

**LEICESTERSHIRE
ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**Recent records of scarce
VC55 beetles**

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Rhinocylus conicus GL Finch

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Introduction

The total number of beetle species for the British Isles is currently around 4,072 (Duff, 2012). In Leicestershire & Rutland (VC55) over 2,000 have been recorded although it is quite difficult to get a precise count as the checklists have changed dramatically and new species have been added in recent years. Also, our late county coleopterist, Derek Lott, did have reservations about certain records and recorders. Approximately 4,000 records have been added over the last four years although the majority of these represent the more noticeable species. Nevertheless, due to industrious fieldwork and, of course not being denied our fair share of luck, several new species have led to a creditable list of the more notable species in VC55. Included are some noteworthy range extensions and even a good number with a Nationally Notable status.

The following account is a summary of species that are (i) first records for the county, (ii) of particular interest based on county rarity or (iii) have not been seen for a long time. Derek Lott's VC55 Coleoptera database has been used as the baseline for this report but very few records were entered during his illness. Accordingly 2010 and most of 2011 were years in a kind of limbo or interim state with hardly any collection and co-ordination of records occurring. In 2012 I managed to get hold of the database from our Local Records Centre with a view to assembling a checklist of coleoptera recorded within the two counties. Since then numerous records have been submitted coming from a variety of sources including serious individual coleopterists, enthusiastic casual observers and a few ongoing projects. In addition, towards the end of 2014 two important data sets (obtained from visiting ecologists undertaking consultancy work locally) contributed noteworthy records including six new species to VC55. No doubt a number of records will have passed under the radar or may not have been submitted anywhere at all but, hopefully, some of these will come to light at a later date.

Whilst working on this checklist it became apparent just how many of these records were of significance. I have tried to include the most relevant species and have also included brief additional information to make the record a little more meaningful and interesting. While some of the species given will not necessarily seem particularly rare, it may be that they have not had the time spent looking for them and so targeted searches will no doubt generate many more records. There are other records but these will require further confirmation before being committed to the full database. It will be noticed that several of the species mentioned (especially Chrysomelidae and Curculionidae) will often have a specific relationship to a particular or closely related host plant species. Searching out these hosts would, without doubt, add locations to some of our scarcer species and add new county records.

Some history of beetle recording in VC55

Derek Lott always encouraged an interest in beetles forming the Leicestershire Coleoptera Recording Scheme (CRS) to achieve this. As far as can be determined, three Newsletters were produced by the CRS, the first in February 1984 introducing and describing the aims of the scheme. These Newsletters (summarized below) served to illustrate how beetle recording was to be undertaken.

Newsletter No.1 (February 1984) described the aims of the Leicestershire Coleoptera Recording Scheme as:

- (1) To collect records of beetles from Leicestershire into a single, readily accessible data bank;
- (2) To foster the recording of information on beetles in Leicestershire;
- (3) To publish a list of beetles recorded in Leicestershire;
- (4) To publish an atlas showing the modern distribution and status of species of beetle in Leicestershire;
- (5) To provide information and advice on the scientific interest of sites in Leicestershire with special regard to beetles

A comprehensive field program of nine monthly meetings was proposed from March through to November.

Newsletter No.2 (March 1985) emphasised the importance of keeping and updating an accurate species index to be used to give a visual account of the distribution of not just the records for individual species but also to highlight recorder effort. A distribution map of *Agabus bipustulatus* was used as an example. Also mentioned were the two

workshops held in 1984, mainly on Carabids, and the proposal for a field meetings program from May through to October for the present year. The results of the previous year's field trips were set out in a tabular format stating the families and the species with a code describing the locations. For example A = "under bark and in rotten wood of old Willows, riverside meadow". Also included was a list of attendees at each meeting.

