

Charity Registration No 1203720

NATURAL HABITAT
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Jonathan Vaughan MBE (Chair) Susan Innes Caroline Shepherdson Vivien Burton Genevieve Rudd
Charity number	1203720
Address	3 Cherry Tree Cottage Southwold Road Holton Halesworth IP19 8PW
Independent Examiner	Jasmin Aktar Small Works Vauxhall Bridge Road London SW1V 1TA

Trustees Report (including Director's Report) for the year ended 31 March 2025

We are pleased to present our annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Articles, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Natural Habitat's objectives and activities:

1. To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment by promoting sustainable land use and biodiversity
2. To advance education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment and sustainable land use.

The trustees have continued to align our charitable purposes with ongoing project activity, building momentum on the foundations set within year 1.

Overview of activity:

Year 2 (2024-25) has been a year of meaningful growth, impact, and collaboration for Natural Habitat.

Through our flagship programme, *Weaving Farms, Land, People & Planet*, we've continued to further environmental educational opportunities. We have strengthened relationships between rural farmers, multi-disciplinary practitioners and diverse communities - creating new linked projects, such as *Learning From the Land*, and building pathways for connection, learning, and biodiversity action across our local landscape.

This year's activity has been made possible courtesy of generous funding from:

Suffolk & Essex, Coasts & Heaths National Landscapes - Farming in Protected Landscapes; supporting the *Weaving Farms, Land, People & Planet* project

East Suffolk Council's Enabling Communities Budget; supporting the *Learning From the Land* project

Suffolk Community Foundation, through the Axter Community & Climate Grantmaking Programme; supporting core costs and the development of ongoing project activity

Our Reach

This year, we reached **400** individuals through our activities:

- **265 children from 3 local primary schools**
- **98 adults;**
 - **30 regional refugees and asylum seekers**
 - **15 farmers**
 - **50 parents and carers of school children**
 - **34 teachers**
- **6 partner organisation staff**

We worked with **8 farms**, totalling **958.78 hectares** of land, increasing children and diverse communities' access to local land by **62%**.

Our Practitioners

Our work this year was made possible through a community of diverse practitioners who all support nature, including:

- **5 Artists, Heritage Crafters and a filmmaker**
- **2 Ecologists**
- **1 Agroecological Educator**
- **1 Forager**
- **1 Chef**
- **15 Farmers and Growers**

Their collaboration ensured a rich and varied programme, combining creativity, ecology, and regenerative land-based learning.

Impact

Project outcomes included:

Increased access to the local landscape

We enabled 72 children and 21 refugees to participate in sessions at our farm venues; with the 72 children visiting 3 farms in recurring sessions.

Increased skills and knowledge

100% of children gained new skills and knowledge in supporting biodiversity, building awareness of environmental issues including carbon storage

'...they can take the carbon and put it in the soil to keep our planet cooler.' Pupil comment

'I loved sharing my knowledge about wildlife.' Pupil comment

While farmers' skills in engaging communities with their land increased by 51%

'You have not only managed to make an impact, you've worked brilliantly with all our pupils of which there are many with varying needs and abilities...' Head teacher

Improved wellbeing and feelings of joy

98% of children and diverse community participants enjoyed our activities

'Best day EVER. Come back next week!' Pupil comment

With farmers' confidence to host and communicate about their land rising by 35%

"This has been so positive for the farmers. There is so much we can do, and I am really keen to do more, especially sharing the farm with those who don't get opportunities to be in nature often."

Farmer Participant

Our work demonstrates how collaboration between multi-disciplinary practitioners, farmers, and communities can create a ripple effect of shared learning, confidence, and environmental care.

Partnerships

We continue to be a member of the local Blyth Community Conservation Network, sharing resources and opportunities and have gone on to foster several new key partnerships that have strengthened our reach and will support ongoing impact:

- **ASSET Education; run 16 local primary schools across Suffolk**
- **Wakelyns Farm; vanguard of agroforestry**

- **Suffolk Refugee Support**
- **Barleybird CIC; agroecological experts and educators**

These relationships are essential in helping us deliver creative, inclusive, and impactful environmental learning across Suffolk and beyond.

