



Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

(Scottish Charity Number 005538)

Annual Report 2022–2023

Part 1 – Trust Events and Reserve Activities

1. The 34th AGM

This was held as a Zoom Meeting on Wednesday 28th September 2022 and was followed by an Open Forum to give members an opportunity to make comments or raise any issues of concern.

2. LWT Committee Meetings

All committee meetings were conducted as Zoom Meetings and will continue to be until further notice.

3. Reserve Planned Activities, Community Events and Visits

Sept. 2022

- 01/02 Freda Seddon carried out a Bat Survey and identified 5 different species.
- 22nd The RH Youth Organisation (RHYO) brought the Lochmaben Youth Group to do some den building and stream sampling.
- 23rd The LWT had a stall at Lockerbie Academy's "Wider Achievement Fair".
- 24th Freda Seddon held a "Bat Walk" at the Reserve.
- 29th The RHYO returned with the Lockerbie Group to do a scavenger Hunt and have a picnic.

October 2022

- 14th Meeting of the Annandale Red Squirrel Group.
- 30th Fungal Foray with Duncan Ford.

November 2022

- 12/13 Remembrance Weekend Poppy Walk – There were 12 displays of poppies around the Reserve, each with a different theme, and a Poppy Cascade at the Centre. Many thanks once again to the Bowling Club Crafters. This year the proceeds were shared between the LWT and the Soldiers', Sailors' & Airmen's Families Association (SSAFA). Lockerbie and District Rotary Club kindly supplied the trailer and donated some raffle prizes.
- 16th Visit by Murray Primary School, East Kilbride to carry out Tree-based Activities, Pond Dipping and Woodland Minibeasts – led by Jim Rae and Duncan Ford.
- 19th LWT ran a stall at the Turning on of the Christmas Lights and raised £571.60. At the event, Jim Rae received the Lockerbie Christmas Lights Bev Farish Community Person of the Year Award 2022 for his work at Eskrigg Nature Reserve and was proud to be asked to switch on the Christmas Lights.
- 25/26 LWT ran a Christmas Stall at Tesco, Lockerbie and raised £2,045.79.
In November 2022, the Trust also ran a competition to guess the D.O.B. of a Teddy Bear called Popcorn. The prize went to Debbie Simpson, whose guess was the nearest (only 2 days out).

December 2022 - There were no events held at the Reserve.

January 2023 - There were no events held at the Reserve.

Jim did, however, take part in the annual RSPB Bird Survey.

February 2023

26th The Annual Nut Race took place, with modifications due to the shortage of water in the burn, and raised £569.12. The youngsters present also had a Cream Egg Hunt.

March 2023

6th We had a visit by primary 7 pupils from Mount Cameron Primary School, East Kilbride. They enjoyed a Nature Ramble through the Reserve and Woodland Walks.

April 2023

14th Visit by youngsters from Mid-Annandale Playcare who investigated stream and woodland fauna.

May 2023

4th During the day, Lockerbie Academy S3 Biology students carried out a range of fieldwork activities including a Stream Study during which they found a new species of mayfly nymph – *Ephemera danica*.
4th In the evening, Lockerbie Scouts, Cubs and supporting adults took part in ‘The Big Help Out’ to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. They cleared a mass of branches from the Southern Loop that had been left by forest workers hired by Castle Milk Estate.
9th Some pupils and staff from Lockerbie Academy helped tidy up the Northern Loop.
12/19 Lockerbie Academy S3 Biology students carried out a range of fieldwork activities.
21st Debbie Bradley and Jim Rae took part in the Walk the Walk organised by Lockerbie and District Rotary Club. Together they raised £440.
23rd Children from the North West Community Campus Dumfries visited the Reserve. They took part in a Gruffalo Trail, Scots Pine Woodland Study, Small Stream Study and a Picnic.

