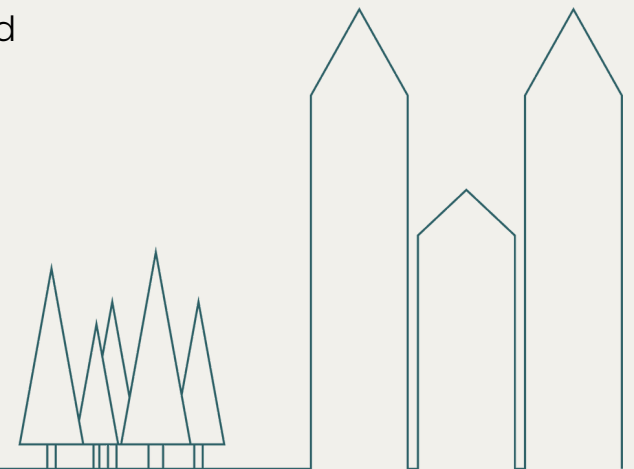




Annual summary 2023

This report gives some examples of what we did in 2023.
We awarded £4.72m to eight charities.

This year, Lund Trust's new Donor Board – Lisbet Rausing and Sigrid Koerner – awarded their first grants for work that aims to green people's lives in the UK. We also appointed our Advisory Board – Fergus Garrett, Duncan Laird, Thuy Nguyen, George Morris, Lucas Ruzo and Simon Chaplin – with whom we discussed plans for work on urban greening. We will share these plans and make new grants focused on urban greening in 2024.



Lund Trust's vision is a UK where everyone benefits from and enjoys thriving nature.

We aim to fund transformative work that greens people's lives.

Highlights from 2023

Citizen Zoo

Citizen Zoo was set up in 2018. It is a community interest company focused on rewilding, particularly in urban areas of the UK. Its work is split into three areas: reintroducing water voles, large marsh grasshoppers and beavers to the wild; rewilding and restoring farmland and a nature reserve in Kingston, Greater London; and 'rewilding people', which supports young carers to connect with nature, promotes nature-friendly dog walking, and provides ecotherapy.

In 2023, in partnership with the Ealing Wildlife Group, other local groups and Ealing Council, Citizen Zoo released five beavers at Paradise Fields, Ealing. Citizen Zoo hopes the project will be a catalyst for wider beaver reintroductions in London.

We gave Citizen Zoo a grant of £90,000 over three years in 2021, to support the organization's development and work towards our shared aim that people and nature thrive together.

Right: Citizen Zoo with its partners at the Ealing beaver release.

Photo credit: Caroline Farrow

Internships

Our interns research issues we are interested in to help guide our future grant-making.

We had two interns in 2023, Danielle Banks and Emma Wells. Danielle researched noise pollution in the UK. Her report emphasised the need for small, specialist organizations to collaborate with large charities. Emma researched light pollution in the UK. Her work highlighted the need for stronger legislation on light pollution and better guidance and networks for Local Planning Authorities. We collaborated with the Pilgrim Trust on Emma's internship.

You can read our interns' reports on our [website](#).



Thames 21

In the summer, we made a grant of £1.75m over five years for [Thames21's](#) EMPOWER Rivers project.

Sam Bentley-Toon, the programme manager for the project, says: "London's rivers are in poor ecological health. They have been heavily modified: straightened, often locked-up in concrete channels or even sent underground, and they suffer from poor water quality with pollution from road run-off and sewage. Some Londoners are unaware of these issues, whilst others care passionately but don't always know how they can act to bring about change".

EMPOWER Rivers will help Londoners to act to protect and restore their rivers. The project launched in late 2023. In 2024, it will select the first of four large-scale restoration projects that it will do over the five years of this grant. It will start a community grant scheme to provide Londoners with the resources they need to restore and monitor rivers and develop new training to ensure they have the right knowledge and skills. Thames21 will also improve the way it collects and shares citizen science data.

We are pleased to report that Thames21 and Enfield Council won the 2023 Ashden Award for Nature-Based Solutions, sponsored by Lund Trust.



Sussex Lund

Sussex Lund funds small-scale, practical projects that improve the ecology and landscape of the High Weald and the towns, villages and hamlets within and around it. It also supports projects that help people experience and build connections to the landscape. It is run by the High Weald National Landscape team. Since 2016, Sussex Lund has supported 294 projects with more than £1.2 million in grants.

2023 was the eighth year of Sussex Lund. The programme received 39 applications. The panel awarded £225,214 to 32 projects run by landowners and managers, community groups, parish and town councils, local authorities and schools.

In 2024 we will launch the Lund Fellowships, which will support training, travel and research, helping people to build their knowledge of ways they can improve the High Weald and to share their insights to inspire others.

Friends of Creatureland

In 2022, Sussex Lund gave a grant to the Friends of Creatureland. The group manages fourteen acres of land in Heathfield, comprising wildflower meadows, a large pond, and an ancient woodland.

The Friends of Creatureland aim to increase biodiversity through habitat creation and sensitive management. They also provide a space for the community to gather and volunteer in nature.

The grant helped restore a neglected part of the woodland by coppicing overgrown trees. Hazel coppice is an important habitat for many species. Bringing this site back into management will create a wider variety of habitat that will support more plants and animals.

The grant also helped create a community orchard with local and heritage fruit tree varieties.



Gifts in 2023

Grantee	Project	Amount	Duration
Total		£4.72m	
Thames21	Towards the EMPOWER Rivers programme.	£1.75m	Five years
River Action UK	Towards core costs.	£75k	Three years
Pesticide Action Network UK	Towards core costs.	£200k	Four years
Trees for Cities	Towards core costs.	£150k	Three year
Youth Environmental Service	Towards a pilot programme of paid, nature-based work placements for young people.	£50k	One year
Green Alliance	To support collaboration between environmental NGOs.	£248k	Two years
The National Archives	To digitize the National Farm Survey and make the records freely available online.	£2.1m	Four years
East Sussex County Council	Sussex Lund.	£147k	Ongoing

In 2023, we also made gifts to a range of other causes our donors especially care about. You can find information on all our grants on our [website](#) and [360 Giving](#).

Find out more on our website.

