

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS OF PONDHEAD CONSERVATION TRUST for the period ending 31 March 2016.

The Trustees of Pondhead Conservation Trust (PCT) present their annual report and verified accounts for the period ended 31 March 2016.

PCT is a registered charity No: 1158297

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

c/o Hawthorns, Romsey Road, Cadnam, Southampton SO40 2NN

OUR TRUSTEES

Dr. Manuel Hinge Chairman

Derek Tippetts Treasurer

Carol Dibden Secretary

Perry Bond

Nick Dowling

Suzie Moore

John Stride

Trustees are appointed or re-appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting. At the AGM on 19 January 2016, Sally Billington stood down as Secretary and Carol Dibden was appointed to the role. At that time, Perry Bond and John Stride became Trustees representing Pondhead Conservation Volunteers and the Forestry Commission respectively.

All Trustees give their time voluntary and receive no remuneration or other benefits.

OUR AIMS & OBJECTIVES

PCT operates under a constitution adopted on 20 January 2014 and amended 17 July 2014. It aims to restore and manage 76 hectares of woodland in the New Forest known as Pondhead Inclosure in order to improve its biodiversity and public enjoyment. PCT manages the woodland under a 10 year license from the Forestry Commission dated 10 September 2014.

Our objectives are as follows:-

- A.** To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment of Pondhead Inclosure, Lyndhurst, Hampshire,
- B.** To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment of Pondhead Inclosure, Lyndhurst, including school visits and the promotion of volunteering opportunities.

SUMMARY OF MAIN ACTIVITIES

This is our second annual report and covers our first full season of charcoal production and receipt of the final tranches of our grant funding from New Forest National Park Authority and the New Forest Trust totalling £2885.73.

Demand for our charcoal proved strong and with very little effort we quickly built up a network of 10 outlets within the New Forest National Park, achieving sales during the year of £4276.15. Under the terms of our agreement with our Coppice Manager, he received 80% of charcoal sales after the first £2500 of sales, which payment amounted to £1644.92.

Our financial aim is to cover our annual overheads from the sale of charcoal but had it not been for the receipt of the final grant proceeds mentioned above, we would have been negative in the bank to the extent of £432.45. However, much of the expenditure on equipment, tools and fencing totalling £1367.28 was of a non recurring nature and we remain confident that we will be self funding in subsequent years.

By the end of March, we had coppiced a further five acres of overstood hazel which is in line with our Woodland Management Plan. During the year we also planted 500 hazel plants to restore an old coppice area and 200 goat willow plants to provide habitat for the Purple Emperor butterfly - total cost £288. Other conservation work included opening up overgrown rides (tracks), the creation of sunny glades and provision of a footbridge. This has opened up more walking possibilities for the general public and many appreciative comments continue to be received.

Our volunteer base continued to increase during the year and stood at 162 as at 31 March 2016. However, in line with other voluntary organisations, whilst many sign up to volunteer less than 50% actually turn up! Notwithstanding, we ran 97 conservation events during the year and received a total of 2875 volunteer hours, without which we would not have been able to achieved the results outlined in this report. We remain very grateful for the continued support of our volunteers.

In addition, to our own volunteer team we also undertook conservation days with staff from local companies and organisations, including Ordnance Survey, Old Mutual Wealth and the Forestry Commission.

It is also pleasing to report that in July 2015, Dave Dibden, our Coppice Manager, was crowned New Forest Sustainability Champion at the New Forest Show. PCT also attended the show with a display in the Forestry Commission field, which included the charcoal retort, and this was well received by the public.

Later in the year, PCT won the CPRE Hampshire Countryside Award (Community & Volunteering) against strong competition from across the county and were presented with their trophy by the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire.

It was also pleasing to receive an unsolicited letter from Natural England during the year in which they stated that they were impressed with the work that we have undertaken in Pondhead.

Overall, we continue to meet the targets we set ourselves originally and have exceeded expectations in some areas.

Derek Tippetts

Hon Treasurer & Trustee

31 March 2016.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS of PONDHEAD
CONSERVATION TRUST
for the year ending 31 March 2016

Bank as at 31.3.15.	409.37	0
Opening Cash	18.11	0
Income		
Charcoal sales	4276.15	260.00
NF Show sales	160.00	0
Donations	392.50	10.00
	4828.65	270.00
Grants		
New Forest Trust	2500.00	2500.00
National Park Authority	385.73	4289.57
	8141.86	7059.57
TOTAL	8141.86	7059.57
Expenditure		
Dave Dibden	1644.92	0
Insurance	999.00	951.37
Equipment	580.00	601.82
Tools	398.32	1451.13
Fencing	388.96	0
Charcoal Retort expenses	441.70	0
Tree plants	288.00	0
Consumables - various	202.83	0
Chainsaw fuel & oil	202.52	224.91
Refreshments for Volunteers	185.65	147.12
Safety	126.55	1614.25
Promotion & Packaging	116.76	1490.47
Sycamore treatment	99.04	0
Forestry Commission	0	60.00
Sundries	0	91.02
	5674.25	6632.09
Sub Total	5674.25	6632.09
Bank as at 31.3.16.	2453.28	409.37
Cash on hand	14.33	18.11
	8141.86	7059.57
TOTAL	8141.86	7059.57

These Accounts were independently verified on 15 November 2016 by R Travis ACIB (Retired)