



Registered Charity Number:
1211649

Natural Basingstoke

Financial Statement for the year ended 31 March 2026



Natural Basingstoke

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2026

The trustees present their annual report and financial statement for the year ended 31 March 2026* and confirm that they have complied with the duty to have regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit, in carrying out their roles with respect to operation of the charity.

* Note: This report covers the period 1st June 2025 to 31st March 2026, commencing from the winding up of the prior unincorporated association and formation of the registered charity.

Reference and administrative information

Charity Name: Natural Basingstoke

Charity Registered Number: 1211649

Principal Office: 10 Cleeve Road
Basingstoke
Hampshire
RG24 9RZ

Board of Trustees

Gillian Smallman Chair

Stephen Goodwin

Ian Perham Treasurer

Bankers

Natwest



Natural Basingstoke

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2026

Structure, governance, and management

Governing Documents

Natural Basingstoke is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered with the Charity Commission in January 2025 under charity number 1211649. It is governed by a Constitution last updated in January 2025. The charity has established a range of policies to support the effective governance of its operations, as set out in the Risk Management section.

Organisational Structure

The charity trustees are responsible for the general control and management of the charity. The trustees give their time freely and receive no remuneration or other financial benefits.

The trustees meet together as a body quarterly and are responsible for all decisions that must legally be taken by the CIO Members, as set out in paragraph 18 of the Natural Basingstoke Constitution. Trustees exercise general oversight of the charity and are also responsible for:

- financial monitoring and approval of expenditure
- review and resolution of any issues relating to:
 - Conflicts of Interest
 - Health and Safety
 - Safeguarding
 - Data Protection

To assist in the smooth running of the charity the trustees have appointed a Management Committee to oversee the charity's day-to-day work. The Management Committee meets quarterly and is led by the chair of the trustees. It is accountable to the trustees and conducts its operations in alignment with the aims set out in our Constitution and the supporting Business Plan.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The current trustees are responsible for the recruitment of new trustees. New trustees are appointed, for a term of three years, by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

Induction and Training of Trustees

Following appointment, new trustees are introduced to their role and given a copies of the then current version of the Natural Basingstoke CIO Constitution, Business Plan, the Charity's policies, and the latest Trustees' Annual Report and Statement of Accounts. A number of links to publications from the Charity Commission are also provided including the guidance on

charities and public benefit. This ensures that new trustees are aware of the scope of their responsibilities under the Charities Act.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the risks that the charity faces and developed a range of policies to govern operations and support effective management of operational and financial risks:

- Governance Policy (v2.0)
- Code of Conduct (v3.0)
- Financial Management Policy (v2.0)
- Health and Safety Policy (v1.0)
- Safeguarding Policy (v1.0)
- Data Protection Policy (v1.0)

The trustees are satisfied that systems are in place to effectively manage risk. In particular, insurance cover is in place and the finances of the charity are kept under review.

Objectives and activities

Our aims

The objects of the charity are set out in the charity's Constitution and are summarised as follows:

- To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment by promoting biological diversity.
- To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection, and improvement of the physical and natural environment.

Our objectives

Natural Basingstoke delivers the aims, set out clause 3 of our Constitution, by means of a series of objectives described in the Natural Basingstoke Business Plan. The Business Plan acts as the foundation for all strategic and operational actions undertaken by the trustees and the Management Committee.

The Business Plan is subject to an annual review of progress and direction for the forthcoming year. In carrying out this review the trustees consider the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Use of volunteers

Natural Basingstoke does not employ any staff, volunteers are therefore key to our operations. Our core volunteer workforce comprises of three trustees and six additional members of the Management Committee. Ad-hoc support is provided by other volunteers from the local community.

The trustees would like to extend their thanks to all nature conservation volunteers across the borough and in particular to Marion Wolstencroft and Paul Beevers for their years of advocacy and invaluable contributions to local nature conservation.

Activities and achievements

How our activities deliver public benefit

The charity carries out a wide range of activities in pursuance of its charitable aims, delivering benefit to the public in the borough of Basingstoke and Deane as set out below.

