The Countryside Education Trust
Annual Report and Accounts
For the year ended 31 December 2025

Charity Number 269546



The Countryside Education Trust

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The Countryside Education Trust

Legal and administrative information
For the year ended 31 December 2025

Trustees	Lord Montagu of Beaulieu N Burt (resigned 04 July 2025) M Wade K Burwood P Johnson, Chair G Hardacre (resigned 22 February 2026) C Lee O Turgoose S Newey

The Countryside Education Trust is a tenant of Lord Montagu and the Beaulieu Estate.

Charity Commission registration number	269546
Registered office	John Montagu Building Beaulieu Hampshire SO42 7ZN
Independent Examiners	Saffery LLP Midland House 2 Poole Road Bournemouth BH2 5QY
Bankers	Barclays Bank Plc 4th Floor, Block A Apex Plaza Forbury Road Reading RG1 1AX

Objectives of the Countryside Education Trust

The Countryside Education Trust (269546) was founded in 1975. Its objectives and activities are to:

- Provide or promote the provision of facilities so that the public and young people in particular, can gain access to the countryside, especially the Beaulieu Estate and the New Forest: and that they can both enjoy and be educated about the countryside;

- Protect, preserve and care for the beauty and character of the countryside and to stimulate the general public to do the same

- Conserve the New Forest for the benefit of the public, including the restoration and preservation of buildings of national, historic or scientific interest.

Our Mission

The Countryside Education Trust enables meaningful and enjoyable access to the countryside for all, particularly those who are the most disadvantaged, through excellent teaching and access to well-cared for special places. We connect people with the countryside.

Public Benefit

The Trustees believe that the charity operates under the following sections of the Charities Act 2011 and has a long tradition of ensuring maximum access to its services:

- The advancement of education

- The advancement of environmental protection or improvement

- The advancement of citizenship or community development

- The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science

Public benefit is evident in the wide variety of ages and backgrounds of people who access our services. We continually strive to make access fair and affordable.

We take seriously our commitment to ensuring that both sites are looked after to high ecological, environmental and animal welfare standards.

The trustees have given due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives in planning its future activities.

President's Report 2025

In 2025, the Countryside Education Trust celebrated its 50th birthday! The charity was established in 1975 by my father, Edward, Lord Montagu, to enable children and young people from inner cities to visit the countryside and the charity was a pioneer of environmental education.

We have evolved from being pioneers into experts in the intervening years, welcoming over a quarter of a million people to our sites. Ensuring fair access remains fundamental to the Trust's work, although the original remit of the charity has broadened over the years. Residential visits happen throughout the year but sit alongside day visits from school and community groups, public events and lectures, countryside skills workshops for adults, playgroups and an after-school club.

We have two very special sites at the core of the Countryside Education Trust, a residential centre at Home Farm and award-winning Treehouses in Hartford Wood, which are set in 40 acres of semi-natural ancient woodland. The Trust farms sustainably, breeds award-winning pedigree sheep, runs a small productive garden, cares for a heritage orchard and runs the Fort Climate Centre at Home Farm. Hartford Wood is managed much as the monks from Beaulieu Abbey did in the 13th Century, coppicing the understorey to provide evolving habitats for a huge array of species. This is a rich background for biodiversity, with a stream running through it and down to the Beaulieu River, which provides access to river and coastal habitats.

Over the past 50 years, The Countryside Education Trust has always attracted dedicated people both as staff and volunteers, as well as being blessed by wonderful support from our local community, generous funders and Friends. The celebrations across the year involved many of those supporters, as well as people who first visited as children and who are now bringing their own children to be inspired in the same way about the wonders of the countryside.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of this journey,

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu

Our work in 2025

The context remained one of economic fragility during 2025. According to the Office for National Statistics, there were modest real wage gains of somewhere between 0.5-0.9% but over 58% of UK adults reported that they did not feel financially comfortable and long-standing cost of living effects continued to be felt. This has been the backdrop for our work and has required agility in how we approach every element of our work.

Schools too continued to be under pressure, in particular in the face of increasing numbers of children requiring more complex interventions, falling rolls and constrained budgets.

