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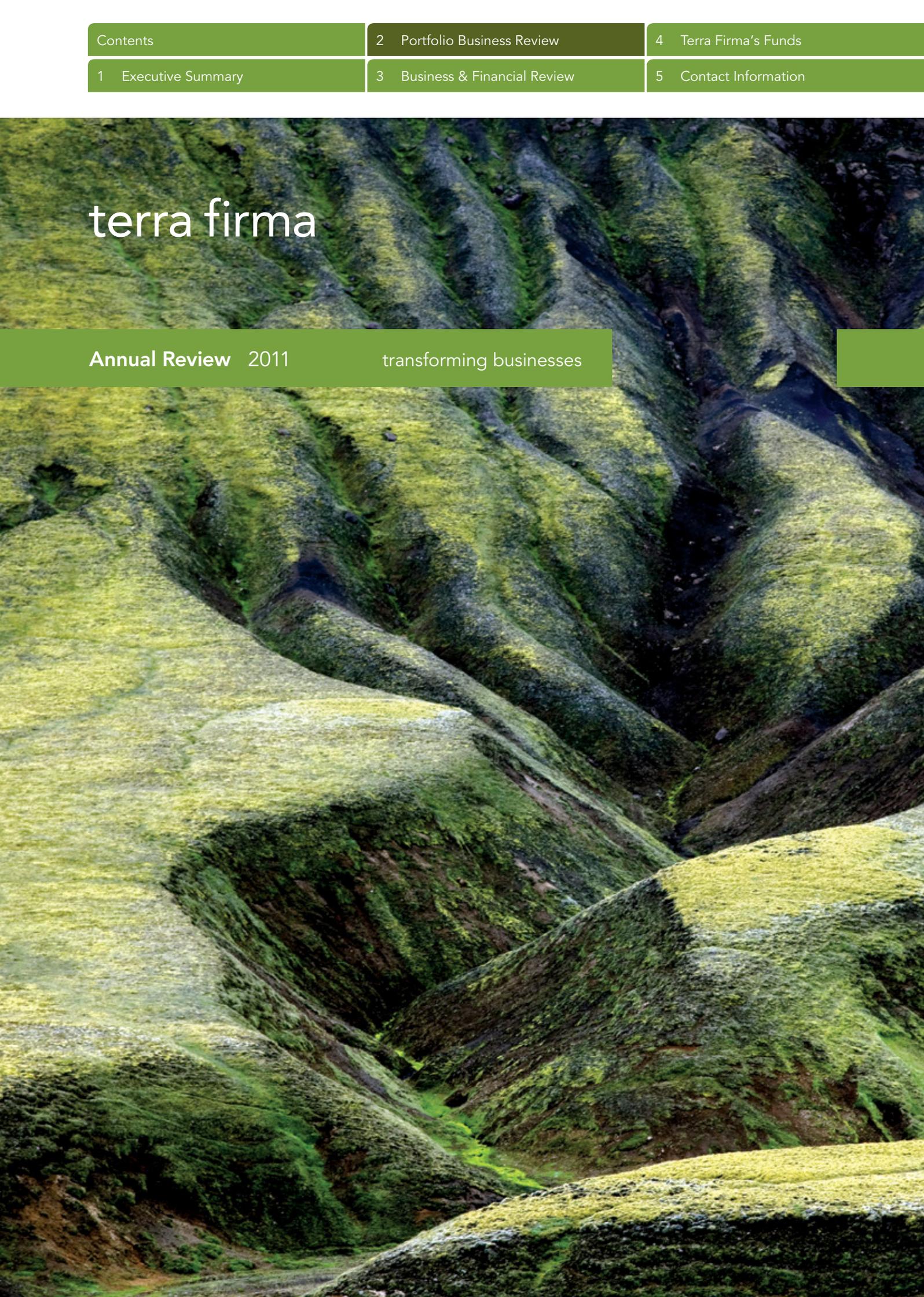
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# terra firma

Annual Review 2011

transforming businesses



Excerpt from the 2011 Annual Review  
**Annington Human Interest Article**

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# ONWARD AND OUTWARD – THE ANNINGTON CHALLENGE



The Annington Trust has teamed up with the Outward Bound Trust to provide potentially life-changing experiences to young people

Set up in 1996, the Annington Trust is dedicated to supporting Armed Forces families living in Service communities. It might be less well known and smaller than the likes of the Army Benevolent Fund, Help for Heroes and the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association, but the Trust is an extremely active charity that has supported a huge variety of youth-focused projects over the past 15 years. The nearly 400 donations it has made have ranged from a few hundred pounds for crèches and schools through to thousands of pounds towards play parks and community centres.

Always looking for new and exciting initiatives, the Trust has recently started working with The Outward Bound Trust. This educational charity is dedicated to providing access to challenging, adventurous experiences that will help 9-24 year olds raise their self-confidence and equip them with essential skills for their future, regardless of their background or financial situation.

For 2012, the Trust has set up a pilot scheme – the Annington Challenge – that will see up to 50 children from Service families take part in an Outward Bound® course in some of the most stunning wilderness locations in the UK. The eight-day course will be an adventure as well as a great learning experience, with youngsters taking part in activities like rock climbing, orienteering in the hills, scrambling up rock gorges and canoeing. The course will end with a two-night camping expedition.

For the children, it is a chance to build self-confidence and learn about team work, leadership, problem-solving and communication – and to have fun in the process. The Annington Trust is acutely aware that many military bases are in remote locations and that, with the financial cutbacks, the opportunities for young people are becoming increasingly limited. “We wanted to come up with something that would be challenging and appeal to the young, but could also be potentially life-changing,” says Chairman of the Trust, Air Vice Marshal Sandy Hunter.

The Annington Trust is asking each of those taking part to raise a £50 sponsorship, seeing this as key to demonstrating their commitment to the course. The rest of the cost is being met by the Trust. “All that we ask in return,” says Sandy Hunter, “is that they agree to write a short report on their experiences to help us promote the Challenge next year.”

The take-up has been excellent. The Trust is intending to offer 50 places in 2012 compared to the 30 that were originally planned, and this level of interest has enabled the Trust to commit to running the scheme again in 2013.