

# Annual Review 2019



**Malvern Hills Trust**

Registered charity no. 515804



# Contents

Chairman's introduction. . . . .	4
CEO's report . . . . .	6
Trustees and committees during the period . . . . .	7
Staff. . . . .	8
About us . . . . .	9
New land acquired . . . . .	10
Wardening . . . . .	11
Boosting biodiversity . . . . .	13
Fighting for native species. . . . .	14
Future of woodland secured. . . . .	14
Recovery of Worcestershire's rarest butterfly . . . . .	15
Pond restoration. . . . .	15
The value of volunteers . . . . .	16
Access works . . . . .	17
Disabled Ramblers . . . . .	17
Malverns by Mountain Bike . . . . .	18
Grant success for access improvements at the Community Woodland . . . . .	18
Results from our visitor survey . . . . .	19
Discover the Nature of the Malverns . . . . .	20
Financial review 2018/19 . . . . .	21
Countryside Stewardship (CS) and Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) . . . . .	21
Principal funding sources . . . . .	22
Donations and legacies . . . . .	23
How the charity's money is used. . . . .	24
Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31st March 2019 . . . . .	25
Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2019 . . . . .	26



## Chairman's introduction

Like that of many public bodies, most of the work of the Trust normally proceeds unnoticed (unless interrupted by a newsworthy crisis) so this review is designed to inform the public, whose interests we serve, about what we do and what we plan to do with the assets that we care for on your behalf.



Early conservators (1900's) including Mr Fred Ballard (sat with bowler hat on front row) and Mrs Mary Ballard (lady sat in centre).

While doing the essential day to day work, we too are continually adapting to changing times and our biggest challenge is to bring our organisation from the 19<sup>th</sup> century into the 21<sup>st</sup>. That is the purpose of the Charity Commission Scheme which has occupied so much of our energy and resources this year; amending our constitution and powers with the aim to improve the Trust's fitness to fulfil its obligations and duties in the future, not least by improving our operational efficiency and empowering our fundraising potential. All of this is against a background of diverse public opinion, environmental enlightenment, increased visitor pressure, economic and compliance constraints and nature, as always, doing what it will.

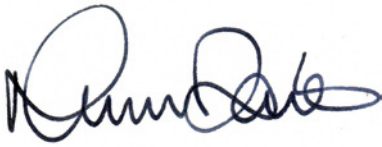
In our work we are blessed with a great team, or rather with three great teams, all of whom have earned our thanks. Our energetic and committed staff, ably led by Duncan Bridges, do everything from the mundane collection of rubbish, through biodiversity planning to negotiating Government contracts.



Our Trustees bring their special skills, enthusiasm and experience to guide the direction of travel, to development of policy and to key decision making. And our volunteers and friends, the most important group, work on the hills and in the office doing a lot of the 'feet on the ground' tasks that keep our landscape and our paperwork in good order. New people are always welcome to our sociable and friendly team whatever your skills; we all enjoy getting together and doing stuff but it is notable that the volunteers always seem to be having the most fun.

Last year we spread the word about the value of legacies and this year we have received some very generous donations to support the cost of taking care of the hills. Our heartfelt thanks go to those special friends who have chosen to help nurture our wonderful landscape.

We hope you find this report both interesting and informative and, whether you view us from afar or are a close neighbour or a welcome visitor, we wish you enjoyment of our delightful hills and commons.



**Mick Davies** (Chair from June 2019)



Bench at Westminster Bank

## CEO's report

The Malvern Hills are always popular with the public, both with locals and those from further afield, who come here to walk, ride and even paraglide through this very special landscape.

Throughout the year the Trust spends a large proportion of its time and resources keeping the land in good order – whether it be cutting the open grass areas and pathways, managing the trees and scrub, conserving the protected species and habitats, looking after the car parks and disabled access tracks or simply patrolling the 1200 ha (3000 acres) just to protect it against encroachment, misuse or damage.

Alongside this regular workload there have been a number of other projects or major events that have been undertaken in this last 12 months. The beginning of the financial year saw the completion of the major refurbishment of the St Ann's Well building, while spring saw the designation of Malvern Common as a Site of Special Scientific Interest – a designation that vindicated the many years of hard work spent by the Trust on bringing the management of that common into good condition.



Malvern Common flora © Jane Smith

During the dry summer, we suffered several fires – including a substantial blaze at West of England Quarry in July which burnt out around 4 acres of habitat - while all through the year there were a number of major infrastructure works by utility companies that required careful monitoring and control to minimise their damage.

In the following winter and spring of 2019, the local media focussed on the Trust as our Board considered an application for an easement to serve a large housing development alongside Chance Lane – an application that was refused.

We made some significant steps in the preparation of our Charity Commission Scheme – a scheme to update our Acts and enable the Trust to be better equipped for the 21st century – along with plans for both the refurbishment of the Belvedere at Wyche Cutting and for the renovation of the last Donkey Shed on the hills. These we anticipate will come to fruition in the coming year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Duncan Bridges'.

