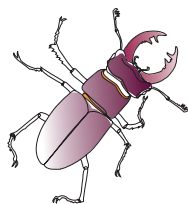




people's
trust for
endangered
species



Annual review



Bringing the wild back to life

A voice for wildlife

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Our mission

To save our wildlife for the future.

Our purpose

Our wildlife is disappearing. Almost two thirds of species in the UK have declined in the past 50 years. Over 65,000 species are on the international alert list. There's nothing natural or inevitable about this. It can be stopped. And we can all play a part. That's why People's Trust for Endangered Species exists.



A voice for wildlife



Scientific research

© Amanda Kosslyn



Conservation action

© Tanya R. B. Brown



Education and awareness raising

© PPTES

Our work

We live and breathe wildlife. Our passion drives our work. It's what gives some of our most threatened species a chance to survive.

So how do we do this?

Scientific research

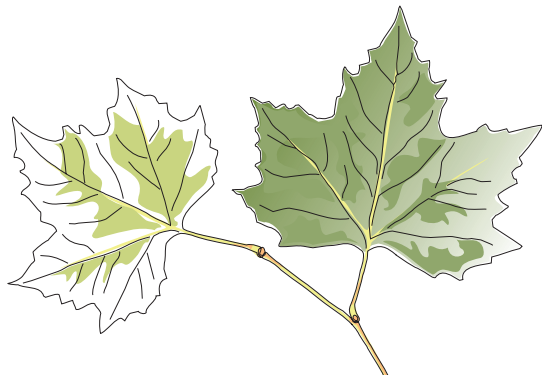
Conserving endangered species and the places where they live is a huge task. To have long-term impact we make our limited resources work as hard as possible. We use scientific evidence to judge where action's most needed and where we'll have the greatest impact.

Conservation action

We work with land owners, local communities, scientists and the public and take swift, sustainable action before it's too late. From hedgehogs and stag beetles in our gardens, to slow lorises in Indonesian rainforests, we work with passion to save them all.

Educating and inspiring

We can save our wildlife, but we can't do it alone. We use our expertise and experience to inspire thousands of volunteers to monitor British wildlife and improve their surroundings for nature.



A voice for wildlife

“None of our successes over 40 years would be possible without our fantastic volunteers, supporters and staff. Thank you for standing up for wildlife with us.”



Message from the chair

Sometimes it's good to take a moment to reflect. Our 40th birthday offers just that opportunity to take pride in what we've achieved over so many years as well as the most recent one.

To mark the occasion, we're investing in some outstanding conservationists whom, through our previous support, we know to be especially deserving of longer-term funding. These Conservation Partnerships will run over five years providing sustained support for the conservation of challenging species and landscapes. I'm delighted that our first partnerships are underway focusing on Persian leopards, snow leopards and giant otters.

Meanwhile, closer to home, our hedgehog campaign with the British Hedgehog Preservation Society is mobilising public support and unravelling the seemingly complex

reasons for the hedgehog's alarming decline. We returned dormice to a Warwickshire woodland as part of a broader landscape project. And our habitat conservation now extends beyond traditional orchards to wood pastures and parklands as we start to assess the condition of these remarkable places that support so many species of animal and plant.

Our success wouldn't be possible without the help of many generous people sharing their time and money. We're indebted to our fantastic team of staff, volunteers and supporters. Thank you for standing up for wildlife with People's Trust for Endangered Species. Your support makes all the difference.

Dr Andrew Kitchener

Chair, People's Trust for Endangered Species

Highlights in 2017



© iStockphoto.com/Dirk Freder

Celebrated

We celebrated 40 years in conservation by committing £300,000 over five years to Persian leopard conservation in Iran, snow leopards in Mongolia and giant otters in Peru in new Conservation Partnership projects.



© SRA Studio

Launched

We launched a *Hedgehog Street* garden created at RHS Harlow Carr in Harrogate with our partners the British Hedgehog Preservation Society.



