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 2026

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 2026

CONTENTS	**PAGE**

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

The Directors present their report and the accounts for the year ended 30 June 2026. 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

The past year has been a successful one. Our finances are doing well, and we are grateful for the bequests, other donations and grants that we have received. There has been steady demand for our paid solicitor enquiries service, which is a major source of our income. We have begun two long-term projects: to redevelop our free online Heritage Paths resource and to update our Catalogue of Rights of Way (CROW). We have continued our work to defend access rights and to increase our resilience and have also been working to engage more with the public.

Our Administration and Communications Assistant, Finley Jackson, left us at the end of March, but we were very pleased to recruit Linnea Sjögren in his place. Linnea started work with ScotWays in May and has already proved a valuable addition to our team. We were also pleased to welcome Paul Murton as our Honorary President after his election at last year's AGM and look forward to further collaboration with him. But we are very sad to report the loss of our Honorary Vice President George Menzies, who passed away in April, and are grateful for his long service to the Society.

The board met for a planning day in February, where we shared our priorities as a board, ironed out management arrangements, discussed our ideas for the future direction of ScotWays, and then used that discussion to inform a strategic planning session. In addition to our unchanged strategic objectives and our current work, the board agreed to focus on raising the profile of ScotWays, focussing our funds on supporting our projects, and continuing our work to ensure all of our policies, documents and processes are kept up to date.

The Directors would like to thank our excellent staff team for their hard work, their contributions of great ideas, problem-solving skills and enthusiasm, and their dedication to ScotWays' mission. We would also like to thank our volunteers, who are vital to our work, for the many hours they have generously contributed.

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

Protecting and Promoting Access Rights

ScotWays staff have been hard at work to protect access rights for everyone in Scotland. These include rights enshrined by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 (the Act) - which gives people in Scotland the right of responsible access - as well as protecting rights of way. The work we do is about more than just protecting people's right of access for recreational use. It has its roots in, and continues to be, a way to help make our society more equitable, healthier, and socially cohesive - allowing outdoor access to all people, regardless of financial means. We have been working to achieve this by:

- seeking to influence government and the law. Along with our Scottish Outdoor Recreation Alliance (SORA) partners, we attended as many political party conferences as practical. We informed politicians about access rights and access issues, including the growing problem of a lack of funding assigned to access authorities to enable them to meet their legal obligations to protect access. We also worked with SORA partners to produce a manifesto of proposals for the Scottish Parliament for 2026-31, including a £50m Scottish Paths Fund and more funding for protecting access.
- collaborating with colleagues both at the National Access Forum (NAF) and via SORA on progressing issues of national relevance. Several of our team are also members of the Scottish Outdoor Access Network (SOAN).
- working strategically on several national issues. This includes actively participating in the NAF level crossing working group which has improved communication between Network Rail and the recreational access sector. The resultant development of a Memorandum of Understanding should ensure that, in future, public access at other level crossings is both safely managed and safeguarded. Our input has been sought also by a Scottish Government Reporter in relation to the West Highlands and Islands Core Paths Plan. We are in ongoing communication with Historic Environment Scotland and others regarding appropriately managing public access at sites such as the Radical Road and the Calanais Stones.
- our Enquiries Team responding 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 over eighteen wind farms and two solar farms across the country. The team has also commented on the access implications of at least eight planning applications, notably for the proposed Center Parcs holiday village near Hawick and Balmullo Quarry extension at Lucklaw, Fife.
- continuing to provide our paid solicitor enquies service, which forms a large part of our income. This income supports our other charitable aims, but the service itself also helps us meet our aim of protecting public access. The information provided to solicitors to be passed on to their clients includes where rights of way cross the property, so these can be protected, as well as general information about their duty and responsibilities as landowners under the Act. Over the years we have been receiving an increasing number of search requests, and we are exploring ways to encourage this increase while keeping in mind the balance with staff capacity. We dealt with 1315 searches in the year 2025/26, only slightly down on the record total of 1334 the previous year. Our aim is to respond to at least 80% of the enquiries from solicitors within 10 working days, excluding any larger searches where a longer timescale has been agreed; we have managed to achieve over 90% for the past year.
- responding to as many enquiries from the general public as capacity allows.
- continuing to promote our book The Law of Access to Land in Scotland.
- providing and keeping updated our free online resource about access, Ken.

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

Raising the Profile of Responsible Public Access

We have been continuing our work to provide the public with information regarding their rights and responsibilities as access users. An informed public is key to the protection of access rights, since people can't fight for their own rights if they don't know what they are. It is also vital that access users understand their responsibilities, so they know how to exercise their rights in a way that helps maintain a balance between the various interests of people using the land. We aim to provide information at various levels of detail to try to reach as many people as possible, including by:

- distributing our *Brief Guide to Public Access in Scotland* leaflet, which gives an overview of rights and responsibilities and also includes information on rights of way. We received grants from NatureScot for both calendar years 2025 and 2026 towards distribution of nearly 50,000 copies of these leaflets over the two years.
- working with our SORA partners on national campaigns.
- promoting responsible access on our social media.
- engaging in conversations with the public at mountain festivals and other public events.
- giving talks about access rights and responsibilities at various events, including Mountain Aid's *Skills for the Hills* event in March.

Organisational Resilience

We are working to ensure that ScotWays is run efficiently and professionally, that our staff are well-looked after and that our resources are protected. We have been doing this by:

- digitising and securely storing our paper resources, including hiring an A0-size flatbed scanner to enable us to scan 925 old maps containing CROW data.
- continuing to reorganise our data according to our Records Management Plan, which increases our efficiency and the ease of finding information now, as well as increasing our resilience for the future. The majority of our files have now been moved over to and organised in our SharePoint system, and work has begun on a plan for data retention.
- following its February planning day, the board drawing up a new 5-year Strategic Framework, now available on our website. This framework is supported by an in-depth, new 5-year Strategic Plan, and the work stemming from this plan will continue to be organised and monitored using our Activity Tracker.
- upgrading our photo library software to Piwigo, to improve storage and retrieval of photos, for business and archival purposes.
- reviewing and updating all policies, documents and procedures, creating new ones where needed and designing a schedule for future reviews to ensure these remain up to date;
- designing a business continuity plan, which was almost complete by the end of the financial year.

Profile-raising, Publications and Publicity:

Directors recognise the importance of working to raise ScotWays' profile. The more people who are aware of us and what we do, the more who can take advantage of the resources we offer. This can also help us to increase memberships, donations and gifts in wills. We have:

- appointed broadcaster Paul Murton as our Honorary President and are working with him on how he can assist us with our profile-raising efforts.
- increased our communications capacity by extending the Administration and Communications Assistant position to full-time in autumn 2025, the additional hours all assigned to communications work.

Profile-raising, Publications and Publicity (contd.):

- increased the number of posts on our social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram and Bluesky), about access and about ScotWays' work and have hugely increased our engagement. We had 1.7 million 'views' on Facebook this year and increased our Instagram following by 86% and our Facebook following by 72%.
- increased the number of articles on our website about access topics, as well as interest pieces featuring *Scottish Hill Tracks* and/or *Heritage Paths.* This has been assisted by volunteers writing articles for us, and we are very grateful for their input.
- designed and printed a new promotional leaflet about ScotWays, with 7,000 copies in the first run, which are being distributed by volunteers. The goal is to increase public awareness of ScotWays' work and the resources we offer, and to encourage people to join, donate and/or volunteer.
- continued to promote our *Scottish Hill Tracks* book. In addition to encouraging public recreational access, many of these routes are rights of way, and promoting them helps to keep the routes used and open.
- hosted stalls at three public events - the Dundee Mountain Film Festival, the Fort William Mountain Festival, and Mountain Aid's *Skills for the Hills*.
- given talks at *Skills for the Hills* and other events, about access rights, *Scottish Hill Tracks*, Heritage Paths, and ScotWays in general.

