

Heart of Argyll Wildlife Organisation

Scotland · Charity number SC047167

Details

Status Active

Legal form SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Registered 2017-02-10

Register [View on the OSCR register](#)

Contact

Address Crown House
Ford
Lochgilphead
Argyll
PA31 8RH

Activities

Activities: 'It carries out activities or services itself'

Purposes: 'the advancement of education', 'the advancement of environmental protection or improvement'

What the charity does: We run the Argyll Beaver centre in Knapdale, Argyll, it provides a wildlife/tourist information point, classroom, meeting place, field centre and community resource. Our centre is off-grid and we generate all our electricity from a 5KW solar array. we believe our centre is unique in this respect. 4323 visitors attended in 2024 with a further 2087 attending our educational events and activities (we provide outreach education to the Mid Argyll Primary and High Schools) that include public walks and environmental research. We also provide educational support to Seawilding, through sessions monitoring the restoration of native oysters and to the Mission Blue Sound of Jura Hope Spot. We work closely with the Beaver Trust creating curriculum-based educational resources. We have also commenced a restoration project to return water voles to Knapdale allied to a North American mink elimination project working in partnership with the Waterlife Recovery Trust

Beneficiaries: 'No specific group, or for the benefit of the community'

Objectives: The organisation's purposes are: 4.1 The advancement of environmental protection or improvement. 4.2 The advancement of education.

Geography

- **Main operating location:** Argyll And Bute
- **Geographical spread:** Wider, but within one local authority area

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£123,579	£93,950	-	3
2023-12-31	£190,915	£173,681	-	3
2022-12-31	£41,272	£42,769	-	2
2021-12-31	£63,335	£52,693	-	0
2020-12-31	£39,443	£28,409	-	0

Accounts

Heart of Argyll Wildlife Organisation

**Annual report and financial statements
for the year ended
31 December 2024**

Scottish Charity number: SC047167



Simmers & Co
Chartered Accountants
OBAN

Heart of Argyll Wildlife Organisation

Contents

	Page
Independent Examiners Report on the Accounts	1
Trustees Annual report	2
Report of the Trustees	3 - 4
Statement of Receipts & Payments	5
Statement of Balances	6
Notes to the accounts	7 - 10

Heart of Argyll Wildlife Organisation

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees/members of Heart of Wildlife Organisation on the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 December 2024

I report on the accounts set out on pages 2 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) 2005 Act 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 particular 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 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:
 - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
 - b. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulationshave 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.

[Redacted Signature]
Chartered Accountant
Independent Examiner
Simmers & Co
Chartered Accountants
Albany Chambers
Albany Street
Oban

26 July 2025

Heart of Argyll Wildlife Organisation
Trustees' Annual report
For the year ended 31 December 2024

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

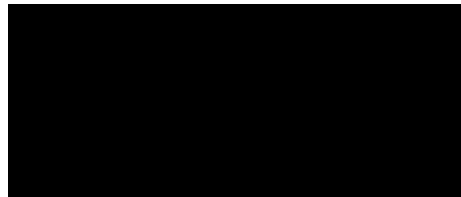
Reference and Administrative Information

Charity name Heart of Argyll Wildlife Organisation

Charity no SC047167

Address Crown House
Ford
Lochgilphead
PH31 8RH

Current Trustees



Heart of Argyll Wildlife Organisation

Report of the Trustees For the year ended 31 December 2024

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a SCIO). It was registered in its current legal form on 10 February 2017. The Charity was previously an unincorporated association but changed its legal form to a SCIO. The assets of the unincorporated association were transferred to the SCIO on the 10 February 2017. It has a single tier structure and as such the trustees are the members of the charity.

Appointment of trustees

The management committee, which meets 4 times a year, are the Charity's trustees. Membership of the management committee is open to anybody interested in supporting the aims of the charity.

Trustees are elected at the annual general meeting. There must be a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 9 trustees, of which a maximum of 2 are co-opted.

Our Trustees and Volunteers

We continue to work closely with our Trustees and recognise their commitment and dedication to our organisation. We have had 9 regular volunteers during 2024.

Financial review

In the year, the charity made a deficit on unrestricted funds of £4,004 (2023 surplus £5,826) and a surplus on restricted funds of £33,993 (2023 £11,408). Reserves at the year-end after transfers were £45,617 (2023 £49,621) unrestricted and £47,932 (2023 £13,939) restricted.

