

COUNTRYSIDE LEARNING

England & Wales · Charity number 327091

Details

Other names	THE COUNTRYSIDE FOUNDATION, THE COUNTRYSIDE FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATION
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	01997554
Registered	1986-04-17
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	K M Chartered Accountants Burnley Wharf Manchester Road Burnley BB11 1JG
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Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE AND PROMOTE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND WHERE AND INSOFAR AS RELATED CIRCUMSTANCES APPLY IN THE USA AND WHERE APPROPRIATE ELSEWHERE FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, EDUCATION CONCERNING THE BRITISH COUNTRYSIDE AND THE EFFECT OF COUNTRY SPORTS AND PASTIMES AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES (AND IN PARTICULAR THE EFFECT OF THEIR PRESERVATION, PROTECTION, DEVELOPMENT, MAINTENANCE, ABOLITION OR CURTAILMENT) UPON SUCH ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING AS THE FOUNDATION SHALL IN ITS ABSOLUTE DISCRETION FROM TIME TO TIME DETERMINE NAMELY (A) THE ECOLOGY (B) THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT (C) WILDLIFE (D) AGRICULTURE (E) THE WAY OF LIFE AND ECONOMY OF RURAL COMMUNITIES (F) THE INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESS CONNECTED THEREWITH AND EMPLOYMENT WITHIN THOSE INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESS PROVIDED THAT THE FOUNDATION SHALL NOT CARRY ON ANY ACTIVITIES OF A NATURE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE FOUNDATION BEING ACCOUNTED IN LAW A COMPANY OF AN EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE NATURE.

Activities: We organise events for schoolchildren, educating them about the countryside, and do teacher training sessions.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training, Amateur Sport, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** THE UNITED KINGDOM AND OVERSEAS
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£406,131	£355,185	-	-
2024-03-31	£306,757	£301,006	-	-
2023-03-31	£289,153	£285,800	-	-
2022-03-31	£229,763	£222,117	-	-
2021-03-31	£283,745	£283,619	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
LORD FRANCIS MELFORT WILLIAM STAFFORD	Chair	
ANTHONY R DOWNS		2012-01-26
Antonia Kate Bury		2019-09-11
CLAIRE LOUISE BARKER		2011-09-12
DERMOT CHRISTOPHER DALY		
GEORGE EDWARD SPENCER SELIGMAN		
HAROLD HENDERSON		
MICHAEL THOMAS ELLIOT		
NATASHA VIVIEN BRANSTON		2013-09-13
SIMON PAUL ROBERTS		
Susannah Hall		2019-09-11
THE COUNTESS PEEL		

COUNTRYSIDE LEARNING

England & Wales - Charity number 327091

Accounts

Company registration number: 01997554

Charity registration number: 327091



Countryside Learning

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

KM
1st Floor, Block C
The Wharf
Manchester Road
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG

Countryside Learning

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Draft

Countryside Learning

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees

Miss C L Barker
Mrs N V Branston
Ms A K Bury
Mr D C Daly
Mr A R Downs
Mr M T Elliot
Mrs S Hall
Mr H M Henderson
The Countess Peel
Mr S P Roberts
Mr G E S Seligman
The Lord Stafford

Secretary

Mr G Richardson

Charity Registration Number

327091

Company Registration Number

01997554

Registered Office

The charity is incorporated in England and Wales.
1st Floor, Block C
The Wharf
Manchester Road
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG

Independent Examiner

KM
1st Floor, Block C
The Wharf
Manchester Road
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG

Bankers

Unity Trust Bank
Four Brindley Place
Birmingham
B1 2JB

Countryside Learning

Chairman's Statement

At Countryside Learning, our mission is: Educate, inform and inspire children, parents, and teachers so they can enjoy, appreciate, and care for the natural environment. We aim to nurture a deeper understanding of the countryside and the many complex issues that surround it.

The Children's People and Nature Survey for England: 2024 paints an improving, but still stark picture. Only 15% of children reported visiting farmland, fields, or countryside, and just 11% had visited hills, mountains, or moorland. The disconnect between children and nature is real and growing, especially as less time is spent in free play, outdoors, and more time communicating and playing in a virtual world.

Recent findings also highlight disparities in how young people access and connect with nature. For instance, children from Black/Black British (43%) and Asian/Asian British (35%) backgrounds were more likely to spend outdoors or with nature at school, rather than in wider countryside settings. These differences point to underlying barriers-not just in access, but in perception.

Despite these challenges, over half (57%) of children surveyed reported a high connection to nature, though this connection was lower among older children aged 12-15 (27%) than younger ones aged 8-11 (20%). Interestingly, Black/Black British children were less likely to report low nature connection (17%) than their White (24%) or Asian/Asian British (23%) peers.

This growing disconnect underscores why our work matters.

Our vision is to provide as many children as possible with safe, meaningful, and inclusive access to the countryside. We aim to connect young people with landscapes, wildlife, and the people who live and work in these environments, in ways that enhance both formal education and personal growth. We achieve this through a range of carefully designed programmes:

Our Programmes

- **Woodland Sessions:**
Free nature-based days held across England in varied woodland settings.
- **Countryside Classroom Days:**
Educational visits to country estates where children explore rural life and meet the people who work the land.
- **Let's Learn Moor:**
Our Uplands Education Programme, run in partnership with BASC and supported by Moorland Groups and landowners.
- **Tailored Outdoor Learning Days:**
Custom-designed visits to complement class topics or simply offer an engaging day outdoors.

There is no one-size-fits-all model, but through feedback and conversations with teachers and students, consistent outcomes emerge.

Assessing Our Impact

This year, we've continued to evaluate the outcomes of our work:

Short-term outcomes:

- Supporting schools to meet curriculum needs and wellbeing goals.
- Giving all children the chance to thrive through engaging and inclusive activities.
- Ensuring accessibility for children of all backgrounds and abilities.
- Creating connections with people working in the countryside.
- Increasing teachers' confidence in outdoor education.

Countryside Learning

Chairman's Statement

- Enhancing and complementing in-school learning.
- Fostering collaborative partnerships with schools and new partners.

Long-term outcomes:

- Providing meaningful, memorable experiences.
- Raising awareness of nature and countryside life.
- Embedding our work into school curriculum planning.
- Inspiring future interest in countryside-related careers.

Headline Achievements: 2024-25

- We worked with **over 21,000 children** directly and through supporting other educational events.
- Our dedicated team of 20 Farms for Schools members continued to reach thousands for children and families.
- We collaborated with **more than 400 schools**, over **70% of which** are based in urban areas.
- **181 schools** (45%) had higher-than-average numbers of pupils eligible for Free School Meals—a key indicator of socioeconomic disadvantage.
- From January 2025, we began tracking participation among **Black and ethnic minority pupils** - a group often underrepresented in countryside access. Between January and March (typically a quieter period), we engaged **618 pupils** from **11 schools**, most of which had over **30% BAME populations**.

We also expanded our reach:

- **4 new host venues** were added to our national portfolio, including a new collaboration with the **National Trust at Gawthorpe Hall** in Lancashire.
- We continued to grow partnerships with existing venues, increasing both reach and impact.

Fundraising and Donations

We have always been fortunate to have the long-term support of grant making trusts who help us grow our work with children every year. In addition, in the last financial year we have received some extremely significant support from companies and individuals who have made a significant difference to what we are able to achieve through their amazing generosity. We are a small charity with a big job to do and we are only too aware that it is the generosity of our supporters who make everything possible and that is why we make every penny count towards delivery rather than marketing and administration.

Sustainability and Value

We are proud that **98p in every £1** donated goes directly to programme delivery. For 20 years, we have maintained financial stability while remaining focused on value, efficiency, and purpose.

While financial growth has never been our primary goal, the **quality of our service** remains non-negotiable. We are deeply committed to avoiding duplication, reducing administrative overheads, and working collaboratively with trusted partners to extend our reach—more farms, more areas, more children—without increasing costs.

Countryside Learning

Chairman's Statement

Looking Ahead

I urge our supporters to witness firsthand the extraordinary work being done by our frontline staff. Their dedication not only brings our vision to life but also shapes our strategy moving forward. Reading figures on a page does not adequately reflect the passion and enthusiasm of the Countryside Learning team.

We will continue to provide outstanding value for our supporters and unforgettable outdoor learning experiences for the children we serve. By working with-not in competition with-other organisations, we strengthen the sector and ensure every child has a chance to build a lasting connection with nature.

Thank you for your continued support.
The Lord Stafford,
Chairman, Countryside Learning

Draft

Countryside Learning

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The objects for which the charity was established are to advance and promote in the United Kingdom and, where appropriate, elsewhere for the public benefit, education concerning the effect of country sports and pastimes and leisure activities (and in particular the effect of their preservation, protection, development, maintenance, abolition or curtailment) upon such one or more of the following as the Foundation shall in its absolute discretion from time to time determine namely: ecology, the rural environment, wildlife, agriculture, the way of life and economy of rural communities, the industries and businesses connected therewith and employment within those industries and businesses.

The aims of Countryside Learning are simple:

To Educate, Inform and Inspire children, parents and teachers to enjoy and appreciate the countryside around them. CL acts as a link to a national infrastructure whereby teachers and their pupils can visit and study skilled workers in their workplace, using the knowledge gained and extra resource facilities available through CL to take back to the classroom to enhance the school curriculum.

The education of people in where their food comes from and an appreciation of the outdoors is one of the key ways tackling the issues of obesity and poor physical health of the population. Recent research from Countryside Classroom, supported by DEFRA, DfE and DoH, showed the growing need to educate the 'Concrete Generation' of people who had no connection or understanding of the environment around them. Through our work we aim to reconnect people with this world ensuring a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that we have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit reporting in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

The remainder of this Annual Report explains the charity's work during the year and how it has been carried out for the public benefit.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The charity's main objectives for the year

To ensure progress it is vital for an organisation to have the vision and drive to reach new achievements. The Board regularly reviews our rolling 5-year strategy along with our organisational Risk Assessment and Memorandum and Articles. The board is confident that we can achieve during the course of the current year the following objectives:

Continued financial stability

Continued partnership working to ensure increased service delivery

Continued development of our educational provision including smaller bespoke days which complement our larger events

Continue our partnerships with other likeminded charities to grow our work in the most cost effective manner, avoid duplication and increase delivery on the ground

Countryside Learning

Trustees' Report

Identify new partnerships to deliver volume countryside events for children

Fully participate in the Countryside Classroom Project offering all providers increased profile and access to resources and events which our beneficiaries can benefit from

CL constantly aims to refine and enlarge its operation in a sustainable manner and welcomes approaches and ideas from other interested parties in order to achieve that.

The charity's strategies for achieving its stated objectives

Financial stability is vital if we are to secure the sustainability of our work. Children, parents and teachers need to know that we will be around not just this year, but the next and the next offering high quality, safe and enjoyable outdoor classroom experiences. We aim to secure a 3 month operating cost reserve fund which currently stands at £100,000.

Regular reporting between the Chairman and the Chief Executive ensures clear direction, and with quarterly Board meetings where all staff participate in report writing and in some cases Board presentation, all key stakeholders are aware of the issues facing the Charity, whether that be personnel issues, financial or strategic.

The current management has developed a rolling 5 year strategy which is reviewed by the Chairman and the Chief Executive on a regular basis and a yearly update is presented to the Trustees. A complete review of how we plan, cost and fund our business is of primary importance if we are to secure our work and develop it into the future. To this end our aim is to achieve:

Full cost recovery funding before any major event is approved.

Budgets for each event which will be shared with consultants and estates.

A 2- or 3- year funding agreement with estates including year on year cost increments.

Added value from consultants including assistance in achieving funding for the events they manage and cost limitation of all events.

Always producing revenue neutral budgets and hopefully surplus budgets for the Charity.

The Chief Executive has been tasked to develop partnerships in the sector, as well as influencing key decision makers and politicians. This has secured our active role in the Countryside Classroom, Learning Outside the Classroom and Access to Farms networks.

Developing influence, sector presence and demonstrable and successful activities are the principal guides which the charity has followed to secure the strong financial position we now have.

Details of significant activities

This year, along with our Farms for Schools Members, we continue to reach many thousands of children. Farms for Schools is a membership network for farms that open to school visits. To become a member, applicants have to meet stringent requirements on health and safety and can be inspected by ourselves and other providers. Most importantly, member farms are subject to independent reviews from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Environmental Health Officers (EHO) and advice updates from Public Health England (PHE). We have worked with other providers to respond to the recommendations of the Griffin Report and have developed and reviewed a sector wide code of practice.

Countryside Learning

Trustees' Report

Countryside Learning has continued to grow the breadth of its educational provision and even in a time that has been significantly impacted by covid and financial pressures, we have reached over 21,000 children. As well as being fortunate in finding new venues who wish to support us, we have also begun work with other groups from the community and out of term time support for children and their families.

Grant making policies

We do not make grants to other organisations or individuals but may from time to time offer our services free or at a reduced rate for those beneficiaries who present the greatest financial need or to encourage participation in a new event.

Contribution of volunteers

We maintain a small, but immensely committed staff team who each year consistently give far more than is asked of them in their job descriptions in a sense volunteering their services over and above what they are paid to do. The organisation owes a great deal to their hard work and enthusiasm. Their ability to achieve so much with limited resources means that we can truly claim to be big enough to have a national impact and small enough to care personally about each activity and every donor who supports us. Our key supporters are the farmers and landowners and their staff who give freely of their time to open their world to the children we bring along to learn. Without this kindness, passion and enthusiasm, we would not be able to offer the services that we do. This level of support has been estimated at £100,000 per annum, a fantastic amount of time, money and enthusiasm which we simply could not do without or ever hope to directly support financially ourselves.

Main activities of the charity in relation to its objects

In the Academic year 2024-2025 we reached over 21,000 children through a range of large and small events and bespoke packages designed to meet the needs of individual schools. This now means we operate almost in every month of the year. We operate through a range of educational officers and limit our operation to, essentially, an event based organisation. The feedback from our work is universally positive. In our development plan, we are careful to support our 'bread and butter' services that have served the organisation well in recent years.

The main growth in our work in the last year has been the development of small bespoke days for small class sizes which build on the introductory experience our larger events provide. We hope to build on this in the year ahead.

We are happy with the progress we have made in sustaining a level of financial stability in what can safely be described as challenging economic circumstances. Operating in a crowded charity market place, small charities are liable to be at the mercy of the overall economic position and subject to severe competition for limited funds. Even with the amazing fundraising efforts of our supporters we are always cautious about our expenditure given the economic climate and we adjusted our spending plans accordingly. We have a robust and sound financial model that has enabled us to build up to a position where we can start to secure reserves equivalent to three months operating costs. Currently, our reserves stand at over three months. We are in a good position to face the challenges of the year ahead, much better than some in the sector. Above all else, the schools we work with need to know and have the confidence that we are sustainable and will be here for them long into the future.

We have met all of the objectives we set for this year. We continue to add new host estates across the country and reach more schools than ever before. The demand for our work has grown considerably over the last few years and this is noted by the fact that the only month of the year when we do not have school events is August when they are on holiday!

