

**REPORT OF THE PLANT HERITAGE  
TRUSTEES AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS**

For the year ended 31 October 2025

Registered charity no: 1004009/SC041785

Registered company no: 2222953

## PLANT HERITAGE

Annual Report and Financial 31 Statements for the year ended October 2025

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## **Patron, Presidents and Trustees of the Charity**

Patron	HM The King Charles III
President	Alan Titchmarsh CBE
Vice-Presidents	Elizabeth Banks CBE Sarah Bray Christopher Brickell CBE Jamie Compton David Knott Roy Lancaster CBE Michael Marriott Sir Roy Strong
Trustees	Sir R Newton (Chairman) Mr J Marshall (Vice Chairman) Mr G Morgan (Treasurer) Ms E Crawforth Dr C Farrer Ms S Flatman Mr J Humphreys Ms J Jahromi Ms K Kapoor Mr D Mathers Mrs D Weight
Charity Number	1004009/SC041785
Company Number	2222953
Independent Examiner	Frances Wilde FCCA DChA Warner Wilde, Chartered Certified Accountants 4 Marigold Drive, Bisley, Surrey, GU24 9SF
Plant Heritage Office	First Floor Offices, Stone Pine, Wisley, Woking, Surrey, GU23 6QD

The Trustees are grateful to Lady Corinna Hamilton who served as Vice President until her death in July 2025.

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### **Annual General Meeting 2026**

Through this document, the Plant Heritage Board of Trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 October 2025, prepared in accordance with our governing document and the laws and regulations that apply to our work.

All Plant Heritage members are invited to our 2026 Annual General Meeting on 23 April to meet the trustees and ask questions on past performance and future plans. This will be a virtual event, so that our members based across the UK can attend. Members have received a written notification, and this event can be booked via our website ([plantheritage.org.uk/events](http://plantheritage.org.uk/events)).

Questions about anything contained in this report or the accompanying financial statements should be addressed to the Chair of the Board at [chairman@plantheritage.org.uk](mailto:chairman@plantheritage.org.uk)

Questions can also be sent via the Plant Heritage office by emailing [info@plantheritage.org.uk](mailto:info@plantheritage.org.uk) or posted to First Floor Offices, Stone Pine, Wisley, Woking, Surrey, GU23 6QD, or by phoning the office on 01483 447540.

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### Chairman's Review



Reading this Annual Report, no one could fail to be struck by the breadth, depth and variety of Plant Heritage's work, with the National Plant Collections at the heart.

We should be proud that this year we reached a new milestone, with around 100,000 plants kept safe in our conservation schemes – edging towards one-third of all cultivated plants in the UK, according to the RHS's new State of Gardening report. We are equally proud that around 40% of the 742 National Collections we achieved by the end of 2025 are held by individuals, as volunteers. It has been part of Plant Heritage's ethos from the very beginning that all of us can make a difference doing what we love.

It is clear from our rising profile and the growing number of enquiries from people keen to start a National Collection, become a Plant Guardian or support our work in other ways that our mission has caught the attention of the wider public. It is also welcome to see older Collections successfully passed on to the next generation, who will ensure that years of dedication and knowledge is carried forwards.

Of course, Plant Heritage is not just about plants. It is also about the people behind the plants. Our success depends on the collective interest and support of every member and volunteer. This year, there has been a planned change of the guard in several quarters. The progress we are making today builds on the hard work and strategic leadership by Cecilia Bufton, my predecessor as chair for the past eight years. Also Jim Marshall, who has been involved with Plant Heritage from its earliest days and will step down as vice chairman at the end of April after eight years. Both were ably assisted by Gill Groombridge, who did just about everything "in the office" and out and about, for 18 years. Clare Hogan, editor of the *Plant Heritage Journal* for the past 10 years has also done a fantastic job. To each of them, I wish to pay tribute and say an inadequate but heartfelt thank you.

It is difficult to pull out highlights from such a busy and impactful year. This Annual Report also cannot do everything and everyone justice. For me personally, some of the most memorable moments have been the Members' Day at Thenford Gardens and Arboretum, the seminar for our volunteer National Collection coordinators at the National Memorial Arboretum, and the autumn plant fair at Helmingham Hall in Suffolk celebrating 25 years of our successful partnership that attracts thousands of people. Above all, I have hugely enjoyed meeting members and National Collection holders all over the country, from the north of Scotland to the tip of Cornwall, whose passion and interest is infectious and an inspiration!

Everything we do relies on our staff, members, volunteers and donors who generously support our work now and into the future. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to say thank you to you all.

**Sir Roderick Newton**  
**Plant Heritage Chairman, March 2026**

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### About Plant Heritage

Plant Heritage was founded nearly 50 years ago to protect the diversity of garden plants grown across the UK. Those who attended the conference in 1978 that led to the charity's creation recognised that we risk losing thousands of unique plant varieties that bring joy and represent an important historical and future resource. More than half the named cultivars grown in the UK in the past are no longer for sale. This mission is even more urgent today, as we face up to climate change, the loss of global biodiversity and an increasingly urban society.

With our thousands of members and through our flagship conservation schemes - the National Plant Collections® and Plant Guardians® - we are safeguarding nearly 100,000 plants for the future, from tiny orchids to enormous oak trees. Anyone who has an interest, passion or expertise in a plant or a group of plants, whether amateur or professional, can get involved. National Collection holders come from all walks of life and live across the length and breadth of the UK. They curate and cultivate their own collection, and this becomes part of our unique living library.

Plant Heritage has a small team of staff, who work with hundreds of volunteers across the country. The members of our Board and committees are also volunteers. Information about the plants in our conservation schemes is stored securely in our award-winning system Persephone. The Threatened Plants Programme underpins our conservation work. It is an ongoing research initiative that identifies cultivated plants that are not widely available commercially, to help inform conservation efforts. As a charity, Plant Heritage is funded through membership subscriptions, donations from individuals (including legacies), companies, charitable trusts and sponsorship, as well as fundraising activities like our volunteer-run Seed Shop. It truly is a team effort, protecting plant diversity for our common good.



From top left clockwise: National Collection Holders David Simpson (*Tradescantia Andersoniana* Group & *Tradescantia virginiana* cultivars), Margaret Stone (*Pulmonaria* cultivars, *Symphyotrichum* (*Aster*) *novae-angliae*; and *Geranium sanguineum*, *macrorrhizum* &  $\times$  *cantabrigiense*); and David Carver (*Hyacinthella*). Picture on right: Plant Heritage CEO Gwen Hines, standing in the National Collection of *Erica* (heathers) at RHS Wisley garden.

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### Trustees Report

Plant Heritage is led by the Board of Directors who are the charity's Trustees. This report from the Trustees summarises the charity's achievements in the past financial year (FY2024/25 ending 31 October 2025). The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)".

Plant Heritage's charitable objects as set out in our Articles of Association and Memorandum of Understanding are:

- To encourage the **conservation of endangered or rare plants** of species, hybrids and cultivars which can be grown in the UK and to ensure the availability of these plants to the community as a whole.
- To carry out and encourage **research** into rare or endangered plants and related information, including **records** about them.
- To encourage the **education of the public** in horticultural skills particularly in the field of plant and garden conservation and to encourage the **cultivation in gardens** of rare and endangered plants.
- To encourage the introduction, exchange and propagation of **rare, cultivated plants** not otherwise available in the UK, within the law.

We aim to meet these charitable aims by:

- Conserving our horticultural heritage by keeping living examples of plants in the **National Plant Collections**® scheme and encouraging individuals to conserve individual plants in the **Plant Guardian**® scheme, a register of holders of rare and unusual plants
- Identifying cultivars at the highest risk of extinction, with the ambition that these can be conserved. We do this through our **Threatened Plants Programme** and we share rare plants with gardeners across the UK, through our annual **Plant Exchange**
- Documenting and recording information about the plants in our conservation schemes. This is done by our National Collection Holders and Plant Guardians and in our publications such as the *Directory*, *The Journal*, and through our online plant recording database **Persephone**
- Increasing the **variety of garden plants available** for gardeners in the UK through propagation activities and plant sales, organised with our network of local groups across the UK
- **Educating the public** about the importance of plant conservation and plant diversity through articles and events, and **sharing green skills** like propagation, plant recording, plant health, plant recording and seed collecting through workshops and talks
- Working in **partnership** with organisations that can support our objectives
- Raising **funds** to support this work now and into the future

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### Our Conservation Strategy

Our five-year Conservation Strategy helps us to keep to the highest conservation standards and is delivered by working with National Plant Collection holders, Plant Guardians, our volunteers, members, partners and supporters. This strategy was refreshed in 2025, including to embed a stronger focus on sustainability, working in partnership with other organisations who share our objectives and to strengthen the emphasis on ensuring the continuity of the National Collections into the future. The four objectives in our 2025-2030 strategy are:

- To increase the number of cultivated plants conserved
- To develop and maintain good standards of curation
- To inform and engage others with our conservation work
- To engage with global thinking on issues around plant conservation

### *Why our work matters more than ever*

The UK's cultivated flora is incredibly rich, resulting from our history as well as development and care over centuries by dedicated gardeners and breeders. Nobody knows exactly how many different garden plants there are in the UK. The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) has estimated that there are around 308,000 different cultivated plants and around 73,000 species (RHS State of Gardening Report 2025). These plants are a valuable historical and future resource, whether for their beauty, or having edible, medicinal or other useful properties. Each plant has a unique genetic code making it impossible to replace if lost. Protecting a diverse range of plants is good for biodiversity and increases our resilience to shocks, like extreme weather and pests and diseases.

The threats to these plants are growing for a number of different reasons including:

- **Changing fashions:** Changes in styles of planting and taste mean groups of plants go in and out of fashion, but if they are not being grown, they disappear forever. We want to protect a wide variety of plants, so we can enjoy them today and tomorrow.
- **Pests and diseases:** The nature of modern trade and travel has increased the risk of new pests and diseases being imported into the UK. Recent examples include box blight, ash dieback, and agapanthus gall midge. Climate change is making this worse. There is a growing interest in finding plants that are less susceptible, including research involving heritage varieties.
- **Climate Change:** Historically, the UK's mild climate has enabled us to grow a huge variety of plants, brought back from elsewhere or bred in the UK. Our changing climate is putting this at risk. Droughts, floods, storms and rapid shifts (e.g. from very hot to very cold periods) are making the work of National Collection holders harder. Yet the genetic diversity contained in these collections is important for our future resilience to climate change, and for global biodiversity.
- **Changes to the plant sales trade:** Many garden centre chains and supermarkets stock a very limited range of plants, of a certain size and want to display them to customers when they are in flower. Specialist nurseries carry a much wider range, but it is hard for them to compete. Import/export restrictions designed to control pests and diseases, and post Brexit have made it even harder. We need to celebrate and protect the plants we have and support specialist nurseries.

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- **Loss of key skills:** A lack of horticultural skills, particularly in plant propagation and cultivation, is causing a reduction in the availability of specialist plants. Through our workshops and talks and working with partners we want to reverse this trend.

## Progress during 2024/25

### Objective 1: Increasing the number of cultivated plants conserved

#### ***National Plant Collections***

A National Plant Collection® is a registered and documented collection of a group of plants. Collection holders are individuals or organisations who undertake to conserve these plants by growing them and recording information about them. Many share plant material with others, and some do research into their plants. Each National Collection has a defined botanical scope either taxonomically, such as all the *Penstemon* cultivars, or by their shared history such as plants collected by Harold Comber. They might otherwise have a geographic link, such as Northwest English apple cultivars.

National Plant Collections are made available for people to view, either by appointment, on special open days or as part of a garden open to the public. Together, they represent a huge resource for gardeners, nursery owners, garden designers, plant breeders and those interested in historical gardens and landscapes. Having these plants as part of a registered conservation scheme ensures that they will be a resource for generations to come.

