Registration number SC049374

The Heather Trust

Trustees' report and financial statements

for the year ended 31st December 2025

The Heather Trust

Trustees' report
for the year ended 31st December 2025

The Board presents their report along with the financial statements of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2025. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) 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 published on 16 July 2014 (as updated through Update Bulletin 1 published on 2nd February 2016).

Objects and Activities

The Heather Trust is governed by its Constitution adopted on 9 May 2019. The Trust changed its legal status during 2019 to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporate Organisation (SCIO). The Trust's vision is to see 'sustainable, resilient moorland for the benefit of everyone', and its mission is to develop and promote sustainable, resilient, moorlands through:

- Exploring common ground through facilitation and collaboration;
- Recognising and responding to challenges relating to carbon management, climate change and biodiversity loss;
- Identifying and highlighting the opportunities to advise on and improve understanding and sensitive management of natural capital in our uplands;
- Engagement and representation across all groups, including government, who have an interest in heather moorland;
- Education and demonstration (based on research, experience and good practice).

Achievements and Performance

The past 12 months have been very productive for The Heather Trust through targeted events across the UK, delivering and sharing seminal research, political and media engagement as well as educational outreach.

Key achievements

Launching the findings of our Heather Futures research project - We took this research on the road and delivered a series of events across the UK to share the important findings. This allowed us to brief policy makers in both Westminster and Holyrood as well as stakeholders and media across the country. In brief, this research has proven how much moorland we are losing every year, what the causes are and why this is important. The project can now form the basis of future research projects and help guide sound policy and land management practices.

The Heather Trust Big Day Out - In association with the North York Moors National Park we organised and delivered a full day of presentations, a site visit and networking opportunities at Goathland for over 50 attendees. Our follow-up survey showed that two-thirds of respondents reported being 'very satisfied' with the event and almost half saying it 'exceeded expectations'. Importantly, 91.7% said they would attend again and 100% said they would recommend the event to a colleague or friend. This level of endorsement reflects the event's success in fostering meaningful connections and delivering valuable content.

Our AGM was held online, for the second year, allowing for a wider audience to attend. All Board members eligible for re-election stood for office for another term and were re-elected. We benefited from two excellent presentations from Trustee Robert Benson and Co-owner of the Northumberland Honey Co, Luke Hutchinson on the subject of heather beetle.

In November we hosted the Wildfire Ready event in partnership with Pasture for Life at Rottal Estate, Angus. This joint event designed to build knowledge, encourage discussion and support practical action on wildfire management for farmers, land managers and advisors.

Trustees' report
for the year ended 31st December 2025

The Heather Trust was confirmed as organiser of the 2026 UK Wildfire Conference on behalf of the England and Wales Wildfire Forum and began work on this international event.

We began work to establish the Women's Upland Network and conducted a sector-wide survey into the experiences of women working in upland environments. We created a Founders Group and laid foundations for a dedicated support and leadership network while also identifying strong demand for training, networking and professional development opportunities.

Publication of Heather Munro's Race Against the Flames - We published our first children's book and launched it at two events - in London and Edinburgh. This book gently explains the risks to our fragile rural landscapes and biodiversity from wildfire. Proceeds from the sale of the book directly benefit the Trust and our partners, the Scottish Gamekeeper's Association, and educational workshops will continue in 2026.

Annual Review

Following its refreshed design in 2024, the Annual Review was designed in-house again and distributed both digitally and in print form in December. We benefitted from contributions from a range of authors on subjects as diverse as wildfire, deer management, bracken control and books.

Over the past year, we have also achieved the following:

In April 2025, the Lekkie & Brekkie black grouse outing was held at Abercairny Estate in Perthshire and brought together 20 land managers, conservationists, researchers and professionals.

In May 2025, the Heather Trust Spring Auction took place online, with more than 80 individuals participating in this vital fundraiser and helping to realise almost £23,000, an increase of £6,000 on 2024.

