

From: Species Recovery Trust charlotte.carne@speciesrecoverytrust.org.uk
Subject: Species Recovery Trust Autumn Newsletter 2025
Date: 28 October 2025 at 10:14
To: dominic.price@speciesrecoverytrust.org.uk



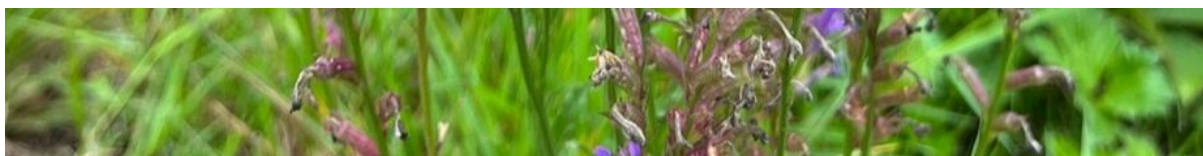
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Species Recovery Trust Autumn Newsletter

Good News for Heath Lobelia in south-east England





With just seven native sites for Heath Lobelia in the UK, it was really exciting to discover a new one this summer in East Sussex. Over 100 plants were encountered across meadows and woodland, so a significant find for this rare beauty. This species has been confined to one site in the south-east of England, the rest being in the south-west, so this is hugely important for the region. We are working closely with the landowner to encourage good management, and we are now continuing the search for more sites – there may be more out there!

Mowing Smart for Tansy Beetles: A Simple Step with Big Impact

We have been comparing sites for the endangered Tansy beetle and have found that strategic mowing during autumn, winter or early spring makes a huge difference. This encourages fresh growth of the Tansy plants before the beetles emerge, without disturbing the adults, eggs or larvae. A simple cut at the right time can help keep the iconic Tansy beetles shining.

[Click here to find out more](#)



Where have all the Gentians gone?



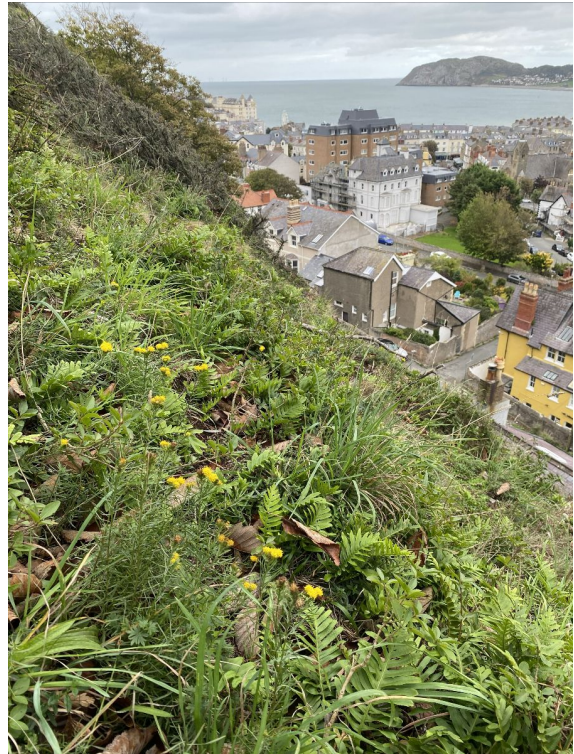
Our long-term dataset for Field Gentian is starting to provide glimpses of the fate that may be awaiting this species in a warming world - with populations struggling in the south of England. Detailed monitoring of the Welsh sites has shown a similar but less dramatic decline - and is helping to demonstrate the importance of soil moisture for the species.

[Read the full update here](#)

Spotlight on Goldilocks Aster

We've been looking at how this late-summer flowering gem is doing across England and Wales, and what's being done for it in different areas in case it needs a little extra help. In north Wales, four colonies of this lovely plant hug the steep limestone cliffs of Y Gogarth (Great Orme) above Llandudno, where it often grows with other nice things like Spiked Speedwell (*Veronica spicata*) and Bloody Crane's-hill (*Geranium sanguineum*). The settings are spectacular and

Bleed-through (Cerastium sanguineum). The settings are spectacular, and we're glad to report the plant is doing well, flowering nicely in October despite the drought. Goldilocks Aster can grow out on the open cliffs here, but often grows more luxuriantly amongst short blackthorn and gorse scrub where it gets some protection from the elements and from grazing goats and sheep. If the scrub gets too dense, though, it can die out, so a careful balance is needed.



At two spots, some scrub control is needed and Conwy County Council, who manage the Orme, already have work scheduled. However, we've discovered that another site is threatened by an invasive non-native cotoneaster. This spot, which is difficult to reach because of the scrub, hasn't been visited for a few years and is getting over-run with Entire-leaved Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster integrifolius*), a sprawling evergreen species from the Himalayas. We'll keep an eye on the site over the next few years to monitor impacts and probably call on specialist contractors to undertake control.

