APPENDIX 1

OSCR

Office of the Scottish **Charity Regulator**

Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
	Period start date				Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	**01**	**April**	**2025**	To	**31**	**March**	**2026**

Reference and administration details

Charity name	Cockburnspath Allotment Association SCIO
Other names charity is known by	
Registered charity number	**SCO484088**
Charity's principal address	Kittiwake Cottage, Cove
	Cockburnspath
	Scottish Borders
	Postcode TD13 5XD

Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Neil Simpson	Chairperson		
2	Veronika Horniakova	Treasurer		
3	Steve Stanton	Secretary		
4	Margery McLeod			
5	Kevin Brouwer			
8	Michael Gillan	Co-opted		
9	Wendy Smillie	Co-opted	To 18/01/2026	
10	Christopher McKiddie		From 21/01/2026	
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APPENDIX 1

Reference and administration details

Names of all other charity trustees during the period, if any, (for example, those who resigned part way through the financial period)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
Wendy Smillie	To 18/01/2026

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document	The charity is a Two Tier SCIO with its governing document being a constitution which follows the form of an OSCR template.
Trustee recruitment and appointment	Trustees (of which there are a maximum of eight) fall into three categories. • A maximum of six who are elected by the membership of the charity at a members meeting. • A maximum of two who are appointed by the trustees (by way of co-option) for their particular skills. • A maximum of one who may be appointed by the Community Council.

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes	The charity's purposes are: • The provision of recreational facilities or the organisation of recreational activities with the object of improving the conditions of life for the members of the Cockburnspath and Cove community (as defined by the Community Council boundary) for whom the facilities are primarily intended by giving the opportunity to work outdoors in a healthy environment, developing skills in horticulture while fostering community spirit and cooperation among members. • The advancement of environmental protection or improvement by encouraging wildlife and biodiversity within the area as well as the cultivation of sustainable fresh vegetable and fruit growing.
Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects	The charity owns 0.6 hectares of land on the outskirts of Cockburnspath where it offers individual plots both indoors and outdoors at an affordable rent or the growing of fruit, vegetables and flowers. The charity continues developing the community garden as a recreational outlet and runs social events and workshops during the year which attract people from both inside and outside our immediate community into the gardens to benefit from and enjoy the space with others. The charity also has an on-going programme in conjunction with our local primary and nursery school to provide 'learning to grow' sessions which were delivered during the growing season and into the Winter. The 'Green Waste Scheme', a joint enterprise between the charity and the local community council had a third successful year and the compost produced is a mainstay of our commitment to sustainable and environmentally sensitive growing.

APPENDIX 1.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period

1. Cockburnspath Allotment Association SCIO (CAAS) main project through the 25/26 financial year remains the work of our Community Gardener (CG) a project whose funding was obtained in 2023 to allow us to offer a contract for part-time work in the '24 and '25 seasons. The CG continues to give help and advice to growers and has taken a stronger lead alongside one of our trustees in planning and delivering the school and nursery growing sessions Our gardener is also on hand to help run social and volunteer events and participate in garden projects.

2. 2025 has been a busy year for projects and we have constructed a 2.5 x 5.0 metre shed on site using larch from a local saw-mill and constructed entirely by volunteer labour. The project was started in the Winter of '24 with some pre-fabrication done off site, a base was put down in March and the rest constructed over a three month period and finished early July. The shed will be used as a workshop, a store and eventually be a base for a green energy project. This type of project is more favoured by our male volunteers, unfortunately we do not have endless building projects to keep them happy. This project was financed by our own funds without an outside cash injection.
One project we did not build was our new Polycrub which was constructed in May '25 by 'Western Isles Polycarbonate Tunnels' with funding from Foundation Scotland. After the success of our first Polycrub we looked to build a second, designating it for indoor events and workshops as well as for growing. In its first Summer season no interior work was done the space being used for growing veg'. In the Winter of 25/26 interior work was commenced, flooring was laid by contractors and growing beds and kitchen facilities built by volunteers. In March 26 with help of Cockburnspath's Village Caretaker construction of wheelchair accessible paths was commenced to access both the new Polycrub and the new 'Corner Garden', a project financed by Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council and created by garden volunteers as a quiet seating area within the gardens. The corner garden project was commenced in Autumn 25 and is an on-going effort of planting and improving.
Our first stage of water capture was commenced on October 25 with staging being built to hold tanks to hold rainwater from our new shed roof. The tanks act as a reservoir for watering our compost heaps, an integral part of the composting process and will cut down on the amount of mains water used. Guttering was also added to our new Polycrub and the rainwater captured then piped into our pond which has no natural supply.