June 2023

1 & 8 Pupils from Georgetown Primary carried out a Stream Study with Jim Rae, a Scavenger Hunt with Duncan Ford and a Woodland Minibeasts Activity with Sybille Spägele.
16th Members of the Trust Committee manned a stall at the Lockerbie Academy Charity Fair.

July 2023

6 & 27 A group from Mid-Annandale Playcare visited the Reserve to do a Stream Study and Woodland Minibeast Activity.
22nd Jim Rae manned a LWT stall at the “RH Youth Organisation Activity Day 2023” at Lockerbie Ice Rink.

August 2023

11th Fiona Riviere unveiled her scrap metal sculpture “Broken Angel”. Colin Dunbar then read out Fiona’s poem entitled “An Angel’s Kiss” before he played “O’ Gin I Were A Baron’s Heir” on the pipes to mark the occasion.

4. Annual Talks Programme

These were hybrid meetings with some members attending in person at Lockerbie Town Hall and others on Zoom.

Oct. 19 Sybil Williamson gave a talk entitled ‘Ridge to Reef’.
Nov. 23 Keith Kirk gave a talk entitled “Dumfries and Galloway and its Wildlife”.
Dec.14 Ross Gemmell gave a talk entitled “The Annandale and Southern Upland Ways”.
Jan. 18 Lorna Kempself gave a talk entitled “The Work of the South of Scotland Wildlife Hospital”.
Feb. 15 Sybille Spägele gave a talk entitled “Black Forest Walks and Wildlife”.
Mar. 15 Rick Taylor gave a talk entitled “South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project”.

5. Reserve Management

a. Maintenance

The Reserve Manager, Jim Rae, would like to thank all the volunteers who helped maintain the roads, hardcore paths, woodland walks, hides, shelter, compost toilet, centre, posts, jetty, streams, ditches and pond over the past year. These volunteers included Yasir Abdullah, Joe Borthwick, Thomas Boyes, Richard Bradley, Derek Campbell, Cairn Douglas, Alastair Gordon, Tom Hargreaves, David Hughes, Kathryn Hughes, Eleanor Little, Brian Mauson, Scott McLean, Liam McNeillie, Norah Muirhead, Zack Nicholson, Noah Nightingale, Sam Pattinson, Gordon Reid, John Reid, Janet Rogerson, Anna Spägele, Sybille Spägele, John Spence, Alan Thomson, Braiden Watson, and Tracy Whiteside.

b. Pondlife

On the 21st of February, James Kennedy (employed by GTR Contracts LTD) used his digger to clear and open the sluice in order to drain the pond. On the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of March, James, and fellow digger driver Johnny McWhir, proceeded to dig out the silt that had accumulated in the pond over a number of years and put it up on the banks and islands. The sluice was then closed and the pond filled up with water in time for the arrival of the frogs and toads on the 17th of March to breed.

It only became apparent later that when the digger opened the sluice it also dislodged the sluice from the ground pipe and water was escaping from the pond. Work is still underway to resolve the situation. As long as there is average rainfall, this will not be a problem. The banks of the pond have since greened up well and a few new plant species have been recorded. The invertebrates are thriving. The stickleback numbers are increasing and the Kingfisher has started viviting again.

c. Red Squirrels

Although the number of Red Squirrels visiting the Reserve is still relatively low, nine (perhaps more) different Red Squirrels have been seen during the past year, including two with unusual 'raccoon-like' tails.

d. New Species

During the past year, the following new species have been identified within Eskrigg Nature Reserve and Woodland Walks:

Fungi

The Miller	<i>Clitopilus prunulus</i>	Ashen Knight	<i>Tricholoma virgatum</i>
Lumpy Bracket	<i>Trametes gibbose</i>	Bluefoot Bolete	<i>Xerocomellus cisalpinus</i>
Tawny Funnel Cap	<i>Paralepista flaccida</i>		

Plants

Wood Anemone	<i>Anemone nemorosa</i> 'Vestal'	Marsh Cudweed	<i>Filaginella uliginosum</i>
Marsh Yellow-cress	<i>Rorippa palustris</i>	Red Bartsia	<i>Odontites vernus</i>
Red-osier Dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>		

