Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

Annual Report 2025 - 2026

Part 1: Introduction

1. **Trust Name:**
   "Lockerbie Wildlife Trust".

2. **Registered Address:**
   c/o Mr. James Rae (Eskrigg Reserve Manager)
   12 Douglas Terrace
   Lockerbie
   DG11 2DZ

3. **Contact Telephone Number:**
   07739 987 009

4. **Email Address**
   jim.rae2012@gmail.com

5. **Charitable Status:**
   A Registered Scottish Charity (SC 005538) since November 1989.

6. **Objects of the Trust (as in the Trust's Constitution):**
   a) To encourage wildlife conservation.
   b) To manage such conservation sites as the Trust accepts responsibility for.
   c) To promote the education and understanding of all age groups regarding local wildlife and its management.
   d) To encourage the use of Trust properties, for educative recreation.
   e) To do all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects or any of them.

7. **Application of Funds (as in the Trust's constitution):**
   The funds of the Trust shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the foregoing objects.

8. **For further information visit the Trust's website:**
   www.lockerbie-wildlife-trust.co.uk

Part 2 – Trust Events and Reserve Activities

1. The 37th AGM

This was held as a public meeting at Lockerbie Town Hall and as a Zoom Meeting on Wednesday 22nd October 2025. The meeting was followed by an Open Forum.

2. LWT Committee Meetings

The Management Committee held meetings on 04.09.25, 07.10.25, 11.11.25, 02.01.26, 13.01.26, 04.02.26, 10.02.26, 24.03.26, 05.05.26, 23.06.26 and 28.07.26.

3. Reserve Planned Activities, Community Events and Visits

Sept. 2025

The Grey Squirrel Control Officer for the SSRS caught and dispatched 10 Grey Squirrels during the month.

Oct. 2025

8th Visit by Lockerbie Primary 5/6:
Pond Dipping, Woodland Walk, Forest Classroom, Clock Orienteering & Mandala Construction

Nov. 2025

5th Planned visit by Lockerbie Primary 6 cancelled due to bad weather.
7th Raising of the Poppy Cascade
9th LWT visit to WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre
15th Stall at the switch-on of the Lockerbie Christmas Lights
28th & 29th LWT Christmas Stall at TESCO, Lockerbie

Dec. 2025

12th Meeting with representatives from Russell Roof Tiles at the Reserve to receive a donation of £4,701.53.

Jan. 2026

None

Feb. 2026

11th Visit by Mount Cameron Primary P7:
Intro to Forestry, Bird ID, Stream Sampling, Pond Dipping and Clock Orienteering
22nd Annual Nut Race
27th Visit by Lockerbie Primary P6
Intro to Forestry, Bird ID, Stream Sampling, Pond Dipping, and Clock Orienteering

Mar. 2026

4th Visit by Hallside Primary P7: Pond Dipping, Clock Orienteering, Forest Trail & Woodland Birds
10th Visit by Collin Primary: Pond Dipping, Clock Orienteering, Forest Trail & Woodland Birds

Apr. 2026

19th Reserve Volunteer Maintenance Sunday
Timber structures treated with Algon and then wood preservative

May 2026

1st Installation of bench seat in memory of Gerry Mitchell
12th Lockerbie Academy pupils carried out biological fieldwork
17th Jim Rae took part in "Walk the Walk" to raise funds for the Reserve
19th Lockerbie Academy pupils carried out biological fieldwork
22nd Alison Wyllie -"Forest Babies" event
23rd Day trip to "Dalskairth Wildlife Reserve" and "Kippford Community Nature Reserve"
26th Moth Trapping
29th Alison Wyllie -"Forest Babies" event

Jun. 2026

13th Lockerbie Gala Parade
16th Visit by Lockerbie Beavers - Pond Dipping
30th Visit by Lockerbie Brownies - Pond Dipping and Woodland Minibeasts
The Grey Squirrel Control Officer, for the SSRS in Annandale caught and dispatched 3 Grey Squirrels during the month.

Jul. 2026 - Maintenance work only

Aug. 2026

2nd Preparatory visit to Drumbrugh Moss and Campfield Marsh Nature Reserves
3rd Preparatory visit to South Walney and Hodbarrow Nature Reserves
18th LWT trip to Drumbrugh Moss and Campfield Marsh Nature Reserves
19th LWT trip to South Walney and Hodbarrow Nature Reserves

4. Speaker Programme for 2025-2026

Nov. 19 "Reviving the Heart of Southern Scotland" Adrian Kershaw

Dec. 17 "Tarras Valley Nature Reserve: The First Four Years" Kat Mayer

Jan. 21 "On the Solway Firth" Nic Coombey

Feb. 18 "Wild at Heart - A Photographer's Journey" Gordon Rae

Mar. 18 "Annan Harbour Project" Alan Thomson

5. Reserve Management

a. Maintenance Hours

During the past year the total number of **volunteer man-hours** spent doing **maintenance work** within the Reserve, the access routes, car park and round the woodland walk was **603 hours**.