Countryside Learning

Trustees' Report

The charity relies on grant aid from the donors identified in the accounts, whose support is valued. Fundraising events such as our Art Auction are significant sources of income for us.

Without the support of valued staff, volunteers and country people across the country we would not be able to support the Learning Outside the Classroom agenda so vital to reaching the 'concrete generation' of children.

In addition our presence on key groups within the sector has made it possible for our influence to far outweigh our actual size.

CL is committed to the principles of equal opportunities. It is important to ensure that our policy is working, in particular when employing new members of staff. However, at this time no vacancies exist within the charity, any that do will be advertised and applicants from all backgrounds will be considered and encouraged.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves

In view of the nature of the income and expenditure of the charity there is a need to match variable income with fixed commitments and the nature of the reserves. The trustees have set an objective that a general reserve of three months operating costs should be built up over time. At the year end, reserves, not invested in tangible fixed assets, amounted to £157,768 (2024: £92,725), the equivalent to over three months operating costs. On top of this there is a close down reserve of £52,874 (2024: £52,874).

Freehold land

The charity owns several pieces of woodland in England, primarily gifted from the former charity, The Badminton Trust. The net book value in the financial statements of £359,905 is the gifted amount, net of any acquisitions or disposals in the succeeding years. The trustees are of the opinion that the market value of the freehold land is in excess of the amount shown in the accounts.

Restricted funds

These are detailed in the notes to the financial statements.

FUTURE PLANS

The charity's future plans are:

To ensure we have a sustainable offer for teachers and children to experience the natural environment.

Develop a long term strategy to secure the right funding and structure for the charity in the years to come.

To explore ways of making the operation of the charity even more cost effective.

To continue partnership working with others in the sector to ensure value for money for donors and to maximise coverage.

To continue to source new venues for estate days.

To grow our smaller bespoke days.

To maintain financial stability and prudence.

To work with others to review and update educational resources through our participation in The Countryside Classroom Programme.

To work with other partners to implement the updated Industry Code of Practice for farm visits.

Countryside Learning

Trustees' Report

Events after the reporting period

Following the year end, the charity was approached regarding some land it owns and whether it wanted to sell it. The trustees decided that the land was not needed and to proceed with the sale. The land was professionally valued and an offer of £78,800 was accepted. The completion took place in July 2025.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Countryside Learning is a registered Charity (No. 327091) and a company (No. 1997554) limited by guarantee. Its registered office, together with the names of the present Trustees and the names of any Trustees who served during the year, are shown on page 1.

The Charity is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, adopted on 7 March 1986 and last amended in 1997.

The Trustees meet approximately every three months but sub-committees for Finance and Audit meet at other times as necessary.

At Trustees meetings operational and fund-raising objectives are set and performance monitored. The responsibility for the day to day operations of the Charity is in the hands of the Chief Executive, Mr Gary Richardson. Mr Richardson, although not a Trustee, attends Trustees' meetings, as do other members of staff when appropriate.

Risk management

The major risks, to which the Charity is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed and systems and procedures have been put in place to manage these risks.

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on and signed on its behalf by:

.....
The Lord Stafford
Trustee

Countryside Learning

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Countryside Learning ('the Company')

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

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

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 Association of Charity Independent Examiners, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of Countryside Learning as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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.

.....
M R Heaton FCCA FCIE DChA
KM
1st Floor, Block C
The Wharf
Manchester Road
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG

Date:.....

Countryside Learning

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £
Income from:							
Donations	3	278,271	-	278,271	258,442	1,625	260,067
Charitable activities	4	67,813	-	67,813	36,119	-	36,119
Investment income	5	7,464	267	7,731	5,279	266	5,545
Other income	6	52,316	-	52,316	5,026	-	5,026
Total income		<u>405,864</u>	<u>267</u>	<u>406,131</u>	<u>304,866</u>	<u>1,891</u>	<u>306,757</u>
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	7	(3,316)	-	(3,316)	(3,145)	-	(3,145)
Charitable activities	8	(351,869)	-	(351,869)	(297,861)	-	(297,861)
Total expenditure		<u>(355,185)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(355,185)</u>	<u>(301,006)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(301,006)</u>
Net income		50,679	267	50,946	3,860	1,891	5,751
Transfers between funds		<u>1,350</u>	<u>(1,350)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		52,029	(1,083)	50,946	3,860	1,891	5,751
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		<u>518,518</u>	<u>10,829</u>	<u>529,347</u>	<u>514,658</u>	<u>8,938</u>	<u>523,596</u>
Total funds carried forward	19	<u>570,547</u>	<u>9,746</u>	<u>580,293</u>	<u>518,518</u>	<u>10,829</u>	<u>529,347</u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2024 is shown in note 19.

The notes on pages 13 to 21 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Countryside Learning
(Registration number: 01997554)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	363,451	375,674
Current assets			
Debtors	15	19,809	24,634
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>398,771</u>	<u>322,129</u>
		418,580	346,763
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>(201,738)</u>	<u>(193,090)</u>
Net current assets		<u>216,842</u>	<u>153,673</u>
Net assets		<u>580,293</u>	<u>529,347</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		9,746	10,829
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>570,547</u>	<u>518,518</u>
Total funds	19	<u>580,293</u>	<u>529,347</u>

For the financial year ending 31 March 2025 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements on pages 11 to 21 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on and signed on their behalf by:

.....
The Lord Stafford
Trustee

The notes on pages 13 to 21 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

1st Floor, Block C
The Wharf
Manchester Road
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG

[Authorised for issue date](#)

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

Countryside Learning meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

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 the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Deferred income

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

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

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including independent examination, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500.00 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Land	Not depreciated
Office equipment	25% per annum reducing balance basis

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

3 Income from donations

	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	General	2025	2024
	£	£	£
Individuals	31,587	31,587	8,872
Companies	70,048	70,048	72,500
Gift aid reclaimed	4,460	4,460	1,054
Trusts	172,176	172,176	177,641
	<u>278,271</u>	<u>278,271</u>	<u>260,067</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	General	2025	2024
	£	£	£
Educational	21,081	21,081	26,081
Woodland management	46,732	46,732	10,038
	<u>67,813</u>	<u>67,813</u>	<u>36,119</u>

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted		Total	Total
	General	Restricted	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Bank interest receivable	7,464	267	7,731	5,545
	<u>7,464</u>	<u>267</u>	<u>7,731</u>	<u>5,545</u>

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

6 Other income

	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	General	2025	2024
	£	£	£
Gain on sale of land	46,956	46,956	-
Miscellaneous income	5,360	5,360	5,026
	52,316	52,316	5,026
	52,316	52,316	5,026

7 Expenditure on raising funds

a) Costs of generating donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	General	2025	2024
	£	£	£
Staff Costs	3,316	3,316	3,145
	3,316	3,316	3,145
	3,316	3,316	3,145

8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	General	2025	2024
	£	£	£
Educational	316,741	316,741	279,905
Woodland management	24,908	24,908	8,259
Governance costs	10,220	10,220	9,697
	351,869	351,869	297,861
	351,869	351,869	297,861

Note

9

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

9 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Unrestricted General £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Staff costs			
Wages and salaries	5,937	5,937	5,637
Social security costs	694	694	652
Governance costs			
Independent examiners fee	1,380	1,380	1,320
Other fees paid to examiners	2,209	2,209	2,088
	10,220	10,220	9,697

10 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

11 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	138,512	133,171
Social security costs	14,684	13,461
Pension costs	7,914	7,366
	161,110	153,998

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2025 No	2024 No
Charitable activities	4	4

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

12 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2025 £	2024 £
Examination of the financial statements	1,380	1,320
Bookkeeping and payroll fees	2,209	2,088
	3,589	3,408

13 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Land £	Office equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2024	372,919	17,358	390,277
Additions	-	1,301	1,301
Disposals	(13,014)	-	(13,014)
At 31 March 2025	359,905	18,659	378,564
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2024	-	14,603	14,603
Charge for the year	-	510	510
At 31 March 2025	-	15,113	15,113
Net book value			
At 31 March 2025	359,905	3,546	363,451
At 31 March 2024	372,919	2,755	375,674

15 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	910	1,425
Prepayments	14,439	22,155
Other debtors	4,460	1,054
	19,809	24,634

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

16 Creditors

	2025 £	2024 £
Other creditors	2,888	2,616
Accruals	1,140	690
Deferred income	197,710	189,784
	<u>201,738</u>	<u>193,090</u>

	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred income at 1 April 2024	189,784	191,000
Resources deferred in the period	197,710	189,784
Amounts released from previous periods	(189,784)	(191,000)
Deferred income at year end	<u>197,710</u>	<u>189,784</u>

17 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £7,914 (2024 - £7,366).

18 Lease agreements

The total value of future minimum lease payments was as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Within one year	20,554	10,887
In two to five years	37,038	-
	<u>57,592</u>	<u>10,887</u>

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

19 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted					
General fund	92,725	405,864	(355,185)	14,364	157,768
Woodlands	372,919	-	-	(13,014)	359,905
Close down reserve	52,874	-	-	-	52,874
Total unrestricted	518,518	405,864	(355,185)	1,350	570,547
Restricted					
Fiona Barker Memorial Fund	10,829	267	-	(1,350)	9,746
Total funds	529,347	406,131	(355,185)	-	580,293
	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £	
Unrestricted					
General fund	88,865	304,866	(301,006)	92,725	
Woodlands	372,919	-	-	372,919	
Close down reserve	52,874	-	-	52,874	
Total unrestricted	514,658	304,866	(301,006)	518,518	
Restricted					
Fiona Barker Memorial Fund	8,938	1,891	-	10,829	
Total funds	523,596	306,757	(301,006)	529,347	

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2025
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	3,546	359,905	-	363,451
Current assets	408,834	-	9,746	418,580
Current liabilities	(201,738)	-	-	(201,738)
Total net assets	<u>210,642</u>	<u>359,905</u>	<u>9,746</u>	<u>580,293</u>

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2024
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	2,755	372,919	-	375,674
Current assets	335,934	-	10,829	346,763
Current liabilities	(193,090)	-	-	(193,090)
Total net assets	<u>145,599</u>	<u>372,919</u>	<u>10,829</u>	<u>529,347</u>

21 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

COUNTRYSIDE LEARNING

England & Wales - Charity number 327091

Accounts

Company registration number: 01997554

Charity registration number: 327091



Countryside Learning

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

KM
1st Floor, Block C
The Wharf
Manchester Road
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG

Countryside Learning

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Countryside Learning

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Miss C L Barker Mrs N V Branston Ms A K Bury Mr D C Daly Mr A R Downs Mr M T Elliot Mrs S Hall Mr H M Henderson The Countess Peel Mr S P Roberts Mr G E S Seligman The Lord Stafford
Secretary	Mr G Richardson
Charity Registration Number	327091
Company Registration Number	01997554
Registered Office	The charity is incorporated in England. 1st Floor, Block C The Wharf Manchester Road Burnley Lancashire BB11 1JG
Independent Examiner	KM 1st Floor, Block C The Wharf Manchester Road Burnley Lancashire BB11 1JG
Bankers	Unity Trust Bank Four Brindley Place Birmingham B1 2JB

Countryside Learning

Chairman's Statement

Working together to achieve more - Countryside Learning - Connecting Children with the natural environment

The mission of Countryside Learning is a simple one. To inform and inspire children, parents and teachers, so that they can enjoy, appreciate and care for the natural environment and develop a greater understanding of the wide range of issues surrounding it.

The Children’s People and Nature Survey for England: 2023 update reports that;

- Only 16% of children had visited farmland, fields or countryside
- 27% of children report a low connectedness to nature
- 88% of children say that being in nature makes them feel happy

Only 16% of children had visited farmland, fields or countryside

We know that children are not spending enough time outdoors and not being given the opportunity to learn outside the classroom. We also know that children thrive outdoors, and that well planned outdoor learning can help embed the curriculum and allow children to experience success, which increasing confidence and enhances well being. Most people have little knowledge about the countryside.

Just one in eight (12%) adults say they know exactly what is included in the Code, and almost half (48%) have no knowledge at all or aren’t sure.

Our vision is to provide safe and appropriate access to the countryside for as many children as possible, so they can benefit from being closer to nature and connect with landscapes, people and habitats- in a way that the schools need-to enhance their formal and informal learning. We do this through a variety of programmes.

Woodland Sessions	Countryside Classroom Days	Let’s Learn Moor	Tailored Outdoor
<p>We run free of charge woodland days on the across England in a variety of settings.</p>	<p>Schools visit country estates where children learn about the estates and to meet the people who work there.</p>	<p>An Uplands Education Programme run in conjunction with BASC and supported by landowners and Moorland Groups.</p>	<p>Learning Days Bring your class topic to life, or just an enjoyable day out in the countryside. We have can create bespoke days.</p>
			

There is no one size fits all- but whilst the aims of the day are often specific to the schools there are, however, some common outcomes- gauged by conversations with teachers and children and written feedback. This year we have focussed on feedback and assessing the impact of our work. We wanted to dig deeper and seek validation of our concept and assess the long and short term impact of our work.

Countryside Learning

Shorter term outcomes:

- Providing opportunities for schools to meet their own learning needs (this could be filling curriculum gaps, enhancing well being, providing new experiences etc)
- Providing opportunities for the children to succeed and thrive with suitable and appropriate activities
- Providing access for all. Our visits are suitable for ALL children from ALL types of schools
- Working with partners-children meet people who live and work in the countryside
- Teacher engagement and increased confidence in learning outdoors
- Adding benefits to work done in school
- Creating collaborative partnerships with schools

Longer term outcomes:

- Meaningful experiences
- Increased awareness of the countryside and nature
- Enrich curriculum on the day of the visit and beyond the day of the visit
- Become part of a school's curriculum planning
- Increased awareness of countryside careers and opportunities

Some headlines from this last year:

- We have worked with over 16,000 children in 36 venues (Academic year).
- We have worked with 362 schools.
- 73% of schools worked with are from urban areas.
- 40% of the schools have over the national average (24.6%) of children in receipt of free school meals.
- 4 new host venues, in relevant geographical areas, added to our portfolio.
- Expansion of work with existing host venues.
- Feedback from teachers has been rated at 97% excellent and 3% good.
- 98p in every pound donated goes directly to our event based work.

Even with the positive bullet points, which give evidence of our impact. I often wish more supporters could experience the amazing work we do, first-hand. We are not driven by management speak or the latest trends. Our staff on the front line, mould our strategy for the future by developing meaningful and lasting relationships with the school communities with whom we work. We continue to pride ourselves in giving our donors great value for money and giving the children we work for, a safe, fun, and educational outdoor learning experience. Regardless of what people may say, organisations are not built on policies, strategies or theories. They are built on passion, commitment, understanding and a desire to put the beneficiaries at the core of everything you do.

We have never been driven by the size of our financial turnover; we have always been driven by the quality of our service. We are passionate about not duplicating services with other organisations or wasting money on costly administration. Wherever possible, we work in partnership with other trusted organisations, enhancing the quality of events and maximising coverage on more farms, moorlands and estates, whilst minimising costs.

