

the  
species  
recovery  
trust

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Trustees Annual Report  
Year ending 31 Dec 2021

Registered Charity 1146387



# SUMMARY INFORMATION

In 2021

- We delivered projects on 19 species
- Successfully delivered both online and field training courses to help fund our species programs
- Increased the team to aid delivery of more projects

## 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 Dyer (née 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.





# THE YEAR IN SPECIES

Following a disrupted year in 2020, the team were largely back in full swing by early 2021. Access to most of the sites became available and a full suite of monitoring became possible for staff and many volunteers.

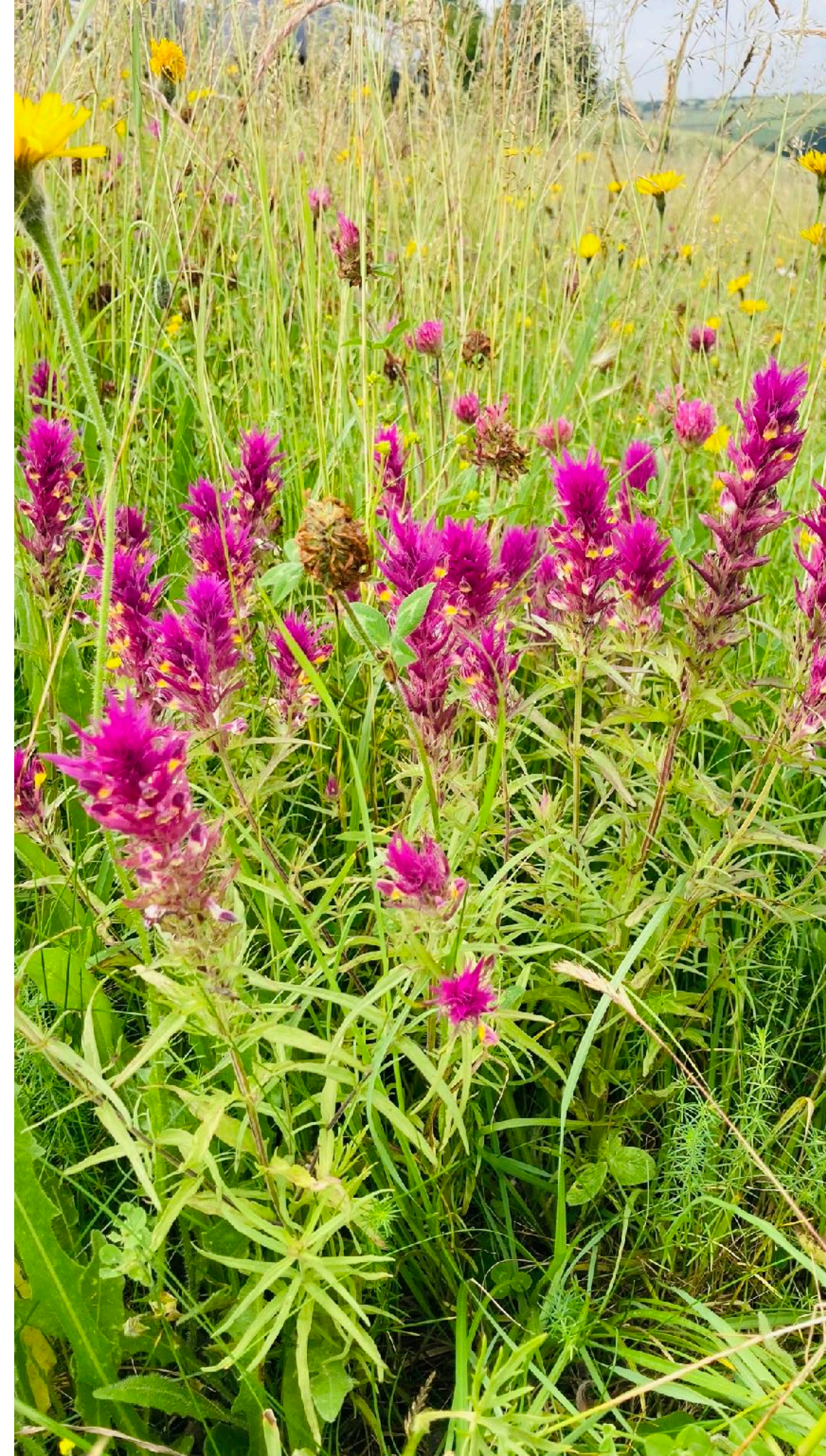
As well as completion of extensive surveys, habitat management was our main focus this year given the difficulty in doing so during the pandemic.

For many species, our approach of longterm sustained conservation work is starting to pay off, with some significant increases at several sites.

Successful introductions of Kentish Milkwort were fulfilled, a species in dire need of some help given its severe decline and isolation to just three native sites.

Despite the decline in Marsh Clubmoss across the SE, strongholds at Thursley NNR and Woolmer Forest continue to thrive, and a bumper population has been particularly noted at Thursley. We continue to work towards establishing the root-cause to the marked decline in this area of the UK. Elsewhere in the SE, Deptford Pink populations continue to be doing well and in many circumstances are increasing.

Elsewhere on the SE heathlands, excitingly a robust breeding population of Heath Tiger Beetles has been found in Surrey, as well as rediscovery of a population after 10 years.





## Heath Tiger Beetle

We have made some exciting discoveries this year for the Heath Tiger Beetle. We found over 10 beetles at Hankley Drop Zone, indicating a robust breeding population is existing there. A beetle on Stickledown in Surrey was rediscovered, the first time a beetle had been found there in over 10 years. We are hoping that more surveys can be undertaken next year to get a better sense of the population size. We also returned several times to Brentmoor in Surrey and found both a female and a male Heath Tiger Beetle. It had been thought that this reintroduction had failed, and so indication of a breeding population is a really positive sign.



## Wart-biter Bush Cricket

This year, we carried out further habitat improvements at Lydden Temple Ewell for the Wart-biter Bush Cricket. This cricket is a sun-loving species with extremely specific habitat requirements which can be very difficult to provide without regular management. Over the last few years, scrub has encroached into the core area for the crickets and significant clearance work has been undertaken in 2020 and 2021 to help cut back and prevent further regrowth.







### **Tansy Beetle**

Of the 500 Tansy beetle action leaflets produced, most of these were distributed to river users. Further training and advice was carried out, including work to repair 10 Tansy beetle enclosures. Also, five site visits were carried out with land managers to discuss improvements and an increase in the area of Tansy occurred. The 2020 survey report was produced which showed overall that beetle numbers had halved, mainly due to summer flooding. However, in areas where there had been improved management the beetle numbers had increased.



### **Tormentil Mining Bee**

Surveys have been undertaken to better understand the ecology and distribution of this species in Yorkshire. Surveys this year indicated that Allerthorpe Common is a stronghold for the species. The species was recorded on the Cod Reservoir site but not at Jugger Howe, Strensall Common nor the Hole of Horcum. It is becoming clearer the two key limiting factors are tall Tormentil plants plus sandy cliffs to allow nesting. Discussions and advice to landowners is continuing to integrate the species needs into current management.



## **Spiked Rampion**

A reintroduction of Spiked Rampion was completed at Wilderness Woods in Kent in 2019. Despite severe rabbit grazing in the first year, many of the plants within the fenced enclosure were found to be flowering in 2021.

All the sites were monitored in 2021, with many receiving habitat management, and populations appear to be doing well.

## **Starved Wood-sedge**

The native site in Cheddar continues to flourish, and excitingly, 30 new plants were introduced into the same woodland in November 2021. Management of these areas will be undertaken early next year, and we'll be closely monitoring them to see how they progress.

During summer 2021, the native population in Surrey was subject to path works in conjunction with an adjacent development. The population was fenced off, and all young plants to be potentially affected were removed and are being cared for by one of our officers. These will be re-planted on site once they've established.







### **Kentish Milkwort**

With Kentish Milkwort only recorded at 2 of the 3 extant sites this year, we were really excited to be able to complete an introduction at two new sites in Kent. Both spring and summer plantings were achieved and these appear to be doing well. We will monitor these populations over the next few years to see how they respond to the conditions.

Where suitable grazing hasn't been possible, habitat management has been implemented this year at two sites. By keeping the sward low and creating disturbance, we hope to provide better germination conditions, and more plants next year!



### **Marsh Clubmoss**

Monitoring visits continued in Hampshire and Surrey, with declines found across most sites. The two strongholds in Surrey however had a bumper year with a 3 fold increase in plants seen at Thursley. New management techniques have been implemented this year in an attempt to conserve the dwindling population in the SE.

There was great excitement in Autumn with the discovery of a brand new (although small) population in the Dorset heaths, giving hope that there may be others yet to find.



## Deptford Pink

Monitoring visits have been conducted at Deptford Pink sites in the South of England this year. Management works have been undertaken by Sevenoaks District Council & Watts Farm at one of the largest populations to open up woodland rides and arable margins. Excitingly, during this work the population was found to be more extensive than originally anticipated.

In the southwest, we have been working with partners to improve the management of key sites. In Buckfastleigh, Devon County Council kindly funded scrub clearance threatening to encroach one of the largest populations and thanks to collaboration between Buckfastleigh Action for Nature Group and Vincent Wildlife Trust we have also begun a substantial clearance of a historic site. In Saltash the population is doing well following clearance work by Network Rail. Finally, in Portreath, good management practices have been established with Cormac preventing a neighbouring hedge from shading the site.

