



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From: 1 April 2024

To: 31 March 2025

Charity name: Natural Cambridgeshire

Charity registration number: 1193040

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	From our Constitution, the object of Natural Cambridgeshire is: For the public benefit, the preservation, conservation and protection of the environment in particular but not exclusively by (a) the advancement of biological diversity, and (b) the promotion of sustainable development in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Sustainable development means 'development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	Advocacy for the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity and for the benefits it brings to public health and well-being, climate change mitigation and adaptation, cleaner air, improved water quality and availability, healthier soils and flood risk mitigation. Specifically in 2024/25, we: • Provided leadership and support for the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, with our Director, Pamela Abbott, continuing to Co-chair the LNRS Steering Group alongside Cambridgeshire County Council, and playing a key role as a member of the core production team; other trustees have provided expert input to the process. • Following the launch of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fund for Nature in Autumn 2022 and the release of funds in September 2024, we made our first loan to a landscape project, Fleam Dyke Habitat Bank in September 2024. In addition, with

		the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, we disbursed 28 small grants for small-scale community-led nature projects between December 2024 and January 2025. • As part of our commitment to community health and well-being through nature, and in partnership with the Peterborough Environment City Trust (PECT), we successfully delivered four fruit-tree grafting workshops, which formed the basis of a mini-campaign to stimulate a traditional orchard revival initiative across the county, including promoting the benefits of community orchards for biodiversity. • Continued to act as a strategic lead in discussions with the water sector to assist in resolving the water availability issues faced by our county; specifically, this included making the case for agricultural (non-public water supply); identifying, developing and lobbying for measures to ensure available funding for on-farm water storage; and ensuring that the fragility of the future of our lowland peat soils and the future of our chalk streams were front and central to discussions. • Continued to engage with local authorities via the Natural Environment Policy & Planning Forum, addressing Biodiversity Net Gain implementation, Local Plan cycles and major infrastructure projects including the proposed Chatteris Fens Reservoir, East West Rail, and water quality and availability issues. • We collated and published our annual 'Actions for Nature in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough' report, which is a compilation of our Partners' contributions to doubling nature over the preceding year. • With our wider public, we continued to convene our quarterly online Partnership Forum meetings, attracting up to 100 attendees at each Forum. • We continued to contribute, via our active participation as a partner or advisor, to key Cambridgeshire projects and initiatives, including the University of Cambridgeshire's Centre for Landscape Restoration, the Fens 2100+ initiative, the Future Fens Integrated Adaptation project, the Fens Reservoir Stakeholder Group, Water Resources East (WRE) Strategic Advisory Group, the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Climate
--	--	--

		Programme Board and the Cambridge Conservation Forum. An extension to our funding enabled us to commission a Communications and Engagement Strategy and Action plan, which we have begun to implement, and to commission the development of a website with a view to hosting a listing of potential sites for BNG investment.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	As part of their commitment to the organisation and their induction, trustees are required to familiarise themselves with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. We continue to refine policies to ensure that new trustees receive this guidance as part of their induction process, and review annually these policies. Our secretary trustee, Dr Roger Mitchell, ensures good governance practice is followed at all times. In the 2024/25 reporting period no new trustees joined and one resigned (Pippa Heylings) on becoming a MP. At our Board's annual strategy away day in February 2025m the organisation's goals reviewed, including ensuring public benefit of the activities we undertake.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	Given the signing of a grant funding agreement in 2024 which enabled us to provide grants and loans to third parties, we developed a grant and loan funding policy which was adopted by our Board in October 2024.
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	n/a
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	Much of the work of Natural Cambridgeshire is achieved by and through volunteers, primarily trustees and advisors, whose time, dedication and commitment is much appreciated. While we are not a direct delivery organisation, and therefore not in the business of mobilising conservation volunteers ourselves, many of our grantees do mobilise the efforts of volunteers in their improvements to green spaces within parishes, urban communities and on other nature sites. In the evaluation of our small grants programme will are seeking information about volunteer involvement in projects, with a

