

# THE CHANGING LIFECYCLE OF CABBAGE STEM FLEA BEETLE



Much of the work monitoring the lifecycle of the cabbage stem flea beetle (CSFB), a major UK pest in oilseed rape crops, was carried out in the late 1990s. The suggestion then was that adult beetles hatch and emerge in late spring/early summer. It is possible that the pest has evolved since then and to understand how to implement IPM strategies, we need to fully understand the pest's lifecycle and timings now.

## Focus on NIAB research

Insect emergence traps (Figure 1) were placed in oilseed rape stubbles in Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire in late summer 2021 to see if CSFB adults are emerging much later than the previously thought late spring/early summer. Large numbers of adults were detected emerging from the soil in late August, and they were still emerging when the traps were removed for winter in mid-October (Figure 2).

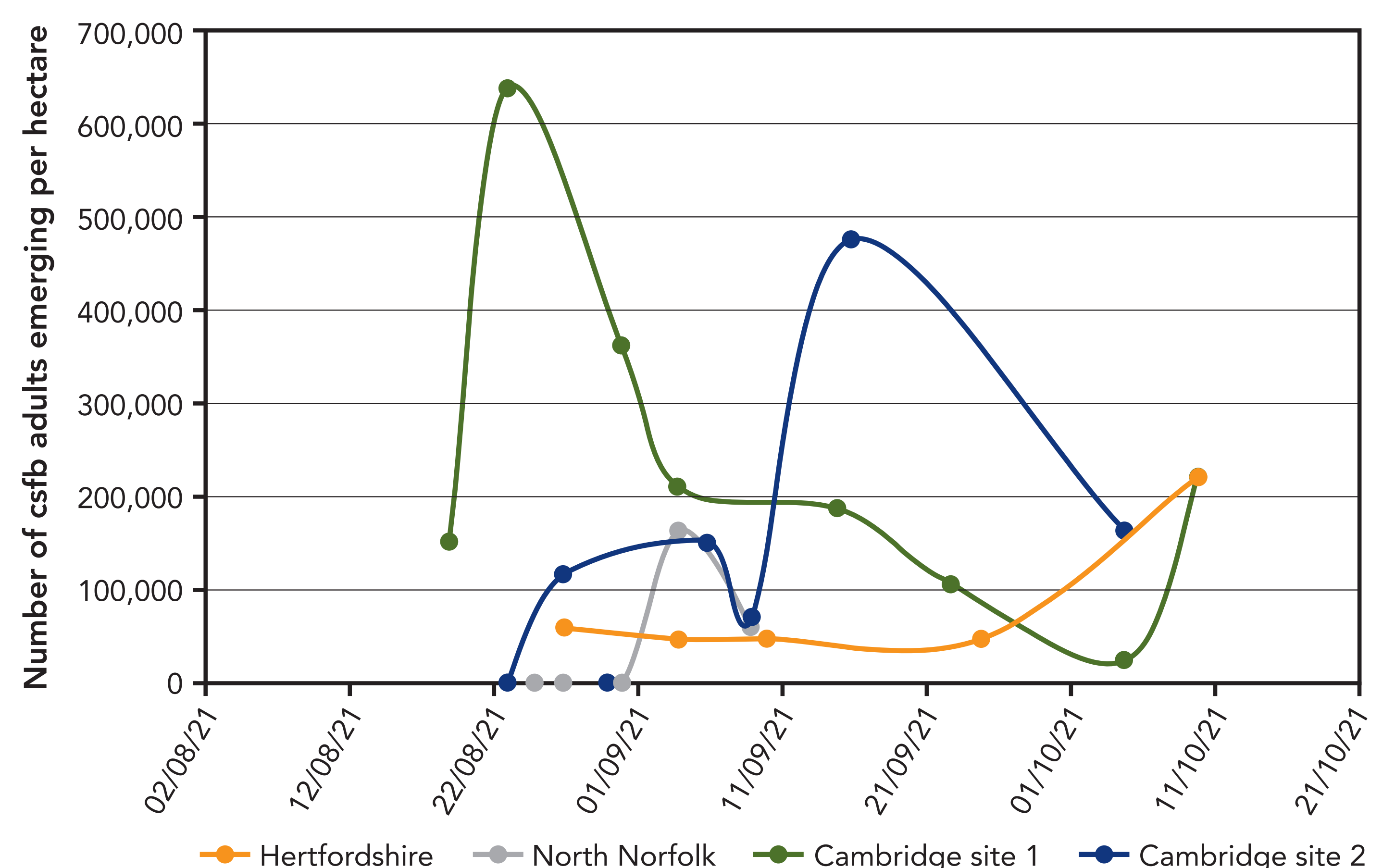
Figure 1. Insect emergence trap, developed by Rothamsted Research



## Next steps

NIAB will monitor emergence from late spring 2022 to summer 2023 to see if this is replicated. It is known that that some CSFB adults emerge before harvest but it is uncertain what percentage this is of the final population. A later emergence may provide the opportunity for IPM strategies with trap cropping to reduce stem larval numbers later in the season.

Figure 2. CSFB adult emergence in late summer 2021



## csfbSMART – ‘Sharing Management and Agronomy Research Tools’

The research project aims to test management methods and tools for use against cabbage stem flea beetle on UK farms, with OSR growers provided with information on how to implement and assess these management strategies.

csfbSMART partners and funders include:



csfbSMART industry taskforce includes Agrovista, AICC, BASF, Bayer CropScience, Cotton Farm Consultancy Ltd, DSV, Elsoms, Frontier, Innovative Farmers, KWS UK, Limagrain, LS Plant Breeding, RAGT, Sentry Ltd, Syngenta, Tuckwell Farms, United Oilseeds and Yara.