



ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE  
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

# THE ERNEST COOK TRUST



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## Chairman's Report

### Welcome to The Ernest Cook Trust 2021/22 Annual Report.

As the Trust reached its 70th birthday, we continued to face the challenges associated with COVID-19, but remained buoyant and agile throughout.

Despite a significant amount of remote working, we positively impacted the lives and communities of a large number of young people across the nation, particularly through two of our programmes, [The Green Influencers Scheme](#) (page 18) and [The OWL Collaboration](#) (page 22).

It has been an exciting year on the property front with the purchase of Low Beckside Farm in Cumbria. The farm, formerly part of Newton Rigg College, was at risk of being lost as an important agricultural and educational facility. Its addition to the Trust's portfolio complements our existing partnerships in the North West with the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership and the Lowther Estate. We look forward to working more closely with local educational initiatives going forward.

Also during the year, we sold the Boarstall Estate, acquired by Ernest Cook in 1941 from the Aubrey-Fletcher family. It was a very happy outcome to have sold it back to the same family after all these years. Our retired farm tenant at



Boarstall, Francis Stone, was our longest standing tenant and probably the only surviving person in the Trust to have known our founder. Very sadly, Francis died in May 2022; in his memory and with his family's support, we are launching an annual apprenticeship in his name.

I am delighted that the activities and reputation of the Trust continue to grow. This is in no small measure due to Chief Executive Dr Victoria Edwards and [our outstanding team](#). I would also like to thank my fellow Trustees for their time, commitment and loyal support.

I have been focused during the year on succession within the Trustee body. Sadly, Sir Bertie Ross retires at the end of 2022 after nearly 10 years as a Trustee. He has been a tower of strength and wise counsel and will be greatly missed. We move into the next year with two new Trustee appointments, Dr Ian Gambles and Ian Pigott, and look forward to their contributions in the years ahead. I will be stepping down as Chairman during 2023 and I am delighted to announce that Mary Riall has agreed to take over the role, with the unanimous support of the Trustees. Our future is in very good hands.

**Andrew Christie-Miller, Chairman**



## A word from our Chief Executive

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

This, one of my favourite quotations, could appropriately be re-written for our [Green Influencers Scheme](#) to include the word 'young' before citizens. With the help of our wonderful 44 Green Mentors, young people from all over England have been involved in an extraordinary array of environmental social action projects, all designed, planned and executed by them to improve their local communities. It is collective action at its best and it epitomises our collaborative approach at The Ernest Cook Trust, of convening, supporting and encouraging Outdoor Learning and environmental improvement.

Similarly, [The OWL Collaboration](#) provides a great opportunity for the children and young people involved, while increasing the overall quality and impact of

their experience through the shared learning of the participating Outdoor Centres. The final piece in achieving our current Learning Strategy is to develop more impactful learning on our own land – especially on the River Coln, our tenanted farms and on our two new in-hand farms. I'm looking forward to reporting next year on how we carried on this theme of successful collective action in the countryside!

The quotation above sits equally well as a description of our staff team. It is an absolute privilege to work with a small group of such thoughtful, committed citizens. Supported and encouraged by our Trustees and our partners, we thank each and every one of them for their important contribution to our collective action.

**Dr Victoria Edwards OBE FRICS FAAV**



**CHARITABLE  
ACTIVITY**

# About The Ernest Cook Trust

## Strategic Framework

We have four core strategic programme areas:



## The need

Britain has one of the lowest levels of connection to nature and associated levels of wellbeing in Europe.\*

Such disconnection with natural environments has significant implications for health, social inclusion, educational attainment and environmental stewardship, particularly for disadvantaged young people who tend to spend less time in outdoor spaces and nature than their peers.

## Our mission

To improve life chances through a range of Outdoor Learning experiences

## Our vision

Our vision is for an environmentally engaged society with better connections to nature

## Our response

We fund others



**GRANT SUPPORT**

We fund and run our own programmes



**DIRECT DELIVERY**

We work to maximise impacts and promote better outcomes



**RESEARCH & ADVOCACY**

We aim to improve children and young people's nature connectedness, health and wellbeing, learning and skills, and environmental stewardship through unique Outdoor Learning approaches.

We do this on and beyond our own land and in partnerships and collaborations with like-minded organisations.

\*Source: Country-level factors in a failing relationship with nature, Miles Richardson, Iain Hamlin, Lewis R Elliott & Mathew P White, Ambio (2022)

# Overall Impact



**£1.9M**

**TOTAL GRANT-FUNDING AWARDED**

(£1.8M: 2020/21)

**927**

**TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED**

(412: 2020/21)

**35,000+**

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

Over 35,000 children and young people benefitted from our Outdoor Learning opportunities this year (Approx 30,000: 2020/21)



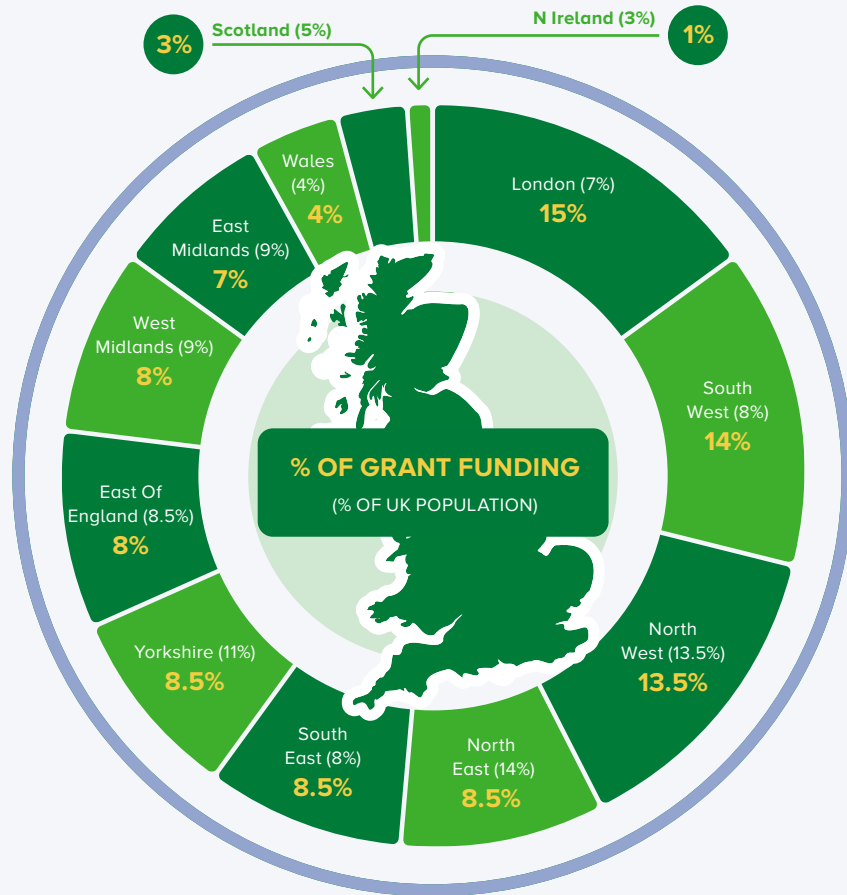
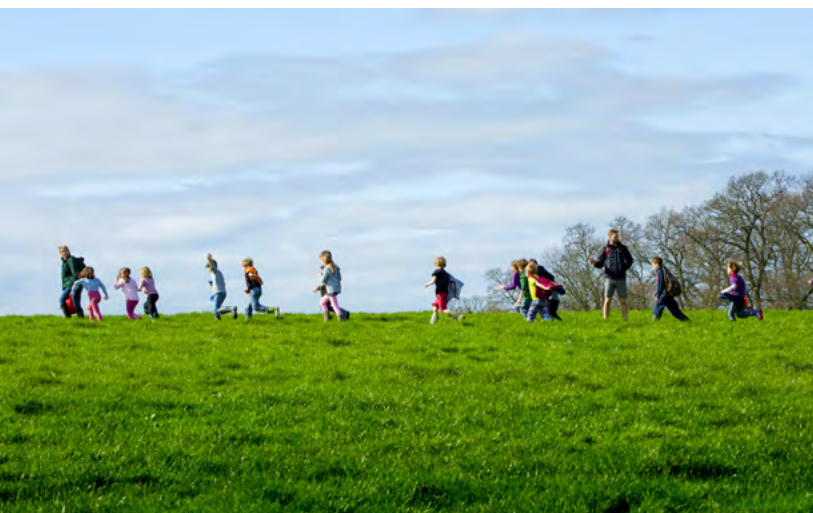
I've seen a difference in me, and I can't lie... it feels nice.

