

## Plantlife press release

For immediate release – Monday 4th September 2023

Spokespeople including Ian Dunn, CEO, Plantlife, available for comment

### Woodmeadow Trust becomes part of global plant charity Plantlife

- Plantlife to manage Three Hagges Woodmeadow, boosts stable of nature reserves to 24

Plantlife is excited that as of September 1<sup>st</sup> 2023, it will assume the assets and activities of the Woodmeadow Trust, including the management of a 10-hectare nature reserve, Three Hagges Woodmeadow, near York.

This strategic alignment of the two conservation organisations will allow Plantlife to secure the future of the Three Hagges Woodmeadow site, where wildflower meadows meet woodlands, and to continue to build on the excellent work of the Woodmeadow Trust, which was formed in 2013.

The Woodmeadow Trust (WmT) restored and managed a 10-hectare area of woodmeadow, between Selby and York, known as Three Hagges Woodmeadow. A woodmeadow is a rich habitat that is a mosaic of trees and grassland, where management plays a key role in its structure.

The site, which will become Plantlife's newest nature reserve (1), is home to alder, birch, oak, hazel and many fruiting trees and abounds with wild plants and other wildlife. Meadow favourites including Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus uliginosus*), Yellow Rattle (*Rhianthus minor*) and Ox-eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) are blooming at the site and woodland wildflowers including violets, primroses and Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) are already establishing. The careful management by the WmT team over the last decade has enabled a documented increase in invertebrates such as butterflies, bees and moths.

Protecting and restoring habitats along with connecting people to nature are at the core of Plantlife's mission (2). Three Hagges Woodmeadow can therefore continue within Plantlife to be a site from where environmental education can be offered, inspiring children and adults in nature.

This agreement further enables Plantlife to protect wildflowers and fungi, while working at the forefront of conservation efforts to restore grasslands, and to create woodmeadow ecosystems. Plantlife encourages policymakers to better consider the value and vulnerability of grasslands and this exciting move provides another opportunity to demonstrate best management practise.

Ian Dunn, CEO, Plantlife, commented:

*"We were delighted to have been chosen by the Woodmeadow Trust to become the new guardians of their activities and assets. What has been achieved by the team at the Woodmeadow Trust is truly noteworthy and has made a significant contribution to enriching the natural world around us. As the new custodian, Plantlife's ambition for delivering a world rich in plants and fungi is further strengthened."*

Ros Forbes-Adam, founder and inspiration behind WmT said:

*"We are thrilled that Plantlife will build on the legacy of Woodmeadow Trust and promote the creation and management of the unique habitats of wood meadow and wood pasture. Three Hagges Woodmeadow is a prime example, and we are confident that Plantlife will continue to*

*nurture the site for the local community, as well as for woodmeadows nationally and internationally.”*

Alongside adopting the site, Plantlife will be joined by three members of staff from the Woodmeadow Trust who will continue the important management of Three Haggis Woodmeadow and promotion of woodmeadows further afield.

## **ENDS**

### **Notes to editors:**

Plantlife is the global charity working to enhance, protect, restore and celebrate the wild plants and fungi that are essential to all life on earth. With two in five plant species at risk of extinction, biodiversity loss is now the fastest it's ever been and Plantlife's work has never been more vital. Plantlife champions and accelerates conservation action, working at the heart of a global network of individuals and organisations, to influence and inspire landowners and land managers, public and private bodies, governments and local communities. As time begins to run out, Plantlife's position as the global voice for wild plants and fungi will help to bring lasting and positive change to our natural world – for everyone's sake.

Photographs available to use with credit:

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To arrange interviews please contact [press@plantlife.org.uk](mailto:press@plantlife.org.uk)

Notes:

- <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/protecting-plants-fungi/nature-reserves/>
- [https://www.plantlife.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Plantlife\\_Strategy\\_2030\\_Final.pdf](https://www.plantlife.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Plantlife_Strategy_2030_Final.pdf)
- <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/our-work/the-grassland-gap/>

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