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Charity registration number: 1122103

The Country Trust

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2019

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The Country Trust

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The Country Trust Ltd

President The Duke of Westminster (appointed March 2019)

Vice Presidents: Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher Bt
Sir Nicholas Bacon Bt
Lord Boswell of Aynho DL
W Butterfield
Earl of Carnarvon
J M Carr-Ellison
J Coles B Ed NPQH
J Compton
Lord Dear QPM
T. Fanshawe (appointed October 2019)
W J Henderson DL
M Kendall
W Kendall DL
D Laing MA RIBA
Hon. John Leigh-Pemberton
Hon G E Lopes
L V Lyle MA PGCE
M Maclay DL
H R Oliver-Bellasis FRAGS
Dame Fiona Reynolds DBE
E P Serjeant
J R Stanford (deceased April 2019)
I N Tegner CA FRSA
J Tice OBE DL (deceased April 2019)
F Weston MA (Cantab)

Trustees: The Trustees who served the charity during the year were as follows
M A Bufton-McCoy B Phil, Cert Ed (**Chair**)
T Fanshawe (Vice Chairman - resigned June 2019)
S D Bell BA (Hons) ACA CISA CISM (appointed Vice Chairman September 2019)
J Brown BSc (Hons) PGCE
T C M Fawcett BSc (Hons)
R J Frossell (appointed September 2019)
G M H Mills DL
J P Serjeant BA (Hons) ACA
A Stafford MA (Oxon)

Chief Executive: J D Attenborough MA (Cantab)

Assistant Director: D Thompson BSc (Hons)

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Independent examiners: Edmund Carr LLP 146 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0AW

Lawyers: Wrigleys Solicitors LLP 19 Cookridge Street, Leeds LS2 3AG

Our mission

To bring food, farming and the countryside alive for the children least able to access it, whether through disadvantage or disability.

Achievements 2019

- 19,528 children were able to explore real working farms, up 7% in comparison to 2018. This included at least 50 visits for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and 20 visits for refugee families, vulnerable parents and young carers.
- We expanded our services into Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire.
- We taught over 1,500 children to grow, cook and develop food confidence, up 10% on 2018. Over two thirds would like to eat more fruit and vegetables as a result and over 40% went on to cook the recipes they learnt at home.
- More evidence was gathered of the potential for the sustained impact of our programmes, including improving children's engagement with learning and increasing teacher confidence to take children out of the classroom to learn.
- With the support of **Aldgate and Allhallows Foundation** we are now better equipped to use our farm visits to stimulate language and communication.
- We learnt more about the possibilities of residential visits for positive disruption (change for the better).
- We held two workshops to bring our farmer hosts together with teachers.
- At a critical moment for agriculture we are engaging with policy for the first time.
- We began a major Health and Safety project involving all our farmer hosts.
- We appointed a new President, The Duke of Westminster.

“The experience was so valuable for the children, many of whom have been talking non-stop about the trip since we got back. I am sure this will be a trip that they will remember for the rest of their lives. Some of them have never been into Newcastle (city centre) let alone come to a farm like this, or even know such a place exists.” Welbeck Academy

Summary finances

- Income for 2019 returned towards normal levels after the significant legacy income received in 2018 but showing a small upward trend.
- Expenditure increased by 17.5% as we began to use the legacy income to support our broader charitable objectives.
- Trustees amended The Charity's reserves policy from 3 to 6 months of operating reserves, and designated reserves for specific projects.

Our programmes

With the vital support of around 300 farmers and landowners, we help disadvantaged children to learn and grow through;

- day visits to real working farms - Farm Discovery
- residential visits to the countryside - Countryside Discovery
- programmes running through all or part of a school year exploring every aspect of growing, cooking and even selling food - Food Discovery

Our outcomes

This is the difference we want to make across all our programmes:

- Children, their parent helpers and teachers are more knowledgeable and more aware of food, farming and the countryside
- Children are better able to make informed decisions about the food that they eat.
- Children are more engaged with formal education as a result of increased 'real world' and interactive learning experiences
- More teachers see the potential of countryside as a learning resource and feel more confident to use it to enhance their teaching
- Children have more opportunities to develop and display non-cognitive skills, to experience patience, wonder and success
- Children feel more responsible for their own and the wider environment
- Children feel more at home in the countryside and greenspace
- More farmers are able to share their love and passion for what they do

The children we serve

We share a vision with others in our sector that ALL children should have an inspiring educational experience of the working countryside, however The Country Trust's particular mission is to focus on those children least able to access it. Our programmes encompass children from low income families, schools and groups providing for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEN/D), young carers, and vulnerable and refugee children. Increasingly, we are also being asked by schools and other organisations to work with vulnerable parents and families.

Why we focus on children experiencing disadvantage

There were 4.1 million children living in poverty in 2017/18 and this figure is expected to rise to 5.2 million by 2022¹. To ensure we can identify these children in areas of deprivation, but also in wealthier areas where outcomes for disadvantaged children are notably worse², we focus on primary schools with a greater than average percentage of children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM). The national average in 2019 was 24.3% using the Ever6 measure.

“Too many children fail before they’ve even started in life. This is in large part because of an enduring ‘achievement gap’: the gap in outcomes between disadvantaged children (in this country measured by uptake of free school meals) and their better-off peers (those not entitled to free school meals).”³

By the time they start school, children from the poorest families have already fallen behind in language and personal development, *“by age five, children from the poorest fifth of homes in the UK are already on average over a year behind their expected years of development.”⁴* As they grow up they

¹ <https://cpag.org.uk/child-poverty/child-poverty-facts-and-figures>

² https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/662744/State_of_the_Nation_2017_-_Social_Mobility_in_Great_Britain.pdf

³ <https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/content/dam/global/reports/education-and-child-protection/too-young-to-fail.pdf>

⁴ http://www.suttontrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/Sutton_Trust_Cognitive_Report.pdf

are twice as likely to have Special Educational Needs⁵, twice as likely to be obese⁶, three times as likely to have a mental health problem⁷ and are just under half as likely to achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics than children growing up in more affluent homes⁸.

Poverty of opportunity

The Child Poverty Action Group defines child poverty as applying to those children lacking ***‘the resources to obtain the types of diet, participate in the activities, and have the living conditions and amenities that are customary...in the societies to which they belong.’***⁹

Accessing opportunities and experiences through school visits is particularly important for children from disadvantaged backgrounds because they are much less likely to have such exposure elsewhere. However, some schools, particularly those in the poorest areas of the country¹⁰, are having to cut the breadth and richness gained from learning outside the classroom¹¹, opportunities that have a lasting impact on learning and life chances.

“We found that .. high quality, out-of-classroom learning influenced how children behave and the lifestyle choices they make. It shows the potential for school trips not just to change individual lives, but the lives of whole communities.”¹²

The Ofsted inspection framework

Ofsted recognised the importance of such opportunities and included new requirements in their inspection framework from September 2019, encouraging schools to demonstrate that:

- ***they give ‘all learners but particularly the most disadvantaged and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) or high needs, the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life***
- ***the curriculum and the provider’s wider work support learners to develop their character - including their resilience, confidence and independence - and help them know how to keep physically and mentally healthy”***¹³

The Country Trust is well placed to help schools to address poverty of opportunity, bringing rich experiences - vital for building language, literacy, self-confidence and self-esteem - to children who lead limited and often chaotic lives. The value of our Food Discovery programme was noted in at least two Ofsted reports during the year¹⁴.

