THE ROYAL COUNTRYSIDE FUND

Trustees' report and financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2026



Contents

Trustees and advisors 03

Introduction by Heather Hancock, Chair 04

Activities and objectives 05

How we delivered our strategy 11

Structure, governance and management 43

Financial results for the year 45

Independent auditor's report to the members of The Royal Countryside Fund 50

Consolidated statement of financial activities 54

Consolidated balance sheet 55

RCF balance sheet 56

Consolidated cashflow statement 57

Notes to the financial statements 58

Editorial Team: Helen Day, Heeren Patel, Patrick Davies and Julie Pybus

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Cover image: Vista Veg is a community organisation that grows and delivers fruit and veg, helping to build a more sustainable and local food system in Cumbria. In 2025, we awarded the organisation £29,960 to establish a new market garden in a rural community and deliver training for new entrant growers (pictured).

Trustees and advisors

Trustees (in the year covered by the report)	**Rupert Arnold** (appointed 6 January 2026) **Stephanie Brimacombe** **David Fursdon LL** (Vice Chair) **Heather Hancock LVO, DL** (Chair) **The Earl of Lindsay DL** **Janet McCollum CBE** **Steven Murrells CBE** (resigned 18 September 2025) **Andrew Phillips LVO** (appointed 1 October 2025) **Baroness Kate Rock DL** **Christopher Sparrow** **Jonathan Warburton** (resigned 31 March 2026) **Charlotte Weston**
Key management personnel	**Keith Halstead ARAgS** Chief Executive
Company number	07240359
Charity registration numbers	1136077 SC048055
Registered office	13th Floor 33 Cavendish Square London W1G 0PW
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Banker	Coutts 440 Strand London WC2R 0QS
Solicitor	Bates Wells 10 Queen Street Place London EC4R 1BE



Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2026

The trustees present their annual report and the charity's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026.



Introduction

Welcome to The Royal Countryside Fund's 2025/26 Annual Report. I'm glad to have this opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments and progress in the last year, and take stock of the difference we've been able to make. The pages that follow offer a snapshot of our work across the United Kingdom, and the remarkable determination and commitment among the rural and farming communities we support. All this of course has taken place against a backdrop of mounting challenges facing countryside communities.

This twelve-month farming cycle has been yet another beset by 'unprecedented' events: extreme weather in the form of droughts, flooding, and storms. The increasing frequency of these challenges, combined with global tensions, is having a profound effect on the UK's countryside. Costs are rising, volatility is ever more extreme, and the unpredictability of markets and climate makes farming for a living challenging and risky. Operating a small family farm in such a complex, sophisticated global food and energy economy demands new business skills. There are undoubtedly benefits, and the levels of innovation in UK farming are seriously impressive, but the circumstances facing the UK's family farms and rural communities require them to be self-reliant, self-sustaining, and resilient to external shocks if they are to survive and - we hope - thrive.

Of course, by necessity, country people have always been self-reliant and community-minded. At the RCF, it's our privilege to work with family farmers and community groups across the UK who show no shortage of energy, ideas or enthusiasm. At our farming workshops attendees are hugely focused on improving their businesses, sustaining their heritage and leaving the countryside a better place than they found it. Similarly, when we open our community funding programmes we see at first hand the passion in local organisations to make an indispensable contribution to their community.

The Royal Countryside Fund was created by His Majesty The King to encourage and support these instincts, and to respond to the needs of the countryside. We are here to back farming families and rural people as they carve out their futures in a changing world.

We're incredibly grateful to all our supporters, from the generous individuals to the corporates, trusts and foundations, all of them sharing our vision and supporting our mission. Their backing is what allows the RCF to continue providing trusted advice and support for farming families and to build on our reputation as a dedicated supporter of sustainable rural communities.

In the last year, it has been a pleasure to welcome new trustees who are equally committed to this mission: Rupert Arnold, a farmer in West Yorkshire who brings hands-on experience and has himself benefitted from participating in RCF farming programmes, and Andrew Phillips LVO, Chief Finance Officer at the Duchy of Cornwall, who brings a wealth of highly relevant expertise to the board. We have bid farewell to Steven Murrells CBE and I am glad to have this opportunity to put on the record our gratitude for all he contributed to the charity as a Trustee and as a leader in the food retail sector. We also say farewell and thanks to Jonathan Warburton who served as a Trustee and a member of the Development Committee.

We only achieve what we do because the Royal Countryside Fund has fantastic, dedicated people, and a truly excellent team of Trustees and staff, who working together allow us to punch above our weight and deliver for the people who really matter – those farming families and rural communities who are vital in ensuring a sustainable future for UK agriculture and our countryside.



Heather Hancock LVO, DL
Chair - The Royal Countryside Fund

Activities and objectives

Principal activity

The Royal Countryside Fund was established as a response to concerns expressed by His Majesty King Charles III (our Royal Founding Patron) in 2010 when he was The Prince of Wales, and by Business in the Community's Rural Action Leadership Team regarding the future of farming and rural communities in the UK. Given these origins, the RCF operates in accordance with the vision of our Royal Founding Patron, which is to help improve the sustainability of British farming and the rural communities in the UK.

Right now, hardworking family farms and rural communities face social, environmental and economic pressures that threaten the livelihoods they love. They shouldn't have to face these alone – and with us, they don't have to.

Our locally based programmes help farming families discover achievable ways to make their farms more financially and environmentally resilient. And by combining their ideas with our funding and guidance, we help rural communities run community-led projects that will stand the test of time. So far, we've supported over 5,300 farming families and invested more than £12.7 million in over 550 rural community-led projects.

Whether it's through farming support or rural projects, we're all about bringing people together and making changes that last. We help countryside communities thrive now and for generations to come.

The trustees are satisfied that, having considered the general guidance on public benefit from the Charity Commission for England and Wales and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, the charity is in compliance with such regulations.

How the activities of The Royal Countryside Fund delivered benefit

A four-year strategy from 2024-2028 was approved by the Board of Trustees to inform our work from April 2024. This sets out the charity's work under five aims, designed to guide us in setting our priorities and assessing how we are performing against our vision. The year covered by this report is the second year in this strategic cycle.

Our vision is of a thriving countryside – a living landscape of working family farms and prosperous rural life, built on connections and relationships – which in turn shapes rural places, creating vibrant, sustainable communities.

Our ambition is to be the countryside charity of choice for people living and working in rural and farming communities across the UK, and for those who care about helping them to secure a sustainable future.

Our four-year strategy aims to:

- Maintain and build our reputation as the trusted source of advice and support for farming families seeking a sustainable future.
- Develop our reputation as a supporter of sustainable rural communities to equal that of our farming support, building on our strengths as a catalyst, convener and funder.
- Introduce a tailored approach to all activity in each of the four nations of the UK, reflecting that each is different and unique in terms of its farming and rural communities.
- Strengthen our brand recognition, to benefit our fundraising and partnerships, and to build awareness and confidence in the UK's farming and rural communities.
- Bring together more people, places and partners through our unique position as a catalyst, convener and funder.

The activities described in this report demonstrate how we delivered on this strategy over the 2025/26 financial year, making a positive difference for those who live and work in the countryside.

How we delivered our strategy

We provided tailored local support for

993 farm businesses

helping them to improve their resilience and farm regeneratively.
This included:

232
farm businesses were brought together by our support for a sustainability conference and farm clusters

151
farm businesses benefitted from Sustainable Farming Incentive workshops in England

134
farm businesses benefitted from introductions to regenerative farming principles

127
farm businesses benefitted from our updated Farm Resilience Programme

102
farm businesses benefitted from our Working with Water workshops

94
farm businesses benefitted from our soil health and grazing workshops

28
farm businesses benefitted from animal handling workshops

85
farm businesses benefitted from our biodiversity workshops

40
farm businesses benefitted from our tree planting programme

The green tiles outline some of the ways we've supported family farms to implement regenerative farming principles.

We organised and ran

55 free workshops

for farming families, including:

30 updated Farm Resilience Programme workshops

5 workshops focused on good water management

5 workshops focused on helping farmers boost biodiversity on their farms

4 workshops helping farmers understand the UK government's Sustainable Farming Incentive

4 workshops focused on regenerative farming

4 workshops focused on improving soil health

2 workshops focused on helping farmers improve their animal handling skills

1 workshop focused on helping farmers improve their grazing

Building confident rural communities: key figures

Over the 2025/26 financial year we gave

£277,538 in funding

to 18 organisations.

As part of this:

£194,538 went to 8 rural community groups

all of which are delivering impactful community-led projects

£83,000 went to 10 Farm Support Groups

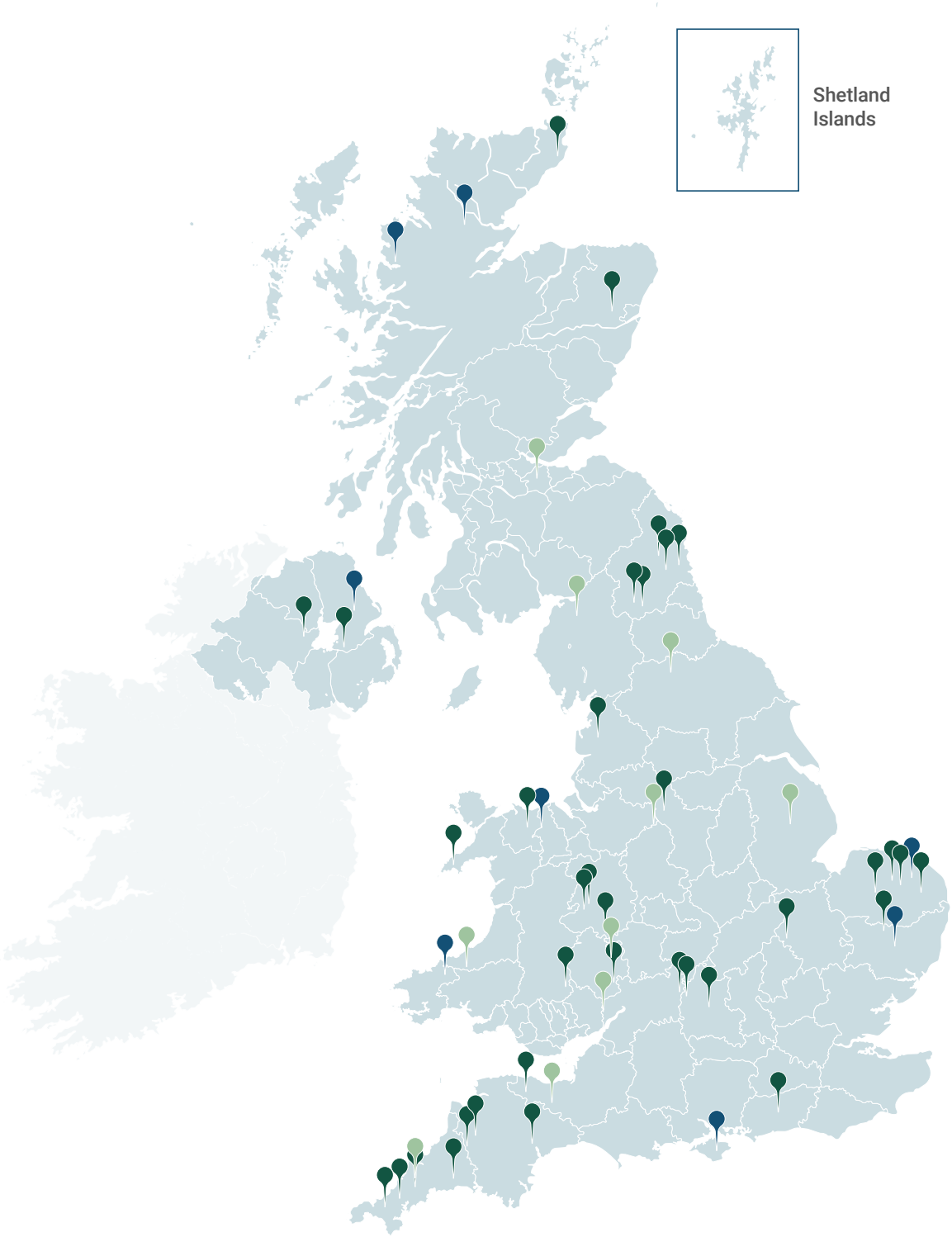
Organisations which are deeply rooted in the farming communities they serve and provide essential support for farming families

- £68,000 went towards the core costs of these vital groups, which allowed them to continue to support an estimated **8,000+** farmers
- £15,000 supported healthcare projects which provided free health checks at auction marts and rural events for **1,817** people

Of the 18 organisations we funded:

- 10 are based in England and received £135,500 in funding
- 4 are based in Wales and received £63,440 in funding
- 3 are based in Scotland and received £53,598 in funding
- 1 is based in Northern Ireland and received £25,000 in funding

Locations of rural organisations and farming support that we funded during the 2025/26 financial year



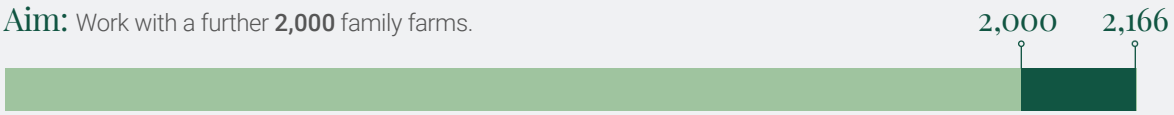
- Farming workshop or event
- Farm Support Group
- Rural Community Organisation

Note: each pin marks the location of a farming workshop or event that we have supported or an organisation that we have awarded new funding over the last year

The progress we have made on our Strategic Plan

We set out clear targets as part of our four-year strategy from 2024-2028.
Here is the progress we have made since the start of that strategy:

Aim: Work with a further **2,000** family farms.



