

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS



For the year ending
October 31, 2025



BRITISH
EXPLORING
SOCIETY

Unlocking self-belief
since 1932



REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION



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Company number 2411786

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James Hopkinson

Richard Kleiner
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Rahul Moodgal
Vice Chair

Tim Passingham
Chair (trustee since
2022, appointed
Chair April 2025)

Lindsay Selmes
(resigned August 2025)

James Smith

Carolyn Young



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INTRODUCTION





ABOUT US



Introduction

Wild Pathways

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Finance



You never know the kind of people you will meet or the personalities you will end up with in your group, which is one of the best parts of the trip.

Young Adventurer

Our purpose

To unlock self-belief; to help young people Find their Fire.

Our vision

For all young people to be able to contribute confidently in the world. We want equal access to challenging learning and adventure in the wilderness as an unbeatable preparation for adult life.

Our mission

To grow and celebrate a diverse, inclusive community of young people with the skills, resilience, and determination to make lasting positive decisions in their own lives, and to deliver community benefit and positive environmental change.

As a charity, our core values are:

- **Courage,**
- **Challenge,**
- **Community**
- **Self-belief**

British Exploring Society is a world class youth development charity with a unique heritage, founded on the belief that challenging experiences can define lives, empowering and equipping young people with the courage, skills, resilience and determination to make the most of their future.

We prepare and take young people on virtual and in-person expeditions and adventures in the UK and overseas where they face challenges, gain skills and learn about themselves – as well as acquiring knowledge relevant to their lives and to the environments that they explore.

The results are transformative – not just in terms of practical skills and resilience, but in a new-found confidence and self-belief which they carry forward to their future life.

More than this, our young people forge friendships for life and become part of a unique community with shared experiences, values and perspectives on the world.

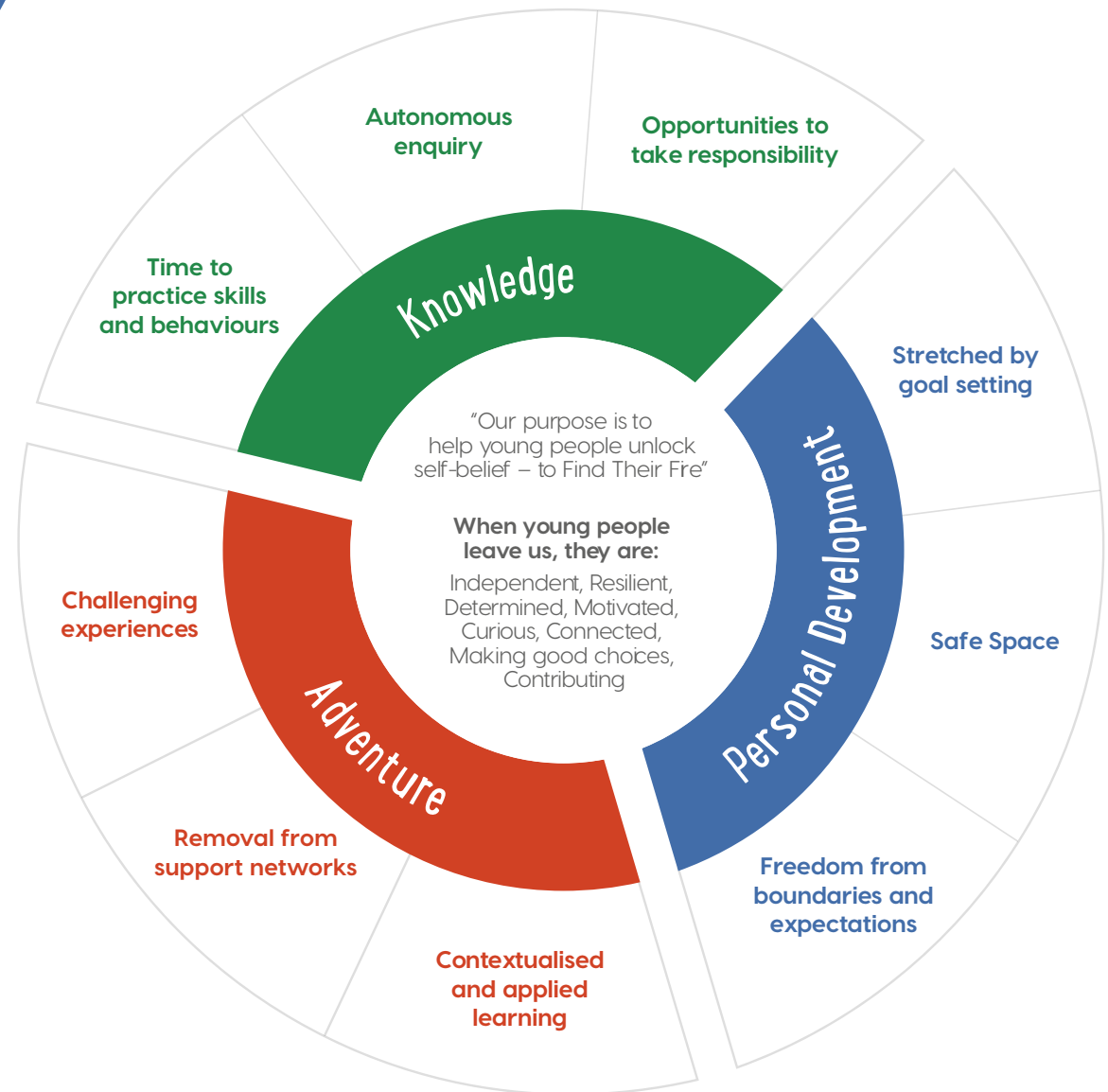


OUR UNIQUE APPROACH

Our 3-part approach gives young people, particularly those who are most disadvantaged, the ideal opportunity to grow and thrive in the face of (and importantly away from) the challenges they live with.

And it ensures we continually ask ourselves:

- Who are we trying to help?
- What are we trying to fix?
- How will we try and fix it?
- How will we know it has worked?





Knowledge

By occupying the best classrooms on Earth, we provide a powerful alternative to traditional learning.

From wild cooking and water sampling to stargazing, time-lapse photography, and poetry, young people are encouraged to take ownership of practical tasks like ration planning or basecamp management and to follow their curiosity through autonomous enquiry – building academic and technical knowledge in field science, geography, and creative media. They return with a richer understanding of how to engage with and care for communities and for the natural world.

Extended time away from everyday life makes it possible for them to practice skills and embed the positive behaviours, all essential for lasting change. For many, especially those who've struggled in traditional classrooms, this shift in how they learn and see themselves is transformative.

Adventure

We take young people into wild and unfamiliar environments, equally alien to all of them, and away from their support networks. Navigating rivers, climbing mountains, and exploring virtual landscapes can all provide physical and emotional challenges that build resilience, confidence, and self-awareness.

Working in Fires*, young people design their own journeys, make group decisions, and learn to navigate landscapes and relationships – developing communication, negotiation, and risk management skills in the real world. Purposeful adventure gives young people the opportunity to grow in independence, to support one another, and to realise their own worth and potential.

*Fires are groups of around 12 people who spend an adventure or expedition together. The size was created to reflect the ideal number of people to sit round a campfire. Each Fire is supported by dedicated volunteer Leaders who guide and accompany them.

Personal Development

Intentionally bringing together young people, who don't know each other, into an unfamiliar environment, is a great leveller. We provide space and support to help them recognise and break ingrained patterns and foster new perspectives.

By being removed from the labels they carry in everyday life and placed in new environments with highly trained, empowering adult role models*, young people are supported to identify strengths, set ambitious goals and shape their own future with purpose.

Through shared, stretching challenges, guided reflection, and opportunities to lead and make decisions, young people grow in confidence, resilience, and belief in what they're capable of.

*Our volunteer Leaders and Experts are highly skilled and work in a variety of fields including archaeology, biological sciences, geography, law, education, social work, media and medicine. We work at high ratios, one Leader to every three young people, providing young people with individual support, rich learning opportunities and illuminating perspectives on potential paths through adult life.



REACHING THOSE WHO WILL BENEFIT MOST



I was nervous going on this expedition, even when I was on the train going to Edinburgh. I was wondering if I had made the right decision. But, I stayed and got to meet incredible people, had such a fun time, learnt a whole lot and once I was there, I did not once think about if I had made the right decision.

Young Adventurer

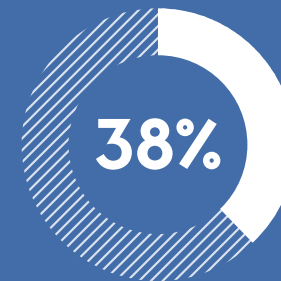
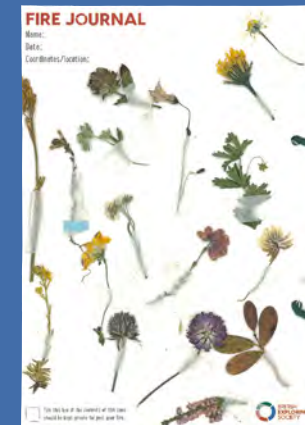
We have five key target areas...

in Scotland, the Northeast, the Northwest, the Midlands, and parts of London, but we welcome young people from every area of the UK, with every life experience, and are always pleased to receive independent applications. Young people often find us with the assistance of partner organisations, who help us reach and better support marginalised young people. We are indebted to long-term partners like Catch-22 and National Fostering Group (NFG) who have worked closely with us for many seasons.

38% of Young Adventurers came through our network of schools, youth organisations and partnerships.

Some of these organisations were not necessarily partners but are part of our wider network and work with young people in different settings. The number of young people that came through family and friends was 16% which is a decrease from the previous 2 years.

Additionally, 18.5% of young people in 2025 found us via social media.



OF YOUNG ADVENTURERS CAME THROUGH OUR NETWORK OF SCHOOLS, YOUTH ORGANISATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS.



Our Young
Adventurers raised

£8121.10

**IN FUNDRAISING
CONTRIBUTIONS DURING
THIS YEAR'S PROGRAMMES**

Fully funded adventure accessible to all

With the support of an amazing community of donors, we are able to provide fully funded places for everyone across our Wild Pathways. This provides a fair and equal starting point for all young people.

Means tested fundraising

But over 93 years of experience tells us that fundraising is also an important challenge which develops potent life skills and fosters commitment, so we undertake a simple means test for all young people and support them to fundraise to an achievable goal. Young Explorers - or their guardian if they are under 18 years of age - are asked questions about their total household income/any state benefits.

In terms of household income, bands were divided by the following scale:

- **Band 1** < £23,000
- **Band 2** £23,001 - £45,000
- **Band 3** £45,001+

49% of Young Adventurers that joined a programme had a household income below £23,000.

This placed them on Band 1 which is our most accessible fundraising target, meaning that we are recruiting and empowering young people who might not find

affordable opportunities elsewhere. A further 21% were on Band 2, while the remainder were on Band 3.

86% of our young people had English postcodes in 2025. Of that 54% had various levels of deprivation. 5.7% resided in areas with some of the highest levels of deprivation* in England. 8.6% came from areas with the least amount of deprivation.

Participant fundraising embeds new determination and confidence, supports opportunities for young people in future, and underpins our commitment to community.

In total, our Young Adventurers raised £8,121.10 in Fundraising Contributions during this year's programmes, against a combined target of £5995.

*British Exploring Society uses the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) which combines measures across seven distinct aspects of deprivation. It is important to note that the indices of deprivation in 2025 are based largely on administrative data from 2019. The tool is used by inputting the postcodes of each Young Adventurer who resides in England into the IMD system, which then calculates an index per post code. The indices are then divided into percentage groups to ease the representation and communication of the results.



IN 2025...

90 HOURS

OF RIGOROUS PREPARATION - EQUIVALENT TO MORE THAN TWO WORKING WEEKS - COMPLETED BY EVERY VOLUNTEER LEADER BEFORE JOINING US ON AN ADVENTURE

THE RATIO OF
VOLUNTEER LEADERS TO
YOUNG PEOPLE WAS

1:3

8 WEEKS

TO REDESIGN AND RELAUNCH
OUR 2025 ADVENTURES IN
RESPONSE TO THE CHANGING
NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

83%

OF YOUNG ADVENTURERS ADVANCED
FROM OUR ONLINE ADVENTURE WILDESTAN
ANTARCTICA, TO OUR IN-PERSON ADVENTURE
WEEKEND – PROOF THAT OUR WILD
PATHWAYS SUPPORT REAL PROGRESSION.

