



ROBINSON UDALE
Chartered Accountants and Tax Advisers

Financial Statements

The Institute for Outdoor Learning (Company Limited by Guarantee)

For the year ended 30 September 2025





ROBINSON UDALE
Chartered Accountants and Tax Advisers

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ROBINSON UDALE
Chartered Accountants and Tax Advisers

Members of The Board, Senior Staff & Professional Advisers

The Institute for Outdoor Learning (Company Limited by Guarantee)
For the year ended 30 September 2025

Company registration number: 07534418

Charity number: 1149420

Scottish charity number: SCO39561

The board of trustees

Mr B Kitson - Chair of Trustees
Mr N O'Loughin
Mr D J Cook
Mrs L Edwards
Mr A W Robinson
Mr S J Randles
Ms H C Crawford
Mr J Whittaker
Mr A Gurden - resigned 1 April 2025
Mr M Lavington - resigned 1 April 2025
Mr M King - resigned 1 May 2025

Registered office

Warwick Mill Business Centre
Warwick Bridge
Carlisle
CA4 8RR

Examiner

Danny Roper
Robinson Udale
Chartered Accountants
The Old Bank
41 King Street
Penrith
CA11 7AY

Bankers

Unity Trust Bank Plc
Four Brindleyplace
Birmingham
B1 2JB



Trustees Annual Report

The Institute for Outdoor Learning (Company Limited by Guarantee) For the year ended 30 September 2025

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. It is my pleasure as Chair to present this report of the charity in accordance with the Articles of Association.

The trustees who served the charity during the year and since the year end are as follows with their newly agreed 'Area of Focus.'

- Chair – Brian Kitson
- Vice-Chair – Louise Edwards
- Treasurer – Steve Randles
- Secretary – Vacant
- Voice – Andy Robinson
- Community – Vacant
- Workforce – Heather Crawford
- Standards – Dan Cook
- Volunteers – Nick O'Loughlin
- Marketing & Comms – Jim Whitaker
- Fundraising & Projects - Vacant

Objectives and Activities

The Institute for Outdoor Learning exists to champion high quality outdoor learning, supporting individuals and organisations to deliver safe, inclusive and impactful experiences. Through professional recognition, training, research and advocacy, the Institute works to ensure that outdoor learning makes a full contribution to individuals, society and the environment.

Strategic Development and Performance

This year marks the completion of the Institute's three-year Strategic Development Plan. Developed during a period of uncertainty, the plan set out a clear pathway to stabilise and strengthen the organisation, while building capacity for future growth.

Following a period of consolidation, I am pleased to report that the Institute has delivered against the objectives set out in the plan and has returned to a small surplus. This reflects improved financial oversight, careful management of resources and a strengthened operating model.

Digital Development and Membership

A significant focus during the year has been the continued development of the 'Ready Membership' platform. This has required considerable investment in both time and financial resources, reflecting the Institute's commitment to modernising its offer and improving accessibility for members.

The platform provides secure and efficient access to integrated services, including events, networking, website functionality and member services. The website now attracts an average of 32,000 visits per month enabling clearer communication of the Institute's services and opportunities.

The impact of this work is evident in improved member engagement. Organisational membership renewal rates have strengthened, with 82% renewing early, and the overall churn rate has reduced to 0.9%, the lowest recorded. In addition, 73% of individual members now pay via digital Direct Debit, reflecting a shift towards more streamlined and sustainable processes.

The Institute currently supports over 500 organisational members and 800 individual members, with an estimated reach of over 17,000 across the outdoor learning sector.

Supporting the Sector

The Institute continues to provide a wide range of support to the sector. This includes an extensive programme of online delivery, such as webinars, workshops, surveys and CPD resources, alongside increased levels of engagement across our communities alongside, lobbying and representation activity.

Over the past year, 68 events have been delivered, engaging more than 1,500 delegates, while over 71,000 newsletters have been distributed to members and stakeholders. These activities are supported by a broad communications approach, including quarterly publications, blogs, social media and conference presentations.

The Institute's work continues to influence policy and practice, supporting the development of a skilled, confident



and diverse workforce across outdoor learning. During the year, the suite of evidence based guides to high quality outdoor learning have been added to and are available on the public website and free to download.

Global Engagement

A key highlight of the year was the successful preparation of the International Online Conference for Global Outdoor Learning Day. Taking place across global time zones and connecting participants from eight continents, the conference is providing a platform for collaboration, knowledge exchange and shared learning from multiple cultural perspectives.

The success of this event reflects the growing international reach and influence of the Institute and reinforces its role as a global convenor for the sector.

