



Registered Company no. 03690881

Registered Charity no. 1074032

Report and Financial Statement  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

**Cambridgeshire ACRE**  
**Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025**

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**Cambridgeshire ACRE**  
**Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**Officers and Professional Advisers**

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**PRESIDENT**

Julie Spence OBE CSTJ QPM, Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire

**TRUSTEES**

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the company, who served during the financial year are as follows:

Stephanie Louise Baxter (to 14-Sep-2024)

Ann Lesley Blair (Chair to 31-Mar-2025)

David Anthony Gibbs

Richard John St Clair Harlow

Terry John Jordan (Vice Chair)

John Rodger Mitchell (from 9-Oct-2024)

David Ian Olney (Chair from 1-Apr-2025)

Jessica Lucy Sellick

Sarah Elizabeth Rae Severn CBE

Ray Vidler (Treasurer)

**COMPANY SECRETARY**

Alison Catherine Brown

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Hayley Elizabeth Neal

**REGISTERED OFFICE**

e-Space North, 181 Wisbech Road, Littleport, Ely, CB6 1RA

**BANKERS**

Unity Trust Bank PLC, PO Box 7193, Planetary Road, Willenhall, WV1 9DG

**AUDITORS**

Chater Allan LLP, 7 Quy Court Colliers Lane, Stow-Cum-Quy, Cambridge, CB25 9AU

## **Cambridgeshire ACRE**

### **Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025**

#### **Trustees' & Directors' Report**

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##### **TRUSTEES' & DIRECTORS' REPORT**

The trustees present their full report for the period ended 31 March 2025 to the Annual General Meeting of the charity held on 8 October 2025. This is also the directors' report required of a small company by the Companies Act 2006.

##### **Statement of the trustees' responsibilities**

Law applicable to incorporated charities in England and Wales requires the trustees who are also directors for the purpose of company law 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 its financial activities during the year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that the charity has appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise to provide reasonable assurance that:

- the charity is operating efficiently and effectively;
- its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition;
- proper records are maintained and financial information used within the charity or for publication is reliable;
- the charity complies with relevant laws and regulations.

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- a strategic plan and an annual budget approved by the trustees;
- regular consideration by the trustees of financial results, variance from budgets and non-financial performance indicators;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

##### **Objects of the charity**

To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community in particular but not exclusively in the county of Cambridgeshire by assisting the work of statutory authorities and voluntary organisations engaged in pursuing any charitable purposes

##### **Our vision**

Rural communities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough where people flourish, connections grow and everyone can thrive.

##### **Our mission**

To inspire, lead and partner with rural communities, enabling local people to create positive, lasting change for themselves.

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##### **Public benefit**

It is a legal requirement of the Charities Act 2006 that charities must demonstrate they provide a public benefit. The two key principles identified by the Charity Commission to prove public benefit are:

- *Principle 1 - There must be an identifiable benefit or benefits:* The benefits provided by Cambridgeshire ACRE are detailed in the 'Review of Activities' section included in this statement. The Review of Activities gives detailed information on the benefits provided as they relate to the three key areas of Cambridgeshire ACRE's work; Social & Community Action Programmes; Environmental Programmes and Economic Programmes.
- *Principle 2 - Benefit must be to the public, or a section of the public:* The main beneficiaries of Cambridgeshire ACRE's work are the local communities of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, although on occasion beneficiaries come from beyond this immediate area.

##### **Incorporation**

The company is a registered charity incorporated under the Companies Act 1985 in December 1998. The governing document is the Articles of Association as amended on 25 September 2019.

##### **Governance**

Cambridgeshire ACRE is controlled by the Board of Trustees which meets at least four times a year. It delegates day-to-day management of the organisation to the Chief Executive. There are currently 9 members of the Board.

##### **Trustee recruitment**

Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), when one third of all trustees retire and may put themselves forward for re-election for a period of three years. Cambridgeshire ACRE regularly reviews the need for new trustees and any areas of expertise that might need strengthening through further recruitment to the Board. The Board collectively considers prospective candidates and either recommends candidates for election at the AGM, or co-opts them until the next AGM, at which time they must retire and seek re-appointment.

Once elected by the AGM or co-opted by the Board, new trustees complete a declaration of eligibility to serve as a charity trustee and their appointment is notified to the Charity Commission. New trustees are sent a copy of the policy and procedure on Conflicts of Interest and/or Loyalty and asked to complete a declaration of interests which is reviewed each year.

##### **Trustee induction**

New trustees are provided with a training session at which they are given an Induction Pack of key documents, such as Memorandum and Articles of Association, Charity Commission summary of responsibilities of charity trustees, the latest Annual Report and Financial Statement and the Strategy and Business Plan. The Chairperson and Chief Executive meet with a new trustee after 6 months to review how their induction has gone.

##### **Trustee training**

Trustees' training needs may emerge during the induction process but are more systematically assessed through periodic meetings with the Chairperson and Chief Executive. Identified needs are dealt with immediately where possible, or otherwise included in Cambridgeshire ACRE's annual training plan alongside the training needs of staff. Trustees are encouraged to attend events run by Cambridgeshire ACRE and other conferences/meetings to develop their awareness of the working context, charity governance and key rural issues.

##### **Reserves**

The trustees have identified the need to retain a financial reserve as the charity's income is uncertain and can fluctuate from year to year. Cambridgeshire ACRE aims to hold in reserve no less than three months'

## **Cambridgeshire ACRE**

### **Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025**

#### **Trustees' & Directors' Report**

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unrestricted gross expenditure to ensure that it can meet its contractual obligations fully. The charity will continue its practice of budgeting prudently and actively seeking funds to finance its activities and maintain the reserve at the approved level. The Board reviews the reserves policy each year and monitors the level of the reserve at its quarterly meetings.

During the year the charity's general reserve decreased from £193,459 to £177,918. After deduction of potential redundancy liabilities, the current level of general reserve provides a buffer of four and a half months of unrestricted fund expenditure. This is considered acceptable under the current reserves policy.

The charity has three designated funds which are represented by investments and fixed assets. The purpose of these funds is detailed in note 20 in the financial statements.

#### **Investments**

Cambridgeshire ACRE has an investment policy that is reviewed annually by the Board. The charity's investments consist of cash deposits. The deposit accounts are kept under review to ensure that an adequate rate of interest is being paid on the charity's deposits. The strategy is to hold funds with a high level of liquidity for ready access when required. The deposits were split between Cambridge & Counties Bank Ltd, United Trust Bank and Reliance Bank at the balance sheet date, although the funds invested with Reliance Bank have since been transferred to Redwood Bank Ltd.

#### **Pay policy for senior staff**

The trustees consider the board of directors, who are the charity's trustees, and the senior management team comprising the key management personnel of the charity, to be in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. All trustees give of their time freely and receive no remuneration for their charitable duties in the year. The pay of the senior staff is set by the trustees, benchmarking against pay levels in other charities of a similar size and type.

#### **Risk management**

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the organisation is exposed, particularly those related to finances and operations, these are documented on a risk register the trustees have put in place, together with a Business Continuity Plan which sets out actions to be taken in the case of serious business interruption. Cambridgeshire ACRE has a formal procedure on risk management and the procedure and risks identified are reviewed continuously by the senior management team and annually by the trustees, they remain satisfied that measures are in place to manage those risks.

