

SHERWOOD SHEET 2

THE BEETLES OF FOREST

Home to over 1,000 species of beetle, Sherwood Forest is one of the most important sites for its species diversity in the UK. Sherwood Forest's geographical location, is just one reason why so many species have been found here. Being located in the middle of the UK, means that beetles which are at the southern or northern limits of their range, can be found. Among the beetles found at Sherwood, is a spectacular longhorn beetle called *Saperda scalaris*. This is a large beetle and surely the most striking species to be found here. It is a rare find for those who search for it and is one of many beetles dependant on dead wood. Oak is its preferred choice and sometimes this beautiful beetle, can be found on log piles.



Less attractive are the ground beetles. These are familiar beetles, often found on garden paths after rain and sometimes commonly known as 'rain beetles'. One of our most impressive ground beetles is the Violet Ground Beetle. It is a large, black beetle, but strongly tinted with a metallic violet colour. There are several similarly large and coloured species found at Sherwood Forest and all have ferocious looking larvae. Both adults and larvae are predators, eating other insects and their larvae.

Characterised by their typically long snouts, weevils are seed or leaf eating beetles. The Oaks at Sherwood Forest have many different weevils that live on them, of which the Acorn Weevil is the most regularly found. A small, brown weevil, with a snout (rostrum) almost as long as its body, it is responsible for the small holes sometimes found on fallen acorns.



Beetles illustrated

1 & 6 Violet Ground Beetle (larva and adult)

2 Acorn Weevil

3 *Saperda scalaris*

4 Rove Beetle

5 *Corticeus unicolor*

