

Species Factsheet

the
species
recovery
trust

Cicindela sylvatica



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Heath Tiger Beetle

Description: The largest of the tiger beetles, it can reach 19mm in length. Charcoal-black in colour, with a black labrum, large mandible and pale yellow markings on the wing cases.

Lifecycle: Adults breed in late spring to early summer and are found from late April to early September. Both adults and larvae are predatory. Larvae dig burrows in the soil from which they can ambush their prey, while adults actively hunt other invertebrates.

Habitat: Lowland heathland with extensive bare and sandy ground and patches of tall heather.

Distribution: Occurs throughout north, central and north-west Europe. In the UK, restricted to Dorset, Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire

Status: Classified as endangered.

Reasons for decline: The conversion of heathland for agriculture, forestry and development. In addition, the decline in the quality of the remaining heathland, for example, through scrub encroachment reducing the amount of bare ground. Also may be limited by poor dispersal ability.

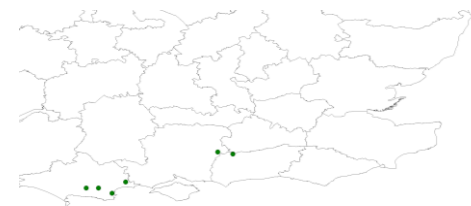
Protection under the Law: It is listed as "a species of principal importance" under Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006) and is included on the UK BAP list of priority species (2007).

What we are doing:

- Setting up a monitoring network of volunteers to survey for the beetle so that we can accurately map its distribution and plan future conservation work
- Investigating the habitat requirements and dispersal ability of the beetle

What you can do:

- If you live locally, volunteer to survey for the beetles or to become a site monitor
- Become a species supporter and help fund the project



Conservation Status:
Endangered

Threat of extinction:
Very High

Main Threats:
Decline in
quality and
extent of
heathland