⁵ SEN and their links to poverty- Rowntree

⁶ Childhood Obesity a Plan for Action HM Gov

⁷ Centre for Mental Health Commission on children and young people’s mental health

⁸ gov.uk/SFR62_2016

⁹ <http://www.cpag.org.uk/content/what-is-poverty>

¹⁰ <https://educationinspection.blog.gov.uk/2019/12/16/our-latest-statistics-a-first-look-at-the-eif/>

¹¹ Developing character skills in schools Summary report August 2017 NatCen Social Research & the National Children’s Bureau Research and Policy Team

¹² Peacock, A. (2006). Changing minds: The lasting impact of school

¹³

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/801430/Education_inspection_framework.docx

¹⁴ https://www.stpaulswoodgreen.org.uk/docs/St_Pauls_RC_Primary_102146_-_Final_PDF_Ofsted_Report.pdf

<https://files.api.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50116258>

Our programmes and how we made a difference

Full reports are available at

<http://www.countrytrust.org.uk/what-we-do/evaluating-our-effectiveness>

Farm Discovery day visits to real working farms

We want all our visits to

- 🚜 give children an experience they would not normally have had
- 🚜 help children gain confidence in the countryside
- 🚜 give children a better understanding of how and where their food is produced.
- 🚜 increase children's interest in learning through their enjoyment of the day
- 🚜 give reluctant learners the opportunity to engage.

“Your scale isn't high enough to express the significance of this visit for our children and staff.”
Tang Hall Primary School, York

We evaluated Country Trust farm visits against these 5 simplified outcomes (above) during the 2018/19 academic year, achieving a 92% return rate (531 teachers) for our feedback forms, an increase of 4% over 2017/18.

The difference we made

We are confident we are reaching the right children, and that the results indicate the potential for sustained impact.

All teachers agreed that:-

- 🚜 their farm visit was an experience their children would not normally have with nearly a quarter choosing to give qualitative feedback on how important the visit was for their children.
- 🚜 reluctant learners had the opportunity to engage whilst on a visit.
- 🚜 the children's enjoyment of the day increased their learning.
- 🚜 their pupils gained confidence in being outdoors and in the countryside as a result of their visit.

Over 99% of teachers agreed that:-

- 🚜 their pupils have a better understanding of how and where their food is produced as a result of their visit.
- 🚜 After their visit they felt more confident in using the countryside to enhance their teaching (the remainder stating that they were already confident).
- 🚜 96% were given the opportunity to tailor their visit to their chosen area of the curriculum and 77% chose to tell us the specific links they were making. Qualitative teacher feedback shows that English and PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) are increasingly popular curriculum areas and that teachers are beginning to recognise the wider possibilities of farm visits.



Chart to show the popularity of curriculum subjects on a farm visit

Countryside Discovery Residential visits - an extended stay immersed in the countryside

26 schools and 1 non-school group took part, with 8 schools sending more than one group at different times, and 3 schools coming on a Country Trust Residential for the first time.

The difference we made:

We are confident we are reaching the children with limited opportunities to discover the countryside. Activities which offer novelty (a first experience), a feeling of success and an aspect of challenge are the most popular experiences amongst pupils. This correlation will help us explore ways of developing our activity offer in the future.

All teachers agreed that our residentials:-

- 🌳 widened children's experiences, with crabbing, pony trekking and the night walk featuring most regularly in the children's feedback of things they did for the first time on the residential.
- 🌳 improved children's wellbeing, highlighting relationship building and teamwork as areas that regularly saw improvement.
- 🌳 enabled children to have fun. Enjoyment is acknowledged as a key component of learning.
- 🌳 help foster children's independence and 80% felt that the residential had met that need fully.

Other findings:-

- 🌳 60% of our pupils from Yorkshire had never been away from home before. Though rates were lower for pupils in London, anecdotal discussions revealed many stay with relatives within London **but this represented their first independent trip outside the family.**
- 🌳 Teacher perception of children's enjoyment as 'Excellent' has risen to 91% - an 11% increase on last year.
- 🌳 'Fun' 'Awesome' 'Calming' and 'Inspiring' were the four top words used when pupils were asked to describe their countryside adventure with us.

"Children love being outside, getting hands dirty, and growing/taking care of plants. Children achieved a lot (particularly those who often struggle with normal activities in the classroom)." B Watson, James Knott

Food Discovery

We ran 370 Food Discovery sessions in 25 schools with around 1,575 children during the 2018-19 academic year. Thirteen of these schools were new to Food Discovery (four of these did a short taster programme) and the other twelve were schools with which The Country Trust has worked for a year or more. All schools were mainstream primary schools and we worked with classes in Key Stage 2 (years 3,4, 5 and 6).

The difference we made:

We are confident we are providing life changing experiences to children who experience life limiting poverty of opportunity.

- ✎ As a result of Food Discovery, over 71% of pupils say that they would like to eat more fruit and vegetables from now on.
- ✎ We prepare pupils of all ages for independence, increase their self-confidence and over 41% of pupils tell us they go on to cook a Food Discovery recipe at home.

All teachers agreed that:-

- ✎ taking part in Food Discovery provides their pupils with new experiences, and pupils themselves registered 6,205 'first' experiences in their feedback. We can be confident that we are addressing a significant need for those pupils from the most disadvantaged backgrounds.
- ✎ taking part in Food Discovery provides significant opportunities to contextualise classroom learning and contributes in part to closing the attainment gap for those in receipt of Pupil Premium.
- ✎ they used Food Discovery to link back to the curriculum, covering a wide range of subjects and providing a real-life platform for learning. At the end of the year 91% of respondents gave examples of the connections they had made.

Other findings:

- ✎ 96% of teachers whose classes took part reported an increased use within their own practice of one or more of: cooking, tasting, gardening or learning outside the classroom activities as a result of seeing the impact of Food Discovery.
- ✎ 90% of teacher respondents agree that our sessions enable children to make more informed decisions about what they will eat.
- ✎ 87% of respondent teachers agree that taking part in Food Discovery helps children feel more responsible for their own and the wider environment.
- ✎ 71% of pupils report they have learnt that they enjoy spending time in the countryside, an increase from 18% at the start of the programme, and 81% who have been to farms with Food Discovery would like to return.
- ✎ 51% of teachers commented in (unprompted) qualitative feedback on the impact Food Discovery had on non-cognitive skills like self-confidence, teamwork and communication.

Our evaluation methodology

Farm Discovery: We continued to analyse both quantitative and qualitative feedback, using a light touch thematic approach and the NatCen framework* or the latter.

Residentials: We use Survey Monkey to gather feedback before and after visits and we gather structured feedback from children during the visits.

Food Discovery: We seek feedback from teachers at the start of, and on completion of the programme, and seek feedback after every session. We survey the knowledge and attitudes of pupils at the start of each programme and on completion to assess the impact of Food Discovery.

