



The Species Recovery Trust

Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31 December 2017

The Species Recovery Trust
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Registered in England and Wales Charity 1146387

the
species
recovery
trust



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 (from 18th November 2017), Louise Stewart (resigned 18th November 2017)

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.

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.

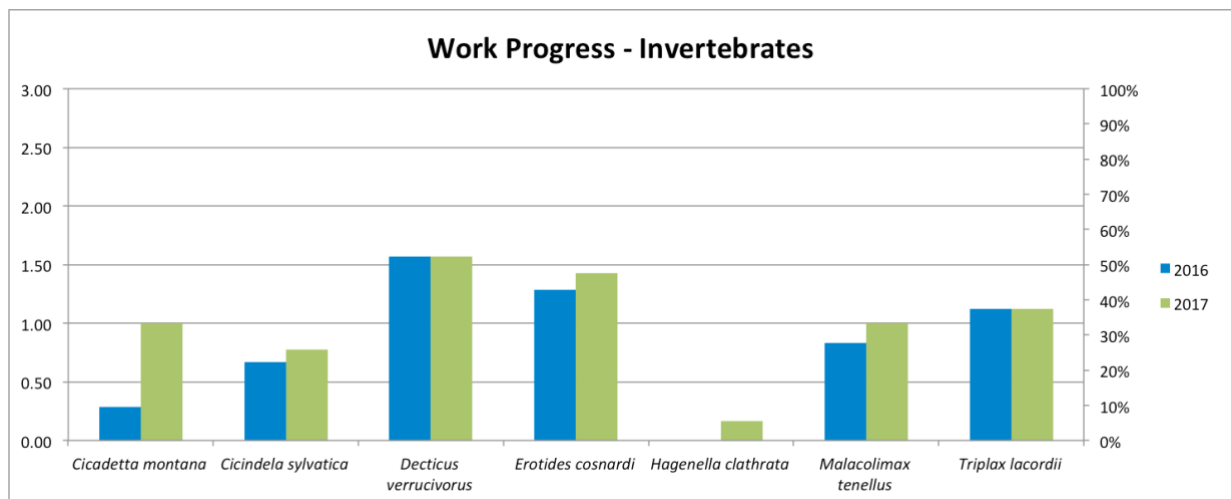
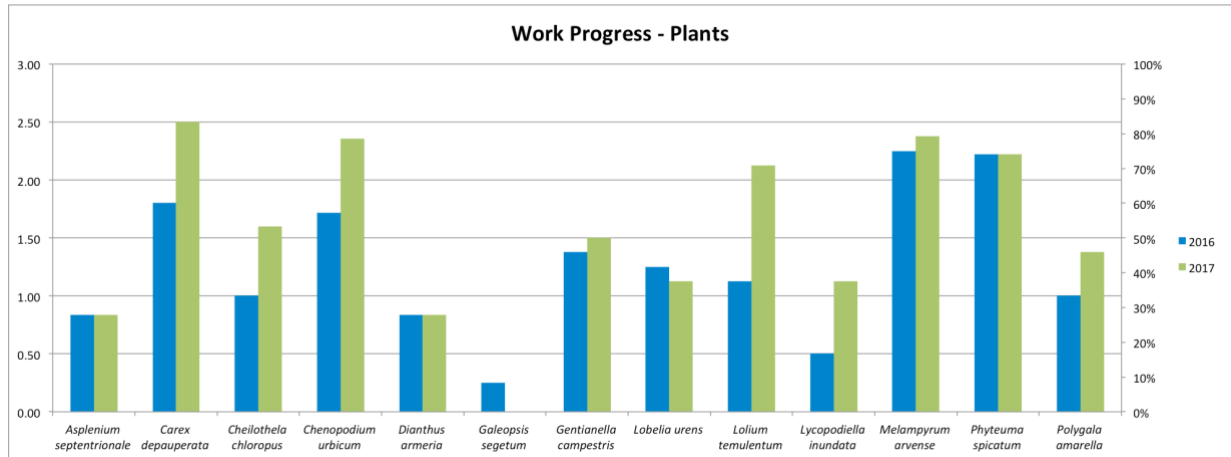
The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the charity commission on public benefit.

Achievements and performance

- We have worked on projects on 21 species
- We ran 48 training courses with 402 bookings
- We had an income of £103,297 and expenditure of £73,316. We bought equipment at cost of £419.