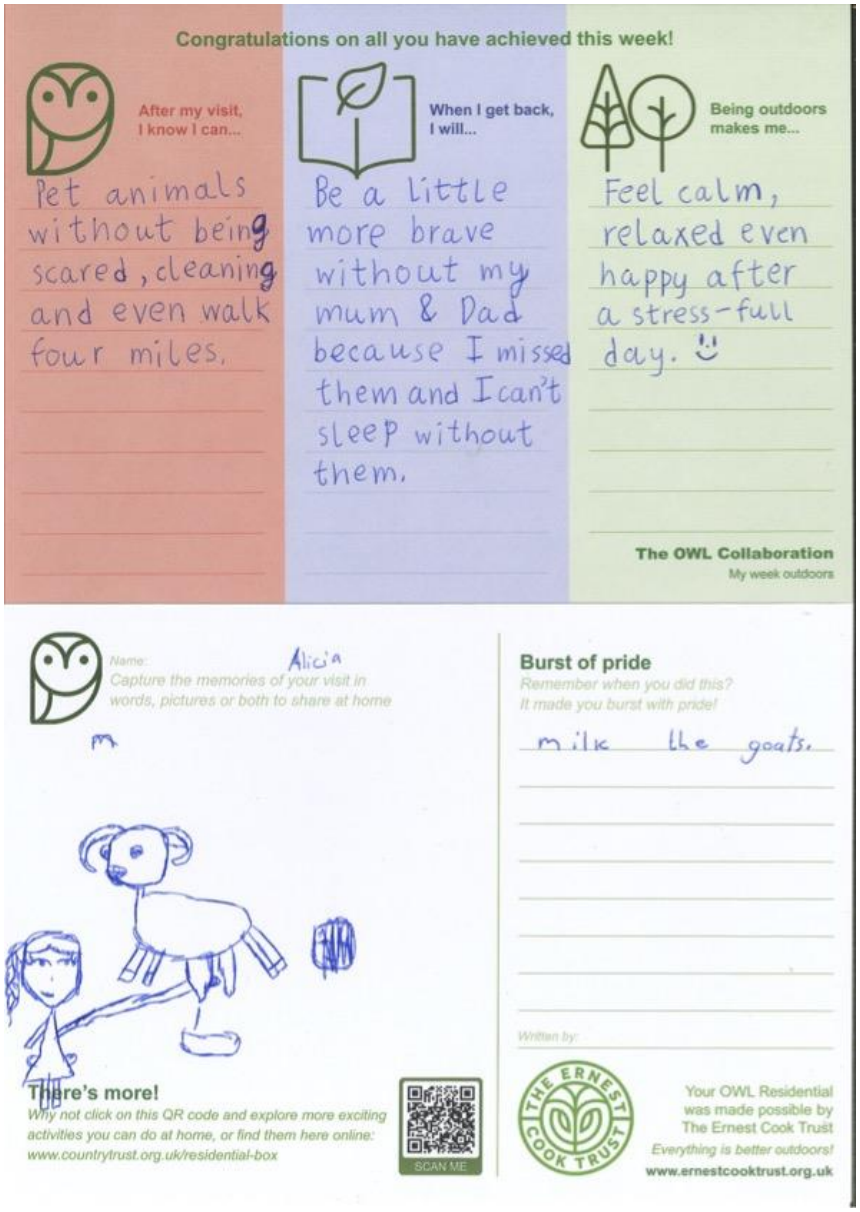
We have noticed a hesitancy from schools to enable week-long residentials for a variety of reasons including anxiety affecting the appetites of both parents and children to be away from home, a challenging economic environment (in spite of keeping prices low and subsidising where we can) and the management challenge a reduced number of children attending per class creates for headteachers within school. We have adapted our model so that the majority of visits are now for 3 days, though we are trialling different approaches and visit formats to ensure that children do not miss out on these formative experiences. Though school residentials are only one element of our work, they are a foundational element.

For the Countryside Education Trust, this has therefore been a year in which partnership working has been key to our ability to deliver our charitable objectives.

All about Partnerships: Ernest Cook Trust

We first started to talk to the Ernest Cook Trust in the spring of 2020 as the pandemic struck, and it became clear that residential centres were going to struggle to keep going. The Ernest Cook Trust focussed its attention on settings with farms, places with responsibilities to livestock as well as visiting children, and the Countryside Education Trust was fortunate to be included in the Outdoor Week of Learning project. This partnership has provided funding, research and friendship, all invaluable to a small charity.

In 2025, the Ernest Cook Trust's annual funding enabled 133 free or heavily subsidised visits for young people, provided additional funding for an enhanced relationship with a school in Southampton to grow its own nature connectedness, facilitated regular online meetings and hosted in person team meetings with colleagues across the initiative so that experiences and best practice could be shared. A research programme has supported the work too, so that we have started to test ways of more fully evaluating our programmes.



Feedback postcards used with the Outdoor Week of Learning children

All about Partnerships: Generation Green Day Visits (Defra)

Working with the New Forest National Park we were able to bring young people from eligible schools in urban environments into the woods and onto the farm to have a first-hand experience of being in the countryside. The funding enabled 438 children to visit the Trust.



"We found an eel!" Spring 2025 at Middle Pond

As David Bence the Chair of the New Forest National Park explained

'The New Forest is surrounded by urban areas, including big cities and towns, such as Southampton, Salisbury and Bournemouth, and yet some young people growing up in these areas aren't able to, or have never, accessed the National Park.