Newsletter No.3 (April 1986) followed the same format but the front page was illustrated with line drawings of two noteworthy captures - *Brachyusa concolor* and *Platycis minuta* - made during the 1984 field meetings. It was reported that a specimen of *B. concolor* (although not identified at the time) was collected 28 April 1984 at The Wailes (Frisby on the Wreake) and put away with other Staphylinidae for a rainy day. Two years later it was finally identified and proved to be this very scarce and little known species. A specimen of *P. minuta*, with red elytra and a black fore-body, was found resting on a stump in Launde Big Wood turning out to be a first record for VC55. The outing to Saddington Reservoir was the only pre-arranged field meeting for 1986 being one of Derek's favorite sites. He followed up with the statement "This meeting should not be missed, as this site is proving to be the best marginal aquatic site in the county". A report on the previous year's meetings results followed.

Identification of beetles

It is not the intention of this paper to exhaustively describe the ways in which beetles are identified. Instead a list of relevant publications is appended which should aid in such recording.

Scarcer beetles recorded

The following gives information about those scarcer beetles recorded over the last four years up to 3 February 2015. National designations assigned to certain species are taken from the NBN Gateway supplied by Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). The VC55 designations are taken from Leicestershire Red Data Books Beetles (Lott, 1995). Species accounts follow those of Duff (2012). There are many other species that have not been seen for several years that could have been included but I have tried to limit it to notable species that have been recorded fairly recently and/or those that have a reasonable chance of being found or re-found in VC55.

Dytiscidae

Rhantus grapii Gyllenhal 1808 (10.0-11.0mm; Fig 1)

Added to the county list from Priory Water (26 April 2012; F Clark and T Cook). Favouring stagnant shallow and shaded, usually found amongst dead leaves and other vegetation. There are a paucity of records from the midland areas with the closest probably from Derbyshire. Very similar to the very common *Agabus bipustulatus* so a specimen will be required for confirmation.

Hygrotes nigrolineatus Stephen 1808 (3.6-3.9mm)

Nationally scarce

With just five previous records they are Watermead (20 April 1996; D Lott), 3 records from Sence Valley Forest Park (all in September 1998; D Lott) and the fifth Edith Weston (1999; P Kirby). The latest record is from Priory Water (26 January 2012; F Clark and T Cook) confirming the bulk of the records have been taken from relatively new wetland sites. RES Key Vol. 4 Part 5 (2nd Ed) Water Beetles of Britain and Ireland (Part 1) in fact states "recently created or disturbed still water with minimal vegetation". It's possible this species could be found on other similar wetland sites such as recently created fishing lakes etc. Although strikingly patterned there are other similar species so the specimen will be required for confirmation.

Carabidae

Cicindella campestris Linnaeus 1758 (12-17mm; Fig 2)

VC55 R

First record by George Crabbe in the 1700s from the Vale of Belvoir (Nicholls, 1795) with most modern records coming from Bradgate Park and Ketton Quarry possibly because of the suitable habitats and frequent visits by recorders. *C. campestris* has also been recorded since the 1940s from a variety of sites e.g. Newell Wood (latest record 1983), Clipsham (latest record 2000), and Geeston Quarry (latest record 1995) all near present day strongholds - these sites ought to be searched to see if it is still present. Recently, the dry heath habitat of Newfield Colliery (NW Leicestershire) has produced additional records. This is an area that would benefit from regular survey in the hope that other heath-loving specialists may be found. There is a record from Waltham (a vague date of 1960 to 1974) not too far from the Vale of Belvoir and a 1992 record from Acresford Sandpit.

Notiophilus rufipes Curtis 1829 (4.9mm)

New to VC55 being found at Ketton Quarry (25 May 2012; DW Nicholls). Stated as a species of leaf litter in deciduous woodland and gardens being widespread in SE England but distribution becoming thinner north to the Humber/Severn line then even scarcer the further north you go. The NBN map shows a paucity of records from the "Midlands" so does this mean it is not there or is it not getting recorded? In VC55 *Notiophilus biguttatus* is by far the most frequently found of this genus so that *N. rufipes* which is similar could be easily overlooked. If this species is suspected keeping the specimen is advised especially if the leg colour is pale brown/reddish and the yellow apical elytral patches are not at all obvious.

Dyschirius politus Dejean 1825 (4.0-5.0mm)

First VC55 record at Market Bosworth 1854-1872 by TV Wollaston. It was nearly 140 years before the next record this time from Tixover Quarry (August 2003; DA Lott). This species has since been found by G Calow at Sapcote (July 2012 and 2013; determined by Richard Wright).

Harpalus tardus Panzer 1796 (8.4-11.0mm)

R

There are just five records for this species. First found at Thistleton Gullet (July and October 1987; P Kirby) and Big Pits (August 1987; P Kirby) then Essendine Sidings (September 1987; Derek Lott). The latest is from SW Leicestershire (Sapcote; May 2012; G Calow determined by Richard Wright).

Hydrophilidae**Cryptopleurum subtile** Sharp 1884 (1.4-2.2mm)

Added to the county list in June 2014 from Priory Water by T Cook and F Clark. A species of decaying organic matter, particularly compost heaps and the dung of various mammals. An active flier being frequently attracted to light. Originating from Japan it was first found in southern England in 1958 since spreading sparingly north to at least Cumberland. Quite small and similar to a small *Cercyon* so that any reddish *Cercyon* types coming to light ought to be closely examined. The distinguishing features are on the underside making identification necessary before carding. Photographing the upper side will probably be of little use in confirming the species.

Sphaeridium marginatum Fabricius 1787 (4.3-6.7mm)

Added new to the county list in 2014 from Priory Water (March, April and September) by F Clark and T Cook with all seven specimens taken from horse dung. NBN Gateway suggests this is very thinly distributed in England. Often specimens from dung can look quite dull and the colour and patterns not at all pronounced; any suspect specimens should be kept for closer examination.

Ptilidae**Acrotichis rosskotheni** Sundt 1971 (0.9mm)

Added to the county list from East Wood, Rutland in September 1977 (C Johnson) but it was July 2011 before the next record this time from Grace Dieu Wood (SF Woodward; determined by C Johnson). Considered to be a forest litter species often recorded from the damper areas by sieving rotting grass cutting piles, dung and carcasses.

Staphylinidae**Philorinum sordidum** Stephens 1834 (2.0-3.0mm)

One of the sub-family Omalinae, which has 71 species in 28 genera many being problematic to identify to species level. Difficult to assign to a particular habitat, but is normally found on the flowers of Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) and Gorse (*Ulex*) spp making the Charnwood Forest (but not restrictively) a prime area to look. There are just three records for this species the latest from Hugglescote (May 2014; SA Lane). The previous records are Thornton Reservoir (June 1987) and Hill Hole, Markfield (May 1995).

Lordithon exoletus Erichson 1839 (3.5-4.5mm)

All of the four species of *Lordithon* have been recorded in VC55 with *L. exoletus* the scarcest. Once acquainted with, the genus is fairly easy to pick out from most other staphylinids and fortunately there is a usable key to species level (Tefler, 2012). Photographs of all species can be found on the internet, so looking these up is the first step to becoming familiar with this small group. General colour and patterns (especially for the elytra) will soon help to narrow them down and it is recommended to "bookmark" various illustrations of these four species for reference. The earliest record for this species is Bardon Hill (1894), then a gap of almost 100 years to two 1986 records from Swithland Wood, plus single records

from Ulverscroft NR (1989) and Staunton Harold (1998). The latest record from Beacon Hill (October 2013; GL Finch) brings the total to just 6 records.

Lordithon thoracicus Fabricius 1777 (2.5-4.5mm)

First recorded from Bardon Hill in 1894 by F Bates with 11 records since the latest being from Beacon Hill in 2014 (GL Finch).

Aleochara brevipennis Gravenhorst 1806 (3.0-4.5mm)

Nationally Notable

This species is not mentioned in the VC55 Beetle Red Data Book (Lott, 1995) and its national status should be noted. A member of the sub-family Aleocharinae consisting of over 1100 species in many genera, this group is one of the most difficult of all beetle groups to identify requiring specialist knowledge. First recorded from Cropston Reservoir in 1897 (HSK Donisthorpe) it was not until April 2004 that the next record came from DA Lott at Swithland Reservoir with another from Saddington Reservoir (SA Lane) also in April 2004.

