

Annual Report 2025

Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

Creating change, one adventure at a time

Bendrigg

Introduction & contents

Bendrigg Trust: Trustees' foreword

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements for Bendrigg Trust, an incorporated charity with charity number 508450 and company number 01396557, for the year ending 31 December 2025. This report includes the requirements of a director's report as required by company law.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Contents

Chairman's Statement	3
Vision, Mission and Values	6
Objectives and Achievements	10
Year in Numbers	13
Volunteering	17
Beyond Bendrigg	20
Looking Forward	22
Fundraising Standards	25
Risk Management	26
Treasurer's Report	27
Structure, Governance and Management	29
Trustees' Official Statement	31
Independent Auditor's Report	33
Statement of Financial Activities	37
Balance Sheet	38
Cash Flow Statement	39
Notes to Financial Statements	40
References and Administrative Details	58

Chairman's Statement



A statement from our Chair of Trustees

A year of continued progress

2025 marks another successful year for the Trust. Despite a challenging external environment, including the ongoing cost of living pressures and the long shadow of inflation arising from the COVID years and the war in Ukraine, visitor bookings held up well and costs were tightly controlled. As a result, what initially appeared to be a daunting budgeted unrestricted deficit of £150,000 was reduced to a far more manageable £72,210. Credit is due to the Management Team for their close oversight of the budget and their ability to identify alternative approaches that delivered meaningful savings without compromising quality.

Our visitors continued to provide excellent feedback about their experiences at Bendrigg, frequently sharing both their satisfaction and their excitement about the activities they took part in. One visitor recently wrote:

> "
>
> **My daughter, Beth, who has cerebral palsy, couldn't believe she would be able to join in with all the activities. It has been the most amazing experience for her, and for her twin to be able to do things together.**

During the year, several more efficient approaches to course programming were trialled. These included greater use of single instructor activities and more balanced programmes, allowing tutors to work more effectively.

The Beyond Bendrigg initiative began to take real shape during the year. A large contract with a local authority in the Northeast proved both rewarding and challenging. In its early stages, the contract required a significant time commitment from senior managers in order to ensure its success. Alongside this, a partnership was forged with PGL, a major provider of activity holidays, to develop an e-learning package, which is expected to provide a small but regular income stream in the future.

Taken together, these developments clarified the need for permanent roles to take the initiative forward. This is enabling Bendrigg to build a national reputation as a centre of excellence for training in disability awareness, while also expanding our reach. In addition to our direct work with visitors, Bendrigg is increasingly influencing a much wider audience through the many professionals and organisations we train.

During the year, one trustee, Jeremy Prall, stepped down from the Board. He has made a significant contribution to the Trust, and his experience in fundraising proved invaluable. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all his work and commitment.

The Bendrigg Alternative Scheme underwent a significant change during the year. It became increasingly difficult to sustain placements from prisons due to a rise in early releases and prisoners moving into paid employment. As a result, the decision was taken to cease placements in their existing form. While this marks a shift in approach, the objectives of the scheme remain central to the Trust's purpose. A review is now underway to explore alternative ways of achieving these aims in a more sustainable and effective way.

Of course, the core of our work continues to be the day-to-day courses based at Bendrigg. After some delays, the refurbishment of the popular tube slide was completed, resulting in a much more professional and inclusive facility. The installation of permanent electric hoists and bespoke areas at both the top and bottom has significantly improved its use. This marks the first stage in the introduction of several new activities across the site.

Finally, I would like to offer my thanks to everyone who has worked so hard to make this a successful year. This includes our staff, our volunteers and all those stakeholders who continue to support Bendrigg and make it what it is today.



Chair of Trustees



"

What an amazing place full of amazing staff and volunteers, amazing weekend due to the commitment and help of all the team.



Our vision, mission and values

Our vision

To harness the power of adventure to create lasting change and transform communities for all.

At our core, we champion the transformative power of adventure, seeing it not just as an individual journey but as a force that shapes society for the better. Our vision hinges on the Bendrigg experience being a catalyst, reshaping societal perspectives and creating enduring, impactful changes in people's lives.

Our mission

If our vision defines our goal, then our mission statement defines what we will do every day to achieve it.

We make adventure accessible, working together to overcome barriers and transform lives.


EDELRID
PETZL

Our values

Our values are at the heart of Bendrigg, shaping who we are and how we operate. They've been with us since the start, passed down by each employee. They are crucial, always leading the way we think and act.

Bring Compassion

Bendrigg is a place built on empathy. By taking the time to listen, being consistently compassionate and valuing each person for who they are, we create a unique haven where kindness is in the air, and adventure is in the offing. At Bendrigg, there is always freedom to have fun, all are welcomed, and all are valued.

Practice Progress

Every day is a chance to make lasting changes, not just for visitors or their families. We constantly look for improvement and find better ways of working. We challenge traditional approaches, offer innovative ideas, and develop our practice. Little by little, we make big changes – becoming a force for progress far beyond our borders.

Push Past Boundaries

Some limits may be real, but we remove the ones that aren't. We challenge attitudes, strip away doubts and break through personal barriers. Removing those limits is how we will make extraordinary things happen. We instil self-belief that reshapes everyday lives for individuals and brings a new understanding that will reshape our communities.

Embrace Nature

There is no better classroom, there is no better therapy. This place is not just the setting for adventure; the outdoors is part of our purpose and our personality. Stepping outside and connecting with nature spurs our growth and improves our well-being, making an impact that lasts well beyond a visit.

Make It for Everyone

Opening doors is what we do; to an outdoors full of exciting and empowering adventures, to new abilities and attitudes, to personal potential waiting to be fulfilled. We open these doors for absolutely everyone, with endless flexibility and steadfast adaptability. At Bendrigg, we are exclusively inclusive and we always find a way.

Work As One

We value each and every individual, but it's as a team that we excel. From staff and volunteers to first-time visitors and experienced leaders, we all contribute and 'muck in'. We celebrate all our successes and share all our missteps. We are all each other's cheerleaders and safety nets, trusted advisors, and personal champions. We are all equals.



The spirit of adventure is incredible. A bona fide superpower that can fill any one of us with conviction and confidence, with new abilities and renewed agency. And it's universal too – not the exclusive preserve of the advantaged and non-disabled. It's for everyone because we're making sure it is.

At Bendrigg, we have the setting and the scenery, the equipment and the expertise, the people and the passion. Together, we have a limitless supply of adventure, with a limitless determination to improve people's lives.

Because we know that, whatever adventure means to each individual, it has the power to empower. To challenge and inspire, to tear down barriers and build up possibilities, to create real and lasting change.

Above all, it has the power to change minds – within those individuals and across our whole society: changing the way people see their world and changing the way the world sees them.

#BeMoreBendrigg

Bendrigg

Objectives & achievements

Objectives

In 2025, we continued delivery of our five year strategic plan, covering 2024 - 2029. To turn our ambitions into achievements, we set five objectives.

1. Increasing our reach and impact
2. Developing leading facilities and services
3. Strengthen our financial position
4. Take strides towards net zero
5. Support and develop people

Achievements

Stand Up Paddleboards

In 2025 Bendrigg received a grant from the Moulding Foundation to purchase Stand Up Paddleboards (SUP's), introducing an exciting new activity for our groups. The seven boards includes a 'Super SUP' which can accommodate up to eight people and provides a stable platform for individuals with complex disabilities. The tutor team have begun training, with sessions planned to launch in 2026. This new activity offers a fun and inclusive addition to the Bendrigg experience.





New Accessibility Equipment

Bendrigg has continued to improve accessibility by investing in new equipment and facilities to ensure everyone can take part in our activities, whatever their needs. Working in partnership with Killington Sailing Association, a hoist has been installed on the jetty to support access to water based activities. Further developments include safe sleeping systems such as the 'Cloud Cuddle', alongside specialist seating including 'P-Pods' and a 'Chillibean'.

