

CASTLE LOCH LOCHMABEN COMMUNITY TRUST

SCOTTISH CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION NUMBER SCO44045

Part – 1 Administrative Information

Charity name and address Castle Loch Lochmaben Community Trust, Lochfield Cottage, Priestdykes, Lochmaben, DG11 1LP

Website www.castleloch.co.uk

Facebook www.facebook.com/castlelochlochmaben

Charity Trustees to 26/3/25

John Robson (Chair)	Tony Hancock
Helen Keen (Secretary)	Dougie Fountain
Will Smith (Treasurer)	John Reid
Freda Seddon	Paul Beardon

Charity Trustees from 26/3/25

Dougie Fountain (Chair)	Tony Hancock
Helen Keen (Secretary)	Bill Coombs
Will Smith (Treasurer)	John Reid
Freda Seddon	Paul Beardon

Habitat Officer

Rhonda Graham from 1 October 2023

Solicitor

Lucy Robertson, Harper Robertson & Shannon, 100 High St, Annan, DG12 6DW

Bankers

Bank of Scotland, Direct Business, PO Box 1000, BX2 1LB

Independent examiner

Robert Murray, Cruachan, Hillbank Road, Lochmaben, DG11 1RR

Part 2 Trustees Annual Report

Structure Government and Management

The Trust is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated organisation governed by a constitution dated 25 June 2013. Membership of the Trust is open to any individual ages 16 and over who are resident

in the area covered by the Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Lochmaben and District, Templand and District and Royal four Towns. Currently running with 377 members, 8 Trustees and part-time Habitat Officer Rhonda Graham.

Objectives and Activities

The Trust's purpose as laid out in the constitution are :

- To advance environmental protection and improvement
- To advance citizenship or community development through community ownership and management of Castle Loch.

In pursuance of these objectives a dedicated team of volunteers has been established who regularly carry out a range of tasks and activities around the Loch. Children and Youth groups are also encouraged to use the Loch and Cottage facilities, besides the local daily users of all ages who access the pathways.

Achievements and Performance

With the new financial year, brought about the election of a new chair to the Trust. Dougie Fountain has been involved in the Trust for many years as a volunteer and is now supporting the Trust as chair. Habitat Officer Rhonda Graham has now been in her role for nearly two years and continues to liaise with multiple different groups on many different levels.

Through Rhonda, we have continued with the connections the Trust has with the playgroup and primary school within the town that use the walks and Lochfield cottage for engaging the children and young adults with the environment and with nature. The board considers that helping the new generation to appreciate and value the great asset the Loch is to the town to be a very important part of our role.

With a group of up to twenty volunteers meeting twice monthly, the volunteers are key in all maintenance activities around the Loch. Activities vary seasonally from pathway maintenance, pothole filling, brush cutting undergrowth along the path sides, as well as participating in public and fundraising events. Other tasks include invasive weed control relative to Himalayan Balsam, American Skunk cabbage and Rhododendron. Tree monitoring, flora and fauna recording are also highlights the volunteers participate in. Volunteer hours totalled over 900 during 2024 and 540 during 2025 so far.

Lochfield Cottage continues to operate as an office and a visitor centre and, on the days that Rhonda is working, she operates an 'open door' policy and welcomes walkers who would come in for a chat. A local art group also uses the cottage on a weekly basis and the volunteers and trustees run a fundraising Brew and Bite on a monthly basis during the summer months and these have been very successful in raising the profile of the trust as well as boosting our funds.

Regular local walkers and visitors, dog owners, bird watchers, joggers and running clubs are all continuing to make good use of our foot paths.

Newsletters are issued quarterly by the Trust to 377 members keeping individuals' up to date with the volunteer works and events taking place at the Loch. The local Rotary Group had their usual walk around the loch in May, which attracts many users and helps us maintain our profile.

Structural improvements have included addressing both of the viewing platforms from the car park at Lochfield Cottage and along the Dalton path. These viewing platforms were in need of repair and are key features at Castle Loch and are essential to maintain good quality Disability Access. With the same purpose in mind we have improved the access from/to the Lockerbie Road and also from/to Castle Mains Farm road to facilitate wheel chair use and baby buggies.

Loch users and facilities

Loch users are monitored by People counters, varying from 2000 – 4000 users monthly. This includes the general public, tourists, school and nursery groups as well as various local organisations who use the Loch for different activities and charitable events. Focus has been on finding a balance between Loch users and the environmental impact they have as a nature sanctuary. Henderland island has now had restricted access put in place during nesting season as a result of its increasing attraction to fishermen, kayakers, swimmers and paddle board users and this has been very successful so far.

The 3m pathway around the Loch is a key feature used by many and requires regular maintenance to keep it clear and accessible to all.

Community Engagement

Community engagement takes place on many levels with the Trust undertaking regular activities with a range of local groups and education facilities. This includes general talks with community groups, schools and nursery visits. We have been working with a group called Step Together, who enable over sixteens to learn new skills out with the school environment. We have also been invited to talk to the local antiquarian society, the Guild as well as having numerous practical days with school pupils on the premises.

Habitat Management

Castle Loch Lochmaben Community Trust continues to maintain, support and enhance the natural habitat for wildlife and biodiversity around the Loch. While understanding the current habitats we strive to improve the site as a nature reserve, controlling invasive species, promoting native species and managing the human interactions. Woodland management has seen the introduction of tags to identify trees of concern in 2024, however Storm Eowyn in January brought about the need to address more high priority trees left in a more dangerous position.

Regular monitoring of birds and plant species takes place while adhering to the current Habitat management plan. All records are shared with the appropriate bodies such as SWEIC, BTO and local recorder Andy Richies.

