

Trustees Annual Report 2018



the
species
recovery
trust

Trustees Annual Report

Year ending 31 December 2018

www.speciesrecoverytrust.org.uk

Registered Charity 1146387

Summary Information

Reference and administrative information

Charity Name: The Species Recovery Trust

Charity Number: 1146387

Address: 37 Albany Road, Salisbury, SP1 3YQ

Trustees: Jed Hamblin-Boone, Nicholas Berry, Fiona Jones-Perrott , Catherine Hadler.

Structure Governance and Management

Type of governing document: Charity Constitution, registered with the Charity Commission on the 1st March 2012. There shall be no fewer than three trustees. New trustees must be members of the charity and are elected by the members in general meeting. The trustees may also appoint any person who is willing to act as a trustee.

Trustees are recruited to give the trust a diverse skill base, and represent the fields of business, law, education and environment. They are invited to sit in on one meeting before deciding whether to put themselves forward for election.

Objectives and Goals

Matching our goals

Our stated aims are as follows:

'To promote the conservation and protection of species on the edge of extinction in the UK for the public benefit and to advance the education of the public on issues concerning the conservation and protection of such species.'

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the charity commission on public benefit.

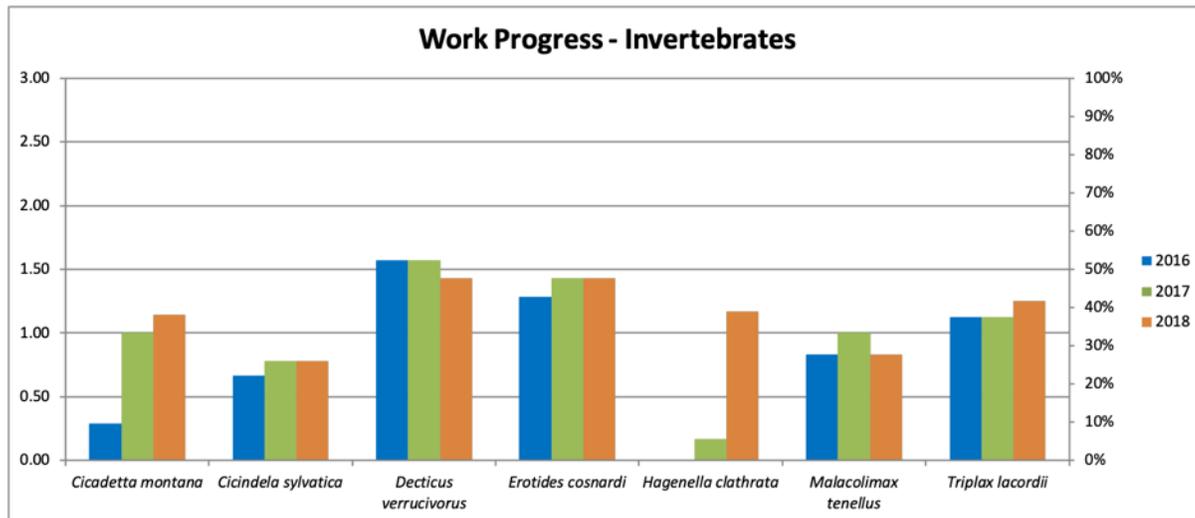
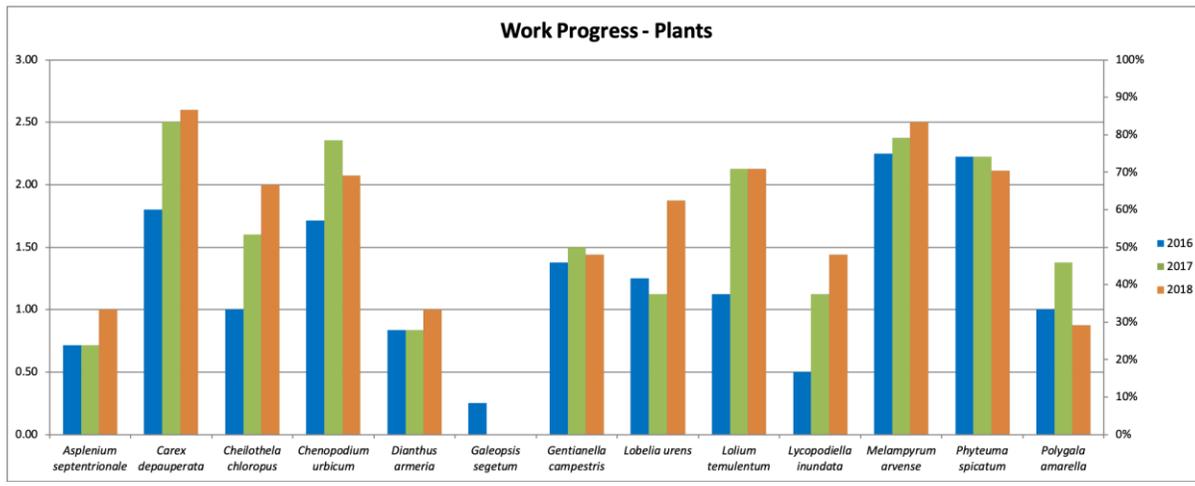
Achievements and performance