**Duncan Bridges, CEO**



# Trustees and committees during the period

## Elected Trustees

Priory Ward:	Peter Watson <i>FAR</i>
Chase Ward:	Sarah Stewart
Wells Ward:	Simon Freeman <i>LM</i> (Board Chair)
West Ward:	Charles Penn <i>FAR, SC and GC</i>
Dyson Perrins Ward:	David Hawkins <i>LM</i>
Malvern Link Ward:	Richard Bartholomew <i>FAR and GC</i>
Pickersleigh Ward:	Peter Forster <i>LM and SC</i>
Colwall Parish:	Helen Stace <i>LM, SC and GC</i> Stephen Braim <i>LM and GC</i>
Guarlford Parish:	David Street <i>FAR</i>
Mathon Parish:	Christopher Rouse <i>LM</i>

Note: FAR - sat on Finance, Administration and Resources Committee

GC - sat on Governance Committee

LM - sat on Land Management Committee

SC - sat on Staffing Committee

## Nominated Trustees

Malvern Hills District Council:	Roger Hall-Jones <i>LM</i> Chris O'Donnell <i>LM</i> Caroline Bovey (resigned 18th March 2019) Pamela Cumming Mick Davies <i>FAR and SC</i> John Michael <i>LM</i> James O'Donnell Sarah Rouse <i>FAR and GC</i> (Board Vice Chair)
Colwall Parish Council:	Gwyneth Rees <i>LM and SC</i>
Mathon Parish Council:	David Baldwin <i>LM and SC</i>
Church Commissioners:	David Bryer <i>FAR and GC</i>
Herefordshire Council:	Emma Holton
Worcestershire County Council:	John Raine <i>FAR, SC and GC</i> Lucy Hodgson <i>FAR</i>
Worcestershire County Council on behalf of the following parishes:-	
Castlemorton:	Angus Golightly <i>LM</i>
Newland:	Tom Yapp <i>LM</i>
Powick:	Martin Cordey <i>FAR</i>

## Staff

Chief Executive Officer:	Duncan Bridges
Secretary to the Board:	Susan Satchell
Conservation Manager:	Jonathan Bills
Operations Manager:	Paul Saunder
Finance and Administration Manager:	Cheryl Gentry
Conservation Officer:	Andy Pearce
Community and Conservation Officer:	Beck Baker
Finance Assistant:	Lisa Curtis
Administrative Assistant:	Cindy Parish
Wardens:	Robin Hill, Richard Vale, Simon Roberts
Field Staff:	George Banner, Martin Cottrell, Nick Cowling (from November 2018), Simon Davies, Anthony Griffiths (to September 2018), Duncan Patterson, Neil Tilley



Field Staff clearing fallen tree



## About us

Malvern Hills Trust was established by an Act of Parliament in 1884 and four subsequent Acts (1909, 1924, 1930 and 1995). It is an unincorporated charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, number 515804. Malvern Hills Trust is the working name of the Malvern Hills Conservators.



Malvern Hills ridge

Malvern Hills Trust was set up to protect the hills and commons under its jurisdiction, in particular to:

- preserve the natural aspect of the hills,
- protect and manage trees, shrubs, turf and other vegetation,
- prevent unlawful digging and quarrying,
- keep the hills open, unenclosed and unbuilt on as open spaces for the recreation and enjoyment of the public.

Malvern Hills Trust is also obliged under other legislation to:

- conserve and enhance biodiversity, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Scheduled Monuments on its land.

The Trust owns and manages 3,000 acres of the iconic Malvern Hills landscape from the open hilltops, to the wooded slopes, to the wide, tree-lined verges and the lowland commons.

In order to meet its purposes and to conserve and manage these habitats each year, the Malvern Hills Trust carries out a programme of conservation and maintenance work as guided by the adopted [Land Management Plan](#). This includes open habitat restoration, woodland management, implementation of a grazing programme, archaeological conservation and repair, mowing and path maintenance to facilitate access, habitat restoration, litter picking and other general maintenance work.

The Hills and Commons are visited more than 1 million times per year and the Trust provides and maintains infrastructure for visitors and local people including path repair, car park maintenance, benches and visitor information.

**This Annual Review highlights some of the key projects and other work the Trust has undertaken for the period from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019.**

## New land acquired

Since its original formation back in 1884, the area of land protected by MHT has grown considerably and, in 2018-19, the Trust managed to acquire a further 10.5 hectares (26 acres). Purchase of these plots mean that further pieces of the Hills and Commons landscape are now protected in perpetuity, with more land open to the public for their enjoyment.

Near to Holywell Road we have acquired 0.2 hectares (0.5 acres) of the Hills themselves. This land will be maintained as a mix of native woodland and scrub. A number of veteran trees are present and no doubt home to bats which roost in the holes and cracks.

At Castlemorton Common, the Trust has one field within the common called 'Lidiards' and three fields adjacent to the Common. These purchases will give protection to these attractive, tree-lined enclosed fields and they will provide essential in-bye land. In-bye are the fenced fields adjacent to open hills and commons which provide a safer place for lambing, shearing, medical treatment and somewhere to feed the livestock when there's little food left on the Common. In-bye land plays an essential role in facilitating the careful management of the sensitive, designated lands next-door.