Young person, participant on a funded Outdoor Week of Learning ([OWL](#)) at Jamie's Farm



# Overall Impact

We work hard to ensure the benefits of our grants are geographically distributed across the UK





A group of diverse children, mostly of Black and Hispanic descent, are gathered in a field. They are all wearing matching dark green raincoats and some are wearing hats and gloves. They are cheering enthusiastically with their arms raised in the air. The background shows a cloudy sky and some dry grass in the foreground.

**EVERYTHING  
OUTDOORS**



**CHARITABLE  
ACTIVITY**



# Everything Outdoors

## The Everything Outdoors programme

connects people with nature – particularly those for whom nature is a distant and untapped world, which they may feel is ‘not for them’. We create opportunities for children, young people and young adults to overcome the multiple barriers to engagement with the natural world, which range from socio-economic and emotional, to physical and cultural. We want to make nature accessible to all, for health, recreation, learning and employment.

We know that one size does not fit all when it comes to Outdoor Learning, so we work with each group, setting-type and individual to create an opportunity that appeals and has potential for lasting impact.

This programme works in a long-term timeframe. We believe that regular, facilitated contact with nature is the most powerful thing we can do to ensure that all feel welcome in our landscapes, developing lasting connections to nature.

## **Schools**

We are working to make Outdoor Learning the norm in schools. We do this by empowering teachers, equipping schools and inspiring students - all free of charge:

- ▶ **Outdoor Learning Support**  
Taking a whole-school approach, working with the leadership team to embed Outdoor Learning in their school and curriculum delivery.
- ▶ **Natural Environment Sessions**  
Building an understanding of habitats and environments through fieldwork and practical, curriculum-focused sessions at farms, woodlands and rivers.
- ▶ **Wild Places for Wellbeing**  
Long-term programmes of regular, nurturing sessions that allow children and young people experiencing mental ill health and special educational needs an opportunity for freedom, acceptance and independence in our safe wild spaces.

We offer visits to a wide range of location types across our estates and beyond, and have been supported by our farm tenants in making access to authentic working farms a reality for many children who would not otherwise have this opportunity.

## **Communities**

Recognising that there is a mental health crisis facing the country's young people, the Trust is investing in its community outreach programme.

Our Communities programme aims to enable better educational, professional and life outcomes for each individual as they connect with nature and acquire knowledge and skills. We prioritise our free support for: young carers, families on low incomes, minoritised ethnic groups, young people with poor mental health, groups with special educational needs (SEND), young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) and young people with adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).

With new community-focused staff in Gloucestershire, a focus on increasing the accessibility of our sites, and a successful Boost for Biodiversity funding bid to develop a community

orchard project near our Redwood site, we will be developing this programme over the coming years.

## **Outdoor Futures (Skills)**

It is widely recognised that many young people do not learn well in the traditional classroom environment. The current system fails to support these young people in reaching their potential and transitioning to fulfilling employment.

Our Outdoor Futures programme aims to bridge this gap, providing participants with regular skills-based sessions to build practical and ‘soft’ skills, to boost self-esteem, confidence and employability in the green economy. We design meaningful projects which allow for progression and a sense of accomplishment, delivering apprenticeships, qualifications and certification awards, while providing regular mentoring, support and time with positive role models. This opens doors to new opportunities, nurturing wellbeing and aspiration in young people, as well as strengthening the future workforce, essential for responsible stewardship of the environment.

# Everything Outdoors

The grants awarded under our Everything Outdoors programme during 2021/2022 cover three key audiences:

## Schools

### Outdoor Essentials Grant

£279,500

## Communities

### Outdoor Learning Officer Grant

£283,718

## Outdoor Futures

### Apprenticeships & Scholarships Grant

£29,250





# Impact on Schools



**237 Transport & Travel** 59%

**232 Nature & Nurture** 41%



**5,032**

schoolchildren have visited our outdoor sites (**4,200: 2020/21**)



**920**

accompanying adults have been inspired by Outdoor Learning (**300: 2020/21**)

**559**

schools have received an Outdoor Essentials Grant to either:

- » create spaces where young people can connect with nature
- » overcome transport barriers to Outdoor Learning

Helping address the challenges caused by disadvantage and deprivation

60% of the children experiencing our woodlands, farms and rivers were from schools that met the Trust's criteria indicating significant deprivation and disadvantage





# Impact on Schools

**100%**

of teachers would recommend the experience to colleagues

**100%**

of teachers thought the sessions improved the children's connection to nature

**80%**

of teachers said the children worked "much better" together than they did in school

It was an amazing day. I felt that the children had an amazing learning experience and an amazing opportunity to explore the world. For some of our children, I feel that they might not have this kind of opportunity in their home lives.

Teacher, river visit, Gloucestershire

I've watched the long-term gains achieved by two lads in my year group as they've worked [at the Learning Workshop] over the last couple of years. Spending time at the Trust has had a marked impact on their attitude and attendance.

Teacher, Learning Workshop, Gloucestershire

**I'm feeling calm.**

Child (from a very large chaotic family), woodland visit, Dorset

**It makes me feel happy and fantastic!**

Child, farm visit, Dorset

This was a life-changing experience for many of our children with comments like: "I've never seen a place like this before." "...that tastes amazing, I've never toasted a marshmallow before."

Teacher, woodland visit, Gloucestershire

It was lovely to see some of our quieter children very animated when they saw the animals, and for children to see a turkey for the first time and the different eggs each bird lays.

Teacher, farm visit, Dorset



# Impact on Communities

Our community sessions supported 973 vulnerable children (631: 2020/21) and 628 adults (384: 2020/21)

## Highlights from 2021-22:

- » Our continued relationship with [Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees](#), including some Easter holiday sessions at the Learning Workshop in Fairford
- » Summer holiday sessions for SEND groups and Young Carers groups in Gloucestershire
- » Provision of Outdoor Learning activities for 181 children attending the HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) programme during the summer holidays in Lancashire – sessions specifically targeted at children in receipt of Free School Meals
- » Free [Forest School-style toddler groups](#) for low-income families in Lancashire

I just wanted to say thank you for a lovely day at Redwood, the children absolutely loved it and lots of memories were made for them.

Gloucestershire Young Carers

Thank you for yesterday. The teenagers really enjoyed it and I've been told they wanted to come back immediately! I also wanted to directly tell you a huge THANK YOU for the two days last week. The teenagers had a brilliant time! One parent emailed to say, "In the evening, many positive emotions and memories were shown." Thank you very much for this.

Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees



To further our impact in communities, we grant-funded [10 new Outdoor Learning Officer posts](#) in charities this year, making a total of 20 throughout the UK

These were awarded to:

- » Action for Conservation
- » Beechbrae
- » Brathay Trust
- » Earth Moves
- » Full Circle Food
- » Grow Wakefield
- » It's Your Life
- » St Werburghs City Farm
- » Stepney City Farm
- » Warm Hut



# Focus on Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership

## Schools Engagement

Our work with schools in the region has been well received, focussing on upskilling teachers to better equip them to take their classes outdoors, into the local landscape. We are confident that our work, in partnership with Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership, will leave a lasting legacy.

