

the  
species  
recovery  
trust

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Trustees Annual Report  
Year ending 31 Dec 2019

Registered Charity 1146387



# SUMMARY INFORMATION

## In 2019

- We delivered projects on 22 species
- We increased our staff to 5 personnel
- We ran 31 training courses with 368 attendees
- We had an income of £92k and expenditure of £81k

## 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

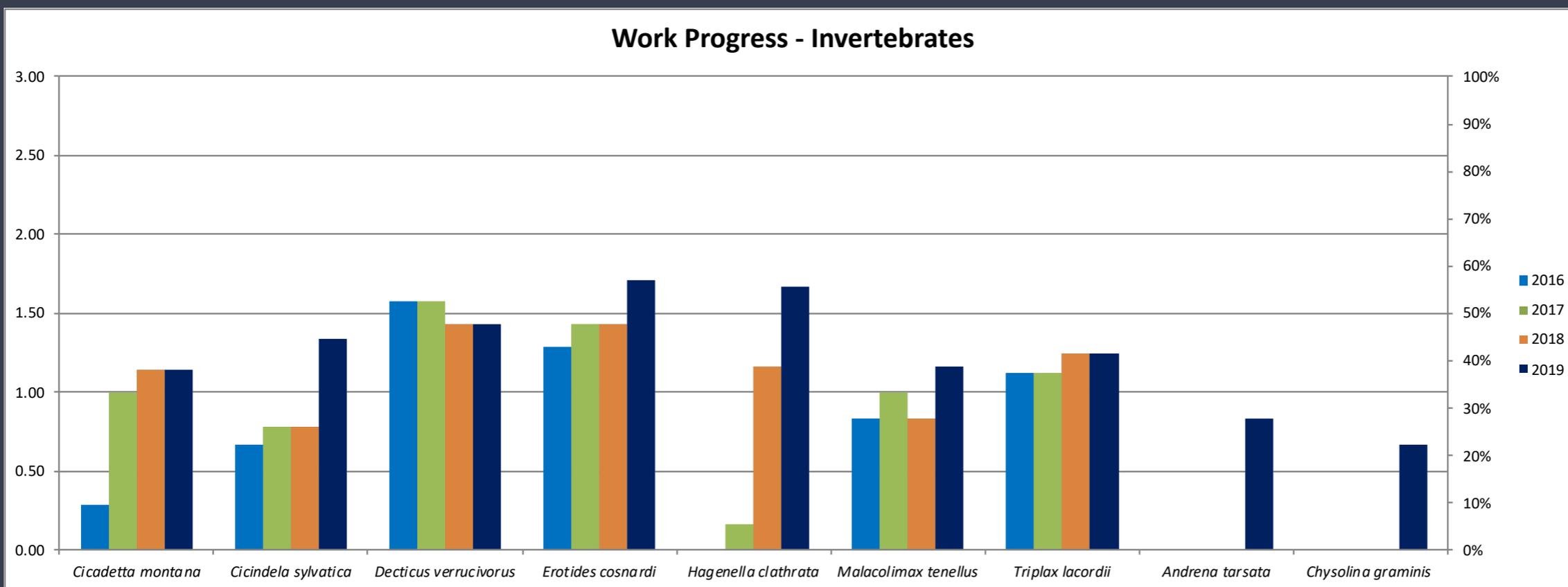
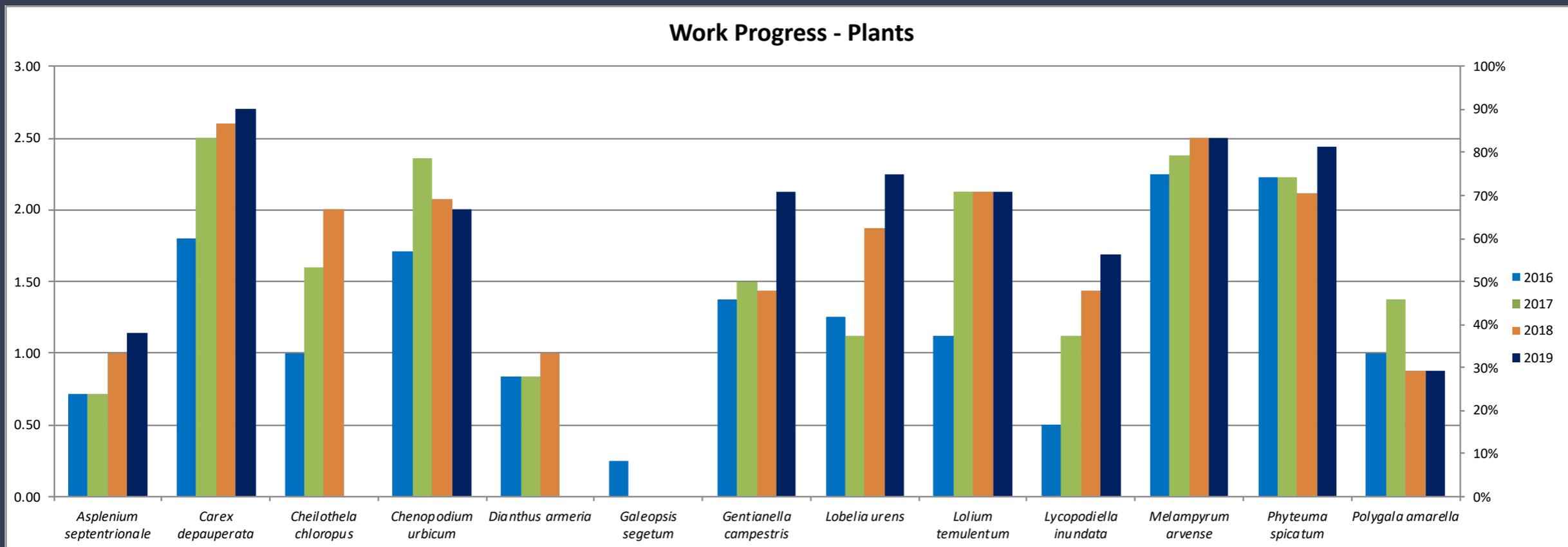
Our stated aims are as follows:

*'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.

# Progress on Species 2019

Progress towards targets 2016-2018



# THE YEAR IN SPECIES

After the severe drought and heatwave of 2018, which proved disastrous for many of our species, we were heartened to see many of our plants and animal populations making recoveries.

We greatly expanded our survey work into North Wales, giving us a much more complete picture of the national distribution of Marsh Clubmoss and Field Gentian, as well as crucial information about their ecology in upland habitats.

We also took on three new invertebrate conservation projects, for three insects which are currently on the edge of extinction.

As the global climate deteriorates, and the pressure of climate change starts to impact several of our rarest plants and animals, we have our work cut out like never before, but we end the year in a more robust form than we have ever been in, ready to put up the best fight we can to save these species!





### **Tormentil Mining Bee**

Within months of launching this new project we re-found this extremely rare bee in three sites in Yorkshire where it had not been recorded for over a decade.

This elusive, black solitary bee is a fussy eater, as it only collects pollen and nectar from one foodplant; Tormentil, a yellow buttercup-like flower that can be found growing on acid grassland, heathland and moorland. Sadly, the bee has been lost from over half of its habitat since the 1970s. It still has critically important sites in Yorkshire, but even these areas are under threat.



### **Window-winged Caddis Fly**

Despite volunteers searching Barossa Nature Reserve, Chobham Common and Whitmoor Common on a number of occasions, only one Window-winged Caddis Fly was found this year.

It may be that the weather has not been great for caddis flies this year (or that poor weather on the survey days just meant that we missed them!). Window-winged Caddis Flies don't tend to fly when it is raining so it's been a real challenge this year to find suitable survey days during its short flight period.



## Heath Lobelia

In the last annual review we talked stoically about having at least another 2 years of scrub clearance ahead before we might see this species return to the New Forest. We were absolutely staggered to find a small number of rosettes appear over the winter, and by summer were greeted with the breathtaking sight of 780 plants, turning parts of the site purple. Heath Lobelia is well known to respond favourably to disturbance, so the next task is to try and sustain these numbers into the future.

Elsewhere we chaired the first meeting of the Heath Lobelia steering group, bringing together all the organisations involved with its conservation across the country. As a result of this collaboration we have established a network that will provide every known site with support in identifying best management practices and sharing annual survey results and produced a report on its current status. This collaboration has also resulted in the confirmation of two additional sites in Devon and Cornwall.



## Field Gentian

Our work on Field Gentian involved expanding the project to re-survey nearly all the Snowdonia populations, where it grows in coastal grasslands. This revealed a mixed picture, with some sites supporting vast populations, but in many areas where the plants have been recorded we were unable to find any plants.

In the New Forest we have set up a series of permanent monitoring plots, which we hope will give us a better picture of the lifecycle of the plants, and in particular better clues as to when they germinate and how long they live for. These have already revealed one plant which had already flowered re-forming a rosette, which was not behaviour that had been previously documented.



