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The Countryside Education Trust Annual Report and Accounts 2023



Charity Number 269546

The Countryside Education Trust

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For the year ended 31 December 2023

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The Countryside Education Trust

Legal and administrative information For the year ended 31 December 2023

Trustees	Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, President (resigned as Chair 4 July 2024) A Moore-Gwyn (resigned 4 July 2024) D Olden (resigned 18 July 2023) R Channell (resigned 4 July 2024) N Burt D Printer, Deputy Chair (resigned 12 April 2023) M Wade K Burwood P Johnson (appointed 27 April 2023), Chair of FGR, Vice-Chair G Hardacre (appointed 13 July 2023) C Lee (appointed 14 December 2023) O Turgoose (appointed 14 December 2023) S Newey (appointed 14 December 2023) V Edwards (appointed 26 January 2024) (appointed as Chair 4 July 2024) P Foster (appointed 4 April 2024 and resigned 12 September 2024)
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The Countryside Education Trust is a tenant of Lord Montagu and the Beaulieu Estate.

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

Objectives of the Countryside Education Trust

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

- Provide or promote the provision of facilities so that the public and young people in particular, can gain access to the countryside, especially the Beaulieu Estate and the New Forest: and that they can both enjoy and be educated about the countryside;
- Protect, preserve and care for the beauty and character of the countryside and to stimulate the general public to do the same
- Conserve the New Forest for the benefit of the public, including the restoration and preservation of buildings of national, historic or scientific interest.

Our Mission

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

Public Benefit

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

- The advancement of education
- The advancement of environmental protection or improvement
- The advancement of citizenship or community development
- The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science

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

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



President's Highlights 2023



HRH the Countess of Wessex with Lord Montagu, members of the Fort Family and children from Beaulieu School at the opening of the Fort Climate Centre.

The absolute highlight of 2023 was the official opening of the Fort Climate Centre by HRH the Countess of Wessex on a damp and windy March day. Little could dampen the enthusiasm generated by the visit amongst local school children, our interns, volunteers and friends of the Trust. The Countess' own interest in farming and young people perfectly aligns with the CET and our young farmers gave our visitor a highly informed introduction to the animals. We were honoured to host the Countess, the Trust's first royal visit, but hopefully not its last!

The opening of the Fort Climate Centre was the culmination of a project long envisaged by Ted Fort, OBE who funded the building. Providing a new space for climate conversations, the building has quickly become integral to the Trust's work and its place in the New Forest. Countryside education and conservation has always been central to the Countryside Education Trust ('CET'); the climate focus is a natural extension to those themes, centring on the imperatives of caring for the land and communicating the necessity of so doing to protect nature and people in the face of climate challenges.

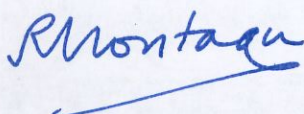
Much of this year's work has been part of wider partnerships with other charitable organisations and the New Forest National Park, initially through the Green and Blue Horizons Project, funded by the Heritage Lottery. Partnership brings benefits beyond the financial, especially for small organisations, and we have been very grateful to be involved. Our funded work with 7 interns, the ability to develop new graduates and the new professional course looking at climate change and land management were great opportunities and new areas for the CET to test. We are honing them for use with different audiences. In the same vein, we have also attracted two exciting grants, one from the National Lottery, for the first time, again as part of a collaboration with other charities (Youth for Climate and Nature (YouCAN)); and

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 December 2023

one from the Environment Agency, with the New Forest National Park, looking at coastal change (Championing Coastal Coordination).

Finally, thanks to our friends, funders, and volunteers for all your support during 2023. The Countess of Wessex met our oldest volunteer, Marg, who had just celebrated her 90th birthday, and our youngest, Noah, who was 9 years old. While we work with young people from all over the South of England, we are a community organisation, rooted in the New Forest and its environs, and our Royal day demonstrated this perfectly.



