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GREEN SPACES. GREAT PLACES.

2013/14

Annual Report



INTRODUCING THE LAND TRUST

The Land Trust was established in 2004 as a joint venture between English Partnerships (Homes and Communities Agency) and Groundwork UK, and became a fully independent, registered charity in 2010.

Since then we have built a portfolio of over 50 sites (2000 hectares of land) by working with a wide range of public and private sector landholders, including large scale landowners, housing developers, landfill operators, local authorities and mining companies. We help landowners who, for a variety of reasons, want to pass on responsibility (or liability) for the management of a site, to find bespoke long-term funding solutions for land which was otherwise considered to be a liability. These solutions can include service charges, section 106 or endowment, or a cocktail of funding sources. Our current endowment portfolio of over £100m provides the financial resources to ensure that our endowed sites are managed to a good standard and contribute to the wellbeing of the communities by which they are surrounded.

We believe that people deserve high-quality homes in high-quality areas. We help bring local authorities, developers and communities together to find a solution where everyone benefits from development, through the creation and management of green spaces. We believe that high-quality open spaces not only improve health and wellbeing, but can also be a stimulus for economic growth, increased community engagement and an important factor in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.

A value for money partner

We have helped our partners resolve difficult planning permission issues, added value to developments, helped deliver CSR goals and supported organisations to engage with and harness the power and passion of local communities.



Our Members



Our Trustees

Our Trustees oversee the work of the organisation, ensuring we stay on track to deliver our charitable objectives. They provide much expertise and scrutiny to our processes and decisions. Our Trustees are gathered from a wide range of fields and backgrounds and in 2013-14, they were:

Chairman

Peter Smith

Appointed in June 2010, Peter is also Director of Associated British Foods plc, Chairman of Savills plc and Non-Executive Director of Templeton Emerging Markets Investment Trust plc.

Michael Rich

Michael is Assistant Chief Executive at the Homes & Communities Agency.

Lady Jane Garrett

Jane is a former CEO of CL:AIRE with a background in the commercial, charitable and political sectors.

John Handley OBE

John Handley is Director of the Centre for Urban & Regional Ecology at the University of Manchester and Professor of landscape, rehabilitation, regeneration and management.

Simon MacGillivray

Simon is a Chartered Forester and oversees the forestry and woodland management of over thirty estates in Scotland.

Christina McComb

Christina's experience spans public and private sectors and is currently CEO of C5 Capital plc, a private fund investing in security technology.

Walter Menzies

Walter has a wealth of experience in the environment and regeneration sector, including being the Former CEO of the Mersey Basin Campaign.

Jeff Moore

Jeff is a qualified accountant and was previously CEO of East Midlands Development Agency. He is now Chairman, Board member or a Trustee for a number of organisations.

Rob Morley

Rob's background is in agriculture and construction equipment and was Chief Executive of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers for six years.

Dinah Nichols

Dinah is currently a Crown Estate Commissioner and a Trustee of Keep Britain Tidy, among other organisations. Her background is in Government, regeneration, housing and property.

Sarah Whitney (appointed July 2014)

Sarah brings financial and property expertise. She is a Chartered Accountant and a former Investment Banker who has specialised in Real Estate.





2013/14 was a year of significant development and progress for The Land Trust.



Peter Smith
Peter Smith
Chairman

The sites that we have acquired in recent years are delivering the community benefits we expected, and the new sites that we have brought into our ownership this year have offered us an exciting opportunity to work with new, diverse partners.

Sites, such as Northumberlandia, are working well and are providing an excellent facility for local communities. In its first year Northumberlandia had over 120,000 visitors, and was featured on the ITV flagship programme, Tales from Northumberland with Robson Green, last autumn. Local communities, including schools and charity groups are using the site on a regular basis and Azure Charitable Enterprises are helping Northumberland Wildlife Trust to maintain the park, as well as running the visitor's centre and café.

Beam Parklands in Dagenham is also flourishing and, with a community ranger in place this year, many schools events have already taken place, including a 600 strong sponsored walk for Children-in-Need, and an events programme is planned for Summer 2014.

The level of acquisition of new sites in 2013/14 was very positive, with over 90ha on seven sites being brought into our ownership, reflecting a stronger, more buoyant market place and giving us almost 200ha of new land in the past two years. We have been working with both the public and private sectors on key-sites this year and have been able to find innovative and creative solutions that meet the needs of landholders and communities alike. I was delighted with the acquisitions of Osprey Quay in Dorset and Fort Burgoyne in Dover, as these two sites offer The Land Trust new opportunities to demonstrate that we can manage structures, as well as natural landscape. We look forward to seeing Fort Burgoyne opening to visitors and the community in future years and can report that Osprey Quay withstood the many storms of the 2013/14 winter period.

We are delighted to have developed an extremely positive working relationship with Grainger Plc. Together we have made substantial progress this year towards acquiring an area of SANGS (Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space) in Aldershot. Our involvement in providing a safe, sustainable and community based solution to the long term management of the SANGS will enable a major development to proceed unhindered by any planning issues associated

with the fact that the development sits within the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area.

This year's acquisitions have increased the value of our site management portfolio to over £100m. The portfolio's continued growth in income (income yield was 4.6% in the financial year) enables us comfortably to manage our site budgets and create even more exciting plans for our sites.

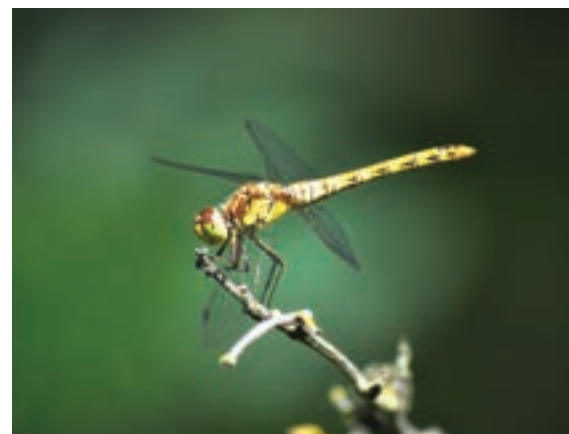
Whilst our site costs are met out of investment income, the cost of The Land Trust's central activities continue to be financed by working capital established for this purpose. I am delighted to report that we have continued to see our usage of working capital drop year on year; from £1.1m in 2012/13 to £0.8m this year (see page 31), illustrating the careful management of our charity's resources and promoting its sustainability in the long term.

