

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 2025

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 2025

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THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

The Directors present their report and the accounts for the year ended 30 June 2025. 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 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

Financial year July 2024 – June 2025 was a year of transition and the directors are happy to report that we have progressed many of our objectives for the year. Our finances are healthier, we are strengthening our systems and processes, and we continue to defend access rights and provide a valued enquiries service to solicitors as well as advice on access issues to landowners and the general public.

Publications and Publicity

The year got off to a great start with the launch of the sixth edition of *Scottish Hill Tracks* in autumn 2024. The book has been a huge success, with sales exceeding our expectations to such an extent that a second print run was necessary after only a few months. The book was favourably reviewed in the media and well received by users. Highlights were director Tim Simons being interviewed on BBC Radio Scotland’s *Out of Doors* and having a well-attended public discussion with broadcaster and writer Paul Murton, who wrote the foreword for the book, at the Fort William Mountain Film Festival in February. In addition, an article featuring the book appeared in *National Geographic* in June 2025. We also had a stall at the Dundee Mountain Film Festival in autumn 2024, while BBC Radio Scotland broadcast a walk over Elsie’s Mounth with one of our volunteers, hopefully one of a series.

In the spring we recruited Finley Jackson as an Administration and Communications Assistant to take on tasks previously done by other members of staff, freeing them to spend more time on access, signage and development issues. This appointment has also enabled us to increase our activity on social media to engage with new and younger audiences. We opened a new Instagram account, initially to promote *Scottish Hill Tracks* and, along with many other organisations, have moved from X (previously Twitter) to BlueSky.

Data Management

Work has continued to reorganise our data according to our Records Management Plan. At the beginning of the year, we designed a File Plan to lead the re-structuring of our digital records into organised functions-based folders relating to the various areas of our work. Work is still ongoing to migrate our files into designated storage areas but, once completed, this will increase our resilience for the future.

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We have initiated a 10-year rolling programme to update the records in the Catalogue of Rights of Way (CROW). The quality and accessibility of the information on CROW is crucial as it allows us to answer access queries efficiently and accurately and thus defend public access rights. Unfortunately, the work to make the web-based Countryside Access Management System (CAMS Pro) operational is still not complete. This means that we have not yet been able to ask volunteers to submit survey information directly to CROW.

Enquiries service

The access team has been busier than ever this year. The monthly average number of search requests has been more than 20% higher than in 2023/24. This was during a year which had the upheaval of staff changes: we were sad to bid farewell to Lynda Grant, who retired having been a valued member of the access team for more than 11 years and wish her a long and happy retirement. In her place we have however been pleased to welcome Johanna Babbs who has settled in well to the team.

Our aim is to respond to at least 80% of the enquiries from solicitors within 10 working days. The changeover in staff in February coincided with an exceptionally busy period and the rate for solicitor enquiries dipped to 77% in the last six months of the year but has since recovered. We are working towards better measurement of enquiries from the general public, with a view to responding to 80% of these enquiries within 15 working days.

Defending Access Rights

ScotWays has continued engagement with Network Rail on the issue of the closure of the level crossing at Dalwhinnie, working with our partners The Highland Council, Cairngorms National Park and other outdoor organisations. Discussions are also underway on the protection of other level crossings, including those with Core Path designation. We cross-referenced a list of private level crossings in Scotland with records of rights of way and core path. We also compared information on core paths and level crossings from the Scottish Government and the access authorities and identified discrepancies. Unfortunately, the positive progress on railway matters reported at last year's AGM stalled for several months shortly afterwards, during which much time and energy was expended exploring potential alternative methods to resolve the difficulties. In June, however, we received the welcome news that the National Access Forum's level crossings working group would be reconvening. Despite its unexpected hiatus, we have been pleased to participate actively in this NAF working group, which has improved communication between Network Rail and the public access sector. We will continue this work to ensure that the general public can safely use level crossings on established routes in a responsible and appropriately managed way.