### Our research showed:

Almost two-thirds of all participating teachers use their outdoor spaces more as a direct result of the Trust's support; the remaining schools all plan to do so



**[the Trust's Outdoor Learning Officer] has been a fabulous asset to the team. Her delivery of sessions and resources shared were excellent. We have used these and adapted these for other year groups and sessions. The fact that all of the sessions were funded was a great help to the school. The project has ignited a passion for Outdoor Learning across the school.**

Teacher, school engagement as part of the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership

## Community Engagement

One of the major successes of our participation in the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership over the past four years has been the establishment and ongoing high uptake of a weekly outdoor toddler group, Little Saplings, held in public green spaces. During 2021/2022, 1,439 children attended, enjoying a total of 2,159 hours of outdoor play.

As well as providing a safe, enjoyable space to find out more about nature, these sessions have focused on building skills and confidence in parents and guardians in their ability to access nature with their families.

**92% of participants reported that they have replicated some of the activities after the sessions, and the remainder say they plan to do so**



**I'm a very anxious person but have always loved the outdoors and grew up playing outside whatever the weather. I want my little one to enjoy the outdoors, like I do, but to be more confident. I feel like Little Saplings has been the perfect place to start this process and I feel very lucky to have been able to attend two sessions already. It has already helped my mental health and taught me more ways to enjoy playing outside with my son in a way that he also enjoys.**

Participant, Little Saplings



**Magical! This group has been an absolute godsend to myself and my son.**

Participant, Little Saplings



# Impact on Outdoor Futures

Highlights from the [Outdoor Futures programme](#) during the academic year 2021-22:

- » Participants at our Learning Workshop in Gloucestershire have been awarded **26 of our Employability Awards**. These awards allow young people with SEND, at the edge of school exclusion, or with mental ill health, the opportunity to build a documented portfolio of work, while developing technical and ‘soft’ skills (such as communication, teamwork and resilience) in the process.
- » Our joint Green Recovery Challenge Fund funded project with the Lake District National Park Authority at Brockhole has provided **horticultural and land-based training to seven students from Kendal College, alongside other training opportunities for students at Lowther Castle and Gardens, and the Trust’s newly acquired Low Becks Farm in Cumbria.**

Students left the course with a Level 1 land-based qualification, as well as quad bike driving tickets, tractor training, First Aid certificates, vet training, money management skills and work experience in a variety of trades and occupations.



I feel more comfortable on this course. It’s much more chilled and the way I get talked to by staff is much better. You treat me like an adult and don’t simplify things too much.

Surprised myself – I could go away from home on my own.

Always thought I couldn’t do things – kept trying and realised I can.

Mental health has got a lot better. Being outdoors is good as used to being stuck in the house.

I used to be very angry. Easier to let anger go rather than cause a problem in the group of friends.





# Impact on Outdoor Futures - Kickstart

From July to December 2021, we created 11 placements for [trainees in Cumbria](#), through the Government's Kickstart Scheme. This provided six months paid employment opportunities to young people (aged 16-24) in receipt of Universal Credit and at risk of long-term unemployment.

Nine of these placements were filled (compared with less than 50% of placements nationally through the Scheme) and seven resulted in completion. The eighth participant left a month prior to completion in order to take up farming employment, whilst the final participant left the Scheme midway through.

The Trust worked in partnership with the Lowther Estate, Susan's Farm and the Oaklea Trust to create part time roles, with additional training for skills and employability.

- » The Scheme resulted in **an increase in reported 'life satisfaction'** amongst participants, in a cohort for whom this was initially far below national averages.



- » **Six of the seven trainees secured employment post-placement,**

**and one continues to access further employability support.**

- » Considering that the level of unemployed 16-24 year-olds claiming Universal Credit between February 2020 and September 2021 rose by 195%, **The Ernest Cook Trust Kickstart Scheme has demonstrably made a positive contribution to the employment of local young people during a particularly precarious time.**
- » Out of the seven trainees who completed the Scheme, **four found employment within the environmental sector.** This demonstrates the positive impact the Trust's Scheme has had on young people and their next steps and demonstrates that **the Scheme has successfully engaged young people in the environmental sector.**



The programme has been very beneficial to me. I have learned new skills and gained a better understanding of the world of work and employability skills.

Kickstart Scheme participant

It would have taken longer to get a job like this without Kickstart, I would have likely got a worse job.

Kickstart Scheme participant

A group of young people, including a young woman with dark hair and a young man with long blonde hair, are shown in winter clothing (jackets, scarves, hats) talking outdoors. The background is slightly blurred, suggesting a natural setting.

**GREEN  
INFLUENCERS  
SCHEME**



**CHARITABLE  
ACTIVITY**

# Green Influencers Scheme

In its second year, the **Green Influencers Scheme** has gone from strength to strength. Young people's engagement in environmental issues has grown during the COVID-19 pandemic and since COP26 in Glasgow. Just over 3,000 young people have signed up to be Green Influencers in 347 groups across England.

The scheme continues to fund 44 Green Mentor posts in 37 organisations, as well as funding environmental social action projects carried out by groups of Green Influencers through grants of £360 initially and then up to £5,000.

In the 2021-2022 financial year, the Trust has given 157 grants of £360 for groups to initiate their ideas and 33 grants of up to £5,000 to develop group projects to maximise community and environmental impact.

The Green Influencers Scheme 2nd Annual Conference was held in March 2022 to celebrate collective achievements and learn new skills in a variety of participative workshops. This was the first time so many of the Green Mentors had met in-person, after last year's event was held online due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Proudly supporting youth social action



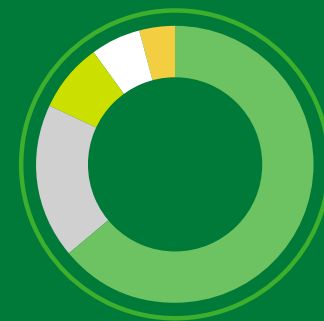
Department for Digital, Culture Media & Sport



Youth Advisory Board members at the Conference

This project is joint-funded by the #iwill Fund. The #iwill Fund is made possible thanks to £54 million (up to July 2022) joint investment from The National Lottery Community Fund and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to support young people to access high quality social action opportunities. The Ernest Cook Trust is acting as a match funder and awarding grants on behalf of the #iwill Fund.

## Funded projects by theme



- 64%** Wildlife/biodiversity
- 18%** Waste/litter/recycling
- 8%** Sustainable food/growing
- 6%** Air pollution/climate/carbon
- 4%** Other environmental/nature projects



# Green Influencers Scheme Cumulative Impact to March 31st 2022



**37**

**Host Organisations**

awarded grants since November 2020



**3,189**

**Green Influencers recruited**

80% in the target age range of 10-14 year-olds (1,500: 2020/21)



**44**

**Green Mentors**

now employed across England

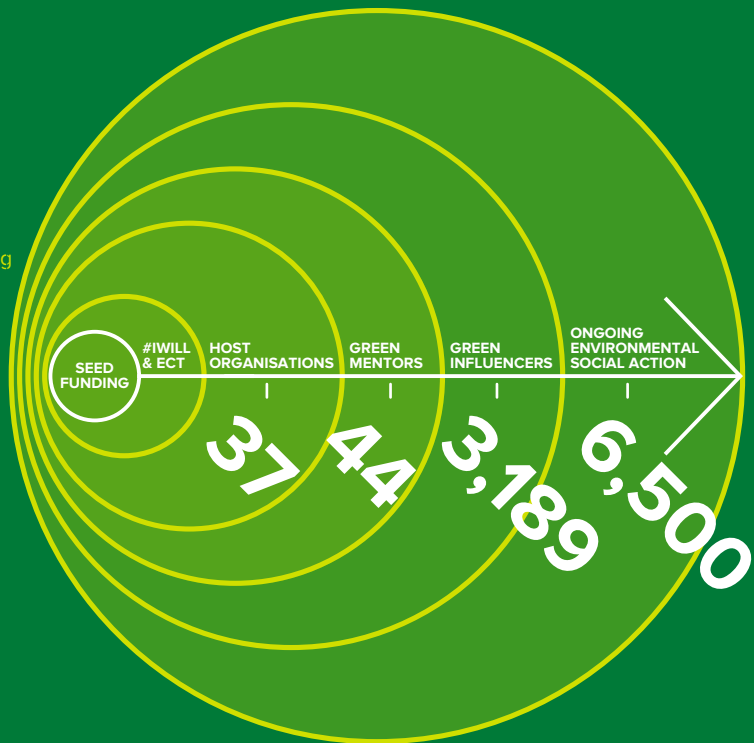


**6,500**

**Peers engaged**

in community environmental projects (3,000: 2020/21)

Over half of the Green Influencers are from the top 20% most deprived areas of England. Green Influencer groups support disadvantaged young people including young carers, refugees, asylum seekers and young people affected by domestic violence.



