



the
**Land
Trust**

Annual Review

- Creating resilient, thriving communities
- Delivering social value
- Changing people's lives



Northumberlandia
was named
Land Trust site of
the year in 2018

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Euan Hall

Chief Executive



Euan Hall has been Chief Executive of the Land Trust since 2004

Making a difference

The past 12 months have been ones of great progress for the Land Trust. With 63 sites across the country our work has had a positive impact across so many areas, including our key charitable objectives of environment and biodiversity, health, education and learning, economic vitality and community cohesion.

In the last year alone, working with our managing partners who make such a vital contribution to the success of our sites, 1.3 million people have enjoyed spending time in our green spaces, over 40,000 volunteer hours have been completed and 13,200 individuals took part in educational or training activities on our sites.

A summary of our activities and events for 2017-18 is shown below.

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
SCHOOL VISITS	3,500	6,278	7,711	7,811	7,448	7,970
TRAINING ACTIVITIES	800	660	802	1,572	1,712	3,591
HEALTH ACTIVITIES	4,500	8,648	9,501	14,885	20,857	39,391
COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES	8,000	18,570	15,887	31,867	54,868	59,403
PRACTICAL VOLUNTARY WORK (DAYS)	3,000	5,274	8,064	14,474	11,503	10,379



Evidencing our impact

As the 15th anniversary of the Land Trust rapidly approaches it is incredible to see how far we have come and how many people’s lives we are positively affecting.

Over the last 12 months we have committed significant time and resource to understanding and evidencing the contribution that we make, and proving that well managed green space can have a positive impact on people’s physical and mental wellbeing, the economy, local community and the environment. You will read more about this work throughout our review.

This evidence will be highly valuable in the future when lobbying key decision makers for more investment in green space and infrastructure.

Site acquisitions

2017-18 has seen more land come under our management, adding a 75 hectare service charge site at Waverley to our portfolio. This brings our portfolio of land under management to 2,367 hectares.

Our role in delivering sustainable green infrastructure, integrating green space into the built environment and helping to secure better quality environments and better places for people to live, saw us recognised at the High Sheriff of Cheshire Awards for Enterprise with the Land Trust taking home the award for Responsible Business Practice. This is further evidence that our placekeeping philosophy is working.



The Land Trust has added 75 hectares of land to its expanding portfolio in 2017-18



Our vision

We have big ambitions and we recognise that we have an opportunity to help tackle some of the biggest issues currently being faced by our country.

It has been well documented that the NHS is struggling financially, crippled under the growing weight of preventable, long term and non-communicable diseases caused in part by inactivity. The Trust is committed to working with our communities to help them take responsibility for their own health, thereby relieving the NHS of unaffordable expenditure.

The mental health crisis is also costing the health service increasingly vast sums of money and having a huge effect on our economy with 12.5 million working days lost in 2016/17 due to work related stress, depression or anxiety.

New initiatives such as social prescribing can make a real difference here – activities such

as TCV's Green Gyms – run on many of our sites - have been academically evaluated by the University of Westminster and proven to reduce stress while our own Health for Life project at Countess of Chester Country Park improved the physical and mental health of participants, as studied by Liverpool University.

Another key area for the Trust going forward will continue to be how we engage with young people, not only in providing educational opportunities for school children, but also working with teenagers and young adults to provide them with skills and experiences that will help them in further education or into employment.

Young people are our future and if they are to live healthy, productive and prosperous lives then we need them to understand the positive impact that spending time in green space can have and take these habits with them throughout their lives.

There is also evidence to suggest that for some pupils, learning in an outdoor environment can boost their academic results, and our new education strategy, launched earlier this year, will give us a new direction in this area of work.

Finally we need to focus on our environment and the world that we are going to be leaving behind for future generations.

There have been promising noises from the government over the last 18 months, with the recent announcement of a new environment bill which will set out the legal framework for their 25 year plan to leave the environment in a better state.

We all have a responsibility to look after this planet that we call home and the Land Trust, working in partnership with various organisations will ensure we have our say in shaping the future direction of this work.

We need a government that recognises the importance of green space and infrastructure to create thriving, healthy communities and we look forward to working with Defra to help deliver the 2019 year of action.

Ultimately, it is about deciding what society we want our children, and their children, to grow up in.

We have a huge opportunity to change the future of our country. It is vital that we do not miss it.



For every
£1 that we
spend on
our sites
there is
an overall
economic
and social
benefit of
£4 to society

Financial performance

The Land Trust ended the year with £144.7 million of Funds carried forward, with £4.3 million of this classified as General Funds.

Investment returns on this portfolio remained consistent at 4% with total investment income of £5.1 million. This enabled us to manage our sites sustainably and to achieve our charitable outcomes. Costs were well controlled with a modest fall in spend on charitable activities to £5.8 million.

Measuring our impact

The added value
of the Land Trust



Ranger Anne
Litherland on site
at Port Sunlight
River Park

The Land Trust added Waverley, a third service charge site, to our portfolio last year

The long term success of our spaces is important to the reputation of the Land Trust, our managing partners and the developers and land owners we work with.

We believe that our role goes beyond simply managing green space but about creating communities and places where people want to live, work and play.

Working with AMION Consulting, we have developed a Social Value Model that allows us to measure our impact, by assessing the benefits of our green space management against our five key charitable objectives of:

- Environment and biodiversity
- Health and well-being
- Education and learning
- Economic vitality
- Community cohesion and volunteering

The model provides evidence-based, measurable indicators of the benefits of well managed green space for communities.

