

Planet Hunters TESS II: findings from the first two years of *TESS*

N. L. Eisner¹,[★] O. Barragán,¹ C. Lintott¹,¹ S. Aigrain,¹ B. Nicholson,^{1,2} T. S. Boyajian,³ S. Howell,⁴ C. Johnston^{5,6}, B. Lakeland,¹ G. Miller,¹ A. McMaster,¹ H. Parviainen,⁷ E. J. Safron,³ M. E. Schwamb,^{8,9} L. Trouille,¹⁰ S. Vaughan,¹ N. Zicher,¹ C. Allen,¹ S. Allen,¹⁰ M. Bouslog,¹⁰ C. Johnson,¹⁰ M. N. Simon,¹⁰ Z. Wolfenbarger,¹⁰ E. M. L. Baeten,^{11†} D. M. Bundy^{11†} and T. Hoffman^{11†}

¹Department of Physics, University of Oxford, Keble Rd, Oxford OX1 3RH, UK

²University of Southern Queensland, Centre for Astrophysics, West Street, Toowoomba, QLD 4350, Australia

³Department of Physics and Astronomy, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, USA

⁴NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA 94035, USA

⁵Institute of Astronomy, KU Leuven, Celestijnenlaan 200D, B-3001 Leuven, Belgium

⁶Department of Astrophysics, IMAPP, Radboud University Nijmegen, P.O. Box 9010, NL-6500 GL Nijmegen, the Netherlands

⁷Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC), Via Lactea s/n, 38205 E-La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain

⁸Gemini Observatory, Northern Operations Center, 670 North A'ohoku Place, Hilo, HI 96720, USA

⁹Astrophysics Research Centre, Queen's University Belfast, Belfast BT7 1NN, UK

¹⁰Department of Citizen Science, The Adler Planetarium, Chicago, IL 60605, USA

¹¹Planet Hunters TESS Citizen Scientist, University of Oxford, Keble Road, Oxford OX1 3RH, UK

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ABSTRACT

We present the results from the first two years of the Planet Hunters TESS (PHT) citizen science project, which identifies planet candidates in the *TESS* (*Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite*) data by engaging members of the general public. Over 22 000 citizen scientists from around the world visually inspected the first 26 sectors of *TESS* data in order to help identify transit-like signals. We use a clustering algorithm to combine these classifications into a ranked list of events for each sector, the top 500 of which are then visually vetted by the science team. We assess the detection efficiency of this methodology by comparing our results to the list of TESS Objects of Interest (TOIs) and show that we recover 85 per cent of the TOIs with radii greater than $4 R_{\oplus}$ and 51 per cent of those with radii between 3 and $4 R_{\oplus}$. Additionally, we present our 90 most promising planet candidates that had not previously been identified by other teams, 73 of which exhibit only a single-transit event in the *TESS* light curve, and outline our efforts to follow these candidates up using ground-based observatories. Finally, we present noteworthy stellar systems that were identified through the Planet Hunters TESS project.

Key words: methods: data analysis – catalogues – planets and satellites: detection – planets and satellites: general – planetary systems.

1 INTRODUCTION

Since the first unambiguous discovery of an exoplanet in Mayor & Queloz (1995) over 4000 more have been confirmed. Studies of their characteristics have unveiled an extremely wide range of planetary properties in terms of planetary mass, size, system architecture, and orbital periods, greatly revolutionizing our understanding of how these bodies form and evolve.

The transit method, whereby we observe a temporary decrease in the brightness of a star due to a planet passing in front of its host star, is to date the most successful method for planet detection, having discovered over 75 per cent of the planets listed on the NASA Exoplanet Archive.¹ It yields a wealth of information including

planet radius, orbital period, system orientation, and potentially even atmospheric composition. Furthermore, when combined with radial velocity (RV, e.g. Mayor & Queloz 1995; Marcy et al. 1997) observations, which yield the planetary mass, we can infer planet densities, and thus their internal bulk compositions. Other indirect detection methods include radio pulsar timing (e.g. Wolszczan & Frail 1992) and microlensing (e.g. Gaudi 2012).

The *Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite* mission (*TESS*; Ricker et al. 2015) is currently in its extended mission, searching for transiting planets orbiting bright ($V < 11$ mag) nearby stars. Over the course of the two year nominal mission, *TESS* monitored around 85 per cent of the sky, split up into 26 rectangular sectors of 96×24 deg each (13 per hemisphere). Each sector is monitored for ≈ 27.4 continuous days, measuring the brightness of $\approx 20\,000$ pre-selected stars every two minutes. In addition to these short cadence (SC) observations, the *TESS* mission provides full frame images (FFI) that span across all pixels of all CCDs and are taken at a cadence of 30 min. While most of the targets (~ 63 per cent) will be observed

* E-mail: nora.eisner@new.ox.ac.uk

† Citizen Scientist, Zooniverse.

¹<https://exoplanetarchive.ipac.caltech.edu/>

for ≈ 27.4 continuous days, around ~ 2 per cent of the targets at the ecliptic poles are located in the ‘continuous viewing zones’ and will be continuously monitored for ~ 356 d.

Stars themselves are extremely complex, with phenomena ranging from outbursts to long- and short-term variability and oscillations, which manifest themselves in the light curves. These signals, as well as systematic effects and artefacts introduced by the telescope and instruments, mean that standard periodic search methods, such as the box-least-squared method (BLS, Kovács, Zucker & Mazeh 2002) can struggle to identify certain transit events, especially if the observed signal is dominated by natural stellar variability. Standard detection pipelines also tend to bias the detection of short-period planets, as they typically require a minimum of two transit events in order to gain the signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) required for detection.

One of the prime science goals of the *TESS* mission is to further our understanding of the overall planet population, an active area of research that is strongly affected by observational and detection biases. In order for exoplanet population studies to be able to draw meaningful conclusions, they require a certain level of completeness in the sample of known exoplanets as well as a robust sample of validated planets spanning a wide range of parameter space. Due to this, we independently search the *TESS* light curves for transiting planets via visual vetting in order to detect candidates that were either intentionally ignored by the main *TESS* pipelines, which require at least two transits for a detection, missed because of stellar variability or instrumental artefacts, or were identified but subsequently erroneously discounted at the vetting stage, usually because the period found by the pipeline was incorrect. These candidates can help populate under-explored regions of parameter space and will, for example, benefit the study of planet occurrence rates around different stellar types as well as inform theories of physical processes involved with the formation and evolution of different types of exoplanets.

Human brains excel in activities related to pattern recognition, making the task of identifying transiting events in light curves, even when the pattern is in the midst of a strong varying signal, ideally suited for visual vetting. Early citizen science projects, such as Planet Hunters (PH; Fischer et al. 2012) and Exoplanet Explorers (Christiansen et al. 2018), successfully harnessed the analytic power of a large number of volunteers and made substantial contributions to the field of exoplanet discoveries. The PH project, for example, showed that human vetting has a higher detection efficiency than automated detection algorithms for certain types of transits. In particular, they showed that citizen science can outperform on the detection of single (long-period) transits (e.g. Wang et al. 2013; Schmitt et al. 2014), aperiodic transits (e.g. circumbinary planets; Schwamb et al. 2013), and planets around variable stars (e.g. young systems, Fischer et al. 2012). Both PH and Exoplanet Explorers, which are hosted by the world’s largest citizen science platform Zooniverse (Lintott et al. 2008), ensured easy access to *Kepler* and *K2* data by making them publicly available online in an immediately accessible graphical format that is easy to understand for non-specialists. The popularity of these projects is reflected in the number of participants, with PH attracting 144 466 volunteers from 137 different countries over 9 yr of the project being active.

Following the end of the *Kepler* mission and the launch of the *TESS* satellite in 2018, PH was relaunched as the new citizen science project Planet Hunters *TESS* (PHT),² with the aim of identifying transit events in the *TESS* data that were intentionally ignored or missed by

the main *TESS* pipelines. Such a search complements other methods via its sensitivity to single transit, and, therefore, longer period planets. Additionally, other dedicated non-citizen science-based methods are also employed to look for single-transit candidates (see e.g. the Bayesian transit fitting method by Osborn et al. 2016; Gill et al. 2020).

Citizen science transit searches specialize in finding the rare events that the standard detection pipelines miss, however, these results are of limited use without an indication of the completeness of the search. Addressing the problem of completeness was therefore one of our highest priorities while designing PHT as discussed throughout this paper.

The layout of the remainder of the paper will be as follows. An overview of the PHT project is found in Section 2, followed by an in depth description of how the project identifies planet candidates in Section 3. The recovery efficiency of the citizen science approach is assessed in Section 4, followed by a description of the in-depth vetting of candidates and ground-based follow-up efforts in Sections 5 and 6, respectively. Planet candidates and noteworthy systems identified by PHT are outlined in Section 7, followed by a discussion of the results in Section 8.

2 PLANET HUNTERS TESS

The PHT project works by displaying *TESS* light curves (Fig. 1), and asking volunteers to identify transit-like signals. Only the 2-min cadence targets, which are produced by the *TESS* pipeline at the Science Processing Operations Center (SPOC, Jenkins et al. 2018) and made publicly available by the Mikulski Archive for Space Telescopes (MAST),³ are searched by PHT. First-time visitors to the PHT site, or returning visitors who have not logged in are prompted to look through a short tutorial, which briefly explains the main aim of the project and shows examples of transit events and other stellar phenomena. Scientific explanation of the project can be found elsewhere on the site in the ‘field guide’ and on the project’s ‘About’ page.

After viewing the tutorial, volunteers are ready to participate in the project and are presented with *TESS* light curves (known as ‘subjects’) that need to be classified. The project was designed to be as simple as possible and therefore only asks one question: ‘Do you see a transit?’. Users identify transit-like events, and the time of their occurrence, by drawing a column over the event using the mouse button, as shown in Fig. 1. There is no limit on the number of transit-like events that can be marked in a light curve. No markings indicate that there are no transit-like events present in the light curve. Once the subject has been analysed, users submit their classification and continue to view the next light curve by clicking ‘Done’.

Alongside each light curve, users are offered information on the stellar properties of the target, such as the radius, effective temperature, and magnitude (subject to availability, see Stassun et al. (2018)). However, in order to reduce biases in the classifications, the *TESS* Input Catalog (TIC) ID of the target star is not provided until after the subject classification has been submitted.

In addition to classifying the data, users are given the option to comment on light curves via the ‘Talk’ discussion forum. Each light curve has its own discussion page to allow volunteers to discuss and comment, as well as to ‘tag’ light curves using searchable hashtags, and to bring promising candidates to the attention of other users and the research team. The talk discussion forums complement the main

²www.planethunters.org

³<http://archive.stsci.edu/tess/>



Figure 1. PHT user interface showing a simulated light curve. The transit events are highlighted with white partially transparent columns that are drawn on using the mouse. Stellar information on the target star is available by clicking on ‘subject info’ below the light curve.

PHT analysis and have been shown to yield interesting objects which may be challenging to detect using automated algorithms (e.g. Eisner et al. 2019). Unlike in the initial PH project, there are no questions in the main interface regarding stellar variability, however, volunteers are encouraged to mention astrophysical phenomenon or *unusual* features, such as eclipsing binaries or stellar flares, using the ‘Talk’ discussion forum.

The subject TIC IDs are revealed on the subject discussion pages, allowing volunteers to carry out further analysis on specific targets of interest and to report and discuss their findings. This is extremely valuable for both other volunteers and the PHT science team, as it can speed up the process of identifying candidates as well as rule out false positives in a fast and effective manner.

Since the launch of PHT on 2018 December 6, there has been one significant makeover to the user interface. The initial PHT user interface (UI1), which was used for Sectors 1–9, split the *TESS* light curves up into either three or four chunks (depending on the data gaps in each sector) which lasted around seven days each. This allowed for a more ‘zoomed’ in view of the data, making it easier to identify transit-like events than when the full ~ 30 d light curves were shown. The results from a PHT beta project, which displayed only simulated data, showed that a more zoomed-in view of the light curve was likely to yield a higher transit recovery rate.

The updated, and current, user interface (UI2) allows users to manually zoom-in on the x -axis (time) of the data. Due to this additional feature, each target has been displayed as a single light curve as of Sector 10. In order to verify that the changes in interface did not affect our findings, all of the Sector 9 subjects were classified using both UI1 and UI2. We saw no significant change in the number of candidates recovered (see Section 4 for a description of how we quantified detection efficiency).

