

Annual Review 2021



the
Land
Trust

Land Trust spaces
were a safe haven
for our communities
throughout the
Covid-19 pandemic

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Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park continues to be an oasis of calm in a busy urban environment



Chair's Report



Bill Hiscocks

When the Covid-19 pandemic took hold in the UK in March 2020 it was a hugely uncertain time for the Land Trust. Following my appointment as Chair of the organisation in December 2019 I did not expect to be facing such an unprecedented situation during my first few months in the role.

Covid-19 threw many obstacles in the Land Trust's path. The first, and immediate priority, was considering how best to keep our sites open and safe for our communities to use during this incredibly challenging time. However, as Chair of the organisation, there were also a huge amount of other issues to consider.

How would the pandemic affect the long-term financial position of the Trust? How was the transition to home working affecting the morale of our passionate and dedicated staff team? With so much of our new business work conducted face to face with clients how would it affect the transfer of new parks and green spaces to the Land Trust's portfolio?

Writing these words nearly two years later I am very proud of the way the Trust overcame these significant obstacles to ensure that the organisation finished the year in a stronger position than which we started and with a very bright future ahead of us.

One of the few positives to come out of the pandemic has been the new appreciation people have for their local parks and green spaces.

We know that keeping our sites open, when many other organisations and local authorities were closing theirs, was hugely valued by our communities. We understood that this would put huge pressure on the sites as more people than ever before flocked to our green spaces, but knew that it would have a hugely positive effect on the physical and mental wellbeing of our communities.

We were delighted to welcome more than two million people to our parks and green spaces over the last 12 months, the first time we have hit this significant milestone. It was wonderful to see record numbers of people visiting our green spaces and being able to use them for their daily exercise was hugely important.

Finally, my thanks go to the staff of the Land Trust for their continued hard work and commitment to improving people's lives. While we are growing as an organisation I am constantly amazed at our ability to punch above our weight and maximise our resources to deliver what we do. This is down to our wonderful staff team, who all care passionately about the Trust's mission to change people's lives for the better.

I have been inspired by their ability to adapt to the significant challenges posed by Covid-19 and the positive impact their efforts have had on millions of people across the country.

Chief Executive's Report



Euan Hall

In the Land Trust's 2018 Annual Review I wrote that we need a government that recognises the importance of green infrastructure to create thriving, healthy communities. I said that we need to decide what society we want our children, and their children to grow up in. I finished by saying that we had a huge opportunity to change the future of our country and that it was vital that we didn't miss it.

These words are as true now as they were when I wrote them three years ago and the value of parks and green spaces has become even more evident over the last 18 months.

The Covid-19 pandemic has been a terrible time for so many people. Thousands of people have tragically lost their lives in the UK while millions have died across the world. It has been an incredibly sobering experience for us all as we have sacrificed so much to try and get through the pandemic and get back to normal.

While there have been so many negatives there have also been positives and people's new found appreciation for the natural environment and parks and green spaces has been one of them.

Although we were unable to deliver our usual programme of activity, just being able to keep our green spaces open made a huge difference. Working closely with our dedicated managing partners, and in some cases our volunteer workforce, we were able to ensure that our sites were maintained to the best possible standards during this time.

This enabled the communities that live and work around our parks and green spaces to use them throughout the pandemic which we know was hugely important for their physical and mental wellbeing.

It is hugely encouraging, and I'm incredibly proud, that the Trust has managed to navigate the most challenging year in the organisation's history and come out of it in a better position. We have brought some beautiful new parks and green spaces into our ownership and management and have increased our charitable delivery and the economic and social value created across our portfolio.

With over two million people visiting our sites in 2020-21 we have a fantastic platform to go on and deliver so much more in the future and continue to play our part in delivering healthier, happier communities.

Service Charge

Community engagement is what sets our service charge business model apart from other green space management companies

The Land Trust manages green space on eight property developments across the country on behalf of 5,000 homeowners.

Community engagement is what sets our service charge business model apart from other green space management companies and engaging with our customers throughout the Covid-19 pandemic has been incredibly important.

