

SHERWOOD SHEET 1

THE LADYBIRDS OF FOREST



Ladybirds include some of the most popular and easily recognised beetles.

There are currently around 42 species resident in the UK, but not all are obvious as being from the same group and are typically very small beetles, only a few millimetres long. All of the common ladybirds can be found at Sherwood Forest, but some rarer species that are more specific in the habitat requirements also occur.



The Striped Ladybird is a difficult one to find at Sherwood Forest and prefers heathland areas where Pine trees grow. Searching the growth tips of young trees growing in quite shaded locations, has often been the best way to find it.

Despite the suggestion in it's common name, the Pine Ladybird is not totally reliant on Pine trees at all. It occurs quite commonly with other ladybirds at Sherwood Forest, on Oak and Silver Birch trees. The Heather ladybird is another species that prefers Sherwood's heathland areas. Very similar to the Pine Ladybird, but slightly smaller, Heather Ladybirds are difficult to find.

The commonest of all the ladybirds at Sherwood Forest has to be the 7-spot Ladybird. Widespread and sometimes abundant, the 7-spot Ladybird is without doubt, the most easily recognised ladybird of all. It is a large species, preferring low vegetation, rather than trees and during the Winter months, groups cluster together on twigs, dead flower heads or stems, exposed to even the coldest of temperatures.

Another large ladybird is the Harlequin. First arriving in the UK in 2004, this multi coloured Asian species has since spread as far far north as Scotland. The Harlequin is common at Sherwood Forest, but may pose a threat to some species.

Ladybirds illustrated

- 1 Harlequin Ladybird
- 2 18-spot Ladybird
- 3 Heather Ladybird
- 4 14-spot Ladybird
- 5 2-spot Ladybird
- 6 Pine Ladybird
- 7 10-spot Ladybird
- 8 7-spot Ladybird
- 9 Striped Ladybird

