

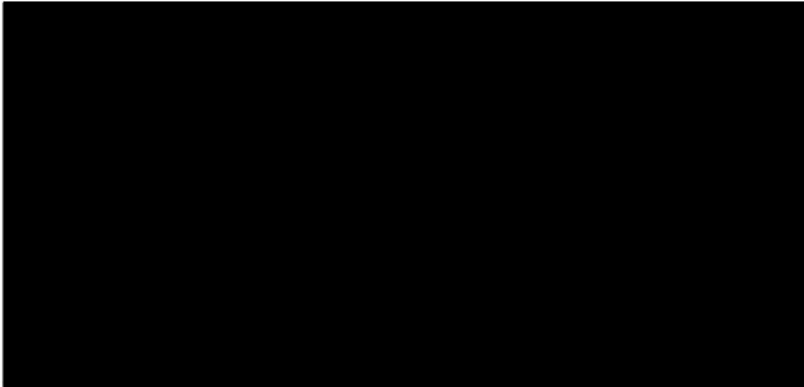


East Lothian Antiquarian & Field Naturalists' Society

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation: SC052295



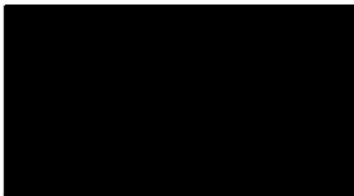
Members of Council (Charity Trustees)



At the Annual General Meeting held on 25 May 2024, [REDACTED] decided not to stand for re-election as a trustee.

Following his death on 17 December 2024, [REDACTED] ceased to be a trustee.

Independent Examiner

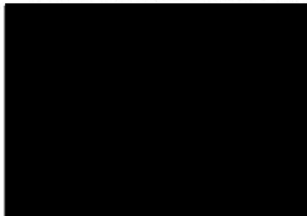


Bankers

Bank of Scotland
44 Court Street
Haddington
East Lothian
EH41 3NP

Principal Office

The Principal Office recorded with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) is:





East Lothian Antiquarian & Field Naturalists' Society

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation: SC052295

Trustees' Annual Report for year to 31 March 2025

The trustees present their annual report together with financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Structure, governance & management

The Society is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) governed under the Constitution which was approved for the SCIO being constituted on 31 January 2023 and resubmitted to OSCR on 20 July 2023.

Membership of the Society is open to any person who is interested in supporting or participating in the activities of the Society. At the Annual General Meeting, members appoint or re-elect the office-bearers and members of Council to serve for the year ahead.

On a day-to-day basis, the affairs of the Society are managed by the named office-bearers of President, Secretary and Treasurer, plus a Council of up to 12 additional trustees. Distinct roles may be appointed from among the additional trustees, including two Vice-Presidents, an Editor of Transactions, an Events Manager and a Field Naturalist Adviser. The Council is empowered to fill any vacancy in their number that arises during the year.

The charity trustees in office at the date of approval of this Annual Report are listed on Page 1.

Purpose & activities

The Society's purpose is to undertake, promote and support the study of the antiquities, history, archaeology and natural history of East Lothian.

The activities of the Society include:

- collecting and collating books, journals, records, documents, artefacts and other materials;
- publishing transactions, books, journals, reports, articles, leaflets and letters;
- hosting or supporting lectures, conferences, exhibitions and other events;
- arranging or supporting excursions to places of interest within East Lothian or beyond; and
- encouraging and participating in the work of other bodies, groups or associations with purposes similar to those of the Society.

Achievements & performance

In May 2024, the Society marked the centenary of its foundation by holding a full day conference titled East Lothian Through the Ages. The event was held at St Mary's Parish Church, Haddington, and tickets were sold out. During the conference, talks were presented covering:

- The Historical Place Names of East Lothian;
- Hillforts of East Lothian;
- The Impact of the Romans on East Lothian;
- The Changing Wildlife of East Lothian;
- Medieval East Lothian in its North Sea World Context: An Archaeological Assessment;
- Grand Designs & Gracious Living: The Rise of East Lothian's Mansion Houses;
- Innovation & Change in East Lothian Agriculture: Some Examples from the Eighteenth & Nineteenth Centuries; and
- The Powerhouse of East Lothian: A Brief History of Coal and Industry.