Promote for the benefit of the public the conservation protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment by promoting biological diversity:

- Existing wildlife conservation groups were provided with support to deliver conservation activity for the benefit of communities in the Basingstoke area, and one further group was formed.
- Natural Basingstoke identified initial sources of funding and resource to support effort to conserve the local environment.
- Protection of the natural environment, for the benefit of our local communities, was championed through activities such as campaigning, scrutiny, and participation in public consultation processes.

Advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection, and improvement of the physical and natural environment:

- A range of activities, events, campaigns, and communications were undertaken to support public education about the natural environment and encourage practical action.
- Productive relationships were built and maintained with different stakeholders to enable collaboration on protection of our natural environment.

Objectives and achievements (2025/6)

Support wildlife conservation groups and encourage the formation of new groups

Community-based nature conservation groups are the cornerstone of local collaboration to protect our environment. In 2025/6 Natural Basingstoke continued to operate on the basis of supporting local groups whilst respecting their autonomy and connections within their communities.

We now offer support and services to nearly twenty groups across the borough. Examples this year included:

- delivery of training in *Wildflower Seeds* and *Site Management for Biodiversity*
- investment in equipment for use by different conservation groups
- attendance at a range of summer events to support groups' engagement with their communities
- mediation in disputes between conservation groups and our local authority, with the aim of empowering local communities and ensuring that they have a voice in issues related to their area.

One new conservation group was formed this year, at Little Pen Wood, near Newbury. We will be exploring how best to support this group in 2026/7.

Our first year as a registered charity has also opened up new opportunities to secure funding, to support our operations and those of local conservation groups. We have started to explore this by:

- acquiring a card reader, enabling us to accept donations at events
- trialing Easy Fundraising – the UK's biggest charity cashback platform that enables charities to obtain donations from retailers via on-line shopping
- registering with Benevity – an international workplace giving platform
- registering with the Good Exchange – an on-line matching platform that connects charities with funders for specific projects.

Act as a champion and voice for nature

This objective incorporates two key areas: championing the natural environment to ensure that it is a key feature of local development, and community education.

Basingstoke and Deane is currently under huge pressure for development, with a target to build 17,000 new homes in the borough over the coming years. Our goal is to ensure that new homes are built 'in the right place, in the right way', respecting the natural environment and its benefits for people. This year, we have increased our focus on ensuring that development across our borough is balanced with protecting the natural environment for residents and future generations. This included development of detailed evidence-based responses to the consultation processes on the Hampshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the Local Plan Spatial Strategy for Basingstoke and Deane. We have also contributed to initiatives supporting delivery of the Biodiversity Strategy in the borough.

Scrutiny of key local planning applications remains a core part of our activity, as far as resources enable. We are actively working with developers in an area of north Basingstoke to embed protection for key species, including a natural green corridor, within their designs.

Community education aims to foster engagement with nature and appreciation of the benefits that it can deliver for people. We have continued to develop our public communications, to encourage local residents and organisations to take action for nature, through regular social media posts, updates on our website, and periodic articles in the local press. During 2025/6 we regularly attended local events including running; a day long 'bioblitz' at Mill Field (in partnership with our Local Authority); and a series of interconnected stalls promoting nature conservation during Green Week 2025. During 2025/6 also we ran our first public campaign, almost 5,000 people have so far signed a petition supporting our calls for protection of the natural environment to be integral to the Local Plan for the borough.

Build partnerships to protect and promote the biodiversity of our green spaces

Effective relationships are key to protecting and promoting local biodiversity, for the benefit of our communities. Natural Basingstoke has worked to strengthen existing relationships and build new ones, throughout the year.

We continue to have a productive relationship with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, as their *Community Partner for Nature Conservation*.

In addition to maintaining our connections with local councillors, this year we have also met the three local MPs covering our borough to discuss matters relating to nature conservation.

We have also deepened and expanded our relationships with other third sector organisations, including:

- working with Hampshire Cultural Trust to undertake conservation and run nature education events at their sites
- collaborating with Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) to develop ideas for a local conservation project
- building stronger links with Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust on both policy and practical support for conservation groups
- progressing regular dialogue with Urban and Civic, the master developer for Manydown and the associated Countryside Park
- developing a link with Wild Justice.