While Covid-19 restrictions made this far more difficult our service charge team adapted quickly, hosting resident meetings online and providing regular updates through our dedicated social media pages.

We also recognised that many of our customers may face financial hardship due to the pandemic and so offered flexible payment plans for any customers who were struggling to pay. Although we were unable to run our usual seasonal events we made great efforts to organise activities, particularly during the Christmas period when we ran a very popular storytelling event online which was attended by customers from across our service charge portfolio.

Managing the green areas on the service charge spaces is about a lot more than simply cutting the grass and picking up the litter and throughout the pandemic we have continued to deliver activities that have created significant economic and social value on our spaces.

This hard work paid off with a 50% rise in the number of people using the green spaces within our service charge developments with over 200,000 people visiting one of our sites.

When the Land Trust first decided to get involved with managing green space within service charge developments, it was because we knew we could make a really positive impact on the people that call these developments home. This has been proven throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and we are very proud of the significant difference we have made.

Over 70% of residents who responded to our annual survey said that our green spaces had a positive effect on their physical and mental wellbeing.

Nearly 70% of residents said they use the green spaces around their home at least a few times a week.

Social Value Table

	Value (per annum) 2020-21	Type of Value
Health care cost savings	£85,630	Cost saving
Land management and use	£300,303	GVA
Workforce development	£24,673	GVA
Recreational and cultural value	£1,123,452	Economic value
Community Engagement	£1,300	Economic value
GVA	£641,235	Value per annum
Cost saving	£132,430	Value per annum
Overall economic value	£1,898,673	Value per annum



The green space within our service charge developments played an important part in protecting the physical and mental wellbeing of our communities

Land Trust Annual Awards

"It was wonderful to be able to get together with our Managing Partners and volunteers and celebrate everything we were able to accomplish together over the last 18 months.

"Last year wasn't easy for anyone, and for those working on our sites there was the added pressure of making sure our sites remained open and safe throughout the pandemic. I'm incredibly proud that not only did they manage this but also delivered so much more that was of huge benefit to the communities who live and work around our spaces."

Alan Carter
Director of Operations



The Land Trust's annual awards ceremony which recognises achievements across the charity's 80 parks and green spaces returned in-person for 2021.

This year there were 12 awards up for grabs, with the coveted Site of the Year award shared by Weetslade Country Park and Beaulieu. Each award was presented to the winners by Reverend Dan Pierce, who plays a vital part in developing the community at Beaulieu.

This year's Ranger of the Year was awarded to Michaela Hulle, whose hard work and dedication has seen vast improvements on the three Trust sites she manages and particularly on Rabbit Ings Country Park.

As a charity who works to improve the lives of communities and individuals across the country, the Land Trust added a new category this year to recognise the most inclusive space in its portfolio.

This first award was shared by Knowle Haven Nature Reserve and Countess of Chester Country Park.



Green Angels



Our Green Angels team and trainees adapted and made a success of the very challenging scenarios placed in front of them...

The Land Trust's Green Angels programme which provides free environmental training and education makes a huge difference to the lives of our trainees, helping many into further education and employment.

Since launching Green Angels in 2013 thousands of trainees have enjoyed our courses, while the Land Trust has also benefited hugely from the dedication and commitment of our Green Angels, who make a huge difference to our sites.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the Trust had to suspend many of our activities or run them at vastly reduced numbers to ensure they were safe. However we were acutely aware that many of our Green Angels trainees relied on our activities for their physical and mental wellbeing so our team worked incredibly hard to engage with our trainees and support them through this challenging time.

Throughout the first period of lockdown the team produced fantastic newsletters packed full of activities and ideas for trainees to complete from the safety of their own home or gardens or while taking their daily exercise. These mailings have continued on a monthly basis and aim to keep people focusing positively on their local environment through activities, information and virtual networking.

We also introduced Green Angels weekly online coffee mornings which ran until the end of March 2021.