Major Lodge maintenance

The Lodge has undergone significant maintenance work, including a new balcony banister and essential roof repairs to ensure the building remains fit for purpose. Some of this work was delayed due to the impact of the pandemic, and we continue to catch up while managing a period of financial uncertainty, prioritising investment to maintain a high standard of provision.





Specialist sector conference

In November 2026, Bendrigg hosted the Accessible Outdoor Learning annual conference. This sector group within the Institute for Outdoor Learning brings together professionals focused on disability inclusion in outdoor settings. The event provided a valuable opportunity to share best practice, hear from leaders across the field and strengthen connections. It also supported our ongoing commitment to promoting inclusive outdoor experiences and learning from others to further develop our work.

Expanding our reach in Teeside

Through the Unlocking Access programme, the Beyond Bendrigg team worked with venues across Teeside to improve accessibility and inclusion. Combining access audits, consultancy and tailored training, the programme supported organisations to build confidence, strengthen skills and embed inclusive practice. This work aimed to ensure disabled people feel welcomed, respected and able to fully engage with the region's cultural and visitor offer.



New Accessible Minibus

Our new accessible minibus, purchased in 2025, will play a vital role in supporting thousands of disabled people to access adventure, with expected daily use throughout the year. As more of our fleet are replaced in our brand, people are more likely to notice and recognise the Bendrigg buses taking people on accessible adventures throughout the local area.





Big Give Success

In our most successful campaign of the year, the Big Give Christmas Challenge raised over £100,000 for Bendrigg's work in December 2025. In an increasingly challenging financial environment, these vital funds support all of Bendrigg's day-to-day work and contribute towards making our future plans a reality.

Sensory Room refurbishment

Our sensory room has been fully refurbished to create a more engaging and accessible space for visitors. The project introduced new specialist equipment including interactive lighting, sound systems, tactile features and a H-track hoist to support wheelchair users to access all the elements. Completed in December 2025, the refreshed room provides a calming environment that supports relaxation and self regulation, helping visitors get the most from their visit.



Our year in numbers

We welcomed

4,565

visitors

2,928
participants

1,462
group leaders / carers

175
volunteers



153
residentials



46
day activities

37%
of visitors were from the top 30% most deprived areas of England



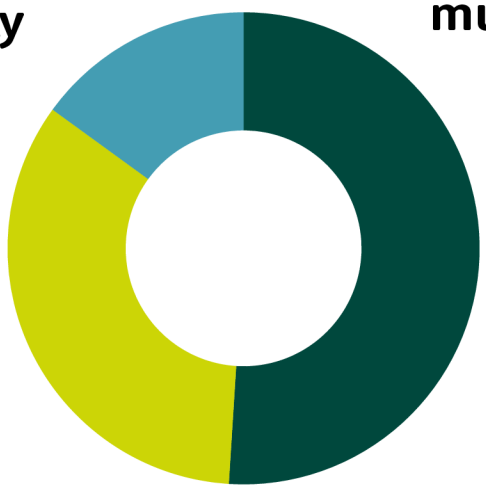
81%
of visitors are from urban areas

427
participants were wheelchair users

86%
of participants were under 25 years old

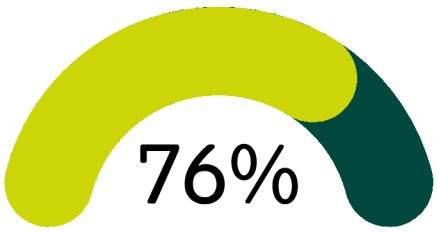
15%
of participants had no disability

51%
of participants had multiple disabilities

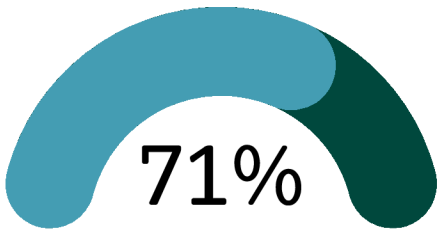


34%
of participants had one disability

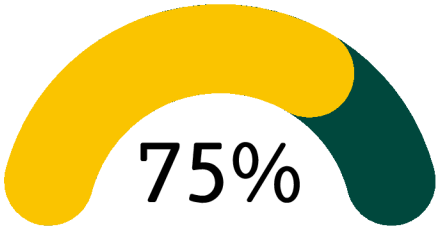
Participants felt...



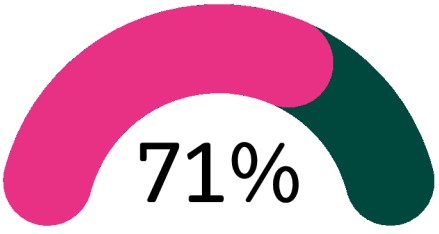
'Significantly' or 'considerably' more included



'Significantly' or 'considerably' greater independence



'Significant' or 'considerable' improvement in wellbeing



'Significant' or 'considerable' improvement in confidence


4.83 out of 5 stars for our services

Our year in numbers

A summary of our staff and volunteers for 2025

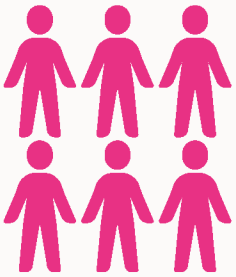
Bendrigg is fortunate to have incredible staff and volunteers who give their valuable time to support us.

Our volunteers gave

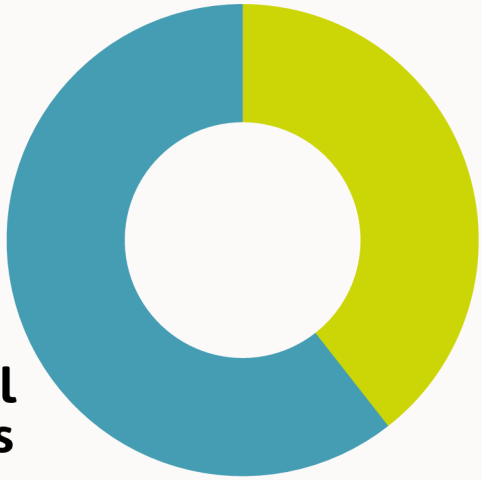
10,601 **hours of their time in 2025...**

...equivalent to

6 **full time members of staff**







69
day volunteers



106
residential volunteers

20%
of volunteers have a disability

43%
of staff have a disability and...

...an additional
22%
of staff have an immediate family member with a disability



> **It's a great chance to become more independent within a safe setting.**

Volunteering in 2025

Volunteering in the UK declined to historic lows in 2025. Despite Bendrigg also seeing a small dip in the number of volunteers (down by 18%), the number of hours that these volunteers gave only decreased by 5%.

In 2025, we are incredibly grateful to the 175 volunteers who collectively gave 10,601 hours of their time to Bendrigg. This is the equivalent of six full-time members of staff and has a hugely positive impact on Bendrigg as well as the volunteers themselves.

35 volunteers declared a disability. Whilst these individuals make up 20% of our volunteers, they actually make up an astonishing 32% of our volunteer hours; which proves the need for projects like 'Someone Like Me'.

'Someone Like Me' is a Bendrigg project supporting those with disabilities to volunteer. There remains a lack of recognition in society, for the contribution that people with disabilities can bring to volunteering. People with disabilities are often recipients of volunteer services but are rarely considered as a potential volunteer resource. 'Someone Like Me' seeks to support those with disabilities to volunteer at Bendrigg - becoming role models and mentors for our visitors.

Finding a voice through inclusive volunteering

***please note names have been changed**

Sandy first came to Bendrigg in 2024 to complete their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) practice and qualifying expeditions. Sandy has Autism, Postural tachycardia syndrome (PoTS), Ehlers-Danlos syndromes (EDS), and selective mutism.