Insects

Hairy Shieldbug	<i>Dolycoris baccarum</i>	Mayfly (nymph)	<i>Ephemera danica</i>
Broad Bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>	Wall Butterfly	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>
Oak Processionary Moth	<i>Thaumetopoea processionea</i>	Micro-moth	<i>Argyresthia brockeella</i>

A full list of the fungi, slime moulds, plants and animal species is available on the Trust's website – www.lockerbie-wildlife-trust.co.uk.

e. Commercial Woodland Activity

On the 20th of February 2023: GTR Contracts LTD started mounding the area west of the Reserve and, with Sir John Buchanan-Jardine's approval, left a track across from the forest road to the pond to facilitate the digging out of the pond from time to time. Castle Milk Forestry Department planted the area with Scots Pine trees shortly afterwards.

In July and August 2023, the plantations of young trees north and west of the Reserve were sprayed with pesticide to prevent the spread of the pine weevil.

f. Wildlife Hides

On the 18th of March, Alan Thomson and his team fitted a metal roof to the Red Squirrel Hide in order to seal it. The previous felt roof cover had been leaking and fungi had started to grow in the walls of the hide. The fungi have since died and the life of the timber walls will have been extended.

g. Display Notices

Following the reduction in group educational activities during Covid, the Reserve Manager has been putting up notices within the Reserve to help people get to know the various plant species. The notices are changed according to which species are in flower at any given time. These have proved to be very popular.

h. Reserve Code of Conduct

- During April, May and early June 2023 there was a spate of vandalism at the Reserve. This ceased after the Police erected a couple of signs at the Reserve Car Park. However, on the 17th of August, someone kicked, and damaged the door into the Red Squirrel Hide.
 - Now and again someone interferes with the Duck Feeder and wheat is scattered all over the place. The Reserve Manager has recently put up a notice asking people not to interfere with the feeder and, so far, no-one has done so since.
 - There are still some people who think it is OK to feed bread to the ducks. They don't seem to realise that ducks don't eat bread and that all they are doing is polluting the area.
 - Every day, a few dog walkers fail to clean up their dogs' droppings and people discard cigarette ends or other forms of litter. The Reserve Manager still has to do a weekly clean-up of dog dirt and litter around the paths.
 - Some dog owners refuse to put their dogs on a lead when walking through the Reserve.
- Most people, however, are polite, considerate and take their litter away with them.

6. Promoting the Trust and Eskrigg Reserve

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

17 Nov. 22 Lockerbie Retired and Independent Ladies
10 Jan. 23 Wamphray WRI
31 Jan. 23 Lockerbie Old School
21 Feb. 23 Lochmaben Guild
14 Mar. 23 Annan Rotary Club
22 Mar. 23 St. Mary's – Greyfriars' Church Gardening Club
20 Jun. 23 Loreburn Retirement Group

7. Communicating with Members and the general public

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

8. Visitors to the Reserve:

The number of people visiting the reserve, via the Reserve car park, has been recorded since January 2023. The average number of visitors per day and approximate totals for the months were:

January	45/1,395	February	59/1,650	March	45/1,395	April	32/960
May	83/2,573	June	80/2,400 (est.)	July	77/2,387	August	97/3,007

The total number entering and leaving via the Reserve car park during the 8 months was 15,767. There are many others who enter and leave via the Cemetery Entrance who are not counted. We may install a people counter at the Cemetery Entrance in the future to get a more accurate estimate of visitor numbers.

9. Summing up

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust and Eskrigg Reserve have had a fairly good year. Committee meetings have continued to be held successfully on Zoom. Monthly meetings from September to April were held at Lockerbie Town Hall as hybrid meetings so that those who could not attend in person could join via Zoom. Unfortunately, there was the occasional computer problem which affected transmission on Zoom. We hope to have resolved this by purchasing new equipment for the coming season and we will be asking speakers to bring their presentations, saved to a pen drive, so that the same procedures can be used for each talk.