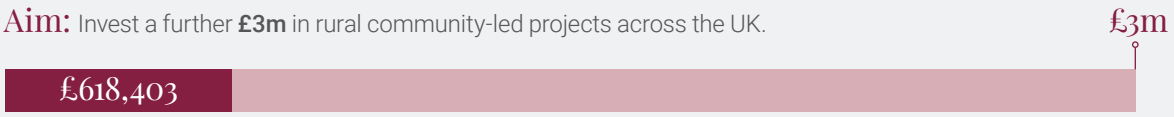
Progress: We have worked with **2,166** family farms.

Aim: Develop and be working with a network of **6,000+** farm businesses.



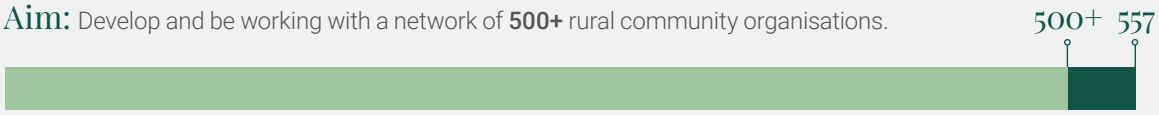
Progress: We have worked with **5,795** family farm businesses.

Aim: Invest a further **£3m** in rural community-led projects across the UK.



Progress: We have invested **£618,403** in rural community-led projects.

Aim: Develop and be working with a network of **500+** rural community organisations.



Progress: We are working with a network of **557** rural community organisations.

Aim: Achieve a minimum annual income of **£3m**.



Progress: Our average annual income is currently **£2.9 million**.

Aim: Embed a culture of continuous learning through our monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) framework that ensures all activity is relevant and our work anticipates the change and challenges facing the people we support.

Progress: We have created an updated MEL framework that underpins our work and we are continuing to embed this into our day-to-day practice.

Aim: Grow our partner and stakeholder relationships to better understand the future direction of the rural economy to inform our work.

Progress: We attended close to **40** in-person events over the last year to meet with partners and stakeholders new and old.

How we delivered our strategy

Strategic aim 1:

Maintain and build our reputation as the trusted source of advice and support for farming families seeking a sustainable future

Over the last year, we have run our practical farming programmes across the UK to deliver more support to more farming families.

Helping farmers build resilience

We launched our updated Farm Resilience Programme at the start of 2026 and in the pilot year we ran 30 workshops with **127** farm businesses across **8** pilot locations:

- 6 groups in England: Devon, Exmoor, Oxfordshire, the Peak District, Lancashire and Northumberland
- 1 group in Northern Ireland: Cookstown
- 1 group in Wales: North West

Alongside the Farm Resilience Programme's business-focused workshops, each participating farm is encouraged to complete our Business Health Check Tool which helps give them a clear and up-to-date understanding of their farm and enterprises. Around 30% of the participating farms used the tool, with many farms already using other available benchmarking tools or drawing on their own farm accounts.

> "I am really pleased to have participated in the course. I feel more equipped to explain decision-making to my daughters and their families (re succession).
>
> It must have been a great deal of work for you – for which many thanks – and I felt really well informed about admin. Your help with the Business Health Check Tool was invaluable."
>
> Farm Resilience Programme participating farmer, the Cotswolds

We are very grateful to all of our funders for making this work possible. We would like to specially thank Aldi UK, Hilton Foods, Morrisons, The Rothschild Foundation, The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, and Waitrose for their support for this programme.



Helping more farmers take a regenerative approach

Regenerative farming principles are about making agriculture benefit the environment, while increasing the resilience of farm businesses in the face of climate change and market pressures.

Over the last year, we have supported **455** farming businesses with a range of regenerative farming support.

100 farming businesses in East Anglia took part in a pilot year of our Routes to Regen project: a new approach to supporting farmers to transition to regenerative practices, backed by leading businesses. Routes to Regen originated from the Sustainable Markets Initiative, which was founded by King Charles III, and you can see a full list of the supporting companies here.

Feedback on the Routes to Regen pilot programme was overwhelmingly positive and the project has now entered its second year.

Of the **100** farmers who took part in the first year:

80% said that their attitudes towards regenerative practices had become more positive.

57% reported that they were likely to farm more regeneratively as a result.

73% rated ease of access as better or much better than other farming schemes.

82% said that the multi-company collaboration was important in their decision to take part in the project.

> "I would recommend it... particularly to those looking for practical advice and an introduction to regenerative options."
>
> Routes to Regen participating farmer, East Anglia

> "It's independent. The Royal Countryside Fund aren't out to get anything... It's more about looking after us rather than if it was coming from a big company."
>
> Routes to Regen participating farmer, East Anglia

You can read a full report on the first year of the Routes to Regen project on our website here.

In Herefordshire we supported **20** family farm businesses to undertake a series of **3** workshops on regenerative farming principles. The participating farmers are focusing on producing nutritious and high-quality food, profitably, while also contributing to the overall well-being of the environment and the local ecosystem.

This initiative is undertaken in partnership with Herefordshire Rural Hub and Regenified, a verification and product certification programme that champions regenerative agriculture. Thank you to Regenified for funding this initiative.



In Wales, we organised and ran a workshop on regenerative agriculture, which focused on providing an introduction to regenerative principles and how they can be applied to small family farm businesses.

This work was made possible thanks to funding from The Postcode Lottery.

Helping more farmers build drought and flood resistance

In 2025, we began working with farm clusters in Norfolk, in partnership with Norfolk Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) and water experts from UCL, UEA, The Norfolk Ponds Project, and Water Resources East.

We ran 5 free workshops, helping 102 farmers, landowners and other attendees understand how they can implement low-cost natural measures to better manage water for the environment and their farm businesses.

You can read more about this project and watch a short film about the importance of this work on our website here.

This work was made possible thanks to funding from The Postcode Lottery.



"It was interesting to hear how the project came about and how they looked at historical maps. We have since looked at our own farm to see if we have any ghost ponds.

"[The social aspect] is always useful because you never know who you're going to talk to, and small ideas can be really helpful. There was an organic farm who attended the workshop and they were trying to put ponds in each field, and they'd seen a massive benefit. That really sparked a lot of discussion of what we would like to do on our farm.

"[Working with Water] provides more information that you don't currently see for your typical arable farm – it's useful to know there's a lot of support out there and people are doing really interesting things."

Annabel, Norfolk farmer and Working with Water workshop participant

Helping more farmers work in harmony with Nature

The UK government's Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) pays farmers and land managers to carry out sustainable land management activities that protect and benefit the environment, support food production, and improve productivity.

To help more family farms access this support we ran a series of 4 workshops for 151 farm businesses in Cornwall, in partnership with Farm Cornwall.

This work was made possible thanks to funding from The Postcode Lottery.

Helping more farmers improve their soil health

Soil is the foundation of any farm and is a fundamental asset. Efficient management of soil health can help farmers reduce input costs, produce better yields, improve animal welfare, make farms more drought and flood resistant and contribute to a healthier environment. All of these can bring tangible financial benefits to farm businesses.

Over the last year we supported **79** farm businesses to improve their soil health by running **4** workshops in Cambridgeshire, Shropshire, Kent and County Antrim.

You can read more about this programme, access a free guide to soil health, and watch a short film about the importance of this work on our website here.

This work is made possible thanks to the funding we receive from McDonald's UK & Ireland and The Postcode Lottery.



> "Through the Sustainable Farming Incentive, we have signed up for the 'CSAM' option, and we knew we had to prepare a soil management plan. My main takeaway from the workshop was how we could take our raw sample results to go about doing that for ourselves."

Michael, Kent farmer and Savings in Soil workshop participant

Helping more farmers improve their grazing and animal handling

To support more family farms to improve their grazing and animal handling practices, we ran a series of **3** workshops with **43** farm businesses in Cornwall, in partnership with Farm Cornwall: **2** workshops focused on animal handling skills and **1** workshop focused on grazing practices.

This work was made possible thanks to funding from The Postcode Lottery.

Our Great Grazing Guide is a free resource available on our website and provides money-saving practical tips for livestock farmers.

Helping more farmers boost biodiversity

All farms rely on the natural environment, and our biodiversity workshops focus on promoting productive agriculture that is in harmony with Nature.

Over the last year we supported **85** farm businesses in Northumberland, Anglesey and Gwynedd with a series of **5** workshops. These were focused on helping farmers better understand the environmental opportunities available to them and the practical actions that they can take now to boost biodiversity on their farms, while still benefitting their farm business.

Find out more about how we support farmers with biodiversity on our website here.

This work is made possible thanks to the funding we receive from Barbour and The Barbour Foundation, as well as The Postcode Lottery.



"It was amazing to see how there is a future for farmers with conservation, so it was a really positive outlook for future which we don't get a lot of in farming, it's always doom and gloom.

I came away with a sense of relief – that they were doing all this nature-friendly farming. It was really positive."

Dan, Anglesey farmer and Biodiversity workshop participant

Strategic aim 2:

Develop our reputation as a supporter of sustainable rural communities to equal that of our farming support, building on our strengths as a catalyst, convener and funder

We remain one of very few funders focused specifically on rural communities and their needs, across all of the UK. Over the last year, we have continued to support more rural community groups by providing direct funding, bringing people together, and creating change that lasts.

To build on our reputation and ensure every group gets the support that it needs, we carried out **15** in-person visits to community-led projects across the UK. These were invaluable opportunities to hear directly from rural communities and see our funding put into action.

> "It was excellent to have a personal relationship with the RCF team and for them to visit and get to know our 'place' and the challenges we face."
>
> Vista Veg, RCF funding recipient, Cumbria

> "It's really nice to work in a way that feels like a partnership rather than a transaction. We take more from that. It feels like the process is more valuable."
>
> Skelton Toppin Memorial Hall, RCF funding recipient, Cumbria

Building sustainable rural communities across the UK

In January 2025, we launched a new UK-wide grant programme for rural community organisations offering up to **£25,000**, paid over a period of **24** months.

We streamlined our application process to make it easier to apply, and we received over **200** applications from across the UK – demonstrating the clear need for support.

In summer 2025 we awarded **8** grants to the value of **£194,538**. The grants aim to empower rural areas through community-led projects that foster economic vibrancy and resilience. The locations of these grants are mapped on page 9 of this report.

The groups we support are focused on creating opportunities for young people in the countryside, powering up rural communities, promoting environmental sustainability, or enhancing emergency resilience.

These groups are:

- River Waveney Trust, an environmental charity based in East Anglia, dedicated to improving and protecting the River Waveney, its tributaries and catchment, making it a better place for people and wildlife, was awarded £25,000. The funds will go towards projects supporting small, rural communities to build meaningful resilience in the face of future flooding emergencies, within a changing yet more sustainable environment.

- Torridon District Community Association, a community charity based in the North West Highlands of Scotland, was awarded £25,000. This funding will allow the charity to support its small rural community to prepare for area-wide emergencies, making the community more resilient, better connected and more prepared to deal with the impacts of climate change.

- Grow the Glens CIC, which has worked since 2016 to create jobs and opportunities within its local community in the Glens of Antrim in Northern Ireland, was awarded £25,000. This funding will enable Grow the Glens to develop and extend its social enterprise programme to the local area, delivering a range of courses, workshops and events for the local community.

- LandLinked CIC, a Welsh community interest company working at the intersection of people, land, and learning, received £24,690. The funding will support training for young people in North Wales, helping them to build practical, regenerative land management skills.