When they arrived, Sandy was unable to speak, their anxiety was extremely high, and there was real uncertainty about whether they would be able to complete even the first day, let alone the full week-long expedition.

However, through the inclusive and supportive environment at Bendrigg, alongside the encouragement of staff and peers, Sandy not only completed the entire expedition but achieved something even more profound: they began to communicate and found their voice.

The impact of this experience was immediate and lasting. Just one day after returning home, Sandy got in touch to ask about applying for a volunteer placement as part of their Gold DofE Residential.

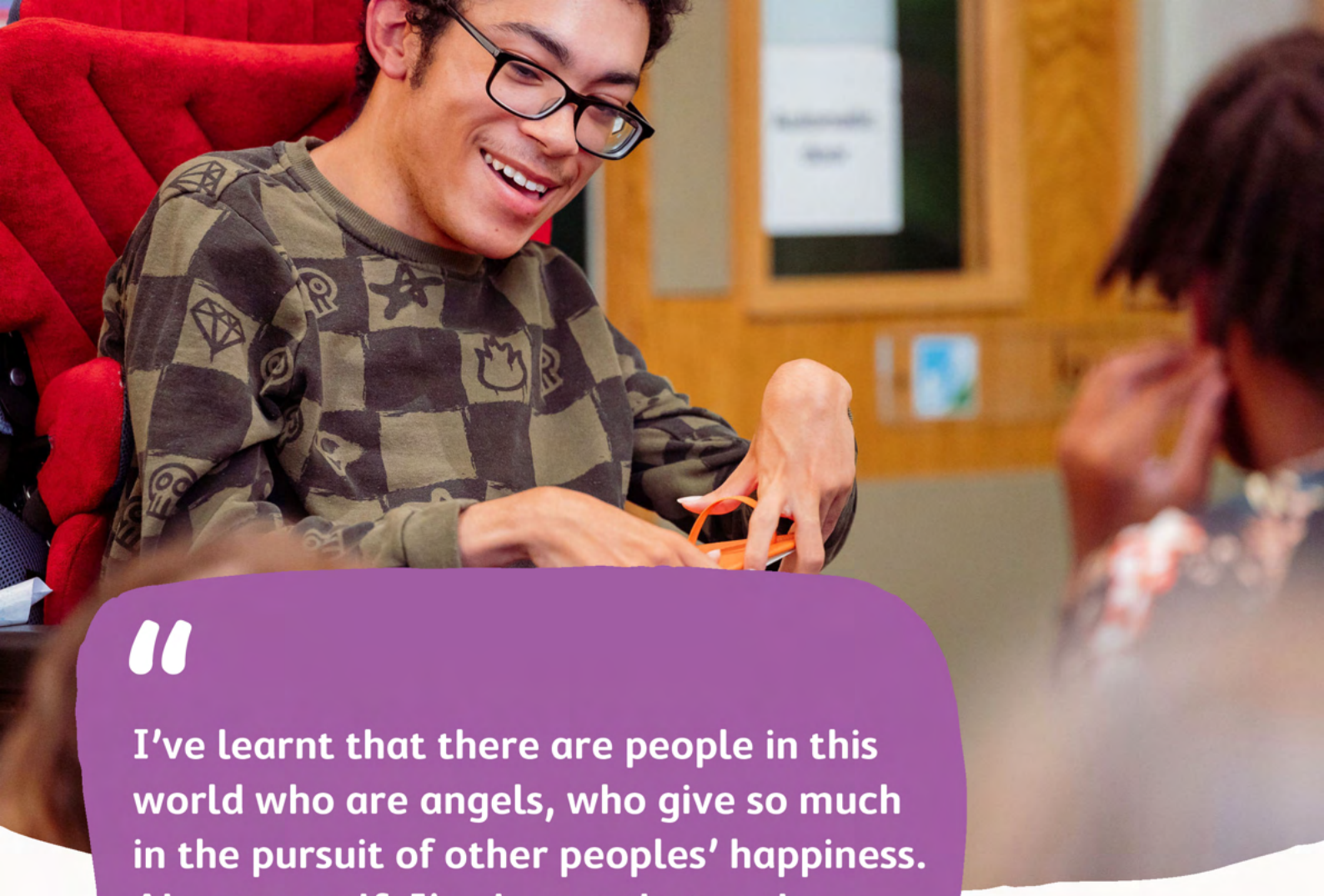
Sandy brought with them a strong interest in rock climbing, years of experience as an active Scout, and a passion for working with younger people. Yet, despite these strengths, they had previously been turned away by four organisations who initially accepted them as a volunteer, but withdrew their offers once their disabilities and support needs were disclosed.

Following their initial visit, Sandy returned to Bendrigg to complete their residential placement, successfully achieving their Gold DofE Award. Since then, they have continued to come back, both for enjoyment and to volunteer with additional groups, building confidence with each visit.

Their experience has also had a wider impact: Sandy's DofE manager now recommends Bendrigg to other young people who may feel that disability or additional needs are a barrier to participation.

Today, it is always a pleasure to welcome Sandy back. With every visit, we see their confidence grow, ensuring their voice is not only heard, but valued and understood.





> “I’ve learnt that there are people in this world who are angels, who give so much in the pursuit of other peoples’ happiness. About myself, I’ve learnt that perhaps this is something I could do.

Bendrigg Alternative Scheme

In recent years, changes to the Criminal Justice sector have put increasing pressure on our Bendrigg Alternative (BA) Scheme. It became increasingly difficult to sustain placements from prisons due to a rise in early releases and prisoners moving into paid employment. This, coupled with the departure of our Bendrigg Alternative Co-ordinator in July 2025, drove Bendrigg’s decision to pause placements in their existing form.

While this marks a shift in approach, the objectives of the scheme remain central to Bendrigg’s purpose. A review is now underway to explore alternative ways of achieving these aims in a more sustainable and effective way.

Despite these challenges, the Bendrigg Alternative scheme supported 7 unique individuals in 2025, across 15 placements. In total, BA volunteers gave over 320 hours of their time to supporting Bendrigg and our visitors.

Beyond Bendrigg

2025 year in review



'It was genuinely one of the most impactful learning experiences I've had.'

During the year, Beyond Bendrigg directly trained 184 people from 18 different organisations across 15 events, through a mix of face to face courses and online webinars. We continued to work with a range of national and regional partners including conservation organisations, outdoor education providers and universities. We delivered 35 days of consultancy and access audit work with 24 organisations, supporting venues to better understand accessibility and improve experiences for disabled visitors.

Course development remained a key focus in 2025, with four new training offers created in response to emerging demand. These included Climbing for All, Beyond a Warm Welcome, Leading Inclusive Group Walks, and an introductory course on ADHD and neurodivergence.

"

I have taken part in disability inclusion training with Beyond Bendrigg before, and it was genuinely one of the most impactful learning experiences I've had. The sessions were engaging, practical and grounded in real expertise. I learned a great deal that I have since put into practice in my day-to-day work.

The expertise and ethos of Bendrigg Trust have been instrumental in helping us build environments where everyone feels welcome and able to participate fully. I strongly endorse their disability training and believe that expanding this work will continue to drive meaningful, long-term change.

Milly McArther-Greenall
National Trust Inclusion and Belonging Coordinator

Feedback from training and consultancy continued to be positive, with 100% of participants stating they would recommend Beyond Bendrigg's training and the vast majority rating both content and delivery as good or very good.

Alongside delivery, 2025 saw important investment in staff development and capacity building, expanding the number of trained staff able to support training and consultancy work in future years.