In the last year we have been so fortunate to retain some significant long standing Trust support for our work as well as attracting significant individual and company support. To be one of Radio HP's charities of the year has been an amazing boost for us and this along with our long standing donors has allowed us to plan to increase our delivery next year with more venues, events and our key resource, more wonderful committed staff and volunteers.

Countryside Learning

It is true that schools and children are still struggling with issues following the pandemic and the cost of living and transport issues. I think it is a testament to the quality of our work that even with these challenges schools still prioritise their work with us. For their support, for the support of our many funders and champions and to the small and dedicated staff team who work incredibly hard can I say thank you. The future for Countryside Learning is an immensely positive one thanks to all of you.

The Lord Stafford

Chairman

Countryside Learning

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The objects for which the charity was established are to advance and promote in the United Kingdom and, where appropriate, elsewhere for the public benefit, education concerning the effect of country sports and pastimes and leisure activities (and in particular the effect of their preservation, protection, development, maintenance, abolition or curtailment) upon such one or more of the following as the Foundation shall in its absolute discretion from time to time determine namely: ecology, the rural environment, wildlife, agriculture, the way of life and economy of rural communities, the industries and businesses connected therewith and employment within those industries and businesses.

The aims of Countryside Learning are simple:

To Educate, Inform and Inspire children, parents and teachers to enjoy and appreciate the countryside around them. CL acts as a link to a national infrastructure whereby teachers and their pupils can visit and study skilled workers in their workplace, using the knowledge gained and extra resource facilities available through CL to take back to the classroom to enhance the school curriculum.

The education of people in where their food comes from and an appreciation of the outdoors is one of the key ways tackling the issues of obesity and poor physical health of the population. Recent research from Countryside Classroom, supported by DEFRA, DfE and DoH, showed the growing need to educate the 'Concrete Generation' of people who had no connection or understanding of the environment around them. Through our work we aim to reconnect people with this world ensuring a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that we have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit reporting in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

The remainder of this Annual Report explains the charity's work during the year and how it has been carried out for the public benefit.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The charity's main objectives for the year

To ensure progress it is vital for an organisation to have the vision and drive to reach new achievements. The Board regularly reviews our rolling 5-year strategy along with our organisational Risk Assessment and Memorandum and Articles. The board is confident that we can achieve during the course of the current year the following objectives:

Continued financial stability

Continued partnership working to ensure increased service delivery

Continued development of our educational provision including smaller bespoke days which complement our larger events

Continue our partnerships with other likeminded charities to grow our work in the most cost effective manner, avoid duplication and increase delivery on the ground

Countryside Learning

Trustees' Report

Identify new partnerships to deliver volume countryside events for children

Fully participate in the Countryside Classroom Project offering all providers increased profile and access to resources and events which our beneficiaries can benefit from

CL constantly aims to refine and enlarge its operation in a sustainable manner and welcomes approaches and ideas from other interested parties in order to achieve that.

The charity's strategies for achieving its stated objectives

Financial stability is vital if we are to secure the sustainability of our work. Children, parents and teachers need to know that we will be around not just this year, but the next and the next offering high quality, safe and enjoyable outdoor classroom experiences. We aim to secure a 3 month operating cost reserve fund.

Regular reporting between the Chairman and the Chief Executive ensures clear direction, and with quarterly Board meetings where all staff participate in report writing and in some cases Board presentation, all key stakeholders are aware of the issues facing the Charity, whether that be personnel issues, financial or strategic.

The current management has developed a rolling 5 year strategy which is reviewed by the Chairman and the Chief Executive on a regular basis and a yearly update is presented to the Trustees. A complete review of how we plan, cost and fund our business is of primary importance if we are to secure our work and develop it into the future. To this end our aim is to achieve:

Full cost recovery funding before any major event is approved.

Budgets for each event which will be shared with consultants and estates.

A 2 or 3 year funding agreement with estates including year on year cost increments.

Added value from consultants including assistance in achieving funding for the events they manage and cost limitation of all events.

Always producing revenue neutral budgets and hopefully surplus budgets for the Charity.

The Chief Executive has been tasked to develop partnerships in the sector, as well as influencing key decision makers and politicians. This has secured our active role in the Countryside Classroom, Learning Outside the Classroom and Access to Farms networks.

Developing influence, sector presence and demonstrable and successful activities are the principal guides which the charity has followed to secure the strong financial position we now have.

Details of significant activities

This year, along with our Farms for Schools Members, we continue to reach many thousands of children. Farms for Schools is a membership network for farms that open to school visits. To become a member applicants have to meet stringent requirements on health and safety and can be inspected by ourselves and other providers. Most importantly, member farms are subject to independent reviews from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Environmental Health Officers (EHO) and advice updates from Public Health England (PHE). We have worked with other providers to respond to the recommendations of the Griffin Report and have developed and reviewed a sector wide code of practice.

Countryside Learning

Trustees' Report

Countyside Learning has continued to grow the breadth of its educational provision and even in a time that has been significantly impacted by covid and financial pressures, we have reached over 16,000 children. As well as being fortunate in finding new venues who wish to support us, we have also begun work with other groups from the community and out of term time support for children and their families.

Grant making policies

We do not make grants to other organisations or individuals but may from time to time offer our services free or at a reduced rate for those beneficiaries who present the greatest financial need or to encourage participation in a new event.

Contribution of volunteers

We maintain a small, but immensely committed staff team who each year consistently give far more than is asked of them in their job descriptions in a sense volunteering their services over and above what they are paid to do. The organisation owes a great deal to their hard work and enthusiasm. Their ability to achieve so much with limited resources means that we can truly claim to be big enough to have a national impact and small enough to care personally about each activity and every donor who supports us. Our key supporters are the farmers and landowners and their staff who give freely of their time to open up their world to the children we bring along to learn. Without this kindness, passion and enthusiasm, we would not be able to offer the services that we do. This level of support has been estimated at £100,000 per annum, a fantastic amount of time, money and enthusiasm which we simply could not do without or ever hope to directly support financially ourselves.

Main activities of the charity in relation to its objects

In the Academic year 2023-2024 we reached over 16,000 children through a range of large and small events and bespoke packages designed to meet the needs of individual schools. This now means we operate almost in every month of the year. We operate through a range of educational officers and limit our operation to, essentially, an event based organisation. The feedback from our work is universally positive. In our development plan, we are careful to support our 'bread and butter' services that have served the organisation well in recent years.

The main growth in our work in the last year has been the development of small bespoke days for small class sizes which build on the introductory experience our larger events provide. We hope to build on this in the year ahead.

We are happy with the progress we have made in sustaining a level of financial stability in what can safely be described as challenging economic circumstances. Operating in a crowded charity market place, small charities are liable to be at the mercy of the overall economic position and subject to severe competition for limited funds. Even with the amazing fundraising efforts of our supporters we are always cautious about our expenditure given the economic climate and we adjusted our spending plans accordingly. We have a robust and sound financial model that has enabled us to build up to a position where we can start to secure reserves equivalent to three months operating costs. Currently, our reserves stand at over three months. We are in a good position to face the challenges of the year ahead, much better than some in the sector. Above all else, the schools we work with need to know and have the confidence that we are sustainable and will be here for them long into the future.

We have met all of the objectives we set for this year. We continue to add new host estates across the country and reach more schools than ever before. The demand for our work has grown considerably over the last few years and this is noted by the fact that the only month of the year when we do not have school events is August when they are on holiday!

Countryside Learning

Trustees' Report

The charity relies on grant aid from the donors identified in the accounts, whose support is valued. Fundraising events such as our Art Auction are significant sources of income for us.

Without the support of valued staff, volunteers and country people across the country we would not be able to support the Learning Outside the Classroom agenda so vital to reaching the 'concrete generation' of children.

In addition our presence on key groups within the sector has made it possible for our influence to far outweigh our actual size.

CL is committed to the principles of equal opportunities. It is important to ensure that our policy is working, in particular when employing new members of staff. However, at this time no vacancies exist within the charity, any that do will be advertised and applicants from all backgrounds will be considered and encouraged.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves

In view of the nature of the income and expenditure of the charity there is a need to match variable income with fixed commitments and the nature of the reserves. The trustees have set an objective that a general reserve of three months operating costs should be built up over time. At the year end, reserves, not invested in tangible fixed assets, amounted to £92,725 (2023: £88,865), the equivalent to over three months operating costs. On top of this there is a close down reserve of £52,874 (2023: £52,874).

Freehold land

The charity owns several pieces of woodland in England, primarily gifted from the former charity, The Badminton Trust. The net book value in the financial statements of £372,919 is the gifted amount, net of any acquisitions or disposals in the succeeding years. The trustees are of the opinion that the market value of the freehold land is in excess of the amount shown in the accounts.

Restricted funds

These are detailed in the notes to the financial statements.

FUTURE PLANS

The charity's future plans are:

To ensure we have a sustainable offer for teachers and children to experience the natural environment.

Develop a long term strategy to secure the right funding and structure for the charity in the years to come.

To explore ways of making the operation of the charity even more cost effective.

To continue partnership working with others in the sector to ensure value for money for donors and to maximise coverage.

To continue to source new venues for estate days.

To grow our smaller bespoke days.

To maintain financial stability and prudence.

To work with others to review and update educational resources through our participation in The Countryside Classroom Programme.

To work with other partners to implement the updated Industry Code of Practice for farm visits.

Countryside Learning

Trustees' Report

Events after the reporting period

During the year the charity was approached regarding some land it owns and whether it wanted to sell it. The trustees decided that the land was not needed and to proceed with the sale. The land was professionally valued and an offer of £60,000 was accepted. The completion took place in April 2024.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Countryside Learning is a registered Charity (No. 327091) and a company (No. 1997554) limited by guarantee. Its registered office, together with the names of the present Trustees and the names of any Trustees who served during the year, are shown on page 1.

The Charity is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, adopted on 7 March 1986 and last amended in 1997.

The Trustees meet approximately every three months but sub-committees for Finance and Audit meet at other times as necessary.

At Trustees meetings operational and fund-raising objectives are set and performance monitored. The responsibility for the day to day operations of the Charity is in the hands of the Chief Executive, Mr Gary Richardson. Mr Richardson, although not a Trustee, attends Trustees' meetings, as do other members of staff when appropriate.

Risk management

The major risks, to which the Charity is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed and systems and procedures have been put in place to manage these risks.

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 19 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
The Lord Stafford
Trustee

Countryside Learning

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Countryside Learning ('the Company')

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

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

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 Association of Charity Independent Examiners, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of Countryside Learning as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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.

.....
M R Heaton FCCA FCIE DChA
KM
1st Floor, Block C
The Wharf
Manchester Road
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG

19 September 2024

Countryside Learning

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £
Income from:							
Donations	3	258,442	1,625	260,067	248,927	-	248,927
Charitable activities	4	36,119	-	36,119	33,104	-	33,104
Investment income	5	5,279	266	5,545	1,886	216	2,102
Other income	6	5,026	-	5,026	5,020	-	5,020
Total income		<u>304,866</u>	<u>1,891</u>	<u>306,757</u>	<u>288,937</u>	<u>216</u>	<u>289,153</u>
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	7	(3,145)	-	(3,145)	(3,398)	-	(3,398)
Charitable activities	8	(297,861)	-	(297,861)	(282,402)	-	(282,402)
Total expenditure		<u>(301,006)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(301,006)</u>	<u>(285,800)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(285,800)</u>
Net income		<u>3,860</u>	<u>1,891</u>	<u>5,751</u>	<u>3,137</u>	<u>216</u>	<u>3,353</u>
Net movement in funds		3,860	1,891	5,751	3,137	216	3,353
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		<u>514,658</u>	<u>8,938</u>	<u>523,596</u>	<u>511,521</u>	<u>8,722</u>	<u>520,243</u>
Total funds carried forward	19	<u><u>518,518</u></u>	<u><u>10,829</u></u>	<u><u>529,347</u></u>	<u><u>514,658</u></u>	<u><u>8,938</u></u>	<u><u>523,596</u></u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2023 is shown in note 19.

The notes on pages 13 to 20 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Countryside Learning
(Registration number: 01997554)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	375,674	374,423
Current assets			
Debtors	15	24,634	16,876
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>322,129</u>	<u>327,676</u>
		346,763	344,552
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>(193,090)</u>	<u>(195,379)</u>
Net current assets		<u>153,673</u>	<u>149,173</u>
Net assets		<u><u>529,347</u></u>	<u><u>523,596</u></u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		10,829	8,938
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>518,518</u>	<u>514,658</u>
Total funds	19	<u><u>529,347</u></u>	<u><u>523,596</u></u>

For the financial year ending 31 March 2024 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements on pages 11 to 20 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 19 September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
The Lord Stafford
Trustee

The notes on pages 13 to 20 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

1st Floor, Block C
The Wharf
Manchester Road
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on 19 September 2024.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

Countryside Learning meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

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 the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Deferred income

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

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

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including independent examination, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500.00 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Land	Not depreciated
Office equipment	25% per annum reducing balance basis

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

3 Income from donations

	Unrestricted		Total	Total
	General	Restricted	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Donations from individuals	8,747	125	8,872	7,009
Companies	72,500	-	72,500	6,350
Gift aid reclaimed	1,054	-	1,054	1,031
Trusts	176,141	1,500	177,641	234,537
	<u>258,442</u>	<u>1,625</u>	<u>260,067</u>	<u>248,927</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted		Total	Total
	General		2024	2023
	£		£	£
Educational	26,081		26,081	22,740
Woodland management		10,038	10,038	10,364
		<u>36,119</u>	<u>36,119</u>	<u>33,104</u>

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted		Total	Total
	General	Restricted	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Bank interest receivable	<u>5,279</u>	<u>266</u>	<u>5,545</u>	<u>2,102</u>

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

6 Other income

	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	General	2024	2023
	£	£	£
Employment Allowance	5,000	5,000	5,000
Other interest receivable	26	26	20
	<u>5,026</u>	<u>5,026</u>	<u>5,020</u>

7 Expenditure on raising funds

a) Costs of generating donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	General	2024	2023
	£	£	£
Staff Costs	<u>3,145</u>	<u>3,145</u>	<u>3,398</u>

8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	General	2024	2023
	£	£	£
Educational	279,905	279,905	267,192
Woodland management	8,259	8,259	5,089
Governance costs	9,697	9,697	10,121
	<u>297,861</u>	<u>297,861</u>	<u>282,402</u>

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

9 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Unrestricted General £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Staff costs			
Wages and salaries	5,637	5,637	6,052
Social security costs	652	652	745
Governance costs			
Independent examiners fee	1,320	1,320	1,260
Other fees paid to examiners	2,088	2,088	2,064
	9,697	9,697	10,121

10 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

11 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	133,171	127,569
Social security costs	13,461	13,813
Pension costs	7,366	6,432
	153,998	147,814

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2024 No	2023 No
Charitable activities	4	4

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

12 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2024 £	2023 £
Examination of the financial statements	1,320	1,260
Bookkeeping and payroll fees	2,088	2,064
	3,408	3,324

13 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Land £	Office equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	372,919	15,889	388,808
Additions	-	1,469	1,469
At 31 March 2024	372,919	17,358	390,277
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	-	14,385	14,385
Charge for the year	-	218	218
At 31 March 2024	-	14,603	14,603
Net book value			
At 31 March 2024	372,919	2,755	375,674
At 31 March 2023	372,919	1,504	374,423

15 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	1,425	2,200
Prepayments	22,155	13,645
Other debtors	1,054	1,031
	24,634	16,876

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

16 Creditors

	2024 £	2023 £
Other creditors	2,616	4,379
Accruals	690	-
Deferred income	189,784	191,000
	193,090	195,379

17 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £7,366 (2023 - £6,432).

