



SOCIETY FOR NATURAL SCIENCES

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 JULY 2025

Charity number 1181964

Fortus

SOCIETY FOR NATURAL SCIENCES

| INDEX | PAGE |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| CHARITY INFORMATION | 1 |
| TRUSTEES' REPORT | 2 -3 |
| INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT | 4 |
| RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT | 5 |
| STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES | 6 |
| NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS | 7 |

SOCIETY FOR NATURAL SCIENCES

CHARITY INFORMATION

Charity name: Society for Natural Sciences

Charity number: 1181964

TRUSTEES

The trustees during the year were:

Professor Derek Jeffrey Raine MBE

Roddy Vann

Geraint Mark Howard Thomas

Ruth Jones

Susan Crennell

Tharrin Blumenstein

CEO

Treasurer

(Resigned 24 July 2025)

(Appointed 24 July 2025)

(Appointed 24 July 2025)

ADDRESS

Equinox House

Clifton Park

Shipton Road

York

YO30 5PA

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Andrew Northern FCA

Fortus Limited

Business Advisors and Accountants

Equinox House

Clifton Park

Shipton Road

York

YO30 5PA

BANKERS

The Co-Operative Bank Plc

P O Box 250

Skelmersdale

WN8 6WT

PayPal UK Limited

5 New Street Square

London

EC4A 3TW

SOCIETY FOR NATURAL SCIENCES

TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

The trustees present their report and the accounts for the year ended 31 July 2025.

Charity information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Society for Natural Sciences is a registered charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) governed by a constitution dated 11 February 2019.

Trustees

At the first annual general meeting of the members of the CIO all the charity trustees shall retire from office. At every subsequent annual general meeting of the members of the CIO, one-third of the charity trustees shall retire from office. If the number of charity trustees is not three or a multiple of three, then the number nearest to one-third shall retire from office, but if there is only one charity trustee, he or she shall retire. The charity trustees to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or reappointment. If any trustees were last appointed or reappointed on the same day those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot. The vacancies so arising may be filled by the decision of the members at the annual general meeting. The members or the charity trustees may at any time decide to appoint a new charity trustee. A person so appointed by the charity trustees shall retire at the conclusion of the next annual general meeting after the date of his or her appointment, and shall not be counted for the purpose of determining which of the charity trustees is to retire by rotation at that meeting.

Risks

The Charity is run almost entirely as a volunteer organisation and therefore relies on practicing academic staff able to commit time to the Society. The reduced number of institutions offering degrees in Natural Sciences, following years of expansion, will impact corporate membership (hence income) over the next few years. It also reduces the pool of volunteers as does the increasing time pressure on academic staff. At present and for the near future this is manageable.

Organisational Structure

The Charity is managed through a main Committee. This comprises the trustees, the chair and CEO of the Society, heads of subcommittees and additional officers where required. The Committee meets at approximately 12 week intervals to receive reports from its five subcommittees and devolve executive and spending powers. The Committee also receives views from the Heads of Natural Sciences Group (comprising directors of teaching in Natural Sciences programmes at member institutions) which meets twice a year.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The objects of the CIO are to advance interdisciplinary science and education in interdisciplinary science for the benefit of the public, in particular but not exclusively by:

- establishing, upholding and advancing high standards of qualification, competence and conduct of those who are teaching, studying or practising interdisciplinary science;
- acting in an advisory, consultative or representative capacity in matters relating to interdisciplinary science; and
- promoting knowledge and understanding of topics of interdisciplinary science.

SOCIETY FOR NATURAL SCIENCES

TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE

CPD for academic members

The Interdisciplinary Science Pedagogic Research and Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (PedR/SoTL) group continues to operate online using the Society's Zoom account.

The Society publishes the open access academic journal: *New Directions in the Teaching and Learning of Natural Science*.

The Society has also initiated a student journal for publication of undergraduate theses. This is intended to be outward facing to support the public dissemination of information about undergraduate degrees in Natural Sciences.

We sponsored a session at the STEM-Horizons National Meeting, University of Aston ([UK Horizons in STEM Higher Education Conference 2025](#)), June 2025.

These interactions are beneficial to development of curricular in HE Science and to wider society through the improved training of science undergraduates.

Society Website: The web site has been set up to provide information about Natural Sciences and to accept membership applications. It has subsequently been expanded to allow members to present a searchable public profile to underpin networking opportunities. It has been further developed to host recordings of seminars and outreach presentations. We have set up a LinkedIn group for the Society.

These are of benefit to members in supporting networking and dissemination of information.

Student Conference 2025: A national 1-day meeting for undergraduate students of Natural Sciences hosted by the Open University. This provides training and networking opportunities for undergraduate students.

