



the
Land
Trust

Annual Review 2020



Wildlife and biodiversity is continuing to thrive on Land Trust sites



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Chair's report

We are pleased to report a notable increase in the charitable outcomes delivered on our parks and green spaces

"...The sector has the potential to have a very bright future indeed and I am confident the Land Trust will be leading from the front."



I am delighted to be writing in the pages of the Trust's annual review for the first time after accepting the position of Chair, following Peter Smith's retirement from the role in December 2019. Peter served the Trust with distinction for nearly a decade and we owe him an enormous debt of gratitude for his leadership.

It is a great privilege to be Chair of the Land Trust, and my fellow Trustees and I are determined to work to support the Trust, and its hard working and dedicated staff, as we continue our great work delivering against our five key charitable objectives and working with the communities around our green spaces.

Parks and green spaces have never been more important to people in the UK and I am proud to say that the Land Trust has played a significant role in ensuring as many people as possible have access to them in 2019-20.

I am very pleased to report that our activities on our portfolio of parks and green spaces saw a notable increase in delivery of charitable outcomes. We are proud of our contribution to society through our management of parks and green spaces and our charitable objectives are the driving force behind everything we deliver. We continue to accept land from government agencies, developers and other key clients, into ownership, and manage it on behalf, and for the benefit, of the local communities. You will read more

about this fantastic work, and the positive impact it has on wider society, throughout this review.

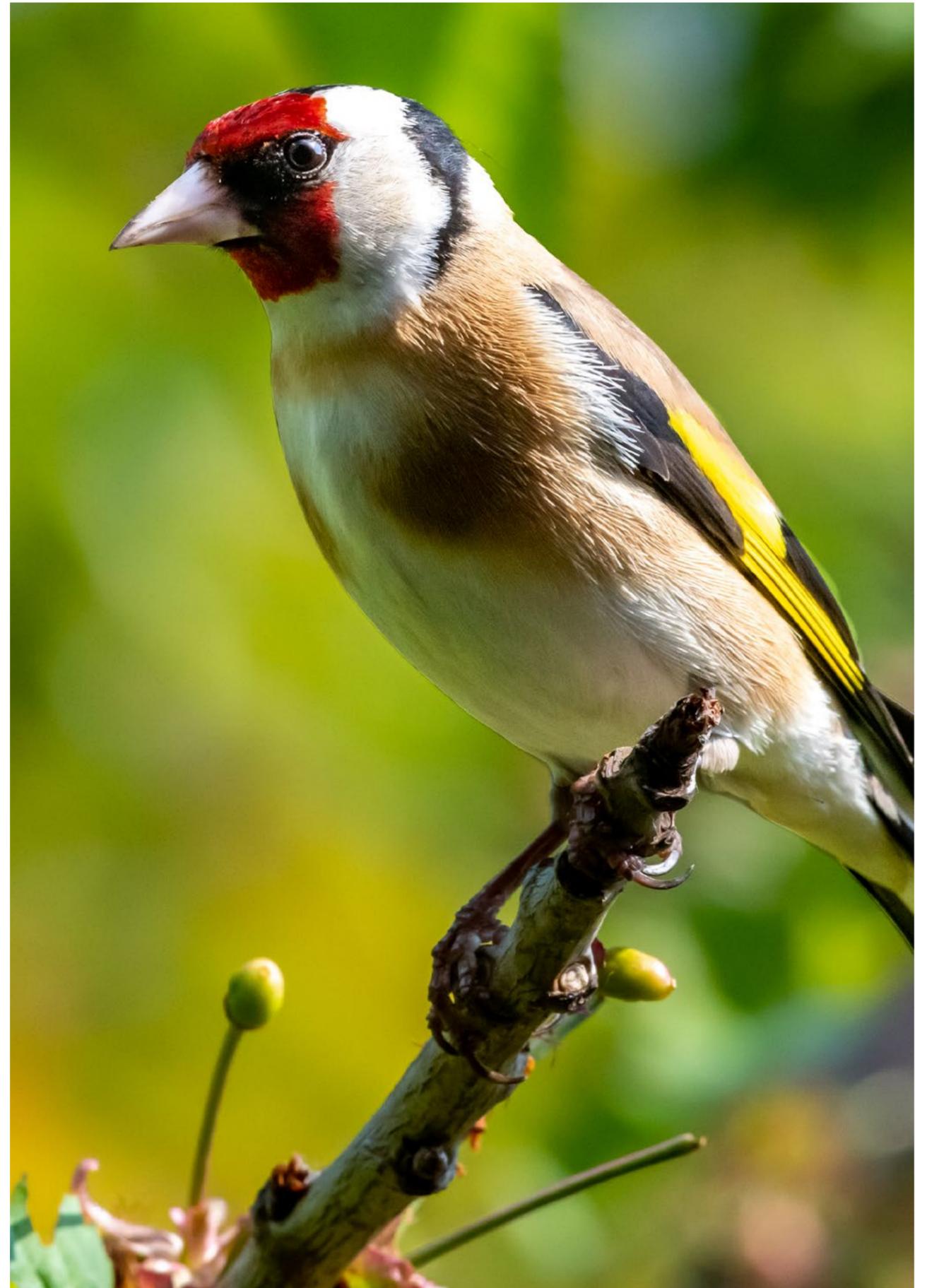
While this annual review covers the Trust's progress from April 2019 to the end of March 2020, I feel it is important to mention Covid-19 which occurred at the end of this period. The Land Trust took the courageous decision to keep as many of our sites open for our communities to use, whilst recognising the challenges that would bring. It has been amazing, and humbling, to witness the important role our parks and green spaces have played in protecting the emotional and physical wellbeing of the communities who live and work around these sites, during what has been an incredibly difficult time for everyone.

It has been a challenging period for many other charitable organisations and local authorities working in our field, but with people now appreciating their green spaces more than ever before, the sector has the potential to have a very bright future indeed and I am confident the Land Trust will be leading from the front.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the Land Trust staff, and our managing partners, who have worked so hard throughout the last six months, and I thank them for their incredible efforts.

I look forward to many more years of the Trust helping people, caring for our communities, and enabling our environment and biodiversity to thrive.

Green spaces change the world for the better and I'm so proud of the role the Land Trust plays in creating positive change.





Our sites play an important role in aiding our communities' physical and mental wellbeing

Chief Executive's report

"...We are doing everything we can to manage this challenge and ensure a bright and prosperous future for the charity."



We have enjoyed another successful year, with further sites brought into our ownership and management and increased charitable delivery across our parks and green spaces.

With people's appreciation of the natural environment growing considerably during the period of lockdown to deal with Covid-19, which started a week before the end of the 2019-20 financial year, I've been very proud to see the Land Trust taking a lead in ensuring that our sites play such an important role in aiding our communities physical and mental wellbeing.

Fortunately, the effects of Covid-19 on the Trust have been limited so far. Our staff team has adapted quickly and effectively to the challenges of home working, made significantly easier by the work done by our I.T team to get the appropriate infrastructure in place in advance. Although our volunteering activities had to be postponed at the year end and into the new financial year due to the guidelines around social distancing, we were able to keep the vast majority of our green spaces open for our communities to use.

Working closely with our dedicated Managing Partners and contractors, and in some cases our volunteer

workforce, we were also able to ensure that they were maintained to the best possible standards during this time.

It is too early to say what the long-term implications of Covid-19 will be for the Land Trust, but we are doing everything we can to manage this challenge and ensure a bright and prosperous future for the charity. There will undoubtedly be some impact in terms of charitable delivery, particularly in the early part of 2020-21, but we are continuing to engage with our communities and volunteer workforce, enabling us to make a positive difference to people's lives.