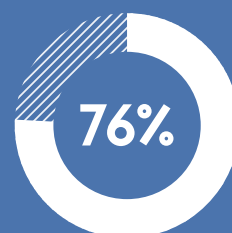


OF YOUNG PEOPLE
CAME FROM HOMES
WITH LESS THAN
£23,000 OR WERE A
LOOKED-AFTER CHILD

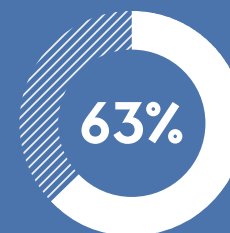


OF YOUNG PEOPLE
REPORTED HAVING
A DISABILITY
OR LONG-TERM
HEALTH CONDITION

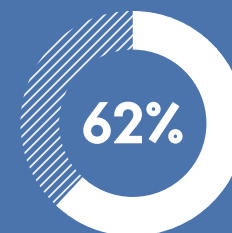
AT THE END OF THEIR ADVENTURES...



OF YOUNG PEOPLE
REPORTED AN
IMPROVED ABILITY
TO SET GOALS



OF YOUNG PEOPLE
REPORTED AN
IMPROVED ABILITY
TO MAKE DECISIONS
THAT MATTER



OF YOUNG
PEOPLE REPORTED
BEING ABLE TO
BETTER MANAGE
THEIR FEELINGS

IN THEIR WORDS...



The **time outside of day-to-day life** cleared my head and allowed my creativity to flourish. I found myself thinking of new approaches to various challenges and opportunities in my life.



The people I met inspired me as we are all different, from different places and different walks of life and **hearing their stories and all inspired me to be better** and to strive to do whatever I want in life.



I felt a lot of curiosity, whether it was when talking about the rivers and pollution or talking to other people about their life journeys and what they do. **It made me more aware** in general. I realised how much I care about making a positive impact on the world around me.

It was an inspiration for myself to work harder, focus sharper on my goals and to leap into every new opportunity I get presented.

Life is about living enough to learn what matters. **Have patience, understand compromises, be prepared, and grasp adventure!** Also, bring spare socks and snacks!

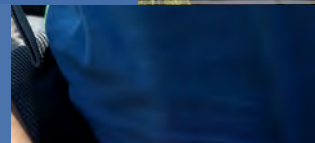


It really forced me to speak to new people, and I feel like that will help me in the future

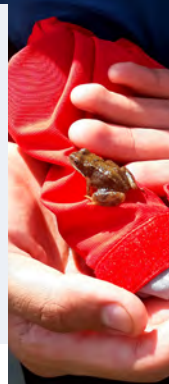
I am really glad and proud of myself that I signed up for the expedition. **The idea of hiking and wild camping would not even cross my mind in my culture.**

There were definitely highs (the amazing views) and lows (midge porridge), but overall I had a really positive and **unforgettable experience learning about myself** and the outdoors with other inspiring young people.

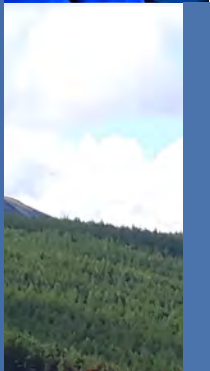
My experience was **grounding.** Perspective strengthening.



I never thought I would be able to mentally push myself to spend a week with strangers, who may not like me, and when I struggle to like myself. Getting up each morning and out of the tent challenged my self esteem but once I got out it was so peaceful it made me forget all about worrying about myself.



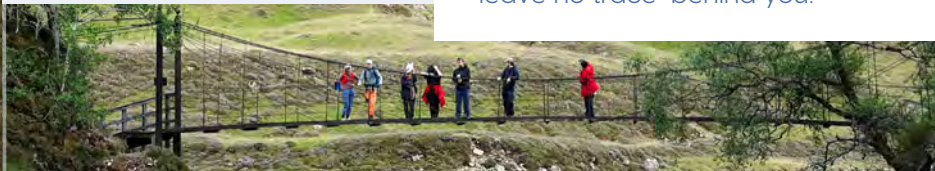
I felt a lot of peace on the expedition which has allowed me to look at things more clearly, see more clearly things that are working for me at the moment and which are not and **critically reflecting on where I am now and where I want to be.**



My highlight was making friends and **learning how to talk to people** in a world where I otherwise would never talk to anyone.



It made me more conscious of ways to preserve the environment and treat the natural world with respect. I realised how little you need to actually survive and that it is possible, though difficult, to "leave no trace" behind you.



I've realised that any person can be more when they decide to commit. I went from being afraid to face my future, to learning that everyone is. What matters is how you face it.





Photo: Honor photographed alongside another veteran of British Exploring Society - volunteer expedition Leader Bruce Manning.

REFLECTING ON A DECADE OF LEADERSHIP

Honor Wilson-Fletcher, CEO British Exploring Society (2016 - 2026)

British Exploring Society is a forward-thinking youth development charity defined by characteristics which were part of its earliest foundations.

It was once said* that the great explorer is marked out by their optimism, patience, idealism and courage. British Exploring Society, the original exploration charity for young people, can claim those attributes. They sit alongside core values of challenge, self-belief and community. Our model – what we grandly call our **theory of change** – is also remarkably unchanged from the original idea which generated the model. Our early years authentically

inform our work today. Our heritage is remarkable, and (like so many members of our community) continues to provide us with invaluable learning.

We continue to be as disciplined as we are adventurous, as curious and adaptable as we are independently-minded, calm and rational as our founder could hope for. Hope and optimism are an active choice – and I am incredibly proud (and fortunate) to have been part of the community that demonstrates these characteristics and harnesses them with such drive and purpose to deliver lasting, measurable benefits to young people.

*By Shackleton.



We are as committed as ever to extended adventure and expeditions in wild and remote locations.

What we call the 'gnarly' end of our programmes. But we're not here to indulge our own enthusiasms. We want to deliver expeditions because they work. They define young lives. Because we are evidence-based and because we listen, we also make robust decisions to adapt our programmes when we need to. We want to ensure that young people can progress successfully to the extended expedition opportunities we love, and which we know work best of all in delivering lasting benefit. So we now have Wild Pathways, a coherent programme of adventures to match every confidence level, to help young people build their resilience and trust and succeed as they take bigger steps into wild places. We hold fast to our core principles, but are as adaptable as we need to be to ensure our relevance. It's what I call the **heritage start-up** mindset.

We're a significantly fairer, more inclusive, diverse organisation than we were 10 years ago. This is principally through the engagement of more nationally representative and previously under-served groups of young people. We continue to struggle to achieve anything like the same success in our volunteer community. But we keep working at it.

There is 60% less wilderness in the world than when this organisation was founded.

Finding sustainable locations where young people can make their own choices and learn to live in genuinely remote locations for extended periods is taxing. One of the unintended consequences of effective international large-scale environmental management schemes has been to push many amazing locations outside the scope of charities like us. We are also living in a period of remarkable geopolitical instability. Many locations are either unsafe, hostile, or

inaccessible, for the groups of young people we work with. The charitable sector does not anticipate an uplift in its overall financial circumstances for at least the next few years either - and it's leaders have been preparing for very lean times for a while now.

British Exploring Society has always run lean, with no debts, and modest reserves.

But we have patience, optimism and are driven by our idealism and our adaptability. We didn't stop working throughout the pandemic, and our Wild Pathways are showing early signs of really helping young people struggling with their confidence to make the move into adventure and acquiring the resilience, determination and skills they need for life.

All our futures depend on there being sufficient community-minded individuals who can think independently, and are courageous enough to act on what evidence and their values compels them to do. So, we're facing towards our 100th birthday and starting to plan forwards with the excitement, rigour and commitment to challenge we've always had.

Honor Wilson-Fletcher,
CEO British Exploring Society
(2016 - 2026)



Photo: Tim taking part in the our annual Chair's Challenge fundraiser which helped raise an astonishing £56,000 for the charity.

A NEW KIND OF ADVENTURE IN 2025

Tim Passingham, Chair, British Exploring Society

It was an enormous privilege to take on the role of Chairing the Trustees of British Exploring Society last year. Helping Honor and the charity navigate change and a very challenging year has already proved to be exciting, and fulfilling! We've climbed a mountain in 2025 and as always we have learned from the changes we've made.

I am proud of the work that our British Exploring Society team and volunteer Leaders have achieved in 2024/25.

A New Kind of Adventure – our plan for change – successfully pivoted to focus on UK expeditions last summer for a “reset” year. We are operating internationally again this year in Kyrgyzstan, now running a complete set of Wild Pathways in the UK and internationally to give young people multiple starting points from short UK adventures to longer, overseas expeditions.



We optimistically look towards our 100 year anniversary...

and have now begun the planning for what British Exploring Society might look like in 2032. We start our journey towards 2032 with a new CEO, Joseph Howes, who in March will replace Honor Wilson-Fletcher who departs after ten years of service to the Charity. We have also received the wonderful news that HRH the Duke of Edinburgh has accepted our invitation to be our new Royal Patron. Next we will strengthen our Council for the future with a number of appointments, and then spend time as a new group of trustees, our Development Board and our Team setting our course for the next seven years.

One thing that won't change is our purpose...

which remains steadfast in helping young people be able to contribute

confidently in the World by providing equal access to adventure in the wilderness as an unbeatable preparation for adult life. This year, once again, we have seen the power of the outdoors and nature to have a profound impact on the lives of young people. This has been beautifully illustrated in our new film, "We Belong Here" sharing the testimonies of a few of the young people who have joined us on programmes in recent years.

"If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together".

The old adage could not be more true of our sure but steady progress, especially this past year. For all the many individuals, families, companies, trusts and foundations who have supported us on the journey so far, may I say an enormous thank you. We could not help positively affect the lives of so many young people without your

unwavering support and this will be more important than ever as we plan towards 2032.

Finally, may I thank Honor once again for her incredibly hard work and service to the Charity. She has put the Charity on a firm footing and achieved so much in her tenure for which we are enormously grateful. We continue the adventure with purpose and optimism.

Tim Passingham
Chair, British Exploring Society
chair@britishexploring.co.uk



WILD PATHWAYS



Introduction

Wild Pathways

Our Impact Framework

Finance



OUR WILD PATHWAYS

At British Exploring Society we offer young people four Wild Pathways.

**Welcome to
Adventure**

**Finding
Your Feet**

**Hitting
Your Stride**

**Ready to
Explore**

Our Wild Pathways are intended to progressively build a young person's confidence so they feel ready to take on bigger and more challenging experiences. Each person can start their journey at whichever stage they feel most comfortable.

On all of our Wild Pathways young people:

- Learn from making choices and decisions for themselves, doing things for the first time and being stretched
- Connect and communicate with other young people, sharing different life experiences
- Enhance their curiosity, skills, knowledge and personal development through engaging, real-life learning.
- Connect with wild, remote places and the natural environment.
- Are coached intensively by exceptional volunteer Leaders and Experts who also act as remarkable role models.



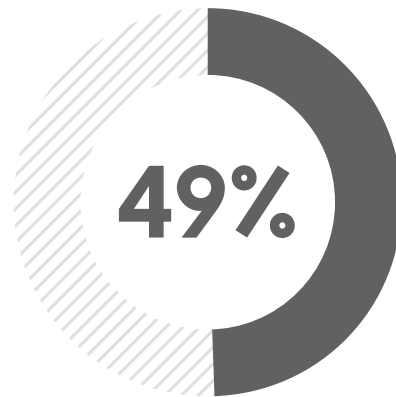
WHO WE HELPED



//

You shouldn't be afraid to challenge yourself. step up to lead the group or make your voice heard in a group. A group works the best when there is communication and a feeling of connection.

Young Adventurer



OF YOUNG ADVENTURERS THAT JOINED A PROGRAMME HAD A HOUSEHOLD INCOME BELOW £23,000.

In order to deliver the right Wild Pathways to support the needs of our young people, we must understand their well-being, living conditions and financial situation.

Young people applying to our adventures* are asked for details of their socio-economic circumstances, including through our Equal Opportunities form.

Disability and/or long-term health conditions

21% of young people disclosed that they had at least one disability or long term health condition, this does not include a further 6% who did not want to disclose. The number of disclosures is lower than 2024, however the number of young people who would prefer not to say has increased from 2024.

Many young people may not fully understand what constitutes a disability, which can lead to underreporting of long-term health conditions—particularly those managed through daily medication. Additionally, mental health issues are often not self-identified as disabilities by young people, contributing to

further underrepresentation. As a result, the data presented may not accurately reflect the number of young people who required additional support within our programmes this year.

