National Trails UK

Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 March 2026

Charity registration number: 1196805

National Trails UK

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National Trails UK

Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2026. They are satisfied that the financial statements comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011, the Trust Deed as described below and the recommendations of the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Chair's Introduction

This is the fourth Trustees' Report and Accounts for National Trails UK covering the period 1st April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Over the past year, the Board and Executive have continued to set a clear strategic direction for National Trails UK, strengthening our role as the national voice for the Trails and building the foundations for long-term financial sustainability. Our business plan now provides a coherent framework for delivering this strategy, supporting both organisational resilience and the continued enhancement of the National Trails network.

National Trails UK remains an active and committed member of the Protected Landscapes Partnership, working alongside the National Landscapes Association, National Parks England and Natural England. The two partnership roles hosted by National Trails, a Nature Recovery Programme Manager and Coastal Wildbelt Programme Manager,have played a vital part in advancing the ambitions of the Partnership while also contributing directly to the delivery of our own strategic priorities.

Engagement with the National Trails' community has remained strong. The Advisory Council met quarterly, providing an important forum for collaboration, insight and challenge from across the UK. Alongside this, we continued to work with government across all of the UK to champion the public value of National Trails and to advocate for the sustained investment needed to protect, enhance and promote these nationally significant routes.



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Andy Gattiker and Simon Kearey
Co-Chairs, National Trails UK

Objectives and activities

Objects and Aims

National Trails UK is the independent champion of the UK's designated National Trails, an inspirational network of long-distance routes that provide a gateway to the UK's spectacular landscapes, amazing wildlife and unique heritage. We strengthen, advocate and inspire on behalf of National Trails, so everyone can connect to nature and experience the great outdoors.

Vision: National Trails are highly valued and used by everyone.

Mission: We will strengthen the UK's National Trails so they can sustainably deliver more for people and nature, advocate on their behalf, and inspire more people to use them as a gateway to the great outdoors.

The charities objectives are to:

(1) promote and protect the health and well-being of the public by securing the protection, improvement and conservation of the various National Trails in the United Kingdom ("the National Trails"), in particular but not exclusively by promoting public access to the National Trails and encouraging people to walk, ride and take exercise using the National Trails and to access and enjoy the landscapes through which they pass;

(2) advance the education of the public in relation to the National Trails, their history and heritage, the communities linked with them and the physical and natural environments in which they are situated, in particular but not exclusively by the provision of arts and heritage engagement activities; and

(3) promote for the benefit of the public, and to advance the education of the public in, the conservation protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment where this relates to the network of National Trails and the landscapes through which they run.

National Trails UK delivers its charitable objectives through advocacy, liaising with government and working with relevant departments on long-term policy and strategy for the National Trails. The charity raises funds in support of its objectives, enabling information exchange and learning opportunities for members and will market and promote the National Trails for the benefit of all.

Public Benefit

The work of National Trails UK helps ensure that our National Trails are highly valued, and used, by everyone. To achieve this we strengthen the UK's National Trails so they can sustainably deliver more for people and nature, advocate on their behalf, and inspire more people to use them as a gateway to the great outdoors.

Our work provides public benefits by:

- supporting investment in the Trails network to improve accessibility and enjoyment
- promoting the health and wellbeing benefits of using the trails and being outdoors
- encouraging recognition of the benefits of Trail corridors for nature recovery.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Achievements and performance

This year marked a significant step in National Trails UK's evolution as a national charity championing the UK's National Trails. Alongside strengthening our role within the Defra-funded Protected Landscapes Partnership (PLP), we began building the public-facing infrastructure, partnerships and organisational capacity needed to grow long-term support for the trails and the communities and landscapes they connect.

Organisational Resilience

The year saw several milestones in NTUK's organisational development. Kate Conway joined as the Charity's first Senior Communications Manager, and Rob Coates as Fundraising and Development Manager — together establishing a dedicated communications and fundraising function for the first time in NTUK's history. We secured a significant new grant from the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Charity's first major grant independent of Defra funding, and formed a new partnership with Harvey Maps, reflecting growing recognition of NTUK's role within the outdoor sector.

