



## **Ecological Continuity Trust**

**Trustees' report and financial statements  
1st January 2019 to 31st December 2019.**

**Company Number: 6652160**

**Charity Number: 1126122**

# Ecological Continuity Trust

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# Ecological Continuity Trust

## Trustees' Report

### The Ecological Continuity Trust

The Ecological Continuity Trust is the only organisation working to safeguard the future of the UK's strategic network of long-term ecological experiments (LTEs). In January 2019, following extensive discussions which took place over the course of the 2018 reporting year, ECT undertook to extend its remit to also now cover certain types of long-term ecological monitoring (LTM) studies.

Many ecological processes operate over timescales of decades. As the effects of environmental change on ecosystems are often slow to emerge, long-term studies are essential to characterise and understand these changes.

LTEs involve experimental manipulation combined with monitoring and these have been the focus of the ECT during its first ten years. LTEs provide greater insight into how ecosystems are likely to respond to environmental changes than monitoring alone. An experimental approach allows researchers to investigate cause and effect, to test the effectiveness of management regimes and to manipulate environmental variables beyond those currently prevailing, allowing the investigation of future scenarios. Long-term ecological experiments provide a unique platform for such studies, investigating the effects of, and interactions between environmental changes, such as air pollution, grazing management and climate change on ecosystems. LTEs allow us to understand and predict future scenarios for ecosystems in the face of environmental change. The role that LTEs play in enabling society to understand and mitigate where possible, the consequences of climate change on ecosystems is now more important than ever.

ECT will continue to support LTEs as before, with the addition of long-term monitoring studies in 2020 and beyond. The rationale for this expansion of ECT's remit and vision is threefold:

1. Evidence that LTM studies, such as those included within the UK Environmental Change Network, are increasingly threatened with funding cuts and staffing shortages in the same way that LTEs were in 2008, when the ECT was established.
2. LTMs such as the Environmental Change Network sites that are associated with existing LTEs have the potential to add significant scale values to the scientific outputs of the latter.
3. The opportunity provided by LTM studies to broaden ECT's interest and appeal to the wider public, both in terms of its science content and its status as a charity requiring funds and donations.

### Specific Objectives of the ECT

1. Supporting existing long-term experimental platforms and new research initiatives that make use of these platforms.

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2. Growing ECT's register of long-term experimental platforms as previously unknown LTEs emerge into view.
1. Facilitating the establishment of new experimental platforms where the scientific need is identified and enabling their use by a wide variety of researchers.
2. Establishing a new register of long-term monitoring studies (LTMs) that add scale value to existing LTEs, and supporting those studies in a similar way to LTEs.
3. Building a network of LTE/LTM Users and Stakeholders (the User Group) to promote and integrate knowledge exchange and innovative scientific and practical outputs from LTEs/LTMs.
4. Helping to place experimental ecology at the heart of evidence-based policymaking and sustainable land use, leading to environmental and social well-being.
5. Communicating the science and impact of LTEs/LTMs to a wide audience of stakeholders beyond the ecological research community.

## The ECT's Key Roles

1. **Finance** – brokering major funding, especially for new experimental facilities; providing a stop-gap in emergencies for existing LTEs/LTMs, and funding small research projects, data curation and essential maintenance/repair work;
1. **Advocacy and Engagement With Science Policy** - championing the case for LTEs/LTMs in the ecological research community, with Government/Research Councils and within host institutions; building partnerships with organisations in the scientific and conservation sectors, to help put experimental ecology at the heart of evidence-based policymaking, sustainable land management and education;
2. **Moral Support** – supporting researchers and trying to ensure continuity of leadership and institutional support for existing LTEs/LTMs; providing a web-based resource promoting our sites for use as *research platforms* by the wider community;
3. **Intellectual** – identifying research gaps in the LTE network and advocating the filling of these gaps and that the suite of existing LTEs as a whole is greater than the sum of the parts; maintaining a network of key stakeholders;
4. **Communication** – explaining the science and impact of LTEs/LTMs by harnessing new digital technologies such as webinars and virtual reality, and developing impact case studies.