Plans to improve these fields are well-underway. Replacement fencing and water troughs will be added soon and, in winter, our Trustees will be helping to plant over 300m of new, native hedges and trees typical of the area's landscape character.



MHT staff visit new land



## Wardening

With over 3000 acres to patrol the wardens' job is never a dull one. Daily tasks can include litter picking and emptying bins, clearing fly-tipping, clearing paths, repairing signs, checking car parks and advising the public, dealing with illegal camping, clearing fires and BBQs, liaising with utility companies and local residents, to name but a few.

To help with the mammoth task of surveying this landscape we've seen an increase in volunteer reporting wardens. We now have 17 reporting wardens dotted around the hills keeping an eye on their 'own patch'. This involves regularly patrolling an area, litter picking and reporting any issues. Along with our regular volunteer wardens this is a valuable part of caring for the hills and commons.

In response to reports of incidents we have introduced a new fishing permit scheme at Clevelode. The fishing there is now checked on a regular basis by a volunteer water bailiff and this has greatly reduced incidents of anti-social behaviour and illegal fish trapping.

Sometimes we need a little extra help and so we work closely with the emergency services. We have spent a number of days with both the Police and Fire Service at Gullet Quarry, warning people of the dangers associated with cold water swimming and pointing out that it is illegal under the byelaws to be in the quarry. After the serious fire on the west side of the hills last year one of the wardens also spent a day with the Fire Service on a wild fire training course.



Disposable BBQ and resultant fire damage on Castlemorton Common






Wardens providing visitor information © Philip Osbourn

Here are just some of the issues that the wardens have tackled over 12 months on the Hills and Commons.


 **9** reports  
of **fires**

 More than **60** site attendances  
to **utility and service**  
**works** on the Trust's land

**8** incidents  
reported of  
**fly tipping** 

 An estimated **300**  
**barbeques** lit on the Hills  
and Commons during the year

 **5** incidents of  
**abandoned cars**

**8** incidents of **model**  
**aircraft/drones**   
being flown without licence

**4** incidents of people **driving on the common**  
including one report of a driver trying to avoid roadworks





## Boosting biodiversity

A diverse range of habitats makes an attractive place and supports a diverse suite of wildlife, including rare species. We work to maintain habitats that are in good condition and restore those that have been lost, aiming to create a varied and robust landscape for the future.

For many years MHT has overseen an increase in tree cover. In the 1930's just 50 hectares were wooded whilst today this stands at over 350 hectares. Tree cover has increased across the holding through active tree planting, such as at Wells Common, Malvern, or simply allowing nature to develop its own woods, as at eastern Old Hills, Callow End. Woodlands are super places for cool walks and provide a host of wider public benefits, such as improving air quality.

On the upper Hill slopes, Malvern Common and Castlemorton Common our work continues to maintain and restore the open habitats such as mire, species-rich hay meadows and acid grasslands. This does involve tree felling where the trees are threatening nationally important wildlife. Supporting local graziers to follow the tree felling with cattle and sheep grazing maintains these important open areas.

In partnership with the national conservation body, Natural England, we have provided further information about this in our [Land Management Plan](#) on our website. Open habitats are essential if we are to keep our wealth of wildlife here, including adders, stonechats, meadow pipits, polecats, and the region's rarest butterfly (see page 15).



Biodiverse habitat - a mosaic of open grassland, scrub and woodland

## Fighting for native species

Thanks to a grant from the Forestry Commission, £70,000 has been secured for woodland management and improvement on the Hills. Between Happy Valley and North Quarry non-native, invasive trees such as cherry laurel and turkey oak have been targeted for removal by felling or stem injection. Once felled or dead, this then gives room for our native trees, such as oak, hazel, holly and yew to grow in their place. Removal of cherry laurel also removes dense shade and thick leaf litter allowing our native ground flora such as bluebells and dog's mercury to re-establish.

Increased diversity within the woodland is a benefit for wildlife and visitors alike.

## Future of woodland secured

Almost 600 saplings have been planted in Thirds Wood providing the next generation of trees in this special woodland. Saplings of Norway Spruce, Scots Pine and Hornbeam, donated by local people and visitors, have been planted by a team of Malvern Hills Trust volunteers.

This planting followed woodland management work the previous winter when 99 trees (mainly on the roadside) were removed as recommended by a professional arboriculturalist. The removal of diseased and weak trees allows healthier trees to mature while the spaces created in this wood provided an opportunity to diversify the age structure through new planting and ensure the special 'Little Switzerland' character of this wood is secured in the long-term.

Alongside natural regeneration within the woodland, the new trees will ensure that Thirds Wood remains part of the Malvern Hills' landscape for generations to come. The tree species have been carefully selected to maintain the character of this wood for local people and visitors to enjoy. Wildlife including siskins and crossbills will also benefit from this habitat conservation.

A huge thank you goes out to the kind people who donated saplings for planting in this woodland and the volunteers who donated their time to look after this special place.



