

**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 2024**

**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 2024**

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# THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

The Directors present their report and the accounts for the year ended 30 June 2024. 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 year beginning July 2023 and ending in June 2024 was a challenging one. We aimed to be well on the way to achieving the objectives set in our *Strategic Framework 2022-2027*, but work has not progressed quickly enough to make achieving the set objectives likely by June 2027. This has necessitated the board to reflect and take some tough decisions.

In the *Strategic Framework 2022-2027* we set out three main strategic objectives:

##### **1. Raising the Profile of Responsible Public Access to Land and Inland Water**

In the past year, we have continued to engage with various access groupings, including the Scottish Outdoor Access Network (SOAN), the Scottish Outdoor Recreation Alliance (SORA) and the National Access Forum (NAF). We appeared in The Guardian newspaper in an article on the closure of the Radical Road in Holyrood Park, Edinburgh, and in December 2023 participated in a very well attended public meeting organised jointly by the Edinburgh Geological Society, the Cockburn Association, Ramblers Scotland and ScotWays to debate the issue. This meeting resulted in Sarah Boyack MSP asking a Parliamentary question on the closure.

We strive to keep our website content up-to-date so that it, particularly the KEN knowledge base, provides a useful resource to those with queries about access rights. We have active engagement with followers on X/Twitter and Facebook and have started an Instagram account to promote *Scottish Hill Tracks*, which is proving popular. Our regular e-newsletter, *Stravaig*, continues to attract new subscribers. We have not significantly increased our engagement with government and other agencies to influence policy on access rights as planned, but have been laying the groundwork on certain issues.

# SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

### Activities and achievements (cont.)

#### 2. Protecting and Promoting Outdoor Access Rights and Associated Amenity

Our three Access Officers, Lynda Grant, Neil Feggans and Karen Lowrie, continue to provide a search service for information on rights of way for solicitors, a service which provides the bulk of the income that enables us to carry out our charitable purposes. The total number of searches for 2023-24 is 1,107, slightly down on 2022-23, with an average of 92 solicitor enquiries a month. We also deal with a monthly average of 20 enquiries from the public, local authorities and others.

The quality of the data we hold on Rights of Way and other routes is important to the Society's future work and in October 2023 we recruited a new Information Officer, Craig Reilly, to manage our information systems, organise our data and digitise information currently held only on paper. This will help us answer queries more efficiently and ensure that the information is better preserved for future generations.

Crucial to how we update and maintain the Catalogue of Rights of Way (CROW) is CAMS (Countryside Access Management System). The system was implemented by 2019 and enabled staff to work from home during the Covid lockdown. However, work to move to the web-based version (CAMS Pro), which will allow volunteers to assist with updating records remotely and was planned to be fully operational by the end of 2023, has progressed slowly as it has proved more complex than expected to tailor it to our needs.

The closure by Network Rail of the Ben Alder level crossing at Dalwhinnie, part of a recorded right of way, is still exercising our Senior Access Officer, Eleisha Fahy, and our Legal & Access Sub-Committee. ScotWays has continued to work with external legal advisors to ensure that the legal position we are taking is robust, but this has already come at a significant financial cost and the case has not yet even proceeded to court. In late 2023, the Board concluded that legal action carried considerable financial risk, so we continue to proceed in a measured way and to explore ways of resolving this matter. The whole issue of access rights over private level crossings is extremely complicated and requires very careful handling – although a great deal of work is going on in the background, unfortunately it cannot be discussed publicly. It remains our aim to ensure that long-established routes which cross railways can continue to be safely used by the general public in a responsible and appropriately managed way. We thank our members, partner organisations and many others for all their very helpful efforts thus far. We must ask everyone for continued support as we fear that it may take quite some time to achieve the necessary resolution of this vexing, nationally important access issue.

Although our efforts to retain access across level crossings on the Levenmouth line were unsuccessful, we thank the Levenmouth campaigners for helping to highlight the difficulties created by Network Rail's intransigent attitude to public access. An opportunity to accommodate existing public access as part of an exciting rail link reinstatement project was missed.

Despite the national publicity, public meeting and Parliamentary Question mentioned in section 1, the Radical Road remains closed, but discussions are taking place with Historic Environment Scotland, which manages Holyrood Park, and there is hope of a resolution.

