

**NORTH
EAST
MOUNTAIN
TRUST**



*“Protecting the coastal and mountain environment of
North East Scotland”*

Trustees Annual Report

1st October 2020 - 30th September 2021

NORTH EAST MOUNTAIN TRUST



Charity Contact Information

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Scottish Charity Number SCOO8783

Objectives and Activities

The North East Mountain Trust (NEMT) is an association of climbers and hillwalkers in northeast Scotland. Its main aim is to conserve the upland, coastal and rural environments of northeast Scotland for the benefit of the public wishing to take non-motorised recreation there, both now and in the future. It acts as an umbrella group of hillwalking and mountaineering clubs.

During the year, NEMT continued to campaign on the following topics:

- Grouse moor management, focussing on the damaging effects of the trend to more intensive management, and also the illegal activities of gamekeepers. This included working with other NGOs on getting driven grouse shooting licensed.
- Deer management, focussing on the need to bring numbers down to sustainable levels.
- Developments at Cairn Gorm mountain, focussing on the need for environmental considerations to be given due weight and for a site masterplan to be published, before any further developments are carried out, to avoid further waste of public money.
- The continuing proliferation of hill tracks both for driven grouse shooting and also for the construction of small scale hydro-electricity schemes. As a key organisation in the LINK hill tracks campaign, NEMT pressed for greater legal control of tracks to be included in the Planning Bill. The Scottish Government rejected this but has agreed to reconsider the legal status of tracks in the imminent review of permitted development rights.
- The problem of excessive ATV use over unsuitable ground resulting in damage to both vegetation and soils.

We replied to the following consultations

- Scotland's Third Land Use Strategy
- CNPA Planning Guidance
- RSPB plans to plant montane scrub along Strath Nethy and around Loch Avon

By the time of the meeting, we will have replied to the CNPA Fourth Park Partnership Plan.

We have commented on or objected to a number of planning applications with varying success. These include proposals for various windfarms, hilltracks and to “upgrade” the run-of-river hydro scheme at Loch Pattack.

Our programme of winter lectures has continued via Zoom and continues to be well supported. It is a tribute to the energy and enthusiasm of the organiser. Thank you.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our members who have contributed in any way to the above either directly or by writing to their local MSP.

Structure, Governance and Management

NEMT is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) under the Scottish Charitable Organisations Regulations 2011

Trustee Appointment

NEMT is managed by a Council of not more than ten individual Members and as many representatives of Organisational Members as wish to have their representative on the Council. The overall minimum number of members of the Council shall be six.

Charity Trustees

George Allan (resigned Oct 2020)	Roger Owen
Debbie Fielding	Richard Spencer
Morna Harper	Donald Thomas
Brian Heaton	Ken Thomson
Catherine Lacy	David Windle
Alison Mitchell	

Membership Report

We are supported by 12 mountaineering/hillwalking clubs, and 8 affiliated/reciprocal organisations, as listed below. In addition, we have 114 individual members.

Organisational Members (Clubs)

Aberdeen Hillwalking Club
Aberdeen Mountaineering Club
Aberdeen & Shire Hillwalking Club
Alford Women’s Outdoor Group
BOOTS (Oldmeldrum Hillwalkers)
Cairngorm Club
Culter Hillwalking Club
Ellon Hillwalking Club
Granite City Hillwalkers
Stocket Hillwalking Club
Stonehaven Mountaineering & Hillwalking Club
Turriff Hillwalking & Mountaineering Club

Organisational Members (affiliated)

Bailies of Bennachie
NatureScot
Ramblers Scotland
Scottish Rights of Way Society

Organisational Members (reciprocal)

Aberdeen Mountain Rescue Team
Badenoch & Strathspey Conservation Group
Cairngorms Campaign
Mountain Bothies Association

Financial Review: accounts for year ending 30 September 2021

Income

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Brought Forward from previous year	10,348.28	11,710.21
Club Subscriptions	869.50	585.50
Member Subscriptions	1,667.09	1,666.09
Lecture income	0	914.00
Donations received	186.43	106.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	13,071.30	14,981.80

Expenditure/Activities

Lecture room hire	0.00	(270.00)
Speaker fees	(416.32)	(720.32)
Postages	(288.23)	(149.41)
Insurance	0.00	(270.08)
Subscriptions	(170.00)	(205.00)
Mountain Views	(1,040.00)	(658.76)
MV Sales	<hr/> 48.00	
Domain hosting	(319.12)	(84.00)
Equipment		(35.75)
Donations		(2,200.00)
Council costs		<hr/> (40.20)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(2,185.67)	(4,633.52)
Balance in Bank	<u>10,885.63</u>	<u>10,348.28</u>

Summary

Balance b/f 1 Oct 2020	10,348.28	11,710.21
Balance at 30 Sep 2021	10,885.63	10,348.28
Surplus(Deficit) for year	537.35	(1361.93)

Notes

Due to Covid pandemic, no room hire for meetings or lectures
Annual subscription to Scottish Environment LINK £170
Fees paid to Zoom account to allow for lectures to be broadcast
Insurance policy not renewed this year

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

NEMT is currently well funded and our policy is to reduce the size of our reserves slowly over the coming years. Each year the trustees will consider when the size of reserves reduces to a level at which, going forward, no further reductions are prudent.

North East Mountain Trust

SCIO Ref SC008783

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of North East Mountain Trust

I report on the accounts of **North East Mountain Trust** for the year ended 30th September 2022 in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, "the Act" and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, "the Regulations"

The Trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1-d) does not apply.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

As the Trustees of the Charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. It is my responsibility under S44(1)c of the Act to examine these accounts and to report whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 and includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records.

It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the Trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence needed in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In relation to my examination, I confirm that no matter has come to my attention:-

- Which gives reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44 of the Act and Regulation 4; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting requirements of the Act and Regulation 9 have not been met, or
- To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Malcolm Lamont
Liathach
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Sgd Malcolm Lamont 22 Dec 2021