

Annual Review 2022



the
Land
Trust

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Chair's Report



William Hiscocks

During the last two years, the importance of green space has arguably never been so pronounced. In 2020/21 we saw record numbers of visitors to our sites as people used them for their daily exercise and to benefit their physical and mental health. Into 2021-22 it has been pleasing to see visitor numbers remain above that of pre-pandemic.

I am pleased with the financial performance of the Land Trust as we continue to come out of the pandemic. Overall net assets have increased to £212.9m, an increase of 18% compared with our position at 31 March 2021 (£180.6m). This puts us in a strong, sustainable position to continue to deliver our charitable objectives in the future.

As Covid-19 restrictions lifted and face-to-face meetings were able to take place once again, 2021-22 saw a doubling in the number of new sites coming under the Land Trust's management versus the previous 12 months. Six new sites were welcomed including one service charge site, Branston Locks in Burton, Staffordshire.

2021/22 has been a successful year for the Land Trust, but also a time of transition. Euan Hall announced, in March 2022, his intention to retire at the end of June 2022 from his position of Chief Executive. After a thorough recruitment process Alan Carter was appointed as Chief Executive in July 2022.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Euan, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, for both spearheading the launch of the Land Trust 18 years ago, and for his unwavering commitment to growing the Trust and delivering its charitable aims. The success of the Trust has been largely due to Euan's efforts during his time as Chief Executive.

Under the Land Trust's operating model, we engage local managing partners and community groups to run our sites in line with our strategic and charitable objectives. Without their invaluable contribution, the Trust would simply be unable to deliver all of its outstanding achievements over the last 12 months.

Finally, my thanks go to the Land Trust staff for their continued hard work and commitment to improving people's lives via the work of the Land Trust. It is inspiring to see the positive impact their efforts have on millions of lives across the country. Our wonderful and passionate team care deeply about the Trust's mission to deliver for both the environment and for communities, and together are changing lives for the better.

Chief Executive's Report



Alan Carter

I am very pleased to report that despite the challenges of 2021/22 the Land Trust saw an overall increase in its charitable KPIs of 6%.

I have been very proud to see Land Trust green spaces continuing to play such an important role in supporting the physical and mental health of the communities who live and work around our sites as we learn to live alongside Covid-19. The number of on-site formal health activities taking place on our green spaces has gone up during the last 12 months, along with the number of volunteer opportunities.

However, we saw the biggest increase in the area of biodiversity as the hard work of our staff and managing partners continues to enhance and improve the environment of our green spaces for the benefit of both communities and wildlife.

Delivering economic and social value

In order to measure the impact of our work, we use an Economic and Social Value Model developed in partnership with AMION Consulting. The model provides evidence based, measurable indicators of the benefits of well-managed green space for communities. The model assesses the benefits of green space with regard to five main categories of value, with a worksheet presented on each:

- Environment and biodiversity
- Health and wellbeing
- Education
- Economic
- Community and place

An Economic Value Assessment worksheet then summarises the benefits generated through the model, providing an overall measure of economic value. These can then be used to understand the:

- GVA (Gross Value Added) contribution
- Fiscal savings/benefits
- Wider economic or social value

More details on what the Trust has delivered against this model can be found within this review.

It is incredibly pleasing to report that despite the challenges of the last 12 months, the Land Trust generated a social value of circa £6 for every £1 spent on our sites between 2021-22.

Furthermore, in the face of an overall drop in visitor numbers, post pandemic, an additional £1m of community engagement Economic Value has been delivered as formal activities carefully restarted across our sites.

On behalf of my colleagues and fellow members of the senior leadership team, I would like to offer my thanks to our Board of Trustees and members for their continued guidance and expertise over the last year. Their counsel and advice has been hugely valuable to the organisation.

I would also like to thank our loyal and hardworking team of colleagues, volunteers and managing partners without whom, none of our charitable delivery would have been possible.

Charitable aims

We want the green space that we manage to bring long-term benefits to the community and the environment, as well as providing great spaces to visit and enjoy.

Environment and biodiversity

Creating, restoring and managing green spaces to improve the natural environment through increasing biodiversity and enhancing habitats.

Health

Promoting the use of our green spaces for the improvement of the health and wellbeing of communities.

Education and learning

Inspiring the current and next generation through vocational outdoor education and training opportunities.

Economic vitality

Optimising the economic value of our spaces and the services that they can provide to benefit the communities that are connected with them.