18 Lease agreements

The total value of future minimum lease payments was as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Within one year	10,887	14,261
In two to five years	-	10,887
	10,887	25,148

19 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted				
General fund	88,865	304,840	(300,980)	92,725
Woodlands	372,919	-	-	372,919
Close down reserve	52,874	-	-	52,874
Total unrestricted	514,658	304,840	(300,980)	518,518
Restricted				
Fiona Barker Memorial Fund	8,938	1,891	-	10,829
Total funds	523,596	306,731	(300,980)	529,347

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted				
General fund	85,728	288,917	(285,780)	88,865
Woodlands	372,919	-	-	372,919
Close down reserve	52,874	-	-	52,874
Total unrestricted	<u>511,521</u>	<u>288,917</u>	<u>(285,780)</u>	<u>514,658</u>
Restricted				
Fiona Barker Memorial Fund	8,722	216	-	8,938
Total funds	<u><u>520,243</u></u>	<u><u>289,133</u></u>	<u><u>(285,780)</u></u>	<u><u>523,596</u></u>

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2024 £
	General £	Designated £		
Tangible fixed assets	2,755	372,919	-	375,674
Current assets	335,934	-	10,829	346,763
Current liabilities	(193,090)	-	-	(193,090)
Total net assets	<u><u>145,599</u></u>	<u><u>372,919</u></u>	<u><u>10,829</u></u>	<u><u>529,347</u></u>
	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2023 £
	General £	Designated £		
Tangible fixed assets	1,504	372,919	-	374,423
Current assets	282,740	52,874	8,938	344,552
Current liabilities	(195,379)	-	-	(195,379)
Total net assets	<u><u>88,865</u></u>	<u><u>425,793</u></u>	<u><u>8,938</u></u>	<u><u>523,596</u></u>

COUNTRYSIDE LEARNING

England & Wales - Charity number 327091

Accounts

Company registration number: 01997554

Charity registration number: 327091

Countryside Learning

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

KM
1st Floor, Block C
The Wharf
Manchester Road
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG

Countryside Learning

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Countryside Learning

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Miss C L Barker Mrs N V Branston Ms A K Bury Mr D C Daly Mr A R Downs Mr M T Elliot Mrs S Hall Mr H M Henderson The Countess Peel Mr S P Roberts Mr G E S Seligman The Lord Stafford
Secretary	Mr G Richardson
Charity Registration Number	327091
Company Registration Number	01997554
Registered Office	The charity is incorporated in England. 1st Floor, Block C The Wharf Manchester Road Burnley Lancashire BB11 1JG
Independent Examiner	KM 1st Floor, Block C The Wharf Manchester Road Burnley Lancashire BB11 1JG
Bankers	Unity Trust Bank Four Brindley Place Birmingham B1 2JB

Countryside Learning

Chairman's Statement

Working together to achieve more - Countryside Learning - Connecting Children with the natural environment

The mission of Countryside Learning (CL) is a simple one. To inform and inspire children, parents and teachers, so that they can enjoy, appreciate and care for the natural environment and develop a greater understanding of the wide range of issues surrounding it.

CL provides a variety of curriculum linked outdoor learning experiences that facilitate the well-researched, multi-faceted physical, mental and educational benefits that children experience when learning outdoors.

We work in partnership with like-minded organisations who bring their expertise to contribute to the outdoor learning experiences and we are a member of the Countryside Classroom project which delivers a nationwide agency for education outside the classroom.

Our work is never stagnant, it evolves organically with the needs of our key audiences. These audiences are in the main primary school children, but we have also worked with families of children with cancer. We are not prescriptive and can adapt our events to be relevant to their requests and appropriate to their needs.

During the last year we have continued to develop our offer and expand our reach. We have had particular success with some bespoke days, planned with the school to enhance particular curriculum areas, such as literacy, geography and PHSE through connection to nature and the outdoors.

The impact of covid is still high and teachers are needing to recover lost learning time, whilst also dealing with the knock on effects of trauma and social isolation. Teacher comments and our own observations indicate that children excel when learning outdoors.

Our ability to support teachers stems from the long term relationships that we have developed with schools across the country. They know that we will provide a safe and quality driven experience.

Some of the key indicators of our delivery this year can be noted below:

- We have worked with over 15,000 children in 36 venues.
- We have worked with over 400 schools.
- 73% of schools worked with are from urban areas.
- 52% of the schools have over 20% of the children in receipt of free school meals.
- 7 new host venues, in relevant geographical areas, added to our portfolio.
- Expansion of work with existing host venues.
- Increase in bespoke days for schools and families with children undergoing cancer treatment.
- Feedback from teachers has been rated at 97% excellent and 3% good.
- 97p in every pound donated goes directly to our event based work.
- 18 years of financial stability.

Even with the positive bullet points above, I often wish more supporters and board colleagues could experience the amazing work we do, first-hand. Our staff on the front line mould our strategy for the future.

Please see below some feedback that we have received from schools:

From Westminster Primary Academy, Blackpool - %FSM - 74.4%

A huge thank you to everyone that made yesterday such an amazing experience for the children.

Countryside Learning

The children of Westminster Primary Academy come from a very deprived area in Blackpool, whose families are not always able to provide the same opportunities as other children of their age, due to living in poverty or not having access to transportation. This often means that children tend to stay in the area they live in, so don't really get to experience different environments. Due to family financial situations, the school fully funds all the trips that pupils go on. We do our best to provide as many opportunities and memorable experiences for the children as we can, but we too have budget constraints. Therefore, when opportunities like this are offered to us we are truly grateful.

Yesterday's visit was beneficial to our pupils in so many ways and they excitedly recounted their experiences on the coach on the way back home and again this morning when they came in. Every activity offered a different and unique learning opportunity, the timing of each was perfect. They were long enough that children were able to learn new information, but also short enough that children were able to maintain attention. The instructors that delivered the sessions were both knowledgeable about their area and engaging. They have helped the children gain an understanding of how important it is to look after their environment, what they need to do to respect nature, how different animals impact on ecology and how to take notice of the world around them. The activities have helped children develop a greater empathy for animals and plants, communication and team-working skills, problem-solving skills and allowed them to build on both gross and fine motor skills.

The countryside and the instructors have enhanced children's learning using the outdoors and all the wondrous things it has to offer. Not only has it provided a great opportunity for children to be explorers, scientists, game-keepers and environmentalists for the day, but it also linked in with topics we have been studying in Year 4, consolidating and extending learning. These areas included rivers, habitats, food chains and animal adaptations.

Our Year 4 cohort also has a high percentage of SEN and EAL, but this experience was accessible and inclusive to all pupils.

Thank you so much for providing us with this opportunity. We are a school who are lovers of the outdoors, even with its leaky roof.

Regards

The staff and children of Year 4

From Dolphineholme Primary, Lancashire - %FSM - 6.6%

Thank you so much for a fantastic day. The children loved it and said that it was the best one yet - the lovely weather helped.

The aim of the day for us was to link our science curriculum with the real world, provide quality out of classroom learning, connect the children with their local environment and cover some of the science objectives for the topics this term.

Every one of the intended objectives was met throughout the day, at every activity station. The leaders all connected the discussions and information with the key learning objectives and used key vocabulary which reinforced the classroom learning.

The children have come back into school full of enthusiasm for the topics being covered and wanting to know more. Some of the children have done work of their own at home over the weekend to extend their learning. The key words mean more to them now, having done the work practically and when quizzed during Friday assembly in front of parents, could remember many of the facts they were told.

The children feel part of their learning and it has fed into their approach to school learning. They are already asking for more outside learning which we are planning as a staff. The positivity for this style of learning is amazing for their wellbeing.

Countryside Learning

There were a number of children who were very anxious about the trip and were unwilling to change the pattern of their day but were the most vocal and enthusiastic by the end of the day. We also have some children who would never have the experience of discovery with outside learning, without days like this. They come to school and go home to play on game consoles and do no outside play. This kind of an experience is vital for these children.

We hope to participate in this event each year and extend our learning outside the classroom because we feel the difference it makes is too valuable to miss. The long term benefits are a more positive outlook on school and learning, better learning and feeling part of their local environment. The children will go on to be more respectful of the environment.

Days and events like these are extremely valuable and have immeasurable benefits to pupils but also to staff.

Thank you so much for all the work you have put into making the day run so smoothly and please extend my thanks to the other adults who ran the groups.

Looking forward to next year already!

Karen Baines

It is increasingly difficult for schools to get out of the classroom to enjoy a school visit. School budgets have been slashed; staff are not being replaced; the cost of living crisis means parents are less likely to be able to help with transport costs; transport costs themselves have increased dramatically, yet schools are still booking onto our events as the teachers trust us and the experiences that we provide.

The number of children on free school meals and with special needs has increased, with many children still needing to be assessed to see if they qualify. Outdoor learning, with all its benefits, is needed more than ever.

We pride ourselves in giving our donors great value for money and giving the children we work for a safe, fun, and educational outdoor learning experience. We have never been driven by the size of our financial turnover; we have always been driven by the quality of our service. We are passionate about not duplicating services with other organisations or wasting money on costly administration. Wherever possible, we work in partnership with other trusted organisations, enhancing the quality of events and maximising coverage on more farms, moorlands and estates, whilst minimising costs.

Our continued success and growth are due to many factors, not least the tremendous support we receive from individuals, charitable trusts, schools, parents, teachers, farmers, estate owners and of course the children themselves. Whether that is through financial support or giving their time, energy and enthusiasm to our work, I know that we could not continue without it. To all our stakeholders I would like to offer my sincere thanks for all that they have helped us achieve.

As well as looking back, my annual statement also looks to the future.

Key plans for the year ahead are as exciting as they have ever been during my time as Chairman;

- At least 5 new host venues coming on stream
- Growing our partnership with BASC to develop a similar educational programme as Let's Learn Moor in the South of England
- Being one of the charity partners for Radio HP's Fundraising programme
- Another education officer appointed to support our work in the regions
- Continuing our partnership with the South of England Agricultural Society to support and develop their educational provision
- A new website

Countryside Learning

- Continued financial prudence to ensure the sustainability of our vital work

Finally, I would like to pay tribute also to our small team of long serving and experienced staff who have themselves made salary sacrifices during this time to support the charity. Being a hands on organisation it is through their hard work and dedication that we absolutely have our finger of the pulse of what matters to teachers, what the barriers to outdoor education are and the challenges families across the country are facing. At the time of writing this report I am aware that living costs are rising, coach costs for schools have reached record highs, school and family budgets are stretched. This makes us even more grateful that so many people are making the commitment to continue to access our services. This more than any other indicator is a mark of the impact we are having.

All of that said, I am delighted to be Chairman of the Countryside Learning at such an exciting time. Not only will our varied programme with a range of sector partners offer us tremendous scope to build our work it comes at a time when we ourselves have developed a robust, sustainable programme of delivery and support for schools and pupils across the country.

We will continue to be driven by the desire to inform and inspire more people about the natural environment and in doing so we hope to have another year of exciting, delivery and development in the year ahead.

The Lord Stafford

Countryside Learning

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The objects for which the charity was established are to advance and promote in the United Kingdom and, where appropriate, elsewhere for the public benefit, education concerning the effect of country sports and pastimes and leisure activities (and in particular the effect of their preservation, protection, development, maintenance, abolition or curtailment) upon such one or more of the following as the Foundation shall in its absolute discretion from time to time determine namely: ecology, the rural environment, wildlife, agriculture, the way of life and economy of rural communities, the industries and businesses connected therewith and employment within those industries and businesses.

The aims of Countryside Learning are simple:

To Educate, Inform and Inspire children, parents and teachers to enjoy and appreciate the countryside around them. CL acts as a link to a national infrastructure whereby teachers and their pupils can visit and study skilled workers in their workplace, using the knowledge gained and extra resource facilities available through CL to take back to the classroom to enhance the school curriculum.

The education of people in where their food comes from and an appreciation of the outdoors is one of the key ways tackling the issues of obesity and poor physical health of the population. Recent research from Countryside Classroom, supported by DEFRA, DfE and DoH, showed the growing need to educate the 'Concrete Generation' of people who had no connection or understanding of the environment around them. Through our work we aim to reconnect people with this world ensuring a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that we have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit reporting in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

The remainder of this Annual Report explains the charity's work during the year and how it has been carried out for the public benefit.

Countryside Learning

Trustees' Report

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The charity's main objectives for the year

To ensure progress it is vital for an organisation to have the vision and drive to reach new achievements. The Board regularly reviews our rolling 5-year strategy along with our organisational Risk Assessment and Memorandum and Articles. The board is confident that we can achieve during the course of the current year the following objectives:

Continued financial stability

Continued partnership working to ensure increased service delivery

Continued development of our educational provision including smaller bespoke days which complement our larger events

Continue our partnerships with other likeminded charities to grow our work in the most cost effective manner, avoid duplication and increase delivery on the ground

Identify new partnerships to deliver volume countryside events for children

Fully participate in the Countryside Classroom Project offering all providers increased profile and access to resources and events which our beneficiaries can benefit from

CL constantly aims to refine and enlarge its operation in a sustainable manner and welcomes approaches and ideas from other interested parties in order to achieve that.

The charity's strategies for achieving its stated objectives

Financial stability is vital if we are to secure the sustainability of our work. Children, parents and teachers need to know that we will be around not just this year, but the next and the next offering high quality, safe and enjoyable outdoor classroom experiences. We aim to secure a 3 month operating cost reserve fund.

Regular reporting between the Chairman and the Chief Executive ensures clear direction, and with quarterly Board meetings where all staff participate in report writing and in some cases Board presentation, all key stakeholders are aware of the issues facing the Charity, whether that be personnel issues, financial or strategic.

The current management has developed a rolling 5 year strategy which is reviewed by the Chairman and the Chief Executive on a regular basis and a yearly update is presented to the Trustees. A complete review of how we plan, cost and fund our business is of primary importance if we are to secure our work and develop it into the future. To this end our aim is to achieve:

Full cost recovery funding before any major event is approved.

Budgets for each event which will be shared with consultants and estates.

A 2 or 3 year funding agreement with estates including year on year cost increments.

Added value from consultants including assistance in achieving funding for the events they manage and cost limitation of all events.

Countryside Learning

Trustees' Report

Always producing revenue neutral budgets and hopefully surplus budgets for the Charity.

The Chief Executive has been tasked to develop partnerships in the sector, as well as influencing key decision makers and politicians. This has secured our active role in the Countryside Classroom, Learning Outside the Classroom and Access to Farms networks and the Chief Executive Chairs the LEAF Education and Public Engagement Committee.