Publications and Research

During the year, the Institute responded to member feedback by returning Horizons magazine to print. Each quarter, over 1,300 copies are distributed using fully compostable packaging, providing a valued resource for the sector.

The Journal of Adventure Education and Outdoor Learning continues to perform strongly, with over 201,000 article downloads recorded in the year, representing a 68% increase since 2021. This growth reflects increasing international recognition of the Institute as a publisher of high-quality research. High Quality Outdoor Learning – a guide for all was published on Global Outdoor Learning Day to celebrate the powerful impact of the outdoors on education and personal development. With significant societal challenges including climate change, equality & diversity in the outdoors, mental health and wellbeing, this guide sets out what good practice looks like, supporting practitioners and providers to deliver the best possible outcomes to their participants.

Professional Standards and Recognition

The Institute continues to deliver professional accreditation, with nearly 1,500 practitioner awards delivered to date. During the year, a direct entry route to the Leading Practitioner (LPIOL) award was developed and launched in April 2025, responding to member feedback and supported by the LPIOL Community of Practice.

The IOL Round Table continues to bring together representatives from across the community to improve communication and ensure member input into the Institute's strategic direction.

Governance and Financial Review

The trustees have undertaken a review of governance arrangements during the year to ensure that structures remain robust, effective and fit for purpose. This has included strengthening oversight, clarifying roles and enhancing decision-making processes.

Financial controls have been a particular focus. Improvements in budgeting, monitoring and financial reporting have provided greater transparency and accountability. These measures have contributed directly to the organisation's improved financial position and the return to a surplus.

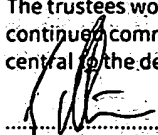
The trustees consider that the charity is now operating on a more stable financial footing, with systems in place to support sustainable growth.

Future Developments

With the completion of the current strategic plan and delivery of its operational roadmap, the Institute is well positioned to move into the next phase of development. The focus will be on building on the progress made, attending to the detail of IOL core functions and extending its offer and growing its partnerships. The Institute is working to ensure its credibility across the sector and its wider influence when advocating for high quality Outdoor Learning. At the heart of the Institute's strategic planning is ensuring long-term financial, environmental and operational sustainability.

Acknowledgements

The trustees would like to place on record their thanks to the staff team, members, volunteers and partners whose continued commitment and support underpin the success of the Institute. Their energy and engagement remain central to the delivery of the Institute's objectives.


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Brian Kitson, Chair of Trustees, Institute for Outdoor Learning
22nd April 2026

Independent Examiners' Report

The Institute for Outdoor Learning (Company Limited by Guarantee)
For the year ended 30 September 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE INSTITUTE FOR OUTDOOR LEARNING CHARITABLE COMPANY

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 30 September 2025, which are set out on pages 9 to 18.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The Trustees (who are also directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), that the audit requirement of Regulation 10 (1) (a) of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 does not apply, and that an independent examination is needed. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act and under section 44 (1) (c) of the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission and in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006, section 44 (1)(a) of the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and Regulation 4 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006, with regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and with the methods and principals of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Danny Roper, Chartered Accountant, Robinson Udale Limited, The Old Bank, Penrith, CA11 7AY



Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

The Institute for Outdoor Learning (Company Limited by Guarantee)
For the year ended 30 September 2025

	NOTES	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	UNASSIGNED	2025	2024
Statement of financial activities						
Income						
Sundry donations	2	7,451	-	-	7,451	5,540
Income from charitable activities	3	60,892	-	-	60,892	60,158
Income from generating funds activities	4	208,034	-	-	208,034	181,798
Total income		276,377	-	-	276,377	247,496
Expenditure						
Cost of generating funds	5	117,267	-	-	117,267	126,411
Expenditure on charitable activities	6	157,526	-	-	157,526	183,156
Total expenditure		274,793	-	-	274,793	309,566
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds		1,584	-	-	1,584	(62,070)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		66,894	12,261	-	79,156	139,800
Incoming resources		-	-	-	-	2,450
Outgoing resources		-	(5,085)	-	(5,085)	-
Total funds carried forward		68,479	7,176	-	75,655	80,180

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these financial statements.



Balance Sheet

The Institute for Outdoor Learning (Company Limited by Guarantee)
As at 30 September 2025

	NOTES	30 SEPT 2025	30 SEPT 2024
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets and investments		629	1,309
Investments		(313)	(313)
Total fixed assets		316	996
Current assets			
Debtors		30,248	21,599
Cash at bank and in hand		77,342	81,792
Total current assets		107,591	103,391
Current liabilities			
Creditors		32,252	24,208
Total current liabilities		32,252	24,208
Net current assets		75,338	79,184
Total assets less current liabilities		75,655	80,180
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted funds		68,479	66,894
Restricted funds		7,176	13,286
Total charity funds		75,655	80,180

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these financial statements




ROBINSON UDALE
Chartered Accountants and Tax Advisers

Approval of Financial Statements

**The Institute for Outdoor Learning (Company Limited by Guarantee)
For the year ended 30 September 2025**

For the financial year in question the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts. These accounts are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and are for circulation to members of the company.

