



Annual report 2024/25

Contents

Message from the Chair of Trustees	3
CEO's report	4
Our charity's purpose	5
Significant activities	5
Key achievements in figures	8
Key achievements	
- Waste minimisation	10
- Green Corridors York	12
- Nature-based wellbeing	14
- Education	16
Fundraising and events	17
Looking ahead	18
Who we are	19
Volunteers	20
Governance and risk management	20
Financial activities 2024/25	20
Thank you to our key supporters	21
Audited accounts 2024/25	22





Message from the Chair of Trustees

As I write my final annual report as Chair of St Nicks, I want to reflect on what has been a really successful 2024–25 for us. St Nicks is a very special place, uniquely local with its foundations rooted in our thriving 24 acres of nature, but with a reputation for collaborative action and high-quality environmental service delivery that extends far, far further. This year we have seen St Nicks continue to thrive, despite long-standing sectoral challenges of rising costs and a shifting funding landscape. Our team and volunteers have once again shown ingenuity, resilience, and a deep commitment to our community.

Among the year's many achievements, several stand out. Our Green Corridors York programme continues to grow, with over 127 hectares of land worked for nature recovery and 5,000 tansy beetle food plants established to support one of York's most iconic species. The sighting of water voles at four new sites was a wonderful indicator of the difference our habitat work is making. The Big Community Challenge, involving over 500 volunteers across 33 sites, culminated in the launch of a floating ecosystem on the River Ouse, and represents an inspiring symbol of community-powered conservation.

Our Ecotherapy programme continues to transform lives. This year, participants recorded over 5,000 hours of engagement, and thanks to expanded capacity we were able to re-open to new referrals in January. With 95% of participants reporting that they feel more connected to others, it is clear that these nature-based interventions are making a profound difference to the wellbeing of our participants.

In waste minimisation, our recycling team collected and hand-sorted nearly 600 tonnes of business and residential recycling. We're proud to report a 0% contamination rate which is a testament to the team's care and professionalism. The opening of our new recycling garage has improved efficiency, reduced our energy use by 43%, and given us the space to plan for future growth, including the development of our Precious Plastic York project.

Our education work has also grown significantly. More than 330 children and young people engaged through Green Leaders activities, and 60% of our holiday club places were taken up by low-income families. These sessions are not only fun, but also positively build the knowledge, skills and confidence of the next generation, furthering their understanding of nature and the importance of caring for it.

These achievements have all been made possible by our dedicated staff, our tireless volunteers, and the support of funders, partners, and members. Together, you have ensured that St Nicks remains at the heart of York's innovative and inclusive environmental impact.

We were delighted to welcome Vicky Blakey-Archer as our new CEO in September 2024. Looking ahead, the Board recognises that investment in the development of our Environment Centre must now be a priority. To truly meet demand and expand our reach, we need a building that acknowledges how we have evolved as a charity over the past 25 years and provides the sustainable, accessible space our community deserves.

After seven rewarding years on the Board, I feel it is time to hand over the reins and have signalled my intention to step down at our next AGM in November 2025. With a 12-month lead in period to identify and welcome my successor, this should allow plenty of time for a smooth transition. It has been an honour to have had a shared sense of purpose with so many generous and committed people, and witness how our enthusiasm for why we do what we do at St Nicks helps shape such a positive and supportive culture across the organisation. I'm really proud of what we have achieved together, and grateful for being trusted to steer the organisation through a really exciting period in its history.

Thank you all for your unwavering support, and for making York a place where people and nature can flourish together.

Stuart Leslie
Chair of Trustees

CEO's report

I'm thrilled to be writing this as the new CEO of St Nicks. Having joined the organisation in September 2024, it has become apparent to me very quickly what a wonderful organisation St Nicks is. I'm fortunate to have taken on a charity with strong governance, clearly defined areas of operation and a team brimming with knowledge, skill and enthusiasm for what they do. What really stood out for me when joining St Nicks is the sheer volume and diversity of work that the team do, and the impact that this has on both people and planet. From installing the first floating ecosystem on the river Foss to our award-winning kerbside recycling collections and connecting people with nature to make real life changes to their wellbeing; I have been amazed at the level of innovation, integrity and commitment from the whole team.



I'm pleased to report another successful year for St Nicks. Despite another year of balancing inflated costs with challenging funding landscapes, we are reporting a further organisation growth. This growth is a reflection of the increase in demand for all of our areas of operation and has not been without challenge, requiring our teams to adapt, innovate and create to meet the need of our communities and habitats. The success of this is testament to the hard work and dedication of the entire St Nicks team of staff and volunteers.

Securing further funding from the National Lottery Community Fund Climate Action Fund has allowed us to further develop our Green Corridors work, as well as our involvement in the Yorkshire and Humber Policy Innovation Partnership demonstrating our expertise in partnership working.

Our building remains a constant challenge and the limitations on space is restricting further development for St Nicks. Looking forward to next year, this will form one of our key priorities, and we are keen to hear from potential partners who would be interested in supporting us with this.

Vicky Blakey-Archer
CEO

Our charity's purpose

St Nicks aims to:

- Preserve and conserve the area known as St Nicholas Fields, including the flora and fauna of the area, for the benefit and education of the public
- Promote the public education of persons resident in York and surrounding areas in principles and benefits of environmental and conservation issues and of sustainability including but not limited to recycling and waste reduction
- Promote the benefit of the public by providing facilities in the interests of social welfare and leisure time occupation with the object of improving their conditions of life

We work to meet these aims in the following ways:

Recycling and Waste Management

Our City Centre Recycling service has continued to perform well with strong, positive feedback from residents and customers alike. We collect residential recycling in line with our contract with City of York Council and commercial recycling provides much needed unrestricted income to the charity. Both business and residential recycling have grown this year, with expansions to the number of residential properties and commercial customers we collect from. We are excited to see what opportunities the Simpler Recycling reforms will bring for our team next year.

Nature-based Wellbeing

Our Ecotherapy Programme is a small mental health programme connecting people to nature to improve their well-being. Participants who join our programme have moderate to severe enduring mental ill health. However, when they join our community, they are a person first. That person has hopes, dreams, interests and skills, who happens to be living with mental health challenges. We work in a person-centred way that is warm and caring, flexible, inclusive and adopts a strengths-based approach.

At the heart of the programme is co-creation and we work very hard to ensure that the programme reflects what participants need but also what is needed across the city. We model this approach and have been asked to deliver training on it.

Participants who join our programme are invited to a group, for example Words from the Wild or Art Based Creative writing. Each group focusses on nature and uses the nature reserve. In addition, we offer 1:1 mentoring.

This mentoring enables someone attending the group to fully engage in the session, knowing that 1:1 support is separately available should they need it.

Further to the weekly groups, we also facilitate seasonal groups, drop-in sessions and one-off events e.g. World Mental Health Day and our Winter Solstice event. We were also pleased to continue to be a 'Warm Space' to support our community during the colder months.

Education

Our Holiday Clubs are funded by Holiday Activities and Food Fund and National Lottery Community Fund. These hugely popular holiday sessions engage families and young people in seasonal nature-based activities with the majority of uptake from families on low incomes. Each session includes a lunch cooked on the campfire and allows families to develop a deep nature connection. We have expanded our education offer this year to include Nature Tots, a group for parents and children aged 0-4.



Green corridors

St Nicks Local Nature Reserve (LNR) continues to develop as an important urban wildlife site and wellbeing and amenity resource for people. To further support the management, David Walker joined the LNR Team as Reserve and Maintenance Officer. David works with Eithne Phillips to support the Volunteer Park Rangers to ensure the nature reserve continues to thrive. He is also taking a lead on progressing infrastructure projects on site including footpaths, steps, benches and signage. Speaking of Park Rangers, it has been another successful year and a huge thanks to Cas, Siobhan, Charlotte and Izzy for their dedication and commitment to the voluntary roles. As ever, we are also indebted to the wide range of groups (Weekly conservation volunteers, Wildwatch group, St Nicks Ecotherapy group Bearing Fruit, Henshaw's, Danesgate, Student Action Group, business groups) who contribute to the continued development and success of the nature reserve.

This year saw major tree works take place after a professional tree survey revealed a number of trees were becoming a safety risk due their age and health. Several large willow trees were felled this winter by a contractor, and dozens of smaller trees were brought down by the LNR Team to decrease risk and at the same time improve the wildlife structure of the woodland.

Sessions Nature Reserve is a 2-hectare parcel of land along the River Foss off Haxby Road which we are now the proud owner of. The land was owned and managed by the Sessions Nature Reserve Trust from 1967 until 2024 when the family run Trust was wound down and transferred to the Friends of St Nicholas Fields. The land is part of an island which was

created when the river was canalized in the late 18th century to make it navigable. The island is between the current main Foss channel and the original 'old' river Foss channel and provides a vital wildlife refuge away from the more exposed sections of the river.



Green Corridors York continues to strive for “more, bigger, better and more joined up” green spaces and initiatives, conserving nature whilst supporting our communities. The Green Corridors Rivers and Floodplains project (funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund) continues to be successful in bringing communities and land managers together to improve the management of wildlife habitats along our rivers and becks. Improvements are beginning to make a positive difference to important riparian species such as Tansy beetle and water vole.

In April 2024 we started a new project focussing on Urban Green Corridors, thanks to funding from the National Lottery Community Fund Climate Action Fund. This project is being delivered in partnership with City of York Council and York Cares and applies our successful Green Corridors approach to number of urban corridors across York. A weekly Thursday afternoon session rotates around the urban corridors, examples of the work include creating new wildflower areas as part of York Walls in Bloom, developing the wildlife value of North Street Gardens including maintaining the floating ecosystem (see page 13), restoring grassland habitat on Foss Islands and Solar Systems greenways, creating new wildlife habitat across the Scarcroft area within the Micklegate Stray corridor and scythe training for York Museum Gardens, York Minster and Churches Conservation Trust to better manage their city centre land for wildlife.

Another new project for this year was our involvement in the Yorkshire and Humber Local Policy Innovation Partnership (YPIP). The UKRI-funded project builds on the existing multi-sectoral partnership working between academia, local government and community organisations in Yorkshire and the Humber across the 4 Mayoral Combined Authorities: York and North Yorkshire, Hull and East Riding, South, and West Yorkshire. Green Corridors York is a place-based demonstrator project for the Sustainable Living in a Greener Economy work package. We will be supported by work package partners (Stockholm Environment Institute, Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission, City of York Council, Green Estates Sheffield) to test and demonstrate the value of improved knowledge exchange in increasing nature recovery and use Wild York to demonstrate a model of community-connected nature recovery that may be adapted and applied in other communities. To enable us to deliver the expanded Green Corridors work we undertook a staff restructuring and recruitment phase, including the introduction of Senior Officer roles in the Green Corridors team.

Key achievements in 2024/25

Minimising waste

0% contamination rate so no materials are rejected by reprocessors and incinerated

587.2 tonnes of business and residential recycling collected and hand sorted

12 public recycling points maintained, as well as regular drop-in sessions at St Nicks

43% reduction in energy consumption for charging the electric recycling vehicles, now that they are stored at a consistent temperature in the new garage

17.36 kg of cheese packaging

23.66 kg of Taylors Tea packaging

42.06 kg of biscuit packaging

recycled as part of our “difficult to recycle” materials

12.64 tonnes of recycling collected in one week over Christmas (our average is 8!)

Ecotherapy

5,153 participant hours logged at Ecotherapy activities

83% of participants feel they need less help from elsewhere because they come to St Nicks

95% of participants feel more connected to other people

7 Ecotherapy groups held on a weekly basis

530 hours of 1:1 mentoring for mental health logged with participants

46 new referrals to our Ecotherapy service in 2024/25

5 additional Ecotherapy groups held on a seasonal basis

96 participants actively engaging in our Ecotherapy groups

10 Ecotherapy group trips held throughout the year



Education

337 children and young people attending our “Green Leaders” activities

52 educational groups and sessions held in 2024/25

60% of places at our holiday club places given to low-income families

13 different uniformed groups partnered with in York



Green corridors

127 hectares of land worked across for nature recovery

4 new sites where water vole were found on the corridors

5 new roles within the Green Corridors team to support the delivery of nature recovery

during the Big Community Challenge, in four weeks...

500 volunteers from **16** different organisations gave

1,362 hours of volunteer time spent over

33 sites across York

5,000 tansy beetle food plants planted to create and improve tansy beetle habitats



Key achievements:

Waste minimisation

In 2024-25, our priority as a team was to focus on consolidating our growth over the last few years. Thanks to the contract with City of York Council that is our longest yet, and gaining approval for our custom garage we took this opportunity to really focus on getting the basics right, so that in coming years we can continue to expand on our previous successes.

To do this we have had our new garage built, and played with the internal layout to make functional workspaces, storage for items like replacement boxes and to keep it a safe and accessible place to store and charge our vehicles. Being able to store our vehicles outside of the garden has increased storage capacity for other teams, and improved our efficiency as we are now able to get all vehicles from one location, instead of having them spread out wherever there is space. Having a dedicated space where we can carry out routine maintenance and bale foil has also helped the team massively!



Over the year Terracycle have gradually phased out and closed down many of their most popular schemes. As a result we've seen a significant decrease in the number of people attending our drop in sessions and the volumes of waste brought to us and our partner locations.

This year we invested in new software that is helping us improve efficiency on our routes. It allows us to store all paperwork related to our business waste customers, schedule collections, report issues and generate invoices.



We have also been investing in our people. Three of our staff have attended mental health at work first aid training and one has attended dementia awareness training. These team members have shared their learning and as a team we have modified the way we work and communicate internally.

Churchill Medal, in recognition of her work Towards Zero Waste. Her report is published on the Churchill Fellowship [website here](#) if you'd like to have a read.

In the coming financial year we hope to build on the foundations we've solidified in this year. We will be proactively looking for new business customers and events collections. Now that we have a dedicated space, we will also be doing market research and testing to launch Precious Plastic York, our in-house plastic recycling initiative, and we will be focusing on working with our residents to ensure our service meets their needs.



In April 2025 the first phase of the Simpler Recycling legislation, on workplace recycling, entered into force (further phases, due to take effect in April 2026 and April 2027, will also affect domestic recycling). The new rules provide a great opportunity for us to showcase our skills and experience. We will be leading by example, launching a Zero Waste St Nicks programme where we take a deep dive on the waste our charity produces and what we can do about it to minimise that. We'll be helping our businesses and residents navigate the Simpler Recycling reforms and sharing what we learn along the way to create resources that anyone can use to reduce their waste impact.

Key achievements:

Green Corridors York (GCY)

St Nicks Local Nature Reserve

The St Nicks Wildwatch group have met weekly to record species on the nature reserve since 2011. The species list continues to grow (2591 in March 2025) which is testament to the expertise and dedication of the volunteers. The highlight of the year was the confirmation of White-letter Hairstreak butterflies from the small Ash tree behind the Dragon Stones in July, where they feed on honeydew. First found in 2022, it's a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species, "Vulnerable" nationally according to IUCN criteria, "High" conservation priority (Butterfly Conservation), and in serious decline in Britain.



In July, a gorgeous little jewel wasp (aka ruby-tailed wasp or cuckoo wasp) was found pottering around and preening itself on a Teasel leaf near the Dragon Stones. Remarkably this appeared to be *Chrysura radians*, another of St Nicks' Red List species, originally found by Michael Archer way back in 2007 and considered possibly extinct on the reserve and a priority to re-find. The wasp is Nationally Scarce A and associated with deadwood where its mason bee hosts nest. The photo above was taken by Sam Buckton.

Moth-trapping by Amy Bowman continued in the Environment Centre garden with several first recordings for the nature reserve. Non-moth moth trap 'intruders' are sometimes as interesting, if not more so, than the moths themselves, and a particularly notable example was a female Rhinoceros Beetle *Sinodendron cylindricum*. This beetle is uncommon nationally, especially in the north, and its larvae feed on rotting wood while the adults feed on tree sap – potentially a further vindication of St Nicks' excellent deadwood habitats as the site matures.

Another general piece of news to highlight in this reporting period was the completion of a document entitled 'Habitats, species and ecology of St Nicks' (to be added to the website and linked), written by Sam Buckton with input from the wider Wildwatch group.

Citizen Science and Ecological Monitoring

It has been a year of growth for our citizen science and ecological monitoring work for the Green Corridors project. Having a dedicated Ecology Officer has allowed for much greater coordination and joined up working with partners. Miranda has been busy developing partnerships and recruiting citizen scientist volunteers to support our work and highlights have included:

- Water voles being recorded on Tang Hall Beck at Hull Road Park and Derwenthorpe, and on the River Foss at West Nooks and Willow Bank. All sites which have seen improvements in the management as part of the Rivers and Floodplains project.
- Undertaking Grassland Quality Surveys across a series of Green Corridors sites to collect baseline data to monitor and improve management.
- Miranda and Nicola Ward undertaking a 3-year programme of Floodplain Meadow Ambassador training with the Floodplain Meadow Partnership. The skills they are learning include botanical ID and floodplain meadow survey techniques and will provide us with the resource to better undertaken restoration projects in the future.
- Successful delivery of a Tansy Beetle Habitat Suitability research project in partnership with the North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre. Using existing data and knowledge of Tansy beetle requirements, the research project has produced a Tansy beetle habitat suitability tool to help to inform habitat creation and improvement works.

York Cares Big Community Challenge

In partnership with York Cares and City of York Council (CYC) the 16th Big Community Challenge was held over 4 weeks in September and October. Over 500 volunteers from 16 local employers and both universities volunteered over 1,362 hours of their time to change landscapes, connecting communities in the North, South, East and West of York through nature. 48 volunteering sessions took place across 33 sites working with 28 business partners. During the month we weeded, dug, raked, scythed, created meadows, picked litter, sowed 6kg wildflower seed and planted around 17,800 plants and bulbs to improve the sites. One of the biggest successes has been creating a new wildflower area on a key area of the city walls. This is the first of a series of habitat improvements across York's historic city centre boundary in partnership with City of York Council called York Walls in Bloom. More information can be found here <https://www.york.gov.uk/YorkWallsInBloom>.

