

www.butterfly-conservation.org



CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



Our vision

Our mission

A world where butterflies and moths thrive and can be enjoyed by everyone, forever.

Butterflies and moths are a vital part of our wildlife heritage and are sensitive indicators of the health of our environment. Two-thirds of butterfly and moth species are in decline. Our data shows they are declining faster than most other well-documented groups of plants and animals, so our task is daunting and complex. In many cases, we know what needs to be done to halt declines and support recoveries, but to achieve this we must dramatically increase our capacity and influence over the coming years. Reversing the long-term general decline will take many years of sustained effort and we have ambitious plans to achieve this. Our work will help other wildlife and the ecosystems upon which all life depends.

Butterfly Conservation's mission is to halt and reverse butterfly and moth declines. Achieving this will help create a healthier environment for us all.



Overview

by the Chair and Chief Executive

2017/18 has been another memorable year for **Butterfly Conservation.** Volunteers remain at the heart of our success, giving over 170,000 days of effort each year, essential to the sustainability of our conservation work and our vital recording and monitoring. We are extremely grateful to everyone who gives up their time and energy to help - thank you.

At the July 2017 meeting of Council, trustees confirmed Julie Williams as Chief Executive, recognising the excellent progress she had made in the acting role since the end of 2016.

During the year we developed a new UK wide Conservation Strategy identifying 26 butterfly and 103 moth species with the highest priority for action across the UK. Working with Branches, our staff team has also developed country and English regional conservation strategies. These will inform our future work and ensure we focus on the highest priorities. We identified new research needs, for example, to understand the long-term declines of widespread species.

We continue to expand our outreach, engagement and citizen science. Over 60,000 people took part in the 2017 Big Butterfly Count, our highest ever participation. This promotes the plight of butterflies and moths and encourages more people to experience nature first hand and improve their health and wellbeing.

We are providing more children with opportunities to encounter the natural world face-to-face and start a lifelong connection

to nature. We are reaching out to more people and to local authorities in urban areas of the UK, where nature is under particular pressure. People will benefit from connecting with nature in parks, gardens and other public spaces. We also aim to work with major infrastructure projects to create new wildlife habitat whilst reducing future maintenance costs.



We are growing our policy and advocacy work to retain and strengthen protection for the natural environment and the species dependent on it across the UK. Most of our policy work to influence decision-makers is delivered through partnerships with others who share our broad objectives – working together for a bigger impact.

We continue working with key partners in Europe and across the world, where we can add value, to encourage international conservation for butterflies and moths. We exchange best practice and stimulate advocacy through partnerships to save fragile natural ecosystems, many of which receive far less protection than those in the UK.

Our membership has grown by 75% in five years, reaching nearly 34.000 in March 2018 and resulting in our highest ever membership income in 2017/18. Our conservation successes rely on the support of our members. Our strategy is ambitious and we need ever more funding to deliver it. We met our financial targets again in 2017/18, achieving £4 million in both income and expenditure. We are enormously grateful to all our funders, members and supporters for enabling us to reach our goals and deliver our plans. It really does make a difference.

We have an exciting year ahead in 2018, our 50th anniversary year. We shared a great start to the celebrations with our Day of Action in March, as Branches and volunteers took part in conservation work across all four countries.

We will respond to the environmental, financial and political challenges that lie ahead to ensure that we remain financially sustainable. We are confident that Butterfly Conservation will continue moving forward to achieve our vision of a world where butterflies and moths thrive and can be enjoyed by everyone.

Jim Asher, Chair and Julie Williams, Chief Executive

Threatened species

We have continued to strengthen our strategic and practical approach to the recovery of threatened butterflies and moths over the last 12 months, resulting in considerable progress in communicating the value of our science and research and expanding our landscape-scale conservation work into new areas.

Summary of our key achievements in 2017/18

- Our Conservation Strategy, which will deliver a plan to reverse the decline of threatened species, has been completed and is due for publication.
- New landscape-scale conservation projects have been launched in England including the All the Moors Butterflies project in the South West; Back from the Brink; a project to conserve the Silky Wave moth in the Avon Gorge, Bristol; and the North Downs project in Surrey to conserve the Small Blue.
- Lanarkshire's Large Heaths and Mosses has become our first landscape-scale project in lowland Scotland. The project will conserve the Large Heath and other species.
- The completion of a Marsh Fritillary site dossier has provided us with an

