Charity registration number: 1203584

Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society CIO

Unaudited Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

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Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society CIO
Contents

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Trustees' Report	2 to 9
Independent Examiner's Report	10
Statement of Financial Activities	11
Balance Sheet	12
Cash Flow Statement	13
Notes to the Financial Statements	14 to 25

Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society CIO
Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	David Robert Jones
	Dr Martin Leonard William Salzer
	Dr Elizabeth Induni
	Ian Keys
	Mr David John Nicholson
	Christine Marie Webster
	Dr Matthew John Blows
	Jill Doreen Strobridge
	Nigel Pearce
Charity Registration Number	1203584
Registered Office	Somerset Heritage Centre Brunel Way Norton Fitzwarren TA2 6SF
Independent Examiner	A C Mole LLP Stafford House Blackbrook Park Avenue Taunton Somerset TA1 2PX
Bankers	Brewin Dolphin The Paragon Counterslip Bristol BS1 6BX

Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society CIO
Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025.

On 22nd December 2025 the assets of The Somerset Archaeological & Natural History Society were transferred to Somerset Archaeological & Natural History Society CIO. In this report, where it is necessary to distinguish between these two organisations, they are referred to as the SANHS Charity and SANHS CIO respectively. Where used without further qualification, the terms SANHS and Society refers to the continuing activities of both the SANHS Charity and SANHS CIO.

Refer to the SANHS Charity report for detail on the activities and achievements of the Society during 2025.

Reference and Administrative Details
Trustees

SANHS CIO (from May 2025 to 2028)
Matthew Blows
Dave Jones
Christine Webster

SANHS CIO (from December 2025 to 2026; re-appointment proposed to 2029)
Lizzie Induni
Ian Keys
David Nicholson
Nigel Pearce
Martin Salzer
Jill Strobridge

SANHS Charity (resignations Dec 2025)
Lizzie Induni
David Nicholson
Jill Strobridge
Christine Webster

SANHS Charity (continuing)
Ian Keys 2025 - 2028
Nigel Pearce 2023 - 2026
Martin Salzer 2024 - 2027

SANHS Charity Number: 201929
SANHS CIO Charity Number: 1203584

Office
Somerset Heritage Centre, Brunel Way, Norton Fitzwarren, TA2 6SF

Independent examiner
A C Mole LLP, Stafford House, Blackbrook Park Avenue, Taunton, TA1 2PX.

Investment Manager
Brewin Dolphin, The Paragon, Counterslip, Bristol, BS1 6BX

Proceedings Editor
Rob Webley

Objectives and activities

The Objective

To promote the study of archaeology, natural history and history, with particular reference to the historic County of Somerset, in such ways, including publications and information technology, as the Board of Trustees may deem appropriate.

Main Aims of the Society in 2025
The overall aims of the Society during 2025 were:
- to attain CIO status;
- to continue the restoration of the Wyndham Hall for both Society and community events;
- to provide a varied programme of events for members and non-members;
- to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Society.

The focus of SANHS CIO during 2025 was specifically directed to the first of these aims.

Public benefit

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

Attain Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) Status
On 22nd December 2025 the trustees signed the Transfer Agreement which officially transferred the assets of the Charitable Undertaking from SANHS Charity to SANHS CIO. The South West Heritage Trust and Somerset Council have both been very supportive in this transfer.

Other Achievements against Main Aims
These are detailed in the SANHS Charity 2025 annual report. No additional achievements are reported for the period 22nd December 2025 to 31st December 2025.

Financial review

Although SANHS CIO was registered by the Charity Commission in 2023, it was not until protracted negotiations were completed with interested parties that the transfer of financial (and other) assets from the SANHS Charity to SANHS CIO could be formally enacted. Prior to this date, SANHS CIO held no financial assets. The transfer occurred on 22nd December 2025, and the SANHS CIO accounts effectively cover only the period of 23rd December 2025 to 31st December 2025.

The total value of the financial assets transferred was £1,195k, comprising £900k in unrestricted funds, £83k in restricted funds and £212k in endowments.