		view to ensuring these efforts are evaluated, acknowledged and celebrated.
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	• Drawing on our extensive networks across the county and working with Cambridgeshire County Council in our co-chairing role of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and as a member of the core production team, our Director, Pamela Abbott advised the technical expert groupings (on which several trustees serve) for the development of the priorities and measures for our LNRS, including providing data and reviewing mapping outputs, with a view to informing actions for nature and nature positive outcomes for communities. • The Policy and Planning Forum, which is the county-wide grouping we convene for local authority planning and ecology officers, environmental charities, farmer representatives and community organisations, met quarterly to exchange information and share knowledge on policy matters, including BNG implementation, Local Plan cycles, water, and nature and health. At our meeting in January 2025, we conducted a review to seek feedback from members with a view to informing Forum programming for 2025, which included supporting discussions that address the joint issues of social and environmental justice and ways to ensure developers deliver their commitments for green spaces and nature. • We commissioned the development of a website which will host a listing of potential sites across the county for BNG investment, screened through the filter of the LNRS and Natural Cambridgeshire's priority landscapes. • We signed an agreement with the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation to disburse Fund for Nature monies to Communities via a small grants scheme. In 2024/25 we convened our second awards panel and during December 2024 and January 2025 disbursed grant funds totalling £90k to 28 projects with notable uptake in Fenland & Peterborough, where

		local funding is limited. Beneficiaries included charities, councils, voluntary groups, churches, CICs, and a housing association. • Working with legal advisors we developed and finalised a model loan agreement to disburse Nature Fund monies for landscape-scale projects, awarding our first loan of £100k in September 2024. • A second call for projects was launched on in February 2025, including an online webinar promoting the funding opportunity and showcasing nature finance initiatives to farmers and landowners, to which over 50 people attended. • As part of our health and nature objective, we delivered 4 fruit-tree grafting workshops at 3 community sites engaging 32 community participants and launched a mini-campaign to stimulate a local orchards revival initiative, including promoting the biodiversity benefits of community orchard projects. • Regular quarterly online expert briefings were held (Partnership Forum) for the broader nature community on specialist subject areas relating to nature, biodiversity and landscape improvements. • We collated and emailed a weekly news digest of the latest international, national and local research, news and events relating the state of nature and the pressures of climate change to over 700 contacts across the county. • We continued to our membership of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Climate Programme Board. • We strengthened strategic relations with neighbouring Local Nature Partnerships, including signing letters to Ministers to encourage funding to support nature recovery activities, including the formation of an All Party Parliamentary Group for Nature Recovery, and sharing updates and information about our respective LNRSs to ensure join-up. • We participated in strategic projects including the Fenland Water Partnership that is developing the new Fens Reservoir National Infrastructure project, Fens 2100+, the University of Cambridge's Centre for Landscape Restoration and Fenland SOIL. We also continued to champion water for agriculture within key strategic discussions, including with the Environment Agency, Anglian Water and Cambridge Water, and
--	--	--

		more broadly in the community including a seminar for members of the Cambridge Conservation Forum. • We expanded our capacity through the creation of a new post of Executive Officer post, welcoming our new member of staff (0.8FTE) in January 2025. • We signed a Licence to Occupy with the Wildlife Trust BCN on 27 February 2025, which has enabled us to have access to office space for our executive team to work from for 3 days a week.
--	--	---

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

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

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<u>Financial Report on 2024-25 Year End Accounts</u> The accounts show total revenues of £662,784 and a surplus of £416,793. However, these figures are masked by the first grant payment of £500,000 from the CPCA to establish and disburse the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fund for Nature, and to a lesser extent by the receipt of a transfer of funds of £11,650 relating to the Fens Biosphere from Cambridge Acre, to be held in suspense pending decisions on pursuit of the Biosphere concept. The more “normal” activities of Natural Cambridgeshire reflect the CPCA core funding income of £120,000 and £126,246 of administrative expenses, resulting in a deficit of £7,900, but then obtaining income from significant project work on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the County Council, delivering a surplus of £12,225. The resulting combined “normal” surplus amounted to £4,325. In addition to this “normal” result, the charity also managed two further significant activities
---	-----------	---