As Covid-19 restrictions eased at various stages some activities were able to be resumed in person, with limited numbers and appropriate social distancing measures in place. Our Green Angels team and trainees adapted and made a success of the very challenging scenarios placed in front of them.

We were pleased to be able to run online Wellbeing with Nature courses in partnership with Cheshire Wildlife Trust for trainees from Fort Burgoyne, South Yorkshire, Warrington, Hassall Green and Davy Down.



The Land Trust has also benefited hugely from the dedication and commitment of our Green Angels...

We ran three online Spring Food Growing Courses in partnership with Lancashire Wildlife Trust and also promoted and co-ordinated three online workshops on composting, recycling and food waste in partnership with 'Garden Organic'.

Our future plans include developing a Green Angels Woodland Heritage Skills course which we are aiming to pilot on our site at Davy Down, and we are just starting to roll out a Green Angels programme at Port Sunlight River Park funded through United Utilities Catchment Systems Thinking (CaST) fund.

It has also been a very successful year on the Land Trust's site at Hassall Green where, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, we were able to meet our targets – and exceed most of them – for the Denise Coates Foundation project. This saw the Trust awarded a further £155,000 and with remediation of the site complete, and a new container installed, our Green Angels team can now focus on developing and delivering a very ambitious and exciting programme of activities.

Plans include:

- Construction of a timber roundhouse
- Drystone walling training
- Training in ecological survey skills – to support ecosystem recording on site
- The formation of a Friends of Hassall Green Nature Reserve group – meetings have already been held and there is a lot of interest and commitment
- Training courses in wildlife ID skills; horticulture; bushcraft and survival; traditional scything; habitat creation; willow weaving
- Regular volunteering sessions

Our New Sites



Runfold Ridge

With fantastic panoramic views and a wild flower rich chalk grassland, Runfold Ridge is a great destination for exploring and experiencing the benefits of nature. These former arable fields rest upon the northern slope of the Hog's Back, a chalk ridge that forms the western end of the North Downs; a major landscape feature of southern England extending to the White Cliffs of Dover.

Chalk grassland is Britain's equivalent to tropical rainforests, with an abundance of wildflowers. Runfold Ridge has future potential to return to this type of habitat through the long-term cutting and removal of grass to reduce nutrient levels. New tree planting and wildlife boxes are all in place to enhance environmental value.

As a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG), Runfold Ridge offers dog-friendly and family-friendly circular routes in the countryside to reduce pressure on our precious heathland habitats known as Special Protection Areas (SPA).



Prince Philip Park & Hogmoor Inclosure

Prince Philip Park comprises a variety of public open spaces totalling 114 hectares (equivalent to 158 football pitches). Hogmoor Inclosure is a more natural open space within Prince Philip Park and is the third largest Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) of its kind in the UK, containing a variety of habitats and natural features and is a space for visitors to experience nature.

Hogmoor is a haven for numerous species of birds and the green spaces are all about bringing the new community together, providing a safe, welcoming environment for all.

With 2,400 new homes planned over the next 10 years there will be new employment opportunities and jobs created for local people. The creation of the new town centre will see a variety of shops, cafes and office space as well as a leisure centre and cinema. With new transport links, Prince Philip Park will become a great place for new residents to live, work and play.

Health



Our sites remained hugely popular for health activities with people using our spaces for activities such as walking, running and cycling

We are very proud of the decisions we took during that time, knowing that they had a hugely positive impact...

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 sites.

When the first lockdown to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic was announced in March 2020 it was a very difficult time for many organisations. Thankfully, although guidance was changing frequently, it quickly became clear that the government was going to prioritise people being able to get out and about for exercise.

The Land Trust therefore took the decision to keep as many of our sites open as possible for our communities to use. We did this knowing there would be significant challenges in doing this, particularly when other landowners were making the decision to close their sites. We therefore saw increased footfall on our spaces, receiving over two million visits for the first time in our history.

We are very proud of the decisions we took during that time knowing that our green spaces helped so many people.