In June 2025, the Heather Trust ladies lunch was held at the Kirkstyle Inn in Northumberland and attended by 40 professionals, business women and land managers.

In July 2025, the Scottish Game Fair reception took place at Scone Palace in Perth and welcomed over 50 land managers, professionals, business people, NGOs and rural stakeholders.

In September 2025, the Heather Trust Big Day Out was held in the North York Moors National Park and attended by over 50 land managers, NGOs, charities and professionals.

Between May and October 2025, the Heather Futures research roadshow visited Edinburgh three times, County Durham, London twice, including the Royal Highland Show and Scottish Game Fair, Holyrood and Westminster, reaching over 100 conservationists, professionals, NGOs, farmers, politicians and landowners.

In November 2025, the Wildfire Ready workshop with Pasture for Life took place at Rottal Estate in Angus and brought together over 40 land managers, farmers, NGOs, professionals, gamekeepers and firefighting professionals.

In December 2025, Heather Munro's Race Against the Flames book launches were held in London and Edinburgh, attracting over 60 conservationists, professionals, land managers and gamekeepers.

Sectoral Engagement

The Trust is actively involved in a wide range of stakeholder groups, forums and engagement activities. It was instrumental in helping to re-establish the Uplands Alliance stakeholder forum in England. It is also an active member of the Scottish Bracken Working Group, a Government-led group focused on managing the problem of bracken in our landscapes. The Trust participated in NatureScot's engagement workshops to help create a new Corporate Plan. It is an active member of Scotland's Moorland Forum, which is managed by NatureScot, and of Rural Environment Land Managers, a stakeholder forum in Scotland. It also participated in the Highland Adapts Highland Climate Change Risk and Opportunity Assessment. The Trust is an active member of the Scottish Wildfire Forum and chairs its communications sub-group. It is also an active member of the England and Wales Wildfire Forum and is helping to organise the 2026 UK Wildfire Conference. The Trust is an active participant in the Muirburn Code Working Group, helping to shape the Code and associated licence. It is a member of Working for Waders, which aims to support and boost wading bird numbers in the UK. The Trust also contributes to Moorland Management Best Practice by helping to rewrite and edit codes of practice. In 2025, it presented on the work of the Trust at three of Scotland's Moorland Groups and attended Women in Agriculture events.

Research

Future Moors / Heather Futures 2

During 2025 we discussed the possibility of partnering with GWCT to develop an ambitious new research project designed to quantify the ecosystem services delivered by traditional moorland management. Building on the Heather Trust's Heather Futures research, this project will use digital mapping tools and ecological models, to explore how moorlands, their wildlife and the services they provide, from flood control to carbon storage, could change under different climate and policy scenarios. We continue to plan this project with a view to securing funding in the near future.

Beating Bracken Project

We received initial funding to deliver a new research and demonstration programme, working in partnership with the James Hutton Institute. Working on an estate in North Perthshire, this project will become a national focal point for practical, reliable, and affordable bracken control. Funding outreach continues into 2026 to enable delivery of the project which is designed not just for research, but for open demonstration. Members and partners will be invited for knowledge-sharing events as trials progress and contribute to a more coherent national approach.

Heather Beetle and Honey Production

Initial discussions were held with the Northumberland Honey Co to scope out the potential of a research project which we hope will answer some of the many questions over heather beetle and its impact across many industries, including honey production. Discussions will continue in 2026.

The Heather Trust

Trustees' report
for the year ended 31st December 2025

Financial Review

The Board submits the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025. There was an overall deficit for the year of £69,123 as a result of a deficit on unrestricted funds of £62,010 and a deficit on restricted funds of £7,113. A gain on investments of £1,764 decreased the overall deficit to £67,359.

The 31st December 2024 accounts showed a deficit for the year of £28,085, with the gain on revaluation of investments of £1,382 decreasing the deficit for the year to £26,703.