Income for the year to the end of December totalled £35,098. While this was lower than originally projected, it reflected a deliberate shift in focus during the year. We prioritised longer-term development activity, with a particular focus on establishing sustainable services and partnerships to increase impact and generate income in future years. A significant proportion of our resources was directed towards the development of a new e-learning package for the outdoor and tourism sectors, alongside work to secure and commence delivery of a major contract with Tees Valley Combined Authority.

The work undertaken during 2025 has laid strong foundations for growth in 2026. Through a combination of direct delivery, consultancy and wider organisational change, Beyond Bendrigg's initiatives are estimated to reach over 80,000 disabled people annually, both directly and indirectly.



"May I send a personal thank you to you all for being part of a culture of change and progress within access and inclusion... it feels AMAZING to know that me and my family, and others like us who find everyday tasks difficult, and often impossible, will find it easier because of your work.

Kerami Roberts
Participant

Looking forward: 2024 - 2029

Our plans for the future

In the last 48 years, we have come a long way. But we know we still have a long way to go. 2025 saw the second year of our five-year Strategic Plan. With our strategy set and our goals stated, we're giving form to our ambitions - harnessing more adventure, creating more change and touching more lives.

To turn our ambitions into achievements, we have planned four themes for the work that lies ahead. These are not isolated programmes - each theme overlaps with the other, each success will provide a platform for the next. From 2024 to 2029 we will:

Accommodate a wider audience

We will explore new ways for people to experience Bendrigg. We will assess the feasibility of introducing additional services for the disabled community, including options such as self-catering accommodation.

Transform our space

We will make better use of space across our estate; making space for getting meals and getting rest, for getting around and getting closer to nature. When we're finished, Bendrigg will be coherent and connected, more accessible and better equipped than ever – the sector's leading destination for visiting, working, volunteering, learning and more.

Protect our environment

Working to preserve the setting so vital to our spirit of adventure, we will make our connection to nature central to everything we do. When we're finished, with Net Zero in sight, we will work in ever-closer harmony with our natural environment.

Help the Bendrigg family flourish

We will go further for our people, by fostering a growth mindset in everyone connected to Bendrigg – not only helping people challenge the boundaries of disability, but giving our employees and volunteers the support and space to excel. When we're finished, everyone at Bendrigg will have the opportunity to realise their fullest potential – inspired to be innovators and leaders, driving our progress and taking their place at the forefront of the industry.

Go Beyond Bendrigg

Our training and consultancy programme will equip a broad range of organisations with the skills to bring inclusion into their everyday practice. When we're finished, we will have extended and multiplied the impact of our expertise – touching the lives of over 30,000 people every year, to play an increasingly powerful role in creating a more inclusive society.

Looking forward: 2026

The year ahead brings both opportunity and challenge for Bendrigg. While the wider operating environment remains demanding, 2026 will be about strengthening our foundations, maintaining the quality of our provision, and taking clear and purposeful steps towards long term sustainability. Our focus will be on delivering impact, building resilience, and ensuring Bendrigg is well placed for the future.

Delivering exceptional, inclusive experiences

Adventure remains at the heart of everything we do. In 2026 we will continue to deliver high quality, inclusive adventure experiences that respond to the needs and ambitions of our visitors. We will focus on maintaining excellence in our core residential and day provision, refining delivery and strengthening how we understand and evidence the difference our work makes. Alongside this, we will continue to extend our reach through Beyond Bendrigg, supporting more inclusive practice beyond our site.

Strengthening financial resilience

Recognising ongoing financial pressures, 2026 will be a pivotal year for strengthening Bendrigg's financial resilience. We will deliver our financial recovery plan, improve our understanding of the true cost of delivery, and continue to develop more diverse and sustainable income streams. This will include growing Beyond Bendrigg, targeted fundraising for priority projects and careful management of costs, while protecting accessibility, safety and quality for those who need us most.

Planning for the future of our place

Big ambitions require careful planning. During 2026 we will continue to maintain and improve our existing facilities, while progressing clear and costed plans for future development. This will include enhancing activities, refreshing key spaces and preparing Bendrigg for the next phase of investment and growth.

Supporting our people and our environment

Our staff and volunteers remain central to Bendrigg's success. In 2026 we will continue to invest in wellbeing, training and development, strengthening our inclusive culture and supporting sustainable ways of working. At the same time, we will take practical steps to reduce our environmental impact and make tangible progress towards net zero.

Together, these priorities will ensure Bendrigg continues to make adventure accessible, now and into the future.



"

Group leader Josh was very patient and inclusive, allowing people to do as much as they were comfortable with. It was a very positive experience and we would like to come again.

Fundraising Standards

A look at fundraising standards and practices at Bendrigg

Donors to Bendrigg Trust can be assured that we comply with the regulatory standards for fundraising. We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and are committed to the Fundraising Promise and comply with all the relevant standards set out in the Code of Fundraising Practice. Our Head of Income and Engagement is a member of the Chartered Institute of Fundraising.

Our fundraising effort involves encouraging donations and gifts from individuals, running and supporting fundraising events, engaging with corporate partners and applying for grants from Charitable Trusts and Foundations. These fundraising activities are organised and managed by our in-house fundraisers. All our in-house fundraisers receive regular training including Data Protection and fundraising specific training. All fundraising activities and third-party contracts are monitored by the Fundraising Manager on a regular basis throughout the year, to ensure standards are maintained. This includes direct review of work, staff appraisals, monitoring of communications and consultations with non-fundraising staff and supporters.

We encourage any individual, business or third-party, fundraising, on our behalf, to inform us of their fundraising activities and also adhere to the Code of Fundraising Practice.

We have an Ethical Fundraising and Donations Acceptance Policy which seeks to cover the ethical issues and social responsibility within fundraising.

We respond to all complaints within ten working days. Complaints are dealt with in-line with our Fundraising Complaints Procedure as outlined in our Ethical Fundraising Policy. All complaints are dealt with by our Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and our trustees are informed of those which are serious. We received zero complaints about our fundraising in 2025.

We have published our Safeguarding Policy on our website. We are also signed up to the Fundraising Preference Service to enable individuals to opt out from receiving fundraising communications from us. We received zero requests from this service last year.

Our fundraising promise

We will be;

- Respectful
- Fair and reasonable
- Accountable and responsible
- Clear, honest and open

Risk Management

The Board of Trustees is sensitive to the potential risks to which the charity may be exposed.

Risk Register

The management of risk is based on a Risk Register, referred to as 'the Register', which has been in use since February 2017. The Register is kept under active consideration by the Centre Director and is reviewed every six months by the Risk Register Committee. The Committee consists of the Centre Director and up to three Trustees. The most recent six-monthly review of the Register took place on 6th February 2026.

The risks considered in the Register are grouped under five headings:

- Governance
- Financial
- Operational
- External factors
- Legislative compliance

Current Risks

The most significant risks currently facing Bendrigg relate to financial sustainability, driven by rising operating costs. These pressures are compounded by increasing costs of delivery, limited flexibility in pricing and a challenging fundraising environment. Other material risks include staffing capacity, ageing infrastructure, cyber security, data protection, safeguarding and health and safety compliance. All these risks are actively monitored and mitigated through robust processes and procedures, governance and oversight.

Responsibilities

The Risk Committee reports to the Trustees in Council. The management of risk is ultimately the responsibility of all Trustees. It is the Trustees' duty, assisted by the Risk Committee, to identify risks, to devise systems for managing those risks, or to ensure that appropriate systems are in place, and to monitor those systems to ensure they are being implemented effectively.

Public Benefit

From 2008, the Charities Act has required all charities to meet the legal requirement that its aims are for the public benefit. For this to be true there must be an identifiable benefit and the benefit must be to the public or a section of the public.

The Trustees are satisfied that the aims and objectives of the charity, and the activities reported on in its annual report to achieve those aims, meet these principles.