2.1 Simulated data

In addition to the real data, volunteers are shown simulated light curves, which are generated by randomly injecting simulated transit signals, provided by the SPOC pipeline (Jenkins et al. 2018), into

real *TESS* light curves. The simulated data play an important role in assessing the sensitivity of the project, training the users and providing immediate feedback, and to gauge the relative abilities of individual users (see Section 3.1).

We calculate an S/N of the injected signal by dividing the injected transit depth by the root mean square combined differential photometric precision (rms CDP) of the light curve on 0.5-, 1- or 2-h time-scales (whichever is closest to the duration of the injected transit signal). Only simulations with an S/N greater than 7 in UI1 and greater than 4 for UI2 are shown to volunteers.

Simulated light curves are randomly shown to the volunteers and classified in the exact same manner as the real data. The user is always notified after a simulated light curve has been classified and given feedback as to whether the injected signal was correctly identified or not. For each sector, we generate between one and two thousand simulated light curves, using the real data from that sector in order to ensure that the sector specific systematic effects and data gaps of the simulated data do not differ from the real data. The rate at which a volunteer is shown simulated light curves decreases from an initial rate of 30 per cent for the first 10 classifications, down to a rate of 1 per cent by the time that the user has classified 100 light curves.

3 IDENTIFYING CANDIDATES

Each subject is seen by multiple volunteers, before it is ‘retired’ from the site, and the classifications are combined (see Section 3.3) in order to assess the likelihood of a transit event. For Sectors 1–9, the subjects were retired after eight classifications if the first eight volunteers who saw the light curves did not mark any transit events, after 10 classifications if the first 10 volunteers all marked a transit event and after 15 classifications if there was not complete consensus amongst the users. As of Sector 9 with UI2, all subjects were classified by 15 volunteers, regardless of whether or not any transit-like events were marked. Sector 9, which was classified with both UI1 and UI2, was also classified with both retirement rules.

There were a total of 12 617 038 individual classifications completed across the project on the nominal mission data. 95.4 per cent

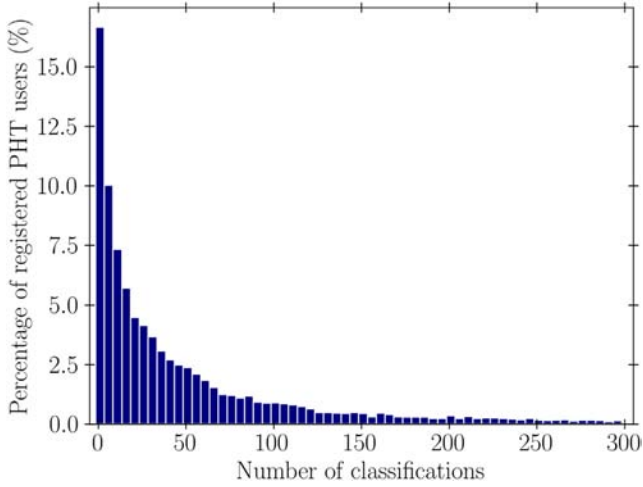


Figure 2. The distribution of the number of classifications by the registered volunteers, using a bin size of 5 from 0 to 300 classifications. A total of 11.8 per cent of the registered volunteers completed more than 300 classifications.

of these classifications were made by 22 341 registered volunteers, with the rest made by unregistered volunteers. Around 25 per cent of the registered volunteers complete more than 100 classifications, 11.8 per cent more than 300, 8.4 per cent more than 500, 5.4 per cent more than 1000, and 1.1 per cent more than 10 000. The registered volunteers completed a mean and median of 647 and 33 classifications, respectively. Fig. 2 shows the distribution in user effort for logged in users who made between 0 and 300 classifications.

The distribution in the number of classifications made by the registered volunteers is assessed using the Gini coefficient, which ranges from 0 (equal contributions from all users) to 1 (large disparity in the contributions). The Gini coefficients for individual sectors ranges from 0.84 to 0.91 with a mean of 0.87, while the Gini coefficient for the overall project (all of the sectors combined) is 0.94. The mean Gini coefficient among other astronomy Zooniverse projects lies at 0.82 (Spiers et al. 2019). We note that the only other Zooniverse project with an equally high Gini coefficient as PHT is *Supernova Hunters*, a project which, similarly to PHT and unlike most other Zooniverse projects, has periodic data releases that are accompanied by an e-newsletter sent to all project volunteers. Periodic e-newsletters have the effect of promoting the project to both regularly and irregularly participating volunteers, who may only complete a couple of classifications as they explore the task, as well as to returning users who complete a large number of classifications following every data release, increasing the disparity in user contributions (the Gini coefficient).

3.1 User weighting

User weights are calculated for each individual volunteer in order to identify users who are more sensitive to detecting transit-like signals and those who are more likely to mark false positives. The weighting scheme is based on the weighting scheme described by Schwamb et al. (2012).

User weights are calculated independently for each observation sector, using the simulated light curves shown alongside the data from that sector. All users start off with a weighting of one, which is then increased or decreased when a simulated transit event is correctly or incorrectly identified, respectively.

Simulated transits are deemed correctly identified, or ‘True’, if the mid-point of a user’s marking falls within the width of the simulated transit events. If none of the user’s markings fall within this range, the simulated transit is deemed not identified, or ‘False’. If more than one of a user’s markings coincide with the same simulated signal, it is only counted as being correct once, such that the total number of ‘True’ markings cannot exceed the number of injected signals. For each classification, we record the number of ‘Extra’ markings, which is the total number of markings made by the user minus the number of correctly identified simulated transits.

Each simulated light curve, identified by superscript i (where $i = 1, \dots, N$) was seen by $K^{(i)}$ users (the mean value of $K^{(i)}$ was 10), and contained $T^{(i)}$ simulated transits (where $T^{(i)}$ depends on the period of the simulated transit signal and the duration of the light curve). For a specific light curve i , each user who saw the light curve is identified by a subscript k (where $k = 1, \dots, K^{(i)}$) and each injected transit by a subscript t (where $t = 1, \dots, T^{(i)}$).

In order to distinguish between users who are able to identify obvious transits and those who are also able to find those that are more difficult to see, we start by defining a ‘recoverability’ $r_t^{(i)}$ for each injected transit t in each light curve. This is defined empirically, as the number of users who identified the transit correctly divided by $K^{(i)}$ (the total number of users who saw the light curve in question).

Next, we quantify the performance of each user on each light curve as follows (this performance is analogous to the ‘seed’ defined in Schwamb et al. 2012, but we define it slightly differently):

$$p_k^{(i)} = C_E \frac{E_k^{(i)}}{\langle E^{(i)} \rangle} + \sum_{t=1}^{T^{(i)}} \begin{cases} C_T [r_t^{(i)}]^{-1}, & \text{if } m_{t,k}^{(i)} = \text{‘True’} \\ C_F r_t^{(i)}, & \text{if } m_{t,k}^{(i)} = \text{‘False’}, \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where $m_{t,k}^{(i)}$ is the identification of transit t by user k in light curve i , which is either ‘True’ or ‘False’; $E_k^{(i)}$ is the number of ‘Extra’ markings made by user k for light curve i , and $\langle E^{(i)} \rangle$ is the mean number of ‘Extra’ markings made by all users who saw subject i . The parameters C_E , C_T and C_F control the impact of the ‘Extra’, ‘True’ and ‘False’ markings on the overall user weightings, and are optimized empirically as discussed below in Section 3.4.

Following Schwamb et al. (2012), we then assign a global ‘weight’ w_k to each user k , which is defined as:

$$w_k = I \times (1 + \log_{10} N_k) \sum_i p_k^{(i)} / N_k \quad (2)$$

where I is an empirical normalization factor, such that the distribution of user weights remains centred on one, N_k is the total number of simulated transit events that user k assessed, and the sum over i concerns only the light curves that user k saw. We limit the user weights to the range 0.05–3 a posteriori.

We experimented with a number of alternative ways to define the user weights, including the simpler $w_k = \sum_i p_k^{(i)} / N_k$, but equation (2) was found to give the best results (see Section 4 for how this was evaluated).

3.2 Systematic removal

Systematic effects, for example caused by the spacecraft or background events, can result in spurious signals that affect a large subset of the data, resulting in an excess in markings of transit-like events at certain times within an observation sector. As the four *TESS* cameras can yield unique systematic effects, the times of systematics were identified uniquely for each camera. The times were identified using a Kernel density estimation (KDE; Rosenblatt 1956) with a cosine kernel and a bandwidth of 0.1 d, applied across all of the markings

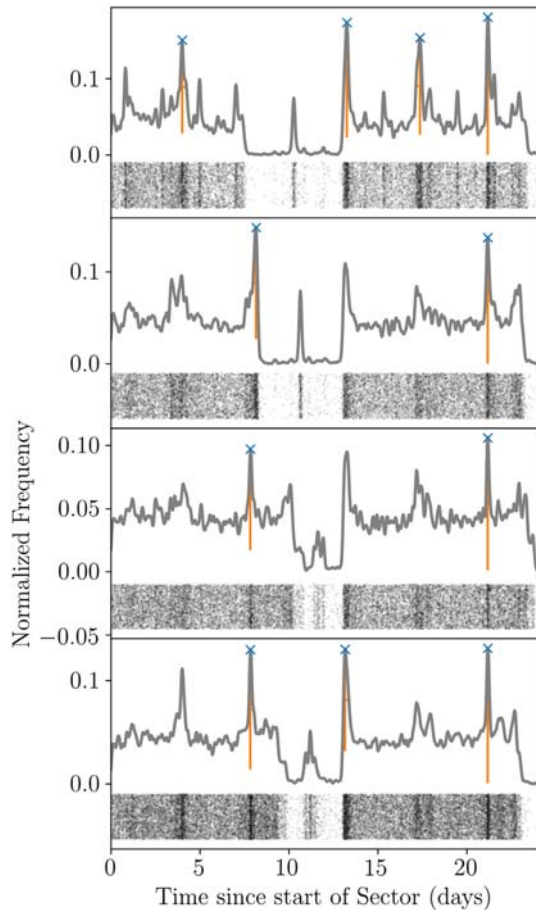


Figure 3. KDE of the user markings made for Sector 17, for targets observed with *TESS*'s observational cameras 1 (top panel) to 4 (bottom panel). The orange vertical lines indicate prominences that are at least four times greater than the standard deviation of the distribution. The black points underneath the figures show the mid-points of all of the volunteer markings, where darker regions represent a higher density of markings.

from that sector for each camera. Fig. 3 shows the KDE of all marked transit-events made during Sector 17 for *TESS*'s cameras 1 (top panel) to 4 (bottom panel). The isolated spikes, or prominences, in the number of marked events, such as at $T = 21\text{--}22$ d in the bottom panel, are assumed to be caused by systematic effects that affect multiple light curves. Prominences are considered significant if they exceed a factor four times the standard deviation of the kernel output, which was empirically determined to be the highest cut-off to not miss clearly visible systematics. All user markings within the full width at half-maximum of these peaks are omitted from all further analysis. The KDE profiles for each sector are provided as electronic Supporting Information.

3.3 Density-based clustering

The times and likelihoods of transit-like events are determined by combining all of the classifications made for each subject and identifying times where multiple volunteers identified a signal. We do this using an unsupervised machine learning method, known as DBSCAN (density-based spatial clustering of applications with noise, Ester et al. 1996). DBSCAN is a non-parametric density-based clustering algorithm that helps to distinguish between dense clusters of data and sparse noise. For a data point to belong to a cluster it

must be closer than a given distance (ϵ) to at least a set minimum number of other points (minPoints).

In our case, the data points are 1D arrays of times of transit events, as identified by the volunteers, and clusters are times where multiple volunteers identified the same event. For each cluster a ‘transit score’ (s_i) is determined, which is the sum of the user weights of the volunteers who contribute to the given cluster divided by the sum of the user weights of volunteers who saw that light curve. These transit scores are used to rank subjects from most to least likely to contain a transit-like event. Subjects which contain multiple successful clusters with different scores are ranked by the highest transit score.

3.4 Optimizing the search

The methodology described in Sections 3.1–3.3 has five free parameters: the number of markings required to constitute a cluster (minPoints), the maximum separation of markings required for members of a cluster (ϵ), and C_E , C_T , and C_F used in the weighting scheme. The values of these parameters were optimized via a grid search, where C_E and C_F ranged from -5 to 0 , C_T ranged from 0 to 20 , and minPoints ranged from 1 to 8 , all in steps of 1 . (ϵ) ranged from 0.5 to 1.5 in steps of 0.5 . This grid search was carried out on four sectors, two from UI1 and two from UI2, for various variations of equation (2).

