

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY
(A charitable company limited by guarantee)

REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Registered Company Number: SC024243

Registered Charity Number: SC015460

WHITELAW WELLS
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

CONTENTS	PAGE
Reports of the Directors	1
Independent Examiner's Report	11
Statement of financial activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account)	12
Balance sheet	13
Notes to the financial statements	15

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

The Directors present their report and the accounts for the year ended 30 June 2023. The financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Objectives

The charitable objective of the Society is “the preservation, defence, restoration and acquisition, for the public benefit, of public rights of access in Scotland, including public rights of way and related amenity”.

The Society is the independent charity which upholds public access in Scotland. Originally founded in 1845, then incorporating in 1946, it combines the three main roles: expert authority and adviser on the law of access; custodian and manager of the national resource of information about access routes and rights and practical guardian and advocate of public access on the ground, in town and country, across Scotland.

Activities and achievements

The ScotWays Strategic Framework for the next five years was finalised after feedback from members at our AGM in November 2022. The strategy is available on our website. We aim to increase our capacity to promote and defend public access, build strong relationships with policy makers and politicians, develop new projects, improve our resilience in changing times, and raise the profile of the Society and of public access rights.

Our four sub-committees – Communications, Finance, Legal and Access, and Operations – which all comprise staff and board members, monitor progress, and enable us to meet the long-term outcomes set out in the strategy.

We have three main strategic areas.

Raising the profile of responsible public access to land and inland water

To do this, we need to work with government and its agencies to influence policies and practices that protect and improve access rights, and to collaborate with other outdoor interest groups.

In the past year, we have participated in various access groups – including the Scottish Outdoor Access Network (SOAN), the Scottish Outdoor Recreation Alliance (SORA) and the National Access Forum (NAF). There has been discussion of the appropriate terminology to use when discussing the exercising of access rights: access users or access takers, right to roam or right of responsible access? The NAF subsequently decided that it was not within its remit to discuss such semantics. However, those who were involved in developing the Scottish Outdoor Access Code feel that the precise use of language is critical to understanding. This is a debate which may re-emerge.

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Activities and achievements (cont)

Last year, we submitted a response to National Planning Framework 4, asking what was being done to raise awareness of rights of way in the planning process, which was ignored. We produced notes for our website to raise awareness of the issue and will lobby Parliament, along with other organisations, when relevant planning issues arise.

In January, we joined many others at the Scottish Parliament to celebrate 20 years since the passing of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. In April, a staff member and a director participated in a 'round table' event at the Scottish Parliament, hosted by Edward Mountain MSP, which considered whether there was a need to update the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. (ScotWays' view is that the framework is still fit for purpose but that consistent resources are required to ensure education and enforcement.)

We have also contributed comments on access issues to various publications during the year including *The Ferret*, *The Courier, Press and Journal*, and the *Badenoch and Strathspey Herald*. Our social media has also been active and we have seen a steady increase in followers on both Facebook and Twitter (now X). Our signpost photos for #FingerpostFriday on Twitter proved particularly appealing, regularly attracting over 1,500 interactions per photo.

Protecting and promoting outdoor access rights and associated amenity

We are improving how we update and maintain the Catalogue of Rights of Way (CROW). The Society is reliant on the data in CROW to fund its operations, so its reliability is vital. To improve the functioning of and access to CROW, staff have been occupied implementing a new software system called CAMS Pro. This is a web-based system which will enable staff and volunteers to work on it remotely. It has proved to be a complex process, but the new system should be fully operational by the autumn and staff and volunteers trained to use it by the end of the year.

Our three part-time members of staff who deal primarily with access enquiries continue to provide a cost-effective searches service for information on rights of way for solicitors and the public. The total number of searches is down slightly at 1198, compared with 1261 in 2021/22. This equates to an average of 100 solicitor enquiries a month (these searches are paid for and are the source of most of our income). There was a monthly average of 69 enquiries from the public and others. Significant amongst these have been queries about railway crossings due to the re-opening of the Levenmouth line in Fife and the Ben Alder level crossing closure at Dalwhinnie. We provide responses to public enquiries as a free service.

