The Alconbury Brook Flood Group Charity

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

THE ALCONBURY BROOK FLOOD GROUP CHARITY REG NO: 1204246

TRUSTEES:

Philip Baker (Chair)

Mark George,

Jeremy Adams,

Patrick Rogers

Anthony Davison

Robert Johnson

The charity is managed by 6 trustees who are also members of the Alconbury Brook Flood Group management committee. The trustees meet regularly and separately and invite the Flood Group Project Coordinator to their meetings who provides progress reports.

Minutes are kept of all meetings

Public Benefit: Achievements and performance to meet our objectives:

Objective 1: TO ADVANCE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL, AND WITHIN THE CATCHMENT OF ALCONBURY BROOK IN PARTICULAR, IN FLOOD PREVENTION MEASURES BY SUCH MEANS AS TRUSTEES SEE FIT FROM TIME TO TIME.

The trustees of Alconbury Brook Flood Group Charity have met regularly. The trustees have devised an effective system of financial control. The trustees have bid for a number of funds. These will enable the trustees to support the charities work into the next year. The trustees communicate day-to-day with email and WhatsApp and face to face meetings. The trustees have paid for use of the village hall for regular meetings.

The Charity has worked to provide the community and other stakeholders with better information about flood risk. As well as a public AGM, through the Flood Group, the charity has organised 3 well attended meetings for catchment farmers on flood related issues, and a questionnaire on drainage completed by about one third of catchment farmers.

Through the Flood Group, the charity has organised numerous trips and visits to work being done including 10 members of the Regional Flood and Coast Committee.

Through the Flood Group the charity produces a monthly bulletin, an A4 summary of work done which goes to Parish Councillors, 70 Flood Group Volunteers, The County and District Councillor, local authority officers, relevant staff at the Environment Agency. In all a circulation of about 200. The bulletin items are transferred onto 'The Aconbury Brook Flood Group' Facebook Page which has 1000 followers mostly from the local communities.

Work has continued to develop our flood related telemetry system. Including an additional Gateway, rain gauge and flow sensor. Data gathered using the equipment has been made available to people in the village communities and some farmers. Some live data is available through the Flood Group website with help for users to interpret the information.

We have presented at 2 regional conferences and ran a public information stall at the Alconbury Village Fete

Objective 2: 2. THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, BY SEEKING TO IMPROVE FLOOD DEFENCES BY WORKING AND COMMUNICATING WITH THE COMMUNITY, OTHER SIMILAR ORGANISATIONS AND RELEVANT AUTHORITIES TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FLOODING WITHIN THE CATCHMENT OF ALCONBURY BROOK BY HELPING MANAGE THE FLOW OF WATER INTO, THROUGH AND OUT OF THE AREA, AND GIVING SUPPORT TO THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES IN KEEPING THE DRAINAGE INFRASTRUCTURE CLEAR, WELL MAINTAINED AND MONITORED, WITH A VIEW TO MINIMISING THE IMPACT ON HUMAN LIFE AND PROPERTY.

In previous years the Environment Agency (EA) has undertaken clearance of the banks of the brook to improve the conveyance of flood water. This has been done by large machines which have not been able to reach many parts of the banks, for example where trees and telegraph poles are in the way. A large team of volunteers from the villages and beyond have done bank clearance using hand tools. This has been done in liaison with the EA to ensure maximum benefit. In addition volunteers have removed 19 trees that were dead or had fallen into the brook. Maintenance equipment was purchased use the grant provided by Cambridgeshire County Council.

In addition, a member of the Flood Group has received training for spraying of herbicides in or near water. We have obtained a permit to spray 3.5km of reeds in the catchment and purchased suitable equipment and materials to do so.

Previous modelling by Royal Haskoning has suggested that improving maintenance can reduce flood risk by more than 5%.

Insurance has been purchased for volunteers and trustees. The boat licence has been renewed to allow volunteer access to the brook for maintenance work.

In order to support the volunteers, the trustees have made the following purchases.

The Charity enabled the Flood Group to install a large storage offline pond with a capacity of 16,000m3. This collects peak flows from 160 ha of upstream farmland. The water from a large ditch is directed into the pond using a wooden dam and culvert. Excess water can be released from the pond via a complex control system, a snorkel and a manually controlled valve.

The Charity enabled the Flood Group to install 2 Rain Water Gardens, one in Alconbury at the Village Hall and the other at the Sports and Social Club. These are key village assets. The Village Hall is the emergency refuge in the event of flooding. Rainwater Gardens are large underground soakaways with overground planters.