'Generation Green 2, and the work of our education and youth team in collaboration with the Countryside Education Trust, means hundreds of young people have experienced the special qualities of the National Park first hand, connected with the landscape and will hopefully become protectors of it in the future.'

Feedback was fabulous. One teacher said

'This was very well organised and the adults leading were very responsive to the children. They engaged them and had a great understanding of the subjects involved.'

Another commented

'The children all had a fantastic day, they all agreed it was the best trip they had ever been on'.

The children said that they felt free in the woods, loved cuddling and feeding the animals on the farm and had a real adventure. Our team finds it genuinely uplifting to help introduce children to nature for the first time.

All about Partnerships: Youth for Climate and Nature – National Lottery Community Fund

Partnership on a wide scale was true of The Youth for Climate and Nature project, which has been funded across three years by a Climate Action Fund grant from the National Lottery Community Fund. The CET is one of seven partners, The New Forest National Park, The Freshwater Habitats Trust, the Parks Foundation, Southampton National Park City, Alabaré and Theatre for Life and the area involved spans 300 square miles. The project is proving very successful for the Trust.

One of the most positive pillars has been the Trust's internship scheme, creating internships for young people and career changes for people to gain paid work experience, partly to overcome the barrier of volunteering and affordability which is the alternative.

A common factor with all the young people we interviewed was a desire to gain practical conservation experience. Many expressed confidence in academic knowledge, technical skills, communication and interpretation of environmental and climate related issues, but not the practical skills to back this up in a work setting and saw this as a barrier to getting into the environmental sector. Additionally, many young people are encouraged to volunteer or undergo work experience as a means of getting into a green career but many are unable to commit time to unpaid work and this is a fundamental stumbling block to equality of access.

Our solution has been to develop and test different models of paid interning. One is long term, part-time over several months with interns working one to two days per week, designed to fit around other work, education, or family commitments, another has been based on full-time week-long internships. By contrast, in 2025 we trialled a fully practical residential week. The residential option enabled us to broaden the offer to applicants from across the UK. Some of the interns completed their project during the week, and others used it as an induction to longer term placements which took place over the following months. The length of the programme meant that those who were working or in education were able to arrange time off to participate more easily. Non-residential stays were also offered for those aged 16-18 and a part-week option for those who needed to attend college or work on some of the days.

One of the residential attendees explained:

'My education had a more theoretical/academic than practical focus, I'd like to fill these experience gaps to increase my confidence and employability. While I fully intend to volunteer where possible to help do this, my financial situation compels me to focus upon paid work.'

Another added:

'I often can't budget for long-term volunteering commitments or training courses which are often key routes to this industry.'

For both short and long-term interns, a project supervisor was chosen based on individual specialisms and interests, who advised and worked with the intern on their project throughout their internship, and the team at the Trust found this a universally positive experience.



Training in coppicing for interns and young staff funded by YouCAN, Hartford Wood (photo credit: New Forest National Park)

The roles these interns undertook were many and varied, including coppicing assistant, livestock checker, social media and admin, event support, children's 'Owls club' assistant, creating an audio trail, coastal assistant, running a pop-up shop and renovating a herb bed to name just a few.

Most interns have moved directly into jobs, with just one going on to study, a related PHD in coastal change. One of the interns, Casey Spry, who wrote our audio trail, said:

'Getting paid while learning on the job helped support me whilst I looked for work and helped me build valuable skills for my CV. Ultimately, working at the CET gave me a kickstart into the industry. The experience I gained helped me secure my first full-time role as Marine Engagement Officer working on the Solent Seascape Project. I've loved engaging local communities in the amazing marine life we find in the Solent and raising awareness of the marine restoration work happening.'

And Charlie Marchant who came to the Trust from the Parks Foundation in Bournemouth, where he had also been funded by YouCAN agreed:

'There's not been a barrier of "you need a degree or a qualification, so you can't come in". I've been able to just work as hard as I can and get to where I want because YouCAN's provided that funding and those projects. They've taken a barrier down, the way I see it.'

All About Partnerships – Volunteers and Funders

Partnership working extends to volunteers, without whom the Trust would be a much more limited organisation. We are grateful for every volunteer contribution, be it volunteers helping on the farm or undertaking conservation work, helping to improve water management or baking cakes for events.



Volunteers rebuilding the top turret, summer 2025

A significant project has been running for some time to rebuild the Treehouses. Funding for raw materials has been donated in the past by the Beaulieu Beaufort Foundation, but this year that funding was boosted by a significant donation from the Caledonia Foundation. The grant was instantly put to good use by our band of increasingly skilled volunteers, which surpassed its already high standards in a technically complex rebuild of the Treehouse turrets.

This involved working at height and the disappointing discovery that every batten and shingle needed to be cut individually, as no two were the same. The attention to detail was phenomenal and relied on great teamwork and good humour, especially given some of the hottest weather of the year.