Lord Montagu of Beaulieu
President & Trustee

Context for 2023

There is no doubt that 2023 was a challenging year. An ongoing war in Europe, startlingly rising inflation, teachers in dispute with the government and the lasting effects of the pandemic meant that the year was not the recovery year for which we had hoped. Whilst rising costs of fuel, food and animal feed took a direct toll on the charity's finances, the ability of many of our potential visitors to pay for 'extra' activities such as school trips, courses or holidays decreased.

Of course, we were not alone in facing a challenging year. In 2023, 4.2 million children were living in poverty and there was a persistent absenteeism rate of over 20%. 2.6 million teachers' days were lost to sickness and there were strikes through the year, so planning school trips was not top of the agenda for any Headteacher. Increasing levels of anxiety in our young people is also having a notable impact. Children and young people worry about rising prices (76%) and the environment (72%), and only 36% feel positive about the future of the world. We have noticed that parents are also more anxious about their children staying away from home (many of our visitors have not even stayed at friends or grandparents before coming to us, because of Covid). Transport costs have also impacted on people's ability to reach Home Farm.

Notwithstanding all of this, we know that what we have to offer can be part of the solution; by teaching climate and nature, we can empower people to be better able to deal with climate anxiety and to help with nature recovery; residential trips build resilience and forge better bonds with teachers and peers; practical conservation work develops skills and self-belief; volunteering grows teams; and caring for animals or the environment creates a sense of connectedness for people of all ages.

'Being in nature makes me happy'

88% of children and young people, 2023

Education

Our residential programme, though smaller than pre-pandemic, nevertheless saw 27 groups over the course of the year. We have largely moved to a three day a week model, which seems broadly popular with schools and parents, though some funded visits are for a full week. With our smaller team, this means that we can offer other activities on the farm on Thursdays and Fridays, once the residential school has left.

Day visits remain popular, and are focussed on the woodland mostly, where children and young people can enjoy habitat work, bushcraft, orienteering and pond dipping.

Our most requested visit by far remains the stream study; we are fortunate to be able to trace the Hartford Stream from its spring down through our woods to the Beaulieu River, taking in all the geography curriculum requirements along the way but also adding history to the mix by talking about the Roman coin found by a crossing, the monastic uses of the wood, and the building of cobb cottages.

We are developing our offering for visits to the farm, which work especially well for younger children. We hope to be able to renovate our greenhouses during 2024 and potentially put down a new path as part of the envisaged sensory trail and this will support a wider educational programme.



Anna and Steve training La La and Po to carry picnics

Community

Our Owls clubs (0-12) continue to be oversubscribed, and we are attracting more of the upper end of this age range to Eagle Owls. Philosophically, we believe that enabling parents to be comfortable and confident in the outdoors will multiply opportunities for those children to be outside going forward, which is why we start with babies coming along with their parents.

We provide valuable work experience opportunities for young people in Year 9 and also from local colleges, particularly Sparsholt, a local agricultural college. In 2023 we engaged in outreach to two local schools to publicise our work and to offer this opportunity.

As a result of our developing expertise with sheep, we held our first Sheep Show in the summer of 2023, with the help of an expert judge from the Shetland Sheep society. It was good practice for our young handlers, our after-school club team who are mainly from non-farming backgrounds but who train to be able to handle sheep at various shows. We showed with success at the New Forest Show, Sherborne and Romsey, winning multiple awards.



The after school club with HRH the Countess of Wessex

We held two other events, a Seedy Sunday seed swap, to encourage local growers, and a Food Fayre, to encourage local food sourcing, both allied to our wider climate aims. We produced excellent juice from our Heritage orchard, this time a very well received apple and pear mix which we sold at our pop-up shop which showcases seasonal foods grown or harvested here.

We were once again proud to be runners up in the New Forest Business Partnership's Brilliance in Business Awards for the community and not for profit category.

Volunteers provide hundreds of hours of support for our work, from organising fundraising events to regular gardening or conservation work, looking after our animals or checking our remote livestock and undertaking renovations in the woods. This year, two separate teams of volunteers raised over £17,000 for the CET with a Chef's Night and a Party in the Woods.

We are enormously thankful to all our volunteers, who make a huge difference to what the small staff team can accomplish.