Since the year end, I am pleased to welcome Sarah Whitney as an additional Trustee.

Also Christina McComb has decided to retire from the Board of Trustees at the 2014 Annual General Meeting and I thank her on behalf of the Board for her valuable contribution to The Land Trust.

I would like to thank those who have worked with The Land Trust this year, our member organisations, our managing partners, our clients and corporate partners, our staff and, of course, our much valued volunteers and trustees. The Board is optimistic about the coming year and beyond and we look forward to playing an important role in helping landowners create new uses for land and supporting growth and development in a sustainable way, whilst creating and maintaining green spaces for communities. We continue to be proud of our mission and of what The Land Trust stands for.





4

of our sites were awarded "Green Flag" status, demonstrating the high quality to which our sites are maintained.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MESSAGE

I'm pleased to report that recovery from the recession and movement in the housing market have impacted upon us positively this year.



Euan Hall
Euan Hall
Chief Executive

We have seen the completion of a number of sites that have been in our pipeline for some time, as well as a number of brand new acquisitions that we have been able to progress and complete quickly within the year. We have acquired 90ha this year on seven new sites and extended our land ownership at three existing projects. This has brought over £17m into our investment fund this year, and the total market value of the site management funds has now passed the significant £100m mark. Our total number of sites is now at 50, with over 1434 hectares (2013: 1344 ha) plus the 454 ha (2013: 454 ha) of Newlands Revive and Restore Programme sites that we manage.

The largest of the sites we took on this year is Fort Burgoyne in Dover. The acquisition of this offers a new and exciting opportunity to manage a scheduled ancient monument alongside rare chalk grasslands. We are looking forward to working with the community to develop it into a real asset over the next few years. We have also, through a new subsidiary company, Osprey Quay Management Company Limited, taken on a site which includes flood defences at Osprey Quay in Dorset. The reason this site was acquired through this new subsidiary is to improve our overall operational effectiveness. Among our other acquisitions, we also had the opportunity to extend three of our already successful sites, Fryston, Kiveton and Rabbit Ings in South Yorkshire. Importantly, we also made our first acquisition from the housing sector at Braeburn Park, (a landfilled quarry) which we took from Taylor Wimpey, supported by a section 106 payment (the funds a developer must set aside to provide additional services to an area where a new development has taken place), to fund the long-term management of the site as a nature reserve.

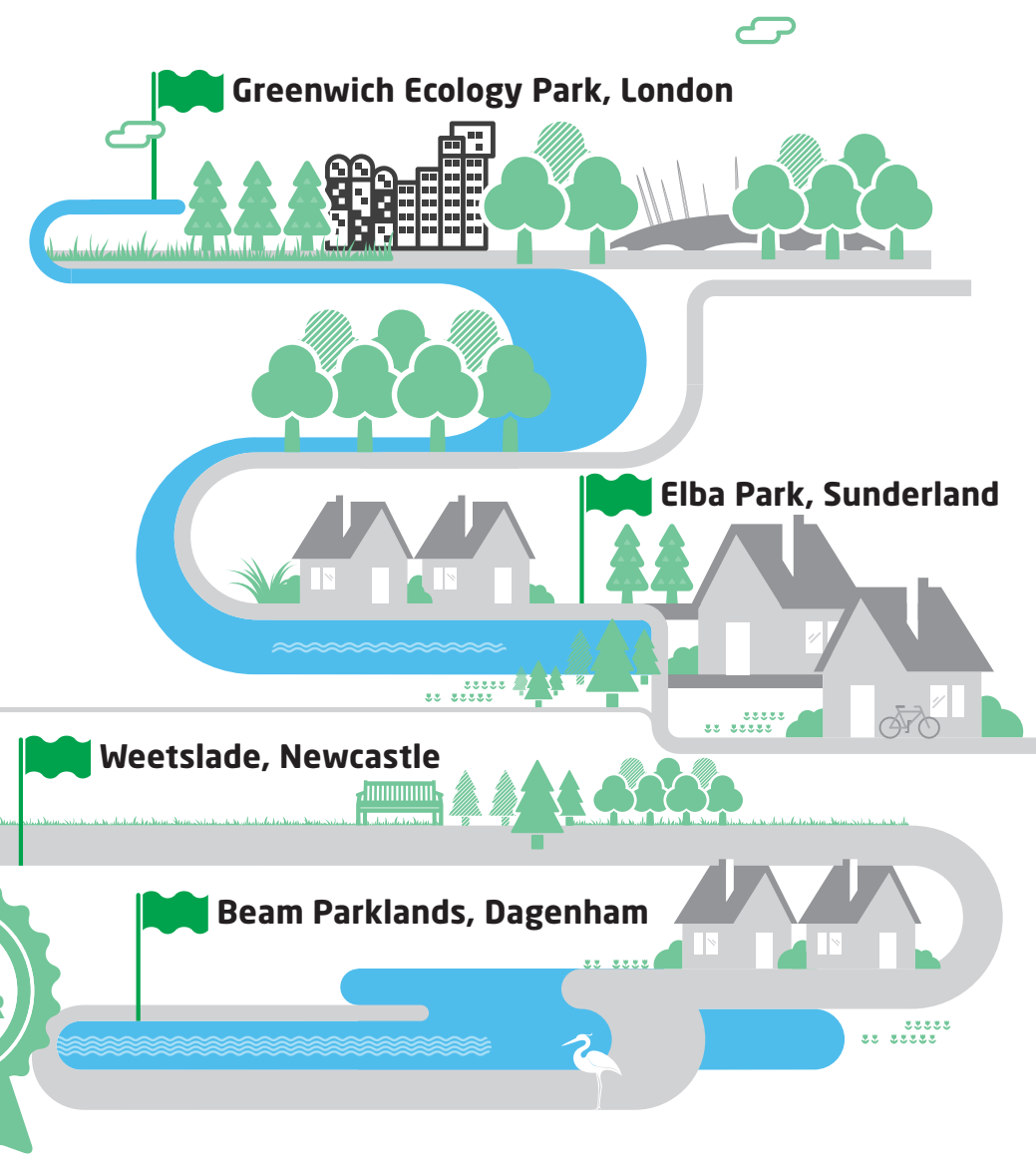
We have been able to supplement our site budgets with a number of successful fundraising bids this year, which has allowed us to offer even more on our sites. For example, the £242k awarded by the RDPE Rural Economy Grant and Banks' Community Fund enabled us to build a visitor centre and launch a mobile phone app at Northumberlandia, which has greatly enhanced the visitor experience, as well as allowing us to generate further income to invest back into the site. We are also particularly pleased with the £139k grant from the Big Lottery Fund's Reaching Communities