One of our key objectives is to act upon obstructions and threats which contravene current outdoor access legislation, particularly those that are of national significance and/or potentially undermine the legal basis of access rights. The closure of the railway crossing at Dalwhinnie, part of a right of way, is just such a case. Our ongoing questionnaire exercise was launched in 2022 to gather additional evidence of the route's use over decades by walkers, cyclists and equestrians. We continue to work with The Highland Council, Cairngorms National Park Authority, Ramblers Scotland, the local community and others to try to make Network Rail reinstate public access. We have taken significant legal advice to ensure that we are acting on a sound basis.

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Activities and achievements (cont)

Our involvement has continued with Glenborrodale where a landowner is trying to block access and at the Radical Road in Holyrood Park which was closed in 2018 by Historic Environment Scotland due to occasional rock falls. Despite planning permission being refused in 2020, a new planning application has been made to build a golf course at Coul Links, so we have continued to make representations about the threat to public access on the dunes. The common feature of all these cases is that resolving them takes a very long time and a lot of tenacity on the part of ScotWays and other agencies.

We have also responded to consultations on Land Reform in a Net Zero Nation, on Scotland's third National Park, proposals for a new Agriculture Bill, a proposed Ownerless Property Transfer Scheme, and (as a member of SORA) on Scotland's Forestry Grant Scheme consultation. We keep an eye on Local Development Plans, commenting as necessary, as well as responding to planning applications which affect public access both for individual properties and large developments. We continue to comment on wind farms and other energy developments to ensure public access is taken into account.

Sadly, for budgetary reasons, a number of local authorities no longer have access officers in post, and not all authorities are ScotWays members. As part of its charitable objectives, ScotWays actively supports all local authorities in their efforts to uphold public access in line with their legal duties, irrespective of whether or not they pay their subscriptions. Indeed, those unfortunate council areas without access officers are often those in most need of assistance!

Our programme to maintain and replace ScotWays' path signage continues apace, with over 100 volunteers surveying and recording our signposts across Scotland. We are digitising our old signpost information and volunteers have now scanned roughly two thirds of the volume of paperwork in the office signposting files. We have a total of 6,695 recorded signs (up from 5,222 in 2022), while 1,985 remain to be assessed at the end of June (down from 3,176 in 2022). Our survey is now 70% complete and has identified many ScotWays signs that were not previously recorded. As a result of the signpost survey results, 30 signs have been replaced or upgraded this year.

Following a Board decision during the year to make a £4,000 contribution from us which represents the balance of ScotWays' Donald Bennet Memorial Fund, Atholl Estates are now undertaking repairs to the Bedford Memorial Bridge at the Falls of Tarf in Glen Tilt. Materials were transported to the site by helicopter in July and the repairs will be completed over the summer and early autumn.

Ken, the ScotWays Knowledge Base, is proving popular. We have reviewed all the existing frequently asked questions (FAQs) and are steadily adding new pages covering topics ranging from the history of access rights to the interaction of development and outdoor access.

We are on course for publication of the sixth edition of Scottish Hill Tracks in 2024. 138 volunteers have completed the route surveys and our volunteer editors have edited the route descriptions of all 350 routes. Attention has turned to sourcing the photos needed to illustrate the routes. Several volunteers have started to organise photos taken by SHT surveyors and a call has gone out for good quality images to illustrate the new edition.

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Activities and achievements (cont)

The Members Walks Survey circulated at the last AGM showed there was demand for a walks programme and that those who went on the walks really enjoyed them, but that most members did not participate! Nine walks were planned for 2023, but three walks were cancelled because of low numbers and a fourth called off as the walk leader was injured. Due to the amount of staff time it takes to organise walks, together with low uptake, we have decided to reduce the number of walks offered in 2024.

In 2022, we submitted a bid for a Scottish Mountaineering Trust Diamond Grant to develop a network of 'Scottish Cross Country Routes' but were unsuccessful. The funds were awarded to Mountaineering Scotland and the Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland for their joint project to raise awareness of the urgent need for investment in the repair and maintenance of informal mountain paths across Scotland. The results were announced in November 2022 at the Dundee Mountain Film Festival, where we had a stall and sponsored a film. ScotWays is greatly supportive of the excellent ["It's Up To Us"](https://savemountainpaths.scot/) (<https://savemountainpaths.scot/>) project. We still hope to develop the cross-country network concept in some form at a later date.

Ensuring the resilience of ScotWays

How we communicate with our members is very important. We have introduced a new contact management system called *Infoodle* to help us manage membership and volunteer contact information. It has been a major task to implement, but we expect it to improve our efficiency, minimising human error by linking membership applications and subscriptions directly to Infoodle. It will improve how we contact our members, even in due course allowing members to update their own contact details.