#### **Review of activities**

Cambridgeshire ACRE works alongside the rural communities of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. We help them take action to make positive lasting changes to their local neighbourhoods.

Whether it's supporting volunteers to lead community projects, bringing local organisations together to drive meaningful change or amplifying the voices of our parish and community members, our charity is deeply embedded in rural community life.

With our support, residents, groups and partners can seize opportunities and realise their aspirations to improve the places, services and facilities that are important to them.

This section details our key achievements during the year 2024/25 across the strategic aims set in the organisation's strategy.

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##### ***Supporting community run assets***

Community-run assets and owned assets like village halls, pubs and shops are at the heart of rural community life. They provide a vital hub for health and social activities, education and vital rural services to take place. Part of our role is to help these assets thrive.

We provide advice, support and training to the trustees of these community-run assets and help them run these to the highest-possible standards for the benefit of their communities.

Key achievements during 2024/25 include:

- 148 village halls in membership of Cambridgeshire ACRE and receiving our quarterly newsletter summarising news and developments.
- 269 cases of support successfully resolved from village halls requiring advice and guidance.
- 7 further Hallmark accreditations awarded to village halls reaching the quality standard for a well-run facility (six at Level 1 and one at Level 2).
- 5 training events attended by 145 village hall trustees allowing them to enhance their skills and knowledge of how to safely and successfully run their facility.

##### ***Championing community-led housing and planning***

We find hidden housing need in rural communities and then work with local authorities, housing associations, town & parish councils and communities to build rural affordable homes, including some built through community-led approaches.

We also support communities to research and develop neighbourhood plans to put in place planning policy for a neighbourhood area to guide future development.

Key achievements during 2024/25 include:

- 29 affordable homes built on rural exception sites.
- 16 new parishes engaged in an attempt to increase the pipeline of communities considering developing rural affordable homes.
- 6 parishes whose need for affordable homes has been proven but where progress has stalled given intensive support to resolve issues to allow their schemes to progress.
- 12 neighbourhood planning groups supported by our Neighbourhood Planning Service, including 4 new groups for 2024/25.

##### ***Tackling environmental challenges***

We work with communities to help them tackle environmental issues challenges and consider predicted climate changes impacts.

We support their efforts to enhance their natural environment and improve community green spaces.

We help communities plan for decarbonisation and net zero targets, as well as supporting them with issues of flooding and considering local mitigating actions.

We have also been highly successful at developing and leading environmental volunteering programmes.

Key achievements during 2024/25 include:

- 33 volunteer lock wardens guided boaters through locks on the River Great Ouse providing 888 hours of volunteering support to the Environment Agency.
- 55 volunteers picked up 36 bags of litter, cleaning up their local river in Ramsey, helping to prevent flooding.
- 15 organisations successfully collaborating in our Water Care Partnership which brings people together to improve the water environment in the Old Bedford and Middle Level Catchment area.
- 8 farms and 9 parish councils have received tailored guidance on how to manage and maintain the new habitats on their land created through our New Life on the Old West project.

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##### ***Strengthening the rural economy and employment***

We are committed to developing and delivering projects that lever in funding to strengthen rural businesses, encourage support networks that bring people together and lead community-led development programmes that increases people's life chances.

Key achievements during 2024/25 include:

- 2 prospective and 7 existing rural social enterprise businesses supported to consider the next steps in their development.
- 2 events held to demystify social enterprise and to introduce to the concept of community owned business to our network. These were collectively attended by 69 individuals.

##### ***Improving community health and wellbeing***

We are committed to ensuring fairer and more equitable health and wellbeing outcomes for people living in rural areas, where access to services can be much more difficult.

Through our work, we see at first-hand the issues that rurality can cause, especially where it is compounded by significant deprivation and isolation.

Cambridgeshire ACRE works with partners and communities to understand inequalities in health and wellbeing and to tackle these issues at a local level.

Key achievements during 2024/25 include:

- 40 Community Hubs and Community Living Rooms operating across East Cambridgeshire, Fenland and South Cambridgeshire, opening their doors week in, week out, offering local people a place to come together for mutual support.
- 17,022 volunteer hours provided by those successfully leading Community Hubs/Living Rooms in their communities. When valued at the median pay rate for their district, these hours are worth over £303,768.
- 37,771 visits made by community members to Community Hubs/Living Rooms between Apr-2024 and Mar-2025. 15% of these visits are estimated to have been made by unique visitors, meaning an estimated 5,666 people across East Cambridgeshire, Fenland and South Cambridgeshire are making regular use of their local Hub.
- 60 households supported through our Cambridgeshire Home Energy Support Service to clear £25,740 of fuel debt.
- Our specially-trained Macmillan Village Agents supported 27 individuals either living with cancer themselves or who were family members of those affected by cancer.

##### ***Working in partnership and providing consultancy***

We work with a wide range of partners and nearly all the work we undertake involves collaboration and joint delivery of projects.

We often provide in-depth consultancy support to organisations and communities who use our expertise to help them achieve specific goals, delivering research, public consultation, partnership development & management, project development & funding or community / voluntary and cultural sector engagement.

Key achievements during 2024/25 include:

- 30+ partner organisations worked alongside us to deliver our work.
- 2 consultancy contracts completed to support communities with their community developments or partners with more complex work.

##### ***Charity and governance activity***

During 2024 we celebrated the charity's Centenary Year. Our travelling exhibition was showcased at 6 community events, sharing the story of the charity's history and that of rural Cambridgeshire. On 13 June 2024, we held a special event at St Mary's Church in Ely, where we were delighted to welcome His Royal



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Highness The Duke of Gloucester for an afternoon of celebrations and a chance for past and current staff members to meet and share their memories of the charity.

Our new Chief Executive, Hayley Neal, joined us in mid-June with our old Chief Executive, Kirsten Bennett departing at the end of that same month, after a successful handover of responsibilities. Hayley's main focus in her first few months was fundraising and she has had notable success including securing a three year grant from the National Lottery Community Fund to secure the future delivery of community buildings advice (work commenced Apr-2025); securing a grant from the Garfield Weston Foundation to support the delivery of our Community Hubs Network (from Apr-2025); and securing funding from the Evelyn Trust to support a new community youth project (to start later in 2025).

Cambridgeshire ACRE has continued to enhance its marketing activity, refreshing both our main website ([www.cambsacre.org.uk](http://www.cambsacre.org.uk)) and that for promoting community buildings ([www.hallsforhire.org.uk](http://www.hallsforhire.org.uk)). We have continued to send out a monthly e-newsletter, Staying in Touch with all staff members contributing blogs giving further insight into their work with rural communities.

Our staff team has grown over the course of 2024/25 and at the end of the year comprised 18 staff (13.8 FTE). Finally, after serving for eight years, Annie Blair stood down as Chairperson on 31 March 2025, with David Olney being elected to the role by his trustee peers.

#### **Financial review (throughout this section comparable figures for the year 2023/24 are shown in brackets)**

For the financial year 2024/25 incoming resources were £936,415 (£958,685). This represents a decrease in income of 2%.