Floating Ecosystem

The grand finale of the Big Community Challenge was the launch of a 36m² floating ecosystem habitat on the river Ouse which has been many years in the planning. The launch brings together representatives and volunteers from organisations across the city. Volunteers from the key funder Aviva, St Nicks and York Cares helped assemble and plant



the ecosystem. The structure will provide the community in the City Centre with a lasting environmental focal point, which will evolve and grow over time. The pontoon-like structure will help improve water quality and increase biodiversity and vegetation in the river, which will attract wildlife that live in and on the Ouse. By introducing more natural wetland habitats, aquatic life will be encouraged to feed and shelter around the structure, as well as giving birds a place to rest and nest.

Key achievements:

Nature-based Wellbeing

Over the past year, we have focussed on increasing our capacity having been over-subscribed and closed to new referrals for a period. We increased the size of our team, added new groups such as Sweet Chestnut and Slow Floristry, increased our mentoring capacity and developed our programme across the city in new locations.

The changes we made allowed us to re-open to referrals in January 2025. This was exciting and there was considerable interest in the programme, not only from social prescribers and self-referrers but also from many organisations across the city, highlighting the continuing need for participants and demonstrating the strength of the links the project has built across the city.

During this period, we have also made changes to how we administer the programme, ensuring that we are able to grow safely. We implemented the use of a new CRM, Charity Log, helping us to streamline our referral process, store our data more efficiently and monitor trends in group activity much more effectively.

We have had many highlights for participants throughout the year including our work with the York Minster, York Art Gallery and York Museum. They kindly invited our Art Based Creative Writing group to visit numerous times including to the exhibition to commemorate the fire at the Minster 40 years ago. Our participants particularly enjoyed looking at the archives relating to this.

Words from the Wild book group were fortunate to have a visit from a York-based author, Kathryn Tann, whose book “Seaglass” they were reading. The feedback was wonderful with group members being inspired to write. Kathryn noted the warmth of the group, and the supportive environment.

Our Discover Nature group have attended numerous nature inspired trips including to Dalby Forest, a picnic at Howsham Mill and a trip to Temple Newsam. Trips are always well received by participants and give opportunity to explore somewhere new in a safe way. Trips are one example of our co-design and feedback process which is at the core of the project.



Ecotherapy in the community

The past year has seen a notable increase in our partnership work. We have strengthened our existing links with the local community and developed new partnerships which have allowed us to add value to our provision for the community and reach new people. We continue to deliver a gardening group at Foss Park allotment. A key success of this provision has been the transition for people to join our wider programme at the point of discharge.

Our outreach and taster programmes have proven to be a successful way of broadening our reach and allowing us to work with new participants. We have delivered taster sessions at various organisations and community settings, and this continues to be a priority for the programme. An example of this is our work with the Unitarian Chapel to deliver a Community Eco-action event for the inter-faith community. The event saw the group enjoy walks on the nature reserve, poetry readings, craft activities and songs as well sharing lunch together.

Our Warm Spaces groups, funded by City of York Council and delivered through the winter months were successful in helping us to reach new communities. Through this programme,



we coordinated our efforts with York Mosque to allow us to maximise the provision and avoid duplication. Our relaxed and welcoming groups were well attended and provided a warm space and lunch for 71 people from a range of communities.

This year we have begun to develop Ecotherapy at The Mental Health Hub, 30 Clarence Street.

This connection has meant that we are delivering as part of York's community mental health transformation plans and will enable us to support more people going forwards.

The past year has been one of transition, with new staff coming onboard both in delivery and management of the project. Like our team, our number of sessions have grown, and we are delivering more than ever both at St Nicks and wider afield. We see developing further outreach links something we will continue to explore to help those in different areas of the city access nature-based wellbeing services.

“

I thought I wasn't good with words. But here, words are powerful. Your thoughts mean something. Even further than that, you mean something here. That's pretty rare to find..

”

Key achievements:

Education

It has also been a very busy year on our Education Programme. This year, we have continued to deliver our Nature Adventurers programme as well as expanding our education offer to pre-school aged children and families through our Nature Tots provision. As with our wider Ecotherapy programme, partnership has been key to our developments this year, and we had the pleasure of hosting groups from a variety of other organisations, including scouts groups and family activities for Refugee Action York (RAY) and York Travellers Trust. We have continued to forge relationships with local youth provision, schools and community groups, delivering awareness talks and outreach sessions. Through our education programme, we have seen young people grow in confidence, engage in group activities and develop their knowledge and understanding of nature, conservation climate and the environment.

Green Leaders

This programme is funded by The National Lottery Community Fund and Food Fund and is aimed at engaging children and young people in the natural world but also equipping them with the knowledge and skills to protect and care for the environment. The groups cover a range of skills from focused conservation work to engagement through play and discovery. We engage with Green Leaders through work with after school groups, alternative education providers, uniformed organisations such as cubs and brownies, as well as running two community Nature Adventurers programmes, one aimed at families, and another aimed at babies and toddlers. In addition to this, we work with trainee teachers to equip future educators with the skills to engage children green education. This year, we have engaged over 260 individual young people in the Green Leaders programme.

"This has been lovely. Really relaxed. Lots of our families come from farming backgrounds or had land and now are housed in apartments so being free to climb and play is perfect. I usually have a lot of concerns to help people with, but here, they can escape them. They are too busy enjoying themselves!"
- Senior Project Officer, RAY

Holiday clubs

Our Holiday Clubs are funded by Holiday Activities and Food Fund and National Lottery Community Fund. These hugely popular holiday sessions engage families and young people in seasonal nature based activities with the majority of uptake from families on low incomes. Each session includes a lunch cooked on the campfire and allows families to develop a deep nature connection. This year, we have delivered 26 holiday clubs with a total of 377 attendances, of which 60% are eligible for free school meals.



Fundraising and events

We host a range of events throughout the year to engage with our community, celebrate the changing seasons, and raise funds to continue our valuable work.

Our annual Autumn Fayre took place in October again this year: despite the windy conditions and rain towards the end of the event, we welcomed around 400 attendees to the nature reserve for a fun afternoon of community fun, engaging with other organisations through stalls, fundraising activities and live music. We are grateful to Latimer by Clarion Housing Group for sponsoring this year's event.

In December we hosted York's Rock Choir for our Winter Songs for an atmospheric evening of Christmas music and refreshments. Our annual fundraising ceilidh was popular as ever (see the photo below!) with FiddlersWreck ceilidh band, helping us to raise over £1,200 in ticket sales in February 2025.