Ethnicity & gender identity

59% of the young people who joined us this year identified as male, 39% identified as female and 2% identified as non-binary or specified 'other' as their gender. There has been a decrease in young people identifying as not male in comparison to previous years.

62.4% of Young Adventurers identified as white British (English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish) and 23.2% from ethnic minority backgrounds (excluding white minorities).

Care experienced individuals

29 young people in care joined us on an Adventure, through our partnership with the National Fostering Group.



It's incredibly rewarding to see the progress in the Young Explorers from the start to the end of the expedition. and to have played a part in supporting them through their journey. I also love being able to have the opportunity to explore and be on an adventure myself whilst being a leader. I also love the support network we have behind us as Fire Leaders... it's brilliant to know we have such well thought out safety and knowledge available to us as a Fire should we need it."

Volunteer Leader

Who leads the programmes?

One of the greatest gifts we receive each year is a donation in professional time from our volunteer Leaders. Their commitment and skills are critical to the outcomes we seek, to our mission and to our values.

Young people have told us that it is the first time they have been supported by adults who are with them by choice, not obligation.

THE RATIO OF LEADERS TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN 2025 WAS

1:3



The following articulates equal opportunities data relating to volunteer Leaders who participated in programmes in 2025 and includes a year-on-year comparison against data presented previously.

		2020/21 48 Leaders	2021/22 76 Leaders	2022/23 62 Leaders	2023/24 45 Leaders	2024/25 44 Leaders
Ethnic Minorities		2.10%	7%	4.80%	11.1%	9.09%
Disability		8.30%	14%	20.97%	6.7%	15.91%
Gender	Male	50%	55%	51.61%	62.2%	50%
	Female	43.80%	44%	45.10%	37.8%	47.73%
	Prefer not to say	2.10%	1%	1.61%	0%	2.27%
	Other	n/a	n/a	n/a	0%	0%
Sexuality	Heterosexual	79.20%	79%	83.60%	82.2%	84.09%
	Bisexual	2.1%	8%	3.3%	6.7%	4.55%
	Homosexual	0%	3%	1.6%	0%	2.27%
	Other not listed	2.1%	5%	4.9%	2.2%	0%
	Prefer not to say	12.5%	5%	6.5%	8.9%	6.82%



I consider it a privilege to work with such a capable volunteer team and to be trusted to guide, care for, share my passion with, teach and be taught by the young people.”

Volunteer Leader

Between 2021 and 2025, leadership diversity has shown mixed progress.

Ethnic minority representation rose from 2.1% to 9.09%, with a peak in 2023/24, while disability representation fluctuated—peaking at 20.97% in 2022/23 before settling at 15.91%. Gender balance remained relatively stable, though male representation spiked in 2023/24. Sexuality data shows a consistent majority identifying as heterosexual, with a gradual decline in “prefer not to say” responses, suggesting increased comfort in disclosure. Overall, the data reflects growing inclusion efforts, though year-on-year variation highlights areas for continued focus.



British Exploring Society is entirely dependent on fundraising, and on the generosity of its supporters.



WELCOME TO ADVENTURE

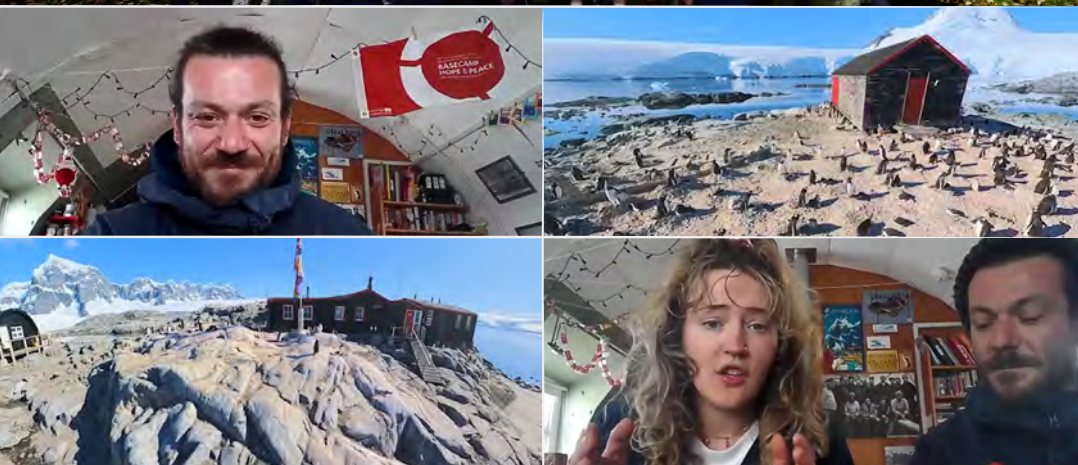
Welcome to Adventure is our most accessible pathway, requiring no travel and no specialised equipment; it introduces young people to the excitement and challenge of exploration and the outdoors.

Our half-day Expedition Workshops not only provide a glimpse of what a British Exploring Society expedition entails but they also offer opportunities to develop decision-making and team-building skills through engaging tasks.

Our virtual continent, Wildestan, allows young people to explore wild places from their own homes, encouraging them to get outdoors and explore their local areas. This innovative approach 'transports' them to remote locations like Antarctica, which are otherwise inaccessible due to risk, cost, and/or environmental impact.



WILDESTAN ANTARCTICA

**Location:**

Online, live streamed
from Antarctica

**Basecamp:**

Hope and Peace

**Duration:**

5 Weekly Sessions,
each 75 minutes

**Number of
Young Adventurers:**

18

WELCOME TO ADVENTURE WILD PATHWAY

YOUNG ADVENTURERS SAID...



The range of topics
covered was great and I
loved hearing from the
experts and learning
about Antarctica."



I really enjoyed this phase
of the programme and
found it so cool to talk to
people at Port Lockroy."

**Wildestan Adventurers gain
unique access to some of
the planet's most wild and
remote environments.**

Through our partnership with
the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust,
(UKAHT) this year's programme
encouraged young people to make
connections between their home
environment and the untamed
wilderness of the Antarctic.

Live from the UKAHT base in Port
Lockroy the team worked with our
own British Exploring Leaders to
provide interactive sessions ranging
from the ever popular penguin
watch sessions to biosecurity in the
UK and Antarctica. Young people are
encouraged to then apply newfound
knowledge and experiences to your
local surroundings and beyond.

**Special thanks to Cambridge
Management Consulting
and Rahul Moodgal, who in
recognition of their support named
the Basecamp Hope and Peace.**



EXPEDITION WORKSHOPS

WELCOME TO ADVENTURE WILD PATHWAY

These workshops take young people through a day-in-the-life on one of our expeditions. They aim to dispel myths about fitness, suitability, and the purpose of modern adventure and exploration as well as to provide fun and learning in an exciting context, as we do on our expeditions.

We have taken some time to review the use of workshops this year and how they relate to the Wild Pathways we are currently running. We ran a successful workshop in Nottingham which we used to capture content and will be key to recruitment for 2026.

Press play to check out the video from the Expedition Workshop we ran in Nottingham.

YOUNG ADVENTURERS SAID...



I really enjoyed the scenarios... It was quite fun debating what you would do."



I really enjoyed being able to figure it out for ourselves."





FINDING YOUR FEET



A glimpse of what life on expedition would be like, as well as giving me time to bond with my Fire (team)...

Eleanor, Young Adventurer 2025

Finding Your Feet offers residential adventure weekends for young people.

These weekends provide an immersive outdoor experience, helping Young Adventurers develop essential life skills in a supportive environment. The high Leader to participant ratio ensures each young person feels safe and encouraged - building their resilience and self-belief.





CANNOCK CHASE ADVENTURE WEEKEND



Location:
Cannock Chase



Deputy Chief Leader:
Andy Browning



Duration:
2 Nights



Number of Leaders:
19



Basecamp:
Beaundesert Activity Centre



**Number of
Young Adventurers:**
39



Chief Leaders:
Susannah Cass



Fires:
6

FINDING YOUR FEET WILD PATHWAY

Cannock Chase proved an ideal, gently challenging venue for what was, for many, their first night under canvas.

39 Young Adventurers arrived at Basecamp in the early evening of the first day, quickly settling in, getting kitted out, and sharing their first meal together before the adventure began.

With kind weather and a smooth-running schedule, the group—diverse in background, experience, and needs—were well supported throughout. Many Young Adventurers had complex support requirements, which the structure of the adventure and the accessibility of Basecamp were well placed to meet.

One Fire included a group of Young Adventurers for whom English was not a first language; with the guidance of their

Social Leader, they integrated confidently and contributed fully to the shared experience. A strong and positive culture was established early and carried through the entire event.

The Fire Journals emerged as a particular highlight, reflecting how quickly a sense of belonging and teamwork can form.

Many Young Adventurers left with a clearer sense of what is possible on a British Exploring Society adventure—and excitement for the next step on their journey.



HITTING YOUR STRIDE



The location was magnificent and the freedom to plan wherever we wanted to go was amazing.

Young Adventurer

This Wild Pathway is for young people ready for their first 'wild' adventure. These are multi-day adventures built entirely around exploring UK wild spaces with a focus on wild camping. This means no access to cabins, washing facilities or running water as young people develop skills and learn how to make decisions as a team while surviving in the wilderness.





DARTMOOR ADVENTURE WEEK

HITTING YOUR STRIDE WILD PATHWAY



Location:
Dartmoor



Duration:
4 Nights



Basecamp:
Huccaby Farm



Chief Leaders:
Susannah Cass



Number of Leaders:
5



**Number of
Young Adventurers:**
9



Fires:
1

Diverse in age, background, and experience, the Young Adventurers formed a supportive and effective Fire, returning proud of their shared journey.

One Fire (self-titled 'the Hungry Caterpillars'), a group of nine Young Adventurers, spent their Hitting Your Stride journey exploring the Dartmoor in mixed weather conditions.

Based at the well-located Huccaby Farm, the group were introduced to core British Exploring Society personal development practices, including goal-setting, team contracting, and individual and group reflection through tools such as the Adventure Compass (see [page 28](#)).

The Fire Leader team delivered the adventure with confidence and cohesion, supported by the kindness, generosity, and positive engagement of the Young Adventurers.

The Fire completed two days and nights of wild camping with a night at basecamp either side. Challenging navigation, changing conditions, and Dartmoor's famous mires offered valuable opportunities for growth and outdoor skill-building.

Alongside learning about the environment and history of Dartmoor, the group also undertook water-quality testing for the Freshwater Watch project and completed their Fire Scrapbook.

YOUNG ADVENTURERS DESCRIBED THE WEEK AS...



A good challenge and a good opportunity to socialise as well as meet new people."



Grounding. Perspective strengthening. Letting action direct self esteem."



The experience was amazing! I tried to keep as much of the experience within me as I could and carry it into my day-to-day life. I cannot wait to do it again!"



CAIRNGORMS ADVENTURE WEEK

HITTING YOUR STRIDE WILD PATHWAY



Location:
Perthshire



Duration:
6 Nights



Basecamp:
Basecamp Raymond



Chief Leaders:
Susannah Cass and
Andy Browning



Deputy Chief Leader:
Andy Burrows



Number of Leaders:
37



**Number of
Young Adventurers:**
79



Fires:
9

Seventy-nine Young Adventurers assembled at Edinburgh Waverley Station before travelling by coach to Blair Atholl on the edge of the Cairngorms.

From there, they began the hike into Basecamp Raymond. With favourable weather throughout the approach, the group had an ideal start to their time in the wild.

During their days on adventure, Young Adventurers immersed themselves fully in the environment: observing and recording local wildlife, carrying out freshwater surveys as part of the Freshwater Watch citizen science programme, and developing key expedition skills including navigation and campcraft. Many went on to summit a number of Corbetts and even a few Munros, experiencing the scale and beauty of the landscape first-hand.

The Fires spent their first night—and most of the following day—at Basecamp Raymond undertaking initial training. Once prepared, they set out on their individual journeys, wild-camping for five nights as they explored the surrounding terrain. Although supply deliveries were delayed, the adaptability and initiative of our Leaders, supported by the excellent basecamp management team, ensured that all provisions were successfully distributed.

The expedition drew to a close with a final evening of celebration at basecamp. At first light the next morning, the Fires walked out from Gilberts Bridge to meet the coach for their return journey to Edinburgh, tired, proud, and carrying new skills and experiences that will stay with them long after the trail dust fades.

YOUNG ADVENTURERS DESCRIBED THE WEEK AS...



A profound awakening to who I am, who I want to be and where that person stands amongst both people and the natural world."



