

Who we are

Back in 1991, Severn Gorge Countryside Trust (SGCT) was set up as an independent Charity and registered company to manage, protect and conserve 260 hectares of land, most of which is set within the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site. As a charity we are accountable to our governance body – the Board of Trustees which is made up of local member organisations and independent trustees.

What we do

We are responsible for managing over half the land in the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site which has a diverse range of habitats, including wild flower meadows, woodlands and heathlands.

But that's not all... we maintain over 20 kilometres of footpaths, conserve and protect 60 historic structures, run exciting Outdoor Learning and Volunteering Programmes to encourage local people and visitors to engage with the natural environment in a variety of ways. We also have a volunteer shepherd scheme known as the 'Lookers' who help look after the rare breed flock of Soay sheep that graze our meadows.

The Trust is also a key employer of local contractors who assist us in managing the landscape for the benefit of locals and visitors to the area alike.



Severn Gorge Countryside Trust

The Trust's aim is to promote, protect and conserve the living landscape of the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site

Find us at:

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REG CHARITY NO. 1004508



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Front page photo: Benthall Edge woods © Mike Ashton

Find out more



How we are funded

Managing 260 hectares of land within a World Heritage Site is expensive as we have many responsibilities, from conserving historic structure to nationally important landscapes which include rare species and recreation routes full of steps, bridges and boardwalks.

Keeping it managed to a high standard for all to enjoy whilst protecting the heritage for future generations involves a large amount of financial, staff, contractor and volunteer resources. When the Trust was gifted the land on a 999 year lease from the former Telford Development Corporation in 1991, we were also entitled to a proportion of income generated from a number of business properties which can only be spent on managing the land. This funding enables the Trust to fulfil some of its objectives but we also work hard to raise income from other sources including grants towards land management.

Where possible we aim to generate income from the sale of timber from woodland operations and hay from our meadows.



Why we do it

The work we do aims to achieve the following via our Development Strategy:

- to enhance a living and working landscape that retains its locally distinctive characteristics, habitats and species populations
- to provide inspiring experiences of the natural world and encourage people to manage their local environment through volunteering opportunities
- to conserve and interpret where appropriate all features of cultural and historical significance
- to provide high quality access for informal recreation for the enjoyment of all and to encourage outdoor activity for the benefits of health and well being
- to develop and promote a wider awareness and understanding of the Trust's work

free to explore!

