



**Scottish Campaign for National Parks:
ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2014.**

Scottish Charity number: SC 31008

Legal and Administrative Information.

Full name:

Scottish Campaign for National Parks

Registered Scottish Charity Number:

SC 31008

Governing Document:

Constitution

Hon. President:

Vacant

Honorary Vice Presidents:

Michael Dower CBE FRICS MRTPI HonFLI

John Foster CBE FRSGS

Robert Maund FRTPi(rtd)

Adrian Phillips CBE MRTPI HonFLI

Executive Committee:

Ross Anderson - Chairman

John Thomson – Honorary Secretary

Robert Maund - Honorary Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Kate Walsham – Assistant Honorary Secretary

James B Fraser (PR Officer)

Bill Dalrymple

Charles Strang

William G McDermott

Graham Barrow (co-opted)

Principal Office:

The Barony

2 Glebe Road

Kilbirnie

Ayrshire

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Bankers:

Bank of Scotland

26 Colquhoun Square

Helensburgh

G84 8AP

Independent Examiner:

John King MCIBS

12 Brierie Hills Court

Crosslee

Houston

Inverclyde

PA6 7DU

SCOTTISH CAMPAIGN FOR NATIONAL PARKS: ANNUAL REPORT 2013.

This report is presented, along with the accounts for 2014, in conformity with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The report sets out how the Campaign is seeking to meet its purposes as set out in its constitution. The purposes can be summarized as follows:

The SCNP's primary aim is to promote the protection, enhancement and enjoyment of nationally outstanding areas that are National Parks, or are appropriate to be designated as such, or are of sufficient merit to warrant special protection. This is manifest in our support for good stewardship of the country's best environmental assets and encouragement of environmentally sustainable methods of development, particularly within areas of national park potential. SCNP is a recognised Scottish Charity (No. SC 31008.).

We seek to meet these purposes through regular meetings with Scottish Natural Heritage, the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs and Cairngorms National Parks, the Scottish Government's Minister for the Environment and other public bodies and environmental groups, as necessary. We are members of Scottish Environment LINK. We have been members of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for the last 25 years but, with great regret, seem likely to withdraw shortly because as a small NGO, we can no longer afford the scale of fees required for membership.

We also respond to public consultations from the Scottish Government, Forestry Commission, SEPA, SNH, Park Authorities and Local Government, on a range of planning and environmental issues. In addition, we seek to monitor progress of the Parks and comment and offer advice on policy issues and particular development control casework. Where necessary, we have also made formal objections to Local Plans and to development proposals which we consider would be damaging to fine landscapes and sensitive environments and habitats, including wind farm proposals in the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park (CMRP) and elsewhere. SCNP continues to work with the Save Your Regional Park campaign (SYRP) to fight appeals by developers at public inquiries into wind farm applications in CMRP. Wind energy proposals in sensitive locations remain a countrywide problem as developers and landowners scabble for the subsidies on offer. The wind energy industry's appetite for more sites, including many in some of Scotland's finest landscapes, including CMRP, shows no sign of abating.

The Scottish Government's Approach.

The Scottish Government continues to put obstacles in the way of the designation of more National Parks, the latest being a statement by the former Minister for the Environment, Paul Wheelhouse, that a business case had not been made. This is true but neither was it made for any other National Park in the United Kingdom and neither is it appropriate when the over-riding objective is the conservation of Scotland's iconic landscapes and sensitive habitats.

A National Parks Strategy for Scotland – a project in partnership with the Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland.

Since the launch of 'Unfinished Business: A National Park Strategy for Scotland' in April 2013, with our partners we have managed to put a modest sum of money together to continue the dialogue with interested parties in different parts of the country. As mentioned in last year's report, there are almost certainly other areas which would qualify and the project will also do its best to help any other communities who have a credible case for their locality to be considered for designation.

