

Growing Success

Buglife's Five Year Strategy 2008-2012

Summary Version



Buglife – The Invertebrate Conservation Trust is the only charity in Europe devoted to the conservation of all invertebrates, and is passionately committed to saving the small things that run the world. The charity was established in 2002 and has a strong conservation track record, saving sites that are home to endangered species; promoting the conservation of invertebrates to the public and land managers; undertaking research and surveys essential to planning effective action; and influencing policy and legislation so as to benefit endangered species. Buglife now has ten members of staff, the following are examples of their achievements:-

- Successfully lobbying to insert wording in the Clean Neighbourhoods Act 2005 that ensured that insects in the countryside would not be declared a public nuisance.
- Campaigning for the banning of the use of Cypermethrin as a sheep dip - sale was suspended in February 2006.
- Training over 500 people to identify bumblebees at workshops in Essex and London in 2007.
- Buglife's legal action to protect the biodiversity on West Thurrock Marshes resulted in the client (Royal Mail) pulling out of the development in 2008 – although as this is written a planning threat still hangs over the 36 rare and endangered insects on the site.



Mayflies and other aquatic invertebrates are declining - Pale Watery spinner (*Baetis fuscatus*) © Stuart Crofts

Buglife's aim is **'to stop the extinction of invertebrate species and to achieve sustainable populations of invertebrates'**. The work that the charity does is of vital importance because the food we eat, the fish we catch, the birds we see, the flowers we smell and the hum of life we hear, simply would not exist without bugs. Invertebrates underpin life on earth and without them the world's ecosystems would collapse. Bugs are also fantastic animals in their own right and once lost, they cannot be replaced.

There are currently great problems for invertebrates. Many populations are declining and many thousands of species are heading towards extinction. This strategy sets out the priorities for Buglife in terms of the conservation and awareness raising outcomes that the charity intends to achieve in the period 2008-2012.

Buglife Aim

To stop the extinction of invertebrate species and to achieve sustainable populations of invertebrates

We will achieve this by:

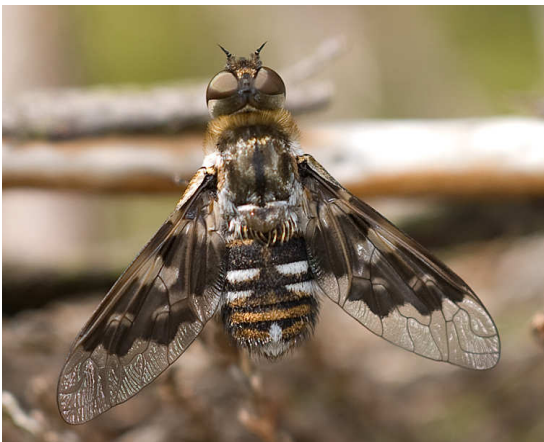
- Undertaking practical conservation projects.
- Promoting the environmental importance of invertebrates and raising awareness about the challenges to their survival.
- Assisting the development of legislation and policy.
- Developing and disseminating knowledge about how to conserve invertebrates.
- Encouraging and supporting invertebrate conservation initiatives by other organisations in the UK, Europe and worldwide.

Buglife itself is a complex life form with volunteers, trustees, Member Organisations, staff and individual supporters all being essential to its effective functioning. Buglife is a unifying force for the conservation of all invertebrates, and works in partnership with others to actively advance their collective aspirations for invertebrate conservation. Our conservation aims can only be achieved if all those with a desire to see invertebrate populations conserved pull together.

Buglife's vision is a world full of life, where other species can survive and thrive alongside human activities and where the biological heritage passed on to the next generation is as rich, or richer, than that passed on by the previous generation.

Buglife must raise awareness of the need for invertebrate conservation amongst the public and decision makers and will provide advice on how to conserve invertebrates directly to those whose actions could damage or aid invertebrate conservation

Our members and individual supporters are key to the success of Buglife; our members support the charity financially and give practical assistance when we are campaigning. Our members are also key to spreading messages about the importance of invertebrates and the need to conserve them.



Mottled beefly (*Thyridanthrax fenestratus*) – the proposed ecotown at Borden could either destroy or create habitat for this rare heathland fly © Christian Svane

The scale of the tasks that we have set out for Buglife over the next five years is considerable and we will need to raise additional resources so that we can achieve positive results for bugs. The Strategy sets out where and how we intend to secure the resources that we will need.

People are the most important part of any conservation organisation. We will foster and support our staff and will also increase the number of volunteers who are contributing time and effort to Buglife so that we can deliver results cost effectively.

