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R G H Lewis
The Nineveh Charitable Trust
Park Farm
Frittenden Road
Biddenden
Ashford
Kent
TN27 8LG

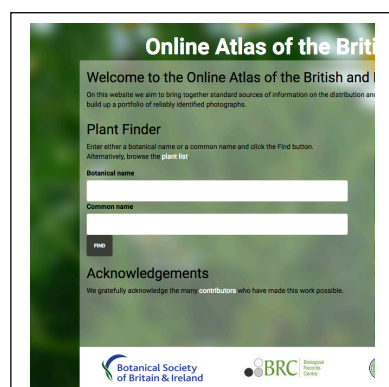
Dear Mr Lewis,

**We're well on the way to providing the information that will drive nature conservation
for years to come!**

Thank you once again for your generous donation of £5,000 towards the BSBI's Atlas 2020 project. I hope you will be interested to find out how this major project is progressing.

As you will recall from our application, we're gathering data to map the current state of plants across Britain and Ireland and to produce an online and printed Atlas ("Atlas 2020"). It will be used to inform conservation efforts throughout these islands for decades to come.

The most recent Atlas based on BSBI data has been hugely useful to conservationists. (It's available free, to anyone who wants to use it, at <http://brc.ac.uk/plantatlas/>.) But the data it uses was gathered over 20 years ago:



To properly protect plants and the wildlife that depends on them, we need to know what's happening now. The British Isles are home to many internationally threatened species and the data BSBI produces is vital, particularly to ensure that they are adequately protected once the UK leaves the EU. The *State of Nature report 2016* shows that "the UK has lost significantly more nature over the long term than the global average [and is] among the

most nature-depleted countries in the world.” To combat this devastating loss, conservationists need reliable information about where plants occur, how their range is changing and what is causing those changes. *Atlas 2020* will bring together that information in an accessible way.

Our fundraising for this project has been successful so far. We have only £27,205 still to raise to complete the data collection for the Atlas. (See Appendix 1 for a breakdown of costs and funds secured.)

Atlas 2020: Progress so far

Since March 2017, we have:

- Gathered 1,708,470 new plant records
- Verified 340,749 new records. (Experts check all records to ensure they are as correct as possible.)
- Supported over 3,000 volunteers in data gathering.
- Held 4 recording conferences/training events for active recorders. (Edinburgh, Strathpeffer, York, Dublin.)
- Held 14 other training events, including events for beginners and improvers.
- Organised 30 field meetings focusing on Atlas recording.
- Organised two week-long field trips to areas that are under-recorded (Argyll, Wester Ross), to ensure maximum coverage.

Atlas 2020: Plans for 2018-2020

In the next two years, we plan to:

- Gather and verify around 3,000,000 new plant records. (Experts check all records to ensure they are as correct as possible.)
- Analyse changes in distribution of species between from the 1960s to 2019 and, where possible, relate these to environmental drivers such as land management, climate change, pollution and invasive species.
- Continue to support volunteers in data gathering.
- Hold 7 conferences for volunteers with an Atlas focus and a range of support and training provided. (Edinburgh, Shrewsbury, Perth, Ormskirk, London and 2 in Dublin.)
- Run at least 45 targeted field meetings, including residential ones, to record in under-recorded areas.

We are so close to fully funding this vital project and are actively seeking the final £27,205 needed.

The generous support you have already given us will help to ensure that conservationists have one of the major tools they need to protect wildlife in Britain and Ireland for years to come – thank you.

Yours sincerely,

**Jane Houldsworth,
BSBI Head of Operations**

Appendix 1: Information about Atlas 2020

The Project: Atlas 2020 will bring together the millions of plant records collected in the field and held in the BSBI's database from 2000 up to the end of 2019. Online and printed outputs (for which we will be seeking additional funding in the coming years) will: map the distribution of around 2000 plants in the wild in the UK and Ireland; show how these distributions have changed over time, and investigate the main drivers of these changes, leading to a better understanding of changes to our natural environment. Volunteers will record plants in 10km x 10km squares and pass their data to BSBI. (Records include species identified; grid reference; date; stage (e.g. flowering); habitat, and abundance.) Staff will support volunteers, input (where needed), check, verify, and analyse this wealth of data, and then interpret it and publish the results. The Atlas will contain:

- Maps showing abundance and distribution of around 2000 plant species;
- Analyses of changes in the distribution summarising the state of the British and Irish flora in 2020.

It will be made available in two accessible formats:

- An online Atlas with interactive maps, able to display frequency and distribution of species at a variety of scales, with a print on demand option for those who want a hard copy.
- A book summarising the main outputs of the Atlas.

Atlas 2020: How will it help nature conservation?

- Determine which species are most threatened and help to identify which most need conservation.
- Identify the main threats to species and therefore what policies need to be put in place to protect them.
- Quantify the success of current conservation and environmental policy.
- Provide vital information on where species occur that can be used for conservation, development control, targeting agri-environment schemes, etc.
- Provide a baseline from which future changes can be measured.

Atlas 2020: The Cost

	2018/19	2019/20	Total
<u>Staff costs</u>			
Atlas coordination/ Volunteer support	£21,050	£21,050	£42,100
Data collection and digitisation	£2,860	£2,860	£5,720
Data verification	£8,000	£8,000	£16,000
Data analyses	£2,200	£2,200	£4,400
Communications	£1,440	£1,440	£2,880
Workshops	£385	£220	£605
TOTAL	£35,935	£35,770	£71,705

Income

CEH in kind contribution	£6,000	£7,000	£13,000
Individual donor	£15,000	£15,000	£30,000
Donations from charitable trusts	£1,500		£1,500
Income total	£22,500	£22,000	£44,500
Shortfall	£13,435	£13,770	<u>£27,205</u>

We were successful in raising funds to cover last year, the first year of the project, 2017/18. The Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) in kind contribution includes support with analysis, production of online material, and maps. From now until March 2020, we need to raise a further £27,205 to ensure that the project can be completed.

This project would simply not be possible without the enormous contribution of our skilled volunteers. We estimate that the time they will contribute is worth well over £2million over the life of the project.