- Lochview Rural Training Centre, a Sutherland-based charity and social enterprise which works to promote, organise and deliver rural learning, training and career opportunities, was awarded £24,848. The funding will support work in the North Highlands, ensuring that local people are able to access the support and training they need to reach their full potential, and allowing the organisation to develop its intergenerational work, matching tech-savvy young people with experienced crofters for an exchange of skills and knowledge.

- North Norfolk Community Transport, a charity which supports people who live in rural areas to overcome huge barriers over access to transport, both in affordability and availability, received £25,000. This grant will help the organisation support more disabled members of the community and those with limited mobility to get to the people and places they need to reach.

- Ventnor Exchange, a community interest company which works to develop the creative potential of young people on the Isle of Wight, was awarded £20,000. The funding will support the development of a bespoke education and training programme for young people, providing employment and learning opportunities.

- Ynni Bro Rhian, a newly established community benefit society based in North West Pembrokeshire, received £25,000. The organisation aims to help the local rural community by establishing and supporting enduring renewable energy projects. The funding will allow the society to appoint a part-time Project Development & Community Engagement Officer and establish an Energy Local Club, aiming to offer financial benefits to local residents, and renewable energy generators.

"The RCF funding will enable us to greatly enhance the quality and reach of our provision as a trusted, local 'flood-hub', facilitating local people to lead on building community resilience in the face of future emergencies. The funding will also allow us to develop and deliver natural flood management measures with and within small, rural communities to build more sustainable landscapes in the face of a changing climate.

Many of our small, rural communities were deeply traumatised by the flooding in 2020 and 2023, and the funding will directly benefit these communities by supporting a more resilient and sustainable future, delivering meaningful results on the ground."

Edward King, Catchment Resilience Officer at the River Waveney Trust



"We're incredibly grateful to The Royal Countryside Fund for supporting this project. The funding will enable us to deliver practical, land-based training to young people in rural North Wales – building skills, confidence, and stronger connections to place. It's a meaningful step towards supporting rural livelihoods and encouraging long-term care for our shared landscapes."

Richard Prideaux, Project Manager at LandLinked



There's no one way to run a successful community-led project, which is why our Confident Rural Communities Network brings different approaches together to help spark ideas and solve challenges across the four nations of the UK.

We held **4** webinars for our network, on topics including effective social media use, cybersecurity, corporate fundraising and rural skills development for young people.

Confident Rural Communities Network members commenting on the webinars:

> "That was an absolutely brilliant session. The whole talk was really helpful and has prompted me to check what the third-party booking system we use has in place to guard against cyber-attacks."

> "I was extremely grateful for the workshop on corporate support. Developing stronger corporate partnerships is something I am very keen to focus on as we work towards improving the charity's long-term sustainability, and the session was both helpful and encouraging."

> "The Q&A was really insightful and helpful, and allowed for personalised responses to each individual question rather than one answer suits all (thank you!) It was very welcoming and engaging and took the pressure off doing social media – the take away from it all is consistency and do what works for us individually and not to get caught up with views!"

You can find a full map of the rural community projects we support on our website here.

Our work with rural communties is made possible thanks to the support of all our funders, including Clarence Court and The King Charles III Charitable Fund.

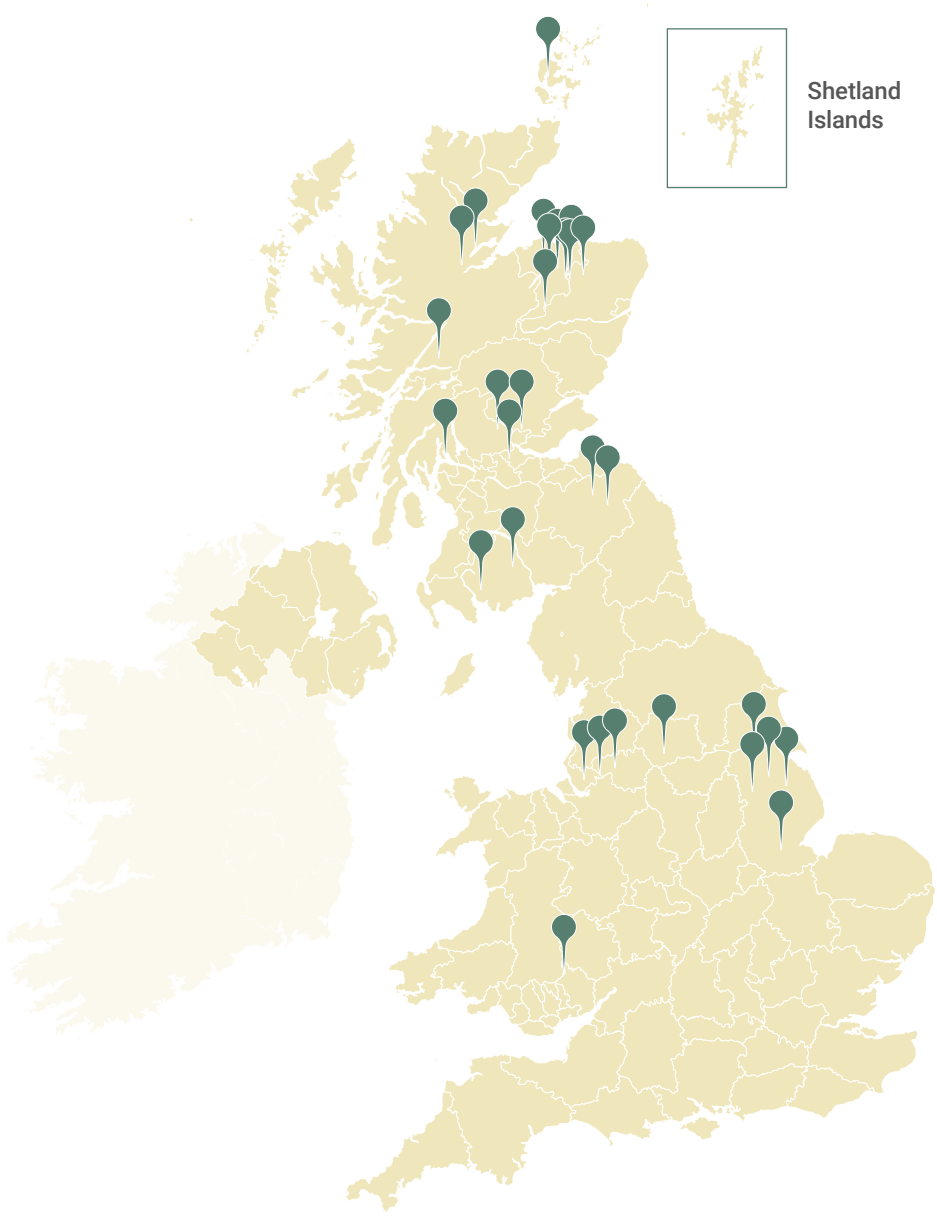
Investing in the health of rural communities

We gave **£83,000** to **10 Farm Support Groups**, which are deeply rooted in the rural communities they serve and provide essential support for farming families.

£15,000 of this funding was awarded to support drop-in healthcare clinics, which provided a total of **3,313** free health checks across **210** clinics at **30** locations, including marts and local shows.

As a result, **1,817** people from local rural communities received health screening, including blood pressure and cholesterol checks, referrals to GPs or specialist services, advice on nutrition and fitness, and mental wellbeing support.

The project was delivered by: Field Nurse, Lincolnshire Rural Support Network, Monmouthshire Rural Support Centre, and RSABI.



Note: each pin marks the location of clinics.

A female livestock farmer, aged 54, visited a clinic for advice about a bloodshot eye and told the nurse she was under pressure at home and in the business. She agreed to have a blood pressure check, which revealed high blood pressure.

She had her own blood pressure monitor, so the nurse gave her the forms to record readings at home and asked her to have a GP assessment.

She dropped in several weeks later to say that her blood pressure had remained high, and the GP had prescribed medication following tests at the surgery.

She was very grateful for the help she had received at the market. She said she wouldn't have made the time otherwise for a check-up and without it she wouldn't have discovered her hypertension issues until much later.



Another **£188,000** of funding went towards the core costs of seven Farm Support Groups, which includes organising programmes and workshops, running helplines and support groups, and helping with the wellbeing of their communities. These groups are:

- The Exmoor Hill Farming Network
- Farm Cornwall
- Field Nurse
- The Farming Life Centre
- Tir Dewi
- Herefordshire Rural Hub
- UTASS

We're very grateful to The NFU Mutual Charitable Trust for their support funding our Farm Support Groups Initiative and to The Health Lottery Foundation for the funding they have provided to help us invest in the health of rural communities.

Find out more about our Farm Support Groups Initiative on our website here.

Developing our place-based work in northern England

At the start of 2025, we launched our first county-based programme, targeting rural organisations in Cumbria and Northumberland. We awarded **over £387,000** in funding to **16** projects, in partnership with The National Lottery Community Fund.

During 2025/26, these groups continued to develop their projects and we brought them together for an interim meeting at the Rheged Centre in Cumbria in September 2025. The event was an opportunity to share ideas, best practices and resources. This is covered in more detail under strategic aim four, later in this report.



Feedback from the organisations showed that as a result of our support and funding:

63% had new income streams or funding in place, in addition to that from the RCF.

69% had stronger partnerships that will continue beyond the programme.

88% had built internal skills and capacity that will outlast this grant.

63% were better equipped to respond to challenges ahead.

81% were now more connected to their local community than before.

75% were in a stronger position to support others in their area.

The aim was to support projects around four key themes. A full report on the impact of this funding will be released later in 2026, but highlights include the following.

1. Projects that helped to provide financial benefits to the locality

The Rural Design Centre worked closely with 34 rural businesses in Northumberland and re-formed the North Tyneside Business Forum, which had been dormant for the last eight years. Their structured, design-led programme of business interviews, network facilitation and governance support helped to re-establish collective representation for Bellingham's fragmented business community.

Sustainable and Integrated Transport for Ullswater carried 5,956 passengers on its Hopper Bus in the Ullswater Valley during the 2025 season – a 62% increase on 2024. This service kept money in the valley by enabling visits that would not otherwise have happened, and provided a new model for how local businesses can invest directly in shared infrastructure.

2. Projects that built a stronger sense of community and connectedness

Another Way engaged with over 8,000 young people, ran over 100 events in Cumbria and organised a Youth Climate Festival at Furness Academy, which was attended by 104 students from 20 schools. This work helped grow its network of young people, deliver climate-action skills training, and build youth-led environmental projects across rurally dispersed Cumbrian schools and communities.

Watchtree Nature Reserve recruited a new Habitat and Estates Team Leader, ensuring continuity of the reserve's habitat management, volunteer programme and 20-year ecological planning. As a result, the Reserve now has a community of between 20 and 25 volunteers and has launched five new partnerships, increasing the impact of its work combatting rural isolation.

3. Projects that benefitted the local environment

West Lakeland CIC recruited and trained four people from local farming communities to become environmental land management advisors. So far, they have completed a total of 32 farm visits and their new skills will allow them to deliver significant environmental benefit across farms in the Lake District.

Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre delivered 26 skills courses for 278 local people and ran the inaugural Cumbria Nature Festival, attended by 405 people, encouraging and training people to build practical conservation skills and ensure a pipeline of qualified ecological surveyors across rural Cumbria.

4. Projects that created an innovative and replicable approach addressing an unmet need within the rural area

Grange Over Sands Community Foodshare (Fed Up!) created a clear model for surplus food redistribution and community support in south Cumbria, benefiting 125 local low-income households and saving more than 90 tonnes of food from going to landfill. The success of the project meant that the organisation could also support a satellite group in a nearby town with templates, tools and mentoring.

Vista Veg (Home Grown Here) recruited and trained eight new-entrant growers, who now have the skills to found new market gardens and replicate Vista Veg's locally-grown veg box business. At the same time the organisation extended its local veg box scheme to 70 new households and opened a market garden in Cumbria, providing a model for how other sites can operate to deliver locally-grown fresh produce.

Rural Catalyst

We continued to develop our capacity building work in Northumberland with 'Rural Catalyst', a partnership of local experts from Community Action Northumberland (CAN), the National Innovation Centre for Rural Enterprise (NICRE) and the Rural Design Centre.



The first phase of the research used online sources to capture information about more than **300** rural community organisations and review the availability of local funding. It also collected detailed insights from **61** rural community organisations and **9** infrastructure support bodies and funders through an online survey and interviews.

The findings from the research, combined with further community engagement, informed the selection of **6** Northumberland rural community groups which were then provided with tailored support towards funding readiness. This included running workshops, providing governance advice, conducting research, signposting to training, and brokering connections to other projects and organisations.