These developments sit within a broader strategic shift. During the year, NTUK focused strongly on financial sustainability, recognising that to best deliver for the National Trails in the long-term, the Charity needs to reduce its reliance on public sector grants. As set out in the Business Plan, we identified the development of a strong public-facing digital presence and an engaged supporter community as critical foundations for long-term sustainability. Our ambition is to build a broad and active community of champions for the National Trails, extending beyond the existing National Trail Partnerships to reach current and future trail users across the UK.

Central to this is the development of a new National Trails website, bringing together, for the first time, consistent, high-quality access information and inspirational content from the National Trails in England, Wales and Scotland. The platform will underpin a new business membership offer, strengthen connections between visitors and local communities, and support more diversified funding for the National Trails. Critically, by co-designing it with trail partnerships and users, NTUK is ensuring the National Trails themselves have greater influence over how their routes are represented nationally. The Board approved this revised strategic direction in January, and work continued to scope the website ahead of a Discovery phase and external funding bid.

Strengthening the National Trails

For the first time, National Trails in England received a direct allocation of Access for All funding — unlocking £3.6 million in capital investment for access improvements across the network. Previously, this Defra programme had only been accessible to National Parks and National Landscapes, despite National Trails delivering nationally significant access infrastructure. The change, secured through sustained advocacy by NTUK and partners, represented an important recognition of the expertise and value of the National Trail Partnerships. To help trails maximise the impact of this investment, NTUK delivered two network seminars on best practice for in-year capital delivery.

Across the network, NTUK continued to strengthen collaboration and peer learning. The Coast Path Forum met quarterly, and, following member feedback, a new series of National Trail Officer Talks was launched in quarter four, creating a dedicated space for officers to share expertise on topics from people counters to erosion management. The Nature Recovery Special Interest Group also met quarterly, and a successful field trip exploring access and heritage delivery on Hadrian's Wall Path led to three further visits being planned for the coming year.

NTUK also became a partner in a successful National Lottery Heritage Fund bid for the Coast to Coast Nature Corridor project — a landscape-scale exploration of nature recovery along the newest National Trail, working alongside the North Pennines National Landscape, North York Moors National Park, Yorkshire Dales National Park and Lake District National Park. The project, which will see NTUK host a Data and Evidence Officer, is expected to inform future nature recovery activity across the wider network and test an innovative multi-methodology approach to baselining nature along linear corridors.

Advocating for the National Trails

National Trails were recognised within the Environmental Improvement Plan for the first time this year, particularly in relation to improving access to nature — an achievement secured in part through NTUK's ongoing engagement with Defra and Natural England. NTUK also contributed to stakeholder engagement around the Natural England Strategy, launched in November, and continued to provide policy briefings to the National Trails network on issues including the Nature Restoration Fund.

In Scotland, recognising the significance of the elections for the four Designated Long Distance Routes (DLDRs), NTUK co-developed the first DLDR manifesto, launched in early 2026, setting out three long-term policy asks to help the routes realise their full potential for people and nature.

NTUK responded to consultations and policy processes directly relevant to the National Trails, including the National Planning Policy Framework, the Budget consultation, the Land Use Framework, and calls for evidence from the All Party Parliamentary Group for Outdoor Recreation and Access to Nature. More than 30 responses were submitted to Local Nature Recovery Strategies across England, and a growing number of published strategies now explicitly reference National Trails and the Coastal Margin.

Inspiring More and Different People to Use the National Trails

NTUK launched its first Shifting Perceptions Grant programme this year, supporting three early-career photographers from underrepresented groups through grants and professional mentorship. The programme is part of a wider effort to broaden the voices and perspectives represented across NTUK's communications, which also included a series of micro-commissions enabling contributors from a wider range of backgrounds to share their experiences of the National Trails.