MHT volunteers tree planting in Thirds Wood



## Recovery of Worcestershire's rarest butterfly

The grayling butterfly makes its home on the rocky outcrops of the Hills. Loss of this specific habitat in the past has led to a decrease in population numbers, making it Worcestershire's rarest butterfly.

Help is at hand and over this winter, 318 hours of conservation work has been spent cutting scrub and bracken from the major rocky outcrops of the eastern side of North Hill. The bracken and scrub removal has encouraged fine grasses to grow for the caterpillars and opened up bare rock faces essential for the grayling lifecycle. MHT staff and volunteers have been joined in force by members of West Midlands Butterfly Conservation and staff and students from Pershore College. Their efforts have been rewarded in previous years with the numbers of graylings levelling out at 37 individuals in the summer of 2017/18, so we hope for more good news this summer.

For budding enthusiasts, a free butterfly leaflet is available [online](#) and at our offices (while stocks last) with pictures of Malvern's 33 butterfly species. Thanks to West Midlands Butterfly Conservation, Natural England and the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty for their support.

## Pond restoration

Ponds are not the first feature that springs to mind when you think of the Malvern Hills, but we care for over 40 ponds mostly on the verges and commons surrounding the Hills. These ponds are home to an array of special wildlife and many have historical significance too.

Ponds need work to keep them from infilling every few years and we have a rolling programme of pond restoration work. This winter our focus was on the ponds of Malvern Common where a digger carefully excavated two ponds, both of which had much-reduced in size and would have held no water at all in the near-future. The digger also removed an invasive, non-native lily too.

This spring has seen an array of life in the restored ponds, including huge clouds of frog tadpoles, azure damselflies and occasional visits from a stunning kingfisher. Ponds are sensitive ecosystems easily upset by the introduction of garden fish or plants so please support your local pond by not adding anything to it!



Before and after of Malvern Common pond

## The value of volunteers

We were delighted by a surge of interest in the autumn to welcome many new conservation volunteers to our enthusiastic team, who now regularly number over 20 on each individual task to conserve the habitats of the Hills and Commons. The tasks often involve clearing scrub and tree saplings that encroach upon and smother open habitats that are crucial for scarce wild flowers, insects, reptiles, ground-nesting birds and general biodiversity.

Conservation tasks of note this year included:

- extending a patch of acid grassland on the southern slope of Summer Hill and we were thrilled with the resulting spread of the rare shepherd's cress (*Teesdalia nudicaulis*) onto the eastern side of the Shire Ditch, along with other uncommon spring ephemeral plants,
- working in partnership with West Midlands Butterfly Conservation and Pershore College to clear scrub from rocky outcrops on North Hill that are home to the grayling,
- coppicing hazels in Park Wood with a local coppice worker, and tree planting at Thirds Wood as part of the recent woodland restoration works,
- clearing creeping thistle on sensitive sites that are difficult to manage mechanically, for example, areas with numerous ant-hills and their consequent botanical diversity,
- removing trees and scrub from wet flushes around the Hills (wellies required!). One wet area is a long-established bird ringing site where an increase in the abundance and diversity of the recorded birds has been attributed to our habitat improvement.

In addition to the work done by conservation volunteers, we also benefit hugely from our team of office volunteers who provide essential administrative and archiving support.

The year 2019 marks the 20th anniversary of our conservation volunteers' group and we'd like to thank everyone who has supported our charity and helped to care for the Hills during this time. This year alone 580 days have been donated by volunteers.

We frequently work with other groups and organisations and would like to say thank you to the following who have kindly given their time to support us and conserve the Hills and Commons:

- West Midlands Butterfly Conservation,
- Students from Pershore College,
- Environment Agency,
- Malvern Hills Round Table,
- 2nd Malvern Cubs.



Pershore College students, North Hill



## Access works

### Disabled Ramblers

For the first time, disabled visitors using Trampler all-terrain mobility scooters have been able to safely circumnavigate North Hill along the Lady Howard De Walden drive.



Disabled Ramblers' outing on Worcestershire Beacon

We have been able to make improvement works to the surfacing and camber of this popular path thanks to a legacy.

Gifted by a keen walker for path improvements on the Malvern Hills, his wish was to ensure that visitors were able to access the Hills and make the most of this landscape that he loved. We are extremely grateful for this support which has enabled us to open the fantastic views to more visitors. This circular route is one of a number of **easier access routes** on the hills and commons.

Other access improvements have included shoring up Greenfield Path on North Hill and the zig zag path from Earnslaw car park. Local mountain bikers have also been involved in access work to clear overgrown vegetation from a popular bridleway on the slopes of Pinnacle Hill.



### Malverns by Mountain Bike

Cycling on the Hills can be a challenging but rewarding way to explore the landscape and many local riders visit for the views and to keep fit and healthy.

We welcome cyclists on the bridleways and permissive cycle paths across the Hills but a lack of information was making it difficult for riders to know where to ride and plan their route.

This year as part of our Malverns by Mountain Bike campaign we've put together a host of new information for cyclists including a free walking and cycling map and guide featuring all the bridleways, permissive cycle paths and footpaths on the Hills to help mountain bikers find their way. Copies of the maps can be found at local Tourist Information Centres, bike shops, cafes and online from [our website](#).