Whilst railway matters remain the most time-consuming of access issues, some other cases are particularly worthy of mention here. ScotWays has continued its engagement in the lengthy Radical Road saga, with Director participation both in the Historic Environment Scotland working group and attendance at wider Holyrood Park public meetings. From this, we had understood that at least partial re-opening of the Radical Road would take place in 2025 but, regrettably, this has now been pushed back into 2026. Staying with HES, we remain watchful over potential proposals to change public access at Calanais Standing Stones. Earlier in the year, we commented on two planning applications relating to the extension of quarrying activity at Ravelrig Quarry in west Edinburgh.

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

In the Borders, Center Parcs has been advancing plans to open its first Scottish “holiday village”. In light of the high profile nature of the proposed development, and the potential for unwelcome precedents to be set, ScotWays arranged to meet Center Parcs representatives in order to ensure that Scottish access rights were properly taken into account. A planning application was submitted this summer, but it is the prospect of byelaws under Section 12 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 that are the greatest cause for concern. We anticipate being consulted on the latter during the autumn.

We collaborate with colleagues both at the National Access Forum (NAF) and via the Scottish Outdoor Recreation Alliance (SORA) on progressing issues of national relevance. Individually, several of our staff team are also members of the Scottish Outdoor Access Network (SOAN).

During the past year, our Enquiries Team has responded to numerous consultations from the Scottish Government on a range of major, proposed renewable energy developments that have the potential to affect access rights and the amenity of access users, including many proposed wind farms across the country, from Sutherland to the Borders. The team has also commented on various planning applications including Ravelrig Quarry, near Balerno and large residential developments at Cardross and Hermiston, Gogar Station Road, on the outskirts of Edinburgh. We provided general advice to a number of local authorities on stopping up and diversion orders made under the town and country planning acts. We also responded to consultations for the new Local Development Plans from various access authorities. We highlighted the need for improved outdoor access provision and active travel inter-connectivity within and between settlements, to help achieve the Scottish Government’s concept of 20-minute Neighbourhoods. Finally, the team responded to consultations on the proposal for a third national park in Dumfries and Galloway. All in all, it has been a busy and hectic year for this area of work.

Signs and Bridges

Our signpost repair and replacement programme aimed to replace 38 ScotWays signs that needed repair over the year, as well as carrying out further minor repairs. In total we replaced 41 signs that were in need of repair or missing, and we completed a further 47 minor repairs.

In the spring we launched our *Support a Sign* scheme, which invites people to donate to repair or replace a specific sign advertised on our website. There has been a good take up already, with nine donations received by the end of June. Four of the repairs were completed by August and the other five are in progress.

Volunteers

We rely on our Scotland-wide network of dedicated volunteers to carry out the majority of the signpost repairs noted above. Volunteers also continued to assist with checking the condition of signposts, and surveying routes, when specific needs arose. Over 20 volunteers have assisted with distribution of our updated Brief Guide to Public Access, six volunteers have been helping regularly at the office with projects to consolidate and assist access to our records, and several have been volunteering from home, checking for updates and corrections needed to the Heritage Paths section of our website. Many volunteers have assisted with communications activity by, for example, providing photos and stories for inclusion in our social media, assisting with our stalls at the Dundee and Fort William Mountain Festivals, and two organised local launch events for the new edition of Scottish Hill Tracks. Particular thanks are due to those volunteers who represent ScotWays on Local Access Forums around Scotland.

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Fundraising

As part of our fundraising efforts, we made a successful grant application to the Scottish Mountaineering Trust for the first phase of a two-stage project to improve the Heritage Paths section of the website. After the functioning of the website has been improved, we intend to apply for further funding for a second phase of the project, to update the information on Heritage Paths over the next two years, using consistent methodology.

We also received a small grant from NatureScot to expand the print run of a new edition of our *Brief Guide to Public Access in Scotland* as part of activities to mark the 20th anniversary of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC). Volunteers have been distributing 20,000 copies of the leaflet to outlets across Scotland.