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## Activities and Achievements - How the Public Benefitted

The Trustees have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission. In 2019, our activities to forward our public benefit were as follows:

- ECT registered **four** 'new' LTEs in 2019, bringing the total number of currently active LTEs on ECT's register to 30 across 27 different sites. The additions were: Birmingham Institute of Forest Research's Free-air Carbon Enrichment (BIFoR-FACE) experiment in oak woodland at Norbury in Staffordshire, led by Rob MacKenzie of the University of Birmingham; Ainsdale Dune Slacks grazing experiment on the West Lancashire coast, led by Jonathan Millett of Loughborough University; North Wyke Rowden plots at Rothamsted Research's site in North Devon, led by Jane Hawkins of Rothamsted Research; North Wyke Farm Platform at Rothamsted Research's site in North Devon, also led by Jane Hawkins. These experiments all provide evidence in important areas of public interest including climate change, grazing impacts and a range of approaches to more sustainable land management.
- The Pwllpeiran LTE (Brignant Plots) in mid-Wales was saved from dereliction for a second time in its history. The combination of a pending ECT maintenance grant (used as leverage) and a written appeal from ECT to the landowner about the historical and national strategic importance of the Brignant Plots helped to prevent the site's closure.
- The Somerford Mead LTE in Oxfordshire was given a new lease of life in 2019 following discussions which took place between ECT, Open University staff and the former Principal Investigator Alison Macdonald at a Wytham Meeting Series talk in Oxford. The experiment treatments are being modified under the guidance of David Gowing of the Open University and the monitoring work resumed at the plots. FAI Farms Ltd continue to manage the site and apply the treatments to the plots.
- The restoration of the Gibson experiment at Wytham is now underway, in partnership with the University of Oxford, to address the neglect which followed the passing of its Principal Investigator Charlie Gibson. ECT has provided matched funding of £3k to the re-launch of the Gibson experiment with new treatments and renewed strategic relevance to post-Brexit land use policy issues.
- ECT awarded **five** grants totalling £10,000 to five experiments on its register – three for essential maintenance at Pwllpeiran in mid-Wales, Ainsdale Dune Slacks in West Lancashire and the Peatland-ES-UK experiment in Yorkshire/Lancashire; one for research at Nash's Field experiment at Silwood Park seeking to use the LTE to map changes over time in grass chlorophyll content, leaf area index and grassland productivity; and a first *data curation grant* to the BIFoR-FACE experiment in Staffordshire.

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- ECT conducted a full impacts survey of the LTEs on its currently active register during 2019, with the assistance of Principal Investigators. The trust will be using the returns to re-design and re-launch its website homepage in 2020, and to produce two selected full impact case studies for higher-profile LTEs. The information will also be used to support our funding applications to other grant-making trusts.
- ECT conducted a survey of the real and 'hidden' true annual costs to third parties of operating the LTEs on our register. Whilst obtaining a full set of returns was challenging, the Trust estimated that the annual operational cost of running just 17 of our 30 currently active LTEs was approximately £2.2M.
- The launch of ECT's mission expansion to include LTM was delayed until 2020, pending further discussion at Board level around a more strategic approach to achieving the expansion which builds on ECT's current strengths around LTEs. The anticipated expansion will be narrowed to LTMs that add scale value and complementarity to the existing LTEs on ECT's register, thereby creating 'hubs' of LTE/LTM collaborative activity.
- ECT commenced work in late 2019 on its first Corporate Plan which will set out a strategic framework for its operations over the ten-year period 2020-2030, and on an updated Business Plan for the period 2020-2025.
- ECT has expanded its audience receiving news and information on activities at LTEs and the science emerging from them in the following ways:
  - Our first ever national two-day science conference, titled *Long-term experiments in plant-soil ecosystems* was held at the Pavilion Gardens in Buxton, Derbyshire on 21/22 May 2019 and attended by approximately 80 delegates, including key stakeholders/end users of research evidence. Held in partnership with the Plant-Soil-Ecosystems Special Interest Group of the British Ecological Society, the conference included two field visits to the famous Buxton Climate Change Impacts Laboratory (BCCIL) LTE on the outskirts of the town.
  - ECT pioneered (within the UK) the use of Virtual Reality (VR) headsets to bring a science communication experience and virtual tour of the remote BCCIL experiment to delegates at the BES annual meeting in Belfast in December 2019. Over 160 delegates experienced the LTE through the headsets and feedback was universally positive. ECT's VR headsets will be available for use at all its subsequent external meetings. The project was a collaborative partnership with VR company Stickee UK Ltd, based in Solihull.
  - ECT launched two-monthly on-line webinars in January 2019, holding 5 across the reporting year, to bring together our User Group more often for knowledge exchange and transfer purposes. The average participation so far has been 20-25

