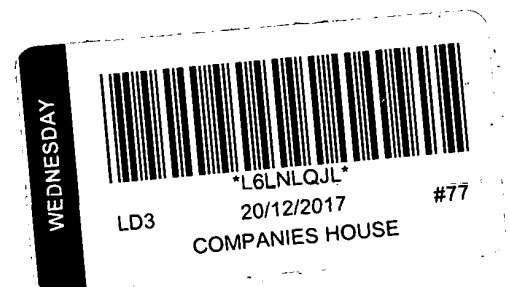


# **The Nature Trust (Sandy)**

Company limited by guarantee – Company number 5156538  
Charity registered in England – Charity number 1107654

## **Report and Accounts** for the year ended **31 March 2017**



## Trustees' Annual Report

### Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

**Registration:**

As a company limited by guarantee registered with Companies House, Company number 5156538.

As a charity registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales, charity number 1107654.

**Registered office:**

The Lodge  
Sandy  
Bedfordshire  
SG19 2DL

**Trustees:**

Ray Matthews (resigned 11 August 2016)  
Geoffrey Woodard (appointed 19 September 2016)  
Peter Oliver  
Ralph Todd  
Humphrey Norrington, Chairman  
Russell Hollinshead, Secretary

**Principal professional advisers:**

**Bankers**

Lloyds Bank plc  
249 Silbury Boulevard  
Secklow Gate West  
Milton Keynes  
Buckinghamshire MK9 1NA

**Independent auditors**

Crowe Clark Whitehill LLP  
Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors  
St. Bride's House  
10 Salisbury Square  
London EC4Y 8EH

**Insurance brokers**

Griffiths & Armour  
Drury House  
19 Water Street  
Liverpool L2 0RL

**Legal advisers**

Withers LLP  
16 Old Bailey  
London EC4M 7EG

# Structure, governance and management

## Legal structure

The Nature Trust (Sandy) is a company limited by guarantee (company number 5156538) and a charity registered in England & Wales (charity number 1107654).

The trustees are the Charity Board, which is the ultimate governing body. The minimum number of trustees is three, which must include the Chairman and Secretary. New trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting and retire by rotation. On appointment, they receive all background information required to carry out their role. One third (or the number nearest one third) must retire at each Annual General Meeting although trustees may stand for re-appointment.

The Charity Board sets policy and is responsible for management and the conduct of the charity's affairs and for ensuring that it operates in accordance with the constitution and the law. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) provides day-to-day administrative services in line with a shared resources agreement between the two entities. The governing document is the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Following their election to the Board, each trustee receives a briefing outlining their role, together with information on The Nature Trust (Sandy), its structure and work.

The trustees are also the directors of the company.

## Information provided to auditors

With regard to the preparation of this Annual Report and the financial statements, so far as each director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor has not been informed, and each Trustee has taken all the steps that he ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of section 418 of the Companies Act 2006.

## Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of The Nature Trust (Sandy) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions, disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the provisions of the charity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the identification and management of the major risks facing the organisation. The Trustees have considered risk in its broadest sense to cover aspects that might undermine the capacity of the company and have identified changes to the legislative framework around the Landfill Communities Fund and the ability to successfully fundraise as being the principal risks. The trustees confirm that they are satisfied with the arrangements for managing risk.

## Objectives and activities

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing objectives and activities.

### Objectives

The objectives of the charity are to:

- conserve wild birds and the wider environment on which wild birds depend, maintaining bird numbers, diversity and natural geographic distribution.
- conserve natural and semi-natural habitats and to recreate habitats.
- encourage others to practise the conservation of wild birds and habitats.
- promote knowledge of conservation through education and research.
- further, in whatever manner and by whatever means, the aims, objects, activities and enterprises of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

### Principal activities

The charity has the powers, which may be exercised only in promoting the objects above, to make grants to the RSPB or any organisation, or in any way to afford financial or other assistance, whether directly or indirectly, to the RSPB, or to such landfill operators, environmental bodies or other organisations operating within the context of the Landfill Communities Fund.

## Aims, achievements and plans for the future

The charity was established with the aim of setting up a framework to maximise the use of available funds for conservation through the Landfill Communities Fund. Having successfully completed this task, the focus moved to generating funds to provide the necessary help to deliver eligible conservation projects requiring financial support.

Voluntary income is the principal funding source for the charity. Since inception, the charity has successfully established financial support from individuals. The trustees are very grateful for the support of donors.

The trustees are proud to have been able to support 12 conservation projects during the year covering a wide range of habitats including the restoration of grazing marsh, heath land, saline lagoons, upland, wetland and woodland. The trustees aim to support many more of these projects during year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

The trustees extend their gratitude to the following organisations for their support during the year:

Biffa Waste Services Ltd  
Viridor Waste Management Ltd  
FCC Recycling (UK) Ltd  
Cumbria Waste Management Ltd  
Cory Environmental Limited  
EB Scotland Limited  
Suez Recycling & Recovery UK

## Risk management

The trustees are responsible for identifying and managing the major risks facing the Charity.

