

CIC 34

Community Interest Company Report

Please complete in typescript, or in bold black capitals.

Company Name in full

Organic Countryside CIC (Trading as Walden Countryside)

Company Number 06794848

Year Ending 31 January 2018

This template illustrates what the Regulator of Community Interest Companies considers to be best practice for completing a simplified community interest company report. All such reports must be delivered in accordance with section 34 of the Companies (Audit, Investigations and Community Enterprise) Act 2004 and contain the information required by Part 7 of the Community Interest Company Regulations 2005. For further guidance see chapter 8 of the Regulator's guidance notes and the alternate example provided for a more complex company with more detailed notes.

The company owns and manages land to be farmed sustainably and held as a nature reserve. In the year ending 31 January 2018 the Company benefited the community in the following ways:

Investors are directly involved in environmentally friendly farming, as small scale investors in Organic Countryside CIC they provide the finance to purchase the land.

The company has continued the management of two blocks of land, of 9 acres (as owner) and 1 acre (as tenant) in the Saffron Walden area of Essex. The company continues to farm to organic standards but is no longer registered organic as the fees for this or too high for smallholdings.

The company continues to maintain its small flock of sheep for habitat management purposes. At year end the flock consisted of 7 ewes aged about 8 years, 4 yearling ewes and two yearling rams. Three of the seven ewes had been put to the ram.

Local residents can continue to gain experience in sheep husbandry and general management of land of conservation value by offering voluntary work experience on the farm. A volunteer has been able to keep bees on the land, providing experience in bee keeping that he would not be able to get otherwise.

Many local residents have become involved in the management of the conservation area by attending working parties organised by volunteers. This has helped the company keep the rides through the scrub land open which has benefited the wild flowers, and the wild animal population and improved access and enjoyment for walkers and wildlife enthusiasts

OCCIC continues to allow local qualified forest school organisers to run children's groups at the nature reserve.

The company has allowed its nature reserve to be used by a local home-schooling group who come regularly for the children to experience the open, unspoilt piece of countryside for fun and adventure, to learn about sheep and lambs and to play educational games.

The company has improved access to farmland by allowing access to the land it manages and encouraging residents to enjoy the land responsibly. A free monthly newsletter, regularly updated website and local press releases have encouraged a considerable increase in visitors to our land, both as unescorted family groups and attendees at public open days that we organise.

We have provided a small car park for visitors and a stock of self-guided nature trail leaflets for the benefit of unescorted visitors.

Almost 200 local people have registered as "Friends", making donations and receiving our email newsletters

PART 2 – CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS – Please indicate who the company’s stakeholders are; how the stakeholders have been consulted and what action, if any, has the company taken in response to feedback from its consultations? If there has been no consultation, this should be made clear.

Shareholders and volunteers are invited to all work-party and all other events and to an annual meeting where updates on the management of the land are provided and discussion is encouraged.

News is sent by email to the entire group. Feedback from the shareholders has been very supportive.

Visitors to the farm and the nature reserve are encouraged to discuss the company and its work with the volunteers working there, however there has been no other formal consultation as yet.

PART 3 – DIRECTORS’ REMUNERATION – if you have provided full details in your accounts you need not reproduce it here. Please clearly identify the information within the accounts and confirm that, “There were no other transactions or arrangements in connection with the remuneration of directors, or compensation for director’s loss of office, which require to be disclosed” (See example with full notes). If no remuneration was received you must state that “no remuneration was received” below.

No remuneration was received

PART 4 – TRANSFERS OF ASSETS OTHER THAN FOR FULL CONSIDERATION – Please insert full details of any transfers of assets other than for full consideration e.g. Donations to outside bodies. If this does not apply you must state that “no transfer of assets other than for full consideration has been made” below.

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

PART 5 – SIGNATORY

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

Signed	Date
<i>Office held (delete as appropriate) Director/Secretary</i>	