		relating to the launch of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fund for Nature: first, the disbursement of two tranches of community grants, each amounting to £50,000, administered through the Cambridge Community Foundation, but evaluated and awarded by Natural Cambridgeshire. Secondly, we made our first investment of £100,000 by way of a 7-year, interest free loan to the Wildlife Trust to create a landscape scale natural habitat at Fleam Dyke. The administrative and legal costs relating to the Fund were defrayed, as agreed with the CPCA. The balance sheet at year end showed a cash credit balance on the Office Account of £98,181, £301,437 on the Fund for Nature, and £11,030 on the Biosphere Account. In addition, the loan to the Wildlife Trust is held as a Current Asset. Total reserves of £472,468 reflect £400,000 of the Doubling Nature Fund cash and loan assets. The “normal” reserves of the charity of £72,468 at the year-end are satisfactorily above the 4-month run down horizon set by our reserves policy.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Our reserves policy is based on a “rundown horizon” of 4 months to cover outstanding event costs and four months’ salary costs. The current minimum reserves policy continues to stand at £35,000.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	Total reserves of £472,468 reflect £400,000 of the Doubling Nature Fund cash and loan assets. The “normal” reserves of the charity of £72,468 at the year-end are satisfactorily above the 4-month run down horizon set by our reserves policy.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	At present time, the charity’s running costs are dependent upon gaining grants and contracts from local authorities and partners to continue its work.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity’s principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, Cambridgeshire County Council, National Lottery Community Fund, and partner donations.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	N/A

A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	• Failure to attract income for ongoing running costs. • Reputational risk. • Initiating projects which are not fully funded. • Key staff – for the reporting period the organisation employed three part-time officers. At the end of the financial year, the three part-time officers equate to 2.4 FTE.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed , royal charter)	Para 1.25	The charity's governing document is its constitution, which sets out how it will operate as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Foundation Model).
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association , CIO)	Para 1.25	The charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustee appointments are made based on the skills, knowledge and subject matter expertise they can bring to the organisation, and/or the body entitled to nominate a person to the trustee board, as specified in our constitution.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	Trustees when they are appointed are requested to familiarise themselves with the Charity Commission's guidance: Charity trustee: what's involved Conflicts of interest: a guide for charity trustees For Local Authority nominees: Councillors' guide: to a council's role as charity trustee Depending on an individual trustees skills, knowledge and experience, briefings and introductory meetings may be provided to fill any knowledge gaps and to bring them up to speed with the organisation's business.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	The generosity of local authorities and the support of partner organisations has enabled the trustees to retain one part-time co-ordinator (0.8 FTE) a part-time director (0.6 FTE, moved to 0.8 FTE from January 2024) and now a part-time executive officer (0.8 FTE) The day-to-day business operations are overseen by an Operations & Finance sub-committee of the trustee board that report into the Board, and programmes are steered by a working groups, made up of relevant trustees and officers, which also report to the Board. While the charity itself is a convenor and facilitator of networks and seen as a 'key nexus' for the environment sector in Cambridgeshire, it is also active in many other networks within the county, including the University of Cambridge's Centre for Landscape Regeneration, the Steering Group for the development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the area, a member of the

		Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Climate Programme Board, Water Resources East Advisory Board, Cambridge Conservation Forum Committee and Fens for the Future.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	Nene Park Trust employ the three Natural Cambridgeshire officers and provide human resources and payroll servicesnon behalf of Natural Cambridgeshire. Book-keeping is outsourced to Balancing Act, an external accounts service.
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Natural Cambridgeshire
Other name the charity uses	N/A
Registered charity number	1193040
Charity's principal address	For the reporting period the charity's principal address was: Ham Farm House Ham Lane Peterborough PE2 5UU