Volunteers making a new work bench in Hartford Wood

Conservation

As part of our philosophy of nature friendly farming, and with support from the Green and Blue Horizons project, we planted nearly 250m of hedgerow with our volunteers. While labour intensive, hedging has a number of benefits over other fencing, helping to reduce soil erosion, creating habitats for a wide variety of species and avoiding soil compaction.

Coppicing is an important element of our winter work schedule as we manage the understory of Hartford Wood, a semi ancient woodland. The coppice is on a 10-year rotation; we train both volunteers and interns in this ancient skill, and use the various products around our sites, as well as selling bean poles and pea sticks to the general public or via a local business.

Work around improving water efficiency and using rainwater effectively continued on the farm with volunteer support.

Farming



Pigs pannaging

We are commoners on the New Forest, and this means running ponies; we brought in our oldest mare last year after she gave birth to a rather beautiful foal, and she will stay in now, at 27. We also pannage our pigs, an ancient tradition where pigs are turned out to eat 'mast' – acorns, which are poisonous to horses. We believe that this participation embeds the Trust in the New Forest community and honours its special heritage. We have started to incorporate teaching about commoning for residential groups, and outreach activities.

We helped the Beaulieu Estate in the restoration of fields at Beufre Farm which have been largely used as horse pasture over the past few years. Again, with the help of volunteers we pulled mounds of ragwort before grazing our Shetland sheep, a hardy native breed which is well suited to conservation grazing. The breed works well for our education programme, as the sheep are small, inquisitive and friendly creatures, who, on the whole, are good mothers and often produce twins on our land, which is pretty poor grassland. We bred 36 lambs which all have names starting with 'g' this year to keep track of their birth year!

As well as sheep, we have cows, goats, pigs, turkeys, ducks, chickens, two elderly tortoises, rabbits and guinea pigs – something for everyone, no matter their confidence level.



Young handlers at the New Forest Show

Climate

The Fort Climate Centre has been used regularly for our own teaching, and the permanent display in the centre, A Beginner's Guide to Climate Change, has been well received by all.

One of the objectives for the new building is that it acts as a hub for local groups and businesses for discussions around the environment and climate change; during 2023 we hosted the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, the New Forest National Park, New Forest Business Partnership, the New Forest Marque, the Natural England Regional Team, the Ordnance Survey and Southampton University.

The new Solent Farm Cluster, 17 farmers, tenants and land agents looking to achieve landscape scale climate and environment change through collaboration, is based in the Fort Climate Centre. Although at an early stage this has the potential to deliver real environmental changes and we are proud to be on the Steering Group.

The Chief Executive of the New Forest National Park has developed a Green Leaders programme targeting people with the potential to become leaders in the environmental sector and she asked to host this at the Fort Climate Centre to present a vision of challenges ahead. Our Deputy Chief Executive joined the course to great effect.



Young climate and environment course participants getting to grips with shetlands

We have two monitoring stations (Skyview systems), one at Home Farm and one in the woods, providing valuable climate data to the University of Reading, both funded by the Fort Foundation.

What does the future hold?

2024 will see the creation of a new strategic plan to establish the Countryside Education Trust's priorities. We have recruited new Trustees and will be appointing a new chair to help with this process which will be in place for 2025 as the CET heads towards its 50th birthday!

Principal Sources of Income

Although based on Beaulieu Estate's land and with a generous mix of direct and indirect support from the Estate, the Countryside Education Trust is an independent charity.

2023 saw a more varied mix of funding than heretofore. For the first time we were part of a successful bid for funding from the National Lottery. The three-year project centres on Youth for Climate and Nature and will provide £198000 of funding mainly focussing on staff, interns, youth courses and young volunteers. The project extends beyond the boundaries of the New Forest including partners in Bournemouth, Salisbury and Southampton, coordinated by the New Forest National Park.

We also bid for £36,000 of funding from Championing Coastal Coordination, an Environment Agency initiative. Given that the coastline from Lymington to Lepe is not likely to be defended by the public purse, it is important for local communities to understand the impact of rising sea levels here. We worked with the New Forest National Park on this project too.