As part of the transfer process, for land registration purposes, it was necessary to obtain a valuation for the Society's Castle Estate (comprising buildings and land around Taunton Castle). This had previously been treated in the accounts as a Heritage Asset, but at transfer to SANHS CIO this has been declared in the accounts with a valuation of £300k.

The only financial transactions recorded from 23rd December to 31st December were income of £602 and expenditure of £2,777 all being within the General Purposes fund. Accordingly, the total value of financial assets at year-end increased to £1,493k.

The other heritage assets held by the SANHS Charity and transferred on the same date to SANHS CIO (and in the care of the SW Heritage Trust) are collections of museum artefacts, books and manuscripts. These remain outside the scope of the financial accounts.

Financial Holdings

In accordance with the Society's Banking & Investment policy, financial resources are held in:

- current accounts for day-to-day financial transactions and for active projects requiring short-term access to finances;
- low risk money investment accounts where long-term strategies for utilisation have yet to be confirmed;
- a professionally managed investment portfolio managed by an external fund manager for endowment funds and related restricted funds. Brewin Dolphin is the current fund manager.

The Murless Bequest Fund

A generous legacy received from a former member is held in the Murless Bequest fund. During 2025 the SANHS Charity trustees agreed to use interest from this fund to provide grants of £5.5k to external organisations aligned with the Society's charitable objectives. In addition, they agreed to transfer £45k to the Contingency fund. On transfer to the CIO and at 31st December 2025 this fund held £823k.

The Contingency Fund

A Contingency fund was set up in 2018 with £5k. No calls had been put on this fund and it had increased to £5.5k on 1st January 2025 through exposure to the Brewin Dolphin investment. Owing to concerns over the excess of expenditure over income in the General Purposes fund (see para.4.5), the SANHS Charity trustees agreed to transfer £45k from the Murless Bequest fund (representing about 5% of that bequest fund at year start) to the Contingency fund, and then move £10k from the Contingency fund to the General Purposes fund. These transactions are shown on the SANHS Charity annual accounts for 2025. Following on from these transfers (shown in the 2025 SANHS Charity annual accounts), the Contingency fund holding on 31st December was £40.6k.

The General Purposes Fund

The General Purposes fund is used for all day-to-day operations of the Society. Its two principal sources of income in 2025 (from the SANHS Charity annuals accounts), as a proportion of the total income for the fund, were:

- rental income from the Castle Estate (43%);
- membership subscriptions (32%).

The main sources of expenditure over the same period (with proportions of expenditure) were:

- production of annual Proceedings (26%);
- legal and HR fees for the operation of the Society, principally for resolution of legal matters in respect of the Castle Estate and its leases and support over employment matters (22%);
- employment costs (20%).

The overall excess of expenditure over income was about £21k. A number of these costs are exceptional (eg the production of two issues of Proceedings in one year; see discussion in SANHS Charity financial review) and the Society is no longer employing any staff (this function being currently carried out by volunteers). It remains that for several years it has been challenging to produce a balanced annual budget for the General Purposes fund.

The trustees' approach to this issue is:

- short term - transfers from the Contingency fund
- longer term - strategy to develop the Society and expand membership. To this end, the SANHS Charity held a strategic review in 2025 involving the trustees and committee representatives and during 2026 a working group has been developing specific measures aimed at increasing membership.

Observations on Other Funds
Of the restricted funds aligned to the endowment funds, only the Gray fund (value at 31st December 2025 of £651) may need to limit any external grants given in 2026 until its reserves have been replenished. The holdings in the other of these restricted funds on 31st December 2025 is likely to be sufficient to address expected demand.

Holdings on 31st December 2025 in the Dunster, Norman Gardens and CIO projects restricted funds are considered adequate to address expenditure as these projects move gradually to completion.

Holdings in both the Wyndham Hall restricted and unrestricted funds totalling £4.6k at 31st December 2025 (together with anticipated income from external bookings and donations) are expected to be sufficient to address routine running costs in 2026, although fund-raising will be required if any substantial renovation or development is needed.