Behind the scenes

Over the year, work has been underway to strengthen our operational practices and resilience. The board reviewed and updated our Strategic Framework, which now runs from 2025-28; introduced an Activity Tracker that enables staff and directors to plan projects and better monitor progress; reviewed our banking and investment arrangements; and revised the Role Description for Directors and developed a Role Description for the Chair. As an organisation, we are also updating our processes and policies to ensure that they reflect current legislation and new working practices.

Finances

We are very happy to report that we recorded a profit this year, which was a great achievement and testament to the hard work of the whole team. After a difficult start to the financial year, a record number of search requests from solicitors in 2025 boosted our income to the extent that we very nearly broke even operationally. A couple of substantial legacies and a significant donation on top of that meant that we ended the year in profit for the first time since 2020-21. Further information is given in the Financial Review below.

Finally, 3 April 2025 was the 180th anniversary of the founding of ScotWays! We celebrated in small way, with a series of social media posts giving historical information about the organisation.

Financial review

We are grateful for all subscriptions and donations received. This year we received several substantial donations, three for £1k, and one for £10k, together with three significant legacies totalling £89,125. The Society therefore recorded a surplus of £120,486 (2024: deficit £42,148) for the year. This includes a surplus of £119,142 (2024: deficit £37,236) on unrestricted reserves and a surplus of £1,344 (2024: surplus £4,912) on restricted reserves. The surplus is increased by investment gains - both realised and on year-end valuation - of £10,174 being factored into the accounts, as required by accounting standards. The running, or "trading", position is a surplus of £110,312 (2024: deficit £72,114). As at 30 June 2025, the Society had total reserves of £604,928 (2024: £484,442), including £448,305 (2024: £468,682) general funds, £146,676 (2024: £7,157) designated reserves and £9,947 (2024: £8,603) 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.

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Reserves policy

The general fund represents the free reserves of the Society. The general fund not tied up in tangible fixed assets amounted to £344,407 (2024: £364,650). 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 above that requirement and have decided to set up several designated funds to cover predicted large expenditures over the next few years. More detail on the designated funds is set out in Note 16 of the accounts.

Risk management

The Finance & Risk subcommittee takes the lead on risk management with input from the other subcommittees as regards their areas of work. When funding can be unpredictable, the Board is very conscious of the need to safeguard the Society's reserves and make careful assessment before incurring any major expenditure or committing to major projects.

Investment policy

ScotWays maintains an investment portfolio which is actively managed by Rathbones Investment Management (incorporating Investec Wealth and Investment). The objective is to maintain the real value of the portfolio with respect to CPI inflation over a five-year span, as well as to provide an income. We are now also benchmarking against the ARC Steady Growth Index, which aggregates a number of charity investment portfolios, in this way comparing like with like. In the year our portfolio increased by 4.8% net of fees, compared with CPI of 3.6% and an ARC index of 3.7%.

At the beginning of the financial year, we withdrew £50,000 to cover the cashflow problems anticipated after the run of operating deficits mentioned previously. We opened a new easy-access account with Virgin Money which produces a better yield on the day-to-day balances than keeping all our cash in a non-interest-bearing current account.

After a review of the Board's attitude to risk part-way through the year, we withdrew another £50,000 from the investment portfolio and opened a fixed-term deposit account paying 4.6% with the United Trust Bank. In this way we should be assured of a steady income from the bank deposits to supplement the yield produced by the investments.

The value of the investment portfolio at 30 June 2025 was £251,304 with an estimated annual income of £5,284.

Grants awarded policy

ScotWays has operated a small grants scheme for a number of years, but no grants were awarded in financial year 2023/24 and the board took the decision to close the scheme this year. The credit in Note 7 is due to a £1,500 grant awarded previously to the Lumphanan Paths Group, reversed in the current year as the work was covered by donations from other sources.