Community Cohesion

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

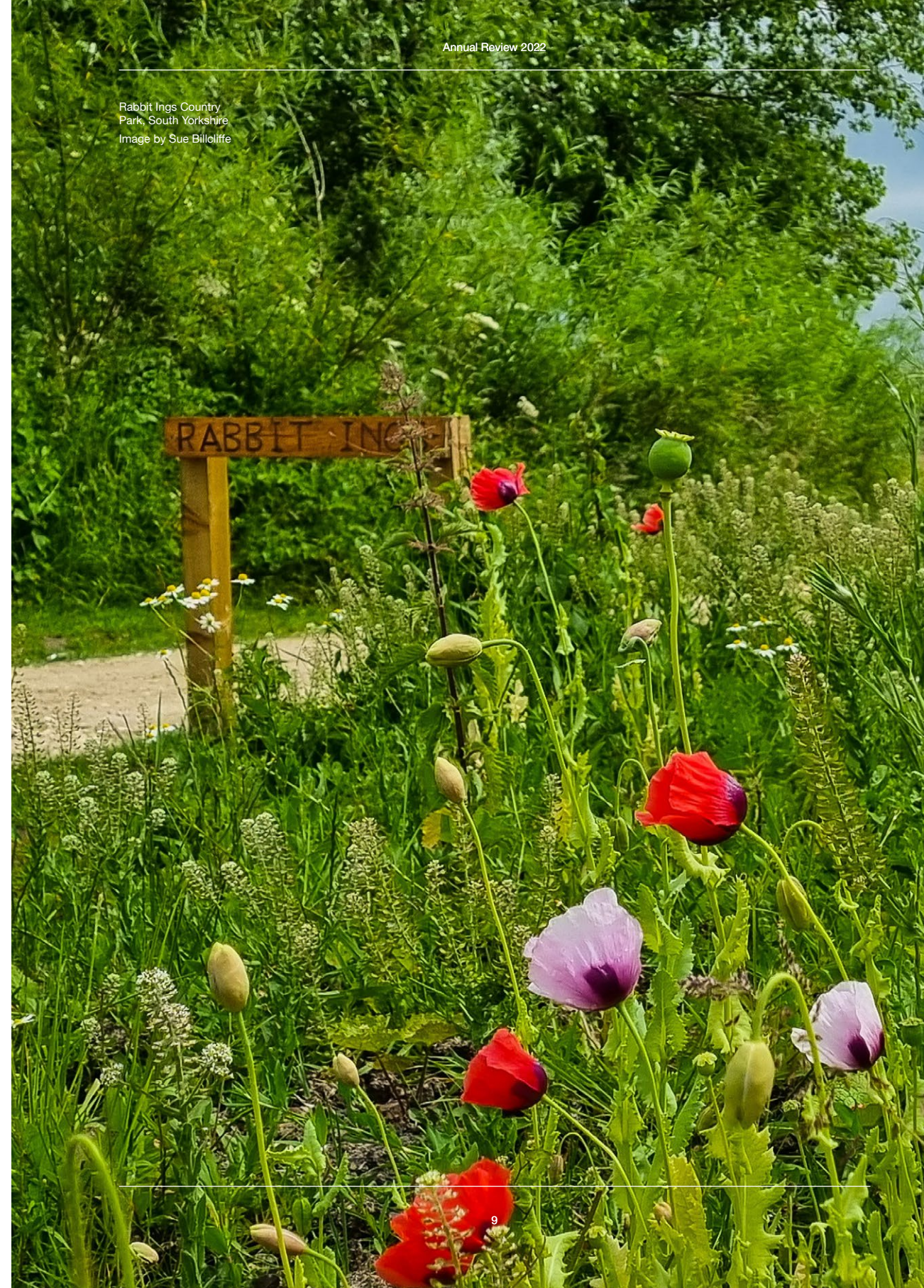
The benefits of green space

Well-managed green open spaces provide multiple benefits for people.

Countess of Chester
Country Park, Chester



Rabbit Ings Country
Park, South Yorkshire
Image by Sue Billcliffe



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 10 property developments across the country on behalf of 5,969 homeowners, as of 31 March 2022.

Community engagement is what sets our service charge business model apart from other green space management companies. We ensure communities are fully informed and able to feedback on the services provided with our estates teams making regular visits to sites, alongside regular residents' meetings.

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 we strive to create significant economic and social value on our spaces. We deliver charitable benefits for communities, which aim to closely mirror the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) objective to deliver sustainable development and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities criteria for garden communities.

This hard work is paying off with 70% of residents who responded to our annual survey saying our green spaces had a positive effect on their physical and mental wellbeing.

While 69% of residents said they are using the green spaces around their homes a few times a week or every day, **with 87% of residents** using the green spaces at least once a month.

Beaulieu, Chelmsford



Merlin Park, Hucknall

Our New Sites



Branston Locks, Staffordshire

2021/22 also saw a total of 115 hectares of ‘Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace’ (SANG) transfer to the Trust, across Berkshire, Devon and Surrey.

SANGs are designed to offer public recreational green space, close to residential developments, attracting people away from natural sites designated Special Protection Areas or Special Areas of Conservation, which need to be preserved for their valuable ecology and are sensitive to public activities like dog walking.

SANGs are designed to offer public recreational green space, close to residential developments

Site	County	Size
Dawlish Countryside Park	Devon	26.4 hectares
Ridgetop Park	Devon	21.5 hectares
Buckler’s Forest	Berkshire	42.5 hectares
Horsley Meadows	Surrey	24.7 hectares

These new public sites were all created on previously inaccessible land transformed into recreational sites with enhanced biodiversity, giving local residents the ability to access and engage with nature, and undertake recreational activities including walking and quiet recreation.

To determine the value of the biodiversity on these sites, following a desk based assessment, Land Trust used the Biodiversity Metric 3.1 to estimate the biodiversity baseline of these sites. Through the Land Trust’s management, the habitats and biodiversity will be maintained and enhanced in perpetuity.

Site	Total Biodiversity Units (Habitats)	Total River Units
Dawlish Countryside Park	63.73	0
Ridgetop Park	71.10	2.76
Buckler’s Forest	235.06	0
Horsley Meadows	49.56	1.7



Ash Green Meadows, Surrey

We have modelled the predicted combined benefits that these sites will deliver in five years, based upon actual KPIs delivered on comparable Land Trust sites.

