

# **Berwickshire Marine Reserve (SCIO)**

**Charity Registration Number SC050016**



## **Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements Year ended 28 February 2025**



*Photos are the winning entries from the 2024 Berwickshire Marine Reserve “Splash In Competition”*

# **Berwickshire Marine Reserve (SCIO)**

## **Trustees' Report**

### **For the Year Ended 28 February 2025**

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 28 February 2025.

#### **Reference and administrative information**

Charity name:	Berwickshire Marine Reserve (SCIO)
Charity Registration Number (Scotland):	SC050016
Principal Office:	The Hippodrome Harbour Road Eyemouth TD14 5HT

#### **Trustees**



The Charity employs 2 members of staff and during the summer a number of temporary staff to assist with activities, 3 in summer 2024. The Charity utilises additional volunteers where appropriate.

#### **Bankers**

CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling

#### **Auditors**

Henderson Kildavaig, 17a Windmill Way, Ramparts Business Park, Berwick-upon-Tweed, TD15 1TB.

#### **Structure, governance and management**

The management of the charity is the responsibility of the Trustees.

#### **Recruitment and appointment of trustees**

Business and management skills are well represented amongst the Trustees. New trustees are sought by open advertisement, or individuals are approached to offer themselves for election.

# **Berwickshire Marine Reserve (SCIO)**

## **Trustees' Report**

### **For the Year Ended 28 February 2025 - continued**

#### **Objectives**

The objects of the Charity are to conserve the biodiversity of the coastal waters, to raise awareness of the marine environment through education and to promote responsible recreational use alongside sustainable fishery for the mutual benefit of all.

- (a) To sustain and, where possible, enhance the habitats, communities and species within the voluntary marine reserve.
- (b) To work closely with local (and, if appropriate for local outcomes, national) marine, fishery, conservation and wildlife groups, helping support their project plans and offering representation as and where possible.
- (c) To optimise the interpretation and education potential of the Voluntary Marine Reserve (VMR) to user groups and visitors.
- (d) To encourage informed and sympathetic recreational use.
- (e) To integrate management of the VMR and the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast European Marine Site.
- (f) To use the VMR to promote marine conservation and the need for sustainable use of the marine environment.

#### **Statement of public benefit**

The Trustees confirm they have complied with the duty in the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 to have due regard to the guidance issued by the OSCR concerning public benefit.

#### **Activities, achievements, performance and future plans**

During the year ended 28 February 2025 the Charity has successfully applied for grants from funders for several projects. Full details of all the projects undertaken in the year are given in Note 14 to the Financial Statements.

#### **Community Engagement and activities**

- Circa 5000 people have taken part in the activities during the year with 829 volunteers.
- Community Environmental Perceptions Survey - Launched in January with a university placement student, the survey collected 46 responses about local blue space concerns. Additional feedback was gathered during the Marine Education Centre's Easter opening through 20 anonymous interviews, interactive displays, and a suggestion box.
- Coastal Clean-ups: 33 events, 289 volunteers, data submitted to Marine Conservation Society.
- Nurdle Hunt: 1 event, 3 volunteers, contributing to the Great Global Nurdle Hunt.
- Intertidal Monitoring: 14 sessions, 86 volunteers, data submitted to NatureScot.
- WDC Shorewatch: 9 sessions, 87 volunteers, data submitted to Whale and Dolphin Conservation.
- Bioblitz Events: 3 events (11 activities), 358 volunteers.
- Invasive Species Removal: 2 sessions at Coldingham Bay with 19 participants.
- Volunteers Week - Five events were held, involving corporate groups (Borders Community Action, Farne Salmon, Skills Development Scotland, Plexus Corp), completing 3 beach cleans and contributing to Beachwatch data while introducing new audiences to coastal conservation.
- Marine Education Centre (MEC) - Hosted 3 public exhibitions during Easter and summer, attracting 3,353 visitors. Features included VR diving, jellyfish crafts, and a rockpool tank showcasing local species.
- 40th Anniversary of BMR - Held August 16–18, with 17 events in collaboration with 10 local partners, drawing 410 participants and securing BBC news and radio coverage.