In response to the recommendations set out in the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), the trustees consider the risk register on an annual basis. In undertaking this work, the trustees review the risks in a broad sense and consider anything that might affect the capacity of the Charity to fulfil its objectives.

The register provides a comprehensive view of the following areas of risk:

- the charity's responsibility to donors;
- the reputation;
- the external environment and changes to regulations;
- the sources of income.

This annual risk review assesses each of the major risks and the arrangements for managing them.

## Financial review

The accounts, which form part of this report, comply with the requirements of the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: FRS 102 Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP). The trustees consider that in preparing these accounts, they have consistently applied appropriate accounting policies supported by reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates where required.

A resolution to re-appoint the firm Crowe Clark Whitehill LLP as auditors was passed at the Annual-General Meeting on 11 December 2017.

### **Financial reserves policy**

The charity's financial reserves policy is to maintain reserves sufficient to provide adequate working capital and to fund anticipated grant applications. At the end of the year, the charity's financial reserves were £564k representing just under 40 months expenditure (based on the average of expenditure over the last 2 years). The current high level of reserves reflects the successful fundraising in the year and these reserves will now be utilised to fund conservation projects.

### **Investment policy and powers**

The Nature Trust (Sandy) investment powers are as set out in the charity's governing documents. The charity currently keeps its financial resources such that they are available at short notice to provide funding for eligible projects.

### **Grant making policy**

The charity provides grants to fund conservation projects which are in line with the RSPB's charitable objectives, as confirmed and approved by the RSPB.

### **Financial report**

Income received during the year was £518k (2016: £1k), from donations and investment income and interest. Donations were £517k higher than last year following an awareness raising campaign by the RSPB.

During the year, £31k (2016: £294k) was awarded in grants to landfill site operators to support habitat conservation projects.

The charity currently holds funds of £564k (2016: £110k), which, after administration costs, is available for conservation projects.

The trustees have taken advantage of the exemption from an obligation to prepare a strategic report, available under the small company regime.

Approved by the board 11 December 2017 and signed on its behalf by



Peter Oliver  
Trustee

## **Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of The Nature Trust (Sandy)**

We have audited the financial statements of The Nature Trust (Sandy) for the year ended 31 March 2017 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes numbered 1 to 12.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditor**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

### **Scope of the audit of the financial statements**

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charitable company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the trustees; and the overall presentation of the financial statements.

In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Trustees' Annual Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

## **Opinion on financial statements**

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2017 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

## **Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Annual Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

## **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Pesh Framjee  
Senior Statutory Auditor  
For and on behalf of  
**Crowe Clark Whitehill LLP**  
Statutory Auditor  
London

**20 DECEMBER** 2017

# The Nature Trust (Sandy)

## Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 March 2017

	Note	<b>2017</b> <b>Total</b> <b>Unrestricted</b> <b>£'s</b>	<b>2016</b> <b>Total</b> <b>Unrestricted</b> <b>£'s</b>
<b>INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE</b>			
<b>INCOME</b>			
Incoming resources from generated funds			
Voluntary income			
Individual donations		517,852	203
Investment income and interest		225	1,194
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>518,077</b>	<b>1,397</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Cost of generating funds			
Cost of generating voluntary income		20,977	1,470
Charitable activities:			
Habitat conservation projects	4	43,045	299,225
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	4	<b>64,022</b>	<b>300,695</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) &amp; NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>454,055</b>	<b>(299,298)</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward		110,020	409,318
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>564,075</b>	<b>110,020</b>

All amounts are unrestricted and derive from continuing activities.

All gains and losses recognised in the year are included in the Statement of financial activities.

**The Nature Trust (Sandy)**  
**Company Number 5156538**  
**Balance sheet**  
as at 31 March 2017

	Note	<u>2017</u> £'s	<u>2016</u> £'s
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	8	81,445	-
Short-term cash		508,933	115,660
		<u>590,378</u>	<u>115,660</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	9	<b>(26,303)</b>	<b>(5,640)</b>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u><b>564,075</b></u>	<u><b>110,020</b></u>
<b>Represented by:</b>			
Unrestricted funds	10	<u><b>564,075</b></u>	<u><b>110,020</b></u>

Notes 1 to 12 form an integral part of these accounts.

Adopted by The Nature Trust (Sandy) Board on 11 December 2017 and signed on behalf of the Board by:

  
Peter Oliver, Trustee

  
Ralph Todd, Trustee



## The Nature Trust (Sandy)

### Cash flow statement for the year ended 31 March 2017

	Note	<u>2017</u> £'s	<u>2016</u> £'s
Net cash inflow/ (outflow) from operating activities	11	393,048	(304,150)
<b>Returns on investments and servicing of finance:</b>			
Interest received		225	1,194
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Increase/(Decrease) in cash		<u>393,273</u>	<u>(302,956)</u>
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		<u>2017</u> £'s	<u>2016</u> £'s
<b>Reconciliation to short-term cash:</b>			
Increase/ (Decrease) in cash in the year		393,273	(302,956)
Short-term cash at 1 April 2016		115,660	418,616
Short-term cash at 31 March 2017		<u>508,933</u>	<u>115,660</u>
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		<u>1 April</u> <u>2016</u> £'s	<u>Cash flow</u> £'s
<b>Analysis of short-term cash:</b>			<u>31 March</u> <u>2017</u> £'s
Short-term cash		115,660	393,273
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds		<u>115,660</u>	<u>508,933</u>
		<hr/>	<hr/>

# **The Nature Trust (Sandy)**

## **Notes to the accounts**

### **1 Company information**

The Nature Trust (Sandy) is a company limited by guarantee (company number 5156538) and a charity registered in England & Wales (charity number 1107654). The address of the registered office is The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL.