Full reports are available at <http://www.countrytrust.org.uk/what-we-do/evaluating-our-effectiveness>

*<http://www.natcen.ac.uk/our-expertise/methods-expertise/qualitative/framework/>

A deeper look at each of our programmes

2019 was the second year of our new Strategic Plan 2018-2020. Our aim is to increase the number of children we work with, whilst also focusing on the quality, outcomes, relevance and impact of our activities and programmes, on developing powerful partnerships, on growing and broadening our income streams, and on valuing and investing in the people who make The Country Trust possible.

Farm Discovery visits

“It was such a hands on experience of life on a farm. For some children it was their first experience of the 'countryside'.” Westgate Hill Primary Academy

19,528 children visited real working farms and estates during 2019

A 7% increase as a result of adaptations to our practice identified during 2018. We are now looking to sustain and build on gains made.

What is Farm Discovery?

Hands on visits to real working farms and estates are at the heart of all three of our programmes, and every year, we make it possible for hundreds of volunteer farmers and landowners to welcome thousands of disadvantaged children from all backgrounds, children of all faiths and none, onto their farms to share their passion for food, farming and the countryside. With our farmer hosts, we are able to provide high quality, experiential learning. We help schools to close the attainment gap for children from low income families, building a rich bank of experiences which fuel imagination and vocabulary, enable children to talk and be listened to, be challenged and succeed, and increase their self-esteem and resilience. Teachers feel more confident to use the countryside as a resource to enhance their teaching. Children experience the fun and freedom of playing outside, getting their hands dirty, being absorbed in a moment of wonder.

“Just being outside frees the children, helps them breathe.”

Northstead Primary

Helping to shape the future of food and farming

We do not advocate for any particular form of farming, but at a time of significant change, with strong views on food choices prominent in the media, and some big decisions to be made about the future of UK land management, we do enable farmers to meet and share their story with the consumers whose decisions will shape what they produce, and how they produce it. Equipped with first-hand knowledge, children can begin to make informed decisions, understanding that their actions matter to the world around them.

We hope this connection will help to build a stronger future for agriculture and for the countryside that sustains us all.

Language and communication

Many of the children have chaotic and stressful home lives and may not go on day trips or holidays. Not only does enjoyment enhance learning but a brilliant day out on the farm helps to build a bank of great experiences and memories, enabling them to talk and write from firsthand experience. With the support of **Aldgate and Allhallows Foundation** we have developed new resources and training to enable our Coordinators to draw out the

“Confidence is soaring because of our visits. They are blown away, look at the wonder.” Ingram Road Primary School

“I think the parents enjoyed it almost as much as the children. Lots of photos were taken of their children feeding pigs, walking goats and just revelling in being outdoors. There was space for the children to run about and they have something to write about when the school term starts. New experience for most!” Barnardo's Stronger Families

amazing opportunities farms offer to stimulate language and communication. We know that the opportunity to build positive relationships with new adults is also very valuable.

Children with Special Educational Needs

Almost every class we work with contains at least one child with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEN/D) and we encourage SEN/D groups to take part in our activities. We have successfully integrated children with severe physical disabilities, and significant behavioural, learning and social needs into all our activities.

“I felt quite emotional because it’s really such an out-of-that-everyday experience for them of something they’d never normally do. A real farm.” Shepherds Down Special School

Sustained impact

Teachers are emphatic that our visits have increased their confidence in using the countryside as a resource to enhance their teaching, giving us confidence that the impact of our programmes will be sustained.

By the end of the year 91% of Food Discovery respondents were able to give examples of the links they had made between our programmes and the curriculum. This is very encouraging.

“This was great, it links in with our curriculum topics next week, what a fantastic lead in.” Northgate Primary

Family groups and non-school groups

We continue to extend our ability to achieve our mission through working not just with schools, but with groups supporting young carers, vulnerable families and refugees.

Building on the success of last year’s visits, three of our Coordinators led:

- 20 visits with non-school groups
- 8 visits for refugee children and families
- 6 visits for families within Barnardo’s Stronger Families programme
- 5 visits for groups supporting young carers
- 1 visit for an all-access out of school group, SELFA (Skipton Extended Learning for All).

“An opportunity to bond as a family unit and to experience something they wouldn’t have been able to before.” Barnardo’s Stronger Families

With funding from the **Rothschild Foundation**, we were also able to provide a coach to take families from our Food Discovery schools in Aylesbury to an Open Farm Sunday event. Spending time together outdoors has provided opportunities for families to bond, with both parents and children gaining from the visits. Parents have the chance to see a different side of their children, they can build happy memories together, and through meeting other families have the potential to start to build a support network. Young carers are able to be children and experience a little freedom.

Countryside Discovery Residential visits

924 children took part in a Country Trust Residential in 2018-19, a 5% increase on last year. 26 schools and one non-school group from disadvantaged areas of London, Yorkshire and Lancashire, visited Norfolk, Suffolk and the Yorkshire Dales and were accompanied by 127 staff. Participation in our online surveys increased for lead teachers but decreased for children.

“They never stop talking about the experiences. Having worked at the school for many years I still see ex pupils and they usually mention the residentials as one of the best things they did at school.” Teacher, Merlin Top Primary, Yorkshire

What is a Country Trust residential visit?

A typical visit will involve a two to four-night stay at a hostel or bunk barn, and children will explore forests, farms, rivers and the seaside. Schools integrate the residential into the children's learning and personal development, and they eat well, learning and playing outside together. Natural habitats, managed landscapes and heritage attractions provide an exciting context for geography, science and history. Autumn visits can generate greater teamwork and cooperation amongst children for the remainder of that school year, and hopefully beyond. Summer visits prepare children well for transition to their next year group or secondary school as they become more confident and resilient. For many children this is their first time away from home and their first time in the countryside.

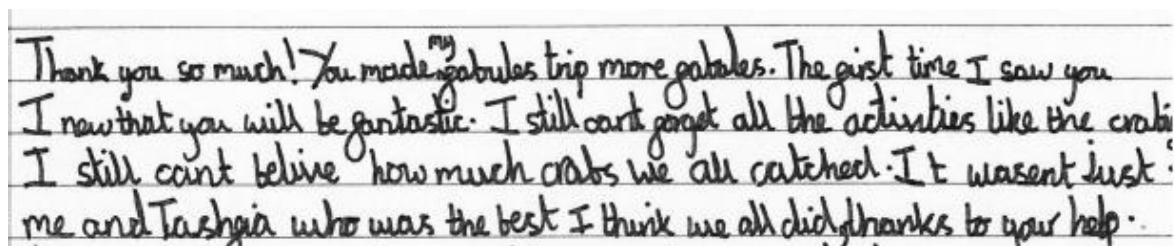
"I think Norfolk will be very exciting and fun even though it is in the countryside."

"I think it will be full of all sorts of exotic animals and will be full of plants and nature."

Pupils, Pre-visit survey, Woolmore school, London

Making the most of every residential

73% of children visiting Suffolk rated crabbing as 'off the scale amazing'. Each year this activity scores consistently highly. In comparison to the high adrenaline activities available at Hautbois House in Norfolk or even the popular activity of pony riding in Yorkshire this seems like a less likely candidate for star rating. However, a first experience of crabbing seems to offer the right balance of challenge, freedom, empowerment and the chance to succeed ('I caught 12! 'I got 20!'), and a little bit of magic! We need to continue to explore this relationship between new experiences, challenge and success which works so well here as we move forward with all three of our residential programmes.