If nothing else the pandemic has brought home to many the importance of well managed and designed public open space in helping create and maintain the health and wellbeing of communities. We look forward to continuing our work with Government and our partners, ensuring that proper funding is available, not just to create new parks and green spaces, but to maintain that space in the future.

Placekeeping, as we call it, is what creates places where people want to live, work and play. Failure to maintain these spaces damages society and is the key reason that we founded the Land Trust 16 years ago.

Finally, I would like to thank our committed team of staff, volunteers and managing partners without whom none of our charitable delivery would have been possible.

15th anniversary celebrations

In December 2019, the Land Trust celebrated the charity's 15th birthday with a reception in the Churchill Rooms at the House of Commons. Hosted by Lord Ridley, the event offered the opportunity to celebrate the Trust's many achievements and look forward to a bright and prosperous future.



"I've walked around Twyell Hills and Dales since I was a little girl. No matter what the season this place is beautiful. It feeds my soul."

Carrie-Amber Towsey,
a regular visitor to Twyell Hills & Dales





Economic and social value: Service Charge

The long term success of our spaces is important to the reputation of the Land Trust, our managing partners and the developers and landowners we work with, but above all, far more important to the communities we work with. We understand that our role goes beyond simply managing green space and is about creating communities and places where people want to live, work and play.

“We recognise that well-managed green space around developments is what helps create healthy resilient communities.”



Social Value Model

Our Social Value model, developed in partnership with AMION Consulting, 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 wellbeing
- Education and learning
- Economic vitality
- Community cohesion and volunteering

You will read more about the economic and social value delivered against our charitable objectives throughout this review.

Delivering social value on our service charge sites

Since 2016 the Land Trust has been managing public open space within residential developments for the benefits of homeowners/occupiers, who pay the Trust a service charge to carry out this work on their behalf.

The Trust has been growing this area of its operations rapidly over the last four years, and now has responsibility for the management of green space on nine service charge sites, on behalf of over 4,400 homeowners. We recognise that well-managed green space around developments is what helps create healthy resilient communities.

In 2019-20 for the first time, the Trust analysed the economic and social value created on its service charge sites, with the model showing nearly £2.5 million was created from the management of the green spaces around the Trust's service charge sites. This figure rises to over £16 million when the uplift in property prices is taken in to consideration.



Delivering economic and social value is what sets the Land Trust part from other green space management providers

Contributions to this overall economic and social value from the Trust's service charge sites come from a variety of areas and are either classified as a cost saving to the public purse or gross value added:

Health care cost savings  £57,111	Supply chain expenditure  £121,931	Workforce development (Cost saving)  £27,977
Adults engaged in training  £9,039	Tourism  £115,114	Recreational and cultural value  £732,079
Land management and use  £1,075,189	Workforce development (GVA)  £47,530	Community engagement  £94,900

These results are hugely encouraging and continue to highlight the excellent work the Trust is doing on behalf of over 4,400 homeowners across the country.



Health

The Land Trust is extremely proud of the work we do across our sites to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of our communities and this is reflected in the activities we deliver on our green spaces.

Spending time outdoors is vital for young people's mental health and to tackle rising obesity levels



“At the Land Trust we understand the value that spending time outdoors can have on physical and mental wellbeing”

Getting families active together

In 2019-20 the Land Trust's health theme was focused on getting families outdoors and active together.

At the Land Trust we understand the value that spending time outdoors can have on physical and mental wellbeing and we recognise the importance of developing these positive habits at an early age so that young people take them with them throughout their lives.

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.

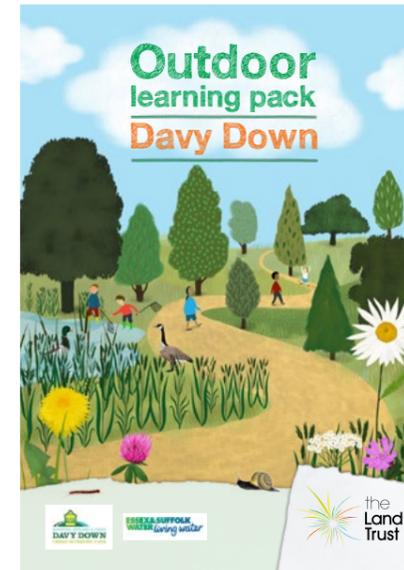
Over the last 12 months the Trust developed a new education pack full of fun activities for young people to do with classmates, teachers or parents. The pack is a great way to inspire a love of the outdoors while also learning about nature and the environment.

The Trust also announced a new partnership with MowMow to build on this positive work further. MowMow is a free to download app, which combines technology with a game of hide and seek, resulting in a fun activity that gets children moving outside in the real world.

Children paint the rocks and leave them for people to find. The MowMow app allows players to give each rock a name and date of birth, log where they hide their rocks and then receive notifications whenever their rocks are found. It also tracks how many miles the rock has travelled and has a leaderboard to encourage competition too.

Since teaming up in July 2019, and launching the partnership with the first event on the Land Trust's site at Wellesley Woodlands, hundreds of children have taken part in the rock painting craze on Land Trust sites across the country.

“Our parks and green spaces have a hugely positive impact on the physical and mental wellbeing of the communities we work with”



Economic and social value delivered

With nearly 1.5 million visits to Land Trust sites in 2019-20 our parks and green spaces have made a hugely positive impact on the physical and mental wellbeing of the communities we work with.

The evidence of the improvements in mental health in particular is continuing to grow, and this has once again been a key focus for our staff, managing partners and volunteer workforce. There have been over 3,000 visits to our parks and green spaces to take place in a mental health activity and this has led to a cost saving to the public purse of over £500,000.

Activities on our sites have also made a significant difference in labour productivity with over £125,000 gross value added to the economy with this productivity uplift based on the number of reduced sick days and absenteeism.

In total the Land Trust created over £1 million of Economic and Social value through health related activities on our sites.

Health site of the year

Port Sunlight River Park was voted Health Site of the Year at the 2020 Land Trust Awards, with the park hosting a wide variety of activities to benefit the local community. Sustrans has held monthly cycling sessions for young children and their families, while Wirral Athletics Club use the trails a couple of times a week.

There are a number of regular walking groups, while the first set of Mindfulness in Nature courses ran between April and June, with eight sessions and 11 people attending the full course. The course was designed to target local people, particularly those from more deprived areas and delivered substantial mental wellbeing benefits to participants.

The users of Autism Together also continue to benefit from being able to use the park, with Port Sunlight helping reduce social isolation, loneliness and help many get back into employment.



We run a wide variety of health activities across our parks and green spaces

Health advisory group

We give continued thanks to the members of our Health Advisory Group for their assistance and support over this last twelve months. The wealth of knowledge they bring to the Trust is greatly appreciated and of great value to us.

Economic and social value delivered

HEALTH AND WELLBEING	VALUE (PER ANNUM)	TYPE OF VALUE
HEALTH CARE COST SAVINGS	£847,879	COST SAVING
HEALTH WELLBEING VALUE	£533,652	ECONOMIC VALUE
MENTAL HEALTH	£539,148	COST SAVING
LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY	£127,983	GROSS VALUE ADDED



Community cohesion and volunteering

Volunteering and the engagement of local communities is an extremely valuable way of enhancing our sites and creating emotional ownership among our communities and residents.



“Ashton’s Field has benefited hugely from volunteer involvement which promotes pride and a sense of ownership.”

Our sites benefit hugely from volunteer involvement which promotes pride and a sense of ownership

“The contribution made by our volunteer workforce cannot be overestimated and we are incredibly grateful for the huge amount of work that they do.”