A flagship new project, Paths to Inclusion, also took shape during the year. The project addresses information barriers that prevent people from accessing and enjoying the National Trails, exploring how NTUK can work alongside National Trails, partners and diverse communities to co-design more inclusive and accessible content, particularly for disabled people and people from minoritised ethnic communities. In quarter four, NTUK secured National Lottery Heritage Fund support for the project, laying the foundations for

sector-leading work on inclusive trail access. The project will generate practical recommendations for NTUK's communications, inform the new website and Public Engagement Programme, and create a transferable methodology for the wider outdoor sector.

Protected Landscapes Partnership

NTUK remained a committed partner within the PLP, working alongside the National Landscapes Association, National Parks England and Natural England. Through the PLP, NTUK employs a Nature Recovery Programme Manager and Coastal Wildbelt Programme Manager, while also hosting the Partnership's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion workstream. The Partnership received indicative confirmation of funding for the 2026–2029 period, providing an important foundation for continued collaboration.

Nature Recovery

The National Trails Nature Recovery Programme continued to position National Trails as nationally significant corridors for biodiversity recovery and landscape-scale collaboration.

A £70,000 Test and Trial Fund — created by combining Nature Recovery and Coastal Wildbelt capital funding — supported 10 projects delivering benefits for people and nature across the network. Projects ranged from reedbed restoration along the King Charles III England Coast Path with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to peatland restoration adjacent to the Pennine Way with the National Trust.

Pro bono support from Esri UK (six days) enabled the development of a National Trails Nature Hub — a shared resource for nature recovery data across the network. In partnership with Plantlife, the Programme also produced the first habitat baselining guide specifically designed for National Trail corridors, to be piloted on three trails in summer 2026. A second Path to Nature Recovery film focused on the Durham Heritage Coast section of the King Charles III England Coast Path.

Beyond the trail network, the Programme demonstrated sector leadership. NTUK chaired the Linear Nature Network, bringing together organisations delivering biodiversity outcomes along linear infrastructure, and delivered workshops and field visits involving more than 20 organisations, including Plantlife, The Conservation Volunteers, Cadw and Natural England. NTUK was also one of only four non-Defra Group organisations invited to contribute evidence to the Environment Act Habitat Target Evidence Report.

Coastal Wildbelt

Coastal Wildbelt moved from initial scoping into active development during the year, establishing itself as a nationally recognised initiative advocating for people and nature along England's coastline.

The initiative refined its purpose, vision and values, and worked with Hemingway Design to develop a new brand identity. A Steering Committee was established, bringing together representatives from NTUK, the South West Coast Path, the National Trust, the Duchy of Cornwall, the National Coastal Tourism Academy and National Parks Partnership.

The initiative's policy influence grew significantly. Coastal Wildbelt is now referenced within the Environmental Improvement Plan as contributing to commitments 7–9 and Defra's

30by30 ambitions, was selected as one of five international case studies for IUCN motion 004 (2025), and features in the East Coast Flyway UNESCO World Heritage application.

On the ground, practical delivery continued through pilot regions in Yorkshire and the South West. An investible proposition for the Yorkshire Coast was included in Nature North's coastal prospectus, and Coastal Wildbelt was integrated into three Local Nature Recovery Strategies in the South West. Eight further coastal test and trial projects were supported, and additional grant funding was secured for the national policy research strand of Defra's Our Future Coast Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

NTUK continued to host the PLP's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion workstream, supporting capability-building, evidence gathering and collaboration across the protected landscapes family.

During the year, more than 300 protected landscape staff and external partners participated in training sessions, workshops and events. NTUK supported the co-creation and delivery of Environmental and Social Justice workshops with Experience Community CIC and Dhalech Associates, while the EDI Working Group continued to provide a valuable forum for shared learning and constructive challenge across the PLP partnership.

A national survey on belonging in protected landscapes, developed with the University of Derby's Nature Connectedness Research Group, received more than 2,500 responses and established a national benchmark for measuring how welcome people feel within these landscapes. NTUK also supported the production of Partnerships for Inclusion case studies featuring six protected landscape teams and provided EDI guidance to both the Coastal Wildbelt and NTUK Test and Trial Fund panels to help ensure funded projects deliver positive outcomes for people as well as nature.