Progress on Species



Conservation Highlights

Field Gentian

Work this year focussed on recruiting volunteers to monitor the New Forest sites, which resulted in the discovery of a new population, previously thought to be extinct.

Access was finally gained to the Highclere Estate in Hampshire, where the population was found to be perilously low, and conversations are now in place with a view to improving the management of this important site. Most of the remaining Yorkshire Dales sites were also surveyed in 2017, revealing a healthy network of sites along the river valleys.



Highclere Castle



Low Force

Marsh Clubmoss

A volunteer training day was held in the New Forest in August, and we now have almost total coverage of the New Forest sites, allowing us to focus on surveying the Dorset Heaths populations, which were 70% completed by the end of the year. The distribution of the species in Dorset is much poorer than suspected with many sites now extinct, and there is much work to be done liaising with landowners and site managers.



Site monitors training day in the New Forest



Many of the Dorset sites are very overgrown, in the absence of cattle grazing

Starved Wood-sedge

All the native sites were monitored and managed to improve and enlarge the habitat. In addition a new population was established in Cranbourne Chase in Dorset, where the species went extinct 100 years ago.



Scrub clearance at Cheddar



Plants at the new Dorset site

Field Cow-wheat

Site management continued at Portsdown with help from the Highways Agency managing agents, and this year we were able to carry out an almost complete scrub removal, as well as enlarging the area of suitable habitat in 5m every direction. The summer count revealed the highest number of plants since we started monitoring the site.

At St Lawrence Field on the Isle of Wight we finally gained permission to collect seed for the Millennium Seedbank, which is a huge breakthrough. We have also agreed on a new management regime with the Hampshire Wildlife Trust, which will see the crop changed to an autumn sowed cereal, which will hopefully allow plants to spread and germinate in the field.



Portsdown - Final clearance



Portsdown — summer monitoring



Site meeting with NE and HIWWT at St Lawrence



St Lawrence seed collection

Early Gentian

In 2017 we carried out a contract for Natural England, surveying a sample of sites across the country to look at the status of this rare endemic. The study revealed highly fluctuating sets of populations, with some sites refound that were absent at the last survey, but others lost since then. We are lobbying for more regular surveys to allow a better picture of the species to be built up.

Goosefoot and Darnel

The highlight of the project this year was an expedition to Inish Meain – the last place where Darnel grows, to gain better understanding of its ecology on the Island. This was a fascinating trip, which we made into a short [film](#). On the basis of what we found there we are now going to do trials growing Darnel within other host crops, rather than in pure stands. We have expanded the project to now include 4 agricultural sites, as well as our on-going trial plots at Iron Age sites.



A rye thatched building



Rye crops, where Darnel still grows wild



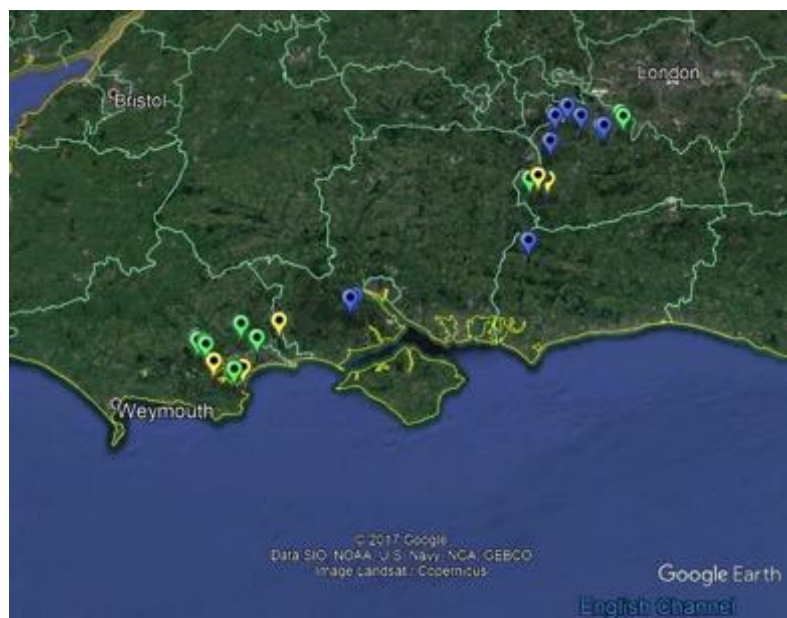
Rye crops



Rye thatched barn

Heath Tiger Beetle (and Green Tiger Beetle)

