

APPENDIX 1

OSCR

Scottish Charity Regulator

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	1	Jan	2025	To	31	Dec	2025

Reference and administration details

Charity name	East Lothian Countryside Volunteers		
Other names charity is known by	ELCV		
Registered charity number	SC044495		
Charity's principal address	75 Phillimore Square		
	North Berwick		
	EH39 5FP		Postcode

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	John Hardy	Chair	From 07/06/2023	ELCV AGM
2	Terry Page	Secretary	From 12/03/2021	ELCV AGM
3	David Quarendon	Treasurer	From 30/09/2023	ELCV AGM
4	Paul Ince		From 07/06/2023	ELCV AGM
5	Zoe Goldstone		From 07/06/2023	ELCV AGM
6	Harry Blackley		From 30/09/2024	ELCV AGM
7	Peter Quinn		From 25/10/2025	ELCV AGM 2025
8	Ron Tuck		From 25/10/2025	ELCV AGM 2025
9	Joyce Stephens		From 19/01/2026	ELCV Trustees meeting
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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
Valerie Brown	Up to 1 October 2025
Paul Bevan	From 30/09/2024 to 5/3/2026

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document	Incorporated body within SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
Trustee recruitment and appointment	Trustees are recruited on a voluntary basis from amongst the wider pool of countryside volunteers (who carry out practical maintenance tasks, which form the basis for the group's creation). Two additional members were appointed as trustees at the October 2025 AGM. An additional trustee was co-opted at a recent trustees meeting

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes	Our mission is to support, promote and expand the contribution of volunteers in protecting and enhancing the East Lothian countryside, its wildlife, heritage and accessibility for the wellbeing of our communities and all the people of East Lothian.
Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects	– Provide manpower for conservation and maintenance work, including the core paths in East Lothian – Raise funds to finance such work, whether carried out by volunteers or contractors – Continue the Giant Hogweed Eradication programme

Achievements and performance

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

Trustees and Membership

Following the recent membership renewal check, the charity now has 228 registered volunteer members. Trust activity in 2025 was broadly the same as previously, although there was disappointment when a major grant application fell short. The Trustees met six times during the year. We engaged closely with the Countryside Ranger service and acknowledge their assistance.

The AGM was held on 25 October 2025, at the conclusion of the annual volunteers' meeting. There we appealed for new members to become Trustees, to maintain a better gender balance, and one of our countryside volunteers has agreed to observe our next Trustees' meeting with a view to joining the Board.

We have a website and Facebook page to publicise and promote our work and is further described in the rangers "Mud In Your Eye" quarterly magazine for volunteers and interested people.

Projects and Funding

- Over the year volunteers contributed around 8,000 hours of countryside maintenance and conservation within our 8 local volunteer groups, including individual path warden monthly checks. See the large range of volunteer activities at www.elcv.org.uk/tasks.

– External funding of £498 was earned from volunteers collecting Typha seedheads at Aberlady NNR and North Berwick Law marsh. These seedheads are used by the company Ponda to manufacture eco-friendly padding jackets.

– The Friends of Musselburgh Links were wound up and donated their remaining funds of £552 to ELCV, to be used in the Musselburgh area.

– The botanical survey of North Berwick Marsh was completed, and the £650 invoice paid

– The invoice of £1,958 for the remaining work on the Pencraig path was paid

– Tools for Musselburgh were funded for £1064

– Although funding was agreed with Be Green Community Wind Park, the project to construct a less-able ramp at Whitesands Bay for water and beach access was not approved by NatureScot and we have reluctantly withdrawn the application.

– Replacement of information boards at Pencraig Hill, John Muir Country Park and Pencaitland Railway Walk are all on-going.

– A funding application has been researched and submitted for a path surfacing and fencing project north of Tynninghame village.

– We have engaged with two major projects:

- 1) Responsible dog behaviour particularly towards coastal breeding waders and wildfowl
- 2) The path survey on N Berwick Law (funded for £8,000 by N Berwick Trust, arranged through ELCV) has indicated considerable damage from public use and considerable funding will be needed. We remain committed to help see these repairs take place.

– Volunteer spotters and landowners completed year 7 of our Giant Hogweed Eradication programme on the River Tyne, and year 5 on the River Esk. See the report showing our successes at

www.elcv.org.uk/hogweed

– We are expecting to have input into the allocation of revenue from a probable future tourist tax in East Lothian.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

- Unrestricted surplus funds of £3053 were held by the charity at year-end. This is a decrease of £1233 compared to the previous year, despite outgoings of £1700.
- Restricted funds at year-end totalled £552, destined for any suitable project in the Musselburgh Links area.
- The charity has no ongoing commitments, so only needs to maintain a positive balance.

Details of any deficit

None

Donated facilities and services (if any)

The ownership of the Aberlady hub, which was a zero-value asset, was handed over to the ELC in July.

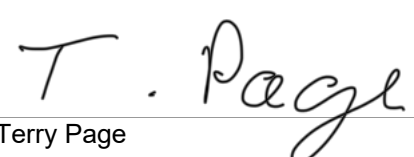
Other optional information

None

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s) <i>OSCR will accept digital or typed signatures</i>		
Full name(s)	John Hardy	Terry Page
Position (e.g. Chair)	Chair	Secretary
Date	4 July 2026	18 July 2026