

The Countryside Education Trust Annual Report and Accounts 2024



Charity Number 269546



Pond-dipping during stream study, October 2024

The Countryside Education Trust

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For the year ended 31 December 2024

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The Countryside Education Trust

Legal and administrative information
For the year ended 31 December 2024

Trustees	Lord Montagu of Beaulieu A Moore-Gwyn (resigned 4 July 2024) R Channell (resigned 4 July 2024) N Burt M Wade K Burwood P Johnson (appointed Chair 27 March 2025) G Hardacre C Lee O Turgoose S Newey V Edwards (appointed 26 January 2024 and resigned 13 March 2025) 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 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 2024

We are continuing our traditional work with schools and the public, but 2024 has been a particularly notable year for the Trust. New opportunities have resulted from collaborations with other organisations. Post pandemic, partnership is central to the way that charities need to operate, and the CET team has proved effective at this way of working.

Youth For Climate and Nature (YouCAN) funded by the National Lottery, has been one such success story. The Trust has been working with seven environmental organisations centred on the New Forest National Park, but including the cities of Southampton and Bournemouth, to provide opportunities for young people from 11-25 to engage with nature. We delivered our first Environmental Careers Taster Week in July, which covered environmental education, sustainable farming, conservation, woodland management, and community engagement, and proved a highly positive experience for participants from 16-21. Another element of YouCAN is our internship programme, and in November we offered a paid residential week to interns who worked collectively on a variety of joint tasks and delivered individual projects for the Trust subsequently. Beyond these initiatives, YouCAN has supported community events, staff costs and long-term roles for two young people at the beginning of their environmental education careers. As well as financial support, the development opportunities for our team have been incalculable and relationships with colleagues in associated charities and the National Park have deepened.

I am delighted to report the early success of the Fort Climate Centre during 2024, its first full year of operations since its opening by HRH The Countess of Wessex. In total, 2000 people visited, including all schools using the residential centre. Each school spends time in the centre during the stay, and the children leave with more ideas about how their behaviour can help the planet. Beyond that, the Fort Climate Centre is becoming a hub for positive conversations about climate change as well as a venue for lectures and public events. It is a popular space for local organisations, and this year Southampton University, New Forest National Park (almost every month, including running their Green Leaders Course here), New Forest Land Advice Service, New Forest Business Partnership, and the New Forest Marque have all visited.

The Countryside Education Trust's work around conservation has taken a more central place during the year, one good example being land on the Beaulieu Estate which had been degraded by previous management regimes. Volunteers pulled ragwort before a conservation grazing regime was instituted, focussed especially on the Trust's prize-winning Shetlands, and the difference is notable even at this early stage. This experiment will provide a good case study for local farmers and especially the general public.

2025 will see the implementation of the first phase of a new strategy, centred on 'People for Nature, and Nature for People' as well as the opportunity to celebrate 50 years of the Countryside Education Trust, a major achievement for the small charity imagined by my father, Edward Lord Montagu, in 1975.

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu
President & Trustee

Activities

Education is central to the identity of the Trust, whether formal education with schools or through the Trust's work with the wider community. The Trust has a residential centre with a capacity of 44, the Fort Climate Centre, a small farm, heritage orchard and remarkable ancient woodlands, with our award-winning Treehouses.

Residential school visits were 10% weaker this year largely due a drop to only 27 children per class attending, from an earlier average of 32. On the positive side, the Trust managed to fund 27% of all visits fully or partly, ensuring that children from the most challenged backgrounds did not miss out on an opportunity to experience a residential with all the social, cultural and educational benefits these confer.

Day visits remain popular, especially the stream study; the Hartford Stream rises on the heath just above our site, which means that young people can walk the course of the stream all the way to the Beaulieu River, perfect for scientific enquiry as well as an opportunity to explore semi-ancient woodland, and one of the best habitats for a host of rare flora and fauna, some only found in the New Forest.



Water science in action, Hartford Wood, 2024

Community education had a successful year, especially as a result of major projects with the Lottery, which Lord Montagu has highlighted, and with the Environment Agency. Championing Coastal Coordination was a stand-out success in 2024. The focus of this project was the 18.5km stretch of New Forest National Park coastline running east of the Lymington River to Calshot, much of the land designated as SSSI, SPA and SAC. Not only is this at high risk due to climate change, but policy also currently indicates

that it will not attract public funding. People locally have various degrees of understanding about this, so the Championing Coastal Coordination project aimed to begin to engage the local community and inform local landowners of the threats and opportunities around mitigations. One to one conversations with landowners provided a good baseline for future collaborative efforts, and a series of public events focussed on the theme of 'Our Coast'.