Concluding 2025



Poetry in the woods, a community event with our writer in residence, Yarrow Townsend

These major initiatives continued amidst our regular work. We ran Owls Clubs, delivered open events to the public through the year, and looked after our land to the highest possible standards. We were fortunate to receive funding from Farming in Protected Landscapes which made life on the farm easier, as it meant we could be more self-sufficient as a team rather than relying on external contractors. We hosted the New Forest Southern Farm Cluster as well as the Landowner's Forum, funded by the Environment Agency, which covers the coast East of Lymington to Calshot, both groups seeking to operate at a landscape scale. Our work with secondary schools developed in a variety of directions, including through teaching woodland skills and writing as we hosted our first-ever writer-in-residence, thanks to Artful Scribe and the New Forest National Park. Creating the New Forest Songs series continued, funded by Culture in Common, working with local junior schools to create New Forest themes, and holding a concert at Ballard Schools Performance Centre, with transport also kindly provided by the school. Surveying the woodland as part of our Southern Farm Cluster work threw up rare species including Pink Disco Fungi. And we took a host of prizes for our Shetland Sheep at Sherborne Country Fair, including in the young handlers' category. So altogether another varied year where we served our communities and our landscapes well: a great way to celebrate our 50th anniversary.



Impact Report 2025

What does the future hold?

2026 will include Countryside Skills Workshops across a range of subjects from birds to farming to jam-making, our first AQA awards for young people, the completion of the New Forest Song Cycle, new courses with local secondary schools, and a new programme of water testing with volunteers to monitor our very special sites. We will develop our wedding microsite (woodlandweddings.uk) to promote weddings to support our income and grow new fundraising initiatives with support pledged by the Caledonia Foundation. Finally, our New Forest Green Skills Hub will launch with support from yet another kind funder, the NFU Mutual. We look forward to teaching more children, engaging more people in the countryside and protecting our habitats as we move into our 51st year.



Shetland ewes in the barn, just before lambing 2025

Principal Sources of Income

Much of our work is supported by grant income. Grant income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably. Where entitlement is subject to performance-related conditions, income is deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

We received funding from a range of sources. Friends supported the charity, as well as Redman Whitely Dixon, a local business and a small number of private Trusts. Other major funders include:

Environment Agency Championing Coastal Coordination (£24,078)
Farming in Protected Landscapes (£46,426)
The Caledonia Foundation (£35,000)
NFU Mutual (£7,899)
The Arts Council (£9,000)
The Ernest Cook Trust(£37,050)
The Fort Foundation (£15,734)
The CLA Charitable Trust (£5,000)
The Beaulieu Beaufort Foundation (£3,000)

Charitable Activities
Expenditure increased in line with increased funding in 2025.

Risk Management
The Trustees review the principal risks facing the charity on a regular basis through the Finance, Risk and Management Committee. Key risks include maintaining sufficient unrestricted reserves, dependence on grant funding, affordability pressures affecting schools and residential bookings, and managing the charity's physical assets and estate. Appropriate measures are in place to monitor and mitigate these risks.

Reserves Policy
The Trust holds total funds of £839,678 (2024: £900,357) at the year end, of which £386,804 (2024: £426,456) are restricted. Free reserves are arrived at by adjusting for the fixed assets required to continue to operate the Trust of £415,512 (2024: £428,497). Free reserves therefore amounted to £37,362 (2024: £45,404). Trustees aspire to hold three months of operating costs in reserves but this is challenging at the current time and we will seek to achieve this during 2026. After making enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to operate in the future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Structure, Governance and Management
The charity is governed currently by a Trust Deed and is an Unincorporated Association. The Trustees are working to put the Countryside Education Trust on a more modern footing by transferring it to be a CIO in the future. This is not intended to materially alter the CET's approach to its work, and should be a seamless process for beneficiaries and funders.

Trustees' Board meetings are held up to six times a year, supported by a Finance Risk and Management Committee. Trustees are recruited via advertising, and recommendation, following a skills audit process. The period of service is three years, which can be extended to six, but only to nine if there is a specific extraordinary reason.

All new trustees are briefed on their obligations under Charity law, the Charity Commission guidance, content of the Trust Deed, the trustees decision-making process, the plans and recent financial performance of the charity. They are also introduced to the key management personnel including the other trustees.

Contracting out is an effective and flexible way for the charity to contain its costs used for IT, HR, Design, and Website Support. Accountancy services and payroll are delivered by Beaulieu Enterprises Ltd, on a non-profit basis, which also enables the charity to benefit from bulk buying of other services including energy contracts and insurance purchasing as part of a larger group.

The Trustees are responsible for setting the remuneration of the charity's key management personnel. Remuneration is reviewed annually and takes account of the responsibilities of each role, individual performance, market conditions within the charity sector and the affordability of any increases. The Trustees aim to provide remuneration that is fair and proportionate and enables the charity to recruit and retain appropriately qualified staff.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and 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 incoming resources and application of resources 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 judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and 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. They 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 charity 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.