The findings from this programme will help inform our future place-based support for rural communities in the North of England and beyond. We want to build on our community-led approach to funding, to ensure that the specific needs of rural organisations are met and that their voices are heard.

It also shines a light on the specific needs of rural communities, as well as their untapped potential. Through our work, we want to encourage other funders to engage more deeply with rural organisations, and provide a blueprint for them to follow.

A full report on our place-based work in Cumbria and Northumberland, including learnings, recommendations and case studies, can be read here.

This work is funded in partnership with The National Lottery Community Fund.

Strategic aim 3:

Introduce a tailored approach to all activity in each of the four nations of the UK, reflecting that each is different and unique in terms of its farming and rural communities

As a UK-wide charity, we are committed to working across all four nations of the UK. Farming and rural communities vary greatly across the UK and our approach in each nation and each community has to reflect this in order to be effective.

For all of our farming workshops we work with local partners and experts to tailor the content and ensure it is relevant to the lives and farm businesses of each community.

All of the rural community organisations that we support are community-led and their work is tailored to the specific needs and conditions of their area.

On top of this work, we also provided funding to support specific initiatives in each of the nations, as set out below.

Supporting tree planting and environmental baselining in Scotland

We provided **£24,500** to support Aberdeenshire Sma Wids, a charity that was created to work with local farmers and landowners to support the creation of small woods and hedgerows across Buchan, Aberdeenshire. The main objective of the scheme is to improve the biodiversity of the surrounding landscape.

The Aberdeenshire Sma Wids scheme was formally launched in May 2025 and the first official planting season took place across the winter of 2025/26. **19** applicants signed up to take part in the scheme, comprising **14** farmers, **3** private land-owners and **2** businesses, including a distillery. **6** applicants had never planted trees before.

The plantings comprised **47% small woodlands** and **32% hedgerows**, with the remaining sites comprising pasture planting, cluster planting and a small-scale agro-forestry site.

The charity supplied a mixture of mainly Scottish native species along with guards and supports. It also created a 'tool library' to assist the participants with preparation and planting using best practice guidance.

“ Sma Wids creates rich habitats for wildlife, plants, fungi and pollinating insects. When planted alongside watercourses, trees can stabilise riverbanks, reduce the effects of flooding, provide nutrients in the form of fallen leaves for river-life and create shade to prevent water temperatures rising.

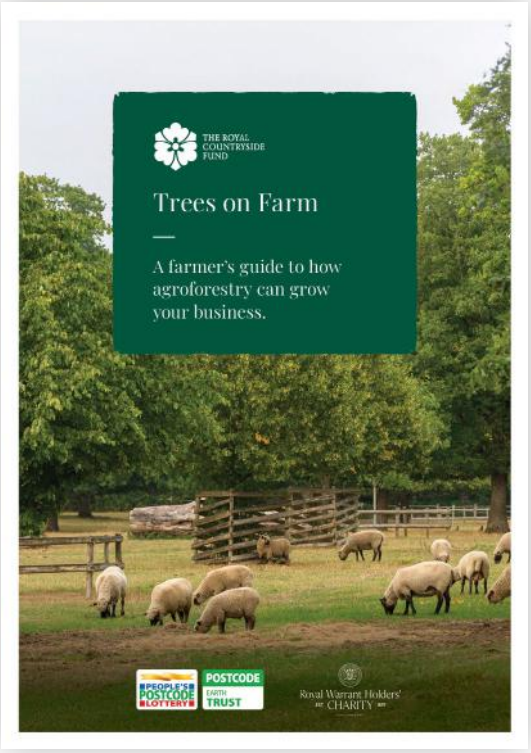
Farmers and landowners who participate in the scheme are only asked to plant the trees or hedgerow and sign a Sma Wids pledge agreeing that they will be maintained. It's just a practical, well supported opportunity to make a positive change on your land. ”

Bruce Mackie, Chair of Aberdeenshire Sma Wids



To further support tree planting in Scotland and beyond, we published our 'Trees on Farm' guide, which was launched in January 2026 at a reception hosted by His Majesty The King at Balmoral. The guide, which was written with Geraint Richards, Head Forester to the Duchy of Cornwall and to His Majesty, shares stories from farmers across the UK who are proving how trees can boost farm profitability whilst improving resilience against the climate crisis.





You can read Trees on Farm on our website here.

Separately, we concluded our project with the North Highland Initiative (NHI) a non-profit organisation established in 2005 as a direct result of His Majesty King Charles III's commitment to support the people and businesses of the North Highlands. NHI focuses on supporting and funding community building, food and farming, education, conservation and tourism.

In March 2025, we provided **£40,560** in funding to NHI, allowing **21** farms from the North Highland Products collective to establish a comprehensive environmental baseline covering biodiversity, water, soil health, carbon, animal welfare and social impact, enabling these farmers to understand their current performance and identify opportunities for improvement.

These farms cover an area of **6,581** hectares and are part of **4** farm clusters. Following the baselining, **4** workshops were held so that farmers could codevelop action plans to improve the environmental impact of their farms.

This work is made possible thanks to the funding we receive from The Postcode Lottery and The Royal Warrant Holders' Charity.

Building a community of Nature-focused Welsh farmers

Since 2024, we have provided **£10,200** in annual funding to support the Da Byw Sustainable Livestock Farming Conference held in North Wales.

The aim of the conference is to showcase how agriculture can be part of the solution to many of the environmental challenges the world is facing, and to demonstrate to farmers and the wider community how changes to current farming practices can significantly improve the environmental and economic sustainability of farming businesses.

It is driven by the mantra 'People, Profit, Planet' and looks at how regenerative farming practices can address all three of these.

In 2025, the event was held during the weekend of 13 and 14 June, and it brought together over **200** farmers to discuss sustainable farming, share ideas and knowledge, and create an impact that goes far beyond the event itself.





This work is made possible thanks to the funding we receive from The Postcode Lottery.

Investing in Northern Ireland's farming communities

Between 2010 and 31 March 2026, we have supported **287** family farm businesses in Northern Ireland. Rural Support, a charity that provides guidance for farmers and their families across Northern Ireland, has been our sole delivery partner in Northern Ireland throughout that time.

In 2026, we worked on a new partnership with Rural Support, to support Northern Ireland's farming families. At the very start of the 2026/27 financial year we provided **£20,000** in funding to Rural Support.

The new partnership will help fund Rural Support's Farm Support Coordinator role, which is pivotal to ensuring that support continues to reach the farming families in Northern Ireland who need it most.

It will also strengthen Rural Support's wider Farm Support Unit, which provides vital assistance to farmers across Northern Ireland in times of need and emergency.





"We are deeply grateful for our long-standing partnership with The Royal Countryside Fund, which has enabled Rural Support to work alongside hundreds of farming families.

This latest £20,000 award will allow us to continue supporting farm businesses across Northern Ireland as they build more sustainable and resilient futures, while also strengthening the vital work of our Farm Support Team in helping families during times of crisis. We sincerely thank RCF for recognising both the importance and impact of this work."

Keelin Reilly, Chief Executive Officer, Rural Support

Supporting farm clusters to take action in England

By working together, farmers are able to pool resources, combine their planning, and deliver more joined-up impact on the local environment. This is especially true along watercourses, where farming activity can have a significant impact on neighbours both up and downstream.

In 2025, we awarded **£24,850** in funding to the south Shropshire-based Upper Onny Farmers Group.

The group of **32 farmers** was originally set up to work with the local communities and landowners to create a healthy natural environment, to restore the landscape character and increase wildlife across the Upper Onny valley.

Our pilot funding supported the development of a strategic plan to sustain the Upper Onny Farmers Group beyond the conclusion of its initial funding period.





Watch a short film about the work of the Upper Onny Farmers Group here.

This work is made possible thanks to the funding we receive from The Postcode Lottery.

Strategic aim 4:

Strengthen our brand recognition, to benefit our fundraising and partnerships, and to build awareness and confidence in the UK's farming and rural communities

Strengthening our brand recognition

We worked to build our brand recognition and raise awareness of our work via a range of channels. We also worked closely with our funders to acknowledge their support and develop these important relationships that make our work possible.

Press coverage

During 2025/26, we secured **427** pieces of press coverage with a total reach of **44.9 million** people and a total publicity value of **£204,000**.

This coverage included **69** mentions of the charity on television, **20** mentions on the radio and **46** mentions in newspapers. We also featured heavily in farming media, online publications and local press.

Highlights included:

- Coverage of our Farm Resilience Programme in a wide range of farming and local outlets, including BBC Radio Ulster.
- Coverage of our Working with Water workshops in the local press and on BBC Radio 4's Farming Today.
- Widespread coverage of our rural community work in Cumbria and Northumberland in a wide variety of local titles.

Some of our other top outlets included: *BBC Radio Norfolk, Farmers Guardian, Cumberland & Westmorland Herald, The Scottish Farmer* and *The Daily Telegraph*.

Publications

We produced a wide range of printed and digital collateral to promote, evaluate and share learnings from our work. Alongside this, we also created and made available five major publications, including:



Farm Clusters, Key Steps to Success

Our 2025 report looking at how groups of farms are working together to adapt to change.

Find out more



Farm for the Future: A Review

Our 2025 evaluation the success of the past three years of Farm for the Future, which was our free-to-access programme that reached 1,987 farmers in England.

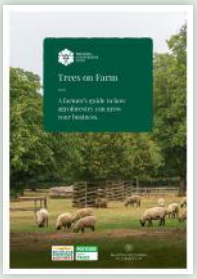
Find out more



Routes to Regen: The Pilot

A report looking at the impact of the Routes to Regen pilot programme and how it helped 100 farmers in the East of England access routes to farming more regeneratively. The report includes feedback from both partners and farmers to help develop its next phase.

Find out more



Trees on Farm

A guide for farmers on how agroforestry can grow their business, written with Geraint Richards OBE MVO FICFor, Head Forester to the Duchy of Cornwall and to His Majesty The King.

Find out more



Our annual Journal

A bumper edition which featured a range of articles about our recent activity, as well as celebratory content marking our 15th anniversary.

Available to our Friends of the Countryside

Videography and photography

As a charity we make targeted use of videography and photography to capture the impact of our work for reporting and fundraising purposes. Some of the highlights include:



- Working with Water
  - During autumn 2025, we created a film to showcase our Working with Water programme. It features expert interviews and farmer testimonies to highlight the benefits of good water management practices for building flood resistance, drought resilience and boosting biodiversity. The film was launched at the Norfolk Landscapes Conference and promoted on our social media channels – over the last year it has received over 11,000 views.

- 15 years of the RCF's Support
  - To celebrate our 15th anniversary and showcase our impact, we re-cut historic footage to produce short videos for our website and social media. Over the last year it has received over 4,000 views.
- Supporting rural communities in Cumbria and Northumberland
  - In September 2025, we shot several vox pop interviews with attendees from rural community groups at our Rheged event. The interviews focus on how the RCF's support has benefitted their organisations and the rural communities they serve. We released this footage in March 2026 and to date it has received over 1,700 views.
- West Lakeland CIC case study
  - During the summer of 2025, we created a video case study detailing the impact of our work with West Lakeland CIC, a Cumbria-based rural community group. We released this footage in March 2026 and to date it has received over 1,200 views.
- The RCF receives 'Farming Hero of the Year' award
  - We worked with the team at the British Farming Awards to provide them with the clips they needed to produce a short video montage highlighting the RCF's work, which played at the event as we were named 'Farming Hero of the Year'.

Social media

We continued to use our social media channels to broaden and deepen our support base, promote our work and build awareness.

Our Instagram content was viewed **78,400** times. Some of our most popular content was around our partnerships with Clarence Court and Denhay Farms, our regenerative farming-focused work with Herefordshire Rural Hub, and our support for the Shropshire Upper Onny Farmers Group.

Our content on Facebook was viewed **176,000** times during this period. Some of our most viewed content included our attendance at the Northumberland County Show, our attendance at Groundswell, and our work with Farm Support Groups to provide rural health checks.

On LinkedIn, we generated over **85,000** impressions and some of our most viewed content focused on our Routes to Regen pilot report, our win at the British Farming Awards, and celebrating our 15th anniversary.

Website re-design

Our website is one of the key channels for building awareness of our work. It's also an essential tool for encouraging applications for our funding and sign-ups for our farming programmes.

We undertook a full overhaul and re-design of our website to make it more accessible, improve navigation, and make the impact of our work more visible.

This work was completed in March 2026, and we will continue to monitor our website analytics and gather feedback from users to determine the impact of these changes.