During the year, the Society organised excursions to:

- Berwick Upon Tweed (July 2024) – an historical guided tour of the town, which changed hands 13 times between England and Scotland, before remaining under English control from 1492;
- General Register House (July 2024) – a private tour of the building and overview of the historical collection;
- The Ridge Project, Dunbar (August 2024) – an exploration of the charitable social enterprise which has been restoring historic closes, as part of creating career and training opportunities; and
- Musselburgh Lagoons (September 2024) – a naturalist outing to the man-made wetlands, which has become one of the best bird-watching sites in the Lothians.

Also, the Society hosted a programme of lectures:

- Meetings with Moths: A Hundred Years of Moth Recording in East Lothian (October 2024) – the recording and study of butterflies and moths across the county, building on the work of Alice Blanche Balfour nearly 100 years ago;
- [REDACTED] Suffragette, Artist & Founder of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute (November 2024) – the life and achievements of [REDACTED] and her impact nationwide;
- Sugar, Slaves & High Society: The Grants of Kilgraston (December 2024) – a family story of opportunism, wealth, good fortune and tragedies, set against the backdrop of slavery in Jamaica;
- East Lothian's Bricks & Tileworks (January 2025) – the history and importance of bricks and tile-making across the county;
- Clothes & Accoutrements of Scots Women 1470-1560 (February 2025) – the fashions and practicalities of clothing worn by Scots women during the late-medieval to early modern periods; and
- The Battle of Spottismuir 1296 (March 2025) – an overview of the first battle between Scotland and England in the wars of independence.

Following the Annual General Meeting in May 2024, short films were shown about the restoration of Preston Tower.

In May 2024, the Society issued Volume XXXIV of Transactions, which presented articles including:

- A Brief History of the Society;
- Altars Out: Pulpits In! The First Post-Reformation Churches in East Lothian. Part Two: New Kirks;
- Stenton: Not the First Protestant Church to be Built in Scotland;
- The Prestonpans Thorn tree Revisited;
- Papple: The History of an East Lothian Farm;
- Old Lochend House: A Preliminary Investigation; and
- Celebrating the Fourth Statistical Account of East Lothian.

In November 2024, the President launched a project to record field names across the county. The project aims to record current field names, gauge the age of field names, and record any earlier names for the same fields. To achieve these aims, the project is referring to old maps, historic documents, farm records and estate plans, as well as visiting farms and interviewing farmers.

As well as its own website, the Society maintains a website for the Fourth Statistical Account of East Lothian.

Financial review

In line with OSCR guidance, the financial statements are prepared on a Receipts & Payments basis.

This year, the financial statements incorporate income and expenditure relating to the Centenary Conference held in May 2024. With tickets for the conference sold out, ticket sales netted £3,083, after the deduction of transaction charges and fees. The receipt of sponsorship and donations of £660 brought total income for the conference to £3,743. Costs incurred were £428 for hiring St Mary's Parish Church, £2,111 for catering provision and £271 for miscellaneous items. With costs totalling £2,810, the conference resulted in net income of £933.

Otherwise, the Society is primarily funded through the payment of annual subscriptions by members, including Gift Aid claimed from HMRC. During the year, subscription income totalled £1,725, with an additional £495 obtained through Gift Aid. Also, the Society received £894 from Publishers' Licensing Services in respect of Collective Licensing fees relating mainly to the publication of past volumes of Transactions. The sale of Transactions and books brought in £670, including £450 for the sale of 75 copies of Transactions Volume XXXIV to Papple Steading Ltd.

The main category of expenditure was £3,304 for venue hire and events costs, including the Centenary Conference. Printing the Transactions Volume XXXIV cost £1,009. Meanwhile, £594 was spent on website hosting and support.

Receipts from all sources during the year totalled £7,682. With outgoings totalling £6,010, a net surplus of £1,672 was attributable to the Society.

At the year end, the Society held £15,195 with Bank of Scotland, with the balance split across a Treasurer's Current Account and a Commercial Instant Access Savings Account.

The Society does not hold any specific reserves, beyond the general funds held with the bank.

Membership

As at 31 March 2025, the Society had 60 single memberships and 40 joint memberships, representing a total of 140 members, which is comparable to last year.

