

SHERWOOD

SHEET 1

THE BEETLES OF

FOREST

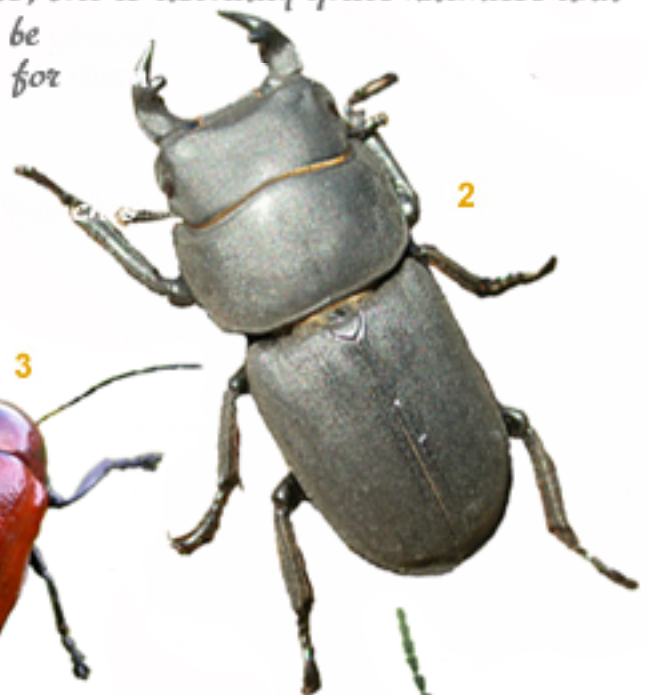
Sherwood Forest is well known across the world as the traditional home of the Robin Hood legend. But it is perhaps less well known to the many thousands who pass the Major Oak each year, that the forest is also home to over 1,000 species of beetle. Many of these are nationally scarce or rare and for one or two species, Sherwood Forest is the only known site where they occur in the UK! The most well known of these is the Hazel Dot Beetle, a small, bright red leaf beetle, which was rediscovered at Sherwood in 2008, around 70 years after it was last seen. Tree thinning work to help the

Hazel Dot Beetle survive, has created additional habitat and with a captive breeding programme in place, it is hoped that the future for this beetle will be more secure.



Whilst the Hazel Dot Beetle represents Sherwood Forest's rarest beetle, the forest itself, represents a nationally important site for its range of beetles relying on dead wood as part of their life cycle. One of the largest species is the Lesser Stag Beetle, which may look quite fierce with its large jaws, but is actually quite harmless and can be picked up quite safely. They can occasionally be found wandering on paths, so always keep a look out for them. Similarly, Sherwood Forest is also home to several species of bright red and black Click Beetles. These also live as larvae in dead wood and decaying branches. Click Beetle larvae are often called 'wireworms' and some species can be serious pests of crops.

Within the past 100 years, Sherwood Forest has seen many species of beetle disappear, yet new beetles are colonising the forest for the very first time. Sherwood Forest is a special place with special trees. Whether they be old or new, dead or alive, its trees are home to many rare beetles.



Beetles illustrated

1 Green Weevil

2 Lesser Stag Beetle

3 Hazel Dot Beetle

4 Click Beetle

5 Ground Beetle