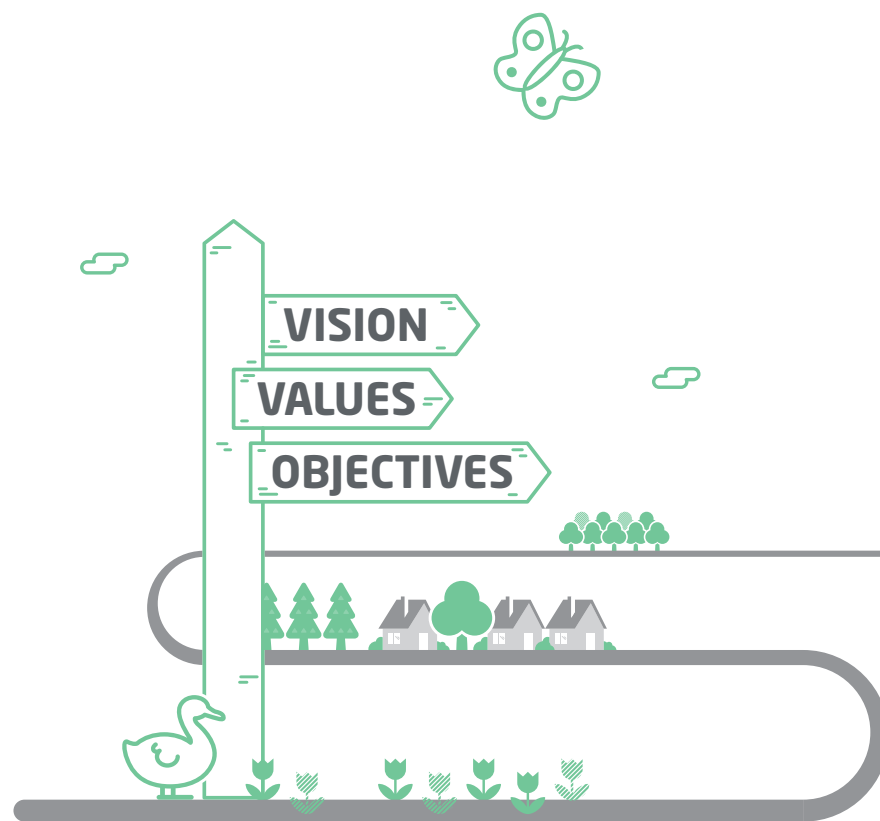
Programme which has enabled us to launch a 'Green Angels Programme' at Liverpool Festival Gardens, which aims to improve the quality of life for local communities through providing new training opportunities in the environmental field. We have also received grant monies for Countess of Chester Country Park from Natural England's Paths for Communities Programme, Canvey Wick from Sita Trust, and the John Paul Getty Foundation for the development of a new acquisition at Everton Park.

These grants, as well as the superb work of our managing partners on sites, have enabled us to deliver even more for communities, in-line with our charitable objectives. This year we have seen over 40,000 people taking part in organised activities on our sites. This is a 100% increase on last year. Over 6,000 of these were school visits and more than 8,500 were organised health activities, with a further 1,500 attending guided walks. There were almost 600 people taking part in training activities and more than 18,000 people took part in other activities on our sites, including bat box making, nature trails and mini-beast hunts. We also benefit from a fantastic contribution from volunteers who this year, donated an impressive 5,000 days to our projects.

These developments and all of the hard work on sites have meant that in 2013/14, four of our sites were awarded "Green Flag" status; Greenwich Ecology Park in London; Elba Park in Sunderland; Weetslade in Newcastle; and Beam Parklands in Dagenham. Green Flag is an industry accreditation for green spaces which demonstrates the high quality to which our sites are maintained. Beam Parklands was also awarded the Royal Town Planning Institute Award for Planning Excellence in the "Leading the way in planning for the community" category, of which we are very proud.

Looking forward to next year, we will see an increasing number of new sites, as the development market picks up. We expect to complete on Wellesley in Aldershot and are moving closer to securing our first sites in Scotland and Wales. I am confident that we will continue to work hard to create and manage green spaces - great places for the communities that we work with.





Vision

To improve the quality of people's lives by creating sustainable, high quality green spaces that deliver environmental, social and economic benefits.

Values

Leadership

We work inclusively, imaginatively and professionally with all partners to create the best possible spaces for communities.

Local

We work with local people to find sustainable solutions and create quality green spaces fit for purpose.

Passion

We care about the environment and the communities we work with.

Respect

We work with each other and all of our partners respectfully.

Learning

We actively learn from our and others' experiences and we constantly strive to improve, through an open approach to feedback, constructive challenge and a safe working environment.

Charitable objectives

We work with our partners to achieve high quality green spaces in order to improve:

Environment: By creating, restoring and managing green spaces to improve the natural environment through increasing biodiversity and enhancing habitats.

Health: By promoting the use of our green spaces for the improvement of the health and wellbeing of communities.

Learning: By inspiring the current and next generation through vocational outdoor education and training opportunities.

Economic vitality: By optimising the economic value of our spaces and the services that they can provide to benefit the communities that are connected with them.

Cohesion of communities and individuals:

By involving local people through volunteering and use of our sites and encouraging emotional ownership.

Business objectives

Resources: Enable The Land Trust to grow and flourish through the effective management of all our resources; land, people & money.

Profile: Be widely recognised and respected as a leading voice in our sector.

Governance: Management and people: Ensure that we are efficient & effective, fit for purpose and that we invest in our people.