Outreach

Talks to Schools: Five on-line outreach sessions in 2024-2025 were delivered through Channel Talent to high school pupils and teachers and individuals. These activities are of direct public benefit in disseminating educational opportunities for students in science.

Accreditation: The accreditation process has been rolled out involving the accreditation of university programmes in Natural Sciences. The process is under review to ensure it is fit for purpose for the accreditation round in 2026. Accreditation to verify and maintain degree standards is a central part of the Society's social benefit.

Membership: Membership is an issue. Four Universities have closed their Natural Sciences programmes to new entrants (Leicester, Southampton, York, Keel) against a background of financial consolidation in the sector.

Membership of recently graduated students has improved but has still not met expectations. We are working to address this issue with the ongoing development of a student council.

Undergraduate members are recruited through the Affiliation scheme for Institutional undergraduate societies. New administrative measures were put in place for 2025-6 academic year to improve membership and to enhance the effectiveness of the student council.

Fundraising: Fees from institutional memberships (our main source of income) have reduced as a result of programme closures. The reduction will not impact the Society's core activities but will limit initiatives beyond this, for example development grants and sponsorships. Fees from individual members are less than anticipated but this has not affected the activities of the Society as they form a minor contribution to current income. Accreditation, which has been designed as an income-neutral process, generates a small surplus.

The trustees have exercised diligence in ensuring public benefit of activities through their membership of the Main Committee of the Society.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
SOCIETY FOR NATURAL SCIENCES**

FINANCIAL REVIEW

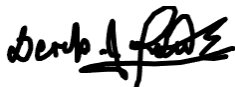
During the year income of £11,228 (2024: £7,240) was received and payments were made of £5,786 (2024: £4,193) resulting in a surplus of £5,442 (2024 surplus: £3,047).

RESERVES POLICY

The charity's policy is to retain sufficient funds to meet its own expected future obligations.

The charity's free reserves at 31 July 2025 amount to £19,969 (2024: £14,527).

Approved by the trustees on 27 May 2026



.....
D J Raine - CEO

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
SOCIETY FOR NATURAL SCIENCES**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2025 comprise of the receipts and payments account, statement of assets and liabilities and notes to the accounts.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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.

Andrew Northern

Andrew Northern FCA
Fortus Limited
Business Advisors and Accountants
Equinox House
Clifton Park
Shipton Road
York
YO30 5PA

27 May 2026

SOCIETY FOR NATURAL SCIENCES

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

| | | 2025 | 2024 |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------|--------------|
| | | £ | £ |
| RECEIPTS | | | |
| Staff subscriptions | | 390 | 527 |
| Student subscriptions | | 138 | 146 |
| University subscriptions | | 10,700 | 6,500 |
| Association subscriptions | | - | 58 |
| Other income | | - | 9 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total receipts | | 11,228 | 7,240 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| PAYMENTS | | | |
| Charitable activities | 3 | 5,786 | 4,193 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total payments | | 5,786 | 4,193 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Increase/(decrease) in Bank | | 5,442 | 3,047 |
| Balance at 1 August 2024 | | 14,527 | 11,480 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Balance at 31 July 2025 | | 19,969 | 14,527 |
| | | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> |

SOCIETY FOR NATURAL SCIENCES

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 JULY 2025

| | 31 July 2025 £ | 31 July 2024 £ |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Assets held for charity's use | | |
| Website - fully written down | - | - |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| Debtors | 1,333 | 2,000 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| Bank and cash balances | | |
| Bank accounts - Co-Operative account | 19,944 | 14,522 |
| - PayPal account | 25 | 5 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| Total bank | 19,969 | 14,527 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| Creditors | | |
| Accruals - Independent examiner's fee | 675 | 1,236 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

Approved on behalf of the Trustees on 27 May 2026



.....
R Vann - Treasurer

SOCIETY FOR NATURAL SCIENCES

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, on a receipts and payments basis, in accordance with Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and following the guidance for accounting for smaller charities issued by the Charity Commissioners.

2. INFORMATION REGARDING TRUSTEES

No trustee or persons related or connected by business to them have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustee received any reimbursement for expenses incurred during the year.

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

| | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Publicity expenses | 268 | - |
| Webinar expenses | 2,016 | 2,016 |
| Independent examination fee | 1,260 | - |
| Membership fee | 1,136 | 836 |
| Staff costs | 247 | 696 |
| Insurance | 198 | 174 |
| Website | 431 | 96 |
| Conference sponsorship | - | 250 |
| Student conference expenses | 230 | 125 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 5,786 | 4,193 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |