



Identify 100 Species – Beetles

10 species you are likely to find in Leicestershire and Rutland

How easy is it to identify?

Easy



Care needed



Target species

7 Spot Ladybird – *Coccinella septempunctata* ●

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

Similar species: The [Harlequin](#) is a similar size but has more white behind the head and doesn't have this spot pattern.

Where to look: Very common. Found on all types of vegetation.

About: A great pest controller! Both larva and adults eat aphids.

Recording: A photo is needed.



Harlequin Ladybird – *Harmonia axyridis* ●

ID: 8mm. As the name suggests there are many varieties. All have a white triangle behind the head. The pupa (bottom left) are common on tree leaves.

Similar species: 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.

Where to look: Extremely common in trees and shrubs.

About: An invasive species which outcompetes (and eats) native ladybirds.

Recording: A photo is needed.



Common Red Soldier Beetle – *Rhagonycha fulva* ●

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

Similar species: None.

Where to look: Flowers such as Hogweed.

About: Sometimes called the 'bonking beetle' as mating pairs are very frequent!

Recording: A photo is needed.



Other common Leicestershire beetles to check out:

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

2 Spot Ladybird – *Adalia bipunctata* ●

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

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

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

About: This was our most common ladybird before the Harlequin arrived!

Recording: A photo is needed.



To find out more about the [100 Species Challenge](#), how to submit records of your sightings and lots more about the wildlife of Leicestershire and Rutland, visit www.naturespot.org.uk.

14 Spot Ladybird - *Propylea quattuordecimpunctata* ●

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

Similar species: None.

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

About: Feeds on aphids.

Recording: A photo is needed.



Black Clock Beetle – *Pterostichus madidas* ●

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

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

Where to look: Under stones, logs, grass tussocks. Parks, gardens, woods.

About: Active during the day but more so at night. Will scavenge. Flightless.

Recording: A photo is needed.



Swollen-thighed Beetle – *Oedemera nobilis* ●

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

Similar species: Male (none). Females are similar to other *Oedemera*.

Where to look: Flowers where it feeds on pollen.

About: This species was only found in the south of England until the 1990's when it expanded rapidly, soon reaching Leicestershire. It is now common.

Recording: A photo is needed.



Cardinal Beetle - *Pyrochroa serraticornis* ●

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

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

Where to look: Sun-bathing on trunks and leaves. Near to woodland with fallen timber.

About: It is a predator and hunts on low vegetation but will also eat pollen.

Recording: A photo is needed.



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.

Similar species: None.

Where to look: Fences and tree trunks. Hedgerows, woods, parks, gardens.

About: They fly readily. Adults feed on pollen and small insects. Eggs are laid in bark crevices of fallen trees and logs and the larvae feed on the wood.

Recording: A photo is needed.



Lesser Stag Beetle -*Dorcus parallelipedus* ●

ID: To 30mm. Black with large jaws.

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

Where to look: Under logs & stones, particularly around dead wood. Woods, parks, some gardens. May-Sept. Feeds on dead wood.

About: They fly readily and will come to light. Closely related to the Stag Beetle which is only found in the south of England.

Recording: A photo is needed.