ISL, one of our recycling properties, very kindly nominated us as their charity of the year. Staff from across the organisation were invited to an awards evening in Manchester. We are so grateful to our members and regular donors who support us and share our vision to see York as a city where people value wildlife, the environment and each other equally to sustain a rich and healthy life for all.



Looking ahead

Areas of focus for 2025/26 and future aspirations

Our Environment Centre continues to be a priority for us moving forwards. Looking into 2025/26, we are keen to finalise our initial plans and secure planning permission to extend and retrofit the centre. Our focus continues to be on how we can lead by example in sustainable builds.

We know that financing a project this size is going to be a huge challenge for us. Since first identifying the need to develop the building, costs have increased significantly, making it harder to source and secure funding. We are keen to explore opportunities for partners to invest in this capital project.

In 2025/26, we have a number of larger projects that will be entering their final year of multi-year grant funding. Our priority will be to work to sustain our provision, ensuring that we are co-creating with our stakeholders and key partners through the development process.

We are keen to further explore our education work with children and young people, with a focus on increasing our capacity to support more teenagers in the local area. We are aiming to engage more young people in the local nature reserve and increase their skills and understanding in nature-based work.



Who we are

Trustees

Stuart Leslie, Chair

Jonny Exon, Vice Chair (until December 2024)

Emma Beddington

Emily Casey (from December 2024)

Martin Crosby

Samuel Crutchley

Harrison Green, Secretary (from December 2024)

Savannah Green

Marina Lambrakis (from December 2024)

Adrian Lovett (until November 2024)

Jamie Sims

Staff

Vicky Blakey-Archer, CEO (from September 2024)

Ellie Stead, CEO (until July 2024)

Sara Addy, Ecotherapy Officer (from November 2024)

Gillian Astbury, Green Corridors

Community Engagement Officer (from June 2024)

Christine Banham, Ecotherapy Youth Mentor (from May 2024)

Mark Claridge, Recycling Officer (from May 2024)

Jonathan Dent, Green Corridors Manager

Sam Dredge, Recycling Officer (from January 2024)

Miranda Dunstan, Green Corridors Ecology Officer (from April 2024)

Eliza Fergusson, Charity Support Manager

Abi Gibbons, Community Engagement Officer (until February 2025)

Maria Gill, Senior Green Corridors Officer

Beki Hagger, Senior Green Corridors Officer

Rachel Hall, Ecotherapy Officer (until August 2024)

David Hammond, Recycling Officer

Charlotte Hanson, Recycling Officer

Andrew Harper, Nature-based Wellbeing Manager - Maternity Cover (from January 2025)

Marc Hodgson, Senior Recycling Officer

Chris King, Recycling Officer

Jane Mackay, Thriving at Work Officer

Maeve Milliken, Green Corridors Habitats Officer

Anna Perrett, Nature-based Wellbeing Manager (from April 2024)

Eithne Philips, Ecotherapy Officer

Tommy Ralling, Recycling Officer (from 2023 to June 2024)

Catriona Strachan, Ecotherapy Officer (from November 2024)

Sam Taylor, Waste & Recycling Manager

Eleanor Tookey, Senior Ecotherapy Officer

Martha Tookey, Recycling Officer

Nicola Ward, Senior Green Corridors Officer

David Walker, Reserve and Maintenance Officer

Stuart Watling, Senior Recycling Officer

Joe Whitney, Green Corridors Habitats Officer (from April 2024)

Patron

Kate Pickett

Volunteers

We would like to thank our volunteers for their energy and enthusiasm: across educational activities, green corridor sites, park rangers, citizen scientists, our eco-crafters, helping events to run smoothly, corporate groups... the list goes on and we are so grateful for every single person who generously shares their time and skills. Our volunteers are a hardy bunch: we love that our volunteers turn out whatever the weather, rain or shine, to help make York a greener place.

Governance and risk management

The Friends of St Nicholas Fields is a registered CIO (charity number 1153739). In line with our Constitution, the Board of Trustees may appoint up to twelve trustees, who are ratified by our members at the Annual General Meeting. Trustees are selected and appointed based on the skills they bring to the charity.

The Board of Trustees and senior management team regularly review our risk register in order to govern effectively and mitigate any identified risks. In relation to some of our higher scoring risks, we have made good progress in addressing potential issues around securing continuity of funding (financial), economic and political changes (external), and succession planning (governance).

Overall, the Board of Trustees of St Nicks have given consideration to the most significant risks to which the charity is exposed and satisfied themselves that appropriate and proportional systems and procedures are in place to mitigate those risks.

Financial activities 2024/25

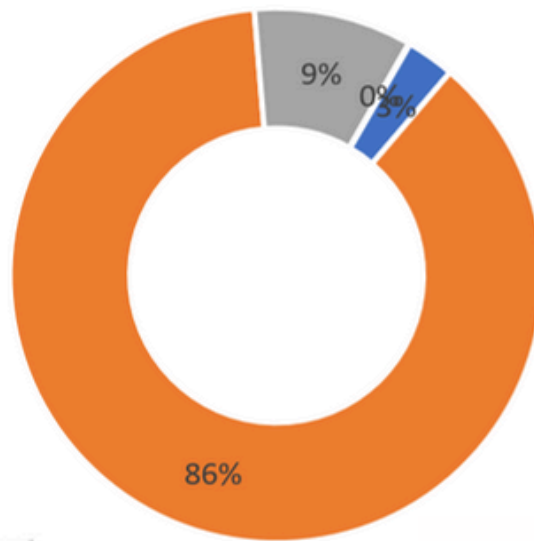
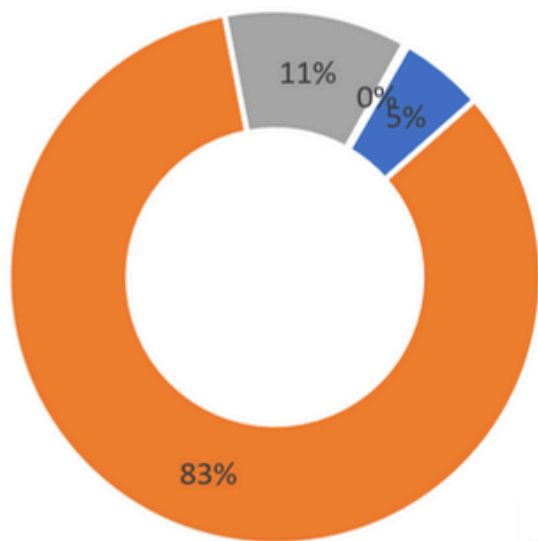
In 2024/2025 St Nicks generated income of £789,347 against £655,526 in the previous year. Total expenditure amounted to £774,759 (2022/2023 £654,883). The net result of the charity for the year is a surplus of £14,588 (2022/2023 £654). This surplus is essential in keeping our reserves figures relative to the increased size of the organisation.