We have redefined what we want the organisation to achieve and where we want to go, based on the successes of the charity to

date. Twenty-nine **Key Result Areas** have been defined covering conservation outcomes, awareness raising and how we work; we will assess the success of the charity against these Key Result Areas.

Conservation Key Result Areas

1 - To develop a 'State of the UK Invertebrates' report

We need a baseline and summary of existing knowledge of invertebrate conservation, including species status (where the data is already available), specific threats and measures needed to secure healthy populations. This will establish future requirements in research, survey and conservation policy delivery. In addition, we will encourage the relevant authorities to undertake reviews of groups of species to establish and update rarity (Red Data Book) and national scarcity statuses.

2 - To support a meaningful Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) process with Buglife taking the lead in conserving key BAP invertebrates

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan process is the mechanism whereby conservation organisations agree the priorities for nature conservation. The 431 UK BAP Priority invertebrates are all threatened and many will dwindle or go extinct unless they are understood and actively conserved. We will work to retain a meaningful BAP process with strong emphasis on delivery of conservation outcomes and with clear monitoring and accountability.

3 - To establish Buglife offices in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland/Ireland

Devolution means that increasingly decisions affecting invertebrates are taken at sub UK levels. We need to ensure that we are influential in the development of new policy and legislation affecting invertebrates Scotland, Northern Ireland/Ireland and Wales.

4 - To publish a report on the impacts of climate change on invertebrates

Climate change presents the greatest mid-to-long term threat to invertebrates, but we do not know how most invertebrates will cope with the predicted rates of change. The production of an authoritative report is an ambitious long-term outcome, however the foundations will be laid with research partners during the period of this strategy.

5 - To ensure that the SSSI network better represents, protects and sustains invertebrates

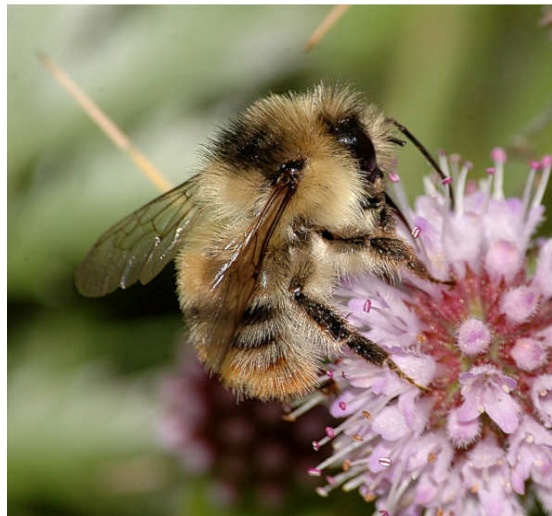
The Sites (or Areas in Northern Ireland) of Special Scientific Interest system was set up to conserve wildlife before the scale of threat facing invertebrates was known and hence it fails to include representative populations of many endangered bug species. Endangered invertebrates on SSSIs are frequently not listed as protected features or are not monitored. Buglife will work to ensure that the SSSI network has new site selection criteria for invertebrates; key invertebrate faunas are listed, and 'Condition' assessments properly reflect the status of endangered invertebrate species on the SSSI.

6 - To become a Lead Partner for the Biodiversity Action Plan habitat 'Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land'

'Brownfield land' supports an increasingly high proportion of rare and endangered invertebrates but is disappearing and is neglected by mainstream conservation. Buglife will take a lead role in ensuring that the new BAP priority habitat is conserved.

7 - To ensure that there are no preventable invertebrate extinctions in the UK

This will be delivered through a variety of methods, but will include site safeguard and influencing the formulation and enacting of policy that affects invertebrates.



The Shrill carder-bee (*Bombus sylvarum*) a bumble bee that has declined dramatically and is now dependant on flower rich brownfield sites in some areas © MJ Clark

8 - To ensure that the Marine Act contains suitable measures for the conservation of marine invertebrates

Human activities are having a huge impact on marine invertebrates. It is essential that the Marine Act receives assent and is robustly implemented. Buglife will continue to support the implementation of the Marine Bill through targeted campaigning work. We will also take an active role in the delivery of marine BAP species and habitats.

9 - To develop international invertebrate conservation by undertaking two or three international projects

Invertebrates are not just in trouble on mainland UK, there are invertebrate conservation issues across the globe. There is clearly the need, and the opportunity, for Buglife to promote invertebrate conservation in new geographical areas. During this period we will attempt to obtain funding for the development of a European invertebrate conservation NGO network.