The end of the year saw a deficit of £15,541 on the Unrestricted fund. Nearly all costs were contained within approved budgets. Total income exceeded expenditure by £140,444. The restricted reserves have increased from £68,929 to £229,297. The restricted fund is neutral for Cambridgeshire ACRE as the funds are held on behalf of the funders and are returned if not spent.

Designated and capital funds decreased from £171,698 to £167,315, a decrease of £4,383. The unrestricted general reserve showed a decrease during the year from £193,459 to £177,918; a decrease of 8%.

#### **Plans for future periods**

As we look ahead to the future, Cambridgeshire ACRE remains steadfast in its mission to support and empower rural communities across the county. Over the past year, we have been fortunate to secure new funding from the Cadent Foundation, enabling us to continue running our much-valued community hubs and to expand our network of Village Agents. This includes increasing the number of village agents supporting communities in South Cambridgeshire and introducing the service into East Cambridgeshire for the first time.

In the year ahead, we are also excited to begin delivery of our new "Futureproofing Cambridgeshire's Community Buildings" project, supported by the National Lottery Community Fund. This funding will allow us to strengthen our offer to local community buildings, expanding governance support and introducing energy audits and tailored sustainability advice to help secure their long-term future.

During the financial year, Trustees and staff have worked together to develop a new three-year strategy for the organisation. This strategy, which is currently being stress-tested with stakeholders and will be launched at our AGM in October 2025, reflects how the needs of rural communities have evolved. Key findings include a deepening concern around the affordability of housing, continued isolation for some rural residents, growing anxieties about the climate crisis and its local impacts, and the ongoing fragility

**Cambridgeshire ACRE**  
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**Trustees' & Directors' Report**

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of rural services. Our strategy responds directly to these challenges and identifies practical ways we can support resilience, inclusion and sustainability.

We have also seen significant changes in the wider external environment. The election of a new Labour government brings with it fresh opportunities and we welcome the renewed focus on community, fairness and place-based approaches. Our work with Defra will continue and we are already aligning our programmes with the new government's missions while championing the importance of rural needs within national priorities.

Closer to home, we are watching with interest the proposals around local government reorganisation and devolution. While the full implications are not yet known, we are hopeful that these changes may offer a renewed emphasis on rural communities. Our thoughts are with our local authority colleagues who may be experiencing uncertainty during this time of transition and we look forward to working collaboratively to ensure that rural voices are not only heard but embedded within emerging structures.

Cambridgeshire ACRE remains future-focused and optimistic. We are proud of our ability to adapt, to forge strong partnerships and to provide meaningful support to the communities we serve. With a clear strategy in place, dedicated staff and volunteers and the ongoing backing of our members and funders, we are well positioned to meet whatever challenges and opportunities the coming year may bring.

**Statement as to disclosure of information to Auditors**

So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the company's auditors are unaware, and each trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

**The accounts**

These accounts follow previous practice of the charity and have been compiled in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102), commonly known by the acronym SORP. The comparative figures have been extracted from the accounts for the year ending 31 March 2024. These were audited by the auditors, Chater Allan LLP of Cambridge, and filed with the Charity Commission. The auditor's report on those accounts was unqualified. Figures shown in these accounts have been rounded to the nearest whole pound.

Chairperson:	<u>David Olney</u>	Company Secretary:	<u>ACB</u>
	David Olney		Alison Brown
Date:	<u>28 October 2025</u>		e-space North, 181 Wisbech Road, Littleport, Ely, CB6 1RA

# **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE ACRE**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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We have audited the financial statements of Cambridgeshire ACRE for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, (which also comprises the Summary Income and Expenditure Account), the Balance Sheets, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (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 March 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.
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

## **Basis of 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 directors' 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 charity'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 directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

## **Other information**

The trustees are responsible for the 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. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

# **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE ACRE**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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## **Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

## **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.
- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from
- the company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanation we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies' exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report.

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose 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**

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:

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the annual financial statements from our general commercial and charitable company specific experience, through discussion with the Trustees (as required by auditing standards), and from inspection of the charitable company's regulatory correspondence, and we discussed with the Trustees the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indication to non-compliance throughout the audit; the audit team are deemed both competent and capable of identifying non-compliance with rules and regulations.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE ACRE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

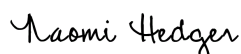
## Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

The potential effect of these laws and regulations on the annual financial statements varies considerably. Firstly, the charitable company is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the annual financial statements including financial reporting legislation and taxation legislation, and we assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related annual account items. Secondly, the charitable company is subject to other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on the amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance non-compliance with industry regulations. We assessed the risk of fraud in the financial statements through discussion with management and from our experience of the charitable company. We communicated identified fraud risk areas throughout our team and remained alert to any indication of fraud throughout the audit. In particular, we assessed the potential impact of the global pandemic known as Covid-19 on the risk of fraud. We did not identify any instances of fraud during the course of our audit.

Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Through these procedures, we did not become aware of any actual or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations. Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

This report is made solely to Cambridgeshire ACRE 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 Charity 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 Charity and the Charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Naomi Hedger (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
For and on behalf of Chater Allan LLP  
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors  
7 Quay Court  
Colliers Lane  
Stow-cum-Quay  
Cambridge  
CB25 9AU  
30 October 2025

# Cambridgeshire ACRE

## For the year ended 31 March 2025

### Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Account

		Year ended 31 March 2025				2024
		Unrestricted funds		Restricted	Total	Total
		Unrestricted	Designated/	funds		
		fund	capital funds			
Note		£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>						
Donations	2	14,200	-	-	14,200	13,560
Charitable activities	3	1,730	-	831,399	833,129	811,719
Other trading activities	5	55,468	-	26,500	81,968	129,872
Investments	6	7,118	-	-	7,118	3,534
<b>Total income</b>		<b>78,516</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>857,899</b>	<b>936,415</b>	<b>958,685</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>						
Raising funds		-	-	-	-	4,511
Charitable activities	11	222,545	1,432	571,994	795,971	1,080,514
<b>Total expenditure</b>	7	<b>222,545</b>	<b>1,432</b>	<b>571,994</b>	<b>795,971</b>	<b>1,085,025</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>(144,029)</b>	<b>(1,432)</b>	<b>285,905</b>	<b>140,444</b>	<b>(126,340)</b>
Transfers between funds	12	128,488	(2,951)	(125,537)	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(15,541)</b>	<b>(4,383)</b>	<b>160,368</b>	<b>140,444</b>	<b>(126,340)</b>
<b>Reconciliation in funds:</b>						
Total funds brought forward		193,459	171,698	68,929	434,086	560,426
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	22	<b>177,918</b>	<b>167,315</b>	<b>229,297</b>	<b>574,530</b>	<b>434,086</b>

#### Continuing Operations

None of the charity's activities were acquired or discontinued during the current or previous year.