Project Details

Weaving Farms, Land, People & Planet, 2024

Funded by Suffolk & Essex, Coast & Heaths National Landscape's branch of Farming in Protected Landscapes.

This project began in January 2024, and finished in December 2024, working to connect farms, schools, and refugee organisations to foster environmental learning, and celebrate environmental resilience through diversity in nature, food and communities.

The project has enabled collaboration and learning between Blyth Valley Farm Cluster and diverse public engaging experts, celebrating positive environmental actions, fostering skills, and sharing hands-on learning opportunities with children and the wider public, via rich and varied land management practices.

The project worked with 7 farms, 3 primary schools, and 2 regional refugee organisations, bringing together farmers, artists, ecologists, foragers, and chefs to deliver 18 school sessions, 3 landscape connection events, and 2 training programmes.

In total, over 172 individuals took part in 520 attendances, many returning for multiple sessions to embed learning.

"It's just been the best. I think all children should get to do this project so we all know how to look after our environment." Pupil comment

Children participated in preliminary in-school sessions to set the scene for the project, followed by multiple on-farm visits to build context. Then each class finished with a final in-school Sharing Session, to celebrate their learning with their peers and parents.

Pupils explored everything from soil ecology and biodiversity to food journeys and climate solutions, identifying wildflowers, tasting legumes, planting hedges, and mapping local farms.

"This is great, you have done so much with the kids and they have learnt so much. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts."

Parent comment

Farmers received training through our own professional development programme with project practitioners, as well as Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF)'s CEVAS programme, growing their skills and confidence to safely engage the public, and share their land and knowledge.

"Thank you Carrie for an excellent day's training enabling us farmers to share ideas, find inspiration and give us the 'know how' and confidence to help make the most of sharing our farms with the schools."

Farmer Participant

The project also reached refugees and young asylum seekers through Landscape Connection Events, where participants came together in the Blyth Valley, with rural farming communities to cook and share meals made from locally grown and culturally significant ingredients. They used ingredients from Sudan, Afghanistan, Iran, and Suffolk; using food as a connective tool for storytelling, cultural exchange, and connection to the land.

"Thank you so much for having us, I have loved the foraging and spending time in nature as we don't get much opportunity for countryside." Suffolk Refugee Support Client

A *Landscape Record* film, produced by filmmaker Lewis Wickwar, captured these experiences, highlighting the people involved and the evolving farmland at this pivotal moment in climate and farming history. Alongside the film, we developed an educational resource for 14 local schools, filled with creative, hands-on activities to help children understand carbon storage, biodiversity, and the importance of their local landscapes.

"One pupil went from not knowing what a pond is, to understanding what they are, what lives in them, how they support wildlife and how they connect to Suffolk's history! That's what I call learning!" Practitioner comment

Funded by Suffolk & Essex, Coasts & Heaths branch of Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL), the project has been recognised for its innovation and impact.

"This is definitely one of the best investments that FiPL has made in the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape."

Alex Dinsdale, FiPL Officer

Through *Weaving Farms, Land, People & Planet*, children, farmers, and communities have not only learned about biodiversity, they have experienced it first-hand, contributing to a shared vision of land that nourishes people, wildlife, and hope for the future.

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Learning From the Land

This project emerged off the back of our 2024, Weaving Farms, Land, People & Planet Project and was generously funded by East Suffolk Council's Enabling Communities Budget.

During early 2025 we began a series of in-school sessions reaching new pupils, delivering the first eight of twelve planned sessions across East Suffolk primary schools, engaging 93 children, 20 parents and 10 school staff to participate in activity.

This project has enabled us to begin to collaborate with Wakelyns Farm, using their pool of experienced land practitioners to share insight into agroforestry and short-chain food and material systems.

'This is really interesting - I would never have thought of doing this, I am learning too!'
Parent comment

Led by our team of ecologists, growers, artists, and educators, the sessions explored biodiversity, soil health, sustainable farming, and food systems through creative, hands-on learning. Activities ranged from food miles exploration and sensory soil games to mapping local habitats using 3D animation and drones.