The Trust thanks the following regular volunteers:

Jim Rae (Manager)	Sybille Rae	Sam Pattinson
Derek Campbell	Gordon Reid	Jaydin Scott

The Trust would like to thank the following occasional volunteers:

Gary McVittie	Victoria Kenyon	Malcolm Couralt
Robbie Mitchell	Alex Cotton	Richard Arnott
Dixon Kirk	Xander Kirk	Shana Kirk
Scott McLean	Norah Muirhead	David Orr

Unfortunately, this year there were no youngsters helping as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award.

b. Daily opening, closing and cleaning routine - Minimum total = 626 hours.

The Reserve Manager spent a minimum of 1 hour opening up each morning and 1/2 hour locking up each evening. He also spent a minimum of one and a half hours per week doing a Dog Poo Patrol and emptying the dog bins. When Jim was on holiday Gordon Reid kindly did the above.

c. Pondlife

It has been quite a difficult year for much of the pondlife. The lack of rain in the summer of 2026 meant that there was no water entering the pond and the water level was very low. However, it did not dry up altogether. Pond sampling throughout the year showed the invertebrate populations to be healthy. The Stickleback numbers were good and the Kingfishers came up from the river Annan regularly, except during their breeding season.

However, it was a very poor year for the wildfowl. The Mute Swans that came from the South of Scotland Wildlife Hospital in March 2025 both left. The male in September 2025 and the female at the beginning of January 2026. There is a healthy population of Mallard in the Reserve. However, none of the young survived this year. Either their eggs were taken by the crows or the young were taken by the Heron. The resident Moorhen lost all their young and so did six pairs of visiting Greylag Geese.

A pair of Little Grebes had three attempts at breeding. Their first nest was in the edge of the reeds and it was not possible to see how many eggs hatched. They then built a raft on the pond and 6 chicks were spotted on the pond on the 2nd of July.
However, the chicks all disappeared within 3 days. The Little Grebes tried a third time, using the raft, and one chick hatched around the 9th of August. By then the male Little Grebe had disappeared. The female looked after the young one for a few days but then it disappeared. The female flew off 3 days later. So, no young wildfowl survived this year.



Little Grebe feeding its young one

d. Woodland Birds and Mammals

The woodland birds bred well, with many young birds seen coming to the feeders. All the usual mammals were seen from time to time. A female stoat brought her two young ones to the Reserve on several occasions, much to the enjoyment of visitors.



Southern Hawker

e. Insects

The Black Darter was photographed in June. During July, the Common Blue Damselflies were seen frequently and the Emerald a few times.
In August other species of Damselfly and several species of Dragonfly were spotted, including the Southern Hawker and Common Darter.

For a variety of reasons, usually weather-related, only one moth trapping event took place this year, in May. One new species was identified - the Pale Tussock. From April till the beginning of July, when the Lady's Smock was in bloom, the Orange-tip butterfly was common. In August there was a good variety of seasonal butterflies.



Pale Tussock

f. Grey and Red Squirrels

The number of Red Squirrels visiting the Reserve declined again this year and there are some days when none are seen. As mentioned in previous reports, most of the commercial forest adjacent to the Reserve has been harvested in recent years and the Red Squirrel population has moved to the woods to the south of the Reserve.
A few still visit from time to time. Twice in the past year there have been Grey Squirrels reported in areas close to the Reserve. The Grey Squirrel Control Officer dispatched 10 in the autumn of 2025 and another 3 in the late spring of 2026.

g. Woodland Walks

Access to several sections of the woodland walks was limited at various times of the year due to normal forest operations by the landowners, Castlemilk and Corrie Estates. However, all are now accessible except two tracks through an area of Scots Pine next to the Reserve where trees were blown down by Storm Eowyn in January 2025. One track was a pedestrian walkway and the other an emergency access route for a digger, if needed in the Reserve - both remain closed.

