

# Inspirational tree-planter's legacy delivers £1.9m windfall for nature

Woodlands, rivers, butterflies and landscapes across Britain are to benefit from grants worth almost £2 million thanks to a trust set up in memory of an inspirational environmentalist and talented seamstress.

Patsy Wood – who was born, raised and studied in Oxford – tragically died ten years ago while still in her forties, leaving behind an enhanced landscape in her native town and in parts of Wales as a result of her tireless tree and hedgerow planting. The Patsy Wood Trust, set up in her name, is now winding down, and in its swan-song has disbursed £1.9million to five nature conservation charities to carry out a range of projects.

The following charities and projects will be supported by the grant:

- £536,000 to Future Trees Trust to help bolster their tree-breeding research capacity over the next four years. This will include creating two new full-time research posts and the part-funding of two PhD studies and industrial placements for sandwich students.
- £435,000 to Earth Trust towards the charity's new Skills and Learning building – an inclusive centre for learning where young people can develop life skills, improve their classroom learning and enhance their attainment. It will be a creative, inspirational, space that will encourage an understanding and a love for trees, food and water and develop ambition to look after their local greenspaces and their environment.
- £300,000 to Butterfly Conservation to support the charity's four-year project, *Building Sites for Butterflies*. The innovative UK-wide scheme will work with the landscape and engineering industry to encourage major new infrastructure projects to make room for butterflies and moths by making simple design changes.
- £268,000 to the John Muir Trust for conservation management around Helvellyn in the Lake District. This will enable wildlife to thrive in the future amid more abundant tree cover, while retaining a balance that includes the traditional, open sheep-grazing landscape of the Lakes. It will also help mitigate flooding in the local area.
- £365,171 to the South East Rivers Trust for the Water For All project over the next four years. The project will work with business and communities in the South East of England to help them understand where their water comes from, reduce their water use and support them in delivering action to contribute to a more sustainable future for water in the environment.

## NOTES FOR EDITORS

[The Patsy Wood Trust](#) was established according to Patsy Wood's wish, to support charities which she was involved in or which were close to her heart. [Read more about Patsy Wood.](#)

[Butterfly Conservation](#) is the UK charity dedicated to saving butterflies, moths and our environment. We provide advice on conserving and restoring habitats. We run programmes for more than 100 threatened species and are involved in conserving thousands of sites and reserves.

[Earth Trust](#) is a leading environmental learning charity providing opportunities for people to discover and appreciate green spaces. Earth Trust manages more than 1,200 acres of farmland, forestry and community reserves in Oxfordshire, including the iconic Wittenham Clumps (the most visited free to access green space in the southeast), Paradise Wood (the largest genetic living collection of hardwood timber trees in the country) and a new wetland on the banks of the River Thames.

[Future Trees Trust](#) is a charity dedicated to the improvement of broadleaved trees. Its vision to realise the economic, social and environmental benefits of broadleaved woodland by ensuring that, by 2050, anyone planting broadleaved trees in Great Britain or Ireland primarily to produce timber can do so using the highest standard of improved material.

The [John Muir Trust](#) is a land conservation charity which owns and manages some of Scotland's wildest and most rugged landscapes, including Ben Nevis and part of the Cuillin mountain range on Skye. It is about to take over the management of Glenridding Common in Cumbria, which includes the Helvellyn summit and much of the surrounding landscape.

[The South East Rivers Trust](#) is an environmental charity dedicated to achieving healthy river ecosystems, for all, across the South East of England. It seeks to deliver outstanding river ecosystem enhancement through science based action, collaboration education and engagement.