ScotWays continues to contribute to consultations which have a bearing on the protection of public access rights, such as the Cairngorms National Park Authority's fire management consultation. We are a non-statutory consultee in relation to large energy development consultations, such as on windfarms, so comment where these directly affect recorded rights of way and other routes we promote. We also often

# SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

#### Activities and achievements (cont.)

contribute to local development plan consultations to ensure public access is not overlooked. If we have any remaining capacity, we comment on other planning applications affecting public access, if these are brought to our attention, and increase our reach in this regard by providing input in order to encourage those who are concerned to comment themselves.

Happily, our programme to maintain and replace ScotWays signage made great advances in 2023-24. Fifty-two ScotWays signs were replaced over the year, well exceeding the target of 37. Thirteen further missing signs (ours and others) were replaced and 76 signs and waymarkers repaired. A total of 141 improved signs on routes across Scotland! Up-to-date records and photographs of 7,436 signs were recorded in CROW (84% of the total) and we began working our way through another 1,100 sign surveys received as part of our signpost verification programme.

Although we did not hold a Volunteers' Day this year, signpost training took place instead.

The condition of 27 bridges that ScotWays has an interest in (i.e, usually we have contributed to their repair or replacement) has been accurately recorded. Bridges being washed away, or deteriorating and not being repaired or replaced, is becoming an increasing issue.

We are also delighted to report that editing and proof-reading of the sixth edition of *Scottish Hill Tracks* was completed over the year, and our new book will be launched in September 2024. This is the culmination of years of work by staff and volunteers, led by director Tim Simons and Access Officer (Outreach) Neil Birch. The board is very grateful to both for the passion and dedication they have brought to this project.

#### 3. Ensuring the Resilience of Scotways

ScotWays' membership remains constant at around 1,230 and our new contact management system, Infoodle, is now up and running, making communications with members easier. As a very small charity, we are also pleased to have 248 registered volunteers to assist with sign surveys, sign repairs and administrative tasks.

Our operational resilience was tested in May when National Secretary and Treasurer, Alison Riddell, was taken seriously ill, and was off work for more than two months. Staff, board members and volunteers stepped in to deal with financial and membership matters. It took a few weeks to get to grips with the various tasks and processes, but essential functions were kept going.

Unfortunately, we did not achieve our aim of financial break-even in 2023-24. We ran a deficit again, as detailed in the Financial Review below, and in late 2023 a further substantial deficit was projected for 2024-25 if things continued as they were. Areas where we could cut expenditure were identified, but did not add up to huge savings. A fundraising campaign was considered, but fundraising can take a long time to come to fruition and success is not guaranteed. The Board therefore had to make the difficult decision to reduce staff costs and, after a review of all job roles, the post of Chief Operating Officer was closed in June 2024. This was a stressful time for all involved in our small team and we want to record our gratitude to Richard Barron for his significant contribution to ScotWays while in post and as a director over many years.

# THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

#### Financial review

We are grateful for all subscriptions and donations received. This year we received several substantial donations, three for £1k, and two for £1.5k and £2k respectively. The Society recorded a deficit of £42,148 (2023: deficit £39,293) for the year. This includes a deficit of £37,236 (2023: deficit £40,967) on unrestricted reserves and a deficit of £4,912 (2023: surplus £1,674) on restricted reserves. The overall deficit is reduced by investment gains - 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 £72,114 (2023: deficit £20,200). As at 30 June 2024, the Society had total reserves of £484,442 (2023: £526,590), including £468,682 (2023: £504,901) general funds, £7,157 (2023: £8,174) designated reserves and £8,603 (2023: £13,515) 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 £364,650 (2023: £401,136). The board has revised the amount it considers appropriate to hold from 12 months to 6 months' budget expenditure, around £135,000. The directors acknowledge that current reserves are in excess of that requirement. Some years ago, we made a decision to use reserves in order to modernise and increase the activities of the Society and much has been achieved. However, we cannot dip into our reserves indefinitely and the board is now resolved to reverse the trend of running an operational deficit.

#### 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 2024 was £344,510, an increase of 9% over the year, with an estimated annual income of £8,346. A full report on the investments will be given at the Annual General Meeting.

The investment mandate with Investec had been changed from Advisory to Discretionary during the previous year. In July 2023 Investec recommended that the objective be changed from Low / Medium risk to a Balanced approach. They pointed out that the former had inhibited the portfolio from meeting the requirement of the Society, which is to achieve a capital return of protecting the assets against inflation. This would mean, for example, reducing the fixed-interest element from 37.5% to 20% and increasing equities from 35% to 60%. The Directors agreed to this change in September 2023.

# THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

#### **Grants awarded policy**

ScotWays has operated a small grants scheme for a number of years. ScotWays small grants scheme is aimed at community-based and access-related projects which might otherwise not proceed. Grants have been 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. No grants were awarded in financial year 2023/24.