This year we also appointed our first Natural Basingstoke Associate – Wilder Bramley. This is a new category comprising of groups who have a separate legal and operational identity but wish to collaborate with Natural Basingstoke to share resources and progress nature conservation matters across the borough.

Partnership working and performance review

We are Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Community Partner for Nature Conservation and are pleased to work in partnership with them when undertaking practical conservation on land that they own and to pursue joint opportunities for nature engagement in the local community. They also provide funding for key elements of our core costs, such as insurance. Bi-monthly meetings are held with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council representatives, to support joint working and review progress of activities.

Financial review

Reserves policy

The charity's funds are held in two accounts with our bank (NatWest), the bulk being held in a savings account with a minimal sum being held in our current account. We are currently holding £487 on behalf of local conservation groups supported by Natural Basingstoke.

Principle funding sources

The charity's main sources of income are reimbursement of core costs by our local authority, ad-hoc donations, and grant funding for specific projects.

Our core running costs are minimal, the main costs being IT (website hosting etc.) and insurance which is funded by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

At commencement £16,505 has transferred into the charity from the previous unincorporated association. Funding has remained largely stable, aside from a one-time cost of £1,722.60, relating to legal costs associated with setting up the charity.

Investment policy and objectives

At the date of this report, Natural Basingstoke is not undertaking any form of investment outside its banking arrangements with NatWest. Any change in our investment policy requires universal approval of the trustees and is governed by paragraph 2 of our Financial Management Policy.

Plans for future periods

In 2026/27, the charity will undertake reviews of both its Business Plan and its Partnership Agreement with the local authority, to ensure that they reflect the current position and our aspirations whilst remaining aligned with our charitable aims. We will also continue our efforts to secure stable funding streams, enabling us to explore the potential for employing full time staff in the future.

Support for existing local conservation groups will continue, tailored to meet their emerging needs. New groups will also be encouraged, including a proposed group on local authority land in Daneshill and exploration of the potential for groups within more parishes across the borough.

Planning will be a key focus in 2026/7 due to the local authority target to build 17,000 houses. Our focus will include influencing our local authority to:

- Ensure that the borough's Local Plan balances provision of new homes with protection of our natural environment, including in relation to site selection, resolution of issues with water abstraction and sewage disposal and incorporation of a network of interconnected green and blue corridors.
- Influence the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy for the Borough (which is being rewritten in 2026) to protect our natural environment for the benefit of current residents and future generations.
- Contribute to delivery and evolution of the Biodiversity Strategy for the borough, at strategic level, through participation in the Borough Wide Forum.

Nature education will also continue to be key. In 2026/7 we will again be participating in Green Week (running stalls themed around wildlife gardening) and a further Bioblitz (at Beggarwood). We are progressing some more strategic projects to engage residents with nature, including

- Basingstoke Swift Streets – a collaboration with Hampshire Swifts and Birds-on-the-Brink to promote swift boxes in the borough
- Magnificent Meadows - a collaboration with CPRE and Land Lore Consulting to explore the potential for creation of chalk downland meadows in two areas of Basingstoke.

Our relationships will remain critical to delivery of our aims. In the forthcoming year we will need to adapt to the formation of the new North Hampshire unitary council and help shape how it functions in terms of local nature conservation as far as possible. This will include exploring how to build links with like-minded organisations across Hart and Rushmore.

Statement of Trustees responsibilities

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing an annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and Charity Commission rules.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing the 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 judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any

material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with relevant legislation and the provisions of the Constitution of the charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees for the purposes of charity law who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 1.

Approved by the trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Gillian Smallman (Chair)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gillian Smallman', written over a faint horizontal line.

