

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts 2025

Table of Contents

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts 2025..... 1

Reference and Administration..... 3

Charity's Principal Address:..... 3

Trustees Who Managed The Charity In The Period 1st Jan 2025 To 31st December 2025..... 4

Structure, Governance, Management and Association..... 5

Objectives and Activities..... 6

Community Support..... 7

Achievements and Performance..... 9

Financial Review..... 10

Income..... 10

Expenditure..... 10

Chair's Report..... 11

Declaration..... 12

End Of Year Report 2025..... 13

Statement of Accounts..... 13

Independent Examiners Report (IER)..... 15

Reference and Administration

Charity Name:
North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team

Other Names Charity Is Known By:
NDSART; NDSRT

Charity Number:
1200541

Report for Period:
1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025

Charity's Principal Address:

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team, Unit 3 Hameldown Road, Exeter Road Industrial Estate, Okehampton, Devon, EX20 1UB

Trustees Who Managed The Charity In The Period 1st Jan 2025 To 31st December 2025

Our financial year is between two Annual General Meeting (AGM) periods, this results in multiple sets of Trustees, within one financial year.

All Trustees were appointed by vote AGM 2024; AGM 2025.

Set/ Trustee No.	Trustee Name	Office	Dates of Acting
1/1	James Watts	Chair	19.03.24 to 25.01.25
1/2	Harry Price	Secretary	19.03.24 to 25.01.25
1/3	Ian Perrior	Team Leader	19.03.24 to 25.01.25
1/4	Simon Applebee	Treasurer	19.03.24 to 25.01.25
1/5	David Canavan	Training Officer	19.03.24 to 25.01.25
1/6	Ben Shephard	Equipment Officer	19.03.24 to 25.01.25
1/7	Matthew Holland	Trustee WP	19.03.24 to 25.01.25
1/8	Megan Hansen	Trustee WP	19.03.24 to 25.01.25
1/9	David Goodwin-Hughes	Trustee WP	19.03.24 to 25.01.25
1/10	David Stoneman	Trustee WP	19.03.24 to 25.01.25
1/11	Catherine Davis	Trustee WP	19.03.24 to 25.01.25

2/1	James Watts	Chair	25.01.25 to 20.01.26
2/2	Megan Hansen	Secretary	25.01.25 to 20.01.26
2/3	Ian Perrior	Team Leader	25.01.25 to 20.01.26
2/4	Simon Applebee	Treasurer	25.01.25 to 20.01.26
2/5	David Canavan	Training Officer	25.01.25 to 20.01.26
2/6	Trevor Bishop	Equipment Officer	25.01.25 to 20.01.26
2/7	David Goodwin-Hughes	Trustee WP	25.01.25 to 20.01.26
2/8	Joe Bradley	Trustee WP	25.01.25 to 20.01.26
2/9	Catherine Ruth Davis	Trustee WP	25.01.25 to 20.01.26
2/10	Andy Collyer	Trustee WP	25.01.25 to 20.01.26
2/11	Harry Price	Trustee WP	25.01.25 to 20.01.26

WP – Without Portfolio

Structure, Governance, Management and Association

Type of governing document:
Constitution

How the charity is constituted:
Association

Trustee selection method:
Elected by members at the Annual General Meeting

Associations:
North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team is formed in association with Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team (Ashburton), Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team (Plymouth) and Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team (Tavistock) under the auspices of the Dartmoor Rescue Group. All five organisations are charities in their own right.

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team is affiliated to Peninsular Mountain and Cave Rescue Association (PenMaCRA) (Name during this Annual Return Period. Now formally: Peninsular Search and Rescue Association, 1197211) and Mountain Rescue England and Wales (MREW).

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team is to relieve suffering and distress amongst persons endangered by accidents or natural hazards, within moorland areas and urban environments; to provide arrangements for the secure and efficient search and rescue of any person or persons who are endangered; and to encourage moorland safety instruction and awareness through all sections of the community.

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team is a Mountain Rescue Team based in Okehampton, the gateway to the high moor of Dartmoor National Park. North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team has been active for over 50 years and is responsible for the search and rescue of missing and injured persons in and around the moor.