Contributions to this overall economic value come from:

- Reduced energy consumptions
- Reduced carbon emissions
- Carbon storage
- Health care cost savings
- Health and well-being value
- Educational engagement
- Land management and use
- Tourism
- Volunteering
- Community engagement



After analysing the information provided from all of our sites in 2017/18 the results showed that for every £1 that we spend there is an overall economic and social benefit of £4.

This is hugely valuable information for the Land Trust and our development clients. To be able to put an economic value on the work we do is absolutely vital for our future work and will be particularly important when it comes to putting a convincing case forward to government and key decision makers for greater investment in green infrastructure.

The model will also help us as we continue to grow our business proposition. While traditionally the sites we have managed have come in the form of an endowment we now have three service charge sites under our management with more to follow over the next couple of years.

Being able to demonstrate our added value to the residents and the communities that we work with will not only help them feel positive about the communities they live in but will also be of significant reputational benefit to the Land Trust and partners going forward.

It also enables us to demonstrate the value we can add to new strategic residential schemes as they come through the planning system, so that the green spaces are designed and maintained in a way which meets community needs and maximises social value delivered.

Health



The cost to the UK economy of mental health problems at work is £34.9 billion, according to research published by the Centre for Mental Health



Our Health for Life programme at Countess of Chester Country Park was a great success

The evidence about the positive benefit of green space to our physical and mental health has continued to grow.

With the NHS in a financial crisis we recognise that we have a unique opportunity to improve the physical and mental health outcomes of local residents by encouraging the use of greenspace as an alternative to traditional treatments.

“The Countess of Chester Country Park is a major success story and the Health for Life programme has resulted in hundreds of people enjoying this fantastic green space on their doorstep.

“We know people feel healthier and happier when they’re outside, enjoying our spaces and taking part in activities on our sites.”

Euan Hall, Chief Executive



Health for Life

Our two year Health for Life project at Countess of Chester Country Park was a massive success with participants reporting huge improvements in their physical and mental well-being.

The £70,000 programme which was funded by the Cheshire Wirral Partnership NHS Trust, The Big Lottery, The Mersey Forest and Cheshire West and Chester Council, saw nearly 700 different events and sessions organised at the park for the public and NHS staff from the nearby hospital.

Working with the Natural Health Service Centre of Excellence which includes both the University of Liverpool and Liverpool John Moores University, the activities were academically evaluated, measuring participant's health at the start and end of an 8-12 week programme.

The results were very positive.

In virtually all cases, due to the activities we ran, participants physical and mental health significantly improved. There was a dramatic reduction in the time participants spent sitting each day with a corresponding leap in vigorous physical exercise of nearly 60 percent.

There was a 100% increase in the number of people who took part in health activities on our sites in 2017/18, with more than 40,000 people getting involved

Social prescribing

At the Land Trust Managing Partners Awards, delegates heard from Craig Lister, managing director of Green Gym, who spoke about the benefits of social prescribing.

A means of enabling GPs, nurses and other primary care professionals to refer people to a range of local, non-clinical services, social prescribing is designed to support people with a wide range of social, emotional or practical needs, with many schemes focusing on improving mental health and physical well-being.

The Land Trust is well positioned to help with the delivery of Green Gym based on the outcomes we regularly deliver across the country already.



The Land Trust is passionate about improving people's physical and mental well-being

Health Site of the Year

There were joint winners of the Health Site of the Year in 2018 with Countess of Chester Country Park and Port Sunlight River Park sharing the honours.

Countess of Chester was recognised for its innovative Health for Life project, while Port Sunlight has also enjoyed a fantastic year. Working in partnership with Autism Together, the site has held 78 health walks across the course of the year, with 40 walking groups using the site on a regular basis.

There have been 21 Big Bike Revival sessions run on the site, benefitting 114 children, while the site is also used regularly by Wirral Athletic Club.

"With our NHS in crisis, the importance of people spending time outdoors simply can't be underestimated. All our sites provide a myriad of health benefits for their users but over the last 12 months Countess of Chester and Port Sunlight really stood out and they were both worthy winners of the award."

Alan Carter,
Director of portfolio management

Education

The brass rubbing trail at Northumberlandia has been popular with children and adults alike





Evidence shows that many children learn better in an outdoor environment

Green spaces are great places to learn about nature, the environment and for promoting life skills. At the Land Trust we are committed to creating spaces that can become outdoor learning and training venues and resources to connect people with nature.

The last 12 months have been very successful with 8,000 people taking part in education activities on our sites.

However we recognise that there is significantly more that we can achieve and our commitment to this charitable objective was recognised with the launch of a new education strategy.

The ambition of this strategy is to increase the amount of time young people spend outdoors, giving them the opportunity to learn new skills, develop academically, enhance their future prospects and make a difference in the community.

With over 60 sites across the country, many in deprived communities, we recognise that we are in a unique position to make a real difference and our refreshed education strategy is the first step in that process



Why did we need a new strategy?

The time currently spent outdoors by children is worryingly low and it was these statistics, combined with a crisis in childhood obesity that encouraged the Land Trust to act.

Alan Carter, director of portfolio management for the Land Trust, said:

“The Land Trust has been delivering educational activities on our sites since its inception but this strategy is about developing that offer further and making a real difference in the communities who live and work close to our sites. We are also aware that some children learn far more and deliver better academic work outdoors than in a traditional classroom.