The National Plant Collections scheme is overseen by the Plant Collections Committee, a sub-committee of the Board, whose members are independent advisers, experts in taxonomy, horticulture, botany and the horticultural trade and area group volunteers. The committee rigorously assesses new applications for scope and coverage and also considers guidance for Collection Holders on cross-cutting issues such as plant health. National Collections are categorised as horticultural, reference or historical collections, depending on their scope and focus. They are mostly held on one site but can also be dispersed, which is increasingly useful (along with duplicate Collections) to protect important plants when crises hit e.g. storms or disease outbreaks. There are now 15 dispersed Collections, four held by Plant Heritage local groups. 10 Collections are held by people under 35. There are 54 fruit, vegetable or herb Collections, including a new heritage apple Collection looked after by Gloucestershire Orchard Trust and a remarkable new Collection of *Camellia sinensis* grown for tea production that thrives at Tregothnan Estate in Cornwall. Over 10,000 of the plants in National Collections can be grown as houseplants.

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Photos above (clockwise from left): Plants from the new National Collection of plants raised by and associated with Pershore College (*Pelargonium* 'Pershore Princess' (cc M Stone); *Penstemon* 'Comberton'; *Cotoneaster frigidus* 'Pershore Coral'; *Penstemon* 'Pershore Pink Lady'; *Cotoneaster salicifolius* 'Avonbank' (cc M Stone); and *Ceanothus* 'Pershore Zanzibar' (cc J Egan-Wyer)

Today there are National Plant Collections everywhere from windowsills to back gardens, greenhouses, parks, allotments, public gardens, plant nurseries and zoo gardens, even a pub and a prison. Their accreditation shows that anyone with a passion for plants can take an active role in plant conservation. There are still some important groups of garden plants that are not represented in Collections. Through our annual Missing Collections campaign, we encourage more people to consider becoming a National Collection Holder (see below).

At the end of 2025, there were 742 fully accredited National Plant Collections (727 at end 2024), including 41 new collections approved during 2025 (all horticultural Collections unless stated):

- ***Aeonium* cultivars**, Dan Jackson, Surrey
- ***Agastache*** - a second National Collection for Eastwood Park prison in Gloucestershire
- ***Ajuga* species and cultivars** - dispersed Collection held by members of the Surrey Plant Heritage group
- ***Asimina triloba*** (North American pawpaw) Stuart Senior, Somerset
- ***Bistorta amplexicaulis***, Helen Picton and Ross Barbour, Old Court Nurseries & Picton Gardens, Worcestershire
- ***Cacti* (as mentioned by Richard Evans Schultes)**, George Holmes, Gloucestershire.
- ***Camellia sasanqua* (and its cultivars available in the UK) and *Camellia sinensis* (grown for tea production in the UK)** – The Hon. EAH Boscawen, Tregothnan Estate, Cornwall
- ***Camellia* (Worth Park Heritage Collection)**, Worth Park, Stephen Peters, Sussex - historical Collection
- ***Coprosma***, Victoria Falletti, Sussex

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- ***Corylopsis* species and cultivars**, Diane Corbett, Pembrokeshire
- ***Crassula*** - Amanda Whittaker's former Collection, now safely at Fonthill Estate in Wiltshire
- ***Crataegus* species & cultivars** (Hawthorn) - a dispersed Collection held by Plant Heritage's Northwest Group in Lancashire and Cumbria
- ***Cymbidium***, The Mathers Foundation, Sussex - reference Collection
- ***Dierama* species**, University of Exeter, Devon
- ***Dionaea muscipula* cultivars & hybrids** (Venus flytrap), Ian Ladd, North Lincolnshire.
- ***Dionaea muscipula* cultivars** - held by Jim Simmonds in Essex
- ***Eriosyce***, Victoria Davies, Sussex - reference Collection
- **Ferns (British native and naturalised aliens)**, Dr Alison Evans, Lancashire
- **Ferns (*Polypodiopsida*) Native Welsh species**, Treborth Botanic Garden, Gwynedd
- ***Ilex*** (holly) - at Bodenham Arboretum, Worcestershire, looked after by James Binnian
- **Tall Bearded *Iris*s raised by Bryan Dodsworth** - held at Doddington Hall in Lincolnshire - historical Collection
- ***Iris* – Bearded irises of the early 20th Century** - Sir Roderick Newton, Suffolk - historical Collection
- ***Lathyrus*** (including sweet peas and species) - Roger Parson's former Collection, now held by Philip Johnson of English Sweet Peas in Essex
- ***Malus* (Gloucestershire apple cultivars)** - Gloucestershire Orchards Trust - historical Collection
- ***Malus domestica* (17<sup>th</sup> Century cultivars)**, Hatfield Park, Hertfordshire
- ***Nymphaea* (Ken Warner Memorial collection)**, Graham Warner at Herstmonceux Castle, Sussex – historical Collection
- ***Origanum vulgare* cultivars**, David Barrett, Gwynedd
- ***Origanum vulgare* & *Origanum laevigatum* cultivars**, Julian Reed, Kent
- ***Orobanche***, University of Oxford Botanic Garden & Arboretum, Oxfordshire
- ***Pelargonium* Deacon cultivars**, Stella Abrahams, Hertfordshire
- **Pershore College (plants raised by and associated with)** – Pershore College, Josh Egan-Wyer, Worcestershire
- ***Philadelphus* (bred by Lemoine)**, Richard Marshall, Gloucestershire – historical Collection
- ***Philadelphus* (bred by Lemoine)** - Whatton House, William Stanger, Leicestershire – historical Collection
- ***Pinguicula* (Mexican & South American)** - Wack's Wicked Plants, Yorkshire – reference Collection
- ***Salvia rosmarinus***, Great Comp Garden, Kent (formerly at Downderry Nursery)
- ***Sarracenia purpurea* & *rosea* (species, subspecies and cultivars)** - Paul Katz, Norfolk
- ***Sequoia sempervirens* & cultivars**, RHS Garden, Wisley, Surrey
- ***Stapeliads*** - Clive Russell, Dorset
- ***Tetrapanax*** - English Heritage Walmer Castle, Kent
- ***Veronica longifolia* & *Veronica spicata* cultivars & modern hybrids** - Penny Whitehurst, Staffordshire

Four of these are past National Collections that have been reaccredited in their new homes (*Lathyrus*, *Crassula*, *Salvia rosmarinus* and *Dierama*), which is a fantastic way to ensure the hard work of National Collection holders continues. One existing National Collection of Orchids was awarded scientific status - *Oncidium*, held by The Mathers Foundation in Sussex.

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Historical collections describe well one of the main purposes of the organization: to conserve our plant heritage in gardens across the UK and Ireland. There were eight historical National Collections approved in 2025, from Herstmonceux Castle's waterlilies (immortalised in the paintings of Claude Monet), to *Philadelphus* from Lemoine nurseries in France, *Iris* bred during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and *Pelargoniums* bred in the 1930s, to historic apple cultivars from Hertfordshire and Gloucestershire and rare *Camellia* associated with Worth Park in Sussex.

During the year, the Plant Collections Committee considered and accepted 56 proposed Collections (the first stage of the application process) which will come forwards for accreditation when they are ready. Some Collections come forwards quickly, others take a little more time. As at the end of 2025, there were 138 proposed Collections, working towards a full application.

There were 23 National Collections withdrawn during 2025, and three more are in a transitional status (meaning they are under review or being relocated). Collections can be withdrawn for various reasons. Sometimes plants suffer badly from pests and diseases and cannot be saved. Sometimes Collection Holders need or want to step back from this work, which is done on a voluntary basis. Changing weather patterns due to climate change mean that some plants are no longer growing well in their previous locations, so may be moved elsewhere in the country. Our stronger focus on succession is helping to make sure these Collections continue wherever possible. If we cannot achieve this, we focus on safeguarding the rarest plants from a Collection e.g. through the Plant Guardian scheme. Of those withdrawn during 2025:

- At least seven have been duplicated through other National Collections;
- Seven have been passed on as complete collections, to be re-accredited when ready;
- Two are paused and hope to return with the same collection holder in future;
- Three will stay where they are for now and where possible make plant material available if requested;
- Four collections were withdrawn completely and not passed on, but for three of these there are other National Collections of the same plants. The fourth struggled with plant losses – *Cautleya* – so has been withdrawn completely.

### ***Plant Guardians***

Plant Heritage encourages members to take an active role in conservation by becoming Plant Guardians®. This allows individuals to care for one or more rare or unusual plants without the responsibility of maintaining a full National Plant Collection. Some members already grow a special plant, and we can check whether it is considered rare; others take on an eligible plant through our annual Plant Exchange or grow plants as backup for a National Plant Collection.

All Plant Guardian plants are recorded in Persephone, our plant database, so we can keep track of them. We encourage Plant Guardians to propagate the plants they care for and share them with other members through the Plant Exchange, local propagation groups, or plant sales. Through the scheme, rare plants are grown in multiple locations as an insurance against loss.

The scheme has continued to grow since its launch in 2013. There are now over 2,900 Plant Guardian plants recorded (up from 2,674 in 2024). Of these, over 900 cultivars are assessed by our Threatened Plants Programme as 'Threatened in cultivation' (see below), and more than 600 are species that are

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rare or difficult to find. Over the past 12 months, we have been able to source several plants from Plant Guardians for National Collection holders, demonstrating the important conservation role that our Plant Guardians play. During the year, we published seven Plant Heritage conservation blog posts highlighting Plant Guardians, Collection Holders, and the stories behind the plants they conserve. These features were also shared across our social media channels to reach a wider audience.

We now have around 200 Plant Heritage members taking part in the scheme. The regions with the highest number of Plant Guardians are North East, Surrey, Kent, Hampshire, Sussex, and Yorkshire. The regions with the greatest number of plant registrations are Gloucestershire, South Wales, Surrey, Kent, Dumfries & Galloway, and Shropshire. While several Plant Societies already record their members' plants through the scheme, this year we were pleased to welcome our first garden club participating as a group, along with another society beginning to focus on conserving their rarest plants.

We continued to expand the online catalogue of Plant Guardian plants on our website, originally developed with support from the National Heritage Lottery Fund (2022–23). Powered by Persephone, the catalogue provides a short description, an image, and highlights whether a plant is Threatened in cultivation (see below). Because many of these plants are not widely available commercially, compiling accurate information and photos takes time. By November 2025, more than 650 Plant Guardian plants had been added, and our aim is eventually to publish details about every plant in the scheme so they can be recognised and appreciated by a much wider audience.

### ***Threatened Plants Programme***

Through our Threatened Plants Programme (TPP), Plant Heritage conservation staff track the history, availability and locations of named cultivars e.g. *Pelargonium* 'Sussex Delight' to work out how rare they are. This information is used to help prioritise conservation work by us and our partners, including National Collection Holders, the RHS, the National Trust for Scotland and specialist societies. Plant Guardians can see if a plant has been assessed as threatened by looking at the digital plant records in our Persephone system.

At the end of 2025, the TPP had assessed over 135,000 named cultivars that we have evidence have been grown in the UK or Ireland. These are checked against plant records from thousands of locations. More than half (nearly 79,000) are no longer reliably available commercially, which we call Threatened in cultivation. This high percentage underlines how many of our amazing garden plants could be at risk of disappearing. Threatened plants are further categorised as follows: Vulnerable in cultivation (three or more sites); Endangered in cultivation (grown in only one or two locations); or Critical in cultivation (not yet found alive). The TPP was started in 2009 and we are adding new data all the time. We are delighted when we find something is not as rare as we feared. We recently located the grapevine 'Duchess of Buccleuch' for the National Trust for Scotland, who thought they would need to go to Australia to source it.