The success of each combination of parameters was assessed by the fractions of TOIs and TCEs that were recovered within the top highest ranked 500 candidates, as discussed in more detail Section 4. We found the most successful combination of parameters to be $\text{minPoints} = 4$ markings, $\epsilon = 1$ day, $C_T = 3$, $C_F = -2$, and $C_E = -2$.

3.5 MAST deliverables

The analysis described above is carried out both in real time as classifications are made, as well as offline after all of the light curves of a given sector have been classified. When the real-time analysis identifies a successful DB cluster (i.e. when at least four citizen scientists identified a transit within a day of the *TESS* data of one another), the potential candidate is automatically uploaded to the open access Planet Hunters Analysis Database (PHAD)⁴ hosted by the MAST.⁵ While PHAD does not list every single classification made on PHT, it does display all transit candidates which had significant consensus amongst the volunteers who saw that light curve, along with the user-weighted transit scores. This analysis does not apply the systematics removal described in Section 3.2. The aim of PHAD is to provide an open source data base of potential planet candidates identified by PHT, and to credit the volunteers who identified said targets.

The offline analysis is carried out following the complete classifications of all of the data from a given *TESS* sector. The combination of all of the classifications allows us to identify and remove times of systematics and calculate better calibrated and more representative user weights. The remainder of this paper will only discuss the results from the offline analysis.

⁴<https://mast.stsci.edu/phad/>

⁵<https://archive.stsci.edu/>

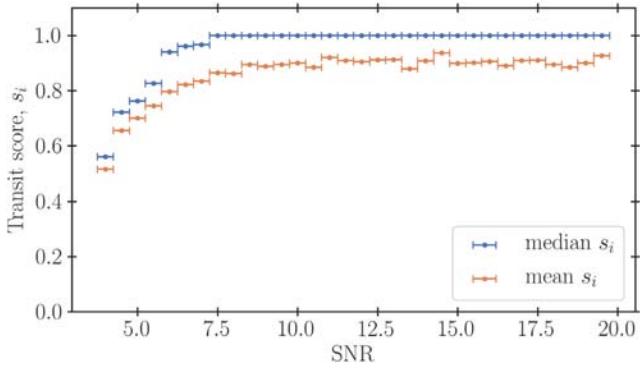


Figure 4. The median (blue) and mean (orange) transit scores for injected transits with S/N ranges between 4 and 20. The mean and median are calculated in S/N bins with a width of 0.5, as indicated by the horizontal lines around each data point.

4 RECOVERY EFFICIENCY

4.1 Recovery of simulated transits

The recovery efficiency is, in part, assessed by analysing the recovery rate of the injected transit-like signals (see Section 2.1). Fig. 4 shows the median and mean transit scores (fraction of volunteers who correctly identified a given transit scaled by user weights) of the simulated transits within S/N bins ranging from 4 to 20 in steps of 0.5. Simulations with an S/N less than 4 were not shown on PHT. The figure highlights that transit signals with an S/N of 7.5 or greater are correctly identified by the vast majority of volunteers.

As the simulated data solely consist of real light curves with synthetically injected transit signals, we do not have any light curves, simulated or otherwise, which we can guarantee do not contain any planetary transits (real or injected). As such, this prohibits us from using simulated data to infer an analogous false-positive rate.

4.2 Recovery of TCEs and TOIs

The recovery efficiency of PHT is assessed further using the planet candidates identified by the SPOC pipeline (Jenkins et al. 2018). The SPOC pipeline extracts and processes all of the 2-min cadence *TESS* light curves prior to performing a large-scale transit search. Data validation (DV) reports, which include a range of transit diagnostic tests, are generated by the pipeline for around 1250 threshold crossing events (TCEs), which were flagged as containing two or more transit-like features. Visual vetting is then performed by the *TESS* science team on these targets, and promising candidates are added to the catalogue of *TESS* Objects of Interest (TOIs). Each sector yields around 80 TOIs and a mean of 1025 TCEs.

Fig 5 shows the fraction of TOIs and TCEs (top and bottom panels, respectively) that we recover with PHT as a function of the rank, where a higher rank corresponds to a lower transit score, for Sectors 1–26. TOIs and TCEs with $R < 2 R_{\oplus}$ are not included in this analysis, as the initial PH showed that human vetting alone is unable to reliably recover planets smaller than $2 R_{\oplus}$ (Schwamb et al. 2012). Planets smaller than $2 R_{\oplus}$ are, therefore, not the main focus of our search.

Fig 5 shows a steep increase in the fractional TOI recovery rate up to a rank of ~ 500 . Within the 500 highest ranked PHT candidates for a given sector, we are able to recover between 46 and 62 per cent (mean of 53 per cent) of all of the TOIs ($R > 2 R_{\oplus}$), a median 90 per cent of the TOIs where the S/N of the transit events are greater

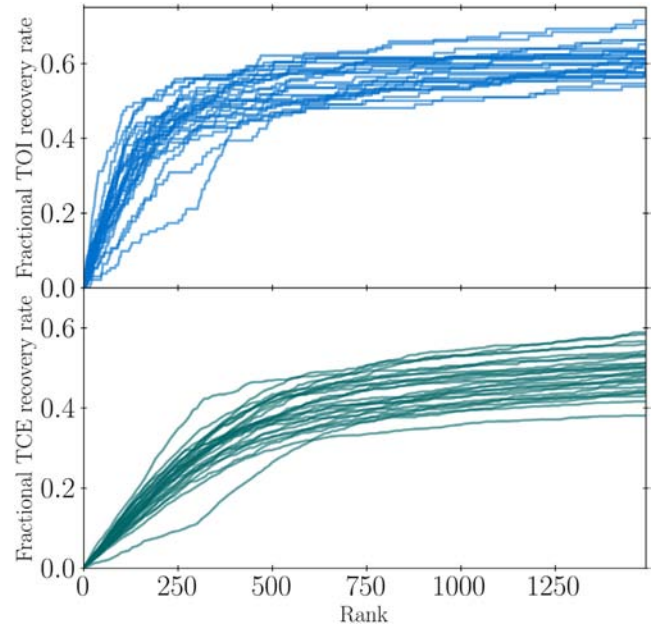


Figure 5. The fraction of recovered TOIs and TCEs (top and bottom panels, respectively) with $R > 2 R_{\oplus}$ as a function of the rank, for Sectors 1–26. The lines represent the results from different observation sectors.

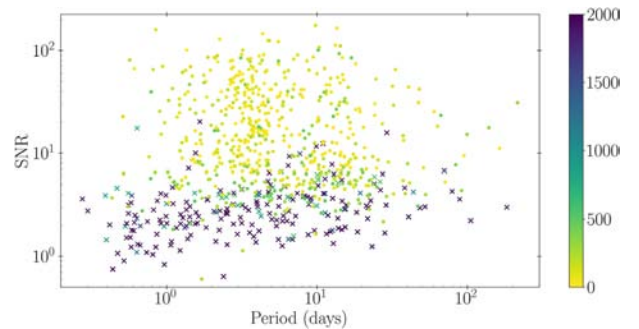


Figure 6. The S/N versus orbital period of TOIs with $R > 2 R_{\oplus}$. The colour represents their rank within the sector, as determined by the weighted DB clustering algorithm. Circles indicate that they were identified at a rank < 500 , while crosses indicate that they were not within the top 500 highest ranked candidates of a given sector.

than 7.5 and median 88 per cent of TOIs where the S/N of the transit events are greater than 5.

The relation between planet recovery rate and the S/N of the transit events is further highlighted in Fig. 6, which shows the S/N versus the orbital period of the recovered TOIs. The colour of the markers indicate the TOI's rank within a given sector, with the lighter colours representing a lower rank. The circles and crosses represent candidates at a rank lower and higher than 500, respectively. The figure shows that transit events with an S/N less than 3.5 are missed by the majority of volunteers, whereas events with an S/N greater than 5 are mostly recovered within the top 500 highest ranked candidates.

The steep increase in the fractional TOI recovery rate at lower ranks, as shown in Fig. 5, is therefore due to the detection of the high S/N candidates that are identified by most, if not all, of the PHT volunteers who classified those targets. At a rank of around 500, the S/N of the TOIs tends towards the limit of what human vetting can detect and thus the identification of TOIs beyond a rank of 500 is more sporadic.

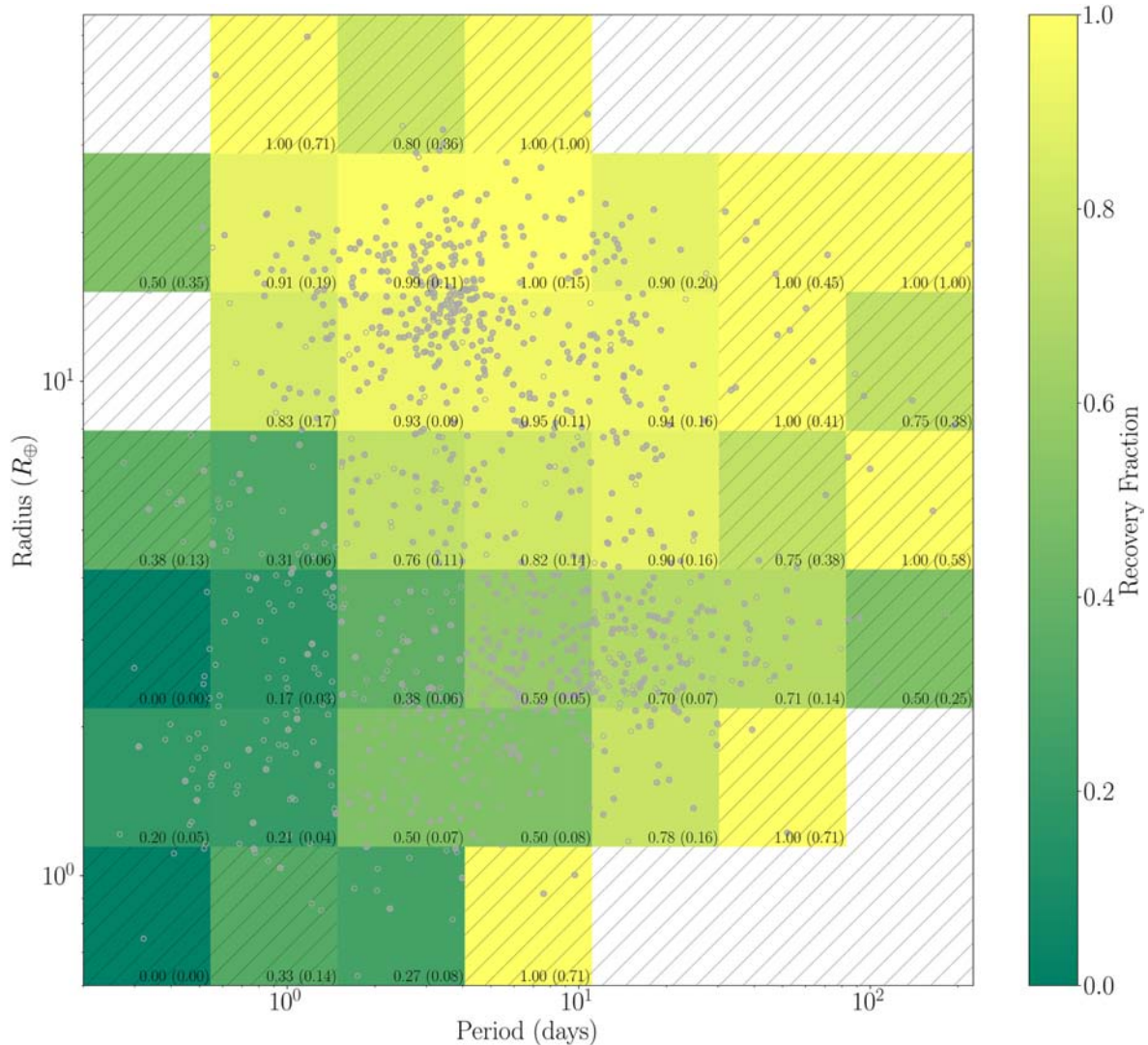


Figure 7. TOI recovery rate as a function of planet radius and orbital period. A TOI is considered recovered if it is amongst the top 500 highest ranked candidates within a given sector. The logarithmically spaced grid ranges from 0.2 to 225 d and 0.6 to $55 R_{\oplus}$ for the orbital period and planet radius, respectively. The fraction of TOIs recovered using PHT is computed for each cell and represented by the colour the grid. Cells with less than 10 TOIs are considered incomplete for statistical analysis and are shown by the hatched lines. White cells contain no TOIs. The annotations for each cell indicate the number of recovered TOIs followed by the Poisson uncertainty in brackets. The filled in and empty grey circles indicated the recovered and not-recovered TOIs, respectively.