“This desire is set against a backdrop of rising childhood obesity levels, decreasing childhood mental health and a worrying lack of time spent by children and young people in the natural environment.

“It is reported that three quarters of UK children spend less time outdoors than prison inmates while a fifth of children do not play outside at all on an average day. These findings are completely unacceptable and if they are allowed to remain unchanged we risk generations of people missing out on enjoying time outside and the physical and mental health benefits that brings.”

8,000 people took part in education activities on our sites – a 7% increase on the previous 12 months

How are we going to achieve this?

Over the next three years we will have a strategic focus on developing relationships with schools and nurseries within walking distance of our spaces.

We have invested in six new outdoor learning areas across our sites at Wellesley Woodlands, Bewsey, Kiveton, Old Hall, Silverdale and Hassall Green, while also training rangers and teachers as forest school practitioners, to enhance the variety of activity on our sites.

We are also working with an external body called Nature-Nurture to produce an education pack for use by local schools near our site at Davy Down, which will be further developed to provide a learning pack that can be distributed to schools across the country.

Education Site of the Year

Elba Park is a site playing a lead role in our education work and was awarded Land Trust Educational Site of the Year after delivering activities to nearly 1,000 school children over the last 12 months.

Based in Sunderland the team at Elba have built excellent working relationships with local schools which has seen children enjoy activities such as geocaching, pond dipping, meadow sweeps, crafts, surveys and identification, bulb and tree planting and heritage activities.

Students from Portland Academy, a school for young people with special educational needs and disability, attend weekly sessions at the site with post-16 students undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh award.

Local school children enjoying the outdoors at Elba Park



Economy

"If we can replicate the success of Elba Park across a number of our sites then we can make a huge impact and effect real change in so many people's lives."

Euan Hall, Chief Executive





Well managed green space can have a hugely positive effect on the local community and economy



Along with employing local managing partners and suppliers our sites add a value to local communities, encouraging positive investment.

We are committed to developing our understanding of the economic and other benefits to households, business and wider society of us holding and managing land for charitable purposes and the value that it creates.

Alliance Manchester Business School Research – Port Sunlight River Park

We commissioned research with the Alliance Manchester Business School to evidence the positive impact that well managed green spaces can have on house prices and the local economy.

The research focused on our site at Port Sunlight River Park. This park is a former landfill in Wirral, Northwest England and located by some of the most deprived neighbourhoods in the country.

In 2014 the Land Trust working with the land owner Biffa Waste Services Ltd and other partners transformed the site into a 30 hectare park and wetland, after securing £3.4 million of public and private investment for its creation and long term maintenance.

The research highlighted that good quality green spaces, when well managed, can:

- Improve an area's attractiveness
- Increase property values
- Encourage local investment
- Generate local business revenue
- Create and safeguard jobs
- Enable volunteering, learning and development
- Protect homes and businesses from flood risk.

The green space around Port Sunlight River Park has had a direct positive impact on local property values.

- **£3.4 million investment** to create and maintain the park in perpetuity
- **5.4% increase** – the increase in value every 100 metres that a house is closer to the park within 500 metres
- **£7.8 million** – estimated total value that the park adds to houses located within 500 metres
- **£8,674** – the average addition per house price within 500 metres of the park.



“I’ve been involved with Port Sunlight River Park from the outset, so have seen how the Land Trust’s model for managing parks long term can really benefit communities.

“But this research goes further and can show that long term management of green spaces improve property values and local business revenues, which is crucial evidence that should increase investment in public green spaces.”

Alison McGovern MP

"Well-managed green space such as Wellesley is brilliant for people's physical and mental well-being and it has been wonderful to witness the positive impact it has had on the local community and the residents who live nearby."

Leo Docherty MP



Site delivering best/improved economic activity

Wellesley Woodlands was the first winner of our award for the site delivering most beneficial and improved economic activity.

The site, based in Aldershot and managed in partnership with Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership, was formally taken over by the Land Trust in the summer of 2014 with the vision of providing beautiful green woodlands and open spaces to benefit the local people and wildlife.

The woodlands form part of Wellesley, a development of 3,850 new homes being delivered by Grainger plc on former Garrison land in Aldershot, which is providing significant regeneration within Aldershot.

A key challenge of this site was the planning conditions for Grainger PLC, the developer, which stipulated a requirement for an area of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG)

Our site at Wellesley Woodlands is now attracting over 200,000 visitors a year

to offset any negative impact that the development may have on the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area.

By working in partnership with Grainger, and having a shared vision for long term investment and sustainable place making, our involvement has enabled the project to achieve planning consent and secured the long term funding for the SANGS area.

This enables the Land Trust to manage the site in perpetuity, and has allowed us to create jobs for onsite rangers, develop and maintain the green spaces, including new pathways, trails and car parks, engage with local residents, provide new skills, training and volunteer opportunities and ensure the site becomes a focal point for the wider community, contributing to improved health, economic, educational, environmental and social benefits.



Community cohesion and volunteering

The average volunteer gives up two and a half days of their time a year for the Land Trust



Staff from NatWest enjoy a corporate volunteering day on our site at Kiveton

Volunteering and the engagement of local communities is an extremely valuable way of enhancing our sites and creating emotional ownership. To ensure that the benefit is two-way we aim to focus on how we can help our volunteers gain improved skills, confidence and health whilst our green spaces benefit from their input.