The Ernest Cook Trust Outdoor Week of Learning continued, funding a research project and places for young people who would not otherwise have the opportunity to spend time in the countryside; this is a really important initiative which has now been extended to 2027 and provides benefits well beyond the funding in terms of links with other centre, intellectual engagement and research. We were also grateful to the support of the Fort Foundation with costs associated with the Fort Climate Centre. The Beaulieu Beaufort Foundation kindly paid for wood for our Treehouse renovations, unlocking many hours of volunteering. Various family trusts who wish to remain anonymous also supported our work, and we are very grateful to them too.

We had two exceptional fundraising events; Chef's Night, run by a longtime volunteer and her dedicated team, raised £5,500; and Party in the Woods, which brought new people to the Trust, run by another volunteer, raised nearly £12,000. We are hugely grateful for this support.

Weddings at the Treehouse were more modest than in previous years, but more in keeping with the values of the Trust, with couples appreciating the setting, and we also hosted a series of wellbeing events in the woods. Renting the residential centre to non-school groups was a valuable source of income, and also created opportunities for people to connect to the countryside, as did the holiday cottage, through animal feeding. Event income was low key, as we were not sufficiently staffed for larger public events, and the pop-up shop did well. We certainly need to diversify income streams, which will be part of the new strategy review 2025-2028.

Sadly, we had to return one large grant of £25,000 as we were unable to spend the funds.

Risk management

Risks are reviewed by Trustees on a regular basis. The major risks during 2023 revolved around a volatile world, in which environmental education for funders and for potential visitors was not a priority.

Reserves Policy

The Trust holds total funds of £1,021,987 (2022: £968,813) at the year end, of which £546,277 (2022: £391,947) are restricted. Free reserves are arrived at by adjusting for the fixed assets required to continue to operate the Trust of £470,231 (2022: £545,237). Free reserves therefore amounted to a surplus of £5,479 (2022: £31,629). Trustees aspire to hold three months of operating costs in reserves but this is challenging at the current time and we will seek to aim this during 2025. After making enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to operate in the future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

The Countryside Education Trust

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 December 2023

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is governed by a Trust Deed and is an Unincorporated Association. The Montagu Family is entitled to chair or be represented on the governing board as founders. No other body has the ability to be automatically represented. Trustees are recruited through advertising and recommendation. As part of the recruitment process, they receive a briefing from the CEO, a tour of both sites and are interviewed by two or three Trustees, before being appointed by the Chair on behalf of the board.

As well as the main board, a new Finance, Governance and Risk Committee was created during 2023, which will support the board and the governance of the charity.

Services are contracted out where it is cost effective, including for IT, Finance, HR and website support. Weddings used to be run by an outside contractor, but we have utilised a freelancer to deliver weddings during 2023.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

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

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity, and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

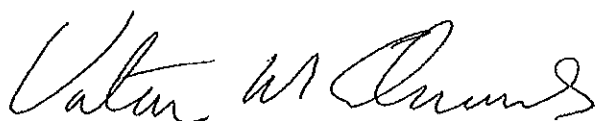
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable group will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

25 October 2024

This report was approved by the trustees on and signed on their behalf by:



Dr Victoria Edwards
Chair

The Countryside Education Trust

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

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act')

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Casidhe Baleri ACA CTA
For and on behalf of Saffery LLP

Accountants
Date: 25 October 2024

Midland House
2 Poole Road
Bournemouth Dorset BH2 5QY

The Countryside Education Trust

**Statement of financial activities
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

		Restricted funds 2023	Unrestricted funds 2023	Total funds 2023	Total funds 2022 As restated
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2	301,036	25,775	326,811	377,607
Charitable activities	5	-	155,150	155,150	155,361
Other trading activities	3,4	-	63,171	63,171	68,648
Other income		-	2,369	2,369	9,345
Total income		301,036	246,465	547,501	610,961
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds:					
Voluntary income	6	-	23,452	23,452	20,958
Fundraising trading	6	-	26,542	26,542	22,894
Charitable activities	6	102,902	341,431	444,333	373,316
Total expenditure		102,902	391,425	494,327	417,168
Net (expenditure)/income before transfers		198,134	(144,960)	53,174	193,793
Transfers between funds	15	(43,804)	43,804	-	-
Net movement of funds		154,330	(101,156)	53,174	193,793
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds at 1 January 2023		391,947	576,866	968,813	775,020
Total funds at 31 December 2023		546,277	475,710	1,021,987	968,813

All activities relate to continuing operations.