10 - To expand Buglife's work on prioritised habitats

Buglife will develop project and policy work focussed on critical invertebrate habitats additional to the habitats that we have already been working on.

11 - To resolve and improve legislative 'biodiversity duties'

Recent legislation has introduced duties on public bodies to have regard to, or to further, the conservation of biodiversity. Opportunities will be taken to enforce existing duties and to input into reviews of the duties.

12 - EU policies that place a greater emphasis on the importance of conserving invertebrates

Advocacy, Awareness, and Knowledge and Skills Key Result Areas

13 - Outreach (awareness, training and membership) officer in post

14 - Annual sum of unique daily visitors to website increased by 50% (from 2008 to 2012)

15 - Increase in number and audience of media occurrences (from 2008 to 2012)

16 - 800 land managers and relevant officers trained in invertebrate conservation

17 - Fifteen Buglife bug hunts and similar events run per year averaged over 2011-12

18 - Education and training hub set up on website



Chestnut click beetle (*Anostirus castaneus*) – only now found at two sites in Britain – Buglife are taking action to prevent it being shaded out on one site
© Ben Hamers



The Crystal moss-animal (*Lophopus crystalinus*) – Buglife research is establishing the ecology and distribution of this much declined animal © micrographia

Resources and Capacity Key Result Areas

19 - To raise £600,000 restricted income in 2012

20 - To increase unrestricted income (KRA 21a) to £150,000/year averaged over 2011-12

21 - Less than 10% of 2012 income spent on fundraising

22 - To have 20 current corporate supporters by 2012

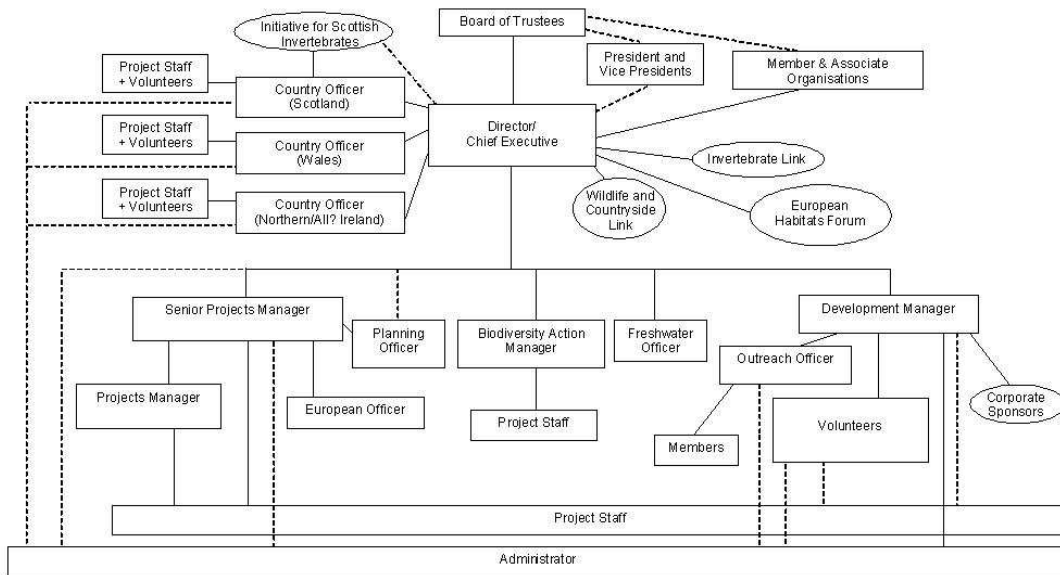
23 - To increase the number of members (KRA 24a) to 2,000 by December 2012

24 - To improve the retention of members to 80% in 2012

- 25 - To have recruited another 'A list' celebrity supporter by 2012
- 26 - To be able to claim gift aid on 70% of donations/subscriptions in 2012
- 27 - To have 40 regular Buglife volunteers by the end of 2012.
- 28 - Total of 30 Member Organisations in 2012
- 29 - To develop relationships with existing Member Organisations

Buglife has achieved much in its first six years and 'Growing Success' sets out a clear agenda for our work over the next five years. We will be safeguarding and benefitting threatened and declining populations of invertebrates across the UK and beyond, while also influencing and empowering society so that in the future conserving invertebrates is clearly established as an essential activity that benefits everyone.

2012 Target Structure of Buglife - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust



Buglife Staff 2008

Developed by Buglife staff and trustees with support from the Esmeé Fairbairn Foundation
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