At the discretion of the Board, the Society may help to fund larger projects which benefit public access and meet its charitable objectives. This year we were pleased to contribute £4,000 towards the repair of the Bedford Memorial Bridge in Glen Tilt, which was the residual balance of our Donald Bennet Memorial Fund.

#### **Plans for the future**

We are gearing up for the launch of *Scottish Hill Tracks* in September 2024 and the signs are that we will generate a lot of good publicity for ScotWays around this excellent publication.

We will review our *Strategic Framework 2022-2027* and set new objectives for the next year and beyond, focusing on our key priorities. We are working with staff to ensure that targets are achievable, processes are efficient and workloads are manageable.

One of the aims of the Strategic Framework is to raise the public profile and impact of the Society and this is an area in which Board members will have to play a more active role.

We will continue to improve the quality of the historic and current data we hold on rights of way and other routes; to update the information and guidance on our website, particularly on KEN, the ScotWays Knowledge Base; to provide accurate and timely information and to maintain our position as the recognised authority on access issues in Scotland.

We will investigate and follow up on potential sources of funding to support our work on recording and protecting rights of way and other public routes.

It is our intention to assess the development of CAMS Pro, and, if possible, to achieve a version that will meet our needs and make it operational within the year.

Acting upon obstructions and threats to access rights is one of our key charitable objectives. The closure of the level crossings at Dalwhinnie and Levenmouth, and threatened closure of others, remains an issue of national importance. ScotWays will campaign and work with other outdoor organisations to lobby politicians on this issue and other infringements of public access rights.

We will continue our signpost repair and replacement programme. Information already gathered on signs will be logged and volunteers then asked to check the remaining unsurveyed signs and bridges.

# THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

#### **Plans for the future (cont.)**

As Local Access Forums (LAFs), many of which have been inactive for several years, reconvene, we will improve our contact with these and encourage our members to join their local LAFs as ScotWays representatives.

We will review our Risk Register and ensure that our processes are properly documented.

A number of worthy path development and repair projects have been supported in the past few years through ScotWays' small grants scheme. However, the decision has been made to close the scheme this year.

We will continue to try to recruit new directors onto the board. We are particularly seeking individuals who have the time and skills necessary to help us through a period of organisational change.

#### **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 8. 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.

We welcomed Jonathan Binny and David Dixon to the Board at the AGM in November 2023, but four existing board members, Linda Johnson, David Langworth, Hannah Downie and Dorothy Breckenridge stood down during the year for personal reasons. We are grateful to them all for the valuable contributions they and their varied skills made to the Board during their time in office.

#### **Board of Directors and Management**

The Directors meet five times a year and, in addition, each is a member of one or more sub-committees. Day-to-day running of the Society in 2023/24 was the responsibility of the Chief Operating Officer, Richard Barron, and National Secretary, Alison Riddell. As the post of Chief Operating Officer has been closed, responsibility currently lies with 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 2024**

**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

David Langworth (Resigned 18/11/23)

Linda Johnson (Resigned 25/09/23)

Elizabeth H Mauchlen

Timothy P Simons

Katharine Anne Taylor

Fiona Mary Dick (Appointed 12/09/24)

Stephan Hennig

Alistair R Anderson

Hannah J Downie (Resigned 04/01/24)

Jonathan Francis Binny (Appointed 18/11/23)

Dorothy Breckenridge (Resigned 26/02/24)

Peter David Dixon (Appointed 18/11/23)

**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 2024

### 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 23 September 2024 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 2024 as set out on pages 10 to 26.

**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

23 September 2024

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	46,423	-	46,423	51,572
Charitable activities	4	143,362	-	143,362	142,926
Investments	5	9,111	-	9,111	11,006
		_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Total</b>		198,896	-	198,896	205,504
		_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	6	(2,657)	-	(2,657)	(2,452)
Charitable activities	7	(263,441)	(4,912)	(268,353)	(223,252)
		_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Total</b>		(266,098)	(4,912)	(271,010)	(225,704)
Realised (losses) on investments	12	(2,004)	-	(2,004)	(1,993)
Unrealised gains on investments		31,970	-	31,970	(17,100)
		_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Net (expenditure)/income</b>		(37,236)	(4,912)	(42,148)	(39,293)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
		_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		(37,236)	(4,912)	(42,148)	(39,293)
Funds brought forward at 1 July 2023		513,075	13,515	526,590	565,883
		_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Funds carried forward at 30 June 2024</b>		475,839	8,603	484,442	526,590
		=====	=====	=====	=====

