

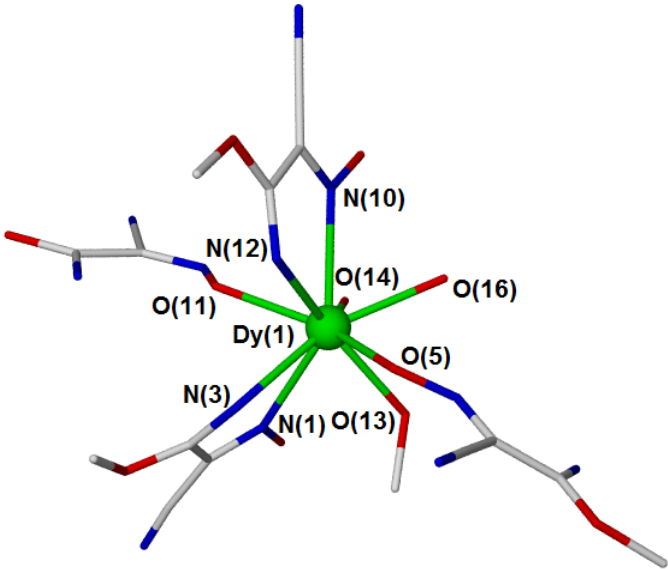
Supplementary Information

***In situ* ligand formation in the synthesis of an octanuclear dysprosium ‘double cubane’ cluster displaying single molecule magnet features**

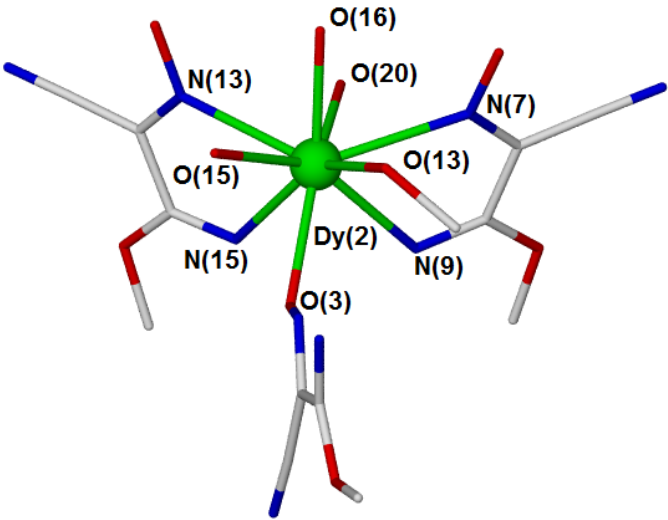
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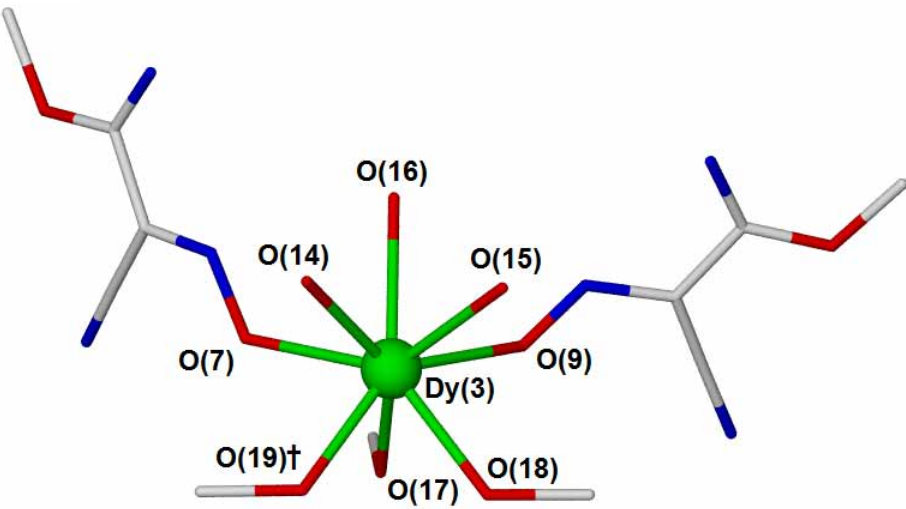
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

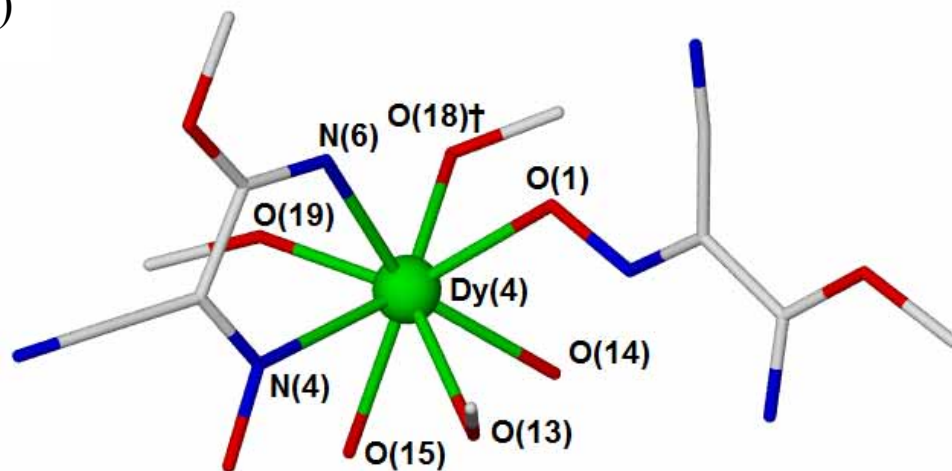


Fig. S1 The coordination environments of the four unique dysprosium atoms in complex **1**. Symmetry element used: $\dagger = 1 - x, 1 - y, -z$. Hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity.

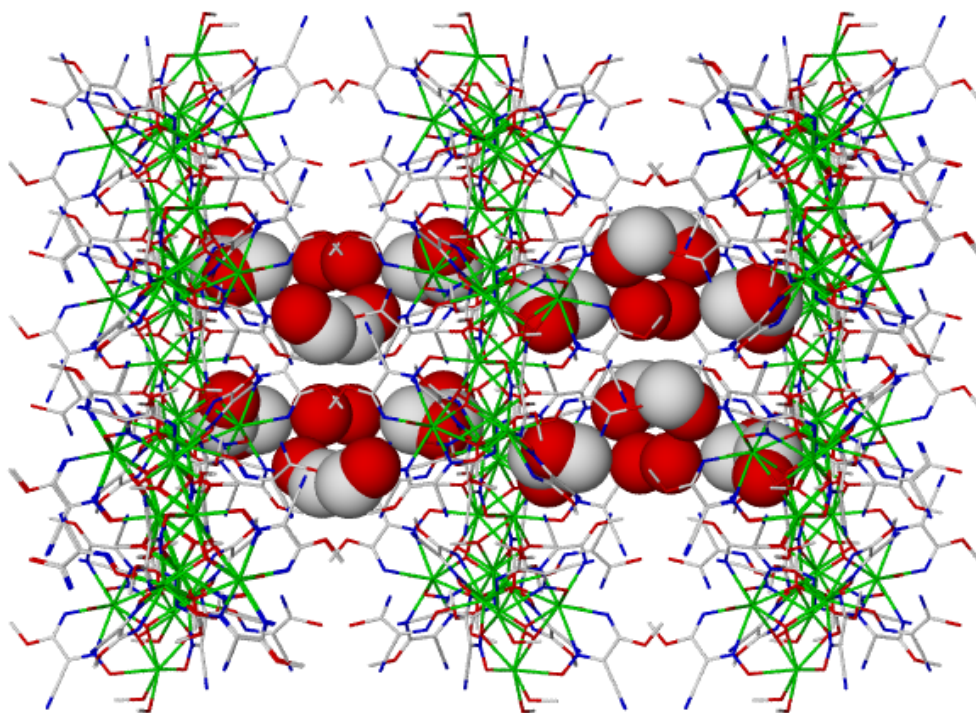


Fig. S2 $[\text{Dy}_8(\text{OH})_6(\text{OMe})_6(\text{cmnm})_{10}(\text{ccnm})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\text{MeOH})_2] \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O} \cdot 6\text{MeOH}$ (**1**·2H₂O·6MeOH) as viewed down *a*-axis. Lattice methanol molecules emphasised. Hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity.