The National Plant Collections are an important way to protect these plants: in a past sample analysis of 23,230 different cultivars held in 326 National Collections, 7,967 met the threshold for being categorised as 'threatened'. Since National Collections are for groups of plants, not all plants in a Collection will be rare but many will be, and others can quickly become rare if they go out of fashion. Plants rated as Threatened in cultivation are eligible for the Plant Guardian scheme. This is a good way to safeguard individual rare plants where there is not a National Collection.

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As well as threat status, we have collated important and fascinating information about these plants, including trade names, synonyms, Plant Breeders' Rights (PBR), awards, first and last dates listed in the RHS Plant Finder (1987 onwards), first and last dates grown (1562 onwards), whether they have been part of a National Plant Collection (past, present and proposed) or the Plant Guardian scheme, or recorded in our annual Plant Exchanges, Threatened Plant of the Year competition, or accessioned at botanic and historic gardens. We also hold information from International Cultivar Registration Authorities, referees, archived files and online sources. Over 7,600 of the plants in the Threatened Plants Programme database at the end of 2025 were not in the RHS's *Find a Plant* database.

### ***Threatened Heathers***

In September 2025 we brought heather experts together in Perth, Scotland, to focus on the risks to this much-loved plant. Speakers included Dr Brenda Leese, Alistair Chalmers, Eli Sutton, Dr Tom Lowdon, and Barbara Macdonald, covering National Collections held in several gardens and Plant Guardians.



Photo above: Participants at our 2025 Heather Study Day in Perth, Scotland

The Threatened Plants Programme (TPP) has tracked 1,591 named heather cultivars and for 513 of these we currently have no known location. TPP Programme Manager Kalani Seymour and Michael David Pirie, Associate Professor in Botany at the University Museum of Bergen in Norway, discussed threatened heathers and highlighted examples. This prompted participants to search for rare cultivars like 'Pink Cloud' and 'Scatterley' at Riverside Park. Eight cultivars that we feared were missing have been found so far. These events foster collaboration, knowledge exchange and networking, helping participants contribute to the conservation of rare and historic heathers while celebrating the joy of in-person engagement and shared passion for plants.

### ***Plant Exchange***

The best way to save rare plants is to propagate and share them. Through our annual Plant Exchange, Plant Heritage members propagate and share hard to find plants with other members. By distributing plants around the country, we can re-establish plants in danger of being lost and give members the chance to get hold of something special. We encourage members who receive plants from

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the Plant Exchange to propagate them and pass them on again, to help secure their future. We also encourage registration of these plants in our Plant Guardian scheme so we can keep track of them.

The Plant Exchange for 2025 was held as part of our members' day at Thenford Garden and Arboretum in Banbury on 7 June. Nearly 1,000 plants (700 different taxa) were swapped (600 in 2024). Several members brought extra plants to swap on the day. The 2026 Plant Exchange will be held as part of the annual Plant Heritage members' get together, this time hosted by our Suffolk Group. We are grateful to our volunteer Plant Exchange coordinators who make this possible, and to all those who provided or collected plants for safekeeping.



Photo above: Members and our conservation team taking part in the 2025 Plant Exchange

### **Objective 2: Develop and maintain good standards of curation**

We ask National Collection holders to demonstrate best practice curation standards for their collections, including identifying, labelling, recording and cultivating their plants, and sharing this knowledge with visitors. We also encourage National Collection holders to adopt sustainable practices.

#### ***National Collection Coordinators***

National Collection holders are supported by our conservation team and our network of volunteer collection coordinators who mentor and advise people who are interested in starting a National Plant Collection, support new Collection holders, visit Collections to report back on progress and act as the local point of contact for queries. They also act as the link between Collection Holders, the local group, and the central conservation team. In 2025, we were delighted to welcome 10 new coordinators – some with handovers from their predecessors, others taking on areas that have not had a coordinator for a

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while.

Collection coordinators keep in touch with each other and with the conservation team to share lessons and findings, including at regional meetings. This year coordinators from the Northern region (including Scotland, Ireland and North England) had their catch up at Thorp Perrow Arboretum. In November 2025, we held our second national symposium at the National Memorial Arboretum on 4 November (which has National Collections of *Hamamelis* and *Amelanchier*). This day of talks and workshops brought together Plant Heritage staff and trustees, Collection coordinators and speakers including Paul Johnson (Grounds and Landscape manager at the Arboretum), Cat Sobolewska (Animal and Plant Health Agency - APHA), Roderick Newton (Plant Heritage Chairman) and Clare Hogan (*Journal* Editor). We shared knowledge and suggestions for the future on topics ranging from plant health and biosecurity to sustainability, effective record keeping and collecting and communicating stories from Collection holders. Participants also agreed that we should make more of the potential of the Plant Guardian scheme to save rare plants and improve collaborative working through digital communications.

Three people who attended the 2025 symposium were inspired to become collection coordinators and started their role in early 2026 (making 44 Collection coordinators). We are grateful to the Worshipful Company of Gardeners for supporting this symposium.

### ***Plant Records with Persephone***



Plant records are an essential element of maintaining good standards of curation. National Collection Holders can choose to keep their plant records in their own system, or opt for Persephone, the award-winning online records system developed especially for Plant

Heritage. The central team uses Persephone, and we continue to work towards a fully comprehensive, searchable and accessible database of all the plants in the National Collections.

All Plant Guardian plants are recorded in Persephone, as well as plants swapped through the Plant Exchange, along with three-quarters (566) of accredited Collections and 110 proposed Collections. We are adding all new National Collections and encouraging those whose Collections pre-date the system to add their information to it. Where National Collections are held in institutions that use other horticultural databases, they are asked to send a regular output of key data. These records are then managed, on their behalf, by Plant Heritage. We are also continuing to increase the number of collections recorded using Persephone by providing support and training. During the year, the Persephone team responded to many user support requests via email and provided nearly 130 one to one training sessions (online), plus 22 group sessions online and two face to face workshops.

Key information about plants recorded in Persephone is shared with the Plant Heritage conservation team and our volunteer National Collection coordinators to facilitate management of the scheme. Users may also grant viewing access or various levels of edit access to plant enthusiasts around the world, enabling global exchange of information. The Persephone team supports best practice in plant curation by advising National Collection Holders on accessioning and labelling plants.

Persephone is also used to manage **The Wish List** - records for hard-to-find plants that Collection Holders are seeking (formerly known as 'Desiderata'). Persephone users can record information about

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these plants. This scheme is being relaunched in February 2026. We share the list of plants people are looking for with all Persephone users, and via our website and social media to get the public involved in tracking them down.

We make Persephone available to large/open gardens to record the plants in their gardens. The scheme has attracted a growing number of subscribers, some in very well-known open gardens & arboretums around the UK. More than 25,000 accessions have been recorded by one garden alone. Use of Persephone by external organisations brings a sustainable income to the project and extends Plant Heritage's conservation reach by helping other organisations to record their plants well, including many rare plants.

Persephone is also available to Plant Heritage members who can record up to 1,000 plants in their private garden by taking out a 'Membership Plus' subscription. Members with particular plant interests may use Persephone to share their records with each other. Most current member users have indicated that they will be willing to share their records with us to support plant conservation projects.

Persephone is owned by Plant Heritage, and we have continued to develop it to meet our needs. In 2025 we invested in efficiency improvements, including the ability to check the conservation status of a whole National Collection in one go, instead of plant by plant, against the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN's) Red List of threatened species; and to check plant nomenclature for a whole National Collection against Kew Garden's Plants of the World Online (POWO) database. The Persephone project is overseen by the Persephone Working Group (PWG) and delivered by a team of volunteers and staff working together. The Board would like to thank Doug Smith who stood down as chairman of the PWG in October 2025 for his leadership from the early days of Persephone, working closely with Penny and David Ross who continue to provide invaluable support as volunteers.

### ***Financial Support to National Collection Holders***

Plant Heritage provides bursaries to Collection holders and others to support their conservation work. During FY2024/25, we provided bursary support of just over £9,500 through the central office and local groups.

Our main bursary scheme, the Plant Heritage National Collection holder bursary, provides grants of £100 - £500 to promote, support and improve the National Plant Collections. In 2025, bursaries were awarded for projects including:

- an apprentice project to press **herbarium specimens** of *Achillea*, at Worth Park in Sussex (which have been accepted by the RHS Herbarium at Wisley);
- improved **labelling and interpretation** at Lytham Hall in Lancashire, Wentworth Castle Gardens, Yorkshire, and the John Bartram Collection at Painshill in Surrey;
- two **research bursaries** to study plants in their native habitats in Africa and Japan;
- work on **micropropagation research** for *Alstroemeria* as well as a project to propagate Brighton's Elm collection incorporating grafting training with students at Plumpton College; and
- to replace a **shade tunnel** for Hostas (the previous covers were destroyed in a storm), and to create a new display area.

Our changing climate, including more extreme weather and new pests and diseases, is making the job of

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collection holders tougher. Therefore, we are encouraging Collection Holders to adopt sustainable practices and we can provide support for this through our bursaries. We have also used bursary funds to help cover travel costs for National Collection holders and volunteers to attend workshops and events, including the national seminar for Collection Coordinators in Staffordshire.

Plant Heritage local groups in Devon and Cornwall, Norfolk, Sussex, Hampshire, Dumfries and Galloway provided bursaries to National Collection holders for a range of needs including labelling and signage, irrigation, phytosanitary standards and research (in the UK and overseas) including climate adaptation research. The Norfolk group's annual Jan Paulger award to encourage gardening in schools was awarded in 2025 to North Elmham school to develop a calm sensory garden.

### **Objective 3: Inform and engage others with our conservation work**

By telling others what we do and why, and showcasing the plants in our flagship schemes, we increase public support for plant conservation and for our work.

#### ***Directory of National Plant Collections***

Any member of the public can easily access information about the National Plant Collections from our website, which is regularly updated. We also publish an annual National Collections Directory, which is issued free to members and available to buy if members of the public would prefer to use that instead of our website. This lists all the National Collections by A to Z and by county, along with open days each month.

#### ***The Journal***

Our Plant Heritage *Journal* highlights the conservation work of National Collection Holders and Plant Guardians and is widely respected for the quality of its articles. This twice-yearly publication is provided free to all members. The aim is to educate and inform people, and to encourage them to take part in conservation by becoming a Plant Guardian or a National Collection Holder, or to get involved with our Plant Exchange. The Spring 2025 edition highlighted the importance of planning ahead to ensure the continuity of National Plant Collections, and the Autumn 2025 edition showcased Collections well-suited to cut flowers, given the growing interest in sustainable flower farming. The trustees would like to thank Clare Hogan who has edited the Journal for the past 10 years and will be handing over after the Spring 2026 edition.

#### ***Missing Collections Campaign***

The Missing Collections campaign, first launched in 2016, encourages people with a passion for plants to bring together a National Plant Collection of their own and join the Plant Heritage community in growing, sharing and saving plants. In recent years, the Missing Collections campaign has helped us to secure new collections for *Aeonium*, *Alcea*, *Baptisia*, *Colocasia*, *Eryngium*, *Ginkgo*, *Thalictrum*, *Tradescantia* and *Verbena*.

As part of our commitment to environmental sustainability, our 2025 campaign highlighted pollinator-friendly plant groups: *Arbutus*, *Argyranthemum*, *Armeria*, *Campanula*, *Erysimum*, *Festuca*, *Ligularia*,

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*Osteospermum, Pittosporum, Silene, Trollius, Verbascum, Vinca* and *Zantedeschia*. We also emphasised the importance of historical National Collections, highlighting the opportunity to bring together historical National Collections of plants associated with women gardeners e.g. Valerie Finnis, Margery Fish and Gertrude Jekyll.

To publicise the campaign, we gave interviews on numerous local radio stations, contributed to articles in magazines and used our social media and website. We also highlighted the campaign in our displays at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show and Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival, especially to explain the variety within each plant group to the public. This proved to be a good way to explain our work to the public. We were delighted to welcome a new National Collection of *Agastache* in 2025, which was profiled as a missing collection in 2024. The Plant Collections Committee has also accepted a proposed collection of *Arbutus*.