© Elizabeth Mounaux

Surveyed

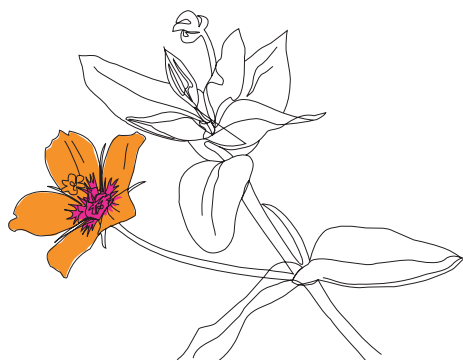
We collected over 8,000 sightings of stag beetles to find out how they are faring in Britain on the edge of their European range.



© Clive Pegg

Restored

We restored dormice to a woodland in Warwickshire where they'd gone extinct.





Mammals

Many wild mammals are disappearing fast. Knowing where they are and how they're doing is fundamental to helping them effectively.

A new *State of Britain's Hedgehogs* reported the most up-to-date picture of hedgehogs yet. While the decline in rural areas continues, the fall in urban numbers appears to have levelled, offering hope that efforts such as *Hedgehog Street* are bearing fruit.

Over a thousand people took part in surveys of the built environment and of mammal road casualties in our *Living*

with Mammals and *Mammals on Roads* surveys. Declines in records of hedgehogs, brown hares, rabbits and bats over the past fifteen years were reported, highlighting the need for ongoing monitoring.

We targeted priority mammals through research grants awarded to scientists at leading universities and conservation organisations.

> Two internships awarded to young scientists working on Lulworth skipper butterflies and using DNA analysis techniques to tackle wildlife crime

> A new *Mammals on Roads* app made the surveying much easier for volunteers

> Our survey data enabled us to calculate revised estimates for annual hedgehog roadkill from 15,000 to 165,000

We targeted priority mammals through research grants awarded to scientists at leading universities and conservation organisations:

- > £14,114 detecting hazel dormice with footprint tunnels
- > £15,854 enhancing assessment of otter populations and their structure
- > £15,018 evaluating protected areas for bottle-nose dolphins
- > £17,900 genetically monitoring a donor population of translocated pine martens
- > £45,020 using prey availability, habitat quality and predation to predict hedgehog abundance
- > £3,190 counting mountain hares in the Lammermuir hills
- > £4,000 preparing advice for farmers and landowners on managing their land for hedgehogs

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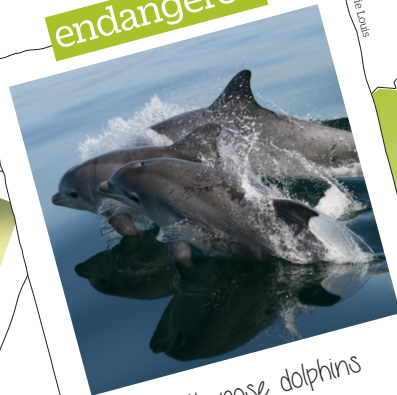


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Pine martens

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Bottle-nose dolphins

Our year in the UK



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© Tony Webb

Hedgehogs

We're leading the national conservation effort to save hedgehogs alongside our campaign partners the British Hedgehog Preservation Society. Our ambitious strategy is making a real difference for hedgehogs.

The causes of the hedgehog decline in arable landscapes, survey techniques, the relationship of hedgehogs and badgers, road fragmentation of hedgehog populations and their use of wildlife tunnels, the impact of hibernation site availability, and how they use our gardens, are all being investigated.

We revamped the *Hedgehog Street* website that inspires Hedgehog Champions to make their street hedgehog friendly by allowing space for them and adding garden features that offer accessibility, food and shelter. We're surveying our Champions to find out more about how hedgehogs use garden hedgehog houses, and promoting the *Big Hedgehog Map* that records hedgehog sightings and hedgehog

highways linking at least 10,000 gardens nationwide.

We opened the first permanent *Hedgehog Street* garden at RHS Harlow Carr in Harrogate. Building on our great success at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, the garden was designed by award-winning garden designer Tracy Foster. It depicts adjoining gardens with hedgehog-friendly features and connectivity and is already delighting their thousands of regular visitors.