- invaluable database of all current colonies and habitat networks for the species across the UK, enabling us to publish a status review of this protected butterfly.
- Our Science and Research
 e-newsletter, promoting our work and
 raising our profile as an evidence based conservation organisation, was
 launched.
- We have continued to educate the ecologists of the future by supporting four PhD students undertaking research on the decline of butterflies and moths.
- As part of our policy and advocacy work, we have persuaded six MPs in England to adopt and champion the Duke of Burgundy, Small Blue, Small

- Copper, Marsh Fritillary, Wood White and Striped Lychnis. Three Assembly Members in Wales are supporting the High Brown Fritillary, Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Small Blue. In Scotland, 11 MSPs are supporting a variety of species, including Forester Moth, Chequered Skipper, Northern Brown Argus and Garden Tiger Moth.
- Our ability to deliver landscape scale advice has been strengthened by training staff how to use Geographic Information System. This allows Butterfly Conservation staff to provide more in depth information for conservation delivery purposes.





Duke of Burgundy

"This knowledge formed our Duke conservation plan: to provide advice and support for landowners in remaining habitat networks, backed up by local partnerships and volunteers to deliver habitat management."

decade ago the Duke of Burgundy was in a state of serious decline. But thanks to our programme of sustained conservation across its UK range, the butterfly is turning a corner. Our research found that a lack of appropriate land management and overgrazing had caused the Duke to disappear from many sites. This knowledge helped us formulate our Duke conservation plan: to provide advice and support for landowners in remaining habitat networks, backed up by local partnerships and volunteers to deliver habitat management. Since 2003 we have led 22 separate projects in which the Duke was a target. The results

have been spectacular. The Duke is back from the brink of local extinction in Kent, Sussex and the North York Moors. It has also recolonised former sites or colonised newly created habitat where none previously existed. We also continued our Duke of Burgundy project work in the Cotswolds, Somerset, Dorset, Sussex, Buckinghamshire and Wiltshire.

Our approach to this species is working from 2005 to 2016 the population trend for Duke of Burgundy was up 90%.

turns the corner

Widespread species

In 2017/18 advances in our science and research work coupled with our ever increasing monitoring and recording capacity has enabled us to effectively communicate the message that many of our widespread butterfly and moth species are now also suffering declines more typically associated with our threatened species.

Summary of our key achievements in 2017/18

- Improved statistical analysis and a stronger evaluation of trends was developed for the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme.
- More than 3.9 million new macromoth records were added to the
 National Moth Recording Scheme
 (NMRS) in 2017, along with 1.7 million
 new micro-moth records. The NMRS
 database now holds a total of 25
 million macro-moth records and 3
 million micro-moth records.
- Our scientists published 28 high quality scientific papers.
- Working in partnership with the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) and the University of Kent we published

- a study in the journal *Ecological Indicators*, highlighting that butterflies are declining more rapidly in urban areas than in the countryside.
- We have invested more capacity in policy development across the UK to meet the uncertainty created by Brexit about the future of our wildlife laws and land management policies.
- Butterfly Conservation played an active role in the environmental umbrella groups (the' Wildlife Links') across the UK and is a supporter of Greener UK. We have provided input to and/or signed up to 31 Link policy documents, responses and letters to government committees, Ministers and Cabinet Secretaries.
- In Northern Ireland we responded to forestry consultations while in Wales we helped Wales Environment Link produce a Sustainable Land Management vision and launched it at the Royal Welsh Show.
- Butterfly Conservation was delighted to support and input into the Nature Friendly Farming Network; this new initiative aims to help farmers have a strong voice at this critical time for agriculture policy in the UK. It will also help to inspire the public about a future where farmers and nature work hand in hand.



