

Scottish Land Fund
Ionmhas Fearainn Na H-Alba

Easter Breich Wood Community Group

SC051201



Annual report 2024-25

About us

Our community group became a charity in August 2021. Our aims are:

- To secure Easter Breich Wood for the benefit of the community. (i.e Seafield, Polbeth, West Calder and Harburn).
- To maintain and improve the woodland in order to advance environmental protection and community health and development
- To involve the community and work with partners.

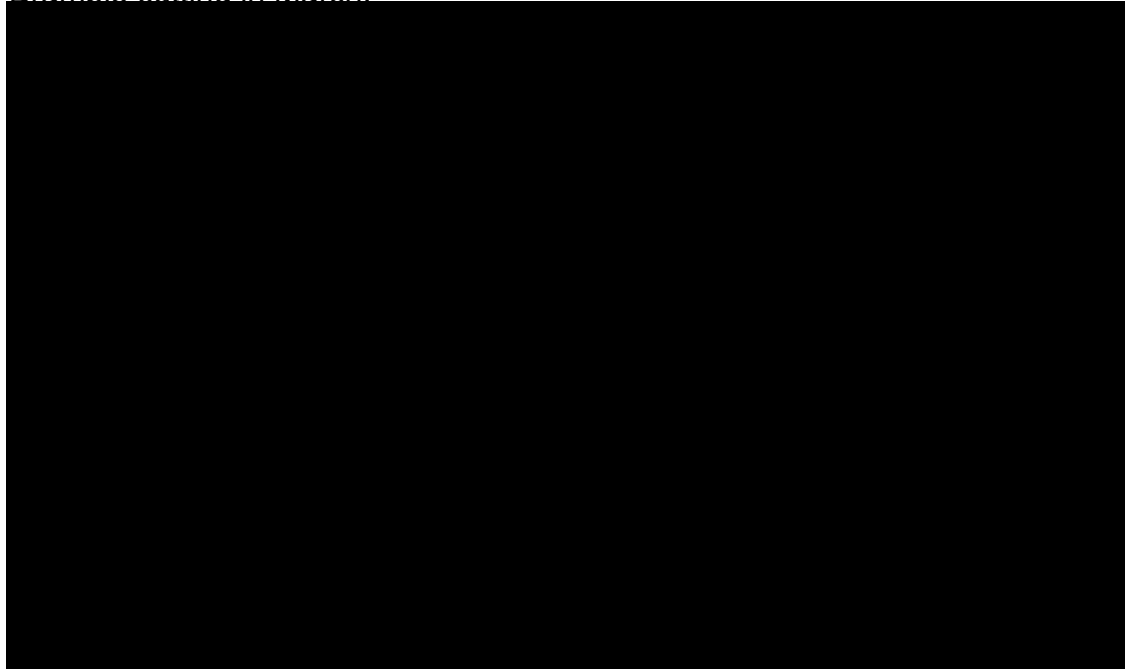
Thanks to funding from the Scottish Land Fund we bought Easter Breich on behalf of the community in March 2022.