The report, which has been widely distributed to potentially interested parties including all MSPs and Westminster MPs representing constituencies in Scotland, has been the subject of presentations to interest groups in different parts of the country and at some conferences.

We have been encouraged by the level of interest and will be adopting a new fundraising effort to enable us to intensify this work in the coming year. In addition we decided to go down the Public Petitions route to the Scottish Parliament and we hope to appear before the Petitions Committee in the coming year.

**The Established National Parks.
Loch Lomond and the Trossachs NP.**

Throughout 2014, the troubled goldmine proposal at Tyndrum has continued to struggle to establish a viable scheme in the face of fluctuating gold prices. The original proposal was based on a hope that the highest gold prices in many years would be maintained. This wishful thinking, trying to second guess a speculative market has failed and the outcome may well require further planning applications. The Park Board will be in no position to judge the viability of any new proposal and we hope that in future they will enforce the Sandford principle rather than be taken in by developers PR and the public pressures created by highly suspect claims about local jobs.

Cairngorms NP.

Our efforts in partnership with the Cairngorms Campaign, the Badenoch and Strathspey Conservation Group to challenge the adoption of the Cairngorms Local Plan, with its provision for a large speculative housing scheme to the east of Aviemore (An Camus Mor) has not been going well in the courts and the latest stage has been refused a Protected Expenses Order (PEO). In the light of this, we decided that we had no choice but to withdraw from the legal action. Whilst we have a signed agreement between the partners that any expenses would be paid by the Cairngorms Campaign, it appears that others, such as the Park Authority, do not necessarily accept this as being sufficient safeguard to their interests. We have to get the permission of the court to withdraw and this is being pursued.

Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park.

In partnership with the Save Your Regional Park group, we have sought to protect the Regional Park from any unnecessary industrialization through wind factories, digestors etc throughout 2014 with some modest success. However, the wind energy industry continues to submit a range of applications from smaller single turbines allegedly for individual farmer's own use to larger scale commercial windfarms. A new application at the north end of the Park at Corlic Hill overlooking Greenock in Inverclyde is on the table in spite of an earlier application in the same area having been refused after a PLI by Scottish Minister who deliberated on the matter for nearly 2 years before reaching their conclusion. The new application has been refused by Inverclyde Council but the three councils responsible for the Park are still not working together to adopt a Park wide view of how the Park can best be protected.

The approval and construction of 28 industrial scale turbines in the Park has not only done untold damage to the Park but is encouraging other speculative development proposals. Late in 2014, an application was submitted by a private developer for a crematorium using the same access as the Kelburn windfarm. Neither the Park nor SNH has objected, commented on the impact on the landscape, or on the precedent of further hard development using windfarm accesses. CMRP is beginning to look leaderless and rudderless.

SYRC and SCNP continue to submit objections to inappropriate developments

Scottish Environment LINK

We continue to be represented on and contribute to LINK's Landscape, Planning, National Parks, Agriculture, Economics and Land Use Task Forces. Through this work we have been able to ensure that the interests of Scotland's present and prospective national parks are borne in mind when considering developments and proposed government policies in fields as diverse and important as rural housing, major infrastructure projects, hill tracks, farm and forestry subsidies, energy policy and definitions of sustainable development. We continue to underline the value of Scotland's finest landscapes as an economic asset, as well as a source of physical well-being and psychological uplift. Our role has been to underline just how vulnerable these resources are to piecemeal degradation in pursuit of perceived short-term advantage and how the role of Park Authorities as proactive guardians and stewards of their qualities can provide other areas with examples of the approach needed to achieve truly sustainable rural development.

Publicity.

Our Newsletters help keep members up to date with the national park scene in Scotland. All MSPs in the Scottish Parliament receive copies. Unfortunately, due to other pressures, we have only managed two Newsletters in 2014 but steps have been taken to return to four in 2015.

As part of the National Park Strategy project we have secured articles in nationwide magazines as well as national and local newspapers.