**It encourages me to see an organisation so youth-led, that has young people at the forefront of the work.**

Tasneem, Green Influencers Scheme Youth Advisory Board member

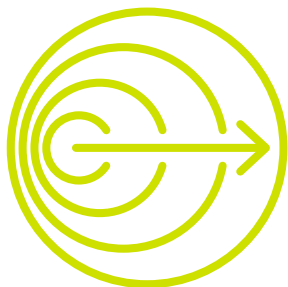


# Green Influencers Scheme - Impact

## Children and young people

On average, Green Influencers who took part in the [Scheme](#) showed a **positive increase in their wellbeing and nature connection** as well as a connection between the two.

In addition, young people **gained key skills** from taking part in environmental youth social action projects:



## ONE IN EVERY TWO

- » Improved teamwork skills
- » Improved communication skills
- » Improved confidence

## Communities

**Green Influencers have engaged with community groups and are making connections with other organisations:**

“... As a result we have had organisations reaching out to us to work with these young people more and benefiting community outreach for many organisations.”

“The young people showed that they can be responsible and take positive action. Due to this, local community and residents want to support further action and youth work in the estate.”

**Green Influencers have benefited local businesses through their projects:**

“Local traders have increased their seating capacity thanks to the Parklets project that young people have co-designed and local residents are currently enjoying more nature brought into the street.”

“They are now going to the Flood Wardens meetings and are on the climate group locally. They are very engaged young people.”

**Green Influencer projects have benefitted schools:**

“Coop Academy Nightingale in Leeds who received a Project Grant of £5,000 for their school garden this year just got a good OFSTED inspection. The Green Influencers Eco Club and their new garden was mentioned in the inspection specifically as being something really positive and beneficial to the school.”



**88**

new gardens



**16**

litter picks/  
clean ups



**30**

wildlife  
homes built



THE OWL  
COLLABORATION



CHARITABLE  
ACTIVITY



# The OWL Collaboration

## About

**The OWL Collaboration** is a £2.8M programme funded and delivered by The Ernest Cook Trust in collaboration with seven farm and environmental Outdoor Learning Centres:

**Bore Place (Commonwork Trust)**

**Countryside Education Trust**

**Jamie's Farm**

**Lambourne End**

**Magdalen Farm (Magdalen Environmental Trust)**

**Shallowford Farm**

**Ufton Court Educational Trust**

The OWL Collaboration funds a unique opportunity for children to experience and explore nature whilst living and learning together. The activities on these trips aim to produce the following outcomes for children:

- » A stronger connection to nature
- » Improved mental health and wellbeing
- » Care and concern for the environment
- » Improved engagement with education

## Core Components

- » An innovative Outdoor Week of Learning targeting disadvantaged children and young people
- » Focus on nature connection as a pathway to improved outcomes for children and young people
- » Long-term relationships with schools to embed and champion Outdoor Learning
- » [Robust evaluation framework](#)
- » Outdoor Learning Centres' Community of Practice to optimise provision and influence future policy and practice
- » Opportunity for funders to be involved in an impact-driven project



## The Future

The Ernest Cook Trust has committed to funding The OWL Collaboration until 2025. However, we need other funders to join in this initiative, which aims to improve the provision of residential visits in the farm and environmental sector in three ways:

**Pupil aim** - Children and young people with a stronger connection to nature have better life chances in the face of 21st century challenges

**School aim** - Schools and educators are inspired to embed Outdoor Learning approaches into day-to-day learning

**Network aim** - A stronger and more sustainable Outdoor Learning sector

**The Dulverton Trust has joined The Ernest Cook Trust in the Collaboration. We believe that not only the sector as a whole will gain substantial long-term benefits through collaboration, but so will the individual schools and pupils. We look forward to more funders joining The OWL Collaboration.**



# The OWL Collaboration - Year 1 Reach

The OWL Collaboration has successfully reached some of the most deprived children and young people in the country:

- » **62% of the children attending an Outdoor Week of Learning (OWL) were from minoritised ethnic groups – far greater than the proportion in the UK population overall (14%)**
- » **82% of participating primary schools and 68% of participating secondary schools had more pupils in receipt of Free School Meals than the national average**
- » **88% of participating primary schools and 75% of participating secondary schools had higher than the national average of pupils with special educational needs**



7

Outdoor Learning Centres



36

schools with high levels of disadvantage engaged



830

young people took part in an Outdoor Week of Learning





# The OWL Collaboration - Year 1 Impact

## Impact on Children and Young People



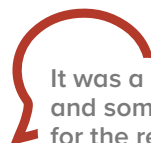
I think that it cannot be put into quantifiable data what this experience has meant to the whole team and all the children that were able to participate in this experience. It is so far from their normal and has been so inspiring for the children, lets them know there is a different life outside of what they have known all their lives. They are truly brighter sparks after this experience. The independence and personal growth has been immeasurable.

Teacher on an OWL residential



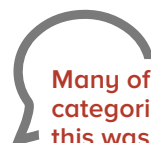
I have learnt how important nature really is and that I should be willing to help.

Participant on an OWL residential



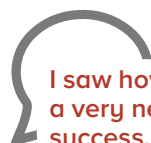
It was a great experience and something I'll remember for the rest of my life. It was incredibly fun and I really enjoyed myself!

Participant on an OWL residential



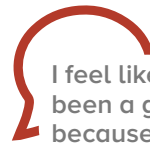
Many of our pupils are categorised as deprived and this was truly a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Teacher on an OWL residential



I saw how these pupils who have a very negative view of school and success, achieve in practical tasks and the impact that this had on them and their engagement.

Teacher on an OWL residential



I feel like this has just been a good opportunity because you kind of just need a reset. You need a reset out of school for a little bit. Just to get yourself back on track, and then obviously use all that you've learnt from here to try and go back to school and replicate it.

Participant on an OWL residential

# 93%

of children want to spend more time outdoors as a result of their OWL residential

# 80%

of children have a greater appreciation of nature

# 70%

of children have improved mental health

# 52%

of children are now more motivated and co-operative in lessons



# The OWL Collaboration - Year 1 Impact

## Impact on Schools

ALL teachers interviewed stated that their participation in The OWL Collaboration has inspired them to provide more Outdoor Learning opportunities for their students



The impact of the Outdoor Week of Learning and Forest School activities has been seen by all teachers, and the leadership team has recognised the need for an alternative curriculum for this cohort to help them engage with school and to improve their mental health and behaviour.”

Teacher on an OWL residential



We have spent more time in our school garden, integrated Outdoor Learning into the Science curriculum and are planning trips to outdoor experiences across the school.

Teacher on an OWL residential



## Impact on the Outdoor Learning Sector

Benefits of the network to Outdoor Learning Centres:

- » Financial security during uncertain times
- » Connection and engagement with new and existing schools
- » Sharing of knowledge, resources and collaborations between centres
- » Improved practice in evaluating impact with potential to influence policy and practice
- » New focus on nature connection as an outcome measure

“Thank you so much for being such encouraging, thought provoking and responsive colleagues! It is hugely enjoyable to work with you and a really excellent and highly unusual example of a funder relationship.”

“By sharing best practice with other providers, we hope to move the outdoor education sector forward and ultimately give more children lifelong memories of being in nature and a sense of hope for their futures.”



“It was a huge moment of hope!”