# **Berwickshire Marine Reserve (SCIO)**

## **Trustees' Report**

### **For the Year Ended 28 February 2025 - continued**

- 3 outreach presentations (GoDiving show, local Ladies Guild, Berwick Education Association) attended by 83 participants, raising awareness of BMR's work.
- Seven boat tours with 48 participants aboard St Abbs Charters and Rib Rides St Abbs, highlighting seabirds and dolphin sightings in the Marine Reserve.
- Local geology (2 talks)
- British Divers Marine Life Rescue talk
- Environmental policy talk with Environmental Standards Scotland
- Cetacean presentation by NECP
- Coastguard talk on beach safety and ordnance
- Visits to St Abbs Marine Station, Eyemouth Marine, and the Scottish Seabird Centre
- Guided Walks & Wildlife Tours
- Seven guided nature walks with 38 participants, including Coldingham Brave Bayers.
- BMR's core volunteer numbers have grown by 23% over the year thanks to the Coastal Champions campaign, new activity opportunities, and volunteer-led input through regular catch-ups.

#### **Staffing**

- We recruited 3 Summer Marine Rangers in June 2024
- We have recruited a new Head Ranger post to manage the 2 Rangers and deliver the summer community outreach programme for summer 2025.

#### **Governance**

- We have an established Board of Trustees but would welcome additional applicants with relevant experience.

#### **Future Activity**

The BMR has ambitions to grow the organisation which could include exploring opportunities for commercialisation of the organisation, via the development of a permanent Marine Education Centre on Eyemouth Harbour and the creation of a range of visitor services.

We will recruit a Head Ranger and two Marine Rangers this Summer to deliver a programme of Marine Education Activities focused on visitors to the area. We will continue to deliver our conservation work with the engagement and involvement of the local community, organisations and businesses and will develop our community environmental leadership role to address the climate change crisis and to contribute to Net Zero ambitions.

#### **Financial review**

During the year ended 28 February 2025 the Charity had income totalling £69,955 (2024 - £76,605) of which £67,665 (2024 - £38,256) was restricted income. There has been expenditure of £89,157 (2024 - £104,323) of which £85,785 (2024 - £71,058) was restricted. This resulted in a deficit of restricted income of £18,120 (2024 deficit – £18,666).

Thank you to all who generously gave their time and gave funds to the Charity during the year.

# **Berwickshire Marine Reserve (SCIO)**

## **Trustees' Report**

### **For the Year Ended 28 February 2025 - continued**

#### **Reserves policy**

The reserves policy adopted by the trustees is to hold a minimal reserve sufficient to cover administrative expenditure for 6 months and all other reserves are funds held that are designated or to be designated for specific future projects.

#### **Investment policy**

The investment policy currently is to utilise low risk interest giving current accounts all compliant with the FSCS.

#### **Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the Financial Statements**

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

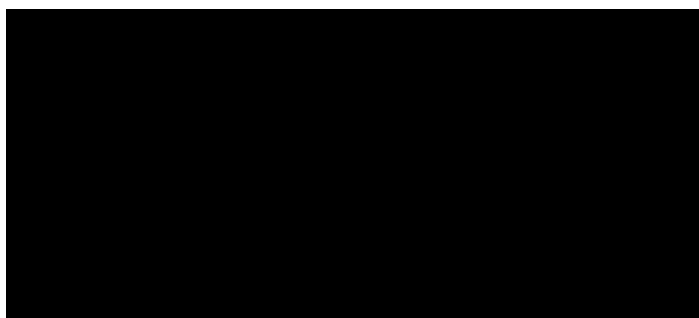
- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and the principles in the Charity SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue on that basis

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities and to provide reasonable assurance that:

- The Charity is operating efficiently and effectively
- Its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition
- Proper records are maintained, and financial information used within the charity or for publication is reliable
- The Charity complies with relevant laws and regulations

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the 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).

This report was approved by the Trustees on 1 September 2025 and signed on behalf of the Trustees by:



**Berwickshire Marine Reserve (SCIO)**  
**Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of**  
**Berwickshire Marine Reserve (SCIO)**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 28 February 2025 which are set out on pages 6 to 19.

**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. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (a) to (c) of the 2006 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.

