

# LONG-HORNED TIMES



*By Peas4bees who are a grass-roots partnership between Trythall primary School and Kernow Ecology (Paddy Saunders)*

## Why the Long-horns ?

Long-horned Bee (Eucera Longicornis) is a nationally scarce pea family (legume) specialist. In Cornwall, Long-horn numbers have declined by 60%.

This bee is associated with late flowering species rich meadows:

PEAS4 BEES

- **Persuade:** others to help us; Landowners to let us create flower meadows;
- **Plant and grow:** Starting in small pots we grow natural legumes\* within 800 meters of the remaining colonies.
- **Protect and monitor:** the bees and the plants.



## What can you do to help?

**We would love to hear from people near any of the sites with large gardens.**

**We are also interested in Long-horn sightings.** Bear in mind we have no paid office staff when contacting.



See <http://kernowecology.co.uk/index.html> for information or contact us.

## ACTION ON SITES

**St Loy** Peas4bees have done three planting days and now make regular visits to manage and monitor at St. Loy. We are developing a management plan. We are very grateful to Sue and John, the owners, for putting up with regular invasions of school children through their gardens. The bee is doing quite well and several seen foraging on the Peas4bees plants in 2020. Another St Loy landowner received some plants in 2020 and has some Peas4bees growing nicely from previous years (Thanks very much Sally)

**Geevor** Peas4bees managed to plant out just before lockdown in 2020. About 200 legumes went in with some very large 2 year old plants both Meadow vetch and Everlasting pea. The plants established very well and Geevor mine staff have been very supportive of developing long term management plan. Although we haven't seen the bee on these plants yet, we hope to see them at this site soon.



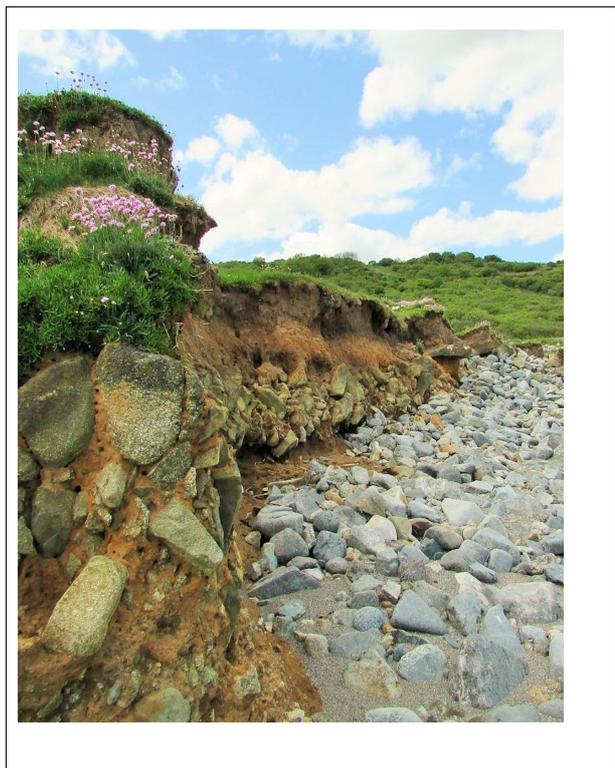


**Levant and Kendijack** KE (Kernow Ecology) surveyed as part of Wheal Buzzy Project and is developing management advice with National Trust partners. At Kenidjack NT have successfully re-created three scrubby meadow areas which have been used by the Long-horns in 2020. A NT block of restored wildflower meadows at Levant are working very well with expanded area of Tufted vetch with Long-horns using in 2020. PLP (Penwith Lanscape Partnership) have been boosting flowers on this site using green hay.

**Land's End** Paddy found a new site in 2020. A large patch of Tufted vetch in fields sucessfully managed for birds on private nature reserve. Peas4bees are advising and hope to support the landowner to manage the site for Longhorns.

**Towan** The NT site was planted in 2015 to augment existing legumes, quite a few ev, pea have survived and doing well. The colony is vulnerable, a lot of recent storm damage to soft cliffs and small area of flowers. National Trust have agreed a management plan for the most important flower patch. We hope to with help of the NT to devlop further habitat enhancements as this site is vulnerable.