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 13 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET

As at 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	11		104,032		106,161
Investments at valuation	12		344,510		316,996
			<hr/>		<hr/>
			448,542		423,157
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stock	13	2,319		1,844	
Debtors	14	36,059		32,827	
Cash at bank and in hand		39,278		95,621	
		<hr/>		<hr/>	
			77,656		130,292
<b>Creditors:</b> amounts falling due within one year	15	(41,756)		(26,859)	
		<hr/>		<hr/>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			35,900		103,433
			<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			484,442		526,590
			<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>
<b>Reserves</b>					
Unrestricted funds:	16				
General reserve		468,682		504,901	
Designated funds		7,157		8,174	
		<hr/>		<hr/>	
			475,839		513,075
Restricted funds	16		8,603		13,515
			<hr/>		<hr/>
			484,442		526,590
			<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>

The notes on pages 13 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

**THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY**

**BALANCE SHEET**

**As at 30 June 2024**

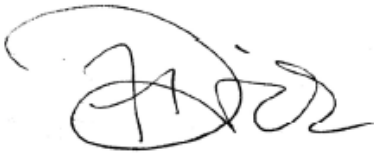
The directors are satisfied that the charitable company is entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and that the members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year 30 June 2024 in accordance with the provisions in Section 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 23 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



.....  
**Fiona M Dick**  
Director

# THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2024

### 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 2024

### 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 2024

### 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) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has a present obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required to settle the obligations and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

#### k) 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 2024**

**2. Net income/(expenditure)**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of fixed assets	2,529	2,326
Independent examination fee	2,400	2,275
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**3. Income from donations and legacies**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Annual subscriptions	16,845	-	16,845	16,939
Life subscriptions	400	-	400	800
Corporate subscriptions	2,742	-	2,742	2,992
Local authorities' subscriptions	7,700	-	7,700	7,600
Donations	12,991	-	12,991	17,816
Bequests and legacies	1,000	-	1,000	-
Gift aid	4,745	-	4,745	5,425
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	46,423	-	46,423	51,572
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

In 2023 income from donations and legacies was split £46,572 unrestricted and £5,000 restricted.

**4. Income from charitable activities**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Paid-for searches	139,645	-	139,645	138,739
Sale of publications	2,580	-	2,580	3,022
Walks	10	-	10	200
Other income	1,127	-	1,127	965
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	143,362	-	143,362	142,926
	<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 2024

5. **Income from investments**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Interest	765	580
Dividends	8,346	10,426
	<u>9,111</u>	<u>11,006</u>

Income from investments was unrestricted in both years.

6. **Expenditure on raising funds**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Investment manager's fees	2,657	2,452
	<u>2,657</u>	<u>2,452</u>

Investment manager's fees were unrestricted in both years.

7. **Expenditure on charitable activities**

	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Staff costs (note 10)	204,041	-	204,041	166,475
Grants awarded	-	2,516	2,516	322
Travel costs	629	-	629	968
Publications	(61)	-	(61)	1,299
Project costs	4,516	-	4,516	6,568
Support costs (note 8)	47,780	2,396	50,176	42,937
Governance costs (note 9)	6,536	-	6,536	4,683
	<u>263,441</u>	<u>4,912</u>	<u>268,353</u>	<u>223,252</u>

In 2023 expenditure on charitable activities was split £219,926 unrestricted and £3,326 restricted.

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2024

<b>8. Support costs</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Premises costs	7,082	6,961
Printing, postage and stationery	6,991	8,028
Computer costs	1,078	2,835
Subscriptions	782	470
Depreciation	2,529	2,326
Maps	17	578
Advertising	623	889
Sundry expenses and bank charges	535	281
Meeting expenses and other staff costs	1,308	947
Professional fees	17,285	6,021
Software costs	11,841	13,601
Bad debts	105	-
	_____	_____
	50,176	42,937
	=====	=====
<b>9. Governance costs</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Independent examiner's fees	2,400	2,275
Preparation of annual report and AGM	4,136	2,408
	_____	_____
	6,536	4,683
	=====	=====
<b>10. Employees</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Staff salaries	174,212	147,109
Employer's NIC	8,499	6,911
Pension	13,958	10,919
Death in service	1,872	1,536
Employee settlement costs	5,500	-
	_____	_____
	204,041	166,475
	=====	=====

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2024

10. **Employees (cont)**

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

The average number of employees was 8 (2023: 7) (full time equivalent 5 (2023: 4)).

