



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

**Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' report) for the period.**

**From: Period start date - 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024      to: Period end date - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

**Charity name: Friends of Sywell Country Park**

**Charity registration number: 1200511**

**Company number: CE030278**

**Objectives and Activities**

| <b>Question</b>                                                                                                                                                     | <b>SORP Reference</b> | <b>Response</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document.                                                                                        | Para 1.17             | <b>The objectives of the charity are twofold; Firstly; for the public benefit, to promote the conservation, protection, and improvement of the physical, natural, and social environment of Sywell Country Park. Secondly; to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with a view to improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants of the surrounding area of Sywell Country Park and to advance public education in environmental matters and of ways of better conserving, protecting, and improving the same wheresoever.</b> |
| 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    | <b>The purchase of tools and materials that are to be used for recreational development and wildlife habitat improvements at Sywell Country Park.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.                                       | Para 1.18             | <b>The trustees are aware of, and have had regard to, the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

**Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

| Question                                                          | SORP reference | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Policy on grant making.                                           | Para 1.38      | The Charity does not plan to provide grants on a regular basis and when it is appropriate to do so this will require the unanimous agreement of the Trustees and the specific terms of any such grant to be agreed. |
| Policy on social investment including program related investment. | Para 1.38      | Not applicable                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Contribution made by volunteers.                                  | Para 1.38      | The charity has supported one thousand eight hundred (1800) days of volunteering time at Sywell Country Park in 2024/25, which have been facilitated by the purchase of tools and materials.                        |
| Other.                                                            |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

## Achievements and Performance

| Question                                                                                                                                                                                               | SORP Reference   | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>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.</p> | <p>Para 1.20</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Friends of Sywell Country Park charity raised approximately £38,000 to pay for improvements to the visitor facilities and wildlife habitats.</li> <li>○ We collected thousands of wildflower seeds from our meadows and woodlands and planted them throughout the park.</li> <li>○ We planted 1,750 new trees in the park.</li> <li>○ We split and transplanted hundreds of snowdrops below the dam.</li> <li>○ Replaced the old water play equipment in the Filter Bed play area.</li> <li>○ We completed replacing the rotten squirrel run in Brock Wood.</li> <li>○ We protected hundreds of coppice stools from rabbits and deer.</li> <li>○ We weeded and mulched over 5,000 young trees to help them grow.</li> <li>○ We constructed 200m of new habitat rows and repaired old ones.</li> <li>○ We completed our planned woodland coppicing and thinning.</li> <li>○ We increased the size of all our log pile hibernacula.</li> <li>○ We installed 2 extra-large picnic tables for large groups.</li> <li>○ We repainted the butterfly bench in the butterfly garden.</li> <li>○ We improved the "Big Leaf" education area.</li> <li>○ We started construction of a new wildflower orchard.</li> <li>○ We obtained funding towards a new play trail in Brock Wood.</li> <li>○ We hosted more than 40 corporate volunteering days where staff from local businesses were able to help us improve the park's visitor facilities and wildlife habitats.</li> </ul> |

### Additional Information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

| Question                                                      | SORP Reference | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Achievements against objectives set.                          | Para 1.41      | <b>2024/25 was the second full year of operation of the Charity and whilst no specific objectives were set the Trustees were very satisfied with the achievements</b>                                                         |
| Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set. | Para 1.41      | <b>2024/25 was the second full year of operation of the Charity and whilst no specific fundraising objectives were set the corporate donations exceeded expectations and additional income received from the Lottery fund</b> |
| Investment performance against objectives.                    | Para 1.41      | <b>Not applicable</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Other.                                                        |                | <b>Specific grants made to NNC towards the cost of habitat management equipment.</b>                                                                                                                                          |

## Financial Review

| Question                                                                          | SORP Reference | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period               | Para 1.21      | At the end of the Second full operating year (01/04/2024 > 31/03/25) the balance of funds had increased to £7,179                                                                                                                                       |
| Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held.   | Para 1.22      | Since the charity doesn't employ personnel or rent or own buildings, our ongoing liabilities are small, hence we hold a notional reserve of £2000 but these funds are not restricted and could be made available should the trustees deem it necessary. |
| Amount of reserves held.                                                          | Para 1.22      | The full amount is £7,179                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Reasons for holding zero reserves.                                                | Para 1.22      | Not applicable                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Details of fund materially in deficit.                                            | Para 1.24      | Not applicable                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern. | Para 1.23      | Not applicable                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

**Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

| <b>Question</b>                                                                  | <b>SORP Reference</b> | <b>Response</b>                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)             | Para 1.47             | <b>Most of the sources of funds are from corporate and public donations. Lottery fund grant</b>                                                                     |
| Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted. | Para 1.46             | <b>The charity makes no investments.</b>                                                                                                                            |
| A description of the principal risks facing the charity                          | Para 1.46             | <b>The charity can be described as low risk. It has no employees, it does not make investments. Expenditure is only made contingent on funding being available.</b> |
| Other                                                                            |                       | <b>Specific grants made to NNC towards the cost of habitat management equipment.</b>                                                                                |

## Structure, Governance and Management

| Question                                                                                                                                                                   | SORP Reference | Response                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description of charity's trusts:                                                                                                                                           |                |                                                                                               |
| Type of governing document: for example, trust deed, memorandum, and articles of association, etc,                                                                         | Para 1.25      | <b>A formal document based on the Foundation Model.</b>                                       |
| How is the charity constituted?<br>For example, limited company, unincorporated association, CIO, etc.                                                                     | Para 1.25      | <b>Charitable Incorporated Organisation and only voting members are its charity trustees.</b> |
| 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      | <b>Trustees are selected by invitation by a majority vote of the current trustees.</b>        |

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

| Question                                                                                   | SORP Reference | Response                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees.                | Para 1.51      | <b>We have developed a set of RULES covering tasks and behaviours for all trustees which will be used for the induction of new trustees</b> |
| The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works. | Para 1.51      | <b>The Charity comprises a Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and 7 other personnel, two of which are Park Rangers</b>                             |
| Relationship with any related parties                                                      | Para 1.51      | <b>Not applicable</b>                                                                                                                       |
| Other                                                                                      |                | <b>New trustees appointed and appointment of new chair and secretary</b>                                                                    |

## Reference and Administrative Details

|                             |                                                                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Charity name                | <b>Friends of Sywell Country Park</b>                                       |
| Other name the charity uses | <b>Not applicable</b>                                                       |
| Registered charity number   | <b>1200511</b>                                                              |
| Charity's principal address | <b>C/O Sywell Country Park, Washbrook Lane, Ecton, Northampton. NN6 0QX</b> |

## Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

|    | <b>Trustee name</b> | <b>Office (if any)</b> | <b>Dates acted if not for whole year</b>     | <b>Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)</b> |
|----|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Tony Skirrow        | Chairperson            | 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan – 31 <sup>st</sup> March |                                                                      |
| 2  | Mike Gerrard        | Treasurer              |                                              |                                                                      |
| 3  | Pauline Braithwaite | Secretary              | 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan – 31 <sup>st</sup> March |                                                                      |
| 4  | Anita Mallard       | Trustee                |                                              |                                                                      |
| 5  | Geoff Simons        | Park Ranger            |                                              |                                                                      |
| 6  | Rachel Axford       | Park Ranger            |                                              |                                                                      |
| 7  | Keith Hartley       | Trustee                | 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan – 31 <sup>st</sup> March |                                                                      |
| 8  | Steve Merryshaw     | Trustee                | 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan – 31 <sup>st</sup> March |                                                                      |
| 9  | Joanne Dolby        | Trustee                | 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan – 31 <sup>st</sup> March |                                                                      |
| 10 | Pat Chapman         | Trustee                | 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan – 31 <sup>st</sup> March |                                                                      |

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

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Director name</b>  |  |
| <b>Not applicable</b> |  |

## Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

|                       |                                          |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Trustee name</b>   | <b>Dates acted if not for whole year</b> |
| <b>Not applicable</b> |                                          |

**Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others.**

|                                                                                                                               |                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Description of the assets held in this capacity                                                                               | Not applicable |
| Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects | Not applicable |
| Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets                         | Not applicable |