Developing influence, sector presence and demonstrable and successful activities are the principal guides which the charity has followed to secure the strong financial position we now have.

Details of significant activities

This year, along with our Farms for Schools Members, we continue to reach many thousands of children. Farms for Schools is a membership network for farms that open to school visits. To become a member applicants have to meet stringent requirements on health and safety and can be inspected by ourselves and other providers. Most importantly, member farms are subject to independent reviews from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Environmental Health Officers (EHO) and advice updates from Public Health England (PHE). We have worked with other providers to respond to the recommendations of the Griffin Report and have developed and reviewed a sector wide code of practice.

Countryside Learning has continued to grow the breadth of its educational provision and even in a time that has been significantly impacted by covid and financial pressures, we have reached over 15,000 children. As well as being fortunate in finding new venues who wish to support us, we have also begun work with other groups from the community and out of term time support for children and their families.

Grant making policies

We do not make grants to other organisations or individuals but may from time to time offer our services free or at a reduced rate for those beneficiaries who present the greatest financial need or to encourage participation in a new event.

Contribution of volunteers

We maintain a small, but immensely committed staff team who each year consistently give far more than is asked of them in their job descriptions in a sense volunteering their services over and above what they are paid to do. The organisation owes a great deal to their hard work and enthusiasm. Their ability to achieve so much with limited resources means that we can truly claim to be big enough to have a national impact and small enough to care personally about each activity and every donor who supports us. Our key supporters are the farmers and landowners and their staff who give freely of their time to open up their world to the children we bring along to learn. Without this kindness, passion and enthusiasm, we would not be able to offer the services that we do. This level of support has been estimated at £100,000 per annum, a fantastic amount of time, money and enthusiasm which we simply could not do without or ever hope to directly support financially ourselves.

Main activities of the charity in relation to its objects

In the year 2022 - 2023 we reached over 15,000 children through a range of large and small events and bespoke packages designed to meet the needs of individual schools. This now means we operate almost in every month of the year. We operate through a range of educational officers and limit our operation to, essentially, an event based organisation. The feedback from our work is universally positive. In our development plan, we are careful to support our 'bread and butter' services that have served the organisation well in recent years.

Countryside Learning

Trustees' Report

The main growth in our work in the last year has been the development of small bespoke days for small class sizes which build on the introductory experience our larger events provide. We hope to build on this in the year ahead.

We are happy with the progress we have made in sustaining a level of financial stability in what can safely be described as challenging economic circumstances. Operating in a crowded charity market place, small charities are liable to be at the mercy of the overall economic position and subject to severe competition for limited funds. Even with the amazing fundraising efforts of our supporters we are always cautious about our expenditure given the economic climate and we adjusted our spending plans accordingly. We have a robust and sound financial model that has enabled us to build up to a position where we can start to secure reserves equivalent to three months operating costs. Currently, our reserves stand at over three months. We are in a good position to face the challenges of the year ahead, much better than some in the sector. Above all else, the schools we work with need to know and have the confidence that we are sustainable and will be here for them long into the future.

We have met all of the objectives we set for this year. We continue to add new host estates across the country and reach more schools than ever before. The demand for our work has grown considerably over the last few years and this is noted by the fact that the only month of the year when we do not have school events is August when they are on holiday!

The charity relies on grant aid from the donors identified in the accounts, whose support is valued. Fundraising events such as our Art Auction are significant sources of income for us.

Without the support of valued staff, volunteers and country people across the country we would not be able to support the Learning Outside the Classroom agenda so vital to reaching the 'concrete generation' of children.

In addition our presence on key groups within the sector has made it possible for our influence to far outweigh our actual size.

We have secured for the fifteenth year running a small surplus, which ensures our continued stability and operational confidence to develop our programme of events for the coming year. In addition our work with other partners, most notably The Access to Farms Network and The LEAF Education and Public Engagement committee which our Chief Executive chairs along with the Farm Safety Partnership and Countryside Classroom has helped us reach an ever-increasing number of parents, children and teachers across the country.

CL is committed to the principles of equal opportunities. It is important to ensure that our policy is working, in particular when employing new members of staff. However, at this time no vacancies exist within the charity, any that do will be advertised and applicants from all backgrounds will be considered and encouraged.

Countryside Learning

Trustees' Report

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves

In view of the nature of the income and expenditure of the charity there is a need to match variable income with fixed commitments and the nature of the reserves. The trustees have set an objective that a general reserve of three months operating costs should be built up over time. At the year end, reserves, not invested in tangible fixed assets, amounted to £88,865, the equivalent to over three months operating costs. On top of this there is close down reserve of £52,874.

Freehold land

The charity owns several pieces of woodland in England, primarily gifted from the former charity, The Badminton Trust. The net book value in the financial statements of £372,919 is the gifted amount, net of any acquisitions or disposals in the succeeding years. As the charity has no intention of disposing of the land, no formal valuation has been obtained; however, the trustees are of the opinion that the market value of the freehold land is in excess of the amount shown in the accounts.

Restricted funds

These are detailed in the notes to the financial statements.

FUTURE PLANS

The charity's future plans are:

To mitigate the challenges faced by the Covid 19 outbreak.

To ensure we have a sustainable offer for teachers and children to once again experience the natural environment after months of isolation.

Develop a long term strategy to secure the right funding and structure for the charity in the years to come.

To explore ways of making the operation of the charity even more cost effective.

To continue partnership working with others in the sector to ensure value for money for donors and to maximise coverage.

To continue to source new venues for estate days and countryside live events.

To grow our smaller bespoke days.

To maintain financial stability and prudence.

To work with others to review and update educational resources through our participation in The Countryside Classroom Programme.

To work with other partners to implement the updated Industry Code of Practice for farm visits.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Countryside Learning is a registered Charity (No. 327091) and a company (No. 1997554) limited by guarantee. Its registered office, together with the names of the present Trustees and the names of any Trustees who served during the year, are shown on page 1.

Countryside Learning

Trustees' Report

The Charity is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, adopted on 7 March 1986 and last amended in 1997.

The Trustees meet approximately every three months but sub-committees for Finance and Audit meet at other times as necessary.

At Trustees meetings operational and fund-raising objectives are set and performance monitored. The responsibility for the day to day operations of the Charity is in the hands of the Chief Executive, Mr Gary Richardson. Mr Richardson, although not a Trustee, attends Trustees' meetings, as do other members of staff when appropriate.

Risk management

The major risks, to which the Charity is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed and systems and procedures have been put in place to manage these risks.

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 25 September 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
The Lord Stafford
Trustee

Countryside Learning

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Countryside Learning ('the Company')

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

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

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 Association of Charity Independent Examiners, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of Countryside Learning as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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.

.....
M R Heaton FCCA FCIE DChA
KM
1st Floor, Block C
The Wharf
Manchester Road
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG

25 September 2023

Countryside Learning

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £
Income from:							
Donations	3	248,927	-	248,927	204,446	-	204,446
Charitable activities	4	33,104	-	33,104	11,943	-	11,943
Investment income	5	1,886	216	2,102	550	-	550
Other income	6	5,020	-	5,020	12,824	-	12,824
Total income		<u>288,937</u>	<u>216</u>	<u>289,153</u>	<u>229,763</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>229,763</u>
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	7	(1,305)	-	(1,305)	(2,856)	-	(2,856)
Charitable activities	8	(284,495)	-	(284,495)	(219,261)	-	(219,261)
Total expenditure		<u>(285,800)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(285,800)</u>	<u>(222,117)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(222,117)</u>
Net income		3,137	216	3,353	7,646	-	7,646
Transfers between funds		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	836	(836)	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		3,137	216	3,353	8,482	(836)	7,646
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		<u>511,521</u>	<u>8,722</u>	<u>520,243</u>	<u>503,039</u>	<u>9,558</u>	<u>512,597</u>
Total funds carried forward	19	<u><u>514,658</u></u>	<u><u>8,938</u></u>	<u><u>523,596</u></u>	<u><u>511,521</u></u>	<u><u>8,722</u></u>	<u><u>520,243</u></u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2022 is shown in note 19.

The notes on pages 15 to 23 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Countryside Learning
(Registration number: 01997554)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	374,423	374,590
Current assets			
Debtors	15	16,876	3,381
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>327,676</u>	<u>336,969</u>
		344,552	340,350
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>(195,379)</u>	<u>(194,697)</u>
Net current assets		<u>149,173</u>	<u>145,653</u>
Net assets		<u><u>523,596</u></u>	<u><u>520,243</u></u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		8,938	8,722
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>514,658</u>	<u>511,521</u>
Total funds	19	<u><u>523,596</u></u>	<u><u>520,243</u></u>

For the financial year ending 31 March 2023 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements on pages 13 to 23 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 25 September 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
The Lord Stafford
Trustee

The notes on pages 15 to 23 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

1st Floor, Block C
The Wharf
Manchester Road
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on 25 September 2023.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

Countryside Learning meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

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 the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Deferred income

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

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

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including independent examination, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500.00 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

3 Income from donations

	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	General	2023	2022
	£	£	£
Donations from individuals	7,009	7,009	7,260
Companies	6,350	6,350	7,165
Gift aid reclaimed	1,031	1,031	1,691
Trusts	234,537	234,537	188,330
	<u>248,927</u>	<u>248,927</u>	<u>188,330</u>
	<u>248,927</u>	<u>248,927</u>	<u>204,446</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	General	2023	2022
	£	£	£
Educational	22,740	22,740	1,020
Woodland management	10,364	10,364	10,923
	<u>33,104</u>	<u>33,104</u>	<u>11,943</u>
	<u>33,104</u>	<u>33,104</u>	<u>11,943</u>

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted		Total	Total
	General	Restricted	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Bank interest receivable	1,886	216	2,102	550
	<u>1,886</u>	<u>216</u>	<u>2,102</u>	<u>550</u>
	<u>1,886</u>	<u>216</u>	<u>2,102</u>	<u>550</u>

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

6 Other income

	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	General	2023	2022
	£	£	£
Miscellaneous income	-	-	46
HMRC - Covid 19 JRS grant	-	-	8,778
Employment Allowance	5,000	5,000	4,000
Other interest receivable	20	20	-
	<u>5,020</u>	<u>5,020</u>	<u>12,824</u>

7 Expenditure on raising funds

a) Costs of generating donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	General	2023	2022
	£	£	£
Staff Costs	1,305	1,305	2,856
	<u>1,305</u>	<u>1,305</u>	<u>2,856</u>

8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	General	2023	2022
	£	£	£
Educational	273,473	273,473	198,881
Woodland management	5,089	5,089	11,568
Governance costs	5,933	5,933	8,812
Note			
	<u>284,495</u>	<u>284,495</u>	<u>219,261</u>

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

9 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	General	2023	2022
	£	£	£
Staff costs			
Wages and salaries	2,392	2,392	5,125
Social security costs	217	217	585
Governance costs			
Independent examiners fee	1,260	1,260	1,200
Other fees paid to examiners	2,064	2,064	1,902
	<u>5,933</u>	<u>5,933</u>	<u>8,812</u>

10 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

11 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	127,569	92,624
Social security costs	13,813	10,242
Pension costs	6,432	3,957
	<u>147,814</u>	<u>106,823</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2023 No	2022 No
Charitable activities	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

12 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2023 £	2022 £
Examination of the financial statements	1,260	1,200
Bookkeeping and payroll fees	2,064	1,902
	<u>3,324</u>	<u>3,102</u>

13 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2022	372,919	15,889	388,808
At 31 March 2023	372,919	15,889	388,808
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	-	14,218	14,218
Charge for the year	-	167	167
At 31 March 2023	-	14,385	14,385
Net book value			
At 31 March 2023	372,919	1,504	374,423
At 31 March 2022	372,919	1,671	374,590

15 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	2,200	190
Prepayments	13,645	365
Other debtors	1,031	2,826
	<u>16,876</u>	<u>3,381</u>

16 Creditors

	2023 £	2022 £
Other creditors	4,379	3,697
Deferred income	191,000	191,000
	<u>195,379</u>	<u>194,697</u>

17 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £6,432 (2022 - £3,957).

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

18 Lease agreements

The total value of future minimum lease payments was as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Within one year	14,261	14,261
In two to five years	10,887	25,149
	25,148	39,410

19 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted				
General fund	85,728	288,917	(285,780)	88,865
Woodlands	372,919	-	-	372,919
Close down reserve	52,874	-	-	52,874
	511,521	288,917	(285,780)	514,658
Total unrestricted				
Restricted				
Fiona Barker Memorial Fund	8,722	216	-	8,938
	520,243	289,133	(285,780)	523,596
Total funds				

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Unrestricted					
General fund	130,120	229,763	(222,117)	(52,038)	85,728
Woodlands	372,919	-	-	-	372,919
Close down reserve	-	-	-	52,874	52,874
	372,919	-	-	52,874	425,793
Total unrestricted					
Restricted					
Fiona Barker Memorial Fund	9,558	-	-	(836)	8,722
	512,597	229,763	(222,117)	-	520,243
Total funds					

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2023
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	1,504	372,919	-	374,423
Current assets	282,740	52,874	8,938	344,552
Current liabilities	(195,379)	-	-	(195,379)
Total net assets	88,865	425,793	8,938	523,596

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2022
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	1,671	372,919	-	374,590
Current assets	278,754	52,874	8,722	340,350
Current liabilities	(194,697)	-	-	(194,697)
Total net assets	85,728	425,793	8,722	520,243

COUNTRYSIDE LEARNING

England & Wales - Charity number 327091

Accounts

Company registration number: 01997554

Charity registration number: 327091

Countryside Learning

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Draft

KM
1st Floor, Block C
The Wharf
Manchester Road
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG

Countryside Learning

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Draft

Countryside Learning

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees

Miss C L Barker
Mrs N V Branston
Ms A K Bury
Mr D C Daly
Mr A R Downs
Mr M T Elliot
Mr H M Henderson
Mrs J B Howman
The Countess Peel
Mr S P Roberts
Mr G E S Seligman
The Lord Stafford

Secretary Mr G Richardson

Charity Registration Number 327091

Company Registration Number 01997554

Registered Office

The charity is incorporated in England.
1st Floor, Block C
The Wharf
Manchester Road
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG

Independent Examiner

KM
1st Floor, Block C
The Wharf
Manchester Road
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG

Bankers

Unity Trust Bank
Four
Brindley Place
Birmingham
B1 2JB

Countryside Learning

Chairman's Statement

Working together to achieve more - Countryside Learning - Connecting Children with the natural environment

The mission of Countryside Learning (CL) is a simple one. It is to inform and inspire children, parents and teachers, so that they can enjoy and appreciate the natural environment while having a greater understanding of the wide range of issues surrounding it.

CL acts as a link to a national infrastructure whereby teachers and their pupils can visit and study skilled workers in their workplace, using the knowledge gained and extra resource facilities available through CL which they can take back to the classroom to enhance the school curriculum. Our work in this area is enhanced by our partnership with other likeminded organisations especially our work with the Countryside Classroom project which delivers a truly nationwide agenda for education outside the classroom.

