

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 2020**

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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:

Humphrey Norrington, Chairman
Russell Hollinshead, Secretary
Peter Oliver (resigned 23 December 2019)
Matthew Rumbelow (appointed 10 February 2020)
Ralph Todd
Geoffrey Woodard

Principal professional advisers:

Bankers

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

Independent auditors

Crowe U.K. LLP
Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors
55 Ludgate Hill
London EC4M 7JW

Insurance brokers

Griffiths & Armour
12 Princes Parade
Princes Dock
Liverpool L3 1BG

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 seven projects during the year covering a wide range of habitats including grazing improvement at Franchises Lodge, forest restoration at Sherwood Forest, floodplain restoration at Insh Marshes and improving wet grasslands for wild geese at Loch Lomond. Habitat improvement has also been implemented at Old Hall Marshes along with conservation work in Orkney to benefit curlew. Old Hall Marshes has also benefitted from the funding of a hydrology project.

The Trustees aim to support many more of these projects during the year ending 31st March 2021.

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

EB Scotland Ltd
Enovert
FCC Environment Ltd
SUEZ Recycling & Recovery UK Ltd
Veolia
Viridor Waste Management Ltd

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 appoint the firm Crowe U.K. LLP as auditors was passed at the Annual General Meeting on 22 October 2019.

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 £343,415 representing 53 months expenditure (based on the average expenditure over the last 2 years). The current high level of reserves reflects the successful fundraising in 2016/17. 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

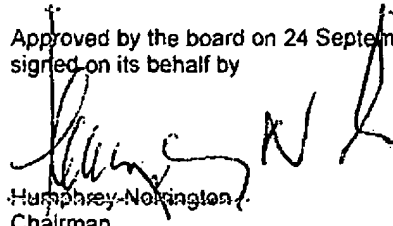
Income received during the year was £433 (2019: £596), from donations and interest.

During the year, £23,106 (2019: £115,411) was provided to Landfill Operators for their support of habitat, species and community projects under the Landfill Communities Fund.

The charity currently holds funds of £343,415 (2019: £374,181), 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 on 24 September 2020 and signed on its behalf by



Humphrey Nottingham
Chairman

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

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Nature Trust (Sandy) for the year ended 31 March 2020 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources 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.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements, and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our

report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters 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' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' 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 charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the trustees' report.

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; 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 in preparing the trustees' report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 1 the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the

Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

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 charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

N. Hashemi

Naziar Hashemi

Senior Statutory Auditor

For and on behalf of

Crowe U.K. LLP

Statutory Auditor

London

Date 15th October 2020

The Nature Trust (Sandy)

Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 March 2020

	Note	2020 Total Unrestricted £'s	2019 Total Unrestricted £'s
INCOME & EXPENDITURE			
INCOME:			
Incoming resources from generated funds			
Voluntary income			
Individual donations		76	238
Investment income and interest		357	358
TOTAL INCOME		433	596
EXPENDITURE			
Cost of generating funds			
Cost of generating voluntary income		990	1,913
Charitable activities:			
Habitat conservation projects	4	30,209	121,179
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4	31,199	123,092
NET (EXPENDITURE) & NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(30,766)	(122,496)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward		374,181	496,677
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		343,415	374,181

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

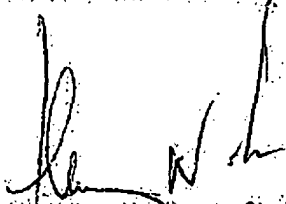
Balance sheet

as at 31 March 2020

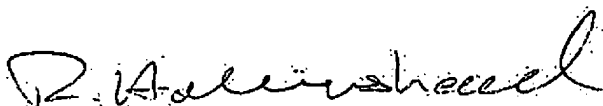
	Note	2020 £'s	2019 £'s
Current assets			
Debtors	8	5,000	
Short-term cash		343,415	389,083
		<u>348,415</u>	<u>389,083</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(5,000)	(14,902)
Net current assets		<u>343,415</u>	<u>374,181</u>
Represented by:			
Unrestricted funds	10	<u>343,415</u>	<u>374,181</u>