We had hoped that Activities and Events at the Reserve would return to near normal once the Woodland Walks were re-opened. Unfortunately the opening of several walks was delayed due to forest operations and communications with Castle Milk Estate was hindered by changes in staff members. The new information and interpretation boards have proved to be helpful to visitors. Apart from a fungal foray, the programme of practical activities within the Reserve was temporarily restricted to activities with school groups or other organisations. Pond dipping will be possible soon, now that the Reserve pond has been dug out and the pond life is recovering. The Eskrigg Flora Trail will be repeated next year as it proved to be so popular. Working with youngsters aiming for a Duke of Edinburgh Award, John Muir Trust Award or Saltire Award will also continue.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Trust over the past year. This includes Sir John Buchanan-Jardine, Jamie Buchanan-Jardine and their staff on Castle Milk and Corrie Estates. We welcome the new Forest Manager, Cat Kent, and hope she enjoys her her work in this area. Particular thanks to all the volunteers who have given their time to assist with maintenance work and the members of the Trust's Executive Committee for their support, encouragement and hard work again this year.

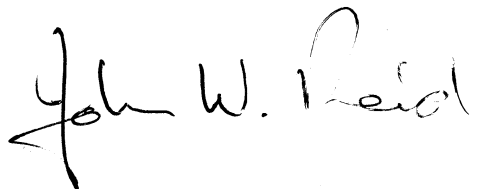
Jim Rae (Eskrigg Reserve Manager)

Date: 9th September 2023



Signed by the Chairman on behalf of the LWT Trustees at the 2023 AGM:

Date: 27th September 2023



Annual Report 2022–23

Part 2 – Treasurer's Report

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

Scottish Charity Number SC005538

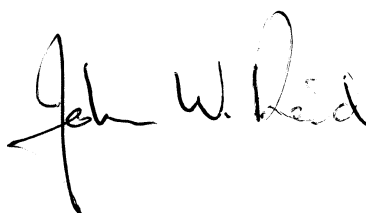
Receipt and Payments Account Summary						
2021–2022 & 2022–2023						
Trust Address: 12 Douglas Terrace, Lockerbie, DG11 2DZ						
	General Account		Project Account		Summary	Summary
Receipts	2021–2022	2022–2023	2021–2022	2022–2023	2021–2022	2022–2023
	from 01.09.21	from 01.09.22	from 01.09.21	from 01.09.22	from 01.09.21	from 01.09.22
	to 31.08.22	to 31.08.23	to 31.08.22	to 31.08.23	to 31.08.22	to 31.08.23
Memberships	£705.00	£730.00	-	-	£705.00	£730.00
Donations – Cash	£3,160.65	£2,653.06	-	-	£3,160.65	£2,653.06
Donations – Posts	£425.63	£210.17	-	-	£425.63	£210.17
Donations – Ch. boxes	£45.80	-	-	-	£45.80	-
PayPal donation	£486.94	£292.76	-	-	£486.94	£292.76
Visit Scotland Grant	£6,800.00	-	-	-	£6,800.00	-
Nut race	£622.00	£580.00	-	-	£622.00	£580.00
Sponsored Walk	-	£308.33	-	-	-	£308.33
Poppy Walk	£740.00	£534.45	-	-	£740.00	£534.45
Fungal Foray	-	£56.00	-	-	-	£56.00
Scavenger Hunt	£52.59	-	-	-	£52.59	-
Sale of calendars	£2,311.00	£2,822.00	-	-	£2,311.00	£2,822.00
Calendar sponsors	£715.00	£820.00	-	-	£715.00	£820.00
Popcorn the Bear	-	£125.00	-	-	-	£125.00
MACC event	-	£169.50	-	-	-	£169.50
Sale of Christmas Cards	£444.00	£518.50	-	-	£444.00	£518.50
Sale cards, notelets, tags	£347.00	£442.00	-	-	£347.00	£442.00
Sale of scrap metal	-	£122.00	-	-	-	£122.00
Sale of logs	-	£15.00	-	-	-	£15.00
Sale of Tree Plaques	-	£80.00	-	-	-	£80.00
Gala Day Collection	£313.47	£631.62	-	-	£313.47	£631.62
Nuts Competition	£90.00	-	-	-	£90.00	-
Refund of cheques	£85.65	-	-	-	£85.65	-
Expenses received	£20.00	-	-	-	£20.00	-
DECBG SC10 Grant	-	-	£4,147.56	-	£4,147.56	-
Transfer from Proj. A/C	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer from Gen. A/C	-	-	£500.00	£2,000	£500.00	£2,000
Total	£17,364.73	£11,110.39	£4,647.56	£2,000	£22,012.29	£13,110.39