Exemplar: Be an exemplar of how to create, develop and manage open spaces for public benefit.

Partnership: Be a partner of choice for business, delivery organisations and Government.

Acquisition: The selection and acquisition of the right land with the right funding, offering the opportunity to deliver our charitable objectives.





17 hectare nature reserve in Crayford

Helping to achieve planning permission

Braeburn Park

The story of how The Land Trust can resolve the difficulties of providing green spaces in new housing developments.

For many years this former quarry and landfill site turned nature reserve was dormant, due to a problematic planning condition, a long-standing headache for the developer, council and local community.

Despite £800,000 of Section 106 funding made available to provide a natural space for the residents of the new Braeburn Park housing development, there was a lack of expertise required to get the most out of the site, listed as an important area for nature conservation and home to 293 invertebrate species.

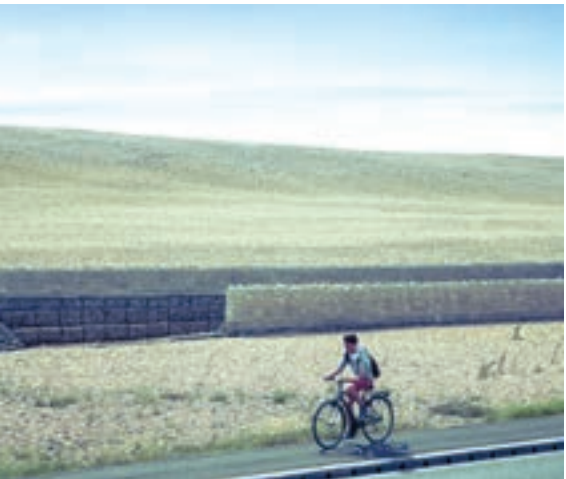
For the developer, Taylor Wimpey, the eyesore that was the open space adjacent to the Braeburn Park housing development became a problem. Meanwhile, the London Wildlife Trust was eager to manage the nature-rich site, but was unable to deal with the environmental risks. Faced with this impasse, the London Wildlife Trust approached The Land Trust, which provided a solution to end the 15-year deadlock.

Taylor Wimpey acknowledges that, had the Land Trust existed in 1999, the value of the new homes in Braeburn Park would have been higher, with a wildlife-rich community space to attract home buyers. Paul Bending, External Works Manager at Taylor Wimpey South East explains, "While brownfield sites can have limitations, many have potential, that fosters financial value. Increasingly, developers are concerned with providing quality open spaces around them - there's a realisation that it's about more than the bricks and mortar."

The Land Trust has now taken on full liability for the site. The £1m funding provided by Taylor Wimpey will be invested alongside the Land Trust's existing portfolio, and the return from this investment will enable the London Wildlife Trust to transform the land into an asset for the local community.

This funding model ensures that the reserve will be looked after in perpetuity, an increasingly important requirement for local authorities to see in planning applications.

As a charity committed to providing social, environmental and economic benefits, The Land Trust can provide this assurance and the security of long term management. Furthermore, the Land Trust enables developers to pass on liability for the land, improve the value of new properties and foster a sense of community.



Managing community assets

Osprey Quay

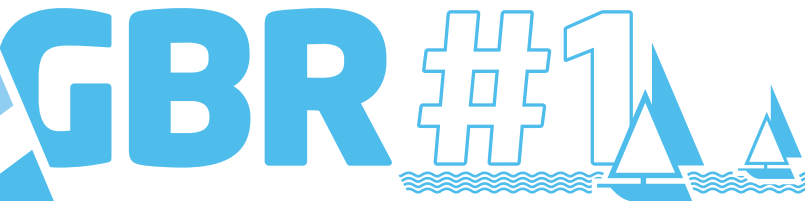
Osprey Quay in Dorset is part of an 8.5 ha development originally funded by the South West Regional Development Agency in 2001. The site is part developed and includes a mix of light industrial and leisure use.

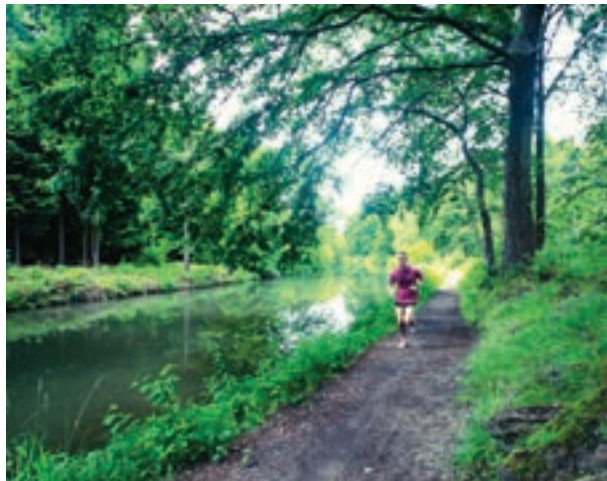
In October 2013, the Land Trust, through its subsidiary, took over management of the public open spaces and flood defences funded by service charges, and appointed Groundwork South as the Managing Partner. The site offers a number of opportunities to further develop the landscape over the next 2-3 years. For example, there is currently some limited planting, which we will expand, to include increased planting of species local to Portland.

A £1.2m endowment from the Homes & Communities Agency will also be used to supplement the long-term maintenance and repair of the vital flood defences which protect the businesses and leisure facilities provided at Osprey Quay. These defences were tested and held up over the 2013/14 winter period.

This site is important to Dorset, and our involvement with it will contribute to the regeneration and development of the area. The important community assets that are part of the site provide an opportunity to engage the local community and during the Olympics, Osprey Quay was even host to the main sailing events and athletes village. Thousands of people gathered along the Weymouth and Portland coastline to watch the sailing events, which included sailor Sir Ben Ainslie winning his fourth Olympic gold. We want to ensure that high levels of public interest in Osprey Quay continue.

The Land Trust aims to ensure that this public space is managed in a way that supports existing businesses, attracts new companies to the area and ensures that the new residential development is successful. It's also important to use our land in a way that benefits local people and stimulates growth and employment. Since February, managing partners, Groundwork, have been using the site for training young unemployed adults in accredited Progression in Horticulture courses as well as an NVQ Level 2 Horticulture course. We are also planning to run volunteer days with local schools and adult volunteers, in addition to a whole host of biodiversity, health and educational improvements and activities in the coming years.





Helping to create new homes

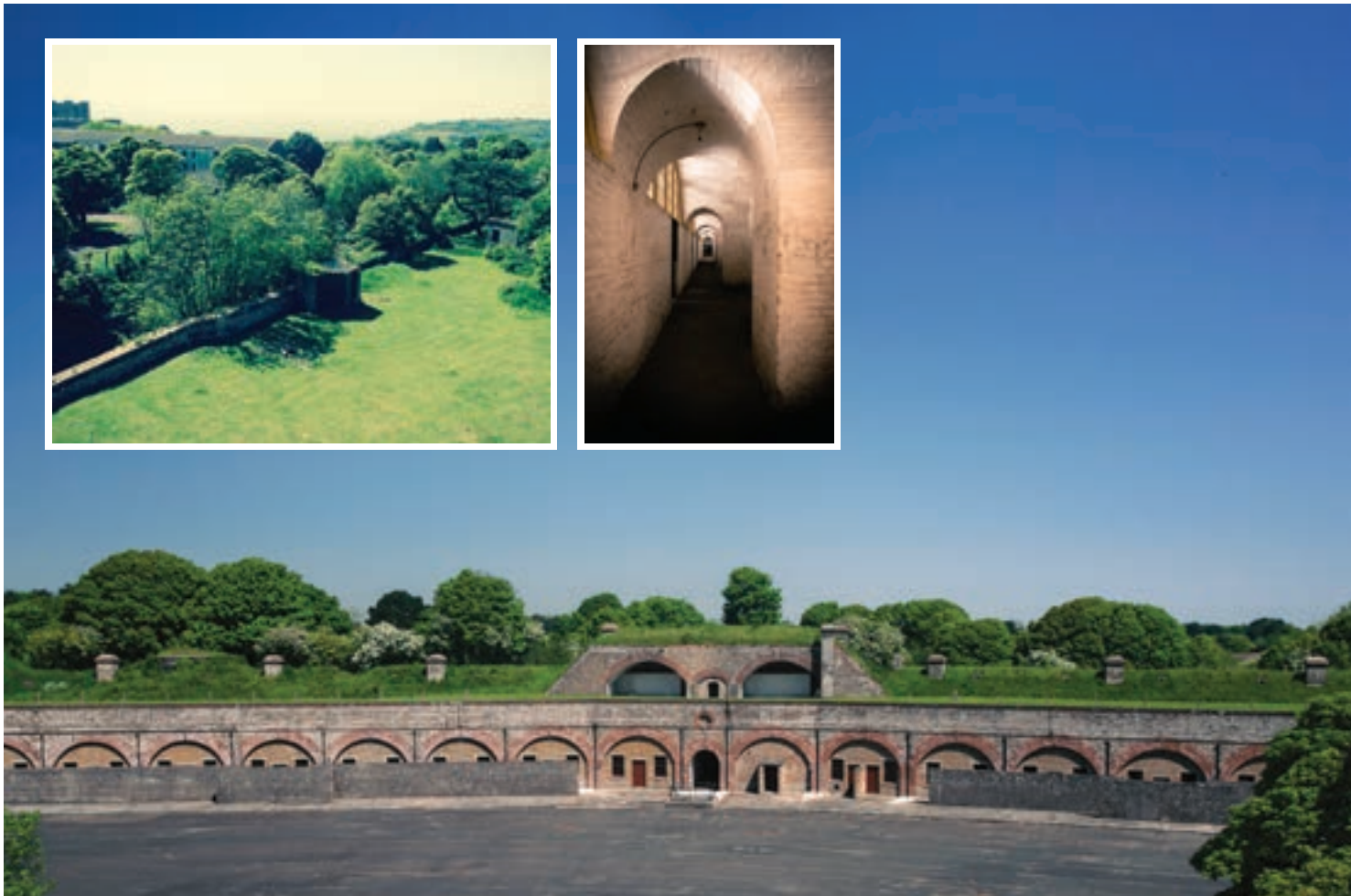
Wellesley in Aldershot

Wellesley is a 110 hectare community park at the heart of Grainger PLC’s Aldershot Urban Extension project. The development, based on former Aldershot Garrison land, is set to create 3,850 new homes, two new primary schools, as well as additional leisure and community facilities. By providing a sustainable long-term solution for managing the new green space, the Land Trust enabled a successful planning application for the development as a whole.

When Grainger agreed a 999 year lease with the Ministry of Defence for the Aldershot Urban Extension site, now known as Wellesley, one of the essential requirements of the development was that it ensured the protection of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (TBH SPA), which lies just to the west of the site. This is an area of heathland important for the supporting important populations of ground nesting birds. As a result, the Wellesley project had to include the provision of a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG), designed to act as a recreational area for Wellesley’s new residents and thereby relieve pressures on the Thames Basin Heaths.

By taking on the ownership of the country park the Land Trust offered an ideal solution, helping Grainger to meet its planning obligations and securing the site’s future. Alongside its transfer of the park’s ownership, Grainger will also install access infrastructure and provide the Land Trust with funding to establish and maintain the green infrastructure over the next 20 years. Following that, the Land Trust, will fund the on-going maintenance of the site through a service charge on the new houses. Supplemented by a £1.5m endowment. The completion of all work on the park prior to the first residents moving in will increase the value of the new homes being built and help attract people to the area.

The Land Trust has appointed the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership (BVCP) to manage and maintain the park on a day-to-day basis, and work with the Land Trust to establish a programme of ecological management works to enable the heathland and other habitats to flourish as a home for wildlife again.



Supporting regeneration

Fort Burgoyne

Since acquiring the site in 2014, plans are being developed to restore this unique site and open it to the public for the first time in its history. Fort Burgoyne will be a welcome addition to the community and visitor attractions in Dover and beyond.