Not only is volunteering important on our wide variety of parks and green spaces but it is also particularly crucial on the nine service charge sites we manage. Bringing these new communities together is a crucial part of the work we do on behalf of our residents.

The contribution made by our volunteer workforce cannot be overestimated and we are incredibly grateful for the huge amount of work that they do across our parks and green spaces. We work hard to ensure that every volunteer is given something back for the time and commitment they contribute, either through increased skill knowledge, further education, increased health outcomes or increased community spirit and reduced social isolation.

In total there were 18,400 volunteer activities on our sites in 2019-20, a rise of 5,000 from the previous year.

Volunteer of the year

Brian Bennett was voted Volunteer of the Year for his hard work and dedicated volunteering work at Silverdale Country Park.

Brian began volunteering at Silverdale in August 2011 and is the park’s longest serving volunteer. He was instrumental in creating the site’s volunteer group which has run weekly on Thursday morning for the last nine years.

He also gives up his own time to lead walking groups, sharing his knowledge of local history and wildlife. His greatest strength is his ability to share his knowledge with others and help them grow and develop and this has been particularly evident in the many young teenagers on work experience who he has mentored.

Community space of the year

Ashton’s Field was awarded Community Space of the Year at this year’s Land Trust Awards, recognition of the outstanding work carried out by Lancashire Wildlife Trust (LWT) to transform this green space within a busy urban setting into a valuable community resource which makes a positive impact on so many lives.

This success has happened due to the strong links LWT have built with users of Ashton’s Field and have been quick to deal with any incidences of anti-social behaviour. LWT run regular community events throughout the year. This includes activities like guided walks, wildlife

identification, bat walks, small mammal trapping and bird surveys, while the fortnightly health walks are regularly attended by over 40 people.

Ashton’s Field has benefited hugely from volunteer involvement which promotes pride and a sense of ownership. The volunteer teams are fully integrated into the maintenance and management of the park, which supports, protects and improves the open space, and also offers invaluable informal environmental education to the local community, enriching the lives of those who engage.

Our Waking the Giant event at Fort Burgoyne was a huge success thanks to the support of our volunteers



The positive impact of our volunteers

Friends Of groups, communities and our volunteers are an absolutely vital part of the successful management of our parks and green spaces and there are so many fantastic examples of people giving up their time to make a difference on the sites near where they live and work.

On the Land Trust site at Fort Burgoyne the ages of the volunteers range from students at school or college and working people to the active retired. The volunteers help in many activities including working with the local Primary and Pre Schools to plant over 200 metres of new hedge in the winter months. They also assist with the Green Gang children's events throughout the year as well as running kite making, bird boxes and crafty clay creation sessions.

The icing on the cake was the Waking the Giant event which was held just a couple of weeks before the UK went into lockdown due to Covid - 19. The volunteers were asked to give tours of the Fort, with over 600 members of the public being shown round by 14 stewards and guides during the day.

Service charge

Community engagement is a huge part of what we do across our service charge sites. With responsibility for the public open space within nine residential developments, and on behalf of over 4,400 homeowners, the community activities which we run on our service charge are vital to bringing the new residents together, turning neighbours into friends and houses into homes.

We run a range of activities on our sites including seasonal events at Easter, Christmas and Summer.

At all of our service charge spaces our Estates team establish a Residents Working Group so that the homeowners can become engaged with how the public open spaces around their homes are run. We also have dedicated Facebook pages for each of our sites where residents can raise queries about any aspect of our management of the green space.

We also have a dedicated email address and telephone number for residents to be able to contact us 24/7.



Practicing what we preach

At the Land Trust we believe in practicing what we preach which is why our staff took part in a volunteering day at Port Sunlight River Park, following our managing partners conference.

Economic and social value delivered

COMMUNITY AND PLACE	VALUE (PER ANNUM)	TYPE OF VALUE
VOLUNTEERING	£668,362	GROSS VALUE ADDED
VOLUNTEERING	£444,553	ECONOMIC VALUE
RECREATIONAL & CULTURAL VALUE	£7,884,332	ECONOMIC VALUE
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	£1,191,060	ECONOMIC VALUE
ASB INCIDENTS	£1,041,755	COST SAVING

Laura Hope, a regular visitor to Elba Park

"This photograph was taken at Elba Park on 28th October while I was out for a walk with Sophie. This photo is really special to me because Sophie has spent this year learning to walk again after a brain tumour and treatment and yesterday she walked independently for 1.5 miles around the park, which is a huge achievement.

"During lockdown, walks in the park have been a massive motivation to get Sophie on her feet again. I love the way the sun is shining behind her and the massive smile on her face. We call Elba Park her 'happy place' and that shines through in this photo. It means so much to us as a family."

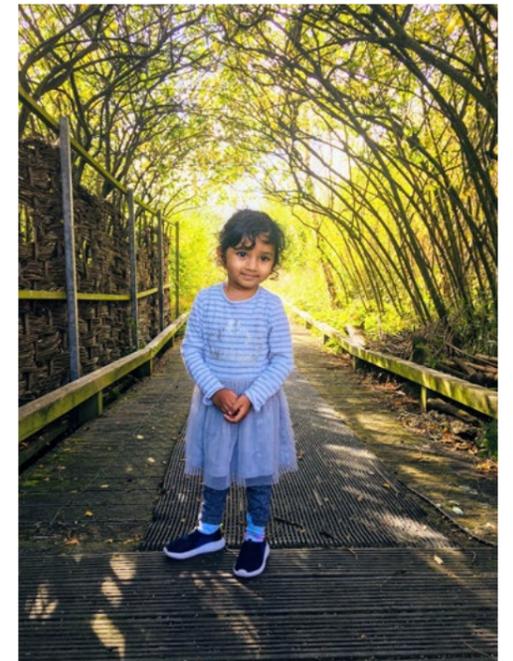




Education

Green spaces are great places to learn about nature and the environment. We remain committed to creating spaces that facilitate learning and provide educational opportunities that lead to further education or in many cases employment.

“We remain committed to creating spaces that facilitate learning and provide educational opportunities”



Many young people learn better when studying in the great outdoors

Engaging with young people

It has been another productive year with over 13,000 children attending an activity on a Land Trust space, either as part of a visit with school or another organised event. This includes activities such as Forest Schools and Bioblitz events.

Hundreds of children also took part in MowMow events across the country, while the launch of the new education pack was also a great success.

Although there has been a slight decrease in the number of school visits in 2019-20, we have engaged over 9,000 people in a training activity on our sites in 2019-20, a rise of 5,000 from the previous year.

“We are passionate about inspiring a love of the great outdoors through our training and education activities”



Economic and social value delivered

The Trust's array of education activities created approximately £750,000 of economic and social value. Over £500,000 of this money comes through our engagement with children and young people.

We engaged with four young offenders throughout the course of 2019-20, while the Trust continued to work with young people not in education, employment or training, mainly through our Green Angels programme.

Educational site of the year

The winner of 2019-20's Educational Site of the year was Countess of Chester Country Park. Managing partners, The Conservation Volunteers, working in partnership with an excellent volunteer workforce led by the Friends of Countess of Chester Country Park, have arranged a number of different education activities that benefit people of all ages.

There are regular Forest Schools sessions run on the site, which are now so popular that there is a waiting list for schools to take part, while they also run bush craft activities at weekends and during school holidays. They also run sessions for the teenage mental health patients from the adjoining Countess of Chester hospital.

The Land Trust's Green Angels programme remain very popular with courses on hedge laying, post and wire fencing and woodland management while the TCV Midweek Group is on site once a week.

