

Common Beetles

A series of ID guides to help you discover more of Leicestershire's wonderful wildlife

Beetles are one of the most diverse animal groups around with over 2000 species in Leicestershire alone. Most can fly but hide their wings under hard wing cases. They can be found in almost every habitat, including houses, water and inside wood and fungi. Locally they range in size from 1mm to 30mm
When viewing online, simply click on the species name to find out more.



[7 Spot Ladybird – *Coccinella septempunctata*](#)

ID: 6-8mm. 3 black spots on each side plus a larger central spot. Hibernates, often in groups.

Where: Very common. Found on all types of vegetation, where it feeds on aphids.

Similar: The [Harlequin](#) is a similar size but has more white behind the head.



[Harlequin Ladybird – *Harmonia axyridis*](#)

ID: 8mm. As the name suggests there are many varieties. All have a white triangle behind the head.

Where: Extremely common in trees and shrubs.

Similar: Despite the many colour forms, its large size and the white patches behind the head make it easy to recognise. Only the [7 Spot](#) might appear similar.



[2 Spot Ladybird – *Adalia bipunctata*](#)

ID: 4-5mm. Usually red with 2 black spots and black legs. Other colour forms can be found but are uncommon.

Where: Common on vegetation. Parks, gardens. Hibernates overwinter, sometimes indoors.

Similar: The 10 Spot Ladybird is a similar size but has orange legs.



[14 Spot Ladybird - *Propylea quatuordecimpunctata*](#)

ID: Yellow and black chequer-board pattern. If handled may 'bleed' an orange pungent liquid as a defence.

Where: Common on shrubs and in ground vegetation from May to September. Feeds on aphids.

Similar: None.

Become a citizen scientist! If you can spot any of these species, why not submit your sighting at www.naturespot.org.uk and contribute to our scientific knowledge of local wildlife. Record data submitted by the public is vital to conservation. Simply register online then follow the guidance on the Submit Records page.

Other common Leicestershire beetles to check out:

[22 Spot Ladybird](#), [Pine Ladybird](#), [Kidney-spot Ladybird](#), [Vine Weevil](#), [Scarlet Lily Beetle](#), [Rosemary Beetle](#)



Common Red Soldier Beetle – *Rhagonycha fulva*

ID: 8-10mm. All red/orange with black tips to the wing cases. The orange abdomen often protrudes.

Where: Flowers such as Hogweed.

Similar: None.



Black Clock Beetle – *Pterostichus madidas*

ID: 15-20mm. All black (there is a red-legged form). Very rounded pronotum (arrowed).

Where: Under stones, logs and in grass tussocks.

Similar: There are many all-black beetles but none of this size with such a rounded pronotum.



Swollen-thighed Beetle – *Oedemera nobilis*

ID: 8-10mm. Green with very enlarged femora (thighs) in the male. Females lack these.

Where: Flowers where it feeds on pollen.

Similar: Male (none).



Cardinal Beetle - *Pyrochroa serraticornis*

ID: 20mm. All-red with black antennae and legs. The antennae look serrated.

Where: Sun-bathing on trunks and leaves. It is a predator and hunts on low vegetation.

Similar: The [Black-headed Cardinal](#) (black head!)



Wasp Beetle – *Clytus arietis*

ID: 16mm. Yellow stripes on black. Red/brown legs. A wasp mimic in both colour and movement but totally harmless. May-July.

Where: Fences and tree trunks. Hedgerows, woods.

Similar: None.



Lesser Stag Beetle -*Dorcus parallelipipedus*

ID: To 30mm. Black with large jaws.

Where: Under logs & stones. May-Sept. Feeds on dead wood.

Similar: None. This is the largest beetle in Leicestershire.

Find more Leicestershire
Wildlife ID Guides at:
www.naturespot.org.uk/IDguides



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