Our work is never stagnant, it evolves organically with the needs of our key audiences. I believe our success has in large part been due to the fact that we are not an organisation that is prescriptive, but one who listens to the needs of our key audience groups, in our case schools. That said, we have also developed a range of offers for families who are seeking asylum in this country and also working with a children's cancer charity in Leeds to offer bespoke experiences which for all of those involved including our staff team have been inspirational.

Few who work in the education sector could not fail to be aware of the pressures on teachers and their pupils in coming out of the pandemic. In this last year we have seen more lockdowns affecting schools ability to work effectively with their pupils let alone access outdoor education. The impact on children's academic work, mental health and well being and attention spans has been marked. Covid continues to have an impact on schools and therefore we are immensely grateful that so many schools have come to us to give them the learning opportunities they desperately need.

Our ability to support teachers stems from the long term relationships that we have developed with schools across the country giving them the confidence of a safe and quality driven experience that they want rather than a one size fits all approach. Some of the key indicators of our delivery this year can be noted below.

- 52% of the pupils we work with are in receipt of free school meals
- We have worked with over 10,000 children in the last year
- We have worked with over 400 schools
- 97p in every pound donated goes directly on our work with children and not on administration.
- Feedback from teachers accessing our programmes is rated at 97% excellent with the remaining 3% as good.
- Bespoke support days for families seeking asylum
- Bespoke support days for families with children undergoing cancer treatment.
- New education officer appointed to meet demand
- 7 new host venues added to our portfolio
- 17 years of financial stability offering sustainability and confidence to schools accessing our services on a long term basis

I am aware for many of our supporters' stark percentages and bullet points do not tell the full story. I often wish all of my colleagues on the board and our funders could go out and see for themselves all of the amazing work we do. Fortunately, our amazing staff are there and it is their actual experiences on the front line that informs our strategy for the future.

I am acutely aware that what ever percentage of pupils currently in receipt of free school meals hides a much larger number who have not yet been assessed and the financial pressures on all families at the moment are increasing daily. We are fully aware of the pressures on teaching staff and therefore don't bombard them with constant requests for information on pupil percentages etc, we do the research and maths! Our job is to make their visits safe, simple, informed, valued and meet their actual needs rather than us assuming their needs. I would like to take this opportunity to register my own thanks to those teachers who in challenging circumstances give us the feed back we need to constantly improve and adapt the services that we offer.

Countryside Learning

I am sure that for people who read annual reports often think, well they would say that wouldn't they! So I thought this year I would include some direct feedback from just one of the many teachers who have experienced our work first hand to show to everyone what it means to them.

Thank you, and all the staff, for an absolutely fantastic day.

All the children loved it. I asked them what their favourite activities were and after a lengthy discussion one child say, "Just everything!" The children liked the sheep and falconry because there were animal activities. They really enjoyed the arable farming activity and being able to get close to the farm machinery. The woodland and ecology activity stations were also popular be the children enjoyed the activities of going around and looking for clues. Finally, the recycling activity because a lot of children said it made them think more about how they recycle and what they throw away. One child is even going to go home and see if he can get his mum to talk to the people that own the flats where they live and help them get some recycling bins. So lots and lots of positives!

From a teaching perspective, myself, my teaching assistant and the Head of Governors, all thought the day was brilliant and one of the best school trips we've experienced. It was brilliantly organised, the activities were short and pacy which meant the children's attention was kept and there was a really good balance of listening and being educated and completing activities. All of your staff were extremely enthusiastic and clearly very knowledgeable, and they were wonderful at asking the children's questions. I think the carousel of activities worked really well, as having the brain and movement break between different stations was extremely valuable and helped build children's excitement as they moved around the site. Also, being able to take home little natural souvenirs (wooden coaster, plants) was a really nice touch. The children were also fascinated by the engineering of the handwashing taps!

An absolutely wonderful day out that the children did not stop talking about all the way home.

Thank you, and all your team, for all your hard work,

Sophie Tomlinson
Year 5 Teacher
Hertingfordbury

Given the many barriers to outdoor education that I have mentioned in my report one doesn't need to commission a research project to see that the fact that so many schools will surmount these difficulties to work with us shows to me just how much our work is needed and valued.

We pride ourselves in giving our donors more value for money and at the same time giving our children an unforgettable introduction to the natural environment. We have never been driven by the size of our financial turnover; we have always been driven by the quality of our service. We are passionate about not duplicating services with other charities or wasting money on costly administration and I am delighted to say that 97p in every pound raised goes directly on our work with children.

In order to achieve this, we work in partnership and in a focused manner which our supporters can be assured maintains our commitment to quality and education for all. This means we can support more farms, estates and events, maximising our coverage and minimising our costs.

Our continued success and growth are due to many factors, not least the tremendous support we receive from individuals, charitable trusts, schools, parents, teachers, farmers, estate owners and of course the children themselves. Whether that is through financial support or giving their time, energy and enthusiasm to our work, I know that we could not continue without it. To all our stakeholders I would like to offer my sincere thanks for all that they have helped us achieve.

As well as looking back, my annual statement also looks to the future.

Countryside Learning

Our focus in ensuring every penny counts guides our desire to work with other partners in the sector and avoid duplication at the same time as increasing the impact of our work. This can be seen in our close cooperation with the education team at LEAF and the Countryside Classroom project, our work with BASC in delivering the highly successful Let's Learn Moor programme and our work with the NGO Educational Trust.

Key plans for the year ahead are as exciting as they have ever been during my time as Chairman

- Permanent Forest School Classroom established with the University of Staffordshire
- Two education days for primary and secondary schools in Partnership with Harper Adams University
- At least 3 new host venues coming on stream
- Another education officer appointed to support our work in the South of England
- Discussions with the South of England Agricultural Society to support and develop their educational provision
- Discussions with two estates for a more regular programme of educational experiences throughout the year
- Summer Club Days for disadvantaged children from Leeds
- Continued financial prudence to ensure the sustainability of our vital work

Finally, I would like to pay tribute also to our small team of long serving and experienced staff who have themselves made salary sacrifices during this time to support the charity. Being a hands on organisation it is through their hard work and dedication that we absolutely have our finger of the pulse of what matters to teachers, what the barriers to outdoor education are and the challenges families across the country are facing. At the time of writing this report I am aware that inflation is nearing 10%, coach costs for schools have almost doubled in the last 6 months, school and family budgets are stretched. This makes us even more grateful that so many people are making the commitment to continue to access our services. This more than any other indicator is a mark of the impact we are having.

All of that said, I am delighted to be Chairman of the Countryside Learning at such an exciting time. Not only will our varied programme with a range of sector partners offer us tremendous scope to build our work it comes at a time when we ourselves have developed a robust, sustainable programme of delivery and support for schools and pupils across the country.

We will continue to be driven by the desire to inform and inspire more people about the natural environment and in doing so we hope to have another year of exciting, delivery and development in the year ahead.

The Lord Stafford

Countryside Learning

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2022.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The objects for which the charity was established are to advance and promote in the United Kingdom and, where appropriate, elsewhere for the public benefit, education concerning the effect of country sports and pastimes and leisure activities (and in particular the effect of their preservation, protection, development, maintenance, abolition or curtailment) upon such one or more of the following as the Foundation shall in its absolute discretion from time to time determine namely: ecology, the rural environment, wildlife, agriculture, the way of life and economy of rural communities, the industries and businesses connected therewith and employment within those industries and businesses.

The aims of Countryside Learning are simple:

To Educate, Inform and Inspire children, parents and teachers to enjoy and appreciate the countryside around them. CL acts as a link to a national infrastructure whereby teachers and their pupils can visit and study skilled workers in their workplace, using the knowledge gained and extra resource facilities available through CL to take back to the classroom to enhance the school curriculum.

The education of people in where their food comes from and an appreciation of the outdoors is one of the key ways tackling the issues of obesity and poor physical health of the population. Recent research from Countryside Classroom, supported by DEFRA, DfE and DoH, showed the growing need to educate the 'Concrete Generation' of people who had no connection or understanding of the environment around them. Through our work we aim to reconnect people with this world ensuring a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that we have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit reporting in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

The remainder of this Annual Report explains the charity's work during the year and how it has been carried out for the public benefit.

Countryside Learning

Trustees' Report

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The charity's main objectives for the year

To ensure progress it is vital for an organisation to have the vision and drive to reach new achievements. The Board regularly reviews our rolling 5-year strategy along with our organisational Risk Assessment and Memorandum and Articles. The board is confident that we can achieve during the course of the current year the following objectives:

Continued financial stability

Continued partnership working to ensure increased service delivery

Continued development of our educational provision including smaller bespoke days which complement our larger events

Continue our partnerships with other likeminded charities to grow our work in the most cost effective manner, avoid duplication and increase delivery on the ground

Identify new partnerships to deliver volume countryside events for children

Fully participate in the Countryside Classroom Project offering all providers increased profile and access to resources and events which our beneficiaries can benefit from

CL constantly aims to refine and enlarge its operation in a sustainable manner and welcomes approaches and ideas from other interested parties in order to achieve that.

The charity's strategies for achieving its stated objectives

Financial stability is vital if we are to secure the sustainability of our work. Children, parents and teachers need to know that we will be around not just this year, but the next and the next offering high quality, safe and enjoyable outdoor classroom experiences. We aim to secure a 3 month operating cost reserve fund.

Regular reporting between the Chairman and the Chief Executive ensures clear direction, and with quarterly Board meetings where all staff participate in report writing and in some cases Board presentation, all key stakeholders are aware of the issues facing the Charity, whether that be personnel issues, financial or strategic.

The current management has developed a rolling 5 year strategy which is reviewed by the Chairman and the Chief Executive on a regular basis and a yearly update is presented to the Trustees. A complete review of how we plan, cost and fund our business is of primary importance if we are to secure our work and develop it into the future. To this end our aim is to achieve:

Full cost recovery funding before any major event is approved.

Budgets for each event which will be shared with consultants and estates.

A 2 or 3 year funding agreement with estates including year on year cost increments.

Added value from consultants including assistance in achieving funding for the events they manage and cost limitation of all events.

Countryside Learning

Trustees' Report

Always producing revenue neutral budgets and hopefully surplus budgets for the Charity.

The Chief Executive has been tasked to develop partnerships in the sector, as well as influencing key decision makers and politicians. This has secured our active role in the Countryside Classroom, Learning Outside the Classroom and Access to Farms networks and the Chief Executive Chairs the LEAF Education and Public Engagement Committee.

Developing influence, sector presence and demonstrable and successful activities are the principal guides which the charity has followed to secure the strong financial position we now have.

Details of significant activities

This year, along with our Farms for Schools Members, we continue to reach many thousands of children. Farms for Schools is a membership network for farms that open to school visits. To become a member applicants have to meet stringent requirements on health and safety and can be inspected by ourselves and other providers. Most importantly, member farms are subject to independent reviews from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Environmental Health Officers (EHO) and advice updates from Public Health England (PHE). We have worked with other providers to respond to the recommendations of the Griffin Report and have developed and reviewed a sector wide code of practice.

Countryside Learning has continued to grow the breadth of its educational provision and even in a time that has been significantly impacted by covid and financial pressures, we have reached over 10,000 children. As well as being fortunate in finding new venues who wish to support us, we have also begun work with other groups from the community and out of term time support for children and their families.

Grant making policies

We do not make grants to other organisations or individuals but may from time to time offer our services free or at a reduced rate for those beneficiaries who present the greatest financial need or to encourage participation in a new event.

Contribution of volunteers

We maintain a small, but immensely committed staff team who each year consistently give far more than is asked of them in their job descriptions in a sense volunteering their services over and above what they are paid to do. The organisation owes a great deal to their hard work and enthusiasm. Their ability to achieve so much with limited resources means that we can truly claim to be big enough to have a national impact and small enough to care personally about each activity and every donor who supports us. Our key supporters are the farmers and landowners and their staff who give freely of their time to open up their world to the children we bring along to learn. Without this kindness, passion and enthusiasm, we would not be able to offer the services that we do. This level of support has been estimated at £100,000 per annum, a fantastic amount of time, money and enthusiasm which we simply could not do without or ever hope to directly support financially ourselves.

Main activities of the charity in relation to its objects

In the year 2020 - 2021 we reached over 10,000 children through a range of large and small events and bespoke packages designed to meet the needs of individual schools. This now means we operate almost in every month of the year. We operate through a range of educational officers and limit our operation to, essentially, an event based organisation. The feedback from our work is universally positive. In our development plan, we are careful to support our 'bread and butter' services that have served the organisation well in recent years.

Countryside Learning

Trustees' Report

The main growth in our work in the last year has been the development of small bespoke days for small class sizes which build on the introductory experience our larger events provide. We hope to build on this in the year ahead.

We are happy with the progress we have made in sustaining a level of financial stability in what can safely be described as challenging economic circumstances. Operating in a crowded charity market place, small charities are liable to be at the mercy of the overall economic position and subject to severe competition for limited funds. Even with the amazing fundraising efforts of our supporters we are always cautious about our expenditure given the economic climate and we adjusted our spending plans accordingly. We have a robust and sound financial model that has enabled us to build up to a position where we can start to secure reserves equivalent to three months operating costs. Currently, our reserves stand at over three months. We are in a good position to face the challenges of the year ahead, much better than some in the sector. Above all else, the schools we work with need to know and have the confidence that we are sustainable and will be here for them long into the future.

We have met all of the objectives we set for this year. We continue to add new host estates across the country and reach more schools than ever before. The demand for our work has grown considerably over the last few years and this is noted by the fact that the only month of the year when we do not have school events is August when they are on holiday!

The charity relies on grant aid from the donors identified in the accounts, whose support is valued. Fundraising events such as our Art Auction are significant sources of income for us.

Without the support of valued staff, volunteers and country people across the country we would not be able to support the Learning Outside the Classroom agenda so vital to reaching the 'concrete generation' of children.

In addition our presence on key groups within the sector has made it possible for our influence to far outweigh our actual size.

We have secured for the fifteenth year running a small surplus, which ensures our continued stability and operational confidence to develop our programme of events for the coming year. In addition our work with other partners, most notably The Access to Farms Network and The LEAF Education and Public Engagement committee which our Chief Executive chairs along with the Farm Safety Partnership and Countryside Classroom has helped us reach an ever-increasing number of parents, children and teachers across the country.

CL is committed to the principles of equal opportunities. It is important to ensure that our policy is working, in particular when employing new members of staff. However, at this time no vacancies exist within the charity, any that do will be advertised and applicants from all backgrounds will be considered and encouraged.

Countryside Learning

Trustees' Report

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves

In view of the nature of the income and expenditure of the charity there is a need to match variable income with fixed commitments and the nature of the reserves. The trustees have set an objective that a general reserve of three months operating costs should be built up over time. At the year end, reserves, not invested in tangible fixed assets, amounted to £85,728, the equivalent to over three months operating costs. On top of this there is close down reserve of £52,874.

Freehold land

The charity owns several pieces of woodland in England, primarily gifted from the former charity, The Badminton Trust. The net book value in the financial statements of £372,919 is the gifted amount, net of any acquisitions or disposals in the succeeding years. As the charity has no intention of disposing of the land, no formal valuation has been obtained; however, the trustees are of the opinion that the market value of the freehold land is in excess of the amount shown in the accounts.