Skipper touches down at flagship site

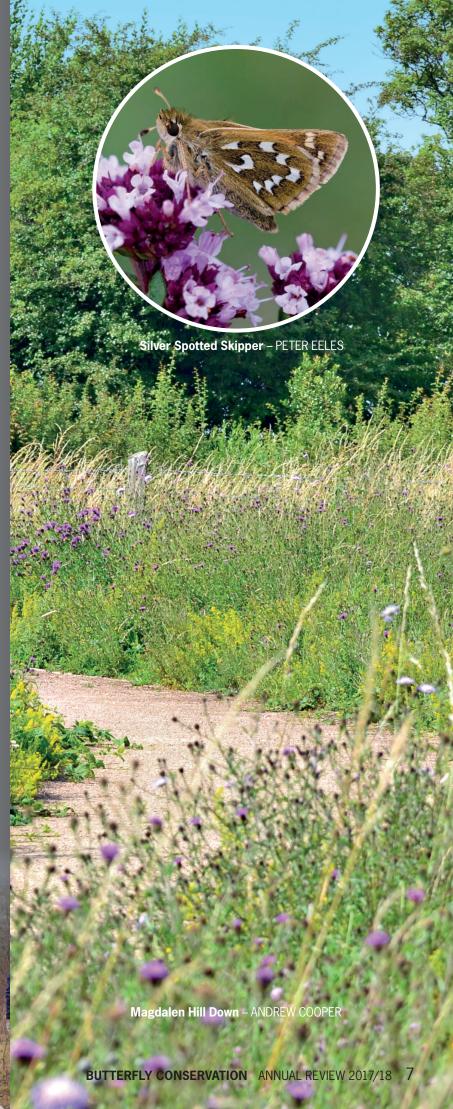
rare skipper is the latest threatened butterfly to set up home at Butterfly Conservation's flagship Magdalen Hill Down reserve in Hampshire. Silver-spotted Skipper colonised the site last year, joining other rare butterflies including the Chalk Hill Blue, Small Blue and Grizzled Skipper at the flower-filled chalk downland reserve.

The reserve, now one of the best monitored sites in England, is not only important for butterflies and moths but also plays a key role in educating the next generation of conservationists. The Go Wild in Winchester Education project, in conjunction with the Winchester Science Centre, has already welcomed more than 10 school visits since it began in 2017. The reserve also plays a significant role in fulfilling Butterfly Conservation's objectives for higher education. Every year, up to four students from nearby Sparsholt College undertake work placements on the reserve, while two PhD students have carried out experimental research on Brown Argus and Grizzled Skipper.

None of this work would be possible without the sterling effort of Butterfly Conservation's volunteers. With more than 100 grazing animals used on the reserve, care and maintenance relies on an enthusiastic volunteer workforce, checking stock daily and undertaking fortnightly winter work parties. External volunteer groups such as from South Downs National Park and the Hampshire Conservation Volunteers are also regularly involved.

Conservation Day of Action at Magdalen Hill Down – PHIL DALZIEL





Raising awareness

Butterfly Conservation communicated the importance of butterflies and moths to a record audience last year as more people than ever before were reached through our media and awareness-raising work.

Summary of our key achievements in 2017/18

- Butterfly Conservation membership continued to rise. The support of our members is key to achieving our conservation success and raising awareness of the plight of butterflies and moths.
- Our volunteers provided more than 170,000 days of time and effort in 2017/18. The knowledge and expertise of our volunteers is vital to sustain our conservation work, recording and monitoring and raising awareness at a local level across the UK.
- The Big Butterfly Count, the largest butterfly citizen science project in the world, enjoyed a record year with more than 60,000 people taking part

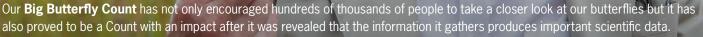
- in our scheme. More than 720,000 people visited the Count website and millions more heard about it through our media coverage and on social media.
- Our innovative education programme Munching Caterpillars was extended to Bristol and Winchester. These projects provide opportunities for thousands of children to experience the wonder of butterflies and moths to help foster a lifelong connection to nature.
- As part of our goal to inspire people living in urban areas, we are developing a new engagement and education project – Big City

- Butterflies which will encourage Londoners to discover and conserve butterflies and moths in the capital.
- We have produced a Digital Media Strategy to identify and inform Butterfly Conservation's continued use of innovative digital channels which will increase engagement with new and existing audiences and champion our conservation successes.



Count with an impact





In 2017 our scientists proved that the Count could produce reliable population data for common species. This information helps scientists find out what is happening to our widespread species and provides the information that can help protect them in the future.

Sir David Attenborough at the Big Butterfly Count launch 2018

Volunteers make the difference

Douglas Boyes fell in love with moths aged 12 after being exposed to the bright lights of a moth trap for the very first time. Just four years later his mothy passion saw him named as Moth Recorder for Montgomeryshire in mid-Wales. At 16 he was the youngest county recorder in the history of the Butterflies for the New Millennium project. During 10 years in the role he has revitalised recording in the region, quadrupling records and recruiting many recorders as well as discovering 130 new moths to his home county.