**Lowland point NT** is probably one of the best sites in the SW with soft cliffs, extremely rich unimproved grassland and supports other threatened pollinators. However, its value could be improved as uniform summer grazing limits flowering at key times for bees. Peas4bees team hope to continue to work with the NT to aim to put better management in place,





**Looe** Paddy has been working with East Looe Town Trust partners for 4 years creating and managing 3 meadow areas on the Wooldown. The meadows and vetch planting is working well. In 2020 unfortunately only 1 Long-horn was seen in the meadows and 1 on the cliff. KE is approaching CC to ensure a county farm in West Looe has management appropriate to pollinators. FWAG and Edwina Hannaford are both working supportively with Peas4bees.

**St Agnes** In 2019 A colony was rediscovered at Trevallus through KE and WB. In 2020 no Long-horns were found. Although it should be noted, that the site was only visited once. The area is generally pretty rich in legumes, but inland legume abundance is poor and high level of bracken scrub.. Peas4bees hopes to continue to advise NT but is also really interested in hearing from anyone living within 1km of Trevallus who might consider letting us use some land for planting.

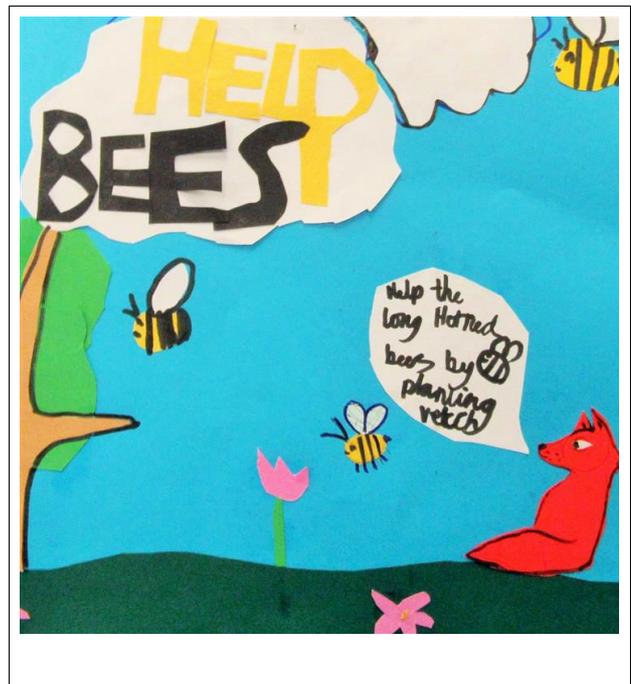


**Mousehole.** Long-horns were seen in 2019, KE unable to revisit in 2020. In 2019 we planted some legumes in two sites nearby but have been struggling to find suitable meadow sites. We would be interested in hearing from anyone living within 1km of Penlee Lifeboat Station who might consider letting us use a little land.

**Perranthuoe** this area has been very successful. Ash Pearson has to have the Long-horn outstanding achievement award of 2020. 7 or so large meadows under intensive arable were under-sown with legumes. This continued to work in 2020 and has been a massive boost to Long-horns (and also the scarce Clover Blunthorn bee). Other positive news. The team at Trenow farm have also planted legume rich strips. Peas4bees supplied everlasting pea plants to be planted by Trenow farm. Peas4bees are looking forward to surveying in 2021 hopefully the colony in this area is getting more secure.



**Boscaswell.** Some plants donated by Peas4bees to AONB project area in 2020.



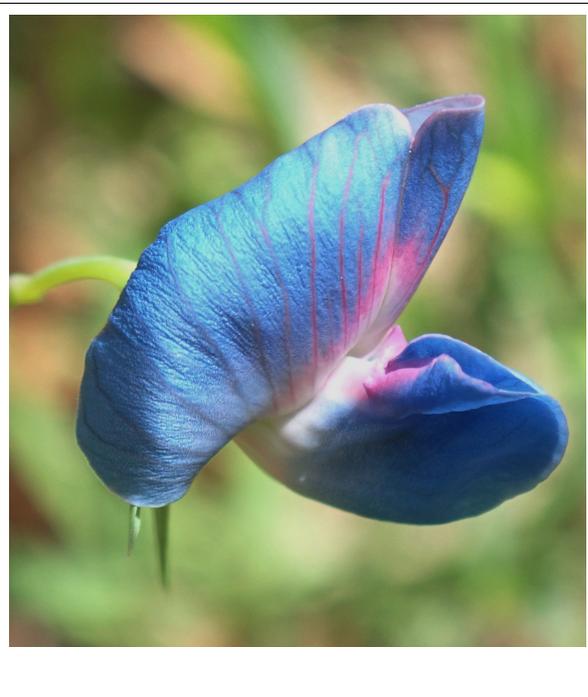
**The Lizard** Peas4bees team is really interested in hearing from any records from the Lizard, it seems likely that there might be a few more colonies.