"My breakfast travelled 9439 miles to get to my plate! Now I know what foods I can swap to help the environment." Pupil comment

Pupils developed practical climate care skills and a deeper connection to their local landscape, with 100% reporting they learned something new.

"I learnt how to grow peas and strawberries for food and that peas are clever plants for soils. They grow little lumps on their roots [nitrogen nodules]." Pupil comment

The project continues into the next financial year, building on these strong foundations to deliver the remaining sessions and deepen partnerships between schools, communities, and local farms.

Executive Directors Statement

This has been our first full year of activity, and I'm delighted with the progress we've made. Getting Natural Habitat off the ground has been a huge amount of work, but our wonderful team of diverse practitioners has made a genuine difference to the people and communities they've worked with. This year, we have developed a partnership with the prestigious Wakelyns Farm, which we are already weaving into our programme of activity, and I'm deeply grateful for the generosity of our funders and the support of our existing partner land venues across the Blyth Valley.

In particular, I'm proud of the impact our *Weaving Farms, Land, People & Planet* project has had, not only on the children and diverse communities it serves, but also in fostering unique opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange among professionals, helping to make learning from nature more accessible to all.

I'm immensely excited for the year ahead; we have worked closely with Barleybird CIC this year, delivering training and session activity, and are now planning collaborative projects to expand our work with diverse communities into 2025.

Carrie Phoenix

Trustee Statement:

The trustees would like, first and foremost, to recognise the hard work and dedication of the charity's Executive Director, Carrie Phoenix, in delivering the projects and outcomes described in this report. It is thanks to her (and of course also to the practitioners who have worked with and supported her) that our first full year of activity has been so successful. The feedback from participants and funders alike has been overwhelmingly positive and we look forward with great excitement to next year's projects.

Planning for these is well under way and some funding has already been granted for activities which will take place during the course of the next financial year, while a number of other funding applications have been submitted. The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Financial review

The charity has now been in existence for 21 months, and has made good progress in such a short while. A reserves policy has been added to our financial manual, with the charity maintaining reserves in line with the threshold of 3 months core costs.

The charity financial policy regarding budget variance states that the budget for the financial year must be presented by senior management to the Board of Trustees at the Annual General Meeting, and that once approved any variance greater than 10% must be reported, explained and formally approved.

Headline figures from the charity's accounts for 2024/25 are as follows:

Grant and donation income	£50,047
Expenditure on charitable activities	£47,701
Balance carried forward	£7,476

The appropriate Statement Of Financial Activities (SOFA) will be submitted to the Charity Commission after external examination of the full accounts.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to them.

Structure, governance and management

Natural Habitat is a charitable incorporated organisation registered with The Charity Commission on 23rd June 2023.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Jonathan Vaughan MBE

Susan Innes

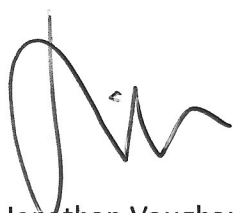
Caroline Shepherdson

Vivien Burton

Genevieve Rudd

The recruitment and appointment of new trustees is agreed by existing trustees at a trustee meeting. Trustees may serve for a maximum of three consecutive terms, and may not be re-appointed for a further twelve months after this.

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Vaughan', with a large loop at the start and a wavy end.

Jonathan Vaughan

Chair of Trustees

Date: 17/12/25

Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of Natural Habitat For the Year ending 31 March 2025

I report on the accounts of the charity for the period ending 31 March 2025

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this Period under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Ms Jasmin Aktar ACCA

Address: Admin Block A, Peabody, Vauxhall Bridge Rd, London SW1V 1TA

Date: 18 Dec 25



Natural Habitat
BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 March 2025
Registered Charity 1176768

Notes	2,025	2,024
	£	£

CURRENT ASSETS
Cash at bank and in hand

7,476	20,097
7,476	20,097

CREDITORS:

Amounts falling due within one year

15,000

NET CURRENT ASSETS

7,476	5,097
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TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES

<u>7,476</u>	<u>5,097</u>
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Funds of the charity
Restricted Funds
Unrestricted Funds

6
7

4,706	5,097
2,770	

TOTAL FUNDS

<u>7,476</u>	<u>5,097</u>
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The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board and were signed on its behalf on 17/12/2025

Chair Of Trustees



Treasurer

Super Lines

Natural Habitat NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, and applicable UK accounting standards and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence. Therefore they have adopted the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and financial statements

Income

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity is entitled to receipt and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Grants from the government and other agencies have been included as income from activities in furtherance of the charity's objects where these amount to a contract for services.