- Ran two training courses this year at Studland in Dorset and at Hankley golf club in Surrey
- Trained over 30 volunteers to identify and survey for the Heath Tiger Beetle (and the Green Tiger Beetle)
- Surveyed 16 sites for Heath Tiger Beetles, 11 of which were historic sites where Heath Tiger Beetles hadn't been seen for several years. Unfortunately, surveys failed to find any Heath Tiger Beetles apart from at known extant sites.
- Collated records from volunteer surveyors



Map of volunteer and SRT survey sites for 2017 – Blue dots indicate sites that were surveyed, but no beetles were found, green dots are sites where only Green Tiger Beetles were recorded, and yellow dots are sites where Heath Tiger Beetles were recorded.

Cosnard's Net-winged Beetle

- Surveys were undertaken in the Wye Valley in May and June. Seven Cosnard's Net-winged Beetles were found congregating around a recently cut stump. This is the first time that the beetles have been found in a group, and so this provided a fantastic opportunity to observe never before seen social behaviours.
- Organised habitat restoration work for early 2018 to create a network of cut stumps to investigate if this will attract the beetle, and if so, to help us to determine why this is the case.



New Forest Cicada

- Ran a campaign to try to encourage people to use the Cicada app to survey for the species in the New Forest. Posters were disseminated to campsites, hotels and cafes in the area.
- Received a potential record of the New Forest Cicada and investigated the area. The habitat was not deemed to be particularly favourable for the cicada, but this will be investigated again in the spring of 2018.

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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Southampton



Window-winged Caddis Fly

- Initiated work on a new species – the Window-winged Caddis Fly
- Gained funding for training courses to teach volunteers to survey for the Caddis Fly in spring of 2018

Wart-biter Bush Cricket

- Published a journal article in the Journal of Insect Conservation on predicting habitat suitability of the Wart-biter Bush Cricket in Europe under future climates

Merchandise

Book sales remained strong giving us an income of £9,225, although this was a marked decrease in 2016 sales of £14,930 when the Grasses Field Guide was first published.

Training

In 2017 we ran 48 training courses with 402 bookings,

The courses raised £27,285 for our conservation work.

Media

Our online training resources continue to be well used. Our grass identification film has now had over 18,000 views.

Our Facebook page has 1,462 (up from 1,162) followers and our most popular post reached 6,703 (3,304) people.

Our website had 12,273 sessions (slightly down from 12,869 in 2016).

Fundraising

In total £59,359 was received as grants, (compared to £25,692 in 2016). We are hugely grateful to all these funders for allowing us to run a much expanded species programme in 2017.

£1,000.00	Margaret Guido CT	Donation
£5,000.00	BSR	Corporate Sponsorship
£4,000.00	NE	Archaeophyte project 16-17
£1,209.00	Gloucs Nat Society	Cosnard's Beetle Project
£1,000.00	Alice McTosh	Field Gentian Project
£1,000.00	Barker Mills Foundation	Cicada Project
£8,000.00	The Halpin Trust	Gentian Project
£7,900.00	The Halpin Trust	Marsh Clubmoss Project
£3,000.00	NE	Marsh Clubmoss New Forest Report
£1,000.00	Martin Wills Wildlife Trust	Contribution to Species Recovery Programme
£1,000.00	Chapman Charitable Trust	Cicada Project
£7,950.00	Awards for All	Volunteers Project
£10,800.00	NE	Early Gentian and Archaeophyte project 17
£3,500.00	FHT	Marsh Clubmoss Project
£3,000.00	Hammamelis Trust	Heath Tiger Beetle

Summary Receipts and Payments accounts for the year ended 31 Dec 2017

Summary

	£	£
Opening bank balance		72,735
Receipts	103,297	
Payments	<u>-73,735</u>	
Net income		<u>29,562</u>
Closing bank balance		<u>102,297</u>

Reserves Policy

Our current reserves policy is to hold at least two years' running costs in our account, which is currently £64,200. During the year we had to use a portion of this sum due to some projects being invoiced upon completion, but were able to replace the funds by the end of the year

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

At the year end the total of the charity's assets, including cash at bank, was £112,066 (of which £37,830 were restricted fund assets) and the total of the charity's liabilities was £2,643 (of which £1,180 were restricted fund liabilities).

Declaration

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

Full name JED HAMBLIN-BOONE

Position CHAIR

Date

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