Signed by Independent Examiner:



Date: 19/9/2023

Signed by Chairman on behalf of LWT Trustees at the 2023 AGM:



Date: 27th September 2023

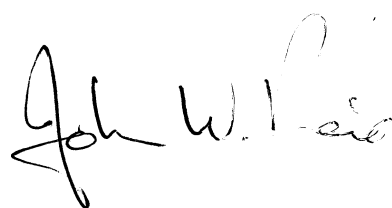
	General Account		Project Account		Summary	Summary
Payments	2021-2022	2022-2023	2021-2022	2022-2023	2021-2022	2022-2023
	from 01.09.21	from 01.09.22	from 01.09.21	from 01.09.22	from 01.09.21	from 01.09.22
	to 31.08.22	to 31.08.23	to 31.08.22	to 31.08.23	to 31.08.22	to 31.08.23
D&W Ironmongery	£354.67	£169.83	-	-	£354.67	£169.83
Town Hall bookings	£30.00	-	-	-	£30.00	-
Donation LA	£35.00	-	-	-	£35.00	-
Solway Agriculture	£3,354.80	£2,027.60	-	-	£3,354.80	£2,027.60
Fire extinguisher service	£30.00	£37.50	-	-	£30.00	£37.50
SSAFA	-	£270.00	-	-	-	£270.00
Grange Q. path gravel	£282.30	-	-	-	£282.30	-
Blacksmith	-	£1,084.21	-	-	-	£1,084.21
Joiner (S. McLean)	-	£410.32	-	-	-	£410.32
GTR	-	£4,650.00	-	-	-	£4,650.00
Postage	-	£26.13	-	-	-	£26.13
Sport & Trophy	£40.00	-	-	-	£40.00	-
Help For Heroes	£370.00	-	-	-	£370.00	-
R.C. Dalglish	£596.40	£661.28	-	-	596.40	£661.28
Wonderwall	£1,033.20	-	-	-	£1,033.20	-
NatSol	£53.70	-	-	-	£53.70	-
Rent	£100.00	£100.00	-	-	£100.00	£100.00
Speakers	-	£180.00	-	-	-	£180.00
D.Ford	-	£40.00	-	-	-	£40.00
Secretary's expenses	£7.92	-	-	-	£7.92	-
Insurance policies	-	£721.00	-	-	-	£721.00
Peter Hands	-	-	£2,606.41	£429.43	£2,606.41	£429.43
Res. management exp.	£3,371.01	£5,728.73	£1,618.80	-	£4,989.81	£5,728.73
DECBG Refund	-	-	£410.35	-	£410.35	-
Rotary	-	£50.00	-	-	-	£50.00
Printing	£2,572.55	£3,342.02	-	-	£2,572.55	£3,342.02
Transfer to Proj. A/C	£500.00	£2,000.00	-	-	£500	£2,000.00
Transfer to Gen. A/C	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	£12,731.55	£21,498.62	£4,635.56	£429.43	£17,367.11	£21,928.05
Receipts minus payments for year	+£4,633.18	-£10,388.23	+£12.00	+£1,570.57	£4,645.18	-£8,817.66
Balance brought forward	£17,864.27	£22,497.45	£8,736.55	£8,748.55	£26,600.82	£31,246.00
Balance in Bank Acc.	£22,497.45	£12,109.22	£8,748.55	£10,319.12	£31,246.00	£22,428.34
*Uncleared cheques		£20.00	£410.35		£410.35	£20.00
*Uncleared cheques		£3,708.49				£3,708.49
Bal. to carry forward	£22,497.45	£15,837.71	£9,158.90	£10,319.12	£31,656.35	£26,156.83

