

CASTLE LOCH LOCHMABEN COMMUNITY TRUST

SCOTTISH CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION NUMBER SCO44045

Part – 1 Administrative Information

Charity name and address Castle Loch Lochmaben Community Trust, Lochfield Cottage, Priestdykes, Lochmaben, DG11 1LP

Website www.castleloch.co.uk

Facebook www.facebook.com/castlelochlochmaben

Charity Trustees to 26/3/26

Douglas Fountain (Chair)	Tony Hancock
Fiona Robertson (Secretary)	Bill Coombs
Will Smith (Treasurer)	John Reid
Freda Seddon	Paul Beardon

Charity Trustees from 26/3/26

Douglas Fountain (Chair)	Tony Hancock
Fiona Robertson (Secretary)	Bill Coombs
Clare Whitney (Treasurer)	John Reid
Freda Seddon	Paul Beardon
Will Smith	

Habitat Officer Rhonda Graham from 1 October 2023

Solicitor Lucy Robertson, Harper Robertson & Shannon, 100 High St, Annan, DG12 6DW

Bankers Bank of Scotland, Direct Business, PO Box 1000, BX2 1LB

Independent examiner Robert Murray, Cruachan, Hillbank Road, Lochmaben, DG11 1RR

Part 2 Trustees Annual Report

Structure Government and Management

The Trust is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated organisation governed by a constitution dated 25 June 2013. Membership of the Trust is open to any individual ages 16 and over who are resident in the area covered by the Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Lochmaben and District, Templand and District and Royal four Towns. Currently running with 388 members, 9 Trustees and part-time Habitat Officer Rhonda Graham.

Objectives and Activities

The Trust's purpose as laid out in the constitution are :

- To advance environmental protection and improvement
- To advance citizenship or community development through community ownership and management of Castle Loch.

In pursuance of these objectives a dedicated team of volunteers has been established who regularly carry out a range of tasks and activities around the Loch. Children and Youth groups are also encouraged to use the Loch and Cottage facilities, besides the local daily users of all ages who access the pathways.

Achievements and Performance

This is my first Full Year Annual Report and I am pleased to report that the Trust is currently financially and structurally sound with 9 Trustees who are all very committed to the ongoing success of the Trust. Habitat Officer Rhonda Graham has now been in her role for nearly three years and continues to liaise with multiple different groups on many different levels.

Through Rhonda, we have continued with the connections the Trust has with the playgroup and primary school within the town that use the walks and Lochfield cottage for engaging the children and young adults with the environment and with nature. The board considers that helping the new generation to appreciate and value the great asset the Loch is to the town to be a very important part of our role.

With a group of up to twenty volunteers meeting twice monthly, the volunteers are key in all maintenance activities around the Loch. Activities vary seasonally from pathway maintenance, pothole filling, brush cutting undergrowth along the path sides, as well as participating in public and fundraising events. Other tasks include invasive weed control relative to Himalayan Balsam, American Skunk cabbage and Rhododendron. Tree monitoring, flora and fauna recording are also highlights the volunteers participate in. Volunteer hours totalled around 900 during 2024 and around 300 during 2025 so far.

Lochfield Cottage continues to operate as an office and a visitor centre and, on the days that Rhonda is working, she operates an '*open door*' policy and welcomes walkers who would come in for a chat. A local art group also uses the cottage on a weekly basis and the volunteers and trustees run a fundraising Brew and Bite on a monthly basis during the summer months and these have been very successful in raising the profile of the trust as well as boosting our funds.

Regular local walkers and visitors, dog owners, bird watchers, joggers and running clubs are all continuing to make good use of our foot paths. Newsletters are issued quarterly by the Trust to 388 members keeping individuals up to date with the volunteer works and events taking place at the Loch. The local Rotary Group had their usual walk around the Loch in May, which attracts many users and helps us maintain our profile. We also have an active website from which can be sourced various pieces of information relative to our activities and facilities and also our end of year reports.

