



Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts 2024

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Reference and Administration

Charity Name:

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team

Other Names Charity Is Known By:

NDSART; NDSRT

Charity Number:

1200541

Report for Period:

1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

Charity's Principal Address:

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team, Unit 3 Hameldown Road, Exeter Road
Industrial Estate, Okehampton, Devon, EX20 1UB

Trustees Who Managed The Charity In The Period 1st Jan 2024 To 31st December 2024

Our financial year is between two Annual General Meeting (AGM) periods, this results in multiple sets of Trustees, within one financial year.

All Trustees were appointed by vote AGM 2023; AGM 2024.

Set/ Trustee No.	Trustee Name	Office	Dates of Acting
1/1	Catherine Davis	Chair	28.03.23 to 19.03.24
1/2	Harry Price	Secretary	28.03.23 to 19.03.24
1/3	David Stoneman	Team Leader	28.03.23 to 19.03.24
1/4	Ian Perrior	Treasurer	28.03.23 to 19.03.24
1/5	Cathy Horwell	Training Officer	28.03.23 to 19.03.24
1/6	Mick Burke	Equipment Officer	28.03.23 to 19.03.24
1/7	David Goodwin-Hughes	Trustee WP	28.03.23 to 19.03.24
1/8	Chris Clarke	Trustee WP	28.03.23 to 19.03.24
1/9	Mark Nesbitt	Trustee WP	28.03.23 to 19.03.24
1/10	Natalie Gee	Trustee WP	28.03.23 to 19.03.24
1/11	Craig Brooks	Trustee WP	28.03.23 to 19.03.24

2/1	James Watts	Chair	19.03.24 to 25.01.25
2/2	Harry Price	Secretary	19.03.24 to 25.01.25
2/3	Ian Perrior	Team Leader	19.03.24 to 25.01.25
2/4	Simon Applebee	Treasurer	19.03.24 to 25.01.25
2/5	David Canavan	Training Officer	19.03.24 to 25.01.25
2/6	Ben Shephard	Equipment Officer	19.03.24 to 25.01.25
2/7	Matthew Holland	Trustee WP	19.03.24 to 25.01.25
2/8	Megan Hansen	Trustee WP	19.03.24 to 25.01.25
2/9	David Goodwin-Hughes	Trustee WP	19.03.24 to 25.01.25
2/10	David Stoneman	Trustee WP	19.03.24 to 25.01.25
2/11	Catherine Davis	Trustee WP	19.03.24 to 25.01.25

WP – Without Portfolio

Structure, Governance, Management and Association

Type of governing document:

Constitution

How the charity is constituted:

Association

Trustee selection method:

Elected by members at the Annual General Meeting

Associations:

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team is formed in association with Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team (Ashburton), Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team (Plymouth) and Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team (Tavistock) under the auspices of the Dartmoor Rescue Group. All five organisations are charities in their own right.

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team is affiliated to Peninsular Mountain and Cave Rescue Association (PenMaCRA) and Mountain Rescue England and Wales (MREW).

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team is to relieve suffering and distress amongst persons endangered by accidents or natural hazards, within moorland areas and urban environments; to provide arrangements for the secure and efficient search and rescue of any person or persons who are endangered; and to encourage moorland safety instruction and awareness through all sections of the community.

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team is a Mountain Rescue Team based in Okehampton, the gateway to the high moor of Dartmoor National Park. North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team has been active for over 50 years and is responsible for the search and rescue of missing and injured persons in and around the moor.

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team is a charity run by volunteers and funded mainly by public donations and grants. North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team provides a rescue service to areas other agencies cannot normally cover; in conditions they do not normally operate within. Our volunteers are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team is mobilised by the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary following a 999 call. We respond immediately, day or night and in all weathers and events.

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team is one of four teams that comprises the Dartmoor Rescue Group. Our base, in Okehampton, is ideally situated for access to the North of Dartmoor which contains the highest area of wilderness land, in Southern England. The high point is *High Willhays*, at 621 metres above sea level.