It was amazing to see my determination play out before me as I overcame challenges, acquired new skills and interacted with different people. It was nice to be in a group of people who I hadn't met before, because there was just so much to learn about them. For the first time in a while, I felt free and happy."

Special thanks to the Roger Raymond Charitable Trust, who in recognition of their support named the Basecamp Raymond.



READY TO EXPLORE

//

I got the opportunity to go on a short 5-day Adventure to Dartmoor National Park. I really enjoyed the whole experience. I loved doing a lot of walking, carrying everything that I needed in a rucksack, the quiet when falling asleep, taking water quality measurements from streams that we passed, etc. I felt a lot of peace. After this adventure I really wanted to do a longer one. There are still a lot of skills that I want to learn and a lot of growth that I can do through this experience."

Kristina, who has since signed up to join our Kyrgyzstan expedition in 2026



KYRGYZSTAN 2026



Location:
Kyrgyzstan



Duration:
28 nights



KNOYDART 2026



Location:
Knoydart, Scotland



Duration:
14 nights

The opportunities of our Wild Pathways would not be complete without extended expedition provision in wild places.

Ready to Explore offers Young Explorers multi-week expeditions to some of the most remote locations in the UK and overseas, where together they face the extraordinary every day.

These completely wild camping expeditions give Young Explorers a truly immersive experience that helps them connect to the land, reframe their perspective and build skills and knowledge.

There are no set itineraries on expeditions; we aim to provide Young Explorers with the skills that enable them to have the confidence and agency to shape their own expeditions, focussing on positive risk-taking, increased responsibility and overcoming challenges.

Ready to Explore is grounded in British Exploring Society's Theory of Change, with Leaders supporting Young Explorers as they journey through adventurous and demanding environments for weeks at a time.

In 2026, we will be exploring for two weeks in Knoydart, Scotland, and four weeks in Kyrgyzstan.



OUR IMPACT FRAMEWORK





MEASURING IMPACT USING **THE ADVENTURE COMPASS**

Introduction

Wild Pathways

Our Impact Framework

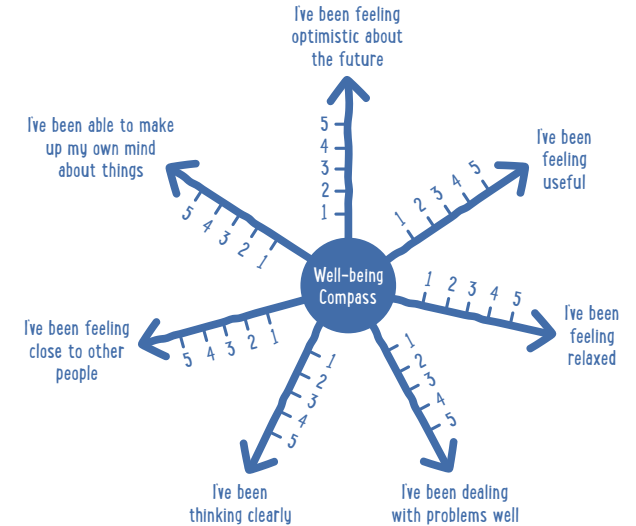
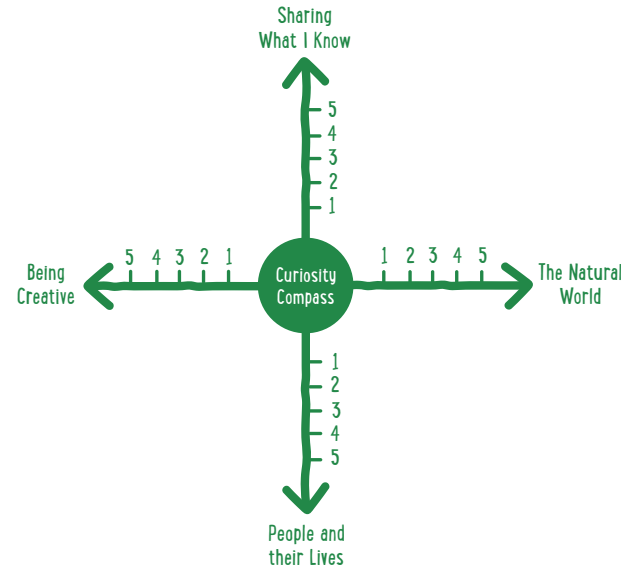
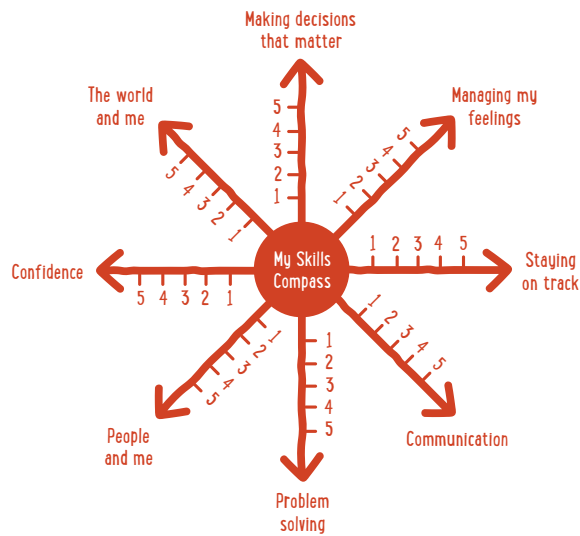
Finance

DEMONSTRATING THE DIFFERENCE EXPLORATION MAKES

At British Exploring Society, we hold ourselves to a simple but powerful principle: adventure has the potential to transform lives. To honour that belief, and to remain accountable to the young people, volunteers, and supporters who place their trust in us, we must be able not only to tell the story of that transformation but to demonstrate it.

The Adventure Compass is our way of doing just that – a rigorous, holistic framework that helps us understand how young people grow through purposeful adventure, and how our programmes can continually evolve to serve them better.





WHAT THE ADVENTURE COMPASS DOES

The Compass looks beyond attendance numbers or activity logs. Instead, it measures real, lasting change in the areas that matter most for a young person stepping into adulthood: **Skills, Curiosity, and Well-being**.

These measures are revisited throughout a young person's journey with us, shaping reflective discussions with our volunteer Leaders and allowing participants to identify their strengths, personal challenges, and the goals that matter to them.

WHY THE ADVENTURE COMPASS MATTERS

The Compass ensures that our programmes:

- Place young people at the heart of their own development,
- Facilitate meaningful conversations,
- Capture progress over time in an evidence-based way,
- Provide reliable insight into well-being,
- Identify what is working, and uphold accountability.

UNDERSTANDING CHANGE

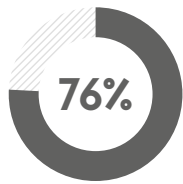
Progress is assessed based on the shift between a young person's initial and final scores:

Change in Score	Level of Change	Interpretation
+2.5 or more	Outstanding	They've made strong progress towards managing independently
+1.5 – 2	Significant	They're building skills, confidence and starting to take control
+0.5 – 1	Moderate but meaningful change	They've taken a first step – e.g. from accepting help to trying things out
0	No change	They may be stable or still facing barriers
Negative	Setback	May indicate new challenges or a need to adjust support

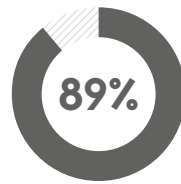


AT THE END OF OUR 2025 ADVENTURES...

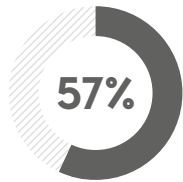
132 Young Adventurers shared their feedback with us and completed the Adventure Compass, with increases reported across every measure.



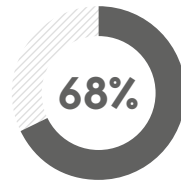
SAID THE ADVENTURE COMPASS HELPED THEM REFLECT.



WOULD RECOMMEND BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY.



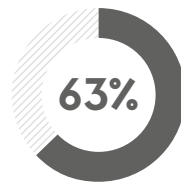
SAID IT HELPED THEM SET GOALS.



FELT INSPIRED TO MAKE POSITIVE LIFE CHANGES.



WOULD JOIN ANOTHER EXPEDITION.

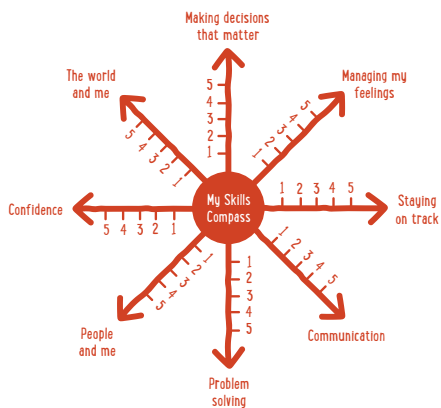


FELT THEIR HORIZONS BROADENED.





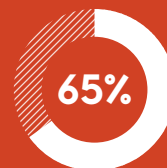
THE SKILLS COMPASS



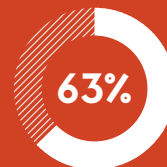
To measure skills development we have an adapted version of the trusted Outcomes Star™. Used across thousands of organisations, the Outcomes Star helps young people chart their progress in essential areas such as making decisions that matter, managing feelings, problem solving, growing confidence, and working with others.

In 2025, Young Adventurers continued to demonstrate meaningful personal development across the My Adventure Compass framework. While overall patterns of growth remained consistent with previous years, new highlights emerged, particularly in People and Me, where the highest proportion of participants reported significant increases.

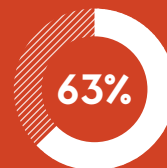
IN 2025



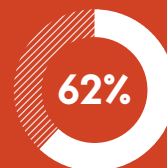
OF YOUNG PEOPLE RECOGNISED AN INCREASE IN THEIR ABILITY TO STAY ON TRACK.



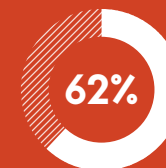
RECOGNISED GROWTH IN THEIR ABILITY TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT MATTER.



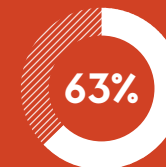
RECOGNISED IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR COMMUNICATION SKILLS.



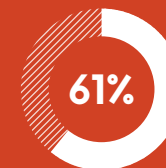
RECOGNISED GROWTH IN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR IMPACT ON THE WORLD.



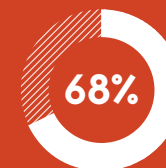
RECOGNISED AN INCREASE IN THEIR ABILITY TO MANAGE THEIR FEELINGS.



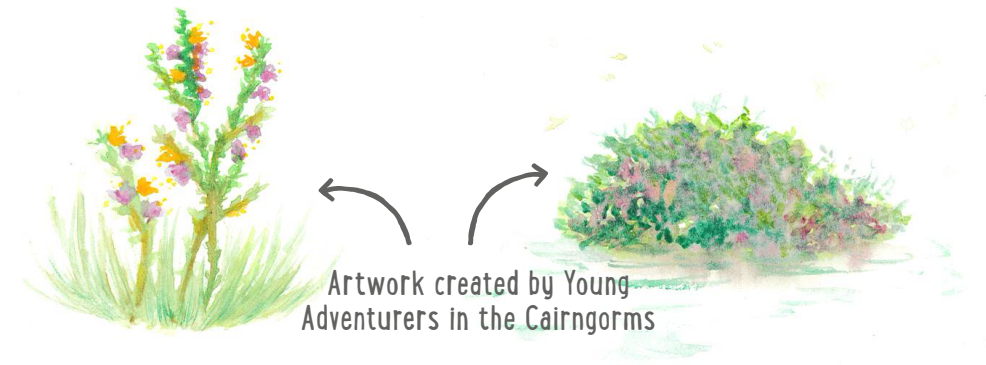
RECOGNISED AN INCREASE IN THEIR CONFIDENCE.



RECOGNISED GROWTH IN THEIR ABILITY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS.



RECOGNISED AN INCREASE IN THEIR PEOPLE SKILLS.



Artwork created by Young Adventurers in the Cairngorms

	Making decisions that matter	Manage my feelings	Staying on track	Communication	Problem solving	People and me	Confidence	The world and me	Average
Average start	3.36	3.30	3.10	3.43	3.49	3.33	3.32	3.20	3.32
Average end	4.09	4.09	4.05	4.19	4.23	4.17	4.17	4.02	4.13
Difference	0.73	0.80	0.95	0.77	0.74	0.84	0.85	0.82	0.81

The 2025 Skills Compass results reflect a strong year of personal development across our programmes, with an average growth of +0.81 across all themes.