### ***Green Plaque Scheme***

National Plant Collections are accessible to visitors whether by appointment, through specific open days, or business open days. We are grateful to all our Collection Holders for their continued commitment to make this possible. A growing number of National Collection Holders now display our distinctive Plant Heritage green plaques, highlighting that a National Plant Collection is held in their garden. We encourage our members and the public to visit the Collections to see for themselves the conservation efforts being made and to enjoy the wide range of plants being conserved. Details of open days are updated regularly on our website.

### ***Threatened Plant of the Year***

Our Threatened Plant of the Year competition draws public attention to this important issue, by giving anyone the chance to enter a rare or unusual cultivated plant that is not currently available commercially and has been grown or sold in the UK or Ireland at least 10 years ago. It continues to attract significant media attention as well as public entries.

Shortlisted plants were showcased as part of our educational display at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival in July. The judges' winner was *Delphinium elatum* 'Alice Artindale', bred by William Artindale and Son in 1936 and named after William's daughter-in-law. Earning an Award of Merit in 1936 and again 1945, it has a strong spike of azure blue and mauve double flowers and boasts an unusual layer of sepals rarely seen today. It was entered by Home Farm Plants in Hertfordshire which specialises in Delphiniums. The public's choice was *Tetrapanax papyrifer* 'Di Sue Shan', a lesser-known cultivar of this exotic architectural woody shrub, known as the 'rice paper plant'. It was collected at Dasyueshan, Taiwan, and named after Diane Doughty and nursery partner Sue Wynn-Jones. It is now grown at English Heritage's Walmer Castle in Kent which was awarded a National Collection of *Tetrapanax* in June 2025.

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Photo above: *Delphinium elatum* 'Alice Artindale' and *Tetrapanax papyrifera* 'Di Sue Shan' alongside other shortlisted entries on display at the RHS Hampton Court Palace show

The other 10 plants shortlisted were: *Aeonium* 'Pen-du'; *Agapanthus inapertus* subspecies *pendulus* 'All Gold'; *Camellia japonica* 'Baronne Leguay'; *Narcissus* 'Fletching'; *Penstemon* 'Ridgeway Red'; *Primula* 'Julius Caesar'; *Rosa* 'Eden Rose'; *Rosa* 'Lorenzo Pahissa'; *Salvia microphylla* 'Rodbaston Red'; *Tradescantia* 'Danielle'. We would like to thank everyone who entered a plant in the competition and congratulate everyone whose plant was shortlisted.

### **Brickell Award**

The Brickell Award recognises excellence in cultivated plant conservation. Named after Plant Heritage's founding member and current Vice President Chris Brickell, it was launched for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023 and celebrates the extensive and ongoing commitment, passion and research of National Plant Collection Holders. The independent judging panel are horticultural and conservation experts.

The 2025 Brickell Award was won by Linda Eggins, renowned *Aucuba japonica* expert and National Plant Collection Holder, and presented by Matt Pottage, Head of Horticulture and Landscape Strategy for the Royal Parks. The judges commended Linda for her dedicated research and conservation efforts over several decades. In particular, they noted her important work to untangle the plant group's complicated names and classifications, as well as her collaboration with others, including sharing her knowledge and plant material across the UK and internationally. Through her passion for these plants and her storytelling, she has helped to persuade others to appreciate their diversity, as well as their interesting history. The Collection is curated at Winterbourne House and Garden in Birmingham.

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Photo above left to right: Plant Heritage board chair Cecilia Bufton, Linda Eggins, Matt Pottage and Dan Cartwright (head gardener of Winterbourne House and Garden).

### Objective 4: Engage with global thinking on issues around plant conservation

Plant Heritage's work contributes to the global biodiversity target for 2030, as set out in the Kunming-Montreal 2022 agreement: *'To maintain and restore the genetic diversity within and between populations of native, wild and domesticated species to maintain their adaptive potential, including through in situ and ex situ conservation.'* The National Plant Collections are an example of *ex situ* (off site) conservation of domesticated species (cultivated plants), although some Collections also include species. Around 33,000 of the plants held in the National Plant Collections originated in the wild and some are now critically endangered in their natural habitats due to climate change and habitat destruction. Having cultivated plants as part of a registered conservation scheme ensures that they will be a resource for generations to come.



### ***Scientific Collections***

National Collections can be useful for scientific research as a source of live plants and genetic material for specific investigations. Many of our National Collection Holders have become experts in their field, and many share their expertise with others, including through the RHS Expert Groups. 20 National Plant Collections now hold scientific status. To achieve this, the Collection holder must demonstrate active involvement in maintaining and enhancing the taxonomic status of their plant group, in cooperation with other collections and authorities, as well as a sound knowledge of other collections (held nationally and internationally) in their genus or group and regular communication with them. They must also be able to demonstrate how they have shared their knowledge and plant material for the good of conservation and the genus concerned, including through publication. Those applying for scientific status are matched with a mentor to support them through this process.

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### ***Embedding sustainability***

Recognising the growing threat from climate change and loss of biodiversity, we have stepped up our focus on environmental sustainability.

This was a key theme at the 2024 National Collection Holders' Conference in November 2024, kindly hosted by Kew Royal Botanic Gardens which has 10 National Collections across the Kew and Wakehurst site. The Conference was well attended, with 130 participants including two Plant Heritage Vice Presidents: Sarah Bray and Michael Marriott. We had keynote presentations from Simon Toomer, Kew Curator of Living Collections, Lucy Hart, Head Gardener at Fulham Palace House and Garden and James Armitage, Editor of the RHS Plant Review. We also had short talks from several National Collection holders: Catrina Fenton from Garden Organic on 'Calendula: a diverse and exciting venture for seed conservation'; Chris Bird and Liz Smith of Sparsholt College on 'DNA the Apple Way'; and Bethan Collerton from Birmingham Botanical Gardens, 'Caring for Cyclamen in a Changing Climate'. We finished with an engaging panel discussion. We are grateful to the Stanley Smith UK Horticultural Trust for supporting the event.

Some National Collection Holders and members have been leading the way on environmentally sustainable practices for decades. We want to learn from them and share their knowledge through talks and workshops (see below). Plants play an important role in mitigating, adapting to and building resilience to climate change. By making sure plants do not disappear and encouraging people to grow a diverse range, we are making a positive contribution to environmental sustainability. We also want to ensure that we are minimising our waste, reducing our carbon emissions and encouraging members to adopt sustainable growing practices if they have not already done so. Our sustainability statement is published on our website, along with our statement on peat in horticulture.

### ***Biosecurity Plans***

In view of the rising risks from pests and diseases, we have introduced the concept of biosecurity plans for National Collections to keep the plants safe and protect the hard work done by our Collection holders. Many already have a plan and our aim is to learn from them, as well as external advice. We are grateful to Andrew Gaunt (National Collection holder for *Hedychium* and a Plant Health and Seeds Inspector at the Animal and Plant Health Agency APHA) and Lucy Carson-Taylor (Plant Health Engagement Manager at APHA) for their work to develop a template and guidance notes for these plans. At this stage they are voluntary but we have recommended them to all Collection holders and our aim is to roll them out full over the next few years. They provide an easy-to-use template to identify and manage risks. Plans can be generic or formulated to suit specific collections or plant groups. We will continue to update them (e.g. adding information about invasive plants in February 2026). The plan also includes a list of useful websites, contacts and other schemes including information about local APHA inspectors.

### ***Talks and Workshops***

During the year, Plant Heritage's central office and our local groups organised over 100 talks and workshops for National Plant Collection Holders and Plant Heritage members and partners on topics related to plant conservation, including:

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- Online workshops about the **Plant Guardians** scheme – to share lessons and encourage more people to get involved;
- Online workshops about **researching plants**, provided by our conservation team, with an in-person workshop hosted by the RHS library team at Wisley;
- **Peat free growing** – an online discussion about emerging results from the RHS Peat Free research fellowship. We did a visit to Melcourt Industries’ production facility in 2024 and will repeat this in 2026 to learn more about their peat free experience;
- **Plant health and biosecurity plans**, organised in partnership with DEFRA’s APHA (the Animal and Plant Health Agency) in May, including a message of support for our work from DEFRA Minister, Baroness Hayman;
- **Seed collecting and cleaning** – various sessions organised by the central office and Hampshire/ Isle of Wight group;
- **Herbarium workshop**, hosted by the RHS herbarium team at RHS Hyde Hall;
- **Propagation**, with several sessions organised around the country by our local groups as well as a twin bulb scaling demonstration by Emma Thick as part of the members’ day at Thenford Arboretum and Gardens;
- **Heather study day** in Perth, Scotland (see above);
- **Plant recording with Persephone** – we held over 150 training sessions throughout the year (one to one, small groups and two face to face workshops in Devon & Scotland). Through these workshops, participants learned to use mapping tools, store images to help with plant identification, record research data, manage accessions, discuss taxonomy and check their plants’ threat status against the priority external databases.

We have also shared guidance with our members about **plant health, plant passports** and the need to tackle the rise in **plant poaching**, in line with the global Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Through our members and network of partners, we can draw on material from organisations like DEFRA’s Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and Kew Royal Botanic Gardens.

### ***Collaborating with colleagues***

From the beginning, Plant Heritage has worked in partnership with world leading organisations including the RHS, the National Trust, the National Trust for Scotland and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, Edinburgh and in Wales. These organisations are all members of Plant Heritage, many provide experts for our committees, and they host some of the larger or more complex National Collections.

In October, we joined the RHS to launch their new **State of Gardening report** which highlights the importance of gardening for the UK economy, for people and for wildlife. The report is a collaborative effort drawing on research by several partners including Plant Heritage and our Threatened Plants Programme. A key message is that cultivated plants matter, not just wild plants. This report also underlines that wealth of wildlife supported by the UK’s gardens, which should be recognised more clearly in UK government policies and regulations relating to biodiversity net gain (BNG). Plant Heritage CEO Gwen Hines took part in a panel discussion at the press launch and Kalani Seymour, Threatened Plants Programme manager, joined the RHS and others for the parliamentary launch.

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Photo above: Kalani Seymour, Plant Heritage Threatened Plants Programme manager, with Alistair Griffiths, RHS Director of Science and Collections and others at the Parliamentary launch of the report.

We are proud to be members of the **Future of National Gardens' Group** established in 2023. We are working collaboratively with other members of the sustainability working group to develop a Climate Assessment Tool for cultivated plants grown in UK cultivated landscapes. This project builds on an existing tool developed by the Climate Change Alliance of Botanic Gardens (CCABG) and Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) which focused on trees. The enhanced tool will provide guidance on the likely suitability of plants to the predicted future climate scenarios of a selected location. This will be invaluable in helping us planning for the future of National Collections particularly at risk due to current and future climate challenges. Emerging results from this work will be presented at the National Collection holder conference in November 2026.

We continue to participate in the **UK Plant Genetic Resource (UKPGR) group** alongside all other gene banks. This serves as the technical forum to discuss plant genetic resources issues, technical matters, the development of integrated programmes and provide policy advice for government departments (the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) provides the secretariat). The primary concern for UKPGR is food production and we have facilitated the addition of data from apple collections to be listed in the European inventory of plant genetic resources (EURISCO), which aims to make the European plant genetic resources data available everywhere in the world. During 2025, we worked with other members of the UKPGR to counter proposals to stop tracking the diversity of cultivated plants in UK government national biodiversity reporting to international agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity. We continue to work with the RHS and other members of the Future of National Gardens Group to argue that cultivated plants and gardens should be given greater recognition when Biodiversity Net Gain is measured. It cannot be right that a car park and a new garden are scored the same.

## Membership

Members make a vital contribution to Plant Heritage's work. All members support our conservation work through their paid subscriptions, and many are directly involved in our conservation schemes.