# Cambridgeshire ACRE

## As at 31 March 2025

Company registration number: 03690881

### Statement of Financial Position

	Note	Unrestricted funds Unrestricted fund £	Designated/ capital funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
<b>Fixed assets:</b>						
Tangible assets	13	-	1,247	-	1,247	808
Investments	14	18,013	166,068	-	184,081	116,387
		18,013	167,315	-	185,328	117,195
<b>Current assets:</b>						
Debtors	15	100,612	-		100,612	188,948
Cash at bank and in hand		105,019	-	229,297	334,316	192,189
		205,631	-	229,297	434,928	381,137
<b>Liabilities:</b>						
	16	45,726	-	-	45,726	64,246
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year						
<b>Net current assets</b>		159,905	-	229,297	389,202	316,891
<b>Total net assets</b>		177,918	167,315	229,297	574,530	434,086
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>						
Restricted funds	21	-	-	229,297	229,297	68,929
Designated and capital funds	20	-	167,315	-	167,315	171,698
Unrestricted funds		177,918	-	-	177,918	193,459
		177,918	167,315	229,297	574,530	434,086

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 20 August 2025.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

*David Olney*  
 .....  
 David Olney, Chairperson

.....  
 Date

# Cambridgeshire ACRE

## For the year ended 31 March 2025

### Statement of Cash Flows

	Year ended 31 March 2025 £	Year ended 31 March 2024 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>		
Net cash (used in)/ provided by operating activities	204,575	(7,716)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>		
Interest and dividends from investments	7,118	3,534
Purchase of investments	-	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(1,872)	-
	<u>5,246</u>	<u>3,534</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	<u>209,821</u>	<u>(4,182)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	308,576	312,758
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	<u>518,397</u>	<u>308,576</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period held as:		
Cash at bank and in hand	334,316	192,189
Investments	184,081	116,387
	<u>518,397</u>	<u>308,576</u>
<b>Reconciliation of net income/ (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities</b>		
Net (expenditure)/ income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	140,444	(126,340)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	1,432	2,429
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(7,118)	(3,534)
(Increase) in debtors	88,336	103,157
Increase/ (decrease) in creditors	(18,519)	16,572
Net cash (used in)/ provided by operating activities	<u>204,575</u>	<u>(7,716)</u>



# Cambridgeshire ACRE

## For the year ended 31 March 2025

### Notes to the accounts

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#### 1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice “Accounting and Reporting by Charities” (FRS 102) (2019) and the Charities Act 2011.

**Legal Form** Cambridgeshire ACRE is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee.

**Country of Incorporation** Cambridgeshire ACRE is incorporated in the United Kingdom.

**Address of Registered Office:** e-Space North, 181 Wisbech Road, Littleport, Ely, CB6 1RA.

**Currency** These financial statements are presented in sterling which is a functional currency.

**Principal Activities** Cambridgeshire ACRE works alongside communities through a wide range of programmes designed to target specific rural issues or specific community needs.

**Public Benefit** Cambridgeshire ACRE meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

**Income and Reserves** All of the net income and assets are applied towards the objects of the charity.

**Fund Accounting** The charity's general funds consist of funds the charity may use for its purposes at its discretion.

The charity has designated certain funds for specific purposes. These are explained in more detail in note 20 below. The trustees have decided that setting aside funds in this way is a useful financial discipline which will help the charity to make the best use of its resources even though there is no legal force to these designations.

The charity's restricted funds are those where the donor has imposed restrictions on the use of the funds, which are legally binding, or are restricted income funds expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of a particular aspect of the objects of the charity.

Details of the funds and of the restrictions are given in note 21 below.

**Voluntary Income** All voluntary income is included in income when it is virtually certain the income will be received. Where the donor requires the sum to be invested to provide income for the charity's purposes it is treated as an endowment.

**Grant Income** Grants not for a specific purpose are credited directly to income. Restricted funds are set up where grants are for a specific purpose. Any balance or shortfall of income in the year is credited to a specific restricted fund (see note 21). Any surplus arising on the ceasing of a specific purpose is dealt with in accordance with the wishes of the grant giver.

**Grant Expenditure** The charity makes grants from specific funds. These are included in expenditure for the year in which they are paid. Money passed through projects to other bodies are reported as grants.

**Membership** The charity's Membership Scheme is run on an annual basis and includes parish councils, statutory authorities, charitable organisations and some individuals.

**Investments** The charity's investments consist of cash deposits. The trustees keep the deposit accounts under review to ensure that an adequate rate of interest is being paid on the charity's deposits.

**Interest** When receivable or payable interest is included when credited to the relevant account.

**Taxation** As Cambridgeshire ACRE is a registered charity, interest is included gross and no tax is payable on its activities.

# Cambridgeshire ACRE

## For the year ended 31 March 2025

### Notes to the accounts

#### 1. Accounting Policies (continued)

**Value Added Tax (VAT)** The charity is registered for VAT.

**Governance Expenditure** This relates to costs incurred in running the charity and follows the apportionment ratio updated in 2022 (see note 9). Governance costs are allocated to costs of charitable activities.

**Netting Off of Income and Expenditure** Items of income and expenditure are netted off where income is a direct re-charge of expenses to Cambridgeshire ACRE. No other items of income and expenditure have been netted off.

**Fixed Assets and Depreciation** Fixed assets costing more than £500 are included at actual cost, i.e. inclusive of irrecoverable VAT, less annual depreciation calculated on a straight line basis as follows:

- Computer equipment - 33.3%
- Office equipment - 20%
- Office furniture and telephone installation - 10%

**Investments and Investment Income** Investments are included in the accounts at market value. Credit is taken for interest when the interest is credited to the relevant account.

**Capital Fund** The capital fund represents the book value of equipment.

**Designated Funds** The designated funds are used to make annual provisions to cover otherwise uneven patterns of expenditure. Full descriptions are given under Note 20.

**Raising Funds** The cost of raising funds heading on the statement of financial activities includes printing, publicity and marketing costs.

**Going Concern** The grant and project income of the charity continues at an acceptable level. The trustees are satisfied that available sources of finance and future funding income are sufficient to enable the charity to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due. The trustees' policy to manage costs and keep a level of reserves sufficient to cover no less than three months' unrestricted gross expenditure gives confidence that the charity will continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future.

#### 2. Donations

	31 March 2025			31 March 2024	
	Unrestricted Funds	Designated capital	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Grants (Note 4)	-	-	-	-	-
Membership subscriptions	14,200	-	-	14,200	13,560
	14,200	-	-	14,200	13,560

# Cambridgeshire ACRE

## For the year ended 31 March 2025

### Notes to the accounts

#### 3. Charitable Activities

	31 March 2025			31 March 2024	
	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated capital £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Total £
Grants (Note 4)	-	-	820,100	820,100	810,210
Other charitable income	1,730	-	11,299	13,029	1,509
	<u>1,730</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>831,399</u>	<u>833,129</u>	<u>811,719</u>

Income is recognised in accordance with the SORP (FRS 102). As a result, income to Restricted Funds is included in advance of expenditure being incurred and in some cases in advance of the commencement date of a particular project.