Funding for the pond and rainwater gardens was provided by Anglian Water in 2023.

In addition, the Charity has supported the Flood Group to look at how the soil environment can be improved to reduce flood risk. A number of projects have been started including analysing the microbial life in porous soils, and looking at the impact of deep-rooted plants on soil porosity in farm and controlled settings.

The Trustees have taken steps to reduce possible risks

It is continuously recruiting new volunteers through social media and word of mouth in order to ensure there are people to maintain Trustee and Flood Group continuity.

The Trustees delegate the maintenance of external relationships and funding to the Flood Group who have regular meetings and cordial relationships with a wide range of stakeholders.

Weather, archaeology and consenting are key risks in executing the Trustees plans. In each case the trustees have strategies to minimise these risks, for example planning excavation between harvest and autumn rainfall.

Activities involving volunteers are carefully risk assessed who are made aware of risks, volunteers are gently dissuaded from undertaking work they can't manage, and training is given before the use of any equipment. PPE is provided.

The following Environmental Benefits have been achieved

Risk to property during a 1:30 year flood event has been reduced by 6%. New habitats including 1 large pond with wet meadow surround and 2 Rainwater Gardens have been established. The pond is being monitored for carbon sequestration. Our deep-rooted varieties are improving the environment and soil microbiome. Our work includes water quality monitoring.

The following Social Benefits have been achieved

The communities are more resilient in the event of flooding. We have a range of ways to share our work with our communities. Our volunteers report enjoyment and a senso of achievement. Some of our volunteers have learnt a variety of skills everything from herbicide application to work identification. Reactions to our social media stories are very positive.

Plans for next year 2025 to 2026

- 4 new retention ponds with a flood water retention capacity of 6000m3
- 3 pond restorations with an improved retention capacity of 4000m3
- 1 reservoir sediment trapping scheme
- 1 additional rainwater garden
- Clearance of culverts at Nunns Bridge, Huntingdon
- 1.5 km brook bank maintenance in collaboration with Internal Drainage Board, 4 large trees removed, 4km of reed spraying completed.
- Monitoring of recolonisation of new habitats as measured using techniques such as RiverFly, e-DNA and bird song measurements.
- Investigations to show links between soil microbiome, soil fertility and porosity
- Publication of findings on woodland planting
- Investigations on 3 farms which demonstrate how phosphite improves root growth
- secure £100,000 or more in grant funding

Alconbury Brook Flood Group Charity Accounts '24 – '25

Outgoing

2024/25	Date	Details	Amount
	05-Jan-24	Alconbury Allotment & Gardens Association	57.00
	05-Jan-24	HI-713 Phosphate Low Range Handheld Colorimeter & 25 Tests	95.53
	05-Jan-24	Small Charity Connect Insurance	264.29
	06-Jan-24	Green Blue Urban (HydroPlanter Bioretention System)	12573.80
	12-Jan-24	Origin Suregreen Ltd	1021.83
	01-Feb-24	Silver Fern Agri Ltd (Memorial Hall Inv 0011)	1882.75
	01-Feb-24	Silver Fern Agri Ltd (Memorial Hall Inv 0012)	268.96
	01-Feb-24	Rain Gauage	143.99
	01-Feb-24	Gloglow Soil Moisture Thermometers & Weather Instruments	28.28
	01-Feb-24	Sundries Landscape Screws Hex Head	42.38
	01-Feb-24	Sensor Optical Rain	103.49
	01-Feb-24	Grass Protection Mesh Driveway Lawn Mat Car Park	51.99
	01-Feb-24	Sediment Trap Replacement	38.50
	09-Feb-24	Silver Fern Agri Ltd (Archaeological Dig Inv 0013)	800.00
	09-Feb-24	Silver Fern Agri Ltd (Archaeological Dig Day 2 Inv 0014)	459.90
	09-Feb-24	Silver Fern Agri Ltd (Top Soil Green and Hall Inv 0015)	279.33
	09-Feb-24	Green Blue Urban (HydroPlanter Bioretention System)	10169.80
	13-Feb-24	Sundries DEX Landscape Screws Hex Head	39.98
	07-Feb-24	Mich George Skips	355.20
	13-Feb-24	Mick George (Skips)	355.20
	23-Feb-24	Silver Fern Agri Ltd Inv 019 (Sports and Social)	2227.10
	23-Feb-24	Silver Fern Agri Ltd Inv 020 (Sports and Social)	1938.94
	23-Feb-24	Silver Fern Agri Ltd Inv 021 (Sports and Social)	1833.96
	26-Feb-24	Grass Seed Mix Trial	1649.72
	26-Feb-25	Vidacycle (Soilmentor Subscription)	1740.00
	01-Mar-24	Planning Application 24/00341/S73	293.00
	05-Mar-24	Marchwood (Soil Samples Analysis)	345.00
	11-Mar-24	Labcell Ltd (Mini Disc Infiltrometer and Replacement Disc)	426.00
	11-Mar-24	cThings Ltd (External LoRaWAN, Power Sup and SIM Card)	1267.20
	21-Mar-24	Silver Fern Agri Ltd (Archaeological Dig Day 3)	609.90
	21-Mar-24	Alconbury Memorial Hall (Plants for Hydro Gardens)	200.00
	21-Mar-24	Oxford archaeology (Sallows Farm Alconbury Weston)	6276.00
	21-Mar-24	DJM Garden Services (Memorial Hall Garden Maintenance)	630.00
	25-Mar-24	WCF Ltd T/A Progreen (PA1 Course and assessment)	205.19
	25-Mar-24	Various (Grass Seeds and Trials)	64.84
	25-Mar-24	Steel Gardening Digging Spade	28.00
	25-Mar-24	Whiteboard Magnetic Standing Flip Chart Easel	39.99
	25-Mar-24	Yard Stick Folding Ruler Plastic 1m	21.16
	25-Mar-24	Digital Scales High Precision	28.76
	25-Mar-24	Miscellious items for Grass/soil Trial	93.62
	25-Mar-24	cThings Ltd (External Senor)	1086.00