These results are based on self-assessment and reflect not only skill acquisition but also increased self-awareness. It is common for participants to reassess their initial scores downward post-expedition as their understanding of the themes deepens. This trend is particularly evident among young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, whose evolving perceptions may help explain the shift from earlier years.

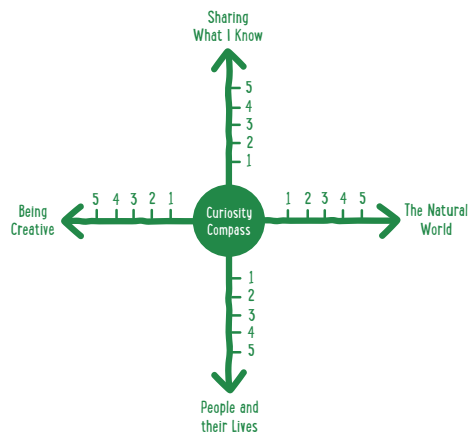
Overall, the data suggests that recent programme refinements are yielding positive outcomes and continue to support meaningful growth in key areas of personal development.

Young Adventurers who showed...

	Making decisions that matter	Managing my feeling	Staying on track	Communication	Problem solving	People and me	Confidence	The world and me
Decrease	5%	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	5%	1%
No change (0)	32%	37%	31%	35%	37%	35%	34%	33%
Moderate but meaningful (0.5 & 1)	46%	50%	43%	52%	52%	44%	38%	51%
Significant increase (1.5 & 2)	17%	5%	23%	9%	5%	14%	16%	13%
Outstanding increase (2.5 <)	1%	7%	3%	3%	5%	5%	7%	2%
% Improvers	64%	62%	69%	64%	62%	63%	61%	66%



THE CURIOSITY COMPASS

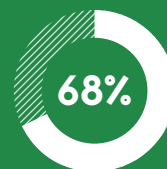


To assess how well we foster curiosity and the appetite for learning new things, we have created the Curiosity Compass.

As a reflective tool, it encourages young people to think about their relationship with the world around them and their place in it.

It helps young people think about how they learn, how they share their learning with others, and how that learning may support decisions they go on to make after they complete their adventure with us.

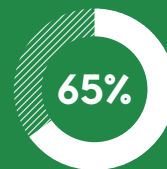
IN 2025



OF YOUNG PEOPLE
RECOGNISED AN
INCREASE IN THEIR
ABILITY TO SHARE
WHAT THEY KNOW.



RECOGNISED
AN INCREASE IN
THEIR CURIOSITY
ABOUT THE
NATURAL WORLD.



RECOGNISED AN
INCREASE IN THEIR
CURIOSITY ABOUT
OTHER PEOPLE
AND THEIR LIVES.



RECOGNISED AN
INCREASE IN THEIR
CURIOSITY ABOUT
BEING CREATIVE.





Every day pushed me to climb harder only to later see how far I'd come: valleys, mountains, Adders, dragon fly's , toads, newts, hares, deers and open open sky. I've learnt about what matters most, making connections with others and taking in the grandeur of our world."

Young Adventurer 2025

	Sharing What I Know	The Natural World	People and their Lives	Being Creative
Average start	3.22	3.52	3.35	3.54
Average end	4.19	4.29	4.24	4.21
Difference	0.97	0.77	0.89	0.66

The results indicate positive growth across all four areas—**Sharing What I Know, The Natural World, People and their Lives, and Being Creative**—from the start to the end of the measured period. The most significant increase was in **Sharing What I Know**, which rose by 0.97 points, suggesting a notable boost in confidence or willingness to express and share ideas. **People and their Lives** and **The Natural World** also showed strong improvements,

with increases of 0.89 and 0.77 respectively, reflecting growing interest or engagement in these themes. **Being Creative** had the smallest change (0.66), though it started with the highest average score, indicating Young Adventurers were already confident or engaged in creative activities. Overall, the data suggests a successful and enriching experience that enhanced participants' self-perception and engagement across diverse areas.



We had water, wind, and could see for miles. Everyone was high in spirits. We lay together, watching the world go by, while laughing, drawing, writing poetry until the sun set.”

Young Adventurer 2025



These results provide a deeper understanding of how Young Adventurers' responses changed over time across the four categories. The percentage of change data shows that the **majority of Young Adventurers experienced improvement**, with the “% Improvers” ranging from **56% to 68%** depending on the category. Sharing What I Know had the highest proportion of improvers (68%), reinforcing earlier findings that this

Percentage of change

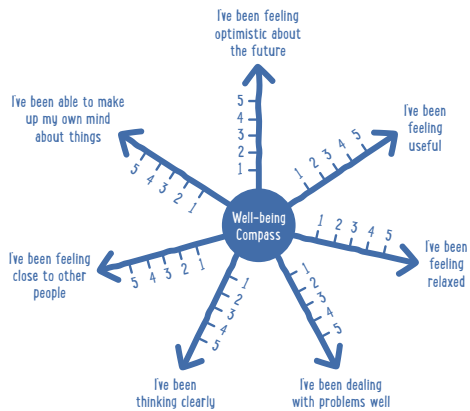
	Sharing what I know	The Natural World	People and their Lives	Being Creative
Decrease	3%	2%	0%	1%
No change (0)	29%	40%	35%	43%
Moderate but meaningful (0.5 & 1)	44%	43%	43%	47%
Significant increase (1.5 & 2)	16%	11%	20%	7%
Outstanding increase (2.5<)	8%	4%	2%	2%
% Improvers	68%	58%	65%	56%

area saw the most growth. Most increases were moderate, with **43–47%** of Young Adventurers showing a change of 0.5 to 1 point. A smaller group experienced **significant increases** (1.5–2 points), particularly in People and their Lives (20%), while Being Creative had the fewest in this category (7%). Only a very small percentage showed **outstanding increases** (above 2.5 points), and **decreases were minimal**, ranging from 0–3%. The high percentage

of Young Adventurers with no change (29–43%) suggests that while many improved, a substantial portion remained consistent, possibly because they started with high scores. Overall, the data reflects a broadly positive impact, with particularly strong gains in confidence and engagement in sharing knowledge and connecting with others.



THE WELL-BEING COMPASS



To measure well-being we use the academically validated **Short Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale**.

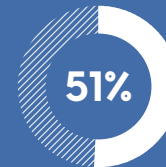
It consists of seven positively worded statements that reflect key aspects of mental well-being. Young people use the Well-being Compass to rate how often they have experienced each of the seven statements during their time with us. It helps young people gain a clearer understanding of their own well-being and how to manage it, while also allowing us to see the positive impacts we are having.

Using our Wellbeing Compass (based on the Short Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale), Young Adventurers showed an average 24% improvement in wellbeing relative to their baseline scores by the end of their time on Adventure with us.

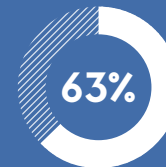
IN 2025



OF YOUNG PEOPLE RECOGNISED AN INCREASED FEELING OF OPTIMISM ABOUT THE FUTURE.



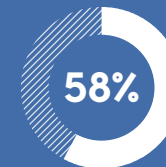
RECOGNISED AN INCREASE IN FEELING USEFUL.



RECOGNISED AN INCREASE IN FEELING RELAXED.



RECOGNISED AN INCREASED FEELING OF BEING ABLE TO DEAL WELL WITH PROBLEMS.



RECOGNISED THAT THEY WERE THINKING MORE CLEARLY.



RECOGNISED AN INCREASED FEELING OF BEING CLOSE TO OTHER PEOPLE.



RECOGNISED AN INCREASED FEELING OF BEING ABLE TO MAKE UP THEIR OWN MIND ABOUT THINGS.



[my highlights were] getting to give people support in my team and getting to lead a little bit also making it up the munroe and making really nice connections with everyone in my Fire"

FIRE JOURNAL

Name: Kate

Date:

Coordinates/location:

Peregrine falcon:

Saw two together on the third day!



☐ Tick this box if the contents of this page should be kept private for just your Fire.

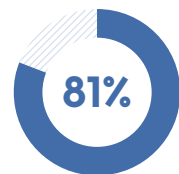
HOW DOES THE WELL-BEING COMPASS WORK?

The Short Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale (SWEMWBS) focuses on an individual's psychological functioning, overall life satisfaction, and capacity to build and sustain positive relationships. It reflects key aspects of psychological wellbeing, including autonomy, self-acceptance, personal growth, purpose, and self-esteem.

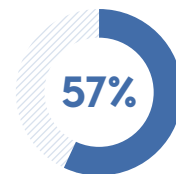
Developed by NHS Health Scotland, the University of Warwick, and the University of Edinburgh, the tool is designed to measure changes in wellbeing rather than to diagnose mental illness.

Across every area of the scale, Young Adventurers reported an average increase in wellbeing. At the beginning of their Adventure,

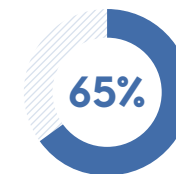
many described feeling anxious or struggling to manage challenges effectively. These were also the areas where we saw the greatest positive change. By the end of their programmes, Young Adventurers most commonly reported feeling optimistic about the future and confident in their ability to make decisions for themselves.



(31) OF YOUNG PEOPLE RESPONDED THAT THE WELLBEING COMPASS HELPED THEM RECOGNIZE HOW THEY WERE FEELING ON THEIR ADVENTURE.



(22) OF YOUNG PEOPLE RESPONDED THAT THE WELLBEING COMPASS HELPED THEM DISCUSS THEIR WELLBEING AND FEELINGS ON THEIR ADVENTURE.



(25) OF YOUNG PEOPLE RESPONDED THAT THE WELLBEING COMPASS HELPED THEM IMPROVE THEIR WELLBEING ON THEIR ADVENTURE

The total average score at the end of our 2025 programmes was 29.7, which based on the SWEMWB scale puts our Young Adventurers inside the top 15% for mental wellbeing in the UK population.



Fire journal entry

	I've been feeling optimistic about the future	I've been feeling useful	I've been feeling relaxed	I've been dealing with problems well	I've been thinking clearly	I've been feeling close to other people	I've been able to make up my own mind about things
Average start	3.51	3.29	3.26	3.41	3.48	3.23	3.84
Average end	4.33	4.18	4.08	4.08	4.23	4.28	4.51
Difference	0.82	0.89	0.82	0.67	0.74	1.04	0.67

Young Adventurers reported consistent improvements across all seven wellbeing indicators, with particularly strong gains in social connection and self-worth. The largest increase was in feeling close to other people, which rose by +1.04 points, suggesting deeper interpersonal bonds and a stronger sense of belonging. Feeling useful also saw a notable uplift of +0.89, reflecting increased confidence in personal contribution. Other areas

such as optimism, relaxation, and clear thinking improved by over +0.7 points each, indicating enhanced emotional wellbeing and cognitive clarity. While decision-making and problem-solving started from relatively higher baselines, they still showed meaningful growth, reinforcing participants' growing autonomy and resilience. Overall, the data reflects a well-rounded and encouraging trajectory of personal development.

Percentage of change

	I've been feeling optimistic about the future	I've been feeling useful	I've been feeling relaxed	I've been dealing with problems well	I've been thinking clearly	I've been feeling close to other people	I've been able to make up my own mind about things
Decrease	1%	3%	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%
No change (0)	38%	38%	35%	44%	41%	22%	49%
Moderate but meaningful (0.5 & 1)	45%	40%	42%	44%	43%	55%	43%
Significant increase (1.5 & 2)	14%	11%	17%	7%	13%	15%	5%
Outstanding increase (2.5+)	2%	8%	4%	3%	2%	7%	2%
% Improvers	61%	59%	63%	54%	58%	77%	50%



OUR LONG TERM IMPACT



You never know the kind of people you will meet or the personalities you will end up with in your group, which is one of the best parts of the trip.

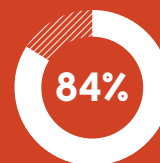
Young Adventurer

This marks the third year that we have distributed our annual questionnaire to Members (former expedition participants), which enables us to assess and demonstrate the long-term impact of our programmes.

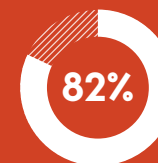
The survey draws on themes from our outcomes tool, The Adventure Compass, as well as questions originally developed by Penn State University for their doctoral research paper The Perceived Long-Term Influence of Youth Expeditions on Participants' Lives by Maria Jose Ramirez Canas (December 2019).

Participation is voluntary and not incentivised. To date, we have received more than 760 unique responses from the 3,600 Members contacted, representing individuals born in every decade from the 1930s through to the 2000s.