#### 4. Analysis of Grants Received

	31 March 2025		31 March 2024	
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £
Accent Nene Ltd	-	-	-	3,497
Arts Council National Lottery	-	-	-	9,848
Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association	-	-	-	3,497
Cambridge Housing Society	-	-	-	875
Cadent Gas Ltd	-	166,909	-	-
Cambridgeshire Community Foundation	-	-	-	48,878
Cambridgeshire County Council	-	29,036	-	52,240
Cambridge Past Present & Future	-	-	-	37,963
Cross Keys Homes Ltd	-	-	-	3,497
Defra	-	102,121	-	79,405
Department for Work and Pensions	-	-	-	176,551
East Cambridgeshire District Council	-	6,497	-	3,497
ECH Local Authority Partnership	-	-	-	9,000
Energy Savings Trust (Via PECT)	-	49,219	-	64,877
English Rural	-	-	-	3,497
Environment Agency	-	57,710	-	57,710
Macmillan	-	60,654	-	-
Fenland District Council	-	2,331	-	2,331
Hastoe Housing	-	-	-	3,497
Huntingdonshire District Council	-	2,331	-	2,331
Longhurst Group	-	-	-	3,497
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	103,860	-	145,638
Social Enterprise East of England	-	-	-	10,093
South Cambridgeshire District Council	-	103,497	-	87,991
Miscellaneous Grants	-	135,935	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>820,100</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>810,210</u>
Sources of Restricted Funds:				
Grants to Cambridgeshire ACRE		708,728		418,327
Grants via Cambridgeshire ACRE		<u>111,372</u>		<u>391,883</u>
		<u>820,100</u>		<u>810,210</u>

Details of grants paid via Cambridgeshire ACRE are disclosed in note 10 of the accounts. Grants paid via Cambridgeshire ACRE are recognised as income because Cambridgeshire ACRE is responsible for the monitoring and allocation of the grant expenditure.

# Cambridgeshire ACRE

## For the year ended 31 March 2025

### Notes to the accounts

#### 5. Other Trading Activities

	31 March 2025			31 March 2024	
	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated capital £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Total £
Business Services, consultancy and training	55,243	-	26,500	81,743	129,800
Publications	225	-	-	225	72
	55,468	-	26,500	81,968	129,872

#### 6. Investment Income

Deposit interest received	7,118	-	-	7,118	3,534
	7,118	-	-	7,118	3,534

#### 7. Total Expenditure

Grants given (Note 10)	-	-	111,372	111,372	391,883
Staff costs (Note 8)	117,095	-	392,923	510,018	414,078
Consultancy	-	-	-	-	1,450
Premises	6,151	-	-	6,151	4,411
Office running costs	31,588	-	1,606	33,194	28,363
Meetings & Workshops	1,134	-	3,422	4,556	6,814
Project delivery costs	-	-	36,655	36,655	63,409
Centenary event costs	389	-	-	389	16,644
Professional fees	10,367	-	8,092	18,459	36,063
Volunteer expenses	91	-	2,008	2,099	7,163
Housing Need Survey Costs	-	-	-	-	11,023
Neighbourhood Plan Costs	40,328	-	-	40,328	43,717
Depreciation	-	1,432	-	1,432	2,429
Publicity	-	-	8,698	8,698	37,434
Expensed equipment	916	-	7,125	8,041	5,086
Subscriptions	6,427	-	-	6,427	6,484
Miscellaneous expenditure	996	-	93	1,089	344
Audit fees	6,782	-	-	6,782	6,447
Non-audit fees	281	-	-	281	1,783
Total expenditure	222,545	1,432	571,994	795,971	1,085,025

A detailed description of the Restricted Fund activities, listed by individual project, is given in note 21.

# Cambridgeshire ACRE

## For the year ended 31 March 2025

### Notes to the accounts

#### 8. Trustees and Staff costs

	Year ended 31 March 2025 £	Year ended 31 March 2024 £
Wages and salaries	420,431	343,820
Accrued holiday pay movement	956	(7,860)
Employer's NI	30,461	25,787
Pension	34,604	38,340
Travel	15,499	7,277
Training	4,490	4,584
Recruitment	3,577	2,130
Total staff costs	<u>510,018</u>	<u>414,078</u>
Key personnel cost	<u>209,466</u>	<u>178,170</u>
No employee earned over £60,000.		
Average number of employees:	Number	Number
Charity	<u>16</u>	<u>11</u>

The trustees, being directors of the company, are not paid for the time they spend on their duties. They receive out of pocket expenses in connection with those duties and a total of £Nil (2024: £Nil) was claimed during the year by trustees. Professional indemnity insurance cover has been provided for trustees and staff at an estimated annual cost of £189.

#### 9. Governance

	Year ended 31 March 2025 £	Year ended 31 March 2024 £
Audit fee	6,782	6,447
Non audit financial services	281	1,783
Trustee meeting and networking	2,109	558
Indemnity insurance	489	454
Selected core staff salaries	13,257	7,645
Expenses	<u>21,654</u>	<u>10,308</u>
	<u>44,572</u>	<u>27,195</u>

Figures represent the costs associated with constitutional and statutory requirements of administering the charity. Indirect costs or direct costs not wholly allocated are apportioned. The apportionment ratio of 10.01% is calculated on the number of days spent on governance expressed as a percentage of total days, the ratio was last updated in July 2025.

# Cambridgeshire ACRE

## For the year ended 31 March 2025

### Notes to the accounts

#### 10. Grants Given

Project	Grant Recipient	Year ended 31 March 2025 £	Year ended 31 March 2024 £
WCLLD	Clarion Futures	-	23,784
WCLLD	CP Learning Trust	-	9,176
WCLLD	CP Learning Trust	-	1,000
WCLLD	Ferry Project	-	156,599
WCLLD	People & Animals UK	-	15,903
WCLLD	Rosmini Centre Wisbech	-	21,578
WCLLD	Tin Fish Creative Communications Ltd	-	21,699
Rural Touring	ADEC	-	3,000
CHES+	Various individuals	27,909	36,250
Community Hubs- East Cambs	Various hubs	10,620	26,424
Community Hubs- Fenland	Various hubs	24,805	33,500
Community Hubs- South Cambs	Various hubs	28,088	9,400
HSF Additional Hub Funding	Various hubs	19,950	-
Warm Hubs in Winter	Various hubs	-	33,570
Total Grants Given		111,372	391,883

# Cambridgeshire ACRE

## For the year ended 31 March 2025

### Notes to the accounts

#### 11. Cost of Charitable Activities

	Social & Community Action Programmes	Environmental Programmes	Economic Programmes	Total
	£	£	£	£
Direct activities	350,214	125,832	83,028	559,074
Grant funding activity	-	-	111,372	111,372
Support costs	30,828	54,367	40,342	125,537
Total cost of activities 2025	381,042	180,199	234,742	795,983
Total costs in 2024	479,862	167,148	433,504	1,080,514

#### Allocation of Support Costs to Activities:

	Social & Community Action Programmes	Environmental Programmes	Economic Programmes	Total
	£	£	£	£
Management & HR	21,369	37,685	27,964	87,018
Finance & IT	4,811	8,485	6,296	19,592
Administration	4,648	8,197	6,082	18,927
Total support costs 2025	30,828	54,367	40,342	125,537
Total costs in 2024	48,474	51,509	35,055	135,038

The support costs shown in the table above have been allocated on an actual basis where possible. The management, finance and administration costs are a sub-division of the actual totals charged and have been apportioned on the basis of core staff salaries.

For the purposes of activity based costing the core and restricted fund projects have been allocated in the table below.

