

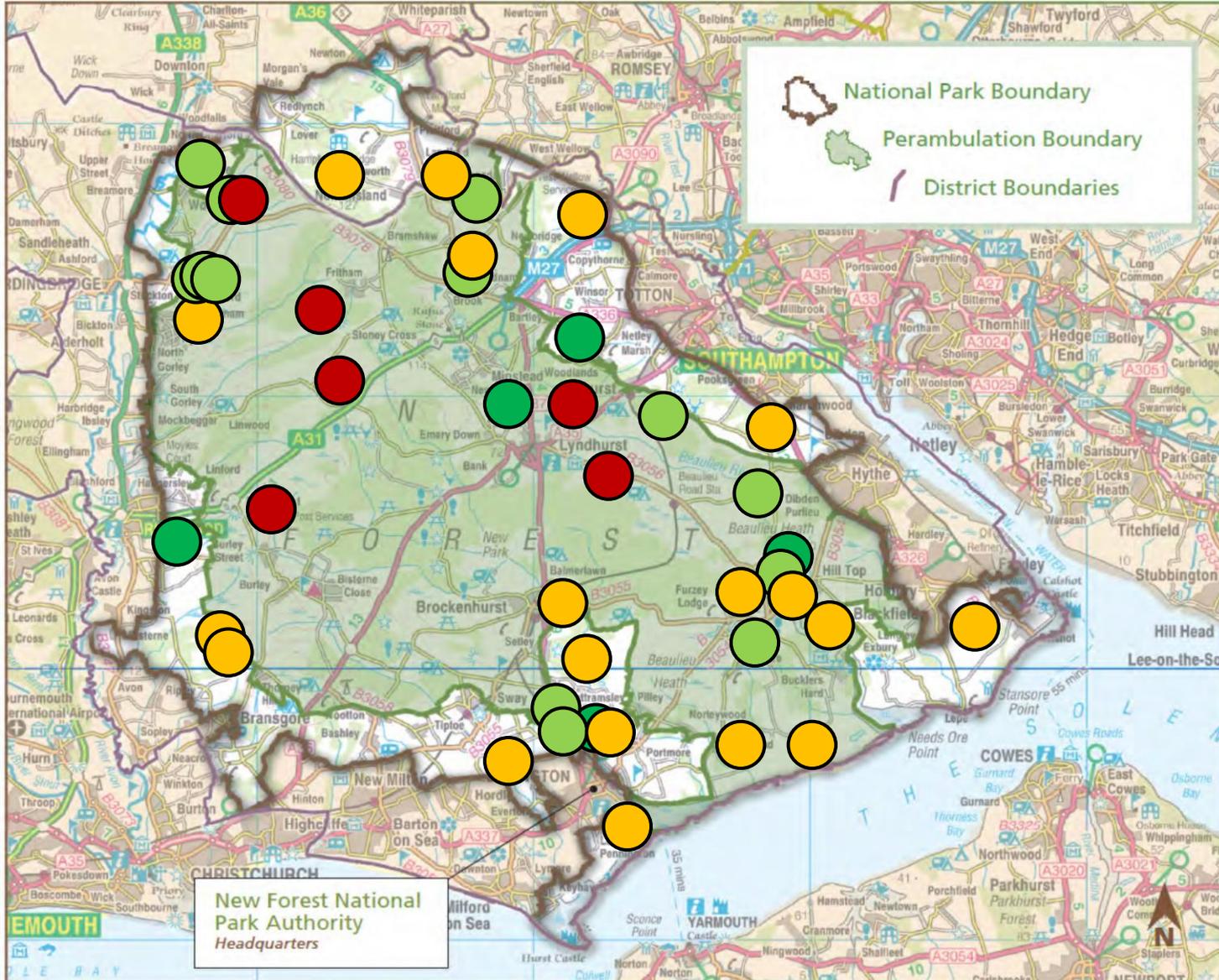
Survey and assessment of nationally rare and scarce invertebrates at four New Forest sites in 2025

Prof Russell Wynn (Wild New Forest CIC)



Wild New Forest CIC - ecological survey and monitoring

www.wildnewforest.org.uk



Wild New Forest

Private sites

-  2023 completed
-  2024 completed
-  2025 in progress

Crown Lands (FE)

-  2023-25 completed



Wild New Forest

New Forest Heathland Restoration Survey Report 2023-24

Author: Prof Russell Wynn (Director, Wild New Forest CIC)

Date submitted: 15 August 2025



Photo: Singing male Stonechat at Denny on 30 May 2023.

Introduction

- In 2025, Forestry England, on behalf of the New Forest HLS scheme, commissioned invertebrate surveys at four sites on the Crown Lands of the New Forest.
- The focus was on nationally rare, scarce, and notable 'conservation priority' species, but all other invertebrates were also recorded to enable assessment of species assemblages and habitat quality.
- The four sites predominantly comprised wet and dry heathland, acid grassland, and wetland (mire, bog, and fen) habitats.
- Two sites had recently restored following removal of conifer plantations and two sites comprised long-established open habitats.

Jonty Denton covered diurnal surveys; Russell Wynn covered nocturnal surveys



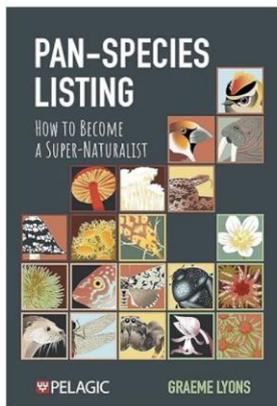
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Latest Update

Potentilla erecta x reptans = *P. x italica* added to [John Poland's Britain, Ireland, Isle of Man & Channel Islands life list](#).