No issues are envisaged with any of the other funds not mentioned above.

Risks and Reserves
The Society's risk register, which includes financial risk, is actively managed and reviewed regularly at both executive and the trustee meetings. Current risks with significant potential financial implications relate to the management and maintenance of parts of the Society's Castle Estate. The resolution of these issues is being given high priority during 2026 including discussions with interested external parties.

The Society has no documented reserves policy. Notwithstanding the risks highlighted above relating to the Castle Estate, in combination, the Contingency fund and the Murless Bequest fund are currently considered to provide adequate reserves to secure the Society's future.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

SANHS CIO is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (charity number 1203564) on 15 June 2023. SANHS CIO is governed by its constitution, registered with the Charity Commission. The charitable objects of SANHS CIO are to promote the study of archaeology, natural history and history, with particular reference to the historic County of Somerset, in such ways, including publications and information technology, as the Board of Trustees may deem appropriate. These are identical to those of the SANHS Charity.

Related organisation
SANHS CIO was established to incorporate the activities and assets of the SANHS Charity. The incorporation involved the establishment of SANHS CIO as the legal vehicle to which the SANHS Charity transferred all of its assets and liabilities.

The SANHS Charity and SANHS CIO continue to work together to complete the process of transferring the SANHS Charity activities and assets to SANHS CIO.

Trustees

SANHS CIO is governed by a Board of Trustees, who are the charity trustees and are collectively responsible for the overall governance, management and administration of SANHS CIO and for ensuring that it operates in accordance with its constitution and charitable purposes.

The Board is responsible for determining SANHS CIO's strategy and policies, overseeing its finances and activities, managing risk, and ensuring that appropriate arrangements are in place for the proper administration of the charity.

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the provisions of the constitution. They are appointed for three-year terms subject to a maximum number of three terms. The Board seeks to maintain an appropriate balance of skills, knowledge and experience relevant to SANHS CIO's charitable purposes and activities.

The names of the trustees who served during the year are set out in page 2 of this report.

Induction and training of trustees

New trustees are provided with appropriate information concerning SANHS CIO, its constitution, charitable objects, governance arrangements, policies and procedures, and the duties and responsibilities of charity trustees. Trustees are encouraged to undertake appropriate training and to keep themselves informed about matters relevant to their responsibilities and to the activities of SANHS CIO.

Training undertaken in 2025 by trustees of the SANHS Charity, who subsequently became SANHS CIO trustees, is detailed in the SANHS Charity annual report.

Organisational structure and decision-making

The Board of Trustees is the principal decision-making body of SANHS CIO. The trustees meet regularly to consider activities, finances, governance and strategic direction. Decisions are taken collectively by the Board in accordance with the constitution.

Under the constitution, the Board delegates day-to-day decision making to an Executive Committee comprising five trustees, including the Chair, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer.

The Board has also delegated powers to the following eight standing committees:
- Archaeology;
- Natural History, also for administrating the Pat-Hill Cottingham fund;
- Local History;
- Historic Buildings, also for administrating the Williams Fund;
- Library & Collections, also for administrating the Tite Fund;
- Publications;
- Heritage Grants Committee for administrating the Maltwood and Gray Funds;
- Museum Collection Committee, also for administrating the Museum Exhibit Replacement Fund.

All committees report regularly to the Board and remain under the Board's oversight.

SANHS CIO relies substantially on volunteers (there are no paid employees), including members who contribute to its archaeological, historical and natural history activities, publications, events, research and other charitable work.

Membership
SANHS CIO has a membership structure established under its constitution and membership rules. Members are entitled to participate in the affairs of SANHS CIO in accordance with those rules, including voting rights where applicable. The membership provides an important connection between the CIO, its trustees and the wider community interested in the archaeology, history and natural history of Somerset.

The trustees recognise the importance of maintaining effective communication with members and of ensuring that members are appropriately informed about SANHS CIO's activities and governance.