The Young and Green at Heart project designed to reduce isolation in the over 50's was also a great success.

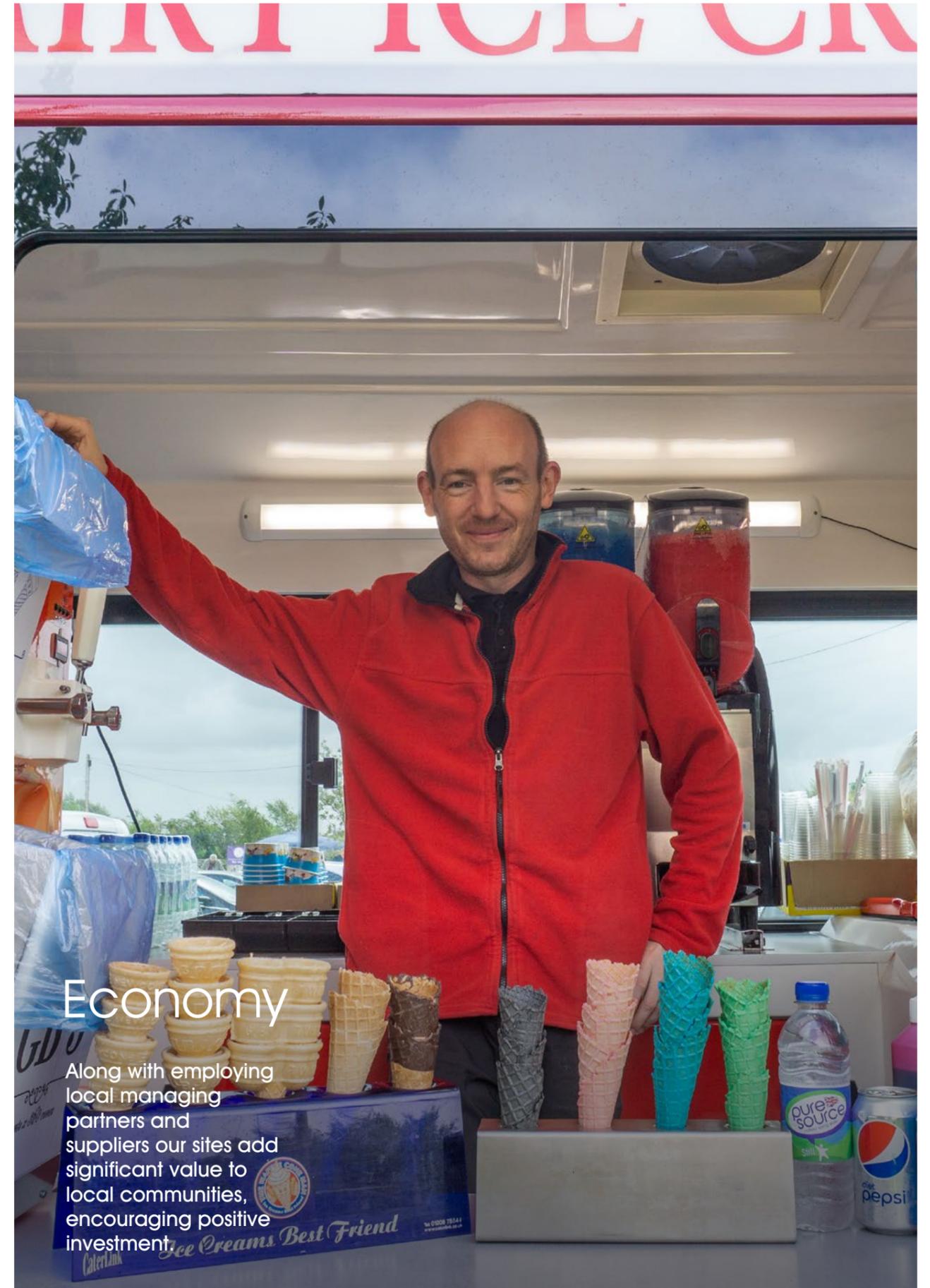


Mowmow events were very popular with young people across the country



Economic and social value delivered

EDUCATION	VALUE (PER ANNUM)	TYPE OF VALUE
EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENT (CHILDREN)	£503,139	ECONOMIC VALUE
EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENT (YOUNG PEOPLE)	£7,105	COST SAVING
EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENT (YOUNG PEOPLE)	£11,748	GROSS VALUE ADDED
ADULTS ENGAGED IN TRAINING	£42,189	COST SAVING
ADULTS ENGAGED IN TRAINING	£225,582	GROSS VALUE ADDED



Economy

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



Social Value Model

Our effective green space management protects, and often increases, the value of properties around our sites, creates jobs and allows local businesses and tourism to thrive.

We deliver this economic value across four key areas:

- Land management and use
- Supply chain expenditure
- Tourism
- Workforce development.

Site delivering best economic activity

Pleasley Pit has been running a café on site for six years, with a steadily increasing turnover each year. It attracts local people, with many regulars visiting several times a week. With the rise in footfall and the growing popularity of Pleasley, there has been increasing need to put a new building in place. With plans being drawn up and a grant available, work began in 2019-20.

As part of the project several old portacabins needed to be removed which had a significant impact on the operation of the Pleasley Pit Trust.

The new building was craned into place using machinery which dwarfed most of the structures on site, then had a programme of construction and finishing. Eventually the kitchen was fitted and the new facility could be opened. Unfortunately this coincided with the challenges posed by Covid-19.

Remarkably the café continued to operate for all but two days during the construction phase, and once Covid-19 restrictions relax the new facility will be a real asset to a site which is becoming more and more popular every year.

The hard work and dedication of our managing partners is crucial to delivering added value to communities



“Our effective green space management brings people to the local area, increasing tourism and creating local jobs”

Economic and social value delivered

ECONOMIC	VALUE (PER ANNUM)	TYPE OF VALUE
LAND MANAGEMENT AND USE	£9,986,169	GROSS VALUE ADDED
SUPPLY CHAIN EXPENDITURE	£412,730	GROSS VALUE ADDED
TOURISM	£1,242,540	GROSS VALUE ADDED
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT	£1,509,340	COST SAVING
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT	£2,655,833	COST SAVING

“The Covid-19 pandemic has made 2020 a difficult year for many, but as a family we have found great comfort in walking through this area with our faithful companion, Monty.

“As the lockdown began, we found that we had more time for longer walks and also had more time to be in tune with nature. We have listened to birds sing and witnessed the joys of nature through the seasons in this beautiful space right on our doorstep.

“Thank you for maintaining this space and giving us some solace throughout this most difficult time.”

Clare Jones, a regular visitor to Whittle Hall





Environment and biodiversity

The value of the Land Trust's green spaces to the natural environment continues to grow. With an increasing demand for new housing and grey infrastructure our work in this area is vital in protecting species that are vital to our planet's ecosystem.

“We recognise that our parks and green spaces have a huge role to play in improving the environment and biodiversity of local communities”



Wildlife and biodiversity thrives on our parks and green spaces

Nature Space of the Year

Carr Lodge was named Nature Space of the Year at the Land Trust awards, recognising the incredible transformation of the site over the last eight years.

When the Land Trust took over ownership and management in 2012 the wet grassland was in very poor condition and was heavily overgrazed by ponies. Hard work and careful investment by our managing partners, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, has transformed the grassland introducing an innovative gravity fed water pump, allied to a new system of wet ditches.

The overall impact on the site has been nothing short of remarkable, with a recent survey finding 372 invertebrate species living on site. This included six nationally scarce and two notable species.