As Ordnance Survey has changed its systems, we are investigating the best way to replace our OS mapping without incurring excessive licensing fees.

As a very small charity, we rely heavily on volunteers to help us achieve our aims, so are delighted to have been able to welcome many new volunteers to help with surveys for signs and Scottish Hill Tracks routes. We have also enlisted volunteers to assist in the distribution of our leaflets to reach new audiences.

Two directors resigned during the year, leaving the Board a bit depleted. We have appealed to our members and volunteer base for new directors and are heartened to have received a number of applications from well-qualified people. We hope to welcome new directors to the Board in the next few months.

Financial review

We are grateful for all subscriptions and donations received. This year we received several substantial donations, two of £5K, one specifically for signposting, the other unrestricted, and two others of £2K and £1K.

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Financial review (cont)

The Society recorded a deficit of £39,293 (2022: deficit £55,115) for the year. This includes a deficit of £40,967 (2022: deficit £59,337) on unrestricted reserves and a surplus of £1,674 (2022: £4,222) on restricted reserves. The overall deficit is the result of investment losses - both realised and on year end valuation - being factored into the accounts, as required by accounting standards. The running, or "trading", position is a deficit of £20,200 (2022: deficit £1,415). As at 30 June 2023, the Society had total reserves of £526,590 (2022: £565,883), including £504,901 (2022: £544,770) general funds, £8,174 (2022: £9,272) designated reserves and £13,515 (2022: £11,841) restricted funds. Further detail on the financial performance of the charity can be found in the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and supporting notes.

Reserves policy

The general fund represents the free reserves of the Society. General fund not tied up in fixed assets amounted to £401,136 (2022: £436,283). The Board considers it appropriate to hold the equivalent of 12 months' budgeted expenditure, around £220,000. The directors acknowledge that current reserves are in excess of that requirement. As the Society continues to modernise and increase its activities and profile for the benefit of the public, the Board considers the current level of reserves satisfactory in funding operating deficits in fulfilment of the Society's objectives. More detail on the designated funds is set out in Note 16 of the full accounts.

Risk management

In these uncertain times the identification, management and mitigation of risk has been at the forefront of the Society's activities. It underlies the work of the Board with sub committees and of the staff. In line with our risk policy our risk register is formally reviewed at the September Board meeting after active consideration by the Finance sub-committee.

Investment policy

The Society maintains an investment portfolio and is advised on its composition by Investec Wealth and Investment Limited. The investment objective is to maintain the real value of the portfolio over time as well as provide an income. The value of the portfolio at 30 June 2023 was £316,996, a decline of 6.5% over the year, with an estimated annual income of £10,000. A full report on the investments will be given at the Annual General Meeting.

Grants awarded policy

ScotWays small grants scheme is aimed at community-based and access-related projects which might otherwise not proceed. Grants are awarded for up to 50% of the project budget and within a range of £500 to £1,500. Assessment of applications is made by a director-led committee whose criteria include public benefit and the ability of an organisation to deliver the project. Applicant organisations must be members of ScotWays.

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Grants awarded policy (cont)

At the discretion of the Board, the Society may also contribute to larger projects which benefit public access and meet its charitable objectives. This year we gave further support to Aboyne Paths and Tracks Group to help install a noticeboard showing local paths.

Plans for the future

Our future plans are based upon the priorities identified in our five-year Strategic Framework and the board will be carefully monitoring progress against our objectives.

ScotWays is the keeper of historic and current information on rights of way and outdoor access law. To maintain our position as the recognised authority on access issues, we need to ensure that our data is accurate and up-to-date, and our retrieval systems fast and efficient. To this end, we are in the process of recruiting an Information Officer to manage the collection, recording and retrieval of all our data. This is a new role and we hope to have someone in post by November 2023.

As noted above, we have invested much money and staff time on improving our IT systems over the past year. We continue working with the developers of CAMS Pro to move our route and infrastructure records to it. The developers are working on a new version, so we are fortunate to be able to discuss with them many functions essential to our work and how to set them up to be as useful as possible to us.

We will continue to add information and guidance on our website, particularly to 'Ken, the ScotWays Knowledge Base', which holds much information on access rights, past cases and answers to FAQs - useful to access authorities, solicitors, developers and members of the public alike.