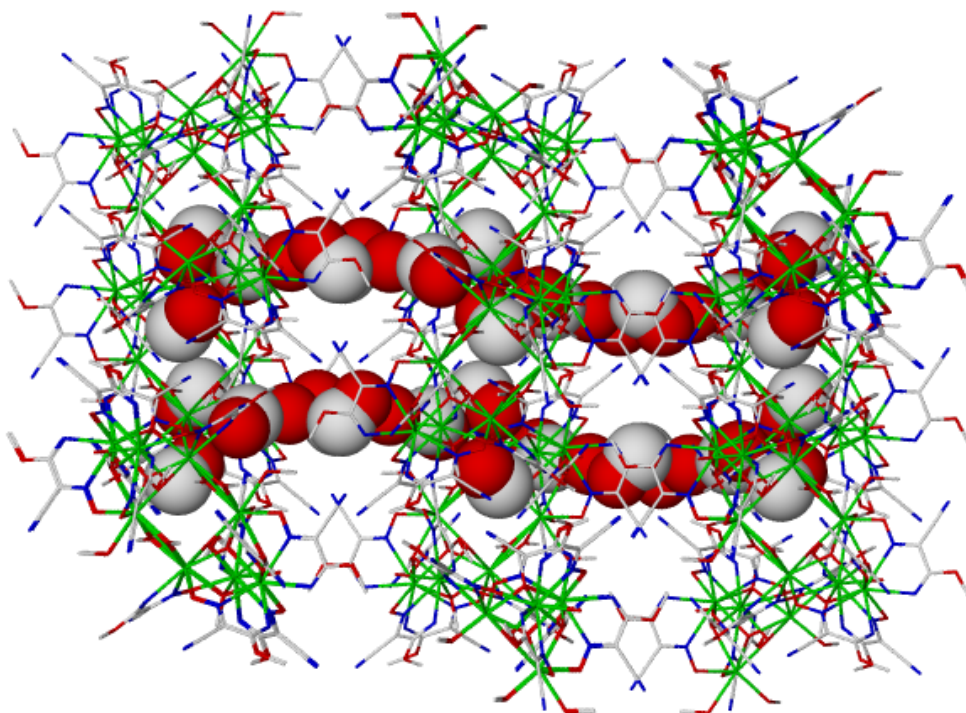


Fig. S3 $[\text{Dy}_8(\text{OH})_6(\text{OMe})_6(\text{cmnm})_{10}(\text{ccnm})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\text{MeOH})_2] \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O} \cdot 6\text{MeOH}$ ($1 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O} \cdot 6\text{MeOH}$) as viewed down *b*-axis. Lattice molecules emphasised. Hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity.