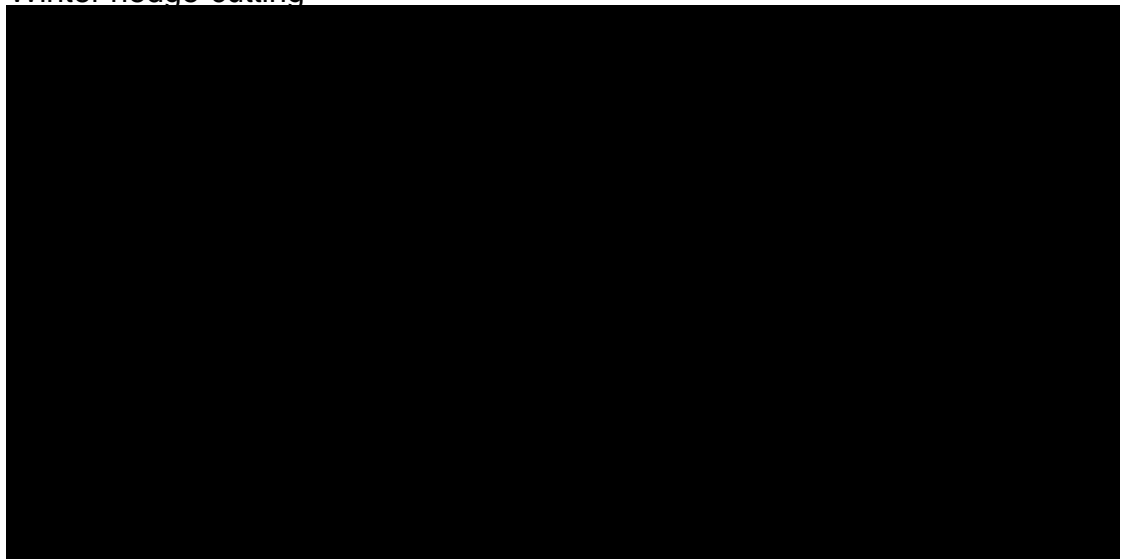
Woodland maintenance

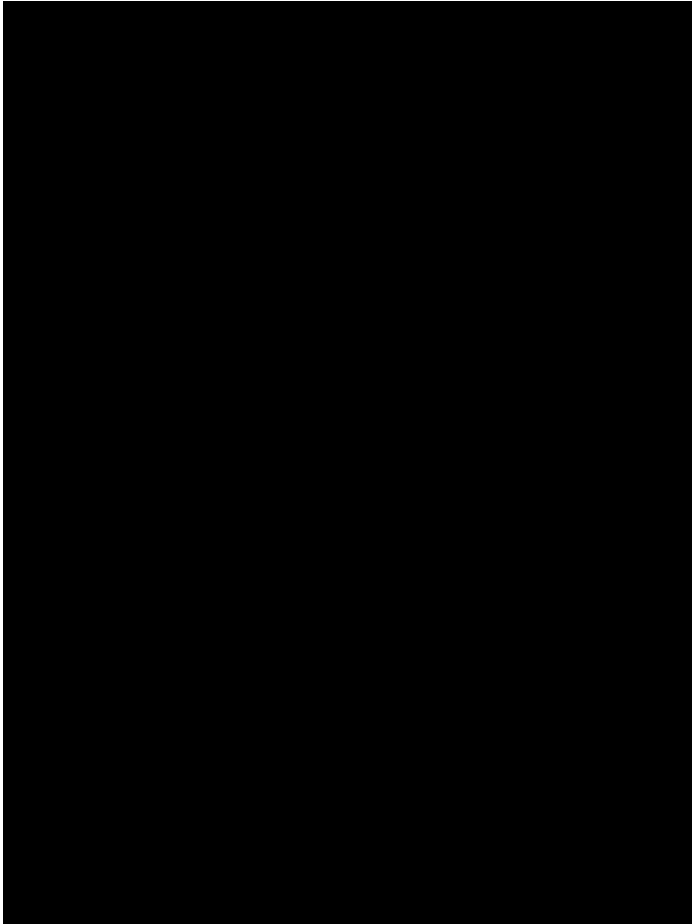
We hold regular volunteer maintenance events during the year. From May to September we've met weekly to scythe the path edges and bridle paths and one weekend a month we do more general maintenance – mowing in summer, hedge-cutting in autumn and winter.

Bramble cutting in March.



Winter hedge-cutting

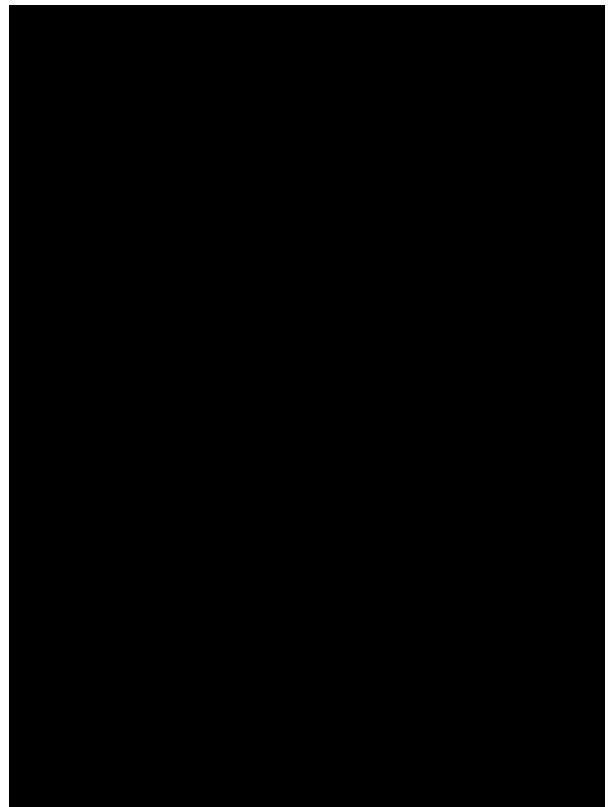




Chainsaw work in February after storm Eowyn brought down some mature trees.