- **Social and Community Action Programmes:** Core trading (business services) [9%]; Cambridgeshire Community Hubs (Cadent); CHESS+; Community Hubs (East Cambs, Fenland and South Cambs); Defra [33%]; Fenland Community Cancer Champions; HSF Additional Hub Funding.
- **Environmental Programmes:** Core trading (business services) [11%]; Catchment Partnership (WEIF); Defra [33%]; Eels in the Classroom; Environment Agency Volunteers; Fens Biosphere Development; New Life on the Old West.
- **Economic Programmes:** Core trading (business services) [80%]; Eastern Community Homes; Defra (33%); Rural Affordable Housing; Social Enterprise Consortium.

A full list of the restricted fund projects and their purpose is given in note 21.

# Cambridgeshire ACRE

## For the year ended 31 March 2025

### Notes to the accounts

#### 12. Fund transfers

##### Year ended 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds
	Unrestricted fund	Designated/ capital funds	
	£	£	£
Catchment Partnership (WEIF)	6,495	-	(6,495)
Charity Centenary Celebration 2024 Fund	4,822	(4,822)	-
CHESS+	4,244	-	(4,244)
Community Hubs - East Cambs.	1,861	-	(1,861)
Community Hubs - Fenland	5,486	-	(5,486)
Community Hubs - South Cambs	14,732	-	(14,732)
DEFRA	8,099	-	(8,099)
Eels in the Classroom	929	-	(929)
Environment Agency Volunteers	15,180	-	(15,180)
New Life on the Old West	15,018	-	(15,018)
Rural Affordable Housing	22,911	-	(22,911)
Machinery and equipment	(1,871)	1,871	-
Social Enterprise Consortium	2,529	-	(2,529)
Cambs Community Hubs (Cadent)	13,780	-	(13,780)
Fenland Community Cancer Champions	12,958	-	(12,958)
HSF Additional Hub Funding	1,050	-	(1,050)
Fens Biosphere Development	265	-	(265)
	128,488	(2,951)	(125,537)

##### Year ended 31 March 2024

Catchment Partnership (WEIF)	5,643	-	(5,643)
Charity Centenary Celebration 2024 Fund	15,178	(15,178)	-
CHESS+	5,444	-	(5,444)
Community Hubs - East Cambs.	11,946	-	(2,167)
Community Hubs - Fenland	4,237	-	(4,237)
Community Hubs - South Cambs	2,367	-	(2,367)
DEFRA	10,717	-	(10,717)
Digital Transformation Fund	5,340	(5,340)	-
Eastern Community Homes	2,092	-	(2,092)
Eastern Community Homes (Chelmsford City Council)	499	-	(499)
Eastern Community Homes (CPCA)	2,718	-	(2,718)
Eastern Community Homes (Maldon District Council)	3,200	-	(3,200)
Environment Agency Volunteers	10,886	-	(10,886)
Machinery and equipment	-	-	-
New Life on the Old West	31,405	-	(31,405)
Rural Affordable Housing	15,540	-	(15,540)
Rural Touring	269	-	(269)
Social Enterprise Consortium	3,888	-	(3,888)
Warm Hubs EC Ext	646	-	4,799
Warm Hubs in Winter	-	-	(39,051)
Warm Hubs SC Ext	13,181	-	10,646
Wisbech CLLD CPCA	10,359	-	(10,359)
	155,555	(20,518)	(135,037)



# Cambridgeshire ACRE

## For the year ended 31 March 2025

### Notes to the accounts

#### 13. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Unrestricted Equipment £	Restricted Equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>			
Beginning of the year	16,560	13,415	29,975
Additions	1,871	-	1,871
At the end of the year	18,431	13,415	31,846
<b>Depreciation</b>			
Beginning of the year	15,752	13,415	29,167
Charge for the year	1,432	-	1,432
At the end of the year	17,184	13,415	30,599
<b>Net Book Value</b>			
As at 31 March 2024	1,894	1,343	3,237
As at 31 March 2025	1,247	-	1,247

All fixed assets are used for charitable purposes.

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>14. Investments</b>		
As at 1 April 2024	116,387	176,386
Additions	67,694	29,690
Disposals	-	(89,689)
Revaluation	-	-
As at 31 March 2025	184,081	116,387
Analysis of investments:		
Cambridge & Counties 120 Day Fund	91,391	83,697
United Trust	29,690	29,690
Cirican LLP	3,000	3,000
Reliance 1 year fixed term	60,000	-
	184,081	116,387

#### 15. Sundry Debtors and Prepayments

Income Due	67,637	82,620
Accrued Income	27,756	92,462
Prepayments	5,219	13,866
	100,612	188,948

#### 16. Sundry Creditors and Accruals

<b>Due within 1 year</b>		
Accruals	7,747	32,944
Accrued Holiday Pay	1,199	2,155
Payroll Liabilities	232	2,497
Sundry Creditors	15,696	9,483
VAT	20,852	17,167
	45,726	64,246

# Cambridgeshire ACRE

## For the year ended 31 March 2025

### Notes to the accounts

Deferred income comprises income received in the year that is attributable to the following year in which the expenditure will be incurred.

	2025	2024
	£	£
Balance of deferred income as at 1 April 2024	6,913	9,883
Amount released to income earned from charitable activities	(6,913)	(2,970)
Amount deferred in the year	1,212	-
Balance of deferred income as at 31 March 2025	<u>1,212</u>	<u>6,913</u>

#### 17. Contingent Liabilities

Certain donations and grants are potentially repayable should the aims and objectives of the charity not be achieved. The trustees, however, are of the opinion that this possibility is remote and therefore the income has been recognised within the accounts for the period under review.

In the event of its activities ceasing the charity would be liable to meet notice and redundancy payments to staff. The trustees are of the view that such liabilities could be met by the existing General Reserve.

#### 18. Pension Scheme

All new eligible job holders are automatically enrolled to the NEST pension scheme. Staff make a contribution of 5% of salary and the charity adds an employer's contribution of 5% (10% for staff employed before November 2012). Staff employed before June 2014 were able to take out their own schemes or join the Pension Trust Growth or Ethical Plans, these options were withdrawn following the introduction of auto enrolment in April 2017. At the balance sheet date there were 17 employees in pension schemes (equivalent figure for the previous year was 11).

At 31 March 2025 there was no balance owing by Cambridgeshire ACRE to the various pension schemes.

#### 19. Related Parties

No one individual controls the charity with all trustees having equal voting rights. All trustees give of their time freely and receive no remuneration for their charitable duties in the year.

Each Trustee completes an annual Declaration of Interests form and these are noted at every meeting of the Board and its Committees. Trustees and senior staff are also required to complete an annual Related Parties Schedule so that any possible transactions or arrangements made or entered into by Cambridgeshire ACRE involving an individual or his/her close family members can be identified.

Trustees are appointed as individuals but do have involvement with organisations which Cambridgeshire ACRE works with on a regular basis. During the past year, Cambridgeshire ACRE has received resource support from, or has supported, and in some case funded, activities with:

- Christchurch Parish Council – David Gibbs
- CP Learning Trust – Terry Jordan
- Newton in the Isle Parish Council – David Gibbs
- Tydd St Giles Parish Council – David Gibbs
- Weston Colville Parish Council – Ray Vidler
- Wisbech Community Development Trust – Terry Jordan
- Wisbech Town Council – Terry Jordan

In all situations, rigorous procurement or project management procedures are followed to ensure no single individual has undue influence over decisions.

