OSCR

jamesmilne
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

The River Don Trust
Scottish Charity Number SC036015

Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended

30th September 2025

The River Don Trust
Scottish Charity Number SC036015

Report of the Trustees

The trustees submit their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30th September 2025. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts, and comply with 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 16th July 2014.

Objectives and activities
The River Don Trust (RDT) has been initiated in order to deliver an achievable action program based on our Fishery Management Plan. (FMP)

Objectives
To conserve and enhance all species of freshwater fish and their environment within the inland and coastal waters of the River Don.

To advance the education of the public, or any association, company, local authority, administrative or government agency or public body or representative body in:

1) The understanding of aquatic ecosystems, including their fauna, flora and economic or social activity, and the river catchment management.
2) The need for, and the benefits of, protection, conservation, rehabilitation, and improvement of aquatic environment.

Achievements and performance
Under the terms of the Service Level Agreement with the River Dee Trust, they continue to progress the FMP on behalf of the Don Board and Trust.

There are continuing concerns with the lack of returning adult salmon over recent seasons and numbers in 2025 were again extremely disappointing, although near drought conditions was a major factor this year, with less than half our average annual rainfall resulting in huge restrictions on fish being able to enter the river or swim upstream . The lack of water this season only exacerbates the issues caused by lack of returning adult salmon on the majority of rivers in the UK. Once again, The Don has been given a conservation grading of Category 3. Angling effort on the Don was extremely low from both local and outside anglers. Local angling clubs continue to be affected financially due to a decline in membership numbers.

The River Don Trust continues to operate in collaboration with The River Don Board and The River Dee Trust, assisting where possible with the roll out of the Don Fishery Management Plan.

The removal of man-made obstacles on the River Don and its tributaries remain an important target for both Trust and Board, in a bid to increase and improve the available spawning areas for our returning salmon and sea trout.

The Alaskan Denil Fish Pass in the Newe Weir has improved the passage upstream of spawning salmon, however not in all flows and it is of concern that redds are to be found in the depleted stretch below the Fish Pass. There remains further work required to improve the results. Board staff continue to monitor the results, with further work being planned, so as to maximise the numbers spawning above the Weir. Ideally the depleted stretch should be screened off to avoid the above happening.

Removal of the obstruction on the Esset Burn is heading towards a solution, hopefully to be completed in 2026, however the obstruction on the Goval Burn remains.

Williamston Weir remains on the River Ury and all of the above remain priorities for the River Don Board and Trust.

Achievements and performance (continued).
The Trust remains committed to assisting in the restoration of our catchment which will include tree-planting, wetland creation, flood control and incorporation of leaky dams and large wooden structures into schemes where they will be effective. There is urgent need to give shade to many of the upper Don spawning tributaries, in order to reduce temperatures during long hot spells. This year's exceptionally long dry period underlines the effects of climate change. As reported last year, this is a nationwide problem effecting our salmon and sea trout species but also potentially our wild brown trout.

The Trust continues to work towards employing a restoration manager in order to realise our ambitions to enable restoration improvements throughout our catchment, as well as assisting in fund raising towards the Watershed Initiative described above and to that end we continue to work with Fisheries Management Scotland and other entities in order to drive this forward.

We applied for funding in Spring 2025, in order to begin the above process but sadly were unsuccessful in our bid and therefore shall be putting in further applications as and when the suitable opportunities arise. The intention is to address habitat and climate change induced issues throughout our catchment on a phased basis. This will initially involve survey work and ideally digital mapping where required. We are already working towards carrying out these two priorities.

Invasives control continues to be a massive task, and The Trust intends to contribute towards this on an ongoing basis, throughout the catchment, mainly in fund raising. Meanwhile SISI funding continues which is having a huge impact on the problem areas. Having completed a short film on invasives along with the launch of the new Don website the Trust hopes to generate funding in order to assist in the ongoing treatment of invasives, as well as perhaps finding volunteers to join the teams which already operate within the catchment. This is becoming even more important as climate change results in less time available to carry out the necessary controls on the considerable mileage of banks, both on mainstem and tributaries. The Ury remains a particular challenge and is included in the above-described funding scheme.

The objectives regarding invasives remain as follows:
- Education regarding the issues and dangers that invasives can bring to anybody who comes in contact with them, particularly Giant Hogweed.
- Community based projects to the benefit of all who exercise in and enjoy the rivers and burns in our catchment.

The Trust will continue its work on the River Don Website, with regular updates once we have our restoration manager in place and survey/project work begins. The Trust is in touch with Bug Life regarding survey work and now beginning to work on water quality in the Aberdeen area.

Financial review
As at 30th September 2025, the Trust has unrestricted funds of £15,352.

Reserves policy
The Trust policy from September 2025 onwards will be to assist the River Don Board in achieving the objectives of its Fishery Management Plan in particular regarding the improvements to the River Don ecosystem, educational elements of the plan and raising funds towards both of these, as well as towards the control of invasives within the River Don catchment. In terms of reserves, the policy will continue to be one of raising funds for specific projects, with expenditure restricted to these and basic running costs.

Structure, governance and management
Governing document
The River Don Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The company is registered as a charity with OSCR. Membership of the company, both ordinary and associate, is open to individuals and organisations who support the objects of the company.

Report of the Trustees (contd.)