The fractional TCE recovery rate (bottom panel of Fig. 5) is systematically lower than that of the TOIs. There are qualitative reasons as to why humans might not identify a TCE as opposed to a TOI, including that TCEs may be caused by artefacts or periodic stellar signals that the SPOC pipeline identified as a potential transit but that the human eye would either miss or be able to rule out as systematic effect. This leads to a lower recovery fraction of TCEs comparatively, an effect that is further amplified by the much larger number of TCEs.

The detection efficiency of PHT is estimated using the fractional recovery rate of TOIs for a range of radius and period bins, as shown in Fig. 7. A TOI is considered to be recovered if its detection rank is less than 500 within the given sector. Out of the total 1913 TOIs, to date, PHT recovered 715 TOIs among the highest ranked candidates across the 26 sectors. This corresponds to a mean of 12.7 per cent of the top 500 ranked candidates per sector being TOIs. In comparison, the primary *TESS* team on average visually vets 1025 TCEs per sector, out of which a mean of 17.3 per cent are promoted to TOI

status. We find that, independent of the orbital period, PHT is over 85 per cent complete in the recovery of TOIs with radii equal to or greater than $4 R_{\oplus}$. This agrees with the findings from the initial PH project (Schwamb et al. 2012). The detection efficiency decreases to 51 per cent for $3-4 R_{\oplus}$ TOIs, 49 per cent for $2-3 R_{\oplus}$ TOIs and to less than 40 per cent for TOIs with radii less than $2 R_{\oplus}$. Fig 7 shows that the orbital period does not have a strong effect on the detection efficiency for periods greater than ~ 1 d, which highlights that human vetting efficiency is independent of the number of transits present within a light curve. For periods shorter than around 1 d, the detection efficiency decreases even for larger planets, due to the high frequency of events seen in the light curve. For these light curves, many volunteers will only mark a subset of the transits, which may not overlap with the subset marked by other volunteers. Due to the methodology used to identify and rank the candidates, as described in Section 3, this will actively disfavour the recovery of very short-period planets. Although this obviously introduces biases in the detectability of very short-period signals, the major detection

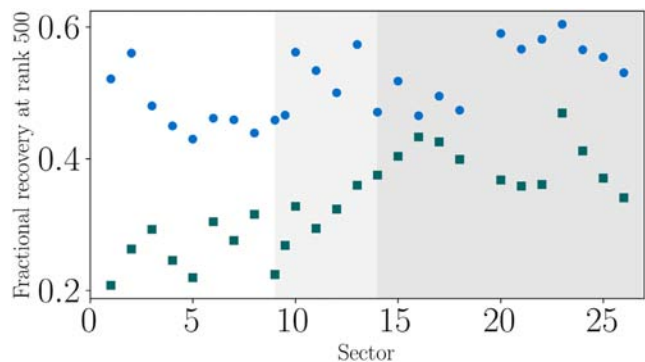


Figure 8. The fractional recovery rate of the TOIs (blue circles) and TCEs (teal squares) at a rank of 500 for each sector. Sectors 1–9 (white background) represent Southern hemisphere sectors classified with UI1, Sectors 9–14 (light grey background) show the Southern hemisphere sectors classified with UI2, and Sectors 14–24 (dark grey background) show the Northern hemisphere sectors classified with US2.

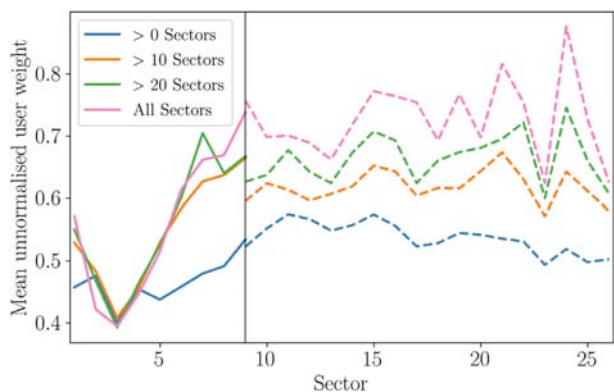


Figure 9. Mean user weights per sector. The solid lines show the user weights for the old user interface and the dashed line for the new interface, separated by the black line (Sector 9). The different coloured lines show the mean user weights calculated considering user who participated in any number of sectors (blue), more than 10 sectors (orange), more than 20 sectors (green), and all of the sectors observed during the nominal *TESS* mission (pink).

pipelines are specifically designed to identify these types of planets and thus this does not present a serious detriment to our main science goal of finding planets that were intentionally ignored or missed by the main automated pipelines.

Finally, we assessed whether the detection efficiency varies across different sectors by assessing the fraction of recovered TOIs and TCEs within the highest ranked 500 candidates. We found the recovery of TOIs within the top 500 highest ranked candidates to remain relatively constant across all sectors, while the fraction of recovered TCEs in the top 500 highest ranked candidates increases in later sectors, as shown in Fig. 8). After applying a Spearman’s rank test we find a positive correlation of 0.86 (p -value = 5.9×10^{-8}) and 0.57 (p -value = 0.003) between the observation sector and TCE and TOI recovery rates, respectively. These correlations suggest that the ability of users to detect transit-like events improves as they classify more subjects. The improvement of volunteers over time can also be seen in Fig 9, which shows the mean (unnormalized) user weight per sector for volunteers who completed one or more classifications in at least one sector (blue), more than 10 sectors (orange), more than 20 sectors (green), and all of the sectors 26 sectors from the nominal *TESS* mission (pink). The figure highlights an overall improvement in

the mean user weight in later sectors, as well as a positive correlation between the overall increase in user weight and the number of sectors that volunteers have participated in.

5 CANDIDATE VETTING

For each observation sector the subjects are ranked according to their transit scores, and the 500 highest ranked targets (excluding TOIs) visually vetted by the PHT science team in order to identify potential candidates and rule out false positives. A vetting cut-off rank of 500 was chosen as we found this to maximize the number of found candidates while minimizing the number of likely false positives. In the initial round of vetting, which is completed via a separate Zooniverse classification interface that is only accessible to the core science team, a minimum of three members of the team sort the highest ranked targets into either ‘keep for further analysis’, ‘eclipsing binary’, or ‘discard’. The sorting is based on the inspection of the full *TESS* light curve of the target, with the times of the satellite momentum dumps indicated. Additionally, around the time of each likely transit event (i.e. time of successful DB clusters) we inspect the background flux and the x and y centroid positions. Stellar parameters are provided for each candidate, subject to availability, alongside links to the SPOC DV reports for candidates that had been flagged as TCEs but were never promoted to TOIs status.

Candidates where at least two of the reviewers indicated that the signal is consistent with a planetary transit are kept for further analysis. This constitute a ~ 5 per cent retention rate of the 500 highest ranked candidates per sector between the initial citizen science classification stage and the PHT science team vetting stage. Considering that the known planets and TOIs are not included at this stage of vetting, it is not surprising that our retention rate is lower than the true-positive rates of TCEs (see Section 4.2). Furthermore, this false-positive rate is consistent with the findings of the initial PH project (Schwamb et al. 2012).

The rest of the 500 candidates were grouped into ~ 37 per cent ‘eclipsing binary’ and ~ 58 per cent ‘discard’. The most common reasons for discarding light curves are due to events caused by momentum dumps and due to background events, such as background eclipsing binaries, that mimic transit-like signals in the light curve. The targets identified as eclipsing binaries are analysed further by the *TESS* Eclipsing Binaries Working Group (Prsa et al., in preparation).

For the second round of candidate vetting we generate our own DV reports for all candidates classified as ‘keep for further analysis’. The reports are generated using the open source software LATTE (Lightcurve Analysis Tool for Transiting Exoplanets; Eisner, Lintott & Aigrain 2020a), which includes a range of standard diagnostic plots that are specifically designed to help identify transit-like signals and weed out astrophysical false positives in *TESS* data. In brief, the diagnostics consist of:

Momentum dumps: the times of the *TESS* reaction wheel momentum dumps that can result in instrumental effects that mimic astrophysical signals.

Background flux: the background flux to help identify trends caused by background events such as asteroids or fireflies (Vanderspek, Doty & Fausnaugh 2018) passing through the field of view.

x and y centroid positions: the CCD column and row local position of the target’s flux-weighted centroid, and the CCD column and row motion which considers differential velocity aberration (DVA), pointing drift, and thermal effects. This can help identify signals caused by systematics due to the satellite. *Aperture size test:* the target light curve around the time of the transit-like event extracted

using two apertures of different sizes. This can help identify signals resulting from background eclipsing binaries.

Pixel-level centroid analysis: a comparison between the average in-transit and average out-of-transit flux, as well as the difference between them. This can help identify signals resulting from background eclipsing binaries.

Nearby companion stars: the location of nearby stars brighter than V -band magnitude 15 as queried from the Gaia Data Release 2 catalogue (Gaia Collaboration 2018) and the DSS2 red field of view around the target star in order to identify nearby contaminating sources.

Nearest neighbour light curves: normalized flux light curves of the five SC TESS stars with the smallest projected distances to the target star, used to identify alternative sources of the signal or systematic effects that affect multiple target stars.

Pixel level light curves: individual light curves extracted for each pixel around the target. Used to identify signals resulting from background eclipsing binaries, background events and systematics.

Box-least-squares fit: results from two consecutive BLS searches, where the identified signals from the initial search are removed prior to the second BLS search.

The LATTE validation reports are assessed by the PHT science team in order to identify planetary candidates that warrant further investigation. Around 10 per cent of the targets assessed at this stage of vetting are kept for further investigation, resulting in ~ 3 promising planet candidates per observation sector. The discarded candidates can be loosely categorized into (background) eclipsing binaries (~ 40 per cent), systematic effects (~ 25 per cent), background events (~ 15 per cent), and other (stellar signals such as spots; ~ 10 per cent).

We use `pyaneti` (Barragán, Gandolfi & Antoniciello 2019) to infer the planetary and orbital parameters of our most promising candidates. For multitransit candidates, we fit for seven parameters per planet, time of mid-transit T_0 , orbital period P , impact parameter b , scaled semimajor axis a/R_* , scaled planet radius r_p/R_* , and two limb-darkening coefficients following a Mandel & Agol (2002) quadratic limb-darkening model, implemented with the q_1 and q_2 parametrization suggested by Kipping (2013). Orbits were assumed to be circular. For the monotransit candidates, we fit the same parameters as for the multitransit case, except for the orbital period and scaled semimajor axis which cannot be known for single transits. We follow Osborn et al. (2016) to estimate the orbital period of the monotransit candidates assuming circular orbits.

We note that some of our candidates are V-shaped, consistent with a grazing transit configuration. For these cases, we set uniform priors between 0 and 0.15 for r_p/R_* and between 0 and 1.15 for the impact parameter in order to avoid large radii caused by the $r_p/R_* - b$ degeneracy. Thus, the r_p/R_* for these candidates should not be trusted. A full characterization of these grazing transits is out of the scope of this manuscript.

Fig. 10 shows the TESS transits together with the inferred model for each candidate. Table 1 shows the inferred main parameters, the values, and their uncertainties are given by the median and 68.3 per cent credible interval of the posterior distributions.

Candidates that pass all of our rounds of vetting are uploaded to the Exoplanet Follow-up Observing Program for TESS (ExoFOP-TESS) website⁶ as community TOIs (cTOIs).

6 FOLLOW-UP OBSERVATIONS

Many astrophysical false positive scenarios can be ruled out from the detailed examination of the TESS data, both from the light curves themselves and from the target pixel files. However, not all of the false positive scenarios can be ruled out from these data alone, due in part to the large TESS pixels (20 arcsec). Our third stage of vetting, therefore, consists of following up the candidates with ground-based observations including photometry, reconnaissance spectroscopy, and speckle imaging. The results from these observations will be discussed in detail in a dedicated follow-up paper.

6.1 Photometry

We make use of the Las Cumbres Observatory (LCO) global network of fully robotic 0.4-m/SBIG and 1.0-m/Sinistro facilities (Brown et al. 2013) to observe additional transits, where the orbital period is known, in order to refine the ephemeris and confirm that the transit events are not due to a blended eclipsing binary in the vicinity of the main target. Snapshot images are taken of single-transit event candidates in order to identify nearby contaminating sources.