The Rt Hon Chris Grayling, MP, became the new hedgehog 'Species Champion' at Westminster where we presented him with his special plaque to mark his involvement. He will be enlisting the support of other MPs to promote our campaign to connect hedgehog habitat by making holes in garden fences and promoting signage and tunnels on roads to alleviate the number of hedgehog casualties.




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Dormice

Over 30 years ago we discovered that dormice were locally extinct from large parts of the countryside. Their absence sounded alarm bells. Dormice are a good barometer for the health of woodlands and hedgerows that support hundreds of other species too.

As part of our long-term strategy to return dormice where they were lost at the edges of their range, we reintroduced dormice to Wappenbury Wood in Warwickshire, part of a broader project with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. We will reintroduce more animals in another woodland nearby next year so that the two populations can meet and expand through newly created natural connections between the woodlands. We're involved with similar landscape projects in Nottinghamshire and North Yorkshire.

Hundreds of volunteers continue to help us monitor dormice across their remaining range. We received

information from 363 dormouse woodlands this year. We use the records to measure how dormice are faring and show where we need to prioritise action. We're working with Suffolk Wildlife Trust to see if dormouse footprint tunnels can be an effective tool for ecologists surveying for dormice.

We're also researching how woodland management is affecting dormice, particularly during their vulnerable hibernation period. The findings will inform our training courses and enable us to produce guidance for land managers on how best to manage their woodlands for dormice. Some of our dormouse team attended the 10th International Dormouse Conference in Belgium to share our experience in the UK and learn from colleagues overseas.

- > Dormice we reintroduced to a woodland in Warwickshire are already breeding

- > We supplied 2,917 dormouse houses to 68 monitoring sites

- > Woodland training courses held in Kent, Cumbria, Bedfordshire, Warwickshire and Shropshire, as well as at our training centre in Briddlesford Woods on the Isle of Wight

Our year in the UK

Water voles

By the 1990s water voles faced possible extinction following accidental and deliberate releases of American mink and loss of healthy, protective riverbank vegetation. Since then we've supported quite a body of research investigating how they can be kept safe from mink, measuring mink management and displacement, determining what sort of vegetation they favour, and reintroducing them where they've disappeared.

Volunteers taking part in our National Water Vole Monitoring Programme, now in its third year, surveyed 500m stretches of riverbank for water voles, looking for tell-tale signs as well as the animals themselves. Of 222 sites visited, 85 had signs of water voles. The records

are stored with those from previous years in a new fit-for-purpose database. This annual census builds a national picture of the state of water voles and is a vital tool in directing conservation activity and measuring its impact.

> 130 waterways in England, 78 in Scotland and 14 in Wales surveyed by over a hundred volunteers

> We posted over 117,000 records on the National Biodiversity Network from all our surveys and they were accessed 815 times by ecologists, planners, developers and others during the year

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© Mark Bridger



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Stag beetles

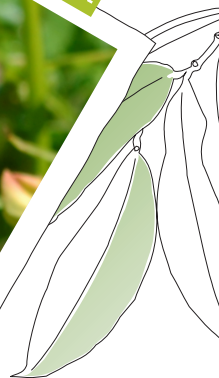
© Ben Andrew

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Lulworth skippers

© Peter Ball

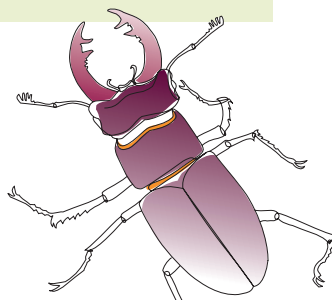


Invertebrates

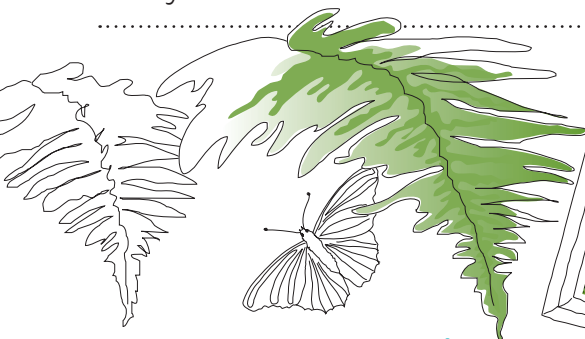
Fallen wood in gardens, and even in woodlands and wood pastures, is often tidied away, threatening the survival of many animals that play an important role in the ecosystem. Among these are dead-wood loving (saproxylic) beetles such as noble chafers and stag beetles.