In addition to this, the Land Trust’s existing site, Ash Green Meadows in Surrey, was extended by two hectares to include an area of Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland. This improves the experience for visitors enabling both woodland and meadow walks across the overall site.

Economic and Social Value

Using our Social and Economic Model, which provides evidence-based, measurable indicators of the benefits of well-managed green space for communities, we have modelled the predicted combined benefits that these sites will deliver in five years, based upon actual KPIs delivered on comparable Land Trust sites.

Based on our professional, community focussed, budget conscious management proposals, we estimate that in five years’ time, our management of these sites would help to deliver the following combined benefits per annum:

- £200,000 cost saving per year to the NHS from our interventions
- £400,000 per year tourism benefits to the local economies
- Overall creates almost £1m gross value added for the local economies
- Save the public purse £380,000 per year
- Overall economic value created of £4m

Our New Sites



Buckler's Forest. Image: DDL Photography. Landscape architects: Macgregor Smith Landscape Architecture responsible for the master planning and design.

Site Specifics

The largest of the Land Trust's latest acquisitions was a 42-hectare woodland site Buckler's Forest, in Crowthorne, Berkshire. Created on the former Transport Research Laboratory site, Buckler's Forest not only mitigates the impacts upon the Thames Basin Heaths SPA (Special Protection Area) but also includes SuDS, which attenuates 50,000m³ of surface water during extreme weather events protecting over 1,000 properties from flooding.

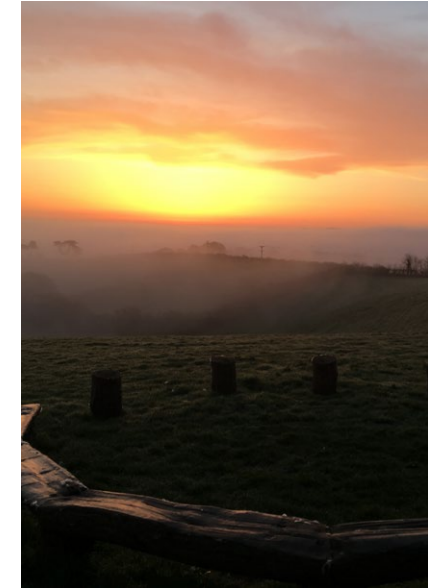
John Richards, Cala Homes Land and Planning Director, said: *"It was great to work with the team at the Land Trust to handover Buckler's Forest. The Land Trust has an excellent reputation for custodianship of green spaces that ensures that spaces like Buckler's Forest are managed for the benefit of the public, while enhancing local biodiversity, for many generations to come. We look forward to working with the organisation again in the future."*

Horsley Meadows transferred to the Trust in 2021 making it the Trust's fourth acquisition in Guildford in as many years and bringing the total area of land in the Borough to 76 hectares. With a strong portfolio of SANG in the region, Land Trust is the largest, non-public body, owner of SANG provided to mitigate impacts upon the Thames-Basin Heaths SPA.

Other SANG sites transferred to the Land Trust over the last year include its first two in Devon, including Dawlish Countryside Park and Ridgetop Park which were transferred to the Land Trust by Teignbridge District Council. With a combined size of 47 hectares, these sites give the Trust a notable presence in the South West and make the Land Trust the largest current owner of SANG in Devon.



Dawlish Countryside Park, Devon



Ridgetop Park, Devon

Whilst Ridgetop Park is only currently open to visitors on foot or bicycle, Dawlish Countryside Park has been open a number of years and already attracts over 200 visitors a day, making it the Land Trust's most visited acquisition of 2021/22.

Alan Carter, Land Trust Chief Executive, said: *"These latest acquisitions bring the Land Trust's SANG portfolio to over 330 hectares across four counties, which is a great result for the respective local communities and a credit to our own internal team, panel solicitors, developers, consultants and local authority planners."*

"The four new sites provide the Land Trust with an exciting opportunity to work with new communities and organisations. Green spaces are what bring people together, but it's vitally important they are well-managed and maintained so they can continue to thrive and optimise the benefits the local community can enjoy."

"Our 'place keeping' philosophy guides our community engagement to draw people out of their homes, so they can interact with their neighbours and form friendships. This gives people a sense of ownership and also helps with maintaining sites."

"SANGs are brilliant as they actively encourage people to enjoy the big outdoors, while diverting attention away from local flora and fauna special protection areas."

Green Angels

Green Angels supported our communities, with courses and activities which focused on making people feel safe, whilst being able to venture outdoors again and embrace companionship and teamwork

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. It's a great way to learn new skills, meet like-minded people and make a difference to the local environment.

The programme was launched as a pilot in Liverpool in 2013, and since then has gone from strength to strength, enhancing our community engagement offer at a number of sites around the country.

In April 2021 we were all emerging from months of lockdown and restrictions, feeling our way out into the new normal. Green Angels supported our communities at this time, with courses and activities which focused on making people feel safe, whilst being able to venture outdoors again and embrace companionship and teamwork.