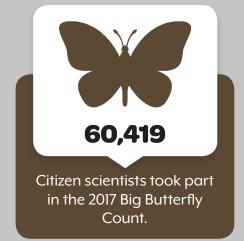
Douglas' efforts epitomise the extraordinary contributions made by our army of volunteers who each year provide thousands of records that define our conservation priorities and drive our scientific research, manage habitats for endangered species and promote our cause to the public.

Record **increase**

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered, joined, participated and engaged with Butterfly Conservation in 2017/18.



Days of volunteer effort worth more than £11 million per year.





Unique website visitors an increase of over 43% in 2017/18.



Facebook page likes – an increase of over 10% in 2017/18.



51,527

Twitter followers an increase of over 15% in 2017/18.



13,500

Instagram followers - in increase of over 200% in 2017/18.



Over 3,000

Children got close to nature



Members as at 31 March 2018 – an increase of 11% in the year.



People received our monthly All Aflutter e-newsletter.



4,281

Media articles printed.



583

Radio & TV mentions.

Global work

We have strengthened our capacity to increase the impact of our lobbying and policy work across Europe while working to increase take up of recording and monitoring in partner countries.

Summary of our key achievements in 2017/18

- The European Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (eBMS), established in 2016 by Butterfly Conservation Europe (BCE) and CEH, continues to grow and gained seven new partners in 2017. So far data has been collated from 10 countries covering more than 6,000 sites.
- BCE provided input to three EU Consultations on the EU LIFE Programme, Invasive Alien Species Delegated Acts and the EU Review of the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive. A response was also drafted to the EU Pollinators Initiative highlighting the importance of Pollinators, and BCE worked with Buglife on two papers for the EU Public Consultation on Pollinators.
- Following successful funding from the EU Erasmus contract, the two year Nature, Youth and City Project in Ankara, Turkey, started in 2017. Using a large area of Steppe habitat (4,000 hectare) within the Middle East Technical University campus the project aims to engage students and the public to appreciate nature. The programme will allow an exchange of ideas and expertise between the countries and Butterfly Conservation, including student exchange trips.
- Our European Butterflies Group (formerly European Interests Group) continued to grow in influence and membership, carrying out important monitoring and recording work for threatened species including two of

Europe's most endangered butterflies: the Violet Copper in eastern France and the Danube Clouded Yellow in northern Bulgaria.



Southern Festoon - ADAM GOR



Financial Statements

The members of Council confirm that these summarised financial statements are a summary of information from the full financial statements which were approved by Council on 14 July 2018.

A copy of the full financial statements of the charitable company, upon which the auditor has reported without qualification, will be delivered to the Charity Commission and the **Registrar of Companies House.**

These summarised financial statements may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of Butterfly Conservation.

Further information and the full accounts are available at butterfly-conservation.org or may be obtained free of charge from the charity.



Independent auditor's statement to the Council of **Butterfly Conservation**

We have examined the summarised financial statements of Butterfly Conservation for the year ended 31 March 2018.

Respective responsibilities of the Council and the independent auditor

The Council members are responsible for preparing the summarised financial statements in accordance with applicable UK law and the recommendations of Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities. Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full financial statements. We also read the other information in the Annual Review 2017/18 and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statements.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our work in accordance with International Standards of Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Boards for use in the United Kingdom.

Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements of Butterfly Conservation for the year ended 31 March 2018 and comply with the applicable requirements of Section 427 of the Companies Act 2006, and regulations made thereunder.

Buzzacott LLP

Statutory Auditor 130 Wood Street, London, EC2V 6DL. 28 July 2018

Financial Review

The headline results for the year show an excellent increase of 11% in income taking the total to over £4.1 million, and a 10% increase in expenditure to £3.9 million, of which 86% was spent on Conservation. It is also pleasing to report that our General Funds increased by 13% with the result that our Financial Reserves have increased in line with our policy. We believe we are well placed to withstand the anticipated pressures on our fundraising.

On the income side, our ambition in recent years has been to increase the contribution from our members and supporters in order to protect ourselves from the decreasing availability of funding from the statutory sector and from the Landfill Communities Fund. It was pleasing, therefore, to see Membership income (including Gift Aid) increase by 11% this year, following 16% and 15% rises in the previous two years.

Legacy income recorded a welcome increase of £44,000 to £482,000 and we continue to develop our fundraising activity in this area. In contrast donations from individuals and Trusts showed a decrease of £68,000. Fresh initiatives are in hand for Trust fundraising.

The external fundraising environment remains very challenging and susceptible to the potential problems already mentioned and we, and all charities, are faced by a 12-month hiatus in the grants programme of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The receipt this year of the first significant instalment of the major HLF grant for the Back from the Brink project, reminds us of the significance of this funding source in recent years.