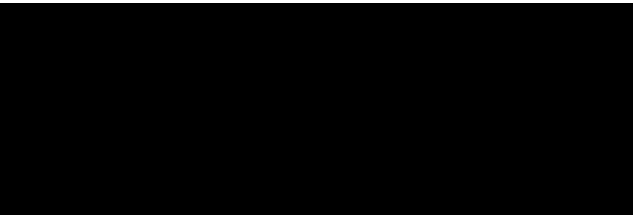
**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. 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
  - 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



Henderson Kildavaig Chartered Accountants  
17 Windmill Way  
The Ramparts  
Berwick-upon-Tweed  
TD15 1TB

1 September 2025

# Berwickshire Marine Reserve (SCIO)

Previously The St Abbs & Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve Committee

## Statement of Financial Activities

For the Year Ended 28 February 2025

	<i>Notes</i>	<i>2025</i> £	<i>2025</i> £	<i>2025</i> £	<i>2024</i> £
		<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
<b>Incoming Resources</b>	4				
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations		1,929	-	1,929	38,042
Other trading activities		227	-	227	152
Charitable activities		-	67,665	67,665	38,256
Investment income		134	-	134	155
<b>Total</b>		<u>2,290</u>	<u>67,665</u>	<u>69,955</u>	<u>76,605</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>	7				
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising Funds		36	-	36	282
Other trading activities		-	-	-	173
Charitable activities		2,962	85,785	88,747	103,700
Administration expenses		374	-	374	168
<b>Total</b>		<u>3,372</u>	<u>85,785</u>	<u>89,157</u>	<u>104,323</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		(1,082)	(18,120)	(19,202)	(27,718)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(1,082)</b>	<b>(18,120)</b>	<b>(19,202)</b>	<b>(27,718)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		28,198	33,428	61,626	89,344
Surplus / (Deficit) in year		(1,082)	(18,120)	(19,202)	(27,718)
Transfers		(5,138)	5,138	-	-
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	14	<u><b>21,978</b></u>	<u><b>20,446</b></u>	<u><b>42,424</b></u>	<u><b>61,626</b></u>

**Berwickshire Marine Reserve (SCIO)**  
**Previously The St Abbs & Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve Committee**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**As at 28 February 2025**

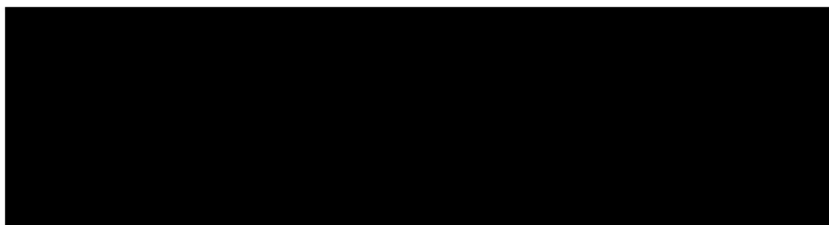
	<i>Notes</i>	<b>2025</b> £	<b>2024</b> £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	10	<u>2,070</u>	<u>4,030</u>
		<b><u>2,070</u></b>	<b><u>4,030</u></b>
<b>Current Assets:</b>			
Debtors	11	381	264
Cash at bank and in hand	12	<u>42,274</u>	<u>60,467</u>
<i>Total current assets</i>		<b><u>42,655</u></b>	<b><u>60,731</u></b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	<b>(2,301)</b>	<b>(3,135)</b>
<i>Net current assets</i>		<b><u>40,354</u></b>	<b><u>57,596</u></b>
<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>		<u>42,424</u>	<u>61,626</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b><u>42,424</u></b>	<b><u>61,626</u></b>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>			
Unrestricted funds	14	21,978	28,198
Restricted funds		<u>20,446</u>	<u>33,428</u>
<i>Total charity funds</i>		<b><u>42,424</u></b>	<b><u>61,626</u></b>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the 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).

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for the period in accordance with Regulation 10(1) (a) to (c) of the 2006 Accounts Regulations.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 1 September 2025 and signed on behalf of the Trustees by:



**Berwickshire Marine Reserve (SCIO)**  
**Previously The St Abbs & Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve Committee**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the Year Ended 28 February 2025**

**1. Basis of preparation**

a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, the 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), applicable accounting standards and Charity law.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

b) Fund accounting

- Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.
- Designated funds are the funds set aside by the Trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific purposes or projects.
- Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

**2. Accounting policies**

a) Recognition of Income

- Income is included in the Statement Of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
- There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.
- Donations received are accounted for in the period in which they are received and are disclosed in the funds in accordance with the donor's wishes.
- Grants receivable are accounted for in the period in which they arise and are allocated to the funds for which they were donated. In the case of performance related grants, income is only recognised to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance related conditions are met.
- Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.
- The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