Structure, Governance and Management

Nature of the governing document

National Trails UK is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by its Constitution approved on 26th November 2021. It is registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission.

Related Parties

During the year a company linked to one of the Trustees performed work on behalf of the charity. The details relating to this are disclosed in note 17 to the accounts. None of the other Trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the Charity. Trustees are required to complete an annual
conflicts of interest before the start of each Board meeting. Trustees are also required to pass the HMRC "fit and proper" test as the Charity makes claims for tax relief.

National Trails UK works in partnership with a number of organisations to deliver its charitable objectives.

- The South West Coast Path Association worked with National Trails Partnerships and lead officers through a working group to establish National Trails UK.

- National Trails UK is a member of the Protected Landscapes Partnership with National Parks England, National Landscapes Association and Natural England. This partnership has been established to improve working across the protected landscapes family in England.
- National Trails UK is a member of the World Trails Network, The Heritage Alliance, and the Sports and Recreation Alliance.
- A number of the National Trails staff are members of the Institute of Public Rights of Way and Access Management (IPROW)

Organisational structure

The Board of Trustees hold formal meetings every 6 weeks virtually or in person. The Board has established and monitors the overall governance of the Charity and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures of committees and other groups. It receives reports and recommendations from its committees for ratification. All Trustees have access to the minutes of committees allowing scrutiny of their discussions and activities. A Finance Committee was established, chaired by the Treasurer and reporting back to the Board. The Board has the power to create working groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale.

The following decisions are reserved to the Board of Trustees:

i. to consider any proposals for changes to the status or constitution of the Charity and its committee structure.
ii. to appoint or remove the Chair and/or Vice Chair and other officers (Treasurer, Secretary).
iii. to approve the annual strategic plan and budget.
iv. to approve annual accounts and reports.
v. to approve changes to membership subscription rates.
vi. to appoint, supervise and conduct appraisal of the CEO, including their renumeration.
vii. to identify, monitor and ensure mitigation of risk to the Charity.

The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting a Business Plan and budget, approving the statutory accounts, monitoring Charity performance with the use of budgets and other data, evaluating and mitigating risks, and making major decisions about the direction of the Charity, capital expenditure and resources.

General policies and procedures were developed or updated and approved by the Board over the year to ensure sound governance of the charity and included:

- Organisational Risk Register
- Procurement Policy
- Conflict of Interest policy
- Sub-granting policy

All policies are regularly reviewed and updated on a rolling basis by the Honorary Secretary, CEO and Co-Chairs.

The Board of Trustees are supported by an Advisory Council which has representation from all UK National Trails. A Coast Path Forum supports emerging National Trail Partnerships

along the KCIIIECP and coordinates a strategic approach for the management and promotion of coastal National Trails.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The management of the charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Constitution. One third of the Trustees retire or seek re-nomination each year at the AGM, based on the length of service. Trustees serve a three-year term and can serve for a maximum of three terms. Members elect new and renominated Trustees at the AGM. The procedure governing this process is set out in the Constitution and Rules.

Officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Hon Secretary and Treasurer) are elected by the Trustees at the first meeting of the Board of Trustees following AGM.

A maximum of eleven Trustees are permitted under the current Constitution. Trustees may co-opt additional Trustees between AGMs, so long as the total does not exceed eleven. A Trustee recruitment working group reviewed the Trustees diversity and skills matrix and advised on skills gaps within the Board.

Risk Management

As part of their governance responsibilities the Trustees identify and monitor major risks facing the charity and take such steps as are possible to mitigate these to the greatest extent. The principal risks, assessed on likelihood and impact, faced by the Charity over the reporting period were;

- Securing diverse and sustainable funding
- Wider political and economic instability impacting on the ability of the charity to access stable funding streams over the longer term
- Ensuring that the charity and its structures enable it to remain representative of its membership groups and their needs.