In addition 75 species of bird bred on the site in 2019.

“Natural England has approved the Land Trust as an ‘appropriate body’ to acquire and manage SANG in perpetuity and this approval isn’t given lightly.”



The Land Trust and SANG

A Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) is a recreational site, created to attract residents of new developments, away from designated sites that are protected for their valuable ecology and are sensitive to recreational activities such as dog walking.

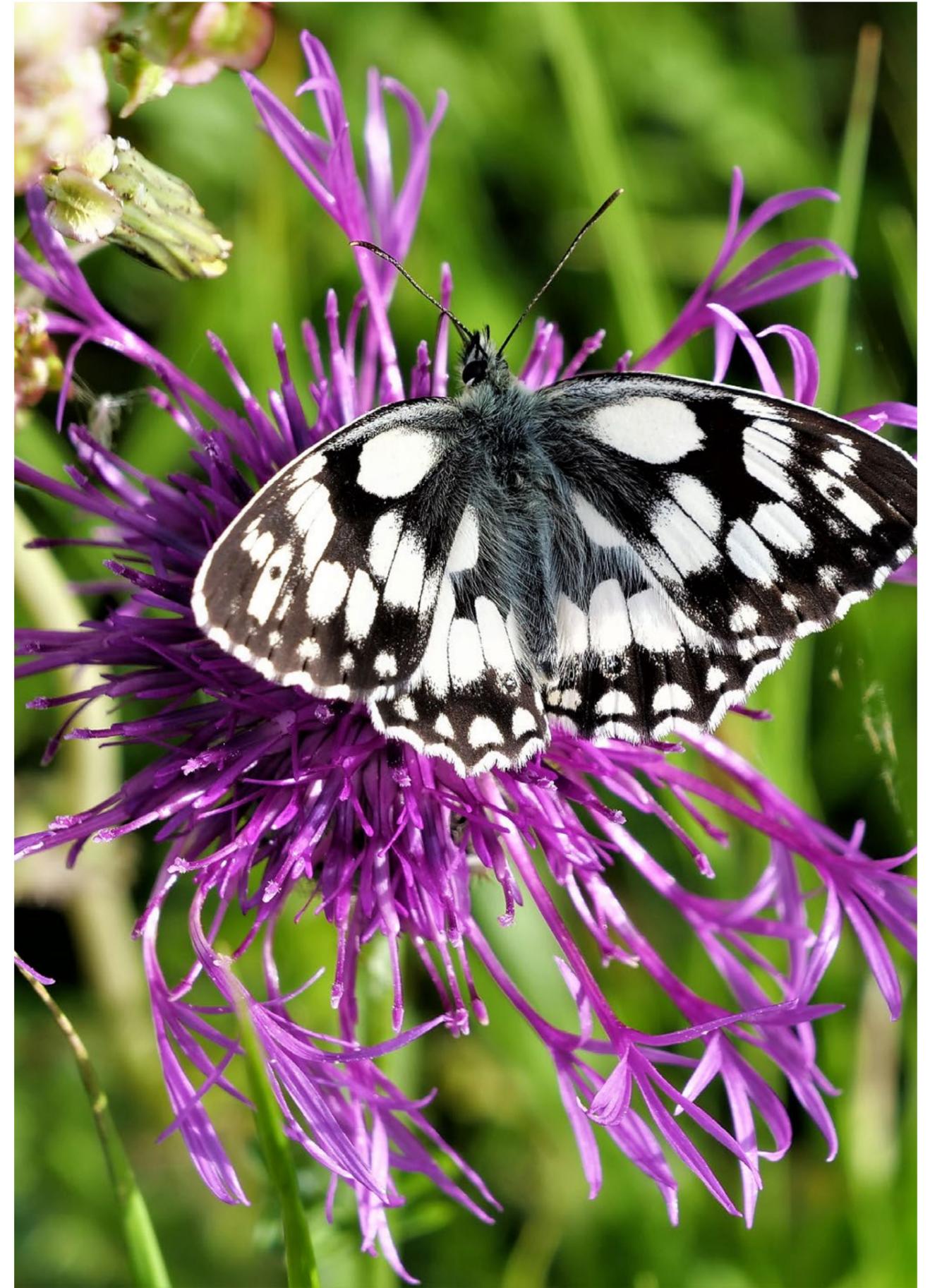
The protected sites are Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). SPAs are designated to protect wild birds and their habitats, while SACs are designated to protect habitats and non-bird species.

These sites are designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds and the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora. SANGs were evolved to protect the Thames-Basin Heaths SPA around 10 years ago and now the concept is spreading to protect more sites across the country.

Natural England has approved the Land Trust as an ‘appropriate body’ to acquire and manage SANG in perpetuity and this approval isn’t given lightly. This title is granted because our extensive risk management and safeguards give Natural England and local authorities the confidence that we are a long-term management body that will ensure that each SANG we take on will be delivered in perpetuity.

The Land Trust offers all services required for SANG from concept and design, management plans, capital works and in-perpetuity management and it is an area of significant potential growth for the Trust.

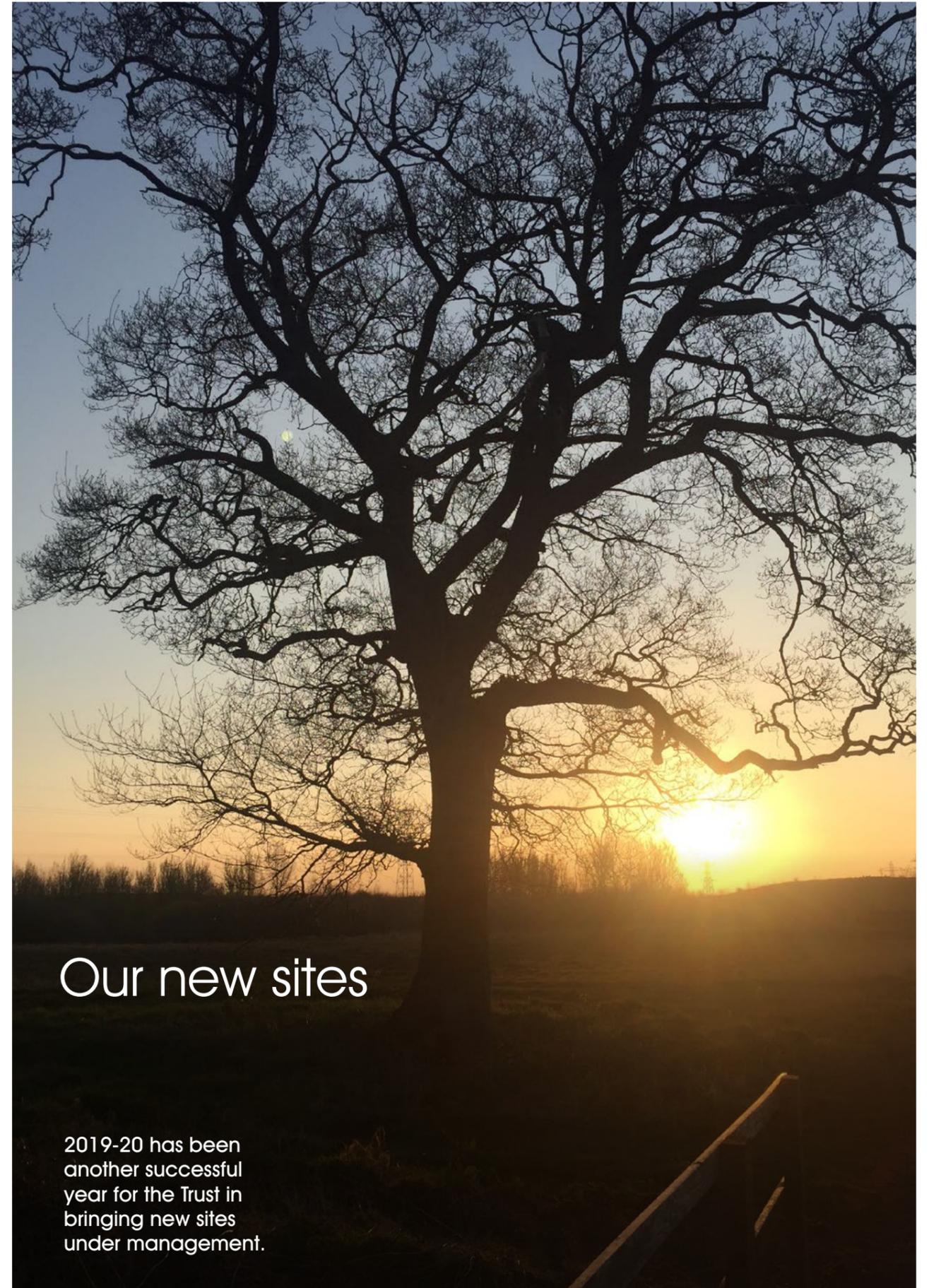
We currently manage the largest SANG in the country – Wellesley Woodlands – and we are delivering significant economic and social value there, while protecting the biodiversity and wildlife that call the Woodlands home.