A near record-breaking number of stag beetle sightings was recorded through our annual *Great Stag Hunt*. The survey draws attention to the plight of stag beetles and tells us where they're still hanging on at the edge of their European range. The long-term findings over twenty years are being analysed for publication next year.

- > The *Great Stag Hunt* recorded 8,116 stag beetle sightings
- > Volunteers in the UK also took part in the European stag beetle survey
- > A paid internship supported a young scientist working on Lulworth skipper butterflies



Our year in the UK



Restoring landscapes

We're proud owners of Briddlesford Woods on the Isle of Wight. It's a prime ancient woodland, home to threatened dormice, red squirrels and bats, many birds, insects, amphibians and plants.

Ancient woodland

Much helped by volunteers, we carefully manage the woods by coppicing and nurturing future hazel and building tree cages to protect young parkland trees. Regular wildlife surveys measure the effectiveness of our management. Four interpretation boards are now on display to the public.

The test bridge installed last year at Briddlesford, to find out whether dormice are more likely to cross an arboreal structure or use the ground, successfully demonstrated dormice using the bridge, albeit continuous footage of them travelling right across remaining frustratingly elusive. Red squirrels also seem to prefer crossing on the bridge rather than on the ground. Our partners, Animex, are manufacturing a commercial version and several possible sites are under discussion.

- > Our surveys recorded 70 species of moth including the very rare tortrix
- > With emergency appeal funds we replaced the rotting foundations of our wooden woodland training centre
- > Twenty eight land managers and ecologists trained to manage woodlands for dormice at the centre as well as public events
- > Forty five volunteers helped with woodland management over a weekend in January

Traditional orchards

Thousands of animals and plants, many of them very scarce, depend on traditional orchards as a habitat and food source. Following a huge effort to assess the condition of the remaining traditional orchards in England and Wales, we're helping orchard owners restore these wildlife-friendly places and insuring their future. We're proud to host the Orchard Network of people and organisations devoted to orchard conservation on our website.

Our website features videos on grafting, pruning, managing grass and fruit, planting trees, and avoiding pests and diseases to enhance wildlife. *Fruitfinder* is a searchable web tool to help people plant orchards with local and heritage fruit varieties. It lists thousands of fruit varieties with links to suppliers. And there's a map of community orchards to encourage people to create shared orchards and to show their locations.

As well as keeping our inventories of existing orchards up-to-date, we're using old Ordnance Survey maps to find previously unmapped potential orchard

> Over 5,000 fruit varieties to find on *FruitFinder*

> Nearly 900 community orchards shown on our special map

> 13% orchards designated in excellent condition (up from 9% in 2011)

sites and to help identify sites for landscape restoration by replanting of lost orchards.

Rough Hill, our own traditional orchard in Worcestershire, is designated 'nationally significant' for endangered dead-wood-loving beetles. It provided the perfect backdrop to filming when *BBC Countryfile* wanted to feature our *Great Stag Hunt* survey of stag beetles. Volunteers met regularly to clear bramble, prune and weed. Dexter's cattle continue to graze.



© iStockphoto.com/ Mike Lane-45

Our year in the UK

Wood pastures and parklands

Our wood pastures and parklands have considerable conservation as well as historical significance in the UK landscape. This habitat supports thousands of invertebrates and plants, many of them severely threatened.

The Wood Pasture and Parkland Network brings together the people and organisations conserving this habitat. We created the Network's website, alongside our own, and it's now the 'go to' place for information about the habitat, its wildlife value and history. We're producing a series of videos to be launched next year.