Trustees manage these risks by maintenance and review of a Risk Register which includes identification of activities to reduce, manage or mitigate the risk were it to be realised. Review and update of the Risk Register is delegated to the Finance Committee by the Co-Chairs, and the Trustee board and updates to the Risk Register are shared with the Trustee board regularly at Board meetings.

Financial review

The net income for the period is £168,277 (2025: net expenditure of £203,349). Further details relating to income and expenditure are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 11.

Of the total net income, a surplus of £36,006 (2025: £140,367) was in relation to restricted funds and a surplus of £132,271 in relation to unrestricted funds. Core operations of the charity were able to be funded entirely from restricted funds during this financial year. Plans for project expenditure in relation to unrestricted income amounts are due to be delivered in the next financial year.

The charity has restricted funds at 31 March 2026 of £191,043 (2025: £155,361) and unrestricted funds of £143,433 (2025: £10,838). The Trustee Board are pleased with the strengthening of the charity's reserves position since the last financial reporting period.

Policy on reserves

The Trustees actively monitor the charity's unrestricted reserves and continue to focus on increasing the level of these reserves where financial circumstances allow.

The charity's reserves policy is set at six months of operating costs and remains unchanged from the previous financial period. The policy is reviewed on a regular basis for suitability and if required, is updated. Consideration is made of stage of the charity's development, the broader landscape in which activities take place, and the timelines associated with funding cycles and project expenditure.

At 31 March 2026 the charity had unrestricted reserves of £143,433. This lies outside the parameters of the current reserves policy but represents a significant strengthening of the unrestricted reserves position since March 2025. This aligns with the Trustee view that the unrestricted reserves position will return to alignment with policy over the medium term. Delivery of strategic objectives to secure additional unrestricted funding streams will further underpin this position.

The charity's balance sheet remains strong with net current assets of £334,476 (2025: £166,199), and the Trustees consider that adequate resources continue to be available to fund the activities of the charity for the foreseeable future. As such the trustees are satisfied that the charity continues to develop in line with its business strategy and, as such, are of the view that the charity is and continues to be a going concern.

Plans for the future

Aims and key objectives for future periods

National Trails UK has an ambitious and wide-ranging business plan outlining its priorities for the coming year and beyond. Supported by a Theory of Change and a solid income generation pipeline, these priorities include:

- Successfully convene the 2nd National Trails Summit in Autumn of 2026
- Develop, build and launch the new National Trails UK website
- Scope and launch a corporate partnership and membership offer for the Charity to further increase its financial sustainability
- Deliver Paths to Inclusion project
- Secure funding and roles to implement the Public Engagement Programme and website
- Advocate successfully for the National Trails in England, Scotland and Wales

These strategic priorities will be delivered alongside ongoing work to further strengthen the governance and brand foundations of National Trails UK.

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees

Jeremy Clark	
Andrew Gattiker	
Julian Gray	
Simon Kearey	
Katy Owen	
Andrew Wang	
Craig Grimes	Appointed April 2025
Karen Pulford	Appointed April 2025, Treasurer
Paddy Stockwell	Appointed April 2025, Hon. Secretary

Senior Management / Leadership Team

Polly Martin, CEO

Charity Registration Number

1196805

Principal Office

Unit 11
Residence 2
Royal William Yard
Plymouth
PL1 3RP

Independent Examiner

Ledgers Affinity Ltd
Independent examiner
Unit 4 Abbey Barn Business Centre
Abbey Barn Lane
Flackwell Heath
Bucks
HP10 9QQ

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank

PO Box 250
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.
The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial 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 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 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; and
- 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 enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees 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 maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.