Economic and social value delivered

ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY	VALUE (PER ANNUM)	TYPE OF VALUE
REDUCED ENERGY CONSUMPTION	£42,747	COST SAVING
REDUCED CARBON EMISSIONS	£14,656	ECONOMIC VALUE
CARBON STORAGE	£169,103	ECONOMIC VALUE
BIODIVERSITY	£3,079,492	ECONOMIC VALUE



Our new sites

2019-20 has been another successful year for the Trust in bringing new sites under management.



Transferring new sites is important to the Land Trust's long-term financial sustainability

Our service charge business continues to thrive and grow, adding new sites at New Lubbesthorpe, Leicestershire and Merlin Park, Nottingham to our portfolio. This brings the number of service charge sites under our management to nine, managing the green space on behalf of over 4,400 homes. It is expected that this will grow to 14,750 units once the sites are fully built out.

Alongside these service charge sites we were pleased to bring a number of new endowment sites under management.

Looking ahead we have an increasingly strong development pipeline and we are very confident that a number of these will transfer to our management in 2020-21.



New Lubbesthorpe

New Lubbesthorpe is an exciting new development with substantial, well planned and designed green space to benefit the community. The Land Trust will be taking on the ownership and management of these spaces over time, ensuring they are maintained to a high standard, enabling residents of New Lubbesthorpe to exercise, play and enjoy spending time there.



Merlin Park

Inspired by the site's RAF history, Merlin Park is an attractive new community with exciting communal open spaces, containing play areas and green open spaces. These green spaces have been developed to create a great place for the community to live and prosper as well as fulfil a whole range of shared functions. This includes providing safe pedestrian and cycle access routes, allowing for sustainable drainage and creating leisure and social opportunities.



Bilston Urban Village

Bilston Urban Village is a flagship development for Wolverhampton and the wider Black Country. It showcases the area's ability to deliver mixed-use and sustainable housing development alongside the creation and management of high quality green spaces that are an asset for the local community and biodiversity. The Land Trust has responsibility for the public open spaces that are part of the Urban Village and will work in partnership with the secondary school and community to help them get the most out of the green spaces on their doorstep and enjoy the physical and mental wellbeing benefits that spending time outdoors can bring.



Eashing Fields

This open countryside site is currently being created on two former agricultural fields. Mature tree belts and hedgerows along the site boundary are being enhanced with the creation of areas of species rich woodland, grassland and waterbodies to provide exciting new wildlife habitats. The site creation works also include a new car park, pathways, interpretation boards and benches, making it a great place for people to visit. The creation of this SANG will allow development of new homes nearby to meet local demand.



Little Heath Meadow

This open meadow adjoining the oak and birch woodlands of Little Heath Common includes hedgerows, scattered trees, ditches and a pond. It is a great place for a peaceful short walk or a longer circular walk extending into the surrounding countryside. Little Heath Meadow was formerly part of a pig farm and was then a tree nursery from the 1970's until the 1990's when the business closed. The Meadow is now managed by the Land Trust to maintain a peaceful and natural area for people and wildlife.



Weyburn Meadows

Weyburn Meadows, a further SANG is a tranquil rural site bordering the River Wey and has open wet grassland in the north and semi-improved grassland in the south. Hedgerows, treelines and woodland add to its diverse character and circular walking routes, pathways and a boardwalk enable enjoyable access all year round. This Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) was established in 2019 as part of a new residential development. The site is thriving with wildlife and has a fascinating history. Tall grassland and attractive wildflowers add bright colours to the landscape. Located to the north east of the site is Somerset Bridge which is Grade II listed, and one of a chain of medieval bridges across the River Wey which are thought to be the work of the Cistercian monks of Waverley Abbey.



Project of the year



Knowle Haven – Utilities project

As Knowle Haven is used by local community groups and the on-site team on a daily basis, the need for power and water became increasingly essential.

As the use of a diesel generator was neither sustainable or economical, Mike and Colette Little, the site's Managing Partners, started to ask local land-owners and supporters of the site if they would consider donating to provide water and power to the Haven. They sourced a donation from a local land owner and installed a small solar system and storage for overnight power requirements. This has proven a great success and they are now looking at reducing reliance on the generator.

The team also found a local bore hole company willing to give a significant discount as they were impressed by the work that had been done and the plans for the future of the site. The Friends group financed this, and after a few tests with the filtration managed to provide water that is cleaner than the local tap water.

Grants have been applied for to fund the next stage: more solar panels, a small wind generator and more overnight storage batteries. Once installed they will be able to reduce their reliance on the generator by at least 75% with the ambition for Knowle Haven to be completely self-sufficient by 2022.



The Pebbles Project at the Old Brickworks

This project aimed to improve wetland areas and provide access to these areas, particularly for educational groups. This included removal of scrub to allow more light in places, retention of material on site to provide hibernacula opportunities for newts and other amphibians, fencing to prevent access to the ponds by dogs, and also scrape and runnel creation to divert water off paths and into wetland areas. Work with local groups was restricted but volunteers were a big part of getting this project complete on a limited budget.

Wild flowers at East Ketley

A team worked to create a patchwork of wild flower meadows across the site by cutting and removing the gross sward of nettles, mugwort and willowherb. They then worked to create a seed bed, seeding it with a wild flower mix, which has greatly improved the appearance and biodiversity of the area. This work will continue, developing these areas over a greater space until some meet up, with maintenance work continuing, involving cutting and removal after annual seeding is achieved.



Ravenhill Track wall at Haig

This year the team completed a five year project to restore and rebuild sandstone walls which lined a 300 metre historic trackway linking the hamlet of Arrowthwaite to the first industrial undersea coal mine, Saltom Pit, in 1730. Using lime mortar they started to point the walls that were still standing. Once that was complete they rebuilt the walls, bringing in approximately 15 tonnes of stone and 20 tonnes of sand.

The project involved roughly 50 people through youth groups, volunteers and staff, with approximately 2,000 hours going into the work.