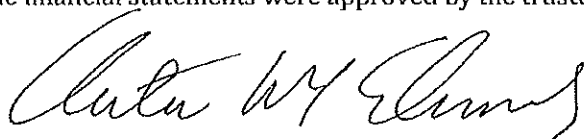
The notes on pages 18 to 33 form part of these financial statements.

The Countryside Education Trust

Balance sheet
As at 31 December 2023

	Note	£	2023 £	£	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		766,740		800,134
Current assets					
Stock	11	13,995		14,047	
Debtors	12	279,276		78,151	
Cash at bank and in hand		122,973		181,490	
		416,244		273,688	
Creditors:					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(135,997)		(70,005)	
Net current assets			280,247		203,683
Creditors:					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	14		(25,000)		(35,004)
Net assets			1,021,987		968,813
Represented by:					
Restricted funds	15		546,277		391,947
Unrestricted funds	15		475,710		576,866
Total funds			1,021,987		968,813

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 25 October 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Dr Victoria Edwards
Chair

The notes on pages 18 to 33 form part of these financial statements.

The Countryside Education Trust

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Net cash (absorbed in)/provided by operating activities	17	(8,507)	247,355
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(40,010)	(216,703)
Net cash used in investing activities		(40,010)	(216,703)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Loan repayments		(10,000)	(8,000)
Net cash (used in)/provided by financing activities		(10,000)	8,000
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(58,517)	22,652
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		181,490	158,838
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		122,973	181,490

The notes on pages 18 to 33 form part of these financial statements.

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

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

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

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Fund accounting

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

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

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

1.4 Income

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

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

1 Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Income (continued)

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

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

1.5 Expenditure

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.6 Operating leases

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

1.7 Stocks

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

1 Accounting policies (continued)

1.8 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

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

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

1.9 Interest receivable

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

1.10 Debtors

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

1.11 Cash at bank and in hand

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

1.12 Creditors and provisions

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

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

1.13 Pensions

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

The Countryside Education Trust

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

1.14 Prior year restatement

The prior year has been restated to reflect a more accurate allocation of income between charitable activities and trading activities. This affects the SOFA and notes 4 and 5 of the accounts.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Individual donors	58,812	24,497	83,309	221,970	36,878	258,848
Friends of CET	-	1,278	1,278	-	1,371	1,371
Grants	242,224	-	242,224	115,079	2,309	117,388
Total	301,036	25,775	326,811	337,049	40,558	377,607
donations and legacies						

3 Activities to generate funds

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Fundraising activities	-	6,785	6,785	-	1,589	1,589
	-	6,785	6,785	-	1,589	1,589

The Countryside Education Trust

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

4 Trading activities

	Restricted funds 2023	Unrestricted funds 2023	Total funds 2023	Restricted funds 2022	Unrestricted funds 2022 As restated	Total funds 2022 As restated
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Charity trading income						
Farm income	-	14,143	14,143	-	11,917	11,917
Wedding income	-	19,493	19,493	-	33,898	33,898
Holiday let income	-	22,750	22,750	-	21,244	21,244
	-	56,386	56,386	-	67,059	67,059
Charity trading expenses						
Farm purchases	-	12,461	12,461	-	9,401	9,401
Wedding purchases	-	527	527	-	230	230
Holiday let purchases	-	13,554	13,554	-	13,262	13,262
Net income/ (expenditure) from trading activities	-	29,844	29,844	-	44,166	44,166

5 Income from charitable activities

	Restricted funds 2023	Unrestricted funds 2023	Total funds 2023	Restricted funds 2022	Unrestricted funds 2022 As restated	Total funds 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Primary purpose activity:						
Residential fees	-	137,541	137,541	-	130,892	130,892
Non-residential fees and income	-	17,609	17,609	-	24,469	24,469
Total	-	155,150	155,150	-	155,361	155,361

