training (Covid safe) at West Stow

In 2021 we set up our Modular River Survey (MoRPh) programme which will bench mark and monitor our progress through BFER and beyond. Nine additional volunteers have now been trained in MoRPh.

River Lark Pollution Review and Action Plan

At the start of our year from 1st December 2020 we committed to a broad ranging partnership enquiry into the state of the River Lark's pollution and set about establishing an Action Plan (AP) to improve the state of the river. This initiative has been supported strongly by Anglian Water and the Environment Agency and has been mentored by Bury St Edmunds MP Jo Churchill. By April 2021 we had established the AP founded on two excellent documents (<http://riverlark.org.uk/index.php/reports-and-documents/>), a status report on the condition of the Lark's catchment and a review of the priorities and investment initiatives underway in the within the regulatory framework and beyond.

The thrust of partnership delivery into the action plan through RLCP's coordination and leadership continues to be through periodic 'round table' virtual meetings called by Jo Churchill MP's Constituency Office.

Progress was made during 2021 on clarifying specific issues surrounding Anglian Water's current Water Environment Investment Programme (WINEP) and the potential for improving future WINEPs with a more participatory approach. Anglian Water has now declared the Lark to be one of its flagship chalk streams which will attract further much needed investment in the health of our river.

RLCP will continue to vigorously pursue the action plan with all partners concerned going forward.

RLCP Water for Tomorrow Project

Water for Tomorrow is a new €4m EU Interreg France (Channel) England cross-border project, with pilot water catchments in East Anglia. In September 2021 we were given a £30k grant to pursue the following WfT objectives in our catchment between September 2021 and April 2023.

Activity 1 – River Lark Abstraction Water Sharing Pilot Implementation

This project will support the Lark Abstraction Group in their water sharing pilot implementation. Resources are required to (i) support the formal legal establishment of a co-operative entity to represent the interests of the farming businesses involved, and (ii) to commission Cranfield University to undertake further applied research to provide relevant robust evidence needed to underpin future investment in the water sharing approach and infrastructure development.

Activity 2 - Communication and Engagement to develop RLCP Catchment Water Management attributes**1. Catchment Water Balance**

The intention of this activity is to develop a CaBA Catchment Water Balance tool for RLCP to share with its stakeholders with the collaboration of EA.

The technical basis for this will be: (i) detailed review of the Lark baseflow hydrology, identifying significant uncertainties; (ii) any necessary follow up desk and fieldwork (eg flow gauging of Culford stream) to remove uncertainties; (iii) in collaboration with EA, calibrating the Lark baseflows with the available EA gw models; (iv) refining the catchment water balance for prospective groundwater and surface water abstraction management (with particular regard to droughts). In parallel with this work RLCP will: (a) Establish an RLCP stakeholders water management forum; (b) Engage with catchment water users, environmental stakeholders and wider interest parties to foster a CaBA water resources management approach.

2. Lark Catchment Pollution Action Plan delivery

The aim of this activity is for RLCP to take forward the Lark Catchment Pollution Action Plan by informing the relevant partners and stakeholders of the need for action, and enlisting and gaining commitment from partners to deliver on the actions.

3. Stakeholder Engagement for CaBA Citizen Science Water Monitoring

RLCP will mobilise volunteers in citizen science pursuits to deliver the CaBA activities in support of the Lark Action Plan and the Catchment Water balance initiative.

Catchment collaboration and engagement events in 2021:

RLCP is a sub-catchment partner of the Cam and Ely Ouse (CamEO) catchment partnership which is hosted by the Rivers Trust and Anglian Water. In 2021 we attended all the CamEO collaboration and engagement meetings, most of which were organised as remote (zoom) meetings due to Covid restrictions.

Section E Financial review

For 2021 the charity does not have a reserves policy and does not hold funds in reserve. This will be actively reviewed in 2022 together with considerations about any necessary decisions to have funds in reserve.

The charity registers Receipts & Payments accounts. No funds were materially in deficit in 2021.

Further financial review details (Optional information)

In 2021 The charity received grant funds from the following donors:

- Environment Agency, Water Environment Improvement Fund (WEIF)
- Water for Tomorrow Fund administered by The Rivers Trust
- Heritage Lottery Funds through the Brecks Fen Edge and Rivers Landscape Partnership (BFER)

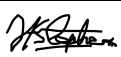
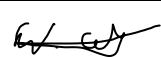
Grant funded expenditure has supported our Lark River restoration, abstraction pilot, pollution action plan and citizen science monitoring efforts, and our outreach campaigns.