The Fort was built in the 1860s, to protect Dover Castle. Originally called ‘Castle Hill Fort’, it was one of the Palmerston Forts, built across the Southern coast of Britain to defend its shores against invasion. The polygonal system, on which the building is built, was used to defend and watch from the highest strategic point in Dover. The Fort was renamed after a 19th Century General, John Fox-Burgoyne, who was Inspector-General of Fortifications and son of the John Burgoyne who fought in the American Revolutionary War.

Since military occupation ceased at the site in 2006 there have been several planning applications made for the adjacent Connought Barracks, including one for an open prison and one for 500 new homes. These plans did not propose to restore Fort Burgoyne or develop it for the use of the wider community and visitors to the Dover area.

Many areas of the site are currently overgrown and inaccessible to anyone who may wish to visit this historic and geographically unique site.

The Land Trust received the 42 hectares of land alongside an endowment of almost £11million from the HCA. We expect half of the endowment will be used to restore the site and half to maintain it in future years.

Plans for Fort Burgoyne are still in the early stages. The underlying principle of all planning is that the site is there for community use as much as possible; to provide sustainable long-term solutions for land in order to benefit local people. At Fort Burgoyne we aim to bring communities together to enable them to experience the benefits of outdoor spaces and heritage.

It is recognised that some of the site may be used for activities or use that will generate income for the future of Fort Burgoyne, however, this will all be undertaken after full consultation with local groups and interested parties.

The Land Trust is currently undertaking local consultations and formulating working groups and plans as to how Fort Burgoyne can be developed and managed into the future to benefit the local community and to maintain this historic site for future generations.



£11 million

endorsement to restore and maintain this historic site



£139k

grant awarded from the BIG Lottery
to develop 'Green Angels' project

GENERATING EXTRA FUNDS FOR OUR SITES

We have worked in partnership with our Managing Partners, Funding Bodies and others to generate extra income for our sites this year.



Thanks to all of our funders this year:

Supported By	Project	
Banks Community Fund	Northumberlandia Visitors' Centre	£142,720
Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities	Green Angels	£138,940
Biffa Award	Port Sunlight River Park	£50,000
J Paul Getty Charitable Trust	Everton Park Community Hub and Activities	£90,000
Natural England Paths for Communities	Countess of Chester Visitor Access	£144,590
Rural Development Programme for England	Northumberlandia Visitors' Centre	£89,884
SITA Trust Enriching Nature	Canvey Wick Carder Bees	£59,844
Veolia Environmental Trust	Rabbit Ings Reedbed Restoration and Expansion	£39,250



Green Angels

The Green Angels project, at Liverpool Festival Gardens, is designed to improve the quality of life for the surrounding communities, by providing training opportunities in the environmental field. The vision is to unite communities around the Gardens by providing courses in countryside management, park maintenance, business skills, environmental education and horticulture; and establishing a strong network of Green Angels to care for the gardens.

In 2013 The Land Trust successfully secured a grant of £139,000 from the BIG Lottery Fund's Reaching Communities programme to develop the two-year project and hire two new members of staff. The project has been successful in engaging local community groups, with positive signs of improved cohesion already visible.

Green Angels engages local residents in activities that benefit physical and mental health, as well as creating a sense of ownership of this unique community space. By the end of two years, the aim is to have an established group of volunteers, equipped with the necessary skills, experience and vision to develop a social enterprise trading in environmental and community services.



Port Sunlight River Park

From the biggest private dock in the world, to a landfill site, to an attractive country park, Port Sunlight River Park on the Wirral, formerly known as Bromborough Dock, is now entering a new era.

Port Sunlight River Park will be a catalyst for economic uplift in a deprived area of Merseyside, strengthening the local communities and supporting biodiversity. The park will remove barriers to the coast for both local residents and visitors, enabling them to enjoy a tranquil space, with unsurpassed views of the Liverpool waterfront.

The project is a shining example of how numerous different funding streams can be brought together to get even more from a site. In addition to £2.3m of Newlands funding for creating the park, The Land Trust successfully secured £50,000 from Biffa Award to create a wildlife wetland and construct new path networks, improving public access and recreational opportunities.

The success of the park has been made possible by a strong partnership which included Biffa Waste, Unilever, BIS, Forestry Commission, Wirral Borough Council, Gillespies, Essar, United Utilities, Port Sunlight Village Trust, Woodland Trust and Alison McGovern MP.



Northumberlandia

The Lady of the North now has easy access to tea and cake at our new Northumberlandia Visitor Centre! Grants from the Banks Landfill Communities Fund and the Rural Development Programme for England have enabled us to install a timber-clad modular building for use as a café and visitor centre. The building will also be a base for a range of community and visitor activities, including school visits.

Additionally, the grants have supported the development of The Land Trust's first App, which allows visitors to access maps, information and quizzes, focussing on the site's industrial history, local wildlife, and the landform sculpture itself, all via their smartphone.

The new facilities will encourage year-round visitors to this wonderful destination and ensure we make the most of all the site has to offer.



A 'Brownfield Rainforest' in Essex

Canvey Wick is a Site of Special Scientific Interest on Canvey Island in Essex. Described by Natural England as "a little brownfield rainforest," the importance of this site as a haven for wildlife is widely recognised. A unique mosaic of habitats, many of which have evolved from its industrial past, support a range of invertebrates and other wildlife, including populations of the rare, priority species Shril Carder Bee and Brown-Banded Carder Bee. We are in the early stages of managing these habitats and SITA Trust has provided a grant of just under £60,000, through the Landfill Communities Fund, to enable us to create optimum conditions for the threatened species of bees.

Working closely with RSPB, our managing partner, and Buglife, we will introduce a programme to clear overgrown scrub and invasive plants that negatively impact floral diversity, reducing food sources for the bees and other wildlife. Buglife will help to monitor the site, measure the impact of the work on the bee populations, and judge how flora and fauna reacts to these management methods. The funding enables us to make a real difference to one of the UK's rarest species and most important sites for biodiversity.



Our charitable outcomes

Health and well-being

Kelly Brindley is part of the South Yorkshire Team from the Forestry Commission

"We work with volunteers to keep our sites looking great and to ensure local communities have lots of opportunities to get involved with our activities. The South Yorkshire Woodlands were once colliery sites that have been transformed into community woodlands, at the heart of local communities, and in 2013/14 thousands were involved in walking activities on our sites, which include Bentley Community Woodland, Brodsworth Community Woodland, Dinnington Community Woodland, Kiveton Community Woodland, New Park Springs, Cudworth Common, Thurnscoe Community Woodland and Barton Lane.