Volunteers

Volunteers contribute hugely to our work, and we are very grateful for their time and dedication. Volunteers have been:

- continuing to assist with checking the condition of signposts and surveying routes, when requested.
- repairing, refurbishing and installing replacement signs all over Scotland.
- distributing our leaflets.
- helping regularly at the office with projects to consolidate and improve access to our records.
- checking for updates and corrections needed to the Heritage Paths section of our website as part of the first stage of our project to update Heritage Paths (more info below).
- conducting pilot surveys as part of the project-design stage of our Heritage Paths and CROW surveying projects, to ensure our methodology and instructions are clear before we fully launch the projects.
- supplying us with photos for our photo library.
- writing articles for our website.
- assisting with stalls at public events.
- serving on Local Access Forums around Scotland.

Other Major Projects

Signposting:
We have been continuing our work to replace and repair directional signposts as well as our heritage information plaques (more below). The directional signs have importance beyond simply pointing the way. Among other things, they assert rights of way and encourage the public to continue to use them. This helps to protect the rights of way from loss through disuse. Our heritage-information plaques help the public connect with the cultural heritage of the route they are travelling. Over the year 2025-26 we replaced 47 ScotWays signs that were missing or in need of repair, fully refurbished three historic signs, installed six additional signs and completed 49 further minor repairs. Our ongoing signpost verification project continues; by the year-end we had 7,800 verified sign records and were ready to launch a new web map and reporting form to support volunteers checking the remaining 1,400 records in an efficient way.

Heritage Paths:
Heritage Paths is a freely available resource on our website that features more than 400 historic routes throughout Scotland. This special resource not only promotes and protects these ancient routes through encouraging continued use but also can help people to have a deeper experience, through an understanding of their history. We have completed the initial stage of our Heritage Paths updating project, partly funded by a Scottish Mountaineering Trust (SMT) grant. This included major improvements to the Heritage Paths website to improve user experience and to enable staff to update website data more easily. We received a second grant from the SMT in October 2025 towards a further, 30-month project to update Heritage Paths, in which volunteers are undertaking on-the-ground surveys for 200 routes that pass through hilly and mountainous areas, (almost half the total), researching their history, and providing additional photos. After spending the past few months designing surveying methodology and volunteer training, the surveying project was launched at the very end of the financial year.

CROW:
ScotWays holds Scotland's only national database of rights of way. Keeping these records as up to date as possible is vitally important, because this resource is used by our access authorities as well as in searches conducted by our enquiries team. The improved accuracy of the information also increases the efficiency for the enquiries team. and an important part of our work is to protect and maintain that resource. We have begun a project to resurvey all of the recorded routes (nearly 10,000!) by 2035 and to put a rolling programme in place for the foreseeable future. This ambitious project has required extensive planning and testing. After pilot surveys were completed by volunteers, it became apparent that major web development would be needed (more details below), and we are now expecting to launch surveying in the early autumn.

Software development:
We had hoped to move CROW from the current CAMS Desktop system to the newer CAMS Pro a few years ago, but due to delays in the development of the software, we have decided to remain with our current version of CAMS in the meantime and have instead gained increased access to the data within CROW. Increased access has enabled us to commission an independent developer to create the software we need to run our projects efficiently and effectively.

Software development (contd.):
This is a major investment, but one that will very much pay off. The software will include a new online volunteer portal, where registered volunteers can sign up to survey routes, submit survey reports and access updated surveying guidance and other resources. Behind the scenes, the development will allow automation of parts of the administrative work involved in coordinating surveys, generation of route-specific information for surveyors and archiving of photos and reports. Increased automation will enable our staff to focus on supporting volunteers and updating our records following completion of each survey. This new portal will provide an improved experience for volunteers and staff alike.

Finances
We are very happy to report that we recorded a considerable surplus this year, which was a great achievement and testament to the hard work of all involved. Again, the number of search requests from solicitors was higher than originally estimated and boosted our income to the extent that we nearly broke even operationally. One substantial legacy, combined with delays in some of the project expenditure, meant that we again ended the year in profit. Further information is given in the Financial Review below.