Our newsletters

We sent **23** newsletters, giving updates on our work and promoting our programmes.

We have seen a consistent open rate of **44%** and a click rate of **3.5%**. Newsletters that received the most engagement included a follow-up from our annual Journal launch, our post-event Routes to Regen surveys, and newsletters with sign-ups to our Confident Rural Communities webinars.

Working with our funders

The RCF's funding comes from a range of sources and we are incredibly grateful to all of our funders for their support.

We continued to work closely with our existing funders over the last year. Our funders receive a copy of this annual trustees' report and financial statements as well as other publications which are either directly related to their funding, or RCF-wide publications.

We also worked hard to secure new funding to support our charitable work.

Funding income for 2025/26

Funding source	Funds
Corporate partners	£1,166,000
Trusts and Foundations	£640,000
The RCF Futures Fund	£25,000
Individual giving	£17,306
Events	£10,000
Legacies	£2,500
Total	**£1,865,806**

Trusts and foundations

Income from trusts, foundations and grants for 2025/26

Trusts, Foundations & Grants	Funding
King Charles III Charitable Fund	£200,000
The Rothschild Foundation	£166,000
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	£100,000
NFU Mutual Charitable Trust	£70,000
The National Lottery Community Fund	£66,000
The Barbour Foundation	£20,000
The Scott (Eredine) Charitable Trust	£5,000
The John Innes Foundation	£5,000
Dickinson Family Charitable Trust	£3,000
The Royal Warrant Holders' Charity	£3,000
Homelands Charitable Trust	£1,000
Sir John Sumner's Trust	£500
Clan Trust	£500
Total	**£640,000**

Corporate partners

We continued to work closely with our corporate partners over the last financial year. 7 of these partners renewed their support over the last financial year.

Our corporate partners remained closely connected with both our farming and grants programmes. We were pleased to be included in a number of high-profile features in our partners' marketing channels. These included annual sustainability reports, indicating the centrality of the charity within each of these businesses' CSR strategies, as well as on-pack promotions, which have helped us to promote the Friends of the Countryside scheme and expand our brand reach to larger customer bases.

We are indebted to our corporate partners for their commitment to support programmes underpinning our strategic direction. Our thanks go to all of them.

Our corporate partners and donors:

- Aldi UK
- Barbour
- Berry Bros. & Rudd
- Booths
- Caravan & Motorhome Club
- Clarence Court
- Denhay
- Gregory Distribution
- Health Partners Group Limited
- Hilton Food Group
- Marks & Spencer
- McDonald's UK & Ireland
- Morrisons
- NFU Mutual
- Regenified
- Samworth Brothers
- Saputo Dairy UK
- Waitrose



Corporate Membership scheme

Our Corporate Membership scheme brings together businesses with a deep connection to rural Britain, providing an entry point to supporting The Royal Countryside Fund over a period of three years.

We are very grateful to the support we received from Castell Howell and Dovecote Park as part of this scheme.

Philanthropy

We raised **£28,547** in individual donations over the last financial year, including through our Friends of the Countryside.

One of the biggest contributors to our individual donations was *An Evening with Gabe Brown*, which was hosted at Plumpton College with proceeds totalling **£10,000** donated to The Royal Countryside Fund.

We would like to extend our thanks to all the generous individuals who support our work.

The RCF Futures Fund

In March 2026 the board established a new expendable endowment fund, called The RCF Futures Fund. The purpose of the fund is to raise funds to ensure the long-term support of our activities.

We received a donation of **£25,000** from The Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey for the endowment fund during the year. Under the terms of its governing document, the trustees may accumulate income for a period of 21 years and add that income to the capital of the endowment. The capital of the fund is expendable at the discretion of the trustees in accordance with its governing document.

Strategic aim 5:

Bring together more people, places and partners through our unique position as a catalyst, convener and funder

Bringing people together is at the heart of what we do – locally and nationally. We want to create spaces for people to learn from each other, and give them the confidence to run their family farm business or lead their own community project in a way that works for them.

We know that rural life can feel incredibly isolating, which is why we bring countryside people together to share ideas, advice and best practices, so they can support each other and make an even bigger difference to the people who rely on them up and down the country.

Beyond the **55** group workshops that we ran during 2025/26, we also:

- Organised **5** events specifically to bring people together.
- Took part in **12** agricultural shows to meet with local groups, farmers and partners.
- Attended a further **25+** external events to promote and advance the work of the RCF.



Bringing people together at our events

Some of the key events we organised included:

- In May 2025, we held a welcome meeting for farmers in the East of England who were embarking on our Routes to Regen pilot programme.
- In June 2025, we celebrated the successful conclusion of our Farm for the Future programme at the House of Lords. The event brought together government ministers, farm support groups, and farming industry experts.
- In September 2025, we held an interim event for the rural community groups we support in Cumbria and Northumberland at the Rheged Centre, near Penrith. The event brought together representatives from these groups along with local partners, and our funding partners at The National Lottery Community Fund to provide a forum for attendees to learn from one another and discuss the programme.
- In November 2025, we brought together corporate partners and participating farmers from our Routes to Regen project for a farm walk at the Sandringham Estate in Norfolk.
- Later in November 2025, we held the launch of our annual Journal, kindly hosted by Berry Bros. & Rudd, in London. The event also marked our 15th anniversary and was attended by a wide range of farmers, rural community organisers, funders, supporters and trustees.



Promoting and advancing the work of the RCF more widely

We attended **12 agricultural shows** across the UK. These are an invaluable opportunity to meet face-to-face with local farming families, farm support groups, rural community groups and organisers, delivery partners, and our funders and supporters.

The shows that we attended were:

- The Balmoral Show
- The Northumberland County Show
- Da Byw Sustainable Livestock Farming Conference
- The Royal Highland Show
- The Royal Norfolk Show
- Groundswell Regenerative Agriculture Festival
- The Great Yorkshire Show
- The Royal Welsh Show
- The New Forest and Hampshire County Show
- Fields Good
- The Westmorland County Show
- Yorkshire Farming Conference



We also had the great pleasure to attend a range of external events, including:

- The launch of the Aberdeenshire Sma Wids scheme at the BeefTech event in Buchan.
- A talk on regenerative agriculture from regenerative farmer Gabe Brown at Plumpton College in East Sussex, raising money for the RCF.
- A number of insightful events and talks at London Climate Action Week.
- A meeting with Northern Ireland's Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Andrew Muir MLA, and members of the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) team in Belfast.
- The British Farming Awards, where we accepted the prestigious 'Farming Hero: Flying the Flag for British Agriculture' award.
- The Norfolk Landscapes Conference, where we met with local partners and farmers, and showcased our Working with Water film.
- The Circular Bioeconomy Alliance's second annual Nature-First Economy event at St James's Palace.
- A Farmer Group Facilitation Forum, hosted by The Rothschild Foundation, where we presented the outcomes of our farm cluster research project.
- The launch of our guide to agroforestry 'Trees on Farm' at Balmoral, kindly hosted by His Majesty The King.
- Lloyds Banking Group's 'Business & Biodiversity – Turning Global Science into Local Action Roundtable', in Manchester, where we spoke about our work on the Routes to Regen project.
- Waitrose & Partners Food System Transformed Conference at Cookham.
- The National Lottery Community Fund's 'It Starts With Community' event at Wigton in Cumbria, where we spoke about the RCF's funding partnership in Cumbria and Northumberland.
- Community Foundation Wales held a rural philanthropy event, where we spoke about the funding needs of rural communities.



Structure, governance and management

The Royal Countryside Fund (formerly The Prince's Countryside Fund) was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee on 30 April 2010 (company number 07240359) and received charitable status in England & Wales on 24 May 2010 (charity number 1136077) and in Scotland on 12 January 2018 (charity number SC048055). The RCF was established under a Memorandum of Association and is governed by its Articles of Association. Its operation commenced on 1 July 2010, with an official launch held at St James's Palace, London on 22 July 2010. The RCF has a trading arm, Countryside Fund Trading Ltd, which raises funds for the charity via commercial participation agreements and specific trading activity.

Following His Majesty The King's accession to the throne, the charity formally changed its name to The Royal Countryside Fund on 21 August 2023, as approved by His Majesty on the recommendation of ministers.

The trustees are also directors under company law. All trustees gave of their time freely. Details of any related party transactions are disclosed in note 15 of the accounts. Trustees are required to disclose all relevant interests and to register them with the Chief Executive and, in accordance with the RCF's policy, withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises.

The board supports the principles of good governance set out in the Charity Governance Code. When recruiting trustees, the board aims to attract a diverse range of candidates with the skills required to deliver the RCF's charitable objects. All appointments are made on merit and in the best interests of the RCF.

Remuneration of key management personnel is set in accordance with the RCF remuneration policy and is approved by the RCF trustees.

The trustees met on three occasions during the 12 months to consider among other things:

- The second year of the new strategic plan for 2024-2028
- Impact of projects, including the Farm Resilience Programme, Routes to Regen and our work with rural communities
- Fundraising and resource allocation
- Funding applications and new partnerships
- The introduction of the RCF Futures Fund

The Chair and the Vice Chair of the board met regularly with the Chief Executive outside of board meetings to discuss the activities of the RCF, as did the chairs of the sub-committees of the board.

The board has delegated specific responsibilities to its committees, each of which has detailed terms of reference and reports to the board, via the chair of each committee, who is a trustee.

The nominations committee, chaired by David Fursdon, met twice to review the charity's governance arrangements, including the size, structure and composition of the board (including the skills, knowledge and experience of trustees), to review and finalise terms of reference for all board committees and groups. It makes recommendations on trustee appointments to the board.

A new finance & resources committee was established in 2025. This is chaired by Andrew Phillips and meets to consider our budget and financial position, as well as reviewing with delegated authority from the trustees, our HR and operational policies. This committee met three times during the year.

The grants committee, chaired by Janet McCollum, met once during the year to review and award eight grants for our UK-wide grants programme. A Task and Finish Group was formed and led by Janet McCollum to review significant funding applications for our rural communities' programmes.

The development committee, chaired by Baroness Kate Rock, met twice to review our fundraising income, and to identify and follow up new income generation opportunities. This committee also ensures that the RCF follows high standards of fundraising practice set out by the Fundraising Regulator and the Institute of Fundraising.

The Farming Advisory Group, which was established in 2021, and is chaired by Christopher Sparrow did not meet during this financial year. However, a Task and Finish Group chaired by Christopher Sparrow established in 2024 to finalise and scope the development of the RCF's new Farm Resilience Programme met once.

Trustee recruitment

Trustees are recruited from those with an interest in the aims of the RCF and, in particular, the ways in which business can provide support to rural and farming communities. As explained above, the nominations committee oversees this process and makes recommendations on appointments which are then offered for approval by the board.

New trustees undertake an induction programme, which includes guidance from the Charity Commission for England and Wales. They receive an induction pack containing key documents, briefings with the chairs of the board and committees, and the Chief Executive. New trustees are encouraged to visit our programmes and support our events across each nation.

Training needs for new and existing trustees are assessed on an on-going basis to reflect the changing requirements in the sector.

In October 2025 Andrew Phillips LVO, Chief Finance Officer at the Duchy of Cornwall, was appointed as a trustee. He has a financial background and brings a wealth of highly relevant expertise. Our second new trustee during the year was appointed in January 2026. Rupert Arnold is a farmer with first-hand experience of our support, bringing the voice of farmers even closer to the heart of our work.

Steve Murrells stepped down as a trustee in September 2025 after serving four years and Jonathan Warburton retired as a trustee when his term of office ended on 31 March 2026.

Financial results for the year

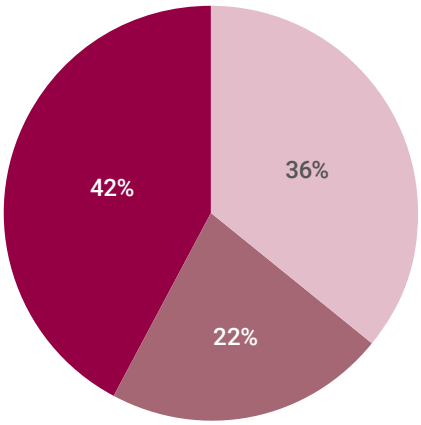
Incoming resources for the year were £1,865,806 (2025: £4,107,487).

The income from the trading subsidiary comes from commercial partners and corporate sponsors who support the charity's brand on a wide range of products and materials.

The charity received £403,466 (2025: £519,016) directly in donations from companies and individuals.