At Hassall Green Nature Reserve, in Cheshire, this was the third year in our five year programme of activities. We started off slowly with two natural craft workshops, learning to make charcoal pencils, elder whistles, natural cordage and beads among other things. This was followed by our first ever Green Angels Dry Stone Walling course which created a beautiful feature (and a couple of seats!) on the edge of the car park on site. It immediately became a haven for wildlife too, with frogs and toads moving in after the first day of construction!



Hassall Green Nature Reserve, Sandbach, Cheshire



Countess of Chester Country Park, Chester



Port Sunlight River Park, Merseyside, bird watching

We launched an 18-month Green Angels programme in October 2021 at Port Sunlight River Park, with a consultation event, followed by some winter wreath-making and then a Well-being in Nature course which was very much enjoyed by our participants

As we re-gained our confidence in working with others, Green Angels continued apace with courses in Bushcraft and Survival; Scything; Horticulture and Wildlife Gardening; Wild Wellness and the construction of a fabulous timber roundhouse at Hassall Green, which provides a wonderful legacy for site users into the future.

We also ran a very successful summer open day at Hassall Green, with a focus on traditional crafts. Our visitors could see demonstrations from a blacksmith, a dry stone waller, chainsaw sculptor, and join in with Bioblitz and children's activities before enjoying a cup of tea and some lovely homemade cake.

We launched an 18-month Green Angels programme in October 2021 at Port Sunlight River Park, Merseyside, with a consultation event, followed by some winter wreath-making and then a Well-being in Nature course which was very much enjoyed by our participants. The River Park is a fabulous place to deliver Green Angel's activities and we are looking forward to our full programme of activities throughout 2022. Plans include courses in wildlife identification, countryside fencing and hurdle making, a summer playscheme for children and summer and winter community events.

At our sites in Warrington we continue to run regular Green Angels volunteering sessions along with more formal activities including fungi and wildlife walks, and a horticulture and countryside management course.

At Davy Down Riverside Park we have run two courses in Wildlife Habitats and Biodiversity, and Environmental Education. Both courses were very well received, and it was great to be able to encourage community engagement and involvement here, as the site has so much to offer both in terms of habitat development and wildlife conservation, and as a learning resource - a very special place to be!

Land Trust Annual Awards

It has been a difficult few years following Covid-19 restrictions, but we were delighted, once again, to be able to hold the event in person in July 2022

The Land Trust's Annual Managing Partner Awards recognise the exceptional achievements across the charity's 80+ parks and green spaces. It has been a difficult few years following Covid-19 restrictions, but we were delighted, once again, to be able to hold the event in person in July 2022.

It was a fantastic evening of celebration and a chance to celebrate the dedication, hard work and amazing achievements across 2021-2022, none of which would be possible without the on-going commitment of the Land Trust's managing partners and volunteers.

Alan Carter, Chief Executive, hosted the evening, with awards presented to the winners by Bruce Collinson, Project Manager at Whitehill and Bordon Regeneration Company.

The 12 award category winners included:

- Ashton's Fields for Most improved site of the year, Friends of Countess of Chester Country Park for Best Friends/community of group of the year, and Beaulieu for Most inclusive site.
- Our Project of the Year category was voted for by our managing partners at the event, following detailed presentations by the project lead for each of those shortlisted. With resounding support, Branching Out at Bentley Community Woodland was awarded the title for its outstanding work with asylum seekers.
- Ranger of the year was awarded to Chris Gomersall for his hard work and dedication at our Haig site, while overall Site of the year was awarded to The Avenue Country Park in Chesterfield – a site which has achieved outstanding results and a wide range of charitable outcomes.

The Land Trust staff volunteering at Hogmoor Inclosure, Hampshire



In addition to the above, there were a further five categories focusing on the work delivered to specifically support our charitable aims.



It was a fantastic evening of celebration and a chance to celebrate the dedication, hard work and amazing achievements across 2021-2022



Health

"To see our beloved dog run free in the beauty and security of Eashing Fields is something we truly appreciate. It is also a balm to our souls too."

Most of our sites and parks offer health benefits by providing space for physical activities such as walking, running and cycling. In addition, we work with partners to maximise the mental health benefits that can be delivered by spending time in well managed green spaces. The introduction of path, trails and organised activities such as buggy walks and park runs can significantly increase participation and benefits to the local community.

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.

Receiving spontaneous feedback from our communities is always heart-warming:

"I wanted to write and thank you for Eashing Fields in Surrey. It has changed our lives for the better. We go there several times a week with our dog who was born on the streets in Cyprus and is also a scent hound, so recall isn't his strong point!"

"To see our beloved dog run free in the beauty and security of Eashing Fields is something we truly appreciate. It is also a balm to our souls too - to walk around the fields and feel a sense of connection to Mother Earth and the changing seasons."

"Thank you from us all."

Rabbit Ings Country Park,
South Yorkshire



Hassall Green Nature Reserve,
Sandbach



Hassall Green Nature Reserve,
Sandbach



Image by Madhumitha Mohan
Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park, London

The introduction of path, trails and organised activities such as buggy walks and park runs can significantly increase participation and benefits to the local community.



Countess of Chester Country Park, Chester

Green Flag status

The Land Trust celebrated once again in 2021/22 as it retained prestigious Green Flag status across five of its sites. Countess of Chester, Beam Parklands, Elba Park, Silverdale Country Park and Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park were all recognised for the role they have played within their communities.

Elba Park retained its status for the ninth year running while Countess of Chester will raise the Green Flag on the site for the fifth year in succession.