In February, Lothian Conservation Volunteers put in a hard day's work clearing blackthorn from near the path.

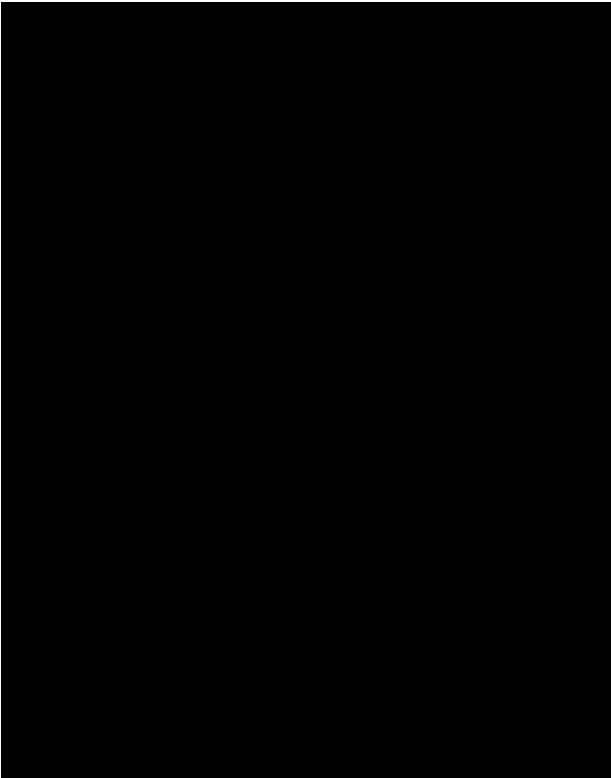
A huge thank you to everyone who has helped out during the year.



In October we celebrated everyone's efforts, holding a cake stall as part of the Community Land Festival, organised through Community Land Scotland.




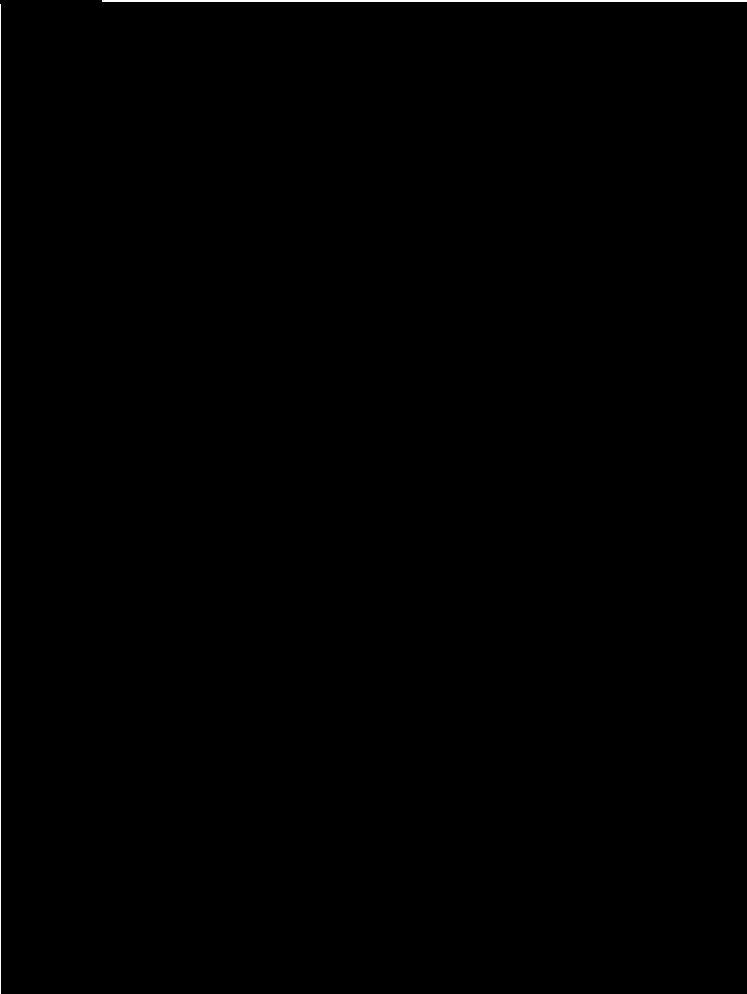
Looking at nature



We've continued this year to take part in national wildlife monitoring and citizen science projects.