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

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

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

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

**Exemptions from disclosure**

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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

**Other optional information**

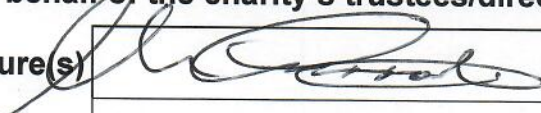
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## Declarations

The company has taken advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the report above.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report (including directors' report) above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees/directors

|                                                 |                                                                                   |                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Signature(s)                                    |  |  |
| Full name(s)                                    | MICHAEL GERRARD                                                                   | A J SKIRROW                                                                         |
| Position (for example<br>Secretary, Chair, etc) | TREASURER                                                                         | CHAIRMAN.                                                                           |
| Date                                            | 26/11/25                                                                          |                                                                                     |



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Friends of Sywell Country Park (FSCP)  
Company number CE030278

Charity No  
1200511

CC16a

## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period  
from

01/04/2024

To

31/03/2025

### Section A Receipts and payments

|                                                           | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>to the nearest £ | Restricted<br>funds<br>to the nearest £ | Endowment<br>funds<br>to the nearest £ | Total funds<br>to the nearest £ | Last year<br>to the nearest £ |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>A1 Receipts</b>                                        |                                           |                                         |                                        |                                 |                               |
| Sales                                                     | 1,822                                     | -                                       | -                                      | 1,822                           | 4,138                         |
| Corporate Donation                                        | 22,000                                    | -                                       | -                                      | 22,000                          | 19,600                        |
| General Public Donation                                   | 5,068                                     | -                                       | -                                      | 5,068                           | 180                           |
| Interest                                                  | 16                                        | -                                       | -                                      | 16                              | 13                            |
| Grant Income (National Lottery)                           | -                                         | 10,000                                  | -                                      | 10,000                          | -                             |
|                                                           | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                           | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                           | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| <b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>                    | <b>28,906</b>                             | <b>10,000</b>                           | <b>-</b>                               | <b>38,906</b>                   | <b>23,931</b>                 |
| <b>A2 Asset and investment sales,<br/>(see table).</b>    |                                           |                                         |                                        |                                 |                               |
|                                                           | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                           | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| <b>Sub total</b>                                          | <b>-</b>                                  | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>-</b>                        | <b>-</b>                      |
| <b>Total receipts</b>                                     | <b>28,906</b>                             | <b>10,000</b>                           | <b>-</b>                               | <b>38,906</b>                   | <b>23,931</b>                 |
| <b>A3 Payments</b>                                        |                                           |                                         |                                        |                                 |                               |
| Purchase of materials and small tools                     | 22,272                                    | 10,000                                  | -                                      | 32,272                          | 21,253                        |
| Refreshments for Volunteers                               | 436                                       | -                                       | -                                      | 436                             | 537                           |
| Insurance                                                 | 189                                       | -                                       | -                                      | 189                             | 288                           |
| Grants Made                                               | -                                         | 5,505                                   | -                                      | 5,505                           | -                             |
|                                                           | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                           | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                           | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                           | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                           | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| <b>Sub total</b>                                          | <b>22,897</b>                             | <b>15,505</b>                           | <b>-</b>                               | <b>38,402</b>                   | <b>22,078</b>                 |
| <b>A4 Asset and investment<br/>purchases. (see table)</b> |                                           |                                         |                                        |                                 |                               |
|                                                           | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                           | -                                         | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| <b>Sub total</b>                                          | <b>-</b>                                  | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>-</b>                        | <b>-</b>                      |
| <b>Total payments</b>                                     | <b>22,897</b>                             | <b>15,505</b>                           | <b>-</b>                               | <b>38,402</b>                   | <b>22,078</b>                 |
| <b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>                         | <b>6,009</b>                              | <b>- 5,505</b>                          | <b>-</b>                               | <b>504</b>                      | <b>1,853</b>                  |
| <b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>                         | <b>-</b>                                  | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>-</b>                        | <b>-</b>                      |
| <b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>                        | <b>6,675</b>                              | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>6,675</b>                    | <b>4,804</b>                  |
| <b>Cash funds this year end</b>                           | <b>12,684</b>                             | <b>- 5,505</b>                          | <b>-</b>                               | <b>7,179</b>                    | <b>6,657</b>                  |