The Woodlands Walking group has around 30 walkers per week. We also held a guided walk for the Yorkshire Women's Institute Federation which attracted an amazing 48 women. This was a hugely successful walk, and was used as an advertisement of South Yorkshire Community woodlands to a wider South Yorkshire audience. The site continues to host some walks for part of the Doncaster Walking Festival which is organised by Doncaster MBC. We also had four Nordic walking sessions on Brodsworth Community Woodland throughout the year, with regular walkers returning. The events are normally fully booked and often before they are even advertised! It's great to see returning participants from previous programmes as well as attracting new participants, often who have never visited site before".

Matthew Guest is the ranger for our site Warren House Park in Askern, which is a village north of Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

"I have been in this role for over five years now and it's incredibly varied. I undertake most of the practical work on the park. This hands-on approach allows me to rectify any problems that may occur through anti-social behaviour such as fly-tipping and broken glass. This has allowed me to build an excellent relationship with the surrounding community of Askern - the residents are my eyes and ears, they report any problems.

For the past five years we have worked in partnership with the Forestry Commission, in running their regular Woodland Workout programme (formerly known as Green Gym). Each week the group of volunteers go to work on a different site undertaking a wide range of largely practical conservation work. Over the years many different activities have been done from traditional countryside management such as hedge laying, right through to wildflower surveys.

Volunteers benefit from working with us in many different ways, for some it is about getting out into the fresh air and making a difference to their local patch, for others it is about working with other people and the camaraderie. For other volunteers it is about gaining hands-on experience in practical countryside management that will help them in their future careers, either way they all make a massive difference and are a great asset to our sites".



"My class all had a fantastic day. They were totally enthralled and captivated by everything that they saw, felt and heard"

"I have really enjoyed pond dipping and learning about all the different species and being surrounded by nature since we live in the city"

"When we were on our way I felt really scared of what type of creatures I would see but the real truth is that I thoroughly enjoyed it! My best bit was the pond dipping and holding the newts"

Working with schools

Joanne Smith, TCV Ranger at Greenwich Ecology Park writes about their school visits

"A school visit to Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park is an exciting hands-on experience of nature for many urban children and young people with limited or no access to the countryside. A lot of the children and young people who visit are initially scared of insects, reluctant to touch soil or plants and have misconceptions about UK wildlife (these have included the belief that we have crocodiles in the lakes, that they will catch malaria and that all bats drink blood!).

A guided tour of the park's habitats is a sensory experience and, at different times of year, can involve touching and smelling fragrant plants, listening to bird song, tying a knot in a bendy willow stick, handling mini-beasts found under logs and spotting brightly coloured dragonflies. Visits tie in with the National Curriculum whilst introducing an amazing array of fun facts about urban wildlife.

The afternoon sessions are a mix of informative but fun activities, which include pond dipping, using nets to catch an amazing variety of water invertebrates in the clean, clear water of the lakes, bird watching in the bird hides and fun quiz trails on topics as diverse as bees, poisonous plants and animal poo. Education visits have become so popular that sessions are now booked up a whole year ahead and the site is looking to expand its educational facilities and staff.

Feedback from teachers is overwhelmingly positive with many appreciating an outdoor experience, where children and young people are active participants rather than passive learners. This kind of active learning also works really well with a very wide range of different ages and abilities and the park is popular with special needs schools and groups".



Our volunteers

Louise volunteers at Silverdale Country Park, a former colliery in Staffordshire

"Being a volunteer at Silverdale Country Park, as I have for nearly a year, is always fun. I look forward every week to being with the group. We are led by the Ranger, Andy Hunt who is perfect for the job he does. He always makes our "work" interesting and ensures that we do something different most weeks.

Being at the park doing this sort of volunteer work is something I have always wanted to do. It is exactly as I had imagined! So far I have helped to make and place benches, erected fencing, erected signage, cleared ditches, thinned out woodland by pruning and felling small trees, planted saplings and seeds, dry hedging and helped to keep the park clear of litter.

As a volunteer I am always learning and it enables me to give to the community. I have made friends and we work well as a team. The other benefits are lots of fresh air, sometimes very fresh! Lots of exercise! Watching the Park change through the seasons and benefitting from all the work we do. Perfect!"



Our communities

We work with local communities on all of our sites and at Elba Park in Sunderland, which is managed by Groundwork. We have a very active Friends Group. Some of the members describe below how they get involved.

Margaret Timothy, local resident. Has been part of the friends group since 2011.