Investment income earned on our Endowment Fund was up this year by £26,000 (15%), a benefit slightly offset by a £5,000 reduction in bank interest. There was a modest fall in the capital value of the Endowment Fund.

Income from primary purpose trading increased 11% as a result of increased timber sales and sales of the 50th Anniversary calendar. Unfortunately royalty and sponsorship income to our trading company reduced, so that overall our primary purpose trading income showed a fall of £47,000 (35%). Timing issues are responsible for the fall in income from contracts and royalties, with delays in payments from the Single Payment and Environment Management Schemes resulting in no receipts in 2017/18, compared with the two years of payments received in 2016/17.

On the expenditure side, the cost of Membership Services rose by 9% reflecting the increase in total membership numbers, although membership income rose by 11%. There were cost savings in other non-conservation activities. The very desirable result was that we were able to increase our Conservation spend by 13% to £3.4 million, a new record. We are very pleased to have the science base and the financial resources on which to build a conservation programme of this magnitude.

On our balance sheet at the year-end our General Funds showed an increase of £207,000 (13%), in line with our strategic plan to increase them to meet our target level. The balance in Restricted Funds is up by 3% and the holding of £1.6 million



indicates that a continuation of much project work is assured. This is reinforced by the £2.7 million in Designated Funds, which are held to support conservation work at both Head Office and in our Branches.

The value of the work undertaken through our Branches by our thousands of volunteers, which is conservatively valued at in excess of £11 million, continues to be a feature of Butterfly Conservation of which we are justly proud.

Overall a very successful year benefiting from flexible and intelligent fundraising and the magnificent support of our members and supporters, on whom we rely more each year as external sources of funds become progressively scarcer and harder to secure.

By order of the Council

David Hanson Honorary Treasurer 14 July 2018

> "The receipt this year of the first significant instalment of the major HLF grant for the Back from the Brink project, reminds us of the significance of this funding source in recent years."

Financial Information

Consolidated statement of financial activities – Year to 31 March 2018

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2018 Total £	2017 Total £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	833,116	251,850	_	1,084,966	1,109,762
Other trading activities	95,818	6,233	_	102,051	92,278
Investments and interest receivable	214,369	8,755	_	223,124	202,317
Charitable activities					
Conservation activities - grants receivable	26,541	1,376,638	_	1,403,179	946,572
 Contracts and royalties 	161,815	105,798	_	267,613	364,541
Primary purpose trading	78,068	8,831	_	86,899	133,898
 Membership subscriptions 	938,445	_	_	938,445	842,591
Other sources	537	_	_	537	_
Total income	2,348,709	1,758,105	_	4,106,814	3,691,959
Expenditure Raising funds Charitable activities	139,099	3,417	_	142,516	190,463
Conservation	1,026,593	2,348,849	_	3,375,442	2,987,638
Membership services	405,841		_	405,841	372,176
Total expenditure	1,571,533	2,352,266	_	3,923,799	3,550,277
Total experience	1,371,333	2,332,200		3,323,733	3,330,277
Net income (expenditure) before investment (losses) gains Net investment (losses) gains	777,176 (578)	(594,161)	<u> </u>	183,015 (90,719)	141,682 693,188
Net income (expenditure) Transfers between funds	776,598 (634,901)	(594,161) 634,901	(90,141)	92,296 —	834,870 —
Net movement in funds	141,697	40,740	(90,141)	92,296	834,870
Reconciliation of funds Total funds brought forward at 1 April 2017	5,234,256	1,516,654	5,461,136	12,212,046	11,377,176
Total funds carried forward at 31 March 2018	5,375,953	1,557,394	5,370,995	12,304,342	12,212,046