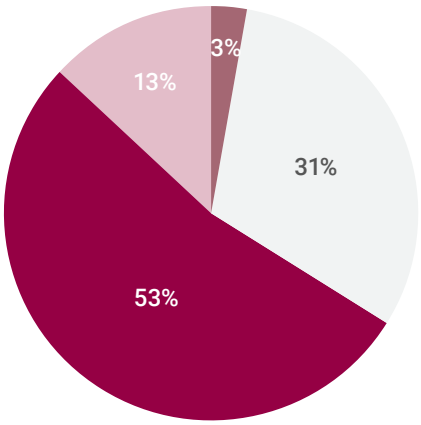
Included within incoming resources is £25,000 received to establish a new expendable endowment fund, called the RCF Futures Fund. This represents an investment in the charity's long-term financial resilience, with the capital available to be applied at the Trustees' discretion in accordance with the RCF Futures Fund governing document, whilst the Trustees intend to preserve the fund wherever practicable.

RCF income 2025/26



- Grant & statutory funding
- Donations
- Commercial trading

RCF fund split 2025/26



- Unrestricted funds
- Endowment funds
- Designated funds
- Restricted funds

The net incoming resources for the year on unrestricted funds was a deficit of £187,875 (2025: deficit of £140,264), designated funds showed a deficit of £1,684 during the year (2025: Nil), restricted funds showed a deficit of £90,314 (2025: positive £307,266) and an endowment fund showing a positive movement of £25,000 (2025: Nil) giving an overall net deficit on funds of £254,873 (2025: positive £167,002).

At the end of March 2026, the charity held unrestricted funds of £412,892, £100,000 of designated funds, £237,648 held as restricted funds and a further £25,000 held as an endowment fund. (see note 12).

Risk management

The trustees regularly review the charity's risk register and have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed and considered them along with the systems and procedures in place to manage them. The trustees consider that at present the charity is not running any significant reputational or financial risks; its operational risks relate to maintaining its profile and fundraising capacity, its grant making activities and to its ability to maximise the impact that its grants have in areas of need and deprivation. The knowledge and experience of the staff, the trustees and the networks in which they operate provide mitigation of these risks, in the opinion of the trustees.

The Chief Executive, Head of Finance and Executive Support & Governance Manager review the risk register quarterly.

Funding policy

The trustees have established a funding policy to deliver on the charity's objectives and support projects in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland that clearly contribute towards one or more of the aims of the charity. The charity invites applications for funding from community organisations to support capital, project and resource funding that contribute to the sustainability of British farming, rural communities and the countryside, particularly in areas of greatest need. In addition, funding is allocated by the trustees from their "emergency" funding to meet immediate and urgent needs arising from events which can have a devastating effect on rural communities. Full details of the RCF's funding programmes, application processes, and criteria are available on the charity's website.

Reserves and reserves policy

The charity holds total funds of £775,540 at the end of March 2026 (2025: £1,030,413). Of these, £237,648 (2025: £327,962) are held as restricted funds where the application of the funds is limited within the overall objectives of the charity; £100,000 (2025: £101,684) are held as designated funds and £412,892 (2025: £600,767) are held as unrestricted funds. In addition a further £25,000 is held in a newly established endowment fund.

Trustees have set the level of target free reserves to sit within a range between £500,000 & £600,000. The trustees considered this a more appropriate level having taken in to account the RCF's current expenditure particular around fixed costs, staffing and essential support for programmes.

Unrestricted funds

The RCF's unrestricted funds stand at £412,892 and free reserves stand at £384,595. Free reserves at the year end were below the Trustees' target range, primarily reflecting the timing of income receipts relative to expenditure. The free reserves position will improve as anticipated income is received and the charity continues to monitor the position closely through regular financial forecasting and review.

Going concern

The trustees have considered the plans they have for the future, the level of reserves held and the cash projections, together with the charity's ability to match its costs to its income. The trustees consider that these give reasonable assurance of the adequacy of resources for the foreseeable future. The accounts have therefore been prepared on the basis that the charity is a going concern.

Future plans

When our countryside thrives, we all do. But, life in the countryside can be challenging. Hardworking family farms and rural communities face social, environmental and economic pressures that threaten the livelihoods they love. By working alongside farming families and rural communities, we can truly understand their individual needs and shape our support to match.

Therefore, our 2024-28 strategy is about picking up the pace. Our strategy describes an ambitious growth plan, expanding and replicating our model for supporting family farms and rural communities county by county, while tailoring our advice to local circumstances. In tandem, we will develop our rural community programmes on that same convening model, aiming to help build confident self-help networks which will survive and thrive beyond our specific intervention, and with a particular focus on the next generation and innovative, repeatable solutions.

Bringing people together is at the heart of everything we do. We know that when local people, places, and partners join forces, incredible things happen. We've made a commitment to be the go-to partner for farming families, rural communities, and everyone who values the vital role they play in shaping the future of the countryside. We want to bring as many people with us on this journey. Which is why we share our on-the-ground learnings to spur on progress on a national scale.

In the coming financial year our plans include extending our business and environmental workshops to more farmers across the UK, through our farm resilience programmes, while building on our place-based work supporting community-led solutions in rural communities, and working closely with Farm Support Groups across the UK.

Fundraising

The board approved a fundraising strategy in August 2020 to enable the RCF to scale up our work over the subsequent three years to continue to bring our Royal Founding Patron's vision to life. As a charity, we are dependent on securing increased funding to extend our programmes of support to family farms and rural communities, particularly during a period of significant change in agriculture. Our fundraising strategy sets out our ambitions for income growth in the three areas of corporate partnerships, philanthropy, and trusts and foundations. We are conducting a full review of our fundraising strategy in 2025/26.

We have continued to make good progress against our fundraising targets in spite of a challenging fundraising climate, with particular growth in the areas of corporate and trust fundraising. The board continues to review our fundraising strategy twice a year, and our development committee continues to meet three times a year to support the Executive.

The RCF is reliant on the generosity of our corporate partners, trusts, foundations and individual donors to continue our work. To them, we wish to acknowledge our appreciation and express our sincerest thanks.

The RCF is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and complies with its Code of Fundraising Practice in all our fundraising activities, including the use of rigorous commercial participation agreements with corporate partners. In line with the Charities Act 2016 our board of trustees closely monitors our fundraising activity and performance alongside the development committee and Executive, and fundraising team members undertake regular training activities.

We have policies in place to ensure we maintain the highest level of fundraising practice, including a gifts acceptance policy and cash handling policy. We treat all donors and potential donors fairly and with respect and never pressure anyone to make a donation; we are particularly sensitive when engaging with vulnerable people, particularly with elderly people and in all legacy fundraising material.

All our charity communications, including those to potential and existing supporters, are compliant with the General Data Protection Regulation 2018, and we ensure we have consent from all beneficiaries whose stories or images may be used in communications.

The Gift Acceptance and Corporate Partnerships Policy was reviewed by the trustees and approved in December 2025. A gift acceptance group comprising the Chair of the Development Committee, the Chair of the Finance & Resources Committee and one other trustee, meets as required, to review all significant donations and more complex partnership arrangements.

The RCF has not received any complaints related to our fundraising in this year, and we do not employ any external agencies to assist with our fundraising.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of the RCF for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of Directors and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business

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

So far as each trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware. The directors have each taken all the steps that they ought to have taken in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

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

Approved by the trustees and signed on 23 September 2026 on their behalf by:



Heather Hancock LVO, DL
Chair of The Royal Countryside Fund Board of Trustees
23 September 2026

Independent auditor's report to the members of The Royal Countryside Fund

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Royal Countryside Fund (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2026 which comprise the consolidated statement of financial activities, consolidated and charity balance sheets, consolidated cash flow statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the group and the parent charitable company as at 31 March 2026 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulations 6 and 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the group or the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information; we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and their environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' Annual Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Strategic Report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of trustees' responsibilities set out on page 49, the trustees (who are also the directors of the parent charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such

internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under the Companies Act 2006 and under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with regulations made under those Acts.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the group and parent financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are detailed below.

Identifying and assessing risks related to irregularities

We assessed the susceptibility of the group and parent charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement and how fraud might occur, including through discussions with the trustees, discussions within our audit team planning meeting, updating our record of internal controls and ensuring these controls operated as intended. We evaluated possible incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements. We identified laws and regulations that are of significance in the context of the group and parent charitable company by discussions with trustees and updating our understanding of the sector in which the group and parent charitable company operate.

Laws and regulations of direct significance in the context of the group and parent charitable company include The Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

Audit response to risks identified

We considered the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items including a review of financial statement disclosures. We reviewed the parent charitable company's records of breaches of laws and regulations, minutes of meetings and correspondence with relevant authorities to identify potential material misstatements arising. We discussed the parent charitable company's policies and procedures for compliance with laws and regulations with members of management responsible for compliance.

During the planning meeting with the audit team, the engagement partner drew attention to the key areas which might involve non-compliance with laws and regulations or fraud. We enquired of management whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud. We addressed the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness of journal entries and identifying any significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business. We assessed whether judgements made in making accounting estimates gave rise to a possible indication of management bias. At the completion stage of the audit, the engagement partner's review included ensuring that the team had approached their work with appropriate professional scepticism and thus the capacity to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the parent charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the parent charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the parent charitable company's members and trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the parent charitable company, the parent charitable company's members and trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Cara Turtington (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Saffery Audit (UK) LLP, Statutory Auditors

71 Queen Victoria Street
London EC4V 4BE

Date: 23 October 2026

Saffery Audit (UK) LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities

(incorporating an income and expenditure account)

for the year ended 31 March 2026

	Note	General Fund £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Endowment Fund £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Incoming resources							
Voluntary income:							
Donations	2	378,466	-	-	25,000	**403,466**	519,016
Grant funding	2	275,863	-	395,000	-	**670,863**	2,958,266
Commercial trading	2	790,124	-	-	-	**790,124**	629,218
Investment income		1,353	-	-	-	**1,353**	987
Total incoming resources		1,445,806	-	395,000	25,000	**1,865,806**	4,107,487
Resources expended							
Charitable activities	3	(1,179,892)	(1,684)	(485,314)	-	**(1,666,890)**	(3,696,752)
Fundraising costs		(116,100)	-	-	-	**(116,100)**	(73,958)
Commercial trading		(337,689)	-	-	-	**(337,689)**	(169,775)
Total expenditure		(1,633,681)	(1,684)	(485,314)	-	**(2,120,679)**	(3,940,485)
Net income/(expenditure)		(187,875)	(1,684)	(90,314)	25,000	(254,873)	167,002
Transfers between funds	12	-	-	-	-	**-**	-
Net movement in funds		(187,875)	(1,684)	(90,314)	25,000	**(254,873)**	167,002
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances brought forward 2025	12	600,767	101,684	327,962	-	**1,030,413**	863,411
Fund balances carried forward 2026		412,892	100,000	237,648	25,000	**775,540**	1,030,413

All of the group's operations are represented by continuing activities.

The group has no recognised gains or losses other than those shown above.

The notes on pages 58 to 75 form part of these financial statements.

