

## **NEWS FROM THE ECT**

### SEPTEMBER 2020

### Latest Podcasts & New Blog Post From North Wyke!

Check out our latest <u>blog post</u> from Graham McAuliffe and Laura Cardenas at Rothamsted Research on grassland nitrous oxide emissions at the North Wyke Farm Platform. See also our latest <u>podcasts</u> with Rob Marrs at Bamford/Hordron Edge LTEs & Gareth Phoenix at Wardlow Hay Cop LTE, all in Derbyshire.

Please get in contact if you have new information for the website or newsletter!





A Future for Bamford/Hordron Edge LTEs in Derbyshire

ECT was delighted to welcome Rob Marrs (University of Liverpool) to speak during our most recent webinar on 20 August. Rob talked about his long-term bracken control experiments at Hordron and Bamford Edges in Derbyshire, suggesting that by 2021 they may have run their natural course. ECT would like to hear from anyone with ideas for continuing or repurposing these experimental plots.

# New Staff for Ainsdale Dunes LTE

The Ainsdale Dune Slacks research team (PIs Jon Millett and Aidan Keith) has just welcomed new NERC Phd student Rebecca Butler into its ranks. Rebecca starts in October. Read more about the experiment <u>here</u>, running since 1974!





RainDrop Update 2020

The 2020 growing season has been a fairly quiet one at RainDrop in the face of the coronavirus lockdown, but the project has completed its main harvest for the fifth consecutive year despite the challenges of the covid-19 situation for group research work. The team have also contributed to two short films made by Oxford University via Oxford Sparks and the *Laboratories with Leaves* series on research at Wytham. Watch this space for links to the new videos in due course, and read more about the RainDrop experiment as usual via our website here.

### Wildfires – New Opportunities for LTEs

Three of the LTEs on ECT's national register have been narrowly missed by wildfires this year, which are set to become more frequent under a changing UK climate. ECT is starting to look at ways in which LTEs might be adapted or re-purposed following wildfire events, which might help with a series of knowledge gaps recently identified in a Natural England <u>report</u>.



ECT's annual report and accounts for 2019 are now available for download from our website <u>here</u>.



**ECT NEEDS YOU!** Help support ECT's vital charitable work through a donation via our online giving <u>platform</u>.

#### **\*\* FIRST MOORCO PUBLICATION \*\***

The first paper to emerge from the <u>MOORCO LTE</u> sites in Aberdeenshire has been published by PI Ruth Mitchell (James Hutton Institute) and others in *Global Change Biology*. The paper reveals the impact of treeplanting in organic soils on carbon sequestration over decadal timescales (40 years). Access the paper <u>here</u>.



New ECT Grant Awarded

Wardlow Hay Cop LTE

ECT is pleased to announce the award of its latest small grant to PhD student Chris Taylor (University of Sheffield) for a summer research project at Wardlow Hay Cop LTE in the Peak District. Read more about the award and our Small Grants Scheme <u>here</u>. The experiment at Wardlow has now been running for 30 years and remains one of the earliest and longest-running nitrogen deposition experiments in the world. Read more about this important experiment on our website <u>here</u>, and use the link at the top of this newsletter to access a podcast interview with PI Gareth Phoenix conducted during a recent ECT site visit in July.

Please stay in contact! www.ecologicalcontinuitytrust.org ×

If you have any news from your field site that you would like to see featured in the next ECT Newsletter or if you want to unsubscribe, please get in contact.