# Cambridgeshire ACRE

## For the year ended 31 March 2025

### Notes to the accounts

<b>20. Designated and Capital Funds</b>	Brought forward £	Income/ Revaluation £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
<b>Capital funds</b>					
Equipment (Unrestricted)	808	-	(1,432)	1,871	1,247
Equipment (Restricted)	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Capital Funds</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1,432)</b>	<b>1,871</b>	<b>1,247</b>
<b>Designated Funds</b>					
Digital Transformation Fund	64,660	-	-		64,660
Charity Centenary Celebration 2024 Fund	4,822	-	-	(4,822)	-
Business Continuity and Development Fund	101,408	-	-		101,408
<b>Total Designated Funds</b>	<b>170,890</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(4,822)</b>	<b>166,068</b>
<b>Total Capital &amp; Designated Funds</b>	<b>171,698</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1,432)</b>	<b>(2,951)</b>	<b>167,315</b>

#### Equipment:

A capital fund to reflect the value of the tangible fixed assets held equal to the net book value of the assets. The equipment can be held in either unrestricted or restricted funds.

#### Digital Transformation Fund:

The Charity's membership and stakeholder digital communication expectations are rapidly changing, with future advancements in technology requiring investment beyond the annual digital budget for running and maintenance costs. This fund has been established to allow for the charity to invest in digital solutions and innovation. Funds will be used for furthering the use of digital technology to provide improved member and stakeholder communications, to develop digital fundraising requirements and to increase project management efficiencies for members and partners. Funds might be used for such things as supporting the purchase of new software technology for communications and business efficiency; renewing and updating of websites and the buying new equipment.

#### Charity Centenary Celebration 2024 Fund:

The charity celebrated its Centenary year in 2024. This fund was set up to provide for the undertaking of a programme of special events during that year of celebration in order to raise the profile of the charity's work and show how the charity has shaped rural community life in the County. Funds were used to strengthen the charity's relationships with key stakeholders and to position the organisation for the future.

#### Business Continuity and Development Fund:

The Business Continuity and Development Fund is held to support the development of new programmes of work including the engagement of consultants to prepare funding plans, to cover business uncertainties in costs for programme delivery; to support increasing demands for services where there is a commitment of 'match funding' to develop partnership approaches; to invest in the training staff in new areas of work in order to implement Cambridgeshire ACRE's corporate strategy.

**Cambridgeshire ACRE**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2025**  
**Notes to the accounts**

21. Restricted Funds

	Brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£
Bourn Windmill	-	-	-	-	-
CHESS+	-	49,219	(44,975)	(4,244)	-
Community Hubs - East Cambs.	3,078	31,235	(18,934)	(1,861)	13,518
Community Hubs - Fenland	(42)	86,955	(81,427)	(5,486)	-
Community Hubs - South Cambs	26,042	100,000	(90,266)	(14,732)	21,044
DEFRA	-	44,180	(36,081)	(8,099)	-
Eastern Community Homes	4,810	1,500	(556)	-	5,754
Eastern Community Homes (Chelmsford City Council)	-	-	-	-	-
Environment Agency Volunteers	3,635	42,711	(31,166)	(15,180)	-
Fens Biosphere Development	12,295	-	(12,030)	(265)	-
New Life on the Old West	(45)	79,619	(64,601)	(15,018)	(45)
Rural Affordable Housing	13,390	90,579	(57,052)	(22,911)	24,006
Rural Touring	-	-	-	-	-
Cambs Community Hubs (Cadent)	-	166,909	(40,509)	(13,780)	112,620
Fenland Community Cancer Champions	-	60,655	(47,697)	(12,958)	-
Futureproofing Camb. Com. Bldgs	-	4,242	(1,481)	-	2,761
Garfield Weston	-	20,000	-	-	20,000
HSF Additional Hub Funding	-	21,000	(19,950)	(1,050)	-
Eals in the classroom	-	11,297	(3,157)	(929)	7,211
	68,929	857,899	(571,994)	(125,537)	229,297

# **Cambridgeshire ACRE**

## **For the year ended 31 March 2025**

### **Notes to the accounts**

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#### **21. Restricted Funds (continued)**

Included in the expenditure total above are the projects' share of central core costs. In accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102) (October 2019), the management fee element of these costs has been treated as a transfer in the Statement of Financial Activities.

#### **Catchment Partnership (WEIF)**

This project started in April 2024 and finished in March 2025 (having been funded on an annual basis since 2014/15). Grant funding is provided by the Environment Agency to stimulate engagement with local communities, groups, businesses and organisations and to involve them in decision-making and activities to improve the Old Bedford River's water ecology. A further year of funding has been secured for 2025/26.

#### **Cambridgeshire Home Energy Support Service Plus (CHESS+)**

This project started in February 2023 and ran for 23 months to end December 2024. This was the second iteration of the CHESS project with grant funding provided through the Energy Industry Redress Scheme via our delivery partners PECT (Peterborough Environment City Trust) who were the project lead. The project aimed to improve the health and wellbeing of 1,200 vulnerable households in market towns and parishes across northern Cambridgeshire, who are suffering from or at risk of fuel poverty by providing energy savings advice and support and offering fuel debt relief. Cambridgeshire ACRE's role involved engaging with frontline workers to help them make project referrals and administering the fuel debt relief pot. A third iteration of the project, CHESS 3, commenced April 2025 and will run until 31 March 2027

#### **Community Hubs – East Cambs**

This project ran from May 2024 to March 2025 and was funded through Awards for All, Cambridgeshire County Council's Care Together programme and East Cambridgeshire District Council. It allowed us to continue our work supporting community hubs in East Cambridgeshire district.

#### **Community Hubs – Fenland**

This project started in July 2023 and ran until March 2025. Funded through DCMS's Know Your Neighbourhood fund, the funding allowed us to develop and support a network of community-led Community Living Rooms across Fenland district which have reduced chronic loneliness and increased community volunteering. In Jun 2025, we were awarded some additional funds from the underspent national programme that will allow us to deliver further project activity in the period to March 2026.

#### **Community Hubs – South Cambs**

This project started in November 2023 and runs until October 2025. Funded by South Cambridgeshire District Council, we have continued to support the network of Community Hubs in South Cambridgeshire.

#### **Defra**

This project started in April 2024 and finished in March 2025 (funding is provided on an annual basis). Defra requires us to deliver local strategic support to rural communities, enabling them to take action, sharing learning on sustainable funding models and providing access to local intelligence. Funding for 2025/26 has been confirmed.

# Cambridgeshire ACRE

## For the year ended 31 March 2025

### Notes to the accounts

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#### 21. Restricted Funds (continued)

##### Eastern Community Homes

This project started in April 2020 and ran until March 2025. The project aimed to improve housing supply in the East of England by increasing the number of additional affordable homes delivered by the community-led housing sector. Funding was provided by a partnership of local authorities from across the East of England to underpin a regional Hub of trained advisers in each of the ACRE Network members in the region who provide advice and support for community groups.