## Field Gentian

The work of Field Gentian this year was split into population monitoring in the south of England and stakeholder engagement in the North.

Population trends appear to be highly variable year on year, and a fascinating picture is starting to emerge which we aim to analyse after 10 years. In the north a clear picture is emerging of the damaging effect of sheep grazing at many sites.







## St Helena endemic invertebrates

This project is focused on controlling invasive invertebrates on the island, including the Common wasp *Vespula vulgaris* and Big-headed ant *Pheidole megacephala*, which are a direct threat to the islands invertebrate endemics. SRT is directly supporting the staff on the island to deliver the project.

This year has been mixed; there were plans to trial wasp control but the weather meant it was a poor year for wasps and so the numbers weren't high enough for control. However, the project is carrying out trial controls on the Big-headed ant and there has already been some indication of success. We have also been involved in training of government and National Trust staff on invasive control, local outreach sessions, as well as revising the existing invertebrate conservation strategy.

\* Photo Credits: St. Helena National Trust





## **Ascension Island endemic invertebrates:**

This project started in July 2021 and will see surveys, red listing, & planning on the endemic invertebrates as well as control of invasive invertebrates - a key threat to the endemics. SRT is directly supporting the staff on the island to deliver the project.

Some preliminary bits of work have already been completed including recruiting and inducting a new project coordinator who will run the project on island. We will be supporting the government in buying and shipping a set of survey equipment from the UK that will allow a comprehensive survey of the invertebrates, particularly the endemics, on Ascension Island in 2022.

### **\* Photo Credits:**

- Ascension Landscape: Vicky Knight
- Giant Pseudoscorpian: © Nicola Weber





# TRAINING

Fortunately, with Covid restrictions lifting, we were able to start running our field courses at the beginning of 2021. Course uptake was very successful and it was apparent that everyone, including the team, were very happy to be out in the countryside again. Whilst a few of the courses had to be postponed due to access restrictions, we were able to bring a new course to our collection with thanks to Coombeshead Farm in Devon. We are now very fortunate to be able to run a course on beavers, with the opportunity to experience re-wilding at its best!

Having successfully provided online courses in 2020, we decided to continue with these throughout the year. As with 2020, this year has been very successful and we will continue to provide this into the future.

We hosted **50** training events, with **1828** attendees and brought in **£67,364** in unrestricted funds (compared with £6720 in 2020)



# SALES AND MEDIA

As the pandemic continued our field guide sales continued to perform strongly, both through direct sales and other online outlets.

Our Facebook page has 2,772 (up from 2,332) followers and our most popular post reached 4,097 (1,524) people.

Our website had 15,756 sessions and 9,252 users (up from 7,841/5,137 in 2020).

# VOLUNTEERS

Although face to face volunteer recruitment has remained difficult, we are still recruiting volunteers online, and through a series of events we held in Yorkshire. Our regular site monitors continue to provide crucial data about the health of endangered species populations across the UK.



# FUNDRAISING

In total **£42,955** was received as grants, (compared to £75,355 in 2020). We are hugely grateful to all these funders for supporting our work in 2021.

£10,000.00	Henocq Law Trust	Unrestricted Donation
£8,000.00	St Helena National Trust	St Helena Endemics
£5,350.00	Swire Charitable Trust	Heath Tiger Beelte project
£4,000.00	Natural England	Archaeophytes project 20-21
£4,000.00	Daniell Trust	Volunteer costs
£3,400.00	Ascension Island Government	Ascension endemics project
£3,250.00	Kent Wildlife Trust	Kentish Milkwort
£3,000.00	Flimwell Park	Lobelia Project Contribution
£1,000.00	Norman Family	Deptford Pink Southwest
£600.00	CES Ltd	Corporate sponsorship
£205.08	Wiltshire Wildlife Trust	Marker Posts for cow-wheat project
£150.00	Peak District NPA	Gentian Seed Propagation



# SUMMARY RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2021

## Summary

	£	£
Opening bank balance		140,329
Receipts	137,066	
Payments	-116,960	
Net income		20,106
Closing bank balance		160,435

## Reserves Policy

Our current reserves policy is to hold at least two years' running costs in our account, which is currently £100,000.

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities

At the year end the total of the charity's assets, including cash at bank, was £191,908 (of which £40,478 were restricted fund assets) and the total of the charity's liabilities was £2,153.

## Declaration

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



JED HAMBLIN-BOONE , Chair  
25/3/22



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.





A photograph of a forest floor in spring. The ground is covered with a dense carpet of small, purple-blue bell-shaped flowers (bluebells). In the foreground, a large, moss-covered tree stump lies horizontally. The background is filled with tall, slender trees with green foliage, and sunlight filters through the canopy, creating dappled light on the forest floor.

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# 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**