The winners (adult, youth and child) with Lord Montagu

These ranged from lectures ('Archaeology of the Western Solent' and 'Climate Change and Wildlife') to a photography competition and exhibition, and a vox pop film (by an intern) asking coastal users about their relationship with the coastline. Conservation efforts included young people aged 10-14 making and painting terns for deployment to attract nesting birds, to a beach clean with over 130 people. The project also afforded the development of education and interpretation materials.



At work creating music in the Treehouses with Oliver Tarney

This year with the support of the Arts Council and Culture in Common, the Trust launched the New Forest Song. Working with a professional conductor, composer and librettist, the project seeks to turn the words of local children into a song series, celebrating the New Forest. The children either visit one of our sites, or we visit the school, and in the spring the inaugural concert was held, bringing together local schools to sing the songs they had worked on. This project will reach 12 schools and homeschool groups over the course of the project.

The Trust continues to run fully subscribed children's clubs, from our OWLs clubs (0-13 year olds, Owlets, Little Owls, Big Owls and Eagle Owls) to the after-school Farm Club, where the children, mainly from non-farming backgrounds, can help on the farm, developing into proficient young sheep handlers. We offer a wide and growing range of opportunities for young people to become involved, from work experience for year 10s and students at local colleges, youth volunteering and several paid internships each year.



Teaching coppicing techniques to interns, November 2024

Home Farm is a small-holding based on a Victorian model farm, but it provides the perfect teaching base for schools and adults as we have a small number of many different animals. Our growing success is in breeding pedigree Shetland sheep, a perfect breed for the farm's clay fields as they are light on their feet, good mothers and relatively sociable. These small sheep come in a wide variety (30+) of colours and markings, which means that we have a genetic laboratory laid out in front of visitors on the farm for teaching purposes. They are also excellent conservation grazers. As well as more conventional farmers, we are commoners too, so the education offering focusses on the ancient traditions and language built into the history of the New Forest landscape. The Trust, as Commoners, can graze pigs and ponies on the Forest.

These farming connections are demonstrated in the fact that the New Forest Southern Cluster is based in the Fort Climate Centre, 17 farmers, tenants and land agents looking to achieve landscape scale climate and environment change through collaboration. Early work centres on carbon audits and soil health, but the Cluster has the potential to deliver real environmental change for the Forest.



Corporate volunteers from RWD

The Trust could not accomplish as much as it does, given its size, without the support of volunteers. We also enable corporate volunteering on both our sites during the course of the year, which adds to our capacity.

The volunteers work on the farm, in the woods, at special events, in the office and as fundraisers. Latterly a dedicated team has been renovating the Treehouses. These efforts are valued by the Trust enormously, not only providing resources and skills to which we would not otherwise have access but also embedding the Trust further into the community.



Staff, volunteers and Friends of the Trust gather round the fire to hear Yarrow Townsend's work as Writer-in-Residence funded by Artful Scribe and the New Forest National Park

What does the future hold?

2024 saw the creation of a new strategic plan to establish the Countryside Education Trust's priorities. Several Trustees served their full term this year, and our longstanding chair, Lord Montagu, moved to become President of the Trust. We appointed an experienced interim Chair in Dr. Victoria Edwards, who shepherded the Trust through the year before moving aside for a new Chair, Mr. Phil Johnson. He arrived with the benefit of a history of working as the longstanding Finance Director at Beaulieu Enterprises Ltd, and consequently overseeing the production of the Countryside Education Trust's Accounts for many years before heading up the Charity's Finance, Risk and Governance Committee since 2023. His appointment lends stability to the Trust in a period of change.

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.

2024 continued the trend of seeking more diverse funding sources. We received £198,000 from The National Lottery project, Youth for Climate and Nature, continued with our partners from across the region, bringing the Trust to the centre of exciting work with young people interested in the environmental sector for three years concluding in 2026. We were successful, again alongside the in gaining £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.

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 have a team of volunteers who help with fundraising events, and once again the Chef's Night was a great success; one of the objectives of 2025 is that we should explore new possibilities for fundraising events.

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 is 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, but 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 2024 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 £900,357 (2023: £1,021,987) at the year end, of which £426,456 (2023: £546,277) are restricted. Free reserves are arrived at by adjusting for the fixed assets required to continue to operate the Trust of £473,901 (2023: £475,710). Free reserves therefore amounted to a deficit of £1,809 (2023: deficit of £101,156). 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 for 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.