Financial Review

Treasurers Report

The Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) reports a total deficit of £120,568 for the year ended 31 December 2025 (2024: surplus of £195,055); this being made up of an unrestricted deficit of £72,210 and a restricted deficit of £48,358. The overall deficit was deducted from the reserves brought forward of £3,996,423, to give total reserves at the balance sheet date of £3,875,855.

As in the last financial year, the unrestricted deficit reduced significantly during the course of the year, from the original budget to the final deficit position. This progress against budget has been very welcome, and the result of considerable hard work, but we remain focussed on the need to return to a surplus making position as soon as possible. Significant work is ongoing in this area; including various cost saving and other efficiency measures, a restructured pricing tariff and a particular focus on fundraising activity.

The Balance Sheet at 31 December confirms net assets of £3,875,855 (2024: £3,996,423), with net current assets of £759,336 (2024: £871,315) and net cash balances of £1,042,062 (2024: £1,236,419). The Balance Sheet also reports the carrying value of our property and other fixed assets at £3,116,519, which are largely funded by restricted capital funds.

With reference to the apparently high level of cash held at the Balance Sheet date it is important to clarify, as we did last year, that not all of these monies are held in respect of unrestricted 'free' cash reserves. £296,698 is held as deferred income and £381,963 is held in respect of restricted projects and other funding, leaving a net 'free' cash balance of £363,401 (2024: £479,506) to support the ongoing day to day cashflow of the charity. This 'free' cash provides Bendrigg with decent financial resilience as we continue to face into sustainability challenges, but the reduction in these funds on the prior year should be noted.

The Cash Flow Statement provides the detail of the cash movements during the year to 31 December, with a net outflow during the year of £194,357 resulting in part from planned capital activity and in part due to working capital movements.

Overall the Financial Statements reflect a reasonable position, after a year in which the Charity incurred a further unrestricted deficit. The Charity now needs to return to unrestricted surplus making as soon as possible, to re-establish the reserves and cash position, and to provide a more stable base for the future development of the organisation. This work remains a primary focus for the trustees, management and staff teams.

Financial Review cont.

Going Concern

The Trustees and Management Team expect that the Charity may continue to incur ongoing Unrestricted General Fund deficits in the short-term future. In spite of high levels of demand and good site occupancy, along with outstanding support from our donors and supporters, we are not yet able to contain our cost base within our total income generation. In response we have taken some significant steps, around course pricing and delivery efficiency, which we expect to have their full effect later into 2026 and then in 2027. As a result of these ongoing projects we do not believe that the expected level of deficits gives cause for concern in terms of the resilience of Bendrigg's cashflow and reserves, and the Council remains satisfied that the assumption of Going Concern is entirely valid.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy, which is reviewed and approved by the Council on an annual basis, sets out an assessment of an appropriate level of free reserves after restrictions and designations.

The Trustees have again considered the Reserves Policy, at 31 December 2025, taking full account of the range of risks that face the organisation and as captured in our updated Risk Register. In determining the target level of free reserves the Council have paid close attention to certain key risks; in particular these include the ongoing short-term deficits referred to above. This risk-based approach to determining our policy continues to suggest a target level of reserves of £600,000, which equates to approximately four months of unrestricted operating costs.

The free reserves stand at £489,014 at 31 December 2025, meaning that the Charity is not meeting the target reserves level at present. It should be noted that the terms of the Edward Gostling Foundation gift, at £255,617 (see note 17), serve to provide an under-write to our Unrestricted Reserves even though these funds are currently reported as Restricted Funds. The Council and Management Team are committed to returning the free reserves to the target level as soon as practical.



Treasurer

Structure, Governance & Management

Constitution

Bendrigg Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee (01396557) incorporated on 27 October 1978 and registered with the Charity Commission (508450) on 15 February 1979.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which defines the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up, the members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £5.

Trustees: Recruitment and Induction

Bendrigg recognises that a robust, independent, and effective Board of Trustees is essential to the charity's success and its ability to achieve its objectives.

Prospective Trustees are asked to submit a CV and cover letter and will meet with the Centre Director and the Chair of Trustees. Aspirant Trustees are given a tour of Bendrigg and, where appropriate, are invited to attend a Council and/or Committee meeting. If elected, new Trustees receive a Trustee Induction Pack, which includes key organisational documents outlining the charity's operational framework—such as the Memorandum and Articles of Association, Business Plan, and Financial Statements.

Many Trustees make regular visits to Bendrigg, fostering an open and informal relationship with the Centre Director, staff, and fellow Trustees.

Bendrigg is committed to maintaining a diverse and skilled Board of Trustees that reflects the charity's needs. Under the Articles, Trustees are elected to serve a term of three years. One-third of the elected Trustees retire each year and are eligible for re-election. Those retiring are the Trustees who have served the longest since their last election.

Organisational Structure and Governance

The Council meets quarterly and is responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. Sub-committees consider the detail and report to the Council.

Further to the sub-committees, working groups are also formed to oversee specific projects for a set period of time.

Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

The HR Committee oversees a periodic pay review process to set pay for all key management personnel. The process could, but not necessarily, include criteria such as; capability of undertaking the role and fulfilling any relevant duties; successful completion of relevant professional qualifications; delivery of specified projects; experience gained within the role; following a benchmark with other organisations in consideration of the essential retention of key personnel.

In relation to the Centre Directors pay, a specific periodic pay review process takes place, at the discretion of the Chair of the HR Committee. Any pay review proposal relating to the Centre Director must be approved by the Treasurer and the Chair of Trustees and formal approval must be given by the Board of Trustees.

Related Parties

The charity has a very close relationship with The Bendrigg Support Trust. The Support Trust was established for the purpose of supporting the work of the Bendrigg Trust. Mr J Holmes, Mr T Lowe and Miss R Hodgson, Trustees, are also Trustees of the Bendrigg Support Trust along with an independent Trustee, Mr R Brownson.

The charity also has a close relationship with The Mary Kinross Charitable Trust through an influential member who is also on the Bendrigg Alternative Committee.

Indemnity Provision

The charity has made qualifying third-party indemnity provisions for the benefit of its Trustees during the year. These provisions remain in force at the reporting date.



Official statement

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of Bendrigg Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounts Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the income and expenditure of the charitable company 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 Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- 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 charitable company's transactions and disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Auditor

MHA will be proposed for reappointment in accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006.

Each of the persons who is a Trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- each Trustee has taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a Trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

Approval

By approving the Trustees report the Trustees are also approving the strategic report in their capacity as company directors. This report was approved by the Trustees on 12th June 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Mr Nicholas Liley
Secretary and Centre Director

Brian McDonough
Chair of Trustees



Independent auditor's report

Auditor's opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Bendrigg Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2025 which comprise of the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of material accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is 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).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2025, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report.