6. Promoting Lockerbie Wildlife Trust and Eskrigg Reserve

a. Jim Rae gave talks about the Reserve to the following groups during the year:

17 Sep. 25	An Open Meeting at Lockerbie Town Hall
9 Oct. 25	Moffat SWI at St Andrews Church Hall, Moffat
6 Nov. 25	Carronbridge Rural at Carronbridge Village Hall
13 Nov. 25	Langholm Rotary Club at the Eskdale Hotel, Langholm
17 Nov. 25	Lockerbie and District Rotary Club at the Somerton Hotel, Lockerbie
4 Dec. 25	Lockerbie Ladies at Lockerbie Town Hall
15 Jan. 26	Applegarth and Sibbaldbie Rural at Lockerbie Town Hall
25 Mar. 26	Dryfemount Care Home residents at Dryfemount, Lockerbie

b. Jim Rae carried out a collection in Lockerbie High Street on Lockerbie Gala Day.

7. Communicating with Members and the General Public

a. Each month the Eskrigg Nature Reserve Bulletin is posted on the Lockerbie Wildlife Trust website (www.lockerbie-wildlife-trust.co.uk) and sent to members and friends of the Trust who have expressed a wish to be kept informed in this way.
b. All coming events will continue to be posted on the Trust's website. Many thanks to Sybille Rae for the many hours she spends keeping the website updated and accessible from computers, tablets and mobile phones.
c. People can also follow what is happening at Eskrigg Reserve from time to time on **Facebook** - 'Eskrigg Nature Reserve'.

8. Visitors to the Reserve

The average number of visitors to the Reserve via the Reserve car park per day and the approximate totals for the past 12 months were:

Sep. 2025 - 35/1,054	Oct. 2025 - 42/1,313	Nov. 2025 - 37/1,116	Dec. 2025 - 45/1,400
Jan. 2026 - 40/1,223	Feb. 2026 - 34/961	Mar. 2026 - 36/1,130	Apr. 2026 - 34/1,007
May 2026 - 49/1,512	Jun. 2026 - 41/1,215	Jul. 2026 - 52/1,604	Aug. 2026 - 74/2,300

There are still a fair number of people entering and leaving the Reserve and Woodland Walks via the Cemetery and Hallburn entrances and, until there are people counters installed at these sites, we won't have an accurate estimate of visitor numbers.

The total number entering and leaving via the Reserve car park during the last 12 months was 15,835 compared to 14,465 last year and 21,373 the year before. One reason for the reduced number of visitors in recent years has been the increase in forestry operations as more and more of the neighbouring forest has reached maturity and been harvested and the areas replanted. There have been several knock-on effects.

Firstly there has been a drop in the number of Red Squirrels visiting the Reserve as a result of there being less and less mature coniferous woodland leading to a reduction in their habitat and food supply. The main reason some people visit the Reserve is to see the Red Squirrels.

Secondly, with the increase in forestry work going on at various times of the year, access has been reduced and there have been periods when there have been fewer visitors to the site.

Thirdly, with the clear-felling of the trees, much more light is reaching ground level and there is much more herbaceous plant growth. This has meant that much more management time has been needed to keep the sides of the 3 kilometres of paths strimmed and tidy. With more work and fewer volunteers there has been less time available for running educational activities - so fewer people on site.

The management committee are presently looking at ways of reversing the trends.

9. Summing up

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust and Eskrigg Reserve have had a challenging year. There are very few Red Squirrels visiting the Reserve nowadays due to a great reduction in their neighbouring forest habitat. The daily visit by the Grey Heron and the activities of the Crows have resulted in no young wildfowl this year.

For reasons explained earlier, there is more and more maintenance work required each year but no additional volunteers to help carry out the work. This has meant less time for community and educational activities.

Committee meetings continue to be held successfully on Zoom. Monthly meetings from September to March were held at Lockerbie Town Hall as hybrid meetings so that those who could not attend in person could join via Zoom.

10. Thanks

Thank you to everyone who has supported Lockerbie Wildlife Trust over the past year:

Thanks to Jamie and Katryn Buchanan-Jardine and their staff on Castlemilk and Corrie Estates.