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 since 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 Countryside Education Trust

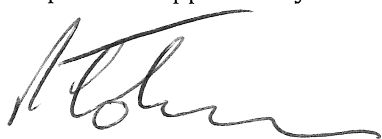
Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 December 2024

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

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

This report was approved by the trustees on 22/10/25 and signed on their behalf by:



Phil Johnson
Chair

The Countryside Education Trust

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

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by 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

Date: 28 October 2025

Midland House
2 Poole Road
Bournemouth Dorset BH2 5QY

The Countryside Education Trust

Statement of financial activities For the year ended 31 December 2024

		Restricted funds 2024	Unrestricted funds 2024	Total funds 2024	Total funds 2023
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2	54,400	107,034	161,434	326,811
Charitable activities	5	-	163,419	163,419	155,150
Other trading activities	3,4	-	59,178	59,178	63,171
Other income		-	1,383	1,383	2,369
Total income		54,400	331,014	385,414	547,501
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds:					
Voluntary income	6	-	26,426	26,426	23,452
Fundraising trading	6	-	39,986	39,986	26,542
Charitable activities	6	174,221	266,411	440,632	444,333
Total expenditure		174,221	332,823	507,044	494,327
Net (expenditure)/income before transfers		(119,821)	(1,809)	(121,630)	53,174
Transfers between funds	15	-	-	-	-
Net movement of funds		(119,821)	(1,809)	(121,630)	53,174
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds at 1 January 2024		546,277	475,710	1,021,987	968,813
Total funds at 31 December 2024		426,456	473,901	900,357	1,021,987

All activities relate to continuing operations.

The notes on pages 16 to 31 form part of these financial statements.

The Countryside Education Trust

Balance sheet As at 31 December 2024

			2024		2023
	Note	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		754,665		766,740
Current assets					
Stock	11	13,784		13,995	
Debtors	12	181,772		279,276	
Cash at bank and in hand		65,147		122,973	
		260,703		416,244	
Creditors:					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(96,056)		(135,997)	
Net current assets			164,647		280,247
Creditors:					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	14		(18,955)		(25,000)
Net assets			900,357		1,021,987
Represented by:					
Restricted funds	15		426,456		546,277
Unrestricted funds	15		473,901		475,710
Total funds			900,357		1,021,987

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 28/10/25 and signed on their behalf by:



Phil Johnson
Chair

The notes on pages 16 to 31 form part of these financial statements.

The Countryside Education Trust

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Net cash (absorbed in)/provided by operating activities	17	(27,774)	(8,507)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(20,885)	(40,010)
Net cash used in investing activities		(20,885)	(40,010)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Loan repayments		(9,167)	(10,000)
Net cash (used in)/provided by financing activities		(9,167)	(10,000)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(57,826)	(58,517)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		122,973	181,490
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		65,147	122,973

The notes on pages 16 to 31 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 2024

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Individual donors	-	105,681	105,681	58,812	24,497	83,309
Friends of CET	-	1,353	1,353	-	1,278	1,278
Grants	54,400	-	54,400	242,224	-	242,224
Total	54,400	107,034	161,434	301,036	25,775	326,811
donations and legacies						

3 Activities to generate funds

	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Fundraising activities	-	6,896	6,896	-	6,785	6,785
	-	6,896	6,896	-	6,785	6,785

The Countryside Education Trust

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

4 Trading activities

	Restricted funds 2024	Unrestricted funds 2024	Total funds 2024	Restricted funds 2023	Unrestricted funds 2023	Total funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Charity trading income						
Farm income	-	16,189	16,189	-	14,143	14,143
Wedding income	-	17,700	17,700	-	19,493	19,493
Holiday let income	-	18,393	18,393	-	22,750	22,750
	-	52,282	52,282	-	56,386	56,386
Charity trading expenses						
Farm purchases	-	11,250	11,250	-	12,461	12,461
Wedding purchases	-	-	-	-	527	527
Holiday let purchases	-	28,736	28,736	-	13,554	13,554
Net income/ (expenditure) from trading activities	-	12,296	12,296	-	29,844	29,844

5 Income from charitable activities

	Restricted funds 2024	Unrestricted funds 2024	Total funds 2024	Restricted funds 2023	Unrestricted funds 2023	Total funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Primary purpose activity:						
Residential fees	-	145,983	145,983	-	137,541	137,541
Non-residential fees and income	-	17,436	17,436	-	17,609	17,609
Total	-	163,419	163,419	-	155,150	155,150