The closure of the Ben Alder level crossing at Dalwhinnie is a matter of national importance and, if it comes to a court case, the ruling will set precedent for any future threats to access rights due to closures of railway crossings. We will continue to prioritise action on this issue, which may involve additional fundraising.

As part of our work with the Scottish Outdoor Recreational Alliance (SORA), an online event for Local Access Forum (LAF) members is planned for autumn 2023. We hope this will support LAFs to be more effective, and improve our contact with representatives on all LAFs, regardless of whether the individuals are members of ScotWays, other organisations, or none.

Over 2023/24 we will build on the work done surveying signposts. Our budget for the year commits £10,000 towards their repair and replacement. We will train and support volunteers to carry out much of the work, but a complete replacement will still cost £300, so we will therefore seek additional funding from supporters to expand the scheme. We are extremely grateful for a generous £5,000 donation from The E M Whittome 2013 Charitable Trust, received in November 2022, to be used specifically for replacing and refurbishing signs.

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Plans for the future (cont)

The scanning of signpost records by volunteers should be completed by the end of 2023. In the meantime, other volunteers will be working to extract the relevant aspects of the history of each sign and record the information in such a way that it can be readily imported into CAMS Pro.

Promotion work will start in the next few months for the new edition of Scottish Hill Tracks, which is due to be published in Spring 2024. The reduced number of guided walks we offer next summer will all feature Scottish Hill Tracks routes to help publicise the new edition of the book and introduce more people to some great walks.

We held a very successful Volunteers' Day in Stirling in July 2023 at which there was lively discussion, and we provided training and sought volunteer input on a range of tasks with which we need help. We aim to build on the clear enthusiasm and engagement of all those who participated, as well as those volunteers who were unable to attend.

An important element of our five-year strategy is to generate a significant change in the impact of the Society. We need to increase our engagement with politicians and other influencers, and maintain a proactive watching brief on court cases relating to access. Due to lack of capacity, these areas have not received enough attention recently, so this is something we plan to address.

In addition to our organisational strategy for the next five years, we set some Short-term Actions for the period to July 2023. These included establishing an action plan for 2023/24, a communications plan, improving the IT systems necessary to support our work, developing a programme for maintaining our route and signpost records, and increasing our volunteer capacity. As can be seen from the above report, we have achieved or made good progress with most of these. Areas that remain challenging are implementing a performance and development programme for staff, and completing a full review of our governance and leadership model to ensure that we are operating as effectively as possible. We will continue to try to increase management capacity to progress these areas as they are necessary for the long-term future of the organisation.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Scottish Rights Way and Access Society is a company limited by guarantee (SC024243) and a registered charity (SC015460) governed by its Articles of Association. Each member of the Society has undertaken to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards any deficit arising in the event of the Society being wound up.

Directors of the Society are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and directors for the purposes of company law and are listed on page 9. The Articles of Association provide that any director who has held office for a period of three years since their last appointment shall retire from office and may seek re-appointment. Directors may not seek re-appointment if they have held office for a continuous period of nine years. The Directors are appointed by the members at the annual general meeting and the Chair is appointed by the Directors from among their number.

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (cont)

Katharine Taylor was appointed Chair in May 2023.

Dorothy Breckenridge was appointed at the AGM together with the five directors co-opted during the year. Unfortunately, both Peter Hildrew and John Onslow decided to step down from the Board during the year. Both made valuable contributions to the Board during their time in office, and John in particular led work on the new strategic plan. We are grateful to them both for what they have brought to the Board, and for their continuing involvement with ScotWays as volunteers.

Board of Directors and Management

The Directors meet together five/six times a year and in addition each is a member of one or more sub-committees.

Day to day running of the Society is the responsibility of the Chief Operating Officer, Richard Barron and National Secretary, Alison Riddell, supported by other staff and volunteers.