This report was approved by the trustees on 21st October 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



Phil Johnson
Chair

The Countryside Education Trust

Independent examiner's report
To the trustees of Countryside Education Trust

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of the Trust 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 Trust'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.

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 you as 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

Since the Charity'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 ICAEW, 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 the Trust 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 applicable 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.

4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

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.

Baleri

Casidhe Baleri ACA CTA
For and on behalf of Saffery LLP

Date: 21 October 2026

Midland House
2 Poole Road
Bournemouth Dorset BH2 5QY

The Countryside Education Trust

Statement of financial activities
For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	Restricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	**2**	187,440	106,513	293,953	161,434
Charitable activities	**5**	-	153,816	153,816	163,419
Other trading activities	**3,4**	-	69,335	69,335	59,178
Other income		-	12,003	12,003	1,383
Total income		187,440	341,667	529,107	385,414
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds:					
Voluntary income	**6**	-	36,482	36,482	26,426
Trading	**6**	-	16,562	16,562	39,986
Charitable activities	**6**	227,092	309,650	536,742	440,632
Total expenditure		227,092	362,694	589,786	507,044
Net (expenditure)/income before transfers		(39,652)	(21,027)	(60,679)	(121,630)
Transfers between funds	**15**	-	-	-	-
Net movement of funds		(39,652)	(21,027)	(60,679)	(121,630)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds at 1 January 2025		426,456	473,901	900,357	1,021,987
Total funds at 31 December 2025		386,804	452,874	839,678	900,357

All activities relate to continuing operations.

The notes on pages 19 to 35 form part of these financial statements.

The Countryside Education Trust

Balance sheet
As at 31 December 2025

	Note	£	2025 £	£	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**10**		774,066		754,665
Current assets					
Stock	**11**	15,216		13,784	
Debtors	**12**	131,326		181,772	
Cash at bank and in hand		72,791		65,147	
		219,333		260,703	
Creditors:					
Amounts falling due within one year	**13**	(134,612)		(96,056)	
Net current assets			84,721		164,647
Creditors:					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	**14**		(19,109)		(18,955)
Net assets			839,678		900,357
Represented by:					
Restricted funds	**15**		386,804		426,456
Unrestricted funds	**15**		452,874		473,901
Total funds			839,678		900,357

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 21st October 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



Phil Johnson
Chair

The notes on pages 19 to 35 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of cash flows
For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Net cash provided by/(absorbed in) operating activities	**16**	64,238	(27,774)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(54,117)	(20,885)
Net cash used in investing activities		(54,117)	(20,885)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Loan repayments		(2,477)	(9,167)
Net cash (used in)/provided by financing activities		(2,477)	(9,167)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		7,644	(57,826)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		65,147	122,973
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		72,791	65,147

The notes on pages 19 to 35 form part of these financial statements.

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The Countryside Education Trust is an unincorporated charity. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) effective 1 January 2019 and Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and Charities Act 2011.

Countryside Education Trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on the basis that the charity is a going concern. The Trustees have considered the current uncertainties and do not believe they will impact the ability of the charity to continue its activities for the foreseeable future.

1.3 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Income (continued)

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure headings.

The cost of generating funds includes the cost incurred in generating voluntary income and fundraising trading costs. These costs are regarded as necessary to generate funds that are needed to finance charitable activities.

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

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include audit fees, legal advice for trustees and costs linked to the strategic management of the trust.

Support costs are those costs which enable the fund generating and charitable activities to be undertaken. These costs include finance, human resources, communication and professional fees. Where expenditure incurred relates to more than one cost category it is apportioned on a time or usage basis, over and above a de minimis figure.

1.6 Operating leases

Rentals under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

1.7 Stocks

Stocks for resale are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Stocks used as part of a charitable activity are valued at fair value. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

1.8 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Buildings	2-5% straight line
Machinery and equipment	5% and 20% straight line
Motor vehicles	12.5%-25% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	10% straight line

Tangible fixed assets costing less than £500 are not capitalised and are written off in the year of purchase. All assets are examined annually for potential impairment and any material deductions in value are written down at the year end.

1.9 Interest receivable

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.

1.10 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.11 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.12 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Concessionary loans include those payable to third parties which are interest free or below market interest rates and are received to advance charitable purposes. All loans are measured at cost, less impairment as permitted by section 34 of FRS 102.