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Hundreds of members generously volunteer their time and expertise across the country. We thank all our members for their ongoing support.

At the end of the financial year (31 October 2025), our total membership was 3,084. This was the smallest reduction in five years (1.1%), in line with our objective to stabilise then re-grow our membership. Around 20% are joint members. Our under 35/student members increased by 50% to 104. More members are also taking out a 'membership plus' to access our Persephone system (up by 59% this year). We welcomed our second gold corporate member (Sheen Botanical Labels) and aim to increase the number of organisational and corporate members in the year ahead. We can claim Gift Aid on 65% of memberships, and 70% are paid by Direct Debit which helps to reduce our administrative costs. We ran a '12 months for 9' discount on new memberships from 1 April – 31 October as usual. The Board has since agreed to replace this with a discount of £10 on new individual and joint memberships that will run all year.

Five honorary memberships were agreed by the Board of Trustees to recognise those who have made an outstanding contribution over many years: Cecilia Bufton, Gill Groombridge, Catherine Penny, Katherine 'Tattie' Thompson and Maggie Thorpe.

### ***Membership survey***

In October 2025, we invited all members to take part in our first membership survey for several years. 86% of those who responded said they would recommend Plant Heritage to a friend, which is very encouraging. 42% were long-term members (10 years or more), with one-third recruited within the last three years. 72% of members said they took an active part in conservation activities, including Plant Guardians (22%), National Collections (27%) and collecting seed (12%). Others were happy to support plant conservation by being a member. Whilst people said they valued their local group – and asked for even more events spread across the UK - there was also an appetite for more online events from all ages. The Membership and Supporters committee (MSC) and Board of Trustees reviewed the findings and have agreed to develop a membership strategy during 2026 to grow and diversify our membership, whilst making sure our current members feel valued and supported.

### ***Members' Day 2025***

The 2025 Member Day and Plant Exchange took place on 7 June at Thenford Gardens and Arboretum near Banbury, Oxfordshire. Thenford has a National Plant Collection of *Galanthus* (snowdrops) as well as many other informal collections of plants and trees. It was a stunning venue, and we had fantastic talks by John Grimshaw about the Trees and Shrubs online project; Emma Thick who looks after Thenford's National Collection did a demonstration of bulb twin-scaling; and trustee Sally Flatman, who highlighted the importance of capturing the stories behind the plants, which she tells through her podcast 'Our Plant Stories'. We were privileged to have Lord Michael Heseltine with us to explain the history of the gardens developed by him and his family over the past 50 years. We also held our Plant Exchange. The evening before, we had dinner and a great talk by Tamsin Westhorpe about changes in the world of horticulture and her family garden at Stockton Bury.

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Photos above (clockwise from top left): Tamsin Westhorpe, John Grimshaw, Lord Heseltine, members catching up, Sally Flatman and Emma Thick.

## Volunteers

Whether at local or national level, volunteers are at the heart of our work. From organising or contributing to local group activities, to propagating plants for plant fairs, coordinating local National Collections or the Plant Exchange, helping people to record plants on Persephone, and a whole range of tasks volunteers help us with in the central office. The support our volunteers so generously give and the knowledge and skills they share are sincerely appreciated.

Plant Heritage's volunteer-run **seed shop** was a great success in 2025 raising over £13,000 (£9,000 in 2024) from donations and encouraging more people to grow plants from seed, or to try growing a new plant. Thank you to everyone who donated seed for our shop, as well as those who sorted and packed it and took part in our seed shop at shows.

In May, a delegation of Plant Heritage volunteers attended the Buckingham Palace garden party (see below). This garden hosts a National Collection of *Morus* (Mulberry) and some interesting ferns. We are delighted to be launching four new awards to recognise the hard work of our volunteers in 2026, thanks to the generosity of the Marsh Trust (one conservation award and three volunteer of the year awards).

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Photo above (left to right): Helen Moorcraft, Julia Cogan, Roz Cooper, Andy Bufton, Cecilia Bufton, Faith Williams, Margaret Reed, Julian Reed, Carole Whittaker and Pete Whittaker.

### **Local groups**

Our network of local groups across the UK support National Collection holders in their area and organise activities that promote plant conservation for local members and visitors like talks, garden visits, propagation workshops and plant fairs. Groups raise funds to support their events, as well as to support the charity's wider conservation work. We are grateful to the volunteers who dedicate their time and skills to leading these groups and taking part in their activities.

The Suffolk group celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their popular plant fair held in partnership with Helmingham Hall in September, with displays by National Collection holders from the area and Clare Matterson (RHS Director General) as guest of honour. Lady Tollemache kindly gave a tour of the Hall's stunning garden to trustees and local group chairs from the wider region. Large plant fairs were also held at venues including Longstock Nurseries (Hampshire), Abbotsbury Gardens (Dorset), RHS Bridgewater (Northwest Group), Hethersett (Norfolk), RHS Rosemoor (Devon and Cornwall Group) and Ushaw House in Durham (North East group).

We were delighted to launch a new group in Mid Wales/South Shropshire this year, led by James Morris. Several existing groups have exciting plans for more activities in their area in the future including Essex, London and Staffordshire. Amongst the many special events put on by local groups was a day learning about Reginald Farrer's *Rhododendron* in Clapham, Yorkshire organised by the North West group with Trevor Nicholson, Andrew Jarman and Philip Farrer, and the Sussex Group's tour of William Robinson's garden at Gravetye Manor with head garden Tom Coward.

We continue to offer regular online and hybrid events, as well as in-person events, especially for members in areas without an active local group and to engage the wider public about our work. We have increased the frequency of our newsletter (now monthly), to go with our printed publications (two editions of the *Journal* and the National Collections Directory). Unlike some other plant charities, our members can attend events in any region, not just those in their local area.

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### ***Affiliated Groups***

Two affiliated groups - the Manx Plant and Garden Conservation Society in the Isle of Man and Plant Heritage Guernsey - share the same objectives as Plant Heritage and generously support our work. Plant Heritage Guernsey's National Collection of Nerines has its roots in the very early days of the Guernsey Branch of the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (Plant Heritage's former name), when it was decided to establish a living collection of the island's national flower. In October 2025, the group celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> Nerine Festival with a fantastic display.

The Irish Garden Plants Society (IGPS) has a National Collection, accredited in 2021, of plants with an Irish connection, either bred or discovered in Ireland, introduced by an Irish person, or linked to an Irish garden or gardener. This shared Collection is held in the gardens of around 75 their members as well as several public gardens across Ireland.

Plant Heritage and the Wiltshire Gardens Trust have a historic relationship, dating back to the earliest days of both charities, including through John D'Arcy who was a founder member of both, and we have complementary aims and activities. We are grateful to the Trust for their continued support.

### **Flower Shows**

Plant Heritage put on displays at several shows during 2025 to inspire and educate the public about the importance of plant conservation and the work of the charity. These shows also help to inspire more people to get involved as National Collection holders or Plant Guardians, to become members and raise funds to support our work. Thank you to all the Collection holders who took part, to everyone who helped with our display during the build and during the week, and to those who donated plants and seeds. We are grateful to the Shanly Foundation who funded our displays at Chelsea and Hampton Court and the RHS for their support.

#### ***RHS Chelsea Flower Show, May***

Our first Plant Heritage zone in the Great Pavilion at Chelsea was a big success, attracting a fantastic response from the public, royalty, celebrities and MPs, as well as lots of media attention especially for the press call with our President Alan Titchmarsh and coverage on Gardeners' World TV. Website traffic also doubled that week. The National Collections on display were:

- *Iris*, Sir Cedric Morris introductions, plus the Florilegium (artwork) – Sarah Cook (gold medal) with Dr Sian Dawson
- *Cornus* (excluding *Cornus florida* cultivars) – Newby Hall Gardens (gold medal)
- *Cosmos bipinnatus* cultivars - Jonathan Sheppard (gold medal)
- *Iris* (Bearded) and *Paeonia* (hybrid herbaceous) - both Claire Austin Hardy Plants (silver gilt and silver medals)
- *Rhododendron* (Cox hybrids) – Glendoick Gardens Ltd (silver gilt medal)
- *Digitalis* – Botanic Nursery/Mary Baker (silver gilt medal)

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Photo above: National Collection holders and the Plant Heritage team with our President Alan Titchmarsh CBE at Chelsea press day

On the central display (which won a silver medal), we showcased plants provided by more National Collection holders: *Geum* – Maria Heffer and Sue Martin; *Heuchera* and *x Heucherella* – Vicki and Richard Fox, Plantagogo; *Streptocarpus* – Dibleys' Nurseries; *Camassia* – Hare Spring Cottage Plants; and *Baptisia* – Daniel Simbrey. More nurseries who have National Collections did their own displays in the Grand Pavilion, and the Wildlife Trust garden by Zoe Claymore (which won the People's Choice award) included trees and rare ferns from two National Collections, so Plant Heritage really was everywhere. We were also delighted to partner with Frank P Matthews Trees and host their striking new ornamental tree *Prunus* 'Crystal Falls'<sup>®</sup> on our stand, which was shortlisted for the 'Plant of the Year 2025' award.

### ***RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival, July***

We had our biggest Plant Heritage zone yet at Hampton Court, with 13 National Collections on display, plus five more groups of plants on our central display (*Dahlia*, *Solenostemon* - previously known as *Coleus*, *Astilbe*, *Penstemon* and *Mandevilla*) and a display of plants from our Missing Collections campaign 2025.

The winners of the best display in the Plant Heritage zone were Dibleys Nurseries with *Petrocosmea*, *Streptocarpus* and *Saintpaulia* (gold medal). Three National Collection holders exhibited for the first time: Jess Dighton of Botanica Plant Collections Ltd with *Santolina* (silver gilt medal); Simon Poole of Mintopia with his collection of *Mentha* (silver-gilt medal); and Jenny Prosser of Devon with *Liatris*, which she exhibited alongside artworks (silver medal). Mellie Lewis exhibited her collection of *Aeonium* (silver gilt medal). Jonathan Hogarth exhibited his collection of *Hosta* (silver gilt medal). Barry Clarke showed his National Collections of *Asclepias* & *Gomphocarpus*, *Calycanthus* and *Roscoea* (silver medal), along with *Cornus* from the National Collection held at Sir Harold Hillier Gardens. Another 12 nurseries who

## PLANT HERITAGE

Annual Report and Financial 31 Statements for the year ended October 2025

hold National Collections put on their own displays.



Photo above (clockwise left to right): National Collection holders Jess Dighton, Paul and Gareth Dibley, Mellie Lewis, Simon Poole, Jenny Prosser, Barry Clarke and Jonathan Hogarth.

We also ran our popular Seed Shop and a display of plants shortlisted for Threatened Plant of the Year – inviting the public to choose their favourite. Emma Crawforth (trustee and horticultural editor for *Gardener's World* magazine) announced the judges' winner on press day. The Brickell Award winner 2025 was announced by Matt Pottage, Head of Horticulture and Landscape Strategy for the Royal Parks.

### ***Harrogate and Wentworth Woodhouse Shows***

The Yorkshire Group put on three fantastic displays of plants in National Collections as well as plants from Missing Collections during 2025: the spring and autumn Harrogate shows plus the new RHS flower show at Wentworth Woodhouse in July, taking home a silver-gilt medal at each event.

### ***Show plans for 2026***

Plant Heritage will be returning to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in May with a Plant Heritage zone in the Great Pavilion as well as our first ever show garden in the All About Plants category. The Plant Heritage Missing Collector garden is being designed by the Planting Design Collective and sponsored by Project Giving Back, with additional support from Shanly Foundation.

We will also have a Plant Heritage zone at the new RHS Badminton Flower Show in July (replacing the RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival for 2026). The Plant Heritage Norfolk Group will be taking part in the new RHS Flower Show at Sandringham in July, and the Yorkshire Group will be doing displays for the Harrogate shows in April and September.