# Berwickshire Marine Reserve (SCIO)

## Notes to the financial statements

For the Year Ended 28 February 2025

### Accounting policies (cont)

b) Resources expended

- Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.
- Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SoFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.
- Where there are no conditions attaching to the grant that enables the donor charity to realistically avoid the commitment, a liability for the full funding obligation is recognised.
- No material item of deferred income has been included in the accounts.

c) Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following rates:

- Computers & equipment 25% on cost

d) Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

e) Creditors

Creditors are recognised at the settlement amount due after allowing for any trade discounts due.

f) Pensions

Contributions in respect of the charity's defined benefit contribution pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities for the year in which they are payable to the scheme.

g) Taxation

In terms of corporation tax, the charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

### 3. Net incoming resources for the year

Is stated after charging:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Depreciation	1,959	2,121
Independent Examiner's remuneration	685	650
Property rental	4,065	6,520

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# Berwickshire Marine Reserve (SCIO)

## Notes to the financial statements

For the Year Ended 28 February 2025

#### 4. Analysis of income

	2025 £	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
<b>Donations and Gifts</b>				
Donations	1,929	-	1,929	38,042
<b>Other Trading Activities</b>				
Sales	-	-	-	78
Conference and similar activities	227	-	227	74
<b>Charitable Activities</b>				
Grants received	-	67,665	67,665	38,256
<b>Investment Income</b>				
Interest receivable and similar income:	-	-	-	-
Interest receivable on bank deposits	134	-	134	155
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>2,290</b>	<b>67,665</b>	<b>69,955</b>	<b>76,605</b>
For the year ended 29 February 2024	38,349	38,256	-	76,605

#### 5. Pension Costs

The charity operates a defined contribution scheme for members of staff. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity, being invested with insurance companies. Pension costs charged in the Statement of Financial Activities represent the contributions payable by the charity in the year. There was £150 accrued at the year-end (2024 - £210) representing pension costs payable.

#### 6. Taxation

The Charity is a registered charity and no provision is considered necessary for taxation.

# Berwickshire Marine Reserve (SCIO)

## Notes to the financial statements

For the Year Ended 28 February 2025

### 7. Analysis of expenditure

	2025 £	2025 £	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £
	Direct Staff Costs	Other Direct Costs	Support Costs (see note 8)	Total	Total
<b>Expenditure on raising funds:</b>					
Cost of marketing and publicity	-	-	-	-	455
For the year ended 28 February 2025	-	-	-	-	<b>455</b>
For the year ended 29 February 2024	-	455	-	-	455
<b>Expenditure on other trading activities:</b>					
Sales	-	36	-	36	-
Conference and similar activities	-	-	-	-	-
For the year ended 28 February 2025	-	<b>36</b>	-	<b>36</b>	-
For the year ended 29 February 2024	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities:</b>					
Project expenditure	-	16,480	7,644	24,124	20,719
Public & stakeholder engagement and education	61,715	570	2,338	64,623	82,981
For the year ended 28 February 2025	<b>61,715</b>	<b>17,050</b>	<b>9,982</b>	<b>88,747</b>	<b>103,700</b>
For the year ended 29 February 2024	74,051	18,266	11,383	-	103,700
<b>Expenditure on Administration:</b>					
Administration & Governance	-	-	206	206	-
Bank charges	-	-	168	168	168
For the year ended 28 February 2025	-	-	<b>374</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>168</b>
For the year ended 29 February 2024	-	-	168	-	168

Staff costs are mostly recoverable as part of the restricted funds and as staff do not maintain timesheets the element of governance and raising funds could not be determined.

# Berwickshire Marine Reserve (SCIO)

## Notes to the financial statements

For the Year Ended 28 February 2025

### 8. Support Costs

	2025 £	2025 £	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £
	Property & Insurance	Other admin Costs	Deprec iation	Total	Total
Project expenditure	3,574	-	-	3,574	3,450
Public & stakeholder engagement and education	(79)	4,528	1,959	6,408	8,101
Administration & Governance	-	206	-	206	-
Bank Charges	-	168	-	168	168
<b>Total Support Costs</b>	<b>3,495</b>	<b>4,902</b>	<b>1,959</b>	<b>10,356</b>	<b>11,719</b>

### 9. Staff Costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:-

	2025 £	2024 £
Salaries and wages	59,052	71,158
Employers national insurance contributions	-	-
Pension costs	1,100	2,893
	<b>60,152</b>	<b>74,051</b>

The Charity employed 3 permanent staff during the year until January 2025 when it reduced to 2 (2024 – 3) and 3 temporary staff for 12 weeks in the summer (2024 – 3).

