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Species Recovery Trust Spring Newsletter

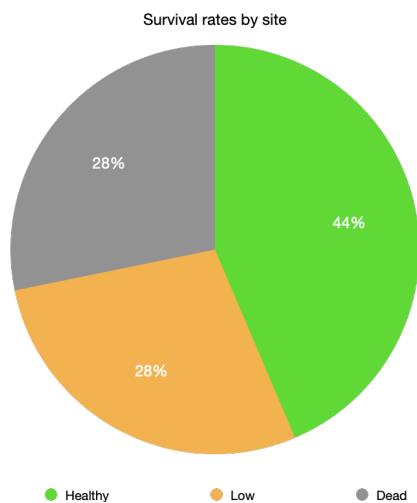
New Forest Cicada project goes Gallic with a new French connection



We are excited to report that there have been some significant updates in our New Forest Cicada project! Following international media coverage of the project in November, we were delighted to be contacted by academics from across Europe who provided valuable advice and new information. Based on that input, we are now hoping to collect our first cicadas from a population in northern France this summer - while still working with our great friends in Slovenia.

[Read the full update here](#)

Marsh Clubmoss research work



Last autumn marked the first full year since we started running Marsh Clubmoss translocation trials. This project aims to research whether different methods of moving plants are more effective than others, with the eventual aim that we may be able to re-populate landscapes where the species has become extinct or are too isolated for natural recolonisation to occur.

The initial monitoring has produced a wealth of data, which we will continue to add to with monitoring over the next 5 years.

One of the oddities has been the failure of trials at sites which appear to offer the perfect habitat for the species, and on this note we are delighted that Natural England has agreed to fund a series of soil eDNA tests across southern England to compare the fungal and bacterial biota within the soils between failed sites and sites where the plants are thriving. We already know mycorrhizae play a crucial role in the ecology of the clubmosses, and we hope this detailed research may cast more light on this.





Dwarf Milkwort in Northern England

We have recently received the great news that we have once again been successful with our funding application to the Swinden Quarry Natural Environment Fund, to continue our project to record the current status of Dwarf Milkwort in Wharfedale and look for opportunities to secure and expand the population.

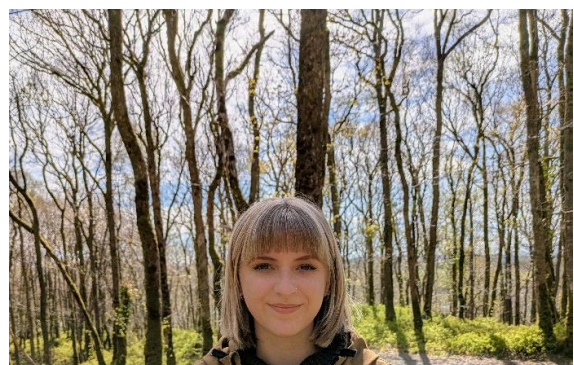


We have also been very fortunate to receive funding again from the National Trust to continue our survey work at Malham this spring. Previous survey work funded by the National Trust enabled us to begin to record the full extent of the Highfolds population, which was previously only known by a single record and is now thought to be the largest population in the UK.

Golden Ticket Winner!

We wanted to say a massive congratulations to Ellie McKee – winner of the SRT Golden Ticket!

Ellie will have access to a free place on up to fifteen of our online training courses and two of our field courses.



In return for this fantastic package, she will be providing some useful insights via social media on her training experiences.



The calibre of applicants was so high this year, that we could not resist awarding some runner up prizes as well! A huge well done to our runners up who will all receive a free place on one of our online courses over the next year to help them with their conservation work and projects.

Thank you to all the applicants that took part, we were truly inspired by the projects you have been working on and the commitment you show! We will be running the Golden Ticket competition next year so keep your eyes peeled and don't forget we offer a host of free resources via our website so why not check it out!

[Click here to access the resources on our website](#)

Six new free online courses

In addition to the resources already on our website, we have now developed six free online courses. Over the last few months, we've been delivering training to a large group of volunteers as part of the Cranborne Chase Naturing Nurture project, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. This project aims to engage and educate volunteers in West Dorset, with the idea that some of them will be suitably skilled by the end of the project to go out and start recording wildlife in their local landscapes. Elements of the project are also aimed at engaging younger and beginner audiences, and for that we have produced six new free online courses, serving as an introduction to Flowers, Grasses, Ferns, Bryophytes and Lichens.

[Click here to access the free online courses](#)

Developing a lure trap for ospreys - take two!

Developing a lure trap for Cosnard - take two!



You may remember that last year we attempted to identify a pheromone that could be used to create a lure trap for Cosnard's Net-winged Beetle. Using lure traps would be a much more efficient way of surveying for this beetle (as it is extremely hard to find!) without having any negative effects on the beetles themselves. We managed to identify a pheromone but we didn't have enough beetles to validate it. So this year, we will be heading back out into the beautiful ancient woodlands of the Wye Valley, hoping to catch enough beetles for the analysis. Fingers crossed for some good weather!

Recording and Volunteering with SRT

We have an exciting new data recording system called Coreo which we hope will make site monitoring much easier from now on. It is designed to allow you to directly enter your site monitoring data using your mobile phone and replaces Geospike. We will be emailing volunteers with details on how to use the app shortly.

Thank you once again to all our fantastic volunteers who help monitor sites for endangered species. As survey season approaches, please do let us know if you are likely to have any issues monitoring your site this year so we can try and make alternative arrangements for 2025.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer site monitor, or need help with recording, please email fran.holmes@speciesrecoverytrust.org.uk



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