At the discretion of the Board, the Society may help to fund larger projects that benefit public access and meet its charitable objectives.

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

During 2025-26 we aim, in addition to our access information work, to:

- complete the distribution of our updated *Brief Guide to Public Access* leaflets
- complete the functional improvements to the Heritage Paths web pages, and update the descriptions of the routes that overlap with routes in *Scottish Hill Tracks*
- define and trial an updated methodology for volunteer surveys of routes, signs and bridges, and refine this to facilitate resurveying all recorded routes on a 10-year rolling cycle.
- subject to funding, start a project to resurvey and undertake additional research into the history of some of the Heritage Paths featured on our website
- complete the Signpost Verification Project (initiated in 2018), consolidating all of our signpost records into a single register and validating all records with a field survey
- replace 50 signs that are damaged or missing, and complete a further 50 minor repairs
- engage with politicians and continue to raise awareness of access issues
- host stalls at the Dundee and Fort William Mountain (Film) Festivals
- involve volunteers in contribution to and use of our new digital Photo Library

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 7. 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 Rachel Taylor and Martin Yeoman to the Board at the AGM in November 2024, as well as Fiona Dick in September 2024 and Lindsay Anderson and Christopher Huntley in January 2025. However, Robert John Elliot stood down immediately after the AGM in 2024 after eight years on the board including three as chair, and Stephan Hennig, Elizabeth Helene Mauchlen, Jonathan Binny and Alistair Anderson also stood down during the year for a range of personal reasons. Martin Yeoman stood down in August 2025. We are grateful to them all for the valuable contributions they 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 is the responsibility of the 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 2025

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 (Resigned 16/11/24)
Lindsay S Anderson (Appointed 28/01/25)
Christopher M Huntley (Appointed 28/01/25)
Elizabeth H Mauchlen (Resigned 24/01/25)
Timothy P Simons

Stephan Hennig (Resigned 03/12/24)
Alistair R Anderson (Resigned 18/02/25)
Rachel Taylor (Appointed 16/11/24)
Jonathan Francis Binny (Resigned 29/01/25)
Martin Yeoman (Appointed 16/11/24,
Resigned 07/08/25)

Katharine Anne Taylor
Fiona Mary Dick (Appointed 12/09/24)

Peter David Dixon

Company Secretary

Alison Margaret Riddell

Operation address and Registered Office

24 Annandale Street
Edinburgh
EH7 4AN

Principal Bankers

Virgin Money
83 George Street
Edinburgh
EH2 3ES

Independent Examiner

Kevin Cattnach 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 2025

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 16 September 2025 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
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

I report on the accounts for the year ended 30 June 2025 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

16 September 2025

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	151,813	4,816	156,629	46,423
Charitable activities	4	207,841	-	207,841	143,362
Investments	5	8,469	-	8,469	9,111
Total		368,123	4,816	372,939	198,896
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	(2,830)	-	(2,830)	(2,657)
Charitable activities	7	(256,325)	(3,472)	(259,797)	(268,353)
Total		(259,155)	(3,472)	(262,627)	(271,010)
Realised gains on investments	12	177	-	177	(2,004)
Unrealised gains on investments		9,997	-	9,997	31,970
Net income/(expenditure)		119,142	1,344	120,486	(42,148)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		119,142	1,344	120,486	(42,148)
Funds brought forward at 1 July 2024		475,839	8,603	484,442	526,590
Funds carried forward at 30 June 2025		594,981	9,947	604,928	484,442

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 2025

	Note	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		103,898		104,032
Investments at valuation	12		251,304		344,510
			355,202		448,542
Current assets					
Stock	13	4,092		2,319	
Debtors	14	77,424		36,059	
Cash at bank and in hand		201,029		39,278	
			282,545		77,656
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(32,819)		(41,756)	
Net current assets			249,726		35,900
Total assets less current liabilities			604,928		484,442
Reserves					
Unrestricted funds:	16				
General reserve		448,305		468,682	
Designated funds		146,676		7,157	
			594,981		475,839
Restricted funds	16		9,947		8,603
			604,928		484,442