6.2 Spectroscopy

We perform high-resolution optical spectroscopy using telescopes from across the globe in order to cover a wide range of RA and Dec.:

(i) The LCO telescopes with the Network of Robotic Echelle Spectrographs (NRES, Brown et al. 2013). These fibre-fed spectrographs, mounted on 1.0-m telescopes around the globe, have a resolution of $R = 53\,000$ and a wavelength coverage of 380–860 nm.

(ii) The MINERVA Australis Telescope facility, located at Mount Kent Observatory in Queensland, Australia (Addison et al. 2019). This facility is made up of four 0.7-m CDK700 telescopes, which individually feed light via optic fibre into a KiwiSpec high-resolution ($R = 80\,000$) stabilized spectrograph (Barnes et al. 2012) that covers wavelengths from 480 to 620 nm.

(iii) The CHIRON spectrograph mounted on the SMARTS 1.5-m telescope (Tokovinin 2018), located at the Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory in Chile. The high-resolution cross-dispersed echelle spectrometer is fibre-fed followed by an image slicer. It has a resolution of $R = 80\,000$ and covers wavelengths ranging from 410 to 870 nm.

(iv) The SOPHIE echelle spectrograph mounted on the 1.93-m Haute-Provence Observatory (OHP), France (Perruchot et al. 2008; Bouchy et al. 2009). The high-resolution cross-dispersed stabilized echelle spectrometer is fed by two optical fibers. Observations were taken in high-resolution mode ($R = 75\,000$) with a wavelength range of 387–694 nm.

Reconnaissance spectroscopy with these instruments allow us to extract stellar parameters, identify spectroscopic binaries, and place upper limits on the companion masses. Spectroscopic binaries and targets whose spectral type is incompatible with the initial planet hypothesis and/or precludes precision RV observations (giant- or early-type stars) are not followed up further. Promising targets, however, are monitored in order to constrain their period and place limits on their mass.

6.3 Speckle imaging

For our most promising candidates we perform high-resolution speckle imaging using the ‘Alopeke instrument on the 8.1-m Fred-

⁶<https://exofop.ipac.caltech.edu/tess/index.php>

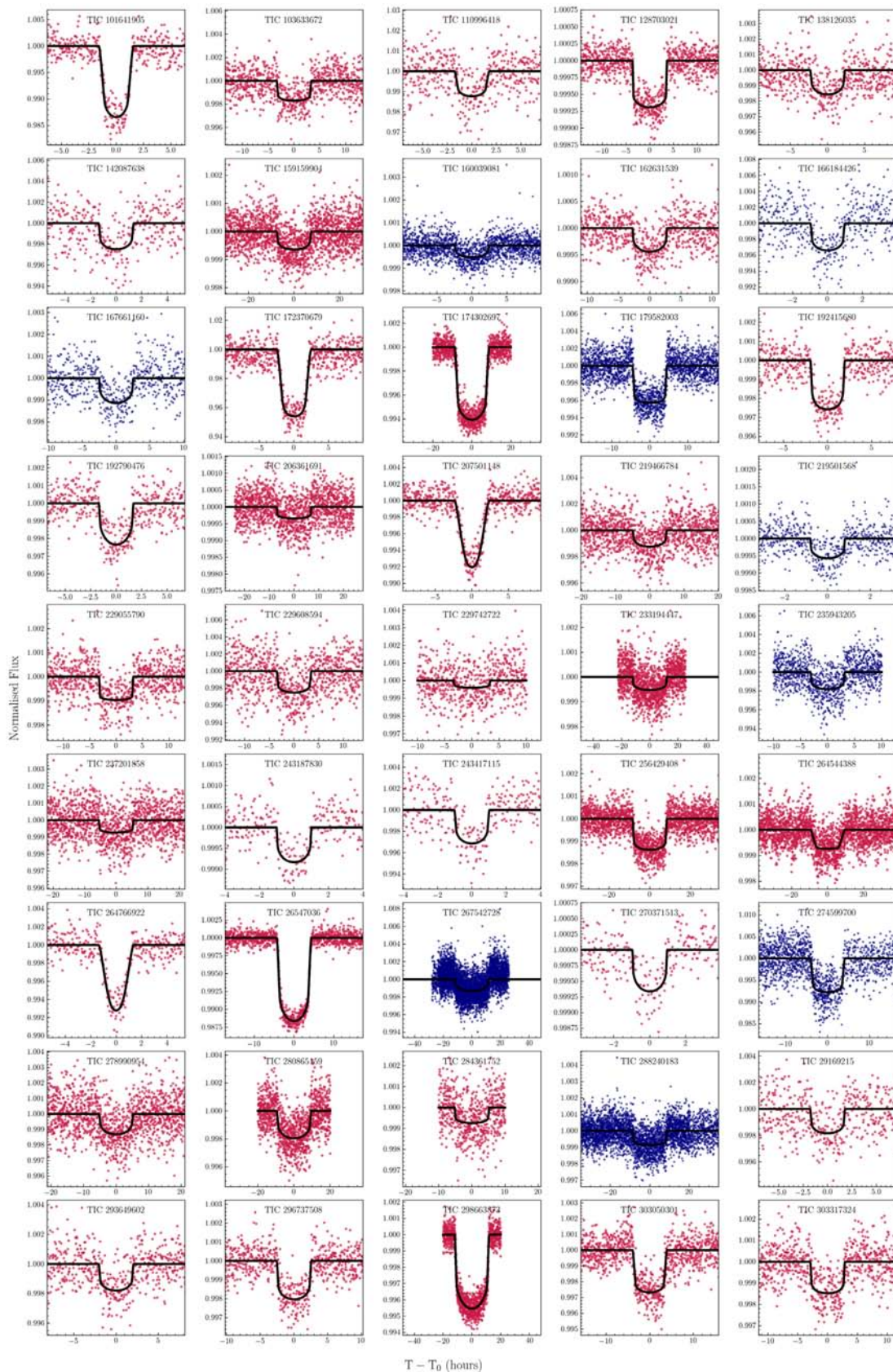


Figure 10. All of the PHT candidates modelled using `pyaneti`. The parameters of the best fits are summarized in Table 1. The blue and magenta fits show the multi- and single-transit event candidates, respectively.

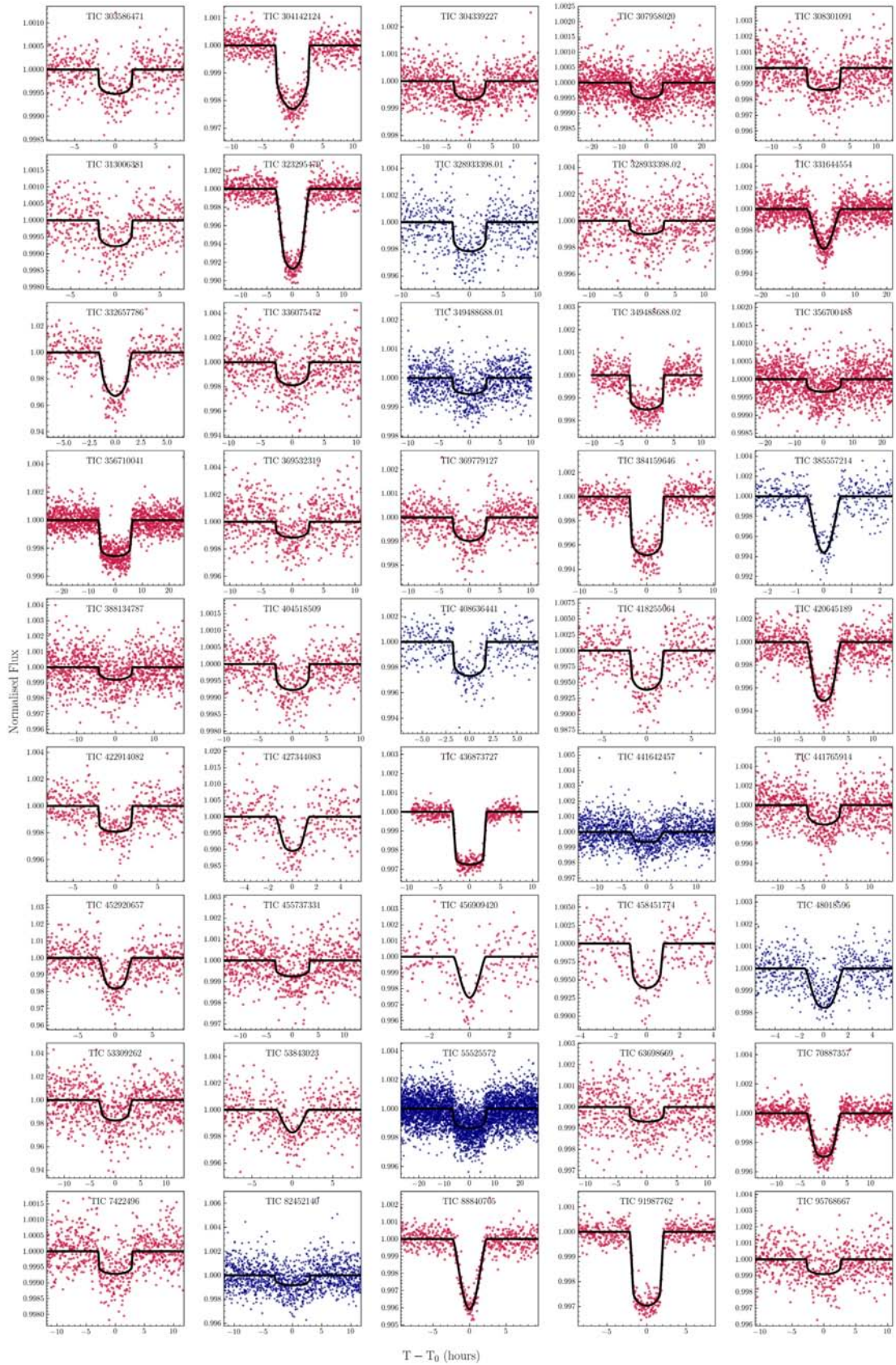


Figure 10 – continued

Table 1 – continued

Table with columns: TIC, Other name, Epoch (BJD - 2457000), Period (d), Rp/Ro, Rp/Rs, Impact parameter, Duration (h), Vmag, Photometry, Spectroscopy, Speckle, Comment. The table lists various astronomical objects with their corresponding parameters and observational notes.

Notes - Candidates that have become TOIs following the PHT discovery are marked with an asterisk (*). The 's' following the orbital period indicates that the candidates are a single-transit event. The ground-based follow-up observations are summarized in columns 10-12, where the bracketed numbers correspond to the number of epochs obtained with each instrument. See Section 6 for description of each instrument. The † symbol indicates candidates that have been shown to be astrophysical false positives based on the ground-based follow-up observations.

erick C. Gillett Gemini North telescope in Maunakea, Hawaii, USA, and its twin, Zorro, on the 8.1-m Gemini South telescope on Cerro Pachón, Chile (Howell et al. 2011; Matson, Howell & Ciardi 2019). Speckle interferometric observations provide extremely high-resolution images reaching the diffraction limit of the telescope. We obtain simultaneous 562 and 832 nm rapid exposure (60 ms) images in succession that effectively ‘freeze out’ atmospheric turbulence and through Fourier analysis are used to search for close companion stars at 5–8 mag contrast levels. This analysis, along with the reconstructed images, allow us to identify nearby companions and to quantify their light contribution to the *TESS* aperture and thus the transit signal.

7 PLANET CANDIDATES AND NOTEWORTHY SYSTEMS

7.1 Planet candidate properties

In this final part of the paper, we discuss the 90 PHT candidates around 88 host stars that passed the initial two stages of vetting and that were uploaded to ExoFOP as cTOIs. At the time of discovery none of these candidates were TOIs. The properties of all of the PHT candidates are summarized in Table 1. Candidates that have been promoted to TOI status since their PHT discovery are highlighted with an asterisk following the TIC ID, and candidates that have been shown to be false positives, based on the ground-based follow-up observations, are marked with a dagger symbol (†). The majority (81 per cent) of PHT candidates are single-transit events, indicated by an ‘s’ following the orbital period presented in the table. 18 of the PHT candidates were flagged as TCEs by the *TESS* pipeline, but not initially promoted to TOI status. The most common reasons for this was that the pipeline identified a single-transit event as well as times of systematics (often caused by momentum dumps), due to its two-transit minimum detection threshold. This resulted in the candidate being discarded on the basis of it not passing the ‘odd–even’ transit depth test. Out of the 18 TCEs, 14 have become TOI’s since the PHT discovery. More detail on the TCE candidates can be found in Appendix A.