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team does much more than coming to the aid of hill walkers lost or in difficulty on Dartmoor. We also search in lowland, rural, and urban areas of Devon, Somerset and Cornwall for other missing people including the elderly, lost children, and despondent people.

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team work alongside other full-time emergency services such as the Police, Ambulance, Fire & Rescue services, and Coast Guard Agencies. On average it takes between 12 and 18 months of training for a trainee member to become a full, operational, member.

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team , Unit 3, Hameldown Road, Okehampton,
Devon, EX20 1UB

www.ndsart.org.uk | Registered Charity Number 1200541

In order to remain operationally ready, North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team train frequently, at least weekly. Training focuses on many aspects of search and rescue - including navigation, casualty care, radio communication, search techniques, swift water rescue, and steep ground rescue. Team members come from all walks of life including teachers, retail workers, accountants, engineers, farmers, and Doctors. Each brings their own unique skills and abilities to enhance North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team's capability.

In recent years, North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team have developed a water and flood rescue capability, in response to an increase in flooding nationally. The end of 2022 saw the start of the development in our technical rope rescue capabilities and ensuring North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team have the capabilities to operate safely both in steep ground and vertical rescues.

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team currently operates three vehicles: two 110 Land Rover Defenders capable of carrying and conveying team members and equipment to anywhere they're needed. North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team also currently operates a Mercedes Sprinter (Van) (Incident Control Unit, ICU) used to manage searches and rescues from a RV point, from which team members deploy.

Community Support

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team continues to be a key part of the local community and a growing message and support for those around us have been the major themes for us as a team throughout 2024 and will be a continued theme into 2025.

Providing safety cover or marshalling for events like town carnivals, sponsored walks, fell runs, car parking and beating of the bounds. As well as educational talks and presentations to all ages of the community with; Army, Air and Sea Cadets, Beavers, Cubs and Scout groups, Schools and Women's Institute visiting our centre or Team members attending afternoon and evening sessions to demonstrate our first aid equipment, Search Dogs demos, presentations and sharing advice and tips for out on the hill or wider countryside.

A regular highlight in North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team's calendar is the annual Ten Tors Challenge run by the British Army. We as a Team continue to support the UK's largest Youth engagement program and provide safety cover and rapid medical response for more than two and half thousand participants.

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The Ten Tors Challenge continues to be an inspiration and makes us all very proud to be part of this inspiring challenge. As we witness the determination and team spirit of the young adults who partake in the event and overcome the challenges associated with the event.

We continue to provide support for those beyond our immediate local community. Providing support for those across Devon and Cornwall - supporting our neighbouring teams with callouts to North Devon, Cornwall and Somerset. 2024 has seen North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team callout numbers grow and the call to support those beyond our area increasing too.

Achievements and Performance

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team had 37 callouts in the 2024 financial period. Callouts ranged from missing and/or despondent person searches to ambulance assists and attending major incidents. This involved searching for missing children, those with mental health needs, and more complex medical conditions as well as those that were lost or injured. The team assisted police and other agencies evacuating residents whilst a WW2 bomb was removed.

Callouts were located from Barnstaple to Taunton to Launceston, covering a vast area of the South-West of England. Our Dog Handler's callouts ranged even further, covering the Southwest Peninsula.

Team members were involved in Callouts, training, and fundraising events totalling 8972 volunteer hours.

Fundraising to enable the whole team to have a full set of waterproofs was started. The waterproof jackets were designed and made for the team. We finally issued the waterproofs at a cost of £25,000.

Members continue to enhance their training attending numerous courses. The team has new party leaders who manage individual search teams. Team members continue to enhance their skills & qualifications in many areas including medical, water, and off-road driving.