Consolidated balance sheet

at 31 March 2026
Company Number: 07240359

	Note		2026		2025
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	8		**12,413**		**15,391**
Intangibles	8		**15,884**		**26,689**
			28,297		**42,080**
Current assets					
Debtors	9	**262,859**		**1,298,067**	
Cash in bank		**973,712**		**487,967**	
		1,236,571		**1,786,034**	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within 1 year due within 1 year	10	**489,328**		**797,701**	
Net current assets			**747,243**		**988,333**
Net assets			**775,540**		**1,030,413**
Funds					
Unrestricted - General Funds	12		412,892		600,767
Unrestricted - Designated Funds	12		100,000		101,684
Restricted Funds	12		237,648		327,962
Endowment – The RCF Futures Fund	12		25,000		-
Total funds			**775,540**		**1,030,413**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime. These financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 23rd September 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:



Heather Hancock LVO, DL
Chair of The Royal Countryside Fund Board of Trustees

RCF balance sheet

at 31 March 2026
Company Number: 07240359

	Note		2026		2025
		£	£	£	£
Investment (in subsidiary)	7		**1**		**1**
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	8		**12,413**		**15,391**
Intangibles	8		**15,884**		**26,689**
			28,297		**42,080**
Current assets					
Debtors	9	**482,834**		**1,099,074**	
Cash in bank		**482,440**		**424,856**	
		965,274		**1,523,930**	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within 1 year	10	**218,026**		**535,602**	
Net current assets			**747,248**		**988,328**
Net assets			**775,545**		**1,030,408**
Funds					
Unrestricted - general funds			412,897		600,762
Unrestricted - designated funds			100,000		101,684
Restricted funds			237,648		327,962
Endowment – RCF Futures Fund			25,000		-
Total funds			**775,545**		**1,030,408**

As permitted by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006, a Statement of Financial Activities for the charity only has not been presented. The income of the Fund for the year was £1,529,818 (2025: £3,937,711) and its net movement in funds was £254,863 (2025: £167,000)



Heather Hancock LVO, DL
Chair of The Royal Countryside Fund Board of Trustees

Consolidated cashflow statement

For the year ended 31 March 2026

	Year ended 2026 £	Year ended 2025 £
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	**469,472**	**(401,767)**
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Purchasing Property Plant & Equipment	(2,320)	(7,128)
Purchasing Intangible Software	(6,407)	(13,432)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	**(8,727)**	**(20,560)**
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Receipt of Endowment Funds	25,000	(7,128)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	**25,000**	**(20,560)**
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period	**485,745**	**(422,327)**
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	**487,967**	**910,294**
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period (Note 16)	**973,712**	**487,967**

Reconciliation of net incoming resources to net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities

	Year ended 2026 £	Year ended 2025 £
Net income/(expenditure):		
- Unrestricted funds	(187,875)	(140,264)
- Designated funds	(1,684)	-
- Restricted funds	(90,314)	307,266
Net income/(expenditure) for the period as per the (SOFA)	**(279,873)**	**167,002**
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation Charges	22,510	19,789
Decrease/(Increase) in Debtors	1,035,208	(533,080)
(Decrease)/Increase in Creditors less than one year	(308,373)	(55,478)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	**469,472**	**(401,767)**

The notes on pages 58 to 75 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2026

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Charitable Status

The company is limited by guarantee (company registration number 07240359) and is a registered charity in England and Wales (1136077) and in Scotland (SC048055) The address of the registered office is 13th Floor, 33 Cavendish Square, London, W1G 0PW.

b) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £1.

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) and the Companies Act 2006, and comply with all applicable accounting standards.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

The Royal Countryside Fund constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

c) Basis of Consolidation

The financial statements consolidate the results of RCF and its wholly owned subsidiary, CFT Ltd, on a line-by-line basis. The acquisition method of accounting has been adopted. The assets and liabilities of subsidiaries are recorded initially at their fair values on the date of acquisition.

d) Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, which are described below, trustees are required to make judgements, estimates, and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an on-going basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects the current and future periods.

In the view of the trustees, no assumptions concerning the future or estimation uncertainty affecting assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date are likely to result in a material adjustment to their carrying amounts in the next financial year.

Financial information for the comparative year is shown in notes 19-21.

e) Going Concern

As highlighted in the report of the trustees, having assessed the charity's financial position, its plans for the foreseeable future, the risks to which it is exposed and the detailed cash projections, the trustees are satisfied that it remains appropriate to prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis.

f) Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are recognised once the charity has entitlement to the resources, it is probable that the resources will be received and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

g) Resources Expended

Liabilities are recognised as resources expended as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

h) Support Costs

Support costs are allocated to activities based on a percentage of staff time spent on the particular activity.

i) Grant Making Costs

Grants payable are payments made to third parties in furtherance of the charitable objects of the charity. Single or multi-year grants are accounted for when the trustees have agreed to pay the grant without condition and have notified the recipient, or the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and any condition attaching to the grant is outside the control of the charity.

Grants approved but not yet paid are shown as creditors in the accounts.

j) Financial Instruments

The Royal Countryside Fund has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method (equating to the present value). Financial assets held at amortised cost comprise cash at bank and in hand, together with trade and other debtors and accrued income. Financial liabilities held at amortised cost comprise trade and other creditors and accrued expenditure.

k) Funds

The charity has Unrestricted Reserves, Designated Funds, Restricted Funding and an Endowment Fund which has been established to raise funds to ensure the long-term support of the activities of the RCF. Those funds that are received with restrictions as to their use within the charity's overall objectives are treated as restricted and held as such.

Designated Funds are Unrestricted Funds which the trustees have set aside for a specific purpose. Details of funds are given in note 12.

l) Donated Services and Facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the Foundation has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from use of the item or service is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably.

On receipt, donated services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity, which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

m) Investments

The Royal Countryside Fund has an investment in one wholly owned subsidiary, Countryside Fund Trading Ltd. This is held at the cost of investment.

n) Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided by the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets which has been determined as 5 years.

o) Intangible Assets

Intangible assets are stated at cost, net of amortisation and any provision for impairment. Amortisation is provided by the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets which has been determined as 5 years.

Notes (continued)

2. GROUP INCOME

	2026	2025
	£	£
Unrestricted donations		
General donations	27,519	88,016
Grant funding and trusts & foundations	275,863	432,640
Corporate donations	350,947	431,000
Investment income	1,353	987
Commercial trading	790,124	629,218
	1,445,806	**1,581,861**
Restricted donations		
Grant funding and trusts & foundations	395,000	2,525,626
Corporate donations	-	-
	395,000	**2,525,626**

Income in 2025 was higher than in 2026, primarily due to significant grant funding from Defra relating to the final year of the Farm for the Future programme. In addition, £600,000 of grant income was recognised in 2025, representing two annual instalments of £300,000, as the recognition criteria for both instalments were met during that financial year. These items contributed to the higher level of income reported in 2025.

Endowment donations		
Grant Funding and Trusts & Foundations	25,000	-
	25,000	-
Total donations	**1,865,806**	**4,107,487**

Notes (continued)

3. ANALYSIS OF CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding activities	Grant written off	Support costs	2026	2025
					£	£
Unrestricted fund						
Core programme	545,298	192,854	(27,750)	469,490	**1,179,892**	**1,478,392**
Restricted fund						
Farm Resilience Programme	128,322	-	-	-	**128,322**	**-**
Confident Rural Communities	2,500	-	-	-	**2,500**	**-**
Farm Support Groups	-	-	-	20,000	**20,000**	**75,000**
Postcode Lottery Earth Trust	186,830	63,200	-	-	**250,030**	**308,195**
FFRP (Defra)	-	-	-	-	**-**	**1,412,725**
Barbour Foundation	20,000	-			**20,000**	**330,000**
Biodiversity (Royal Warrant Holders' Charity)	5,462	-	-	-	**5,462**	**4,538**
Health Lottery Foundation	5,000	15,000	-	-	**20,000**	**87,902**
Royal Warrant Holders' Charity	3,000	-	-	-	**3,000**	**-**
The National Lottery Community Fund (RC Northeast & Cumbria)	-	-	-	36,000	**36,000**	**-**
Designated fund						
Rural Communities	-	1,684	-	-	**1,684**	**-**
Total charitable activities	896,412	272,738	(27,750)	525,490	**1,666,890**	**3,696,752**

Support costs comprise the costs of central functions that support the delivery of the charity's activities, including finance and operations staff costs, office and administrative costs, IT and systems, legal, insurance and professional fees. The figures above include governance costs totalling £52,238 comprising of the annual audit fee plus a proportion of staff time allocated towards secretarial roles. In the previous financial year, governance costs included the annual audit fee plus a proportion of staff time allocated towards secretarial roles totalling £43,011.

The charity undertakes its charitable activities through direct support as well as through grant making and awarded grants to a number of enterprises (see note 5 below) in furtherance of its charitable activities.

A total of £447 was paid to two Trustees as expenses in relation to travel reimbursement during the financial year (2025: £1,222).

Notes (continued)

4. GROUP STAFF COSTS

	2026	2025
	£	£
Salaries & wages	651,173	663,536
Social Security	85,550	70,755
Pension & healthcare	45,407	45,729
Total staff costs	**782,130**	**780,020**

The Royal Countryside Fund has 17 members of staff (based on average headcount) whose salaries are partially recharged to Countryside Fund Trading Limited. (2025: 17 members) The staff costs totalled £782,130 (2025: £780,020) of which, £67,450 (2025: £87,978) was recharged to Countryside Fund Trading Limited. The total staff cost to The Royal Countryside Fund is £714,680 (2025: £692,042). The total cost to The Royal Countryside Fund of the key management personnel is £116,105 (2025: £109,074).

No salaries were paid to Trustees in the current or previous year. The number of employees whose emoluments for the year were over £60,000 (including taxable benefits in kind but not employer pension contributions), fell within the following bands:

	Total 2026	Total 2025
£60,000 - £69,999	-	-
£70,000 - £79,999	-	-
£80,000 - £89,999	-	-
£90,000 - £99,999	1	1

Notes (continued)

5. GRANTS AWARDED IN 2025/26

Unrestricted	£
River Waveney Trust	25,000
Torridon District Community Association	25,000
Grow the Glens CIC	25,000
North Norfolk Community Transport	25,000
Lochview Rural Training Centre	24,848
LandLinkedCIC	24,690
Ynni Bro Rhian	23,316
Ventnor Exchange	20,000
	192,854

Restricted	£
Upper Onny Farmers Group	28,500
Aberdeenshire Sma Wids	24,500
Royal Welsh Agricultural	10,200
Monmouthshire Rural Support Centre	3,750
Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RSABI)	3,750
Lincolnshire Rural Support Network	3,750
Field Nurse CIO	3,750
	78,200

Designated	£
Ynni Bro Rhian	1,684
	1,684

	£
Total Grant Awards 2025-26	**272,738**

Notes (continued)

6. THE RESULTS ARE STATED AFTER CHARGING

	2026	2025
	£	£
Auditor's Remuneration – RCF audit fee	25,860	16,800
Auditor's Remuneration – CFT audit fee	-	6,000
Auditor's Remuneration – Other Services	1,776	4,466
Depreciation	22,511	19,789
	50,147	47,055

7. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2026	2025
	£	£
Investment in subsidiary	1	1

Countryside Fund Trading Ltd (CFT) made a profit of £445,838 which was gift aided to the parent charity.

CFT's Income and Expenditure for the year was £790,124 and £337,689 respectively.

The Shareholder's Funds at 31 March 2026 were £1.

The investments in subsidiary companies are stated at cost of investment

Subsidiary	Countryside Fund Trading Ltd
Company number	07274582
Registered office	13th Floor, 33 Cavendish Square, London W1G 0PW
Class of shares	Ordinary
Percentage of holding	100%

Notes (continued)

8. GROUP & CHARITY ONLY FIXED ASSETS

Cost or valuation	Intangibles	Computers	Total
At 1 April 2025	85,681	24,020	**109,701**
Additions	6,407	2,320	**8,727**
at 31 March 2026	92,088	26,340	**118,428**
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2025	58,992	8,629	**67,621**
Charge for the year	17,212	5,298	**22,510**
at 31 March 2026	76,204	13,927	**90,131**
Net book value at 31 March 2026	**15,884**	**12,413**	**28,297**
Net book value at 31 March 2025	26,689	15,391	42,080

9. DEBTORS

GROUP DEBTORS	2026	2025
	£	£
Accrued Income	18,355	944,861
Prepayments	17,445	21,044
Other Debtors	26,282	36,886
Trade Debtors	200,777	295,276
	262,859	**1,298,067**

RCF DEBTORS	2026	2025
	£	£
Amounts Due from Subsidiary	445,838	159,442
Accrued Income	-	886,273
Prepayments	15,680	21,044
Other Debtors	21,316	32,315
	482,834	**1,099,074**



Notes (continued)

10. CREDITORS

GROUP CREDITORS	2026	2025
	£	£
Trade Creditors	72,968	152,076
Amounts Due to Grant Recipients (within 1 year)	95,213	317,353
Deferred Income	239,016	208,387
Taxation, Social Security & VAT	28,380	53,842
Accrued Costs	53,751	66,043
	489,328	**797,701**

RCF CREDITORS	2026	2025
	£	£
Trade Creditors	65,561	152,076
Amounts Due to Grant Recipients (within 1 year)	95,213	317,353
Taxation, Social Security & VAT	5,201	6,434
Accrued Costs	52,051	59,739
	218,026	**535,602**

MOVEMENTS IN THE YEAR ON DEFERRED INCOME

	2026
	£
Opening balance at 1 April 2025	208,387
Amounts released during the year	(208,387)
Amounts deferred during the year	239,016
Closing Balance 31 March 2026	**239,016**

11. MOVEMENTS IN THE YEAR ON AMOUNTS DUE TO GRANT RECIPIENTS

	RCF 2026	RCF 2025
	£	£
Opening balance at 1 April 2025	317,353	187,635
Grants awarded in the year	238,038	654,933
Payments in the year	(432,428)	(515,627)
Grants Written off in the period	(27,750)	(9,588)
Closing Balance 31 March 2026	**95,213**	**317,353**

Notes (continued)