Map reading can be cumbersome on a bike so we've also provided three signposted routes of 19km, 9km and 6km around the landscape for cycling visitors. Taking in the open hilltops, scenic wooded slopes of the landscape the routes offer the challenge of hilly terrain but are intended for leisurely rides. Maps of the routes are available as GPX files from [our website](#).

Working with local mountain bikers has been key to identify gaps in information for local riders and visitors coming to cycle on the Hills and putting together our signposted routes. The Malvern Hills AONB, Natural England and a variety of other recreation groups have provided advice and funding for this campaign to support cycling on the Hills.

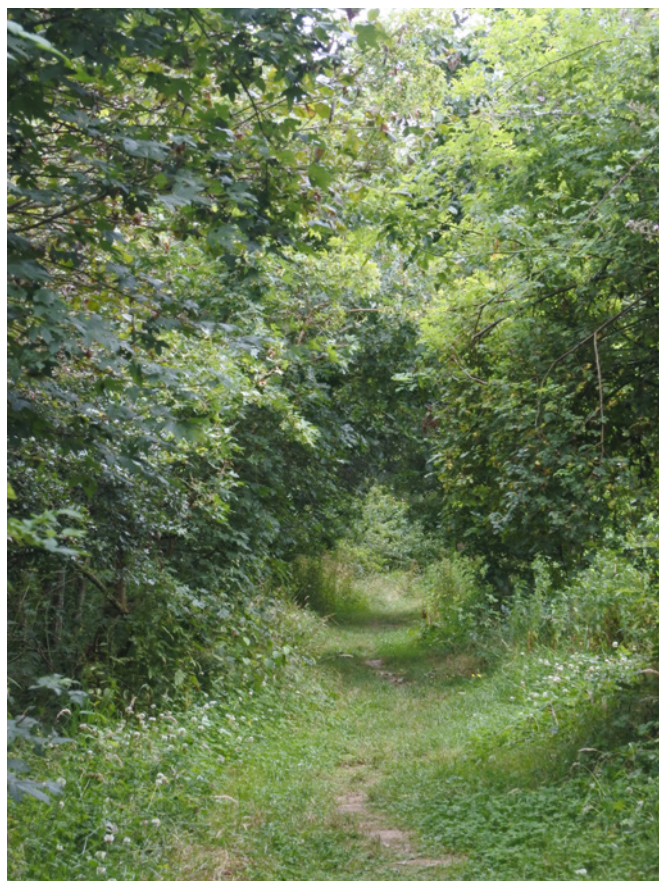
### Grant success for access improvements at the Community Woodland

We're delighted to announce that we have secured £40,000 from Malvern Hills District Council for [access improvement works](#) in the Community Woodland, Townsend Way.

This little-known woodland near to the Morrison's supermarket will benefit from path surfacing, a new bridge, benches and signage to encourage more visitors to get to explore their local green space.



Way marker installation



Community Woodland path



## Results from our visitor survey

Visitor surveys are an important way for us to understand the way in which people visit and use the Hills, their views and opinions, as well as for helping to ensure that resources are directed in the best possible way. In partnership with the Malvern Hills AONB, a visitor survey was carried out on the Malvern Hills and Commons during the summer and autumn of last year. The results revealed many things about the ways in which people use the Hills, including the following:



The average length of stay was **2 hours and 23 minutes**

**81%** of visitors to the area are on a **day visit** or **part day/local visit**



**87%** stated that **nothing had spoilt** their visit



**60%** of visitors are aware of who is **responsible** for the management of the land but only **15%** could name the AONB as a designation that applied to the area



**99%** of visitors rated the level of enjoyment from their visit as **high or very high**

**98%** of visitors rated the management of the land as **good/very good**



These figures together with other data from the survey will be used to help guide our future plans for access works, visitor information and interpretation as well as car parking facilities. A copy of the full report is available on [our website](#).



Visitors at Black Hill



## Discover the Nature of the Malverns

The Nature of the Malverns has become the first book published to cover all aspects of the iconic natural landscape of the Malvern Hills.

Filled with stunning images from local photographers this book is brimming with information about the natural landscape. The book features a range of habitats from woodlands, open hill land, parkland and urban areas which provide a rich and varied collection of wildlife.

A foreword from BBC Radio 4 presenter and author Brett Westwood brings together the importance of this area for local wildlife as well as the geology and conservation of the Malvern Hills.

The Malvern Hills AONB, publishers NatureBureau, and a group of dedicated volunteers, local experts and photographers have brought together this excellent publication.

Copies will be available from Malvern Book Co-operative and the Ledbury Book and Map Shop as well as online from [NatureBureau](#).

All profits from the sales of this book will be put toward the conservation of the Malvern Hills and Commons to keep this landscape wildlife-rich and special for future generations too.



