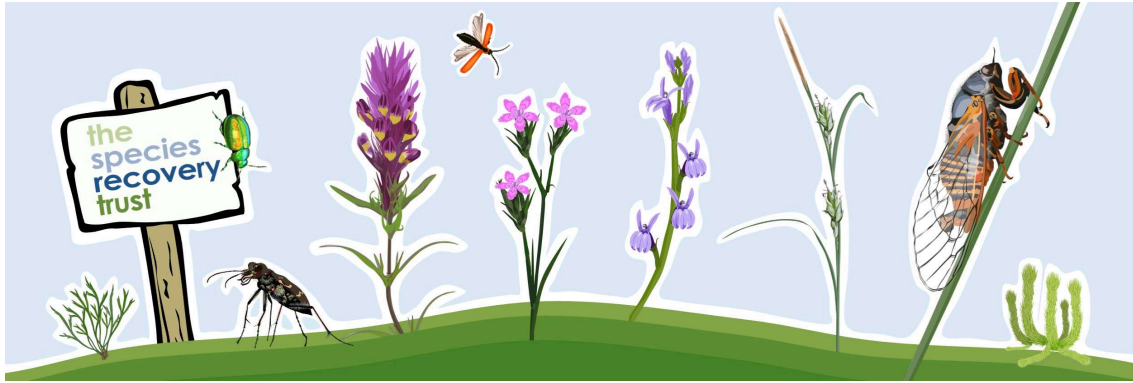




Species Recovery Trust Summer Newsletter

Conservation using grapefruit skins?! Surveying the Barred Green Colonel Soldierfly



Since 2024, The Species Recovery Trust has been working with Ian Andrews, Dr Judy Webb, Forestry England and The Deep Aquarium to safeguard one of Britain's most threatened insects: the Critically Endangered Barred Green Colonel soldierfly. This summer's surveys placed a new emphasis on the

often-overlooked larval stage, using hollowed grapefruit skins as ingenious “larvae lures”. The weekly checks have been remarkably successful, with larvae recorded consistently throughout June and July. Even more encouraging, individuals from this year’s breeding season are now appearing—an exciting sign that targeted monitoring is helping us better understand and protect this elusive species.



[Click here to find out more](#)

New Forest Cicada team pull off egg-citing operation at French military base



This year, we continued our mission to reintroduce the New Forest Cicada to the UK, pulling off an audacious operation at a French military base. Our team, equipped with special listening devices, gained entry to a military site in Brittany, collected samples of plants and brought them back across the border in a fridge. Hidden inside each sample was a valuable cargo: eggs. The bracken stems are now being kept in special enclosures in Paultons Park, where we hope the eggs will hatch.

[Click here to find out more](#)

Bumper year for Field Cow-wheat

Nearly all the Field Cow-wheat sites have recorded record numbers this year! Excitingly, this includes at our trial reintroduction sites, which means the survival of the species is now looking much more secure in the south of England.



[Find out more here](#)

Funding success for both plants and insects



We are really pleased to announce that we have been granted funding from Natural England under the Species Recovery Programme for three of our key projects.

Threatened Plants Programme – Making a Move for Plant Recovery: This project aims to safeguard and restore some of the UK's most threatened plants, including Childing Pink, Deptford Pink, Dwarf Milkwort, Field Eryngo, Field Gentian, Heath Lobelia, Marsh Clubmoss and Starved Wood-sedge.

Recovering Yorkshire's Priority Invertebrates: Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire's wetlands and moors are home to five remarkable invertebrates that exist nowhere else in Britain. Three of them—the Malham Sedge caddisfly, the Mire Pill Beetle and the Barred Green Colonel soldierfly—are red listed as **Critically Endangered**, while the Thorne Pin-Palp beetle and the Irish Major soldierfly are classed as **Vulnerable**.

SRT will lead targeted, innovative action to help these priority invertebrates recover. Working closely with local partners and specialists, the project will deepen understanding, restore vital habitats while putting in place essential measures to secure the future of these uniquely threatened invertebrates.

Reintroducing the New Forest Cicada: This will allow us to continue our current captive breeding project. We will bring cicadas over from France in both 2027 and 2028 and hope that they lay eggs in our enclosures at Paultons Park. We'll then aim to rear any cicada nymphs that hatch out in captivity, and hopefully one day reintroduce them to the New Forest. Alongside this, we will undertake habitat assessments and climate change modelling to identify potential sites for reintroduction.

Time for training

There's still time to squeeze some training in - we have a range of online and in person courses still available (but filling up fast!).



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



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