THE ALERCE TRUST

Scottish Charity Number: SC037122

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year to 31st March 2025

THE ALERCE TRUST
GENERAL INFORMATION AND REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR YEAR TO 31ST MARCH 2025

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the charity for the year ended 31st March 2025. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's Trust Deed, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (second edition issued October 2019 and effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

Objectives of Trust

The Trustees are directed in terms of the Trust Deed to pay or apply the capital or income of the Trust fund for the benefit or furtherance of such purposes, objects or institutions, charitable in law, as the Trustees in their absolute discretion shall determine. The Trustees are also authorised to accumulate income for a period of twenty one years from 20th December 2005.

The principal activity in pursuit of these objects is grantmaking.

Although the objectives as set out in the Trust Deed are far reaching, the Trustees favour supporting projects within the area of environmental stewardship.

It is the aim of the Trustees to identify well managed projects within the area of environmental stewardship and sustainable development as an initial focus for their support.

It should be noted that the Trustees are not bound to continue supporting these areas and may at times favour other areas of benefit.

Grant-making policy

As the Trust's objectives are broad the Trustees have opted for a policy of making donations to those organisations whose purposes fall within the spectrum of the Trust Deed, who they feel require most support, and who, as a result of that support, the Trustees believe can make significant front line impact.

Report on the activities of the Trust

The Trust's public benefit has been discharged by making donations in accordance with its objectives, aims and grantmaking policy, to organisations directly involved in the provision of charitable services.

The Trustees have received applications from a number of organisations throughout the year.

Although the Trustees have indicated that their preferred area of benefit would be centred around conservation issues, the terms of the Trust Deed give them scope to also provide benefit to other areas.

Donations totalling £464,811.21 were made to three organisations in the year (2024 £315,000.00 to three organisations).

Future plans

The Trustees are considering a review of the investment policy and may allocate funds to an equity portfolio in the future. Funds are held by an 'Execution Only' broker but have yet to be invested.

The Trustees wish to ensure that funds are available to provide continuing funding and support and they have been carefully considering funding opportunities and the long-term focus of the Trust. The majority of the funds received will be utilised to help fund sustainable development initiatives. In particular the Trustees are particularly keen to develop a strategic focus on alternative measures of progress as a way to help promote sustainable development.

Achievements and performance

Investment policy and performance

In view of the Trustees' decision to carefully manage the disbursement of funds, they are minded to keep funds in the instant access bank account until suitable projects have been identified. The Trustees are aware that by doing so they are preserving the charity's assets in a generally risk free environment until future funding requirements can be ascertained albeit that the returns are lower than may otherwise be expected.

Consideration has been given to diversification of the assets but, due to market volatility, suitable investments have not, as yet, been sourced.

Financial review:

Financial report

There are net assets of £3,556,165.57(2024 £3,952,963.33), all of which is unrestricted. Income received in the period amounted to £76,814.25 (2024 £66,064.58).

Donations made in the year amounted to £464,811.21 (2024 £315,000.00).

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the Trustees to distribute the income of the Trust in the form of grants or donations. It is anticipated that any surplus income at the close of the account would be retained for distribution in future years as suitable projects are found. The Trustees are permitted under the Trust Deed to accumulate income for a period of twenty-one years from 20th December 2005.

As the Trust does not provide direct charitable services, the Trustees believe that normal expenditure can be met from income generated. The funds of the Trust are wholly unrestricted and are represented by cash balances. The Trustees have power to draw upon the balances held in furtherance of the Trust's objectives whilst retaining sufficient funds to meet any commitments they may undertake.

As the assets of the Trust are held in a ready realisable form the Trustees do not therefore consider it necessary to maintain specific reserves.

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Trust and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks.

No major risks have been identified at this stage although as the Trust becomes more active this position may change.

Going concern

The Trustees have no material uncertainties as to the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern.

THE ALERCE TRUST
GENERAL INFORMATION AND REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR YEAR TO 31ST MARCH 2025

Structure, governance and management

Founding document	Deed of Trust by David Gait dated 20th December, 2005 and registered in the Books of Council and Session 20th January 2006.
Appointment of new Trustees	Power of appointment of new Trustees is vested in the Trustees in office.
Decision making	Requests for funding are reviewed by the Trustees and decisions relating to grants and donations require the agreement of a majority of Trustees. Given the small number of grants anticipated, the Trustees are of the view that the current governance structure is the most appropriate.
Related parties	The Trustee Turcan Connell (Trustees) Ltd is the Trustee company of Turcan Connell who provide legal and accounting services to the Trust for which fees are charged. In the period to 31st March 2025, Turcan Connell fees amounted to £6,642.00 (including VAT) (2024 £5,747.40) of which £600.00 was outstanding at the year end (2024 £600.00).
Employees	The Trust has no employees (2024 None). The Trustees engage Turcan Connell to undertake the administration of the Trust, remuneration for which is recorded in the financial statements.
Management	All Trustees are active in the management of the Trust.