Structural improvements - There have been a number of structural improvements which have taken place throughout the year. The Disability Access Platform, accessed from the Lochfield

Cottage Car Park, underwent a major repair in June 2025. As indicated in last years report, there were plans to build a Shed adjacent to our existing Barn, the purpose being to store some of our bulky equipment in the New Shed and allow the Barn to return to its original purpose as a workshop for the Volunteers, and this Shed was completed in the summer of 2025. Flooding has been a major problem in recent years during the winter months and we undertook a fairly major drainage project in January 2026, which will hopefully resolve the problem in future winters. An extensive programme of Tree Planting took place in February/March 2026, planting several species of Trees (Aspen, Yew, Hazel, Wild Cherry and Elder), all of which fits in with the Habitat Plan going forward. We were also able to source funding for Outdoor Furniture and we have been able to purchase and place several items of benches of different types made from recycled plastic at several strategic locations. Two of these items were Picnic Benches especially adapted to allow Wheelchair Access. We have also continued to maintain the 3 mile footpath around the Loch using purchased Sub Base and Wood Chip to ensure that it is kept up to the highest standard.

Loch users and facilities

Loch users are monitored by People counters. Around 25.000 people pass the Grassland Counter annually and these people will have completed the whole circuit and about 40,000 people are recorded annually at the Bowling Green Entrance, some of whom will have done a shorter walk. This includes the general public, tourists, school and nursery groups as well as various local organisations who use the Loch for different activities and charitable events. Focus has been on finding a balance between Loch users and the environmental impact they have as a nature sanctuary. Henderland island had restricted access put in place during nesting season last year as a result of its increasing attraction to fishermen, kayakers, swimmers and paddle board users and this has been very successful so far. The 3m pathway around the Loch is a key feature used by many and requires regular maintenance to keep it clear and accessible to all.

Community Engagement

Community engagement takes place on many levels with the Trust undertaking regular activities with a range of local groups and education facilities. This includes general talks with community groups, schools and nursery visits. We have been working with a group called Step Together, who enable over sixteens to learn new skills out with the school environment. Rhonda delivered a presentation to the Local Antiquarian Society and to the Lochmaben Guild earlier this year both of which were very well received. There have also been numerous practical days with school pupils taking part in various activities at the Loch.

During the last 12 months, the Trust became a member of Community Land Scotland. This is a National Representative Body supporting Community Landowners and providing advice and shared experiences, and in January, they hosted a conference in Langholm which Rhonda attended.

Habitat Management

Castle Loch Lochmaben Community Trust continues to maintain, support and enhance the natural habitat for wildlife and biodiversity around the Loch which has SSSI status. While understanding the current habitats we strive to improve the site as a nature reserve, controlling

invasive species, promoting native species and managing the human interactions. Woodland management has seen the introduction of tags to identify trees of concern in 2024, however the more frequent winter storms to which we seem to be increasingly exposed to has brought about the need to address more high priority trees left in a more dangerous position. We have also initiated the mowing of an area of grassland again in August to reduce the development of scrub and promote the area for grassland flowers and associated wildlife. Regular monitoring of birds and plant species takes place while adhering to the current Habitat management plan. All records are shared with the appropriate bodies such as SWEIC, BTO and local recorder Andy Richies.