Thank you so much! You made ^{my} gables trip more gables. The first time I saw you I knew that you will be fantastic. I still can't forget all the activities like the crabs. I still can't believe how much crabs we all caught. It wasn't just me and Tashira who was the best. I think we all did, thanks to your help.

Letter to our Coordinator from a pupil, Suffolk

Outside influences

We need to continue to build our relationships with each school and teacher, making the most of pre visit discussions in order to try and identify where potential influences might appear. Whether it is an issue in the news such as the 'killer clowns', a teacher fear which spreads through the class or a cultural or social concern around bugs or mud, the outside influences that impact on children's lives are a challenge for residential. We know that one of our schools works with children on a pre-visit 'hopes and fears' diary for example.

"This trip provided opportunity to be outdoors. Also, some children with autism were extremely anxious about going on this trip but our hosts Lee and Mark did their utmost to include them and join them in when they were having difficulty." Teacher, Merlin Top, Yorkshire residential

"It's very special to see the children in a completely different environment to the classroom." Teacher, Solebay, Suffolk residential

"One child told me he wanted to go back to Hautbois because he liked not having computer screens everywhere and he liked having his meals on time because that never happens at home. I think many of the children enjoyed the comradery of the trip and it was great for their self-esteem." Teacher, St Paul with St Luke's, Norfolk residential

Achieving the best from each residential

Schools have varying objectives for their Country Trust residential. 54% identified curriculum links as being important, but when asked about why they bring children on these trips, fostering independence, team building and giving the children experience of the countryside featured strongly whereas ‘Activities linked to the curriculum’ was only mentioned once as a reason for the residential.

We know from our teacher workshop in London that schools vary enormously in the quality and quantity of their pre and post residential work, from none at all, to having a four year build up and then allowing the visit to shape an entire term’s work in the classroom. We also learnt how a residential had been used to transform relationships between children at the start of year 6.

We need to remain flexible to all approaches and we will continue to explore how best to support the kind of radical, positive disruption that a residential can achieve, as well as doing more to enable teachers to share how a residential can be used to best effect to enhance classroom learning.

Food Discovery

A total of 54 classes in 25 schools across England experienced Food Discovery in 2018-19, around 1,575 children in all, a 22% increase on 2017-18 numbers. In total we delivered 370 Food Discovery sessions, 51 of which were farm visits. Over 11,500 children from over 80 schools have participated in the programme in all since 2012.

“It has opened their eyes to the variety of vegetables that are available as they only have a very limited idea of what is available.” Anne Leveroni, North Denes Primary

What is Food Discovery?

Children, their teachers and sometimes parents and carers, are able to find out about food: learning how food grows through growing vegetables in the school grounds; learning how to prepare and cook simple, nutritious, balanced meals with the crops they are growing; exploring a wide variety of foods through tasting; learning how it is produced commercially, by visiting local farms; learning how food gets to consumers, by running markets in their playgrounds, and in the majority of programmes, preparing and sharing food at a celebratory harvest feast.

The class teacher said “They [the children] have learned so much in such a fun way without realising they were actually learning! They are talking about things [seeds and herbs] knowledgeably as though they have known about them for ages. It’s great to hear them.”

CT Coordinator from a session at James Knott primary

Programmes are tailored to meet schools’ needs and other sessions may be added in, like a Food Hero visitor to school who will talk about their food business or learning journal sessions where children explore an element of food in more detail and reflect on what they are learning in the programme.

Funding

Over the past 4 years, schools have paid for the programme, often using Pupil Premium funds, or we have raised funds to enable them to take part, or a mix of both. This year we saw a 50% drop in funds coming in from schools, and a resulting 50% increase in our fundraising challenge. An increasing number of primary schools are in deficit budget¹⁵ and are struggling with providing basics such as a 5-day week or classroom teaching assistants.¹⁶

¹⁵ <https://epi.org.uk/publications-and-research/school-funding-pressures/>

¹⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2019/mar/08/its-dangerous-full-chaos-of-funding-cuts-in-englands-schools-revealed>

The difference we make:

“It’s so good to see the progress they have made since the beginning of the programme. They talk about the different foods they have used and tried and now have a wider range of foods they know they like.” Miss Watson
Teacher

“When returning to the class all children were highly animated and engaged in what they had been doing... The rest of the day went well re engagement with lessons - even a session on ‘fronted adverbials!’” Anne Leveroni,
teacher, North Denes

“What I found out while doing food discovery... is that when we eat healthy things we get stronger and powerful.” Pupil

“You can try new things and it is okay if you don’t like it.” Pupil

“Lots of the pupils went home and told their parents about the session and have come into school this week and said that they tried cooking at home this weekend!”

Helen St Ruth, teacher, Magdalen Gates

Working with others

Farmer host/teacher workshops

Last year we identified that we needed to do more to address our strategic objective to value and invest in the people who make The Country Trust possible. We held our first farmer host workshop in March at Oak Farm, Naseby, and our second in November at the Euston Estate near Thetford. We made the second workshop a farmer and teacher day as we discovered there is real benefit from bringing farmers and teachers together. We were able to offer bursaries for Cover Teacher costs, so that schools could release teachers to attend. Both events were very well received.

“Was REALLY helpful to talk to teachers and get their viewpoint and barriers to visiting. Getting additional ideas for expanding learning.” Farmer

Volunteers

The Country Trust relies heavily on the support and dedication of volunteers: as hosts for visits, supporting Country Trust visits and activities, and providing expert support and guidance to staff. The Charity is fortunate to have the support of over 900 such volunteers who collectively donated in the region of 11,000 hours in 2019. The Board of Trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers for their commitment and support, without which the Trust could not accomplish its work.

Partnerships

Our ‘Discover Wheat’ partnership with Warburtons Ltd and Openfield Agriculture Ltd grew into a second successful full year with visit numbers increasing from 26 in 2018 to 38 in 2019. Feedback from schools continues to be extremely positive (evaluated for Warburtons by the British Nutrition Foundation) and the programme was shortlisted for two awards - Food and Drink Federation and the Charity Times Awards.

“I now know the difference between wholemeal and white flour.” Pupil,
Broadwood Primary

“I didn’t realise so much work went into one loaf of bread.” Adult, Old Leake Primary

The Ardian Foundation supported us for a second year enabling hundreds of children to visit working farms across the country, and 30 children in a former coalfield area in the NE to experience a year of Food Discovery.

We are members of LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming) and we continue to be part of the core partner group of Countryside Classroom and attend partnership meetings. The CEO also takes part in the Access to Farms Network - there is great value in being able to share with and learn from other member organisations. We are members of the CLA (Country Land and Business Association), NCVO (National Council for Voluntary Organisations) and ACEVO (Association for Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations).

We have been able to add value to the programmes of other organisations who support the most vulnerable in our society including Barnardo's, Enable2, Young Carer groups, SELFA, Refugee Action and Adventure Hyndburn.