Expenditure

Expenditure is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis and on the basis that consideration has been received for the expenditure.

Governance costs

Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include those related to statutory examination of the accounts. See note 4.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Assets over the value of £500 are capitalised at cost.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight-line basis beginning one month after acquisition over their expected useful lives as follows:

Computer equipment
Other office equipment

33.33%
20.00%

Pension Costs

The charity has a workplace pension scheme with The Peoples' Pension. The charity's sole employee has opted out of the pension scheme and therefore no pension contributions have been made during the period

Related party transactions and trustees remuneration

There were no related party transactions to report. Trustees received no remuneration in respect of their Trustees duties and no expenses were reimbursed.

Funds Accounting

Funds held by the charity are:

Unrestricted general funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds - these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from Corporation Tax under Section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1998. The Charity is not registered for VAT and therefore any irrecoverable VAT has been included with the relevant expenditure.

Risk Management

The Board of Trustees has assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity, and is satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to such major risks.

2 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Income from grants

Suffolk & Essex, Coasts & Heaths, Suffolk County Council
East Suffolk Councils Enabling Communities Budget
Suffolk Community Foundation - Axter Climate & Community Grantmaking Programme
Total grant income

Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
		2025	2024
12,211	29,352	41,563	
	5,484	5,484	
	3,000	3,000	
12,211	37,836	50,047	

3. Investment Income

Bank Interest earned

Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
		2025	2024
33	0	33	1,529
			1,529

4. ANALYSIS ON GOVERNANCE COSTS

Independent examiners remuneration

2025	2024
£	£
<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>
200	200

5. STAFF COSTS

Wages and salaries

2025	2024
£	£
19,937	6,665
<u>19,937</u>	<u>6,665</u>
19,937	6,665

Executive committee remuneration and expenses:

No expenses or remuneration have been paid to any Trustee or member of the Board of Trustees during the period in respect of their Trustee duties.

Particulars of employees:

The average number of employees during the period was 1 part time (2024: 1 part time)

No employee was paid more than £60,000 during the year

6. MOVEMENT OF RESTRICTED FUNDS

	1st April 2024	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	31st March 2025
Restricted funds	£	£	£	£	£
Suffolk & Essex, Coasts & Heaths, Suffolk County Council		29,352	28,424		928
East Suffolk Councils Enabling Communities Budget		5,484	3,456		2,028
Suffolk Community Foundation - Axter Climate & Community Grantmaking Programme		3,000	1,250		1,750
Total Restricted Funds		37,836	33,130		4,706

7 MOVEMENTS OF UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	1st April 2024	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	31st March 2025
Unrestricted funds	£	£	£	£	£
	5,097	12,244	14,571		2,770
Total Unrestricted Funds	5,097	12,244	14,571		2,770

Natural Habitat

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
Notes	£	£	£	£
Income				
Donations				
Charitable activities	12,211	37,836	50,047	6877
Investments	33		33	14,703
	4			9
	12,244	37,836	50,080	21,589
Expenditure				
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	14,571	33,130	47,701	16,492
	14,571	33,130	47,701	16,492
Total Expenditure				
	-2,327	4,706	2,379	5,097
Net Flow				
			-	-
Transfers between funds				
	-2,327	4,706	2,379	5,097
Gross incoming/(outgoing) resources as at 31 March 25				
Reconciliation of funds:				
Fund balances brought forward at 1 April 2024	5,097		5,097	5,097
Fund balances carried forward at 31 March 2025	2,770	4,706	7,476	5,097

The notes on pages 3 to 6 form an integral part of these financial statements