

**NORTH
EAST
MOUNTAIN
TRUST**



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

Trustees Annual Report

1st October 2024 - 30th September 2025



Charity Contact Information

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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 for local hillwalking and mountaineering clubs.

During the year, our main focus has been on continuing to campaign 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. During the year, the campaign achieved a major victory with the UK Government undertaking a radical review of the programme and substantially reducing the proposed number of masts. During the campaign, NEMT objected to 84 individual planning applications. The outcome is a victory for common sense, directing resources to improving mobile phone signal where people live and work instead of trying to satisfy a geographical target.

Efforts have continued on the following themes:

- Peatland restoration, including several site visits to view finished work and to observe site access arrangements. We have generally found the works to be carried out to a good standard with no significant long term damage from access track construction
- 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.
- Publicising our work via issuing our magazine Mountain Views twice a year

The year has been quiet for consultations, other than planning applications for masts, etc. We have continued to input to the FLS - Angus Glens Land Management Plan. The coming year will see us input into the next Cairngorms National Park Authority Local Development Plan.

During the year, we donated to the following causes:

- £1000 to the National Trust of Scotland for repairs to the Quoich footpath
- A further £1000 to Hill of Fare windfarm Information Group to help them prepare for the public inquiry
- £500 to the Baillies of Bennachie for footpath repairs (donation made after end of 24/25 financial year).

In the coming year, in addition to the above, we expect to increase our focus on two areas

- Inappropriately sited electrical infrastructure. This can take a number of forms: such as the proposed wind farm on the local hill, Kerloch, large pumped storage schemes and grid upgrades.
- Re-engineering rivers with heavy machinery, supposedly making them more natural

Finally, I would like to thank all of our members who have contributed in any way to the above campaigns 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
Alison Mitchell
Roger Owen

Individual

Donald Thomas
Ken Thomson
David Windle

Membership Report

We are supported by 10 mountaineering/hillwalking clubs, and 7 affiliated/reciprocal organisations, as listed below. In addition. we have 107 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
Stocket Hillwalking Club
Stonehaven Mountaineering & Hillwalking Club
Turriff Hillwalking & Mountaineering Club

Organisational Members (affiliated)

Baillies 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

Approved on behalf of NEMT council 20 January 2026



North East Mountain Trust
Accounts for year ending 30 September 2025

Receipts

	2024/5	2023/4
Brought Forward from P/Yr	14260.93	13736.93
Club Subscriptions	788.25	555.00
Member Subscriptions	1492.09	1656.09
Lecture Income	0.00	0.00
Donations recvd	34.99	160.00
	<u>16576.26</u>	<u>16198.02</u>

Payments

	2024/5	2023/4
Lecture room hire	(50.00)	0.00
Speaker fees	(31.65)	0.00
Postages ³	(720.09)	(331.46)
Subscriptions	(170.00)	(170.00)
Mountain Views	(1254.00)	(1052.80)
MV Sales	<u>129.57</u>	<u>191.17</u>
IT	(60.00)	(84.00)
Donations ¹²	(2000.00)	(200.00)
Council Costs	(175.00)	(200.00)
	(4331.17)	(1847.09)
Balance in Bank	<u><u>12,245.09</u></u>	<u><u>14,260.93</u></u>

Summary

	£		£
Balance b/f 1 Oct 2024	14260.93	Balance b/f 1 Oct 2023	13736.93
Balance at 30 Sep 2025	12245.09	Balance at 30 Sep 2024	14260.93
(Deficit)/Surplus	(2,015.84)		524.00

Notes

- 1 £1,000 donation to Hill of Fare Wind Farm campaign
- 2 £1,000 donation to NTS Quoich Path appeal
- 3 Postage increase as 3 mailings

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 2025 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.
- I note that donations have been made to the Hill of Fare campaign and the NTS Quoich appeal, both of which I consider to be within the remit of NEMT.

Malcolm Lamont



Sgd Malcolm Lamont 10 Dec 2025