Haig – Get Cumbria Buzzing

Get Cumbria Buzzing was a three year funded partnership project with Cumbria Wildlife Trust worth £5,000. Designed to improve sites for pollinators using native species only, the funding was applied for by Colourful Coast Project Officer Sophie Badrick. This year was the first of the project managed by Academy Ranger Duncan Crawford, who did a fantastic job. There was community involvement throughout the year with volunteers helping to plant 400 pot grown heather plants, 1,500 native spring bulbs and wildflower seeding over seven days.



Awards



Winning awards is recognition for the hard work of thousands of people who make our sites so successful

It's fantastic to receive recognition for the work that we do. Our staff, partners and dedicated volunteers work hard to ensure we deliver well managed, sustainable green space that benefit communities.

We were delighted that Elba Park, Greenwich Ecology Park, Silverdale Country Park, Beam Parklands and the Countess of Chester Country Park all retained their Green Flag status. Elba Park retains its status for a remarkable eighth year in succession, while Silverdale Country Park keeps its Green Flag for a fourth year in a row.

The prestigious award recognises excellent management of green spaces. Green Flag spaces must feel welcoming and cared for, be well maintained and clean and encourage users to enjoy health activities. The sites must be managed in a way that has a positive impact on the environment, both locally and globally and should aim to enhance biodiversity. Finally it recognises how green spaces bring people together and meet the needs of the community they serve, which is exactly what the Land Trust is about.

Our work received recognition at a number of other awards across 2019-20. One we were particularly proud of was being recognised at the prestigious BBC Countryfile Magazine Awards 2020, with Northumberlandia winning Landmark of the Year with a co-ordinated social media campaign helping us beat off strong competition in the public vote.

There was double recognition for Port Sunlight River Park, our site situated on the bank of the River Mersey. It was Highly Commended at the 2019 Planning Awards in the category for promoting Economic Growth, recognising the huge progress which has transformed Port Sunlight from a former landfill site into a beautiful green space that welcomes thousands of visitors a year. It was also shortlisted in the Heritage category at the 2020 RICS Awards following the opening of the new heritage centre and café.

The Land Trust's service charge business continues to be acknowledged as industry leading, with the Land Trust highly commended for Eco Initiative of the Year at the 2020 RICS Awards, while Beaulieu Estate Management, the Trust's subsidiary company responsible for the management of the public open spaces at Countryside's flagship development Beaulieu, was nominated for Newcomer of the Year at the same awards, an award previously won the by Land Trust in 2017.

The work of one of our most dedicated volunteers, Andy Scargill, was highlighted with a nomination for Environmental Champion of the year at the Echo Environment awards. Although Andy didn't win, the nomination was reward for his outstanding efforts as Chair of the Friends of Countess of Chester Country Park.

Our finance apprentice Ellen Colgan was recognised for her progress as she was Highly Commended in the Apprentice of the Year category at the High Sheriff of Cheshire awards in March 2020.

“When lockdown hit we were so grateful to have Castle Hill Country Park on our doorstep. It literally saved our sanity and gave the kids a great safe space to blow off steam when suddenly the only friends they could play with were each other.”

Claire Lonsdale, a regular visitor to Castle Hill Country Park





Our people and partners

Our colleagues who work hard to continue the growth and success of the Land Trust are the lifeblood of the organisation.

“The Land Trust is committed to nurturing our staff and supporting them to develop their skills.”



Without our colleagues we wouldn't be able to grow our site portfolio and deliver charitable outcomes, through the active management of these sites and engagement with the people we serve.

As of 31 March 2020 we directly employed 40 people: 28 full time and 12 part time. Our finance apprentice Ellen Colgan has completed her second year with us achieving her Level 3 AAT accounting qualification and has now been given a full time permanent position with the Trust and will go on to further study. Her progress was recognised at the High Sheriff of Cheshire Awards 2019 where she was Highly Commended in the Apprentice of the Year category.

The Land Trust is committed to nurturing our staff and supporting them to develop their skills and over the last 12 months 136 days of training were completed, as we seek to enhance the skillset of our employees.

The way our sites are managed means that a further 128 people are employed to manage the day to day running of our spaces across the country. We work with a wide variety of managing partners including local wildlife trusts, groundwork, TCV, local community groups and many more.

This year our Managing Partners conference was hosted virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This annual event, which includes our awards ceremony recognising the hard work of our partners on our sites across the country during 2019-20, is an opportunity for our staff and partners to collaborate, share best practice and celebrate the great outcomes for the communities around our sites. While we weren't able to meet in person it was still great to get everyone together to celebrate the successes of the previous year.

We hope to be able to meet again in person in 2021 at one of the Land Trust's newest sites, Twywell Hills and Dales.



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.

Our thanks also go to Peter Smith, Jeff Moore and Jane Garrett who retired from their roles in December 2019 and who played such a vital role in our success in 2019-20.



Bill Hiscocks – Chair
appointed December 2019

Bill was appointed Chair of the Land Trust in December 2019 having joined the Board in 2014. He has over 30 years' experience of working in financial services. After graduating from the

University of Edinburgh with a Bachelor of Commerce, Bill joined the private equity group 3i (then called ICFC) in 1981 and was both an investor and a portfolio manager for over 21 years. He worked in a number of locations in the UK and also the Channel Islands and Asia Pacific. From 2003 until 2012 Bill was a private banker and was employed by two European banks.

One of Bill's many interests is conservation and he was honorary treasurer of Fauna and Flora International from 1998 to 2000. Bill now acts as trustee for a number of organisations.



Sarah Whitney

Sarah Whitney brings financial and property expertise to the Land Trust. She is a chartered accountant and former investment banker who has specialised in real estate for much of her career, both as a corporate finance partner at

PwC and then heading the Consulting & Research arm of DTZ. Sarah subsequently established and led the Government & Infrastructure practice at CBRE.

Sarah holds a Visiting Fellowship at the Department of Land Economy at the University of Cambridge, where she teaches on planning, regeneration and development. She is also a Lay Member at University College London, where she sits on the Finance and Investment Committees. Sarah also serves as Chair of our Audit Committee.



Dinah Nichols

Dinah Nichols was appointed to the Board of Trustees in June 2010, and she is Chair of our Remuneration Committee. She is currently a Governor of Plymouth University and a Trustee of the South West Lakes Trust. Previously she was a Crown Estate Commissioner; a non-executive Board member of Pennon Group plc (South West Water and Viridor Waste) and of Shires Smaller Companies; and Chair of the National Forest Company.

In her full time career in Government she was Director-General Environment with responsibility for international, EU and domestic policy on sustainable development, climate change, waste and environmental quality, and she also held senior posts in housing, property and regeneration.

Dinah has also been Chair of Groundwork North London; a founder member of the Carbon Trust and the Travel Foundation; a Board member of Toynbee Housing Association; and served on the Policy Advisory Committee of CPRE.

She is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators and the Worshipful Company of Musicians and an Honorary Fellow of Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, University of London.



Simon MacGillivray

Simon MacGillivray was appointed to the Board of Trustees in June 2010. Simon has had a varied career working in a range of diverse occupations ranging from the banking sector to the NHS.

However, in the past thirty years he has been working within the environmental and forestry sectors, holding a number of senior executive posts within environmental organisations working across the UK.

Simon is a Chartered Forester and oversees the forestry and woodland management on a number of Scottish estates as well as being Senior Vice President of the Royal Scottish Forestry Society, the oldest English speaking forestry society in the world. He also holds directorship in Cashel Native Woodland which extends to over 1,200ha near Loch Lomond and sits on a number of forestry committees as well as the Local Access Forum dealing with access issues under the Scottish Land Reform Act.



Tom Keevil

Appointed to the Board of Trustees in May 2016, Tom has been operating as a senior executive, providing guidance and advice to the Boards of three FTSE 100 PLCs for over 15 years, following a 16 year career, since qualification, in an international law firm.