1.13 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the charity to the fund in respect of the year.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted funds 2025	Unrestricted funds 2025	Total funds 2025	Restricted funds 2024	Unrestricted funds 2024	Total funds 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Individual donors	-	105,315	105,315	-	105,681	105,681
Friends of CET	-	1,198	1,198	-	1,353	1,353
Grants	187,440	-	187,440	54,400	-	54,400
Total donations and legacies	187,440	106,513	293,953	54,400	107,034	161,434

3 Activities to generate funds

	Restricted funds 2025	Unrestricted funds 2025	Total funds 2025	Restricted funds 2024	Unrestricted funds 2024	Total funds 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fundraising activities	-	27,213	27,213	-	6,896	6,896
	-	27,213	27,213	-	6,896	6,896

4 Trading activities

	Restricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Charity trading income						
Wedding income	-	11,087	11,087	-	17,700	17,700
Holiday let income	-	22,599	22,599	-	18,393	18,393
Other trading income	-	8,436	8,436	-	16,189	16,189
	-	42,122	42,122	-	52,282	52,282
Charity trading expenses						
Wedding purchases	-	926	926	-	-	-
Holiday let purchases	-	12,836	12,836	-	28,736	28,736
Other trading purchases	-	2,800	2,800	-	11,250	11,250
Net income/ (expenditure) from trading activities	-	25,560	25,560	-	12,296	12,296

5 Income from charitable activities

	Restricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Primary purpose activity:						
Residential fees	-	134,347	134,347	-	145,983	145,983
Non-residential fees and income	-	19,469	19,469	-	17,436	17,436
Total	-	153,816	153,816	-	163,419	163,419

6 Total expenditure

Current Year	Staff costs (Note 9)	Other direct costs	Support costs (Note 7)	Governance costs	Total 2025
Expenditure on raising funds					
Fundraising	-	7,273	29,209	-	36,482
Trading	-	16,562	-	-	16,562
	-	23,835	29,209	-	53,044
Expenditure on charitable activities					
Primary purpose trade	257,952	136,924	134,911	6,955	536,742
Governance	-	-	6,955	(6,955)	-
	257,952	160,759	171,075	-	589,786
Support staff costs	68,570		(68,570)		
	326,522		102,505		

6 Total expenditure (continued)

Prior Year	Staff costs (Note 9)	Other direct costs	Support costs (Note 7)	Governance costs	Total 2024
Expenditure on raising funds					
Fundraising	-	-	26,426	-	26,426
Trading	-	39,986	-	-	39,986
	-	39,986	26,426	-	66,412
Expenditure on charitable activities					
Primary purpose trade	217,222	123,998	93,120	6,292	440,632
Governance	-	-	6,292	(6,292)	-
	217,222	163,984	125,838	-	507,044
Support staff costs	57,742		(57,742)		
	274,964		68,096		

7 Support costs

	Costs of generating voluntary income	Primary purpose trading	Governance	Total 2025
	£	£	£	£
Office costs	14,809	84,170	3,526	102,505
Staff costs	14,400	50,741	3,429	68,570
	29,209	134,911	6,955	171,075

7 Support costs (continued)

Prior year	Costs of generating voluntary income	Primary purpose trading	Governance	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Office costs	14,300	50,391	3,405	68,096
Staff costs	12,126	42,729	2,887	57,742
	26,426	93,120	6,292	125,838

8 Net incoming resources

This is stated after charging:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	34,716	32,960
Independent examiner's fee	3,000	3,000
Operating lease rentals	10,263	10,680

9 Staff employment costs

Staff costs were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	291,307	251,818
Social security costs	27,427	16,296
Other pension costs	7,788	6,850
	326,522	274,964

The average number of persons employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
	15	14

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

Key management personnel received remuneration and benefits totalling £28,302 (2024: £34,469) and pension contributions of £1,132 (2024: £1,379).

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Buildings	Machinery and equipment	Motor vehicles	Fixtures & fittings	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 January 2025	1,161,770	178,348	61,832	-	1,401,950
Additions	24,709	26,798	-	2,610	54,117
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2025	1,186,479	205,146	61,832	2,610	1,456,067
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2025	438,165	151,363	57,757	-	647,285
Charge for the year	28,560	5,546	588	22	34,716
Eliminated on Disposal	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2025	466,725	156,909	58,345	22	682,001
Net book value					
At 31 December 2025	719,754	48,237	3,487	2,588	774,066
At 31 December 2024	723,605	26,985	4,075	-	754,665

11 Stock

	2025	2024
	£	£
Stock	15,216	13,784

12 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	38,968	29,750
Other debtors	92,358	152,022
	131,326	181,772

13 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Bank loans	4,247	6,878
Trade creditors	6,280	14,072
Other taxation and social security	3,599	3,601
Other creditors and accruals	55,097	30,266
Deferred income	65,389	41,239
	134,612	96,056

14 Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Bank loans	19,109	18,955

The Bounce Back loan was drawn down in July 2021. It has a term of 72 months. Capital repayments will commence 13 months following the drawdown of the loan. A capital repayment holiday has been granted for the period 8 December 2024 until 8 May 2025 with repayments made during this period being interest only. A guarantee has been provided by the UK Government under BBLS.