The Countryside Education Trust

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

6 Total expenditure

Current Year	Staff costs (Note 9)	Other direct costs	Support costs (Note 7)	Governance costs	Total 2023
Expenditure on raising funds					
Fundraising	-	-	23,452	-	23,452
Fundraising trading	-	26,542	-	-	26,542
	-	26,542	23,452	-	49,994
Expenditure on charitable activities					
Primary purpose trade	173,485	180,067	82,639	8,142	444,333
Governance	-	2,558	5,584	(8,142)	-
	173,485	209,167	111,675	-	494,327
Support staff costs	46,305		(46,305)		
	219,790		65,370		

The Countryside Education Trust

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

6 Total expenditure (continued)

<i>Prior Year</i>	Staff costs (Note 9)	Other direct costs	Support costs (Note 7)	Governance costs	Total 2022
Expenditure on raising funds					
Fundraising	-	-	20,958	-	20,958
Fundraising trading	-	22,894	-	-	22,894
	-	22,894	20,958	-	43,852
Expenditure on charitable activities					
Primary purpose trade	158,917	133,155	73,854	7,390	373,316
Governance	-	2,400	4,990	(7,390)	-
	158,917	158,449	99,802	-	417,168
Support staff costs	43,892		(43,892)		
	202,809		55,910		

7 Support costs

	Costs of generating voluntary income £	Primary purpose trading £	Governance £	Total 2023 £
Office costs	13,728	48,373	3,269	65,370
Staff costs	9,724	34,266	2,315	46,305
	23,452	82,639	5,584	111,675

The Countryside Education Trust

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

7 Support costs (continued)

Prior year	Costs of generating voluntary income	Primary purpose trading	Governance	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Office costs	11,741	41,374	2,795	55,910
Staff costs	9,217	32,480	2,195	43,892
	<u>20,958</u>	<u>73,854</u>	<u>4,990</u>	<u>99,802</u>

8 Net incoming resources

This is stated after charging:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	35,365	33,000
Independent examiner's fee	2,550	1,800
Operating lease rentals	<u>5,956</u>	<u>5,667</u>

9 Staff employment costs

Staff costs were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	201,697	185,254
Social security costs	12,227	12,043
Other pension costs	<u>5,866</u>	<u>5,512</u>
	<u>219,790</u>	<u>202,809</u>

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

2023	2022
Number	Number
12	11

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

Key management personnel received remuneration and benefits totalling £28,064 (2022: £25,873) and pension contributions of £1,123 (2022: £1,035).

The Countryside Education Trust

**Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Buildings	Machinery and equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 January 2023	1,096,107	231,344	58,890	1,386,341
Additions	31,543	5,525	2,942	40,010
Disposals	-	(58,521)	-	(58,521)
At 31 December 2023	<u>1,127,650</u>	<u>178,348</u>	<u>61,832</u>	<u>1,367,830</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2023	367,217	162,977	56,013	586,207
Charge for the year	29,739	4,877	749	35,365
Eliminated on Disposal	-	(20,482)	-	(20,482)
At 31 December 2023	<u>396,956</u>	<u>147,372</u>	<u>56,762</u>	<u>601,090</u>
Net book value				
At 31 December 2023	<u>730,694</u>	<u>30,976</u>	<u>5,070</u>	<u>766,740</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>728,890</u>	<u>68,367</u>	<u>2,877</u>	<u>800,134</u>

11 Stock

	2023	2022
	£	£
Stock	<u>13,995</u>	<u>14,047</u>

12 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	20,032	29,569
Other debtors	259,244	48,582
	<u>279,276</u>	<u>78,151</u>

The Countryside Education Trust

**Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

13 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Loan	10,000	9,996
Trade creditors	4,789	11,669
Other taxation and social security	6,726	8,163
Other creditors and accruals	51,536	20,592
Deferred income	62,946	19,585
	<u>135,997</u>	<u>70,005</u>

14 Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank loans	<u>25,000</u>	<u>35,004</u>

The Bounce Back loan was drawn down in July 2021. It has a term of 72 months. Capital repayments will commence 13 months following the drawdown of the loan. A guarantee has been provided by the UK Government under BBLS.