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Andy Gattiker and Simon Kearey
Co-Chairs, National Trails UK

National Trails UK

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of National Trails UK

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of National Trails UK for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of National Trails UK you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the National Trails UK's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since National Trails UK's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a Fellow Member of the AAT, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of National Trails UK as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Date 2/9/26

Sarah Pierce
Independent examiner
FMAAT AATQB
Unit 4 Abbey Barn Business Centre
Abbey Barn Lane
Flackwell Heath
Bucks HP10 9QQ

National Trails UK

Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 March 2026
(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Charitable activities	2	132,271	617,485	749,756	407,517
Total income		132,271	617,485	749,756	407,517
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	3	-	(581,479)	(581,479)	(610,866))
Total expenditure		-	(581,479)	(581,479)	(610,866))
Net (expenditure)/income		132,271	36,006	168,277	(203,349)
Gross transfers between funds		324	(324)	-	-
Net movement in funds		132,595	35,682	168,277	(203,349)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		10,838	155,361	166,199	369,548
Total funds carried forward	14	143,433	191,043	334,476	166,199

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2026 and 2025 is shown in note 14.

The notes on pages 18 to 25 form an integral part of these financial statements.

National Trails UK

Balance Sheet

31 March 2026

	Note	2026 £	2025 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	6,942	7,811
Current assets			
Debtors	11	70,067	21,098
Cash at bank and in hand		495,353	181,021
		565,420	202,119
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	12	(237,886)	(43,731)
Net current assets		327,534	158,388
Net assets		334,476	166,199
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		191,042	155,361
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		143,434	10,838
Total funds	14	334,476	166,199

The financial statements on pages 15 to 25 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 6th July 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



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Andy Gattiker and Simon Kearey
Co-Chairs, National Trails UK

The notes on pages 18 to 25 form an integral part of these financial statements

National Trails UK

Cash flow

Year Ended 31 March 2026

	2026	2025
Operating Activities		
Receipts from customers	264,171	82,017
Payments to suppliers and employees	(463,084)	(583,148)
Cash receipts from other operating activities	505,485	313,000
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	**306,572**	**(188,132)**
Investing Activities		
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	869	869
Other cash items from investing activities	0	215,515
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	**869**	**216,384**
Financing Activities		
Other cash items from financing activities	6,890	(189,827)
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	**6,890**	**(189,827)**
Net Cash Flows	**314,332**	**(161,575)**
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	181,021	342,596
Net change in cash for period	314,332	(161,575)
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	495,353	181,021

National Trails UK

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 March 2026

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation
National Trails UK meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

Going concern
The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income and endowments
All income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Income from Charitable Activities where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Expenditure
Expenditure is recorded on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings which aggregate all costs related to that category.

Charitable activities
Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in order to meet its charitable activities.

Governance costs
Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity.

Taxation
The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets
Individual fixed assets are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation
Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Computer equipment	10% reducing balance
Office equipment	10% reducing balance

Research and development
Research and development expenditure is written off as incurred.

Fund structure
Designated funds are those funds earmarked by the trustees for a specific purpose.

Unrestricted funds represent monies available for general charitable purposes.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

2 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Grants	75,000	617,485	692,485
Fees & other income	57,271	-	57,271
Total for 2026	132,271	617,485	749,756
Total for 2025	76,517	331,000	407,517

3 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Staff costs	-	210,410	210,410
Advertising	-	179	179
Communication	-	93,548	93,548
Consulting, legal and professional	-	84,462	84,462
Depreciation, amortisation and other similar costs	-	869	869
General expenses	-	5,716	5,716
Grant management	-	-	-
HR Support	-	2,341	2,341
Insurance	-	1,101	1,101
IT costs	-	10,295	10,295
Postage & telephone costs	-	1,580	1,580
Project costs	-	72,793	72,793
Staff training	-	1,070	1,070
Subscriptions	-	5,711	5,711
Conferences, travel and events	-	23,098	23,098
Grant income distributed	-	67,948	67,948
Governance costs	-	360	360
Total for 2026	-	581,479	581,479
Total for 2025	128,429	482,437	610,866

4 Analysis of governance and support costs

	Restricted funds General £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Examination of the financial statements	360	360	2,715
	360	360	2,715

5 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net (outgoing)/incoming resources for the year include:

	2026 £	2025 £
Depreciation of fixed assets	869	869

6 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them have received any remuneration during the year.

Out of -pocket expenses as permitted by the charities governing documents relating to travel and accommodation were paid to trustees in the year. 7 trustees received reimbursement of expenses in the year totalling £2,863 in aggregate. These expenses covered travel, accommodation and subsistence costs for in person meetings.