Volunteer of the Year

Mike Little is a fantastic example of a volunteer who makes a huge impact and his tireless commitment saw him recognised as our Volunteer of the Year.

Mike, who has given up 1,500 hours of his time over the last 12 months, opens up and litter picks Knowle Haven and Mayles Lane every day and has completed much of the development of the Haven by himself, learning new skills and undertaking training to benefit the site and his own personal development.

Mike, who suffers from a degenerative bone disease, credits a significant improvement in his physical and mental well-being to his volunteering work.



“Volunteers play an absolutely vital role in local communities and the Land Trust is fortunate enough to be able to draw upon a vast network of people at our sites across the country.

“While the Land Trust benefits hugely from the work they carry out, we also work extremely hard to ensure that volunteers get back as much as they put in, and in many ways this is our principle focus. This could be in the form of some professional training or qualification to help them with the work they carry out on our sites or in the mental and physical benefits they get from spending time outdoors in green space.”

Alan Carter
Director of Portfolio Management



Our passionate volunteer workforce is working hard to restore Pleasley Pit to its former glory

Pleasley Pit

At perhaps no other Land Trust site can you see the benefit of a passionate volunteer workforce better than at Pleasley Pit.

Pleasley Pit was the deepest pit in the East Midlands coalfield, opening sometime between 1872 and 1875, with the colliery finally ceasing production in 1983. The colliery was noted for a number of innovative features, including the first electric lighting at the pit bottom, a cast iron shaft lining to control water inrushes and a novel arrangement of back to back winding houses.

In 1995 a group of enthusiastic volunteers formed Friends of Pleasley Pit and started the gargantuan task of restoring the site.

Nine years later, through their incredible efforts, the north winding engine was restored and run for the first time in December 2004, and this year the south engine has been restored and used once more.

In 2017/18 over 4,000 volunteers took part in activities on Land Trust sites completing over 10,000 days of activity

The volunteers also generate a significant income through the operation of a café which in 2017/18 raised approximately £35,000. This is a significant pot of funding which the Pit Trust used to reinvest in the restoration of the engines.

The Friends of Group also provide guided walks around the site and with over 20,000 visitors annually this has meant a significant number of people have enjoyed learning the unique history of Pleasley.

Environment and biodiversity





Green Angels warming up around the fire at Countess of Chester Country Park



Green Angels

Our Green Angels programme celebrated the end of a great first year on sites in Warrington and South Yorkshire with the work done by the volunteers having a significant impact on the environment where they were working.

Not only have the volunteers created woodland meadow areas to increase biodiversity, but at our site in Great Sankey, a population of Willow tits, an endangered species, were discovered during a wildlife survey.

New species

Many of the UK's native species are in decline but with careful management and encouragement even the smallest of species can become havens for wildlife. Some highlights this year include 100 species of moth inhabiting our site at Haig in Whitehaven, while a new species of bee has been identified at Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park. The small headed resin bee (*Heriades rubicola*) is now officially recognised as a new species for Britain.

BioBlitz and new species

Over the last 12 months we have run 129 BioBlitz events across our sites to enable us to monitor and protect species and work with the community to unlock their understanding of the natural environment and the species they live alongside.



The value of green spaces to the environment cannot be overestimated. Our parks, nature reserves and urban spaces create places for nature to flourish, but equally provide vital mitigation against flooding and pollution, protecting communities as well as wildlife.

Our work allows us to conserve and protect these areas while building resilience and creating places for communities and nature to enjoy for the long term.

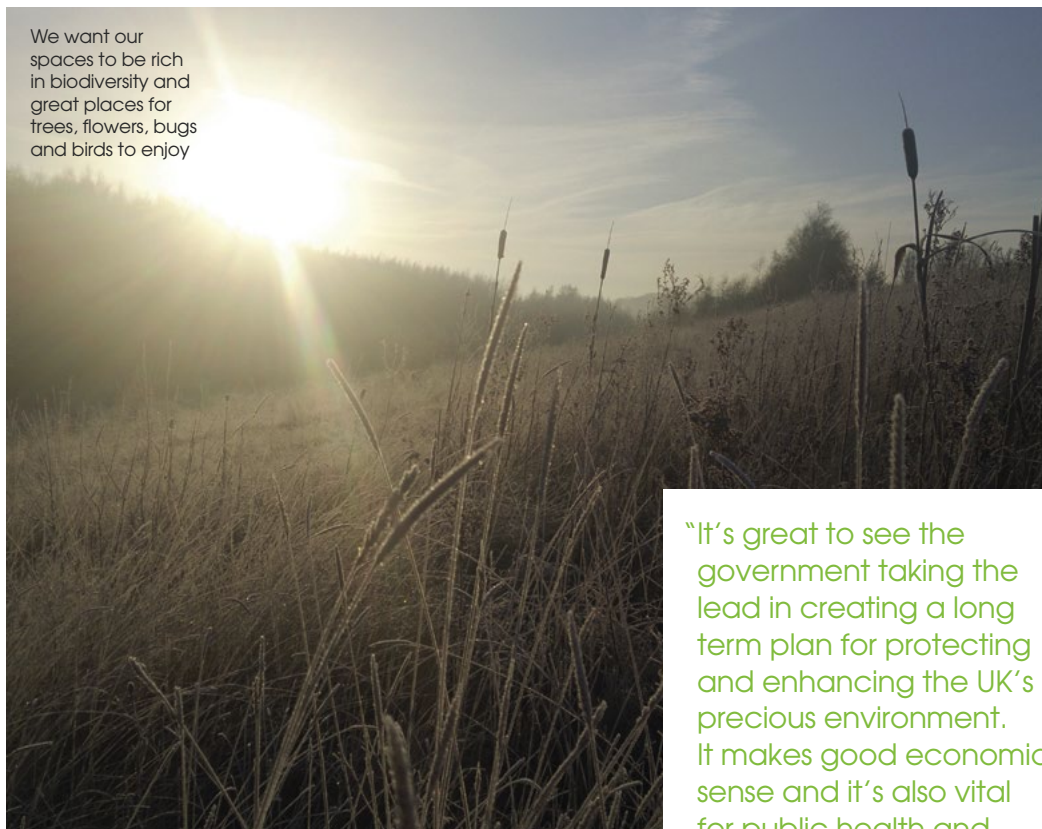
Our green spaces protect communities and allow wildlife to thrive