None of the Trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with the charity or a related entity (2024 - Nil). No Trustees claimed expenses in the year (2024 - £Nil).

# Berwickshire Marine Reserve (SCIO)

## Notes to the financial statements

For the Year Ended 28 February 2025

### 10. Tangible Fixed Assets

	<b>Computers and Equipment £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost:</b>		
At 1 March 2024	27,058	27,058
Disposals	(1,034)	(1,034)
At 28 February 2025	<u>26,024</u>	<u>26,024</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>		
At 1 March 2024	23,028	23,028
Disposals	(1,034)	(1,034)
Charge for the year	1,960	1,960
At 28 February 2025	<u>23,954</u>	<u>23,953</u>
<b>Net Book Value</b>		
At 28 February 2025	2,070	2,070
At 29 February 2024	<u>4,030</u>	<u>4,030</u>

### 11. Debtors

	<b>2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
Sundry debtors	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income	381	264
	<u>381</u>	<u>264</u>

# Berwickshire Marine Reserve (SCIO)

## Notes to the financial statements

For the Year Ended 28 February 2025

### 12. Cash at bank and in hand

All cash is at bank and in hand.

### 13. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	-	-
Tax and social security	793	1,512
Accruals	1,456	1,571
Other creditors	52	52
	<hr/> 2,301	<hr/> 3,135

# Berwickshire Marine Reserve (SCIO)

## Notes to the financial statements

For the Year Ended 28 February 2025

### 14. Analysis of Funds

	Opening Balance £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
<b>Restricted Funds:</b>					
Marine SIP	61	-	(284)	223	-
Flagg	772	-	(772)	-	-
MNP Beach Cleans	480	-	(480)	-	-
Snorkel Trails	1,493	-	(1,493)	-	-
Lobster Hatchery SBC	1,310	-	(881)	-	430
Talk Programme	1,165	-	(1,165)	-	-
RCIA Spring Clean	379	-	(379)	-	-
Blue Marine	6,000	1,050	(1,065)	-	5,985
Summer Rangers	146	-	(146)	-	-
Crichton 2023	330	-	(330)	-	-
SBC Kayaks	5,816	-	(801)	-	5,015
External Training	466	-	(466)	-	-
Seachangers	2,500	-	(2,504)	4	-
Blue Snorkelling	2,770	5,380	(5,111)	-	3,039
SBC/B BBB	1,058	-	(1,024)	-	34
Community Led TNL 2024	-	25,485	(30,390)	4,905	-
SBC Community Foundation	4,990	-	(4,990)	-	-
SBC NSF	3,692	-	(3,692)	-	-
40 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration	-	2,902	(2,902)	-	-
2025 Junior Citizen Science	-	4,387	-	-	4,387
Action for Change Gardens	-	245	-	-	245
Summer Rangers 2024	-	9,000	(9,000)	-	-
SMEEF 23	-	10,220	(10,220)	-	-
SBC Discover Series	-	4,624	(4,314)	-	310
SNH Nature Scotland	-	1,270	(1,276)	6	-
SBCAN Schools Outreach	-	2,100	(2,100)	-	-
SBCAN Volunteer Training	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,428</b>	<b>67,664</b>	<b>(85,785)</b>	<b>5,138</b>	<b>20,446</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds:</b>	<b>28,198</b>	<b>2,291</b>	<b>(3,372)</b>	<b>(5,138)</b>	<b>20,446</b>

#### Marine SIP – Marine Seabed Interpretation Project

This was a 3 year project funded by European Community Scottish Borders LAG Leader 2014-2020 Programme with a proportion of match funding by Blue Marine Foundation to cover a full time Marine Reserve Coordinator role, alongside detailed mapping of the Marine Reserve to establish a foundation for future research and monitoring and allow for the development of a ‘virtual visitor centre’ using innovative interpretation, encouraging sustainability, engagement and inclusivity. The virtual visitor centre will comprise of 360 VR dive tours filmed using a 360 degree underwater Camera giving an underwater digital representation of the marine reserve, development of an interactive website and an augmented reality tour along the Berwickshire Coast.