Head of an Outdoor Learning Centre, speaking of the moment they were appointed as an one of the partners for The OWL Collaboration

“Who knows what could evolve from a programme like this. There is more strength in numbers, we don’t need to keep reinventing the wheel.”

A photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, a flock of sheep is grazing on a grassy hill. A large, leafy tree stands prominently on the right side of the hill. In the background, two people are standing on a ridge. The sky is clear and blue.

THE  
LEARNING  
ESTATE



CHARITABLE  
ACTIVITY



# The Learning Estate

In our role as landowners and influencers in the debate around the environment, farming and sustainability, The Ernest Cook Trust has started to pursue one of its boldest projects to date - [The Learning Estate](#).

The Little Dalby Estate in Leicestershire is the location for this long-term collaborative project. It aims to develop lasting, sustainable outcomes for this landscape and the communities of people it serves, on and beyond the estate.

Set against a backdrop of pressing environmental, economic, social and health challenges, this 10-year-plus project will be inclusive and transparent, maximising learning opportunities for all stakeholders as we seek to become a beacon for the future of estate management.



## Core Components

- » A baseline survey of various key biodiversity indicators is underway, such as birds, bugs, soils, water and habitats. The surveys will now be regularly conducted to track progress towards increasing the biodiversity across the estate.
- » A good proportion of the estate is now either in, or going into, the Countryside Stewardship Scheme in its many forms - Higher Tier, Mid Tier agreements and Capital Grants. These have a wide range of objectives that cover restoring the historic landscape (including the restoration of a scheduled monument), improving water and soil quality, providing educational access and increasing biodiversity with a range of habitat establishment options.
- » Work has been carried out to improve the biodiversity value of a stretch of the River Eye – this has been completed in partnership with the Trent Rivers Trust.





# TRUSTEES' REPORT

# Objectives & Activities

**As one of the UK's foremost funders and providers of Outdoor Learning, The Ernest Cook Trust helps disadvantaged children and young people, their families and communities forge lasting connections with nature.**

We do this by working collaboratively with like-minded organisations who share our passion for the outdoors. Working with educators and influencers at all levels, we advocate the benefits of Outdoor Learning with a view to embedding it in the school curriculum and beyond.

Through four strategic programme areas, we aim to improve life chances for children and young people, strengthening their resilience in the face of 21st century challenges.

Our vision is for an environmentally engaged society where all young people have the opportunity to learn from the land. We believe that the reach of our work extends beyond individuals, impacting society, the economy and the environment. By seeking to make our voice heard, the Trust aims to be a catalyst for change at this critical time for our climate, environment and wellbeing.

## **Achievements, Performance, Future Plans**

The Trust's achievements and its impact are reported on pages 7 to 28 and outlined in the Chairman's Report on page 3. Plans for the future are reported on the next pages.



**FUTURE  
ACTIVITIES**



**TRUSTEES'  
REPORT**

## Future Activities

**Our principal strategic priority for the coming year is to develop direct learning opportunities on our own land. This includes three major projects: Low Becks Farm, Cumbria; Home Farm, Gloucestershire; and Little Dalby Estate, Leicestershire.**

In Cumbria, we will be liaising with the local community and industry experts to work-up a full project plan for Low Becks Farm, Mungrisdale, which we acquired in September 2021. It is our intention to keep land-based skills training within Cumbria by providing valuable facilities for learning at the farm, but also to use the farm as a learning hub for upland farmers, exploring the options for upland farms of the future and moving towards more nature-friendly ways of farming.

Having taken back in-hand Home Farm in Quenington, Gloucestershire, we are evaluating how the farm can offer high impact learning opportunities and, specifically, which age range of students it can best serve. In the meantime, it will provide much needed winter grazing for the fell flock from Low Becks Farm who will travel south once they have been gathered off the fell in November.

In Leicestershire, we are working on a business plan for our Little Dalby Estate, which will seek ways of increasing the economic, social and environmental diversity of the estate, wrapped within a long-term educational programme. We will be doing so by collaborating with our tenants, making this a more unique and more challenging project than many of our peer estates have attempted.

Further research and our own impact evaluation forms a crucial part of developing these project plans and in ensuring that they are worthy of support, both internally and from external organisations.

Finally, we have been granted planning permission to convert Court Farmhouse in Quenington, Gloucestershire, kindly donated to The Ernest Cook Trust last year by the Frank Gollins Trust, into our new Headquarters. Work will begin on the necessary alterations as soon as possible and we are confident that the finished site will support our work by providing first class office space and educational facilities for the Trust.





# The Estates

**The Trust owns and manages over 9,000 hectares of land and property made up of mainly let farmland but also 584 hectares of woodland, houses, cottages and a few small commercial premises.**

Land is owned in six counties: Buckinghamshire, Cumbria, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Leicestershire and Oxfordshire. These estates are managed for income return and capital growth whilst seeking ways to improve their environment and habitats, evolve landscapes and protect heritage.

Active management dictates that we are constantly looking for new opportunities and ways to evolve and improve our income stream in support of the Trust's overall charitable object. We seek to be professional, progressive and supportive landlords and we expect our tenants to aspire to, and advocate best practice in farming, land management and environmental impact (which should always be above minimum legal requirements).

As the COVID-19 pandemic abates, we are managing through a period of substantial boom in the property industry and the effects of Brexit. The increased material costs and a lack of labour have restricted the industry's capacity to undertake work and catch up on 1-2 years of delayed planned work. However, we have been committed to getting back on track and retaining those important contractor relationships that have stood us in good stead. These pressures are highlighted even more so in the context of our important stakeholders in the public sector, such as planning authorities, where resources are commonly at breaking point.

This year, our Estates team have been able to visit our estates on a more regular basis, which has been hugely positive, allowing us to connect back with these stunning landscapes and meet with our valued farming, residential and commercial tenants.



# Residential Property

**Once again, Trustees agreed to suspend rent reviews for our residential portfolio during 2021/22, and routine property inspections are reinstated following the COVID-19 pandemic.**

The market for rural housing has seen a continued boom, with high demand for vacant property when coming back on the market. During the year, we successfully let 14 new homes, with five properties undergoing extensive refurbishment prior to re-letting. We carried out our first Residential Tenants' Survey gathering feedback on the condition of our residential property and views on the Trust's customer service. We had a response from over 65% of our residential tenants with constructive feedback to aid continual improvement and give us confidence that the hard work and dedication is having an impact.

- » Over three-quarters of respondents said that they were either quite likely or very likely to recommend The Ernest Cook Trust as a landlord to their friends and family
- » More than 80% of respondents said that they were either quite satisfied or very satisfied with their home
- » Almost half of respondents have been living in their homes for more than 10 years (way above national averages)



**A lovely place to live with good, fair landlords.**

Tenant comment

**I feel very much NOT just another tenant. Interaction with the Trust is always genuinely friendly, rather than the 'have a nice day' blandness and insincerity found elsewhere.**

Tenant comment

**The Trust stay in touch, they also leave you to enjoy your home.**

Tenant comment

## Our Farms

**Having the opportunity to work with our farming tenants is a pleasure, especially given the considerable time, effort and resources put in to operating thriving farming businesses.**