Protecting communities

As part of our service charge site at Upton we manage the Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS). SuDS are used in all types of development to provide a natural approach to managing drainage and prevent water pollution and flooding in urban areas.

Our SuDS at Upton in Northampton, really proved their worth earlier this year, when very heavy rainfall in the area caused flash flooding. The properties at Upton could have been seriously affected had it not been for the effective management of the SuDS, which held the water back and protected the properties until the worst of the rainfall was over and the rain water had subsided.

We want our spaces to be rich in biodiversity and great places for trees, flowers, bugs and birds to enjoy



"It's great to see the government taking the lead in creating a long term plan for protecting and enhancing the UK's precious environment. It makes good economic sense and it's also vital for public health and well-being both physically and mentally.

"All government departments need to play their part in creating good quality, healthy places for living and leisure, particularly in urban areas. We urge them to provide clear investment frameworks for the creation, enhancement and long term maintenance of green spaces and green infrastructure fit for the 21st century."

Euan Hall, Chief Executive

25 Year Environment Plan

In January, the Land Trust was delighted to see the government announce a 25 year environment plan.

Proposals to improve air and water quality, enhance wildlife habitats and use green spaces to improve public health and well-being were welcomed by the Land Trust, mirroring the charity's own key aims and activities.

We were pleased that the recommendations contained in the report "A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment" recognised the many threats to the natural environment and also the social injustice of young people from deprived backgrounds having less access to green open spaces.

We also approved of key policies to make more effort to connect children with nature and to embed the environmental net gain principle into commercial developments, including housing and infrastructure projects.



Fundraising

Our fundraising activities provide us with an opportunity to deliver even greater charitable benefits across our parks and green spaces



The Land Trust's fundraising activities provide us with an opportunity to deliver even greater charitable benefits across our parks and green spaces and for those communities local to our sites.

This year we have successfully secured almost £670,000, working closely with our managing partners, local communities and other stakeholders to develop diverse projects across the country that will allow us to deliver increased charitable outcomes on our sites. A number of projects have been funded and delivered throughout the year, while we also work towards fundraising for longer term strategic developments and activities.

Port Sunlight River Park

We were delighted to receive the news of a successful bid to Heritage Lottery Fund for an exciting project at Port Sunlight River Park in the Wirral. This grant – of almost £500,000, will allow us to work with partners Autism Together and Big Heritage, to deliver a wide range of benefits for the park and the surrounding communities. The project will begin with the creation of a visitor heritage centre overlooking Liverpool across the River Mersey, providing a café, displays and interpretation and event space. The next two years will see community archaeological digs taking place at the nearby Old Courthouse site; training and education activities; and events both at Port Sunlight and the Old Courthouse. The project will engage with people of all ages and abilities from across the area and provide an opportunity for hands-on learning about the rich history of this area. Fundraising is continuing to maximise the project benefits.

“The funding for the new visitor centre at Port Sunlight River Park will bring even greater benefits to the local community and economy.

“There will be a variety of opportunities for people to explore Bromborough's cultural and natural heritage through archaeological excavation, community history projects, heritage based trails and more.”

Euan Hall, Chief Executive



Our site at
Northumberlandia
continues to thrive

Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park Outdoor Classroom

The new outdoor classroom at Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park is now complete, with the final piece of the funding puzzle supplied by Ikea. The company has provided £122,000 to carry out a number of improvements on the site, including the completion of the classroom building.

This exciting project in one of the fastest growing areas in London will enable our managing partner TCV to deliver more educational activities on site, allowing more children from schools across London to find out about the wildlife and wild spaces on their doorstep. The new flexible space will also provide a venue for activities and events for people of all ages from across the community to engage with their local green space.

Additional funding was received from the Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation; from grants received in the previous financial year from Postcode Local Trust and Veolia Environmental Trust (through the Landfill Communities Fund); through generous donations from local residents and site users; and through the fundraising efforts of the Friends of Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park.

Northumberlandia

Our site at Northumberlandia, near Newcastle, received a grant of £10,000 from Banks Community Fund to carry out works to improve the entrance and access to the site. This, along with other recent grants, has enabled us to significantly enhance facilities for visitors and attract more school groups to use the site for education visits.

In-Kind Contributions

Across our sites, wider fundraising activities are also undertaken, with our managing partners, site users and other stakeholders contributing in-kind contributions and raising money for Land Trust sites. While this income is not reflected in the Land Trust's financial accounts, it contributes greatly to the delivery of our charitable outcomes, provides 'match' funding for wider projects, and delivers great benefits on the ground.