# **Berwickshire Marine Reserve (SCIO)**

## **Notes to the financial statements**

### **For the Year Ended 29 February 2024**

#### **Flagg**

A collaborative research project between the BMR, Blue Marine Foundation, and the St. Abbs Marine Station, working together to collect scientific data to understand and assess commercial species and fishing practices within the BMR. Results will inform the status of key stocks, temporal changes, and inform on how to increase fishing efficiency to improve sustainability for local fishery and maximise income whilst potentially reducing fishing effort. Having this information will help make decisions regarding fishing practices and ensure sustainability for future years.

#### **MNP Beach Cleans**

The Berwickshire and North Northumberland Marine Special Area of Conservation known as the “Marine Nature Partnership” funded this one year of beach cleaning for the Marine Conservation Society’s “Beachwatch” campaign. The aim of the fund was to gather the survey data from the beach cleans to feed into an annual snap shot of the extent of marine litter within the mSAC.

#### **Snorkel Trails**

Funded by a grant from MBTAG the project is to create and promote snorkel trails in the marine reserve. Due to COVID it was adapted to what was realistically possible to achieve, so instead of leading guided trails, we have developed Snorkel Guide leaflets, worked with the local surf shop to provide the equipment, and produced a downloadable app so that individuals can explore the wonders or the underwater world.

#### **Lobster Hatchery SBC**

A project funded by Scottish Borders Council LAG Fund to pilot a lobster hatchery and marine education centre in partnership with DR Collins Ltd and the St Abbs Marine Station.

#### **Talk Programme**

Grant funding from Magic Little Grants and NNG to cover speaker and venue costs for talks on the local environment and wildlife.

#### **R&ICIIA Spring Clean**

A project funded by the Scottish Government through Inspiring Scotland to cover staff costs and project expenses in the coordination and supervision of 8 community clean tasks involving community volunteers, local schools and businesses.

#### **Blue Marine**

A project funded by the Blue Marine Foundation to cover staff time and expenses in the refresh of the BMR ‘Codes of Conduct’.

#### **Summer Rangers**

A grant from Groundworks UK on behalf of Tesco to fund equipment and materials required for the summer activities programme delivered by the summer rangers.

#### **Crichton 2023**

A project funded by a grant from The Hamish and Doris Crichton Charitable Trust to support three Marine Rangers providing salary, travel expenses and training opportunities supporting the delivery of the summer activities programme.

#### **SBC Kayaks**

A project funded by Scottish Borders Council to resource the acquisition of 4 kayaks which will enable the expansion of citizen science programmes including the exploration and mapping of Berwickshire Coast sea caves.

# **Berwickshire Marine Reserve (SCIO)**

## **Notes to the financial statements**

### **For the Year Ended 28 February 2025**

#### **External Training**

Project activities undertaken in partnership with third party training providers.

#### **Seachangers**

A project funded by Seachangers to develop an ocean literacy online educational resource based at Primary School level.

#### **Blue Snorkelling**

A project funded by Blue Marine Foundation to engage new groups in ocean immersion activities such as snorkelling. Local groups participated in pool based training sessions and a sea snorkelling session. A promotional film has been created to encourage wider group participation and involvement.

#### **Community Led TNL 2024**

A project funded by the National Lottery Community Fund to help build community participation and volunteering in marine conservation and environmental action. Regular activities will include environmental surveys, beach cleans, nurdle hunts, clearance of non-invasive species and outreach and education concerning local biodiversity and the impacts of local and global environmental change.

#### **SBC BBBB**

A project funded by Scottish Borders Council to cover staff time and expenses in the reestablishment of the community volunteering programme and community outreach work post covid.

#### **SBC Community Foundation**

A project funded by the SBC/Berwickshire Area Partnership to extend the pilot phase of the Lobster Hatchery and Marine Education Centre.

#### **SBC NSF**

A project funded by Scottish Borders Council to cover staff time and expenses in the delivery of community engagement and outreach work involving local schools.

#### **40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations**

A project funded by The Hamish and Doris Crichton Charitable Trust, Naert Na Gaoithe and the Edinburgh Dive Centre to fund a weekend of activities and celebrations of the Charity's 40th anniversary.

#### **2025 Junior Citizen Science**

A project funded by Drone Hill Wind Farm Community Fund to fund a Community Outreach Officer from January to June 2025 to enable Coldingham and Cockburnspath Primary schools to undertake the Ocean Friendly Schools Award, as well as allowing the BMR to deliver a number of community events.

#### **Action for Change Gardens**

A project funded by Borders Action for Change to fund the creation of climate friendly gardens at Cockburnspath and Coldingham schools.