The Countryside Education Trust

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

15 Statement of funds

Statement of funds – current year

	At 1 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers in/out £	At 31 December 2023 £
Designated funds – fixed assets	456,061	-	(14,579)	-	441,482
General funds					
General funds	120,805	246,465	(376,846)	43,804	34,228
Total unrestricted funds	576,866	246,465	(391,425)	43,804	475,710
Restricted funds					
Biomass Project Fund	16,250	-	-	(16,250)	-
Home Farm Biomass	25,000	(25,000)	-	-	-
Minibus Fund	1,859	-	(262)	-	1,597
Sensory Trail Project Fund	22,374	165	-	-	22,539
Education Officer Salary Fund	36,034	-	(36,034)	-	-
Bird Trail Fund	2,349	-	(470)	-	1,879
Fort Climate Centre	209,436	49,086	(26,059)	(1,826)	230,637
Residential Bathrooms Project	15,000	-	-	-	15,000
Environmental Education Fund	-	8,000	(8,000)	-	-
Treehouse Tools	20	-	(20)	-	-
Treehouse Repairs Fund	-	9,000	-	-	9,000
YouCAN Project Fund	-	198,000	(4,283)	-	193,717
The OWL Collaboration	62,625	-	-	(25,400)	37,225
Green & Blue Horizons	-	25,225	(23,711)	(328)	1,186
Green Cascade Volunteer Programme	1,000	-	(545)	-	455
IT Equipment Fund	-	560	-	-	560
3C's Project Fund	-	36,000	(3,518)	-	32,482
	391,947	301,036	(102,902)	(43,804)	546,277
Total funds	968,813	547,501	(494,327)	-	1,021,987

The Countryside Education Trust

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

15 Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds – prior year

	At 1 January 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers in/out £	At 31 December 2022 £
Designated funds – fixed assets	471,527	-	(15,466)	-	456,061
General funds					
General funds	130,514	273,912	(283,621)	-	120,805
Total unrestricted funds	602,041	273,912	(299,087)	-	576,866
Restricted funds					
Biomass Project Fund	17,500	-	(1,250)	-	16,250
Home Farm Biomass	25,000	-	-	-	25,000
Minibus Fund	2,100	-	(241)	-	1,859
Sensory Trail Project Fund	22,374	-	-	-	22,374
Education and Farmers Salary Fund	8,750	-	(8,750)	-	-
Education Officer Salary Fund	15,000	40,680	(19,646)	-	36,034
Bird Trail Fund	2,819	-	(470)	-	2,349
Fort Climate Centre	-	211,969	(3,957)	-	208,012
Climate Change Centre	2,374	-	(950)	-	1,424
Residential Bathrooms Project	5,000	10,000	-	-	15,000
Environmental Education Intern	2,500	-	(2,500)	-	-
Treehouse Tools	20	-	-	-	20
Outreach	15,542	-	(15,542)	-	-
Refurbishment of Residential Centre	12,000	-	(12,000)	-	-
The OWL Collaboration	42,000	35,000	(14,375)	-	62,625
Green & Blue Horizons	-	38,400	(38,400)	-	-
Green Cascade Volunteer Programme	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
	172,979	337,049	(118,081)	-	391,947
Total funds	775,020	610,961	(417,168)	-	968,813

The Countryside Education Trust

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2023

15 Statement of funds (continued)

Summary of funds – current year

	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfer s in/out	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds	456,061	-	(14,579)	-	441,482
General funds	120,805	246,465	(376,846)	43,804	34,228
	576,866	246,465	(391,425)	43,804	475,710
Restricted funds	391,947	301,036	(102,902)	(43,804)	546,277
	968,813	547,501	(494,327)	-	1,021,987

Summary of funds – prior year

	At 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfer s in/out	At 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds	471,527	-	(15,466)	-	456,061
General funds	130,514	273,912	(283,621)	-	120,805
	602,041	273,912	(299,087)	-	576,866
Restricted funds	172,979	337,049	(118,081)	-	391,947
	775,020	610,961	(417,168)	-	968,813

Designated funds

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

Restricted revenue funds descriptions

The Biomass Project and Home Farm Biomass funds were to contribute to and support the funding of a new Biomass boiler. Unfortunately the biomass is no longer operable and has been written off as a result, thus explaining the transfer.