We also developed a standardised survey method to assess the condition of the remaining wood pastures and

parklands. We're testing the survey in a trial phase in Suffolk to make sure it's fit for purpose. An instruction pack, online videos and training course provide support to help surveyors negotiate the landscape.

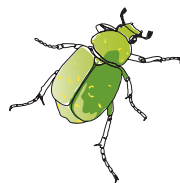
Hedgerows

Species-rich hedgerows provide vital food and protection for many other animals, including dormice, hedgehogs, bats and birds. After discussions with Hedgelink, the UK expert group for hedgerows, and Defra, we hope to use our experience in assessing the condition of traditional orchards, wood pastures and parklands to examine the state of our hedgerows. More next year!

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Wildlife worldwide

Our Conservation Partnerships support exceptional conservationists working in challenging situations. The latest addition is Adi Barocas, WildCRU, University of Oxford, but based in Peru.

Illegal gold mining and deforestation are having a disastrous effect on giant otters in the Peruvian Amazon by destroying riverbanks, depleting fish stocks and contaminating waterways with mercury. Adi and his team are urgently reviewing the situation for us and advising what the local authorities can do to reverse the fortunes of this charismatic species.

Bayarjargal Agvaantseren, leader of our snow leopard work in Mongolia, has successfully persuaded the government to upgrade the snow leopard stronghold

in the Tost region from a protected local area to a state Nature Reserve. This fantastic news means that the team can work with local communities to safeguard a thriving snow leopard population.

From Iran, Mohammad Farhadinia's team is tracking six collared Persian leopards. Their massive home ranges (of over 100 km²) overlap, but they each have fairly exclusive core hunting areas. Five animals spent time outside the park boundaries alongside human communities. The work demonstrates the need to take a combined approach protecting some land areas while in others helping local communities share their space with these large predators.



Our year abroad

We continue to support projects that offer a real insight into a conservation problem - work that makes a lasting difference

- > Devil rays – fished in huge numbers for their gill plates for use in traditional medicines – added to the CITES list, meaning their trade must now be regulated
- > We restored a viable orangutan population in Lamandau Wildlife Reserve, Borneo, through partners at the Orangutan Foundation
- > Five giant anteaters collared in Brazil to assess the impact of a local highway and where best to implement measures to reduce roadkill

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© Sergey Uryadkov / Shutterstock

We targeted some of the world's most endangered and lesser known threatened species:

- > Sungazers
- > Western hoolock gibbons
- > Barbary macaques
- > Manta and mobula rays
- > Elephants
- > Orangutans
- > Cambodian crocodiles
- > Bonobos



Sharing the learning

Sharing what we learn from our work and research is an integral part of our approach.

Our projects have generated many scientific papers on a variety of species, such as viral infections in British butterflies and the effects of rodenticide on polecats to the behaviour of Bale monkeys in Ethiopia and transboundary movements of Persian leopards in Iran.

Expert articles were also published in a wide range of specialist newsletters and magazines about our work on key species. And the thousands of records we collect from all our survey work are submitted to the National Biodiversity Network for others to use when assessing development proposals or for further research.

We go way beyond a scientific and conservation audience too. Our outreach

programme reaches young and old as we visit festivals, fairs and schools as well as all the training courses we run and the many talks given by our expert staff.

- > We're reaching more people than ever through our website and social media
- > *Wildlife World* magazine keeps our supporters in touch with all we do
- > *Wildlife Encounter* wildlife watching events inspire visitors with the wonder of our natural world

Standing up for wildlife

Our success relies on the help and support of people like you.

Conservation volunteers, charitable trusts, individual supporters, expert advisors and the long-term commitment of our staff and trustees are all critical to us making a real and lasting difference to wildlife.

Our retail shop on Egham High Street in Surrey continues despite its pop up status. It's run with the help of some wonderful volunteers and our job sharing shop managers. Donations continue to come in and all the profits are helping endangered wildlife. We're grateful to all of them.