##### Eastern Community Homes (Maldon District Council)

This project involved the delivery of a bespoke support agreement with Maldon District Council to support the delivery of community-led housing in that local authority area. Although managed by Cambridgeshire ACRE, the project is delivered by our sister organisation, the Rural Community Council of Essex. The project started in April 2024 and concluded at end March 2025. A further tranche of funding is expected in 2025/26.

##### Environment Agency Volunteers

This project started in March 2023 and ran until the end February 2025. The Environment Agency contracted Cambridgeshire ACRE to run a volunteer scheme to help it manage its statutory navigation objectives within the Anglian Region. By using volunteers, the Environment Agency has brought about better engagement with local communities and gained local support to help deliver essential services. A further single year contract has been agreed for 2025/26.

##### Fens Biosphere Development

This fund held the remainder of the grant funding provided by the People's Postcode Lottery Dream Fund for the purpose of developing and submitting a UNESCO Biosphere nomination for the Cambridgeshire Fens. A decision was ultimately taken not to proceed with the UNESCO nomination. During the course of the year, the remaining funding was transferred to the County Nature Partnership, Natural Cambridgeshire, to take forward the work.

##### New Life on the Old West

This project started in October 2020 and runs until end September 2025. A grant of £730k was awarded from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to deliver 88 wildlife habitat enhancements on farmland and community green spaces in areas around the Old West river. The project is working with people living in the surrounding communities to increase their access to local nature and help a wide range of children and adults to develop new skills and learn about their unique fenland wildlife and natural heritage.

##### Rural Affordable Housing

This project started in April 2024 and finished in March 2025 (having been funded on an annual basis for many years). Grant funding is provided by district councils and housing associations, as members of the Cambridgeshire Rural Affordable Housing Partnership, to allow Cambridgeshire ACRE to facilitate the development of affordable housing schemes for people living in rural Cambridgeshire. Additionally, during 2024/25 additional funding was provided through the Defra Rural Housing Enabler Programme. Partners and Defra have committed to provide a further year's funding for 2025/26.

##### Social Enterprise Consortium

Cambridgeshire ACRE entered into a consortium arrangement with Cambridge CVS, Hunts Forum, Peterborough CVS and Allia Impact, using funding provided by Social Enterprise East of England, to provide support to social enterprises and community-owned businesses across the County. Initially a pilot project in 2023/24, a second phase of the pilot ran from April 2024 – August 2024.

# **Cambridgeshire ACRE**

## **For the year ended 31 March 2025**

### **Notes to the accounts**

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#### **21. Restricted Funds (continued)**

##### **Cambs Community Hubs (Cadent)**

Cambridgeshire ACRE has received funding through Cadent's Centres for Warmth programme to continue and extend its support for Community Hubs across East Cambridgeshire, Fenland and South Cambridgeshire. The funding allows us to employ a team of Village Agents who support individuals with improving their health and wellbeing. Cadent is particularly concerned that we should support people with income maximisation, energy efficiency advice and carbon monoxide safety advice. The project commenced in September 2024 and will run until end March 2026.

##### **Fenland Community Cancer Champions**

The Fenland Community Cancer Champions project aims to ensure people living in Fenland have improved knowledge about cancer that supports their access to earlier diagnosis and treatment. Funded by Macmillan Cancer Support the project started in May 2024 and will run for three years until end April 2027.

##### **Futureproofing Camb. Com. Bldgs**

This project will start in April 2025 and will run by three years to end March 2028. Funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, with match funding brought across from our Defra funding and membership fees, it seeks to enhance support for community buildings by providing a comprehensive suite of services and resources tailored to the needs of volunteer management committees. A new addition is the provision of sustainability advice, including energy audits for community buildings seeks to 'go greener' by installing energy efficiency measures.

##### **HSF Additional Hub Funding**

Cambridgeshire County Council distributes the Household Support Fund (HSF), the UK Government grant to support those most in need and to help with the rising cost of living. The funds permits them to allocate a certain proportion of funding for preventative measures and they granted funded to Cambridgeshire ACRE to passport onto our network of Community Hubs. This was a one-off initiative during 2024/25.

##### **Eals in the classroom**

This short-term project was delivered between February 2025 and end May 2025. Funded by the Centre for Landscape Regeneration, the project saw us work in two schools to give children hands-on experience in rearing endangered eels, learning about their life cycle and releasing them into the wild.

# Cambridgeshire ACRE

## For the year ended 31 March 2025

### Notes to the accounts

#### 22. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	-	1,247	-	1,247
Investments	18,013	166,068	-	184,081
Net current assets	159,905	-	229,297	389,202
<b>Total</b>	<b>177,918</b>	<b>167,315</b>	<b>229,297</b>	<b>574,530</b>

#### 23. Statement of financial activities - Comparative figures for 2024

	Year ended 31 March 2024			Total
	Unrestricted funds Unrestricted fund £	Designated/ capital funds £	Restricted funds £	£
<b>Income</b>				
Donations	13,560	-	-	13,560
Charitable activities	1,273	-	810,446	811,719
Other trading activities	95,255	-	34,617	129,872
Investments	3,534	-	-	3,534
<b>Total income</b>	<b>113,622</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>845,063</b>	<b>958,685</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Raising funds	4,511	-	-	4,511
Charitable activities	229,056	2,429	849,029	1,080,514
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>233,567</b>	<b>2,429</b>	<b>849,029</b>	<b>1,085,025</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	-	-
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<b>(119,945)</b>	<b>(2,429)</b>	<b>(3,966)</b>	<b>(126,340)</b>
Transfers between funds	155,555	(20,518)	(135,037)	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>35,610</b>	<b>(22,947)</b>	<b>(139,003)</b>	<b>(126,340)</b>
<b>Reconciliation in funds:</b>				
Total funds brought forward	157,849	194,645	207,932	560,426
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>193,459</b>	<b>171,698</b>	<b>68,929</b>	<b>434,086</b>



# **Cambridgeshire ACRE**

## **For the year ended 31 March 2025**

### **Notes to the accounts**

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Cambridgeshire ACRE wishes to thank the individuals, community groups, organisations and statutory partners who funded and supported our work over the last year, in particular:

#### **Central Government**

Department for Culture, Media and Sport  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Environment Agency

#### **Local Authorities and Statutory Agencies**

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority  
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System  
Cambridgeshire County Council  
East Cambridgeshire District Council  
Fenland District Council  
Huntingdonshire District Council  
South Cambridgeshire District Council

#### **Housing Associations / Registered Social Landlords**

Accent Group Ltd  
Amplius (formerly the Longhurst Group)  
Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association  
Cambridge Housing Society  
English Rural Housing Association  
Hastoe Housing Association Ltd

#### **Lottery Distributors**

Awards for All  
National Lottery Community Fund  
National Lottery Heritage Fund

#### **Grant Makers, Trusts and Foundations and Others**

Allia Impact  
Anglian Water  
Cadent Gas Ltd  
Cambridgeshire Community Foundation  
Centre for Landscape Regeneration  
Energy Industry Redress Fund through Energy Savings Trust  
Evelyn Trust  
Garfield Weston Foundation  
Macmillan Cancer Support  
Papworth Trust  
PECT  
Plunkett UK  
Resolve Poverty  
Social Enterprise East of England  
Trinity Denoir