The organisation growth is largely a result of securing our residential recycling contract with CYC, as well as a planned growth of our Green Corridors York project, allowing us to deliver our much needed nature recovery work on even more sites in York.

As always, we are grateful to our funding partners, supporters, members, volunteers and our incredible staff team for what has been a hugely successful year for St Nicks.

2023/24

2024/25



Thank you to our key supporters

Better Connect
 Brelms Trust
 City of York Council
 Department for Work and Pensions
 Energy Savings Trust
 Environment Agency
 Ernest Cook Trust
 Heworth Ward Committee
 Hey Smile Foundation
 Hull Road Ward Committee
 Joseph Rowntree Foundation
 Natural England
 Natural England Species Recovery Fund
 Neighbourly
 Persimmon Homes
 Spark Fund
 The National Lottery Community Fund
 The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Two Ridings Community Foundation
 York CVS
 York St John University
 Yorkshire Water

Organisations donating funds or other support:

Latimer
 York CVS
 York Cares
 River Foss Society
 GoodGym
 North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre
 Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
 Foss Internal Drainage Board
 Stockholm Environment Centre

Friends of St Nicholas Fields

(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Trustees Annual Report & Financial Statements for the year ended

31st March 2025

outsource

Charity accounts preparation & independent examination
service

Contents

Index	Page
Annual Report of the Trustees	1
Independent Examiners Report	24
Statement of Financial Activities	25
Balance Sheet	26
Statement of Cash flows	27
Notes to the Accounts	28

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

I report on the accounts of: **Friends of St Nicholas Fields**

for the year ended **31st March 2025**

which are set out on pages 24 to 36

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the "2011 Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of The Chartered Institute Of Management Accountants.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Date: **13/10/2025**

Friends of St Nicholas Fields
(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended: 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3.1	22,955	-	22,955	33,727
Charitable activities	3.2	212,929	469,380	682,309	545,677
Other trading activities	3.3	74,868	-	74,868	72,642
Investments	3.4	8,701	-	8,701	1,835
Other	3.5	514	-	514	1,645
Total income	3	319,967	469,380	789,347	655,526
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	4.1	232	-	232	485
Charitable activities	4.2	305,147	469,380	774,527	654,398
Total expenditure	4	305,379	469,380	774,759	654,883
Net income/(expenditure)		14,588	-	14,588	643
Gross transfers between funds		36,664	(36,664)	-	-
Net movement in funds		51,252	(36,664)	14,588	643
Total funds brought forward		133,048	297,926	430,974	430,331
Total funds carried forward		184,300	261,262	445,562	430,974

Friends of St Nicholas Fields
(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Balance Sheet as at: 31st March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	7	303,698	298,793
Total fixed assets		303,698	298,793
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand	8	178,887	154,886
Debtors & prepayments	9	55,139	68,133
Stock		-	-
Total current assets		234,026	223,019
Current liabilities: amounts falling due within one year			
Creditors and accruals	10	(92,162)	(90,838)
Net current assets		141,864	132,181
Net Assets		445,562	430,974
Funds of the Charity	11		
Unrestricted Funds (General)		184,300	133,048
Restricted Funds		261,262	297,926
Total Funds Carried Forward	11	445,562	430,974

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on: 22/10/2025

And signed on their behalf by: **Stuart Leslie, Chair of Trustees**



Friends of St Nicholas Fields

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended:

31st March 2025

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	14,588	643
Add: Depreciation for the year	4,645	5,748
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Working capital changes		
(Increase)/decrease in stock	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	12,994	3,874
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	1,325	(52,496)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	33,552	(42,231)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of fixed assets	9,551	8,896
Disposal of fixed assets	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	9,551	8,896
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	<hr/>	<hr/>
	24,001	(51,127)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2024	154,886	206,013
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2025	178,887	154,886

Notes to the accounts for the year ended:

31st March 2025

1 Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: 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 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

1.2 Change of basis of accounting

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and methods of accounting) since last year.

1.3 Change to previous accounts

There has been some recategorisation of income and expenditure from last year . This does not affect the total figures .

2 Accounting policies

Income and endowments

Recognition of income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- receipt of the resources is probable; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Incoming resources with related expenditure

Where incoming resources have related expenditure, the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the charity has evidence of entitlement to the resources and receipt is probable.

Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Investment income

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

Expenditure and Liabilities

Expenditure

Raising funds

Cost of raising funds comprise those costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

Charitable activities

Charitable activities expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Assets

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £2000. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at the value to the charity on receipt, less depreciation.

Depreciation is provided at rates to write off the costs less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Office equipment	25%	straight line basis
Project equipment	25%	straight line basis
Computer equipment	33.33%	straight line basis
Adventure playground equipment	25%	straight line basis

Environment Centre

Depreciation is on a straight line basis in line with the lease length.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are funds which can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor.

Friends of St Nicholas Fields
(Charity Registration Number 1153739)

Notes to the accounts for the year ended:

31 March 2025

3 Income and endowments	2025			2024		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
3.1 Donations and legacies						
Donations	14,281	-	14,281	13,225	-	13,225
Legacies	-	-	-	5,000	-	5,000
Gift Aid	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	8,674	-	8,674	15,502	-	15,502
	<u>22,955</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,955</u>	<u>33,727</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,727</u>
3.2 Charitable activities						
Grants	-	469,380	469,380	-	359,744	359,744
Waste minimisation	-	-	-	12,422	-	12,422
Recycling scheme	151,491	-	151,491	111,279	3,281	114,560
Recycling credits	18,206	-	18,206	13,643	-	13,643
Local Nature Reserve SLA	23,008	-	23,008	23,008	-	23,008
Habitat contract work	16,324	-	16,324	18,400	-	18,400
Open University - Branching out	3,900	-	3,900	3,900	-	3,900
	<u>212,929</u>	<u>469,380</u>	<u>682,309</u>	<u>170,230</u>	<u>363,025</u>	<u>545,677</u>
3.3 Other trading activities						
Educational, lettings & rentals	2,341	-	2,341	2,815	117	2,932
Membership fees	346	-	346	1,453	-	1,453
Educational events	3,913	-	3,913	3,287	-	3,287
General sales	68,268	-	68,268	64,936	-	64,936
Shop sales	-	-	-	34	-	34
	<u>74,868</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>74,868</u>	<u>72,525</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>72,642</u>
3.4 Investments						
Bank interest	8,701	-	8,701	1,835	-	1,835
	<u>8,701</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,701</u>	<u>1,835</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,835</u>
3.5 Other						
Other sundry income	514	-	514	1,645	-	1,645
	<u>514</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>514</u>	<u>1,645</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,645</u>
Total income	<u>319,967</u>	<u>469,380</u>	<u>789,347</u>	<u>279,962</u>	<u>363,142</u>	<u>655,526</u>

4 Expenditure

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds #	Total 2024 £
4.1 Raising funds						
Marketing & publicity costs			-	100	28	128
Purchases for resale	232	-	232	357	-	357
	232	-	232	457	28	485
4.2 Charitable activities						
Salaries	224,773	299,077	523,850	200,708	245,017	445,725
Staff training & other costs	2,923	4,061	6,984	125	3,410	3,535
Volunteer training & other costs	378	36	414	-	534	534
Rent & rates	380	193	573	344	89	433
Utilities	1,643	835	2,478	1,653	649	2,302
Cleaning, repairs & renewals	2,306	1,017	3,323	14,225	757	14,982
Health and safety & security	954	485	1,439	1,557	493	2,050
Telephone, IT & communications	10,289	3,854	14,143	6,721	2,777	9,498
Postage & stationery	1,745	990	2,735	2,753	1,167	3,920
Insurance	14,567	3,946	18,513	8,609	5,254	13,863
Memberships & subscriptions	1,174	596	1,770	1,352	531	1,883
Legal & professional fees	2,074	1,054	3,128	587	8,453	9,040
Resources & equipment	3,984	3,517	7,501	6,747	17,530	24,277
Project support	2,818	20,320	23,138	956	21,054	22,010
Other project costs	17,880	121,515	139,395	20,448	47,069	67,517
Accountancy fees	12,089	6,143	18,232	13,528	5,312	18,840
Bank charges	312	158	470	332	72	404
Event costs	1,689	-	1,689	3,032	-	3,032
Sundry expenses	1	18	19	2,641	-	2,641
Bad debts & balances written off	88	-	88	839	1,325	2,164
Depreciation	3,080	1,565	4,645	4,127	1,621	5,748
	305,147	469,380	774,527	291,284	363,114	654,398
Total expenditure	305,379	469,380	774,759	291,741	363,142	654,883

5 Expenses & fees

No trustees received a remuneration for services rendered during the year, nor were any trustees' out of pocket expenses reimbursed.

5.1 Fees for examination of the accounts

	2025 £	2024 £
Independent Examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts	<u>1,350</u>	<u>1,200</u>

6 Staff costs and emoluments

6.1 Staff costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Gross salaries	483,625	411,774
Employers National Insurance	30,585	25,780
Pension contributions	<u>9,640</u>	<u>8,171</u>
	<u>523,850</u>	<u>445,725</u>

6.2 Average number of full time equivalent employees by department

	2025	2024
Fundraising	1.00	2.00
Charitable activities	13.41	10.27
Governance	1.00	0.50
Other	2.00	2.00
Total	<u>17.41</u>	<u>14.77</u>

No employee received remuneration in excess of £60,000 (2024:Nil)

7 Fixed assets

2025	Leasehold Environment £	Office equipment £	General equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
7.1 Cost or valuation					
Balance b/fwd	324,111	-	9,896	-	334,007
Additions	9,551	-	-	-	9,551
Disposals	-	-	0	-	-
Balance c/fwd	<u>333,662</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,896</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>343,558</u>
Depreciation					
Balance b/fwd	32,740	-	2,474	-	35,214
Charge for year	3,383	-	1,263	-	4,646
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Balance c/fwd	<u>36,123</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,737</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,860</u>
Net book value					
31 March 2025	<u>297,539</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,159</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>303,698</u>

2024	Leasehold Environment £	Office equipment £	General equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
Balance b/fwd	324,111	-	64,820	-	388,931
Additions	-	-	8,896	-	8,896
Disposals	-	-	(63,820)	-	(63,820)
Balance c/fwd	<u>324,111</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,896</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>334,007</u>
Depreciation					
Balance b/fwd	29,466	-	63,820	-	93,286
Charge for year	3,274	-	2,474	-	5,748
Disposals	-	-	(63,820)	-	(63,820)
Balance c/fwd	<u>32,740</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,474</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,214</u>
Net book value					
31 March 2024	<u>291,371</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,422</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>298,793</u>

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	2024 £
8 Cash at bank and in hand				
CAF Cash account	46,766	-	46,766	14,996
CAF Gold account	25,236	-	25,236	40,345
Go cardless	(81)	-	(81)	(30)
Flagstone Group Ltd	106,006	-	106,006	98,538
PayPal account	-	-	-	142
Soldo	940	-	940	575
Other cash in hand	20	-	20	320
	<u>178,887</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>178,887</u>	<u>154,886</u>

9 Debtors and prepayments

	2025 £	2024 £
Debtors and prepayments		
Trade debtors	26,519	45,238
Other debtors	415	415
Prepayments and accrued income	28,205	22,480
Total	<u>55,139</u>	<u>68,133</u>

10 Creditors and accruals

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	19,908	9,794
Deposits held	202	202
Accruals and deferred income	63,508	70,417
Tax and social security	8,544	10,425
Total	<u>92,162</u>	<u>90,838</u>