3.The 'Green Waste' scheme which processes garden waste brought by the local community into quality compost has had a good year but total processed material was down from 24/25 total partly due to a major breakdown of our shredding machine and having to close the site to incoming material until it was repaired. Despite this the availability of large amounts of compost has allowed us to encourage plot holders to use a 'no-dig' or 'minimal till' regime in their garden plots, another step to sustainable growing. It also allowed the creation of the 'corner garden' project in what was an inhospitable corner of the gardens for growing plants. Plot users are allowed as much compost as they wish to use and are encouraged to give a donation in return. We do sell some occasionally and will donate to village organisations.

4. As well as our 20 outdoor 10 x 12m plots we have 7 raised beds for the less able gardeners and indoor space is provided by our first Polycrub (PC1) built in Sept 22. There are 9 individual beds to rent out and communal beds with PYO for garden visitors, one of the areas managed by our gardener. The automated irrigation system installed in'24 is a vital facility and a similar system was installed in the new build PC2

5. Volunteer Sundays continue with volunteers getting together to tidy and maintain the community garden part of the site. We ran a 'Plant Sale Day' in April and for a third year an 'Art Day' in July in conjunction with the local Art Show.

	An apple pressing session was held in September to allow members of the public to use our facilities to make apple juice. Our compost shredder is called into action (thoroughly cleaned and operated by experienced members) and we have two apple presses available. Some of the juice is turned into cider and offered at various events. 6. The local primary school and nursery sessions are now delivered on a weekly basis with one of our trustees and the CG taking the lead in delivering the lessons with support from the teaching staff and some volunteers. This is an area where we expanded the sessions in number and scope of at the request of the school

Financial review

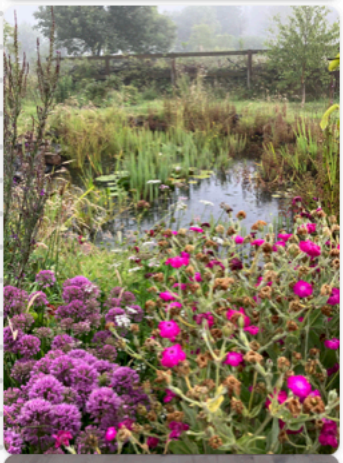
Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	The charity's policy on reserves is as follows: The charity shall hold unrestricted (i.e. Not designated for a purpose) financial reserves equivalent to one year's core operatorial costs. These funds may be used in circumstances where the Charity experiences an unexpected shortfall in income or unexpected expenditure. Where the Charity's reserves fall below its target level of one year's operating costs the trustees shall take action to remedy to situation.
Details of any deficit	The charity has no deficit in the period.
Donated facilities and services (if any)	As in previous years the trustees of the charity give countless hours of their time to manage the organisation, organise and run social events and the educational programme, help maintain the site and build and maintain the site infrastructure. We are also grateful to the non-trustee volunteers for their help and support.

APPENDIX 1

Other optional information











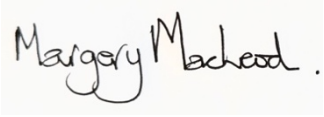




Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Neil F. Simpson.	Margery Macleod.
Position (e.g. Chair)	Chairperson.	Trustee.
Date	25/10/2026.	25/10/2025.