Future Plans

Future plans include the development of a storage shed to house the tools required to maintain the site. This will free up the original shed to enable us to use the original shed as a workshop for volunteers and pupils.

Further plans would include the future development of the woodland and grassland area while adhering to the Habitat Plan in place. This would include the replacement of native trees lost in the storm and introduction of Aspen. The grassland area is in need of cutting to reduce the development of scrub and promote the area for grassland species and associated wildlife.

Financial Performance

Financial support has been received relative to specific projects this year. Funding has been sourced from the Lottery, as well as the Nuclear Restoration Services and George Hunter Trust as well as generous donations from Grange Quarry and Nairn Construction.

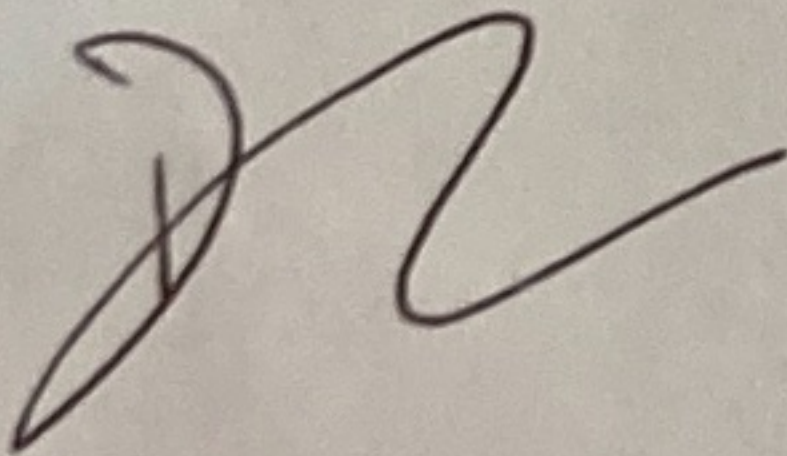
The Habitat Officers role has now been secured for two years going forward.

We continue to strive for donations and to hold summer monthly fundraising event such as the 'Brew and Bite' and we would welcome any members or visitors who are able to donate on a 'Regular Giving' basis, no matter how small an amount, which guarantees us a regular income going forward, supported by grant funding where appropriate.

We are also very grateful for donations which we have received recently as a result of collections at local funeral services and are very appreciative of the fact that families have thought about our Trust at such a sad time.

Signed *Dougie Fountain*

Date 15/7/25

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Fountain', written in a cursive style.

**Part 3 - Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Castle Loch Lochmaben Community Trust**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year to 31st May 2025 as set out in parts 4 to 6.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner.

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 as amended. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report.

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement.

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

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

..... Robert Murray.

14th September 2025.

Address of Independent Examiner : Cruachan, Hillbank Road, Lochmaben, Lockerbie DG11 1RR .

Part 4 - Receipts & Payments Account

	Notes	Unrestricted Undesignated Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Receipts						
Donations		17,963.08	0	500	18,463.08	24,856
Grants	5	500.00	0	1,765	2,265	0
Fundraising		0	0	0	0	0
Fishing permits		2,887	0	0	2,887	2,750
Bank interest		1,465.40	0	0	1,465.40	13
Gift Aid Tax		0	0	0	0	885
Sundry income						0
Total receipts		22,815.48	0	2,265	25,080.48	28,504
Payments						
Charitable activities	6	22,459.53	0	2,335.51	24,795.04	19,107
Total payments		22,459.53	-	2,335.51	24,795.04	19,107
Surplus/deficit (-) for the year		355.95	0	-70.51	285.44	9,397

Part 5 - Statement of Balances as at 31 May 2025.

	Unrestricted Undesignated Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Bank balance at start of year	39,892.91	12,142.02	1,835.51	53,870.44	44,474
Surplus/deficit (-) for year	355.95	0	-70.51	285.44	9,397
Total funds at end of year	40,248.86	12,142.02	1,765	54,155.88	53,871

Part 6 - Notes to the Accounts

1. Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis. They consist of a summary of all monies received and paid via the bank and in cash during the year, along with a statement of balances. No adjustments have been made for any income due but not yet received, nor for any expenses incurred but not yet paid. Fixed assets are not capitalised.

2. Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the Board's discretion in furtherance of the Trust's objectives. Some unrestricted funds have been designated by the Board for specific projects. Restricted Funds are those given for specific purposes.

3. Contingent Liability

Some grant funders may demand repayment of their grant in the event that it is likely that the Trust may have to stop operating, if the grant conditions are not met or in

certain other defined circumstances.

4. Trustee Remuneration, benefits and expenses.

No Trustee received remuneration or reimbursement of expenses other than reimbursement of purchases made on behalf of the Trust.

5. Grants received during the financial year.

	Unrestricted Undesignated Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Fund	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Lochmaben Community Council	500	0	0	500	0
Tesco	0	0	1,125	1,125	0
South Ayrshire Biosphere	0	0	640	640	0
	500	0	1,765	2,265	0

6. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Undesignated Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Fund	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Employee costs	10,375.49	0	1,835.51	12,211.00	7,893
Lochfield Cottage costs	747.79	0	0	747.79	1,744
Insurance	1,378.22	0	0	1,378.22	1,330
Site Maintenance costs	4,224.16	0	500	4,724.16	4,125
Accessible platform	3,591.00	0	0	3,591.00	0
Equipment	1,155.15	0	0	1,155.15	0
People counters	0	0	0	0	3,540
Office expenses	125.38	0	0	125.38	0
Other costs	862.34	0	0	862.34	475
	22,459.53	0	2,335.51	24,795.04	19,107

Signed on behalf of the Board.....

Douglas Fountain 27 June 2025