June 2026

Natural Basingstoke Statement of Financial Activities

Accounts for the ten months to 31st March 2026 Receipts and Payments Account

		Note s	General Funds	Reserved Funds	Total
2024					
£	RECEIPTS		£		£
564	Grants Specific & General	1	2310.08	336.00	2,646.08
13,250	Donations	2	1,643.51	375.00	2,018.51
110	Interest	3	120.58		120.58
	Other Income	4	100.00		100.00
13,924	TOTAL RECEIPTS		4,174.17	711.00	4,885.17
	PAYMENTS				
315	Insurance		534.08		534.08
98	Venue hire				0.00
0	Fundraising expenses	5	30.36		30.36
2,010	Repaid to local groups	6		711.00	711.00
120	Training Expenses				0.00
20	Tools & Equipment	7	3,610.40		3,610.40
0	Legal Expenses	8	1,722.60		1,722.60
2,563	TOTAL PAYMENTS		5,897.44	711.00	6,608.44
11,361	NET RECEIPTS (PAYMENTS)		(1,723.27)	0.00	(1,723.27)
16,505	Cash Balances at Start of period		15,934.80	486.99	16,421.79
	Transfers between Funds				
16,422	Cash Balances at End of period		14,211.53	486.99	14,698.52

Natural Basingstoke

Statement of Financial Activities

Accounts for the ten months to 31st March 2026

Assets and Liabilities

2024		Notes	General Funds	Reserved Funds	Total
£			£	£	£
	Monetary Assets				
20	NatWest current account		134.08	0.00	134.08
16,485	NatWest savings account		14,077.45	486.99	14,564.44
0	Cash In Hand		0.00	0.00	0.00
	Debtors				
0	Unlisted credits		0.00		0.00
	Creditors				
0	Uncleared cheques		0.00		0.00
16,505	TOTAL		14,211.53	486.99	14,698.52
	Other Assets				
0	Tools/Conservation equipment		3410		3,410.00
0	<u>Less:</u> Depreciation for the year		0		0.00
	TOTAL				3,410.00

Natural Basingstoke

Statement of Financial Activities

Accounts for the ten months to 31st March 2026

Notes to accounts

2024		General Funds	Reserved Funds	Total
£		£	£	£
	1. Grants Specific and General			
315	Insurance Premium (per BDBC)	310.08		310.08
250	Hatch Warren planting (per BDBC)		375.00	375.00
0	Black Dam & Crabtree deer fencing (per BDBC)		336.00	336.00
0	Tool purchase (per Hants CC)	2000.00		2,000.00
565	TOTAL	2,310.08	711.00	3,021.08
	2. Donations			
2000	Waters Consulting			0.00
10000	Anonymous	20.00		20.00
250	Basingstoke Loddon Rotary			0.00
0	UNUM		375.00	375.00
1000	H B Burbidge & Son	1,000.00		1,000.00
0	Gill Smallman	300.00		300.00
0	Incredible Edible North Hampshire (group closed)	323.51		323.51
13250	TOTAL	1,643.51	375.00	2,018.51
	3. Interest			
110	NatWest Business Reserve savings account	120.58		120.58
110	TOTAL	120.58	0.00	120.58
	4. Other Income			
0.00	Bank compensation payment	100.00		100.00
0	TOTAL	100.00	0.00	100.00
	5. Fundraising expenses			
0	Basingstoke Volunteer Action - stall fee	30.00		
	Square processing fee	0.36		0.36
0	TOTAL	30.36	0.00	0.36
	6. Repaid to local groups			
1210	Chineham			0.00
550	Black Dam and Crabtree		336.00	336.00
250	Hatch Warren		375.00	375.00
2010	TOTAL	0.00	711.00	711.00
	7. Tools & Equipment			
20	Wilder Bramley - 50% share of sharpening stones			0.00
0	Tree poppers	3410.4		3,410.40
0	Basingstoke Scouts (badges)	200		200.00
20	TOTAL	3,610.40	0.00	3,610.40

8. Legal expenses				
0	Costs relating to CIO setup	1,722.60		
20	TOTAL	1,722.60	0.00	1,722.60
 Reserved Funds				
449	Black Dam and Crabtree (received 3rd February 2025)	449.89		449.89
37	Dummer (received 22nd September 2015)	37.10		37.10
486	TOTAL	486.99		486.99

General Notes:

1. These are the first accounts for the Natural Basingstoke CIO
2. Charity status was granted on 10 January 2025; however, the CIO did not commence operations until 1st June 2025 due to completion of administrative actions supporting charity launch.