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Charitable company information

Charity name

The Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society
(also known as Scotways)

Registered Company Number

SC024243

Registered Charity Number

SC015460

Honorary President

Vacant

Honorary Vice President

Robert Aitken

Directors

Robert John Elliot

Stephan Hennig

David Langworth

Katharine A Taylor (Chair)

Linda Johnson

Elizabeth H Mauchlen

Timothy P Simons

Peter Wood

(Resigned on 19/11/2022)

Terence H Holmes

(Resigned on 19/11/2022)

Alistair R Anderson

Peter J Hildrew

(Resigned on 04/02/2023)

Hannah J Downie

John A Onslow

(Resigned on 21/06/2023)

Dorothy Breckenridge

(Appointed on 19/11/2022)

Company Secretary

Alison Margaret Riddell

Operation address and Registered Office

24 Annandale Street

Edinburgh

EH7 4AN

Principal Bankers

Clydesdale Bank plc

83 George Street

Edinburgh

EH2 3ES

Independent Examiner

Kevin Cattanach CA

Whitelaw Wells

9 Ainslie Place

Edinburgh

EH3 6AT

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The directors are responsible for preparing the Report of the Directors and the financial statements in accordance with the applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year.

In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- 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 business.

The directors are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities & Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The directors 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.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the 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) and in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

Approved by the board of directors on 12 September 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Katharine A Taylor
Chair

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 30 June 2023 as set out on pages 12 to 28.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent 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's Trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (a) to (c) of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) 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 (as amended). An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from 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 in 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, Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations (as amended) and sections 381, 382, and 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations (as amended)

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.



Kevin Cattnach C.A.
Whitelaw Wells
Chartered Accountants
9 Ainslie Place
Edinburgh, EH3 6AT

12 September 2023

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(incorporating the Income & Expenditure Account)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	46,572	5,000	51,572	62,911
Charitable activities	4	142,926	-	142,926	140,205
Investments	5	11,006	-	11,006	10,175
		_____	_____	_____	_____
Total		200,504	5,000	205,504	213,291
		_____	_____	_____	_____
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	(2,452)	-	(2,452)	(1,394)
Charitable activities	7	(219,926)	(3,326)	(223,252)	(213,312)
		_____	_____	_____	_____
Total		(222,378)	(3,326)	(225,704)	(214,706)
Realised (losses) on investments	12	(1,993)	-	(1,993)	(4,013)
Unrealised (losses) on investments		(17,100)	-	(17,100)	(49,687)
		_____	_____	_____	_____
Net (expenditure)/income		(40,967)	1,674	(39,293)	(55,115)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
		_____	_____	_____	_____
Net movement in funds		(40,967)	1,674	(39,293)	(55,115)
Funds brought forward at 1 July 2022		554,042	11,841	565,883	620,998
		_____	_____	_____	_____
Funds carried forward at 30 June 2023		513,075	13,515	526,590	565,883
		=====	=====	=====	=====

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All of the activities of the company are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 15 to 28 form part of these financial statements.

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET

As at 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		106,161		108,487
Investments at valuation	12		316,996		338,945
			—————		—————
			423,157		447,432
Current assets					
Stock	13	1,844		1,326	
Debtors	14	32,827		36,518	
Cash at bank and in hand		95,621		110,186	
		—————		—————	
			130,292		148,030
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(26,859)		(29,579)	
		—————		—————	
Net current assets			103,433		118,451
			—————		—————
Total assets less current liabilities			526,590		565,883
			=====		=====
Reserves					
Unrestricted funds:	16				
General reserve		504,901		544,770	
Designated funds		8,174		9,272	
		—————		—————	
			513,075		554,042
Restricted funds	16		13,515		11,841
			—————		—————
			526,590		565,883
			=====		=====

The notes on pages 15 to 28 form part of these financial statements.

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET

As at 30 June 2023

The directors are satisfied that the charitable company is entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and that the members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year 30 June 2023 in accordance with the provisions in Section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial period and of its profit or loss for each financial period in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the board on 12 September 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
R John Elliot
Director

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2023

1. Accounting Policies

a) 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 (FRS102) (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. Assets and liabilities are initially recorded at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The Society has taken advantage of the exemption from the requirement to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows as permitted under FRS 102 and the Charities FRS 102 SORP.

The Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The directors have assessed the charity's ability to continue as a going concern and they have reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Therefore, they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting. This assessment covers a period of at least 12 months from the date of signing of these financial statements.

b) Income

Income is recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

- Where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, income from grants and donations are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled.
- Where related to performance and specific deliverables, income is accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.
- Income is only deferred when the donor specifies that the donation must only be used in future accounting periods or has imposed conditions that must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement, and these conditions have not yet been met.
- Investment income and fees for services is recognised when receivable and when the service is provided, respectively.

c) Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and is recognised in the period in which it is incurred. All costs have been directly attributed to one functional category of expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2023

1. Accounting Policies (cont)

- Charitable activities expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries, including governance costs.
- Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the independent examination fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

d) Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Assets are initially included at cost. The charity has the policy not to capitalise items under £250. Tangible fixed assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives at the following rates:

- Office equipment 33.3% straight line
- Heritable property £nil

No depreciation is provided on heritable property as in the opinion of the directors, the length of their estimated useful economic life and estimated residual value is at least equal to the book value. Having regard to this, it is considered that the depreciation of any such property would not be material. Costs of repairs and maintenance are charged to revenue as incurred.

e) Fund Accounting

Funds held by the charity are either in an unrestricted general fund, which can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives, designated funds or in restricted funds. Restricted funds can only be used for particular purposes as specified by the donor.

Designated funds are applied at the discretion of the Board of Directors. They are designated from unrestricted reserves for particular projects and designated funds will be considered at each year end.

f) Financial instruments

Financial instruments comprise financial assets and financial liabilities which are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. They are classified as “basic” in accordance with FRS102 and are accounted for at the settlement amount due which equates to the cost. Financial assets comprise cash, grants receivable and other debtors, and financial liabilities comprise the pension scheme creditor, accruals and other creditors.

g) Investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at their fair value at the balance sheet date. Any surplus or deficit arising from changes in fair value are recognised in the statement of financial activities for the year.

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2023

1. Accounting Policies (cont)

h) Operating leases

Rentals in respect of operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities as incurred.

i) Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

j) Judgements in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charitable company's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors have made the following judgements:

- Determine whether leases entered into by the charitable company as a lessee are operating or finance leases. These decisions depend on an assessment of whether the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred from the lessor to the lessee on a lease by lease basis.
- Tangible fixed assets are depreciated over a period to reflect their estimated useful lives. The applicability of the assumed lives is reviewed annually, taking into account factors such as physical condition, maintenance and obsolescence.
- Fixed assets are also assessed as to whether there are indicators of impairment. This assessment involves consideration of the economic viability of the purpose for which the asset is used.

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2023

2. Net income/(expenditure)

	2023	2022
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of fixed assets	2,326	2,851
Independent examination fee	2,275	1,850
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Annual subscriptions	16,939	-	16,939	17,738
Life subscriptions	800	-	800	900
Corporate subscriptions	2,992	-	2,992	2,762
Local authorities' subscriptions	7,600	-	7,600	1,000
Donations	12,816	5,000	17,816	21,135
Bequests and legacies	-	-	-	14,152
Gift aid	5,425	-	5,425	5,224
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	46,572	5,000	51,572	62,911
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

In 2022 income from donations and legacies was split £57,109 unrestricted and £5,802 restricted.

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Paid-for searches	138,739	-	138,739	135,065
Sale of publications	3,022	-	3,022	3,909
Walks	200	-	200	305
Other income	965	-	965	926
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	142,926	-	142,926	140,205
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Income from charitable activities was unrestricted in both years.

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2023

5. Income from investments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Interest	580	230
Dividends	10,426	9,945
	<u>11,006</u>	<u>10,175</u>

Income from investments was unrestricted in both years.

6. Expenditure on raising funds

	2023	2022
	£	£
Investment manager's fees	2,452	1,394
	<u>2,452</u>	<u>1,394</u>

Investment manager's fees were unrestricted in both years.

7. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Staff costs (note 10)	166,475	-	166,475	154,080
Grants awarded	322	-	322	1,500
Travel costs	968	-	968	131
Publications	1,299	-	1,299	1,832
Project costs	3,242	3,326	6,568	5,164
Support costs (note 8)	42,937	-	42,937	46,340
Governance costs (note 9)	4,683	-	4,683	4,265
	<u>219,926</u>	<u>3,326</u>	<u>223,252</u>	<u>213,312</u>

In 2022 expenditure on charitable activities was split £211,732 unrestricted and £1,580 restricted.