# Berwickshire Marine Reserve (SCIO)

## Notes to the financial statements

For the Year Ended 28 February 2025

### Summer Rangers 2024

A project funded by a grant from The Hamish and Doris Crichton Charitable Trust to support three Marine Rangers providing salary, travel expenses and training opportunities supporting the delivery of the summer activities programme.

### SMEEF 2023

A project funded by the Scottish Marine Environmental Enhancement Fund to undertake survey and mapping work of Horse Mussel/Horse Mussel beds within the BMR. The project involved collaboration with Blue Marine Foundation and St Abbs Marine Station. The funding in 2024/5 has enabled the purchase of an ROV, managed by the St Abbs Marine Station, for future environmental monitoring.

### SBC Discover Series

Scottish Borders Local Action Group Community Led Development Fund grant to enable greater local community participation and volunteering in conservation and environmental action and to broaden the scope of community engagement to those with a stronger interest in environmentalism. 6 events were delivered ranging from talks to beach litter art sessions engaging with 233 participants.

### SNH Nature Scotland

A grant from Scottish Natural Heritage to fund capital equipment for use in the Marine Reserve.

### SBCAN Schools Outreach

A grant from Scottish Borders Climate Action Network to fund a Community Outreach Officer to deliver carbon literacy to schools in the area. Sessions were delivered at Eyemouth and Duns Primary schools with 91 participants.

### SBCAN Volunteer Training

A grant from Scottish Borders Climate Action Network to fund training for the BMR staff and volunteers. 2 local experts were employed to deliver sessions on Seaweed and Intertidal identification skills on the shore.

## 15. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted Funds £	General Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	2,070	-	2,070	4,030
Net current assets	18,375	21,978	40,354	57,596
	<u>20,446</u>	<u>21,978</u>	<u>42,424</u>	<u>61,626</u>

## 16. Operating lease commitments

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Land and buildings</b>		
Within 1 year	3,300	-

# **Berwickshire Marine Reserve (SCIO)**

## **Notes to the financial statements**

### **For the Year Ended 28 February 2025**

#### **17. Related party transactions**

As part of the Blue Snorkelling project payments were made totalling £510 (2024 - £Nil) for boat hire to Wright Diving Limited. The Director [REDACTED]. All transactions were done at arms length.



## **Brief History**

The BMR extends along 9km of the Berwickshire coastline in south east Scotland, between Thrummie Carr in the north (NT901691) to Hairy Ness in the south (NT941651) and includes coastal waters out to the 50m depth contour, a distance of about 1.5 km. The BMR covers an area of 1,030 hectares in total.

The BMR was established as an unincorporated charity in 1984 and was 40 years old in August 2024 by a group of local people who wanted to be able to manage an increase in conflicting pressures along this section of the Berwickshire coastal waters. The main aims were to protect the area's richly biodiverse marine environment, a unique location where northern species reach the southern limit of their range and southern species reach their northern limit. The organisation is still the only Voluntary Marine Reserve in Scotland, and is the second oldest marine reserve in the UK. The reserve was opened on 18 August 1984 by David Bellamy when he spectacularly jumped into the Reserve from the harbour wall.

For 40 years, the organisation has been working to mitigate conflicts between stakeholders and user groups, educating and interpreting the marine environment and promoting the sustainable use and conservation of the area. This 'grass roots' form of marine conservation has no statutory basis, and relies on people's good will to work together for common aims.

The multitude of designations along this coastline are testament to the fact that the natural heritage is of national and international importance, which include the Berwickshire Coast Intertidal Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the Berwickshire and North Northumberland marine Special Area of Conservation (mSAC). An Inshore Fisheries Act of 1984 bans the use of any mobile gear in an area which encompasses the majority of the BMR. Numerous television programmes have showcased the underwater spectacle that can be found within the BMR, giving the organisation national exposure. The BMR stretch of coastal waters has stunning underwater topography and habitats. Scientists and SCUBA divers are aware of this and have experienced its impressiveness. That is why the BMR is famous the world over and has a reputation for being a world class dive site.

The BMR is currently working hard to engage with all its stakeholder and user groups, along with other partner organisations, to develop inclusive projects with good feedback systems. This is to encourage further engagement by stakeholders and users to help build up an ecosystem based, holistic approach of what is happening within the boundaries of the BMR.



*Photos are the winning entries from the 2024 Splash In Competition*