	26-Mar-24	Cotswold Seeds	46.62
	26-Mar-24	Mick George (Skip)	177.60

2024/25	Date	Details	Amount
	09-Apr-24	Silver Fern Agri Ltd (Sallows Farm Pond Pay 1 Inv 0027)	8251.00
	10-Apr-24	TH Branson & Son (Seed Trial Mix)	1650.00
	19-Apr-24	Radar Flowmeter (Fedex Carriage/Duty)	167.84
	19-Apr-24	Extension lead Plug Cable	17.99
	19-Apr-24	PA6AW Training	234.00
	19-Apr-24	Tandee Nursey (Plants)	85.65
	03-May-24	Silver Fern Agri Ltd (Sallows Farm Pond Pay 2 Inv 0032)	8251.00
	16-May-24	WCF Ltd T/A Progreen Matabi 5.4m Telescopic Lance and Nozzle)	80.10
	16-May-24	PA6AW Training and Exam	396.00
	16-May-24	UKIoT (Weather Station Mall Processing unit	107.99
	16-May-24	Travis Perkins (Gravel & Shingle Bulk Bag Memorial Hall)	99.20
	21-May-24	Drainage Superstore (Piping and Gate Valve)	305.40
	21-May-24	Drainage Superstore (Piping and Gate Valve)	853.00
	21-May-24	Plastic Pipe Shop (Stub Flange and Backing Ring)	96.35
	18-May-24	Silver Fern Agri Ltd (Sallows Farm Pond Pay 3 Inv 0033)	8251.00
	04-Jun-24	Silver Fern Agri Ltd (Sallows Farm Pond Pay 4 Inv 0034)	8251.00
	04-Jun-24	Silver Fern Agri Ltd (Sallows Farm Pond Spoil Movement Inv 0035)	4000.00
	04-Jun-24	Silver Fern Agri Ltd (Sallows Farm Pond Pay 4 Inv 0034)	8251.00
	04-Jun-24	Silver Fern Agri Ltd (Sallows Farm Pond Spoil Movement Inv 0035)	4000.00
	21-Jun-24	eVolution Consultants & eVo-air Drone Aerial Photography	117.00
	10-Jul-24	UKIoT (Rain Gauges)	287.98
	10-Jul-24	UKIoT (Outdoor LoRaWAN Open/Close Dry Contact Sensor)	167.98
	10-Jul-24	Lifebuoys Direct (Cabinet Set On its Own Mountings)	197.99
	10-Jul-24	Building Materials.co.UK (Wood for Dam)	218.60
	05-Aug-24	Silver Fern Agri Ltd (Sallows Farm Pond Spoil Movement Inv 0044)	7500.00
	12-Aug-24	JDP Ltd (Perforated Land Drainage Coil and connector	346.54
	12-Aug-24	Orbital Fasteners Ltd (Miscelleous Nuts and Bolts)	51.43
	12-Aug-24	Wicks Margin Trowels	15.00
	12-Aug-24	Sallow Farm Walk Refreshments	25.54
	05-Sep-24	Silver Fern Agri Ltd (Hamerton Trial Pit Inv 0050)	223.92
	23-Sep-24	Miscelleous (Posts, Rope, Mosquito Bits, Petrol,Mycorrhizal Fungi)	103.41
	23-Sep-24	Simon-8 Ltd (UVA Lamps for insect attraction)	29.50
	23-Sep-24	Car Power Inverter & AIHG Hand Held Refractometer Portable	58.95
	23-Sep-24	EOS Data Analytics (High Resolution Images)	78.28
	01-Oct-24	Cotswold Seeds (Seed Trials Inv 323416-323418 &323420-323422	518.28
	15-Oct-24	Miscelleous (Oil, Petrol, Refreshments)	26.22
	15-Oct-24	Ibbetts.co.uk (Brush Cutter)	383.20
	15-Oct-24	WCF Ltd T/A Progreen (Roundup Proactive 5L)	71.94
	15-Oct-24	Ali Express (Submerged Doppler Open Channel Flow Sensor)	893.64
	08-Nov-24	Hedging Plant Direct (Bareroot Hedges, Canes, Spiral Guards)	541.75
	08-Nov-24	Royal Mail (Carriage Submerged Doppler Open Channel Flow Sensor)	129.11
	18-Nov-24	RW & J Johnson (Soil Capacitive Moisture Sensor)	20.99
	05-Dec-24	RB Woodworking (Iroko Plinth)	462.00