Although our website continues to be well received, it is due to be refreshed and refined. Initial work has started and will be completed shortly. We have also made an effort to keep adding items of interest to the Facebook link.

Finance.

SCNP is run entirely by volunteers. Our main sources of income are the annual subscriptions of our members, donations, gift aid and any grants that we can secure from time to time from public bodies and various grant giving charities. Our ongoing activity in 2014, as shown on the accompanying pages, relate to the Joint Project with APRS promoting our case for a Strategy for National Parks across Scotland.

N.B. Gift Aid for 2013 does not appear in these accounts due to difficulties with the on-line claiming system set up by HMRC. The money has not been received and will be claimed and appear in the 2015 accounts along with the 2014 Gift Aid. It has been calculated that the Gift Aid for 2013 should be about £470.

Membership

The membership figures at the end of 2011 show changes with a decrease in full membership and a slight increase overall in the number of Friends.

	2014	2013	2012	2011
Members	35(1)	45(6)	46	44
Friends	47(3)	41(4)	37(14)	36(9)
Overseas	3	3	3	3
Affiliates	23	23	23	23

N.B. The figures in brackets are those who have missed one annual payment.

The Executive has also decided to explore the possibilities of Business Supporter Membership with four levels of Membership to cater for small to large firms whose interests coincide with our efforts to secure well managed National Parks and to protect Scotland’s iconic landscapes. This should start in 2015.

During the year we have lost three experienced members, Hannah Stirling and Frank Bracewell, both founders of SCNP and Michael Taylor a former Lake District NP Director and Director of CCS. We shall miss them.

It also illustrates the need to sign up more members and a renewed campaign is planned for 2015.

Executive Committee.

During 2014, the Executive met on nine occasions. During the year, Graham Barrow was co-opted onto the Executive and we continue to look for ways to strengthen the Committee. The Annual General Meeting was held on 25 April 2014.

Responses to consultations

During the year we responded to consultations on a proposed extension to the Pentland Hills Regional Park and other consultations from Cairngorms NP and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs NP.

Risk Review.

The Executive has examined the business and operational risks, which the Charity faces and confirms that systems are in place to produce regular reports so that necessary steps can be taken to minimise such risks.

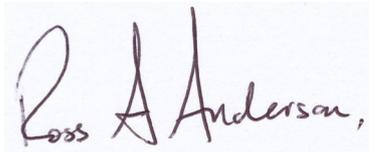
Executive Responsibility for the Financial Statement.

The Executive is required to prepare a financial statement for each financial period, which reflects the financial affairs at the end of the period and the surplus or deficit arising within the period. In preparing those financial statements, the Executive is required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- 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 to operate.

The Executive is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the Charity. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Executive on 10 March 2015 and signed on their behalf and with authorization by:



Ross A. Anderson
Chairman



John Thomson
Hon. Secretary

Scottish Charity number: SC 31008

Independent Examiner's Report for the year ended 31 December 2014 for the Scottish Campaign for National Parks.

I report on the financial statements for the charity for the year ended 31 December 2014 as set out.

Respective responsibilities of the Independent Examiner.

As the charity's trustees consider that the audit requirement of regulation 10(1)(d) of the 2006 Regulations does not apply, it is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section (44)(1)(c) of the 2005 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 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 connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1 which gives reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Regulations, and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Regulations have not been met.

HOWEVER:

2 I am satisfied that the accounts submitted to me meet all the requirements as laid out in statement 1.



John King MCIBS
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Date: 10 February 2015

SCOTTISH CAMPAIGN FOR NATIONAL PARKS

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2014.