Restricted funds

These are detailed in the notes to the financial statements.

FUTURE PLANS

The charity's future plans are:

To mitigate the challenges faced by the Covid 19 outbreak.

To ensure we have a sustainable offer for teachers and children to once again experience the natural environment after months of isolation.

Develop a long term strategy to secure the right funding and structure for the charity in the years to come.

To explore ways of making the operation of the charity even more cost effective.

To continue partnership working with others in the sector to ensure value for money for donors and to maximise coverage.

To continue to source new venues for estate days and countryside live events.

To grow our smaller bespoke days.

To maintain financial stability and prudence.

To work with others to review and update educational resources through our participation in The Countryside Classroom Programme.

To work with other partners to implement the updated Industry Code of Practice for farm visits.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Countryside Learning is a registered Charity (No. 327091) and a company (No. 1997554) limited by guarantee. Its registered office, together with the names of the present Trustees and the names of any Trustees who served during the year, are shown on page 1.

Countryside Learning

Trustees' Report

The Charity is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, adopted on 7 March 1986 and last amended in 1997.

The Trustees meet approximately every three months but sub-committees for Finance and Audit meet at other times as necessary.

At Trustees meetings operational and fund-raising objectives are set and performance monitored. The responsibility for the day to day operations of the Charity is in the hands of the Chief Executive, Mr Gary Richardson. Mr Richardson, although not a Trustee, attends Trustees' meetings, as do other members of staff when appropriate.

Risk management

The major risks, to which the Charity is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed and systems and procedures have been put in place to manage these risks.

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on and signed on its behalf by:

.....
The Lord Stafford
Trustee

Countryside Learning

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Countryside Learning ("the Company")

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of Countryside Learning are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of Countryside Learning as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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.

.....
M R Heaton FCCA FCIE DChA
KM
1st Floor, Block C
The Wharf
Manchester Road
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG

Date:.....

Countryside Learning

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2022 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £
Income from:							
Donations	3	204,446	-	204,446	114,908	-	114,908
Charitable activities	4	11,943	-	11,943	14,070	-	14,070
Investment income	5	550	-	550	101	-	101
Other income	6	12,824	-	12,824	74,469	-	74,469
Total income		<u>229,763</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>229,763</u>	<u>203,548</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>203,548</u>
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	7	(2,856)	-	(2,856)	(4,787)	-	(4,787)
Charitable activities	8	(219,261)	-	(219,261)	(196,318)	-	(196,318)
Total expenditure		<u>(222,117)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(222,117)</u>	<u>(201,105)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(201,105)</u>
Net income		7,646	-	7,646	2,443	-	2,443
Transfers between funds		836	(836)	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		8,482	(836)	7,646	2,443	-	2,443
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		<u>503,039</u>	<u>9,558</u>	<u>512,597</u>	<u>500,596</u>	<u>9,558</u>	<u>510,154</u>
Total funds carried forward	19	<u>511,521</u>	<u>8,722</u>	<u>520,243</u>	<u>503,039</u>	<u>9,558</u>	<u>512,597</u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2021 is shown in note 19.

The notes on pages 14 to 22 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Countryside Learning
(Registration number: 01997554)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	374,590	373,919
Current assets			
Debtors	15	3,381	26,410
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>336,969</u>	<u>284,850</u>
		340,350	311,260
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>(194,697)</u>	<u>(172,582)</u>
Net current assets		<u>145,653</u>	<u>138,678</u>
Net assets		<u>520,243</u>	<u>512,597</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		8,722	9,558
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>511,521</u>	<u>503,039</u>
Total funds	19	<u>520,243</u>	<u>512,597</u>

For the financial year ending 31 March 2022 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

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

The financial statements on pages 12 to 22 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on and signed on their behalf by:

.....
The Lord Stafford
Trustee

The notes on pages 14 to 22 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

1st Floor, Block C
The Wharf
Manchester Road
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG

[Authorised for issue date](#)

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

Countryside Learning meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity is exempt from preparing a cash flow statement..

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 the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Deferred income

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

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

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including independent examination, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500.00 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

3 Income from donations

	Unrestricted General £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Donations from individuals	7,260	7,260	6,513
Companies	7,165	7,165	7,960
Gift aid reclaimed	1,691	1,691	1,135
Trusts	188,330	188,330	99,300
	<u>204,446</u>	<u>204,446</u>	<u>114,908</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted General £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Educational	1,020	1,020	2,935
Woodland management	10,923	10,923	11,135
	<u>11,943</u>	<u>11,943</u>	<u>14,070</u>

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted General £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Bank interest receivable	550	550	101

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

6 Other income

	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	General	2022	2021
	£	£	£
Miscellaneous income	46	46	-
HMRC - Covid 19 JRS grant	8,778	8,778	60,469
Calderdale Council - Covid 19 grant	-	-	10,000
Employment Allowance	4,000	4,000	4,000
	12,824	12,824	74,469
	12,824	12,824	74,469

7 Expenditure on raising funds

a) Costs of generating donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	General	2022	2021
	£	£	£
Fundraising costs	-	-	1,760
Staff Costs	2,856	2,856	3,027
	2,856	2,856	4,787
	2,856	2,856	4,787

8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	General	2022	2021
	£	£	£
Educational	207,615	207,615	191,299
Woodland management	11,568	11,568	5,019
	219,183	219,183	196,318
	219,183	219,183	196,318

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

9 Analysis of governance and support costs

Support costs

	Governance costs £	Management costs £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Educational	3,102	5,710	8,812	10,216
Woodland management	-	11,568	11,568	5,019
	3,102	17,278	20,380	15,235

10 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

11 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	92,624	112,906
Social security costs	10,242	12,349
Pension costs	3,957	5,666
Redundancy payment	-	14,105
	106,823	145,026

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2022 No	2021 No
Charitable activities	3	3

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

12 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2022	2021
	£	£
Examination of the financial statements	1,200	2,160
Payroll fees	102	486
Bookkeeping fees	1,800	720
	3,102	3,366

13 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings	Fixtures and fittings	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2021	372,919	15,140	388,059
Additions	-	749	749
At 31 March 2022	372,919	15,889	388,808
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2021	-	14,140	14,140
Charge for the year	-	78	78
At 31 March 2022	-	14,218	14,218
Net book value			
At 31 March 2022	372,919	1,671	374,590
At 31 March 2021	372,919	1,000	373,919

15 Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	190	24,910
Prepayments	365	365
Other debtors	2,826	1,135
	3,381	26,410

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

16 Creditors

	2022 £	2021 £
Other creditors	3,697	1,582
Deferred income	191,000	171,000
	<u>194,697</u>	<u>172,582</u>

17 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £3,957 (2021 - £5,666).

18 Lease agreements

The total value of future minimum lease payments was as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Within one year	14,261	7,946
In two to five years	25,149	-
	<u>39,410</u>	<u>7,946</u>

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

19 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Unrestricted					
General fund	130,120	229,763	(222,117)	(52,038)	85,728
Woodlands	372,919	-	-	-	372,919
Close down reserve	-	-	-	52,874	52,874
Total unrestricted	503,039	229,763	(222,117)	836	511,521
Restricted					
Fiona Barker Memorial Fund	9,558	-	-	(836)	8,722
Total funds	512,597	229,763	(222,117)	-	520,243
	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £	
Unrestricted					
General fund	127,677	203,548	(201,105)	130,120	
Woodlands	372,919	-	-	372,919	
Total unrestricted	500,596	203,548	(201,105)	503,039	
Restricted					
Fiona Barker Memorial Fund	9,558	-	-	9,558	
Total funds	510,154	203,548	(201,105)	512,597	

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2022
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	1,671	372,919	-	374,590
Current assets	278,754	52,874	8,722	340,350
Current liabilities	(194,697)	-	-	(194,697)
Total net assets	85,728	425,793	8,722	520,243

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2021
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	1,000	372,919	-	373,919
Current assets	301,702	-	9,558	311,260
Current liabilities	(172,582)	-	-	(172,582)
Total net assets	130,120	372,919	9,558	512,597

COUNTRYSIDE LEARNING

England & Wales - Charity number 327091

Accounts

Company registration number: 01997554

Charity registration number: 327091

Countryside Learning

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

KM
1st Floor, Block C
The Wharf
Manchester Road
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG

Countryside Learning

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Countryside Learning

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Miss C L Barker Mrs N V Branston Ms A K Bury Mr P R Clarke Mr D C Daly Mr A R Downs Mr M T Elliot Mr H M Henderson Mrs J B Howman The Countess Peel Mr S P Roberts Mr G E S Seligman The Lord Stafford
Secretary	Mr G Richardson
Principal Office	1st Floor, Block C The Wharf Manchester Road Burnley Lancashire BB11 1JG
Company Registration Number	01997554
Charity Registration Number	327091
Bankers	Unity Trust Bank Four Brindley Place Birmingham B1 2JB
Independent Examiner	KM 1st Floor, Block C The Wharf Manchester Road Burnley Lancashire BB11 1JG

Countryside Learning

Chairman's Statement

Working together to achieve more - Countryside Learning - Connecting Children with the Countryside

The mission of Countryside Learning (CL) is a simple one. It is to educate, inform and inspire children, parents and teachers, so that they can enjoy and appreciate the countryside while having a greater understanding of the wide range of issues surrounding it.

CL acts as a link to a national infrastructure whereby teachers and their pupils can visit and study skilled workers in their workplace, using the knowledge gained and extra resource facilities available through CL which they can take back to the classroom to enhance the school curriculum. Our work in this area is enhanced by our partnership with other likeminded organisations especially our work with the Countryside Classroom project which delivers a truly nationwide agenda for education outside the classroom.

This last year saw us, along with the rest of the country experience one of the most difficult years in our history. The Covid pandemic had an obvious impact on what we were able to achieve. That said, as soon as restrictions were lifted in the autumn term, we reached over 5,000 school children in a few months with small Covid secure days. In addition, we have helped establish a school garden at an inner-city school in Newcastle upon Tyne so that children can experience the joy of nature wherever they are.

Like many organisations and families, we have found online communication to have been invaluable during the pandemic. Countryside Learning is absolutely focused on real outdoor education in the natural environment and not from behind a screen. I would think many of us would feel the same about physically seeing our friends and families again, it is so much more fulfilling. That is why we are ready to get out there again in the year ahead. I am confident that event with the challenges we face, schools will once again come to us to lead their outdoor education experiences.

Of course, we couldn't hope to reach so many children without the generous help of our supporters. From large charitable trusts to small individual donations every penny counts. To all of those involved can I say how grateful we are for their amazing generosity and friendship. We have been particularly touched by the continued and in some cases increased support we have had from our donors and this has enabled us to boldly plan for when normality returns to all our lives.

We pride ourselves in giving our donors more value for money and at the same time giving our children an unforgettable introduction to the countryside. We have never been driven by the size of our financial turnover; we have always been driven by the quality of our service. We are passionate about not duplicating services with other charities or wasting money on costly administration and I am delighted to say that 98.80p in every pound raised goes directly on our work with children.

In order to achieve this, we work in partnership and in a focused manner which our supporters can be assured maintains our commitment to quality and education for all. This means we can support more farms, estates and events, maximising our coverage and minimising our costs. To further this, we have worked with Lord Curry in establishing a sector wide group to pursue the aims of the Countryside Classroom. I am very hopeful that this group will capture the energy and enthusiasm which is out there to re-engage young people with where their food comes from and give them the chance to meet the people who are responsible for its production.

Our continued success and growth are due to many factors, not least the tremendous support we receive from individuals, charitable trusts, schools, parents, teachers, farmers, estate owners and of course the children themselves. Whether that is through financial support or giving their time, energy and enthusiasm to our work, I know that we could not continue without it. To all our stakeholders I would like to offer my sincere thanks for all that they have helped us achieve.

Countryside Learning

As well as looking back, my annual statement also looks to the future. I can't begin to list the exciting projects we had planned for 2020. From the expansion of our estate day programme to working with Harper Adams University to host two major primary and secondary schools days, we were ready to continue the growth in our delivery. I am delighted to say that the past year has enabled us to maintain and develop these plans which will undoubtedly come to fruition in 2021/22. In addition we are also in discussions with Staffordshire University and Weston Park in Shropshire to work collaboratively on their education offer, in particular their forest school programmes.

Our focus in ensuring every penny counts guides our desire to work with other partners in the sector and avoid duplication at the same time as increasing the impact of our work. This can be seen in our close cooperation with the team and LEAF and the Countryside Classroom project, our work with BASC in delivering the highly successful Let's Learn Moor programme. Children who have been locked away behind four walls for months on end will need now, more than ever, to experience the joys and freedoms that the natural environment can offer.

Of course, the financial impact of the crisis will clearly have an effect on our funding going forward as well as the costs we will incur to ensure the events are safe. Like many organisations we have had to make some very tough decisions in the last year and I would like to pay tribute also to our small team of staff who have themselves made salary sacrifices during this time to support the charity. Their belief and commitment will drive us forward to get Britain's children out and about again.

All of that said, I am delighted to be Chairman of the Countryside Learning at such an exciting time. Not only will the Countryside Classroom project offer us tremendous scope to build our work it comes at a time when we ourselves have developed a robust programme of delivery and support for schools and pupils across the country. I know from having children from Stoke-on-Trent visit my own estate, just how much the experience means to them. The light of inspiration and understanding that you see in their eyes proves to me that the opportunity we give them to engage in the countryside is something that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. We will continue to be driven by the desire to educate, inform and inspire more people about the countryside and in doing so we hope to have another year of exciting, delivery and development in the year ahead.

The Lord Stafford

Countryside Learning

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2021.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The objects for which the charity was established are to advance and promote in the United Kingdom and, where appropriate, elsewhere for the public benefit, education concerning the effect of country sports and pastimes and leisure activities (and in particular the effect of their preservation, protection, development, maintenance, abolition or curtailment) upon such one or more of the following as the Foundation shall in its absolute discretion from time to time determine namely: ecology, the rural environment, wildlife, agriculture, the way of life and economy of rural communities, the industries and businesses connected therewith and employment within those industries and businesses.

The aims of Countryside Learning are simple:

To Educate, Inform and Inspire children, parents and teachers to enjoy and appreciate the countryside around them. CL acts as a link to a national infrastructure whereby teachers and their pupils can visit and study skilled workers in their workplace, using the knowledge gained and extra resource facilities available through CL to take back to the classroom to enhance the school curriculum.

The education of people in where their food comes from and an appreciation of the outdoors is one of the key ways tackling the issues of obesity and poor physical health of the population. Recent research from Countryside Classroom, supported by DEFRA, DfE and DoH, showed the growing need to educate the 'Concrete Generation' of people who had no connection or understanding of the environment around them. Through our work we aim to reconnect people with this world ensuring a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that we have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit reporting in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

The remainder of this Annual Report explains the charity's work during the year and how it has been carried out for the public benefit.