The Green Flag Award scheme recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for their management across the United Kingdom and around the world.

Health site of the year

Beam Parklands in Barking, Dagenham has won various awards and accolades in the past, and deservedly picked up Health site of the year at this year's Managing Partner awards.

The park offers health benefits for the local users by providing open space for physical activities such as walking, cycling and running.

There was a noticeable increase in visitors to the site during lockdowns (2021) and many remaining regular users. Several local residents have fed back to the park ranger how wonderful it is to have such a fantastic space on their doorstep and, especially since the lockdown, just how much they now appreciate it.

Several walking groups have been led by the ranger in 2021 and early 2022 and these have been primarily aimed at older users, as this group can often be more socially isolated

Several walking groups have been led by the ranger in 2021 and early 2022 and these have been primarily aimed at older users, as this group can often be more socially isolated. The council's Social Prescribing model has helped promote the group within the wider community, including in doctors' surgeries.

Marking signage links the site to the Beam Valley and Eastbrookend as part of the wider Dagenham Corridor; thus, encouraging users to explore from one side of Dagenham to the other has also helped to promote and encourage car-free travel around the borough.

Health Advisory Group

We give continued thanks to the members of our Health Advisory Group for their invaluable assistance and support over the 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) 2021-22	Type of Value
Health care cost savings	£1,139,230	Cost saving
Health wellbeing value	£758,640	Economic value
Mental health	£207,819	Cost saving
Labour productivity	£181,941	Gross Value Added



Hassall Green Nature Reserve, Movement in Nature Course with Rachel from Rise & Wild.

Education

Green spaces offer the perfect virtual classroom whether visitors engage with onsite interpretation or more formal educational activities with our rangers and partners

All Land Trust sites offer the opportunity to see nature at first hand, with many of them also offering additional educational and learning opportunities. Green spaces offer the perfect virtual classroom whether visitors engage with onsite interpretation or more formal educational activities with our rangers and partners.

In addition to our Green Angels courses, our schools programme aims to inspire, as well as educate, the next generation of guardians of our green spaces. A number of schools use our sites to teach children wider curriculum subjects in our woodland classrooms.

As we came out of Covid-19 restrictions in 2021, our sites were able to increase the number of in-person regular sessions and the social value delivered was once again significant across a range of age groups.

The feedback we receive from our visitors from our Green Angels courses clearly demonstrates how much our courses are valued:

- "It would definitely help career prospects and confidence."*
- "Positive engagement, self-esteem building which carry forward into my day to day life. I have learnt a new skill I feel I can use."*
- "I have gained a deeper understanding of the relationship between environment and wildlife."*
- "I have learned a good knowledge of the environment, wildlife, weeds, trees etc. hands on experience of building a planter, planting seeds, bulbs, propagating. Learned a great deal. Lots of information and skills gained."*
- "Thank you and I really wish the course had been longer. Please keep me up to date with any other courses that come up!"*
- "Thank you for such an amazing course. I really enjoyed it, learnt so much and it was great to meet everyone and have that weekly time in nature, I am going to miss it."*

Hogmoor Inclosure, Hampshire



Silverdale Country Park, Staffordshire

Education Site of the Year

Silverdale Country Park was the worthy winner of the Educational Site of the Year award. The site is used by the Fire Service to provide safety videos to schools nationally, so far delivering to an online audience of over 10,000 UK schools and homes. The site's 'Meet the Ranger' video series at Silverdale has also educated children on issues and dangers such as; frozen water, vandalism, litter, wild fires and picking up dog poo.

In addition, a collaboration with Keele University has seen the Ranger providing a guest lecture to a class of third year biology students using Silverdale as a case study. While the University opted to use this site for their first and second year biology student field trip modules studying wildflower diversity and abundance.

Collaborations also continue with Reaseheath College, with the park providing a work placement opportunity and field trips.

Economic and Social Value Table

Education	Value (per annum) 2021-22	Type of Value
Engagement (children)	£413,706	Economic Value
Adults engaged in training	£131,000	Gross Value Added

Community Cohesion and Volunteering

Our volunteers provide an invaluable service and give us a direct connection with the local community and park users

Volunteering and engagement of the local communities is an extremely valuable way of enhancing our sites and creating real emotional ownership within them. Organised events and activities on many of our sites help to bring communities together, but informal activities such as dog walking and cycling (where allowed) enable like-minded people to share their pastimes.

Most of our sites offer volunteering opportunities from regular volunteer days which help us maintain the site in tip top condition to ad hoc seasonal events such as thinning trees and welcoming visitors and providing site information. Our volunteers provide an invaluable service and give us a direct connection with the local community and park users.

Volunteer of the year

18-year-old horticulture student, Jack Windle, was awarded Volunteer of the Year for his hard work and dedication at sites managed in partnership with TCV across South Yorkshire.

As a student at Dearne Valley College, when Jack politely approached TCV last year asking if he could gain work experience by joining the Dinnington and Kiveton Green Gym teams, he was immediately accepted.

Jack was welcomed into the group as a shy teenager, but it wasn't long before his confidence and personality started to shine through and he's now a treasured member of the team.

Quoting Jack's nomination, *"Jack has been nominated because of his incredible attitude to work and his exceptional work ethic, his wonderful sense of humour, kind and helpful attitude and how he positively engages with everyone in the group - most of whom are at least 40 years his senior. He has overcome many personal challenges through volunteering, is a brilliant role model to others and he a real pleasure to work with."*

Well done, Jack.