## PLANT HERITAGE

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### Media and communications

Across all media, we are making progress against our objective to raise the profile of Plant Heritage, using stories about plants and the people behind the plants. Our Communications Working Group provides oversight and advice to support these efforts.

Our social media presence continues to grow, especially through Instagram (8,000 followers, up from 6,000 last year) and Facebook (over 7,000 followers), which are our two priority channels.

In the 12 months to 31 October 2025, we generated a new record of 453 media items (253 in 2024, 158 in 2023) including:

- 59 broadcast interviews (33 in 2024) including radio and TV programmes
- 60 print articles (papers and magazines)
- 334 online articles or features (149 in 2024)



Photo: Plant Heritage staff members Claire Ader, Mimi Wong and Julia Cogan on our RHS Chelsea Flower Show display

We used the Garden Press Event in February to highlight stories for the year ahead to journalists. The highest profile piece was our Daffodil Diaries collaboration with the RHS which was covered extensively by national and local radio and BBC Breakfast as well as magazines and online articles. Our RHS Chelsea Flower show display also attracted significant coverage, with lots of famous faces sitting on our green bench including Alan Titchmarsh and Monty Don (who was filmed talking about our missing collections campaign for Gardeners' World TV).

The missing collections campaign and our threatened plant of the year competition were also picked up by local radio and the RHS gardening podcast. We achieved numerous articles about National Collections and Collection holders during the year, especially in gardening and lifestyle magazines. For 2026, we are targeting more podcasts and more national newspapers, rather than just a higher volume of articles, especially via our Chelsea garden.

## **PLANT HERITAGE**

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### **Harnessing digital tools**

As a small team, we aim to harness digital tools to streamline our work, whilst paying careful attention to data protection and cybersecurity, and making sure our services remain accessible for all.

Our website is a key tool for us to share information about our work and resources for Collection holders. One of the most popular parts of our website is the National Plant Collections search facility. People also use the website to join or renew their membership and to search for information about local groups and upcoming events. Some people will always prefer to contact us by phone or email, and we will continue to offer this option. Website traffic doubled during the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2025, showing that increased publicity helps to drive people to learn about our work.

Using the designated reserve for IT investments approved by the Board of Trustees, we have prioritized investments to develop our plant records system Persephone further (see above) as well as our website, our core IT systems and to replace outdated equipment including desktops. We did a major update of the website software (Umbraco) and swapped to a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system (Donorfy) to manage our membership scheme efficiently whilst also enabling us to gear up wider fundraising and marketing. This has already automated some processes and made bookings and online payments more secure. In late 2025 we achieved CyberEssentials certification (which also gives us a level of free cybersecurity insurance). We are building a members' area for the website that will go live in the first half of 2026 and is made possible by the new IT system.

## **PLANT HERITAGE**

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### **Fundraising Activities**

#### ***Donations, Sponsorships and Grants***

We would like to thank all our members, donors, sponsors and advertisers for their generous support.

We would also like to acknowledge the donations from National Collection Holder open days, whether individual open days or through the National Garden Scheme or Scotland's Garden Scheme, all individual donations from Members, Friends and supporters.

We gratefully acknowledge grants and donations from the following charitable trusts and foundations, which help to support our core conservation work as well as the Threatened Plants Programme, National Collection Holder and membership workshops, the Plant Guardians scheme and our Persephone development work:

- The Big Give Green Match Fund
- The Chalk Cliff Trust
- William Dean Countryside and Educational Trust
- The Goulburn Charitable Trust
- The Kiln Family Trust
- The Hawthorne Charitable Trust
- P F Charitable Trust
- The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Bursaries Fund
- Sabina Sutherland Charitable Trust
- Shanly Foundation
- Stanley Smith (UK) Horticultural Trust
- Alfred Williams Charitable Trust
- The HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust

We have also made use of funds kindly transferred to Plant Heritage by the Heather Society when it closed for our Heather Day in Scotland and related research.

#### ***Income from legacies and in memoriam***

We received generous legacies from Alfred G Mardle, Harriet Gash, Veronica J Tosh and Valerie H Cummings this year that have helped us to invest in the future of the charity, including by refreshing our IT systems and recruiting a new Plant Records Officer. It is always a pleasure when family members and friends share more about their loved ones who have kindly supported us in this way.

We are also grateful to the Harkness Rose Company for their support from the 'Rosemary Day' rose in memory of Rosemary Day, former Trustee of Plant Heritage. We wish to thank those that gave donations in memoriam too.

#### ***Corporate members and supporters***

We are grateful for the continued support of our Gold Corporate Members in 2025:

## **PLANT HERITAGE**

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- Shanly Homes
- Sheen Botanical Labels

We are also grateful for the continued support of our Bronze Corporate supporters in FY24/25:

- The Arboricultural Association
- Bayntun Flowers
- Brother UK
- Canonteign Falls Capital Gardens Ltd
- Doddington Place Gardens
- The Duchy of Cornwall Nursery
- Floral Tours
- Mr Fothergill's Seeds (Johnsons Seeds)
- Melcourt Industries Ltd
- Wacks Wicked Plants
- Winterling Botanical Labels
- Woottens of Wenhaston

Thank you to Marshalls Gardens who kindly donated a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the Persica Rose SEE YOU® In Rosé, following its launch at the RHS Hampton Court Garden Festival 2024 by Daniel Myhill, the National Collection Holder of Persica Roses. We would also like to thank Johnsons Seeds and Melcourt Industries Ltd for their additional support.

### ***Transfers from Groups***

We are very grateful for the generosity and creativity of our Plant Heritage groups who continue to support National Collection holders and Plant Heritage members.

The charity recognises the commitment and hard work put in by the members of the groups who fundraise throughout the year and generously pass funds on to support the core work of the charity. In all, groups transferred £58,689 (2024: £52,985) to the central office to help fund the charity's national work. Groups raised a total of £114,076 during the year (2024: £111,250), with the biggest amount raised through plant fairs.

### ***Affiliated Groups and Related Parties***

Plant Heritage is grateful to Plant Heritage Guernsey, the Manx Plant and Garden Conservation Society and the Wiltshire Gardens Trust for their generous donations towards our conservation work.

## PLANT HERITAGE

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### Structure, Governance and Management

Plant Heritage is a company limited by guarantee and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, adopted on 2 February 1988, amended in April 2004, April 2010 and July 2018.

#### **Directors and Trustees**

The Board of Trustees are responsible for the overall governance of the charity. The Trustees are also the Directors of the Limited Company. Trustees are appointed by the Board and confirmed by the membership at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

At each AGM, one-third of the directors retire from office by rotation (those who have been longest in office since their last reappointment retire first). Directors retiring by rotation can seek reappointment provided they have served less than eight years in total (consecutive or otherwise) since the first AGM at which they were confirmed, as specified in the Articles of Association. With effect from December 2024, new Directors are appointed by the board for an initial term of three years, renewable for a second term of three years. On an exceptional basis, new trustees may serve up to eight years.

The Trustees who served during financial year 2024/25 are as follows:

Sir Roderick Newton	Chairman with effect from 15 September 2025. Appointed as a trustee 4 December 2024
Mr James Marshall	Vice-Chairman. Appointed 18 April 2018, re-appointed 2 May 2020, reappointed 28 April 2022. Retiring after the AGM on 23 April 2026 at the end of his 8 year term.
Mr Gareth Morgan	Treasurer. Appointed 10 July 2020 (8 year term), reappointed 24 April 2024
Ms Emma Crawforth	Appointed 26 July 2018, re-appointed 17 April 2021, reappointed 24 April 2024. Will be retiring in July 2026 after 8 years.
Dr Claire Farrer	Appointed 4 December 2024
Ms Sally Flatman	Appointed 4 December 2024
Ms Jasmine Jahromi	Appointed 4 December 2024
Ms Kavita Kapoor	Appointed 14 September 2022 (8 year term)
Mr John Humphreys	Appointed 4 December 2024
Mr David Mathers	Appointed 4 December 2024
Mrs Della Weight	Appointed 4 December 2024
<b>Trustees who have resigned</b>	
Mrs Cecilia Bufton	Chairman until 14 Sept. Appointed 5 Oct 2017, re-appointed 4 May 2019, 28 April 2022. Resigned with effect 10 March 2026.
Ms Sally Nex	Resigned as a trustee in December 2024 at end of her term
Mrs Catherine Penny	Resigned as a trustee in December 2024 at end of her term

The Board met formally on four occasions to discuss the management of the charity. Information about trustees is published on our website.

## **PLANT HERITAGE**

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### ***Governance changes***

There were no major governance changes this year. The Board and Executive Committees (Finance and Fundraising, Governance and People) have done a thorough review of the charity's policies and have updated several of these, as well as adding a new policy on Prevention of Sexual Harassment and national Governance guidelines.

### ***Risk Management***

Plant Heritage Trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed and review these at least annually through a documented risk register, and in line with the charity's Risk Policy and Appetite Statement and the Board Reserved Matters and Scheme of Delegation. Trustees are satisfied that established procedures are sufficient to manage and mitigate those risks.

### ***Public benefit***

Plant Heritage conserves garden plants, in line with its charitable objects. Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit in deciding how to pursue our objectives. Our Conservation Strategy details how we carry out our work and how we engage with the public.

### ***Staffing***

Plant Heritage has a small team of professional staff, equivalent to slightly over 6 full-time staff. The team as at 1 January 2026 is:

Gwen Hines	Chief Executive
Saul Walker	Partnership and Events manager (joined 5 Jan 2026)
Claire Ader	Membership Team
Julia Cogan	Membership Team
Liz Edwards	Conservation Adviser
Alison Foster	Plant Records Officer (joined April 2025)
Lucy Pitman	Conservation Adviser
Kalani Seymour	Threatened Plants Programme Manager
Mimi Wong	Finance Officer

The Board of Trustees wish to thank all the members of staff for their expertise, loyalty, resourcefulness and commitment to the work of Plant Heritage. The Trustees also wish to thank Gill Groombridge, former Business Manager, who left Plant Heritage in August 2025 after 18 years, and Julia Cogan who is retiring at the end of March 2026.

## PLANT HERITAGE

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### Board Committees and Working Groups

(as of 1 January 2026)

<p><b>Finance &amp; Fundraising Committee</b> <i>Meetings four times a year</i> Margaret Hughes (Chair) Philip Wilson (Vice Chair) Cecilia Bufton Helen Moorcraft Gareth Morgan Roderick Newton Della Weight</p>	<p><b>Conservation Committee</b> <i>Meetings three times a year</i> Jim Marshall (Chair) Emma Crawforth (Vice Chair) Paul Bartlett Alison Crook Claire Farrer Catrina Fenton Andrew Gaunt Sir Roderick Newton Paul Rees Tim Upson Frances Williams Rosie Yeomans</p>
<p><b>Membership &amp; Supporters Committee</b> <i>Meetings three times a year</i> John Humphreys (Chair) Claire Farrer Jasmine Jahromi Penny Ross</p>	<p><b>Plant Collections Committee</b> <i>Meetings four times a year</i> Tim Upson (Chair) Jonathan Webster (Vice-Chair) Matthew Biggs Chris Bird Chris Clennett Dawn Edwards Gary Firth Kevin Hobbs David Mathers Madeleine Tinson Chris Trimmer Rosie Yeomans</p>
<p><b>Governance &amp; People Committee</b> <i>Meetings four times a year</i> Elizabeth Smith (Chair) Cecilia Bufton Kristopher Harper Allison Margaret Headen Jim Marshall Roderick Newton</p>	<p><b>Communications Working Group</b> <i>Meetings three times a year</i> Emma Crawforth (chair) Paul Dibley Sally Flatman Gwen Hines Beth Otway Saul Walker Journal Editor</p>
<p><b>Persephone Working Group</b> <i>Meetings three times a year</i> David Mathers (Chair) Barry Clarke Liz Edwards Alison Foster Gwen Hines Alex New David Ross Penny Ross</p>	

## **PLANT HERITAGE**

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### **Business Plan 2026**

#### Conserving the diversity of garden plants for the future

- Increase the number & diversity of plants conserved through the National Plant Collections and the Plant Guardian scheme
- Support National Collection Holders to achieve high standards, to embed sustainability and to develop continuity plans so their Collections are preserved for the future, along with digital records
- Inform & engage others with our conservation work, including sharing data, knowledge & skills of wider benefit
- Engage with global thinking on issues around plant conservation and apply best practice in our own work, including on environmental sustainability and biodiversity

#### Engaging more people in our work

- Grow & diversify the membership of Plant Heritage, including more young people
- Support our network of local groups, complemented by online events
- Continue to raise the profile of Plant Heritage's work in the UK and beyond, with a view to increasing membership, donations and support for our work, and harness strategic partnerships

#### Organisational Effectiveness

- Develop and implement a diversified funding model to sustain our work over the medium term
- Continue to strengthen Plant Heritage's governance & ways of working, including data and financial management, adopting best practice & harnessing digital innovations where appropriate
- Create a working environment in which staff & volunteers feel engaged and valued

## **Treasurer's Financial Review**

2025 was a year when Plant Heritage planned to utilise some of its reserves to invest in its strategic plans for the future. Overall income was £451,348 (£405,188 in 2024) and expenditure was £522,433 (£461,922 in 2024). Whilst this results in a deficit of £71,085 (met by drawing down on the charity's reserves), this was planned and the year has been a success in pushing forward our strategic priorities.