In 2018;

- We delivered projects on 20 species
- We ran 43 training courses with 360 bookings
- We had an income of £64,149 and expenditure of £66,487

Progress on Species

Progress towards targets 2016-2018



The Year in Species

2018 gave us a backdrop of some of the most extreme weather seen in recent years, which proved extremely challenging for many species and habitats. Our monitoring programme allowed us to pick up on these changes and relay them to our partners around the country, creating effective and robust species projects.

New Forest Cicada

We continued work on our education campaign to try to encourage more people to use the cicada app to search for the New Forest Cicada. We sent posters to local businesses and wrote an article for the Lyndhurst Community Centre's "What's On" magazine. We funded Bryan Pinchen to undertake three days of surveys for the cicada. This included investigating the site where a Natural England employee thought they heard the cicada in 2017. Sadly, no signs of the cicada were found.

HELP US FIND THE NEW FOREST CICADA



DOWNLOAD THE CICADA HUNT APP NOW.

WHEN YOU ARE WALKING IN THE NEW FOREST,
USE THE APP TO TRY TO LOCATE THE CICADA
FROM ITS DISTINCTIVE CALL. IT HAS NOT BEEN
SPOTTED FOR DECADES - COULD YOU BE THE ONE
THAT REDISCOVERS THIS RARE INSECT?



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Window-winged Caddis Fly

We ran two volunteer training courses in May 2018 on the two known sites for this species in the south of England – Chobham Common and Whitmoor Common. We trained fifteen volunteers over the two days. The survey results from Whitmoor Common were very exciting, with a record number of individuals found. In contrast, only one adult was found on Chobham Common. We have made some recommendations to Surrey Wildlife Trust (who manage the site) for future habitat work that will improve the site for this species.

Cosnard's Net-winged Beetle

We completed a programme of habitat work in the Wye Valley, which consisted of felling a number of trees to attempt to create conditions that would attract Cosnard's Net-winged Beetles. We also undertook surveys in the spring on these sites. Survey results did not identify any Cosnard's Net-winged Beetles on the felled stumps that we had created, but beetles were observed on a felled stump in Herefordshire. This provides additional support for the suggestion that felled stumps are important for these beetles. We will continue to monitor these stumps and work with our project partners to ensure that further habitat work in these areas takes into consideration the needs of this rare beetle.



Southern Oyster Mushroom Beetle

We carried out a survey of Hothfield Heathlands, to collect data on the composition of the trees at this historic site for Southern Oyster Mushroom Beetles. We also collected data on the distribution and abundance of fungi. Unfortunately, whilst there were lots of veteran trees and dead wood as well as other species of bracket fungi, no oyster mushrooms were found, suggesting that this site may no longer be suitable for the species.

Darnel and Upright Goosefoot Project

The year started optimistically for these species, with two new field sites coming on board at Whittlesford and College Lakes, giving us a chance to cultivate plants in a more 'natural' arable setting. Darnel was successful at growing in amongst crops in two locations, mimicking the habitat we had observed it growing in at Inishmeain.

The Goosefoot plants all germinated but we lost nearly every plant in the heatwave, with the surviving ones bearing little seed, and will have to redouble efforts on this species next year.

In a separate trial both plants were cooked and eaten, to prove this was possible. The take home message was they were certainly edible, but possibly not delicious!



Marsh Clubmoss

Efforts in 2018 focused on getting to as many sites to complete the census of English populations. By the end of the year nearly every site had been visited, including the Norfolk and Cornwall outliers. The general picture is of populations doing well in the west and badly in the east – our working theory is that this is due to higher levels of pollution in the east, but we will be working to confirm this hypothesis.

Our photo monitoring in the New Forest came to an end – we are still analyzing the videos, which largely show a rather chaotic lifestyle, but did allow us to observe up close the amazing regeneration after the snow of March, which was something we were not aware of until now.

The most detailed surveys were carried out in the Thames basin, which is showing an alarming loss of sites, and we are now working to try and address this decline.

We also managed to survey nearly every site in the New Forest, adding to our detailed study of population trends in that area.



Heath Lobelia

We are finally in touch with all the site managers for this species, and held a steering group seminar at the turn of the year, bringing together everyone in the country who works on the species, and agreeing ways forward for its conservator. The plants had a mixed year, with sites possibly affected by high temperatures.

Scrub management continued at the Hinton Admiral site, which will take several years to clear.