All planet parameters (columns 2–8) are derived from the *pyaneti* modelling as described in Section 5. Finally, the table summarizes the ground-based follow-up observations (see Section 6) that have been obtained to date, where the bracketed numbers following the observing instruments indicate the number of epochs. Unless otherwise noted, the follow-up observations are consistent with a planetary scenario. More in depth descriptions of individual targets for which we have additional information to complement the results in Table 1 can be found in Appendix A.

7.2 Planet candidate analysis

The majority of the TOIs (87.7 per cent) have orbital periods shorter than 15 d due to the requirement of observing at least two transits included in all major pipelines combined with the observing strategy of *TESS*. As visual vetting does not impose these limits, the candidates outlined in this paper are helping to populate the relatively under-explored long-period region of parameter space. This is highlighted in Fig. 11, which shows the transit depths versus the orbital periods of the PHT single-transit candidates (orange circles) and the multitransit candidates (magenta squares) compared to the TOIs (blue circles). Values of the orbital periods and transit depths were obtained via transit modelling using *pyaneti* (see Section 5). The orbital period of single-transit events are poorly

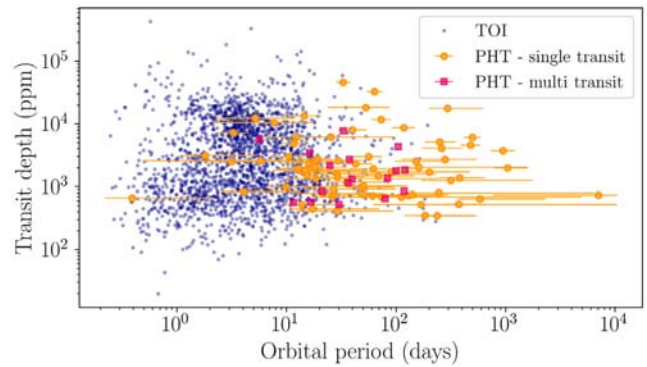


Figure 11. The properties of the PHT single-transit (orange circles) and multitransit (magenta squares) candidates compared to the properties TOIs (blue circles). All parameters (listed in Table 11) were extracted using *pyaneti* modelling.

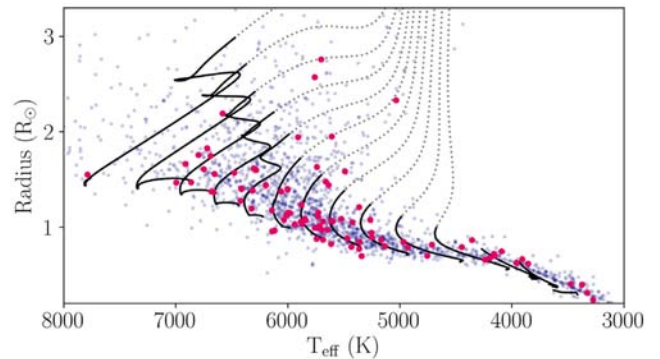


Figure 12. Stellar evolution tracks showing main-sequence (solid black lines) and post-main-sequence (dashed grey lines) MIST stellar evolution for stellar masses ranging from 0.3 to 1.6 M_{\odot} in steps of 0.1 M_{\odot} . The blue dots show the TOIs and the magenta circles show the PHT candidates.

constrained, which is reflected by the large error bars in Fig. 11. Fig. 11 also highlights that with PHT we are able to recover a similar range of transit depths as the pipeline found TOIs, as was previously shown in Fig. 7.

The PHT candidates were further compared to the TOIs in terms of the properties of their host stars. Fig. 12 shows the effective temperature and stellar radii as taken from the TIC (Stassun et al. 2018), for TOIs (blue dots) and the PHT candidates (magenta circles). The solid and dashed lines indicate the main-sequence and post-main-sequence MIST stellar evolutionary tracks (Choi et al. 2016), respectively, for stellar masses ranging from 0.3 to 1.6 M_{\odot} in steps of 0.1 M_{\odot} . This shows that around 10 per cent of the host stars are in the process of, or have recently evolved off the main sequence. The models assume solar metallicity, no stellar rotation, and no additional internal mixing.

Ground-based follow-up spectroscopy has revealed that six of the PHT candidates listed in Table 1 are astrophysical false positives. As the follow-up campaign of the targets is still underway, the true false-positive rate of the candidates to have made it through all stages of the vetting process, as outlined in the methodology, will be assessed in future PHT papers once the true nature of more of the candidates has been independently verified.

7.3 Stellar systems

In addition to the planetary candidates, citizen science allows for the identification of interesting stellar systems and astrophysical phenomena, in particular where the signals are aperiodic or small compared to the dominant stellar signal. These include light curves that exhibit multiple transit-like signals, possibly as a result of a multiple stellar system or a blend of eclipsing binaries. We have investigated all light curves that were flagged as possible multistellar systems via the PHT discussion boards. Similar to the planet vetting, as described in Section 5, we generated LATTE DV reports in order to assess the nature of the signal. Additionally, we subjected these systems to an iterative signal removal process, whereby we phase-folded the light curve on the dominant orbital period, binned the light curve into between 200–500 phase bins, created an interpolation model, and then subtracted said signal in order to evaluate the individual transit signals. The period of each signal, as listed in Table 2, was determined by phase folding the light curve at a number of trial periods and assessing by eye the best-fitting period and corresponding uncertainty.

Due to the large *TESS* pixels, blends are expected to be common. We searched for blends by generating phase-folded light curves for each pixel around the source of the target in order to better locate the source of each signal. Shifts in the *TESS* x and y centroid positions were also found to be good indicators of visually separated sources. Nearby sources with a magnitude difference greater than 5 mag were ruled out as possible contaminants. We consider a candidate to be a confirmed blend when the centroids are separated by more than 1 *TESS* pixel, as this corresponds to an angular separation >21 arcsec meaning that the systems are highly unlikely to be gravitationally bound. Systems where the signal appears to be coming from the same *TESS* pixel and that show no clear centroid shifts are considered to be candidate multiple systems. We note that blends are still possible, however, without further investigation we cannot conclusively rule these out as possible multistellar systems.

All of the systems are summarized in Table 2. Out of the 26 systems, 6 are confirmed multiple systems which have either been published or are being prepared for publication; 7 are visually separated eclipsing binaries (confirmed blends); and 13 are candidate multiple system. Additional observations will be required to determine whether or not these candidate multiple systems are in fact gravitationally bound or photometric blends as a result of the large *TESS* pixels or due to a line of sight happenstance.

8 CONCLUSION

We present the results from the analysis of the first 26 *TESS* sectors. The outlined citizen science approach engages over 22 thousand registered citizen scientists who completed 12 617 038 classifications from 2018 December through 2020 August for the sectors observed during the first two years of the *TESS* mission. We applied a systematic search for planetary candidates using visual vetting by multiple volunteers to identify *TESS* targets that are most likely to host a planet. Between 8 and 15 volunteers have inspected each *TESS* light curve and marked times of transit-like events using the PHT online interface. For each light curve, the markings from all the volunteers who saw that target were combined using an unsupervised machine-learning method, known as DBSCAN, in order to identify likely transit-like events. Each of these identified events was given a transit score based on the number of volunteers who identified a given event and on the user weighting of each of those volunteers. Individual user weights were calculated based

on the user's ability to identify simulated transit events, injected into real *TESS* light curves, that are displayed on the PHT site alongside of the real data. The transit scores were then used to generate a ranked list of candidates that range from most likely to least likely to host a planet candidate. The top 500 highest ranked candidates were further vetted by the PHT science team. This stage of vetting primarily made use of the open source LATTE (Eisner et al. 2020a) tool which generates a number of standard diagnostic plots that help identify promising candidates and weed out false positive signals.

On average we found around three high priority candidates per sector which were followed up using ground-based telescopes, where possible. To date, PHT has statistically confirmed one planet, TOI-813 (Eisner et al. 2020b): a Saturn-sized planet on an 84-d orbit around a subgiant host star. Other PHT identified planets listed in this paper are being followed up by other teams of astronomers, such as TOI-1899 (TIC 172370679) which was recently confirmed to be a warm Jupiter transiting an M-dwarf (Cañas et al. 2020). The remaining candidates outlined in this paper require further follow-up observations to confirm their planetary nature.

The sensitivity of our transit search effort was assessed using synthetic data, as well as the known TOI and TCE candidates flagged by the SPOC pipeline. For simulated planets (where simulated signals are injected into real *TESS* light curves), we have shown that the recovery efficiency of human vetting starts to decrease for transit signals that have an S/N less than 7.5. The detection efficiency was further evaluated by the fractional recovery of the TOI and TCEs. We have shown that PHT is over 85 per cent complete in the recovery of planets that have a radius greater than $4 R_{\oplus}$, 51 per cent complete for radii between 3 and $4 R_{\oplus}$, and 49 per cent complete for radii between 2 and $3 R_{\oplus}$. Furthermore, we have shown that human vetting is not sensitive to the number of transits present in the light curve, meaning that they are equally likely to identify candidates on longer orbital periods as they are those with shorter orbital periods for periods greater than ~ 1 d. Planets with periods shorter than around 1 d exhibit over 20 transits within one *TESS* sectors resulting in a decrease in identification by the volunteers. This is due to many volunteers only marking a random subset of these events, resulting in a lack of consensus on any given transit event and thus decreasing the overall transit score of these light curves.

In addition to searching for signals due to transiting exoplanets, PHT provides a platform that can be used to identify other stellar phenomena that may otherwise be difficult to identify with automated pipelines. Such phenomena, including eclipsing binaries, multiple stellar systems, dwarf novae, and stellar flares are often mentioned on the PHT discussion forums where volunteers can use searchable hashtags and comments to bring these systems to the attention of other citizen scientists as well as the PHT science team. All of the eclipsing binaries identified on the site, for example, are being used and vetted by the *TESS* Eclipsing Binary Working Group (Prsa et al., in preparation). Furthermore, we have investigated the nature of all of the targets that were identified as possible multiple stellar systems, as summarized in Table 2.

Overall we have shown that large-scale visual vetting can complement the findings from the major *TESS* pipeline by identifying longer period planets that may only exhibit a single-transit event in their light curve, as well as in finding signals that are aperiodic or embedded in a strong varying stellar signal. The identification of planets around stars with variable signals allow us to potentially characterize the host star (e.g. with asteroseismology or spot modulation). Additionally, the longer period planets are integral to our understanding of how planet systems form and evolve, as they allow us to investigate

Table 2. Planet Hunters TESS potential multi-stellar systems properties.