Risk management
The trustees keep the major risks to which SANHS CIO is exposed under regular review and seek to ensure that appropriate systems and procedures are in place to manage those risks. The Board considers financial, operational, governance, safeguarding and other material risks as appropriate to its activities.

The trustees consider that appropriate procedures are in place to identify and manage the principal risks facing the charity.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales 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 income and expenditure 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 charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 15/9/26 and signed on its behalf by:

M L W Salzer

Dr Martin Leonard William Salzer
Trustee

Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society CIO
Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society CIO

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society CIO for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 11 to 25.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society CIO 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 Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society CIO'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.

The Charity Commission for England and Wales granted the charity a dispensation under Regulation 34(3)(b) of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 in respect of the financial year ended 31 December 2025.The dispensation dated 11 August 2026 permits an independent examination to be carried out in place of the audit otherwise required by section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

Since Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society CIO'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 member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, 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 Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society CIO 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.

.....
Sarah Twist FCA DChA
Stafford House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 2PX

Date:.....

Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society CIO
Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income						
Subscriptions	2	100	-	-	100	-
Investment income		468	-	-	468	-
Proceedings		34	-	-	34	-
Transfer from predecessor charity on CIO conversion		900,468	83,050	211,607	1,195,125	-
Total income		901,070	83,050	211,607	1,195,727	-
Expenditure						
Proceedings		100	-	-	100	-
Group events expenditure		495	-	-	495	-
Office costs	3	142	-	-	142	-
Governance costs		2,040	-	-	2,040	-
		2,777	-	-	2,777	-
Total expenditure		2,777	-	-	2,777	-
Net income/(expenditure)		898,293	83,050	211,607	1,192,950	-
Revaluation		300,000	-	-	300,000	-
Net movement in funds		1,198,293	83,050	211,607	1,492,950	-
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		-	-	-	-	-
Total funds carried forward	10	1,198,293	83,050	211,607	1,492,950	-

The notes on pages 14 to 25 form part of these financial statements.

Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society CIO
(Registration number: 1203584)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Heritage assets	4	300,000	-
Leases	5	8,984	-
Investments	7	302,461	-
Office Equipment	6	1,732	-
		613,177	-
Current assets			
Debtors	8	908,888	-
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	9	(29,115)	-
Net current assets		879,773	-
Net assets		1,492,950	-
Funds of the charity:			
Endowment funds		211,607	-
Restricted funds		83,050	-
Unrestricted funds		1,198,293	-
Total funds	10	1,492,950	-

The financial statements on pages 11 to 25 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 25/9/26... and signed on their behalf by:

M.L.W.Salzer
.....
Dr Martin Leonard William Salzer
Trustee

Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society CIO
Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash income		1,492,950	-
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Investment income		(468)	-
Revaluation of investments		(300,000)	-
		1,192,482	-
Working capital adjustments			
Increase in debtors	8	(908,888)	-
Increase in creditors	9	26,575	-
Increase in deferred income		2,540	-
Net cash flows from operating activities		312,709	-
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of intangible fixed assets		(8,984)	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	6	(1,732)	-
Purchase of investments	7	(288,131)	-
Income from dividends		468	-
Net cash flows from investing activities		(298,379)	-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		14,330	-
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January		-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December		14,330	-

All of the cash flows are derived from continuing operations during the above two periods.

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance and basis of preparation
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless stated otherwise within these notes. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 (FRS 102) (issued October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), and the Charities Act 2011.

Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society CIO meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Basis of preparation
These financial statements cover the first accounting period of the CIO following the transfer of the assets and liabilities of the predecessor charity on 22 December 2025. Accordingly, there are no comparative figures.

Transfer from predecessor charity on CIO conversion
On 15 June 2023 a new charitable incorporated organisation Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society CIO (charity no. 1203584) was formed with the same objects to The Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society (charity no. 201929). Under the terms of a transfer agreement dated 22 December 2025 all assets, liabilities, activities, contracts and obligations of The Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society were transferred to the new Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society CIO on 22 December 2025 at carrying value. The Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society became dormant with effect from 22 December 2025 but remains a registered charity.