Volunteers

Our thousands of volunteers across the country are integral to the success of our work. Their support on the ground, week in, week out, includes:

- 
- > Taking part in our *Mammals on Roads*, *Living with Mammals* and other surveys
 - > Making holes in garden fences for hedgehogs
 - > Reporting stag beetle sightings
 - > Recording water voles
 - > Working in our charity shop in Egham
 - > Helping us with office work
 - > Monitoring and making dormouse boxes
 - > Grafting, planting and checking the condition of traditional orchards
 - > Helping at events and enlisting friends through social media
 - > Joining work parties at our nature reserves
 - > Holding fundraising events

Thank you to all our volunteers



Partners

Conserving the natural world is a huge challenge, one that no-one can achieve alone. To be truly effective we work with others, something which we also enjoy.

We have partnerships with many organisations. Notable among these are:

- > Natural England, ZSL, Paignton Zoo, Common Dormouse Captive Breeders Group, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, HMP Humber, Ministry of Justice, Animex, Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust for dormouse conservation.
- > *Hedgehog Street* is a joint campaign with the British Hedgehog Preservation Society. Also partners in *Hedgehog Street* and other hedgehog work are: Wildlife Trusts in Warwickshire, Suffolk and Gloucester, ZSL Garden Wildlife Health, RSPB, BTO, Felix Project, Amazing Grace/Harper Asprey, Earthwatch, Bat Conservation Trust, Froglife, Nottingham Trent University, University of Reading, Hartpury College, Natural England, GWCT, Dr Pat Morris, Dr Nigel Reeve, Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research, Greater London Authority (GLA), David Wilson and Barratt Homes, Creo Homes Ltd, Redrow, Thakeham, Russell Armer Homes, Redrow Development, Tracy Foster Garden Design, RHS Harlow Carr, Barnes Hedgehogs, Royal Parks Foundation, The Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP, HK Hedgehogs, Mammal Society, Wildlife Gardening Forum, Kent Wildlife Trust, KWAKS, Bristol Natural History Museum, Natural History

Museum, NBN and local environmental records centres.

- > Essex Wildlife Trust, Hampshire Wildlife Trust, University of Aberdeen, RSPB, North Pennines AONB and The Wildlife Trusts for water voles.
- > Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, National Trust, Orchard Network, The National Fruit Collection, Mid-Shires Orchard Group, The Orchard Project, Forestry Commission (Jeskyn's Community Woodland), Orchards East, Marcher Apple Network and National Association of Cider Makers for traditional orchards.
- > Woodland Trust, Natural England, Ancient Tree Forum, City of London and Suffolk Wildlife Trust for wood pastures and parklands; Hedgelink for hedgerows; and InvertLINK for invertebrates.
- > Landscape Therapy, Jonathan Cox Associates, Isle of Wight Steam Railway, Davidson-Watts Ecology Ltd, Isle of Wight Council, Hants & IW Butterfly Conservation, Isle of Wight Natural History Society, Harry Green and the many people who help us manage Briddlesford and Rough Hill.
- > Battersea Park Children's Zoo for outreach work.

Thank you to all our partners

Our trustees

Sheila Anderson, MBE
 Sylvia Kahn-Freund
 Andrew Kitchener (Chair)
 Tony Mitchell-Jones
 Martin Rowson



Our people



Financial supporters

Most of our income comes from individual donors through regular gifts and cash donations. Your generosity and loyalty are boundless and invaluable.

We are also greatly indebted to those who gave the ultimate gift to us by leaving a legacy so that we can plan ahead with confidence and respond quickly to need. We received over £615,000 in legacies this year from the following people:

Ruth V Abrams • Betty Ashiotis • M A Bates • G A Cooke
Maria Cope • John P Dando • Lois E Dyer
John Ellis • June M Evans • Edna J Farrant
Beryl Foote • John S Gamble • M P Heaton • Ann C Hobbs
Vera A Humphreys • Dulcie M Hunter • Joan E Jordan
Mollie Killick • William B Kirk • Elizabeth Knapp
Beatrice A Long • Jean P Long • Keith P Osborne
Ceridwen Perucki • Elsie Scott • Marie Scott
Diwan Singh • Eric Stanbank • Irene Tully
Brenda Westley • John Wevill