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members.

- ECT also launched its new YouTube channel in January 2019, with an *Introduction to ECT* featuring founding trustee Jonathan Silvertown. Two further videos have been posted during the 2019 reporting year and the channel currently has 8 formal subscribers.
- ECT launched *podcasts* in Spring 2019, with the inaugural podcast featuring ECT Chairman Jerry Tallwin. Two further podcasts were published via the website throughout 2019.
- Followers of ECT's Twitter feed increased from 568 to 780 during this reporting year, an increase of 37%.
- ECT's LTE User Group membership increased from 111 to 140 during this reporting year, an increase of 26%.
- ECT's quarterly newsletter was published on-line and by correspondence four times in 2019, in March, June, September and December.
- The ongoing overhaul of ECT's website continued in 2019, including the addition of five new webpages published for LTEs not previously having a presence: Thursley Common, BIFoR-FACE, Ainsdale Dune Slacks, North Wyke Rowden Plots and North Wyke Farm Platform; new pages were added for ECT's podcasts, videos, webinars and our newsletter archive; our new online donations platform was launched through a dedicated new page titled *Growing ECT's Capacity*.
- ECT added several new publications to the bibliographies for LTEs on its website, helping to facilitate knowledge exchange and transfer.
- ECT published four articles in this reporting year in the BES's quarterly publication *The Niche*. These were:
  - March 2019: *Sustaining the Research Community and Sharing Outputs*
  - June 2019: *Judging the Impact of Long-term Ecological Field Experiments*
  - September 2019: *Expanding ECT's Vision into Long-term Monitoring Studies*
  - December 2019: *Harnessing Long-term Experiments to Advance Soil Science*
- ECT began preparations for a new VR headset experience of the remote Whim Bog LTE located in the Scottish Borders.
- Relationships with LTEs and their research teams were restored and maintained through a series of 9 site visits (with associated presentations on ECT in some cases) during 2019 which enabled the recording of podcast interviews and more effective promotion of LTEs via our website and social media feed.

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- ECT continued to build a strategic relationship with the National Trust (NT) throughout 2019, exploring the potential for holding a joint ECT-NT conference on LTEs in 2020 and taking our VR headset experience of the Buxton experiment on 'tour' to NT properties. This also included a visit to Lundy Island (owned by the NT) in June 2019 to explore with the NT's Janet Lister the prospects for including the Lundy Cabbage LTM study in ECT's proposed new register.
- ECT initiated discussions with the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) around formally curating and securing data from the LTEs on our register.
- ECT attended the Field Studies Council's (FSC) 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference at the Linnaean Society in London on 4 December, with a view to exploring a new strategic relationship with the FSC built around LTEs in close proximity to FSC field studies centres such as Preston Montford.

## Funding and Staff

In March 2018, the British Ecological Society (BES) agreed to support the ECT with a grant of £25,000 per year for 2019-2021 and provisionally for a further two years dependent upon review in 2021. This support by the BES is a significant endorsement of ECT's reputation and the value of its work and gives considerable confidence to other funders.

On 1 March 2018, ECT appointed a highly skilled and experienced communications and management Executive Director, Mr Ben Sykes, who already had a well-established network within the research and policy community. This appointment was initially on a 2.5 days per week basis, rising to 4 days per week from 17 September 2018.