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

Adopted by The Nature Trust (Sandy) Board on 24 September 2020 and signed on behalf of the Board by:



Humphrey Norrington, Chairman



Russell Hollinshead, Secretary

The Nature Trust (Sandy)

Cash flow statement for the year ended 31 March 2020

	Note	<u>2020</u> £'s	<u>2019</u> £'s
Net cash (outflow) from operating activities	11	(46,025)	(112,138)
Returns on investments and servicing of finance:			
Interest received		357	358
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
(Decrease) in cash		<u>(45,668)</u>	<u>(111,780)</u>
		<u>2020</u> £'s	<u>2019</u> £'s
Reconciliation to short-term cash:			
(Decrease) in cash in the year		(45,668)	(111,780)
Short-term cash at 1 April 2019		389,083	500,863
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Short-term cash at 31 March 2020		<u>343,415</u>	<u>389,083</u>
	<u>1 April</u> <u>2019</u> £'s	<u>Cash flow</u> £'s	<u>31 March</u> <u>2020</u> £'s
Analysis of short-term cash:			
Short-term cash	389,083	(45,668)	343,415
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total funds	<u>389,083</u>	<u>(45,668)</u>	<u>343,415</u>

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 Nature Trust (Sandy) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

Going Concern

Further to global COVID19 pandemic and possibility of economic instability, the Trustees are satisfied that the charity has adequate resources and liquidity to continue with their operations for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements as outlined in the Statement of Directors' 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.

Income

Income is 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.

Expenditure

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 6 landfill site operators in support of 7 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 expenditure

	Direct costs £'s	Support costs £'s	<u>2020</u> Total £'s	<u>2019</u> Total £'s
Cost of generating funds	180	810	990	1,913
Charitable expenditure				
Habitat conservation projects	29,219	990	30,209	121,179
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenditure	<u>29,399</u>	<u>1,800</u>	<u>31,199</u>	<u>123,092</u>

5 Support costs

	Administration costs £'s	<u>2020</u> Total £'s	<u>2019</u> Total £'s
Cost of generating funds	810	810	1,710
Charitable expenditure:			
Habitat conservation projects	990	990	2,090
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total support costs	<u>1,800</u>	<u>1,800</u>	<u>3,800</u>

6 Audit fees

Audit fees for the year, of £3,200 (2019: £3,600) were accrued during the year, payable to Crowe U.K. LLP; no other accruals were attributable to the 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 (2019: nil).

Indemnity insurance premiums of £177 (2019: £168) were paid in the year.

8 Debtors

	<u>2020</u> £'s	<u>2019</u> £'s
Other debtors	5,000	-
Total	<u>5,000</u>	<u>-</u>

9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	<u>2020</u> £'s	<u>2019</u> £'s
Trade creditors and accruals	5,000	14,902

10 Statement of funds

	<u>1 April</u> <u>2019</u> £'s	<u>Income</u> £'s	<u>Expenditure</u> £'s	<u>31 March</u> <u>2020</u> £'s
Unrestricted funds	374,181	433	31,199	343,415
Total funds	<u>374,181</u>	<u>433</u>	<u>31,199</u>	<u>343,415</u>

11 Cash flow statement

	<u>2020</u> £'s	<u>2019</u> £'s
Net cash (outflow) from operating activities:		
Net (outgoing) resources for year	(30,766)	(122,496)
Investment income and interest	(357)	(358)
	<u>(31,123)</u>	<u>(122,854)</u>
Movement in working capital:		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(5,000)	2,000
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(9,902)	8,716
	<u>(14,902)</u>	<u>10,716</u>
Net cash (outflow) from operating activities	<u>(46,025)</u>	<u>(112,138)</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.