

# Beachwatch Bute SCIO – Charity Number SC029603

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## Beachwatch Bute Trustees' Annual Report – Year ended 31 March 2025

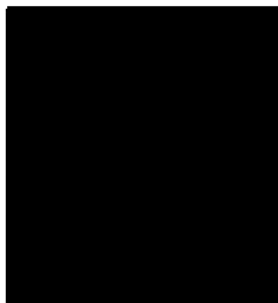
### Reference and Administrative Information

**Charity Name** Beachwatch Bute SCIO

**Charity Registration No.** SC029603

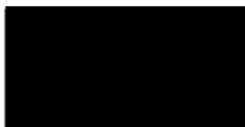
**Contact Address** The Treasurer  
10 Crichton Road  
Rothesay  
Isle of Bute PA20 9JR

**Trustees:**



**Principal Office Bearers:**

**Chairperson**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**



**Independent Examiner**

One 2 One Accountancy  
10 Gallowgate Rothesay  
Isle of Bute PA20 0HR

**Bankers**

Bank Of Scotland  
Montague Street  
Rothesay PA20 0BU

**Beach Ranger**



## Trustees' Annual Report – Year ended 31 March 2025

### Objectives and Activities

To monitor and report on the condition of all beaches and shoreline walks, co-ordinate the removal of marine litter and to maintain the highest environmental standard around Bute's coastline. In doing so we aim to advance the education of the public about physical heritage, natural habitat and coastline of the Isle of Bute and their management for the benefit of the public and to preserve, enhance and conserve the environmental quality of such coastal heritage.

### Structure, Governance and Management

#### Governing Document

The charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a SCIO). It was registered in its current legal form on 30/09/2019. The charity was previously incorporated as a company limited by guarantee. The Assets of the Incorporated Company were transferred to the SCIO on the 01/10/2019. It has a single Tier structure and as such the trustees are the members of the charity.

#### Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

All Charity Trustees are appointed or re-appointed by the members at the annual General Meeting or co-opted onto board as and when required.

#### Trustee Induction and Training

The appointment of a new trustee is made after the Board's discussion regarding the skills, abilities and experiences that they can bring to Beachwatch Bute. On the recruitment of new Trustees, they are given guidelines and documentation on their responsibilities. There is also an explanation and discussion of roles and responsibilities during their first committee meeting.

#### Risk Management

The Trustees assess the risks of the Charity regularly and have noted the main risks found as Health and Safety and Financial. These are being monitored, and the Trustees are doing everything to minimise these risks. Risk Assessment has been compiled for Bute Beaches by the Beach Ranger.

#### Organisational Structure

Management of the charity's affairs are vested in its board of Trustees. The board meets on average every quarter to discuss charity affairs.

## Trustees' Annual Report – Year ended 31 March 2025

### Related Parties

The trustees are not aware of any related party transactions during the year.

### **Introduction**

Beachwatch Bute SCIO continues to deliver a valuable service for the Island of Bute as it has for the last 27 years. Thanks to the efforts over these years, Bute is in the fortunate position of having the scourge of marine litter under control, unlike many other islands which are still dealing with a backlog of marine plastic litter built up over the last 50 years or more. Constant effort is still required to remove plastic litter which arrives with each tide to ensure that Bute's beaches continue to be amongst the cleanest around.

Cleaning up the coastline has never been more important, and our Beach Ranger continues to remove marine litter deposited by the tides and beach visitors. There have also been some more unusual finds as well, such as catheters, syringes, several dead seals/porpoises, waste oil, large ropes and nets which could have been dangerous for wildlife, beach users, shipping, and the environment. Unfortunately, our Beach ranger is still having to deal with irresponsible behaviour such as depositing human waste and fly-tipping on the beaches. Unfortunately, the major local landowner no longer has a countryside ranger so it is likely that this will be a bigger burden on the charity in the peak summer months.

### **Achievements and performance**

Between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, the Beachranger removed 3.05 tonnes of small marine litter from the beaches of Bute and delivered them to the waste disposal site. This represented many reused animal feeding bags of small items such as bottles, cans, small pieces of polythene and wrappings, short lengths of twine/rope and other miscellaneous small items. This will amount to many hundred thousand, if not millions of small items, all of which require lifting individually. The weight is lower than in some previous years, but this probably reflects fluctuations in weather patterns as well as limitations on Beachranger availability and a greater determination to reuse and repurpose where possible

Also included in the tally were heavier lengths of rope and damaged fishing gear, oil drums etc., which could not be bagged.