In Autumn 2018, the ECT Board of Trustees and Executive Director began a fundraising campaign targeted at rendering the Trust self-sustaining beyond 2023. Grant applications have been submitted in 2019 and new ones are underway, initially to secure core funding to both maintain current operations and expand ECT's staff to include a part-time Communications Officer. Once core funding is in place, ECT's strategy will be to shift towards project-based funding applications, some of which can be tied to regions where ECT has particular long-term experimental sites. In addition to grant applications, ECT launched an online donations platform on 5 December 2019 which has so far returned small donations totalling approximately £2k, inclusive of reclaimed Gift Aid. The donations platform can be viewed here:

<https://www.ecologicalcontinuitytrust.org/donate>



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## Volunteers

Volunteers are an integral part of ECT's ability to sustain the 31 currently active LTEs now on its register. Where LTEs struggle for funding, both tenured and retired ecological researchers volunteer their time to keep treatments going and analyse data, often drawing in undergraduate and postgraduate students to assist in the overall running of experiments. As an example, the Lady Park Wood LTE in the Wye Valley, which has been running for over 70 years, is now almost entirely run on volunteer time.

ECT also engages members of the public as volunteers from time-to-time when the need arises. Typically, this is for assistance with maintenance work such as fence replacement at LTEs, as arranged for the Aston Rowant experiment in 2017. Such activity is driven by arising need rather than by design each year, and ECT is always vigilant for such opportunities. In some rare cases, it is also possible for ECT to engage volunteers in botanical surveys at LTEs, though this requires specialist skills and is dependent upon the availability of those skills in any given locality.

ECT's LTE User Group is chaired by a volunteering Trustee.

## Governance

Following an open call for new trustees issued in February 2019, ECT recruited three new trustees to its Board this year. These were Bridget Emmett (Centre for Ecology and Hydrology at Bangor), Kadmiel Maseyk (Open University) and Chas Holt (ecological consultant). All were appointed for a five-year term from 1 June 2019. Mike Morecroft (Natural England), one of ECT's founding trustees, retired in March 2019 after ten years' dedicated service.

In autumn 2019, ECT's Board of Trustees revised the Trust's governance model to commit the full Board to meeting *quarterly* (as opposed to monthly) to focus on strategic issues. It established a new body, the Executive Committee, to meet monthly to oversee day-to-day and month-to-month operations. New Terms-of-Reference have been prepared and approved for both bodies. The Executive Committee comprises ECT's Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Honorary Treasurer and Executive Director. The new governance model will come into force on 1 January 2020.

ECT prepared and implemented new corporate policies on *Safeguarding* and *Whistleblowing* which are available to view on request.

## Plans for the Future

ECT's current fundraising campaign will continue throughout 2020, focused initially on securing core funding from key target trusts including the Esmee

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Fairbairn Foundation, John Ellerman Foundation and Garfield Weston Foundation. We will seek relationships with key funders for whom an invitation to apply is required.

Dependent upon the success of funding applications, ECT will seek to appoint a part-time Communications Officer in 2020, thereby enabling its Executive Director to allocate more time to building strategic relationships with key organisations and engaging in further advocacy activities with policymakers.

ECT will build upon its pioneering work with Virtual Reality (VR) to create a new VR headset experience for the Whim Bog LTE in the Scottish Borders.

ECT will seek to collaborate with the UK Environmental Change Network (UKECN) on a Thematic Workshop proposal around LTMs for the BES 2020 Annual Meeting in Edinburgh.

Subject to available funds, the ECT will produce a series of infographics highlighting the value and impacts of LTEs.

Using impacts data collected during 2019, ECT will re-design and re-launch its website landing page to reflect the wider importance and relevance of LTEs to science, the environment and society.

ECT will develop its strategic relationship with NERC, collaborating with NERC's Environmental Information Data Centre (EIDC) based in Lancaster to curate and secure the data from at least one of ECT's currently active LTEs for which data are at risk of loss.