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2023

8. Support costs		
	2023	2022
	£	£
Premises costs	6,961	9,266
Printing, postage and stationery	8,028	5,391
Computer costs	2,835	6,795
Subscriptions	470	643
Depreciation	2,326	2,851
Maps	578	881
Advertising	889	470
Sundry expenses and bank charges	281	34
Meeting expenses and other staff costs	947	1,011
Professional fees	6,021	6,475
Software costs	13,601	12,523
	—————	—————
	42,937	46,340
	=====	=====
9. Governance costs		
	2023	2022
	£	£
Independent examiner's fees	2,275	1,850
Preparation of annual report and AGM	2,408	2,415
	—————	—————
	4,683	4,265
	=====	=====
10. Employees		
	2023	2022
	£	£
Staff salaries	147,109	137,240
Employer's NIC	6,911	5,728
Pension	10,919	9,893
Death in service	1,536	1,219
	—————	—————
	166,475	154,080
	=====	=====

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2023

10. **Employees (cont)**

No employee earned more than £60,000 in either the current or previous years.

The average number of employees was 7 (2022: 7) (full time equivalent 4 (2022: 4)).

The directors receive no remuneration for their services, but may be paid travelling, subsistence and other expenses properly incurred by them in connection with the discharge of their duties. In the current year none of the directors (2022: none) were paid such expenses.

11. **Tangible fixed assets**

	Heritable Property £	Office equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 July 2022	103,765	10,405	114,170
Additions	-	-	-
Disposal	-	-	-
	_____	_____	_____
At 30 June 2023	103,765	10,405	114,170
	_____	_____	_____
Depreciation			
At 1 July 2022	-	5,683	5,683
Charge for the year	-	2,326	2,326
Disposal	-	-	-
	_____	_____	_____
At 30 June 2023	-	8,009	8,009
	_____	_____	_____
Net book value			
At 30 June 2023	103,765	2,396	106,161
	=====	=====	=====
At 30 June 2022	103,765	4,722	108,487
	=====	=====	=====

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2023

12. Investments

	2023	2022
	£	£
<i>Listed investments</i>		
Market value at 30 June 2022	322,704	374,413
Additions	14,036	22,265
Disposal proceeds	(25,265)	(20,274)
Realised (losses) during the year	(1,993)	(4,013)
Unrealised (losses) during the year	(17,100)	(49,687)
	<u>292,382</u>	<u>322,704</u>
Cash held by investment broker	24,614	16,241
	<u>316,996</u>	<u>338,945</u>
Fair value at 30 June 2023	316,996	338,945
	<u>333,882</u>	<u>343,139</u>
Historical cost	<u>333,882</u>	<u>343,139</u>

FRS 102 requires the disclosure of information in relation to certain investment risks. These risks are set out by FRS 102 as follows:-

- Credit risk: this is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation.
- Market risk: this comprises currency risk, interest rate risk and other price risk.
- Currency risk: this is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial asset will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates.
- Interest rate risk: this is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial asset will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.
- Other price risk: this is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial asset will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or currency risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual financial instrument or its issuer, or factors affecting all similar financial instruments traded in the market.

The charitable company has exposure to these risks because of the investments it makes to implement its investment strategy. The Directors manage investment risks, including credit risk and market risk, within agreed risk limits which are set taking into account the charitable company's strategic investment objectives. These investment objectives and risk limits are implemented through the investment manager agreements in place with the charitable company's investment managers and monitored by the Directors by regular reviews of the investment portfolios.

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2023

12. **Investments (cont)**

Further information on the Directors' approach to risk management and the charitable company's exposure to credit and market risks are set out below:

Credit Risk

The charitable company invests in pooled investment vehicles and is therefore directly exposed to credit risk in relation to the instruments it holds in the pooled investment vehicles and is indirectly exposed to credit risks arising on the financial instruments held by the pooled investment vehicles.

Analysis of direct credit risk

Direct credit risk arising from pooled investment vehicles is mitigated by the underlying assets of the pooled arrangements being ring-fenced from the pooled manager, the regulatory environments in which the pooled manager operates and diversification of investments amongst a number of pooled arrangements. The Directors carry out due diligence checks on the appointment of new pooled investment managers and on an ongoing basis monitor any changes to the regulatory and operating environment of the pooled manager. Pooled investment arrangements used by the charitable company comprise authorised unit trusts.

Currency risk

The charitable company is subject to currency risk because some of the charitable company's investments are held in overseas markets.

Interest rate risk

The charitable company is subject to interest rate risk through investments comprising bonds.