6,765 species

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Listing Milestones

[John Poland](#) added *Potentilla erecta x reptans* = *P. x italica* to reach 6,699 species for [Yankee Blue](#)

Britain, Ireland, Isle of Man & Channel Islands Life List

467 lists

Rank	Lister	Total	Recent Tick
1	Jonty Denton	13,098	<i>Euryusa optabilis</i>
2	Graeme Lyons	9,788	<i>Psylliodes laticollis</i>
3	Stephen Plummer	9,497	Yellow Horned <i>Achlya flavicornis</i>
4	Mark Telfer	9,146	<i>Physarum album</i>
5	Steve Lane	9,024	<i>Hypotrachyna revoluta</i>
6	Stewart Wright	8,912	<i>Alternaria botrytis</i>
7	Andy Brown	8,750	<i>Rhizocarpon geographicum</i>
8	Andy Musgrove	8,528	<i>Golovinomyces valerianae</i>
9	Brian Eversham	7,929	<i>Xanthoparmelia conspersa</i>
10	Paul Bowyer	7,850	
11	Tony Davis	7,807	<i>Hydroptila simulans</i>
12	Tim Hodge	7,529	<i>Netelia millieratae</i>
13	William Bishop	7,507	<i>Norellia spinipes</i>
14	Kevin Rylands	7,461	<i>Lasius psammophilus</i>
15	Seth Gibson	7,334	<i>Lizonia emperigonia</i>
16	John Martin	6,842	<i>Nysius huttoni</i>
17	Calum Urquhart	6,837	<i>Tinotus morion</i>
18	Sam Thomas	6,826	<i>Agropyron abramitidis</i>

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Statistics

976 lists 629 listers 30,002 species

5,351,198 records by 80 listers
(203 species new to British Isles)



Sluifers Inclosure on 25 June 2025



Turf Hill on 01 May 2025



Rakes Brakes Bottom on 19 June 2025



Picket Plain on 16 Oct 2025





Results

- Most diurnal surveys were conducted in Apr-May. For nocturnal surveys, a total of 12 surveys was delivered, with surveys at each of the four sites in spring, summer, and autumn.
- A total of **808** invertebrate species was recorded across all sites during the survey including **102** priority species.
- The priority species list is dominated by Coleoptera (35 species), Lepidoptera (20 species), Araneae (17 species), Hemiptera (10 species), and Diptera (7 species), which together account for nearly 90% of all priority species.
- Several priority species, including the three nationally scarce native cockroaches, were regularly encountered across all the survey sites.



Small Grass Emerald (NS) at Picket Plain on 20 May 2025





Ringed Carpet (NS) at Picket Plain on 20 May 2025



Purple-bordered Gold (NS) at Rakes Brakes Bottom on 19 June 2025

Small Chocolate-tip (NS) at Slufters Inclosure on 25 June 2025



Rosy Wave (NS) at Turf Hill on 30 June 2025



Dotted Border Wave (NS) at Turf Hill on 30 June 2025



Bog Snout (NS) at Rakes Brakes Bottom on 18 July 2025





Phoenix Knot-horn (NS) at Slufters Inclosure on 19 Aug 2025



Dotted Fan-foot at Rakes Brakes Bottom on 19 June 2025



20x Southern Chestnut (NS) at Rakes Brakes Bottom on 10 Oct 2025



Male Glow-worm at Rakes Brakes Bottom on 19 June 2025



Bombardier Beetle (NS) at Picket Plain on 11 Aug 2025



Polistichus connexus (NS) at Slufters Inclosure on 19 Aug 2025



125 moth species at Turf Hill on 30 June 2025







English name	Scientific name	Picket Plain	Rakes Brakes	<u>Slufters</u>	Turf Hill
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Present	Present		
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>			Singing male	Singing male
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>			Calling	Calling
Dartford Warbler*	<i>Curruca undata</i>	Singing male	Singing male	Singing male	Singing male
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Singing male		Singing male	Singing male
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Singing male		Singing male	Singing male
Nightjar*	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	Singing male	Singing male	Singing male	Singing male
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>				Singing male
Snipe*	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Chipping male	Chipping male	Chipping male	Chipping male
Stonechat*	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	Singing male	Singing male	Singing male	Singing male
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>		Singing male		Singing male
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>				Singing male
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>				Singing male
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Singing male		Singing male	Singing male
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Roding male	Roding male	Roding male	Roding male

		S	T	P	R	S	T
English name	Scientific name	30/04	01/05	20/05	19/06	25/06	30/06
Barbastelle	<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>				✓		
Serotine	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Natterer's Bat	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>						✓
Noctule	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓
Common Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Soprano Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brown Long-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓



Summary

- The survey produced many records of rare/scarce species, including several that are new to the New Forest and others that are very infrequently recorded.
- The highlight of the nocturnal surveys was the unprecedented numbers of Southern Chestnut, including a new British record count of 58 on 14 Oct 2025.
- Pantheon outputs indicate that the invertebrate SATs for '*scrub-heath and moorland*' and '*Sphagnum bog*' are in **favourable condition at all four sites.**
- The invertebrate Species Quality Index (SQI) scores for the two SATs in favourable condition are highest at Turf Hill, but are broadly comparable across the four sites, **suggesting no significant difference between recently restored and established sites.**