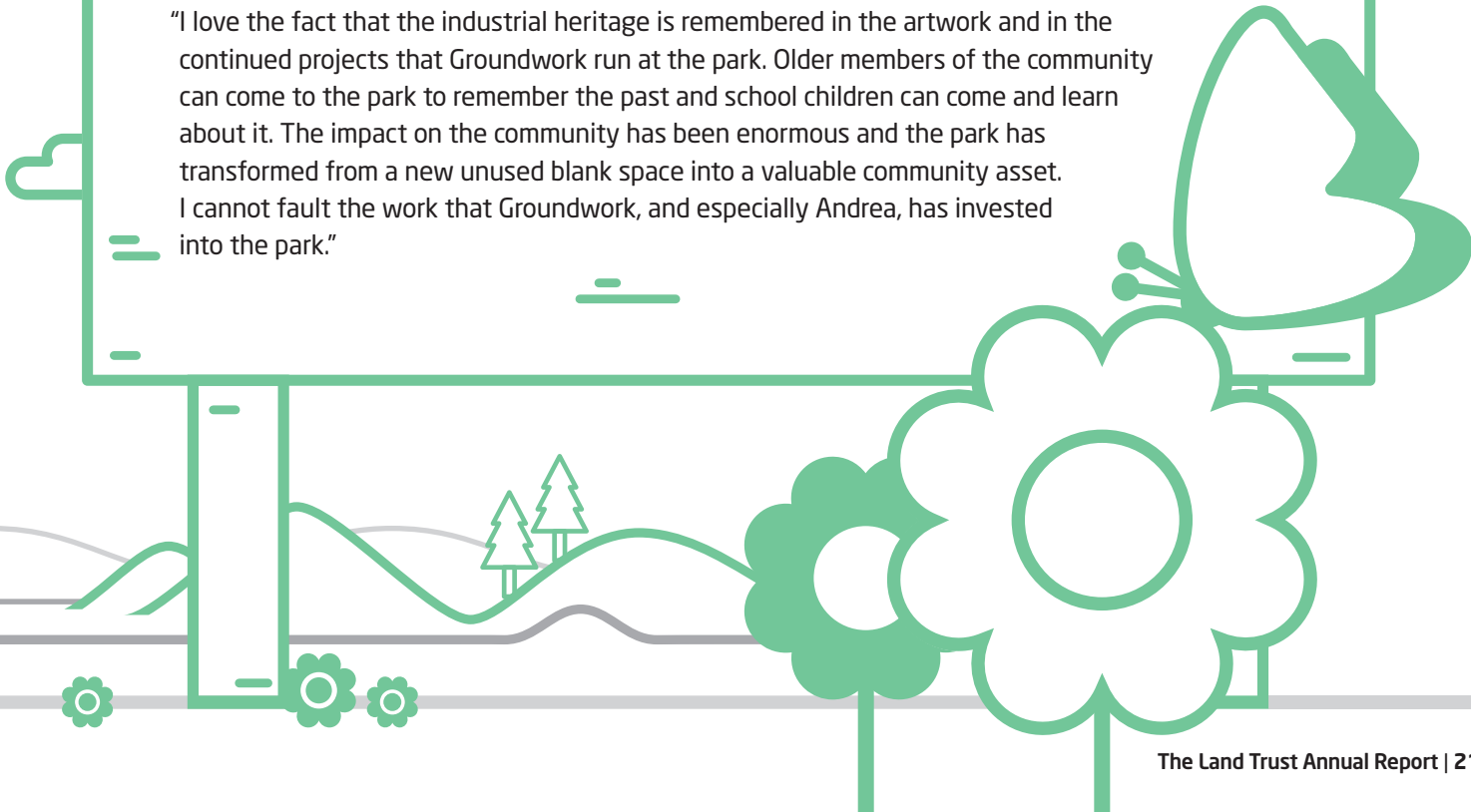
"I enjoy being involved in activities around Elba Park as it keeps me informed of what is going on in my local area. Groundwork provides lots of opportunities and facilities for the community to be involved. I enjoy talking to other people in the community about what is happening at Elba and often people come to me to ask questions as they know I am involved with the group. Elba is more tranquil than some of the other parks that have noisy play areas and is managed to encourage wildlife. It is nice that it is different from other nearby parks and refreshingly restful. It is a privilege to have Elba Park on my doorstep."

Paul Christer, resident at Elba Park estate. Has been a part of the group since October 2013.

"I moved to Elba Park in June 2013 from outside of the area. One of the attractions to moving to the area, apart from babysitting grandparents, was the green space around me which would be an ideal environment for my 4 year old son to grow up in. As an Environmental Health Officer I am keen to ensure that our local environment is protected for future generations to enjoy. My initial involvement with the Friends of Elba Park came about as a result of a problem with dog fouling. I felt very strongly that dog walkers weren't clearing up and wanted to do something about it... this is still work in progress! However, I was invited to the friends group and felt as though I potentially had a lot that I could offer the group and will continue to take an active role where I can. The park is a great benefit to the local community and provides a unique opportunity for the local community to care for it, learn about it and its history as well as shape its future."

Pat Simmons, local resident. Has been part of the group since October 2010.

"I love the fact that the industrial heritage is remembered in the artwork and in the continued projects that Groundwork run at the park. Older members of the community can come to the park to remember the past and school children can come and learn about it. The impact on the community has been enormous and the park has transformed from a new unused blank space into a valuable community asset. I cannot fault the work that Groundwork, and especially Andrea, has invested into the park."





STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Year Ended 31/03/14	Year Ended 31/03/13
	£000s	£000s
Incoming Resources		
Incoming Resources from Generating Funds		
- Voluntary Income	6	29
- Grants	1,459	856
- Activities for Generating Funds	201	142
- Investment Income	4,213	3,817
Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities		
- Site Maintenance	154	229
- Site Funding	17,960	450
Total Incoming Resources	23,993	5,523
Resources Expended		
Cost of Generating Funds		
- Investment Management	228	158
Charitable Activities	6,083	5,161
Governance Costs	44	35
Total Resources Expended	6,355	5,354
Net Incoming Resources from Operations	17,638	169
Realised Gains/(Losses) on Investment Assets	5,239	(540)
Unrealised Gains/(Losses) on Investment Assets	(5,330)	14,050
Actuarial Gains/(Losses) on Defined Benefit Pension Scheme	30	(12)
Net Movement in Funds	17,577	13,667

BALANCE SHEET

	Year Ended 31/03/14	Year Ended 31/03/13
	£000s	£000s
Fixed Assets		
- Tangible Fixed Assets	19	39
- Investments	101,949	86,092
	101,968	86,131
Current Assets		
- Debtors	2,652	612
- Investments	9,000	9,153
- Cash at Bank and in Hand	1,287	1,356
	12,939	11,121
Creditors: falling due within one year	(2,125)	(2,012)
Net Current Assets	10,814	9,109
Defined Benefit Pension Scheme Asset	44	9
Net Assets	112,826	95,249
Endowment Funds	61,924	61,203
Restricted Funds	7,607	5,792
Unrestricted Funds		
- Designated Funds	36,682	21,899
- General Funds	6,569	6,346
- Pension Reserve	44	9
	43,295	28,254
	112,826	95,249

This financial information has been extracted from the audited full financial statements of The Land Trust for the year ended 31st March 2014, which were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 10th July 2014. The auditor's report on the full financial statements was unqualified and contained no statement under sections 498 (2) (a), 498(3) of the Companies Act 2006. The full financial statements have been filed at Companies House, The Charity Commission and OSCR. Copies of the full financial statements, the trustees' report and auditor's report for the year ended 31st March 2014 can be obtained from The Charity Commission.

Peter Smith
Trustee
9th September 2014