Policy

During 2019, at a critical moment in British agriculture, with support payments changing, a move towards public money for public goods and a stronger focus on the environment, we took the decision to get involved in policy in order to try and ensure that educational access to farms is recognised as a public good in its own right. Ideally this will be matched with an ambition that every child, beginning with those with the fewest opportunities, should have a high-quality experience of food, farming and the countryside, beginning with those for whom such experiences are least likely. This is a totally new world for us, and we are hugely grateful to all those who have been so generous with their time, advice, support and introductions, including Lord Curry, Savills, Fidelity Weston, the CLA, the Church of England and Natural England.

We also submitted two ELMs proposals centred on supporting farmers to deliver high quality visits to disadvantaged children, one in partnership with a cluster of farmers in the S Pennines. Unfortunately, neither was successful.

Financial Review

Performance

During 2018 the Country Trust was fortunate to receive significant legacy income - leading to a significant increase in 2018 total income to £1,164,257. Income for 2019 returned towards normal levels - £813,119 - but showing a small upward trend. 50.5% of our income was unrestricted. A further £152,143 of income received in 2019 was deferred to 2020 for activity taking place in the second half of the academic year.

In 2019, we increased expenditure by 17.5% - from £702,974 to £826,138 - as we started to use the legacy income to support our broader charitable objectives. This was actually slightly below budget, despite an increase in activity and in part reflected a tendency to budget for worst case scenarios and a slow start to our health and safety project. We have now designated reserves for this project in order to ensure it can be completed.

Controls

Financial management consists of the monthly preparation of management accounts that are distributed to all Trustees for review. Monthly forecasting enables Trustees to view the financial landscape ahead. Our mid-year review included investment decisions and designation of reserves.

CEO or Assistant Director authorisation is required for all payments; all payments made by the Charity over £5,000 require dual authorisation with an authorised Trustee signatory. The charity had a successful audit in 2018 and Trustees have chosen an Independent Examination for 2019.

The Charity will be using a cash management platform in 2020 in order to better manage our unrestricted reserves and achieve a higher rate of interest.

Reserves policy

Following a review of the uncertain operating environment, Trustees amended The Charity's reserves policy from 3 to 6 months of operating reserves. This would indicate a reserves level of approximately £413,069. Overall reserves decreased from £750,551 to £737,532, of which unrestricted reserves rose from £703,891 to £726,519 including designated reserves. We will continue to use these additional funds over the coming years to bring the working countryside alive for significantly more children experiencing disadvantage through a carefully planned, stepped and sustainable expansion of our activities. These plans are reflected in the Budget for 2020 and will form part of our next Strategic Plan 2021-2023

Designated reserves: Following discussions during the year it was agreed by the Board that a sum of £130k would be designated in the following way and for the following purposes:

- Completion of our Host Farm Risk Assessment process with all our farmer hosts in 2020 - £10,000
- Funding the Corporate Fundraising role for three years until the income stream is established - £40,000 p.a. - £120,000

Fundraising practice and performance

The Board has adopted the Charity Governance Code and is working through the seven principles to ensure good governance.

Legal and ethical fundraising remains a key objective of the Trustees, and they take their responsibilities with regard to proper fundraising practice very seriously. They are guided by the Charity Commission's *Charity fundraising: a guide to trustee duties (CC20 updated in 2016)* as well as the *Charity Governance Code*, and the *Guidance Note from the Fundraising Regulator on New Reporting Requirements published October 2018* and are aware of the additional note to be published 15 January 2020. The Country Trust is registered with the **Fundraising Regulator** and complies with the *Code of Fundraising Practice*.

86% our income comes from charitable trusts, foundations, companies or individual donors, 14% comes from service users, primarily schools, as the remainder of the cost of our residential programme after our subsidy has been applied, or as a contribution towards Food Discovery programmes.

Donors to The Country Trust can be assured that

- Fundraising activity is included within the Trust's Risk Register, which is reviewed at each Board meeting; a senior member of staff directly involved with fundraising is present at every Board meeting.
- The Charity does not make use of professional fundraisers or commercial participators.
- The Charity complies with the Fundraising Regulator's voluntary regulation scheme.
- All fundraising is carried out by employed staff, or very occasionally named volunteers working closely with the employed staff on our behalf, primarily networking with peers and friends. Some volunteers will fundraise in aid of The Country Trust and the Charity provides support for them on its website.
- The Charity did not receive any complaints about fundraising activities carried out by The Charity or someone acting on The Charity's behalf but recognises it could improve the visibility of how to complain on its website.
- The Charity respects the privacy of the public, including the need to take special care with vulnerable people. Any mailing or emailing for fundraising purposes is in accordance with GDPR preferences. Public fundraising is through online fundraising platforms, or through static

collection goblets and is carried out in accordance with the *Code of Fundraising Practice*. The Charity undertakes very little face to face fundraising and what is done is primarily by invitation.

The Charity will comply with requests issued by the *Fundraising Preference Service*. The Charity strives to maintain GDPR compliance and has registered with the ICO.

Principal funding sources

The Charity continues to derive most of its funding from grant making trusts, although legacy income was also important again in 2019 and income from corporate partners is growing. A target within the Strategic Plan is to increase the percentage of funding committed for more than one year, in order to support longer term planning. We are pleased to report that 6 multi-year funding commitments were secured in 2019, totalling £200k p.a., including support for two new Coordinator roles enabling us to expand into new areas of the country. Earned income from the delivery of Food Discovery to schools has decreased markedly as school budgets have tightened. Contributions received from schools towards their residential visits remains constant in relation to the number of visits organised - we offer a 25% subsidy.

We would like to acknowledge the support received from all our funders, but mention specifically; **Aldgate and Allhallows Foundation, Ardian UK, The Ashden Trust, Lord Barnby's Foundation, Chadacre Agricultural Trust, Lance Coates Charitable Trust, The Felix Thornley Cobbold Agricultural Trust, The Dulverton Trust, WA Handley Trust, The Joicey Trust, Sir James Knott Trust, The Mercers' Company, Openfield Agriculture Ltd, The Rothschild Foundation, Rural Solutions, The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation, Warburtons Ltd, Westminster Foundation, Yorkshire Agricultural Society.**

Income from corporate donations increased from £92.9k to £102.6k, an increase of 10%, contributing to our strategic objective of diversifying our funding sources. The Trustees would like to particularly thank the Charity's President and Vice Presidents for their support in identifying and making introductions to potential new funding sources. We were pleased to be invited to join the GiveWith portfolio of charities.

Building on the success of events held during our 40th Anniversary year, a number of special Farm Discovery visits were held in order to allow potential supporters the opportunity to gain first-hand experience of our work. This has proved to be a powerful demonstration of the difference each supporter can make and we plan to continue to organise such events, and we are very grateful to those who hosted events for us.

Transport costs

The visits are provided free of charge to schools, with schools taking responsibility for transport arrangements and costs. Increasingly, the cost of transport is becoming a barrier to participation and the number of transport subsidies we offered increased from 78 (£13,707) in 2018 to 103 (£18,180) in 2019. We are grateful to all our funders who have helped us to address this challenge.

Structure, Governance and Management

How the Charity's activities deliver public benefit

The Trustees are confident that the activities of the Trust fulfil the requirements set out in the Charity Commission's guidance on Charities and Public Benefit, to which they have had due regard. Most of the Charity's activities focus on the education of children experiencing disadvantage, whether economic, social or educational and are undertaken to further the charitable objectives of the Trust for the public benefit.