We did the RSPB's Big Garden Bird Watch in January and the Big Butterfly Count in August. The results were uploaded to national records.

In August,  from Forestry and Land Scotland led an informative walk round the woods, explaining how to identify the trees in different seasons. So now we've got a much better idea of what's growing in the woodland.

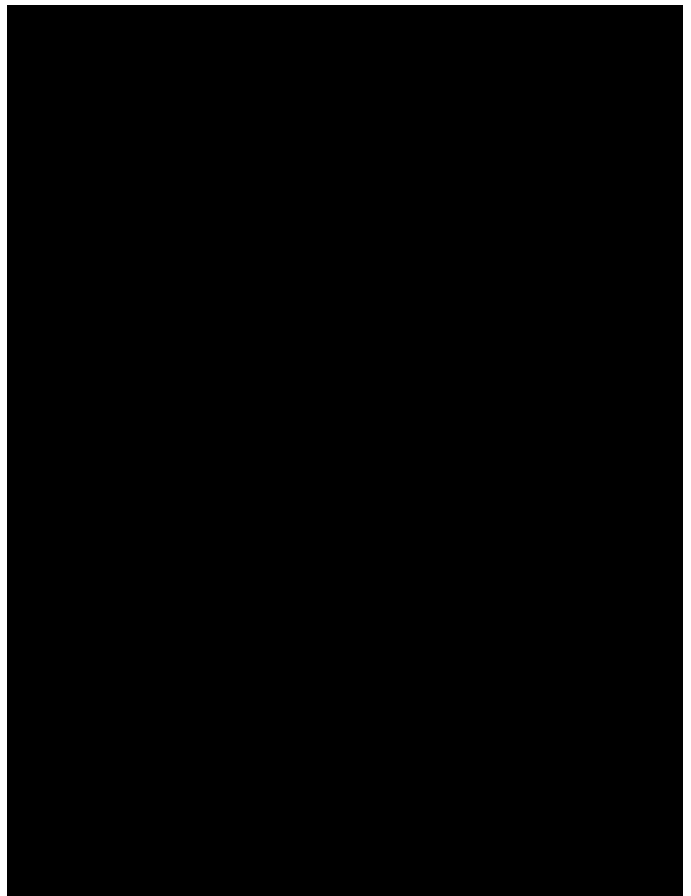




In September, fungi expert, [REDACTED], led a fungi foray through the woods.

Thanks to West Lothian Climate Action Network, we planted five more fruit trees in the woodland and were given training on maintenance and pruning.

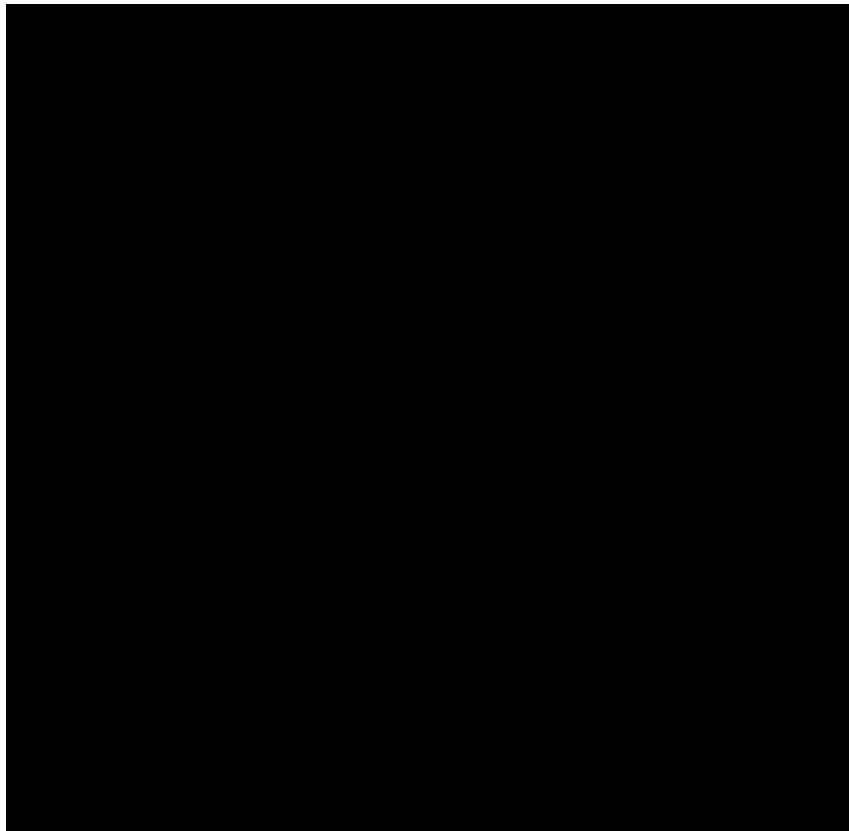
We also continued monthly monitoring of river water quality through our involvement in the Guardians of Our River Project.