The Countryside Education Trust

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

6 Total expenditure

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

The Countryside Education Trust

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

6 Total expenditure (continued)

<i>Prior Year</i>	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		

7 Support costs

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

The Countryside Education Trust

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

7 Support costs (continued)

Prior year	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
	<u>23,452</u>	<u>82,639</u>	<u>5,584</u>	<u>111,675</u>

8 Net incoming resources

This is stated after charging:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	32,960	33,365
Independent examiner's fee	3,000	2,550
Operating lease rentals	<u>10,680</u>	<u>5,956</u>

9 Staff employment costs

Staff costs were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	251,818	201,697
Social security costs	16,296	12,227
Other pension costs	<u>6,850</u>	<u>5,866</u>
	<u>274,964</u>	<u>219,790</u>

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

2024	2023
Number	Number
14	12

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

Key management personnel received remuneration and benefits totalling £34,469 (2023: £28,064) and pension contributions of £1,379 (2023: £1,123).

The Countryside Education Trust

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Buildings	Machinery and equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 January 2024	1,127,650	178,348	61,832	1,367,830
Additions	20,885	-	-	20,885
Disposals	13,235	-	-	13,235
At 31 December 2024	<u>1,161,770</u>	<u>178,348</u>	<u>61,832</u>	<u>1,401,950</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2024	396,956	147,372	56,762	601,090
Charge for the year	27,974	3,991	995	32,960
Eliminated on Disposal	13,235	-	-	13,235
At 31 December 2024	<u>438,165</u>	<u>151,363</u>	<u>57,757</u>	<u>647,285</u>
Net book value				
At 31 December 2024	<u>723,606</u>	<u>26,984</u>	<u>4,075</u>	<u>754,665</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>730,694</u>	<u>30,976</u>	<u>5,070</u>	<u>766,740</u>

11 Stock

	2024	2023
	£	£
Stock	<u>13,784</u>	<u>13,995</u>

12 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	29,750	20,032
Other debtors	152,022	259,244
	<u>181,772</u>	<u>279,276</u>

The Countryside Education Trust

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

13 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Loan	6,878	10,000
Trade creditors	14,072	4,789
Other taxation and social security	3,601	6,726
Other creditors and accruals	30,266	51,536
Deferred income	41,239	62,946
	<u>96,056</u>	<u>135,997</u>

14 Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank loans	<u>18,955</u>	<u>25,000</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 capital repayment holiday has been granted for the period 8 December 2024 until 8 May 2024 with repayments made during this period being interest only. 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 2024

15 Statement of funds

Statement of funds – current year

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

The Countryside Education Trust

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

15 Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds – prior 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

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024

15 Statement of funds (continued)

Summary of funds – current year

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

Summary of funds – prior 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

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 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.

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

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 Countryside Education Trust

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

15 Statement of funds (continued)

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.

The Green Cascade Volunteer Programme aims to pass skills onto volunteers.

Championing Coastal Communities (3C's) is a project funded by the Environment Agency connecting communities with climate changes which will impact the land between Lymington and Calshot.

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

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

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 2024	Designated funds 2024	Unrestricted funds 2024	Total funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	249,795	428,497	76,373	754,665
Current assets	176,661	-	84,042	260,703
Creditors due within one year	-	-	(99,178)	(99,178)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	-	(15,833)	(15,833)
	<u>426,456</u>	<u>428,497</u>	<u>45,404</u>	<u>900,357</u>

The Countryside Education Trust

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

16 Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds – prior 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>

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

	2024 £	2023 £
Net (expenditure)/income for the year	(121,630)	53,174
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation charges	32,960	35,365
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	38,039
Decrease in stocks	211	52
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	97,504	(201,125)
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	(36,819)	65,988
Net cash (absorbed by)/provided by operating activities	<u>(27,774)</u>	<u>(8,507)</u>

18 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash in hand	<u>65,147</u>	<u>122,973</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 £6,850 (2023: £5,866). Contributions totalling £2,360 (2023: £3,261) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

20 Operating lease commitments

At 31 December 2024 the total of the Charity's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating lease payments was:

	Land and buildings		Other	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Amounts payable:				
Within 1 year	5,667	5,667	1,679	1,679
Between 1 and 5 years	19,204	19,204	4,198	5,878
After more than 5 years	205,231	210,032	-	-
Total	<u>230,102</u>	<u>234,903</u>	<u>5,877</u>	<u>7,557</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 (2023: £1,624).

22 Related party transactions

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

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

Recharged services provided by BEL amounted to £34,969 (2023: £28,787).

At the year end the balance owed by the charity to BEL amounted to £487 (2023: £6,503).

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 (2023: £13,157).

The charity also paid £872 (2023: £3,873) 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 £1,801 (2023: £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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