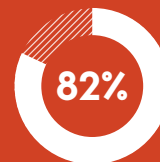
Members said their expedition had a positive or very positive impact on their:



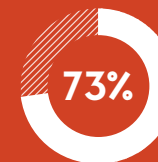
INTEREST IN THE ENVIRONMENT



SKILLS – PROBLEM SOLVING, COMMUNICATION, MAKING DECISIONS THAT MATTER

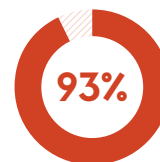


PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, CONFIDENCE, STAYING ON TRACK, MANAGING THEIR FEELINGS

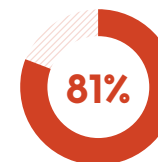


ATTITUDE TO VOLUNTEERING, COMMUNITY VALUE.

Members also said:



THEIR EXPEDITION WAS ENJOYABLE AND MEANINGFUL



THEY AGREE OR STRONGLY AGREE THAT THEIR EXPEDITION CHANGED THE COURSE OF THEIR LIFE.



Life is good. Alaska was a milestone, and its legacy lives on – not only in my own adventures, but in the joy of enabling others to experience the outdoors for themselves.

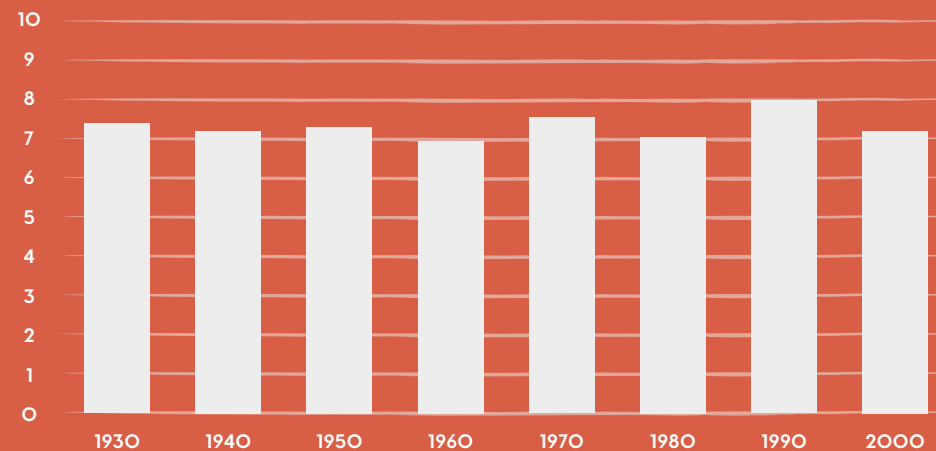
Adrian Pery
(Alaska 1985)



Adrian in 1985
&
Adrian today



Average Impact Score by Decade



The average score reported by Members for the impact of their expedition* does not significantly change, irrespective of the decade of their birth.

* Where impact is measured by level of agreement with the statement 'my expedition with British Exploring Society changed the course of my life', using a scale of 1-10, where 1 is strongly disagree and 10 is strongly agree.

What we cannot yet measure

- The positive changes that young people go on to make in their lives and the world around them
- The benefits of the life-long community of support that we work to build and maintain
- The above-average economic and societal contribution of our Members at work, and as volunteers.
- The social action and volunteering which participants undertake with us, and elsewhere.



WE BELONG HERE - OUR SHORT FILM

Naffie's attitude to life has really evolved. It's almost like she has an inner power... an inner safety net for herself. Because she knows now what she's capable of doing.

Julie, (Naffie's Foster Mum) speaking in We Belong Here.

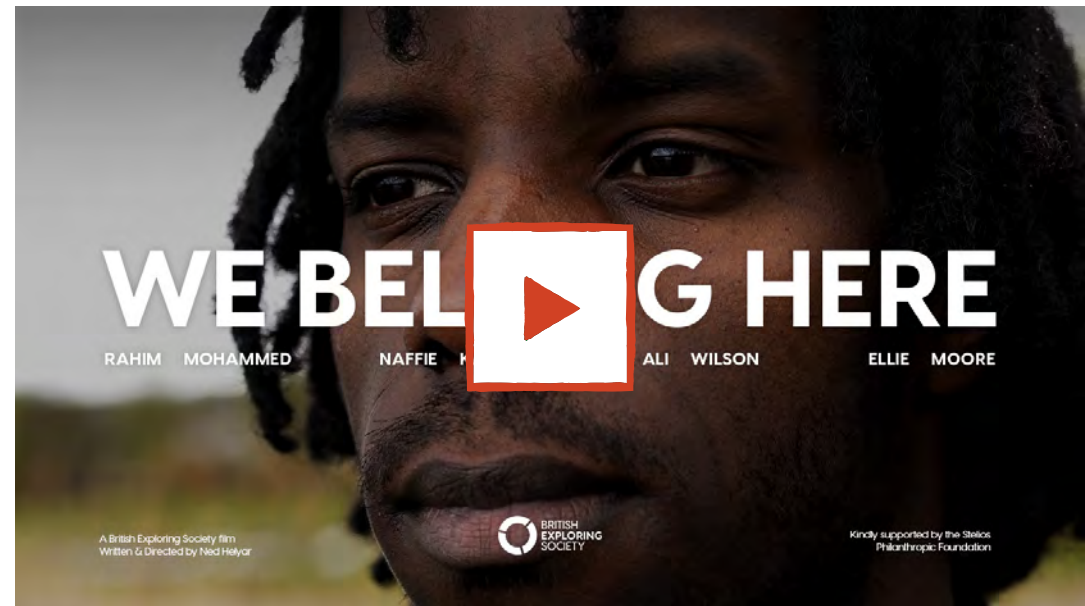
This year we explored a new approach to communicating the longer term impact of our work - we released a short film.

'We Belong Here' is an emotive short documentary that charts the journeys of four Young Explorers a year after their expeditions with us in 2024.

Filmed on location in each young person's hometown, our protagonists with their families and friends explore how their experiences have shaped their decisions and attitudes since returning home.

Links to the full film and the 6-minute Two Story Edit can be found on our website.

www.britishexploring.org/our-new-film



Special thanks go out to the Stelios Philanthropic Foundation and patron, Nigel Vardy FRGS, for generously supporting the films, as well as to Ali, Ellie, Naffie & Rahim for sharing their inspiring stories.



THANK YOU...

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the individuals and organisations whose unwavering support has been instrumental in our achievements this year. To those who wish to remain anonymous, please know that your contributions are appreciated and have not gone unnoticed.



Insightful, inspiring and
a unique experience!

Young Adventurer

Trusts/Foundations

Andrew Croft Memorial Fund - Carpenter Charitable Trust - Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust (The) - Dudley and Geoffrey Cox Charitable Trust - EBM Charitable Trust - Ethel and Gwynne Morgan Charitable Trust - Exilarch's Foundation (The) - Fort Foundation - Gill Foundation - Golden Bottle Trust (The) - Gosling Foundation - Hartz Family Foundation - John Armitage Charitable Trust - Mainhouse Charitable Trust - Martha Thom Charitable Trust - Misses Barrie Charitable Trust - Peacock Charitable Trust - Portal Trust - Progress Foundation (The) - Roger Raymond Charitable Trust - Stafford Trust - Stelios Philanthropic Foundation - T5 Dare - Tunicate Trust

Patrons

Arabella Connell - Andrew Holmes (Svalbard 1987) - Bryan and Maureen Wilsher - Chris Aylmer (Alaska 1985) - Daragh & Anne Horgan - David & Judy Dangoor - David Simonson - John & Catherine Hartz - Michael Oakley (Labrador 1958) - Nick Hide (Arctic Norway 1965) - Nigel Vardy - Rahul Moodgal - Tim Passingham

President

Lord Marvin Rees MBES (Svalbard 1990)

Trustees

Lord Marvin Rees MBES (President & Interim Chair) - Carolyn Young - James Smith - Jim Hopkinson MBES - Lindsay Selmes - Mark Fawcett - Rahul Moodgal (Vice Chair) - Richard Kleiner - Sarah Greasley (Vice Chair) - Tim Passingham (Chair)

Fellows

Alex Gregory MBE FBES - Belinda Kirk FBES - Ben Saunders FBES - Bruce Manning FBES - Caroline Hodges FBES - Chris Wright FBES - Colonel John Blasford Snell CBE FBES - Daragh Horgan FBES - David Dangoor FBES - Doug Oppenheim FBES - Dr Lucy Obolensky FBES - Dr Peter Allison FBES - Guðrún Tryggvadóttir FBES - Honor Wilson-Fletcher MBE FBES - James Dyer FBES - Jules Penney FBES - Justin Warwick FBES - Lieutenant General Peter Pearson CB CBE FBES - Major General Sir Michael Hobbs KCVO CBE FBES - Mark Evans MBE FBES - Nigel Harling FBES - Pen Hadow FBES - Preet Chandi MBE FBES - Sir Ranulph Fiennes OBE FBES - Steve Jones FRGS FEWN FBES - Suresh Paul FRGS FBES - Teddy Watson FBES - Tori James FBES

Development Board

Arabella Connell - Ben Saunders FBES - Carlotta Newbury - Duncan Souster - Jon Slade - Krupesh Patel - Petra Dismorr - Rahul Moodgal (Chair) - Stuart Denard - Tim Passingham

Companies

Brown Advisory - Cambridge Management Consulting - Catch22 - Financial Times - Gallagher - Investec - Merrell Fund - National Fostering Group - The Milestone Hotel & Residences

Fundraisers

Crossing of Knoydart - 2025 participants
Chairs Challenge - 2025 participants

Gifts in Wills

David Spencer (Central Iceland 1951)

In Memory

Mike Ringe (Svalbard Spring 1990)
Patrick Foy



FINANCE





STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The professionals who have always volunteered their time and skills and who take on considerable responsibility to lead our programmes provide hundreds of hours of intensive and high quality engagement to young people. Our work would not be possible without them.

Introduction

Wild Pathways

Our Impact Framework

Finance

Our Charitable Object is to advance the education of young people by providing inspirational and challenging scientific expeditions to remote, wild environments and so promote the development of their confidence, teamwork, leadership and spirit of adventure and exploration.

Public Benefit, Fundraising and Council Responsibilities

The trustees have taken due note of their responsibilities under the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. They are confident of the impact of British Exploring Society and the benefit to wider society through work in the following areas:

→ The relief of those in need because of disadvantage through specific programmes to provide progression opportunities for young people most at risk in society;

- The advancement of education through the development of individual capabilities, competencies, skills and understanding;
- The advancement of community development through the active promotion of volunteering and civic responsibility;
- The advancement of science through research, and independent research projects; and
- The advancement of environmental protection through the promotion and better understanding of sustainable development and biodiversity.

Council is ultimately accountable for the effectiveness of the charity in the achievement of its purpose. The Council's primary responsibilities relate to policy, strategy and performance, meeting, or exceeding standards in all areas of statutory

regulation, fundraising and financial performance and the safety and well-being of everyone, particularly the young people that the charity works with.

The executive team is responsible for implementing policy and strategy. The executive team and Chief Executive Officer design and deliver operational plans, manage risk on a day-to-day basis, make recommendations to Council in all areas of activity, and are accountable to Council for performance. The responsibility for all activities during expeditions is delegated to contracted volunteer Chief Leaders.

As of the end of the financial year, the charity was employing 14 full time and 3 part-time employees. Many volunteers offer their services regularly or on an ad hoc basis. A significant number provide specialist professional services to the charity.



Members of Council meet at a full Council meeting (minimum four per annum) or by way of sub-committee meetings. Individual Council members additionally give time to oversee specific areas of activity.

Council may appoint Advisors to Council with expertise of strategic significance to the charity and are listed on the website of the charity. They have no fixed term of office.

The Company is limited by guarantee and governed by Articles of Association. Third party indemnity provision is in force at the time of approval of the report for the benefit of one or more directors. British Exploring Society has in place Trustees, Directors, and Officers Public Liability insurance.

Members of Council, listed on [page 3](#), are the directors for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and trustees for the purposes of the Charities Act 2011. Members of Council are appointed at Council or

at the Annual General Meeting each year. Since the Company is limited by guarantee, none of the members of the Council has any beneficial interests in shares in the Company.

The Council may propose and appoint candidates. New members are recruited by formal application to a nominations sub-committee. Members of Council are limited to two four-year terms, after which a two-year break is enforced before the possibility of a further term.

The remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer is set by Council.

