

Rothbury Borderlands Place Programme

Pen Portrait



John O'Brien
General Manager
The National Trust

John O'Brien is the General Manager for the National Trust properties Cragside and Lady's Well. Leading a large, multi-disciplinary team of staff and volunteers, he is responsible for the operational performance, financial management and strategic development of one of the largest and most complex portfolios cared for by Europe's biggest conservation charity. He has been closely involved in a number of significant projects carried out by the Trust.

In addition to the Grade I listed mansion and 13 other listed buildings and structures on the 1,000 acre grade 1 registered estate, the portfolio includes a Scheduled Ancient Monument at Lady's Well, holiday cottages, residential accommodation and two tenant farms in the Coquet Valley.

John has over 30 years' experience in general management, working in the private, public and charity sectors. He has previously managed a number of culturally significant properties in the region and beyond, including Seaton Delaval Hall in Northumberland and Haddon Hall in Derbyshire, as well as a museum in Staffordshire. In his early career, he worked in local government and the civil service. He has a first degree in Marketing from Lancaster University and a Master's in Heritage Management from the University of Birmingham. Northumberland has been his home for around 24 years now.