## Science and surveys

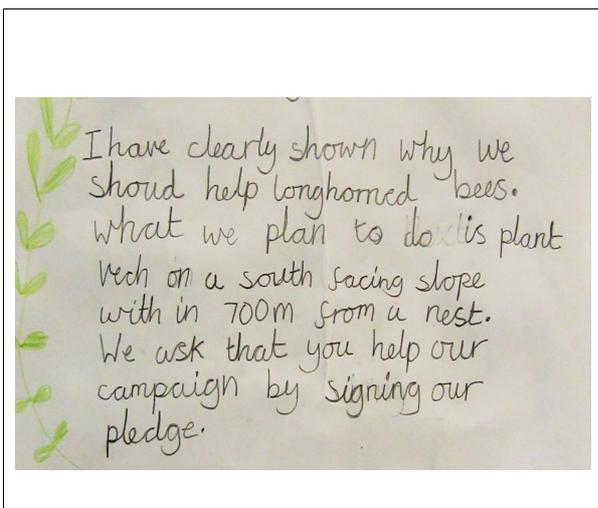
KE has been researching and monitoring the bee since 2014. Detailed study of flower or foraging preferences was published in British Wildlife in 2018. This was very important to guide any action, simply to establish what plant and where; the published information on this species was vague.

The main focus is now on monitoring sites. Although in future KE hopes to do work on nest soil requirements.

In 2019 KE and Bernard carried out a simple mark-recapture study. Through a bit of luck and patience we confirmed the bee is travelling from the nest 500m to Cape Cornwall.



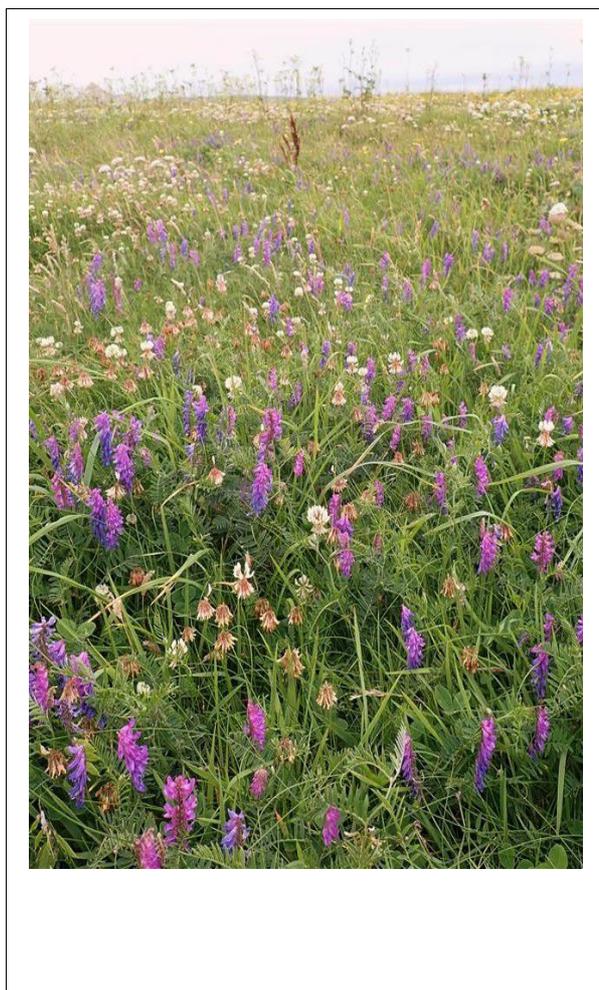
All the research is available on [kernowecology.co.uk](http://kernowecology.co.uk)



What flower ? How many and how far away ? are all simple questions to save bee species. There is lots of scope for the grass-roots naturalists to help answer these questions.

**Please contact KE or Bees4peas if you would like to be involved or want to know more.**

**The Peas4bees team would like to thank everyone who has helped make this project so successful.**



**Thanks to MBZ fund and the Lindsay Foundation., East Looe Town Trust, National Trust and Cornwall Area of outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)**

Photos Jay Williams or Paddy Saunders and artwork by Trythall School