15 Statement of funds

Statement of funds – current year

	At 1 January 2025 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers in/out £	At 31 December 2025 £
Designated funds – fixed assets	428,497	-	(12,985)	-	415,512
General funds					
General funds	45,404	341,667	(349,709)	-	37,362
Total unrestricted funds	473,901	341,667	(362,694)		452,874
Restricted funds					
Vehicle Fund	1,335	-	(1,335)	-	-
Sensory Trail Project Fund	22,539	-	-	-	22,539
Bird Trail Fund	1,409	-	(470)	-	939
Fort Climate Centre	219,618	10,773	(18,338)	-	212,053
The OWL Collaboration	14,450	37,050	(36,945)	-	14,555
Residential Bathrooms Fund	13,720	-	(2,434)	-	11,286
Green Cascade Volunteer Programme	455	-	(455)	-	-
Green & Blue Horizons Project	890	-	(296)	-	594
Treehouse Repairs Fund	13,000	13,000	-	-	26,000
IT Equipment Fund	246	-	-	-	246
YouCAN Project Fund	134,692	3,998	(89,676)	-	49,014
3C's Project Fund	3,358	25,020	(28,379)	-	(1)
Arts Council New Forest Song	1,115	9,000	-	-	10,115
Skyview Fund	-	5,373	(2,597)	-	2,776
Skills Hub Fund	-	7,899	(30)	-	7,869
Owl Boxes Fund	-	2,000	(583)	-	1,417
Outdoor Kit Fund	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
Generation Green Fund	-	25,210	(25,210)	-	-
Farming in Protected Landscapes	(371)	46,427	(19,704)	-	26,352
Animal Feed Fund	-	690	(640)	-	50
	426,456	187,440	(227,092)	-	386,804
Total funds	900,357	529,107	(589,786)	-	839,678

15 Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds – prior year

	At 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers in/out	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds – fixed assets	441,482	-	(12,985)	-	428,497
General funds					
General funds	34,228	331,014	(319,838)	-	45,404
Total unrestricted funds	475,710	331,014	(332,823)	-	473,901
Restricted funds					
Minibus Fund	1,597	-	(262)	-	1,335
Sensory Trail Project Fund	22,539	-	-	-	22,539
Bird Trail Fund	1,879	-	(470)	-	1,409
Fort Climate Centre	230,637	-	(11,019)	-	219,618
Residential Bathrooms Project	15,000	-	(1,280)	-	13,720
Treehouse Repairs Fund	9,000	4,000	-	-	13,000
YouCAN Project Fund	193,717	-	(59,025)	-	134,692
The OWL Collaboration	37,225	36,400	(59,175)	-	14,450
Green & Blue Horizons	1,186	-	(296)	-	890
Green Cascade Volunteer Programme	455	-	-	-	455
IT Equipment Fund	560	-	(314)	-	246
3C's Project Fund	32,482	8,000	(37,124)	-	3,358
Arts Council New Forest Song	-	6,000	(4,885)	-	1,115
Farming in Protected Landscapes	-	-	(371)	-	(371)
	546,277	54,400	(174,221)	-	426,456
Total funds	1,021,987	385,414	(507,044)	-	900,357

15 Statement of funds (continued)

Summary of funds – current year

	At 1 January 2025	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers in/out	At 31 December 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds	428,497	-	(12,985)	-	415,512
General funds	45,404	341,667	(349,709)	-	37,362
	473,901	341,667	(362,694)	-	452,874
Restricted funds	426,456	187,440	(227,092)	-	386,804
	900,357	529,107	(589,786)	-	839,678

Summary of funds – prior year

	At 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers in/out	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds	441,482	-	(12,985)	-	428,497
General funds	34,228	331,014	(319,838)	-	45,404
	475,710	331,014	(332,823)	-	473,901
Restricted funds	546,277	54,400	(174,221)	-	426,456
	1,021,987	385,414	(507,044)	-	900,357

Designated funds

The fixed asset designated fund has been set up to reflect those assets held by the charity that were acquired previously with restricted funds, principally the refurbishment and development of the New Forest Study Centre, and improvements at the Out of Town Centre.

Restricted revenue funds descriptions

Vehicle Fund - To fund the purchase of a replacement minibus following the destruction of old one due to vandalism.

Sensory Trail Project Fund - The Sensory Trail Project Fund is to contribute towards the Sensory Trail Project in the garden area at Home Farm.

Bird Trail Fund - The Bird Trail Fund is to contribute towards the building of a bird trail and hide for bird watching, together with associated display boards and cameras.

Fort Climate Centre Fund - The Fort Climate Centre Fund is for building and equipping the new Fort Climate Centre Building, funded by the Fort Foundation.

The OWL Collaboration - A multi-year project aimed at disadvantaged young people enabling them to experience high quality residential Outdoor Weeks of Learning (OWLs.) Transfers reflect the funds being used to fund such OWLs.