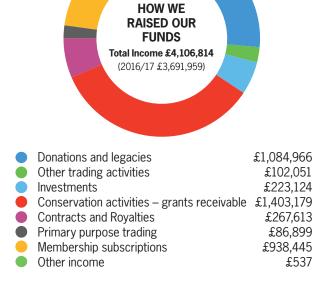
Garden Tiger – IAIN H LEACH

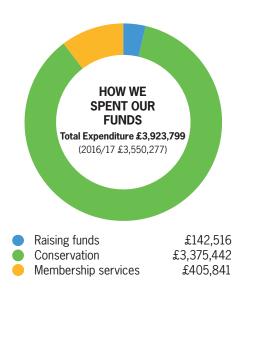
Coma - ROB BLANKEN

Painted Lady - IAIN H LEACH



Group and charity balance sheets –	GROUP		CHARITY	
Year to 31 March 2018	2018	2017	2018	2017
Teal to 31 March 2010	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets	1,347,876	1,344,806	1,347,876	1,344,806
Investments	5,370,995	5,461,136	5,370,996	5,461,137
	6,718,871	6,805,942	6,718,872	6,805,943
Current assets				
Stocks	7,073	6,735	6,496	5,875
Debtors	810,028	627,088	859,419	690,375
Investments	157,972	158,550	157,972	158,550
Cash at bank and in hand				
Short term deposits and interest bearing accounts	4,023,158	4,075,680	4,023,158	4,075,680
Current accounts	959,528	803,680	888,088	712,248
	5,957,759	5,671,733	5,935,133	5,642,728
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(372,288)	(265,629)	(369,663)	(256,625)
Net current assets	5,585,471	5,406,104	5,565,470	5,386,103
Total net assets	12,304,342	12,212,046	12,284,342	12,192,046
The funds of the charity				
Charitable funds				
Capital funds				
Endowment funds	5,370,995	5,461,136	5,370,995	5,461,136
Income funds				
Restricted funds	1,557,394	1,516,654	1,557,394	1,516,654
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	1,807,139	1,600,099	1,807,139	1,600,099
Non-charitable trading funds	20,000	20,000	_	_
Tangible fixed assets (including freehold nature reserves) fund	881,138	814,069	881,138	814,069
Designated funds	2,667,676	2,800,088	2,667,676	2,800,088
Total funds	12,304,342	12,212,046	12,284,342	12,192,046





Thank you

We are extremely grateful to those individuals and organisations who have so generously supported the charity in 2017/18 including all of our donors who wish to remain anonymous. On behalf of everyone at Butterfly Conservation we would like to thank the following for their support:

A E H Salvesen's Charitable Trust Barclays Matched Fundraising Scheme Belightful Design Oy Biffa Award C James Cadbury Trust Carmarthenshire County Council Cecil Pilkington Charitable Trust Chapman Charitable Trust Cornwall Council **Dartmoor National Park Authority Dartmoor Preservation Association Dunsdon Farm EB Scotland Limited** EcoCo Life

Enovert Community Trust Environment Agency Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust **Everyclick Limited** Exmoor National Park Authority Forestry Commission England Forestry Commission Scotland Gloucestershire Naturalists Society Groundwork UK

Habitat Aid Hampshire County Council Harper Collins Publishers
HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust
Henry C Hoare Charitable Trust Heritage Lottery Fund KMF Maxwell Stuart Charitable Trust Lake District National Park Authority Learning Through Landscapes Limit Watches

Lower Mole Countryside Trust Marjorie & Geoffrey Jones Charitable Trust

Marsh Christian Trust Michael Marks Charitable Trust

Miss Kathleen Beryl Sleigh Charitable Trust

National Trust Natural England Natural Resources Wales Naturetrek Limited

Northern Ireland Environment Agency

P F Charitable Trust

Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm Community Fund CIC

Pilkington General Charity Postcode Local Trust

Rapanui Robert O Curle Charitable Trust Rural Payments Agency Santander Changemaker Fund Scottish Natural Heritage Severn Waste Environmental Fund Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural

Beauty Partnership Stroud District Council Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty SW Lakes Trust

The British Entomological & Natural History

The Charles & Ann Fraser Charitable Trust The D G Albright Charitable Trust

The Henocq Law Trust

The Jack Patston Charitable Trust The John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust

The Lever Trust The Orcome Trust The Patsy Wood Trust The Plum Trust
The Reed Foundation

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds The Valentine Charitable Trust

The Walter Guiness Charitable Trust

University of York Veolia Environmental Trust

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Peter John Lewington Deborah Rose Mason Christopher Howard Paul Kenneth James Powell Anthony William Pratley David C Ricketts Ina Roe Hazel Rouse Robert Starling Geoffrey Summers Ronald Todd Eric Wynn

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Gordon Rich Eric and Angela Rose Derek Scott

Michael Richard Wellesley Sheehy Matthew Shepherd

Jacqueline Ann Steggall Aileen Stevens M Trapaud Owen Tudor Dave Walton Stephen Watson Dr Lawrence Webber Bill Webster

Val Weston

Doreen Elizabeth Wood

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