Financial review
We are extremely grateful for all subscriptions, donations and gifts in wills. This year we received a significant, and totally unexpected, legacy totalling £70,115. The Society therefore recorded a surplus of £98,964 (2025: surplus £120,486) for the year. This includes a surplus of £84,431 (2025: surplus £119,142) on unrestricted reserves and a surplus of £14,533 (2025: surplus £1,344) on restricted reserves. The surplus was increased by investment gains - both realised and on year-end valuation – of £49,258 being factored into the accounts, as required by accounting standards. The running, or “trading”, position is a surplus of £49,706 (2025: surplus £110,312). As at 30 June 2026, the Society had total reserves of £703,892 (2025: £604,928), including £539,451 (2025: £448,305) general funds, £139,961 (2025: £146,676) designated reserves and £24,480 (2025: £9,947) 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. The general fund not tied up in tangible fixed assets amounted to £539,451 (2025: £448,305). The board considers it appropriate to hold 6 months' budget expenditure, around £152,000. 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. In line with our risk policy, our risk register is formally reviewed annually after active consideration by the Finance sub-committee.

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 17.9% net of fees, compared with CPI of 5.9% and an ARC index of 13.3%.

At the beginning of the previous year, we withdrew £50,000 to cover anticipated cashflow problems but were able to return this amount to our investment portfolio part way through this year.

The value of the portfolio at 30 June 2026 was £347,695 with an estimated annual income of £4,572.

We have also opened two fixed-term bonds of differing lengths with the United Trust Bank at market-level fixed interest rates.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

During 2026-27 we aim, in addition to our access information work, to:

- continue work on our Heritage Paths updating project.
- complete the distribution of our 28,000 *Brief Guide to Public Access* leaflets and work to distribute our new leaflet promoting ScotWays.
- launch our CROW resurveying project.
- set up our new volunteer portal.
- continue with our work to ensure all policies and documents are reviewed and ScotWays is running efficiently.
- finalise our business continuity plan and further investigate cyber-risk and how best to mitigate that.
- continue to update Ken, our information database on access law.
- complete the Signpost Verification Project, consolidating all 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.
- host stalls at the Dundee and Fort William Mountain (Film) Festivals, as well as investigating other opportunities for public engagement.
- recruit 1-3 new directors to fill 2 vacancies from directors retiring at end of their terms.
- propose changes to our Articles of Association to Members at the 2026 AGM.
- recruit and engage more volunteers for our Heritage Paths and CROW projects.

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

Structure, Governance and Management Governing Document

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

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

We welcomed Brian Humphries and Greg Quinn to the Board at the AGM in November 2025, as well as co-opting Don Milton in April 2026. Katharine Taylor stood down from the role of Chair at the 2025 AGM but has served a further year on the board. She has now reached the end of her maximum term so is required to stand down. Rachel Taylor took over as Chair and Tim Simons was appointed as Vice Chair at the December 2025 board meeting. David Dixon served on the board from 2011-2020 and, after the required break from board duties, returned to the board in 2023. He has now completed his three-year term and will be retiring from the board at the 2026 AGM. We wish to thank Katharine and David wholeheartedly for their many years of service.

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 2026

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
Paul Murton

Honorary Vice President
Robert Aitken

Directors

Lindsay S Anderson		James G Quinn	(Appointed 22/11/25)
Christopher M Huntley		Rachel Taylor	
Brian D Humphries	(Appointed 22/11/25)	George J G Milton	(Appointed 21/04/26)
Timothy P Simons		Martin Yeoman	(Resigned 7/08/25)
Katharine Anne Taylor		Peter David Dixon	
Fiona Mary Dick			

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 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 2026

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 15 September 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Rachel Taylor
Chair

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

I report on the accounts for the year ended 30 June 2026 as set out on pages 12 to 28.

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

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

Independent examiner's statement
In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44 (1)(a) of the 2005 Act, Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations (as amended) and sections 381, 382, and 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations (as amended)

have not been met; or

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

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

15 September 2026

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	118,142	15,705	133,847	156,629
Charitable activities	4	198,587	-	198,587	207,841
Investments	5	10,160	-	10,160	8,469
Total		326,889	15,705	342,594	372,939
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	(2,603)	-	(2,603)	(2,830)
Charitable activities	7	(282,953)	(7,332)	(290,285)	(259,797)
Total		(285,556)	(7,332)	(292,888)	(262,627)
Realised gains on investments	12	3,417	-	3,417	177
Unrealised gains on investments		45,841	-	45,841	9,997
Net income/(expenditure)		90,591	8,373	98,964	120,486
Transfers between funds	16	(6,160)	6,160	-	-
Net movement in funds		84,431	14,533	98,964	120,486
Funds brought forward at 1 July 2025		594,981	9,947	604,928	484,442
Funds carried forward at 30 June 2026		679,412	24,480	703,892	604,928

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All of the activities of the company are classed as continuing.
The notes on pages 15 to 28 form part of these financial statements.