Approach to managing risk

The charity must manage risks to itself and to Leaders and young people on its programmes. Council is responsible for the oversight of both. The Executive works with Council to agree risk appetite and tolerance.

An Operations sub-committee supports the Executive in the oversight of risk in relation to programme development and delivery. At least two Council members serve on this committee.

Programme risk management

The Chief Executive, supported by the Head of Expeditions and the Expeditions Manager, is responsible for establishing and operating a system for managing programmes and their associated risks. On adventures and Expeditions 'in the field' this is delegated to Chief Leaders.

This includes checking compliance with British Exploring Society standard operating procedures (SOPs) which cover all technical aspects of preparing and delivering a programme and the standards and skills expected of Leaders and

Experts, including their ability to dynamically assess and manage the changing risks to which a programme may be exposed.

SOPs are updated annually in the light of practical experience, technical advice and changes in practice and regulation. Individual risk management plans and control measures are subject to interrogation through desk-based research which considers environmental, political, and other risks.

British Exploring Society's Council and its Operations sub-committee are satisfied that the charity's ability to identify, manage and review risks to the safety of expeditions and programmes is sound, and worked effectively in 2024/25.



Financial risk

Council mitigates financial risk through the appointment of a finance sub-committee chaired by the Treasurer. Executive staff present the latest accounts, forecasts and operating data for review before submission to Council. Members of the sub-committee can request ad hoc reports on financial and operating matters. Council Members have direct oversight of fundraising performance. The Charity's Finance Policy and Procedures and Reserves Policy are reviewed annually.

Statement of responsibility in relation to fundraising

British Exploring Society takes its duties in relation to fundraising under Data Privacy and Protection regulation and per The Code of Fundraising Practice seriously. In addition to its own Ethical Fundraising Policy, it is registered with the

Fundraising Regulator. The Code of Fundraising Practice outlines the standards expected of all UK charitable fundraising organisations. Those standards were developed by the fundraising community through the work of the Chartered Institute of Fundraising (CloF) and the Fundraising Regulator. Council has overall accountability for fundraising standards at British Exploring Society. Any material issues that arise are reviewed by the Finance Committee in the first instance, before escalation to Council as appropriate. We received no complaints in relation to fundraising activities in the 2024/5 financial year. Finance Committee had no cause to review any non-compliance with any area of fund-raising activity.

We raise funds via an in-house fundraising team and donations are received through Charitable Trusts and Foundations, Corporates, Individuals and Events.

We are registered with the regulatory body for fundraising in the UK, the Fundraising Regulator, and pay an annual levy to support its work. We adhere to the standards outlined in the regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice. We regularly review our fundraising activities to ensure they fully comply with the code, do not place an unreasonable intrusion on anyone's privacy or put them undue pressure on them to donate.

Our work brings us into contact with young people between the ages of 14 and 26, some of whom may be particularly vulnerable. We work and fundraise alongside our community of Members, families and carers, schools and public institutions, other charities, and local communities. British Exploring Society is committed, and recognises that it has an obligation, to always protect those in vulnerable circumstances. Should we ever suspect that someone we engage with through our fundraising

activity is lacking capacity or is in vulnerable circumstances, we will take steps to terminate any contract or commitment in a way which seeks to protect that person and their dignity, having due regard for any desire they have expressed to support British Exploring Society.

Statement of Council Members' Responsibilities

Members of Council are responsible for preparing the Council's Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires members of Council to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income



and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the members of the Council are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS102);
- Make judgements 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 operation.

The members of Council are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that 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 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

Disclosure of information to the Auditor

So far as each member of Council at the date of approval of this report is aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- certain members of Council, on its behalf, have made the appropriate enquiries and have taken all reasonable steps to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to ensure that the auditors are aware of that information.

Small company special provisions

The Council Report has been prepared taking advantage of the small companies' exemption in Section 415A of the Companies Act 2006. The accounts comply with the current statutory requirements, the governing document and SORP 2019.

This report was approved on 23 June 2026 and signed on behalf of Council by;

Richard Kleiner
Treasurer

Tim Passingham
Chair of Trustees



FINANCIAL REVIEW

By Richard Kleiner, Treasurer

Introduction

Wild Pathways

Our Impact Framework

Finance

The Statement of Financial Activities is shown on page 55.

2024/25 has been a year of challenges across the charity and voluntary sector. For British Exploring Society, we had to reset our financial structure and planning. This process of review led to some changes in our Trustees. As part of the changes to trustees and with the appointment of our new Chairman, I was appointed a new trustee in December 2024 and, at the same time, appointed chair of the Finance Committee and Treasurer. Our financial and operational reviews resulted in a decision to create a new programme structure, our New Kind of Advent only. This gave us the time and energy to get our finances back on track for 2026 and also to have the ability to plan a return to overseas expeditions in 2026, which we will do with Kyrgyzstan this summer.

In our fundraising, and in common with many other organisations within

the charity sector, we continue to tackle real challenges and, as we indicated in our previous annual reports, we are still not meeting every programme funding target in the way we would like to – although our overall financial position has improved and continues to do so thanks to the great work of the team and enormous generosity of our partners and donors.

We welcome the prospect of a more robust future thanks to the incredibly hard work of Rebecca Mahallati and her fundraising team and with the professionalism of a highly effective Development Board, led by our Vice Chair, Rahul Moogdal. Our focus is on growing a pipeline of individuals, trusts and foundations to help us to meet the charity's aspirations both in terms of activities and the funding thereof.

We are also assisted in challenging times by being able to control our programming with sufficient foresight to be able to manage

our overall income. As referred to previously, we took the decision in November 2024 to revise our approach and to reduce some of our activity in 2024/25. This advance decision avoided disappointment to participants, unnecessary start-up costs, and reduced our financial commitments whilst we continued to develop our pipeline of supporters and, most importantly, have a tremendous impact on the lives of the young people that we are here to serve.

We aim to more closely coordinate our fundraising and membership activities so that our community is better informed of our work and the means by which they can support us. A New Kind of Adventure focused the organisation on innovation and in delivering better outcomes for young people in a post-Covid world. We will use this opportunity to ensure we are fit for purpose for the future, and to facilitate continued growth in the impact we can achieve.



I am delighted to commend our 2024/25 annual report and accounts to you and look forward to the exciting adventure ahead in the year to come.

Richard Kleiner
Treasurer

The Statement of Financial Activities is shown on page 55.

British Exploring Society generated £817,528 of income (23/24 £903,661). The total cost of our charitable activities amounted to £895,881 (23/24 £1,173,895).

There was a net deficit/surplus on the unrestricted, restricted and endowment funds of £78,352 (23/24 £270,324). The Council confirms that the charity's assets are available and adequate to fulfil the financial obligations of the Society.

The main activities in the year to 31 October 2025 are outlined in the sections above.

The income and expenditure of the charity are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 55 of these financial statements.

Carbon reporting

In our 10-year strategy A Wild Future we made a commitment to report on our greenhouse gas emissions, and to share our progress in becoming a more sustainable organization in our annual report. Our carbon reports are for the year previous (2023/4) to the programme/financial year, as the generation and external validation of emissions must be undertaken after all activities end.

Our overall carbon footprint which includes office costs and programmatic activities for 2024 has been calculated by Carbon Managers for us at 102.99 tonnes CO₂e. We will continue to purchase Pending Insurance Units to offset our greenhouse gas emissions. PIUs are carbon credits in mitigation of our carbon emissions. Units purchased will accumulate over time to offset emissions already incurred. Our PIUs

will be available on the UK Land Carbon Registry for public scrutiny. We have sought high conservation/restoration value schemes of genuine value to landowners, with public access. We continue to work with ForestCarbon www.forestcarbon.co.uk.

Going forward, we aim to deliver an average 5% per annum reduction in our principal source of emissions – flights – to deliver a 50% overall reduction in emissions from flights by 2032.

Investment policy and performance

In accordance with the Articles of Association, the Council has the power to invest in such stocks, shares, investments and property as they see fit. No fund managers are currently engaged.



Reserves policy

The reserves policy is implemented with other governance and financial controls, and is intended to support these policies and the goals identified in British Exploring Society strategic and operational plans. The reserves fund is a sum set aside by Council. The minimum amount to be designated as reserves is designed to be enough to maintain ongoing operations and programmes for a set period, measured in months. The target minimum is equal to 3 months of average operating costs.

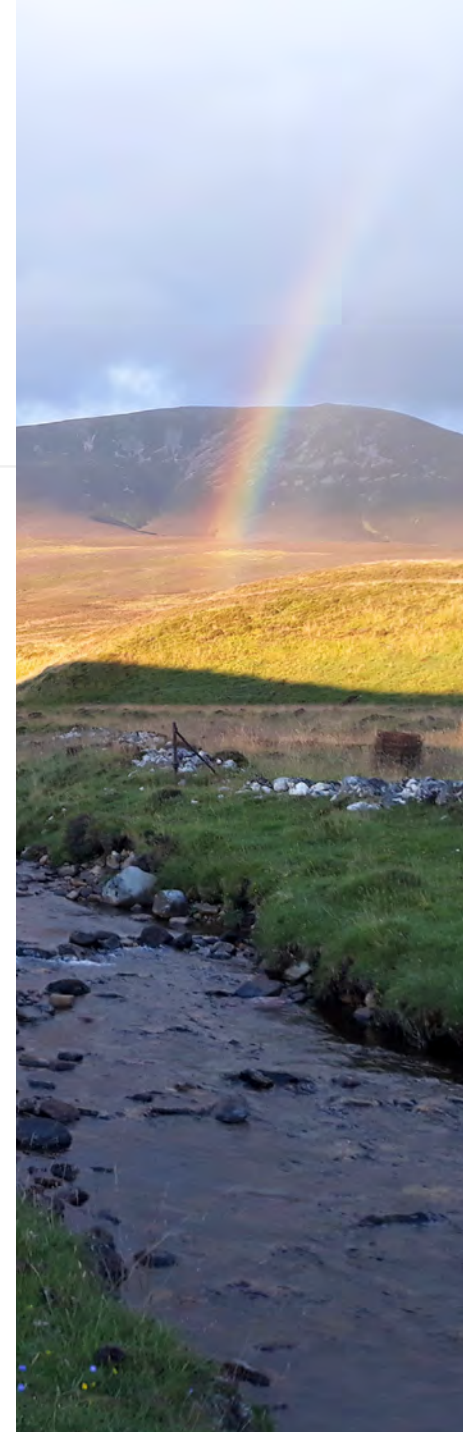
The reserves target minimum will be calculated and agreed each year alongside approval of the annual budget and will be included in regular financial reporting. The level of the reserves fund must be dynamic, will be reviewed by Finance Committee, and will be adjusted in response to internal and external changes.

The current calculation of average monthly operating costs includes all recurring, predictable expenses such as salaries and benefits, occupancy, travel, programme delivery, and ongoing professional services. Depreciation, in-kind, and other non-cash expenses are not included in the calculation.

The balance held as unrestricted funds at 31st October 2025 was £112,223 of which £99,159 are regarded as free reserves, after allowing for funds tied up in tangible fixed assets. The balance held as restricted and endowment funds as at 31st October 2025 was £106,083. As at 31 October 2025, free reserves stood at approximately 1.6 months' worth of average operating costs. Council has approved a budget for 2025/6.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The current economic conditions, particularly in relation to fundraising, have been reviewed and taken into consideration. Grants continue to be received, and plans have been put in place for future activities. The Trustees have also taken account of progress in the fundraising strategy, the ongoing loyalty of long-term supporters as well as donations received from new supporters. The charity continues to innovate and has shown the capacity to reorganise and focus on necessary operational changes and alterations to programme design. For these reasons the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.





INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of British Exploring Society

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the period ending 31st October 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities

Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

This report was approved on 29 June 2026 and signed on behalf of Council by;

Shona Wardrop

Dr Shona F Wardrop C.A.

ICAS
bk plus Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
44 Grand Parade
Brighton
East Sussex
BN2 9QA

Statement of financial activities



For the year ending 31st October 2025

Income	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2025 (£)	Total 2024 (£)
Donations	2	756,766	42,900	110	799,776	764,403
Income from charitable activities					-	
Contributions from participants, supporters and sponsors*	3	-	3,000	-	3,000	127,838
Income from investments	4	1,856	-	-	1,856	10,967
Other income	5	12,896	-	-	12,896	453
Total incoming resources		771,518	45,900	110	817,528	903,661
Expenditure	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2025 (£)	2024 (£)
Expenditure on raising funds						
Expenditure on charitable activities	6	653,610	242,271	-	895,881	1,173,985
Total Expenditure		653,610	242,271	-	895,881	1,173,985
Net income/(expenditure)and net movement in funds for the year before transfers		117,908	(196,371)	110	(78,352)	(270,324)
Transfers between funds		(157,371)	157,371	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)		(39,462)	(39,000)	110	(78,352)	(270,324)
Reconciliation of funds	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2025 (£)	2024 (£)
Total funds brought forward		151,685	133,898	7,474	293,057	563,382
Total funds carried forward	13	112,223	94,898	7,584	214,705	293,058

*In 2025, income contributions were much lower than in 2024. We set significantly reduced fundraising targets for our programme participants in light of not offering overseas activity provision in 2025. In 2026, with a return to overseas activity provision, we expect income contributions to be closer to the total shown for 2024.