Nature of the Malverns book launch (left to right, David Armitage, Malvern Hills AONB, Jonathan Bills, Malvern Hills Trust, Peter Garner, volunteer botanist)



## Financial review 2018/19

The most recent audited accounts covered the year ended 31st March 2019. The accounts received an unqualified audit report. Significant events (and their financial impact) during that period were:

- Land purchases totalling £421,321 were made (see page 10),
- The Board maintained its policy of updating vehicles, plant and machinery with modern equipment, spending £24,481 on such capital equipment,
- Additionally, the IT systems were upgraded at a cost of £12,039,
- Work on the Charity Commission Scheme continued, with legal costs of £67,887 being charged to the designated fund set aside for this project during the period. The Board approved the transfer of an additional £45,000 to the fund during the year,
- Legal fees of £19,153 were incurred in relation to consideration of an easement application at Chance Lane.

### **Countryside Stewardship (CS) and Higher Level Stewardship (HLS)**

During the 2018/19 period the Trust was successful in gaining entry for one part of its land into a new Countryside Stewardship Scheme agreement (as the successor scheme to the previous Higher Level Stewardship agreement).

Such schemes comprise a major part of the grant income the Trust receives each year (see chart overleaf) and they fund much of the habitat and land management works the Trust undertakes in those areas to which they apply. Securing a new 10 year CS agreement was a significant event for this year and the future management of the Hills.

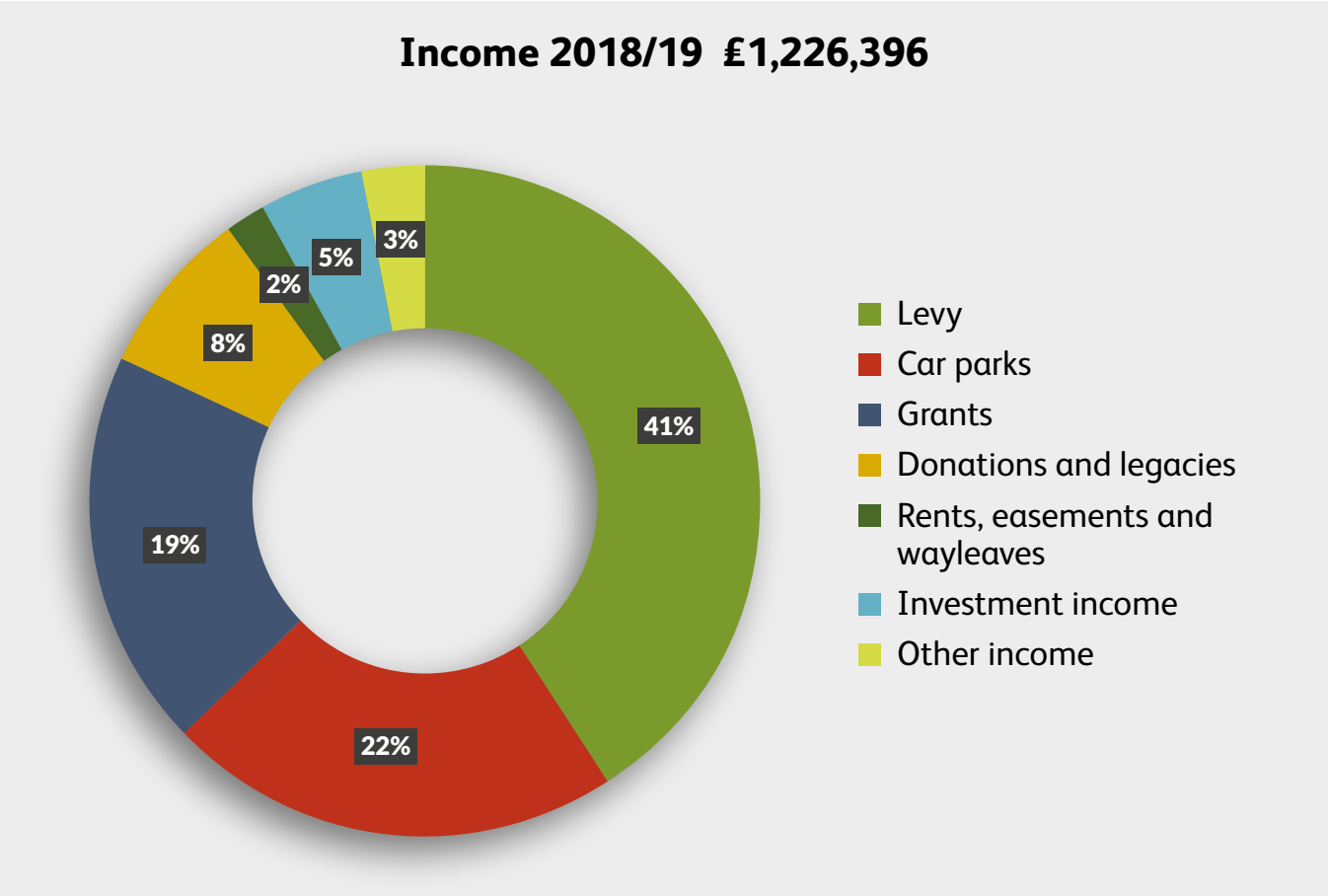
The Trust has other land in existing HLS schemes that are due to expire in the coming years. While the UK government has issued some assurances that such schemes will continue up to 2023, the longer term future for such grant schemes, in particular their eligibility criteria and funding levels, remains unclear for the post-Brexit era.



