

Mixing Incompatible Scare Stories

A charity called Buglife has apparently **warned** that

Rare insects that are vital for pollinating crops and feeding birds are threatened with extinction because of the Government's determination to build on brownfield sites.

An insect species can be rare, or it can be vital for pollinating crops and feeding birds. It cannot be both.

One wonders whether journalists even read their own scare stories. Or is it just a case of: if it's scary it must be true; if it's technology it must be bad.

Fri, 05/12/2006 - 12:44 | [digg](#) | [del.icio.us](#) | [permalink](#)

Glad to see The World back...

...it was missing for a couple of days there.

by [Solomon](#) on Sat, 05/13/2006 - 01:04 | [reply](#)

Re: Glad to see The World back...

Thanks!

Hardware problems ☹

by [Editor](#) on Sat, 05/13/2006 - 01:27 | [reply](#)

Bottom of the barrel

The government has severely curtailed the development of greenfield sites in response to environmental concerns and now the protestors want to limit the redevelopment of polluted ex-industrial sites as well? On a scale of conservation value, as far as such value exists at all, brownfield industrial sites are the bottom of the barrel. Even as an environmental scare-story this one is beyond lame. That they feel inclined to clutch at such straws probably says more about how *good* the world is getting rather than how bad it is.

Leigh

by a reader on Mon, 05/15/2006 - 14:46 | [reply](#)

Maybe they mean this

An insect species can be rare, or it can be vital for pollinating crops and feeding birds. It cannot be both.

Maybe these very particular birds they're speaking of need only minute amounts of this insect to survive. Just like we humans need a few micrograms a day of certain minerals to survive. In that case a population of say 1000 insects might be enough to keep say 20 million of these birds alive.

: -)

Henry Sturman

by **Henry Sturman** on Mon, 05/15/2006 - 14:56 | [reply](#)