



Cambridge Past, Present & Future  
Wandlebury Country Park  
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## **Cambridge Past, Present & Future / Wandlebury Country Park Review of 2021-22 for Stapleford Parish Council**

Wandlebury Country Park is situated in the parish, serving the local community as well as those from the wider Cambridge area. It is also the office and operating base of the charity, which employs 13 people.

### **1. Wandlebury Country Park**

In the previous year, 5 acres of land adjacent to the Park came on the market and the charity was able to purchase them in order to protect them from development, restore them for nature and increase the area of the park for public benefit. Confirming the adage that things always come in threes, this year a further 20 acres came on the market and thanks to the generous support for our Land for Nature Appeal we were able to acquire this too. The overall impact will be to increase the size of the Park by 20%. We have been successful in obtaining grants to carry out the remediation and restoration works on this new land, including from the government's Green Recovery Fund. This work has been taking place and we are aiming to open some of the new areas to the public later this spring.

Despite the ongoing pandemic we were able to run a public events and schools education programme, although this was half the size of pre-pandemic levels.

We have continued our regular work of grazing and cutting the meadows, mowing paths, pruning orchards, coppicing woods, picking litter, emptying bins, cleaning toilets, etc. During the year we received a grant to help us repair some of the paths which were getting damaged through increased use.

The storms at the end of winter were particularly damaging with over 50 trees down. These will take months to make safe.

### **2. Protecting the Gog Magog Hills**

The charity has been very active during the year protecting the landscapes around Cambridge from inappropriate development proposals, including those in and around Stapleford. In particular, we are trying to influence the next Local Plan for the area, we have been campaigning against the proposed Cambridge South East Busway and we have also responded to individual planning applications.

### **3. Cambridge Nature Network**

The charity has been working in partnership with the local Wildlife Trust and other organisations to describe a nature recovery network for the Cambridge area. This has identified that the Gog Magog Hills and the River Cam Valley (including the Granta) are priority areas for nature recovery. This work is helping to focus efforts to encourage habitats in these areas to expand and connect. This involves the efforts of landowners, charities such as CambridgePPF and Magog Trust but also local parishes and communities.

James Littlewood  
Chief Executive  
April 2022