The aim is to run the Trust's finances to achieve a surplus on the operating costs each year, but the Board approves the funding of several projects, which reduces the surplus or takes the accounts into deficit. This cost of unfunded projects is reported to the Board.

Reserves Policy

The Board of Management intends that projects should be self-funding, wherever possible. Any surplus for the year will be carried forward as part of the Income Fund, which is an unrestricted fund. It is intended that in the event of a significant drop in funding, the reserves held by the Trust would enable it to continue with its activities for at least 3 months, to allow the funding to be replaced or activities altered.

Risk Management and Review

The Board of Management has examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the Trust faces. All appropriate steps to mitigate these have been taken.

Investment Strategy

A balance is retained in the Trust's current accounts to cover working expenditure. Surplus funds have been invested in the McInroy & Wood Income Fund.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Heather Trust is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, governed by its Constitution. The Constitution provides for a Board of Management ("the Board") that shall consist of between 5 and 12 members, and one member will be elected as Chairperson and one as Vice Chairperson, a Treasurer and/or Secretary may also be elected. The quorum for members' meetings is five and for Board meetings is four. At each AGM, one third of the charity Trustees elected/appointed shall retire from office - but shall then be eligible for re-election. The Board may at any time appoint any member or non-member to be a charity Trustee.

Board Meetings

Up to four meetings are held each year. In 2025, meetings were held in March, July, October (update meeting) and November. The Trust also has an Audit & Risk sub-group of the Board which gives more detailed scrutiny to financial and other related matters. This group met in February and July.

The Heather Trust

Trustees' report
for the year ended 31st December 2025

Staffing

Chloe Thornton joined as a staff member in January as Marketing, Digital & Events Manager, working four days per week. We retained Jimmy Jr Caysip as a contractor, providing digital marketing and IT support for one day per week. Chloe announced her intention to start maternity leave at the beginning of January 2026.

The Trust provided an internship for one student from Heriot Watt University over the summer months. Claire McGhee provided support for our Women's Upland Network, in particular the audience survey which has provided useful information to augment funding applications.

Reference and Administrative Information

Professor Davy McCracken	(President)
Katrina Candy	(Director)
Viv Gill	(Chair)
Dr Colin Shedden	(Vice-Chair/Treasurer)

The Board of Management (Charity Trustees)
Roger Burton
Robert Benson
Richard Cooke
George Dodds
Dr Emily Taylor
Hamish Waugh
Dr Andreas Heinemeyer

Registered Office
PO Box 7713, Perth, PH2 1NA

Charity Reference
SC049374 (Scotland) The organisation converted from an unincorporated association to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 11th June, 2019.

Bankers
Bank of Scotland, Thornhill, Dumfriesshire

Solicitors
Lindsays, W.S., Caledonian Exchange, 19A Canning Street, Edinburgh, EH3 8HE

Independent Examiner
Mr S. D. Harman, BA, CA
Carson & Trotter, Chartered Accountants, 123 Irish Street, Dumfries DG1 2PE

The Heather Trust

Trustees' report
for the year ended 31st December 2025

Trustees' Responsibilities in Relation to the Financial Statements

The Charity Trustees (Board of Management) are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Scotland requires the Charity Trustees to prepare financial statements for each year, which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

-Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
-Observe the method and principles in the applicable 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;
-Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operational existence.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information.

Independent Examiners

Mr S.D. Harman of Messrs Carson & Trotter, Chartered Accountants has expressed his willingness to be appointed, and a resolution appointing him for the ensuing year will be submitted to the Annual General Meeting.

This report was approved by the Board at a meeting on 24th June 2026 and signed on its behalf.

V. Gill
Chair

C. Shedden
Vice-Chair

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Heather Trust

I report on the accounts of The Heather Trust for the year ended 31st December 2025 as set out on pages 8 to 15.

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) (a) to (c) 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 Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). 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:

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 (as amended); and

   -to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations (as amended);

   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.