We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities, and the responsibilities of the Trustees, with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 31, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- enquiries with the board about any known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud;
- challenging assumptions and judgements made by the board in their significant accounting estimates;
- auditing the risk of fraud in income by way of cut off testing, including testing deferral of income for future bookings, as well as transactional testing to obtain evidence that income occurred and is complete and recognised in the correct accounting period;
- an evaluation of the risk management override of controls and subsequent testing, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness;
- an evaluation of the charitable company's internal control environment; and
- a review of board minutes.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditors/audit-assurance/auditor-s-responsibilities-for-the-audit-of-the-fi/description-of-the-auditor%E2%80%99s-responsibilities-for.
This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

MHA

MHA
14, Mannin Way
Lancaster
Lancashire
LA1 3SW

Date June 16, 2026

MHA is the trading name of MHA Audit Services LLP, a limited liability partnership in England and Wales, (registered number OC455542)

MHA is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appoints as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating the income and expenditure account)

For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	275,053	438,107	713,160	884,542
Investments	4	15,645	-	15,645	19,954
Charitable activities	5	1,060,259	-	1,060,259	1,039,366
Other	6	1,441	-	1,441	-
Total		1,352,398	438,107	1,790,505	1,943,862
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	126,501	50,000	176,501	164,121
Charitable activities	8	1,431,628	302,944	1,734,572	1,584,686
Total		1,558,129	352,944	1,911,073	1,748,807
Net (expenditure)/ income before transfers	9	(205,731)	85,163	(120,568)	195,055
Transfer between funds	10	133,521	(133,521)	-	-
Net movement in funds		(72,210)	(48,358)	(120,568)	195,055
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		561,224	3,435,199	3,996,423	3,801,368
Total funds carried forward		489,014	3,386,841	3,875,855	3,996,423

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all recognised gains and losses in the year.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The Statement of Financial Activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on pages 40 to 57 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet

As at 31 December 2025

		2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**12**		3,116,519		3,125,108
Current assets					
Stock		12,684		7,447	
Debtors	**13**	68,829		69,722	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,042,062		1,236,419	
		1,123,575		1,313,588	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**14**	(364,239)		(442,273)	
Net current assets			**759,336**		**871,315**
Total assets less current liabilities			**3,875,855**		**3,996,423**
Net assets			**3,875,855**		**3,996,423**
Funds:					
Restricted funds	**16**		3,386,841		3,435,199
Unrestricted funds	**18**		489,014		561,224
Total funds			**3,875,855**		**3,996,423**

June 16, 2026

These accounts were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on the .....and are signed on their behalf by:

BAM Donough ..... Kim Parry .....

Brian McDonough
Chair

Kim Parry
Treasurer

Company Registration Number: 01396557

The notes on pages 40 to 57 form part of these financial statements.

Cash Flow Statement

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£
Cash generated in operating activities	**(96,854)**	408,274
Cashflows from investing activities:		
Investment income	**15,645**	19,954
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	**1,584**	-
Purchase of fixed assets (excluding donated assets)	**(114,732)**	(189,851)
Cash (used)/generated in investing activities	**(97,503)**	(169,897)
(Decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year	**(194,357)**	238,377
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	**1,236,419**	998,042
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	**1,042,062**	1,236,419

Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cashflow from operating activities

Net movement in funds	**(120,568)**	195,055
Gain on sale of assets	**(1,441)**	-
Donated goods and services	**(16,918)**	(12,677)
Investment income received	**(15,645)**	(19,954)
Depreciation	**140,096**	111,057
Increase / (decrease) in stocks	**(5,237)**	(347)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	**893**	17,669
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	**(78,034)**	117,471
Net cash generated in operating activities	**(96,854)**	408,274

Components of cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and in hand	**1,042,062**	1,236,419
	1,042,062	1,236,419

The notes on pages 40 to 57 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

1 Accounting policies

Legal form

Bendrigg Trust is a registered charity and a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006, incorporated in England and Wales. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £5 per member of the Charity.

The registered office of the Charity, the nature of its operations and its principal activities are all detailed in the Charity administrative details of these financial statements.

Basis of preparation

Bendrigg Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. 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 (FRS102) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts are rounded to the nearest pound.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The particular accounting policies adopted by the Trustees are described below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees consider the charity to have a sufficient level of working capital to see it through the upcoming months and have made an assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements. There are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Income

Donations and legacies are included in the accounts on a cash received basis or where there is a certainty of receipt and the amount is quantifiable. Grants and donations in respect of specific projects are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they are receivable and are credited to restricted reserves.

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Investment income is credited to the statement of financial activities in the period in which it becomes receivable.

Income from charitable activities is recognised in the period to which it relates.

Other income includes income from the sale of tangible assets which are recognised upon legal entitlement to the Charity.

Donated goods and services

Donated goods and services are recognised as income when the Charity has control over the item, the receipt of the economic benefit is probable, and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. A corresponding amount is then recognised in expenses or fixed assets. In accordance with SORP (FRS 102) no amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis in the expense categories required by the SORP. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Costs are further allocated between the activities undertaken on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Charitable activities expenditure includes costs incurred in the delivery of the Charity's activities and services. It includes both direct costs, including staff costs, that are incurred in the delivery of the activities and services and indirect costs which are required to support the delivery of the charitable objects.

Costs of raising funds include those costs in relation to the Charity's operations which are used to generate further income which is integral to the Charity in meeting its charitable objectives. It includes direct costs and also indirect costs which have been allocated based on an estimated share relating to fundraising costs.

Fixed assets

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Freehold property	-	2% straight line per annum
Motor vehicles and trailers	-	25% reducing balance
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	-	10%/20% straight line per annum

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making allowance for obsolete and slow moving stocks.

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Debtors and creditors within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable and payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is a basic financial asset and includes cash in hand and deposits held on call with banks.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds - General funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Designated funds - Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds - Restricted funds arise where there is a donor-imposed restriction on the use of the funds, or the funds have arisen in response to an appeal for a specified purpose.

Pensions

The Charity operates a defined contribution scheme. Contributions are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

Taxation

HM Revenue & Customs considers Bendrigg Trust to be a charity and therefore they are entitled to exemption from tax afforded by Sections 478-489 of the Corporation Taxes Act 2010 to the extent that income is applied exclusively for charitable purposes.

Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to offset the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price and are subsequently carried at amortised cost. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Financial assets are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting end date. Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that the estimated future cash flows have been affected. The impairment loss is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the company transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors, are initially recognised at transaction price, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised. Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the company's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

2 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Key assumptions, judgements and estimates

In the opinion of the Trustees, there have been no significant judgements made in the process of applying the above accounting policies. There have been no key assumptions concerning future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Staff sponsorship	-	25,000	**25,000**	-
General donations	275,053	-	**275,053**	243,252
Specific donations	-	150,617	**150,617**	432,417
Sponsored courses	-	193,390	**193,390**	141,119
Specific capital donations	-	52,182	**52,182**	55,077
Donated goods and services	-	16,918	**16,918**	12,677
	275,053	**438,107**	**713,160**	884,542
Total 2024	*243,252*	*641,290*	*884,542*	

4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Bank interest receivable	15,645	-	**15,645**	19,954
	15,645	-	**15,645**	19,954
Total 2024	*19,954*	-	*19,954*	

5 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Course fees	996,355	-	**996,355**	972,161
Other charitable activities	63,904	-	**63,904**	67,205
	1,060,259	-	**1,060,259**	1,039,366
Total 2024	*1,039,366*	-	*1,039,366*	

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Proceeds from sale of asset	1,441	-	**1,441**	-
	1,441	**-**	**1,441**	-
Total 2024	-	-	-	

7 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Telephone	120	-	**120**	150
Postage	122	-	**122**	395
Direct fundraising costs	14,948	222	**15,170**	10,120
Freelance fundraisers fee	-	-	**-**	6,563
Recruitment agency costs	-	5,499	**5,499**	-
Staff costs	111,311	44,279	**155,590**	146,893
	126,501	**50,000**	**176,501**	164,121
Total 2024	*99,046*	*65,075*	*164,121*	

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	**Total 2025**	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Goods for resale	12,019	-	**12,019**	10,889
Rates and water	3,040	-	**3,040**	1,666
Light and heat	43,528	-	**43,528**	42,705
Repairs and maintenance	65,274	-	**65,274**	82,930
Insurance	33,340	-	**33,340**	28,758
Motor vehicle expenses	30,786	40	**30,826**	32,008
Telephone	1,084	-	**1,084**	1,354
Provisions and household	123,786	372	**124,158**	125,995
Sundry expenses	15,625	35,137	**50,762**	50,500
Outdoor equipment	3,638	6,905	**10,543**	7,587
Staff training	3,443	9,260	**12,703**	14,626
Advertising and sponsorship	18,068	-	**18,068**	16,312
Bank charges	2,158	-	**2,158**	2,355
Printing, post and stationery	21,475	-	**21,475**	15,146
Freelance instructors fees	84,488	-	**84,488**	62,047
Audit and professional fees	18,797	-	**18,797**	17,490
IT software and consumables	23,735	-	**23,735**	12,171
Entry fees	1,355	-	**1,355**	1,758
Subscriptions	4,528	-	**4,528**	3,180
Indemnity insurance	1,298	-	**1,298**	1,298
Wages and salaries	675,003	217,393	**892,396**	832,933
National insurance	68,031	21,910	**89,941**	64,440
Pension cost	37,033	11,927	**48,960**	45,481
Depreciation	140,096	-	**140,096**	111,057
	1,431,628	**302,944**	**1,734,572**	1,584,686
Total 2024	*1,346,903*	*237,783*	*1,584,686*	

Support costs are allocated entirely to charitable activities in both the current and prior period.