These financial statements were approved by the members of the committee on 7/5/26 and are signed on their behalf by:



Mr B W V Kitson - Director



Notes to the Financial Statements 1 - 8

The Institute for Outdoor Learning (Company Limited by Guarantee) For the year ended 30 September 2025

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Institute For Outdoor Learning meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historic cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b) Reconciliation with Previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 the restatement of comparative items was required.

c) Preparation of the Accounts on a Going Concern Basis

The Trustees are of the opinion that the Charity is a going concern.

d) Incoming Resources

Income consists of subscriptions and premiums, other related income and events income. It is accounted for on a receivable basis. Where income is received for a specific project or purpose this income is classified as restricted. Income received towards the general objects of the charity is classified as unrestricted.

e) Resources Expended

The cost of generating funds includes any direct membership costs. The charitable activities, in furtherance of the charity's objects, included all the direct costs. The Governance costs represent professional fees and trustee's expenses. Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be recovered and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

f) Fixed Assets

All fixed assets used for charitable purposes, with an expected useful life exceeding one year, are capitalized in the balance sheet. Depreciation is provided at the following rates in order to write off each asset over its useful economic life:

Office Equipment	3 years Straight Line
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g) Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

h) Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the charitable objectives of the charity. Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donors.

i) Remuneration

No employee received emoluments greater than £60,000.

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	2025	2024
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2. Donations and legacies

Donations				
	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	2025	2024
Sundry donations	7,451	-	7,451	5,540
Total donations and legacies	7,451	-	7,451	5,540

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	2025	2024
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3. Income from charitable funds activities

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	2025	2024
Books and publications	31,662	-	31,662	32,491
Event management	11,579	-	11,579	8,804
Professional accreditation	12,050	-	12,050	17,380
Administration services	5,602	-	5,602	1,484
Total income from charitable funds activities	60,892	-	60,892	60,158

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	2025	2024
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4. Income from generating funds activities

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	2025	2024
Membership subscriptions	208,034	-	208,034	181,798
Total income from generating funds activities	208,034	-	208,034	181,798



	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	2025	2024
5. Costs of raising funds and delivery of objectives				
Direct costs				
Staff costs (note 7)	49,119	-	49,119	47,824
Travel and other	3,528	-	3,528	3,881
Administration	435	-	435	145
Member expenses	4,504	-	4,504	4,516
Events and workshops	8,816	-	8,816	17,422
Depreciation	476	-	476	591
Regional services	795	-	795	3,616
Total direct costs	67,673	-	67,673	77,995
Support costs				
Staff costs (note 7)	49,119	-	49,119	47,824
Depreciation	476	-	476	591
Total support costs	49,595	-	49,595	48,416
Total costs of raising funds and delivery of objectives	117,267	-	117,267	126,411
	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	2025	2024

6. Expenditure on charitable activities

Direct costs				
Publication costs	44,092	-	44,092	47,526
Books purchased	136	-	136	53
Staff costs (note 7)	26,570	-	26,570	25,933
Insurance	1,332	-	1,332	1,121
Rent and service charges	804	-	804	804
Bank charges	1,599	-	1,599	4,227
Database cost	19,458	-	19,458	39,158
Professional accreditation	20,432	-	20,432	20,844
Internet and telephone	6,118	-	6,118	6,342
Subscriptions	310	-	310	724
Sundry expenses	2,977	-	2,977	1,070
Depreciation	476	-	476	591
Governance costs (note 8)	6,652	-	6,652	8,829
Support costs				
Staff costs (note 7)	26,570	-	26,570	25,933
Total expenditure on charitable activities	157,526	-	157,526	183,156



Support costs

Support costs have been calculated for staff costs according to time spent and for other costs they have been calculated based on purpose. Cost allocation includes an element of judgement, and the Charity has to consider the cost benefit of detailed calculations. Therefore, the support costs shown are a best estimate of the costs that have been so allocated.