The increase in visitor numbers had a very positive impact on the economic and social value...

Economic and social value delivered

With nearly 2.5 million visits to Land Trust sites in 2020-21 our parks and green spaces have made a hugely positive impact on the physical and mental wellbeing of the communities we work with.

The increase in visitor numbers had a very positive impact on the economic and social value we were able to create with over £2 million delivered.

There was a significant increase in healthcare cost savings with this rising from £847,879 in 2019-20 to £1,272,555 in 2020-21. There was also an increase in health and wellbeing value rising from £533,652 to £718,944.

The only decrease was in the value delivered through mental health activities which dropped from over half a million pound delivered in 2019-20 to £96,000 in 2020-21.

However this decrease can be attributed directly to the pandemic. In previous years the Trust, our managing partners and volunteer workforce have had a real focus on delivering mental health activities on our green spaces, with many of them being carried out in person and in groups.

Due to social distancing guidelines it was therefore very difficult to deliver the same level of activity and it will be a priority for the Trust in 2021-22 to increase these activities once more.



The site is
always busy
with walkers,
runners and
cyclists...

Health Site of the Year

Once one of Europe's most polluted sites, The Avenue Country Park is now an award winning parkland and wildlife reserve. The 90 hectare former Coking Works in North East Derbyshire has benefitted from significant investment by Homes England and its predecessors over the last 20 years, with the site transferring to the Land Trust's management in 2019.

The Avenue was recognised for this incredible transformation at the Land Trust awards, deservedly picking up Health Site of the Year. The site is always busy with walkers, runners and cyclists regularly using the paths to get some fresh air and exercise, which makes a really positive difference to their physical and mental wellbeing.

A local company, Cannon Events, host regular five kilometre races and longer events, while they also bring their juniors to train on site every week. Wingerworth Junior Sports Association train and play their matches on site with up to 120 young people each week, while Tupton Rugby Club also use a pitch for their juniors.



Health Advisory Group

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

Economic and Social Value Table

Health and wellbeing	Value (per annum) 2020-21	Type of Value
Health care cost savings	£1,272,555	Cost saving
Health wellbeing value	£718,944	Economic value
Mental health	£96,302	Cost saving
Labour productivity	£172,421	Gross Value Added

Education

Our staff and Managing Partners worked hard to find new ways to provide resources for young people

Green spaces are great places to learn about nature and the environment and our Estates team and Managing Partners create spaces that facilitate learning and provide educational opportunities that lead to further education or in many cases employment.

Engaging with young people and schools

Our ability to work with schools and young people was clearly severely hampered by the pandemic. However our staff and Managing Partners worked hard to find new ways to provide resources for young people to help them through the very challenging time.

A fantastic example of this work was the Outside is Fun project run by our Managing Partners The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) on our South Yorkshire Community Woodlands. This project involved working with schools within walking distance of our sites in Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham to develop bespoke programmes of outdoor learning over three years. It is part of the larger Children and Nature Programme that is funded by the Department for Education as part of the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan.

"Working alongside TCV has been a joy this year. You have provided some much needed outdoor learning fun for our young people. The Year 6 class loved their den building experience and the kit has provided hours of fun across school since the workshop - thank you for kindly leaving it behind.

"The home learning kits provided (so that our pupils isolating at home could continue to learn alongside their peers) matched our ethos of hybrid learning and the children at home receiving the same offer as those in school and the joy of seeing children receiving clay to complete crafts at home was lovely.

"The wooden slices at Christmas provided the perfect distraction for some of our KS2 children who were struggling at the time to be in school and they enjoyed creating Father Christmas wooden decorations, which have not been hung on trees but stored away at the children's request to be sold at a fundraising event next Christmas!

"The quality of provision and resources is second to none and the preparation that goes into providing resources and communicating events and resources is exceptional.

"Overall I have been hugely impressed by the dedication of TCV staff and the enthusiasm and knowledge they bring to each session. Nothing is too much trouble and they go above and beyond to make things happen for the benefit of our young people and staff. Thank you. Our community is a better place thanks to your support!"