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Signature(s) |  |  |
| Full name(s) | James Stephens | William Cranstoun |
| Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc) | Treasurer, Trustee | Trustee |
| Date | 29/04/2022 | |

Receipts & Payments Accounts

Name River Lark Catchment Partnership
 Charity Number 1177318
 For the period from (start date) 1st Dec 2020 To (end date) 30th November 2021

| Section A | Receipts & Payments | | | | |
|---|---------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Endowment funds | Total funds | Last year |
| | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ |
| A1 Receipts | | | | | |
| CamEO Hosting Grant | 2000 | | | 2000 | |
| EA Lark Restoration (PG/1920/WEIF/EAN/004) | | | | 0 | 3075 |
| CaBA Water Resources Communication and Engagement Fund - Grant WR001 | | | | 0 | 15000 |
| Fornham Equipment Grants WSC 2019-20 | | | | 0 | 1430 |
| EA Volunteer Restoration (PG/2021/WEIF/EAN/001) and (PG/2022/WEIF/EAN/020) | | 878 | | 878 | |
| Brecks Fen Edge & Rivers LPS | 123 | | | 123 | |
| Water for Tomorrow Grant | | 15000 | | 15000 | |
| Donations | 2028 | | | 2028 | |
| <i>Sub total</i> | 4151 | 15878 | | 20029 | 19505 |
| A2 Asset & investment sales, etc | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| <i>Total receipts</i> | 4151 | 15878 | | 20029 | 19505 |
| A3 Payments | | | | | |
| Administration services | 1656 | 1524 | | 3180 | 917 |
| RLCP Annual Insurance Premium | 373 | | | 373 | 373 |
| RLCP Web Hosting | 815 | | | 815 | |
| EA Lark restoration (PG/1920/WEIF/EAN004) -2020/21 costs | | 65 | | 65 | 2956 |
| WaterCog Support Expenses | 381 | | | 381 | 121 |
| Fornham Equipment Grants WSC 2019-20 | | 40 | | 40 | 1060 |
| 2019 Xmas party Expenses | | | | 0 | 140 |
| Work Party Refreshment Expenses | | | | 0 | 58 |
| CaBA Grant WR001 - 2020 Costs | | 274 | | 274 | 13191 |
| EA river restoration (PG/2021/WEIF/EAN/001) - Flempton and Lackford Permits | | 170 | | 170 | 170 |
| EA river restoration (PG/2021/WEIF/EAN/001) - Smithson expenses 201220 | | 38 | | 38 | |
| EA river restoration (PG/2021/WEIF/EAN/001) - Permit services to G Smithson Ltd | | 500 | | 500 | |
| BFER - Flempton Bridge Vole Survey (N.J.Oliver invoice 20/4/2021) | 123 | | | 123 | |
| Wallingford Hydraulics visit July 2021 - support services by G Smithson Ltd (invoice 454) | 125 | | | 125 | |
| Water for Tomorrow Admin & Coordination | | 1200 | | 1200 | |
| Water for Tomorrow CU Abstraction Pilot Contract 1st payment of 50% on signature | | 7000 | | 7000 | |
| EA river restoration (PG/2022/WEIF/EAN/020) - posterboard at Fullers Mill - Coastline 64368 | | 240 | | 240 | |
| | | | | 0 | |
| <i>Sub total</i> | 3473 | 11051 | | 14524 | 18986 |
| A4 Asset & investment purchases, etc | - | - | | - | - |
| <i>Total payments</i> | 3473 | 11051 | | 14524 | 18986 |
| <i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i> | 678 | 4827 | | 5505 | 519 |
| A5 Transfers between funds | 0 | 0 | | | |
| A6 Cash funds last year end | 1475 | 2070 | 0 | 3545 | 3026 |
| <i>Cash funds this period end</i> | 2153 | 6897 | 0 | 9050 | 3545 |

Section B

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

| B1 Cash funds | Details | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Endowment funds |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ |
| | Receipts | 4151 | 15878 | 0 |
| | Payments | 3473 | 11051 | 0 |
| | Cash funds last year end | 1475 | 2070 | 0 |
| | <i>Total cash funds</i> | 2153 | 6897 | 0 |



| B2 Other monetary assets | Details | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Endowment funds |
|--------------------------|---------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the 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) |
|--|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| | | Laptop Computer | unrestricted | 200 |
| Gardening equipment | unrestricted | 150 | 100 | |
| River restoration tools | unrestricted | 800 | 800 | |
| River restoration materials | restricted | 4150 | 4150 | |
| PPE (Waders, Gauntlets, etc) | unrestricted | 370 | 300 | |
| Display kit and Banners | unrestricted | 245 | 200 | |

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

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

| Signature | Print name | Date of approval |
|---|-----------------|------------------|
|  | James Stephens | 29th April 2022 |
|  | Andrew Hinchley | 29th April 2022 |