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team is a charity run by volunteers and funded mainly by public donations and grants. North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team provides a rescue service to areas other agencies cannot normally cover; in conditions they do not normally operate within. Our volunteers are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team is mobilised by the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary following a 999 call. We respond immediately, day or night and in all weathers and events.

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team is one of four teams that comprises the Dartmoor Rescue Group. Our base, in Okehampton, is ideally situated for access to the North of Dartmoor which contains the highest area of wilderness land, in Southern England. The high point is *High Willhays*, at 621 metres above sea level.

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team does much more than coming to the aid of hill walkers lost or in difficulty on Dartmoor. We also search in lowland, rural, and urban areas of Devon, Somerset and Cornwall for other missing people including the elderly, lost children, and despondent people.

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team work alongside other full-time emergency services such as the Police, Ambulance, Fire & Rescue services, and Coast Guard Agencies. On average it takes between 12 and 18 months of training for a trainee member to become a full, operational, member.

In order to remain operationally ready, North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team train frequently, at least weekly. Training focuses on many aspects of search and rescue - including navigation, casualty care, radio communication, search techniques, swift water rescue, and steep ground rescue. Team members come from all walks of life including teachers, retail workers, accountants, engineers, farmers, and Doctors. Each brings their own unique skills and abilities to enhance North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team's capability.

In recent years, North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team have developed a water and flood rescue capability, in response to an increase in flooding nationally. The end of 2022 saw the start of the development in our technical rope rescue capabilities and ensuring North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team have the capabilities to operate safely both in steep ground and vertical rescues.

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team currently operates four vehicles: three 110 Land Rover Defenders capable of carrying and conveying team members and equipment to anywhere they're needed. North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team also currently operates a Mercedes Sprinter (Van) (Incident Control Unit, ICU) used to manage searches and rescues from a RV point, from which team members deploy.

Community Support

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team continues to be a key part of the local community, whether that is providing safety cover or marshalling for events like town carnivals, sponsored walks, fell runs, car parking and 'Beating the Bounds'. In addition, North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team frequently host educational talks and presentations to all ages of the community, such as Army, Air and Sea Cadets, Beavers, Cubs and Scout groups, Schools and Women's Institute, at our rescue centre, to demonstrate our vehicles, first aid equipment, technical rescue equipment, and sharing advice and tips for out on the moors.

Every May is the annual Ten Tors Challenge run by the British Army, an event known as the UK's largest youth engagement program. As a team, we provide safety cover and rapid medical response for more than two and half thousand teenagers over the duration of the weekend.

We continue to provide support for those beyond our immediate local community, by supporting our neighbouring teams with callouts to North Devon, Cornwall, and Somerset.

Achievements and Performance

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team had 24 callouts in the 2025 financial period. Callout objectives ranged from: missing and/or despondent person(s), searches, ambulance assists, and attending major incidents. This involved searching for missing children, those with mental health needs, and more complex medical conditions; as well as those that were lost or injured. The team assisted other teams in the wider Southwest region.

Callouts were located from Barnstaple to Taunton to Launceston, in addition to our dedicated area covering a vast area of the South-West of England. Our Dog Handler's callouts ranged even further, covering the Southwest peninsula.
Team members were involved in callouts, training, and fundraising events, totalling more than 8500 volunteer hours.

Fundraising efforts enabled the team to replace the eldest Mountain rescue land Rover in the UK, as at the age of 32 years it was no longer viable to keep it serviceable.

Members continue to enhance their training, attending numerous courses. The team has new party leaders who manage individual search teams. Team members continue to enhance their skills & qualifications in many areas including medical, water & off-road driving.
In May the team helps enable the annual Ten Tors event both out on the moors & in the event control cell.

Financial Review

Income

Total Income: £71,380

Expenditure

Total Expenditure: £105,213

Chair’s Report

The Trustees' principal focus during 2025 has been ensuring that the Team remains equipped and prepared to provide an effective search and rescue service for many years to come. The most significant undertaking of the year has been the progression of a major vehicle renewal programme, representing one of the largest investments made by the charity in recent years. Following a detailed review of our operational requirements, the Team committed to the acquisition of two replacement Land Rover Defender vehicles whilst also agreeing to undertake a comprehensive refurbishment of our remaining operational Defender. This programme will provide the Team with three capable, reliable and modernised off-road rescue vehicles, ensuring that our volunteers can continue to reach casualties and search areas safely in some of the most challenging environments in the South West.