This weight excludes items which can be reused such as floats, useable rope undamaged fish-boxes and lost prawn and lobster creels which are returned to the fishing fleet, shellfish farmers and boatyards for reuse. Some of these items can also be repurposed for use by farmers, gardeners etc. This year, in addition to the usual repurposing, we were able to pass on several items including a large section of trawl net to another local charity, which was enhancing an area of public open space using a nautical theme. We are pleased to have been of assistance to this project.

Sadly, several dead seals and porpoises, were also removed in cooperation with the local council. Whilst these are sad occasions, they reflect the fact that local populations are strong and that illness and injury is inevitable when numbers are good.

Last summer was a strong one for tourism, however, it didn't result in an improvement in behaviour and the Beachranger continued to be faced with several instances of dumped human waste. Our marine litter benches were also being used inappropriately for disposal of domestic and dog waste. Dog waste does remain a problem with plastic bags being a continued feature of litter on the beaches and along footpaths. Some dog owners appear to think they are acting responsibly by picking up but then discard the plastic bags with no regard to their long-lasting polluting effect.

We are awaiting assistance from the local Council to install a further litter storage bench at Kilchattan Bay, which had been requested by the local community. Unfortunately, Council cutbacks have delayed this installation, but we hope this will be resolved soon. The benches continue to be a big success, and the design has been picked up by a few other organisations. Locally, they are well used with several people unofficially adopting their own favourite stretches of beach and clearing litter at their leisure.

The upgraded equipment and pickup truck acquired over the last few years are performing well and has significantly improved our capabilities, particularly on more remote and hard to access beaches. We have done further work to improve the condition of our tractor and our pickup now carries the Beachwatch Bute SCIO logo and contact details.

As in previous years we acknowledge our main funders EB Scotland, whose funding has allowed us to function efficiently throughout the year, and they have awarded funding which should see us through the 2025-26 financial year. Having a reliable main funder is a huge advantage, but we are always aware of the risk that this represents. The ban on landfill in Scotland comes into force at the beginning of 2026 because of legislation on landfill changing. It isn't clear what the future holds for the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund (SLCF) which was distributed by EB Scotland. The charity did contribute to the public consultation on the future of the SLCF making clear that the lack of money from this source could have a direct effect on the level of service we are able to provide.

The Beach Wheelchair project ran through last summer with a volunteer rota from the charity organising the hiring of the chairs. Again, poorer weather in late summer limited the use, but we were reasonably happy with how the project was establishing. Unfortunately, there was minor damage to the container and chairs because of Storm Eowyn in January, but all should be well for the main summer season. We continue to look to partner with other local charities to make best use of the equipment.

We organised a community beach clean to help catch up with marine litter deposited by Storm Eowyn which was very successful despite poor weather conditions. Another similar clean has been held, although strictly outwith the reporting period. These events are good for raising public profile and it is likely that further cleans will be held.

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We find social media is a useful way to inform the public about what the charity does and with our photographs and videos of various beaches and coasts, let them see the difference that our work makes. It also allows us to highlight issues that we are faced with in our work, and it is an easy way for people to communicate with us. Currently we have 2500 followers on Facebook and on our Instagram account, we have 412 followers. Both accounts are growing steadily. Links to both pages are below:

<https://www.facebook.com/beachwatchbute>

<http://www.instagram.com/beachwatchbute>

We will continue to collaborate and work with organisations such as SEPA, Scottish Marine Animals Stranding Scheme, Argyll and Bute Council, local farmers, and Police Scotland.

Our chairman continues to chair the Scottish Island Federation (SIF) Marine Litter Working Group (MLWG), despite some difficulties with funding cuts by Scottish Government.

The quarterly surveys of a sample of island beaches from Arran to Shetland in conjunction with Marine Conservation Society are an important part of its work. There is starting to be a body of evidence showing that islands suffer from a greater degree of plastic pollution when compared with mainland locations and that the litter is from different sources. The fishing and aquaculture industries are much more significant polluters on the islands, where in mainland locations sewage derived plastics and domestic rubbish generally are much more common. There are also other academic studies ongoing which are showing similar results. This is a very different situation from what was predicted through scientific modelling, and it is hoped that this data will lead to a change of attitudes in the industries through education and possibly policy changes. MLWG is also involved in some pilot studies on recycling of marine litter and in research on the use of drones to identify remote locations badly affected by marine litter and analyse its sources.