A media trained issues manager and governance expert, Tom has been a Financial Conduct Authority approved non-executive director of Factories Mutual Insurance Limited, a subsidiary of FM Global, and Chair of its Risk Committee since 2011. He is Company Secretary to the Board of the Manchester Airport Group and a member of its Executive Committee, with line management responsibilities for its Internal Audit, Risk and Insurance and Health and Safety functions. He is also a Member of the Law Society.

Between 2002 – 2007, he was a Trustee of a UK pension fund, managing circa £900million of assets. He was also a Non-executive director of the Solicitors Regulatory Authority (SRA) and its Professional Standard Financial Resources and Regulatory Risk Committees between 2009 – 2014. Tom also undertook the role of General Council and Company Secretary at United Utilities Group PLC between December 2007 – March 2011 and General Counsel and Company Secretary, Barratt Developments PLC between April 2011 – January 2016



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 Battersea Dogs & Cats Home.



Janet Haddock-Fraser

Janet has had an academic career and brings experience in university management, biodiversity and the environment. She is currently Professor of Sustainability and Leadership at Manchester Metropolitan University. Janet is a Fellow of the Royal

Geographical Society and RSA (Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce and Associate of the Institute for Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability and the International Coaching Federation.

Janet's academic research focuses on motivations for corporate social/environmental responsibility and leadership from multi-stakeholder, and intra-institutional, perspectives.



Anthony Bickmore

Anthony is a widely experienced property professional and Chartered Surveyor who has worked at the interface of the public and private sectors for over 25 years, setting strategy and taking responsibility for delivery. He has worked across most

sectors of the market and has substantial experience of property development and major urban renewal projects.

He was Director of Urban Estates for The Crown Estate, Head of Property for Transport for London. He subsequently worked as Commercial Director in the Cabinet Office's Government Property Agency as Commercial Director. He has a range of other business and community leadership roles.



Jon Irvine

Jon Irvine, from Homes England, joined the board of Trustees in September 2019. Jon is an experienced Chartered Surveyor who has worked for Homes England (previously the Homes and Communities Agency) since 2004 in

a number of roles including management of the agency's Commercial Joint Ventures and leading the Development and Disposals teams. Jon currently leads the Contingent Assets and Liabilities and Commercial Disposals Team dealing with the resolution of historic land and property matters alongside disposals of the agency's non-core and commercial land.



Louise Brooke-Smith

Louise Brooke-Smith is a Chartered Surveyor and Chartered Town Planner and was appointed to the board in December 2019. She has over 30 years commercial experience across the land, property and construction sectors, within

the UK and overseas, inter alia, establishing a national planning consultancy. Arcadis acquired her company in 2017 when Louise became a Partner and UK Head of Development & Strategic Planning.

She stepped down from the Partnership in 2019 to take up a number of Non-Executive Directorships and international advisory positions. She had previously served as RICS Global President (2014-15)

In June 2019 Louise was awarded an OBE for services to the built environment and to diversity and inclusion – recognition for her passion for equality across the land, property and construction industries. She is a Freeman of the City of London; was named as National Construction Achiever (2015) and holds Honorary Doctorates from the Universities of Wolverhampton, Sheffield Hallam and Birmingham City.



Nick Taylor-Buck

Nick was appointed to our board of trustees in December 2019. Nick is the Research Manager for the Faculty of Science at the University of Sheffield. He previously worked on the 'Realising Just Cities' project, helping to co-ordinate

the programme of work and the design, delivery and evaluation of co-production projects across two-city regions in the North of England. He has a PHD in the natural sciences and is also a qualified Chartered Surveyor.



Nick McLeod-Clarke

Chair of the Trust's Investment Committee, Nick spent over 31 years working for several asset management organisations, the last 17 years as a Managing Director with BlackRock, currently the world's largest asset manager. Nick spent

almost all of his career as a fund manager specialising in UK Equities. In addition to a BA in Economics, he also has a Masters Degree in Finance from the London Business School. Nick chairs the Investment Committee and also sits on the Audit Committee.

As well as his work with The Land Trust, Nick is also a member of the Investment Committee of the Nursing and Midwifery Council.



Deborah Rees

Deborah was appointed to the board of Trustees in December 2019. She brings 30 years' experience as a Senior Investment Banker primarily as a Director for Barclays Investment Bank and Merrill Lynch. She is now a Non-Executive Director and member

of the Investment Committee of The Methodist Insurance Company and a pension fund trustee for the Leprosy Mission International.



Sandra Kelly

Sandra was appointed to the Board of Trustees in December 2019. A Chartered Accountant, she was formerly Finance Director of the Canal & River Trust. Prior to that she spent eight years as Finance Director at NHBC (the National

House Building Council). She is a Non-Executive director of Finsbury Growth & Income Trust plc as well as being Chair and Governer of Headington School in Oxford. She previously held senior finance positions in the commercial sector, most notably for BMW GB.

Land Trust Managing Partners Awards

Site of the Year:

Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park & Southern Park

Ranger of the Year:

Bruce Bell and Joanne Smith

Volunteer of the Year:

Brian Bennett

Project of the Year:

Knowle Haven

Best Friends/Community Group:

Fort Burgoyne Volunteers

Most Improved Space of the Year:

The Old Brickworks

Site delivering best economic activity:

Pleasley Pit

Educational Site of the Year:

Countess of Chester Country Park

Health Site of the Year:

Port Sunlight River Park

Nature Space of the Year:

Carr Lodge

Community Space of the Year:

Ashton's Field

Summary financial information

Summary of income and expenditure

	YEAR ENDED 31/03/2020	YEAR ENDED 31/03/2019
	£000's	£000's
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:		
DONATIONS AND LEGACIES	38	7
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	1110	940
OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES	529	399
SITE FUNDING	3,375	8,904
INVESTMENTS	5902	5,733
OTHER INCOME	109	- 0
TOTAL INCOME	11,063	15,983
EXPENDITURE ON:		
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT FEES	485	421
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	7,571	6,046
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	8,056	6,467
NET GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS	(12,605)	9,839
CORPORATION TAX	- 0	- 0
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(9,598)	19,355
OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS/(LOSSES):		
ACTUAL GAINS/(LOSSES) ON DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEME	49	14
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(9,549)	19,369

The funds of the charity

	GROUP	
	YEAR ENDED 31/03/2020	YEAR ENDED 31/03/2019
	£000's	£000's
FUNDS:		
ENDOWMENT FUNDS	69,237	74,264
RESTRICTED FUNDS	72,086	74,496
GENERAL FUNDS	2,688	2,340
PENSION RESERVE	- 0	- 0
DESIGNATED FUNDS	10,543	13,003
TOTAL INCOME	154,554	164,103

Fundraising

SUPPORTED BY:	SITE/PROJECT	£000's
LAND OF THE FANNS	OLIVER ROAD LAGOONS	20
LAND OF THE FANNS	DAVY DOWN	10
RUSHMOOR BOROUGH COUNCIL	WELLESLEY WOODLANDS	2
STATUTORY GRANTS	VARIOUS	164

The Land Trust in numbers 2019-20

1.4 million visits to Land Trust sites

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

Over 2,500 hectares of land under management

Six new sites transferred to our management portfolio

£30 million: the economic and social value that our green space management delivers to our communities

£2.5 million: the economic and social value delivered on the Land Trust's service charge sites

Over 16,000 people attending an education or training activity – a rise of **over 3,700**

Over 100,000 people attended a community activity on one of our sites – a rise of **over 34,000**

47,483 people attended a health activity – a record year!

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