Countryside Learning

Trustees' Report

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The charity's main objectives for the year

To ensure progress it is vital for an organisation to have the vision and drive to reach new achievements. The Board regularly reviews our rolling 5-year strategy along with our organisational Risk Assessment and Memorandum and Articles. The board is confident that we can achieve during the course of the current year the following objectives:

Continued financial stability

Continued partnership working to ensure increased service delivery

Continued development of our educational provision including smaller bespoke days which complement our larger events

Extend our work into Scotland and the Borders working with our sister charity in Scotland

Continue our partnerships with other likeminded charities to grow our work in the most cost effective manner, avoid duplication and increase delivery on the ground

Identify new partnerships to deliver volume countryside events for children

Fully participate in the Countryside Classroom Project offering all providers increased profile and access to resources and events which our beneficiaries can benefit from

CL constantly aims to refine and enlarge its operation in a sustainable manner and welcomes approaches and ideas from other interested parties in order to achieve that.

The charity's strategies for achieving its stated objectives

Financial stability is vital if we are to secure the sustainability of our work. Children, parents and teachers need to know that we will be around not just this year, but the next and the next offering high quality, safe and enjoyable outdoor classroom experiences. We aim to secure a 3 month operating cost reserve fund.

Regular reporting between the Chairman and the Chief Executive ensures clear direction, and with quarterly Board meetings where all staff participate in report writing and in some cases Board presentation, all key stakeholders are aware of the issues facing the Charity, whether that be personnel issues, financial or strategic.

The current management has developed a rolling 5 year strategy which is reviewed by the Chairman and the Chief Executive on a regular basis and a yearly update is presented to the Trustees. A complete review of how we plan, cost and fund our business is of primary importance if we are to secure our work and develop it into the future. To this end our aim is to achieve:

Full cost recovery funding before any major event is approved.

Budgets for each event which will be shared with consultants and estates.

A 2 or 3 year funding agreement with estates including year on year cost increments.

Added value from consultants including assistance in achieving funding for the events they manage and cost limitation of all events.

Countryside Learning

Trustees' Report

Always producing revenue neutral budgets and hopefully surplus budgets for the Charity.

The Chief Executive has been tasked to develop partnerships in the sector, as well as influencing key decision makers and politicians. This has secured our active role in the Countryside Classroom, Learning Outside the Classroom and Access to Farms networks and the Chief Executive Chairs the LEAF Education and Public Engagement Committee.

Developing influence, sector presence and demonstrable and successful activities are the principal guides which the charity has followed to secure the strong financial position we now have.

Details of significant activities

This year, along with our Farms for Schools Members, we continue to reach many thousands of children. Farms for Schools is a membership network for farms that open to school visits. To become a member applicants have to meet stringent requirements on health and safety and can be inspected by ourselves and other providers. Most importantly, member farms are subject to independent reviews from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Environmental Health Officers (EHO) and advice updates from Public Health England (PHE). We have worked with other providers to respond to the recommendations of the Griffin Report and have developed and reviewed a sector wide code of practice.

We have supported more farms than ever before to expand their educational provision. We have delivered some of the largest Countryside Educational activities in the country; our Countryside Live events in Leeds and London and our work with Glendale Agricultural Society has ensured we have been able to attract over 10,000 children at these three events alone. In total we have supported over 33,000 children to experience the outdoor classroom.

Grant making policies

We do not make grants to other organisations or individuals but may from time to time offer our services free or at a reduced rate for those beneficiaries who present the greatest financial need or to encourage participation in a new event.

Contribution of volunteers

We maintain a small, but immensely committed staff team who each year consistently give far more than is asked of them in their job descriptions in a sense volunteering their services over and above what they are paid to do. The organisation owes a great deal to their hard work and enthusiasm. Their ability to achieve so much with limited resources means that we can truly claim to be big enough to have a national impact and small enough to care personally about each activity and every donor who supports us. Our key supporters are the farmers and landowners and their staff who give freely of their time to open up their world to the children we bring along to learn. Without this kindness, passion and enthusiasm, we would not be able to offer the services that we do. This level of support has been estimated at £100,000 per annum, a fantastic amount of time, money and enthusiasm which we simply could not do without or ever hope to directly support financially ourselves.

Main activities of the charity in relation to its objects

In the calendar year 2019, we reached over 33,000 school children through a range of estate days and Countryside Live events with a significant growth in our small bespoke days. This now means we operate almost in every month of the year. Along with the farms participating in Farms for Schools, we have provided educational visits for up to 300,000 children, making us one of the biggest providers in the sector. We operate through a range of educational officers and limit our operation to, essentially, an event based organisation. The feedback from our work is universally positive. In our development plan, we are careful to support our 'bread and butter' services that have served the organisation well in recent years.

Countryside Learning

Trustees' Report

The main growth in our work in the last year has been the development of small bespoke days for small class sizes which build on the introductory experience our larger events provide. We hope to build on this in the year ahead.

We are happy with the progress we have made in sustaining a level of financial stability in what can safely be described as challenging economic circumstances. Operating in a crowded charity market place, small charities are liable to be at the mercy of the overall economic position and subject to severe competition for limited funds. Even with the amazing fundraising efforts of our supporters we are always cautious about our expenditure given the economic climate and we adjusted our spending plans accordingly. We have a robust and sound financial model that has enabled us to build up to a position where we can start to secure reserves equivalent to three months operating costs. Currently, our reserves stand at over five months. We are in a good position to face the challenges of the year ahead, much better than some in the sector. Above all else, the schools we work with need to know and have the confidence that we are sustainable and will be here for them long into the future.

We have met all of the objectives we set for this year. We continue to add new host estates across the country and reach more schools than ever before. The demand for our work has grown considerably over the last few years and this is noted by the fact that the only month of the year when we do not have school events is August when they are on holiday!

The charity relies on grant aid from the donors identified in the accounts, whose support is valued. Fundraising events such as our Art Auction are significant sources of income for us.

Without the support of valued staff, volunteers and country people across the country we would not be able to support the Learning Outside the Classroom agenda so vital to reaching the 'concrete generation' of children.

In addition our presence on key groups within the sector has made it possible for our influence to far outweigh our actual size.

We have secured for the fifteenth year running a small surplus, which ensures our continued stability and operational confidence to develop our programme of events for the coming year. In addition our work with other partners, most notably The Access to Farms Network and The LEAF Education and Public Engagement committee which our Chief Executive chairs along with the Farm Safety Partnership and Countryside Classroom has helped us reach an ever-increasing number of parents, children and teachers across the country.

CL is committed to the principles of equal opportunities. It is important to ensure that our policy is working, in particular when employing new members of staff. However, at this time no vacancies exist within the charity, any that do will be advertised and applicants from all backgrounds will be considered and encouraged.

Countryside Learning

Trustees' Report

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves

In view of the nature of the income and expenditure of the charity there is a need to match variable income with fixed commitments and the nature of the reserves. The trustees have set an objective that a general reserve of three months operating costs should be built up over time. At the year end, reserves, not invested in tangible fixed assets, amounted to £130,120, equivalent to over five months operating costs.

Freehold land

The charity owns several pieces of woodland in England, primarily gifted from the former charity, The Badminton Trust. The net book value in the financial statements of £372,919 is the gifted amount, net of any acquisitions or disposals in the succeeding years. As the charity has no intention of disposing of the land, no formal valuation has been obtained; however, the trustees are of the opinion that the market value of the freehold land is in excess of the amount shown in the accounts.

Restricted funds

These are detailed in the notes to the financial statements.

FUTURE PLANS

The charity's future plans are:

To mitigate the challenges faced by the Covid 19 outbreak.

To ensure we have a sustainable offer for teachers and children to once again experience the natural environment after months of isolation.

Develop a long term strategy to secure the right funding and structure for the charity in the years to come.

To explore ways of making the operation of the charity even more cost effective.

To continue partnership working with others in the sector to ensure value for money for donors and to maximise coverage.

To continue to source new venues for estate days and countryside live events.

To grow our smaller bespoke days.

To maintain financial stability and prudence.

To work with others to review and update educational resources through our participation in The Countryside Classroom Programme.

To work with other partners to implement the updated Industry Code of Practice for farm visits.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Countryside Learning is a registered Charity (No. 327091) and a company (No. 1997554) limited by guarantee. Its registered office, together with the names of the present Trustees and the names of any Trustees who served during the year, are shown on page 1.

The Charity is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, adopted on 7 March 1986 and last amended in 1997.

Countryside Learning

Trustees' Report

The Trustees meet approximately every three months but sub-committees for Finance and Audit meet at other times as necessary.

At Trustees meetings operational and fund-raising objectives are set and performance monitored. The responsibility for the day to day operations of the Charity is in the hands of the Chief Executive, Mr Gary Richardson. Mr Richardson, although not a Trustee, attends Trustees' meetings, as do other members of staff when appropriate.

Risk management

The major risks, to which the Charity is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed and systems and procedures have been put in place to manage these risks.

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 22 September 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
The Lord Stafford
Trustee

Countryside Learning

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Countryside Learning

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021 which are set out on pages 11 to 20.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of Countryside Learning (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of Countryside Learning are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of Countryside Learning as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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.

.....
M R Heaton FCCA FCIE DChA
KM
1st Floor, Block C
The Wharf
Manchester Road
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG

22 September 2021

Countryside Learning

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2021 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £
Income from:							
Donations	3	114,908	-	114,908	249,662	294	249,956
Charitable activities	4	14,070	-	14,070	28,267	-	28,267
Other trading activities	5	-	-	-	1,646	-	1,646
Investment income	6	101	-	101	876	-	876
Other income	7	74,469	-	74,469	3,000	-	3,000
Total income		<u>203,548</u>	-	<u>203,548</u>	<u>283,451</u>	<u>294</u>	<u>283,745</u>
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	8	(4,787)	-	(4,787)	(13,551)	-	(13,551)
Charitable activities	9	(196,318)	-	(196,318)	(270,068)	-	(270,068)
Total expenditure		<u>(201,105)</u>	-	<u>(201,105)</u>	<u>(283,619)</u>	-	<u>(283,619)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		2,443	-	2,443	(168)	294	126
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	3,000	(3,000)	-
Net movement in funds		2,443	-	2,443	2,832	(2,706)	126
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		<u>500,596</u>	<u>9,558</u>	<u>510,154</u>	<u>497,764</u>	<u>12,264</u>	<u>510,028</u>
Total funds carried forward	20	<u><u>503,039</u></u>	<u><u>9,558</u></u>	<u><u>512,597</u></u>	<u><u>500,596</u></u>	<u><u>9,558</u></u>	<u><u>510,154</u></u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2020 is shown in note 20.

Countryside Learning
(Registration number: 01997554)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	15	373,919	373,919
Current assets			
Debtors	16	26,410	25,791
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>284,850</u>	<u>209,017</u>
		311,260	234,808
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	<u>(172,582)</u>	<u>(98,573)</u>
Net current assets		<u>138,678</u>	<u>136,235</u>
Net assets		<u><u>512,597</u></u>	<u><u>510,154</u></u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		9,558	9,558
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>503,039</u>	<u>500,596</u>
Total funds	20	<u><u>512,597</u></u>	<u><u>510,154</u></u>

For the financial year ending 31 March 2021 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements on pages 11 to 20 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 22 September 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
The Lord Stafford
Trustee

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in , and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

1st Floor, Block C
The Wharf
Manchester Road
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on 22 September 2021.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

Countryside Learning meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity is exempt from preparing a cash flow statement..

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 the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Countryside Learning

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

Deferred income

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

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

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including independent examination, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500.00 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for services performed in the ordinary course of business.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

3 Income from donations

	Unrestricted funds		
	General £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Donations from individuals	6,513	6,513	15,819
Companies	7,960	7,960	5,648
Gift aid reclaimed	1,135	1,135	1,939
Trusts	99,300	99,300	226,550
	<u>114,908</u>	<u>114,908</u>	<u>249,956</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds		
	General £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Educational	2,935	2,935	13,148
Woodland management	11,135	11,135	15,119
	<u>14,070</u>	<u>14,070</u>	<u>28,267</u>

5 Income from other trading activities

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Art auction	<u>-</u>	<u>1,646</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds	Total	Total
	General	2021	2020
	£	£	£
Bank interest receivable	101	101	876
	<u>101</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>876</u>

7 Other income

	Unrestricted funds	Total	Total
	General	2021	2020
	£	£	£
HMRC - Covid 19 JRS grant	60,469	60,469	-
Calderdale Council - Covid 19 grant	10,000	10,000	-
Employment Allowance	4,000	4,000	3,000
	<u>74,469</u>	<u>74,469</u>	<u>3,000</u>

8 Expenditure on raising funds

a) Costs of generating donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Total	Total
	General	2021	2020
	£	£	£
Fundraising costs	1,760	1,760	10,296
	<u>1,760</u>	<u>1,760</u>	<u>10,296</u>

9 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Total	Total
	General	2021	2020
	£	£	£
Educational	191,299	191,299	265,752
Woodland management	5,019	5,019	4,316
	<u>196,318</u>	<u>196,318</u>	<u>270,068</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

10 Analysis of governance and support costs

Support costs

	Governance costs £	Management costs £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Educational	3,366	6,850	10,216	10,632
Woodland management	-	5,019	5,019	3,492
	<u>3,366</u>	<u>11,869</u>	<u>15,235</u>	<u>14,124</u>

11 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

12 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	112,906	119,438
Social security costs	12,349	13,549
Pension costs	5,666	5,919
Redundancy payment	14,105	-
	<u>145,026</u>	<u>138,906</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2021 No	2020 No
Charitable activities	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

13 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2021 £	2020 £
Examination of the financial statements	2,160	2,100
Payroll fees	486	252
Bookkeeping fees	720	-
	<u>3,366</u>	<u>2,352</u>

14 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

15 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2020	<u>372,919</u>	<u>15,140</u>	<u>388,059</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>372,919</u>	<u>15,140</u>	<u>388,059</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2020	<u>-</u>	<u>14,140</u>	<u>14,140</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>14,140</u>	<u>14,140</u>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2021	<u>372,919</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>373,919</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>372,919</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>373,919</u>

16 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	24,910	23,700
Prepayments	365	-
Other debtors	1,135	2,091
	<u>26,410</u>	<u>25,791</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

17 Creditors

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	-	573
Other creditors	1,582	-
Deferred income	171,000	98,000
	<u>172,582</u>	<u>98,573</u>

18 Lease agreements

The total value of future minimum lease payments was as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Within one year	7,946	17,249
In two to five years	-	7,946
	<u>7,946</u>	<u>25,195</u>

19 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £5,666 (2020 - £5,919).

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

20 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	127,677	203,548	(201,105)	130,120
Woodlands	372,919	-	-	372,919
Total unrestricted funds	500,596	203,548	(201,105)	503,039
Restricted funds				
Fiona Barker Memorial Fund	9,558	-	-	9,558
Total funds	510,154	203,548	(201,105)	512,597

	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2020 £
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	124,845	283,451	(283,619)	3,000	127,677
Woodlands	372,919	-	-	-	372,919
Total unrestricted funds	497,764	283,451	(283,619)	3,000	500,596
Restricted funds					
Fiona Barker Memorial Fund	12,264	294	-	(3,000)	9,558
Total funds	510,028	283,745	(283,619)	-	510,154