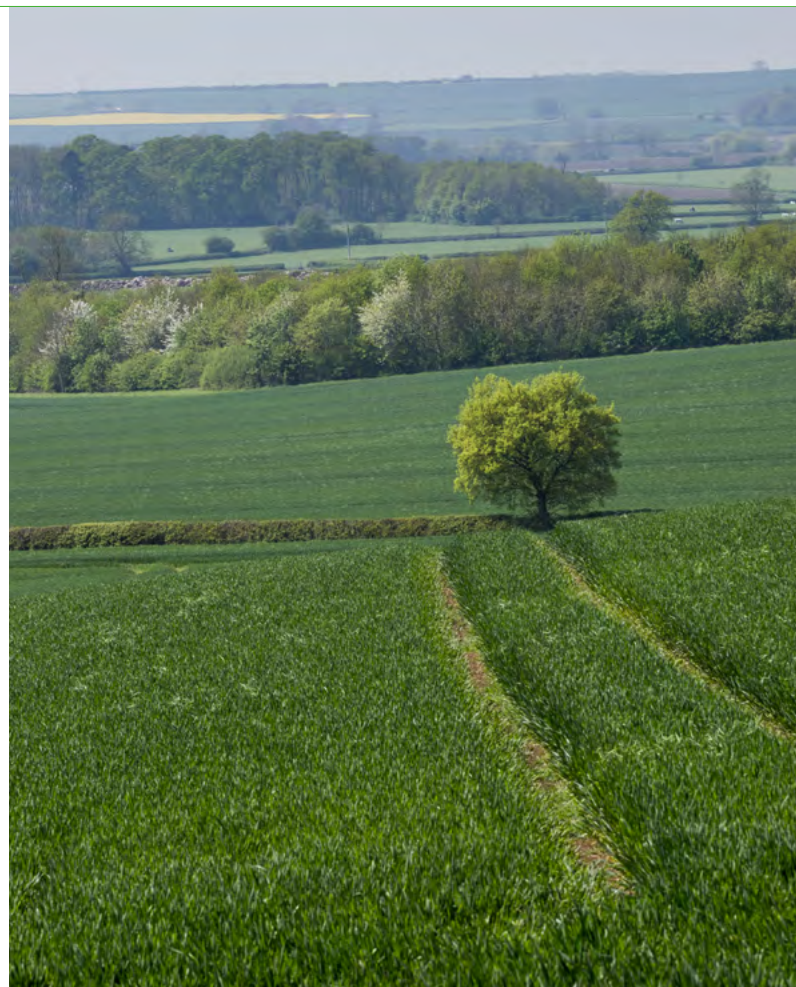
Whilst dealing with day-to-day management matters pertaining to good estate management, we continue to take every opportunity to collaborate with this important group, support diversity of thought, new approaches to problem solving, and new ideas.

We were very sad to lose one of our long-standing farming families on our Home Estates. This, coupled with a considerable block of land becoming vacant on our Leicestershire Estate has necessitated 10 new farm business tenancies being agreed across both estates. We are pleased to continue supporting our existing tenants, allowing their businesses to grow, but the considerable changes in tenure have enabled the retention of some key plots of land, representing opportunities for the Trust to explore new

environmental land management objectives. The Trust is also exploring managing land in-hand to support direct delivery of our core educational objectives.

Discussions over rent and future successions have been concluded on three holdings and, more broadly, much discussion is centred on post-Brexit UK-based legislation, changes in traditional agricultural support mechanisms and new environmentally based subsidies. There is considerable interest in accessing private investment markets and opportunities around new income streams for both landlord and tenant. We have no doubt that the next 24 months will represent considerable change for the sector.

We are pleased to have retained our Conservation & Learning Apprentice on the Home Estates in a new permanent role overlapping both disciplines. We are committed to supporting more apprenticeships in future years to encourage more young people to be employed in land and learning.



# Progressive Farming

We want to see a diverse outdoors: **commercially, socially and environmentally**

## Improve Access

We want our farms to be more accessible. We do this by:

- » encouraging improved and managed access
- » community engagement
- » public awareness-raising
- » proactive management



"We farmers cannot reasonably expect public support if we don't let the public in.

Inviting the public onto the farm by creating permissive paths, as accessible as possible, seemed to be the best way to include the people we rely on to buy our produce.

We aim to educate and inform and most importantly, to welcome.

With the provision of a dedicated accessible hub and toilet facilities we hope to encourage visitors who might not normally have access to working farms."

**Helen Wade, Tenant Farmer, Hatherop Estate**  
(and the Trust's accessibility champion)



## Monitoring Diversity

We are trying to better understand the demands and opportunities around nature recovery and its place alongside food production, energy, amenity and financial viability. The following environmental survey work has been carried out:

### Wild Bird Winter Surveys

- » Home Estates & Little Dalby Estate (covering 6,238 Ha)
- » 111 different species recorded
- » 25 red listed (JNCC\* highest conservation concern)
- » 24 amber listed (JNCC\* moderate conservation concern)

\*UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee

### Soil Surveys

- » Little Dalby Estate (covering 2,312 Ha)
- » Surveying soil structure, water filtration, carbon and worm counts.

### Bird Box Installation

- » 14 owl boxes across our Home Estates
- » A small number of kestrel boxes



# Progressive Farming

## Commercial Diversification with Zero Waste

After selling the family dairy herd in 2010, Hurst Farm diversified into the fodder industry, primarily dealing with the equestrian market:

“Using the latest machinery, technology and committed employees, we strive to maximise our yields ensuring we produce a premium product that satisfies the market and ensures demand is high all year round. A herd of around 100 longhorn cattle work hand in hand with the fodder business by utilising any produce that cannot be sold therefore ensuring that the farm produces zero waste. These cattle are fattened on conservation grazing during the summer and then grass silage and waste bales during the winter. The meat is then butchered and sold to Ruby & White, Bristol.”

**Dan Moss, Tenant Farmer, Slimbridge Estate**



## Preservation of Cultural Heritage

“I was lucky enough to secure a FiPL grant in relation to the restoration of two historic stone bridges along the Sheepbridge valley, west of Eastleach, with match funding (of £2,000) generously provided by the Trust.

The flat stone bridge has been restored with work on the other to start shortly. Both bridges enable sheep to cross the River Leach when it rises in the winter.”

**Lyndall Gibson, Tenant Farmer,  
Hatherop Estate**

## Estates - Sales & Acquisitions

Some considerable sales have been completed through the year, including disposal of the Boarstall Estate in Buckinghamshire, a large residential property in Dorset and a number of other small plots. Trustees were pleased to be able to agree the sale of Boarstall Estate to its previous owners, the Aubrey-Fletcher family.

The completion of the bequest of Court Farm Estate in Quenington, Gloucestershire has provided the Trust with the opportunity to relocate our Headquarters to Court Farmhouse and redevelop our current office space. Although in recent years Court Farm and neighbouring properties have been minimally occupied, the relocation of the Trust will return these properties to active occupation, bringing a national education charity to a beautiful base nestled between our existing Home Estates.

We were delighted to complete the purchase of Low Beckside Farm in Cumbria along with the lowland and hefted sheep flocks. This beautiful valley hill farm has been purchased in support of the direct provision of education and learning.

As this is the Trust's quinquennial year, an in-depth valuation exercise has been commissioned across all estates to assess both capital and investment values. This involves an inspection and review of all land and property owned by the Trust by professional advisors. The portfolio has seen an increased investment value of which takes into account the change in markets, but also sales and acquisitions.

## Estates - Development

The Trust has continued with its commitment to create opportunities for future residential development in line with a drive from national and regional governments through their local plan process. In response to demand, we are continuing to focus on bringing forward our large strategic sites in collaboration with those local communities surrounding them. It is important to the Trust that this is approached with due sensitivity within the wider community. It also allows us to take forward our estates in the best interest of our charitable objective and pursue opportunities for enhanced capital value and sales where it is appropriate to do so. We very much hope that within the next 12-18 months we will be in a position to generate capital receipts.

As we have emerged out of COVID-19 lockdown a greater emphasis has been placed on consultation for our strategic site in Stroud District (<https://www.wisloe.co.uk/>) and preparation of submissions for the Local Plan Examination in Public (EiP). Likewise, this has been a focus for a smaller strategic site closer to home in Gloucestershire ([nefairford.co.uk](https://www.nefairford.co.uk)), working closely with Fairford Town

Council and the community to ensure we can address issues early on in the process. Again, in Fairford, the decision was taken to delay construction of five new dwellings through our trading subsidiary, Mintglebe Ltd. We expect to review the future of this site in the forthcoming financial year.

In Buckinghamshire, the Trust has unfortunately now lost land to HS2 Ltd through compulsory purchase. However, with our interests being represented by expert advisors we have been able to negotiate compensation for our losses and we continue to work with HS2 Ltd to minimise the impact of this national scheme on the Trust's Hartwell Estate.