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

9 Net income/(expenditure)

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net income is stated after charging:		
Staff pension contributions	**55,775**	52,604
Auditors' remuneration		
- audit of the financial statements	**9,240**	8,400
Other non-audit services provided by the auditor	**6,029**	4,883
Depreciation of tangible assets		
- owned by the Charity	**140,096**	111,057

10 Fund transfers

A transfer is made annually from restricted to unrestricted funds in respect of depreciation charges in the year which relate to restricted assets. This year this transfer amounted to £133,521.

Restricted funds are made up of restricted income funds and restricted capital funds. During the current year restricted income funds were used to purchase fixed assets in the financial year and transfers of £106,820 were made to restricted capital funds. A further £16,918 relates to assets that were donated to the charity so a similar transfer to the restricted capital fund has been made. Total transfers from income funds to capital funds were £123,738.

The transfer out of restricted capital funds of £9,783 is the net of the depreciation transfer (£133,521) and the capital asset transfer (£123,738).

Further details of fund transfers are included in Note 16.

11 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and the cost of key management personnel

Total staff costs were as follows	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	**1,025,705**	961,662
Social security costs	**105,407**	75,481
Pension costs	**55,775**	52,604
	1,186,887	1,089,747

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

11 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and the cost of key management personnel (continued)

Particulars of employees:

The average number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Administrative staff	14	15
Tutorial staff	15	18
Maintenance staff	1	1
Catering and domestic staff	10	9
	40	43

The number of employees whose remuneration for the year fell within the following bands was:

	2025 No.	2024 No.
£60,000 - £69,999	1	-

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel, as determined by the Charity, is £328,191 - 7 KMP (2024: £261,285 - 6 KMP) during the current period.

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The contributions paid into the scheme in respect of eligible employees for the year ended 31 December 2025 amounted to £55,775 (2024: £52,604).

No Trustees received any remuneration during the current or prior period. No Trustee received any expenses for their role as Trustees in the current or prior period.



Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Property £	Motor Vehicles & trailers £	Fixtures Fittings & equipment £	Totals £
Cost				
At 1 January 2025	4,239,707	334,216	203,773	4,777,696
Additions	16,432	58,444	56,774	131,650
Disposals	-	(17,735)	-	(17,735)
At 31 December 2025	**4,256,139**	**374,925**	**260,547**	4,891,611
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2025	1,311,030	208,143	133,415	1,652,588
Charge for the year	85,167	33,789	21,140	140,096
Eliminated on disposal	-	(17,592)	-	(17,592)
At 31 December 2025	**1,396,197**	**224,340**	**154,555**	**1,775,092**
Net book value At 31 December 2025	**2,859,942**	**150,585**	**105,992**	**3,116,519**
At 31 December 2024	2,928,677	126,073	70,358	3,125,108

The freehold at Bendrigg Lodge was transferred from the Mary Kinross Trust on 12 March 1985 as a gift. The freehold is not included in the financial statements as an asset but has a substantial market value.

The freehold property reported above, having a netbook value of £2,859,942 relates to the capitalised cost of property developments (including Acorn House) that have taken place on the Bendrigg site subsequent to the original gift of Bendrigg Lodge.

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

13 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	**10,532**	2,004
Prepayments	**58,297**	67,718
	68,829	69,722

14 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

		2025	2024
		£	£
Trade creditors		**16,946**	15,994
Taxation and social security		**19,190**	31,148
Other creditors		**2,621**	8,789
Accruals		**28,064**	49,967
Deferred income	Note 15	**296,698**	336,375
		364,239	442,273

15 Deferred income

	2025	2024
	£	£
Balance brought forward	**336,375**	241,381
Course fees received in advance	**286,444**	336,375
Release of deferred income	**(326,121)**	(241,381)
	296,698	336,375

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

16 Restricted funds: Current year

		At 1 January 2025	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 December 2025
		£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds						
Restricted funds income	17	420,538	438,107	(352,944)	(123,738)	**381,963**
Restricted funds capital		3,014,661	-	-	(9,783)	**3,004,878**
Total funds		**3,435,199**	**438,107**	**(352,944)**	**(133,521)**	**3,386,841**

Restricted funds: Prior year

	Note	At 1 January 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 December 2024
		£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds						
Restricted funds income	**17**	213,460	641,290	(302,858)	(131,354)	**420,538**
Restricted funds capital		2,988,281	-	-	26,380	**3,014,661**
Total funds		**3,201,741**	**641,290**	**(302,858)**	**(104,974)**	**3,435,199**

Restricted capital funds are made up of incoming resources given specifically to acquire fixed assets, as reduced over the useful economic life of those assets in line with their depreciation - £3,004,878 (2024: £3,014,661).



Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

17 Restricted funds: Current year

	At 1 January 2025	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 December 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Sponsored Courses	29,854	193,390	(164,891)	-	58,353
BA Coordinator	-	22,000	(22,000)	-	-
Edward Gostling Foundation	250,000	5,617	-	-	255,617
Fair Share (RL)	-	298	(298)	-	-
Training	10,000	1,600	(11,320)	-	280
Paddling Project	5,682	-	(5,682)	-	-
Profile Beds	3,500	-	-	(2,732)	768
Energy Efficiency Project	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Fundraising Support	-	50,000	(50,000)	-	-
Outdoor Equipment	20,841	19,423	(22,621)	(13,743)	3,900
Canoes	7,347	-	(252)	(7,095)	-
Tube Slide Huts	19,425	-	-	(19,425)	-
'Someone Like Me' Project	33,634	1,580	(35,214)	-	-
Bendrigg Development	13,550	50,000	(14,100)	-	49,450
Minibus	14,938	35,000	-	(47,539)	2,399
Staff Wellbeing Project	1,767	-	(1,767)	-	-
Gifts in Kind	-	16,918	-	(16,918)	-
Climbing Club	-	2,082	(2,082)	-	-
Sensory Room	-	19,303	(2,717)	(16,286)	300
Activity Equipment	-	896	-	-	896
Staffing - Tutor	-	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
Restricted income funds	**420,538**	**438,107**	**(352,944)**	**(123,738)**	**381,963**





Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

Restricted income funds: Prior year	At 1 January 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Sponsored Courses	34,352	141,119	(145,617)	-	29,854
BA Coordinator	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Edward Gostling Foundation	-	250,000	-	-	250,000
Fair Share (RL)	-	3,249	(3,249)	-	-
Training	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Paddling project	-	9,083	(3,401)	-	5,682
Profile Beds	-	3,500	-	-	3,500
Energy Efficiency Project	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Fundraising Support	-	65,075	(65,075)	-	-
Simply Moving & Sleeping	-	12,677	-	(12,677)	-
Outdoor Equipment	4,332	38,561	(16,927)	(5,125)	20,841
Canoes	20,041	6,000	(1,356)	(17,338)	7,347
Tube slide	26,000	10,000	-	(16,575)	19,425
'Someone Like Me' Project	32,980	41,449	(40,795)	-	33,634
Bendrigg Development	23,250	-	(9,700)	-	13,550
Minibus	69,000	25,577	-	(79,639)	14,938
Staff Wellbeing Project	3,505	-	(1,738)	-	1,767
Restricted income funds	**213,460**	**641,290**	**(302,858)**	**(131,354)**	**420,538**

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

17 Restricted income funds (continued)

Sponsored Courses: enables bursaries to be given to some groups who without it would not be able to afford to come to Bendrigg.