Plans for the future

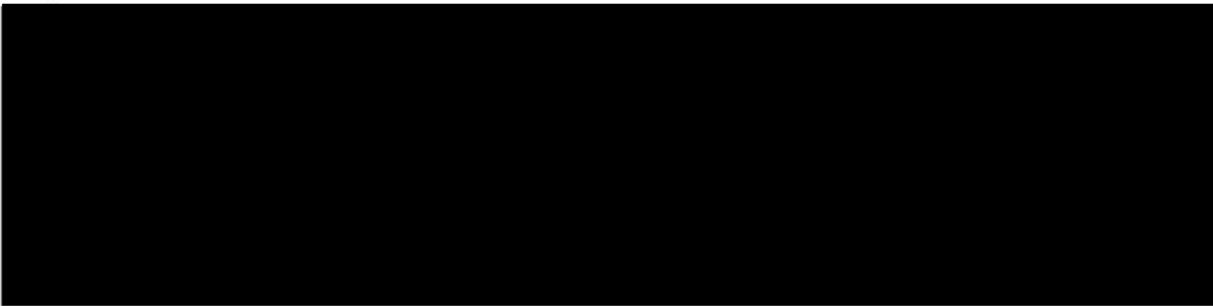
A full and varied programme of outings and talks is being planned for the year ahead. Also, the Society is hoping to publish Volume XXXV of Transactions in spring 2026.

In addition, work is to continue on the field names project launched in November 2024.

Declaration

The charity trustees declare that the trustees' report above was approved by Council on 3 May 2025.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Report to the trustees and members of East Lothian Antiquarian & Field Naturalists' Society, Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC052295 on the accounts of the charity from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, which are set out on Pages 7 & 8.

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities & 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 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 of 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:

- 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 8 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.



East Lothian Antiquarian & Field Naturalists' Society

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation: SC052295

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts (unrestricted funds)				
Subscriptions	1,725		1,900	
Donations ⁽¹⁾	198		916	
Gift Aid	495		419	
Publishers' Licensing Services	894		805	
Sales – Transactions & books	670		30	
Centenary Conference – Ticket sales	3,083		–	
Deposits for events & outings ⁽²⁾	476		756	
Bank interest received	141		87	
Other income ⁽³⁾	–		150	
		7,682		5,063
Payments (unrestricted funds)				
Venue hire & events costs ⁽⁴⁾	3,304		1,275	
Website hosting & support ⁽⁵⁾	594		1,550	
Software licences	70		162	
Printing (including Transactions)	1,009		90	
Corporate memberships	110		155	
Postage	151		36	
Stationery	89		69	
Deposits for events & outings ⁽²⁾	476		1,242	
Miscellaneous ⁽⁶⁾	207		44	
		6,010		4,623
Surplus for year		1,672		440

STATEMENT OF BALANCES

Cash funds (unrestricted funds)

	2025	2024
	£	£
Bank balance at start of year	13,523	13,083
Surplus shown on receipts & payments account	1,672	440
Bank balance at end of year	15,195	13,523

OTHER ASSETS ⁽⁷⁾

	Cost £	Current value £	2024 £
Lease – Rennie Memorial at Phantassie ⁽⁸⁾	–	–	–
HP Pavilion laptop	388	–	20
Transactions and other books for sale ⁽⁹⁾	–	400	400
Postage stamps	13	13	21
Gift Aid & GASDS claim submitted	–	148	233
Eventbrite – ticket sales ⁽¹⁰⁾	–	–	2,336
Total	401	561	3,010

LIABILITIES

	Amount due £	Last year £
	–	–
Total	Nil	Nil

Notes to the accounts

- (1) Donations included sponsorship of £360 from McInroy & Wood (October 2023) and £200 from members (February 2024) towards the Centenary Conference.
- (2) Deposits received from members to pay for their meal at the Annual Dinner (April 2025) and entrance fees to Oxenfoord Castle (June 2023) and Preston Hall (September 2023).
- (3) Bank of Scotland paid compensation for poor service when opening a bank account.
- (4) Venue hire and other costs included for holding the Centenary Conference (May 2024).
- (5) Website hosting at a cost of £144 is provided by Sustaining Dunbar, a charitable company limited by guarantee. A trustee of the Society is also a trustee of Sustaining Dunbar.
- (6) Compensation of £130 was paid to a trustee (January 2025) following accidental damage to the trustee's private property while attending Society business.
- (7) The list of other assets does not include books and items of historical interest held by the Society or transferred to other bodies, such as the National Museum of Antiquities, Scottish Records Office or East Lothian Council's local history, archive and museums services.
- (8) In 1981, the Society was granted a lease for 999 years over the Rennie Memorial at Phantassie, with the rent being "one penny yearly ... only when asked". Under the lease, the Society is responsible for maintaining the memorial. The lease has no assigned monetary value.
- (9) The value of Transactions and other books available for sale has been estimated by the Treasurer, bearing in mind the likely difficulty in liquidating these assets.
- (10) For the Centenary Conference in May 2024, tickets were sold through the Eventbrite website, with the Society to receive payment 3 business days after the event.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

