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CC

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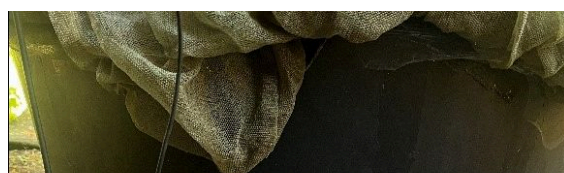


Species Recovery Trust Autumn Newsletter

Signs of Cicadas above and below ground



There's exciting news from our cicada conservation project. This summer, researchers detected



mysterious underground sounds in the very enclosures where our captive population of cicadas laid eggs last year, offering the strongest hint yet that young cicada nymphs may be developing beneath the soil.

As if that wasn't enough, a newly hatched nymph from eggs brought over from France provided a rare opportunity to capture the first ever high-resolution images of *Cicadetta montana* nymphs.



Together, these discoveries give us real reason for optimism that a new generation of cicadas is growing quietly underground and that our reintroduction efforts are beginning to take root.

[Read the full story here](#)

Starved Wood-sedge returns to Charlton

Nearly 200 years after disappearing from the site, one of Britain's rarest plants is making a return to Charlton. This autumn, Starved Wood-sedge has been reintroduced to Maryon Wilson Park, close to where it was first recorded and described as a new species in 1787. The milestone was supported by partners including Kew's Millennium Seed Bank, Natural England, The Conservation Volunteers and The Friends of Maryon Wilson Park. The reintroduction offers renewed hope for this remarkable plant and helps reconnect Charlton with an important part of its natural heritage.





[Click here to find out more](#)

Field Gentian: A tale of two futures



The future of Field Gentian in southern England is looking increasingly uncertain after surveys failed to find a single plant at any known southern site following the exceptionally hot and dry summer of 2026. While seed from all southern populations is safely stored at the Millennium Seed Bank, the decline provides stark evidence of the impacts of climate change on species extinction. Yet there is also reason for hope. Northern populations remain more resilient,

with some sites showing increases following targeted conservation work. Meanwhile, an exciting reintroduction project on Holy Island aims to restore the species to a former stronghold.



[Read the whole story here](#)

Spiked Rampion: a new outpost for Sussex's floral emblem

Spiked Rampion *Phyteuma spicatum* is one of Britain's rarest and most striking wild flowers, found only in a handful of sites in East Sussex. This autumn, we took steps to give it a safer future.

In September, our team built a protective enclosure at a site close to the species' stronghold at Riverside, East Sussex. Sixteen plants, supplied by the

Millennium Seed Bank at Kew, were then planted into the enclosure. Establishing a second population nearby spreads the risk for this vulnerable species, and the enclosure will help protect young plants while they settle in.



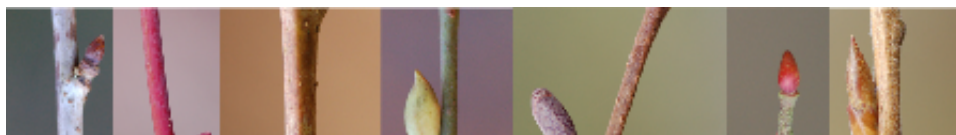
This project would not have been possible without our funders. We are very grateful to The Rampion Wind Farm and Sussex Lund for their generous support, and to the Millennium Seed Bank at Kew for their continued partnership and for supplying the plants.

We will be monitoring the plants closely and will share updates in future newsletters.

Submitting records

If you have any outstanding records for 2026, please could you submit them ASAP via Coreo or email (monitoring@speciesrecoverytrust.org.uk).

Time for training





Training provides much needed funds to support our endangered species work and this year Leif Bersweden helped expand our range to include courses in both Yorkshire and Scotland.

Our 2027 field courses will be available for booking in November, and we still have lots of courses running over the autumn and winter.

[**Click here to see our training courses**](#)

Donations

The Species Recovery Trust is a small charity and donations go a long way for us; even the smallest amount feels like a vote of confidence in what we are doing. If you like our work and feel it's worth supporting, you can donate through PayPal or a cheque in the post. Thank you so much!

[**Click here to donate**](#)





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