Thanks to all the individuals, firms and organizations that have supported the Trust:

Alison Wyllie (Early Years Scotland)
Alistair Gordon (retired woodwork teacher)
Colin Taylor Plumbing, Lockerbie
Dryfe Vets, Lockerbie
GLS Fencing, Lockerbie
James Jones & Sons Ltd., Lockerbie
Lockerbie Academy
Lockerbie Scout Group
R.C. Dalgliesh Ltd., Lockerbie
Russell Roof Tiles, Lochmaben
Scott McLean Joinery, Lockerbie
Solway Agriculture Ltd., Lockerbie
Steven Dalgliesh (SSRS), Lockerbie
Alan Thomson, Blacksmith, Lockerbie
Ark Vets Lockerbie
D&W Ironmongery, Lockerbie
Express Tyre Service, Lockerbie
Grange Quarry Ltd., Lockerbie
Linn Print, Lockerbie
Lockerbie and District Rotary Club
Lockerbie Town Hall
Ross Gemmell, Tree Surgeon, near Dumfries
Sandy Fleming - Sandy's Cab, Lockerbie
Scott Young & Sons Ltd
South of Scotland Wildlife Hospital, Parkgate
Tesco Superstore, Lockerbie

Particular thanks to all the volunteers who have given their time to assist with maintenance work and the members of the Trust's Executive Committee for their support, encouragement and hard work again this year.

Jim Rae (Eskrigg Reserve Manager)



Date: 1st September 2026

Signed by the Chairman on behalf of the LWT Trustees at the 2026 AGM:



Date: 21st October 2026

Part 3 – Treasurer's Report

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

Scottish Charity Number SC005538

Receipt and Payments Account Summary						
2024–2025 & 2025–2026						
Trust Address: 12 Douglas Terrace, Lockerbie, DG11 2DZ						
	General Account		Project Account		Summary	Summary
Receipts	**2024-2025**	**2025-2026**	**2024–2025**	**2025–2026**	**2024–2025**	**2025–2026**
	from 01.09.24 to 31.08.25	from 01.09.25 to 31.08.26	from 01.09.24 to 31.08.25	from 01.09.25 to 31.08.26	from 01.09.24 to 31.08.25	from 01.09.25 to 31.08.26
Memberships	£878.00	£889.00	-	-	£878.00	£889.00
Donations/subscriptions	£11,201.30	£6,322.76	-	-	£11,201.30	£6,322.76
Donations – Posts	£295.97	£224.59	-	-	£295.97	£224.59
Donations – Ch. boxes	£75.00	-	-	-	£75.00	-
Nut race	£606.00	£695.00	-	-	£606.00	£695.00
Sponsored Walk	£790.00	£290.00	-	-	£790.00	£290.00
Talks	£18.00	£114.00	-	-	£18.00	£114.00
C.V.Motors	£250.00	-	-	-	£250.00	-
Raffle	£215.80	£105.00	-	-	£215.80	£105.00
Sale of calendars	£1,830.00	£2,240.00	-	-	£1,830.00	£2,240.00
Calendar sponsors	£895.00	£965.00	-	-	£895.00	£965.00
Sale of Christmas Cards	£59.50	£102.00	-	-	£59.50	£102.00
Sale notelets, tags, etc.	£135.00	£74.00	-	-	£135.00	£74.00
Sale of logs	£190.00	-	-	-	£190.00	-
Gala Day Collection	£300.03	£665.00	-	-	£300.03	£665.00
Xmas at Tesco	£1,479.49	£1,412.03	-	-	£1,479.49	£1,412.03
Nut Competition	-	£70.00	-	-	-	£70.00
Thomson Wreaths	-	£194.00	-	-	-	£194.00
PayPal receipts	£1,026.05	£1,541.97	-	-	£1,026.05	£1,541.97
Total	**£20,245.14**	**£15,904.35**	**£0.0**	**£0.0**	**£20,245.14**	**£15,904.35**

Signed by the Chairman on behalf of LWT Trustees:

Date: 21/10/26

Signed by Independent Examiner:

Date: 17/9/26

Accounts adopted at the A.G.M on 21st October 2026.