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET

As at 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 £	2026 £	2025 £	2025 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		103,765		103,898
Investments at valuation	12		347,695		251,304
			451,460		355,202
Current assets					
Stock	13	3,808		4,092	
Debtors	14	35,622		77,424	
Cash at bank and in hand		244,510		201,029	
		283,940		282,545	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(31,508)		(32,819)	
Net current assets			252,432		249,726
Total assets less current liabilities			703,892		604,928
Reserves					
Unrestricted funds:	16				
General reserve		539,451		448,305	
Designated funds		139,961		146,676	
			679,412		594,981
Restricted funds	16		24,480		9,947
			703,892		604,928

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

THE SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET

As at 30 June 2026

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 2026 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 15 September 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Fiona M Dick
Director

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2026

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.

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 £1,000. 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 its 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.

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.

2. Net income/(expenditure)

	2026 £	2025 £
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of fixed assets	133	134
Independent examination fee	2,900	2,915

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Annual subscriptions	18,164	-	18,164	17,542
Life subscriptions	1,681	-	1,681	2,920
Corporate subscriptions	2,881	-	2,881	3,136
Local authorities' subscriptions	7,700	-	7,700	7,350
Grants and donations	11,139	14,930	26,069	27,536
Bequests and legacies	71,115	-	71,115	89,125
Gift aid	5,462	775	6,237	9,020
	118,142	15,705	133,847	156,629

In 2025 income from donations and legacies was split £4,816 restricted and £151,813 unrestricted. 2026 included restricted grants as follows: Scottish Mountaineering Trust £8,170 for Heritage Paths project and NatureScot £2,000 to produce leaflets.

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Paid-for searches	191,673	-	191,673	182,422
Sale of publications	5,654	-	5,654	22,867
Other income	1,260	-	1,260	2,552
	198,587	-	198,587	207,841

Income from charitable activities was unrestricted in both years.

5. Income from investments

	2026 £	2025 £
Interest	5,353	1,815
Dividends	4,807	6,654
	10,160	8,469

Income from investments was unrestricted in both years.

6. Expenditure on raising funds

	2026 £	2025 £
Investment manager's fees	2,603	2,830

Investment manager's fees were unrestricted in both years.

7. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Staff costs (note 10)	223,299	-	223,299	200,596
Grants awarded	-	-	-	(1,500)
Travel costs	791	376	1,167	861
Publications	4,473	2,000	6,473	13,869
Project costs	3,553	4,956	8,509	3,247
Support costs (note 8)	45,837	-	45,837	37,880
Governance costs (note 9)	5,000	-	5,000	4,844
	282,953	7,332	290,285	259,797

In 2025 expenditure on charitable activities was split £256,325 unrestricted and £3,472 restricted.

8. Support costs

	2026 £	2025 £
Premises costs	10,820	9,693
Printing, postage and stationery	2,962	4,151
Computer costs	3,587	2,435
Subscriptions	739	732
Depreciation	133	134
Advertising	3,093	940
Sundry expenses and bank charges	1,060	871
Meeting expenses and other staff costs	1,804	890
Professional fees	500	5,814
Software costs	21,139	12,220
	45,837	37,880

9. Governance costs

	2026 £	2025 £
Independent examiner's fees	2,900	2,915
Preparation of annual report and AGM	2,100	1,929
	5,000	4,844

10. Employees

	2026 £	2025 £
Staff salaries	194,091	175,402
Employer's NIC	12,223	10,078
Pension	15,472	14,055
Death in service	1,513	1,061
	223,299	200,596

10. Employees (cont)

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

The average number of employees was 8 (2025: 8) (full time equivalent of 6 (2025: 6).