ECT will pursue new strategic relationships with relevant land management organisations to promote the application of the scientific outputs from LTEs, prioritising one or more of the following: Natural England, the Field Studies Council, the Environment Agency, Scottish National Heritage, Natural Resources Wales, the Royal Geographical Society, the Wildlife Trusts, the British Trust for Ornithology and the RSPB.

The Trust will seek to partner with a key external organisation to hold a national conference on LTEs/LTMs in 2020 that will engage end-users alongside ecological researchers to their mutual benefit and the benefit of society at large.

Support for existing and new LTEs will remain a core activity of the ECT. Building this capability by increasing the ECT Continuity Fund and funds to provide small research grants will continue to be key objectives. ECT expects that our intentions to expand our remit to include LTM studies will be realised in 2020 and beyond through the establishment of new 'hubs' of LTE/LTM collaborative activity around our existing LTEs. Depending upon funding

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availability, grant resources will remain focused on LTEs until such a time as our scheme can be extended to LTM studies.

Promotion of the value of LTEs/LTMs to stakeholders and wider society will continue to be a key objective of the Executive Director, who will also work to expand the LTE User Group. A close working relationship with the BES will continue to be maintained through two-monthly meetings, helping to facilitate ECT communications with the wider ecological community. The ECT will work closely with the British Ecological Society, universities and research institutes to ensure that the educational and research potential of the UK's LTEs is realised.

Jeremy R.B. Tallwin

Chair of Trustees

23 April 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.R.B. Tallwin', written in a cursive style.

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## Financial Review

### Financial position

On 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019, ECT had funds of £44,090 comprised of £27,532 unrestricted and £16,559 restricted. Expenditure during the year was £48,270 (or £89,770 when in kind expenditure is included) and income £35,875 (or £71,382 when in kind income is included). The ECT remains a going concern.

ECT is in a strong position to continue to be a catalyst and co-ordinating organisation that has a much bigger impact than its turnover suggests. We can identify other activities that we have enabled partner organisations to deliver, but we do not know the attendant costs (note 5 to the accounts).

### Reserves

The Trustees have agreed a policy that 3 months operating reserve is desirable. Current unrestricted funds are larger than required to satisfy this, but our fundraising is extremely dependent on occasional relatively large donations and longer cover is highly desirable for stability and continuity of service.

### Exemption from Audit

For the period ending 31/12/2019, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

### Independent Examiner

The trustees have appointed Certax Accounting to carry out the examination of these accounts. The trustees recommend that Certax Accounting remain in office until further notice.

Robin Buxton  
(Hon. Treasurer)



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## Independent examiner's report

to the trustee on the unaudited financial statements of the Ecological Continuity Trust

We report on the financial statements of the Ecological Continuity trust for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 which comprise of financial activities, the balance sheet and the related notes.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner:** As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is our responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)9b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to our attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report:** Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission and in accordance with the provisions in part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be require in an audit, and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Independent examiner's statement:** In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2019 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities.

Simon Oakland, CerTax Accounting  
Independent Scrutineer



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## Legal & Administrative Matters,

### Trustees/Company Directors – serving during the report period

Jeremy Tallowin (Chair)  
Robin Buxton (Treasurer and Secretary)  
Michael Morecroft – retired 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019  
Jonathan Silvertown  
Keith Goulding  
Victoria Cadman – retired 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019  
Carly Stevens  
Alison Birkett  
Kadmiel Maseyk – took office 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019  
Charles Holt – took office 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019  
Bridgett Emmett – took office 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Executive Director – Ben Sykes appointed 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018  
Charity number (registered 1st October 2008): 1126122  
Company number (registered 21st July 2008): 6652160  
Registered Office: Manor House, Little Witteham, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RA  
Independent Examiner: Certax Accounting, Creek End, Burcot, Abingdon, OX14 3DJ  
Bank: HSBC, Cornmarket Street, Oxford OX1 3HY  
CAF Bank, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ  
Contact: Dr Robin Buxton, Manor House, Little Wittenham, Abingdon, OX14 4RA  
Number of employees: 1  
Web site: [www.ecologicalcontinuitytrust.org](http://www.ecologicalcontinuitytrust.org)

## Structure, Governance and Management

The Ecological Continuity Trust (ECT) is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee and governed by Memorandum and Articles.