Andrew Truby, Executive Headteacher
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Dinnington



Educational Site of the Year

Wellesley Woodlands was a worthy winner of the Educational Site of the Year after a fantastic 12 months.

A wide range of new educational materials were created including an Outdoor Learning Pack, Nature Explorer backpacks and Go Wild activity sheets.

These have been hugely popular and have been widely distributed to local schools. They are also hosted online and regularly posted about on social media to raise awareness in the local area. A fungi-film and self-guided trail were also created. The team were also able to host events for World Oceans Day, run Forest School activities and orienteering training. They also engaged with other events organisers facilitating activities with organisations such as the West End Centre/Hampshire Cultural Trust, Handlebards Outdoor Shakespeare, Wellspring Forest Church and various Beavers and Scout groups.

Economic and Social Value Table

Education	Value (per annum) 2020-21	Type of Value
Engagement (children)	£42,559	Economic value
Engagement (young people)	£17,240	Cost saving
Engagement (young people)	£2,136	Gross Value Added
Adults engaged in training	£6,517	Cost saving
Adults engaged in training	£34,846	Gross Value Added

Community Cohesion and Volunteering



The contribution made by our volunteer workforce cannot be overestimated...

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

Over the last 12 months volunteering activities have obviously been hugely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic with the requirements of social distancing preventing many of our usual events from being able to take place.

However 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. Many of our volunteers helped keep our sites safe and clean throughout the pandemic, which was absolutely vital as many of our sites saw a huge increase in footfall due to people having more time as they were either working from home or on furlough.



Volunteer of the Year

Morag Scargill was deservedly voted Volunteer of the Year for her hard work and dedication at Countess of Chester Country Park.

Morag used the time in the Covid-19 pandemic to put together many funding bids to benefit the park. These exceeded £20,000 and meant that when restrictions were lifted the park was ready to go with many new and varied activities.

Morag also signed up with The Conservation Volunteers as a volunteer officer to help run projects, knowing that being outdoors in the environment is of huge benefit in these troubled times, and recognised that many of the people who will be engaged by these projects are some of the most vulnerable people in society who need the engagement most.

Morag has continued to show how caring and compassionate she is to the people who engage in the projects that the Friends and TCV have been running through the pandemic. Even when in lockdown, she continued to volunteer, keeping in contact with people over the phone and digitally working for not only the good of the park but also for the good of the community in the area.



Community Space of the Year

One of the Land Trust’s service charge sites, Merlin Park, was voted Community Space of the Year. Already a vibrant park and community space before the Covid-19 pandemic, the challenging times really brought this new community together.

The local residents and surrounding community really valued being able to use the green spaces throughout the various periods of lockdown while the Rainbow trail encouraged people to get out of their houses and interacting with their neighbours even with all the social distancing restrictions in place.

The community also came together at Christmas, with many of the homeowners decorating their houses to bring some much needed festive cheer.

Economic and Social Value Table

Community and Place	Value (per annum) 2020-21	Type of Value
Volunteering	£137,536	Gross Value Added
Volunteering	£91,481	Economic Value
Recreational & Cultural Value	£12,491,236	Economic Value
Community Engagement	£124,592	Economic Value
ASB incidents	£851,760	Cost saving



Environment and biodiversity



Following Covid-19, our work in this area is becoming ever more important...

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.

With people having a new found appreciation for parks and green spaces following Covid-19 our work in this area is becoming ever more important with the need to balance the demands of people and wildlife who call our sites home a priority.

This area of work continues to take on greater importance for the Land Trust and in 2021-22 we will be launching our Biodiversity, Environment and Ecology strategy which sets out our ambition for the work we will do on our sites over the next five years.



Nature Space of the Year

There were joint winners of Nature Space of the Year at the Land Trust awards with Twywell Hills and Dales and Oliver Road Lagoons sharing the prize.