### **Incoming resources**

Total income from legacies and donations in 2025 was £156,705 (£101,039 in 2024). This included continuing successful funding applications from trusts and foundations (£61,061 up from £42,753 in 2024). Without these funds, we would have had to scale back our conservation activities. Income from charitable and trading activities (including shows and events) held up well at £270,724 (£274,413 in 2024). Income from investments reduced slightly due to interest rate reductions but was still good at £23,919 (£29,736 in 2024).

## **PLANT HERITAGE**

Annual Report and Financial 31 Statements for the year ended October 2025

### **Resources expended**

Plant Heritage spent a total of £522,433 (2024: £461,922) on charitable activities, fundraising and governance in 2025. Charitable expenditure, including on plant conservation, was £506,070 (2024: £454,556). The cost of generating funds was £16,363 (2024: £7,366).

### **Intangible fixed assets**

Intangible fixed assets include the cost of website development work as well as the costs of development of our digital plant recording system Persephone. The total value of intangible fixed assets at the end of the year was £52,977 (£65,800 in 2024). The Trustees regularly review the value of intangible fixed assets as well as other fixed assets to the business. Income through subscriptions to Persephone has increased to £10,720, which helps to offset the charity's own costs of using this system. Our website is also a key way through which we recruit and retain memberships however, with the speed of technological change, the Trustees have adjusted the useful economic life of website costs to 5 years (from 8 years) which is now in line with best practice.

### **Reserves policy**

As a small charity, Plant Heritage's income and expenditure can vary significantly year to year, due to fluctuations in legacy donations and resources raised from trusts/foundations and grants. In 2024, the Trustees determined that – in the light of this possible volatility - the policy should be to maintain unrestricted free funds at a level equivalent to nine months' general operating costs, including salaries. The Trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year. The charity's budget for 2025/26 forecasts operating costs of £354,402, therefore our minimum target for unrestricted free funds is £265,802. Looking ahead, the trustees have agreed to review this approach in time for the FY2026/27 budget, with a view to adopting a more sophisticated risk-based approach.

As of 31 October 2025, the charity had £573,132 in the general fund (2024: £582,266). Deducting the net book value of intangible and tangible fixed assets (£57,797), the level of free reserves in the general fund is £515,335 (2024: £512,669).

Whilst our actual free reserves are currently above target, these will reduce significantly over the next 2-3 years as we continue to draw down on them to fund our strategic plans. At the same time, as the charity's work expands, the target for reserves will increase. We envisage that, within 24-36 months, our actual free reserves will be closer to our new target level. Legacy funding, in particular, fluctuates significantly. Therefore, the trustees feel that maintaining a level of reserves higher than target in the short-term provides additional financial security as the charity grows and develops.

As of 31 October 2025, there were a further £130,866 of reserves designated towards specific purposes. The bulk of these are funds held by groups. £50,000 was set aside at the beginning of FY24/25 for investments in our IT infrastructure. At 31 October 2025, a balance of £14,458 remains following investment during the year on a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system, upgrades to our website, replacement of old laptops/desktops and further development of our plant recording system Persephone.

## PLANT HERITAGE

Annual Report and Financial 31 Statements for the year ended October 2025

### Going Concern

Whilst we recorded a deficit in 2025 of £71,085 (£56,734 in 2024), this was expected as we started a growth strategy and invested some of our reserves into the charity's business. Given this, we consider our operations to be sustainable in the short, medium and long-term and that there is an optimistic outlook with no material uncertainty. Whilst some of our key income streams, particularly legacy income, can be volatile, Plant Heritage has accumulated reserves that would enable us to respond to a sudden downturn in revenue. The charity has met its free reserves target and has also put aside designated funds. The charity also carefully manages its working capital position and maintains a healthy cash position.

### Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees have in their opinion:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently;
- made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ensured that the applicable accounting standards have been followed; and
- prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis.

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

### Statement of Disclosure of Information to Independent Examiner

So far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant information of which the Charity's Independent Examiner has not been informed.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 19 March 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



Trustee and Chairman  
Sir Roderick Newton



Trustee and Treasurer  
Mr Gareth Morgan

# PLANT HERITAGE

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF PLANT HERITAGE

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Plant Heritage (the charity) for the year ended 31 October 2025.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 44 (1) (c) of the 2005 Act and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed the requirements of Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

### Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity is required by company law to prepare its accounts on an accruals basis and is registered as a charity in Scotland your examiner must be a member of a body listed in Regulation 11(2) of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006.
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

### Frances Wilde FCCA DChA

Warner Wilde Limited  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
4 Marigold Drive  
Bisley  
Surrey  
GU24 9SF  
Date: .....

# PLANT HERITAGE

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025**

Current financial year		Unrestricted funds general 2025 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
	Notes					
<b>Income from:</b>						
Donations and legacies	3	114,634	3,071	39,000	156,705	101,039
Charitable activities	4	149,675	99,199	-	248,874	255,082
Other trading activities	5	10,681	11,169	-	21,850	19,331
Investments	6	23,282	637	-	23,919	29,736
<b>Total income</b>		<u>298,272</u>	<u>114,076</u>	<u>39,000</u>	<u>451,348</u>	<u>405,188</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
<u>Raising funds</u>						
Fundraising and publicity	7	16,363	-	-	16,363	7,366
<u>Charitable activities</u>						
Memberships and Shows	8	92,155	-	15,567	107,722	78,764
Educational Activities	8	79,787	73,870	7,762	161,419	149,479
Plant Conservation	8	211,039	6,832	19,058	236,929	226,313
<b>Total charitable expenditure</b>		<u>382,981</u>	<u>80,702</u>	<u>42,387</u>	<u>506,070</u>	<u>454,556</u>
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>399,344</u>	<u>80,702</u>	<u>42,387</u>	<u>522,433</u>	<u>461,922</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		(101,072)	33,374	(3,387)	(71,085)	(56,734)
Transfers between funds		91,938	(91,938)	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	11	(9,134)	(58,564)	(3,387)	(71,085)	(56,734)
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>						
Fund balances at 1 November 2024		582,266	189,430	23,420	795,116	851,850
<b>Fund balances at 31 October 2025</b>		<u>573,132</u>	<u>130,866</u>	<u>20,033</u>	<u>724,031</u>	<u>795,116</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

# PLANT HERITAGE

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025**

Prior financial year		Unrestricted funds general 2024 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
	Notes				
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	87,502	2,245	11,292	101,039
Charitable activities	4	150,057	105,025	-	255,082
Other trading activities	5	16,053	3,278	-	19,331
Investments	6	29,034	702	-	29,736
<b>Total income</b>		282,646	111,250	11,292	405,188
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
<u>Raising funds</u>					
Fundraising and publicity	7	7,366	-	-	7,366
Memberships and Shows	8	76,059	2,705	-	78,764
Educational Activities	8	85,342	62,671	1,466	149,479
Plant Conservation	8	213,914	1,916	10,483	226,313
<b>Total expenditure</b>		382,681	67,292	11,949	461,922
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		(100,035)	43,958	(657)	(56,734)
Transfers between funds		90,518	(90,518)	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	11	(9,517)	(46,560)	(657)	(56,734)
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Fund balances at 1 November 2023		591,783	235,990	24,077	851,850
<b>Fund balances at 31 October 2024</b>		582,266	189,430	23,420	795,116

# PLANT HERITAGE

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Intangible assets	15		52,977		65,800
Tangible assets	16		4,820		4,923
			<u>57,797</u>		<u>70,723</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	17	42,992		29,525	
Cash at bank and in hand		657,724		732,206	
		<u>700,716</u>		<u>761,731</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	18	(29,502)		(32,725)	
		<u></u>		<u></u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			671,214		729,006
			<u></u>		<u></u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			729,011		799,729
			<u></u>		<u></u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>					
Deferred income	20	4,980		4,613	
		<u></u>	(4,980)	<u></u>	(4,613)
<b>Net assets</b>			724,031		795,116
			<u><u></u></u>		<u><u></u></u>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>					
Restricted income funds	22		20,033		23,420
Unrestricted funds - general	24		573,132		582,266
Unrestricted funds - designated	23		130,866		189,430
			<u>724,031</u>		<u>795,116</u>
			<u><u></u></u>		<u><u></u></u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 October 2025.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on .....

.....  
Mr G Morgan  
Trustee

# PLANT HERITAGE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025

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### 1 Accounting policies

#### Charity information

Plant Heritage is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is First floor offices, Stone Pine House, Wisley, Woking, Surrey, GU23 6QD.

#### 1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

#### 1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

#### 1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

#### 1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

# PLANT HERITAGE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.5 Expenditure

A liability is recognised when either a constructive or legal obligation is identified. Central costs are apportioned between costs of generating funds and charitable activities on the basis of the specific activities of members of staff. Irrecoverable VAT is allocated to the same expenditure heading as the cost to which it relates. Basic financial liabilities are recognised at transaction cost.

#### 1.6 Intangible fixed assets other than goodwill

Intangible assets acquired separately from a business are recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Intangible assets acquired on business combinations are recognised separately from goodwill at the acquisition date where it is probable that the expected future economic benefits that are attributable to the asset will flow to the entity and the fair value of the asset can be measured reliably; the intangible asset arises from contractual or other legal rights; and the intangible asset is separable from the entity.