### The Board of Trustees

The trustees were appointed for their relevant leadership, ecological knowledge, charity governance and administrative experience. They met twelve times during the period of this report. Further trustees will be appointed as the charity develops and requires contributions to its governance by people with other skills, networks and experience. They will be given appropriate induction and information about the role of trustees and their responsibilities under the Charities Acts. The development of the board of Trustees is seen as an ongoing process and an induction process is used with new trustees. The ECT's Board of Trustees reflects broad representation by stakeholders in the ECT's objectives.

### Trustee remuneration and expenses

None of the trustees received any remuneration or benefits from the charity or any related entity. The charity has a policy of meeting trustees' and other volunteers' travel expenses incurred in carrying out their duties. One trustee claimed travel

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expenses during the reporting period and the Treasurer used personal cards to pay various costs and was reimbursed.

## Related Parties

Robin Buxton is a trustee of the Patsy Wood Trust and the Grit Howe Charitable Trust. Alison Birkett is a trustee of British Ecological Society, which gives grants to ECT and is an employee of Lancaster University which received a grant from ECT. Carly Stevens is also an employee of Lancaster University and a co-supervisor of two students, one of them in receipt of a research grant from ECT and the other conducting research using the RainDrop Experiment. No trustee, their family, or any organisation they are associated with has benefitted financially from the ECT.

## Statement of trustees' responsibilities

Charity law requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the year end and of its incoming resources and resources expended during that year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees have considered the fundraising standards and regulations contained in *The Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016* and confirm that the Charity has complied with its requirements.

The Trustees have all confirmed in writing that they are not disqualified from acting as trustees.

The Trustees have reviewed the charity's processes for holding and managing personal data and are confident that they have done everything in their power to comply with GDPR.

**Accountant's Fees:** for conducting independent scrutiny of accounts and related submissions - £240

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**Risks to the Charity:** The Trustees considered the risks to the charity during the course of the year and took appropriate steps to mitigate them as far as possible. The British Ecological Society's support provides endorsement of ECT's reputation and the value of its work, giving confidence to other funders. As the champion of long-term ecological experiments, persistence is one of our goals and our modest funds are managed to achieve this, while enabling funding opportunities to be exploited to advance our goal of establishing new long-term experiment and sustaining existing ones.

This report was approved by the trustees on 23 April 2020 and signed on their behalf by

**Jeremy R.B.Tallowin**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.R.B. Tallowin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeremy R.B.Tallowin  
(Chair of Trustees)

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020



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## Financial Statement and Balance Sheet

At the end of December 2018 the ECT had a balance of £37,479 which includes both restricted and unrestricted funds. We received £35,875 in voluntary income as outlined in our accompanying notes on the accounts.

We are grateful to the British Ecological Society for facilities, financial support and practical collaboration, and to all our donors for their financial and practical support and enthusiasm.

### Ecological Continuity Trust SOFA for period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019

	Notes	2019			2018		
		Unrestr. £	Restr. £	Total £	Unrestr. £	Restr. £	Total £
<b>Income</b>							
Voluntary	2	19,880	10,000	29,880	25,875	10,000	35,875
Investment	3	2	0	2	0	0	0
In Kind income	4	41,500	0	41,500	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>61,382</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>71,382</b>	<b>25,875</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>35,875</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>							
Cost of Generating Funds	7	2,500	0	2,500	1000	0	1000
Charitable Activities	5,6	32,073	10,025	49,098	21,431	5,000	26,431
Governance & Admin		3,672	0	3,672	2,747	0	2,747
In Kind expenditure		41,500	0	41,500	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>79,745</b>	<b>10,025</b>	<b>89,770</b>	<b>25,178</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>30,178</b>
<b>Net Incoming/(Outgoing)</b>		<b>(18,363)</b>	<b>(25)</b>	<b>(18,388)</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>5,697</b>
<b>Funds Brought Forwards</b>		<b>45,895</b>	<b>16,584</b>	<b>62,478</b>	<b>45,198</b>	<b>11,584</b>	<b>56,781</b>
<b>Funds carried forwards</b>		<b>27,532</b>	<b>16,559</b>	<b>44,090</b>	<b>45,895</b>	<b>16,584</b>	<b>62,478</b>

