

Pro-Chancellor,

Dr Martin Warren OBE has turned a childhood love of nature into a remarkable 40-year career in ecology and conservation, including 23 years leading the UK's largest butterfly conservation charity.

Growing up on the edge of Dunstable, Martin remembers collecting caterpillars from the nearby downland and watching their incredible metamorphosis into adult butterflies and moths. His pursuit of new species took him on trips across the UK, including to Dorset and Hampshire, where he collected caterpillars in the New Forest. These substitute pets, as he now sees them, sparked a passion for the natural world which has since led to renowned research on threatened species, land use and climate change.

Martin attended Imperial College and University College London, at a time when ecology was emerging as a new and specialist subject. After completing his degree in zoology and masters in nature conservation, he resolved to build a career in conservation and completed a PhD on butterfly ecology at Cambridge.

The start of Martin's career coincided with a growing awareness of the interconnectedness of nature; a theme which has continued to drive his love of butterflies, which he describes as a microcosm of the natural world. Volunteering for two years while he searched for his first role, Martin became a butterfly specialist with the Nature Conservancy Council before joining the charity, Butterfly Conservation, as its first Conservation Officer in 1993. Originally running operations from his front room, he oversaw the organisation's own metamorphosis, which included growing its membership from 3,000 to 35,000 and the staff team from three to 75. He extended the charity's scope when he helped to found Butterfly Conservation Europe, of which he remains Head of Development. This organisational growth remains Martin's proudest achievement, as he acknowledges that a well-organised team can achieve so much more than any individual can do alone.

His other career highlights include publishing over 200 scientific papers on butterfly ecology and climate change, winning the Marsh Award for Insect Conservation, being voted as a top-10 British conservationist by BBC Wildlife Magazine, and recently being awarded an OBE for services to the environment.

Throughout his working life Martin has championed the use of evidence-based research in conservation and is motivated by making use of scientific knowledge to achieve positive change.

Pro-Chancellor, I have the honour to present Dr Martin Warren, and I ask you to confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.