Countess of Chester Country Park, Chester



Hogmoor Inclosure, Hampshire

Community space of the year

Hogmoor Enclosure and Prince Philip Park was named the winner of our Community Space of the Year category for a whole host of worthy reasons.

Many of the individuals involved have appreciated the groups and said getting outdoors has significantly improved their mental health and wellbeing

The site has hosted 51 events – almost one a week! - throughout the year attracting more than 9,000 people. The events ranged from regular adult and junior park runs and orienteering events, to Brian Wood's multiple charity marathon runs raising money for walking with the wounded.

Rangers from managing partner the Deadwater Valley Trust also run two conservation volunteer groups and have delivered 63 sessions involving 287 individuals over the 12 month period. Many of the individuals involved have appreciated the groups and said getting outdoors has significantly improved their mental health and wellbeing.

On top of this, the Deadwater Valley Trust also worked with the South Downs National Park on a lottery funded partnership based event called Secrets of the Heath.

Economic and Social Value Table

Community and Place	Value (per annum) 2021-22	Type of value
Volunteering	£495,824	Gross Value Added
Volunteering	£329,791	Economic Value
Recreational and Cultural Value	£10,380,062	Economic Value
Community Engagement	£1,310,348	Economic Value
ASB incidents	£748,800	Cost saving

Environment and Biodiversity

Nature is amazing, create the right habitat and it develops and flourishes

The value and importance of the Land Trust's green spaces to the natural environment continues to grow.

We want our parks and green spaces to be as rich in biodiversity as possible. We manage our sites to create great places for the trees and flowers, bugs and birds, as well as our visitors to enjoy.

These rich spaces need careful management and as many of our sites have had an industrial or development history, it can sometimes take a long time to establish the right conditions. However, nature is amazing. Create the right habitat and it develops and flourishes.

Pleasley Pit, Mansfield



BEE Strategy

The Land Trust launched its five-year Biodiversity, Environment and Ecology (BEE) Strategy in November 2021 focussing on how the Trust can use its parks and greenspaces to improve the biodiversity, environment and ecology of our country, for the benefit of everyone.

The BEE Strategy's aim is to help tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and ease pressures on vulnerable wildlife. Focussing on our day-to-day operations, we looked at how we can use our existing, and future sites, across three key themes:

- Developing what we have: conserve and enhance what we have and involve those who live, learn and work close to our sites.
- Mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain: work with developers to ensure sustainable local development and long-term solutions that significantly enhance the local environment.
- Climate Change Adaption and Natural Capital Investment: Use our existing and pipeline sites to protect and enhance the local area from climate change threats. Gain a greater understanding of the positive effects our sites have and could have.

The Land Trust will work with its managing partners and a variety of partners to build on the great work we are already doing on our sites with the ambition of developing that substantially over the next five years.

The BEE Strategy 2021 can be found on the Land Trust website.

Field surveys were undertaken of ten Land Trust sites, covering a third of the assessed estate, to update and inform the strategic baseline

As a key action of our BEE Strategy and to assist with the delivery and reporting of its Environment and Biodiversity KPI, the Land Trust appointed WSP UK Ltd to assess the habitat and biodiversity baseline of its estate.

A habitat baseline was established using a desk-based assessment of the sites directly owned and managed by the Land Trust at 31st March 2022. This was informed by a number of data sources including existing primary baseline data, publicly available open source datasets, and remote sensing data.

Acknowledging the limitations of a desk based assessment, field surveys were undertaken of ten Land Trust sites, covering a third of the assessed estate, to update and inform the strategic baseline.

In turn, this habitat baseline informed the biodiversity baseline using the Biodiversity Metric 3.1 and taking into account certain assumptions and caveats; allowing the Land Trust to quantify the biodiversity value of its estate. Whilst there are limitations to Metric 3.1 and future versions, it has been developed by DEFRA and Natural England to be used as a standardised, habitat based approach to determining a proxy biodiversity value.

The Land Trust will use the baseline to inform environmental decisions, monitoring and reporting change, and allowing the Land Trust to deliver the three key themes of its BEE Strategy, as outlined above.

Results

Habitat Distinctiveness	Land Trust Area
Very High Distinctiveness	61.99
High Distinctiveness	602.96
Medium Distinctiveness	818.02
Low Distinctiveness	596.99
Very Low Distinctiveness	89.36

Broad Habitat Type	Land Trust Area
Coastal saltmarsh	4.02
Cropland	8.95
Grassland	1022.08
Heathland and shrub	227.43
Lakes	44.55
Sparsely vegetated land	87.98
Urban	130.59
Wetland	34.16
Woodland and forest	772.84

Hassall Green Nature Reserve, Sandbach



The floristic diversity has been supplemented by the planting of hundreds of wildflower bulbs on the woodland floor, as well as the spreading of wildflower seeds around the site

The combined biodiversity baseline of the Land Trust estate included area-based habitats that generated 15,950.42 habitat units, and river habitats that generated 151.50 river units.