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	2025	2024
7. Staff costs and emoluments				
Total staff costs were as follows:				
Wages - charitable, support	26,570	-	26,570	25,933
Wages - charitable, direct	26,570	-	26,570	25,933
Wages - generating, support	49,119	-	49,119	47,824
Wages - generating, direct	49,119	-	49,119	47,824
Total	151,377	-	151,377	147,513

The wage costs are analysed in the accounts as follows:

Staff costs under costs of generating funds	98,237	-	98,237	95,648
Staff costs under charitable activities	53,140	-	53,140	51,865
Total	151,377	-	151,377	147,513

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	2025	2024
8. Governance costs				
Accountancy	4,422	-	4,422	5,060
AGM conference and trustees	1,584	-	1,584	2,343
Trustee expenses	646	-	646	1,426
Total governance costs	6,652	-	6,652	8,829

The average number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full-time equivalents was 3.75 (3.75 2024).

No employee received remuneration of more than £60,000 during the year (2024: Nil). No trustee received any remuneration during the year (2024: £Nil) other than reimbursed expenses (refer to Note 16).



Notes to the Financial Statements 9 - 14

The Institute for Outdoor Learning (Company Limited by Guarantee)
For the year ended 30 September 2025

	2025	2024
9. Tangible fixed assets		
Cost		
Brought forward	9,325	8,935
Additions	749	390
Carried forward	10,074	9,325
Depreciation		
Brought forward	8,016	6,241
Charge	1,429	1,775
Carried forward	9,445	8,016
Net book value		
Carried forward	629	1,309
	2025	2024

10. Investments

Brought forward at 1 October 2024	(313)	(313)
Carried forward at 30 September 2025	(313)	(313)

The charity holds a 100% shareholding in Outdoor Learning Services Limited. The company's aggregate capital and reserves amounted to £(313) at the year end. Outdoor Learning Services Limited was dormant for the full accounting period covering these accounts.

	2025	2024
11. Debtors		
Trade debtors	14,571	11,424
Other debtors	15,677	10,175
Total	30,248	21,599
	2025	2024

12. Creditors

Trade creditors	4,501	7,918
Accruals and deferred income	27,752	16,289
Total	32,252	24,208



	2025	2024
13. Unrestricted income funds		
At 1 October 2024	66,894	128,964
Incoming resources	276,377	247,496
Outgoing resources	(274,793)	(309,566)
At 30 September 2025	68,479	66,894
	2025	2024
14. Restricted income funds		
Caphoes	1,274	1,274
Northern Region	2,209	2,209
Campaign for Adventure	-	1,025
AFA Foundation	30	30
Outdoor Learning Stakeholders Group		
Brought forward	8,698	6,248
Incoming resources	-	2,450
Outgoing resources	(5,085)	-
Carried forward	3,613	8,698
Horseshoe Quarry	50	50
Total	7,176	13,286

Caphoes This grant is from Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College and has been awarded for the purpose of funding all printing and publishing costs of the publication "Shaping the Outdoor Profession through Higher Education"

Northern Region These funds have been restricted to be used for the benefit of the members of the areas covered by the Northern Council for Outdoor Education. Funds will be used in the region when required or may be made available in the event of new region(s) being formed, which are currently part of the Northern Region.

Campaign for Adventure This funds administers a grant from Adventure Forest Limited T/A Go Ape. The money is to be used to encourage a more adventurous society in the Campaign for Adventure.

AFA Foundation These funds are to be used to further outdoor learning for those with disabilities, or for the benefit of members of the AFA special interest group. Their use will be determined by those IOL members who were a part of the pre-existing organization, Adventure for All and contributed to the establishment of the fund.

Outdoor Learning Stakeholders Group The Outdoor Advisory Board was formed when the Outdoor Council merged with us in September 2023. The money was to be ring-fenced for work carried out by the Outdoor Advisory Board which took over the work of the Outdoor Council.

Horseshoe Quarry The funds relate to an access project which was run jointly with another organization.



Notes to The Financial Statements 15 - 17

The Institute for Outdoor Learning (Company Limited by Guarantee)
For the year ended 30 September 2025

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL	UNASSIGNED
15. Analysis of net assets between funds				
Tangible fixed assets	316	-	316	-
Net current assets	68,163	7,176	75,340	-
Total funds	68,480	7,176	75,656	-

16. Trustees

Trustees out of pocket expenses were reimbursed to trustees to the extent of £645.90 (2024: £1,426.01). The Institute owns all the shares of Outdoor Learning Services Ltd. None of the trustees have a beneficial shareholding in the company nor do they receive any remuneration for the company.

17. Company Limited by Guarantee

The liability of the members is limited. Every member of the charity undertakes to contribute to the assets of the charity, in the event of the same being wound up while he or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member, for payment of the debtors and liabilities of the charity contracted before he or she ceases to be a member, and of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributions among themselves, such amount as may be required not exceeding ten pounds.

The liability of each member is limited to £10. There were 1,274 members at 30 September 2025 (2024: 1,198 members).