



**Butterfly
Conservation
Scotland**

Butterfly Conservation Scotland
Balallan House
Allan Park
Stirling
FK8 2QG
25th February 2018

Purchase of Eshiels Long Wood

Dear Peebles Community Trust

Butterfly Conservation Scotland wish to express their full and enthusiastic support for the initiative of Peebles Community Trust (PCT) in their CATS proposal for purchasing Eshiels Long Wood.

The wood is the *only* known site in Scotland with a living population of the Currant Shoot Borer (*Lampronia capitella*), which was documented and verified in 2017. This is a species of high conservation value and concern across the UK and has therefore been designated a UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species. It is also included on the Scottish Biodiversity List and has recently been categorised as a high priority species in Butterfly Conservation Scotland's new Scottish Conservation Strategy.

We therefore consider bringing the wood into community ownership and management with the development of a management plan that has an explicit objective of conserving the moth through protecting and promoting its favoured habitat, old currant bushes, to be of national importance and are thus happy to provide the necessary advice and support to help achieve this.

We wish you luck and support your plans to purchase this important wood for the community and conservation.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Tom Prescott
Senior Conservation Officer
Butterfly Conservation Scotland