Finally, in Leicestershire the Trust is on notice of another significant infrastructure project, the Melton Mowbray Distributor Road (MMDR) which, if it progresses, will clip the northern part of our estate.

All of these projects highlight the activity in the sector of land and property management, and the importance of retaining expert advice to create opportunities for the Trust and protect the future of our charitable activity.

# Financial Review

**As this report demonstrates, the Trust has continued to develop and extend its education and learning activities. Expenditure on Grants and Learning projects increased to £2,917,888 (2021: £2,695,565) representing an increase of 8% over the previous year.**

Funding for these activities is derived from the Trust's estate income, external grants and its financial investments.

Performance of the estates remains relatively strong, income diminished by 3% to £3,835,262 (2021: £3,943,737) in the year. The easing of restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021-22 helped the Trust to continue important estate works that saw expenditure increase to £3,413,211 (2021: £2,796,561), with the resulting surplus from estates falling to £422,051 from

£1,147,176 in the previous year.

The Trust's financial investments performed well in the year, generating an income of £1,026,051 (2021: £882,790) and increasing in value by £3,250,811 in the year. The overall return from the Trust's financial investments was 8.64% for the year, which met the policy objective of financing our activities and preserving the long-term value of the Trust's endowment.

Independent professional valuations have resulted in an uplift of £16,195,706 in the value of our property investments.

The acquisition of Low Beckside Farm in Cumbria and Court Farm in Gloucestershire have been valuable additions to our freehold land and buildings portfolio.



# Financial Review

## Reserves Policy

The Statement of Financial Activities shows an increase in the Trust's Reserves of £22,838,424 for the year. The Trustees have set aside Reserves as follows. The Expendable Endowment represents the Endowment of the Charity at 31 March 2022 at £207,624,850. The level of the Designated Fund is set at the level of potential future commitments at £3,564,859. Restricted Funds are £1,095,362 at the year-end, representing the Green Influencers Scheme. Unrestricted Funds are £7,139,432 at year-end which provides the working capital and operating requirements of the charity for at least twelve months from the date of signature of the accounts.

## Fundraising Policy

The Trustees are aware of their obligations under the Charities Act to report the charity's fundraising policy. We occasionally engage with statutory funders, trusts and foundations in order to raise income but do not engage in public fundraising or use commercial fundraisers. There have been no instances of complaints or non-compliance with any code.

The Ernest Cook Trust has five significant items of expenditure:



**THE GRANTS THAT WE MAKE**

**THE COSTS OF MANAGING THE ESTATES**

**THE COSTS OF PROVIDING LEARNING OUTDOORS**

**THE COSTS OF MANAGING OUR INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO**

**THE RUNNING EXPENSES OF THE ERNEST COOK TRUST  
(of which staff costs are the major component)**



# Financial Review

## Remuneration policy

The Trust's pay policy, pay structure and changes to employee terms and conditions are reviewed by the remuneration committee, which comprises the Chair and one other Trustee, and makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

The Chairman of the Trust determines the salary and other benefit changes for the Chief Executive. These changes are only made when market forces and other matters dictate the need. The Chairman makes these decisions in consultation with the remuneration committee described above.

The Trust's Memorandum and Articles of Association provide an authority to pay our Trustees, in accordance with the wishes of our founder. A separate remuneration committee of independent experts is convened every five years to review Trustee remuneration.

## Future Financial Performance

The Trustees are mindful of the current pressures and challenges posed by the global economic situation and the specific domestic pressures we are experiencing. Rising costs could impact the Trust's operations significantly and will be a key factor in planning future activity. Consideration of how activities will be funded remains important and our plans will be determined by maintaining an appropriate balance between income and expenditure, as well as continuing to exercise careful management of our assets.

## Investments

The Trust's charitable activities are funded from external grants and donations, returns from its investment portfolio and surplus income from the estates. The Trust's finance and investment policies are intended to provide long-term stability and liquidity sufficient for the financing of the Trust's charitable activities while maintaining the real value of the endowment.

The Trust's investment policy is reviewed annually and establishes the long-term investment objective, risk-profile, strategic asset allocation and investment restrictions as well as encompassing our policies on Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG).

The policy reflects a total-return objective that considers all sources of return and means that both income from the portfolio and the underlying capital can be used to support charitable activities. The Trustees have continued to work on a policy in relation to socially responsible investment and sustainability for the Trust in the context of its aims and objectives.

The Trust expects its investment managers to consider issues when making investment decisions, such that the Trust is seen to have applied best practice and is not at risk of undue criticism or damage to its reputation and standing. The Trust also expects the investment managers to report on how ESG considerations have been applied in the selection and management of investments.

# Financial Review

## Risk

The Trustees are responsible for the oversight of the risks faced by the Trust. We review our risk regularly through the Management team, our committees and our full Board of Trustees, using a comprehensive Risk Register that identifies the risk, the potential severity of its impact and its likelihood of occurrence. Risk Management is scrutinised by the Audit and Risk Management Committee, which reviews the Trust's risk position, internal controls, compliance with relevant statutory and finance regulations, and the work of our external auditors. Risks are mitigated by ensuring internal policies are reviewed regularly; ensuring adequate reporting procedures, from operational to board level; providing relevant training across the organisation; taking appropriate and timely professional advice; making sure that the Trust is appropriately insured against risks.

## Principal Risks & Uncertainties

**Financial** We planned our 2021/22 budget expecting restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic to continue to ease, but the out turn was marked by variations across the Trust's expenditure over the previous year when so much expenditure was constrained, although income held up particularly well. Having decreased substantially at the start of the pandemic, the investment portfolio performed well, achieving a net return of 8.64% for the year. Potential demand for our charitable activities continues to outstrip our ability to resource our work. We are planning ways to increase our annual income, including long-term development of our assets to produce higher yields and increasing our grant-seeking and fundraising efforts. The economic turbulence which took hold in the last part of the year following Russia's invasion of Ukraine has inevitably had an adverse impact on the Trust's investments and operating costs, particularly in financial year 2022-23. Nevertheless, Trustees remain confident of the long-term resilience of our finances.

**Cyber Crime** Common with all charities, we remain acutely aware of the risks associated with increased cyber-crime. Staff are regularly reminded of the risk and specific nature of the crimes as they develop. We have a 'risk aware' culture in the organisation, which is crucial in reducing this risk.

## Health & Safety in Estates and Learning Activities

There is some risk associated with children and young people learning outdoors and with managing large landed estates. We manage this risk with rigorous, up-to-date health and safety procedures and risk assessments for all activities, high levels of staff awareness and training, and third party assessments and advice.

# Financial Review

**Child Protection and Safeguarding** Trustees are aware of the safeguarding issues associated with working with children and young people. All Trustees and staff undertake regular safeguarding training and our Senior Safeguarding Lead, Trustee Simon Eliot, works with our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Emily Crawley, to ensure that our policy is up to date and consistently upheld.

**Staff Performance and Retention** We are aware that the pandemic has taken its toll on the work and home lives of the nation and recognise that this could prove a threat to staff performance and retention. Staff continue to work hard to maintain the Trust's growth in activities while coping with variable working conditions. We mitigated this risk by paying careful attention to staff wellbeing, encouraging more home/hybrid working for many roles, maintaining close communication and providing support to one another. We continue to monitor staff performance and wellbeing.

**Cost of Living Crisis** In common with many other charities, the Trust faces notable challenges posed by the exceptional economic conditions impacting stakeholders because of an increased cost of living. The Trust is conscious of the economic impact of the cost of living crisis on grant recipients and families who face increased challenges in participating in projects and programmes as well as a reduction in funding for projects from elsewhere. The Trust can adapt and support its activities as circumstances require. Equally, the impact of the cost of living crisis is felt by the Trust itself and careful monitoring is required of its overall costs base, as well as continuing to provide the appropriate support where necessary. We continue to monitor staff concerns with the cost of living crisis through our wellbeing survey.