### **2 Accounting policies**

#### **Basis of accounts**

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the recommendations set out in the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: FRS102 Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), applicable accounting standards and the Companies Act 2006.

As a registered charity The Nature Trust (Sandy) is potentially exempt from taxation of income and gains falling within Sections 466 to 493 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010. No tax charge has arisen in the year.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing objectives and principal activities of the charity.

#### **Going Concern**

After making enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue its activities for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements as outlined in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities on page 1.

#### **Funds**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

#### **Incoming resources**

Incoming resources are included in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

- Individual donations are accounted for when received and related tax recovery, under the Gift Aid Scheme, is included on an accrual basis.
- Investment income is recognised when it's due to the charity and is accounted for on an accrual basis.

#### **Resources expended**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category.

- Support costs have been allocated to the headings in the SOFA based on staff time and relate to administrative overheads.
- Grants are awarded to other organisations, at trustees' discretion, on a project basis where such projects meet the charitable objectives and contribute towards the strategic outcomes. In making awards, consideration is given to the most effective and efficient use of resources.

#### **Financial instruments**

The Nature Trust (Sandy) has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Financial assets held at amortised cost comprise cash at bank and in hand, together with trade and other debtors. Financial liabilities held at amortised cost comprise trade and other creditors.

# The Nature Trust (Sandy)

## Notes to the accounts (continued)

### Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates, and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an on-going basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period to which they relate.

There are no areas of estimation uncertainty that would have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

### 3 Grants paid

During the year, grant payments were made to 7 landfill site operators in support of 12 projects. All such operators are institutions; no payments were made to individuals. A full list is available upon request.

All grant payments were made under the Landfill Communities Fund to maximise the available funds for environmental bodies to deliver conservation projects.

### 4 Total resources expended

	Direct costs £'s	Support Costs £'s	<u>2017</u> Total £'s	<u>2016</u> Total £'s
Cost of generating funds	15,376	5,601	20,977	1,470
Charitable expenditure Habitat conservation projects	36,199	6,846	43,045	299,225
Total resources expended	<u>51,575</u>	<u>12,447</u>	<u>64,022</u>	<u>300,695</u>

### 5 Support costs

	Administration costs £'s	<u>2017</u> Total £'s	<u>2016</u> Total £'s
Cost of generating funds	5,601	5,601	810
Charitable expenditure: Habitat conservation projects	6,846	6,846	990
Total resources expended	<u>12,447</u>	<u>12,447</u>	<u>1,800</u>

### 6 Audit fees

Audit fees for the year, of £3,960 (2016: £3,840) were paid to our auditor, Crowe Clark Whitehill LLP; no other payments were made to our auditors.

# The Nature Trust (Sandy)

## Notes to the accounts (continued)

### 7 Staff costs

The charity does not employ staff. No remuneration or expenses were paid to the trustees during the year (2016: nil).

Indemnity insurance premiums of £319 (2016: £309) were paid in the year.

### 8 Debtors

	<u>2017</u> £'s	<u>2016</u> £'s
Gift aid recoverable	77,445	-
Other debtors	4,000	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	<u>81,445</u>	<u>-</u>

### 9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	<u>2017</u> £'s	<u>2016</u> £'s
Trade creditors	26,303	5,640
	<hr/>	<hr/>

### 10 Statement of funds

	<u>1 April</u> <u>2016</u> £'s	<u>Incoming</u> <u>resources</u> £'s	<u>Resources</u> <u>expended</u> £'s	<u>31 March</u> <u>2017</u> £'s
Unrestricted funds	110,020	518,077	64,022	564,075
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds	110,020	518,077	64,022	564,075
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

# The Nature Trust (Sandy)

## Notes to the accounts (continued)

### 11 Cash flow statement

	<u>2017</u> £'s	<u>2016</u> £'s
Net cash inflow / (outflow) from operating activities:		
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for year	454,055	(299,298)
Investment income and interest	(225)	(1,194)
	<u>453,830</u>	<u>(300,492)</u>
Movement in working capital:		
(Increase) / Decrease in debtors	(81,445)	61
Increase / (Decrease) in creditors	20,663	(3,719)
	<u>(60,782)</u>	<u>(3,658)</u>
Net cash inflow / (outflow) from operating activities	<u>393,048</u>	<u>(304,150)</u>

### 12 Connected charities and related parties

The Nature Trust (Sandy) is not connected to any other charities and there have been no related party transactions.