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

| Categories                                          | Details                                                | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>B1 Cash funds</b>                                | Business current account                               | 6,633                           | -                             | -                            |
|                                                     | Reserve account                                        | 547                             | -                             | -                            |
|                                                     |                                                        |                                 | -                             | -                            |
|                                                     | <b>Total cash funds</b>                                | <b>7,180</b>                    | -                             | -                            |
|                                                     | (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s)) |                                 |                               |                              |
| <b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>                     | Details                                                | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|                                                     | None                                                   | -                               | -                             | -                            |
|                                                     |                                                        | -                               | -                             | -                            |
|                                                     |                                                        | -                               | -                             | -                            |
|                                                     |                                                        | -                               | -                             | -                            |
|                                                     |                                                        | -                               | -                             | -                            |
|                                                     |                                                        | -                               | -                             | -                            |
| <b>B3 Investment assets</b>                         | Detail                                                 | Fund to which asset belongs     | Cost (optional)               | Current value (optional)     |
|                                                     | None                                                   |                                 | -                             | -                            |
|                                                     |                                                        |                                 | -                             | -                            |
|                                                     |                                                        |                                 | -                             | -                            |
|                                                     |                                                        |                                 | -                             | -                            |
| <b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b> | Details                                                | Fund to which asset belongs     | Cost (optional)               | Current value (optional)     |
|                                                     | None                                                   |                                 | -                             | -                            |
|                                                     |                                                        |                                 | -                             | -                            |
|                                                     |                                                        |                                 | -                             | -                            |
|                                                     |                                                        |                                 | -                             | -                            |
|                                                     |                                                        |                                 | -                             | -                            |
|                                                     |                                                        |                                 | -                             | -                            |
|                                                     |                                                        |                                 | -                             | -                            |
|                                                     |                                                        |                                 | -                             | -                            |
| <b>B5 Liabilities</b>                               | Details                                                | Fund to which liability relates | Amount due (optional)         | When due (optional)          |
|                                                     | None                                                   |                                 | -                             |                              |
|                                                     |                                                        |                                 | -                             |                              |
|                                                     |                                                        |                                 | -                             |                              |
|                                                     |                                                        |                                 | -                             |                              |

# NOTES

1. Accounting standards

In the interests of consistency the Charities receipts and payments accounts are prepared using the Free Agent accounting package provided as part of the Charities banking arrangement with Natwest

2. Sales

Amounts included in Sales include sales of scrap metal arising from Sywell Park activity and sales of firewood arising from Sywell Park activity and each gifted to the charity. No charity assets have been disposed of during the year.

3. Assets

The charity has not acquired any assets during the year. All purchases of materials and small tools (individual value < £500) have been transferred / gifted to Sywell Country Park.

4 Payments and Grants to North Northants Council

The charity has made Payments and Grants to North Northants Council during the year amounting to £15,505 in respect of equipment to be used in conservation works and for play equipment for use at Sywell Country Park.

5 National Lottery Grant

Included in the Payments and Grants made to North Northants Council was the £10,000 received by the charity from the National Lottery for play equipment. The council contributed a further £5,000 towards the total cost.

6 Correction

In compiling this CC16a submission for year end 2025 an error in reporting in the year end 2024 has been identified and corrected. Cash held by the charity at the year end 2024 amounted to £6,675 rather than £6,657 as reported.

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

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

  
A. Skirrow

M. GERRARD

27/10/25

AJ SKIRROW

07/10/25

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Friends of Sywell  
Country Park  
Company No: CE030278**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Friends of Sywell Country Park for the year ended 31 March 2025

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed 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 and 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:

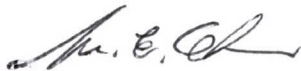
1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act;

Or

2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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: Mary E Coleman  
Address: 2 Linnet Road  
Date: 20<sup>th</sup> August 2025