

Charity Registration No.1173070

BERWICK BARRACKS HERITAGE TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

BERWICK BARRACKS HERITAGE TRUST

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees:

Stuart Bankier – re-appointed 24 January 2024
John Elliott – appointed 24 March 2022
Jonathan Lang – re-appointed 25 October 2023
Sir Philip Mawer – reappointed 26 May 2024
Trevor Mitchell – appointed 17 October 2024
Scott Sherrard – appointed 24 March 2022

Charity Number:

1173070

Principal Address:

c/o Berwick Community Trust
William Elder Building
56-58 Castlegate
Berwick-upon-Tweed
Northumberland
TD15 1JT

Independent Examiner:

Robert Ian Guthrie
4 Tweed Close
East Ord
Berwick-upon-Tweed
TD15 2LU

Bankers:

Unity Trust Bank plc
PO Box 7193
Planetary Road
Willenhall
WV1 9DG

BERWICK BARRACKS HERITAGE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the Year ended 31 March 2025

The Trust was established in 2017 with the primary aim of furthering the redevelopment and preservation of Berwick's Grade 1 listed Barracks. The vision which has all along informed and guided the Trust's work has been of a redeveloped Barracks providing a secure home for, and showcasing, Berwick's considerable archival and museum collections; serving as a vibrant cultural and heritage hub, and a year-round resource for the people of Berwick and the Eastern Borders; and, through increasing the area's visitor numbers, helping to drive the town's economic regeneration. In the year covered by this report, significant steps have been taken towards the realisation of this vision, as our report describes.

The Trust's objects are not, however, confined solely to the Barracks but also give Trustees discretion to undertake other projects which advance the arts, cultural, education and heritage activities. This gives Trustees a welcome degree of flexibility to promote activities within these objects which further the charity's primary aim, some examples of which we give later in this report.

Overall, the year under review saw very significant progress towards achieving the charity's principal aim, along with the increase in the pace of the charity's activities which we predicted in our last Annual Report.

The 'Living Barracks' Project

We referred in our previous report to the intended submission to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) - by English Heritage Trust (EHT) on behalf of the Group of Partners driving this project - of a Stage 2 bid for additional funding to help make the vision of a 'Living Barracks' a reality. This submission, with its supporting business case, was made in the summer of 2024. On 28 February 2025, English Heritage announced that the bid had been successful and that the NLHF had awarded a grant of £4.5 million towards the project.

The grant will significantly help the Barracks Partnership Group to ensure the conservation and refurbishment of the East Block on the Barracks site, along with the conversion of the former Mobilisation Store into an environmentally controlled store for all of Berwick's archives. New gallery spaces will be created in the East Block to house Berwick's important Burrell collection; the regimental museum of the Kings Own Scottish Borderers (KOSB); and other town collections. The refurbished Block will also

house a search room where the public can engage with the town's archival records. Together with funding provided earlier by the Arts Council as part of HM Government's Cultural Development Fund, the grant is also supporting a programme of community outreach, collections care and organisational resilience-building to help ensure a sustainable future for the Barracks as a visitor destination and community resource.

In a further boost, planning permission for the development was granted early in 2025, thus paving the way for work to proceed. These two successes have enabled the Barracks Partners - English Heritage, the Berwick Barracks Heritage Trust (BBHT), the KOSB, the Maltings (Berwick) Trust and Northumberland County Council (NCC) – to move forward with renewed confidence in developing fully detailed plans for the redevelopment. As this report was being prepared, contracts for the proposed work were put out to tender, a crucial stage in gaining clarity about the true extent of the funding which (at a time of continuing high inflation in construction costs) will be needed to complete the redevelopment. Nevertheless, the considerable achievement of the Partners, led by English Heritage, in gaining the significant funding already pledged should not be underestimated.

Meanwhile other developments have occurred which are critical to the success of this complex and multi-faceted project:

- Work has continued on the cataloguing and conservation of the collections held by the various Partners.
- Funding has been allocated by NCC towards the refurbishment and updating of the Gymnasium Gallery adjacent to the East Block.
- The temporary cinema in the Mobilisation Store (mentioned in our last report and the intended future store for Berwick's archives) has opened successfully.
- The artists' studios/workshops, also mentioned in the Trust's last report, were successfully opened in the West Block of the Barracks in the summer of 2025. These have been jointly funded by Northumberland County Council, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the North East Combined Authority, Create Berwick and the Cultural Development Fund.

The summer of 2025 also saw the offices of the Maltings (Berwick) Trust – the intended future day-to-day, lead operator of the Barracks site – move into the West Block while the Maltings' Eastern Lane site is being redeveloped.

The Contribution of the Trust

Having been a key contributor to the initiation of the Living Barracks project, the BBHT's role in support of it has inevitably altered as the project has gathered momentum. The Trust is a non-executive member of the Partnership Board (non-executive in that, unlike the other Partners, it does not have a direct presence on the Barracks site) and is also

represented on two of the Task Groups advising the Board – those responsible for communications and for fundraising. In these and other contexts, it aims to represent, in particular, the voice of the local community in the discussion and development of the project.