Amortisation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Website	5 Years Straight Line
Persephone intangibles	4 years straight line

#### 1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Plant and machinery	4 Years Straight Line
Computers	4 Years Straight Line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

#### 1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

#### 1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

# PLANT HERITAGE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

##### **Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

##### **Basic financial liabilities**

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

##### **Derecognition of financial liabilities**

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

#### 1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

#### 1.12 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

# PLANT HERITAGE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025*

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### **2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements**

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

# PLANT HERITAGE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025

### 3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds general 2025 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds general 2024 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Donations and gifts	62,921	3,071	39,000	104,992	76,026	2,245	6,000	84,271
Legacies	51,713	-	-	51,713	11,476	-	-	11,476
Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,292	5,292
	<u>114,634</u>	<u>3,071</u>	<u>39,000</u>	<u>156,705</u>	<u>87,502</u>	<u>2,245</u>	<u>11,292</u>	<u>101,039</u>

# PLANT HERITAGE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025

### 4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds general 2025 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds general 2024 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2024 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Memberships and Shows</b>						
Sales within charitable activities	136,834	-	136,834	142,252	-	142,252
<b>Educational Meetings and Events held by Area Groups</b>						
Sales within charitable activities	12,841	99,199	112,040	7,805	105,025	112,830
	<u>149,675</u>	<u>99,199</u>	<u>248,874</u>	<u>150,057</u>	<u>105,025</u>	<u>255,082</u>

### 5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds general 2025 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds general 2024 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Advertising, publications, sponsorship and trading	10,681	-	10,681	16,053	-	16,053
Fundraising events	-	11,169	11,169	-	3,278	3,278
Total other trading activities	<u>10,681</u>	<u>11,169</u>	<u>21,850</u>	<u>16,053</u>	<u>3,278</u>	<u>19,331</u>

### 6 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds general 2025 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds general 2024 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Interest receivable	<u>23,282</u>	<u>637</u>	<u>23,919</u>	<u>29,034</u>	<u>702</u>	<u>29,736</u>

# PLANT HERITAGE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025

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### 7 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
<b>Fundraising and publicity</b>		
Staging fundraising events	2,263	216
Other fundraising costs	14,100	7,150
	<u>16,363</u>	<u>7,366</u>

# PLANT HERITAGE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025

### 8 Charitable activities

	Membership and Shows 2025 £	Educational Activities 2025 £	Plant Conservation 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Membership and Shows 2024 £	Educational Activities 2024 £	Plant Conservation 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Staff costs	35,999	35,999	121,013	193,011	33,260	33,259	96,806	163,325
Depreciation and impairment	9,210	9,210	30,052	48,472	7,234	7,233	21,700	36,167
Other charitable expenditure	18,544	107,213	51,968	177,725	19,236	89,952	48,787	157,975
	<u>63,753</u>	<u>152,422</u>	<u>203,033</u>	<u>419,208</u>	<u>59,730</u>	<u>130,444</u>	<u>167,293</u>	<u>357,467</u>
Grant funding of activities (see note 9)	-	-	4,539	4,539	-	-	1,916	1,916
Share of support costs (see note 10)	42,765	7,792	25,426	75,983	16,506	16,508	49,523	82,537
Share of governance costs (see note 10)	1,204	1,205	3,931	6,340	2,528	2,527	7,581	12,636
	<u>107,722</u>	<u>161,419</u>	<u>236,929</u>	<u>506,070</u>	<u>78,764</u>	<u>149,479</u>	<u>226,313</u>	<u>454,556</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>								
Unrestricted funds - general	92,155	79,787	211,039	382,981	76,059	85,342	213,914	375,315
Unrestricted funds - designated	-	73,870	6,832	80,702	2,705	62,671	1,916	67,292
Restricted funds	15,567	7,762	19,058	42,387	-	1,466	10,483	11,949
	<u>107,722</u>	<u>161,419</u>	<u>236,929</u>	<u>506,070</u>	<u>78,764</u>	<u>149,479</u>	<u>226,313</u>	<u>454,556</u>

# PLANT HERITAGE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025

### 9 Grants payable

	<b>Plant Conservation 2025 £</b>	<b>Plant Conservation 2024 £</b>
Grants to institutions:		
Other	4,539	1,916
	<u>4,539</u>	<u>1,916</u>

### 10 Support costs allocated to activities

	<b>2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
Staff costs	34,973	40,385
Office costs	41,010	42,153
Governance costs	6,340	12,635
	<u>82,323</u>	<u>95,173</u>
<b>Analysed between:</b>		
Memberships and Shows	43,969	19,034
Educational Activities	8,997	19,035
Plant Conservation	29,357	57,104
	<u>82,323</u>	<u>95,173</u>

<b>Governance costs comprise:</b>	<b>2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
Independent examination fee	4,254	4,392
Legal and professional fees	581	8,104
Other governance costs	1,505	139
	<u>6,340</u>	<u>12,635</u>

### 11 Net movement in funds

	<b>2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	4,254	4,392
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	2,092	2,485
Amortisation of intangible assets	33,927	33,682
	<u>38,273</u>	<u>39,559</u>

# PLANT HERITAGE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025

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### 12 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year.

4 of the trustees incurred reimbursed travel and governance expenses of £740 (2024: £19).

### 13 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
Plant Conservation	3	3
Membership	2	2
Finance and admin	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	6	6
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

#### Employment costs

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	206,336	184,682
Social security costs	11,362	9,873
Other pension costs	10,286	9,155
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	227,984	203,710
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

10 (2024: 8) part time employees equate to 6 (2024: 6) full time staff.

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
£60,000 to £70,000	1	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

#### Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

Chief Executive, Business Manager and Conservation Manager roles.

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Aggregate compensation	105,926	99,118
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

### 14 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

# PLANT HERITAGE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025

### 15 Intangible fixed assets

	Website £	Persephone intangibles £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 November 2024	63,534	112,827	176,361
Additions - internally developed	20,442	13,111	33,553
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 October 2025	83,976	125,938	209,914
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Amortisation and impairment</b>			
At 1 November 2024	40,281	70,276	110,557
Amortisation charged for the year	22,179	24,201	46,380
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 October 2025	62,460	94,477	156,937
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Carrying amount</b>			
At 31 October 2025	21,516	31,461	52,977
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
At 31 October 2024	23,249	42,551	65,800
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

### 16 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and machinery £	Computers £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 November 2024	2,909	18,300	21,209
Additions	-	1,989	1,989
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 October 2025	2,909	20,289	23,198
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>			
At 1 November 2024	1,471	14,815	16,286
Depreciation charged in the year	656	1,436	2,092
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 October 2025	2,127	16,251	18,378
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Carrying amount</b>			
At 31 October 2025	782	4,038	4,820
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
At 31 October 2024	1,438	3,485	4,923
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

# PLANT HERITAGE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025

### 17 Debtors

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	£	£
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	8,352	7,131
Other debtors	24,024	18,467
Prepayments and accrued income	10,616	3,927
	<u>42,992</u>	<u>29,525</u>

### 18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		£	£
Deferred income	<b>20</b>	13,170	18,520
Other creditors		10,038	6,946
Accruals		6,294	7,259
		<u>29,502</u>	<u>32,725</u>

### 19 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		£	£
Deferred income	<b>20</b>	4,980	4,613

### 20 Deferred income

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	£	£
Other deferred income	18,150	23,133

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	£	£
Deferred income is included within:		
Current liabilities	13,170	18,520
Non-current liabilities	4,980	4,613
	<u>18,150</u>	<u>23,133</u>

Movements in the year:

## PLANT HERITAGE

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025

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<b>20 Deferred income</b>	<b>(Continued)</b>	
Deferred income at 1 November 2024	23,133	23,410
Released from previous periods	(18,153)	(16,097)
Resources deferred in the year	13,170	15,820
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Deferred income at 31 October 2025	18,150	23,133
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

#### **21 Retirement benefit schemes**

<b>Defined contribution schemes</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	10,286	9,155
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

# PLANT HERITAGE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025

#### 22 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	Movement in funds			Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 November 2023	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Balance at 1 November 2024	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Balance at 31 October 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Shanly Foundation	-	-	-	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
Stanley Smith (UK) Horticultural Trust	-	-	-	-	3,000	(3,000)	-
Heritage Lottery	11,589	5,292	(6,544)	10,337	-	(4,363)	5,974
RHS - Research	-	2,500	(1,000)	1,500	-	(500)	1,000
RHS - Workshops	-	1,500	(466)	1,034	-	(204)	830
The HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	30,000	(25,000)	5,000
Alfred Williams Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	1,000	-	1,000
Heather Society	6,500	-	-	6,500	-	(2,381)	4,119
Persephone	5,988	2,000	(3,939)	4,049	-	(1,939)	2,110
	<u>24,077</u>	<u>11,292</u>	<u>(11,949)</u>	<u>23,420</u>	<u>39,000</u>	<u>(42,387)</u>	<u>20,033</u>

## PLANT HERITAGE

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025*

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#### 22 Restricted funds

(Continued)

**Heritage Lottery** - Funding for a Digital Volunteer Officer, saving and sharing digital plant heritage.

**Persephone** - Funding for the development and operation of an online horticultural database developed for recording plants in collections.

**RHS Research** - For research bursaries.

**RHS Workshops** - Assistance fund for those attending Plant Heritage workshops.

**Heather Society** - For the advancement of horticulture, in particular conservation, improvement and research into the growing of heaths, heathers and allied plants.

**The Stanley Smith (UK) Horticultural Trust** - Funding the national collection holder's conference.

**Shanly Foundation** - Funding for displays at the RHS Chelsea Flower show and RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival.

**Alfred Williams Charitable Trust** – grant for cataloguing and archiving Sarah Cook's Historic Irises' collection

**The HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust** – grant for supporting National Plant Collection

# PLANT HERITAGE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025

### 23 Unrestricted funds - designated

These are unrestricted funds which are material to the charity's activities.

	At 1 November 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers At 31 October 2025	
	£	£	£	£	£
Area Groups	139,430	114,076	(78,409)	(58,689)	116,408
IT including CRM	50,000	-	(2,293)	(33,249)	14,458
	<u>189,430</u>	<u>114,076</u>	<u>(80,702)</u>	<u>(91,938)</u>	<u>130,866</u>
<b>Previous year:</b>	<b>At 1 November 2023</b>	<b>Incoming resources</b>	<b>Resources expended</b>	<b>Transfers At 31 October 2024</b>	
	£	£	£	£	£
Area Groups	145,752	111,250	(64,587)	(52,985)	139,430
Office Move	1,865	-	(1,865)	-	-
CRM	28,373	-	(840)	22,467	50,000
Risk Reserve	60,000	-	-	(60,000)	-
	<u>235,990</u>	<u>111,250</u>	<u>(67,292)</u>	<u>(90,518)</u>	<u>189,430</u>

#### Area Groups

Area Groups carry out activities throughout the year in accordance with the charity's objectives whilst remaining sympathetic and relevant to each group as defined by its members and geographical location. The Designated Fund represents the income and expenditure from group activities and the value retained in bank accounts as at the period end.

#### Office Move

To fund the relocation costs associated with changing office.

#### IT including CRM

To fund upgrades to the website, Persephone developments and a new customer relationship management system.

#### Risk Reserve

For future operational shocks such as COVID.

# PLANT HERITAGE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025

#### 24 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	<b>At 1 November 2024</b>	<b>Incoming resources</b>	<b>Resources expended</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>At 31 October 2025</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	582,266	298,272	(399,344)	91,938	573,132
<b>Previous year:</b>					
	<b>At 1 November 2023</b>	<b>Incoming resources</b>	<b>Resources expended</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>At 31 October 2024</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	591,783	282,646	(382,681)	90,518	582,266

#### 25 Analysis of net assets between funds

	<b>Unrestricted funds general 2025</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds designated 2025</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2025</b>	<b>Total 2025</b>
	£	£	£	£
<b>At 31 October 2025:</b>				
Intangible fixed assets	45,750	-	7,227	52,977
Tangible assets	4,249	-	571	4,820
Current assets/(liabilities)	528,113	130,866	12,235	671,214
Long term liabilities	(4,980)	-	-	(4,980)
	<u>573,132</u>	<u>130,866</u>	<u>20,033</u>	<u>724,031</u>
	<b>Unrestricted funds general 2024</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds designated 2024</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2024</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>
	£	£	£	£
<b>At 31 October 2024:</b>				
Intangible fixed assets	64,674	-	1,126	65,800
Tangible assets	4,923	-	-	4,923
Current assets/(liabilities)	517,282	189,430	22,294	729,006
Long term liabilities	(4,613)	-	-	(4,613)
	<u>582,266</u>	<u>189,430</u>	<u>23,420</u>	<u>795,116</u>



Plant Heritage

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Please get in touch if you would like to know more:

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