Twywell Hills and Dales contains a Site of Special Scientific Interest for the limestone grassland while another part is known as the best site in Northamptonshire for butterflies. Significant work to remove scrub has benefited both of those areas and Twywell is also home to a wide variety of bird species.

The site is incredibly popular with dog walkers and other visitors which puts pressure on the environment and biodiversity of Twywell and the Trust is planning on rolling out an innovative dog ambassador scheme in 2021-22 to ensure that people and wildlife can continue to thrive alongside each other.

Oliver Road Lagoons is one of only two sites in the UK where the distinguished jumping spider (*Attulus distinguendus*) can be found. A site wide survey in 2019 identified approximately 1,300 species of invertebrates, birds and reptiles and included 50 endangered spaces. Over 200 marsh helleborine orchids were found around the lagoon area which led to adjusted management to include additional thinning of some birch to encourage orchids to spread over a larger area.

Economic and Social Value Delivered

Environment and Biodiversity	Value (per annum) 2020-21	Type of Value
Reduced energy consumption	£42,747	Cost saving
Reduced carbon emissions	£14,656	Economic value
Carbon storage	£173,894	Economic value
Biodiversity	£2,211	Economic value

Economy



We have done everything we can to try and support the people that we work with...

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

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

The various periods of lockdown to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic had an effect on many businesses that either run on our sites or are in the surrounding areas. However we have done everything we can to try and support the people that we work with to help them get back on their feet and many small businesses are now thriving in partnership with the Land Trust.



Site delivering best economic activity

The winner of the Land Trust site delivering best economic activity was one of our service charge sites, St Michael's Hurst.

The Land Trust works with Nurture and Greenscapes to manage the green space within Bat Willow Hurst Country Park ensuring that the community within St Michael's Hurst has a beautiful space on their doorstep to use for their physical and mental wellbeing.

Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, Countryside were able to complete 48 homes while a new school has also been built in the area. The area is thriving and will only continue to grow in the next few years.

Case Study – Barista bus at Twywell

A fantastic example of a thriving business on one of our sites is the Barista bus at Twywell Hills and Dales. Run by Nicola, her selection of hot drinks, delicious cakes and treats has proven hugely popular with the community at Twywell. She has recently been able to upgrade her bus with much more room to provide food and drink and also give her space to work inside – just in time for the winter months.

Economic and Social Value Delivered

Economy	Value (per annum) 2020-21	Type of Value
Land management and use	£42,747	Gross Value Added
Supply chain expenditure	£14,656	Gross Value Added
Tourism	£173,894	Gross Value Added
Workforce development	£2,211	Cost Saving
Workforce development		Gross Value Added

Our People

Staff have been given the option to work in a much more flexible way, which we recognise is good for their physical and mental wellbeing...

The Land Trust staff are the lifeblood of the organisation. Without them we wouldn't be able to grow our site portfolio or deliver charitable outcomes.

As of 31 March 2021 we directly employed 43 people: 34 full time and nine part time. The Land Trust has remained committed to nurturing our staff and supporting them to develop their skills with 283 training hours completed over the last 12 months.

The last year obviously presented a number of challenges for our staff team due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Following Government advice our staff moved to home working in March 2020. The Trust had been planning for this eventuality for a number of weeks and therefore had the appropriate infrastructure in place to allow our team to adapt quickly to this new way of working.

Working from home presented the Trust with the challenge of keeping everyone working together effectively when face-to-face contact was so limited. The Trust invested in Microsoft Teams and regular meetings were held between colleagues and departments.

The Trust also quickly recognised that the pandemic could put a strain on the mental wellbeing of our staff. Six members of the team were trained as Mental Health First Aiders and a new Health and Wellbeing newsletter was created which was sent out to all staff and included various resources and activities which were designed to benefit their physical and mental wellbeing.

A number of virtual activities were also organised, including art classes, yoga and Pilates.

The office is now open with staff being given the option to work in a much more flexible way which we recognise is good for their physical and mental wellbeing.



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. In the last 12 months Dinah Nichols and Simon MacGillivray retired as Trustees. Dinah and Simon both provided a decade of sterling service to the Land Trust and we thank them for their enormous contribution.