We've put some labels up on trees throughout the woodland – see if you can spot them when you're out for a walk!

Training and research

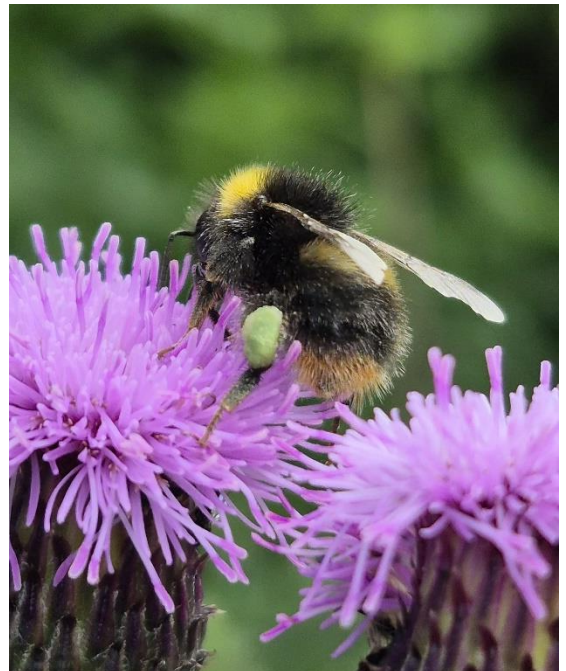


In March the pond was surveyed for invertebrates by [REDACTED] from the charity Buglife. This trained some of their new surveyors in the kick sampling technique.

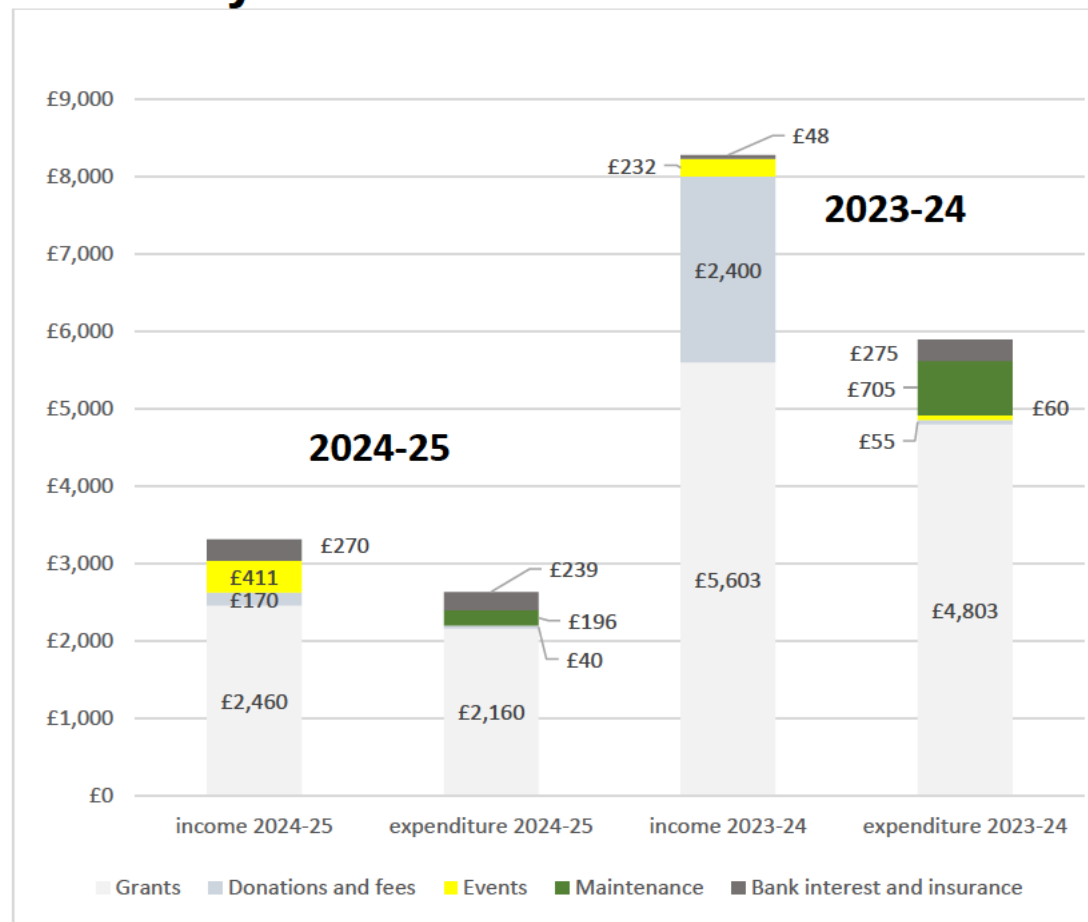
Our own Guardians of our Rivers team were involved in research in April, where they tested the levels of *E.coli* bacteria in the Breich Water. The data contributed to Freshwater Watch's national survey.

