



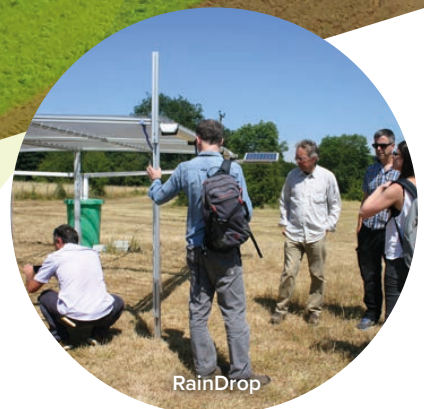
'Securing Long-Term Experiments for the Future'



Whim Bog



Buxton



RainDrop

Corporate Plan 2020-2030



Elan Valley Meadows



North Wyke Rowden Plots

“Ecological Evidence for Action”

Vision

The Ecological Continuity Trust is unique as the only organisation working to safeguard the future of the UK’s strategic network of long-term ecological field experiments (LTEs). Our vision is to develop a strategic network of long-term ecological experiments, safeguarding existing high quality experiments and data, whilst also ensuring new facilities are planned for the long-term. We want to ensure that *experimental* field ecology is at the heart of evidence-based policymaking and sustainable land use, contributing to both science and society.

Mission

We work to establish, maintain and develop a strategic network of long-term ecological experimental sites (LTEs) and monitoring studies (LTMs) throughout the UK, and to help ensure experimental ecology is at the heart of evidence-based policymaking and sustainable land use in a time of environmental change. We help end users to harness *ecological evidence for action* in addressing that environmental change.

Corporate Objectives

- Supporting existing long-term experimental platforms and new research initiatives that make use of these platforms.
- Growing ECT’s register of long-term experimental platforms as previously unknown LTEs emerge into view.
- Establishing new experimental platforms where the scientific need is identified and enabling their use by a wide variety of researchers.
- Expanding the Trust’s mission to include safeguarding long-term monitoring studies (LTMs) that add scale value to existing LTEs.
- 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.
- Helping to place experimental ecology at the heart of evidence-based policymaking and sustainable land use, leading to environmental and societal well-being.
- Communicating the science and impact of LTEs/LTMs to a wide audience of stakeholders beyond the ecological research community.



Whim Bog



Pwllpeiran (Brignant Plots)



Cors Fochno



Park Grass

Corporate Strategy

We *support* LTEs by providing much needed funds through our Small Grants scheme and emergency repair funds, and by providing a web-based resource for promoting their use as *research platforms* by the wider community.

We *provide a framework* within which previously unknown LTEs can be accommodated, promoted and supported.

We *advocate* for LTEs/LTMs through building partnerships with organisations working within the scientific and conservation sectors, enabling us to help put experimental ecology at the heart of evidence-based policymaking, sustainable land management and education.

We *maintain a network* of key stakeholders that help champion LTEs/LTMs and the valuable science they produce.

We *communicate* the science and impact of LTEs/LTMs by harnessing new digital technologies such as webinars and virtual reality, and develop impact case studies.

Resources and Scope

The Ecological Continuity Trust currently supports 31 active experiments at 28 sites across the United Kingdom and our community is constantly growing. There are 38 additional Post-treatment Recovery Experiments (PTREs) where treatments have ceased but sites remain accessible for research. A list of all sites on the ECT register can be downloaded [here](#). We will begin adding LTMs to our register, where they add context and scale value to our existing LTEs.

Our sites cover different habitat types ranging from bog, coastal (dune), grassland, heath, meadow, montane, to woodland ecosystems. Experimental manipulations range from grazing studies to nutrient additions, and from restoration treatments to climate change simulations.

Two-monthly online webinars bring together ecologists and end users around our LTEs. Our quarterly newsletters and frequent podcast interviews help disseminate new results and other information about LTEs to wide audience of stakeholders.



Peatland-ES-UK



Ainsdale
Dune Slacks



Clocaenog

Annual Report & Accounts

Our most recent annual report and accounts are available for download here:
<https://www.ecologicalcontinuitytrust.org/reports>

ECT Funders

- British Ecological Society (BES)
- Esmée Fairbairn Foundation (EFF)
- Patsy Wood Trust
- Grit Howe Trust



Aston Rowant

ECT Strategic Partnerships

ECT has established strategic partnerships with the UK Environmental Change Network (ECN) and several UK universities, including Oxford, Open, Liverpool, Lancaster and Sheffield.

We are building new strategic partnerships with the National Trust, Natural England, the Natural Environment Research Council and the Field Studies Council, amongst others.



BIFoR-FACE

www.ecologicalcontinuitytrust.org



Provides core funding to the ECT