Thanks to all our managing partners, friends groups and visitors for all their work throughout the year in raising additional income and carrying out improvements across the Land Trust's sites.

Service Charge



The Land Trust has many years of experience in managing parks and open green spaces.

However in recent years, we have taken our unique skill set, passion and expertise for improving people's lives directly into communities by taking on service charge spaces. This involves us taking on the management of the green space and planning a sustainable future that benefits all residents and the local community. We work with a local contractor or managing partner to ensure the upkeep and maintenance of the site are to a high standard. The cost is then shared between all residents (the service charge), who are kept informed and involved in decision making processes and budgeting.

Unlike commercial landscape contractors we have a long-term interest in the site and aim to manage our spaces in a way that improves people's lives and communities, rather than to generate shareholder dividends.

This is reflected in our resident's satisfaction following recent surveys on our sites at Beaulieu and Upton. The results highlighted that 78% of residents said that our work had a positive impact on their mental health and wellbeing, while 75% of respondents said they were happy to live in a space managed by the Land Trust.

While the early results of this work are promising we recognise that there are areas that can be

improved, particularly in how we manage a positive relationship with our residents and keep them informed about our work in an effective way.

We are developing innovative methods to communicate with, consult and involve the community to enable residents to make decisions on how their land is managed.

In addition to Beaulieu and Upton, the Land Trust took on the management of Waverley in 2017, bringing our total number of service charge sites to three. Waverley currently has around 800 residents who contribute to the green space around their properties. This includes two lakes, which are surrounded by woodland and open green space. As development continues on the site, the Land Trust will take on more of the completed space and begin new relationships with homeowners.

In the future, we will continue to develop our three service charge spaces, whilst bringing more communities on board with our forward-thinking, people first approach.

"It is our belief that well managed green space is the catalyst that creates, healthy, resilient and sustainable communities.

"Building new homes is vitally important to the country, but it is the green infrastructure around these homes that is key to bringing new communities together, creating support networks and providing space for healthy activity and outdoor education."

Euan Hall, Chief Executive



Four Land Trust sites were recipients of the prestigious Green Flag award in 2017-18

It's fantastic to receive recognition for the work that we do. Our staff and partners work hard to ensure we deliver well managed, sustainable green space that benefits communities and this year the hard work was rewarded with a number of Land Trust sites achieving Green Flag status. Elba Park, Greenwich Ecology Park, Silverdale Country Park, Beam Parklands and the Countess of Chester Country Park all received the prestigious award.

Both Countess of Chester Country Park and Port Sunlight River Park were shortlisted for a Charity Times award in 2017. Our community work at Port Sunlight alongside Autism Together was recognised in the Community Award category, while the Land Trust's partnership with TCV and Cheshire and Wirral NHS Foundation Trust at the Countess of Chester was shortlisted in the cross-sector partnership category.

Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust in partnership with the Land Trust were also shortlisted in the category of Improving Patient and Community Engagement at the Healthcare Transformation Awards.

There was a double win at the Horticulture Week Custodian Awards in June 2017. The Countess site won the Best Community Initiative category, whilst Northumberlandia took home the Best Parks Partnership – Third Sector category award. On the shortlist for the Best Urban Park category was Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park.

Northumberlandia was also voted Best Family Day Out at the Northumberland Tourism awards, chosen by readers of the Northumberland Gazette.

Canvey Wick Nature Reserve was shortlisted in the Nature Reserve of the Year category at the BBC Countryfile Magazine Awards. The nomination was made by Brett Westwood, naturalist and BBC Radio 4 presenter.

A highlight of the year was receiving a prestigious award from the High Sheriff of Cheshire in March 2018. The award was for Responsible Business Practice, which was a fantastic endorsement for our community-focused approach to managing public land.

Land Trust staff receive the High Sheriff award for Responsible Business Practice



Our people and partners



Working in partnership is the key to our success



The hard work and dedication of our staff and managing partners is key to our success

The people who work hard to continue the growth and success of the Land Trust are the most important part of the organisation. Without them we wouldn't be able to deliver our charitable benefits, acquire and manage sites or communicate with the people we serve. Over the last year there has been change in the shape of our head office team, which has resulted in a fresh outlook for the future of the Land Trust.

As of 31 March 2018, we directly employed 36 people; 26 full time and 10 part time. Our finance apprentice, Lauryn Parker, completed her first year with us and continues to be supported through her studies towards achieving her AAT accounting qualification. We also continued to work with the University of Chester, taking on students for work based learning placements, which will enhance skills and support them in future endeavours.