Signed by Independent Examiner:



Date: 19/9/2023

Signed by Chairman on behalf of LWT Trustees at the 2023 AGM:



Date: 27 September 2023

Summary:

The credit balance this year is down from over £32,000 to just under £24,000.

We had no financial help this year in the form of government grants. However, the remains of grants received in recent years due to Covid were put to good use this year in order to cover the cost of removing much of the silt that had accumulated in the pond and re-establishing a healthy aquatic environment. (ref. Payments - £4,650 to GTR)

The DECBG grant last year was purely for the installation of Solar Panels and these have proved to be a very sound investment. The Defibrillator Cabinet gets the background heat it needs during cold weather, there is lighting without background noise for events in the Centre and there is enough surplus stored energy to run the moth traps, projector etc.

The installation of a half-size storage container at the Reserve got the go ahead from Castle Milk Estate and the container has been ordered – we expect delivery in September 2023. It has yet to be paid for.

The Red Squirrel Hide needed a metal roof and this was done in March of this year thanks to our local blacksmith. (ref. Payments - £1,084.21 to Blacksmith) Work to repair or replace a number of bridges with culverts is underway.

Printing cost have rocketed in the past year. (ref. Payments – Printing - up from £2,572.55 to £3,342.02)

Plans to purchase a Liberty Buggy have been shelved because Sir John won't allow any motorised vehicles into the woods other than the Trust's quad bike for maintenance purposes.

The purchase of an up-to-date computer and connectors accounts for the uncleared cheque in the general account and the purchase of projection equipment will be bought from the coming year's budget.

This report has been prepared by me on behalf of the Trustees. I wish to thank our Treasurers, Kathryn and David Hughes, once again, for their meticulous book keeping and the clarity of the Receipts and Payments statements.

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

Executive Committee Members and Trustees for 2022–2023

Sir John Buchanan-Jardine - President

Bobby Smith - Honorary Vice-president

Duncan Ford - Honorary Vice-president

Chairman - John Reid

Vice Chairman - Sybille Spägle

Minute Secretary and IT Coordinator - Sybille Spägle

Events Secretary - Norah Muirhead

Membership Secretary and Reserve Manager - Jim Rae

Treasurers - Kathryn and David Hughes

Other Committee Members – Gary Black, Steven Dalgliesh, Peter Hands, and Gordon Reid

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

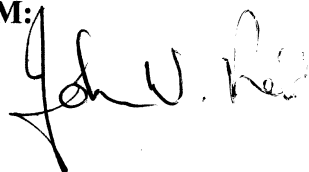
I commend this report to you, the members of the Lockerbie Wildlife Trust.

Jim Rae (Eskrigg Reserve Manager):



Date: 9 September 2023

Signed by the Chairman on behalf of LWT Trustees at the 2023 AGM:



Date: 27 September 2023

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

I am reporting on the accounts of the Lockerbie Wildlife Trust (SC005338) for its financial year that ended on 31st August 2023, and which are set out in the accompanying Trustees' Annual Report.

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

My examination was carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulationshave not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: ALISTAIR JAMES STEVENSON

Signature: 

Relevant Professional qualification/professional body: BSc DipLP/Law Society of Scotland

Address: MCJERROW & STEVENSON
55 HIGH STREET, LOCKERBIE DG11 2JJ

Date: 19/9/2023