Sheep grazing, Malvern Hills

# Principal funding sources

The total income to the Trust for the period 2018/19 was £1,226,396, up from £1,042,809 the previous year. The split of this figure across the seven main income sources is shown below.



Under powers in the Malvern Hills Acts, the Malvern Hills Trust charges a levy to Council Tax payers in Malvern Town and the parishes of West Malvern, Malvern Wells, Guarlford, Colwall and Mathon. The average band D levy payable in 2018/19 was £36.05. The total levy received by the charity during the year was £499,250.

Revenue from car parks is the second principal funding source. The total received in 2018/19 was £269,281. Car park takings are used to fund the charity’s work including the general management of the Hills, as well as maintaining the car parks.

The third major funding source is grants received under the Higher Level Stewardship scheme and the new Countryside Stewardship scheme. These provide the funding for conservation works on the hills and commons, in support of the charity’s Land Management Plan 2016-2021 and conservation objectives. The total received during the year was £181,337.



## Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are an important part of our income and help to fund special projects in addition to the ongoing work on the Hills. Donations and legacies received in 2018/19 totalled £94,513 (£12,896 in the previous year). Since the year end, we have been fortunate to benefit from a further significant legacy.

The recent refurbishment of the Belvedere at the Wyche Cutting and the planned restoration of the Donkey Sheds in Happy Valley are both projects that will benefit from legacy funding.

In late 2018 we launched a legacy campaign, producing a new legacies leaflet which was widely distributed and joining the 'Remember a Charity' organisation. A copy of our legacy leaflet can be found on [our website](#).

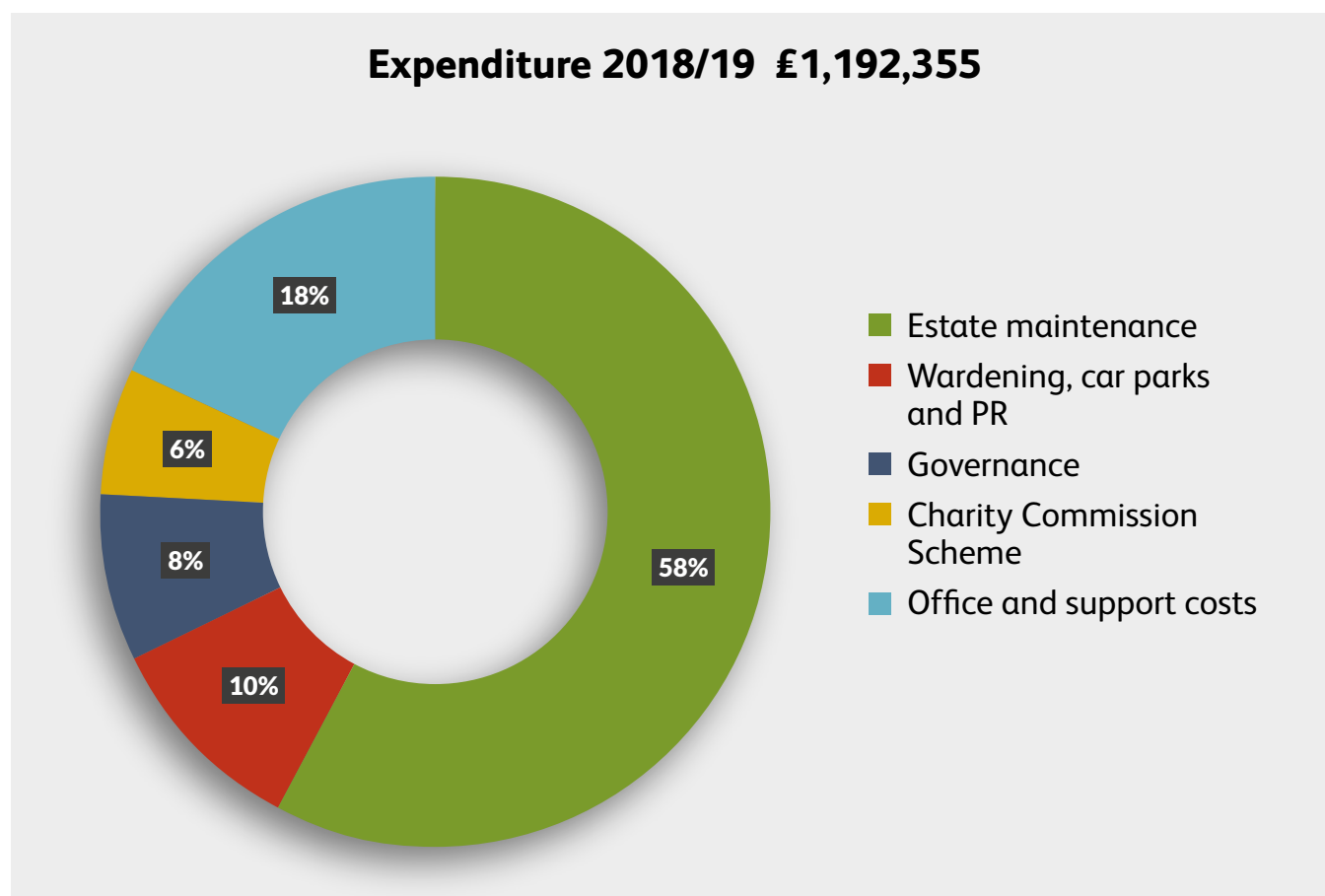
A Fundraising Committee was also established during the year to develop opportunities for increasing the charity's income from donations.