## Heath Tiger Beetle

In June, we were hugely excited to report the discovery of a female Heath Tiger Beetle on Brentmoor Heath. Heath Tiger Beetles had sadly disappeared from the site and so in 2008 a reintroduction project was launched. Surrey Wildlife Trust carried out an extensive programme of habitat work to provide the bare ground that is crucial for tiger beetles to survive. Six beetles were then reintroduced. By 2014, it seemed that the beetles had failed to breed successfully and for six years no beetles were seen on the site. We will continue to monitor the site and to work with Surrey Wildlife Trust to make sure that the habitat remains suitable, and hopefully this will be the beginning of a really strong population of beetles!



## Darnel

In 2018 this project suffered a severe setback when we lost nearly all our trial sites to the heatwave. This year at Butser Ancient Farm we finally managed to produce one of the biggest populations of Darnel so far. Unfortunately the host crop of wheat it was designed to be growing with all died in the heat, so we are still unable to achieve our goal of mimicking the natural crop contamination cycle. What we did have was enough Darnel to let the seed fall to the ground and test whether it will naturally regenerate, which is a small step forward in understanding its ecology.



## **Marsh Clubmoss**

In June, we were granted access to re-survey a population of Marsh Clubmoss on the Bovington Tank ranges in Dorset. With the plants all fully emerged, we were able to divide the site up into transects and count 19,360 plants. This dwarfs the previous record held by a former mine-site in Cornwall. This site has also given us some firm pointers into what we now believe to be the best form of management, which is to compact the soil with the plants on, rather than scrape it off. This amazing find was sadly tempered by news from Devon, where despite our best efforts to avert it, a second large population is due to be destroyed by expanding quarrying operations. We will be keeping an extremely close eye on this to ensure everything possible is done to mitigate against this loss.



## **Spiked Rampion**

2019 saw the highest number of plants recorded across all sites in the last decade, and a good sign that some sites are slowly responding positively to habitat management.

After the failure of the last attempt to introduce plants to a new site, in the Autumn we planted a range of plants and seeds at Wilderness Wood, in a location that can be closely monitored and hopefully give us insights into the ecology and growth strategy of this elusive plant.



## **Tansy Beetle**

In 2019, the 2018 Tansy beetle survey data for York and its associated riverbank data was collated and reformatted. Mapping of 2018 data looked at the presence and absence of the beetle along the River Ouse, together with the size and distribution of Tansy clumps. This spatial mapping and analysis will be used to look at opportunities for improved management for the beetle along the Ouse.

Also, in 2019 new survey data was collected, and planning started for 2020 data collection and recruitment of new volunteer surveyors

## **Deptford Pink**

Work in 2019 focussed on two areas - the cluster of sites in Kent and Essex and the meta-population in Buckfastleigh. In the summer we met up with site owners and managers in the South-east to survey plants and discuss future management for the sites, which is now being taken forward. In Buckfastleigh we have been working with local stakeholders to identify which sites need better management and which new sites are not being surveyed regularly. Volunteers from Moor Meadows are now onboard and keen to actively manage sites in 2020.

It has been a good year in Cornwall as a new management schedule has been agreed in Portreath and Wivelscombe and surveys in Saltash have shown that our previous clearance work resulted in an increase in numbers. In Wiltshire too plant numbers were higher than usual possibly due to the controlled burning on land in 2018.

Finally, after the sad loss of the the only site for the species in Surrey, we were excited to be involved with the creation of a new site, using seed which was collected from the extinct site over a decade ago and bulked up in captivity since then.





# TRAINING

Our training programme has continued to expand, with 31 of our own courses run. This was fewer than the previous year, but attracted larger bookings, with most courses booking up. We also ran 9 'bespoke' courses for companies and other organisations, bringing in a total of £31,332 for our conservation programme.





# VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers remain the backbone of our species monitoring work and in 2019 gathered data from over 100 sites across the UK, vastly expanding our reach and the size of monitoring dataset we hold.

In 2019 we also produced handbooks for nearly all our species, giving detailed information on ecology, survey and management.



# OTHER CAMPAIGNS



In 2018 we launched a campaign to get bottle refills installed in Salisbury, where our head office is based. The campaign was spearheaded by our director's daughter, Rosie Price. Having mentioned the work in our newsletter, word reached Wessex Water, who came on board as a corporate partner, and have co-funded (with Salisbury City Council) the installation of two units in the city centre.