William Hiscocks – Chair

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 Governor of Headington School in Oxford. She previously held senior finance positions in the commercial sector, most notably for BMW GB.

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.



William Hiscocks – Chair



Sarah Whitney



Tom Keevil



Patrick Aylmer



Janet Haddock-Fraser



Anthony Bickmore



Louise Brooke-Smith



Jon Irvine



Nick Taylor-Buck



Nick McLeod-Clarke



Deborah Rees



Sandra Kelly

Awards

It's fantastic to receive recognition for the work that we do. Over the last year our staff, partners and dedicated volunteers have worked incredibly hard to ensure we deliver well managed, sustainable green space that benefit our 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 ninth year in succession, while Silverdale Country Park keeps its Green Flag for a fifth 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.

The Land Trust enjoyed success at the 2020 RESI Awards, with the charity picking up Highly Commended in the Eco Initiative of the Year category.

The Trust was one of 11 organisations shortlisted and was nominated for our work transforming the residential service charge market. We were very proud to receive this recognition against many other organisations who are doing fantastic work and continues to highlight how our Placekeeping approach is changing the way green spaces within developments are managed.

The Trust received two nominations at the Charity Times Awards. Further recognition for our work in the service charge market came with a shortlisting for the Property Innovation Award while we were also nominated for the prestigious Charity of the Year title.



The Land Trust's service charge business continues to receive industry recognition as a leader in green space management



Land Trust Managing Partners Awards

Site of the Year:

Weetslade Country Park and Beaulieu

Ranger of the Year:

Michaela Hulley

Volunteer of the Year:

Morag Scargill

Most Inclusive Space:

Knowle Haven and

Countess of Chester Country Park

Project of the Year:

Steps restoration at Northumberlandia

Best Friends/Community Group:

Westbrook and Callands Communities

Most improved space:

Hassall Green Nature Reserve

Site delivering best economic activity:

St Michael's Hurst

Educational site of the Year:

Wellesley Woodlands

Health site of the Year:

The Avenue Country Park

Nature space of the Year:

Oliver Road Lagoons

and Twywell Hills and Dales

Community space of the Year:

Merlin Park

The Land Trust's photography competition was a fantastic success once more with members of the public sending us hundreds of beautiful photographs of our sites

Summary Financial Information

Summary of Income and Expenditure

	YEAR ENDED 31/03/2021	YEAR ENDED 31/03/2020
Income and endowments from:	£000'S	£000'S
Donations And Legacies	32	38
Charitable Activities	1,169	1,110
Other Trading Activities	515	529
Site Funding	2,364	3,375
Investments	6,301	5,902
Other Income	-	109
Total income	10,381	11,063
Expenditure on:		
Investment Management Fees	496	485
Charitable Activities	6,684	7,571
Total expenditure	7,180	8,056
Net Gains/(Losses) On Investments	22,838	(12,605)
Corporation Tax	-	-
Net income/(Expenditure)	26,039	(9,598)
Other recognised gains/(losses):		
Actual Gains/(Losses) On Defined Benefit Pension Scheme	-	49
Net movement in funds	26,039	(9,549)

The Funds of the Group

	Group	
	YEAR ENDED 31/03/2021	YEAR ENDED 31/03/2020
Funds:	£000'S	£000'S
Endowment Funds	79,977	69,237
Restricted Funds	81,205	72,086
General Funds	3,723	2,688
Designated Funds	15,688	10,543
Total Income	180,593	154,554

Fundraising




Supported By:	Site/Project	£000'S
Denise Coates Foundation	Hassall Green	155
Statutory Grants	Various	207
Local Authority Grants	Various	4

Keeping our sites open throughout the Covid-19 pandemic when many other organisations and local authorities were closing theirs was hugely important for our communities and we are proud of the positive difference we made



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The Land Trust is committed to a zero tolerance approach to modern slavery.
For more information visit: thelandtrust.org.uk/modern-slavery-statement