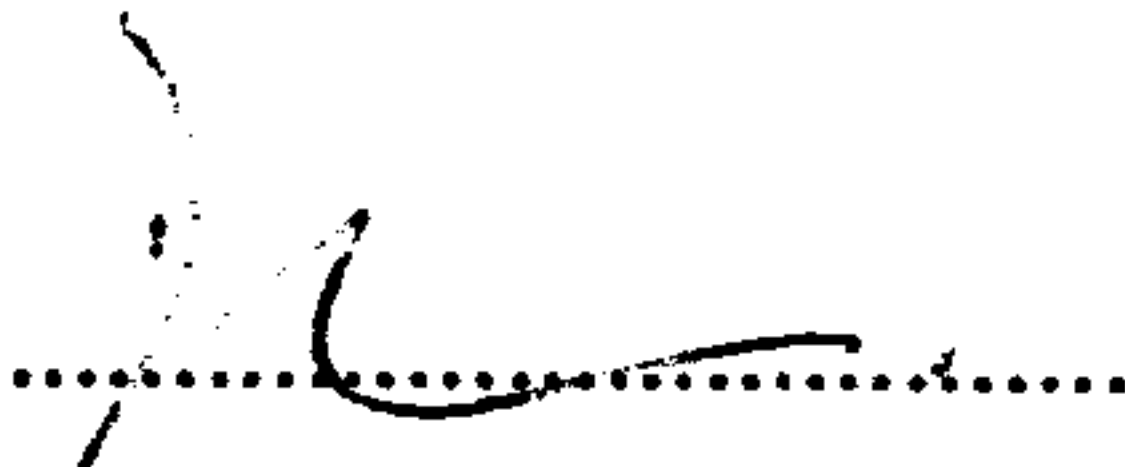
Future Plans

Future plans include a major repair to the Access Road to Lochmaben Castle. The road is within our ownership however the Castle belongs to Historic Environment Scotland. This is a “made up” road constructed with stone and sub base and we have struggled on an annual basis to deal with the potholes which seem to reappear as quickly as they are repaired so we are hoping to engage a contractor to effect a slightly more permanent repair if we can secure funding. Also, we have a length of a low level Board Walk through a boggy area which is deteriorating and requires to be replaced once we have funding in place. Otherwise, the Volunteers will be kept busy over the summer months cutting the grass and scrub alongside the footpath and then cutting back hedges and overhanging trees later in the season and the annual attack on Himalayan Balsam midsummer.

Financial Performance

Financial support has been received relative to specific projects this year. The Disability Access Pier repair was funded by D and G Council for which we were very grateful. We have also received funding from the National Lottery Communities Fund over 2 years which can be used to cover core costs including the Habitat Officer’s Salary and this was added to by a generous donation from an anonymous donor, which can also be used to cover core costs, as required. As a result, the Habitat Officers role has now been secured for two years going forward. The Outdoor Furniture was funded by Annandale and Nithsdale Community Benefits Company and the Path Maintenance and the Drainage Work was funded by Nuclear Restoration Services. The Tree Planting was funded jointly by The Tree Council and DG Woodlands and the New Shed was partly funded by the George Hunter Trust.

We continue to strive for donations and to hold summer monthly fundraising event such as the ‘Brew and Bite’ and we would welcome any members or visitors who are able to donate on a ‘Regular Giving’ basis, no matter how small an amount, which guarantees us a regular income going forward, supported by grant funding where appropriate. We are also very grateful for donations which we have received recently as a result of collections at local funeral services and are very appreciative of the fact that families have thought about our Trust at such a sad time.

Signed on behalf of the board..... Douglas Fountain

Date 24/08/2026

**Part 3 - Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Castle Loch Lochmaben Community Trust**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year to 31st May 2026 as set out on pages 6 to 8.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and 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 trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations 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. 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 seeks 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 on 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 and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

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.

..... Robert Murray.

08th September 2026.

Address of Independent Examiner : Cruachan, Hillbank Road, Lochmaben, Lockerbie DG11 1RR .

Part 4 - Receipts & Payments Account

	Notes	Unrestricted Undesignated Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Receipts						
Donations		15,195.24	0	0	15,195.24	18,463
Grants	5	500.00	0	41,723.44	42,223.44	2,265
Fundraising		0	0	0	0	0
Fishing permits		2,274.00	0	0	2,274.00	2,887
Bank interest		1,357.83	0	0	1,357.83	1,465
Gift Aid Tax		2,001.84	0	0	2,001.84	0
Sundry income		0	0	0	0	0
Total receipts		21,328.91	0	41,723.44	63,052.35	25,080
Payments						
Charitable activities	6	13,745.94	0	33,422.29	47,168.23	24,795
Total payments		13,745.94	0	33,422.29	47,168.23	24,795
Surplus/deficit (-) for the year		7,582.97	0.00	8,301.15	15,884.12	285

Part 5 - Statement of Balances as at 31 May 2026.

	Unrestricted Undesignated Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Bank balances at start of year	40,248.86	12,142.02	1,765.00	54,155.88	53,870
Surplus/deficit (-) for year	7,582.97	0	8,301.15	15,884.12	285
Prior year adjustment	640.00	0	-640.00	0	0
Total funds at end of year	48,471.83	12,142.02	9,426.15	70,040.00	54,155

Part 6 - Notes to the Accounts

1. Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis. They consist of a summary of all monies received and paid via the bank and in cash during the year, along with a statement of balances. No adjustments have been made for any income due but not yet received, nor for any expenses incurred but not yet paid. Fixed assets are not capitalised.

2. Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the Board's discretion in furtherance of the Trust's objectives. Some unrestricted funds have been designated by the Board for specific projects. Restricted Funds are those given for specific purposes. A prior year adjustment of £640 has been made to reflect the fact that a restricted grant was spent in 2024/25 and was wrongly scored against unrestricted funds.

3. Contingent Liability

Some grant funders may demand repayment of their grant in the event that it is likely that the Trust may have to stop operating, if the grant conditions are not met or in certain other defined circumstances.

4. Trustee Remuneration, benefits and expenses.

No Trustee received remuneration or reimbursement of expenses other than reimbursement of purchases made on behalf of the Trust.

5. Grants received during the financial year.

	Unrestricted Undesignated Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Fund	Total 2026	Total 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Lochmaben Community Council	500.00	0	0	500.00	500
Tesco	0	0	375.00	375.00	1,125
South Ayrshire Biosphere	0	0	0	0	640
Dumfries & Galloway Council	0	0	10,776.00	10,776.00	0
Lottery Communities Fund	0	0	20,000.00	20,000.00	0
George Hunter Trust	0	0	2,300.00	2,300.00	0
A&N Commuity Benefit Company	0	0	3,328.00	3,328.00	0
Tree Council	0	0	1,948.64	1,948.64	0
D&G Woodlands	0	0	995.80	995.80	0
Nuclear Restoration Services	0	0	2,000.00	2,000.00	0
	500	0	41,723.44	42,223.44	2,265

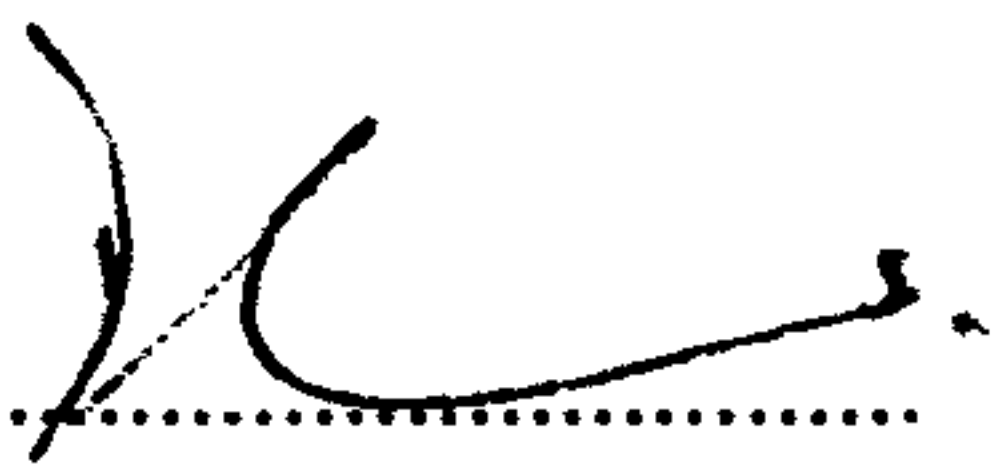
6. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Undesignated Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Fund	Total 2026	Total 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Employee costs	0	0	11,698.85	11,698.85	12,211
Lochfield Cottage costs	787.05	0	375.00	1,162.05	748
Insurance	1,454.96	0	0	1,454.96	1,378
Site Maintenance costs	265.20	0	2,000.00	2,265.20	5,234
Accessible platform	0	0	0	0.00	3,591

Equipment	0	0	0	0.00	146
Office expenses	267.82	0	0	267.82	625
Other costs	1,302.56	0	0	1,302.56	862
Projects- Disabled access platform	0	0	10,776.00	10,776.00	0
New shed	9,282.41	0	2,300	11,582.41	0
Purchase of trees	0	0	2,944.44	2,944.44	0
Benches and tables	385.94	0	3,328.00	3,713.94	0
	13,745.94	0.00	33,422.29	47,168.23	24,795

7. Heritable Properties

Heritable properties owned by the Trust are not included in the Statement of Balances. In 2014 the Trust purchased Castle Loch, including Lochfield Cottage and surrounding land, a total area of 268 acres at a cost of £140k . Subsequently in 2018 a further 20 acres at Kirrhirst plantation were purchased at a cost of £36k. The trust also owns various items of equipment which have not been valued.

Signed on behalf of the Board
Douglas Fountain 24 August 2026