

Survey Guide – Tiger Beetles

Heath Tiger Beetle – *Cicindela sylvatica*

Description:

The largest of the tiger beetles, it can reach 19mm in length. Charcoal-black to dark brown in colour, with a large mandible and pale yellow markings on the wing cases. It can be distinguished from other tiger beetle species by its black labrum (the plate over the base of the jaws). Other tiger beetle species have a pale labrum.

Habitat:

It is found on sandy heathland with patches of bare ground. It is currently found in Dorset, Hampshire, Sussex and Surrey.

Confusable species:

It can be confused with the Dune Tiger Beetle. Dune Tiger Beetles are largely found on coastal dunes and so the habitat is the best distinguishing feature. It has occasionally been confused with the Green Tiger Beetle, but they are very different in colour if seen close.



Green Tiger Beetle – *Cicindela campestris*

Description:

A large, bright green beetle with creamy-white spots on its wing cases. It has long brown legs with whitish hairs and ranges from 10-15mm in length.

Habitat:

Throughout UK on lowland heathland with extensive bare and sandy ground and patches of tall heather. Also increasingly found on brownfield sites.

Confusable species:

It has occasionally been confused with the Heath Tiger Beetle, but they are very different in colour if seen close.



What to record

- Numbers and types of beetles
- Location (grid reference or GPS if possible)
- Numbers of larval burrows
- Availability of suitable habitat (i.e. percentage of bare ground cover)

Please record on Living Record if possible