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 (2025: one) of the directors was reimbursed £135 (2025: £34).

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Heritable Property £	Office equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 July 2025	103,765	9,913	113,678
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 30 June 2026	103,765	9,913	113,678
Depreciation			
At 1 July 2025	-	9,780	9,780
Charge for the year	-	133	133
Disposals	-	-	-
At 30 June 2026	-	9,913	9,913
Net book value			
At 30 June 2026	103,765	-	103,765
At 30 June 2025	103,765	133	103,898

12. Investments

	2026	2025
	£	£
Listed investments		
Fair value at 30 June 2025	250,284	340,926
Additions	128,619	12,326
Disposal proceeds	(82,416)	(113,142)
Realised gains/(losses) during the year	3,417	177
Unrealised gains during the year	45,841	9,997
	345,745	250,284
Cash held by investment broker	1,950	1,020
Fair value at 30 June 2026	347,695	251,304
Historical cost	270,823	214,134

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.

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.

	2026 £	2025 £
Stock in hand	3,808	4,092

14. Debtors

	2026 £	2025 £
Gift aid recoverable	2,081	2,222
Prepayments	12,092	11,393
Other debtors	21,449	63,809
	35,622	77,424

15. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2026 £	2025 £
Trade creditors	434	441
Other creditors	11,658	10,352
Pension	2,235	2,032
Deferred income	6,219	5,696
VAT	10,962	14,298
	31,508	32,819

Deferred income relates to members subscriptions paid in advance.

	2026 £	2025 £
At 30 June 2025	5,696	3,742
Released to income	(5,696)	(3,742)
Deferred in the year	6,219	5,696
At 30 June 2026	6,219	5,696

16. Movement of Funds

	Balance at 1 July 2025	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 30 June 2026
Restricted Funds:	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Donald Bennet Fund	1,780	30	-	-	1,810
Heritage Paths Fund	356	8,420	(1,430)	6,160	13,506
Law Guide Fund	1,500	-	-	-	1,500
Signage Fund	6,311	5,255	(3,902)	-	7,664
NatureScot	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
Total restricted funds	9,947	15,705	(7,332)	6,160	24,480
Designated Funds:					
Life Membership Fund	9,268	1,681	-	(1,203)	9,746
Hardware Fund	3,750	-	(300)	-	3,450
Software and Web Development	16,260	-	(3,260)	-	13,000
Document Digitisation & Storage	13,500	-	(7,000)	-	6,500
Revision of Articles Fund	-	-	-	3,500	3,500
Fixed Assets Fund	103,898	-	(133)	-	103,765
Unrestricted Funds					
General fund	448,305	374,466	(274,863)	(8,457)	539,451
Total funds	604,928	391,852	(292,888)	-	703,892

- ***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.
- ***Revision of Articles Fund:*** Costs of drafting and filing revisions to the articles of association.

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.
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- ***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.

17. Analysis of net assets amongst funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2026 £	2025 £
Fixed assets	103,765	-	103,765	103,898
Investments	347,695	-	347,695	251,304
Net current assets	227,952	24,480	252,432	249,726
	679,412	24,480	703,892	604,928

	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

18. Financial instruments

	2026 £	2025 £
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Fair value through profit and loss	347,695	251,304

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

19. Operating lease commitments

The Society was committed to making the following non-cancellable lease payments as at 30 June 2026:

	2026	2025
	£	£
Within one year	1,852	1,852
2 – 5 years	1,852	3,704
Over 5 years	-	-
	3,704	5,556

20. Analysis of changes in net debt during the year

	2026	2025
	£	£
As at 1 July 2025	201,029	39,278
Net cash inflow	43,481	161,751
As at 30 June 2026	244,510	201,029

21. Related parties

Cumulatively, trustees donated £1,330 (2025: £1,917) 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 work on a volunteer portal, the amount contracted but not provided for in the financial statements was £6,160.

The Society entered into a contract in the previous year to carry out upgrade work on its CAMS Pro system. The amount contracted for but not provided in the financial statements was £Nil (2025: £4,628) as the contract was fully satisfied in the year.