Alconbury Flood Group
Totals

	2024/25	Incomings	29469.05
	2024/25	Hall Bookings	118.00
	2024/25	Outgoings	120727.41
		Total	120845.41
	2024/25	Balance	-91376.36

Alconbury Flood Group
Incomings

2024/25	Date	Detail	Amount
	29-Jan-24	Barclays Bank Complaint Credit	30.00
	18-Mar-24	GreenBlue Urban Refund	874.63
	28-Mar-24	Alconbury Parish Council	500.00
	02-Apr-24	Natural England (Demo Sensor & Farm Walks Equipment)	2541.38
	14-May-24	Cambs County Council Natural Flood Management Grant	10000.00
	10-Jun-24	Silver Fern Agri Ltd (Sallows Farm Counter Credit Inv 0034/5)*	12500.00
	01-Oct-24	Huntingdon District Council	1851.00
	04-Oct-24	SHAWL Donation	1152.04
	21-Oct-24	Barclays Bank Complaint Credit	20.00
		* Over paid Credit by £249.00 Returned in 2025	29469.05

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	15-Mar-24	BO - Invoice 904	14.00
	03-May-24	BO - Invoice 940	18.00
	03-May-24	BO - Invoice 941	3.50
	18-Jul-24	BO - Invoice 1051	17.50
	24-Sep-24	BO - Invoice 1133	14.00
	31-Oct-24	BO - Invoice 1165	10.50
	18-Nov-24	BO - Invoice 1202	10.50
	30-Dec-23	BO - Invoice 1235	16.00
			118.00

2024 Bank Reconciliation:

Opening bank balance (3.1.24)	104865.56
Bank account balance per statement	104,865.56
Reconciled opening bank balance	104,865.56
Minus in year deficet, as above	-91376.36
Closing bank balance (31.12.24)	13,489.20
Closing bank account balance per statement (30.12.24)	13,489.20
less chq 100039 dated 11.12.23, cleared 3.1.24	

2024/25	Date	Details	Amount
	24-Dec-24	Home Office EPP Licence London	39.50
	24-Dec-24	Toolstation (Padlock, Nuts, Vine Eye 75mm	19.94
	24-Dec-24	Security Camera System	92.99
	24-Dec-24	Car Power Inverter System	18.88
	24-Dec-24	J M Souter (Display Information Board Alderman's Pond)	60.00
	24-Dec-24	Giffgaff Phone Plan (camera)	6.00
			120744.61
		Underpayments to CD (see above)	17.20
	Summary		
		Opening Balance	104865.56
		Opening Bank Balance	104865.56
		Income	29469.05
		Income + opening balance	134334.61
		TotalExpenditure including Hall bookings	120845.41
		(Income+opening balance)- total expendiure	13489.20
		Closing Bank Balance	13489.20

16.6.25 Peter Oldfield BA (hons) ACMA

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		(Income+opening balance)- total expendiure	13489.20
		Closing Bank Balance	13489.20

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