Structure

The Country Trust was founded in 1978 and is registered with the Charity Commission under Charity Number 1122103. The Board of Trustees, President, Board of Vice Presidents, Chief Executive Officer, senior staff members and professional advisers are listed on page 1.

On the 23rd November 2007 the Country Trust was incorporated; it became a company limited by guarantee and not having share capital. On the 1st January 2008, the Charity commenced trading as an incorporated Charity. The Company number is 6436266 and the registered address is shown on page 1.

Governing document

The Charity is governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Country Trust Ltd.

Governing Body

The structure of the Charity consists of a Board of Trustees, a Chief Executive supported by a Senior Leadership Team, and a non-executive board of a President (appointed March 2019) and Vice Presidents. The Board of Trustees is a self-appointing body and includes a good gender balance and a range of experience. A number of Trustees have direct experience of our services either as teachers or active farmer hosts. The Chief Executive reports directly to the Chair of Trustees and is responsible for the day-to-day running of the Charity. The President and Vice Presidents have no executive power; they operate as an advisory, networking and fundraising resource.

Recruitment and training of Trustees

Trustees are recruited as and when required through advertising, personal recommendation and through the recommendation of third-party advisors according to the Board's specifications concerning eligibility, personal competence, and specialist skills. Potential candidates are invited to apply and are interviewed by the Chair and at least one other Trustee. Successful applicants are co-opted to join the Board until their appointment is confirmed. Training and induction for Trustees is in place and during 2019 three Trustees undertook governance training with Hempsons. One Trustee resigned and one Trustee was appointed during 2019.

Openness and accountability

We strive to involve beneficiaries in programme design and the comprehensive feedback gathered from stakeholders during the year is constantly used to inform practice. Our annual evaluation reports are published online and publicised through social media and printed materials.

Organisational management

The Charity's Trustees are legally responsible for the overall management and control of the Charity. The Board of Trustees meets four times a year to discuss and implement strategic issues, monitor income and expenditure, monitor risk, review and approve policies and approve annual budgets. The day to day running of the Charity is delegated to the Chief Executive, the Senior Leadership Team, staff and sessional staff, and reports to the Board monthly and quarterly. The Country Trust Hampshire is managed as part of The Country Trust.

Risk management

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the management of risks associated with the activities of the Charity. The Board refers to the Charity's Risk Register at each meeting which is prepared and updated by the Chief Executive. Risk Assessments are prepared by staff and self-employed sessional contractors for all activities led by the Charity. As a result of recommendations arising from our regular reviews of Health and Safety, The Charity is undertaking a major piece of work to ensure that all our host farmers have a Risk Assessment in place for Country Trust visits. These Risk Assessments are prepared, owned and managed by the host farmer but where required, support for the process including signposting to

external industry guidance, is provided by the Charity. The Charity receives the help of professional advisors for risks associated with health and safety, safeguarding and employment practice.

The Board of Trustees also has in place key controls for use by the Charity, such as formal agendas for meetings, comprehensive strategic planning and monthly management accounting, established lines of reporting, formal written policies and a review schedule, clear authorisation levels for all payments and a safeguarding policy which provides guidance for all on best safe practice for adults within an organisation working with children.

GDPR and Cybersecurity

We have continued to strive to remain compliant with GDPR. All new contacts, donors and supporters are asked for their communication preferences which are recorded and implemented. Mailings and e-mailings include the opportunity for people to unsubscribe. Privacy policies are available on our website <http://www.countrytrust.org.uk/privacy-policy>

A complete cybersecurity review is pending but our Expert Volunteer IT Consultant Martin Stevens monitors the security systems we have in place. One serious issue involving a Country Trust account being used to send out 1,000 phishing emails was spotted promptly and action was taken to wipe and restore the laptop. All staff/contractors were warned and are regularly urged to be vigilant, including receiving guidance on what to look out for.

It became apparent via a Google warning in March 2019 that The Country Trust website had been hacked. Our Expert Volunteer, working with our web design company, identified that a folder containing thousands of malicious links had been hidden on our server - a content injection breach. The folder was deleted, all passwords were changed, we upgraded our content management system, reviewed our protocols and the website is now clean. The ICO advised us that as no data was compromised the breach was not reportable.

Safeguarding

Government guidance is clear that all organisations working with children, young people, families, parents and carers have particular responsibilities. At The Country Trust we recognise that the welfare of all children is paramount and that all children, regardless of ability or culture, have equal rights of protection. We have a duty of care when they are in our charge and we will do everything we can to provide a safe and caring environment whilst they attend our activities. Our policy for child safeguarding can be found on our website and is reviewed annually by our Board of Trustees. The Country Trust is a member of SAFEcic, an umbrella organisation providing safeguarding training, advice and standards. All staff, volunteers and Trustees undertake safeguarding training and during the year our Designated Safeguarding Lead and our Chair of Trustees completed training. Trustees have been made aware of Bond's *Good governance for safeguarding* and the NCVO's *Lessons for Trustees* following the Charity Commission's report on Oxfam. During the year, 7 safeguarding concerns were assessed by the DSL and DDSL, and there were no referrals to local safeguarding services. We sought further advice from our safeguarding umbrella body SafeCIC on 2 occasions.

Health and Safety

Our health and safety policy can be found on our website and is reviewed every two years. Following the last review, and a review of our policy in practice undertaken by Trustees, we are part way through the planned process of implementing some significant changes to strengthen our practice. Footwear hygiene practices are now in place, and a programme related to farmer host Risk Assessments is at the halfway point. To start this programme, training was provided for all our delivery staff at our Annual Conference. Safeguarding, and Health and Safety reports of all disclosures, accidents, incidents and near misses and subsequent actions taken are brought to every Board meeting, preserving the appropriate confidentiality. 'Lessons learned' are shared with all staff/contractors as part of ongoing learning.

Strategy and plans for the future

At the time of signing these accounts the Covid19 issue is impacting the UK severely. The Board of Trustees is monitoring the situation and the Charity is developing plans to respond to this significant event.

A Strategic Plan for 2018-2020 was approved in December 2017 and progress is reported quarterly against milestones. By 2020:-

- **We will be providing transformative opportunities to more disadvantaged children**
- **We will have increased and diversified our funding streams, and made them more resilient**
- **We will have forged more, powerful partnerships greatly enhancing our ability to achieve our mission**
- **We will have enhanced the impact and quality of our work, our relevance and our effectiveness**
- **We will be doing more to value and invest in the people who make The Country Trust possible**

In 2020, our focus will be on delivering the final year of our strategic plan, in a fast-changing operating context

- We want to take more children onto farms and estates, including working with parents and families, and to maintain or grow our Food Discovery and Residential programmes.
- We will continue to work for sustainable, multi-year funding derived from a range of sources.
- We will continue to use our reserves to enable sustainable growth in reach, quality and impact.
- We will continue to develop our partnership working, with corporate partners, but also with other agencies and charities, as well as expert partners who can inform our knowledge and our practice.
- We will aim to make progress in understanding our long-term impact, and in increasing participation in our Food Discovery and Residential surveys.
- We will try and influence policy to make it more likely that we are able to achieve our mission, in the context of Brexit, climate change, the Agriculture Bill, the Environment Bill and the National Food Strategy.
- We will demonstrate that we value and invest in the people who make The Country Trust possible by:-
 - Providing more opportunities for hosts, Country Trust coordinators and teachers to come together
 - If possible, holding a forum for the next generation of farmer hosts.
 - Continuing to strengthen the resilience of our delivery team and the effectiveness of our administration and information management.
 - Continuing to implement our health and safety programme with our host farmers.
- We will develop a new Strategic Plan for 2021-23 by December 2020.

