

CIC 34

Community Interest Company Report

For official use
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*Please
complete in
typescript, or
in bold black
capitals.*

**Company Name in
full**

Organic Countryside Community Interest Company

Company Number

6794848

Year Ending

31/01/25

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

The company manages three nature reserves in northern Uttlesford, using traditional farming methods to maintain high biodiversity countryside for the enjoyment of visitors and production of local food.

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.

The main food produced is lamb meat – all of which is sold to local individuals familiar with our reserves. We also make and sell apple juice from local varieties of apples grown on one of our reserves.

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

- All are 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.

PART 2 – CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Our stakeholders are those local residents who make visits to our nature reserves, buy our produce and/or are the parents of the children who attend our children's activities.

These stakeholders vary in their level of involvement with our activities.

The company is owned by its shareholders (none of whom ever receive any dividends). There are at present 50 shareholders whose share purchases provided capital for land purchase.

There is no formal membership category, with an annual subscription, but roughly 150 supporters are categorised as “friends” on the basis of donations made or voluntary work.

All the work of the company is done by volunteers and this covers a very much wider range of volunteering opportunities than is the case with most charitable type organisations. For example we have:

- A team of shepherds.
- Physical habitat management team
- A publicity / newsletter / website team
- Children's activities organisers

Opportunities to play a role in such teams, often with outdoor exercise and enjoyable social contacts, can be a social benefit to the volunteers as well as a huge benefit to the CIC.

All stakeholders and others who make contact with the company are offered the chance to receive monthly email newsletters. At present we distribute 250 copies each month and make the newsletters available to anyone via our website.

We invite comments and suggestions via our newsletters and at our AGM but there has been no formal consultation or opinion survey this year.

PART 3 – DIRECTORS’ REMUNERATION –

No remuneration was received by any of the directors.

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

(DD/MM/YY)

You do not have to give any contact information in the box opposite but if you do, it will help the Registrar of Companies to contact you if there is a query on the form. The contact information that you give will be visible to searchers of the public record.

info@walden-countryside.co.uk	
23 Tye Green, Wimbish, CB10 2XE	
Tel 01 799 599 643	
DX Number	DX Exchange

When you have completed and signed the form, please attach it to the accounts and send both forms by post to the Registrar of Companies at:

For companies registered in England and Wales: Companies House, Crown Way, Cardiff, CF14 3UZ
DX 33050 Cardiff

For companies registered in Scotland: Companies House, 4th Floor, Edinburgh Quay 2, 139
Fountainbridge, Edinburgh, EH3 9FF DX 235 Edinburgh or LP – 4 Edinburgh 2

For companies registered in Northern Ireland: Companies House, 2nd Floor, The Linenhall, 32-38
Linenhall Street, Belfast, BT2 8BG