

## **RARE ISLAND SPIDER RECORD**

**Dr Colin Pope**

In late July, Mark Coventry discovered a distinctively marked spider in one of his meadows at Luton Farm, Northwood (SZ4892). He sent the specimen to Peter Harvey, an expert from Essex, for identification. He was able to confirm its identity as an adult female *Araneus angulatus*, the first Island record. This is a rare species with fewer than 20 post-1992 records, largely confined to the south coastal counties of England. Peter Harvey states that the species will probably be classified as Nationally Scarce / Notable, but this would be based on out of date information used for a 1990 review.

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*Footnote:* This may not be the first record for the Island. It is recorded from Bouldnor and Ningwood Common by William Falkner (*Proc: Isle Wight nat. Hist. Archaeol Soc. Vol 2, Pt 2, P 118, (1931)*). There is also an unconfirmed record by David Biggs from Bouldner Copse on 24.08.91.



Rare Island Spider *Araneus angulatus*  
*Photo Colin Pope*