The woodland was also used as a research site by an Environmental Science student who carried out a study comparing how two different tree species intercepted rainfall, and then again in the summer an MSc project student surveyed bumblebees as part of a wider study on how woodland management affects bumblebee diversity.

It's fantastic to see the woodland being used as a resource for training and research!



Summary of Accounts



		income 2024-25	expenditure 2024-25	income 2023-24	expenditure 2023-24
Grants	Inspiring Scotland	2160	2160	0	0
	WLCAN, Paths4All	0	0	4,800	4,803
	freshwater watch	0	0	203	0
	CLS bursary	300	0	600	0
Donations	WCHDT donation	0	0	2,400	0
	cherry tree donation	20	0	0	0
	site hosting and speaker fee	150	0	0	0
	memberships	0	40	0	55
Events	cake stall	301	0	200	50
	fungi foray	110	0	32	10
Maintenance	equipment	0	101	0	196
	tree work	0	0	0	420
	Lothian Conservation Volunteers	0	95	0	89
Banking and insurance	bank charges	0	0	0	36
	bank interest	270	0	48	0
	insurance	0	239	0	239
TOTAL		3,311	2,710	8,283	5,898

Our main funding this year was from Inspiring Scotland who provided £2,160 to commission a report on the feasibility of pond and wetland improvements. This will help plan future work in this area.

While our grant income has fallen, our income from fundraising events – the cake stall and fungi foray increased.

Compared to last year, we have considerably lower income and expenditure as more of our activities are ongoing maintenance rather than initial equipment purchase and training.

Thank you to [REDACTED], Edinburgh College for reviewing our accounts for our annual return to OSCR.

Reserves Policy

We manage Easter Breich Wood on behalf of the community, including encouraging community access by maintaining paths. A certain level of reserves is needed in case of unexpected, urgent path repairs or urgent tree removal along the roadside boundary.

This year we are putting £250 toward reserves.

This is reviewed annually in the light of costs actually incurred. Regular path maintenance and an annual tree condition survey will reduce the risk of unexpected urgent work being required.

Our Trustees

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[Easter Breich Wood Community Group SC051201](#)
9 Oakbank Cottages, West Calder, EH55 8PR

Easter Breich Wood Community Group

SC051201



Receipts and payments accounts							
For the period from	Period start date			to	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	1	9	2024		31	8	2025

Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted to nearest £	Restricted to nearest £	Expendable to nearest £	Permanent to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Total funds last to nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Donations	431				431	232
Legacies					-	-
Grants	300	2,160			2,460	7,800
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	-
Gross trading receipts					-	-
Income from investments other than	270				270	48
Rents from land & buildings					-	-
Gross receipts from other charitable	150				150	203
					-	-
A1 Sub total	1,151	2,160	-	-	3,311	8,283
A2 Receipts from asset &						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	1,151	2,160	-	-	3,311	8,283
A3 Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable	550	2,160			2,710	5,898
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
Other					-	
					-	
A3 Sub total	550	2,160	-	-	2,710	5,898
A4 Payments relating to asset and						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	550	2,160	-	-	2,710	5,898
Net receipts / (payments)	601	-	-	-	601	2,385
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	601	-	-	-	601	2,385

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of *The Easter Breich Wood Community Group (SCIO)*

Charity Number: SCo51201

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2025 which are set out on following pages.

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 2006 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 2006 Accounts Regulations. 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 [other than disclosed below*]

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
 - 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.