New Forest Cicadas lay hundreds of eggs

You may remember that in the summer we brought 11 female cicadas over from France for our captive breeding project. In exciting news, two of the females laid hundreds of eggs. We do not yet know if any of these eggs have hatched as we do not want to disturb them by investigating too deeply - but over the winter we will be taking a closer look!

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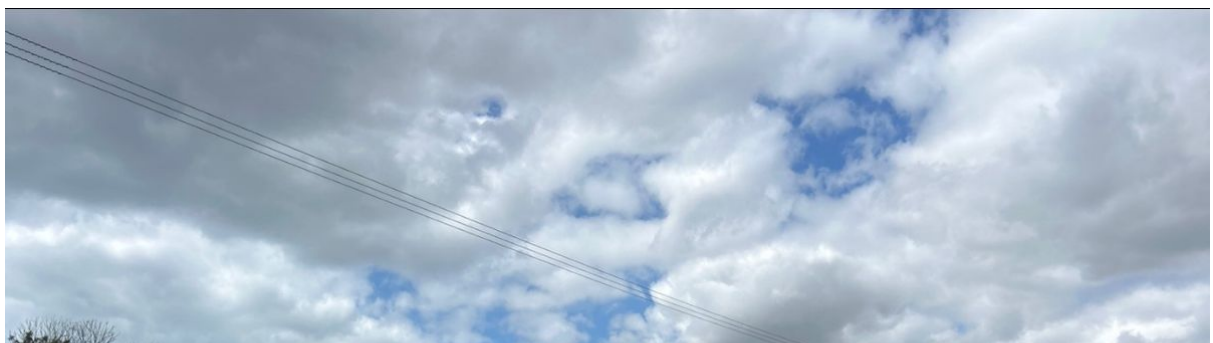


New Cow-wheat site on the Isle of Wight

In the 1800s, Field Cow-wheat was notorious for turning entire fields of wheat purple in its stronghold on the Isle of Wight. From this abundance, the species had been eliminated from all but one site at the turn of the century. We have been working with the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust over the last decade to reverse these losses.



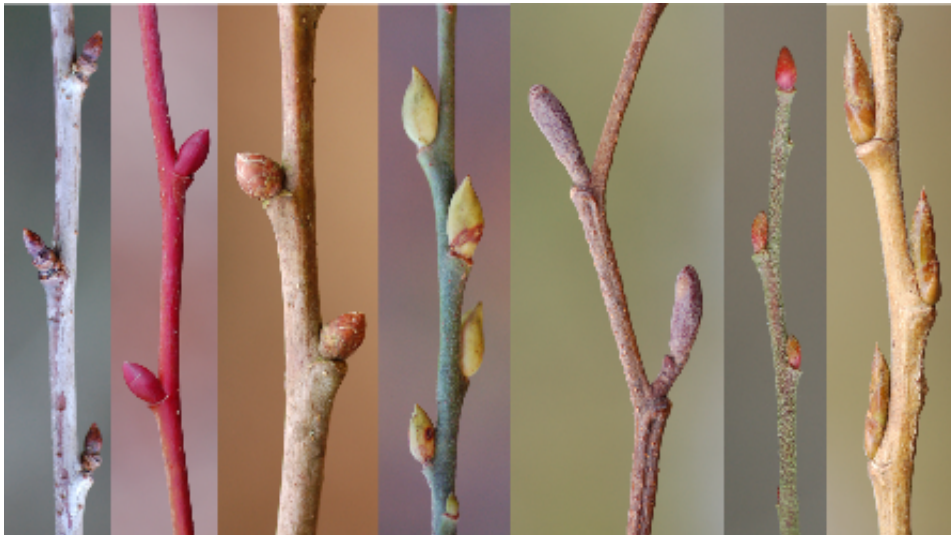
Five years ago we carried out some trial seedings in an arable plot, which is markedly different from the grassland sites it tends to favour now. After plants were able to persist in this environment this year, we upscaled this trial to involve a much larger plot using large amounts of seed that were collected from the native site which had bumper flowering. Watch this space!





Time for training

We ran well over 100 training courses in 2025, providing much needed funds to support our endangered species work. Our online training continues to run through the Autumn and Winter months and includes our popular Winter Trees course focussed on identification of trees when they are not in leaf. To book this or any of our courses, please visit the [SRT Eventbrite page](#).



[Click here to see our online courses](#)

Submitting records

Thank you so much to our volunteers for embracing (and persevering with) Coreo, our new data recording system. This is proving to be an extremely useful tool for us to manage the ever-increasing numbers of records we receive. If you have any outstanding records for 2025, please could you submit them ASAP via Coreo or email (monitoring@speciesrecoverytrust.org.uk).



Thanks to volunteers in Dorset this year - the number of subpopulations of Marsh Clubmoss known to us continues to grow.



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Species Recovery Trust
37 Albany Road
Salisbury, SP1 3YQ
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