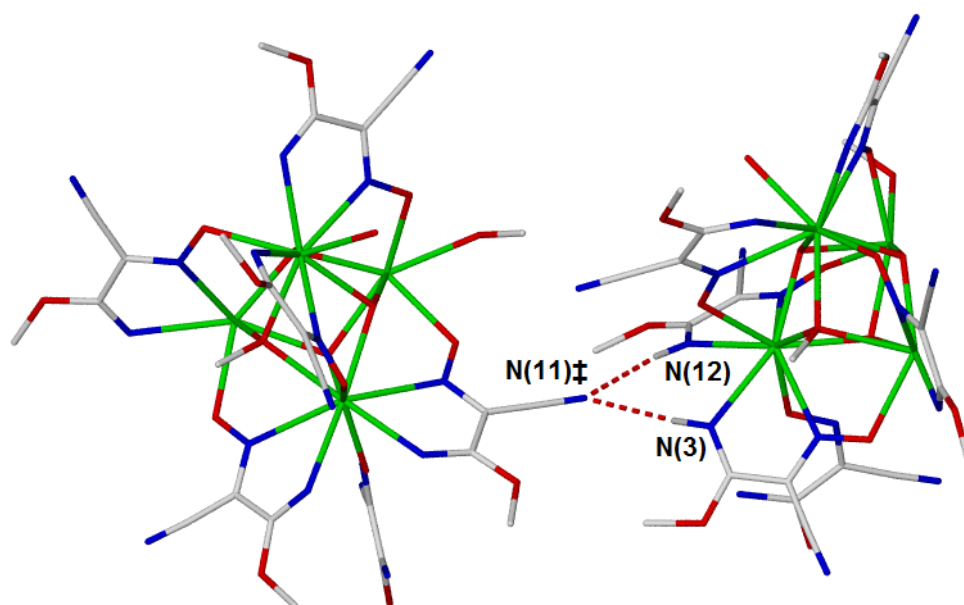


Fig. S4 The nitrogen atoms of two imine groups of two cmnm ligands acting as hydrogen bond donors to a nitrile group of a cmnm ligand of an adjacent complex. Non-hydrogen bonding hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity. Symmetry element used: $\ddagger = \frac{3}{2} - x, y, \frac{1}{2} + z$.

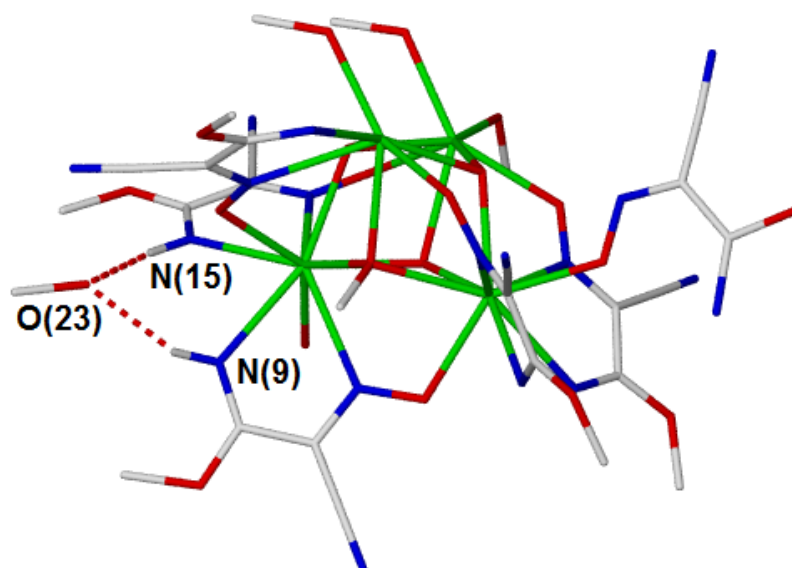


Fig. S5 The nitrogen atoms of two imine groups of two cmnm ligands acting as hydrogen bond donors to a methanol molecule in the lattice. Non-hydrogen bonding hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity.