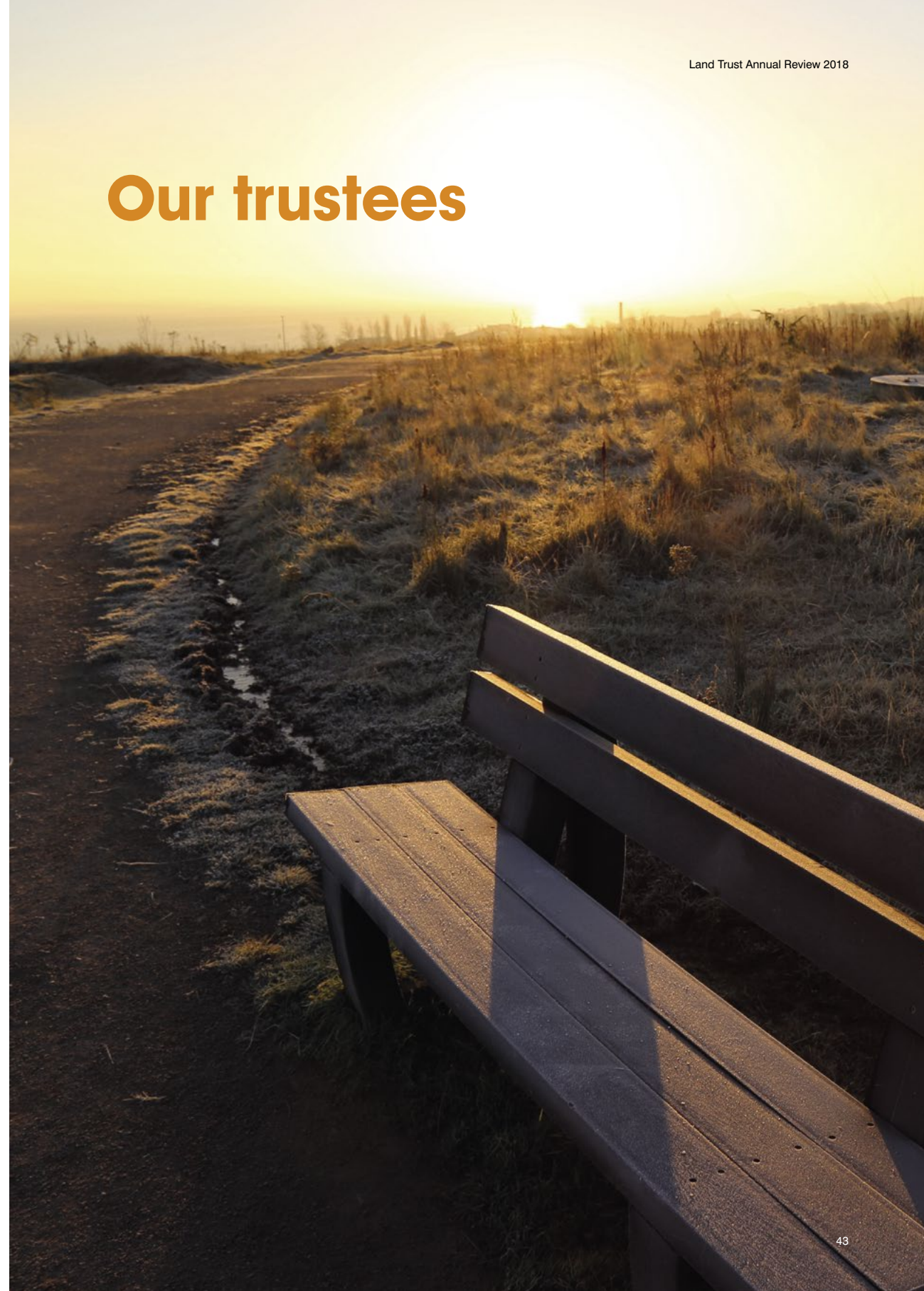
The Land Trust is committed to nurturing our staff, and supporting them to develop their skills. Over the last year, 164.8 days of training were completed by Land Trust staff. As part of our performance management scheme, a performance development action plan was introduced, which encourages employees to

think over their development needs and discuss with their manager. Working from that, training will then be provided to help meet those needs and deliver results. This will be continued over the next year, with aims to increase the amount of quality training provided to our staff.

The unique model we have for the management of our sites means that a further 57 people are employed to manage the day-to-day running of our sites. We work with 27 partners, which include The Conservation Volunteers, National Trust and Wildlife Trusts and local community groups. We work closely together to ensure communities benefit from the well-managed green space. Performance is regularly monitored as part of the management plan, which ensures charitable objectives are delivered.

This year we hosted our Managing Partners away day at Northumberlandia to celebrate the success and hard work of the partners on our sites across the country. This annual event, which includes our awards ceremony, will be hosted at Port Sunlight River Park next year, which will be an excellent opportunity for staff and partners to collaborate, communicate and celebrate the great outcomes for the communities around our sites.

Our trustees



Our Trustees oversee the work of the organisation, ensuring we stay on track to deliver our charitable objectives and providing scrutiny to our processes and decisions.

Peter Smith – Chairman

Peter was appointed Chairman of the Land Trust in June 2010. Formerly, he was a Senior Partner and member of the global leadership team at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). He has also been Chairman of Savills plc; Coopers & Lybrand International; Templeton Emerging Markets Investment Trust plc; and RAC plc.

Sarah Whitney

Sarah is a chartered accountant and former investment banker, having specialised in real estate. She holds a visiting Fellowship at the Department of Land Economy at the University of Cambridge, where she teaches on planning, regeneration and development. Sarah also serves as Chair of our Audit Committee.

Jeffrey Moore

Jeffrey is a qualified accountant and previously CEO of East Midlands Development Agency. He is non-executive Director of Batemans Brewery and Sharing in Growth, an aerospace supply chain development company.

William Hiscocks

William has 30 years' experience of working in financial services, as an investor, portfolio manager and private banker. He was honorary treasurer of Fauna and Flora International from 1998 to 2000. William also serves as Chair of our Investment Committee.