Financial Review

Income

Total Income: £95,741

Expenditure

Total Expenditure: £65,537

Chair's Report

The Trustees' focus in 2024, aside from the day-to-day management of the team, has been on risk and governance. Accordingly, the team has appointed a Health and Safety officer, and this has led to a top-level risk register being generated. The highest-level risks have been addressed and plans have been put in place to document and improve our procedures to ensure that we follow best practices wherever reasonably possible. This can be particularly challenging, given that we do necessarily operate in unpredictable and potentially hazardous situations, but we supplement plans and procedures with a robust dynamic risk assessment process.

Over 2024 our members have committed very significant numbers of hours to training in the disciplines we need as a team to operate effectively and we have put considerable effort into maintaining and demonstrating competence as the unpaid professionals that we are.

Nevertheless, we have had fun! The team has built cohesiveness and trust and this is reflected in positive feedback from people who have needed our help and the other services we work alongside.

The team continues to benefit from a really positive community in and around Okehampton: this is demonstrated by fantastic engagement at community events, and a continued level of financial support from local grants, organisations and donations, and looks set to succeed as it looks towards major vehicle renewals in 2025.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they approve the *Trustees' Annual Report*, for financial year 2024, as shown above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees:

James Watts

Team Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JWatts', written over a horizontal line.

Harry Price


Trustee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'HP', written over a horizontal line.


Date: 3 November 2025

End Of Year Report 2024

Statement of Accounts

 CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES	Charity Name		No (if any)		CC16a
	North Dartmoor Search & Rescue Team		1200541		
	Receipts and payments accounts				
	For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date	
	1/1/24		31/12/24		
Section A Receipts and payments					
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	44,942	15,000	-	59,942	
Grants	10,000	-	-	10,000	
Collecting Boxes	1,877	-	-	1,877	
Fundraising	786	-	-	786	
Sales to members	70	-	-	70	
Call out refunds	7,814	-	-	7,814	
Collections	-	-	-	-	
VAT Refunds	9,456	-	-	9,456	
Interest	5,796	-	-	5,796	
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total(Gross income for AR)	80,741	15,000	-	95,741	
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	80,741	15,000	-	95,741	
A3 Payments					
Building	7,918	-	-	7,918	
Vehicles	6,919	-	-	6,919	
Operational	34,529	15,000	-	49,529	
Administration	253	-	-	253	
Sales to members	-	-	-	-	
Training	590	-	-	590	
Fundraising	328	-	-	328	
Sub total	50,537	15,000	-	65,537	
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
Control Van New Additions	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	
Total payments	50,537	15,000	-	65,537	
Net of receipts/(payments)	30,204	-	-	30,204	
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	
Transfers On Conversion to CIO (from	-	-	-	-	
Cash funds this year end	30,204	-	-	30,204	


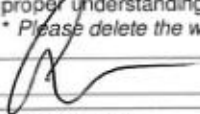
North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team , Unit 3, Hameldown Road, Okehampton,
Devon, EX20 1UB

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period				
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current Account	68,140	-	-
	Project Account	3,117	-	-
	Natwest Kit	3,826	-	-
	COIF	100,411	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	175,494	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Building		91,000	280,000
	Landrover		-	6,500
	Landrover		-	4,000
	Control Van		32,335	58,000
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval
		Prof James Watts		30/10/2025

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team , Unit 3, Hameldown Road, Okehampton,
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Independent Examiners Report (IER)

For Period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

 CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES		Independent examiner's report on the accounts	
Section A Independent Examiner's Report			
Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name North Dartmoor Search & Rescue Team		
On accounts for the year ended	31 December 2024	Charity no (if any)	1200541
Set out on pages	1 and 2 <small>(Remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)</small>		
	I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.		
Responsibilities and basis of report	As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.		
Independent examiner's statement	I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or • the accounts do not accord with the accounting records I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached. * Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.		
Signed:			Date: 30 October 2025
Name:	Mrs S L Watts		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	FCCA DChA		
Address:	Westcotts 7C Cranmere Road, Okehampton Devon. EX20 1UE		

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team , Unit 3, Hameldown Road, Okehampton,
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Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

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