

**Natural Connections**

**Scottish Charity number - SC046141**

**Annual Report and Financial Statements**

**For the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

**Trustees' Annual Report**  
**For the period ended 31 March 2025**

The Trustees have the pleasure in presenting their report together with the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

**Reference and Administrative Information**

**Charity Name**  
Natural Connections

**Charity Number**  
SC046141

**Address**

[REDACTED]

**Current Trustees**

[REDACTED] Chair (appointed 17/10/24)  
[REDACTED] (appointed 21/7/2020)  
[REDACTED] (appointed 10/7/2020)  
[REDACTED] ( appointed 3/11/2020)

**Other**

[REDACTED] (Secretary)

[REDACTED] (Volunteer representative)

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

### **Constitution**

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). It was registered in its current legal form on 18 November 2015. It was set up with a single-tier structure.

### **Appointment of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees, which normally meets four times per year, are the Charity Trustees. Membership of the Board is open to anyone with an interest in our charitable purposes.

New Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting which normally is held in November. There must be a minimum of 3 and maximum of 12 Trustees. At each Annual General Meeting one third of our existing Trustees will stand down.

### **Objects and Activities**

#### **Charitable Purposes**

- To provide a range of opportunities for experiential learning in a fun, creative and safe environment that supports people to reach their full potential and contribute to the local community.
- Encourage individuals and communities to engage with nature and deliver volunteer-led solutions to help improve the environment.
- Work in partnership with other agencies and organisations to identify opportunities to use and/or reuse natural materials and provide training, support, practical education and awareness sessions.

#### **Activities**

As part of our work Natural Connections is developing an old gasworks site in Tranent, East Lothian that has lain unused since 1978. We have volunteers coming along every week to help clear the site also removing all the rubbish. We are providing opportunities that are lacking in the Tranent area, where people can learn about horticulture and, for some, use the garden for therapy and rehabilitation or to improve employment prospects. To the wider community we offer a natural communal space for events, garden/environmental training workshops, arts and crafts and seasonal cooking and healthy eating.

So far, we have been busy building sheds and creating raised beds. We have also put in Polytunnels to extend the growing season and an orchard and herb growing area. We have also built an outdoor kitchen and wood burning brick oven for holding seasonal cookery sessions. We have also completed our Nature Play area which includes a campfire /outdoor cooking area and woodland for nature and environmental activities.

#### **Achievements and Performance**

The garden is a place where people can come along and learn about organic growing: as well as helping to transform what was once a derelict site into a place for the local community to enjoy. Since 2014 we had a small group of volunteers coming along each week working together and learning a variety of skills.

We now have a group of up to thirty volunteers coming along on a regular basis. The garden now provides a wide range of training, volunteering opportunities and recreational pursuits for local people. The garden has become an attractive place where



people can learn about organic growing and a vibrant community space that will encourage individuals, groups and organisations, schools and the wider public to learn and engage in environmental, social and health activities.

We now have two open garden sessions a week with a regular team of volunteers supported by Community and Corporate groups coming along during the season. We have two groups coming along each week from Edge Scotland, an organisation supporting young adults with Autism.

## **Financial Review**

### **Income £13512.98 & Expenditure £14823.94**

We were partially successful with The Year Four Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund who awarded us £10000 from an initial £13500 application. This is to continue with the garden Outreach work. We were also awarded £2700 from the Fa'Side Area Partnership to cover the costs of the Professional Tree Removal as well as additional staff time.

## **Reserves Policy**

At this time Natural Connections does not hold any reserves.

## **Plans for the Future**

We aim to provide opportunities that are lacking in the Tranent area where people can learn about horticulture and, for some, use the garden for therapy and rehabilitation or to improve employment prospects. To the wider community we offer a natural communal space for events, garden/environmental training workshops, arts and crafts and seasonal cooking and healthy eating. With crafts in mind, we are creating a willow planting area from which we can coppice our own willow for weaving and basket making. Funding is currently in place to carry out garden Outreach sessions, helping people to grow fruit and vegetables in their own gardens.



**Connecting people  
& communities with  
nature**

## Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Report to the Trustees of Natural Connections, Registered Charity number SC046141 on the accounts of the charity for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

### Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The Charity Trustees consider that the audit requirements of Regulation 10 (1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under Section 44 (1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

### Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of 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 44 (1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and  
to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations  
  
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.

Signed

Date:

10/8/25

Name:

Relevant professional qualification/professional body:

Financial Planning Certificate



# Statement of Receipts and payments for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year-end 31/03/2025
<b>Receipts</b>			
Donations	51.00	0.00	51.00
Refunds:	0.00	761.98	761.98
Fundraising:	0.00	0.00	0.00
ELC Fa'Side Area Partnership	0.00	2700.00	2700.00
Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund	0.00	10000.00	10000.00
Total receipts	<u>51.00</u>	<u>13461.98</u>	<u>13512.98</u>
<b>Payments</b>			
Staff salary	0.00	10993.92	10993.92
HMRC Payments	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pension Ageon	0.00	1057.56	1057.56
Staff Training	0.00	155.00	155.00
Staff PPE	0.00	0.00	0.00
RSA Encompass Scotland Insurance	0.00	449.38	449.38
Tools & Equipment	0.00	198.66	198.66
Garden sundries	0.00	299.07	299.07
Volunteer refreshments/events	0.00	72.20	72.20
Volunteer PPE	0.00	35.96	35.96
Domain Registration	0.00	12.31	12.31
Office equipment/sundries	0.00	49.88	49.88
Tree Removal costs	0.00	1500.00	1500.00
Total payments	<u>0.00</u>	<u>14823.94</u>	<u>14823.94</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	51.00	(1361.96)	(1310.96)
Transfer between funds	-	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	<u>51.00</u>	<u>(1361.96)</u>	<u>(1310.96)</u>

# Statement of Balances – As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

Opening cash at bank			14542.71
In hand (deficit) for the year			(1310.96)
Closing balance	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>13231.75</u>

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by,

Sign... ( Chair)

Name: ..

Date: 20 AUGUST 2025

Registered Charity number - SC046141

## Notes to the accounts – for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

### 1. Balance of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended)

### 2. Nature and purpose of funds

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objects of the Charity. The Trustees maintain a single unrestricted fund for the day-to-day running of Natural Connections. Restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes.

Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes.

### 3. Donations

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024/2025
Individual donations	51.00	0.00	51.00
Refund payments	0.00	761.98	761.98
Total	<u>51.00</u>	<u>761.98</u>	<u>812.98</u>

### 4. Grants received

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024/2025
	0.00	12700.00	12700.00
Total Grants	<u>0.00</u>	<u>12700.00</u>	<u>12700.00</u>



## 5. Cost of charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024/2025
Staff salary	0.00	10993.92	10993.92
HMRC Payments	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pension Ageon	0.00	1057.56	1057.56
Staff Training	0.00	155.00	155.00
Staff PPE	0.00	0.00	0.00
RSA Encompass Scotland Insurance	0.00	449.38	449.38
Tools & Equipment	0.00	198.66	198.66
Garden sundries	0.00	299.07	299.07
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Volunteer PPE	0.00	35.96	35.96
Domain Registration	0.00	12.31	12.31
Office equipment/sundries	0.00	49.88	49.88
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 Total payments	 <u>0.00</u>	 <u>14823.94</u>	 <u>14823.94</u>