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 2025

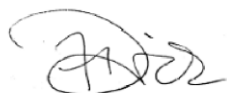
The directors are satisfied that the charitable company is entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and that the members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year 30 June 2025 in accordance with the provisions in Section 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 16 September 2025 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 2025

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 2025

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 2025

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 2025

2. Net income/(expenditure)

	2025	2024
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of fixed assets	134	2,529
Independent examination fee	2,915	2,400
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Annual subscriptions	17,542	-	17,542	16,845
Life subscriptions	2,920	-	2,920	400
Corporate subscriptions	3,136	-	3,136	2,742
Local authorities' subscriptions	7,350	-	7,350	7,700
Donations	22,983	4,553	27,536	12,991
Bequests and legacies	89,125	-	89,125	1,000
Gift aid	8,757	263	9,020	4,745
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	151,813	4,816	156,629	46,423
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

In 2024 income from donations and legacies was split £46,423 unrestricted.

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Paid-for searches	182,422	-	182,422	139,645
Sale of publications	22,867	-	22,867	2,580
Walks	-	-	-	10
Other income	2,552	-	2,552	1,127
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	207,841	-	207,841	143,362
	<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 2025

5. Income from investments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Interest	1,815	765
Dividends	6,654	8,346
	8,469	9,111

Income from investments was unrestricted in both years.

6. Expenditure on raising funds

	2025	2024
	£	£
Investment manager's fees	2,830	2,657

Investment manager's fees were unrestricted in both years.

7. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs (note 10)	200,596	-	200,596	204,041
Grants awarded	(1,500)	-	(1,500)	2,516
Travel costs	861	-	861	629
Publications	11,869	2,000	13,869	(61)
Project costs	1,775	1,472	3,247	4,516
Support costs (note 8)	37,880	-	37,880	50,176
Governance costs (note 9)	4,844	-	4,844	6,536
	256,325	3,472	259,797	268,353

In 2024 expenditure on charitable activities was split £263,441 unrestricted and £4,912 restricted.

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2025

8. Support costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Premises costs	9,693	7,082
Printing, postage and stationery	4,151	6,991
Computer costs	2,435	1,078
Subscriptions	732	782
Depreciation	134	2,529
Maps	-	17
Advertising	940	623
Sundry expenses and bank charges	871	535
Meeting expenses and other staff costs	890	1,308
Professional fees	5,814	17,285
Software costs	12,220	11,841
Bad debts	-	105
	37,880	50,176

9. Governance costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Independent examiner's fees	2,915	2,400
Preparation of annual report and AGM	1,929	4,136
	4,844	6,536

10. Employees

	2025	2024
	£	£
Staff salaries	175,402	174,212
Employer's NIC	10,078	8,499
Pension	14,055	13,958
Death in service	1,061	1,872
Employee settlement costs	-	5,500
	200,596	204,041

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2025

10. **Employees (cont)**

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

The average number of employees was 8 (2024: 8) (full time equivalent of 6 (2024: 5)).

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 (2024: one) of the directors (2024: £143) was reimbursed £34.

11. **Tangible fixed assets**

	Heritable Property £	Office equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 July 2024	103,765	10,805	114,570
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	(892)	(892)
At 30 June 2025	103,765	9,913	113,678
Depreciation			
At 1 July 2024	-	10,538	10,538
Charge for the year	-	134	134
Disposals	-	(892)	(892)
At 30 June 2025	-	9,780	9,780
Net book value			
At 30 June 2025	103,765	133	103,898
At 30 June 2024	103,765	267	104,032

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2025

12. Investments

	2025	2024
	£	£
<i>Listed investments</i>		
Market value at 30 June 2024	340,926	292,382
Additions	12,326	282,617
Disposal proceeds	(113,142)	(264,039)
Realised gains/(losses) during the year	177	(2,004)
Unrealised gains during the year	9,997	31,970
	<u>250,284</u>	<u>340,926</u>
Cash held by investment broker	<u>1,020</u>	<u>3,584</u>
Fair value at 30 June 2025	<u>251,304</u>	<u>344,510</u>
Historical cost	<u>214,134</u>	<u>315,170</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 2025

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.