Residential Bathrooms Fund – funding a project to futureproof the residential centre bathrooms so that they are suitable for a wider range of groups.

Green Cascade Volunteer Programme – funded the cost of training for existing staff, who will then go on to train volunteers, who, in the future can assist with training of further volunteers.

Green and Blue Horizons Project - a National Heritage Lottery funded scheme for public engagement and outreach.

Treehouse Repairs Fund – Donations towards major Treehouse Repairs Project, specifically replacement of walkways, supports & replacement decking.

IT Equipment Fund – Donation towards purchase of new IT equipment.

YouCAN Project Fund – Funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the Youth for Climate and Nature Scheme.

3Cs Project Fund – Funding a programme of work being led by the Environment Agency with support from Natural England, the Marine Management Organisation and the Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities.

Arts Council New Forest Song - The New Forest Song, funded by the Arts Council, is a project enabling local schools to co-create music capturing the children's feelings about and understanding the New Forest.

Skyview Fund - Towards the maintenance of the Skyview weather stations at Home Farm and the Treehouse site, funded by the Fort Foundation.

Skills Hub Fund - Towards the costs of setting up the CET as a skills hub, offering accredited training and countryside workshops, funded by NFU Mutual.

Owl Boxes Fund - Towards the construction of new owl boxes, funded by the Marden Charitable Trust.

Outdoor Kit Fund - Towards the purchase of outdoor kit for young people, funded by the Hedley Foundation.

Generation Green Fund - The New Forest National Park Authority worked with the CET to provide funded visits for young people living in areas of social disadvantage to connect with the National Park.

Farming in Protected Landscapes - The Farming in Protected Landscapes grant provides equipment and machinery to enable better land management practices.

Animal Feed Fund - Proceeds from a Crowdfunder appeal to purchase feed for the CET farm animals over the winter months, as the hay harvest was poor in 2025.

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds – current year

	Restricted funds 2025	Designated funds 2025	Unrestricted funds 2025	Total funds 2025
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	279,320	415,512	79,234	774,066
Current assets	107,484	-	111,849	219,333
Creditors due within one year	-	-	(134,612)	(134,612)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	-	(19,109)	(19,109)
	386,804	415,512	37,362	839,678

Analysis of net assets between funds – prior year

	Restricted funds 2024	Designated funds 2024	Unrestricted funds 2024	Total funds 2024
	£		£	£
Fixed assets	249,795	428,497	76,373	754,665
Current assets	176,661	-	84,042	260,703
Creditors due within one year	-	-	(96,056)	(96,056)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	-	(18,955)	(18,955)
	426,456	428,497	45,404	900,357

16 Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Net (expenditure)/income for the year	(60,679)	(121,630)
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation charges	34,716	32,960
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	-
(Increase)/ Decrease in stocks	(1,432)	211
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	50,446	97,504
Increase/ (Decrease) in creditors	41,187	(36,819)
Net cash provided by/ (absorbed in) operating activities	64,238	(27,774)

17 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash in hand	72,791	65,147

18 Pension commitments

The charity participates in a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the fund and amounted to £7,788 (2024: £6,850). Contributions totalling £2,510 (2024: £2,360) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

19 Operating lease commitments

At 31 December 2025 the total of the Charity's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating lease payments was:

	Land and buildings		Other	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Amounts payable:				
Within 1 year	5,333	5,667	1,679	1,679
Between 1 and 5 years	19,240	19,204	2,519	4,198
After more than 5 years	200,805	205,231	-	-
Total	225,378	230,102	4,198	5,877

20 Trustees

No Trustee or closely connected person received emoluments from the charity and no expenses were reimbursed to Trustees during the year.

During the year the charity provided Trustee indemnity insurance to cover all its trustees at a cost of £1,624 (2024: £1,624).

21 Related party transactions

During the year the charity entered the following transactions with connected parties.

Beaulieu Enterprises Limited ('BEL') a company in which one of the directors was also Trustee of the charity.

Recharged services provided by BEL amounted to £35,623 (2024: £34,969).

Recharged services provided to BEL amounted to £105 (2024: £nil).

At the year end the balance owed by BEL to the charity amounted to £9,684 (2024: £487 owed to BEL).

Lord Montagu - A Trustee of the charity

During the year the trust leased all leasehold properties from the private estate of Lord Montagu. The rentals payable on these properties for the year were £13,796 (2024: £13,157).

The charity also paid £2,174 (2024: £872) for other services provided by the private estate of the Lord Montagu. At the year end the balance owed by Lord Montagu to the charity amounted to £635 (2024: £1,801 owed to Lord Montagu).

22 Control

The charity is controlled by its Trustees acting in accordance with the terms of the governing trust deed.



What next? Hartford Woods

Countryside Education Trust
Home Farm
Palace Lane
Beaulieu
SO42 8AH