12. GROUP FUNDS

	Opening Balance at 01.04.25	Income 25-26	Expenditure 25-26	Transfers	Closing Balance at 31.03.26
Unrestricted Fund	600,767	1,445,806	(1,633,681)	-	412,892
Restricted					-
Trees Publication (Royal Warrant Holders' Charity)	-	3,000	(3,000)	-	-
Environmental Programmes (Postcode Lottery)	300,000	-	(250,030)	-	49,970
Confident Rural Communities	2,500	-	(2,500)	-	-
Biodiversity (Royal Warrant Holders' Charity)	5,462	-	(5,462)	-	-
FSG Grants (NFU Mutual Charitable Trust)	-	70,000	(20,000)	-	50,000
The Barbour Foundation	-	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
Farm Resilience Programme	-	266,000	(128,322)	-	137,678
Health Lottery Foundation	20,000	-	(20,000)	-	-
The National Lottery Community Fund (RC Northeast and Cumbria Region)	-	36,000	(36,000)	-	-
Designated					
Emergency Fund (designated)	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
Rural Communities (designated)	1,684	-	(1,684)	-	-
Endowment					
The RCF Futures Fund	-	25,000	-	-	25,000
TOTAL FUNDS	**1,030,413**	**1,865,806**	**(2,120,679)**	**-**	**775,540**

Notes (continued)

12. CHARITY ONLY FUNDS

	Opening Balance at 01.04.25	Income 25-26	Expenditure 25-26	Transfers	Closing Balance at 31.03.26
Unrestricted Fund	600,767	1,109,818	(1,297,688)	-	412,897
Restricted					-
Trees Publication (Royal Warrant Holders' Charity)	-	3,000	(3,000)	-	-
Environmental Programmes (Postcode Lottery)	300,000	-	(250,030)	-	49,970
Confident Rural Communities	2,500	-	(2,500)	-	-
Biodiversity (Royal Warrant Holders' Charity)	5,462	-	(5,462)	-	-
FSG Grants (NFU Mutual Charitable Trust)	-	70,000	(20,000)	-	50,000
The Barbour Foundation	-	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
Farm Resilience Programme	-	266,000	(128,322)	-	137,678
Health Lottery Foundation	20,000	-	(20,000)	-	-
The National Lottery Community Fund (RC Northeast and Cumbria Region)	-	36,000	(36,000)	-	-
Designated					
Emergency Fund (designated)	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
Rural Communities (designated)	1,684	-	(1,684)	-	-
Endowment					
The RCF Futures Fund	-	25,000	-	-	25,000
TOTAL FUNDS	**1,030,413**	**1,529,818**	**(1,784,686)**	**-**	**775,545**

Funds comprised of nine restricted funds, two designated funds and one endowment fund:

Restricted Funds

Trees Publication – A restricted grant was received during the year from The Royal Warrant Holders' Charity local grant which was restricted to costs in relation to the RCF's Trees Publication.

Environmental Programmes (Postcode Lottery) - funds have been received via The Postcode Lottery (formerly The People's Postcode Lottery), which are restricted for use on the RCF's environmental programmes.

Confident Rural Communities – A restricted donation was received in the previous financial year to contribute towards RCF's Confident Rural Communities initiative. These funds have now been utilised.

Biodiversity (Royal Warrant Holders' Charity) – The Royal Warrant Holders' Charity awarded a grant of £10,000 to be used for the RCF's Biodiversity workshops in the previous financial year. These funds have now been utilised.

FSG Grants (NFU Mutual Charitable Trust) – The NFU Mutual Charitable Trust granted £70k to the RCF specifically to award in the form of grants to Farm Support Groups. These grants will be awarded in April 2026.

Notes (continued)

Barbour – The Barbour Foundation awarded £20,000 to go towards the running of specific farming workshops during the financial year.

Health Lottery Foundation – Restricted funding has been received at the end of the financial year for onward grants which have been awarded this financial year.

The National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF) (RC Northeast and Cumbria Region) – Restricted funding received during the year to help shape the RCF's application to TNLCF for the Northern Rural Partnership.

Designated Funds

Emergency Fund (designated) - established as a result of an emergency appeal to help farmers' facing hardships from the severe flooding seen in recent years. The Board of Trustees have previously agreed that £100k remains available in this fund at all times.

Rural Communities (designated) – a designated fund created in September 2021 to set aside funds to award grants and support to rural communities. The remaining funds were utilised during the RCF's Spring Grant awards.

Endowment

The RCF Futures Fund – during the year, Trustees established a new expendable endowment fund called The RCF Futures Fund. The purpose of the fund is to raise funds to ensure the long-term support of the activities of the RCF. The RCF received a donation of £25,000 specifically for this endowment fund during the year. Under the terms of the governing document, the Trustees may accumulate income for a period of up to 21 years and add that income to the capital of the endowment. The capital of the fund is expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in accordance with the governing document.

13. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - GROUP

(2026)	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £
Fixed assets	28,297	-	-	-	28,297
Net current assets	384,595	100,000	237,648	25,000	747,243
TOTAL FUNDS	**412,892**	**100,000**	**237,648**	**25,000**	**775,540**

(2025)	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £
Fixed assets	42,080	-	-	-	42,080
Net current assets	558,687	101,684	327,962	-	988,333
TOTAL FUNDS	**600,767**	**101,684**	**327,962**	**-**	**1,030,413**

Notes (continued)

14. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CHARITY ONLY

(2026)	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £
Fixed assets	28,297	-	-	-	28,297
Net current assets	384,600	100,000	237,648	25,000	747,248
TOTAL FUNDS	**412,892**	**100,000**	**237,648**	**25,000**	**775,545**

(2025)	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £
Fixed assets	42,080	-	-	-	42,080
Net current assets	558,682	101,684	327,962	-	988,328
TOTAL FUNDS	**600,762**	**101,684**	**327,962**	**-**	**1,030,408**

15. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The following Trustees are directors or senior managers of companies, which currently have commercial participation agreements with Countryside Fund Trading Ltd.

Trustee connection	Company	Amount 2026 £	Amounts owing at year end 2026 £	Amount 2025 £	Amounts owing at year end 2025 £
Edwin Booth	E H Booth & Co	64,582	Nil	10,000	Nil

The companies and the directors also contributed to the work of the charity by their in-kind support.

During the year, the Charity received gift aid from Countryside Fund Trading Ltd of £445,838 (2025: £459,443).

At the year-end the Charity was owed £452,376 (2025: £159,442) by Countryside Fund Trading Ltd.

A total of £1,000 was received as a donation by Trustees during the year. (2025: Nil).

16. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

At the balance sheet date, the charity held financial assets at amortised cost comprising cash and short-term deposits, trade debtors, other debtors and accrued income of £1,219,126 (2025: 1,508,882) and financial liabilities at amortised cost, compromising trade creditors, other creditors and accrued expenditure of £202,232 (2025 £853,179). Total interest income received in respect of financial assets held at amortised cost totalled nil (2025: Nil).

Notes (continued)

17. ANALYSIS OF CHANGE IN DEBT

	At start of year	Cash flows	At year end
	£	£	£
Cash and cash equivalents			
Cash	487,967	485,745	**973,712**
Total	**487,967**	**485,745**	**973,712**

Notes (continued)

18. PRIOR YEAR COMPARISON

Group Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	General fund £	Designated fund £	Restricted fund £	Total 2025 £
Incoming resources					
Voluntary income:					
Donations	2	519,016	-	-	**519,016**
Grant Funding	2	432,640	-	2,525,626	**2,958,266**
Commercial Trading	2	629,218	-	-	**629,218**
Investment Income	2	987	-	-	**987**
Total incoming resources		1,581,861	-	2,525,626	**4,107,487**
Resources expended					
Charitable Activities	3	(1,478,392)	-	(2,218,360)	**(3,696,752)**
Fundraising costs		(73,958)	-	-	**(73,958)**
Commercial Trading		(169,775)	-	-	**(169,775)**
Total expenditure		(1,722,125)	-	(2,218,360)	**(3,940,485)**
Net income/(expenditure)		(140,264)	-	307,266	167,002
Transfers between funds	12	-	-	-	**-**
Net movement in funds		(140,264)	-	307,266	**167,002**
Reconciliation of funds:					
Fund balances brought forward	12	741,031	101,684	20,696	**863,411**
Fund balances carried forward		600,767	101,684	327,962	**1,030,413**

Notes (continued)

19. PRIOR YEAR COMPARISON

FUNDS

	Opening Balance at 01.04.24	Income 24-25	Expenditure 24-25	Transfers	Closing Balance at 31.03.25
Unrestricted fund	741,031	1,581,861	(1,722,125)	-	600,767
Restricted					
DEFRA	-	1,412,725	(1,412,725)	-	-
Postcode Lottery (Environmental Programmes)	8,196	600,000	(308,196)	-	300,000
Confident Rural Communities	2,500	-	-	-	2,500
Biodiversity (Royal Warrant Holders' Charity)	10,000	-	(4,538)	-	5,462
FSG Grants (NFU Mutual Charitable Trust)	-	75,000	(75,000)	-	-
The National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF)	-	330,000	(330,000)	-	-
Scottish Government Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Fund (KTIF)	-	87,901	(87,901)	-	-
Health Lottery Foundation	-	20,000	-	-	20,000
Designated					
Emergency Fund (Designated)	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
Rural Communities (Designated)	1,684	-	-	-	1,684
TOTAL FUNDS	**863,411**	**4,107,487**	**(3,940,485)**	**-**	**1,030,413**

Funds comprised of eight restricted funds and two designated funds:

Restricted funds

DEFRA – A restricted grant was received during the year from Defra to carry out the RCF's Farm for the Future programme.

Postcode Lottery (Environmental Programmes) - funds have been received via The Postcode Lottery, which are restricted for use on the RCF's new farming programme.

Confident Rural Communities – A restricted donation was received in the previous financial year to contribute towards RCF's Confident Rural Communities initiative. These funds will be spent in 2025/26.

Biodiversity (Royal Warrant Holders' Charity) – The Royal Warrant Holders' Charity awarded a grant of £10,000 to be used for the RCF's Biodiversity workshops. The remainder of these funds will be utilised in the 2025/26 financial year.

Notes (continued)

FSG Grants (NFU Mutual CT) – NFU Mutual Charitable Trust granted £75k to the RCF specifically to award in the form of grants to Farm Support Groups.

The National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF) – The NLCF provided a restricted grant during the year to support communities in Cumbria and Northumberland.

Scottish Government Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Fund (KTIF) – The Scottish Government awarded a grant to the RCF during the year to carry out the Farm Resilience Programme in Scotland.

Health Lottery Foundation – Restricted funding has been received at the end of the financial year for onward grants to be awarded in the 2025/26 financial year.

Designated funds

Emergency Fund (designated) - established as a result of an emergency appeal to help the farmers' facing hardships from the severe flooding seen in recent years. The Board of Trustees have previously agreed that £100k remains available in this fund at all times.

Rural Communities (designated) – a designated fund created in September 2021 to set aside funds to award grants and support to rural communities. This fund will be utilised during the 2025/26 Spring Grant awards.



Notes (continued)

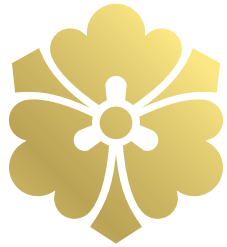
20. PRIOR YEAR COMPARISON

ANALYSIS OF CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding activities	Grant written off	Support costs	2025
					£
Unrestricted fund					
Core programme	1,033,869	192,783	(9,588)	505,061	**1,722,125**
Restricted fund					
Farm Resilience Programme	-	-	-	-	**-**
Rural 4	-	-	-	-	**-**
Farm Support Groups	-	75,000	-	-	**75,000**
Postcode Lottery (Environmental Programmes)	221,045	87,150	-	-	**308,195**
FFRP (Defra)	1,412,725	-	-	-	**1,412,725**
The National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF)	30,000	300,000	-	-	**330,000**
Biodiversity (RWHACF)	4,538	-	-	-	**4,538**
Scottish Government Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Fund (KTIF)	87,902	-	-	-	**87,902**
Designated fund					
Rural Communities	-	-	-	-	**-**
Total charitable activities	2,790,079	654,933	(9,588)	505,061	**3,940,485**

The figures above include governance costs totalling £43,011 comprising of the annual audit fee plus the cost of time relating to company secretarial roles. In the previous financial year, governance costs included the annual audit fee and the time of the company secretary totalling £33,096.

The charity undertakes its charitable activities through direct support as well as through grant making and awarded grants to a number of enterprises (see note 5 above) in furtherance of its charitable activities.



THE ROYAL
COUNTRYSIDE
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www.royalcountrysidefund.org.uk

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