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## Ecological Continuity Trust Balance Sheet for period 1st January 2019 to 31st December 2019

	Notes	31.12.2019 £	31.12.2018 £
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	2	27,889	28,437
Creditors (all due within 1 year)	5,6	(4,681)	(8,449)
Cash at bank		20,882	42,490
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>44,090</b>	<b>62,478</b>
Net current assets		44,090	62,478
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>44,090</b>	<b>62,478</b>
<b>Funds</b>			
Restricted Funds	6	16,559	16,584
Unrestricted funds		45,895	45,894
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b>44,090</b>	<b>62,478</b>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 and are signed on its behalf by:



Robin Buxton (Hon. Treasurer)

### Notes to the financial statements

1. Accounting Policies - Basis of preparation – The accounts have been prepared under the FRS 102 policies, concepts and principles for smaller entities including the adjustment of estimates and errors and Charity Commission SORP2016.
2. Voluntary income – a grant from the British Ecological Society of £25,000 and various other sums from individuals and charitable trusts. Some of these are agreed before the year end for payment in the new year.
3. Investment income = bank interest.
4. In Kind income and expenditure and volunteer time – It is particularly difficult to estimate the money cost equivalent of time given to the ECT for things that, were it not given, it would have to pay for. Most of this given time is given by trustees, but outside the narrow, minimum formal limits required for responsible trusteeship. The figure given is based on £250 a day per person. Leaving aside time spent by the trustees, ECT enjoys commitments of time from half a dozen

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people. No cost equivalent can be calculated as the contributions are not susceptible to being expressed as services that the charity would otherwise pay for.

5. Costs of Activities:- ECT achieves its charitable aims through two sorts of activity:
- practical matters of establishment, maintenance, operation and measurement of experiments;
  - communication, outreach, engagement and promotion of long term ecological experimentation.

Both sorts of activity are delivered in partnership with other organisations, ECT being the co-ordinating catalyst. The major costs are born by partners. There is sometimes a delay between promising a grant to an institution and payment being requested, in one case more than one year. We have limited access to partners' information on expenditure on long term experiments, so we have no way of calculating an accurate monetary value of the catalytic role we fill although an estimate of at least £3,000,000 is supported by returns from a sample of our experiments.

## Costs of activities in 2019

£	Direct costs of activities	Support costs apportioned pro rata to direct costs	Total costs of activities
Experiments	20,530	1,791	22,320
Outreach	21,569	1,881	23,450
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42,099</b>	<b>3,672</b>	<b>45,770</b>

## Costs of activities in 2018

£	Direct costs of activities	Support costs apportioned pro rata to direct costs	Total costs of activities
Experiments	12,355	1,751	14,106
Outreach	14,076	1,995	16,071
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28,426</b>	<b>3,747</b>	<b>30,178</b>

Of the direct costs of experiments, £10,025 took the form of grants to five research institutions, Imperial College and Universities of Loughborough, Aberystwyth, Birmingham and York.

## 6. Detail of Restricted Funds

<b>2019</b>	Opening balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	Closing balance
Gibson Experiment	1,546	0	0	0	1,546
Continuity Fund	15,038	10,000	10,025	0	15,013
<b>TOTALs</b>	<b>16,584</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,025</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16,559</b>

## Ecological Continuity Trust

<b>2018</b>	Opening balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Closing balance
Gibson Experiment	1,546	0	0	0	1,546
RainDrop Experiment	0	0	0	0	0
Continuity Fund	9,038	10,000	4,000	0	15,037
Byspoke Blue Fund	1,000	0	1,000		0
<b>TOTALs</b>	<b>11,584</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>		<b>16,583</b>