The Land Trust Estate includes:

- 130.76 ha of Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- 18.13 ha of Local Nature Reserves
- 82.65 ha of irreplaceable habitats
- 701.15 ha of priority habitats

The highest distinctiveness habitats in the Land Trust estate include:

- wood pasture and parkland
- lowland meadows
- Fens (upland and lowland)
- lowland raised bog
- purple moor grass and rush pastures
- lowland dry acid grassland

Hedgerows were captured as area-based habitats so no linear hedgerow units were calculated. The Land Trust previously estimated to have 10,000 linear metres of hedgerow across the estate.

Nature Space of the Year

Winner of the Nature Space of the Year went to Monkton Community Woodlands. This community woodland spans 4.5km, with four woodland paths and more than 30,000 trees and shrubs. Over the last 12 months a great deal of effort has been put into the creation of new glades for Dingy Skippers which were recorded on site for the first time a few years ago, and have now undergone a population explosion through their extensive scrub removal work. The incredibly hard work of removing tough Blackthorn scrub has paid dividends.

In addition, as the woodlands have begun to be thinned, (no mean feat in itself), this has dramatically opened up the woodland floor, increasing the amount of both scrub floristic diversity and also making the site feel safer for visitors. The floristic diversity has been supplemented by the planting of hundreds of wildflower bulbs on the woodland floor, as well as the spreading of wildflower seeds around the site.

Monkton Community Woodlands, Tyne and Wear

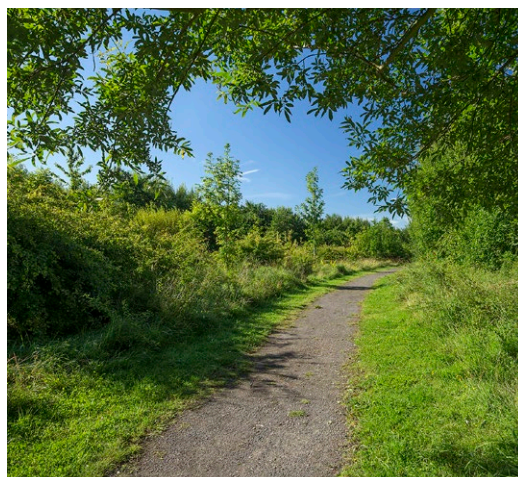


Image by Tony Cutter



CASE STUDY: South East Devon Habitat Regulations Partnership

The Land Trust provided input to Teignbridge District Council which, on behalf of South-East Devon Habitat Regulations Partnership (SED HRP) led on acquisition, instatement works and setting in place long-term maintenance agreements for Dawlish Countryside Park and Ridgetop Park Matford. This is required strategic SANG provision to mitigate likely impacts of collective residential development on the Dawlish Warren and Exe Estuary Natura 2,000 sites.

Our role involved co-designing and writing the management plans with Teignbridge District Council for two strategic SANGs in Dawlish and Matford, on the edge of Exeter. As part of this partnership working, SED HRP approved the transfer of the two SANGs to the Land Trust for management in FY 21/22, due to Land Trust's experience, expertise, safeguards and cost-effective endowment model.

SED HRP acknowledged that the Land Trust's endowment model was significantly more effective than alternative means of funding would be in perpetuity, and that we offered the most favourable option for security of good-quality management in perpetuity.

The Land Trust works with Teignbridge District Council's green spaces team for day-to-day maintenance of the sites. The Dawlish Countryside Park regularly receives 200-visitors per day, has seen the locally notable Cirl bunting numbers treble – a significant win for the UK's rarest resident farmland bird with only 1,000 pairs in its population. The site has also supported the reintroduction of the small-flowered catchfly. Ridgetop Park Matford is being opened in phases, and the extensive heritage offers significant engagement and sense of place for this exciting site.

Economy



The Bee Hive at Hogmoor Inclosure, Hampshire

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 in many cases 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

One of the Land Trust’s flagship sites, Northumberlandia won this year’s Site Delivering Best Economic Activity award.

Northumberlandia is a stunning human landform of a reclining lady made of 1.5 million tonnes of rock, clay and soil. She is 100 feet high and a quarter of a mile long. During 2021-22 the site received an estimated 87,000 visitors bringing much needed finances to local amenities.

Northumberlandia is a stunning human landform of a reclining lady made of 1.5 million tonnes of rock, clay and soil

The site received healthy donations over the year while the café revenue was reinvested in the maintenance and improvements of facilities. Inside of the site’s visitors’ centre has recently been reconfigured to allow the counter to better serve customers and bring more efficiencies to the service times, plus the outside seating area has been expanded to allow customers to dwell longer and ultimately spend more whilst on site.

And not forgetting the site’s canine visitors... an additional offer for summer now includes ice cream, which has been especially developed for dogs!

Economic and Social Value Delivered

Community and Place	Value (per annum) 2021-22	Type of value
Land management and use	£3,584,204	Gross Value Added
Supply chain expenditure	£821,251	Gross Value Added
Tourism	£1,631,613	Gross Value Added
Workforce development	£1,149,331	Cost Saving
Workforce development	£1,853,701	Gross Value Added

Northumberlandia, Northumberland.