Statement of compliance with prevailing laws and regulations

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 published on 16 July 2014.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies' exemption.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 7 April 2020 and signed on its behalf by:

M A Bufton-McCoy B Phil, Cert Ed
Chair of Trustees

The Country Trust

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Country Trust ("the Company")

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2019 which are set out on pages 21 to 37.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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 The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, 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 the Company 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.

Colin Andrew Barker FCA
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

9 April 2020

The Country Trust

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2019 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Other Comprehensive Income)

		Unrestricted funds				
	Note	General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	3	409,650	-	290,296	699,946	1,010,174
Charitable activities	4	-	-	111,846	111,846	153,533
Investment income	5	1,327	-	-	1,327	550
Total income		<u>410,977</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>402,142</u>	<u>813,119</u>	<u>1,164,257</u>
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	6	284,709	-	541,429	826,138	702,974
Total expenditure		<u>284,709</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>541,429</u>	<u>826,138</u>	<u>702,974</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		126,268	-	(139,287)	(13,019)	461,283
Transfers between funds		<u>(233,640)</u>	<u>130,000</u>	<u>103,640</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		<u>(107,372)</u>	<u>130,000</u>	<u>(35,647)</u>	<u>(13,019)</u>	<u>461,283</u>
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		<u>703,891</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46,660</u>	<u>750,551</u>	<u>289,268</u>
Total funds carried forward	16	<u><u>596,519</u></u>	<u><u>130,000</u></u>	<u><u>11,013</u></u>	<u><u>737,532</u></u>	<u><u>750,551</u></u>

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

The Country Trust
(Registration number: 6436266)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2019

	Note	2019 £	2018 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	4,778	6,371
Current assets			
Debtors	13	31,005	33,194
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>878,879</u>	<u>887,674</u>
		909,884	920,868
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(177,130)</u>	<u>(176,688)</u>
Net current assets		<u>732,754</u>	<u>744,180</u>
Net assets		<u>737,532</u>	<u>750,551</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted funds			
		<u>11,013</u>	<u>46,660</u>
Unrestricted funds			
General funds		596,519	703,891
Designated Funds		<u>130,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Total unrestricted funds		<u>726,519</u>	<u>703,891</u>
Total funds	16	<u>737,532</u>	<u>750,551</u>

For the financial year ending 31 December 2019 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 Country Trust
(Registration number: 6436266)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2019

These financial statements have been prepared accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and constitute the annual accounts required by the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements on pages 21 to 37 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 7 April 2020 and signed on their behalf by:

M A Bufton-McCoy B Phil, Cert Ed
Chair of Trustees

The Country Trust

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 31 December 2019

	Note	2019 £	2018 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (expenditure)/income		(13,019)	461,283
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Depreciation		1,593	707
Investment income	5	<u>(1,327)</u>	<u>(550)</u>
		(12,753)	461,440
Working capital adjustments			
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	13	2,189	(8,936)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	14	(10,050)	14,638
Increase/(decrease) in deferred income		<u>10,492</u>	<u>(86,817)</u>
Net cash flows from operating activities		<u>(10,122)</u>	<u>380,325</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest receivable and similar income	5	1,327	550
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	12	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,665)</u>
Net cash flows from investing activities		<u>1,327</u>	<u>(5,115)</u>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(8,795)	375,210
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January		<u>887,674</u>	<u>512,464</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December		<u><u>878,879</u></u>	<u><u>887,674</u></u>

All of the cash flows are derived from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The Country Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England & 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.

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

The Country Trust 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 and endowments

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.

Donations and legacies

All donated income and grants receivable are included in income on receipt except where the donor requires that the sum is to be treated as income in future accounting periods, in which case it is deferred. Where a donor has specified that a donation should be used for a particular purpose this is treated as restricted income.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Deferred income

Deferred income represents grants and service fees received in respect of visits and activities taking place after the year end. It also represents unrestricted income where that income relates to future periods.

The Country Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019

Investment income

Interest received is accounted for when the interest is credited on the Bank deposit accounts.

Charitable activities

Income from charitable activities arises from educational visits and activities where schools or other partners fund all or a proportion of the costs incurred.

Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and includes VAT as the charity is not VAT registered. Governance costs are associated with the governance arrangements of the charity. Where expenditure is apportioned between charitable activities and support costs, this is done based on the portion that is applicable to the direct provision of educational visits and activities or the administration of the charity. In the case of staff costs, this is based on the time spent on charitable activities or administration.

Charitable activities

Charitable activities comprise costs incurred in carrying out educational visits and activities to farms, estates and the wider countryside, and in schools.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees's 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 a significant amount 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
Office equipment & software	25% straight-line

Trade debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

The Country Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Creditors are recognised at their settlement amount.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees's discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Restricted income funds are those donated or received for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Financial instruments

Classification

The charitable company only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the charitable company and their measurement basis are as follows:

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

Cash at bank - is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

The Country Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Donations	108,882	74,826	183,708	168,830
Legacies	100,000	-	100,000	340,097
Charitable Trusts and grant making bodies	200,768	215,470	416,238	501,247
	<u>409,650</u>	<u>290,296</u>	<u>699,946</u>	<u>1,010,174</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Countryside Discovery Residential Visits	-	87,990	87,990	103,322
Food Discovery	-	18,670	18,670	43,626
Farm Visits	-	5,186	5,186	6,585
	<u>-</u>	<u>111,846</u>	<u>111,846</u>	<u>153,533</u>

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Interest receivable on bank deposits	<u>1,327</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,327</u>	<u>550</u>

The Country Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Programmes - Transport		-	56,643	56,643	49,498
Programmes - Accommodation		181	73,613	73,794	68,999
Expenses relating to visits and activities		106	29,349	29,455	32,297
Self-employed contractors		20,519	300,043	320,562	243,319
Staff mileage, accommodation and expenses		-	49,972	49,972	36,474
Volunteer mileage, accommodation and expenses		-	2,348	2,348	1,335
Staff costs		-	24,866	24,866	24,297
Allocated support costs	7	261,143	4,595	265,738	241,355
Governance costs	7	2,760	-	2,760	5,400
		<u>284,709</u>	<u>541,429</u>	<u>826,138</u>	<u>702,974</u>

£285,709 (2018 - £256,127) of the above expenditure was attributable to unrestricted funds and £541,429 (2018 - £446,847) to restricted funds.

Approximately 32% of transport costs relate to transport subsidies and the remainder are the cost of transport for residential visits.

