

CIC 34

Community Interest Company Report

Company Name in full	Organic Countryside CIC [trading as Walden Countryside]
Company Number	6794848
Year Ending	st 31 January 2024

PART 1 - GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPANY'S ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT

The Company owns one and manages two other nature reserves in the northern half of Uttlesford,

The reserves are always open to visitors, free of charge, and in the course of the year an estimated 2000–2500 visits were made by individuals and family groups (including visitors to organised open days). In addition an estimated 1500–2000 visits were made by children attending forest schools or similar activities.

Childrens' activities include:

Scout and Guide groups (including the junior branches of these organisations)

Pre-school children attending regular nursery forest schools organised by a local nursery school

The Wild Child club is organised and taught by us and is for a group of home educated children aged from 6 to 11. The club members attend regularly and some have been members for four years. Social contact with other children is particularly appreciated by home educated children and the club provides free play opportunities as well as allowing study and enjoyment of natural history.

Each of our reserves produces food in ways that improve the management of the reserve. Our sheep maintain good conditions for wildflower meadows and the traditional orchard (now a rare habitat) produces high quality, pesticide free, apple juice.

We have adopted “Walden Countryside” as a trading name for two reasons:

- All activities are in the Saffron Walden area of Essex
- “Organic” in our name might give the impression that our food produce is certified organic. Although it is produced by “no chemical input, high animal welfare” methods we can no longer afford the very high costs of organic certification. The purchasers of our produce are all fully aware of the traditional (organic-style) agriculture we

practice, so certification is not needed.

PART 2 – CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

The main stakeholders are:

- The volunteers who undertake the care of our sheep and the habitat management of our reserves. We have WhatsApp groups to encourage co-operation amongst the members of each volunteer group and encourage their comments and feedback
- The visitors to our reserves who are encouraged to sign-up for our monthly e-newsletter which carries news of activities that anyone may attend. When volunteer presence coincides with visitor presence we encourage visitors to tell us what they think of the reserve and what we might do better.
- The children (and their parents) who attend regular events take an active part in deciding the nature of events we provide.

We do not have a formal membership with an annual subscription. The recipients of our newsletters are:

- “Shareholders” in the company who provided the money to purchase our main reserve.
- “Friends” who have donated time or money towards the management of our reserve.
- “Local people” who have asked to receive the newsletter.

PART 3 – DIRECTORS’ REMUNERATION

No remuneration was received by the directors” below.

PART 4 – TRANSFERS OF ASSETS OTHER THAN FOR FULL CONSIDERATION

No transfer of assets other than for full consideration has been made.

PART 5 – SIGNATORY

The original report must be signed by a director of the company

Signed

Date

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