Appointment of Trustees
The Trustees may appoint or co-opt further Trustees as required as well as inviting membership of the River Don Trust. It is with great pleasure that The Trust has been joined this year by two new Trustees. We continue to actively look to strengthen our team further, with new members or Trustees holding appropriate skills.

Organisation and related parties
The Trustees as the Board of Directors administer the River Don Trust. The Trust continues to have a close relationship with the Don District Salmon Fishery Board, with 2 of the directors being elected a Fishery Board member.

Strategy
The strategy of The Trust remains to assist where suitable, with the implementation of the current and future River Don Fishery Management Plans and to improve the ecology within the River Don catchment area.

Company information

Directors/Trustees:	R. Fyffe S. Martin B. Martin P. Adderton G. Hough
Registered office:	Corsindae Sauchen Inverurie Aberdeenshire AB51 7PP
Accountants:	James Milne Chartered Accountants 5 Bon Accord Square Aberdeen AB11 6XZ
Scottish charity number:	SC036015
Company number:	SC348749

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees 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 give 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 methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material 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 business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that 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, the Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and 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 included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

On behalf of the Trustees on April 22nd 2026

Richard Fyffe

Richard Fyffe
Trustee

Report by the Independent Examiner

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30th September 2025 which are set out on pages 6 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of directors and examiner
The company's directors 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. The directors consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) 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. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the company 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 directors 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 matters have come to my attention

1. which give 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 8 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.

David S. Minett CA

Partner
James Milne
Chartered Accountants
5 Bon Accord Square
Aberdeen
AB11 6XZ

27.4.26

The River Don Trust
Scottish Charity Number SC036015

Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 30th September 2025

	Note	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
Income and endowments from:			
Charitable activities		17,028	2,453
Total income		17,028	2,453
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	5	2,945	2,062
Total expenditure		2,945	2,062
Net (expenditure)/income		14,083	391
Transfers between funds		-	-
Net movements in funds		14,083	391
Total funds brought forward		1,269	878
Total funds carried forward		15,352	1,269

All funds are unrestricted

The River Don Trust
Scottish Charity Number SC036015

Balance Sheet
at 30th September 2025

	Note	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6		325		380
Current assets					
Debtors	7	570		497	
Cash at bank and in hand		14,967		882	
		15,537		1,379	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(510)		(490)	
Net current assets			15,027		889
Net assets			15,352		1,269
Funds					
Share capital	9		-		-
Unrestricted funds	10		15,352		1,269
			15,352		1,269

For the year ending 30th September 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:
- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with Section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Richard Co Fyffe

Richard Fyffe
Trustee

22/04/2026

Bernard Martin
Trustee

22/04/2026

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30th September 2025

1. **Accounting policies**

Status of the company
The River Don Trust is a company limited by guarantee of its members and does not have a share capital. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the company.

Accounting convention
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the provisions of FRS102, section 1A, "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Fixed assets
Fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation on the bases set out hereunder.

Depreciation
Depreciation is charged as follows -
Plant and machinery - 15% reducing balance

Incoming resources
Incoming resources from charitable trading activities are included in the financial statements when receivable.

Other incoming resources are included in the financial statements when receivable.

Resources expensed
Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs incurred by the company in the delivery of its activities and are included in the financial statements on an accruals basis.

Expenditure on support costs including accountancy fees and costs linked to the management of the company are included in the financial statements on an accruals basis.

Funds
With the adoption of the statement of recommended practice all income and expenditure is dealt with through the statement of financial activities. In the statement of financial activities, funds are classified as either restricted funds or unrestricted funds, defined as follows:

Restricted funds are funds subject to specific purposes which may be declared by the donor or with their authority.

Unrestricted funds are expendable at the discretion of the board in furtherance of the objectives of The River Don Trust.

Transfers are made between funds to release capital grants and also to clear any funds in deficit.

2. Operating surplus/(deficit)

	2025	2024
	£	£
Operating surplus/(deficit) is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of tangible assets	55	65
Independent examiner's fee	524	490

3. Trustee remuneration

None of the directors received any remuneration or reimbursed expenses during this or the preceding financial year.

4. Donations

The following donations were received totalling £17,028 (2024 - £2,453) to the unrestricted funds during the year:

Aberdeen District Angling Association
Fishpal
Nescan Hub Ltd
Don District Salmon Fishery Board

5. Direct charitable expenses

	Charitable Activities	Support	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£
Charitable expenses				
Project costs	846	-	846	-
Insurance	691	-	691	671
Accountancy	-	524	524	490
Bank charges	3	-	3	3
Subscriptions	565	-	565	801
General expenses	34	-	34	13
Computer costs	227	-	227	19
Depreciation	55	-	55	65
	2,421	524	2,945	2,062

6. Tangible fixed assets

	Equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1st October 2024 and 30th September 2025	4,698	4,698
Depreciation		
At 1st October 2024	4,318	4,318
Charge for the year	55	55
At 30th September 2025	4,373	4,373
Net book value		
At 30th September 2025	325	325
At 30th September 2024	380	380

All fixed assets are used for charitable purposes.

7. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Other debtors	-	-
Prepayments	570	497
	570	497

8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	510	490
Accruals	-	-
	510	490

9. Share capital

The company is limited by guarantee. It has no share capital.

10. **Unrestricted funds**

	2025	2024
	£	£
At 1st October 2024	1,269	878
Surplus for year	14,083	391
At 30th September 2025	15,352	1,269