Employment settlement payments were made in line with the underlying legally binding settlement agreements in place.

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 one of the directors (2023: none) was reimbursed £143.

11. **Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Heritable Property £</b>	<b>Office equipment £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 July 2023	103,765	10,405	114,170
Additions	-	400	400
Disposal	-	-	-
	_____	_____	_____
At 30 June 2024	103,765	10,805	114,570
	_____	_____	_____
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 July 2023	-	8,009	8,009
Charge for the year	-	2,529	2,529
Disposal	-	-	-
	_____	_____	_____
At 30 June 2024	-	10,538	10,538
	_____	_____	_____
<b>Net book value</b>			
<b>At 30 June 2024</b>	103,765	267	104,032
	=====	=====	=====
At 30 June 2023	103,765	2,396	106,161
	=====	=====	=====

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2024

12. Investments

	2024	2023
	£	£
<i>Listed investments</i>		
Market value at 30 June 2023	292,382	322,704
Additions	282,617	14,036
Disposal proceeds	(264,039)	(25,265)
Realised (losses) during the year	(2,004)	(1,993)
Unrealised gains/(losses) during the year	31,970	(17,100)
	<u>340,926</u>	<u>292,382</u>
Cash held by investment broker	3,584	24,614
	<u>344,510</u>	<u>316,996</u>
Fair value at 30 June 2024	344,510	316,996
	<u>315,170</u>	<u>333,882</u>
Historical cost	<u>315,170</u>	<u>333,882</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 2024

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.

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Stock in hand	2,319	1,844
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2024

14. Debtors

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Gift aid recoverable	4,732	5,423
Prepayments	10,994	10,340
Other debtors	20,333	17,064
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	36,059	32,827
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

15. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Trade creditors	3,110	296
Other creditors	21,977	14,768
Pension	4,063	1,390
Deferred income	3,742	4,536
VAT	8,864	5,889
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	41,756	26,859
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

Deferred income relates to members subscriptions paid in advance.

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
At 30 June 2023	4,536	4,724
Released to income	(4,536)	(4,724)
Deferred in the year	3,742	4,536
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
At 30 June 2024	3,742	4,536
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>



THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2024

16. Movement of Funds

	Balance at 1 July 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 30 June 2024 £
<b>Restricted Funds:</b>					
Donald Bennet Fund	4,263	-	(2,516)	-	1,747
Heritage Path Fund	356	-	-	-	356
Law Guide Fund	1,500	-	-	-	1,500
Signage Fund	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
<i>Capital</i>					
Digital Boost Fund	2,396	-	(2,396)	-	-
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total restricted funds	13,515	-	(4,912)	-	8,603
<b>Designated Fund</b>					
Life membership Fund	8,174	400	-	(1,417)	7,157
<b>Unrestricted Fund</b>					
	504,901	228,462	(266,098)	1,417	468,682
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total funds	526,590	228,862	(271,010)	-	484,442
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

- **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:** £5,000 was received in the previous year for replacing and refurbishing signs. None was spent in the year.
- **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 2024

16. Movement of Funds

	Balance at 1 July 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 30 June 2023 £
<b>Restricted Funds:</b>					
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
<b>Designated Fund</b>					
Life membership Fund	9,272	-	-	(1,098)	8,174
<b>Unrestricted Fund</b>					
	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 2024

17. Analysis of net assets amongst funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets	104,032	-	104,032	106,161
Investments	344,510	-	344,510	316,996
Net current assets	27,297	8,603	35,900	103,433
	<u>475,839</u>	<u>8,603</u>	<u>484,442</u>	<u>526,590</u>

	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
	<u>513,075</u>	<u>13,515</u>	<u>526,590</u>	<u>565,883</u>

18. Financial instruments

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Carrying amount of financial assets</b>		
Fair value through profit and loss	344,510	316,996
	<u>344,510</u>	<u>316,996</u>

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 2024**

**19. Operating lease commitments**

The Society was committed to making the following non-cancellable lease payments as at 30 June 2024:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Within one year	1,852	1,852
2 – 5 years	5,555	7,407
Over 5 years	-	-
	7,407	9,259
	7,407	9,259

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

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
As at 1 July 2023	95,621	110,186
Net cash outflow	(56,343)	(14,565)
	39,278	95,621
<b>As at 30 June 2024</b>	<b>39,278</b>	<b>95,621</b>

**21. Related parties**

Cumulatively, trustees donated £277 (2023: £478) to the Society in the year.

There were no other 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 (2023: £4,628).