Beachwatch Bute SCIO has contributed fully to this, adopting Ardroscaide Beach as a monitoring stretch and we are proud to say that we have maintained our record of completing all the monitoring on time for another year.

<https://www.scottish-islands-federation.co.uk>

### **Plans for future periods**

In addition to maintaining our core activities we hope to become more involved with education around marine litter. We are looking to partner with GRAB Trust who have greater educational resources to visit the 3 island primary schools during the 2025-26 reporting period.

We hope that the beach wheelchairs will get more use during this summer although this is weather dependent to a large degree. We now have the operational organisation fully in place for this to be a successful addition to our service.

We will apply again to Co-op Community Fund and to EB Scotland, as well as other funding streams locally. We are very conscious of the risk surrounding changes in Scottish Government landfill tax. We are fortunate to be funded by both organisations this year and happy that EB Scotland funding

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should see us through 2025-26. However, there is considerable uncertainty around funding thereafter and we are alert to other opportunities.

Overall, we are happy to have got through 2024-25 with our service intact and to have maintained the good condition of our beaches despite various challenges, thereby contributing to health and wellbeing of our residents and visitors alike and we are positive that we can continue to do so throughout 2025-26 financial year.

We will contribute actively to the SIF MLWG and assist with setting up similar groups on other islands as required. We are pleased to say that the group that we provided with initial advice in Westray are doing very well albeit using a different model and are themselves now encouraging others in Orkney and Shetland. We will continue to supply data as required and will consider involvement in future academic research and projects as the opportunities arise.

## Trustees' Annual Report – Year ended 31 March 2025

### Principal Funding Sources

Our main source of income continues to be EB Scotland. Other funding has come from other generous sources and private individual donations. We also continue to receive donations through our collection boxes and by standing order to our bank account.

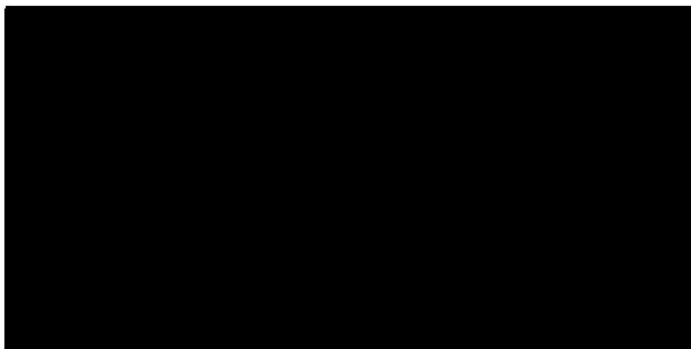
### Reserves Policy

Our policy is to keep three months of annual expenditure based on 2025 figures this equates to £4558.00, this would enable us to wind down charity in an orderly manner and honour any commitments we may have if the Charity was to cease. At 31.03.2025 unrestricted reserves amounted to £8,135.00 which is above the target level.

### Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The charity Trustees are responsible for preparing a Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with applicable requirements with the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which, on request, must reflect the financial position of the Charity at any time. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and must take reasonable steps for the prevention and/or detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf,



## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Beachwatch Bute SCIO.**

I Report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 1 to 10.

### **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.

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 matters have come to my attention.

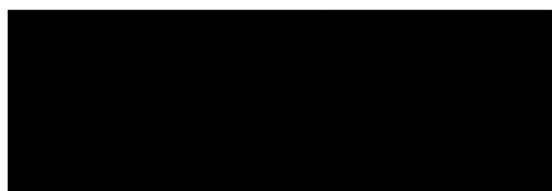
### **Basis of independent examiner's statement**


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**

During 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 to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



 AIAAP, MIAB One 2 One Accountancy Services, 10 Gallowgate Rothesay  
Isle of Bute, PA20 0HR  
Date:

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## Beachwatch Bute

### Receipts and Payments Account - Year ended 31 March 2025

		Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Note</b>				
Donations	3	2,291		2,291	7,512
Activities for generating Funds					189
Merchandise Sold					
		<u>2,291</u>		<u>2,291</u>	<u>7,701</u>
Grants (EB Scotland)		8,593		8,593	16,927
Sea Changers Marine Grant					
Co-op Community Fund		500		500	
Miscellaneous					
		<u>9,093</u>		<u>9,093</u>	<u>16,927</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<u>11,384</u>		<u>11,384</u>	<u>24,628</u>
<b>Payments</b>					
Cost of Generating Funds	4	5		5	
Charitable Activities		16,884		16,884	17,508
Other – Assets		714		714	
Governance Costs	5	636		636	636
<b>Total Payments</b>		<u>18,234</u>		<u>18,234</u>	<u>18,144</u>
<b>Excess of Receipts over Payments (Payments over Receipt) for the year</b>		<u>(6,850)</u>		<u>(6,850)</u>	<u>6,484</u>