Going concern
The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. During the year, the CIO assumed the activities and net assets of the predecessor charity. In reaching their conclusion on going concern, the trustees have considered the charity's reserve levels, cash position, expected future income streams, planned expenditure and the successful transfer of the predecessor charity's operations. The trustees are satisfied that the charity has sufficient resources to continue its activities and meet its obligations as they fall due. Accordingly, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting and have identified no material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income
All income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Subscription income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the accounting period to which it relates.

Where subscriptions relate wholly to a future accounting period, the income is deferred and recognised over the period to which the subscription relates. Income received in advance is included within creditors as deferred income

Investment income

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Allocation of overhead and support costs

Support costs are allocated between charitable activities and governance costs on a basis that reflects the estimated time and resources devoted to each activity. The basis of allocation applied to each category of cost is disclosed in note 3.

Governance costs

Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to Independent Examination and legal fees together with an apportionment of overhead and support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT

The charity is not registered for VAT. All expenditure is stated inclusive of VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred.

Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is, therefore, exempt from liability to taxation on its income and capital gains, to the extent that they are applied for charitable purposes.

Leases

The professional costs in relation to setting up new leases in excess of 5 years are capitalised and amortised on a straight line basis, over the term of the lease. No amortisation charge has been recognised in the year ended 31 December 2025, as the leases were transferred from the predecessor charity on 22 December 2025.

Tangible fixed assets

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

Depreciation and amortisation

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Office equipment	15% reducing balance

Heritage assets

Heritage assets are tangible fixed assets of historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental importance which are held and maintained principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture and in furtherance of the charity's objectives.

Heritage assets acquired by purchase are initially recognised at cost, including any directly attributable acquisition costs. Heritage assets acquired by donation or transfer are recognised at their value at the date of acquisition where this can be measured reliably.

The charity's heritage assets comprise of the following assets transferred from the predecessor charity on 22 December 2025 (i) Museum exhibits and related fixtures and fittings on loan to Somerset County Council, (ii) The contents of the library together with related fixtures and fittings, (iii) Records and archives on loan to Somerset County Council, (iv) The Castle Estate. Reliable historic cost information is not available for much of the collection and the trustees consider that obtaining current valuations would be disproportionate to the benefit derived by users of the financial statements. Accordingly, such assets are not recognised on the balance sheet of the predecessor charity and were transferred to the CIO at a nil value.

On transfer to the CIO a valuation of land forming part of The Castle Estate was required for land registry purposes. This professional valuation of £300,000 has been recognised as a revaluation on the date of transfer.

The trustees have a policy of preserving and maintaining the heritage assets in their care. The assets are managed in accordance with established conservation practices to ensure that the assets are protected, preserved and, where necessary, restored. The trustees regularly review the condition of the assets and undertake maintenance and conservation work as appropriate. The charity seeks to safeguard the long-term cultural and historical significance of the collection for the benefit of the public.

Heritage assets recognised in the balance sheet are reviewed for impairment where events or changes in circumstances indicate that their carrying value may not be recoverable. Heritage assets are not depreciated as their long economic lives and residual values make any depreciation immaterial.
The charity acquires heritage assets only where the acquisition supports its charitable objectives and enhances the cultural, historical or educational value of its collection. Acquisitions may be made through purchase, donation, bequest or transfer from other organisations. All acquisitions are subject to review by the trustees, taking into account provenance, significance, authenticity, conservation requirements and the charity's ability to care for the asset in the future.

The trustees consider heritage assets to be held for the long term and disposals are therefore rare. Any disposal is undertaken only where it is consistent with the charity's objectives and stewardship responsibilities. Decisions to dispose of heritage assets are subject to trustee approval and consideration of professional advice where appropriate. Proceeds from disposals are applied for the benefit of the collection and in furtherance of the charity's charitable purposes.

The charity seeks to maximise public access to its heritage assets. Access is provided, subject to practical considerations such as conservation requirements, security and available resources. The trustees aim to balance public access with the need to preserve the assets for future generations.

Fixed asset investments

Listed investments

Listed investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at fair value at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the period. The Charity does not acquire or use put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments.

