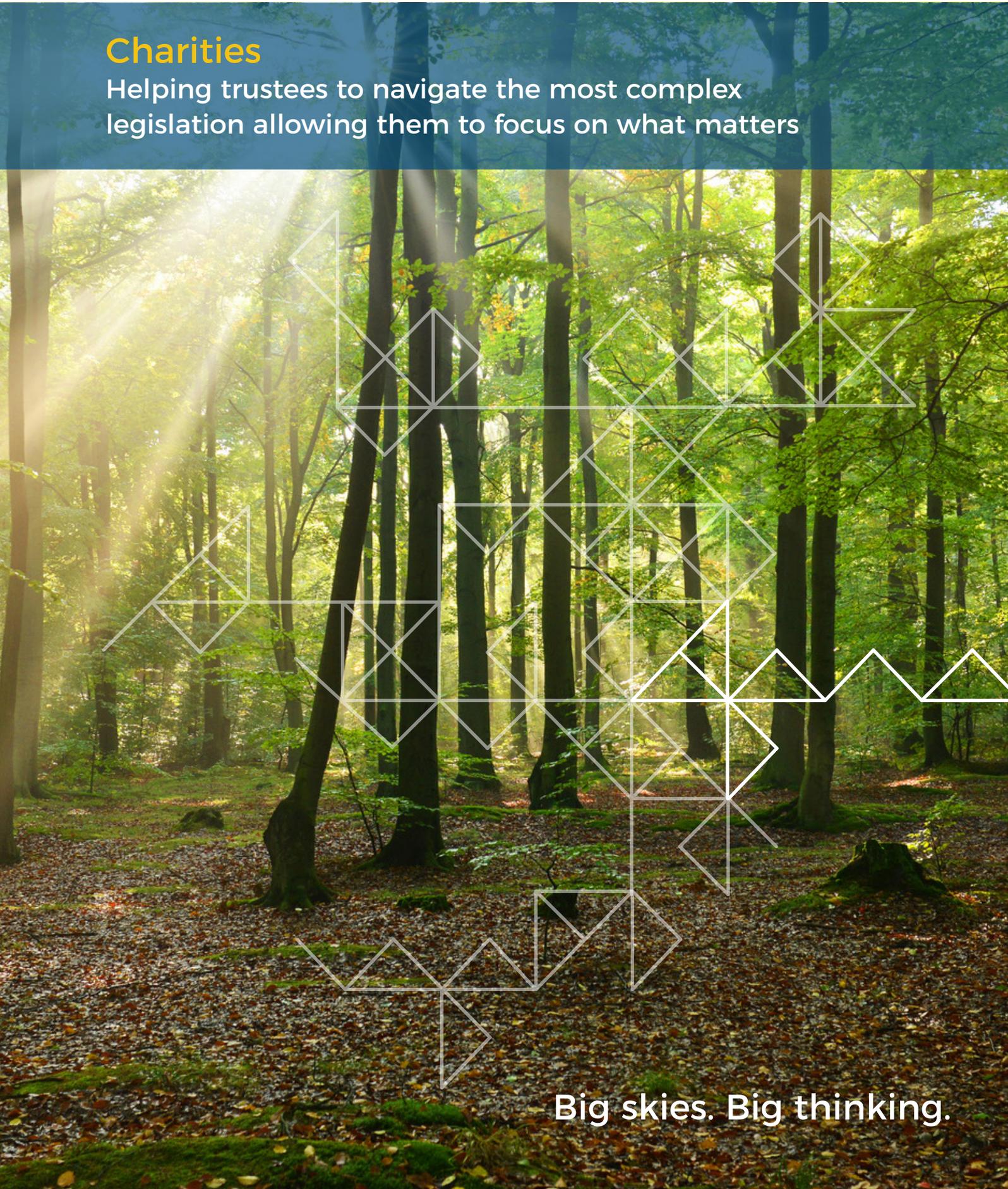


## Charities

Helping trustees to navigate the most complex legislation allowing them to focus on what matters



Big skies. Big thinking.

# Charity sector expertise

Going the extra mile for our clients

Our advice adds value to charities of any size and at any stage in their development



**As with many of our areas of expertise, the Roythornes' Charities team has evolved over recent years and has become an increasingly important part of our business. We pride ourselves on our diverse sector offering, which includes specialist charity law expertise and knowledge of agriculture and land-related issues.**

We have vast experience in the most complex of matters pertinent to charitable and other not-for-profit organisations. We thrive on being able to assist such organisations in resolving intricate issues and disputes whether relating to governance, business-as-usual operations or potential transactional deals. As well as being able to look after the legal and commercial needs of any charity, we also assist trustee boards in relation to their duties and regulatory requirements so they can focus on delivering the work that really matters.