7 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2026 £	2025 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	182,526	192,.987
Social security costs	23,173	20,268
Pension costs	4,711	5,093
	210,410	218,348

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2026 No	2025 No
Staff members	5	4

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £59,679 (2025 - £56,958).

8 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2026 £	2025 £
Examination of the financial statements	360	2,715

9 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2025	326	9,512	9,838
At 31 March 2026	326	9,512	9,838
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2025	112	1,915	2,027
Charge for the year	24	845	869
At 31 March 2026	136	2,760	2,896
Net book value			
At 31 March 2026	190	6,752	6,942
At 31 March 2025	214	7,597	7,811

11 Debtors

	2026 £	2025 £
Trade debtors	69,557	20,629
Prepayments	510	510
Other debtors	-	(41)
	70,067	21,098

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2026 £	2025 £
Trade creditors	219,220	31,996
Other creditors	12,701	5,770
Accruals	4,965	4.965
Deferred income	1,000	1,000
	237,886	43,731

13 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £4,735 (2025 - £5,093).

14 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2025 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2026 £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
Unrestricted general funds	10,838	132,271	-	324	143,433
Restricted funds					
DEFRA Core Grant	120,213	140,000	(139,125)	-	121,088
Grant Income Distributed	324	-	-	(324)	-
ED Inclusion (PLP)	2,672	100,000	(91,483)	-	11,189
Coastal Wildbelt	-	208,485	(96,070)	-	8,215
Nature Recovery (PLP)	32,152	169,000	(150,602)	-	50,550
Total restricted funds	155,361	617,485	(581,479)	(324)	191,043
Total funds	166,199	749,756	(581,479)	-	334,476

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 March 2026 (continued)

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
Unrestricted general funds	73,820	76,517	(128,429))	(11,070)	10,838
Restricted					
DEFRA Core Grant	120,213	-	-	-	120,213
Grant Income Distributed	175,515		(175,191)	-	324
ED Inclusion (PLP)	-	30,000	(27,328)	-	2,672-
COMMS (PLP & NTUK)	-	85,000	(96,070))	11,070	-
Nature Recovery (PLP)	32,152	216,000	(183,848)	-	32,152-
Total restricted funds	295,728	331,000	(482,437)	11,070	155,361
Total funds	369,548	407,517	(610,866)	-	166,169

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

DEFRA Core Grant - provided for the establishment of National Trails UK.

Grant Income Distributed - an allocation of Access for All money which is DEFRA funding to specifically increase the access people have to the outdoors, through both physical and digital
ED Inclusion, Comms and Nature recovery funding relates to the Protected Landscape Partnership work that the charity carries out.

Coastal Wildbelt – provided for the development and delivery of the Coastal Wildbelt Programme

Nature Recovery – provided for the development and delivery of a nature recovery programme for the National Trails

Transfers have been made from unrestricted funds to cover overspends in restricted funds.

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2026 £
Tangible fixed assets	6,942	-	6,942
Current assets	65,045	500,375	565,420
Current liabilities	71,447	(309,333)	(237,886)
Total net assets	143,434	191,043	334,476

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	7,811	-	7,811
Current assets	17,008	185,111	202,119
Current liabilities	(13,981)	(29,750)	(43,731)
Total net assets	10,838	155,361	166,199

16 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 April 2025 £	Financing cash flows £	At 31 March 2026 £
Cash at bank and in hand	181,021	(314,332)	495,353
Net debt	181,021	(314,332)	495,353

17 Related party transactions

Craig Grimes is the Director of Experience Community, which had been contracted by the Protected Landscape Partnership, of which the charity is a member. Experience Community has delivered training and EDI workstreams and National Trails UK was the Protected Landscape partner holding the budget for these services. The contract for services pre-dates the appointment of Craig as a Trustee to NTUK and is on an arms' length basis.

In 2025/2026 payments totalled £37,267 with no outstanding balance at the year-end date.