TIC	Period (d)	Epoch (BJD - 2457000)	Depth (ppm)	Comment
13968858	3.4850 ± 0.001	1684.780 ± 0.005	410000	Candidate multiple system
	1.4380 ± 0.001	1684.335 ± 0.005	50000	
35655828	8.073 ± 0.01	1550.94 ± 0.01	23000	Confirmed blend
	1.220 ± 0.001	1545.540 ± 0.005	2800	
63291675	8.099 ± 0.003	1685.1 ± 0.01	60000	Confirmed blend
	1.4635 ± 0.0005	1683.8 ± 0.1	7000	
63459761	4.3630 ± 0.003	1714.350 ± 0.005	160000	Candidate multiple system
	4.235 ± 0.005	1715.130 ± 0.03	35000	
104909909	1.3060 ± 0.0001	1684.470 ± 0.005	32000	Candidate multiple system
	2.5750 ± 0.003	1684.400 ± 0.005	65000	
115980439	4.615 ± 0.002	1818.05 ± 0.01	95000	Confirmed blend
	0.742 ± 0.005	1816.23 ± 0.02	2000	
120362128	3.286 ± 0.002	1684.425 ± 0.01	33000	Candidate multiple system
	–	1701.275 ± 0.02	12000	
	–	1702.09 ± 0.02	36000	
121945407	0.9056768 ± 0.00000002	– 1948.76377 ± 0.0000001	2500	Confirmed multiple system ^(a)
	45.4711 ± 0.00002	– 1500.0038 ± 0.0004	7500	
122275115	–	1821.779 ± 0.01	155000	Candidate multiple system
	–	1830.628 ± 0.01	63000	
	–	1838.505 ± 0.01	123000	
229804573	1.4641 ± 0.0005	1326.135 ± 0.005	180000	Candidate multiple system
	0.5283 ± 0.0001	1378.114 ± 0.005	9000	
252403752	–	1817.73 ± 0.01	2800	Candidate multiple system
	–	1829.76 ± 0.01	23000	
	–	1833.63 ± 0.01	5500	
258837989	0.8870 ± 0.001	1599.350 ± 0.005	64000	Candidate multiple system
	3.0730 ± 0.001	1598.430 ± 0.005	25000	
266958963	1.5753 ± 0.0002	1816.425 ± 0.001	265000	Candidate multiple system
	2.3685 ± 0.0001	1817.790 ± 0.001	75000	
278956474	5.488068 ± 0.000016	1355.400 ± 0.005	93900	Confirmed multiple system ^(b)
	5.674256 ± –0.000030	1330.690 ± 0.005	30000	
284925600	1.24571 ± 0.00001	1765.248 ± 0.005	490000	Confirmed blend
	0.31828 ± 0.00001	1764.75 ± 0.005	35000	
293954660	2.814 ± 0.001	1739.177 ± 0.03	272000	Confirmed blend
	4.904 ± 0.03	1739.73 ± 0.01	9500	
312353805	4.951 ± 0.003	1817.73 ± 0.01	66000	Confirmed blend
	12.89 ± 0.01	1822.28 ± 0.01	19000	
318210930	1.3055432 ± 0.000000033	– 653.21602 ± 0.0000013	570000	Confirmed multiple system ^(c)
	0.22771622 ± 0.0000000035	– 732.071119 ± 0.00000026	220000	
336434532	3.888 ± 0.002	1713.66 ± 0.01	22900	Confirmed blend
	0.949 ± 0.003	1712.81 ± 0.01	2900	
350622185	1.1686 ± 0.0001	1326.140 ± 0.005	200000	Candidate multiple system
	5.2410 ± 0.0005	1326.885 ± 0.05	4000	
375422201	9.9649 ± 0.001	1711.937 ± 0.005	245000	Candidate multiple system
	4.0750 ± 0.001	1713.210 ± 0.01	39000	
376606423	0.8547 ± 0.0002	1900.766 ± 0.005	9700	Candidate multiple system
	–	1908.085 ± 0.01	33000	
394177355	94.22454 ± 0.00040	–	–	Confirmed multiple system ^(d)
	8.6530941 ± 0.0000016	– 2038.99492 ± 0.00017	140000	
	1.5222468 ± 0.0000025	– 2039.1201 ± 0.0014	–	
	1.43420486 ± 0.00000012	– 2039.23941 ± 0.00007	–	
424508303	2.0832649 ± 0.0000029	– 3144.8661 ± 0.0034	430000	Confirmed multiple system ^(e)
	1.4200401 ± 0.0000042	– 3142.5639 ± 0.0054	250000	
441794509	4.6687 ± 0.0002	1958.895 ± 0.005	34000	Candidate multiple system
	14.785 ± 0.002	1960.845 ± 0.005	17000	
470710327	9.9733 ± 0.0001	1766.27 ± 0.005	51000	Confirmed multiple system ^(f)
	1.104686 ± 0.00001	1785.53266 ± 0.000005	42000	

Notes – ^(a) KOI-6139, Borkovits et al. (2013); ^(b) Rowden et al. (2020); ^(c) Koo et al. (2014); ^(d) KOI-3156, Helminiak et al. (2017); ^(e) V994 Her; Zasche & Uhlář (2016); and ^(f) Eisner et al. (in preparation).

the evolution of planets that are farther away from their host star and therefore less dependent on stellar radiation. While automated pipelines specifically designed to identify single-transit events in the *TESS* data exist (e.g. Gill et al. 2020), neither their methodology nor

the full list of their findings are yet publicly available and thus we are unable to compare results.

The planets that PHT finds have longer periods ($\gtrsim 27$ d) than those found in *TESS* data using automated pipelines, and are more

typical of the Kepler sample (25 per cent of *Kepler* confirmed planets have periods greater than 27 d⁷). However, the *Kepler* planets are considerably fainter, and thus less amenable to ground-based follow-up or atmospheric characterization from space (CHEOPS and *JWST*). Thus, PHT helps to bridge the parameter spaces covered by these two missions, by identifying longer period planet candidates around bright, nearby stars, for which we can ultimately obtain precise planetary mass estimates. Although statistical characterization of exoplanetary systems is no doubt important, precise mass measurements are key to developing our understanding of exoplanets and the physics which dictate their evolution. In particular, identification of this PHT sample provides follow-up targets to investigate the dependence of photo-evaporation on the mass of planets as well as on the planet radius, and will help our understanding of the photo-evaporation valley at longer orbital periods (Owen & Wu 2013).

PHT will continue to operate throughout the *TESS* extended mission, hopefully allowing us to identify even longer period planets as well as help verify some of the existing candidates with additional transits.

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DATA AVAILABILITY

All of the *TESS* data used within this article are hosted and made publicly available by the MAST (<http://archive.stsci.edu/tess/>). Similarly, the PHT classifications made by the citizen scientists can be found on the PHAD (<https://mast.stsci.edu/phad/>), which is also hosted by MAST. All planet candidates and their properties presented in this article have been updated to the ExoFOP-*TESS* (<https://exofop.ipac.caltech.edu/tess/index.php>) website as cTOIs, under their corresponding TIC IDs. The ground-based follow-up observations of individual targets will be shared on reasonable request to the corresponding author.

The models of individual transit events and the DV reports used for the vetting of the targets were both generated using publicly available open software codes, *pyanet.i* and *LATTE*.

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⁷<https://exoplanetarchive.ipac.caltech.edu/>

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Supplementary data are available at [MNRAS](https://www.mnras.org/) online. Please note: Oxford University Press is not responsible for the content or functionality of any supporting materials supplied by the authors. Any queries (other than missing material) should be directed to the corresponding author for the article.

APPENDIX A: PLANET CANDIDATE DESCRIPTIONS

A short outline all of the planet candidates, and any conclusions drawn from follow-up observations (where available). A more in depth description of the ground-based data will be presented in a follow-up paper. Unless stated otherwise, these candidates are not TOIs at the time of writing. Candidates for which we have no additional information to complement the results presented in Table 1 are not discussed further here.

A1 Single-transit planet candidates

TIC 103633672

Single-transit event identified in Sector 20. The single LCO/NRES spectra shows no sign of this being a double-lined spectroscopic binary. We caution that there is a star on the same pixels, which is 0.1 mag brighter. We are unable to rule this star out as the cause for the transit-like signal.

TIC 110996418

Single-transit event identified in Sector 10. We caution that there is a star on the same *TESS* pixel, which is 2.4 mag fainter than the target.

TIC 128703021

Single-transit event identified in Sector 11. With a stellar radius of $1.6 R_{\odot}$ and a T_{eff} of 6281 K, this host star is likely in the subgiant phase of its evolution. The 43 spectra obtained with MINERVA Australis and the two obtained with LCO/NRES are consistent with a planetary nature. Gemini speckle interferometry shows no nearby companion stars.

TIC 142087638

Single-transit event identified in Sector 7. The best-fitting planet model of the transit suggests an orbital period of only 3.14 d. As there are no additional transits seen in the light curve, this period is clearly not possible. We caution that the transit is most likely caused by a grazing object, and is therefore likely to be caused by a stellar companion. However, without further data we are unable to rule this candidate out as being planetary in nature.

TIC 159159904

Single-transit event identified in Sector 22. The initial two observations obtained using LCO/NRES show no sign of the candidate being a double-lined spectroscopic binary.

TIC 166184426

Single-transit event identified in Sector 11. Since the PHT discovery this cTOI has been become the priority 1 (1=highest and 5=lowest) target TOI 1955.01.

TIC 172370679

Single-transit event identified in Sector 15. This candidate was independently discovered and verified using a BLS algorithm used to search for transiting planets around M dwarfs. The candidate is now the confirmed planet TOI 1899 b (Cañas et al. 2020).

TIC 174302697

Single-transit event identified in Sectors 16. With a stellar radius of $1.6 R_{\odot}$ and a T_{eff} of 6750 K, this host star is likely in the subgiant phase of its evolution. This candidate was initially flagged as a TCE and but was erroneously discounted due to the pipeline mistaking the data glitch at the time of a momentum dump as a secondary eclipse. Since the PHT discovery this cTOI has become the priority 3 target TOI 1896.01.

TIC 192415680

Single-transit event identified in Sector 18. The two epochs of RV measurement obtained with OHP/SOPHIE are consistent with a planetary scenario.

TIC 192790476

Single-transit event identified in Sector 5. This target has been identified to be a wide binary with an angular separation of 72.40 arcsec (Andrews, Chanamé & Agüeros 2017) and a period of 162 705 yr (Benavides et al. 2010). The star exhibits large-scale variability on the order of around 10 d. The signal is consistent with that of spot modulations, which would suggest that this is a slowly rotating star.

TIC 219466784

Single-transit event identified in Sector 22. We caution that there is a nearby companion located within the same *TESS* pixel at an angular separation of 16.3 with a V_{mag} of 16.3 arcsec. Since the PHT discovery this cTOI has become the priority 2 target TOI 2007.01.

TIC 229055790

Single-transit event identified in Sector 21. We note that the midpoint of the transit-like events coincides with a *TESS* momentum dump, however, we believe the shape to be convincing enough to warrant further investigation. The two LCO/NRES spectra show no sign of this being a spectroscopic binary.

TIC 229608594

Single-transit event identified in Sector 24. Since the PHT discovery this cTOI has become the priority 3 target TOI 2298.01.

TIC 233194447

Single-transit event identified in Sector 14. The transit-like event is shallow and asymmetric and we cannot definitively rule out systematics as the cause for the event without additional data. The initial two LCO/NRES spectra show no sign of this target being a spectroscopic binary.

TIC 237201858

Single-transit event identified in Sector 18. The single LCO/NRES spectra shows no sign of this being a double-lined spectroscopic binary.

TIC 243187830

Single-transit event identified in Sector 18. There are no nearby bright stars. This light curve was initially flagged as a TCE, however, the flagged events corresponded to stellar variability and not the same event identified by PHT. The single LCO/NRES spectrum shows no sign of this being a double-lined spectroscopic binary. Since the PHT discovery this cTOI has become the priority 3 target TOI 2009.01.

TIC 243417115

Single-transit event identified in Sector 11. We note that the best-fitting `planet1` model of the transit suggests an orbital period of only 1.81 d. As there are no additional transits seen in the light curve, this period is clearly not possible. We caution that the transit is most likely caused by a grazing object, and is therefore likely to be caused

by a stellar companion. However, without further follow-up data we are unable to rule this candidate out as being planetary in nature.

TIC 264544388

Single-transit event identified in Sector 19. The single LCO/NRES spectra shows no sign of this being a double-lined spectroscopic binary. Apart from the single-transit event, the light curve shows no obvious signals. A periodogram of the light curve, however, reveals a series of five significant peaks, nearly equidistantly spaced by $\sim 1.03 \text{ d}^{-1}$. Additionally, a rotationally split quintuplet is visible at 7.34 d^{-1} , with a splitting of $\sim 0.12 \text{ d}^{-1}$, suggesting an $\ell = 2$ p-mode pulsation. The Maelstrom code (Hey et al. 2020) revealed pulsation timing variations which are consistent with a long-period planet. The short-period signal, which was also identified by the periodogram, was flagged as a TCE, however, the single-transit event was not flagged as a TCE. Since the PHT discovery this cTOI has become the priority 3 target TOI 1893.01.

TIC 264766922

Single-transit event identified in Sector 8. With a stellar radius of $1.7 R_{\odot}$ and a T_{eff} of 6913 K, this host star is likely entering the subgiant phase of its evolution. The V-shape of this transit and the resultant high impact parameter suggests that the object is grazing. We can therefore not rule out that this candidate is a grazing eclipsing binary. There are clear p-mode pulsations at frequencies of 9.01 and 11.47 cycles per day, as well as possible g-mode pulsations. A very short-period signal within this light curve was flagged as a TCE, however, the single-transit event was ignored by the pipeline.

TIC 26547036

Single-transit event identified in Sector 14. The four LCO/NRES observations are consistent with the target being a planetary body and show no sign of the signal being caused by a spectroscopic binary. We caution that there is a star on the same *TESS* pixel, however, this star is 8.2 mag fainter than the target, and therefore unable to be responsible for the transit event seen in the light curve. Gemini speckle interferometry reveal no additional nearby companion stars. This candidate was initially flagged as a TCE, however, in addition to the single-transit event the pipeline identified further periodic signals that correspond to times of momentum dumps. Due to this, the candidate was never promoted to TOI status.