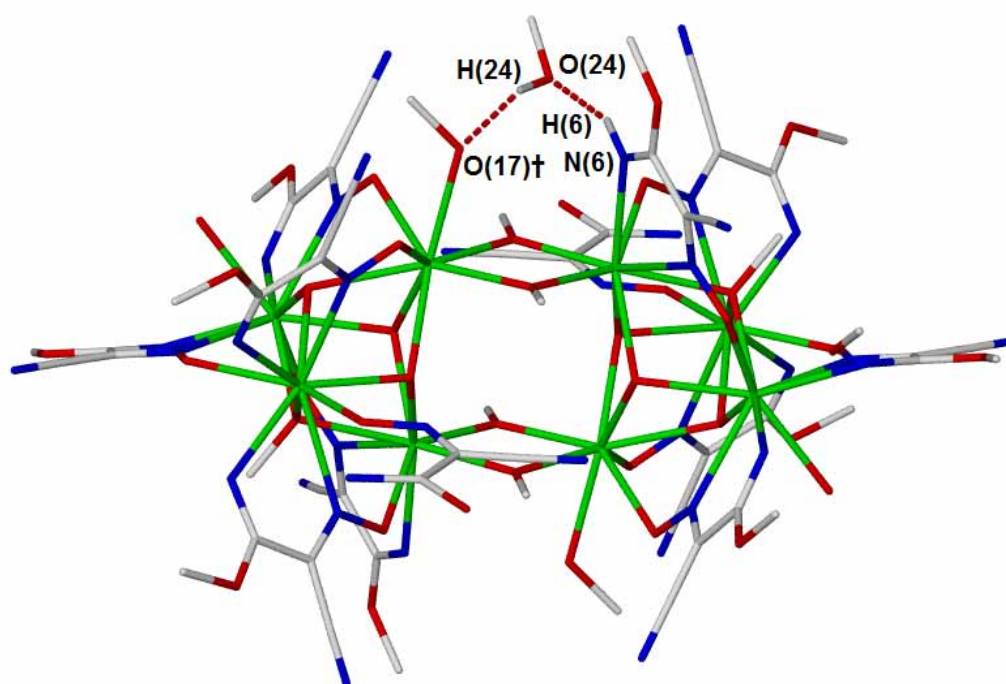


Fig. S6 An imine group of a cmnm ligand acting as a hydrogen donor to a lattice methanol molecule, which in turn is a hydrogen bond donor to a coordinated methanol molecule. Non-hydrogen bonding hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity. Symmetry element used: $\dagger = 1 - x, 1 - y, -z$.

Table S1 Hydrogen bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) of **1**.^a

N(12)⋯N(11) $\ddagger$	3.134(8)	N(12)–H(12)⋯N(11) $\ddagger$	170.2
N(3)⋯N(11) $\ddagger$	3.190(9)	N(3)–H(3)⋯N(11) $\ddagger$	158.3
N(9)⋯O(23)	2.914(9)	N(9)–H(9)⋯O(23)	153.8
N(15)⋯O(23)	2.907(8)	N(15)–H(15)⋯O(23)	155.9
N(6)⋯O(24)	2.818(10)	N(6)–H(6)⋯O(24)	147.6
O(24)⋯O(17) $\dagger$	2.864(9)	O(24)–H(24)⋯O(17) $\dagger$	157.5

^a Symmetry elements used: $\ddagger = \frac{3}{2} - x, y, \frac{1}{2} + z$; $\dagger = 1 - x, 1 - y, -z$.

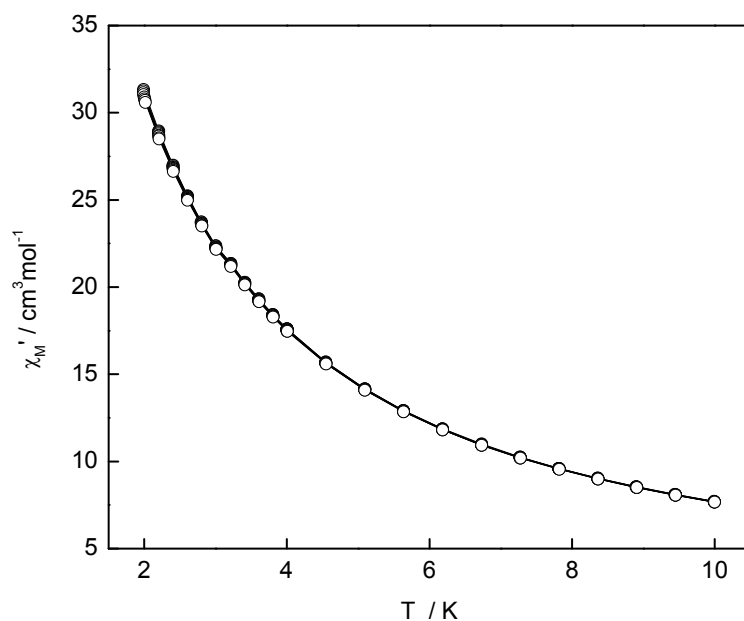


Fig. S7 Plots of ac in-phase susceptibilities, χ_M' , for **1** using the frequencies given in the text (Experimental)