The Country Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019

7 Analysis of governance and support costs

Allocated support costs

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Staff costs	185,189	-	185,189	160,173
Staff mileage, accommodation and expenses	11,900	-	11,900	12,740
Volunteer mileage, accommodation and expenses	587	-	587	248
Office costs	26,291	11	26,302	24,961
Computer and website costs	1,473	12	1,485	878
Advertising and publicity	9,999	-	9,999	15,352
Insurance	3,101	-	3,101	2,447
Recruitment and training	1,389	4,422	5,811	8,053
Subscriptions and sundry costs	1,806	-	1,806	908
Bank charges	374	-	374	160
Legal and professional fees	1,903	150	2,053	2,011
Annual meeting	14,693	-	14,693	11,338
Trustee expenses	845	-	845	1,379
Depreciation	1,593	-	1,593	707
	261,143	4,595	265,738	241,355

Governance costs

	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Audit fees		
Audit of the financial statements	-	4,200
Other fees paid to auditors	-	1,200
Independent examiner fees		
Examination of the financial statements	1,560	-
Other fees paid to examiners	1,200	-
	2,760	5,400

The Country Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019

8 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net (outgoing)/incoming resources for the year include:

	2019 £	2018 £
Fees payable to auditor	-	5,400
Fees payable to independent examiner	2,760	-
Depreciation of fixed assets	<u>1,593</u>	<u>707</u>

9 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 other benefits from the charity during the year.

During the year, 2 trustees were reimbursed for reasonable travel expenses totalling £624 (2018: £796 to 2 trustees).

10 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2019 £	2018 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	191,635	168,003
Social security costs	14,421	12,916
Pension costs	<u>3,999</u>	<u>3,551</u>
	<u>210,055</u>	<u>184,470</u>

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

	2019 No	2018 No
Charitable activities	1	1
Support and administration	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>
	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>

The average number of persons employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was 5.1 (2018: 4.9).

8 (2018 - 7) of the above employees participated in the Defined Contribution Pension Schemes.

Contributions to the employee pension schemes for the year totalled £3,999 (2018 - £3,551).

The Country Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019

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

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £68,152 (2018 - £64,912).

11 Taxation

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

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment & software £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 January 2019	9,660	9,660
At 31 December 2019	9,660	9,660
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2019	3,289	3,289
Charge for the year	1,593	1,593
At 31 December 2019	4,882	4,882
Net book value		
At 31 December 2019	4,778	4,778
At 31 December 2018	6,371	6,371

13 Debtors

	2019 £	2018 £
Trade debtors	14,838	17,714
Prepayments	15,853	15,480
Accrued income	314	-
	31,005	33,194

The Country Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2019	2018
	£	£
Trade creditors	17,202	24,290
Other taxation and social security	3,517	4,845
Other creditors	704	-
Accruals	3,562	5,900
Deferred income	152,145	141,653
	<u>177,130</u>	<u>176,688</u>

	2019	2018
	£	£
Deferred income at 1 January 2019	141,653	228,470
Resources deferred in the period	152,143	141,653
Amounts released from previous periods	<u>(141,653)</u>	<u>(228,470)</u>
Deferred income at year end	<u>152,143</u>	<u>141,653</u>

15 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 £3,999 (2018 - £3,551).

The Country Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019

16 Funds

Current year:

	Balance at 01/01/2019 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31/12/2019 £
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
General	703,891	410,977	(284,709)	(233,640)	596,519
<i>Designated funds</i>					
i) Risk assessment	-	-	-	10,000	10,000
ii) Corporate fundraiser	-	-	-	120,000	120,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>130,000</u>	<u>130,000</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>703,891</u>	<u>410,977</u>	<u>(284,709)</u>	<u>(103,640)</u>	<u>726,519</u>
Restricted funds					
a) Residential	19,108	121,190	(163,869)	23,571	-
b) Food discovery	22,693	107,240	(108,367)	(10,553)	11,013
c) Farm visits	-	149,924	(227,675)	77,751	-
d) Country Trust Hampshire	4,859	23,788	(41,518)	12,871	-
Total restricted funds	<u>46,660</u>	<u>402,142</u>	<u>(541,429)</u>	<u>103,640</u>	<u>11,013</u>
Total funds	<u><u>750,551</u></u>	<u><u>813,119</u></u>	<u><u>(826,138)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>737,532</u></u>

The Country Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019

Prior year:

	Balance at 01/01/2018 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31/12/2018 £
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
General	230,008	719,702	(256,127)	10,308	703,891
Restricted funds					
a) Residential	14,908	152,896	(142,594)	(6,102)	19,108
b) Food discovery	24,376	88,548	(80,797)	(9,434)	22,693
c) Farm visits	-	158,413	(179,557)	21,144	-
d) Country Trust Hampshire	7,343	44,698	(43,899)	(3,283)	4,859
e) Duke of Westminster	12,633	-	-	(12,633)	-
Total restricted funds	<u>59,260</u>	<u>444,555</u>	<u>(446,847)</u>	<u>(10,308)</u>	<u>46,660</u>
Total funds	<u>289,268</u>	<u>1,164,257</u>	<u>(702,974)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>750,551</u>

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Restricted funds:

- a) Funds to subsidise the cost of Countryside Discovery Residential visits enabling disadvantaged primary age children to experience food, farming and the countryside.
- b) Funds for teaching disadvantaged primary school children to grow and cook fresh produce, to explore local farms, run playground markets and a harvest feast, and also to train teachers in relevant elements of Learning Outside the Classroom.
- c) Funds relating to the provision of Farm and Countryside Discovery educational day visits bringing the working countryside to life for primary school children from disadvantaged areas.
- d) Provides for Farm and Countryside Discovery educational visits for primary school children to working farms and estates specifically in Hampshire and the surrounding counties.
- e) Funds provided by the Westminster Foundation for the provision of a small central team supporting the development of the charity.

Designated funds:

- i) The Trustees designated £10,000 from unrestricted funds for the completion of a host farm risk assessment process.
- ii) £120,000 was designated to fund a corporate fundraising role for three years.

Transfers are made from the unrestricted general fund to cover deficit balances on restricted funds and setup two new designated funds. Transfers from restricted funds to unrestricted funds are to cover a share of the charity's central costs.

The Country Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

Current year:

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31/12/2019 £
Tangible fixed assets	4,778	-	-	4,778
Current assets	632,436	130,000	147,448	909,884
Current liabilities	(40,695)	-	(136,435)	(177,130)
Total net assets	<u>596,519</u>	<u>130,000</u>	<u>11,013</u>	<u>737,532</u>

Prior year:

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31/12/2018 £
Tangible fixed assets	6,371	-	-	6,371
Current assets	759,470	-	161,398	920,868
Current liabilities	(61,950)	-	(114,738)	(176,688)
Total net assets	<u>703,891</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46,660</u>	<u>750,551</u>

18 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

The Country Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019

19 Prior year Statement of Financial Activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2018 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	719,152	-	291,022	1,010,174
Charitable activities	4	-	-	153,533	153,533
Investment income	5	550	-	-	550
Total income		<u>719,702</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>444,555</u>	<u>1,164,257</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	256,127	-	446,847	702,974
Total expenditure		<u>256,127</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>446,847</u>	<u>702,974</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		463,575	-	(2,292)	461,283
Transfers between funds		10,308	-	(10,308)	-
Net movement in funds		473,883	-	(12,600)	461,283
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>230,008</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>59,260</u>	<u>289,268</u>
Total funds carried forward	16	<u><u>703,891</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>46,660</u></u>	<u><u>750,551</u></u>