	2025 £	2024 £
Stock in hand	4,092	2,319
	=====	=====

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2025

14. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Gift aid recoverable	2,222	4,732
Prepayments	11,393	10,994
Other debtors	63,809	20,333
	77,424	36,059

15. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	441	3,110
Other creditors	10,352	21,977
Pension	2,032	4,063
Deferred income	5,696	3,742
VAT	14,298	8,864
	32,819	41,756

Deferred income relates to members subscriptions paid in advance.

	2025	2024
	£	£
At 30 June 2024	3,742	4,536
Released to income	(3,742)	(4,536)
Deferred in the year	5,696	3,742
At 30 June 2025	5,696	3,742

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2025

16. Movement of Funds

	Balance at 1 July 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 30 June 2025 £
Restricted Funds:					
Donald Bennet Fund	1,747	33	-	-	1,780
Heritage Paths Fund	356	-	-	-	356
Law Guide Fund	1,500	-	-	-	1,500
Signage Fund	5,000	2,783	(1,472)	-	6,311
NatureScot	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
Total restricted funds	8,603	4,816	(3,472)	-	9,947
Designated Funds:					
Life Membership Fund	7,157	2,920	-	(809)	9,268
Hardware Fund	-	-	-	3,750	3,750
Software and Web Development	-	-	-	16,260	16,260
Document Digitisation and Storage	-	-	-	13,500	13,500
Fixed Assets Fund	-	-	-	103,898	103,898
Unrestricted Funds					
General fund	468,682	375,377	(259,155)	(136,599)	448,305
Total funds	484,442	383,113	(262,627)	-	604,928

- **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.
- **NatureScot:** Donation received in the year towards printing and distribution of the Public Access in Scotland leaflet.
- **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.
- **Hardware Fund:** Funds reserved for the renewal of IT equipment over the next three years.
- **Software and Web Development:** Funds reserved for ongoing improvement to the website and software that is in use.
- **Document Digitisation and Storage:** Funds reserved for storing files and map scanning.
- **Fixed Assets:** Designated fund covering all fixed assets held by the entity, including the property.
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THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2025

16. Movement of Funds

	Balance at 1 July 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 30 June 2024 £
Restricted Funds:					
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
<u>Capital</u>					
Digital Boost Fund	2,396	-	(2,396)	-	-
Total restricted funds	13,515	-	(4,912)	-	8,603
Designated Fund					
Life membership Fund	8,174	400	-	(1,417)	7,157
Unrestricted Funds					
General fund	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:** £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 2025

17. Analysis of net assets amongst funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets	103,898	-	103,898	104,032
Investments	251,304	-	251,304	344,510
Net current assets	239,779	9,947	249,726	35,900
	594,981	9,947	604,928	484,442

	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
	475,839	8,603	484,442	526,590

18. Financial instruments

	2025 £	2024 £
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Fair value through profit and loss	251,304	344,510

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 2025

19. Operating lease commitments

The Society was committed to making the following non-cancellable lease payments as at 30 June 2025:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Within one year	1,852	1,852
2 – 5 years	3,704	5,555
Over 5 years	-	-
	5,556	7,407

20. Analysis of changes in net debt during the year

	2025	2024
	£	£
As at 1 July 2024	39,278	95,621
Net cash outflow	161,751	(56,343)
As at 30 June 2025	201,029	39,278

21. Related parties

Cumulatively, trustees donated £1,917 (2024: £277) 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 (2024: £4,628).