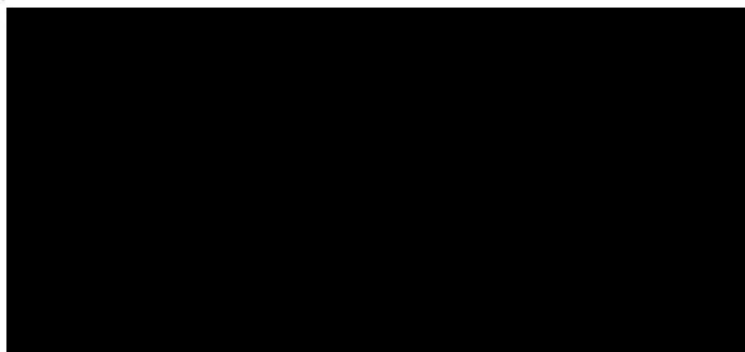
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## Beachwatch Bute

### Statement of Balances on 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Bank and Deposit Balances</b>				
Balances brought forward	14,985		14,985	8,501
<b>Movement in year</b>				
Excess of Receipts over Payments	(6,850)		(6,850)	6,484
<b>Bank and Deposit Balances</b>				
Balances carried forward	<u>8,135</u>		<u>8,135</u>	<u>14,985</u>
<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>		<b><u>Added</u></b>		
<b>B/Fwd.</b>				
<b>Fixtures &amp; Fittings</b>	94		94	94
<b>Equipment</b>	866		866	866
<b>Tractor</b>	9,950		9,950	9,950
<b>Bench</b>	3,391	714	4,105	3,391
<b>Tractor Bucket</b>	450		450	450
<b>Bench</b>	619		619	619
<b>Toyota Hi-Lux</b>	18,770		18,770	18,770
<b>Wheelchairs</b>	7,586		7,586	7,586
<b>Container</b>	<u>3,264</u>		<u>3,264</u>	<u>3,264</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>50,894</u>	<u>714</u>	<u>51,608</u>	<u>50,894</u>

The Accounts were approved by the Board of Beachwatch Bute on \_\_\_\_\_



# Beachwatch Bute SCIO – Charity Number SC029603

## Beachwatch Bute

### Notes to the Accounts

#### 1. Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions

During the year no trustees of Beachwatch Bute received any monies for providing services. No trustees received Expenses on behalf of the charity in the financial year to 31.03.2025.

#### 2. Movements in Funds

	At 01.04.24	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	At 31.03.25
Unrestricted Funds	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	14,985	11,384	18,234		8,135
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<u>14,985</u>	<u>11,384</u>	<u>18,234</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>8,135</u>
	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>14,985</u>	<u>11,384</u>	<u>18,234</u>		<u>8,135</u>

#### Purposes of Restricted Funds

## Beachwatch Bute SCIO – Charity Number SC029603

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
<b>3. Analysis of Donations</b>				
Scottish Flying Club	300		300	
Anchor Tavern	150		150	
Marshall Trust				3,750
Tax recovered on Gift Aid Donations	336		336	355
Cumulative Individual Donations	1,038		1,038	998
Bute Family Trust				2,000
WRI				100
Collection Boxes	467		467	309
Miscellaneous				
	<u>2,291</u>		<u>2,291</u>	<u>7,512</u>
<b>4. Analysis of Payments</b>				
<b>Cost of Fundraising Events</b>				
Fundraising Expenses				5
<b>Charitable Activities</b>				
Ranger Wages	13,668		13,668	12,720
Motor Vehicle Costs	2,123		2,123	2,654
Mobile Telephone	360		360	316
Advertising	106		106	
Repairs				
Postage				
Insurance	597		597	459
Charitable Donation				
Use of Hall				597
Membership	30		30	
Miscellaneous				25
<b>5. Governance Costs</b>				
Accountancy Fees	<u>636</u>		<u>636</u>	<u>636</u>
	<u>17,520</u>		<u>17,520</u>	<u>17,412</u>

