

**NORTH
EAST
MOUNTAIN
TRUST**



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

Trustees Annual Report

1st October 2022 - 30th September 2023

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.
- The continuing proliferation of hill tracks both for driven grouse shooting and also for the construction of small scale hydro-electricity schemes.
- The problem of excessive ATV use over unsuitable ground resulting in damage to both vegetation and soils.

We replied to the Government consultation on the Proposed Wildlife Management in Scotland Bill.

We have commented on or objected to a number of planning applications with varying success. These include proposals for various windfarms, hilltracks and proposals to build new telecoms masts in inappropriate areas. We expect that the issue of new telecoms masts in the wrong places will become a dominant theme next year.

We had a successful visit with together with the Cairngorm Club to the RSPB reserve at Abernethy, where we were shown around and had a discussion on the merits of tree planting versus allowing natural regeneration via control of deer numbers.

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 or MP.

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

Mike Duguid	Alison Mitchell
Debbie Fielding	Roger Owen
Morna Harper	Richard Spencer (resigned 9/12/22)
Brian Heaton	Donald Thomas
Catherine Lacy	Ken Thomson
Andrew McNicoll (from 24/1/23)	David Windle

Membership Report

We are supported by 11 mountaineering/hillwalking clubs, and 7 affiliated/reciprocal organisations, as listed below. In addition, we have 113 individual members.

Organisational Members (Clubs)

Aberdeen Hillwalking Club
Aberdeen Mountaineering Club
Aberdeen & Shire Hillwalking Club
Alford Women's Outdoor Group
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
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 2023

	2022/3	2021/22		
Brought Forward from P/Yr Club	12197.02	10885.63		
Subscriptions	662.50	731.50		
Member Subscriptions Note 1	2983.94	1650.59		
Lecture income	108.68	0		
Donations recvd	5.01	852.54		
	<u>15957.15</u>	<u>14,120.26</u>		
Payments				
	2022/23	2021/22		
Lecture room hire	0.00	0.00		
Speaker fees	(150.00)	(200.00)		
Postages	(256.48)	(157.10)		
Subscriptions	(245.00)	(245.00)		
Mountain Views	(912.00)	(1,241.30)		
MV Sales	<u>60.00</u> (852.00)	<u>90.50</u> (1,150.80)		
IT	(116.74)	(170.34)		
Donations Note 2	(500.00)	0.00		
Council Costs	(100.00)	0.00		
	<u>(2,220.22)</u>	<u>(1,923.24)</u>		
Balance in Bank	<u>13,736.93</u>	<u>12,197.02</u>		
Summary			Summary	
Balance b/f 1 Oct 2022	12197.02		Balance b/f 1 Oct 2021	10885.63
Balance at 30 Sep 2023	13736.93		Balance at 30 Sep 2022	12197.02
Surplus for year	1539.91			1311.39

Notes

1 £1,384.85 received from HMRC Gift Aid for 3 years claim

2 £500 donation given to Hill of Fare Wind Farm campaign

These accounts have been approved by the General Council and are in the process of being Independently examined. The certificate for this will be available for the AGM on Tues 23rd January 2023.

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.