

The story of the past year

North and Northern Ireland



The promise contained in the Trust's core purpose, 'for ever, for everyone', is both simple and vast. It forces the Trust to think of the essentials, to take decisions not for tomorrow's headlines, but to meet the needs of our children's children. They won't forgive us if we get it wrong.

'What would the world be once bereft of wet and wildness?' the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins asked at the height of Victorian industrial expansion. Today's cherished landscapes like the Lake District, the Antrim Coast and the Peak District are as fragile as they are beautiful, already weakened by decades of overgrazing, traffic and insensitive development. Our mission is to hand them on to future generations in a better state than when we took them on.

A sustainable future for the land

Yew Tree Farm in Borrowdale is one example of the Trust's determination to show how sustainable agriculture can achieve this aim. An externally unaltered barn has been equipped to package Herdwick lamb in biodegradable fibreboard insulated with recyclable Herdwick fleece, ready to be delivered direct to the customer's door. Neighbouring tenants benefit by supplying lambs to the Trust's scheme and receiving a premium price. Similar Lakeland projects will be based on the success of this scheme.

In the Peak District, we've worked with English Nature to fill in 2,500 gullies to conserve the internationally important peat hags of Kinder Scout and are working to repair the effects of recent fires. A few miles away at Alport Dale, the Trust and the Forestry Commission are replacing dense conifer plantations with native broadleaved woodland.

Lessons from the past

The experience of a historic building can stir our consciences and frame the right questions about issues today. The Workhouse at Southwell speaks powerfully to visitors of the lives of hundreds of thousands of paupers under the welfare system of the Poor Law. Working with the Stepping Stones Theatre, the Trust brought this vividly to life through live interpretation days and in drama work with schoolchildren. For young and old, the Workhouse experience sheds light on the place of poverty and destitution in yesterday's – and today's – world.

In Yorkshire, the ambitious restoration of Gibson Mill is teaching the 21st century very different lessons. When finished, the water-powered project will be truly sustainable, using no fossil fuels and creating no external waste: an inspiration and a lesson for future visitors.

Understanding our roots in place and time

The 'Untold Story' programme at Springhill in Northern Ireland – one of 20 planned across the Trust – helped people of all ages from Moneymore to learn more about themselves and about the relationship between landscape and memory. Personal stories and family history were used as inspiration for creative writing, drama, and art and puppetry workshops.

Newcastle's successful inner-city learning project is run from the Holy Jesus Hospital, an important listed building in the heart of the city, with a new emphasis on reaching out to young people excluded from school.

And in 2004/5...

In Liverpool, the opening of **59 Rodney Street**, the home and studio of the great photographer E. Chambré Hardman.

For the first time since the Troubles started, the people of Belfast will be able to walk **Divis and Black Mountain** high above their city.

Wordsworth House reopens in Cockermouth and young people will be able to enter the imaginative world of an 18th-century child.

A new housing development at **Stamford Brook**, Altrincham will set new environmental standards for volume housebuilders.

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South



The more pressured our world becomes, the more our minds and bodies need the refreshment of beautiful and historic places.

The South has the densest concentration of Trust properties, with very high visitor figures, and also faces the most acute pressures from large-scale development and traffic growth. Its regions were key players in compiling this year's *Blue Skies* report demonstrating the alternatives to airport expansion and in tackling pressures from new housing and roads. And for the first time, the Trust is working with the Mayor and the Greater London Authority to draw up a strategy for its role in the lives of seven million Londoners.

Green lungs for urban areas

The Buscot and Coleshill Estate combines a Neo-classical mansion with a model farm and wide expanses of rolling Oxfordshire countryside. Coleshill has led the way in giving schoolchildren from Swindon hands-on experience of organic farming and of the work of foresters and gamekeepers. The Trust is also a partner in a community recycling project, and so the property shows the public what sustainable agriculture and enlightened waste management can achieve. Coleshill's vernacular buildings are being restored to bring new life to the wider village community.

A ground-breaking 100-year conservation plan at Wicken Fen, 'the green lungs of Cambridge', is allowing fenland to re-flood. And at the Devil's Punch Bowl near Hindhead, a dramatic open heathland landscape is being recovered as part of plans for a new tunnel for the A3.

Rediscovering the spirit of place

Sheringham Park, Norfolk, a flagship for encouraging access to our heritage, has seen a threefold increase in visitors from 48,000 to 163,000 between 1993 and 2003. Humphry Repton's masterpiece offers stunning views of the coast and countryside from viewing towers, and delightful walks through mature woodland. The Sheringham project uses traditional Norfolk construction to improve visitor facilities, giving visitors the means to appreciate the 'spirit of place' inherent in the Repton design.