Other price risk

Other price risk arises principally in relation to equities held in pooled vehicles. The charitable company manages this exposure to other price risk by contributing a diverse portfolio of investments across various markets.

13. **Stock**

Stock consists entirely of goods for distribution to members and other interested parties.

	2023	2022
	£	£
Stock in hand	1,844	1,326
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2023

14. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Gift aid recoverable	5,423	5,223
Prepayments	10,340	10,781
Other debtors	17,064	20,514
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	32,827	36,518
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

15. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	296	2,384
Other creditors	14,768	14,258
Pension	1,390	1,331
Deferred income	4,536	4,724
VAT	5,889	6,882
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	26,859	29,579
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Deferred income relates to members subscriptions paid in advance.

	2023	2022
	£	£
At 30 June 2022	4,724	4,913
Released to income	(4,724)	(4,913)
Deferred in the year	4,536	4,724
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
At 30 June 2023	4,536	4,724
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2023

16. Movement of Funds

	Balance at 1 July 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 30 June 2023 £
Restricted Funds:					
Donald Bennet Fund	4,263	-	-	-	4,263
Heritage Path Fund	356	-	-	-	356
Law Guide Fund	1,500	-	-	-	1,500
Signage Fund	1,000	5,000	(1,000)	-	5,000
<i>Capital</i>					
Digital Boost Fund	4,722	-	(2,326)	-	2,396
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total restricted funds	11,841	5,000	3,326	-	13,515
Designated Fund					
Life membership Fund	9,272	-	-	(1,098)	8,174
Unrestricted Fund					
	544,770	200,504	(241,471)	1,098	504,901
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total funds	565,883	205,504	(244,797)	-	526,590
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

- **Donald Bennet Fund:** funding received to fund projects in memory of the Society's former Chairman, Donald Bennet.
- **Heritage Paths Fund:** funding received to fund a project relating to Heritage Paths.
- **Law Guide Fund:** ScotWays has received funds towards the production of a new guide to access law in Scotland.
- **Signage Fund:** £1,500 was granted for signposting work in the Fife Council area, the balance of which was spent in the year. £5,000 was received in the year for replacing and refurbishing signs.
- **Digital Boost Fund:** funding received to acquire IT equipment
- **Life membership subscriptions** are added to the Life Membership fund when received. A proportion is transferred to the general reserve annually to write off the subscriptions over 15 years.

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2023

16. Movement of Funds (cont)

	Balance at 1 July 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 30 June 2022 £
Restricted Funds:					
Donald Bennet Fund	4,263	-	-	-	4,263
Heritage Path Fund	356	-	-	-	356
Law Guide Fund	2,000	-	(500)	-	1,500
Signage Fund	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
<u>Capital</u>					
Digital Boost Fund	-	5,802	(1,080)	-	4,722
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total restricted funds	7,619	5,802	(1,580)	-	11,841
Designated Fund					
Life membership Fund	9,554	900	-	(1,182)	9,272
Unrestricted Fund					
	603,825	206,589	(266,826)	1,182	544,770
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total funds	620,998	213,291	(268,406)	-	565,883
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2023

17. Analysis of net assets amongst funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets	103,765	2,396	106,161	108,487
Investments	316,996	-	316,996	338,945
Net current assets	92,314	11,119	103,433	118,451
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	513,075	13,515	526,590	565,883
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets	108,487	-	108,487	104,291
Investments	338,945	-	338,945	399,803
Net current assets	106,610	11,841	118,451	116,904
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	554,042	11,841	565,883	620,998
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

18. Financial instruments

	2023 £	2022 £
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Fair value through profit and loss	316,996	338,945
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Financial assets measured at fair value through profit and loss comprise listed investments.

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2023

19. **Operating lease commitments**

The Society was committed to making the following non-cancellable lease payments as at 30 June 2023:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Within one year	1,852	1,912
2 – 5 years	7,407	955
Over 5 years	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	9,259	2,867
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

20. **Analysis of changes in net debt during the year**

	2023	2022
	£	£
As at 1 July 2022	110,186	111,861
Net cash outflow	(14,565)	(1,675)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
As at 30 June 2023	95,621	110,186
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

21. **Related parties**

There were no related party transactions requiring disclosure in the year.

22. **Capital commitment**

The Society has entered into a contract to carry out upgrade work on its CAMS Pro system. The amount contracted for but not provided in the financial statements was £4,628 (2022: £Nil).