Mr S D Harman, BA CA
Carson & Trotter
Chartered Accountants
123 Irish Street
Dumfries
DG1 2PE

25th June 2026

The Heather Trust

Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31st December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Income and endowments from					
Donations and legacies	**2**	55,555	-	55,555	20,034
Charitable activities	**3**	31,650	-	31,650	187,036
Investments	**4**	3,661	-	3,661	2,061
Total Income		90,866	-	90,866	209,131
Expenditure on					
Raising funds	**5**	3,118	-	3,118	38,823
Charitable activities	**6**	149,758	7,113	156,871	198,393
Total expenditure		152,876	7,113	159,989	237,216
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses on investments		(62,010)	(7,113)	(69,123)	(28,085)
Net gains/(losses) on investments		1,764	-	1,764	1,382
Net income/(expenditure)		(60,246)	(7,113)	(67,359)	(26,703)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		(60,246)	(7,113)	(67,359)	(26,703)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total Funds Brought Forward		114,383	42,400	156,783	166,577
Total Funds Carried Forward	**13**	54,137	35,287	89,424	139,874

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Heather Trust

Balance sheet
as at 31st December 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Investments	9		82,274		126,849
Current assets					
Debtors	10	4,668		10,426	
Cash at bank and in hand		8,640		29,974	
		13,308		40,400	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(6,158)		(10,466)	
Net current assets			7,150		29,934
Net assets			89,424		156,783
The funds of the charity:					
Designated Funds					
Capital Fund	13		-		73,698
Contingency Fund	13		77,000		-
Potential Employee Liability Fund	13		-		15,000
The Big Day Out	13		1,404		-
Spring Auction	13		27,753		-
Lekkie & Brekkie	13		243		-
Wildfire Ready Event	13		2,033		-
Unrestricted Funds	13		(54,296)		25,685
Restricted Funds	13		35,287		42,400
Total charity funds			89,424		156,783

These financial statements were approved by the board of management on 24th June 2026 and are signed in their behalf by:-

V. Gill
Chair

C. Shedden
Vice-Chair

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31st December 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Accounting Convention. The Accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with applicable accounting standards including Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 (as updated through Update Bulletin 1 published on 2nd February 2016) and the Financial Reporting Standard 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 FRS 102.
The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern.

b) All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.
Income is credited at the dates of receipt, except for subscriptions, grants and donations received in advance, which are credited in the year in which they fall due.
Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank. Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

c) The Trust has charitable status and is exempt from taxation. The Trust is not registered for VAT.

d) Income Tax on sums received under the Gift Aid Scheme has been brought in to the Statement of Financial Activities as recoverable from H M Revenue & Customs.

e) Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.
All management and administration expenses are stated on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings.
Grants payable are payments made to third parties in the furtherance of the charitable objects of the Trust.

f) General funds are unrestricted funds, which are available for use at the discretion of the Board of Management in furtherance of the objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Unrestricted funds include designated funds where the trustees, at their discretion, have created a fund for a specific purpose.

g) Investments are stated at market value at the Balance Sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

2. Donations and Legacies

	2025 Unrestricted Funds £	2025 Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
Grants:-				
Grants	-	-	-	5,700
Donations	39,783	-	39,783	3,368
Subscriptions	15,772	-	15,772	9,034
Tax recovered on Gift Aid	-	-	-	1,932
	55,555	-	55,555	20,034

Income from donations and legacies was £55,555 (2024 £20,034), all of which was unrestricted (£15,384 unrestricted in 2024).

3. Income from Charitable activities

	2025 Unrestricted Funds £	2025 Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
Auction Proceeds	22,648	-	22,648	16,720
Events Income	-	-	-	72,812
Project Income	4,775	-	4,775	85,853
Advertising Revenue - Annual Report	1,975	-	1,975	1,628
Event Sponsorship	2,252	-	2,252	10,023
	31,650	-	31,650	187,036

Income from charitable activities was £31,650 (2024 £187,036) all of which was unrestricted (£120,033 unrestricted in 2024).