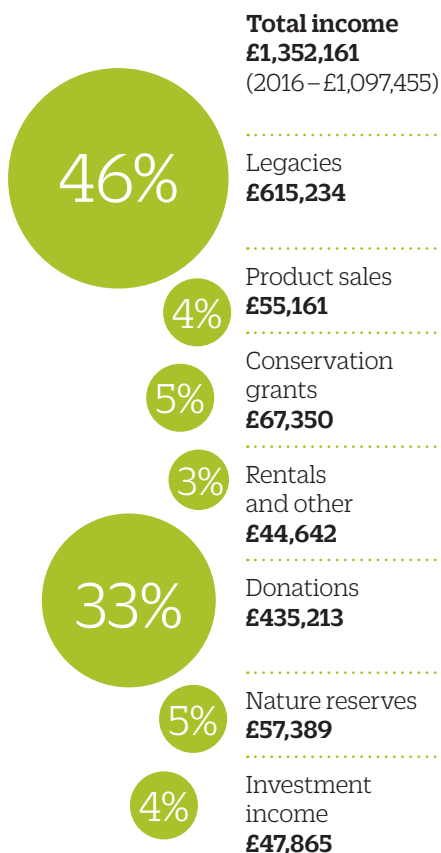
During the year we gratefully received support from the following trusts and foundations:

The Pauline Bishop Charitable Foundation
Mary Lady Fuller Charitable Trust
Hamamelis Trust
Mrs Jean S Innes Charitable Trust
Dolly Knowles Charitable Trust
Langdale Trust • Mitchell Trust
The Oakdale Trust • Daisy Rich Trust
The Spear Charitable Trust
The Derek and Clare Stevens Trust

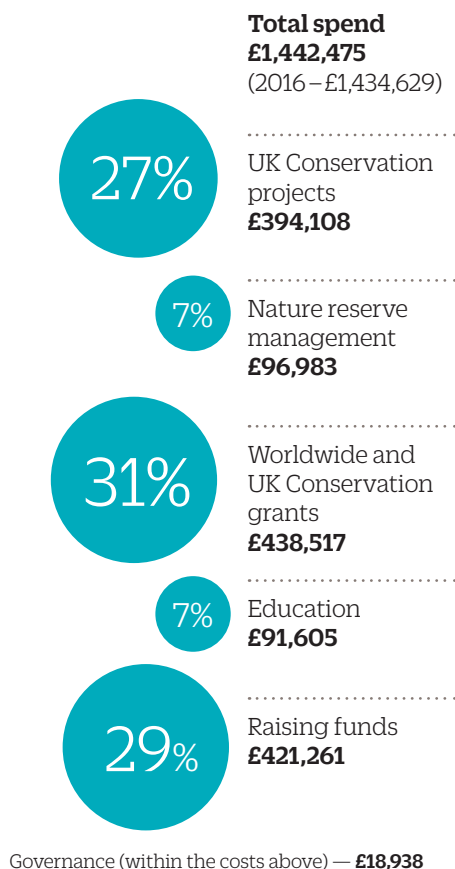


**Our most sincere thanks
go to all our supporters**

How we raised our money



How we spent our money



Free reserves stand at £1,790,804.

Committed expenditure beyond 2017 in addition to usual activity: £487,274 conservation grants.

Investment policy: our trustees invest in companies that operate in an environmentally responsible way and our investment brokers are instructed accordingly.

Reserves policy: we maintain financial reserves at a level to meet all current conservation obligations including committed research grants, to be able to

respond immediately to sudden and unexpected conservation need, to fund a forthcoming programme of higher level research grants, and to be responsible employers.

The investment policy and level of reserves are reviewed annually.

*For every £1 we spent on fundraising in 2017 we got £2.77 back. We aim to improve on this further in 2018.



www.ptes.org

People's Trust for Endangered Species
3 Cloisters House, 8 Battersea Park Road
London SW8 4BG

www.ptes.org

enquiries@ptes.org

020 7498 4533

 facebook.com/ptes.org

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 instagram.com/ptes_org

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