Reference and administrative Details

Scottish Charity Number	SC037122	
Address	Turcan Connell Princes Exchange 1 Earl Grey Street EDINBURGH EH3 9EE	
Trustees appointed by deed/assumption	[redacted]	
Advisers	Solicitors Turcan Connell Princes Exchange 1 Earl Grey Street EDINBURGH EH3 9EE	Independent auditors Whitelaw Wells Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors 9 Ainslie Place EDINBURGH EH3 6AT
	Bankers Bank of Scotland 2nd Floor Citymark 150 Fountainbridge Edinburgh EH3 9PR	

Statement of Trustees responsibilities in respect of the financial statements

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require the trustees to prepare a statement of financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Trust and of its results for that period.

In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and,
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to assume that the Trust will continue on that basis.

The above noted legislation also requires the Trustees to be responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Trust to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Financial statements preparation

The Trustees confirm that the financial statements for the period ended 31st March 2025 have been prepared so as to comply with current statutory requirements, the Charity SORP and the Trust's own governing document.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on

Date 13th October 2025

[redacted]

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of
The Alerce Trust
For the year ended 31st March 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Alerce Trust for the year ended 31st March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019) and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Trusts's affairs as at 31st March 2025 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs UK) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Trust's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The other information comprises the information in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Report of the Trustees';
- Proper accounting records have not been kept; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out on page 5, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of
The Alerce Trust

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Auditors.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Irregularities that result from fraud are inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error.

From enquiries of those charged with governance, it was determined that the risk of material misstatement from fraud was low with little scope for fraud to occur. Our audit testing is designed to detect material misstatements from fraud where there is not high level collusion.

Our audit testing was designed to detect material misstatements from other irregularities that result from error where there is not high level concealment of the error. In this regard the following audit work was undertaken: applicable laws and regulations were reviewed and discussed with management; senior management meeting minutes were reviewed; internal controls were reviewed; and journals were reviewed. From this audit testing it was determined that the risk of material misstatement in this regard was low.

We carried income testing and expenditure testing, including grants payable, which was designed to identify any irregularities as a result of simple mistakes or human error. From this audit testing it was determined that the risk of material misstatement in this regard was low.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Auditors.

This report is made solely to the Trust's members and trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Trust's members and trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Trust and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Whitelaw Wells.

Whitelaw Wells
Statutory Auditor
9 Ainslie Place
Edinburgh
EH3 6AS

13th October 2025

Whitelaw Wells is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

THE ALERCE TRUST
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Current Assets			
Cash on deposit and in hand		3,550,745.35	3,955,363.33
Debtors	2	7,820.22	-
		3,558,565.57	3,955,363.33
Less:			
Current Liabilities			
Amounts due in less than twelve months	3	(2,400.00)	(2,400.00)
		(2,400.00)	(2,400.00)
Net current assets		3,556,165.57	3,952,963.33
Net Assets		3,556,165.57	3,952,963.33
Represented by:			
Unrestricted funds		3,556,165.57	3,952,963.33
		3,556,165.57	3,952,963.33

The notes on pages 11 to 13 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on

Date 13th October 2025

[redacted]

THE ALERCE TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

	Notes	Total 2025	Total 2024
Income and endowments from:			
Investments	4	76,814.25	66,064.58
Total Income		76,814.25	66,064.58
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities			
Donations	5	(464,811.21)	(315,000.00)
Support and governance costs	6	(8,800.80)	(7,589.40)
Total expenditure		(473,612.01)	(322,589.40)
Net (expenditure) and net movement in funds		(396,797.76)	(256,524.82)
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward		3,952,963.33	4,209,488.15
Total funds carried forward		3,556,165.57	3,952,963.33

The notes on pages 11 to 13 form part of these accounts.
All funds are unrestricted in both the current and previous years.

THE ALERCE TRUST
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash used in operating activities (below)	(481,432.23)	(322,589.40)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Interest received	76,814.25	66,064.58
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(404,617.98)	(256,524.82)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2024	3,955,363.33	4,211,888.15
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2025	3,550,745.35	3,955,363.33

RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE)
TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITES

	2025	2024
Net (expenditure) for the year	(396,797.76)	(256,524.82)
(as per the Statement of Financial Activities)		
Adjustments for:		
Interest received	(76,814.25)	(66,064.58)
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	(7,820.22)	-
Net cash used in operating activities	(481,432.23)	(322,589.40)

1 Accounting policies

a) Financial statements preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the : Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (second edition issued October 2019 and effective 1 January 2019) and the Financial Repor 0 applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The Trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Trustees have assessed the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern and have reasonable expectation that the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

b) Income

Investment income is included in the financial statements in the year in which the Trust becomes entitled to it, it can be reliably determined and there is probability of receipt.