	General Account		Project Account		Summary	Summary
Payments	**2024-2025**	**2025-2026**	**2024-2025**	**2025-2026**	**2024-2025**	**2025-2026**
	from 01.09.24	from 01.09.25	from 01.09.24	from 01.09.25	from 01.09.24	from 01.09.25
	to 31.08.25	to 31.08.26	to 31.08.25	to 31.08.26	to 31.08.25	to 31.08.26
Cheques 218/296 cleared	£165.02	-	-	-	£165.02	-
D&W Ironmongery	£425.33	£284.07	-	-	£425.33	£284.07
Donation to L. Academy	£40.00	£40.00	-	-	£40.00	£40.00
Solway Agriculture	£2,508.00	£3,526.40	-	-	£2,508.00	£3,526.40
D&G Fire*	£145.80	**	-	-	£145.80	-
D & G Media	£117.50	£111.00	-	-	£117.50	£111.00
A Thomson & Son	£465.60	-	-	-	£465.60	-
Joiner (S. McLean)	£1,024.14	£104.50	-	-	£1,024.14	£104.50
Postage*	£12.75	**	-	-	£12.75	-
G.L.S. Fencing	£64.17	-	-	-	£64.17	-
R.C. Dalgleish	£1,325.79	£1,305.65	-	-	£1,325.79	£1,305.65
Rent*	£100.00	**	-	-	£100.00	-
Langholm In. Speakers	£80.00	£50.00	-	-	£80.00	£50.00
Insurance premium	*	£816.69	-	-	*	£816.69
Res. man's exp.(inc*&**)	£2,445.82	£690.49	-	-	£2,445.82	£690.49
Linn Print	£3,496.82	£4,808.51	-	-	£3,496.82	£4,808.51
M & W Tarmac. Con.	-	-	£1,320.00	-	£1,320.00	-
Defib. Warehouse	-	£294.00	-	-	-	£294.00
J. Paterson & Sons	-	£1,543.20	-	-	-	£1,543.20
BoS service charge	-	£66.13	-	£0.52	-	£66.65
Transfer to Proj. A/C	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**£12,416.74**	**£13,640.64**	**£1,320.00**	**£0.52**	**£13,736.74**	**£13,641.16**
Receipts minus payments for year	**+£7,828.40**	**£2,263.71**	**-£1,320.00**	**-£0.52**	**£6,508.40**	**£2,263.19**
Balance brought forward	£6,936.10	£14,764.50	£10,319.12	£8,999.12	£17,255.22	£23,763.62
Balance in Bank Acc. to carry forward	**£14,764.50**	**£17,028.21**	**£8,999.12**	**£8,998.60**	**£23,763.62**	**£26,026.81**

* &** Note: These items were paid by the Reserve Manager and claimed back in the Reserve Manager's expenses.

Signed by the Chairman on behalf of LWT Trustees: J. Rae

Date: 21/10/26

Signed by the Independent Examiner:

Date: 17/9/26

Accounts adopted at the A.G.M on 21st October 2026.

Part 4 - Summing up

We finished this year with a credit balance of £17,028.21 in the General Account and £8,998.60 in the Project Account - a total of £26,026.81. The General Account is for the day to day running of the Trust and Eskrigg Nature Reserve. The Project Account is there in case of emergencies or for special projects as the name suggests.

I would like everyone who made donations during the year for their support.

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

Honorary Members

Kathryn Buchanan-Jardine - President

Duncan Ford - Honorary Vice-president
Graham Ovens - Honorary Vice-president

Executive Committee Members and Trustees for 2025–2026

Chairman - David Hughes
Vice Chairman, Minute Secretary and IT Coordinator - Sybille Spägele
IT Support Officer - Gordon Reid
Events Secretary - Norah Muirhead
Membership Secretary and Reserve Manager - Jim Rae
Treasurer - Karen Miller
Other Committee Members - Kathryn Hughes, Kaye Borthwick

Kathryn Hughes had been Treasurer for Lockerbie Wildlife Trust since 2010. She retired from the post at the end of 2025 having looked after the Trust's Accounts for over 15 years. On behalf of the Trust members, I would like to thank her for her impeccable book keeping and valued assistance during that time.

Karen Miller volunteered to take on the role but wasn't entirely sure what the post would entail. A handover period was agreed - between the committee meetings on the 2nd of January and 5th of May 2026.

This report has been prepared by me on behalf of the Trustees. I wish to thank our new Treasurer, Karen Miller, for her meticulous book keeping and the clarity of the Receipts and Payments statements.

I would like to thank the members of the Lockerbie Wildlife Trust, all volunteers and the local businesses that have provided financial and in-kind support. Thank you all.

I commend this report to you, the members of the Lockerbie Wildlife Trust.

Jim Rae (Eskrigg Reserve Manager):



Date: 11 September 2026

Signed by the Chairman on behalf of LWT Trustees at the 2025 AGM:



Date: 21 October 2026

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

I am reporting on the accounts of the Lockerbie Wildlife Trust (SC005338) for its financial year that ended on 31st August 2026, and which are set out in the accompanying Trustees' Annual Report.

The charity's trustees were responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity trustees considered that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations did not apply. It was my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters came to my attention.

My examination was carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures 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.

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 9 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.

Name: JOHN C STEWART

Signature:

Relevant Professional qualification/professional body: CPFA

Address: HIGHVIEW, MARJORIEBANKS, LOCHMABEN
LOCKERBIE DG11 1QH

Date: 17/9/26