Balance sheet



As at 31st October 2025

Fixed Assets	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2025 (£)	Total 2024 (£)
Tangible fixed assets	7	13,064		-	13,064	27,639
Total fixed assets		13,064	-	-	13,064	27,639
Current Assets	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2025 (£)	2024 (£)
Cash at bank and in hand		107,658	94,898	7,585	210,141	285,468
Debtors	8	59,981	-	-	59,981	26,896
Total current assets		167,639	94,898	7,585	270,121	312,364
Creditors	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2025 (£)	2024 (£)
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(68,480)	-	-	(68,480)	(46,946)
Net current assets		99,159	94,898	7,585	201,641	265,418
Net assets		112,223	94,898	7,585	214,705	293,057
Charity Funds	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2025 (£)	2024 (£)
Endowment				7,585	7,585	7,474
Restricted income funds			94,898		94,898	133,898
Unrestricted income funds		112,223			112,223	151,685
Total charity funds	13	112,223	94,898	7,585	214,705	293,057

Statement of cashflows



For the year ending 31st October 2025

Cash flows from operating activities	Notes	2025 (£)	2024 (£)
Net Cash used in operating activities	14	(74,803)	(263,477)
Cashflow from investing activities			
Interest		1,856	10,965
Purchase of assets		(2,381)	(9,834)
Transfer of cash from investment			
Net cash flow by investing activities		(525)	1,131
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(75,327)	(262,345)
Cash and cash equivalent brought forward		285,468	547,813
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		210,141	285,468

Notes to the Financial Statements



Includes:

Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. The accounting policies set out below have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

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

The financial statements have been prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency, and are rounded to the nearest £1.

1.2 Income

Expedition contributions are accounted for as receivable by the Company and recognised in the statement of Financial Activities, except where they relate to an expedition occurring in a later year, when they are deferred within creditors and credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year the expedition takes place.

Legacies are accounted for where there is a reasonable degree of certainty as to the amounts receivable.

1.3 Expenditure

Expenses and grants payable are recognised in the accounts when they are accrued when they are incurred by the charity, with the exception of costs for future expeditions, which are deferred

within debtors and charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year the expedition takes place. Grant applications are considered by the Expedition Co-ordinators and Chief Executive and awards are given to deserving cases to fund participation in expeditions.

Expenditure is allocated to the activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. The staff and office costs incurred on each activity are apportioned on the following basis, which is an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity:

95% COST OF EXPEDITIONS

5% MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE CHARITY

1.4 Capitalised staff policy

Staff costs which are directly attributable to bringing a fixed asset into working condition for its intended use are capitalised as a tangible fixed asset.

1.5 Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset over its expected useful life. The useful economic lives of expedition equipment items are reviewed and adjusted annually. The brought forward values are then written off over this period. Depreciation is calculated on the following basis:

- Expedition equipment between 1 and 10 years, straight line basis
- Office equipment and computers 25% straight line basis
- Individual items of equipment costing less than £100 are not capitalised.

Notes to the Financial Statements



Includes (continued):

1.6 Debtors

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

1.7 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.8 Creditors

Creditors are recognised at their settlement amount.

1.9 Reserves

The charity holds reserves which have been designated for the following purposes: -

→ **Restricted Permanent Endowment Funds** are maintained as required by the individual trust deeds; some of these allow for the income to be accumulated to provide a meaningful grant at a later date.

→ **Restricted Funds** are certain donations made with conditions attached (e.g. for use in subsidising Explorers from particular areas or supporting the outreach project) and are kept in a Restricted Fund until applied.

1.10 Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate ruling on the date of transaction. Exchange differences are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.11 Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

1.12 Pensions

Contributions in respect of the defined contribution pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities for the year in which they are payable to the scheme. Differences between contributions payable and contributions actually paid in the year are shown as either accruals or prepayments at the year end. At the year end, there were no accruals or prepayments (2023: £0).

Employer contributions made to the scheme during 2024 amount to £19,786 (2023: £19,207).

1.13 Members' liability

The society is a company limited by guarantee. In the event of the society being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member.

Notes to the Financial Statements



For the year ending 31st October 2025

2. Income from donations	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2025 (£)	Total 2024 (£)
Cash donations	756,766	42,900	110	799,776	764,403
Cash donations	514,271	249,762	371		764,404

3. Income from charitable activities	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2025 (£)	Total 2024 (£)
Contributions from participants, supporters and sponsors	-	3,000		3,000	127,838
Contributions from participants, supporters and sponsors		127,838	-		127,838

4. Income from investments	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2025 (£)	Total 2024 (£)
Interest receivable on cash deposits	1,856	-	-	1,856	10,967
Interest receivable on cash deposits	10,967	-	-		10,967

Notes to the Financial Statements



For the year ending 31st October 2025

5. Other income	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2025 (£)	Total 2024 (£)
Miscellaneous receipts	12,896	-	-	12896	453
Miscellaneous receipts	453	-	-		453
6. Charitable activities	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2025 (£)	Total 2024 (£)
Cost of expeditions					
Total expedition costs	120,272	111,800	-	232,072	367,276
Salary costs *	495,360	117,281	-	612,641	725,923
Depreciation	3,767	13,189	-	16,956	5,192
Total cost of expedition	619,399	242,271	-	861,669	1,098,391
Governance cost					
Salary costs	26,072	-	-	26,072	38,206
Office costs	2,140	-	-	2,140	14,528
Auditors fees	6,000	-	-	6,000	4,250
Depreciation		-	-	-	18,610
Total governance cost	34,211	-	-	34,211	75,594
Grant awarded to individuals	-	-	-	-	-
Total charitable activities	653,610	242,271	-	895,881	1,173,985

Notes to the Financial Statements



For the year ending 31st October 2025

6. Charitable activities (continued)	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2024 (£)
Cost of expeditions				
Total expedition costs	147,540	219,736	-	367,276
Donated services				-
Salary costs *	393,160	332,763	-	725,923
Depreciation	5,192	-	-	5,192
Total cost of expedition	545,892	552,499	-	1,098,391
Governance cost				
Salary costs	38,206	-	-	38,206
Office costs	14,528	-	-	14,528
Auditors fees	4,250	-	-	4,250
Depreciation		18,610	-	18,610
Total governance cost	56,984	18,610	-	75,594
Grant awarded to individuals				-
Total charitable activities	602,876	571,109	-	1,173,985

Notes to the Financial Statements



For the year ending 31st October 2025

7. Tangible fixed Asset	Expedition equipment (£)	Office equipment & computers (£)	Total (£)
Cost			
At 1st November 2024	291,191	165,339	456,529
Additions	-	2,381	2,381
At 31 October 2025	291,191	167,720	458,911
Depreciation			
At 1 November 2024	269,401	159,489	428,890
Provided in the year	13,189	3,767	16,956
At 31 October 2025	282,590	163,256	445,846
Net Book Value at 31 October 2025	8,601	4,464	13,064
Net Book Value at 31 October 2024	21,790	5,850	27,639

Notes to the Financial Statements



For the year ending 31st October 2025

8. Debtors	2025 (£)	2024 (£)
Other Debtors		
Prepayment & Accrued Income	59,981	26,896
	59,981	26,896

9. Creditors: Amount falling due within one year	2025 (£)	2024 (£)
Trade creditors	21,083	19,066
Other creditors	41,397	
Expedition Contributions in advance		
Social Security	-	17,412
Accruals	6,000	10,468
	68,480	46,946

10. Deferred income	2025 (£)	2024 (£)
Deferred income comprises expedition contributions received in advance for the 2025 expedition		
Balance as at 1 November 2024		
Amount released to income from charitable activities		
Amount deferred in the year		
	-	-

Notes to the Financial Statements



For the year ending 31st October 2025

11. Staff Cost	2025 (£)	2024 (£)
Staff Wages and Salaries	564,443	677,702
Social security cost	67,345	69,815
Employment Allowance	(10,500)	(5,000)
Other Pension cost	17,424	19,786
	638,712	762,303

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Full time Employees	14	16
Part-Time Employees	3	3
Total number of employees	17	19

One staff member received benefits above £60,000.

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension) was £60,000 or more was:

	2025	2024
£100,000 - £110,000	1	1

No members of Council received any remuneration or benefit in kind in the year.

No members of Council received any expenses relating to travel and subsistence and staff entertaining 2025 £0 (2024 :£0).

British Exploring Society considers its Key Management personnel comprise of Council members and the Chief Executive Officer.

The Total employment benefits paid to Key Management personnel (including employer pension contributions) were £113, 556 (2024 £115,543).

The Charity paid £2952 (2024 £3193) for trustees;s indemnity insurance.

Notes to the Financial Statements



For the year ending 31st October 2025

12. Analysis of net assets between funds	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2025 (£)
Tangible Fixed Assets	13,064	-	-	13,064
Debtors	59,981	-	-	59,981
Cash at bank and in hand	107,658	94,898	7,585	210,141
Creditors	(68,480)	-	-	(68,480)
	214,705	94,898	7,585	214,705

	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2024 (£)
Tangible Fixed Assets	27,639	-	-	27,639
Debtors	26,896	-	-	26,896
Cash at bank and in hand	144,086	133,898	7,484	285,468
Creditors	(46,946)	-	-	(46,946)
	151,675	133,898	7,484	293,057

Notes to the Financial Statements



For the year ending 31st October 2025

13. Analysis of fund balances: Movement in resources	Brought forward 01/11/2024 (£)	Income (£)	Expenditure (£)	Transfer (£)	Carried forward 31/10/2025 (£)
Unrestricted Funds					
General funds	151,685	771,518	(653,610)	(157,371)	112,223
Total Unrestricted Funds	151,685	771,518	(653,610)	(157,371)	112,223
Restricted funds	Brought forward	Income (£)	Expenditure (£)	Transfer (£)	Carried forward
Sandy and Zorica Glen Charitable settlement	54,849	-	-	-	54,849
Other Restricted Funds	79,049	45,900	(242,271)	157,371	40,049
Total Restricted Funds	133,898	45,900	(242,271)	157,371	94,898
Restricted Permanent Endowment Funds	Brought forward	Income (£)	Expenditure (£)	Transfer (£)	Carried forward
Michael Gavey Bursary	110	50	-	-	160
Tim Ward-Wilson Memorial Award	7,365	60	-	-	7,425
Total Permanent Endowment Fund	7,475	110	-	-	7,585
Total Funds	293,058	817,528	(895,881)	-	214,705

Notes to the Financial Statements



For the year ending 31st October 2025

14. Reconciliation of net movements in funds to new cashflow from operating activities	2025 (£)	2024 (£)
Net (Expenditure)	(78,352)	(270,324)
Add back depreciation	16,956	23,801
Less interest income shown in investing activities	(1,856)	(10,965)
(Increase) in Debtors	(33,085)	47,065
(Decrease) Increase in Creditors	21,534	(53,054)
Net cash used in Operating activities	(74,803)	(263,477)

15. Related Party transactions

Donations amounting to £67,219 were received from Council members (2024: £153017)

There are no other related party transactions during the year.

16. Redundancy Payments

During the reporting period, the charity made redundancy and termination payments totaling £4,235 to 2 employees (2024: £Nil to 0 employees) as part of an organisational restructure.

These payments are recognised as termination benefits in accordance with the charity’s accounting policy and SORP requirement , which is to recognise redundancy and termination costs when there is a constructive obligation and the amount can be reliably estimated

The nature of these payments includes statutory and contractual redundancy entitlements.

At the balance sheet date, £4,235 of these costs had been funded, with £Nil remaining unpaid and accrued within creditors.

17. Taxation

British Exploring Society is a registered charity and is exempt from taxation on income applied for charitable purposes under section 505(1) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.



BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

British Exploring Society
1 Kensington Gore
South Kensington
London SW7 2AR

Registered Charity number: 802196
Company number: 2411786