Field Gentian

Field Gentian suffered more than any of our species in the heat – the timing of its lifecycle meant that plants were developing just as the extreme heat and drought struck. It appeared that virtually no plants grew at any of the English sites. At this stage we do not know whether this is part of a natural cycle that the plants can survive (as they must have experienced similar weather events in the past) or whether this could be fatal for smaller populations, so we will be focusing on this in great detail in 2019.

Forked Spleenwort

Two new volunteers were appointed to the Kent site, and the Ivy which was getting near the plants was cleared off the bridge.



Field Cow-wheat

Clearance work continued at the Portsdown site, and we were thrilled when in the summer we recorded another doubling of the population. Some plants were affected by the drought, and we have adapted our management strategy to leave slightly more scrub shelter on the site to give protection should a similar heatwave occur in the future.



Spiked Rampion

Bracken clearance work continued at the main Riverside site. All the other sites were monitored, although several still have critically low numbers. Deer grazing remains a problem, and we are looking at how this could be addressed.



Deptford Pink

Work this year has focused on seeking contacts for sites for which we have only very out of date information and contacting sites to establish new links in places where we need to maintain regular contact. For many of the sites we have achieved this and will work to continue to develop these relations. Consequently, we have identified sites that are being actively monitored and actively managed and those that need urgent attention.

We have also continued to recruit and support volunteers to enable them to visit and survey sites especially in the south and south west.

Rabbit Moss

Together with a local volunteer we have surveyed all of the torbay rabbit moss sites, most of which are in good condition. We also joined the Dawlish Warren Rangers to hunt the sands of the Warren. Unfortunately, the snow, flooding and subsequent hot summer seems to have taken its toll.

Volunteers

The Awards for All grant from 2017 has enabled us to better support existing volunteers and recruit new volunteers. Significantly this has included the perfection of our mapping app to support volunteers to physically find the often-inconspicuous plants on remote sites. We have also updated our volunteer recruitment procedures, streamlined the volunteer registration process and created a web page with easy access to all the necessary documents in one place that will support volunteers to visit sites, survey species and report back.

Other Campaigns

In 2018, alarmed by the rising tide of plastic pollution and its effects on our natural ecosystems, we campaigned for the installation of drinking water fountains in Salisbury, as a way of directly improving the local environment to where we are based. To date there is a commitment to install one fountain in central Salisbury, with a further four being discussed.

Merchandise

Despite concerns that book sales would fall, they in fact remained strong in 2018 at £8,876 (only fractionally down from £9,225 in 2017). This continued strong performance was largely due to the addition of Amazon as a selling platform.

Training

We ran 43 training courses with 360 bookings in 2018, and these courses raised £24,919 (down from £27,285 in 2017)

Media

Our online training resources continue to be well used. Our grass identification film has now had 26,940 views.

Our Facebook page has 1,600 (up from 1,462) followers and our most popular post reached 2,494 (6,703) people.

Our website had 11,698 sessions and 7,227 users (similar to 12,273/7,378 in 2017).

Fundraising

In total £22,912 was received as grants, (compared to £59,359 in 2017). We are hugely grateful to all these funders for supporting our work in 2018.

| | | |
|---|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Local Postcode Trust | £1,934.00 | Caddis Fly Project |
| Rowan Bentall Trust | £100.00 | Core work |
| Gerald Palmer Trust | £500.00 | Core work |
| Beryl Thomas Trust | £1,000.00 | Core work |
| Woodroffe Benton | £500.00 | Core work |
| Gloucestershire Environmental Trust | £2,483.44 | Cosnards Beetle |
| Gloucestershire Naturalists Society Grant | £1,000.00 | Cosnards Beetle |
| Cleary Foundation | £720.00 | SOMB project |
| Chapman Trust | £1,000.00 | Marsh Clubmoss New Forest |
| Banister Trust | £3,700.00 | Heath Lobelia/Starved Wood-sedge |
| Gloucestershire Environmental Trust | £1,974.26 | Cosnards Beetle |
| Rushmoor Borough Council | £4,000.00 | Rushmoor Heathlands Project |
| Natural England | £4,000.00 | Archaeophytes Project |

Summary Receipts and Payments accounts for the year ended 31 Dec 2018

Summary

| | £ | £ |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Opening bank balance | | 102,297 |
| Receipts | 64,149 | |
| Payments | <u>-66,487</u> | |
| Net income | | <u>-2,338</u> |
| Closing bank balance | | <u>99,959</u> |

Reserves Policy

Our current reserves policy is to hold at least two years' running costs in our account, which is currently £64,200.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

At the year end the total of the charity's assets, including cash at bank, was £106,856 (of which £33,589 were restricted fund assets) and the total of the charity's liabilities was £1,665 of which £0 were restricted fund liabilities).

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

JED HAMBLIN-BOONE
Chair
16/3/19

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