Realised gains and losses

All gains and losses are taken to the statement of financial activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the period end and their carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains and losses are combined in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Fund structure

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

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or trust deed. Details are in note 10 to the accounts.

The charity holds a number of permanent endowment funds which are detailed in note 10. The capital of these funds must be retained and invested in accordance with the terms of the relevant endowments and cannot be spent. Income arising from the endowment investments is credited to the corresponding restricted income funds and applied in accordance with the purposes of those funds.

Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements
The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with FRS 102 requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income, and expenses.

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The Trustees consider that the following critical accounting estimates and judgements have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Heritage assets
The Castle Estate was recognised at a professional valuation on transfer from the predecessor charity during the year. The trustees have also assessed the wider heritage collections and concluded that reliable valuation information is not available and that the cost of obtaining valuations would outweigh the benefit to users of the financial statements. Accordingly, these assets have not been recognised within the balance sheet.

2 Subscriptions

	2025 £	2024 £
Subscriptions	100	-
	100	-

3 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Support costs £	Governance £	2025 £	2024 £
Membership database	127	-	127	-
Office expenses	15	-	15	-
Accountancy fees	-	2,040	2,040	-
	142	2,040	2,182	-

4 Heritage assets

	Heritage assets £
Cost	
Additions	-
Revaluations	300,000
At 31 December 2025	300,000
Depreciation	
Charge for the year	-
Revaluations	-
At 31 December 2025	-
Net book value	
At 31 December 2025	300,000
At 31 December 2024	-

The Society holds a significant collection of heritage assets in furtherance of its charitable objectives to advance knowledge of the archaeology, history and natural history of Somerset.

The collections comprise:
- Museum exhibits and related fixtures and fittings on loan to Somerset Council;
- The contents of the Society's library and associated fixtures and fittings;
- Records and archives on loan to Somerset Council; and
- The Castle Estate.

Many of these assets are unique and irreplaceable. The collections have been accumulated over a considerable period and reliable historic cost information is not available.

During the year the assets and liabilities of the predecessor charity were transferred to the CIO. As part of that transfer, a professional valuation was obtained for the land which forms part of The Castle Estate and a value of £300,000 has therefore been recognised as a heritage asset in these financial statements.

No value has been recognised for the remainder of the heritage collection because reliable valuation information is not available and the trustees consider that the costs of obtaining such valuations would outweigh the benefits to users of the financial statements.

The heritage assets are preserved and managed in accordance with the Society's charitable objectives through appropriate stewardship, conservation and custodial arrangements.

As this is the first accounting period of the CIO following the transfer of assets on 22 December 2025, comparative information and a five-year reconciliation are not available.

5 Lease arrangement costs

	2025 £	2024 £
New leases	8,984	-
Amortised in the year	-	-
	8,984	-

6 Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment £
Cost	
Additions	1,732
Disposals	-
At 31 December 2025	1,732
Depreciation	
Charge for the year	-
Eliminated on disposals	-
At 31 December 2025	-
Net book value	
At 31 December 2025	1,732
At 31 December 2024	-

7 Fixed asset investments

Investments

	Total 2025 £
Cost or Valuation	
Additions	288,131
Disposals	-
Revaluation	-
At 31 December 2025	288,131
Cash held within investment portfolio	14,330
	-
At 31 December 2025	302,461
At 31 December 2024	-

	Value £
Under management with Brewin Dolphin	
Allocated to Endowment funds	211,607
Allocated to Unrestricted funds	18,182
Allocated to Restricted funds	72,672
Total 2025	302,461

8 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	8,616	-
Other debtors	900,272	-
	908,888	-

Other debtors include £900,272 of bank balances held in the name of the former charity.

9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Subscriptions	1,070	-
Accruals	25,505	-
Deferred income	2,540	-
	29,115	-

Included within accruals is £17,590 in respect of grant commitments assumed from the predecessor charity on transfer to the CIO on 22 December 2025. These liabilities formed part of the net assets transferred to the CIO and accordingly have not been recognised as expenditure in the current year's Statement of Financial Activities. The related expenditure was recognised by the predecessor charity prior to transfer.