## Specialist advice

Roythornes has extensive experience in the challenges that face charities in the modern world – whether in terms of achieving the initial charitable registration status, ensuring the charity and its trustees continue to meet the raft of regulatory requirements or resolving commercial or internal conflicts and disputes.

We are often called upon to help out with matters where trustees have previously been poorly advised, such as in terms of regulatory compliance, Charity Commission requirements and expectations, land, property and asset ownership transfers and management, grants and subsidy schemes, ecclesiastical matters and the like. The team can confidently give trustees support on any of these issues and we have the sector knowledge and expertise to unravel the most disconcerting of situations, alongside providing pragmatic advice on more standard concerns.

## Advisors to the community

As a firm we are involved in local and national pro-bono services. The local Pro-Help Group (part of Business in the Community) aims to support voluntary organisations with free professional advice and guidance. The group is made up of firms from the Peterborough area who provide free-of-charge services to local community projects in the region.

Many of our trusted advisors are members of the Charity Law Association (CLA) or the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP). As a firm, Roythornes belongs to the Charities' Property Association, a national forum for those involved in the management of charity property assets. Our membership enables us to keep up to date with the latest developments for the benefit of our clients.

## Working with the clients of charities

As several members of the Charities' team are themselves trustees for various active charities, they have a very hands-on approach. They are aware of the traps and pitfalls that trustees may have to deal with, particularly in respect of Charity Commission regulations, and will ensure your charity complies whilst running efficiently.

## Best practice

We appreciate that paperwork and documentation for a number of charities is often not quite as it should be. The primary charitable focus takes precedence; and limited budgets, coupled with changes in trustees, personnel and advisors over the years, can often lead to a muddled and incomplete picture. Roythornes can assist you with a thorough review, together with practical advice on how to get matters in order, even if information is simply not available. We are often called on as recognised experts to resolve complex issues or disputes - we would prefer to spend our time helping you ensure that these do not arise.

## Our services

- Setting up a charity, general charity formation and Charity Commission registration
- Governance and compliance with regulations and trustees' duties
- Creation, administration and variation of charitable trusts
- Advice on GDPR and other regulatory matters
- Mergers and collaborative working
- Employment advice including service contracts, employment and consultancy contracts advice on employee disciplinary processes
- Funding issues and commercial arrangements
- Acquisitions, disposals, letting and development of property
- Commercial contracts and procurement
- Administration of estates (including buying and selling charitable land)
- Advice on effective legacy administration, including defence litigation arising out of will disputes with disappointed beneficiaries
- Advice on corporate structuring, including setting up and administering a trading subsidiary
- Review of property assets, including dealing with lost deeds, updating property titles to reflect changes in trustees and land registration



**1000**  
**COMPANIES TO INSPIRE**  
**BRITAIN** 2017

## Roythornes is a top 150 law firm with a strong focus on charities, property, commercial and individual services.

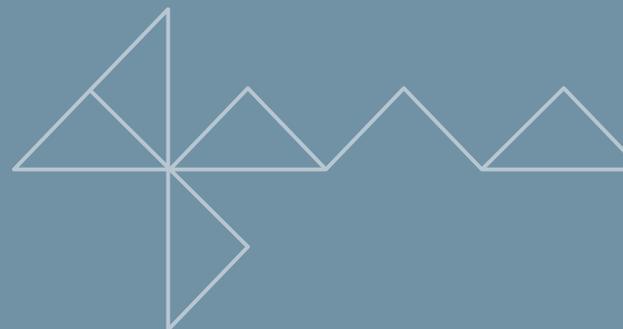
It is the combination of technical expertise, personal attention and commercial acumen that sets us apart.

### Examples of our work ...

- A large national children's charity has a portfolio of shops and offices which needs active management to maximise use and minimise overheads. Working closely with their head office property team, we act rapidly and efficiently to ensure that the portfolio is working for the charity at optimum efficiency.
- We worked with one of the UK's biggest conservation charities on a £5m project to purchase and restore 825 acres of ancient woodland in Devon.
- We assisted a small landholding charity with an agricultural tenancy dispute. Poor advice had been given, leading to extensive liability. Deeds needed to be located; years of changes of trustees identified and followed through on property deeds; land registered and

trust powers altered to raise funds to meet liabilities. Once resolved, we worked with the charity to put it on a more stable footing.

- A national charity is busy expanding its landholding by purchasing a number of parcels of land. We are involved in grants and funding arrangements, frequently having to adhere to tight timescales. We have worked with the charity to develop a streamlined system of working and reporting, which ensures that they always know where they stand in terms of progress, fees and timescales.
- We have considerable experience of working with landed estates and commercial businesses on charitable activities within their portfolios.



#### Offices:

Nottingham: 0115 948 455

Spalding: 01775 842500

Peterborough: 01733 558585

Alconbury: 01480 587097

[www.roythornes.co.uk](http://www.roythornes.co.uk)