BA Co-ordinator: to fund a co-ordinator post for the Bendrigg Alternative Scheme which provides opportunities for those in the Criminal Justice system, or those at risk of entering the Criminal Justice system, to volunteer at Bendrigg.

Edward Gostling Foundation: Deed of gift which is to be used if Bendrigg's General Fund Reserve falls below three months operating costs. After five years the restriction will be lifted.

FareShare (RL): funding received through Kinder Kind of Kitchen Project, which allows access to FareShare, an organisation that redistributes food across Cumbria and Lancashire.

Training: to provide training for the Tutorial team and for the Beyond Bendrigg project.

Paddling Project: enabling people with disabilities to take part in paddlesports and the set up of a Paddling Club.

Profile Beds: to purchase new profile beds which enable individuals with complex needs have a comfortable stay at Bendrigg.

Energy Efficiency Project: looking at ways to improve and increase the energy efficiency of the Centre.

Fundraising Support: funding received to expand Bendrigg's fundraising capabilities.

Simply Moving and Sleeping: donation of specific pieces of equipment.

Outdoor Equipment: enables specific pieces of equipment to be purchased.

Canoes: to fund a new fleet of canoes.

Tube Slide Huts: to fund the building of 2 new tube slide huts which will incorporate a built in hoisting system.

'Someone Like Me' Project: to support the volunteer programme with a specific focus on increasing the number of volunteers with a disability.

Bendrigg Development: to fund an enabling phase for possible improvements to the Bendrigg estate.

Minibus: to fund the purchase of minibuses.

Staff Wellbeing Project: funding received to provide wellbeing support to Bendrigg employees.

Gifts in Kind: equipment or services donated by various individuals/organisations, for example a Safe Space bed.

Climbing Club: to support an inclusive climbing club which allows young people of all abilities to learn to climb in a safe, supported & fund environment.

Sensory Room: to enable an upgrade to the Sensory room to take place.

Activity Equipment: funding towards the development of a trim trail.

Staffing: to fund the cost of an activity tutor.

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

18 Unrestricted income funds: Current year

	At 1 January 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 December 2025 £
General Funds	561,224	1,352,398	(1,558,129)	133,521	489,014
Unrestricted funds	**561,224**	**1,352,398**	**(1,558,129)**	**133,521**	489,014

Unrestricted income funds: Prior year

	At 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 December 2024 £
General Funds	599,627	1,302,572	(1,445,949)	104,974	561,224
Unrestricted funds	**599,627**	1,302,572	(1,445,949)	104,974	561,224

19 Analysis of fund transfers

	Total £
Annual transfer in respect of restricted fixed asset funds	133,521
Total transfers	**133,521**

Further details of fund transfers are included in Note 10.

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

20 Analysis of net assets between funds: Current year

	Tangible fixed assets £	Cash £	Net current assets excl. cash £	Long term liabilities £	Total £
Restricted funds	3,004,878	381,963	-	-	3,386,841
General funds	111,641	660,099	(282,726)	-	489,014
Total funds	**3,116,519**	**1,042,062**	**(282,726)**	**-**	**3,875,855**

Analysis of net assets between funds: Prior year

	Tangible fixed assets £	Cash £	Net current assets excl. cash £	Long term liabilities £	Total £
Restricted funds	3,014,661	420,538	-	-	3,435,199
General funds	110,447	815,881	(365,104)	-	561,224
Total funds	**3,125,108**	**1,236,419**	**(365,104)**	**-**	**3,996,423**

21 Operating lease commitments

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

	2025	2024
Amounts payable:		
Within 1 year	**1,379**	1,596
Between 1 and 5 years	**1,010**	2,389
	2,389	3,985

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2025

22 Capital commitments

	2025	2024
Amounts contracted for but not provided in the financial statements:		
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	-	43,840
	-	43,840

23 Contingencies

The charity received lottery grants totalling £243,364 during the financial years 1999 and 2000 to fund the development of improvements to the accommodation in Bendrigg Lodge and also a grant of £200,000 between 2007 and 2008 towards the construction of the Kinross Building. The charity may not dispose of these buildings without prior written permission of the Lottery Board, nor use the buildings as security for a loan. This restriction shall be in force for 80 years from the date of the grants.

24 Control and related party transactions

The charity was under the control of the Board of Trustees who are also directors for the purposes of company law in both the current and prior period.

The charity has a very close relationship with The Bendrigg Support Trust. The Support Trust was established for the purpose of supporting the work of the Bendrigg Trust. A specific donation grant of £30,000 (2024: £35,075) was received during the year from the Bendrigg Support Trust, along with a £30,000 (2024: £nil) general donation. Mr J Holmes, Mr T Lowe and Miss R Hodgson, Trustees, are also Trustees of the Bendrigg Support Trust along with an independent Trustee, Mr R Brownson.

The charity also has a close relationship with The Mary Kinross Charitable Trust through an influential member who is also on the Bendrigg Alternative Committee. Total grants received during the year from the MKCT total £155,000 (2024: £95,000). Of these grants, £135,000 was for restricted purposes.

During the year the charity incurred costs of £1,414 (2024: £1,298) relating to indemnity insurance for the Trustees.

There were no outstanding balances with related parties at 31 December 2025 or 31 December 2024.

25 Company Limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee. In event of the company being wound up or dissolved, each member undertakes to contribute such amounts as is required, not exceeding £5, for payment of any debts or liabilities.

Reference & administrative details

Charity details

Registered Charity name: Bendrigg Trust
Charity Registration number: 508450
Company Registration number: 01396557
Registered office: Bendrigg Lodge, Old Hutton, Kendal LA8 0NR

Trustees

The Trustees who served the company during the period were as follows:
Brian McDonough, Chair of Trustees
Kim Parry, Treasurer
Adrian Walter
Tom Hibbert
Tim Lowe
John Holmes MBE
Rachael Hodgson
Anne Fleck
Peter Bates
Kay Foster
Jeremy Prall (retired 6th June 2025)
Kirsty Heywood-MacDonald
Richard Huxley (appointed 13th March 2025)
Stuart Woodall (appointed 13th March 2025)
Claire Connor (appointed 6th June 2025)

Senior Management Team

Company Secretary and Centre Director: Nicholas Liley
Head of Income and Engagement: Sarah Garman
Activities Manager: Sam Litten
Finance and HR Manager: Gill Smith
Facilities Manager: Dave Garman
Training, Research & Consultancy Manager: Sara Murray
Fundraising Manager: Elizabeth Feltoe (from 17th March 2025)

Patrons

Sir Chris Bonington CVO CBE DL
Claire Hensman
Jamie Andrew

Auditor: MHA, Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor, 14 Mannin Way, Lancaster, Lancashire, LA1 3SW

Bendrigg



ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES LICENSING AUTHORITY
AALA

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

AHOEC
ASSOCIATION OF HEADS OF OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRES
GOLD STANDARD

www.bendrigg.org.uk | 01539 723766 | bookings@bendrigg.org.uk
Bendrigg Trust, Bendrigg Lodge, Old Hutton, Kendal LA8 0NR | Registered Charity: 508450