INCOME	2014	2013
Subscriptions	£1,580.00	£1,559.00
Grants /Donations	£327.16	£2,558.34
AGM Income	£112.00	£0.00
Gift Aid	£0.00	£663.57
Bank Interest	£0.00	£0.00
Easyfundraising	£49.40	-
Unfinished Business project	£239.05	-
Total Income	£2,307.61	£4,780.91
EXPENDITURE		
Postages, Stationery & Printing	£554.65	£5,203.12
AGM Expenses	£265.10	£0.00
Consultant Costs	£478.10	£4,633.65
Travel Expenses	£0.00	£261.24
Subscriptions to other bodies:		
IUCN	£0.00	£303.46
IUCN UK Committee	£20.00	£20.00
LINK	£100.00	£200.00
CNP	£0.00	£125.00
Sundries	£65.70	£0.00
Total Expenditure	£1,483.55	£10,810.93
Surplus at year end	+ £824.06	- £6,030.02
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2014		
Bank at 1 January 2014	£2,039.38	£8,069.40
Plus Surplus for year	+£824.06	- £6,030.02
Balance at HBOS	£2,863.44	£2039.38

SCOTTISH CAMPAIGN FOR NATIONAL PARKS
Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31 December 2014

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2014	Total 2013
RECEIPTS				
Voluntary Receipts				
Grants/Donations	1	£636.76	£636.76	£2,558.34
Gift Aid		£0.00	£0.00	£663.57
Bank Interest		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
APRS		£239.05	£239.05	-
Receipts from Charitable Activities				
Subscriptions		£1,580.00	£1,580.00	£1,559.00
AGM Income		£112.00	£112.00	£0.00
Total Receipts			£2567.81	£4,780.91
PAYMENTS				
Postages, Stationery & Printing		£554.65	£554.65	£5,203.12
AGM Expenses		£265.10	£265.10	£0.00
Consultant Costs	2	£450.00	£450.00	£4,633.65
Travel Expenses		£28.10	£28.10	£261.24
Subscriptions to other Bodies	3	£120.00	£120.00	£545.76
Sundry Expenses		£375.30	£375.30	£167.16
Tax Deducted at Bank		-	-	-
Total Payments			£1482.92	£10,810.93
Surplus/Deficit for the year		£824.06	£824.06	(£6,030.02)

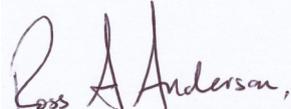
STATEMENT OF BALANCES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2014

Funds Reconciliation	TOTAL 2014
Cash at Bank Opening Balance	£2,039.38
Surplus/Deficit for the year	£824.06
Cash at Bank Closing Balance 4	£2,863.44

All funds are unrestricted and the notes on the following page form an integral of these accounts.

N.B. Gift Aid for 2013 does not appear in these accounts due to difficulties with the on-line claiming system set up by HMRC. The money has not been received and will be claimed and appear in the 2015 accounts along with the 2014 Gift Aid. It has been calculated that the Gift Aid for 2013 will be about £470.

Treasurer: 

Chair: 

Date: 10 March 2015

SCOTTISH CAMPAIGN FOR NATIONAL PARKS

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2014.

Note 1: Grants and Donations received	2014	2013
Gatliff Trust	£127.16	£238.82
Scottish Mountaineering Trust (SMT)	£0.00	£500.00
Save Your Regional Parks (SYRP)	£200.00	£500.00
APRS	£239.05	£500.00
Marsh Trust	£0.00	£350.00
Donations from Members	£309.60	-
	£875.81	£2088.32

Note 2: Consultant Costs		
Remuneration	£450.00	£3,541.65
Expenses	£28.10	£261.24
Graphics etc.	£0.00	£1,092.00
	£478.10	£4,894.89

Note 3: Subscriptions to Other Bodies		
International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	-	£303.46
IUCN UK Committee	£20.00	£20.00
Scottish Environment LINK	£100.00	£200.00
Campaign for National Parks (CNP)	£0.00	£125.00
	£120.00	£648.46

Note 4: Bank Balance		
Balances at Bank of Scotland at Year End	£2863.44	£2,039.38

Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts & Payments basis in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).