**Operational Risk** This is mitigated through the regular review of activities and the use of professional advisers. In our partnership work, we specifically mitigate risk by conducting thorough due diligence of any potential partners and drafting written partnership agreements.

**Governance** We are aware of the importance of good oversight of the Trust's assets, management and charitable activities by the Board of Trustees. Our Trustee engagement remains at a very high level, we plan Trustee succession to ensure that the right mix of skills, experience and expertise is maintained. Trustees receive management accounts, minutes of all committees and a quarterly report from the Chief Executive. A transparent culture and culture of open communication with the executive helps Trustees maintain a thorough oversight of the organisation.

# Structure, Governance & Management

The Ernest Cook Trust was founded and endowed in 1952 by the late Ernest Edward Cook as an educational charity. The 1952 Deed of Trust was added to and amended in 1984, 1995 and 2006. The Trust was incorporated in 2012. The Directors of the Trust are also its Trustees for the purposes of charity law.

Our Head Office is based on our Fairford Estate in Gloucestershire. The Trust is a charity registered in England and Wales, number 1146629. There are currently six Trustees. Each Trustee's appointment is reviewed every five years and Trustees are formally required to retire at the age of 75. New Trustees are provided with a comprehensive induction programme and individual Trustee evaluations are conducted annually by the Chairman. Training of Trustees is reviewed against individual training needs.

The Trustees are paid under the terms of the Articles of Association to recognise the professional work they undertake on behalf of the Trust, over and above that normally expected of a charity Trustee. There were no changes to the Board during the 2021/22 year.

The Trust's financial year runs from 1 April to 31 March and meetings of the full Trustee Board were held quarterly. The Trustees have appointed five Trustee led committees to monitor specialist areas of activity: Estates; Finance and Investment (including Audit and Risk Management); Everything Outdoors; the Green Influencers Scheme; and The OWL Collaboration. Each committee has its own terms of reference, is chaired by a Trustee and reports back to the main Board.

The full Trustee Board ratifies the decisions of the grant giving committees, which examines in detail the grants to be awarded under the separate grant streams approved by Trustees. Matters requiring a decision by the Trustees are referred to them either at one of their meetings or, in between such meetings, by correspondence (normally email) and telephone calls.

The Trust is run on a day to day basis by the Chief Executive, assisted by 35 staff, including a Property Director, a Finance Director, Heads of Learning, Grants, and Operations & Communications.



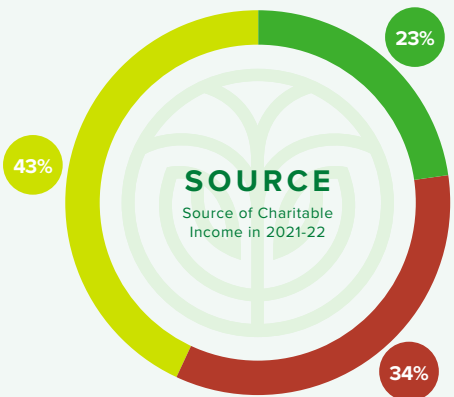
# Financial Statement

The Ernest Cook Trust is one of the UK's foremost funders and providers of Outdoor Learning for disadvantaged children and young people. We care for 9,000 hectares of land across six counties from Cumbria to Dorset, which serves as both an asset and an Outdoor Learning resource.

Surplus income from our estates, together with returns on our investment portfolio, fund our charitable work. This is augmented by grant funding from the public and third sector. By strategically curating our funds and collaborations in this way, we increase the scale, impact and influence of our work.

Our full Annual Report & Accounts can be found on the Charity Commission website.

The source of funds and the components of our charitable spend are shown opposite.



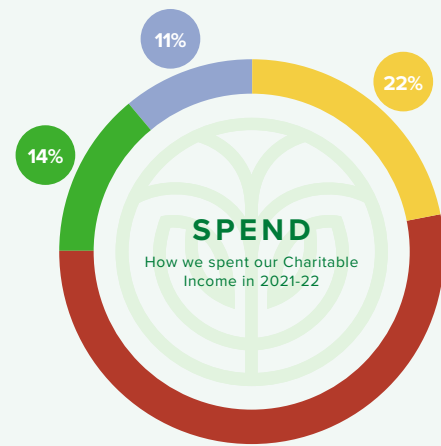
**TOTAL INCOME**  
£1,810,942



**ESTATE CONTRIBUTION**

**EXTERNAL RESTRICTED FUNDING**

**INVESTMENTS**



**TOTAL EXPENDITURE**  
£2,917,888



**GRANTS - UNRESTRICTED**

**GRANTS- RESTRICTED**

**DIRECT LEARNING**

**LEARNING SUPPORT COSTS**

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The Ernest Cook Trust Legal and Administrative details for the year ended 31 March 2022

Registered Company  
No. 07907411

Registered Charity  
No. 1146629

Registered Office and  
principal address:

THE ESTATE OFFICE  
FAIRFORD PARK  
FAIRFORD  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE  
GL7 4JH

### Trustees

**Andrew W M Christie-Miller**  
Chairman

**Harry M Henderson DL**

**Simon F Eliot**

**Sir Bertie Ross KCVO**

**Mary E Riall**

**Jenefer D Greenwood OBE**

### Senior Management Team

**Dr Victoria M Edwards OBE FRICS FAAV**  
Chief Executive and Company Secretary

**Sara B Rostant**  
Executive Assistant and Head of  
Operations

**Michael A Birnie MRICS FAAV**  
Property Director

**Suzie R Paton**  
Head of Grants

**Emily M E Crawley**  
Head of Learning

**Gary McDonald**  
Interim Finance Director

### Committees

**Finance and Investment**  
(inc. Audit and Risk Management)

**Andrew W M Christie-Miller**  
Chairman

**Harry M Henderson DL**

### Estates

**Sir Bertie Ross KCVO**  
Chairman

**Jenefer D Greenwood OBE**

**Ian Monks FRICS (adviser)**

### Everything Outdoors

**Simon F Eliot**  
Chairman

**Mary E Riall**

**Mohammed Dhalech**  
Ex officio advisor

### Green Influencers Scheme

**Mary E Riall**  
Chair

### The OWL Collaboration

**Simon F Eliot**  
Chairman

### Advisers

#### Banker

National Westminster Bank plc  
32 Market Place  
Cirencester  
Gloucestershire GL7 2NU

#### Solicitors

Charles Russell Speechlys LLP  
Compass House  
Lypiatt Road  
Cheltenham  
Gloucestershire GL50 2QJ

Payne Hicks Beach  
10 New Square  
Lincoln's Inn  
London WC2A 3QG

#### Auditor

Price Bailey LLP  
24 Old Bond Street  
London W1S 4AP

#### Investment Adviser

Cazenove Capital Management  
1, London Wall Place  
London EC2Y 5AU



**1952 – 2022**  
**70 YEARS LEARNING FROM THE LAND**

## Our History

### An extraordinary legacy

Seventy years ago, a remarkable story began when a shy, unassuming English gentleman bequeathed his estates to the charity that bears his name - The Ernest Cook Trust.

His generous bequest created an extraordinary legacy that has since benefited many thousands of children and young people, their families and communities, particularly those who are disadvantaged.

The latest chapter of this story is recorded here in this Annual Report.

### A bright future

It is a privilege to continue the important work Ernest Cook began, helping to nurture a lifelong journey of learning, appreciation and respect for the countryside.

Our success emanates from a diverse range of people at the Trust who share the wealth of their skills and abilities, working together as one.

If you get a small group of people together who are passionate about something and put everything they've got into it, it's amazing what you can achieve.

Dr Victoria Edwards OBE, Chief Executive, The Ernest Cook Trust





**Fairford Park, Fairford, Gloucestershire GL7 4JH**

**Office 01285 712492 Email [hello@ernestcooktrust.org.uk](mailto:hello@ernestcooktrust.org.uk) Web [www.ernestcooktrust.org.uk](http://www.ernestcooktrust.org.uk)**

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