# SALES AND MEDIA

Books sales for Grasses and Winter Trees continued to be strong, with sales just over £5800 (down from £8876 in 2018). We are also excited to announce that work is finally underway on a new Mosses and Lichens publication - aimed at bringing the identification of these groups of plants to a much wider audience.

Our Facebook page has 1,943 (up from 1,600) followers and our most popular post reached 3,081 (2,494) people.

Our website had 9,875 sessions and 6,317 users (down from 11,698/7,227 in 2017). This data only runs until November when we moved the website, which explains some of the decrease.

## A Habitat Guide to Bryophytes and Lichens

Dominic Price and Clive Bealey



# WEBSITE

After 7 years we had finally outgrown our original website, which we had designed and populated in-house from our inception.

The new website has a much broader framework, allowing us, amongst other things, to load much of our species reports, previous annual reports and carry out a re-design of our Lost life archive of extinct species.

With the new design we hope to be more proactive in boosting our members and corporate sponsors and thus expand our species work.

## THE SPECIES

Our aim is to save fifty species by the year 2050 and you can help us achieve this!

GET INVOLVED

Learn about our wonderful  
Species Ambassadors

CLICK HERE

## ANIMALS TO SAVE

### New Forest Cicada



Common in the rest of Europe this Cicada is the last of its kind in the UK.

- Rarity: Now confined to the New Forest in Hampshire, with some concerns for its continued existence.
- Cause of decline: Change in habitat and weather patterns. Extreme isolation of remaining populations.

HANDBOOK

PUBLICATIONS

# FUNDRAISING

In total £47,614 was received as grants, (compared to £22,912 in 2018). We are hugely grateful to all these funders for supporting our work in 2019.

Darlington CT	£2,000.00	Heath Lobelia
Daniell Trust	£5,500	Volunteers Project
Hyne CT	£300.00	Field Gentian in Wales
HDH Wills CT	£1,500.00	Coombe Bissett Cow-wheat introduction
Jeremy Wilson	£250.00	Kentish Milkwort
RG Hills CT	£1,750.00	Kentish Milkwort
William Dean Trust	£500.00	Species Handbooks
John Swire 1989 CT	£2,500.00	Field Gentian
Sussex Lund	£1,474.06	Heath Lobelia
Oakdale	£500.00	Field Gentian in Wales
Helianthus Trust	£350.00	Volunteers Project
Leslie Mary Carter CT	£2,000.00	Field Gentian
Finnis Scott CT	£3,840.00	Rabbit Moss, Deptford Pink and Heath Lobelia
Michael Marks CT	£3,200.00	Tormentil Mining Bee
Valentine CT	£5,000.00	Heath Tiger Beetle
Linley Wightmann Shaw	£5,000.00	Tansy Beetle
D'Oyly Carte CT	£1,000.00	Spiked Rampion
St Marys CT	£500.00	Field Cow-wheat
Seven Pillars CT	£500.00	Yorkshire Tormentil mining bee and the Tormentil nomad bee
J&P Salter CT	£1,000.00	Tansy Beetle
Natural England	£4,200.00	Archaeophytes
Lennox Hanley CT	£1000.00	Tormentil Mining & Nomad bees
Cox Skuse Trust	£750.00	Unrestricted
Henocq Law Trust	£3000.00	Unrestricted

# SUMMARY RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2019

## Summary

	£	£
Opening bank balance		99,959
Receipts	92,030	
Payments	-80,775	
Net income		11,255
Closing bank balance		111,214

## 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 £123,936 (of which £30,276 were restricted fund assets) and the total of the charity's liabilities was £1,864.

## Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees



JED HAMBLIN-BOONE , Chair  
19/3/20

The Species Recovery Trust is a charity set up to tackle the loss of some of the rarest species in the UK.

There are over nine hundred native species in the UK that are classed as under threat, with several hundreds more currently widespread but known to be in significant decline.

The countryside is now bereft of many species that were a familiar sight a mere generation ago.

A small number of these species are on the absolute brink of existence, poised to become extinct in our lifetimes; our goal is to stop them vanishing.

Our aim is to remove 50 species from the edge of extinction in the UK by the year 2050. In addition we are reconnecting people with wildlife and the natural world through training programmes and awareness raising.



Type to enter text

# the species recovery trust

**The Species Recovery Trust**

**37 Albany Road**

**Salisbury**

**SP1 3YQ**

**01722 322539**

**[enquiries@speciesrecoverytrust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@speciesrecoverytrust.org.uk)**

**[www.speciesrecoverytrust.org.uk](http://www.speciesrecoverytrust.org.uk)**

**Registered in England and Wales Charity 114387**