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	Richard Astle			Business Sector
2	Martin Baker			Environmental Charity
3	Matthew Bullock	Treasurer		Independent
4	Matthew Bradbury			Country Park
5	Major Tim Breitmeyer DL		.	National Farmers Union/ County Landowners Association
6	Rebecca Britton	Vice-Chair		Business Sector
8	Prof Martin Doel CBE	Chair	Appointed 27 June 2023	Independent
9	Cllr Pippa Heylings		Resigned March 2025	Local Authority
10	Professor Peter Landshoff			Independent/Partnership Forum
11	Dr Roger Mitchell	Secretary		Independent/Partnership Forum
12	Rachel Steward			Independent
13	John Torlesse			Defra Agency
16	Rob Wise			National Farmers Union/ Country Landowners Association
18				
19				
20				

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

Director name		
None		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
None		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

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

Additional information (optional)**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address
	Adrian Cannard	Strategic Planning Manager, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, 2nd Floor, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3TN
	James Littlewood	CEO, Cambridge Past Present & Future, Wandlebury Ring, Gog Magog Hills, Babraham, Cambridge CB22 3AE

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

Pamela Abbott and Helen Dye

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

N/A

Other optional information

None

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Dr Roger Mitchell	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Trustee/Secretary	

Date	7 th November 2024
------	-------------------------------



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Natural Cambridgeshire

On accounts for the year
ended

31st March 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1193040

Set out on pages

1 - 17

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the period ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

Independent
examiner's statement

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

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

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: 

Date: 12/11/2025

Name: Rebecca Coles

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

ACCA

(if any):

--

Address:

Newton Hall, Town Street, Newton, CB22 7ZE

--

--

Section B

Disclosure

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

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

No matters of concern were identified during the independent examination.

Consolidated Revenue Account

Natural Cambridgeshire

For the year ended 31 March 2025

2025

Income

Local Authority Grants (unrestricted)	127,500.00
Project Grants (Restricted)	533,802.82
Bank Interest Received	1,481.23
Total Income	662,784.05

Direct Costs

Projects - Unrestricted	1,653.38
Projects - Restricted	102,775.05
Total Direct Costs	104,428.43

Gross Surplus

558,355.62

Administrative Costs

Advertising	14.34
Finance - Bank Charges	240.00
Office Costs - Computer/Software/Website	5,313.43
Office Costs - HD Laptop	113.76
Office Costs - HD & PA Expenses	3,647.10
Office Costs - HD Telephone	157.89
Office Costs - Supplies	740.00
Other Overheads - Insurance	1,374.87
Other Overheads - Magazine & Book Subscriptions	15.00
Hall Hire & Catering	1,798.90
Professionals - Accountancy Fees	2,084.40
Professionals - Consultant Fees	24,563.30
Professionals - Legal Fees	6,600.00
Salary Costs - Gross Wages & NI	100,342.33
Salary Costs - Recruitment Expenses	598.00
Admin Costs (Communities Fund)	(7,000.00)
Westfield Health	539.28
Trustee Expenses	420.46
Total Administrative Costs	141,563.06

Operating Surplus

416,792.56

Balance Sheet

Natural Cambridgeshire As at 31 March 2025

31 MAR 2025

Current Assets

Cash at bank and in hand

DNF: Natural Cambridge	301,436.68
Natural Cambridgeshire	98,181.26
Other Savings: Natural Cambridge	11,030.73
Total Cash at bank and in hand	410,648.67

Accounts Receivable	7,500.00
Prepayments	127.20
Wildlife Trust DNF Loan Oct24	100,000.00
Total Current Assets	518,275.87

Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

Accounts Payable	42,507.91
Accruals - Audit Fee	420.00
Accruals (Jul-Sept25 Wages)	2,880.00
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	45,807.91

Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	472,467.96
---	-------------------

Total Assets less Current Liabilities	472,467.96
--	-------------------

Net Assets	472,467.96
-------------------	-------------------

Capital and Reserves

Accumulated Surplus Account	55,675.40
Current Year Earnings	416,792.56
Total Capital and Reserves	472,467.96