The Minibus fund is to help towards the purchase of a new minibus and signage.

The Sensory Trail Project Fund is to contribute towards the Sensory Trail Project.

Education and Farmers Salary Fund is to assist with the salaries of farmer and education manager.

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

The Countryside Education Trust

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

15 Statement of funds (continued)

The Fort Climate Centre Fund is for building and equipping the new Fort Climate Centre Building.

The Climate Change Centre Funds contributed towards the cost of purchasing weather stations situated at the Treehouse and the Residential Centre.

Residential Bathrooms Project helping us to futureproof ourselves by kickstarting a new project to change our residential centre bathrooms so that they are suitable for a wider range of groups.

The Environmental Intern Fund is to support five individuals on the Environmental Education Internship programme.

The Outreach fund is to support a local community farming project.

Treehouse Repairs Fund relates to donations towards major Treehouse Repairs Project

YouCAN Project Fund is funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the Youth for Climate and Nature Scheme.

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

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

3C's Project Fund is a programme of work that is being led by the Environment Agency with support from Natural England, the Marine Management Organisation and the Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities.

Other restricted funds are for various projects as outlined in the names of the funds above.

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds – current year

	Restricted funds 2023	Designated funds 2023	Unrestricted funds 2023	Total funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	242,238	441,482	83,020	766,740
Current assets	304,039	-	112,205	416,244
Creditors due within one year	-	-	(135,997)	(135,997)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	-	(25,000)	(25,000)
	<u>546,277</u>	<u>441,482</u>	<u>34,228</u>	<u>1,021,987</u>

The Countryside Education Trust

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

16 Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds – prior year

	Restricted funds 2022	Designated funds 2022	Unrestricted funds 2022	Total funds 2022
	£		£	£
Fixed assets	254,897	456,061	89,176	800,134
Current assets	137,050	-	136,638	273,688
Creditors due within one year	-	-	(70,005)	(70,005)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	-	(35,004)	(35,004)
	<u>391,947</u>	<u>456,061</u>	<u>120,805</u>	<u>968,813</u>

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income for the year	53,174	193,793
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation charges	35,365	33,000
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	38,039	-
Decrease in stocks	52	3,427
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	(201,125)	21,645
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	65,988	(4,510)
Net cash (absorbed by)/provided by operating activities	<u>(8,507)</u>	<u>226,793</u>

18 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash in hand	<u>122,973</u>	<u>181,940</u>

19 Pension commitments

The charity participates in a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the fund and amounted to £5,866 (2022: £5,512). Contributions totalling £3,261 (2022: £2,138) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

The Countryside Education Trust

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2023

20 Operating lease commitments

At 31 December 2023 the total of the Charity's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating lease payments was:

	Land and buildings		Other	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Amounts payable:				
Within 1 year	5,667	5,667	1,679	783
Between 1 and 5 years	19,204	19,204	5,878	196
After more than 5 years	210,032	214,833	-	-
Total	<u>234,903</u>	<u>239,704</u>	<u>7,557</u>	<u>979</u>

21 Trustees

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

During the year the charity provided Trustee indemnity insurance to cover all its trustees at a cost of £1,624 (2022: £1,500).

22 Related party transactions

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

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

Recharged services provided by BEL amounted to £28,787 (2022: £24,832).

At the year end the balance owed by the charity to BEL amounted to £6,503 (2022: £3,906).

Lord Montagu - A Trustee of the charity

During the year the trust leased all leasehold properties from the private estate of Lord Montagu. The rentals payable on these properties for the year were £13,157 (2022: £8,887).

The charity also paid £3,873 (2022: £4,313) for other services provided by the private estate of the Lord Montagu. At the year end the balance owed by the charity to Lord Montagu amounted to £nil (2022: £nil).

23 Control

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



A frosty morning at the Fort Climate Centre

Countryside Education Trust (Charity No. 269546)
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www.cet.org.uk