Other properties in the South are working towards the same aim, including the ambitious redevelopment of Stowe Landscape Gardens. In contrast, the opening of Red House in Bexleyheath provides an oasis in a suburban environment.

Understanding our roots

Knole in Kent shows how one of the great treasure houses of England can bring history to life for visitors of all ages and backgrounds. Discovery days deepen their enjoyment and understanding of the house and deer-park. Children of visiting families can dress in period Tudor costume as they go round, soaking up an understanding of how the social structure of the estate would have operated 500 years ago.

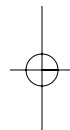
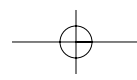
Volunteers share their knowledge of craft skills and the arts, passing on the expertise they have learned. Knole won the prestigious Sandford award for excellence in education.

A world away, in the heart of Hackney, Sutton House was shortlisted for the Gulbenkian Museum of the Year Award for its remarkable Black History Month. Meanwhile Sutton Hoo in Suffolk sets new standards for presenting archaeological insights to a wide and enthusiastic public.

And in 2004/5...

Ightham Mote: opening of the Charles Henry Robinson apartments at the end of a fifteen-year conservation project, using original methods and materials. The completion coincides with the 20th anniversary of Ightham Mote's acquisition.

The opening of **The Homewood** in Surrey will help people to appreciate the beauty of a modernist house, radical even by the standards of international avant-garde architecture in the 1930s.



The story of the past year

West and Wales



From the wilds of Snowdonia to the Victorian exuberance of Tynesfield, from the rocky toe of Cornwall to the industrial heart of Birmingham, our success is built on partnership with people who share the belief that our amazing heritage is the birthright of everyone.

We take this responsibility very seriously, in our sometimes lonely campaign for the best solution for Stonehenge, or lobbying in Westminster and Cardiff for bolder policies to protect the countryside. At the local level, in small villages like Cwmdu, we help local people keep communities alive. We work with teachers and artists to open the eyes of new generations to the grandeur and fragility of their surroundings. And everywhere we argue the case for the economic, social and spiritual benefits of a healthy environment. Our voice counts because of the breadth of our support, and because we can practise what we preach on thousands of hectares of land.

Pioneers on the land

Our tenants on the Brockhampton estate in Herefordshire are breaking new ground in a three-year scheme to combine sustainable, profitable farming with all kinds of benefits for visitors, schoolchildren and the local community. They've developed the Brockhampton local food brand and are planning a farm history programme and the 'Brockhampton Kitchen' project. Innovative management of upland at Nantgwynant in Snowdonia has created seven jobs and safeguarded seven more. Killerton in Devon is establishing new standards for soil and water management, integrating modern agriculture with archaeological and nature conservation. These are just three

examples of the Trust's nationwide 'Farming Forward' initiative in action.

Conservation hand-in-hand with access

We could have played safe at Tynesfield – shut the house for five years for restoration, then reopened it as a conventional visitor attraction. Instead its first year benefited hundreds of students and young adults, 28,000 visitors and an army of 150 volunteers. Former offenders and drug users working there have found inspiration for their future lives. This tranquil country estate is already a vital part of the life of the bustling city of Bristol.

Llanerchaeron's restoration in west Wales created 65 new jobs, and last year attracted 30,000 visitors. This magical place is also a working organic farm and garden, and a focus for the local community of Aberaeron.

Meanwhile a different world has been opening up in the heart of Birmingham with the restoration of the Back-to-Backs, which will provide a vivid insight into the stories of the people who lived and worked there over a period of 130 years.

The joy of discovery

Buckland Abbey in Devon inspired 400 children from one of Britain's most deprived urban areas in an extraordinary week of artistic activity. Working with the Plymouth Education Action Zone and Birmingham Royal Ballet, the Trust helped children to create masks, ceramic tiles, mosaics and silk paintings and to perform an original dance piece with their own set and costumes. The Rural Skills workshop at Charlecote Park in Warwickshire brought together 300 young people from schools, young farmers' clubs and youth offending schemes to learn about traditional

rural skills and wildlife management. And the Trust's spectacular open-air classroom of Stackpole in Pembrokeshire won a major award for its pioneering programme of environmental education. Out-of-classroom experiences like these can change the lives of children who take part.

And in 2004/5...

Opening of **Back-to-Backs** in Birmingham.

Snowhill Manor: a programme of garden events, including 'From Plot to Plate', while the Manor is being restored.

Hidcote Manor Garden: opening of a new reception and plant shelter.

Westbury Court: re-creation of 18th-century vegetable plots.

National Trust Wales launch of 'For ever, for everyone' prospectus in Assembly.

Car-free tourism supported by ferries in the River Fal servicing **Trelissick Garden**.