In addition, the Trust has sought to act in an enabling way to further the project, in support of all the Partners. For example:

- Berwick's Archives – in the spring of 2025, the Trust awarded a grant of £4,500 to the Berwick Record Office to help fund the continuation to the summer of 2026 of a temporary post vital to the continued digitisation of the archives' photographic collection. This followed an earlier small grant to the Office towards a temporary archive assistant post.
- Conservation and Temporary Display of Collections – in April 2025, the Trust applied through the Community Foundation North East for a grant of £27,000 over 3 years to fund a temporary conservation and engagement centre – subsequently named The Storehouse - in the Clock Block on the Barracks site. Thanks to the generosity of the FB & PFB Lough Fund, this funding has been awarded and The Storehouse opened in the late summer of 2025. As its development falls outside the scope of this report, a fuller account of this project will be given in our next annual report.
- Holy Trinity School's 300th Anniversary – in March 2025, the Trust separately obtained a grant of £5,000 from the Northern Angel Fund (also administered by the Community Foundation North East) to enable three of the organisations active on the Barracks site to work in different ways with Holy Trinity School – a first school in Berwick currently transitioning to become the town's largest primary school – to mark its 300th anniversary. Specifically, this grant will:
 - Enable volunteers under the oversight of the NCC Archive Service to research the school's history. The results of this research are already informing other planned activities involving staff and pupils of the school.
 - Help the Maltings (Berwick) Trust to engage an artist to work with the school in designing and creating a commemorative artwork to be placed in the school to celebrate its tercentenary.
 - Allow staff of the Tortive Theatre – based at the Straw Yard adjacent to the Barracks - to engage with pupils in a drama project reflecting the school's history.

Again, a fuller account of this work will be given in the Trust's next Annual Report.

Outreach Activity

Alongside the practical steps being undertaken to help forward the ‘Living Barracks’ project, the Partners are now engaged in a major programme of outreach activity to build community engagement with and commitment to the project. The first major flowering of this was an event directed by Matthew Rosier, a distinguished contemporary artist, in which some 800 local people – representing diverse community groups within Berwick – were invited to parade in the Barracks, and filmed while doing so. The resulting film was projected onto the buildings around the Barracks square during a number of evenings in late February 2025, where it was viewed by over 2,000 local residents. The project demonstrated both the community’s pride in and attachment to the Barracks and the potential of the Barracks square as an amphitheatre for staging large scale cultural events.

This outreach programme will continue during the redevelopment of the Barracks over the next 2-3 years.

Publications

With the help of the Trust, Dr Stephen Platten has continued his work on the production of an illustrated ‘Guide to County Durham’ – modelled on the former, well-known Shell Guides – as mentioned in the Trust’s last report. In addition to the three opening essays in the Guide, the gazetteer of individual places of interest in the county which will make up the bulk of the rest of the Guide is now some 90% complete. The task of writing the rest of the copy and assembling the photographs and other illustrations for the Guide is expected to be completed early in 2026, with publication following towards the end of that year.

Meanwhile, sales of Dr Platten’s companion ‘Guide to Northumberland’ – and of his short booklet ‘Berwick Barracks - a History and Guide’ – continue satisfactorily.

Financial Report

During the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, the Trust received income from sales of the Berwick Barracks History and Guide and made a donation to the Berwick Records Office. Details of all income received and of expenditure by the Trust can be found in the Accounts appended to this Report, which have been independently examined.

Governance

Following the resignation of Mr Julien Lake as a Trustee (reported previously), the Trust welcomed the appointment of Mr Trevor Mitchell to the Trustee body in October 2024. Prior to his retirement, Trevor served as the Director for the North and Levelling Up of Historic England.

The other Trustees who served during the year covered by this report are listed on page 2. They act in a voluntary capacity and do not receive any remuneration.

In the course of the year, Trustees reviewed and substantially updated the Trust's safeguarding policies and procedures, as well as its procedures for ensuring that charities or other organisations to which grants are awarded by the Trust are properly accountable for observing the Trust's expectations in this and other respects and for reporting on the outcome and impact of the grants they receive.

This Trustees' report has been approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on the Board's behalf by –



Stuart Martin Bankier

Trustee

Dated: 16th October 2025



Sir Philip Mawer

Trustee

Dated: 16th October 2025

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Berwick Barracks Heritage Trust

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Berwick Barracks Heritage Trust (the Charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed by examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

Name: ROBERT IAN GUTHRIE

Address: 4 TWEED CLOSE, EAST ORD, BERWICK UPON TWEED TD15 2LY

Date: 8/10/2025

BERWICK BARRACKS HERITAGE TRUST**Statement of Financial Activities for the year ending 31st March 2025**

	Year Ending 31st March 2025	Year Ending 31st March 2024
Incoming Resources		
Sales of Barracks Books	222	280
Shell Guide Donations	0	8,715
Other Donations	0	25
Total Income	<u>222</u>	<u>9,020</u>
Resources Expended		
NCC re Berwick Archives support	(1,685)	0
Bank charges	(9)	0
Governance Costs	(40)	(40)
Total Expenditure	<u>(1,734)</u>	<u>(40)</u>
Surplus / (Loss) for the Year	(1,512)	8,980

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2025

	Year Ending 31st March 2025	Year Ending 31st March 2024
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	41,630	43,142
Total Assets	<u>41,630</u>	<u>43,142</u>
Represented by:		
Unrestricted Funds		
Barracks	30,841	32,353
Shell Guide	10,789	10,789
Total Funds	<u>41,630</u>	<u>43,142</u>