Reserves policy

In line with current best practice for charitable organisations we aim to ensure that unexpected costs are met by a proportion of our unreserved funding.

Heart of Argyll Wildlife Organisation's activities and associated income are seasonal in nature, peaking between April and October. As a result, a temporary surplus of unreserved income in the autumn goes towards core running costs (such as salaries not paid from restricted grant funding) for the upcoming winter, when income from donations and sales is reduced. The remainder of our unrestricted income can be allocated to our strategic reserve.

When deciding on a reserve we have set the aim of maintaining sufficient level to cover the organisation's operating costs for 6 months in the instance of an unforeseen downturn in income. This could be due to staff illness, unexpected closure of the visitor centre, adverse weather events or public health restrictions.

The policy aims to ensure the organisation's financial sustainability and to help explain to members and donors how this is achieved. It also helps us manage resources and shapes the organisation's fundraising strategy. We will review the policy annually.

Heart of Argyll Wildlife Organisation

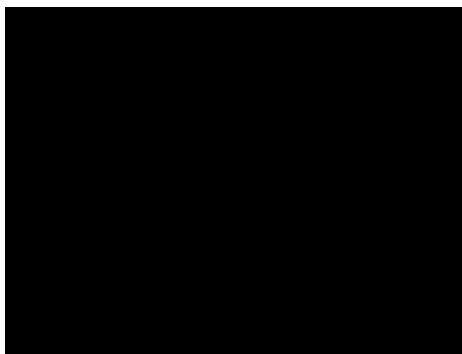
Report of the Trustees (Continued) For the year ended 31 December 2024

Plans for future period

Our plans for 2025 include

- To identify future unreserved revenue opportunities to increase organisational resilience.
- To identify future sources of core and project funding.
- To extend geographical range of mink elimination project.
- To continue to diversify our educational offering whilst engaging with students at all levels within Argyll and beyond.
- To further develop our STEM offering to encourage greater uptake of environmental science and other science-based subjects.
- To reach out to community groups within Mid-Argyll, particularly those under-represented within the conservation/outdoor recreation spheres.
- To secure the positions of Development Manager and Project Manager into the foreseeable future.
- To increase engagement and co-operative working with other tourism providers through the local destination marketing group to maximise collective benefits for all concerned.
- To continue to deliver environmental education in collaboration with Sea-wilding and the Argyll Hope Spot.
- To explore the possibility of employing a Finance Officer if appropriate funding can be identified

Signed on behalf of the trustees



Statements of Receipts and Payments

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year ended 31/12/24	Year ended 31/12/23
Payments	£	£	£	£
Cost of charitable activities	54,363	30,616	84,979	46,434
Governance costs	559	-	559	522
Purchase of equipment	3,711	4,301	8,011	3,228
Purchase of building	-	-	-	123,467
Total payments	58,674	34,917	93,950	173,681
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(4,004)	33,993	29,989	17,234

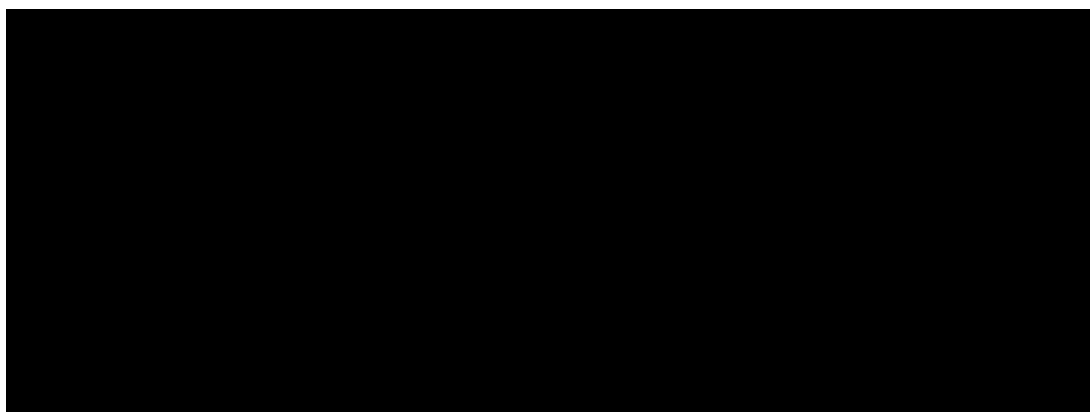
Heart of Argyll Wildlife Organisation

Statement of Balances For the year 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Opening cash at bank and in hand	49,621	13,939	63,560	46,326
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(4,004)	33,993	29,989	17,234
Closing cash at bank and in hand	45,617	47,932	93,549	63,560

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Bank account	45,567	47,932	93,499	63,510
Cash in Hand	50	-	50	50
Closing cash at bank and in hand	45,617	47,932	93,949	63,560

The accounts were approved by the trustees on 26 July 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Heart of Argyll Wildlife Organisation

Notes to the accounts For the year 31 December 2024

1. Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (As amended)

2. Nature and purpose of funds

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. The trustees maintain a single unrestricted fund for the day-to-day running of the club.

Restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes.

3. Related party transactions

The club's insurance policy includes Trustee Indemnity Insurance for all its trustees. No other remuneration was paid to the trustees or any connected persons during the year (2023: Nil).

4. Donations

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
On site collection and by post	16,880	10,000	26,880	12,431
	_____	_____	_____	_____

5. Sale of goods and events

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Sale of goods, walks, events and survey work	18,386	-	18,386	14,657
	_____	_____	_____	_____

Heart of Argyll Wildlife Organisation

Notes to the accounts For the year 31 December 2024

6. Grants received

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £
Easy fundraising	453		453
Vegware	-	600	600
Craignish Trust	-	3,000	3,000
Foundation Scotland	-	10,000	10,000
Scottish Land Fund	-	10,810	10,810
Martin Wills Wildlife Maintenance Trust	-	5,000	5,000
Mathew Good Foundation	-	3,500	3,500
Hugh Fraser Foundation	-	4,000	4,000
NHASMA Scholarship	-	2,000	2,000
Swire Charitable Trust	-	19,000	19,000
Groundwork	-	1,000	1,000
	453	58,910	59,363

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Scottish Land Fund	-	125,382	125,382
Vegware	-	600	600
Beaver Trust	-	2,000	2,000
Foundation Scotland	-	10,000	10,000
Schroder Charity Trust	-	2,000	2,000
	-	139,982	139,982

Heart of Argyll Wildlife Organisation

Notes to the accounts (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2024

7. Cost of Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £
Staff costs	38,142	20,101	58,243
Self-employed contractors		8,585	8,585
Training costs	380	-	380
Research costs	4,313	-	4,313
Purchases	4,596	796	5,392
Heat & Light	268	-	268
Repairs & Maintenance	965	150	1,115
Insurance	1,569	810	2,379
Professional fees	440		440
Office costs	1,903	6	1,909
Advertising	1,044		1,044
Travel expenses	128	168	296
Sundry costs	615	-	615
	<u>54,363</u>	<u>30,616</u>	<u>84,979</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Staff costs	6,635	14,666	21,301
Self-employed contractors	11,949	-	11,949
Training costs	103	-	103
Research costs	320	-	320
Purchases	4,842	600	5,442
Heat & Light	9	-	9
Repairs & Maintenance	636	-	636
Insurance	1,953	-	1,953
Professional fees	615	162	777
Office costs	1,533	-	1,533
Advertising	607	-	607
Travel expenses	1,432	-	1,432
Sundry costs	372	-	372
	<u>31,006</u>	<u>15,428</u>	<u>46,434</u>

Heart of Argyll Wildlife Organisation

Notes to the accounts (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2024

8. Governance costs

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Independent examiner's fee	552	-	552	552

9. Restricted funds

	Opening Balance	Income	Costs	Transfers	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Oyster reintroduction	475	-	-	-	475
Scottish Land Fund - revenue	4,167	10,810	6,643	-	8,334
Vegware	-	600	600	-	-
Beaver Trust	2,000	-	38	-	1,962
Foundation Scotland	4,167	10,000	14,167	-	-
Mink/ Vole Project HIEF	702	-	702	-	-
Mink/ Vole Project Craignish Trust	-	3,000	3,000	-	-
Mink/ Vole Project Martin Wills Trust	-	5,000	5,000	-	-
Mink/ Vole Project Mathew Good Foundation	-	3,500	916	-	2,584
Mink/ Vole Project Hugh Fraser Foundation	-	4,000	-	-	4,000
Mink/ Vole Project Swire Charitable Trust	-	19,000	3,585	-	15,415
Schroder Charity Trust	2,000	-	-	-	2,000
Ashfield Trust	428	-	266	-	162
NHASMA	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
Groundwork	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
Private donation	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
	13,939	68,910	34,917		47,932