4. Investment income

	2025 Unrestricted Funds £	2025 Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
Dividends received	3,661	-	3,661	2,061
	3,661	-	3,661	2,061

Total investment income was £3,661 (2024 £2,061) all of which was unrestricted (£2,061 unrestricted in 2024).

5. Raising funds

	2025 Unrestricted Funds £	2025 Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Expenditure £	2024 Total Expenditure £
Administration fees	3,118	-	3,118	38,823
	3,118	-	3,118	38,823

Expenditure on raising funds was £3,118 (2024 £38,823) all of which was unrestricted (£38,666 unrestricted in 2024).

6. Charitable Activities

	2025 Unrestricted Funds £	2025 Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Expenditure £	2024 Total Expenditure £
Administration	6,179	612	6,791	11,675
Staff & Contractor costs & expenses	128,277	5,342	133,619	127,342
Bank Charges and Interest	841	-	841	1,121
Annual Report and AGM	-	-	-	123
Meetings and Events Expenses	10,023	1,159	11,182	53,856
Independent Examiner's Fee	1,641	-	1,641	1,576
Legal and professional fees	2,797	-	2,797	2,700
	149,758	7,113	156,871	198,393

Expenditure on charitable activities was £156,871 (2024 - £198,393) of which £7,113 was restricted and £149,758 unrestricted (£168,484 unrestricted in 2024).

7. Trustees remuneration and expenses

No Board Members received payments as contractors during the year (2024 - £Nil).

8. Staff Note

The number of persons employed by the Trust during the year amounts to 2 (2024 - 2).

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31st December 2025

9. Investments

	2025 £	2024 £
Market value at 31st December 2024	126,849	123,406
Unrealised Gain/(Loss) on investments	5,425	3,443
Realised Gain	-	-
Withdrawal proceeds	(50,000)	-
Market value at 31st December 2025	82,274	126,849
Investments at cost	41,770	67,907
The following investments are held:		
McInroy & Wood Income Fund units	2,505	4,072

10. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
General debtors	5,068	13,777
Bad debt provision	(400)	(3,351)
	4,668	10,426

11. Creditors

	2025 £	2024 £
Accruals	2,398	8,455
Other creditors	3,760	2,011
	6,158	10,466

12. Analysis of Net Assets Among Funds

	Unrestricted General Funds £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Investments	82,274	-	-	82,274
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)	(136,570)	108,433	35,287	7,150
Net Assets at 31st December 2025	(54,296)	108,433	35,287	89,424

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31st December 2025

13. Movements in Funds

	At 1st January 2024 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Gain/Loss investments £	Transfers £	At 31st December 2025 £
Unrestricted Funds						
Designated Funds						
Capital Fund	73,698	-	-	-	(73,698)	-
Employee Fund	15,000	-	-	-	(15,000)	-
Contingency Fund	-	-	-	-	77,000	77,000
Wildfire Conference 2024	-	331	(6,141)	-	5,810	-
Wildfire Conference 2026	-	-	(407)	-	407	-
The Big Day Out	-	3,204	(1,800)	-		1,404
Spring Auction	-	27,923	(170)	-		27,753
Lekkie & Brekkie	-	800	(557)	-		243
Annual Review 2025	-	1,975	(1,986)	-	11	-
Wildfire Ready Event	-	2,063	(30)	-		2,033
General Funds	25,685	54,570	(141,785)	1,764	5,470	(54,296)
Restricted Funds	42,400	-	(7,113)	-	-	35,287
Total Funds	156,783	90,866	(159,989)	1,764	-	89,424

Purposes of Designated Funds

The Contingency Fund has been set aside by the Board of Management for the purpose of holding three months' current operating costs and a financial cushion against promised funds.

Purposes of Restricted Funds

The restricted fund has been established for the Heather Futures project, which the Trust has lead in 2024 and 2025. The associated income and expenditure are being managed separatly, and the balance held as a restricted reserve - this amounts to £35,287.