11.1 Movement of major funds

2025 Fund name	Balance b/fwd	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Balance c/fwd
Unrestricted funds (General)					
General unrestricted funds	112,875	319,967	305,379	56,837	184,300
Waste minimisation	20,173	-	-	(20,173)	-
	133,048	319,967	305,379	36,664	184,300
Restricted funds					
Environment Centre	294,645	-	-	(36,664)	257,981
Grants Waste minimisation					
Precious plastic	3,281			-	3,281
Grants Green Spaces					
Aviva	-	16,937	16,937	-	-
HR Park	-	8,618	8,618	-	-
York urban becks 2	-	38,474	38,474	-	-
National lottery heritage	-	78,772	78,772	-	-
New to nature	-	7,279	7,279	-	-
NE SRP	-	21,550	21,550	-	-
YPIP	-	37,422	37,422	-	-
Climate Action Fund	-	90,134	90,134	-	-
Rawcliffe lake	-	2,737	2,737	-	-
Grants Nature & wellbeing					
National lottery community fund	-	134,874	134,874	-	-
Deciding together	-	2,803	2,803	-	-
Nordic Walking	-	1,050	1,050	-	-
Mental Health Transformation	-	18,967	18,967	-	-
HAF	-	8,163	8,163	-	-
Warm Spaces	-	1,600	1,600	-	-
	297,926	469,380	469,380	(36,664)	261,262
Total Funds	430,974	789,347	774,759	-	445,562

The designated funds for waste minimisation have been transferred back to general unrestricted funds. A proportion of the environment centre has also been transferred to unrestricted funds.

2024 Fund name	Balance b/fwd	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Balance c/fwd
Unrestricted funds (General)					
General unrestricted funds	124,714	279,962	291,741	(60)	112,875
Waste minimisation	7,751	12,422	-	-	20,173
	132,465	292,384	291,741	(60)	133,048
Restricted funds					
Environment Centre	294,645	-	-	0	294,645
Grants Central					
Energy redress	-	11,945	11,945	-	0
Kickstarter	(60)	-	-	60	-
Building Capacities	-	7,340	7,340	-	-
Grants Waste minimisation					
Precious Plastic	3,281	3,850	3,850	-	3,281
Guildhall & binstore project	-	-	-	-	-
Grants Green Spaces					
Brelms Trust	-	4,505	4,505	-	-
Green recovery	-	894	894	-	-
HR Park	-	15,471	15,471	-	-
York urban becks	-	3,459	3,459	-	-
York urban becks 2	-	46,526	46,526	-	-
Yorkshire water	-	3,964	3,964	-	-
National lottery heritage	-	49,036	49,036	-	-
NE Seedcorn	-	13,750	13,750	-	-
New to nature	-	16,329	16,329	-	-
Rawcliffe lake	-	2,063	2,063	-	-
Grants Nature & wellbeing					
Green influencers scheme	-	9,143	9,143	-	-
National lottery community fund	-	111,328	111,328	-	-
BLF 2	-	8,335	8,335	-	-
JRCT	-	6,379	6,379	-	-
CMHT	-	13,974	13,974	-	-
TRCF Green leaders	-	9,830	9,830	-	-
Deciding together	-	11,630	11,630	-	-
Two Ridings COL	-	7,570	7,570	-	-
Thriving at work	-	5,821	5,821	-	-
	297,866	363,142	363,142	60	297,926
Total Funds	430,331	655,526	654,883	-	430,974

The kickstarter fund has now finished and a transfer has been made to clear the balance.

11.2 Details of Funds Held

Unrestricted Funds (General)

The General fund is unrestricted and available for the general purposes of the Organisation.

Restricted Funds

The restricted funds are only available for the purposes specified for each fund, which are:

Environment Centre

A fund used towards building of the centre to provide environmental educational facilities.

Precious plastic

Precious Plastic York was deferred income from a combination of a crowdfunder which was match funded by the University of York's Spark Innovation Fund.

Aviva

Funding from Aviva towards the implementation of a floating ecosystem on the river Ouse.

HR Park

Environmental Agency funding to restore natural processes of Osbaldwick Beck through Hull Road Park

York urban becks 2

City of York Council funds to undertake ecological surveys of Hull Road park and the wider Osbaldwick beck.

National lottery heritage

Green Corridors York Rivers and Floodplains - 3 year project connecting habitats and communities for nature recovery across York's rivers and floodplains

New to nature

Funding from Groundwork for a Green Corridors York trainee for 12 months. Trainees are paid a competitive wage for 12-months while gaining valuable hands-on experience in the environmental sector. This not only allows them to support themselves but also offers a stepping stone towards a fulfilling career.

NE SRP

Funding from Natural England species recovery programme to support river corridor mapping to map habitat suitability for the Tansy beetle and overall river corridor health along the 45km of the river Ouse where the tansy beetle is present.

YPIP

Yorkshire and Humber Local Policy and Innovation Partnership. Funding for Green Corridors York as a place-based demonstrator project for the "Sustainable Living In A Greener Economy" work package.

Climate Action Fund

National Lottery Heritage fund to kick start the creation and restoration of more, bigger, better and more joined up habitats across three landscape scale corridors and 22 sites across York Local Authority Area, including floodplain meadow, hedgerows, woodland and riparian habitat of the critically endangered tansy beetle

Rawcliffe lake

Funding from Yorkshire Water Biodiversity Fund to enhance habitats around Rawcliffe Lake

National lottery community fund

Funding over 5 years (May 2018-May 2023) to fund the Ecotherapy Programme

Deciding together

Via Two Riding Community Foundation, this funding provided for a pilot for increasing partnership work around nature connectedness and mental wellbeing across York

Nordic Walking

To provide Nordic walking sessions as part of our ecotherapy programme.

Mental Health Transformation

NHS commissioned funding for the Making Tracks project that tops up our Ecotherapy provision. Covering Foss Park allotment sessions, Making Tracks conservation sessions, and a proportion of Ecotherapy Officer (Green Corridors) and Ecotherapy Officer (Administration) staff hours.

HAF

Holiday and Food Fund: to provide outdoor activities and nutritious food for children and young people during school holidays.

Warm Spaces

Funding from City of York Council to provide Warm Spaces provision during the Winter Months.





Report published in October 2025 by St Nicks

(a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered as Friends of St Nicholas Fields, charity no. 1153739)

01904 411821 | info@stnicks.org.uk | www.stnicks.org.uk

St Nicks Environment Centre, Rawdon Avenue, York YO10 3FW

Connect with us on social media:  

Cover photo credit: Ecotherapy 'Discover Nature' group participant