TIC 278990954

Single-transit event identified in Sector 12. With a stellar radius of $2.6 R_{\odot}$ and a T_{eff} of 5761 K, this host star is likely in the subgiant phase of its evolution. We note that there are two additional stars on the same pixel as TIC 278990954. These two stars are 2.7 and 3.7 mag fainter in the v band than the target and cannot be ruled out as the cause for the transit-like event without additional follow-up data.

TIC 280865159

Single-transit event identified in Sector 16. Gemini speckle interferometry revealed any nearby companion stars. Since the PHT discovery this cTOI has become the priority 3 target TOI 1894.01.

TIC 284361752

Single-transit event identified in Sector 26. Since the PHT discovery this cTOI has become the priority 2 target TOI 2294.01.

TIC 296737508

Single-transit event identified in Sector 8. The single LCO/NRES and the single MINERVA Australis spectra show no sign of this being a spectroscopic binary. The Sinistro snapshot image revealed no additional nearby companions.

TIC 298663873

Single-transit event identified in Sector 19. The two LCO/NRES spectra show no sign of this being a spectroscopic binary. With a stellar radius of $1.6 R_{\odot}$ and a T_{eff} of 6750 K, this host star is likely in the subgiant phase of its evolution. Gemini speckle images obtained by other teams show no signs of there being nearby companion stars. Since the PHT discovery this cTOI has become the priority 3 target TOI 2180.01.

TIC 303050301

Single-transit event identified in Sector 2. The variability of the light curve is consistent with spot modulation. A single LCO/NRES spectrum shows no signs of this being a double-lined spectroscopic binary.

TIC 303317324

Single-transit event identified in Sector 2. We note that a second transit was later seen in Sector 29, however, as this work only covers Sectors 1–26 of the primary *TESS* mission, this candidate is considered a single-transit event in this work.

TIC 304142124

Single-transit event identified in Sector 10. This target was independently identified as part of the Planet Finder Spectrograph, which uses precision RVs (Díaz et al. 2020). This candidate is known for the confirmed planet HD 95338 b.

TIC 331644554

Single-transit event identified in Sector 16. There is a clear mono-periodic signal in the periodogram at around 11.2 cycles per day, which is consistent with p-mode pulsation.

TIC 332657786

Single-transit event identified in Sector 8. We caution that there is a star on the adjacent *TESS* pixel that is brighter in the *V* band by 2.4 mag. At this point, we are unable to rule out this star as the cause of the transit-like signal.

TIC 356700488

Single-transit event identified in Sector 16. There is a clear mono-periodic signal in the periodogram at around 1.2 cycles per day, which is consistent with either spot modulation or g-mode pulsation. However, there is no clear signal visible in the light curve that would allow us to differentiate between these two scenarios based on the morphology of the variation. Since the PHT discovery this cTOI has become the priority 3 target TOI 2098.01.

TIC 356710041

Single-transit event identified in Sector 23. With a stellar radius of $2.8 R_{\odot}$ and a T_{eff} of 5701 K, this host star is likely in the subgiant phase of its evolution. This candidate was initially flagged as a TCE, however, in addition to the single-transit event, the pipeline identified a further event that corresponds to the time of a momentum dump. Due to this the candidate failed the ‘odd–even test’ and was initially discarded as a TOI. Since the PHT discovery this cTOI has become the priority 3 target TOI 2065.01

TIC 369532319

Single-transit event identified in Sector 16. Gemini speckle interferometry revealed no nearby companion stars.

TIC 384159646

Single-transit event identified in Sector 12. The eight LCO/NRES and six MINERVA Australis spectra are consistent with this candidate being a planet. Both the SBIG snapshot and the Gemini speckle interferometry observations revealed no companion stars. Since the PHT discovery this cTOI has become the priority 3 target TOI 1895.01.

TIC 418255064

Single-transit event identified in Sector 12. The Gemini speckle image shows no sign of nearby companions.

TIC 422914082

Single-transit event identified in Sector 4. Single Sinistro snapshot image reveals no additional nearby stars.

TIC 427344083

Single-transit event identified in Sector 24. We note that there is a star on the adjacent *TESS* pixel to the target, which is 3.5 mag fainter in the *V* band than the target star. We also caution that the V-shape of the transit and the high impact parameter suggest that this is a grazing transit. However, without additional follow-up observations we are unable to rule this candidate out as a planet.

TIC 436873727

Single-transit event identified in Sector 18. The host star shows strong variability on the order of one day, which is consistent with spot modulations or g-mode pulsations. The periodogram reveals multiperiodic behaviour in the low-frequency range consistent with g-mode pulsations.

TIC 452920657

Single-transit event identified in Sector 17. The V-shape of this transit suggests that the object is grazing and future follow-up observations may reveal this to be an EB. This candidate was initially flagged as a TCE, however, in addition to the single-transit event, the pipeline identified a further two event that corresponds to likely stellar variability. Due to this the candidate failed the ‘odd–even test’ and was initially discarded as a TOI.

TIC 455737331

Single-transit event identified in Sector 17. We note that there is a star on the same *TESS* pixel as the target, which is 4.5 mag fainter in the *V* band. Neither the SBIG snapshot nor the Gemini speckle interferometry revealed any further nearby companion stars.

TIC 456909420

Single-transit event identified in Sector 17. We caution that the V-shape of the transit and the high impact parameter suggest that this is a grazing transit. However, without additional follow-up observations we are unable to rule this candidate out as a planet.

TIC 53843023

Single-transit event identified in Sector 1. We caution that the high impact parameter returned by the best-fitting `pyanet.i` model suggests that the transit event is caused by a grazing body. However, at this point we are unable to rule this candidate out as being planetary in nature.

TIC 63698669

Single-transit event identified in Sector 2. The SBIG snapshot image revealed no nearby companions. This candidate was initially identified as a TCE, however, in addition to the single-transit event, the pipeline identified a further 3 events the light curve. Due to these, additional events, which correspond to stellar variability, the candidate was not initially promoted to TOI status. However, since the PHT discovery this cTOI has become TOI 1892.01.

TIC 70887357

Single-transit event identified in Sector 5. With a stellar radius of $2.1 R_{\odot}$ and a T_{eff} of 5463 K, this host star is likely in the subgiant phase of its evolution. This candidate was initially flagged as a TCE, however, in addition to the single-transit event the pipeline identified a further signal, and thus failed the ‘odd–even’ transit test. However, since the PHT discovery this cTOI has become the priority 3 target TOI 2008.01.

TIC 91987762

Single-transit event identified in Sector 21. This candidate was initially flagged as a TCE, however, in addition to the single-transit event the pipeline identified a further signal, and thus failed the ‘odd–even’ transit test. Since the PHT discovery this cTOI has become the priority 3 target TOI 1898.01.

A2 Multitransit and multiplanet candidates*TIC 160039081*

Multitransit candidate with a period of 30.2 d. Single LCO/NRES spectra shows no sign of this being a double-lined spectroscopic binary and a snapshot image using SBIG shows no nearby companions. The Gemini speckle images also show no additional nearby companions. Since the PHT discovery this cTOI has become the priority 1 target TOI 2082.01.

TIC 167661160

Multitransit candidate with a period of 36.8 d. The nine LCO/NRES and four MINERVA Australis spectra have revealed this to be a long-period eclipsing binary.

TIC 179582003

Multitransit candidate with a period of 104.6 d. There is a clear monoperoiodic signal in the periodogram at around 0.59 cycles per day, which is consistent with either spot modulation or g-mode pulsation. We caution that this candidate is located in a crowded field. With a stellar radius of $2.0 R_{\odot}$ and a T_{eff} of 6115 K, this host star is likely in the subgiant phase of its evolution.

TIC 219501568

Multitransit candidate with a period of 16.6 d. With a stellar radius of $1.7 R_{\odot}$ and a T_{eff} of 6690 K, this host star is likely entering the subgiant phase of its evolution. This candidate was identified as a TCE, however, it was not initially promoted to TOI status as the signal was thought to be off-target by the automated pipeline. However, since the PHT discovery this cTOI has become the priority 3 target TOI 2259.01

TIC 229742722

Multitransit candidate with a period of 63.48 d. Eight LCO/NRES and four OHP/SOPHIE observations are consistent with this candidate being a planet. Gemini speckle interferometry reveals no nearby companion stars. This candidate was flagged as a TCE in Sector 20, where it only exhibits a single-transit event. An additional event was identified at the time of a momentum dump, and as such it failed the ‘odd–even’ test and was not initially promoted to TOI status. However, since the PHT discovery this cTOI has become the priority 3 target TOI 1895.01.

TIC 235943205

Multitransit candidate with a period of 121.3 d. The LCO/NRES and OHP/SOPHIE observations remain consistent with a planetary nature of the signal. Since the PHT discovery this cTOI has become the priority 3 target TOI 2264.01.

TIC 267542728

Multitransit event with period of 39.7 d. Observations obtained with Keck showed that the RV shifts are not consistent with a planetary body and are most likely due to an M-dwarf companion.

TIC 274599700

Multitransit candidate with a period of 33.0 d. One of the two transit-like even is only half visible, with the other half of the event falling in a *TESS* data gap.

TIC 328933398

Multiplanet candidates. The 2-min cadence light curve shows two single-transit events of different depths across two *TESS* sectors, both of which are consistent with an independent planetary body. In addition to the SC data, this target was observed in an additional three sectors as part of the 30-min cadence FFI. These showed additional transit events for one of the planet candidates, with a period of 24.9 d. This light curve was initially flagged as containing a TCE event, however, the two 2-min cadence single-transit events were thought to belong to the same transiting planet. The TCE was initially discarded as the pipeline identified the events to be off-target. However, since the PHT discovery these two cTOIs has become the priority 3 and 1 targets, TOI 1873.01 and TOI 1873.01, respectively.

TIC 349488688

Multiplanet candidate, with one single-transit event and one multitransit candidate with a period of 11 d. Two LCO/NRES and two OHP/SOPHIE spectra, along with ongoing HARPS North are consistent with both of these candidates being planetary in nature. The single-transit event was initially identified as a TCE, however, in addition to the event it identified two other signals at the time of momentum dumps, and was therefore initially discarded by the pipeline as it failed the ‘odd–even’ transit test. However, since the PHT discovery the two-transit event has become the 1 targets, TOI 2319.01 (Eisner et al., in preparation).

TIC 385557214

Multitransit candidate with a period of 5.6 d. The prominent stellar variation seen in the light curve is likely due to spots or pulsation. The high impact parameter returned by the best-fitting `pyaneti` modelling suggests that the transit is likely caused by a grazing object. Without further observations, however, we are unable to rule this candidate out as being planetary in nature. This candidate was flagged as a TCE but was not promoted to TOI status due to the other nearby stars.

TIC 408636441

Multitransit candidate with a period of 18.8 or 37.7 d. Due to *TESS* data gaps, half of the period stated in Table 1 is likely. The SBIG

snapshot and Gemini speckle images show no signs of companion stars. This candidate was flagged as a TCE in sector 24, where it only exhibits a single-transit event. An additional event was identified at the time of a momentum dump, and as such it failed the ‘odd–even’ test and was not initially promoted to TOI status. However, since the PHT discovery this cTOI has become the priority 3 target TOI 1759.01.

TIC 441642457

Multitransit candidate with a period of 79.8 d. This candidate was flagged as a TCE in Sector 14, where it only exhibits a single-transit event. An additional event was identified at the time of a momentum dump, and as such it failed the ‘odd–even’ test and was not initially promoted to TOI status. Since the PHT discovery this cTOI has become the priority 2 target TOI 2073.01.

TIC 441765914

Multitransit candidate with a period of 161.6 d. Since the PHT discovery this cTOI has become the priority 1 target TOI 2088.01.

TIC 48018596

Multitransit candidate with a period of 100.1 d (or a multiple thereof). The single LCO/NRES spectrum shows no sign of this target being a double-lined spectroscopic binary. Gemini speckle interferometry revealed no nearby companion stars. This candidate was initially flagged as a TCE, however, in addition to the transit events, the pipeline classified, what we consider stellar variability as an additional event. As such it failed the ‘odd–even’ transit test and was not promoted to TOI status. However, since the PHT discovery this cTOI has become the priority 3 target TOI 2295.01.

TIC 55525572

Multitransit candidate with a period of 83.9 d. Since the PHT discovery this cTOI has become the confirmed planet TOI 813 (Eisner et al. 2020b).

TIC 82452140

Multitransit candidate with a period of 21.1 d. Since the PHT discovery this cTOI has become the priority 2 target TOI 2289.01.

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