10 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer from former charity £	Revaluation £	Balance at 31 December 2025 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Purposes	-	602	(2,777)	12,280	-	10,105
Murless Bequest	-	-	-	823,172	-	823,172
Museum Exhibit Replacement Fund	-	-	-	14,623	-	14,623
Publications	-	-	-	8,311	-	8,311
Wyndham Hall	-	-	-	1,513	-	1,513
Contingency	-	-	-	40,569	-	40,569
Revaluation reserve - The Castle Estate Valuation	-	-	-	-	300,000	300,000
Total unrestricted funds	-	602	(2,777)	900,468	300,000	1,198,293
Gray	-	-	-	651	-	651
Tite	-	-	-	1,933	-	1,933
Williams	-	-	-	23,709	-	23,709
Maltwood	-	-	-	8,087	-	8,087
Natural Sciences	-	-	-	5,647	-	5,647
Murless	-	-	-	20,056	-	20,056
Dunster	-	-	-	4,592	-	4,592
Norman Gardens	-	-	-	11,263	-	11,263
Charitable Incorporated Organisation	-	-	-	4,058	-	4,058
Wyndham Hall Fund	-	-	-	3,054	-	3,054
Total Restricted funds	-	-	-	83,050	-	83,050
Endowment funds						
Gray	-	-	-	18,485	-	18,485
Tite	-	-	-	3,099	-	3,099
Williams	-	-	-	14,878	-	14,878
Maltwood	-	-	-	162,674	-	162,674
Natural Sciences	-	-	-	12,471	-	12,471
Total Endowment funds	-	-	-	211,607	-	211,607
Total funds	-	602	(2,777)	1,195,125	300,000	1,492,950

Included within transfers in the year are the transfers of assets and liabilities from The Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society on 22 December 2025.

Fund descriptions:

General Purposes - Fund to facilitate day-to-day operation of the Society, including production of the Proceedings.

Murless Bequest - Bequest from Brian Murless with no prescription on usage.

Museum Exhibit Replacement - Restoration of SANHS owned museum artefacts held by the South Western Heritage Trust.

Publications - Production of SANHS publications (excluding Proceedings).

Wyndham Hall - Income and costs explicit to the renovation, management and operation of the Wyndham Hall.

Gray - Support to projects particularly with an educational focus.

Tite - Support of SANHS library and archives.

Williams - Support to production of publications relating to historic buildings.

Maltwood - Support to projects in archaeology and local history.

Natural Sciences - Support to projects in natural history.

Murless - Support to projects for digitization of heritage assets.

Dunster - Recording and documenting old buildings in Dunster.

Norman Gardens - Restoration and renovation of the walls and gardens in the Norman Gardens, being part of the SANHS Castle Estate.

Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Project to convert the SANHS charity to SANHS CIO.

The Gray, Tite, Williams, Maltwood and Natural History funds each have both a restricted fund and an endowment fund. Dividends from each endowment fund are transferred to the corresponding restricted fund, and grants are made from the restricted funds to support projects as outlined above. For further detail of scope see the Society website (www.sanhs.org).

11 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Leases	8,984	-	-	8,984	-
Tangible fixed assets	1,732	-	-	1,732	-
Heritage assets	300,000	-	-	300,000	-
Fixed asset investments	18,182	72,672	211,607	302,461	-
Current assets	885,920	22,968	-	908,888	-
Current liabilities	(16,525)	(12,590)	-	(29,115)	-
Total net assets	1,198,293	83,050	211,607	1,492,950	-

12 Related party transactions

On 22 December 2025, the assets, liabilities and activities of The Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society (charity number 201929) were transferred to Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society CIO (charity number 1203584) as part of the charity's conversion to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Net assets of £1,195,125 were transferred to the CIO and have been recognised as income within the Statement of Financial Activities under the heading "Transfer from predecessor charity on CIO conversion". There were no other related party transactions during the year.