Image by Katie Tiffin



Land Trust Managing Partners Award Winners

Please see a full list of our 2022 winners below:

Community Space of the Year

Highly commended: Warren House Park

Winner: Hogmoor Enclosure and Prince Philip Park

Nature Space of the year

Highly commended: Haig

Winner: Monkton Community Woodlands

Health Site of the Year

Highly commended: Countess of Chester Country Park

Winner: Beam Parklands

Educational Site of the Year

Highly commended: The Old Brickworks Nature reserve

Winner: Silverdale Country Park

Site delivering best Economic Activity

Highly commended: Twywell Hills and Dales

Winner: Northumberlandia

Most Improved Space

Winner: Ashton's Fields

Best Friends of Group/Community Group

Winner: Friends of Countess of Chester Country Park

Best Inclusive Space

Winner: Beaulieu

MP's choice award - Project of the Year

Winner: Branching Out - Bentley Community Woodland

Ranger of the Year

Winner: Chris Gomersall

Volunteer of the Year

Winner: Jack Windle

Site of the Year

Winner: The Avenue Sites

Our People

The Land Trust is committed to Training and Development of all colleagues, the target for all staff to complete a minimum of five days training per year

The Land Trust staff are the lifeblood of the organisation. Without them we would not be able to grow our site portfolio or deliver charitable outcomes. As of 31 March 2022 we directly employed 43 people: 33 full time and 10 part time.

The Land Trust is committed to the training and development of all colleagues, the target for all staff is to complete a minimum of five days training per year.

There are a number of mandatory training sessions each year. However, the mandatory training is not only to build colleague knowledge and awareness but also to ensure the Land Trust is compliant with legislation in Health and Safety, data protection and Information security.

Recognising the importance of physical and mental wellbeing, the Land Trust also has a team of six members of staff who are qualified mental first aiders. The team are on hand to support staff whenever needed and meet every six weeks to discuss common themes from contacts and plan in any additional support or events which may be beneficial to staff.

In recognition of the commitment and hard work of all colleagues, the Land Trust also seeks to support work/life balance in the promotion of flexible working patterns. Following periods of homeworking during Covid-19 restrictions the Birchwood office has remained open for staff who wish to work in a shared space, while home working is also an option for staff when workload suits.

Bewsey, Warrington

Hogmoor Inclosure,
Hampshire

The Land Trust supported staff in developing their skills with 193 training hours completed over the last 12 months



Our Trustees

William Hiscocks Chair

William (Bill) Hiscocks 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.

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

Professor Janet Haddock-Fraser brings substantial commercial and sustainability expertise and knowledge to the Land Trust Board of Trustees. Prior to her 25-year career in universities (as a researcher and lecturer and latterly in senior executive positions) she worked for Coopers & Lybrand as a management consultant in London and Hong Kong. She is an Emeritus Professor in Leadership and Sustainability at Manchester Metropolitan University. Additionally, she holds non-executive position at the Peak District National Park Authority as a DEFRA-appointed national-level Secretary of State member where she is the climate change champion.

Other trustee positions held include the Campaign for Protection of Rural England (CPRE) Peak District and South Yorkshire, and as previous Chair of Trustees for the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (2014-19).

In addition to her BA (Hons) in Geography from the University of Oxford, Janet has a MBA from the University of Durham, an MSc and a PhD (both in Environmental Management) from the University of Hong Kong.

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.

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

Investment Committee Chair

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



William Hiscocks – Chair



Tom Keevil



Patrick Aylmer



Janet Haddock-Fraser



Anthony Bickmore



Louise Brooke-Smith



Jon Irvine



Nick Taylor-Buck



Nick McLeod-Clarke



Deborah Rees



Sandra Kelly

Summary Financial Information

Summary of Income and Expenditure

	YEAR ENDED 31/03/2022	YEAR ENDED 31/03/2021
Income and endowments from:	£000s	£000s
Donations and legacies	8	32
Charitable activities	1,737	1,169
Other trading activities	614	515
Site funding	8,789	2,364
Investments	6,312	6,301
Other income	5,248	-
Total income	22,708	10,381
Expenditure on:		
Investment management fees	609	496
Charitable activities	8,478	6,684
Total expenditure	9,087	7,180
Net Gains/ (Losses) on Investments	18,700	22,838
Corporation Tax	-	-
Net income/(Expenditure)	32,321	26,039
Net movement in funds	32,321	26,039

Funds of the Group

	Group	
	YEAR ENDED 31/03/2022	YEAR ENDED 31/03/2021
Funds:	£000s	£000s
Endowment Funds	92,680	79,977
Restricted Funds	97,492	81,205
General Funds	4,136	3,723
Designated Funds	18,606	15,688
Total Funds	212,914	180,593

Fundraising Income awarded included:




Supported By:	Site/Project	£000s
Severn Trent Water	The Avenue country Park	57
United Utilities CaST funding	Port Sunlight Riverside Park	36
Green Recovery Fund	Countess of Chester Country Park	19
Land of the Fanns	Davy Down Country Park	2
Agri-Environment Grants	Various	178
Local Authority / Agency	Various	118
Water Environment Improvement Fund	Countess of Chester Country Park	98



Bucklers Forest,
Berkshire

The Land Trust
7 Birchwood One
Dewhurst Road
Warrington WA3 7GB

T: 01925 852005
E: enquiries@thelandtrust.org.uk
W: thelandtrust.org.uk

 [@thelandtrust](https://twitter.com/thelandtrust)
 [Facebook/thelandtrust](https://facebook/thelandtrust)
 [Instagram/thelandtrust](https://instagram/thelandtrust)



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

Avenue Country Park,
Derbyshire
Photograph by Sean Barnett