Delivering this programme has required considerable effort from members and trustees alike, including vehicle evaluation, technical planning, fundraising and engagement with grant providers and supporters. The generosity of our donors, the local community and funding organisations has been instrumental in enabling the Team to progress this ambitious project and strengthen our operational capability for the future.

Alongside this major investment, the Team has continued to maintain a high level of operational readiness. Our volunteers have responded to incidents across Dartmoor and the wider South West whilst committing substantial time to training and maintaining competence in the specialist skills required of a modern mountain rescue team. Continued work on training assurance, communications capability and operational procedures has helped ensure that the Team remains ready to respond whenever called upon.

The Trustees have also continued to review the charity's governance arrangements to ensure they remain appropriate for a growing and increasingly capable organisation. Building on previous work in risk management and governance, we continue to develop structures and processes that support good decision-making whilst remaining true to the volunteer spirit that underpins the Team.

As always, none of this would be possible without the commitment of our volunteers, the support of their families and employers, and the generosity of the communities we serve. The continued encouragement we receive through donations, fundraising support and community engagement gives us confidence that the Team is well placed to meet future challenges. The vehicle renewal programme in particular

represents a significant investment in the future of North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team and will help safeguard our ability to provide an effective emergency response for many years to come.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they approve the *Trustees' Annual* Report, for financial year 2025, as shown above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees:

James Watts
Team Chair

_____

Megan Hansen
Secretary

_____

Harry Price
Trustee WP

_____

Date: 27 October 2026

End Of Year Report 2025

Statement of Accounts

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name: North Dartmoor Search & Rescue Team | (No (if any)): 1200541

Receipts and payments accounts — CC16a

For the period from: 01/01/2025 To: 31/12/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	19,550	15,000	-	34,550	53,942
Grants	-	-	-	-	10,000
Collecting Boxes	966	-	-	966	1,877
Fundraising	7,217	-	-	7,217	786
Sales to members	-	-	-	-	70
Call out refunds	9,844	-	-	9,844	7,814
Collections	11,042	-	-	11,042	
VAT Refunds	2,218	-	-	2,218	9,456
Interest	5,543	-	-	5,543	5,796
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	56,380	15,000	-	71,380	95,741
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	56,380	15,000	-	71,380	95,741
A3 Payments					
Building	5,691	-	-	5,691	7,916
Vehicles	3,351	-	-	3,351	6,919
Project vehicles	19,245			19,245	-
Operational	11,562	15,000	-	26,562	48,523
Administration	72	-	-	72	263
Sales to members	-	-	-	-	-
Training	4,147	-	-	4,147	593
Fundraising	2,185	-	-	2,185	328
Sub total	46,213	15,000	-	61,213	65,537
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
		-	-	-	
Vehicles New Additions	44,000	-	-	44,000	
		-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	44,000	-	-	44,000	-
Total payments	90,213	15,000	-	105,213	65,537
Net of receipts/(payments)	(33,833)	-	-	(33,833)	30,204
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	175,494	-	-	175,494	-
Transfers On Conversion to CIO (from from	-	-		-	145,290
Cash funds this year end	141,661	-	-	141,661	175,494

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current Account	12,920	-	-
	Project Account	3,152		-

	Natwest Ki	1	-	-
	COIF	126,588	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	141,661	-	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Building		91,000	280,000
	Landrover			12,000
	Landrover - 27/05/2025		23,000	25,000
	Landrover - 17/11/2025		21,000	25,000
	Central Van		32,335	42,000
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Mr James Watts	
	Mr Simon Applebee	

Independent Examiners Report (IER)

For Period 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name: North Dartmoor Search & Rescue team		
On accounts for the year ended	31 December 2025	**Charity no (if any)**	1200541
Set out on pages	1 and 2 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* *Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:	SLW	**Date:**	31 March 2026
Name:	Mrs S L Watts		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	FCCA DChA		
Address:	Westcotts 7C Cranmere Road, Okehampton Devon EX20 1UE		

Section B	Disclosure
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).
Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	

BLANK PAGE

END OF DOCUMENT