Dinah Nichols CB

Dinah is currently a Governor of Plymouth University and a Trustee of the South West Lakes Trust and until September 2016 was chair of Keep Britain Tidy. She was formerly Director General Environment at Defra, a Crown Estate Commissioner, a non-executive Board member of Pennon Group plc and Chair of the National Forest Company and Groundwork North London.

Lady Garrett

Jane is a former Chief Executive of CL:AIRE and the Brogdale Horticultural Trust and was on the Board of Covent Garden Market Authority. She has had a successful and entrepreneurial career operating in the commercial, charitable and political sectors.

Simon MacGillivray

Simon is a chartered Forester and has had a varied career working in a range of diverse occupations including the banking sector and NHS.

Tom Keevil

Appointed to the Board of Trustees in May 2016, Tom has had a long legal career initially as a partner in an international law firm and then, as a senior executive, working most recently at Barratt Developments PLC and United Utilities PLC.

Patrick Aylmer

Patrick is a Chartered Accountant, with 20 years' experience of investment banking and mergers and acquisitions. He currently runs the property finance business of Fox Investments and was previously Investment Director of a FTSE-100 company. Patrick is also a Council Member of the National Army Museum and a Trustee of the Battersea Dogs and Cats Home.

Janet Haddock-Fraser

Janet is an academic specialising in corporate social and environmental responsibility. She is Professor of Sustainability and Leadership at Manchester Metropolitan University, a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and RSA as well as being an Associate of the Institute for Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability and the International Coaching Federation.

Anthony Bickmore

Anthony is a widely experienced property professional with substantial experience of property development and urban renewal projects. He has held senior roles for the Crown Estate and Transport for London and is currently working in the Shadow Government Property Agency in the Cabinet Office.

Walter Menzies

Walter has a wealth of experience in the environment and regeneration sectors. He is a visiting Professor at the University of Liverpool, Chair of Manchester and Pennine Waterway Partnership (part of the Canal and River Trust) and a Board member of the Atlantic Gateway Partnership.

Accounts



Summary of income and expenditure

	YEAR ENDED 31/03/2018	YEAR ENDED 31/03/2017
	£000's	£000's
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:		
DONATIONS AND LEGACIES	7	21
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	900	819
OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES	381	382
SITE FUNDING	674	7,643
INVESTMENTS	5,128	5,335
OTHER INCOME	- 0	1,040
TOTAL INCOME	7,090	15,240
EXPENDITURE ON:		
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT FEES	428	371
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	5,807	6,085
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	6,235	6,456
NET GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS	(2,304)	15,070
CORPORATION TAX	-0	(7)
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(1,179)	23,847
OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS/(LOSSES)		
ACTUAL GAINS/(LOSSES) ON DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEME	112	(97)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(1,067)	23,750

The funds of the charity

	GROUP	
	YEAR ENDED 31/03/2018	YEAR ENDED 31/03/2017
FUNDS:	£000's	£000's
ENDOWMENT FUNDS	68,913	70,567
RESTRICTED FUNDS	60,849	60,962
GENERAL FUNDS	4,304	9,190
PENSION RESERVE	0	(79)
DESIGNATED FUNDS	10,668	5,161
TOTAL INCOME	144,734	145,801

Fundraising

SUPPORTED BY:	SITE/PROJECT	£
HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND	PORT SUNLIGHT RIVER PARK	446,432
GREAT PLACES SCHEME	FORT BURGONE	109,704
BANKS COMMUNITY FUND	NORTHUMBERLANDIA	10,000
BERNARD SUNLEY	GREENWICH PENINSULA ECOLOGY PARK	5,000
TESCO BAGS OF HELP	ELBA PARK	2,000
KIVETON AND WALES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST	KIVETON	2,200
	WELLESLEY	750
	DAVY DOWN	500
STATUTORY GRANTS*		93,277

*Statutory Grants include Single Farm Payments, Higher Level Stewardship and English Woodland Grant Scheme

Land Trust Managing Partner Awards



Key to images

- 1 Site of the Year: **Northumberlandia**
- 2 Volunteer of the Year: **Mike Little**
- 3 Project of the year: **Knowle Haven**
- 4 Best Site for Small Grants: **Pleasley Pit**
- 5 Most improved space: **Braeburn**
- 6 Site delivering most beneficial economic activity: **Wellesley Woodlands**
- 7 Educational Site of the Year: **Elba Park**
- 8 Health Site of the Year: **Port Sunlight River Park and Countess of Chester Country Park**
- 9 Community Space of the Year: **Greenwich Ecology**
- 10 Nature Space of the Year: **Carr Lodge**

The Land Trust in numbers 2017-2018

40,695 volunteer hours
completed on Land Trust sites

1,379,493 visitors
to Land Trust sites

13,200 individuals
took part in educational or training activities

2,138 health and wellbeing activities
on Land Trust sites

383 community events
took place on Land Trust sites

Over 60 sustainably managed spaces
including nature reserves, country parks, public realm, urban fringe, play areas and playing fields

3,000 households
contributing to green space management
via service charge

Over 2,300 hectares
of land under management

Nearly 80 hectares
of lakes and wetlands

370 hectares
of woodland

300 hectares
of wildflower meadows

140 kilometres
of paths and trails



Wellesley
Woodlands
now attracts
over 200,000
visitors a year




"Just living is
not enough.
One must
have sunshine,
freedom and
a little flower."

Hans Christian Andersen

WARRINGTON

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