The Belvedere shelter at the Wyche Cutting

## How the charity's money is used

The Trust spent £1,192,355 during the period, up from £1,067,722 in 2017/18. This expenditure is shown on a percentage basis across the five main areas of costs below.



58 % of the total expenditure was on Estate maintenance, which includes:

- Salaries of the Field Staff and Conservation team,
- Grazing costs,
- Direct land management costs such as tree work, contractors and equipment hire,
- Depreciation charges on land management equipment purchased by the charity,
- Legal fees relating to land management issues,
- Insurance.

In addition, a further 10 % of the total expenditure was spent on wardening services, repair and maintenance of the car parks, visitor information, interpretation and public relations. As a result, a total of 68 % was spent in the management and maintenance of the land under the Trust's jurisdiction. Governance costs accounted for 6 % of total expenditure, while a further 6 % has been spent on the Charity Commission scheme (see Financial Review – significant events on page 21).

Office and support costs accounted for 18 % of the year's costs. This included:

- IT costs, office equipment and maintenance,
- Office rates and services (power, water, telephones and broadband),
- Printing, postage and stationery,
- Bank charges,
- Training costs for staff and volunteers.



# Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31st March 2019

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Permanent endowment	Total funds 2019	Total funds 2018
	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	91,659	2,854	0	94,513	12,896
Charitable activities:					
Management of the hills and commons	690,688	40,955	0	731,643	669,881
Car parks	269,281	0	0	269,281	252,975
Other trading activities	32,619	2,354	0	34,973	29,394
Investments:					
Bank deposits	2,665	0	26	2,691	1,573
Investment portfolio	0	4,983	50,736	55,719	60,863
Other	37,576	0	0	37,576	15,227
<b>Total income</b>	<b>1,124,488</b>	<b>51,146</b>	<b>50,762</b>	<b>1,226,396</b>	<b>1,042,809</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities	1,108,800	2,242	74,888	1,185,930	1,067,722
Other expenditures	0	6,425	0	6,425	0
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>1,108,800</b>	<b>8,667</b>	<b>74,888</b>	<b>1,192,355</b>	<b>1,067,722</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	0	7,691	58,165	65,856	(47,865)
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<b>15,688</b>	<b>50,170</b>	<b>34,039</b>	<b>99,897</b>	<b>(72,778)</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	17,345	2,865,748	(2,883,093)	0	0
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>					
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension scheme	(167,000)	0	0	(167,000)	170,000
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(133,967)</b>	<b>2,915,918</b>	<b>(2,849,054)</b>	<b>(67,103)</b>	<b>97,222</b>
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	(892,044)	175,306	2,849,054	2,132,316	2,035,094
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>(1,026,011)</b>	<b>3,091,224</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,065,213</b>	<b>2,132,316</b>

This table is extracted from the audited Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2019, which received an unqualified audit report. Copies of the full report are available to download from [our website](#).

## Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2019

	2019	2018
	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Tangible fixed assets	533,464	487,633
Heritage assets	1,060,261	741,673
Investments	1,541,713	1,763,743
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	<b>3,135,438</b>	<b>2,993,049</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Livestock	25,320	36,120
Debtors	364,641	247,237
Short term deposits	484,856	641,287
Cash at bank and in hand	200	543
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>875,017</b>	<b>925,187</b>
<b>Creditors:</b> Amounts falling due within one year	111,242	143,920
<b>Net Current Assets excluding pension liability</b>	763,775	781,267
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>3,899,213</b>	<b>3,774,316</b>
Pension Fund liability	1,834,000	1,642,000
<b>Net Assets including pension liability</b>	<b>2,065,213</b>	<b>2,132,316</b>
The funds of the charity		
Unrestricted - General Fund	311,064	310,045
Unrestricted - Designated Funds	496,925	439,911
Unrestricted - Pension Fund	(1,834,000)	(1,642,000)
Restricted Funds	3,091,224	175,306
Permanent Endowment	0	2,849,054
<b>Total charity funds</b>	<b>2,065,213</b>	<b>2,132,316</b>

This table is extracted from the audited Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2019, which received an unqualified audit report. Copies of the full report are available to download from [our website](#).





Bridleway on British Camp





If you'd like to keep up to date with the work of the Trust, view our [Latest News](#) on our website or [sign up](#) to our e-newsletter.

Malvern Hills Trust is the working name of the Malvern Hills Conservators. Registered charity number 515804.

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**Malvern Hills Trust**