

**NORTH
EAST
MOUNTAIN
TRUST**



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

Trustees Annual Report

1st October 2023 - 30th September 2024



Charity Contact Information

137 Blenheim Place
Aberdeen
AB25 2DL

www.nemt.org.uk
nemt.info@gmail.com

Scottish Charity Number SC008783

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, our main focus has been on campaigning against the inappropriate siting of telecoms masts for the Shared Rural Network upgrade in wild land areas. This has involved working with a coalition of concerned groups such as community councils and other NGOs. At the time of writing, we have written 77 letters of objection to individual planning applications and many letters to Ministers, MPs and MSPs. There are signs that the campaign is starting to have an effect.

Efforts have continued on the following themes

- Grouse moor management, including working with other NGOs to ensure that the new Government licensing regime delivers as intended.
- 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.

Due to the huge increase in proposals for pumped storage hydro schemes, we surveyed the membership on their attitudes to these schemes, which are needed to balance intermittent generation from renewable sources but cause severe landscape damage. The results showed a split in members' views with broadly equal numbers in favour of and against such schemes.

We replied to the consultations on the following topics

- Scottish Government - Managing Deer for Climate and Nature
- FLS - Angus Glens Land Management Plan
- Cairngorms National Park – Possible Wildfire Management Byelaw
- UK and Scottish Governments – Electrical Infrastructure Consenting

We have commented on or objected to a number of planning applications with varying success. These include proposals for various windfarms,

We had a successful visit, together with the Cairngorm Club, to Glenmore Forest, where we learnt about how FLS is contributing to the Cairngorms Connect project and some of the issues involved in allowing native woodland to recolonise previous commercial forest.

In the coming year, we expect to maintain our focus on the inappropriate design of the Shared Rural Network scheme and also working with others to fight the suggestions to dilute public input in the proposed changes to Electrical Infrastructure Consenting.

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

Organisational

Mike Duguid
Morna Harper
Catherine Lacy
Andrew McNicoll (Oct 23 - Aug 24)
Alison Mitchell
Roger Owen

Individual

Brian Heaton
Donald Thomas
Ken Thomson
David Windle

Membership Report

We are supported by 11 mountaineering/hillwalking clubs, and 7 affiliated/reciprocal organisations, as listed below. In addition. we have 110 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

North East Mountain Trust
Accounts for year ending 30 September 2024

Receipts	£	£
	2023/4	2022/3
Brought Forward from P/Yr	13736.93	12197.02
Club Subscriptions	555.00	662.50
Member Subscriptions	1656.09	2983.94
Lecture Income	0.00	108.68
Donations recvd	160.00	5.01
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	16,108.02	15,957.15
Payments		
	2023/4	2022/3
Lecture room hire	0.00	0.00
Speaker fees	0.00	(150.00)
Postages	(331.46)	(256.48)
Subscriptions	(170.00)	(245.00)
Mountain Views	(1,052.80)	(912.00)
MV Sales	191.17	60.00
IT	(84.00)	(116.74)
Donations ¹	(200.00)	(500.00)
Council Costs	(200.00)	(100.00)
	(1,847.09)	(2,220.22)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance in bank	£14,260.93	£13,736.93

Summary

Balance b/f 1 Oct 2023	13,736.93
Balance at 30 Sep 2024	<u>14,260.93</u>
Surplus for year	<u>£524.00</u>

Summary

Balance b/f 1 Oct 2022	12,197.02
Balance at 30 Sep 2023	<u>13,736.93</u>
Surplus for year	<u>£1,539.91</u>

Notes

1 £200 donation given to Hill of Fare Wind farm campaign

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 2024 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
4 Millgrove Road, Stoneywood
Aberdeen
AB21 9HW

Sgd Malcolm Lamont 02 Dec 2024

Report signed on behalf of the Trustees:

D. Windle

Date 12/1/25

David Windle, Chair

Catherine Lacy

Catherine Lacy, Secretary

Date 12/1/25

Jan-25 p5

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