Donations are included in the financial statements together with associated gift aid, where applicable, when the Trustees have been advised of the donation with notification of both amount and intended settlement date.

c) Expenditure

Expenditure is included in the financial statements on an accruals basis and recognised in full as soon as a constructive obligation exists, the sums payable can be reliably measured and there is probability of payment.

A provision for a multi-year award is recognised at its present value where settlement is due over more than one year from the date of the award, there are no unfulfilled conditions and the effect of the discounting is material. In the current economic climate the Trustees consider a discount rate of 2% to be appropriate.

d) Support and governance costs

Support costs are the costs associated with the direct management of the charity.

Governance costs are the costs of compliance with the statutory and regulatory requirements of the charity.

Fees charged by Turcan Connell for legal and accounting services are included in the financial statements as follows:
Governance (accountancy costs) - 25%
Support (legal and administrative costs) - 75%
These are recorded in support and governance costs in the Statement of Financial Activities

Audit fees are recorded in support and governance costs in the Statement of Financial Activities

All other support and governance costs are recorded in the Statement of Financial Activities as appropriate.

As the charity does not provide services directly but makes grants to other organisations, support and governance costs are not allocated against individual grants or donations.

e) Grants

Grants payable are payments to third parties in furtherance of the charitable objects of the Trust. In the case of an unconditional grant offer this is accrued once the recipient has been notified of the grant award. The notification gives the recipient a reasonable expectation that they will receive the one-year or multi-year grant. Grants awards that are subject to the recipient fulfilling performance conditions are only accrued when the recipient has been notified of the grant and any remaining unfulfilled condition attaching to that grant is outside of the control of the Trust.

Grants authorised to be paid in respect of the accounting year or future years are provided for in the financial statements.

Provisions for grants are made when the intention to make a grant has been communicated to the recipient.

f) VAT

The Charity is not registered for VAT purposes and all VAT incurred is therefore irrecoverable. Where applied, VAT is included as part of the expense.

g) Financial instruments

Financial instruments comprise financial assets and financial liabilities which are recognised when the Trust becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial instruments are classified as "basic" in accordance with FRS102 and are accounted for at amortised cost using the effective interest method. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash flows over the life of the financial assets or liability to the net carrying amount on initial recognition. Discounting is not applied where the effect is immaterial. Financial assets at cost comprise cash and debtors. Financial liabilities comprise accruals and future grant commitments.

2 Debtors	2025 £	2024 £
Accrued Interest	7,820.22	-
	7,820.22	-

3 Creditors	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts due within twelve months		
Whitelaw Wells	1,800.00	1,800.00
Turcan Connell	600.00	600.00
	2,400.00	2,400.00

4 Investment Income	2025 £	2024 £
Bank Interest	76,814.25	66,064.58
	76,814.25	66,064.58

5 Charitable activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Grants and donations		
Genuine Progress Index Atlantic Society	23,176.53	-
CHEM Trust	50,000.00	-
The Nature Conservancy	391,634.68	-
Bush Heritage Australia	-	200,000.00
Coigach Heritage	-	15,000.00
Special Needs & Parent Support (Yorkshire) CIO	-	100,000.00
	464,811.21	315,000.00

Analysis			Grants to institutions	
	Total number 2025	Total number 2024	Total amount 2025 £	Total amount 2024 £
Community Development	0	1	-	100,000.00
Environmental Protection or Improvement	3	2	464,811.21	215,000.00
			464,811.21	315,000.00

6 Support and governance costs

		2025 £	2024 £
Support costs			
Administration		4,981.50	4,310.55
Other support costs		358.80	42.00
		5,340.30	4,352.55
Governance costs			
Accounting	1,660.50		1,436.85
Audit Fee	1,800.00		1,800.00
Bank Audit Letter	-	3,460.50	
		8,800.80	7,589.40

7 Related party transactions

Payments totalling £6,642.00 (2024 £5,747.40) have been made to Turcan Connell for their acting as Solicitors and for administering the Trust of which £600.00 (2024 £600.00) was outstanding at the year end. Turcan Connell (Trustees) Ltd is the Trustee company of Turcan Connell. The Trust has no employees (2024 Nil).

8 Trustees' Expenses

No fees or expenses have been paid to the Trustees (2024 None). All Trustees act gratuitously.

9 Contingent Obligations

The Nature Conservancy
The Trustees have entered into an arrangement with The Nature Conservancy to fund the acquisition and development of land at Pucheguin, Chile for conservation purposes.
The first payment of US$500,000 under the agreement was made in July 2024 however the second and final payment of US$500,000 is conditional upon the Nature Conservancy securing other funding and making progress towards acquiring the remainder of the land being offered.

APPENDIX

TURCAN CONNELL (TRUSTEES) LIMITED
DIRECTORS REPORT EXTRACT

Directors and their interests

The Directors who held office during the year ended 31st July 2024 were as follows :

[redacted]