Deleaster dichrous Gravenhorst 1802 (7.0-8.0mm; Fig 3)

Nationally Notable B; VC55 R Nb

A locally but widely distributed species with a concentration of records for SW England and Wales. Predominantly found in association on exposed surfaces by watercourses which are often themselves in shady places. It is a very distinctive species, looking at illustrations will help to become familiar with it. CW Henderson was the first to record this species (1922-1972) from Swithland Reservoir. The latest record comes from a small moss-filled pond at Eco House, Western Park, Leicester in June 2014 (GL Finch) bringing the total up to just 6 records.

Stenus fuscipes Gravenhorst 1802 (2.3-2.5mm)

Stenus is a huge genus of over 70 species all with the characteristic large bulging eyes and short small-clubbed antennae. Once seen these are easily picked out from all other staphylinids. The habitat is described as "fluctuating marsh" with Saddington Reservoir being the best example of this in VC55. All five records come from this site when DA Lott recorded it on four occasions in the period 1986-2002 with SA Lane providing the most recent in April 2012.

Stenus pallipes Gravenhorst 1802 (3.5-4.0mm)

VC55 R

Found in a similar habitat as *S. fuscipes* with Saddington as the only recent site. The first acceptable record is from Welby Osier Bed (1978; DG Goddard) with all other records from Saddington Reservoir including the latest in April 2012 (SA Lane).

Scarabaeidae

Onthopagus joannae Goljan 1953 (4.0-6.0mm; Fig 4)

Located primarily on chalky or sandy soils so this species may well be restricted to the east of VC55 where there are several suitable sites. Disused or infrequently used areas of limestone, particularly close to quarries, should be surveyed and also possibly Luffenham Heath Golf Course. First found in August 2013 (determined by F Clark) at Ketton Quarry from a pitfall trap by a Leicester University student undertaking a project to study carabids. A second record came from M Skevington associated with rabbit dung (May 2014) also at Ketton.

Phyllopertha horticola Linnaeus 1758 (7.0-12.0mm)

This species can be found in huge numbers with the larvae feeding at the roots of turf often causing considerable damage. Adults are typically seen emerging from mid-morning in the spring to early summer sometimes in large numbers. The adults are sun-lovers frequenting the flowers of trees and shrubs and can be a pest in fruit-growing areas. Due to the conspicuous habits of this species the paucity of records suggest that it is a real rarity in Leicestershire & Rutland. The records for this species came from F Bates - "Leicestershire 1848-1895" - followed by from a Quorn garden on four occasions in 2014 (PH Gamble) and another in June 2014 from Hugglescote (SA Lane).

Cetonia aurata Linnaeus 1761 (20.0mm)

A spectacular looking Chafer with a two-year life cycle and only five VC55 records. The first - "Leicestershire 1848-1895" - came from F Bates with the next three unattributed records from Humberstone, Blaby and Kibworth being given in the Victoria County History of Leicester (Bouskell, 1907). The latest record is from Packington near Ashby de la Zouch in May 2013 (D Fill).

Buprestidae

Agrilus biguttatus Fabricius 1777 (11.0mm; Fig 5)

Nationally Notable A

Formerly regarded as a rare and vulnerable species but now expanding its range and becoming increasingly common. First noted by E Brown in Buddon Wood sometime between 1842 and 1863 it was over a century before the next sighting at Donington Park (June 1987; DA Lott) and a further 15 years until AB Drane found it in Stanford Park (June 2002). There were no other records until SF Woodward and H Ikin found and photographed a specimen in Swithland Wood in July 2012 on an Oak (*Quercus*) that had fallen due to previous gales. Since this sighting the same observers have found this species in Bradgate Park during September 2013 and August 2014. The latest record comes from Rutland Water (July 2014; AP Russell) from material taken from a Malaise trap located in the reed beds of the North Arm marsh.

Eucnemidae

Epiphaniis cornutus Eschscholtz 1829 (3.5-7.0mm)

All seven species of this small group of "False click beetles" (Eucnemids) appear to be quite scarce. *E. cornutus* seems likely to have been an introduction from America and is expanding its range in Britain. SA Lane (2012) gives an informative account of its capture (and other Eucnemids) in Warwickshire. The species was added to the VC55 list when collected from Donington Park (July 2014) by A Jukes (determined SA Lane). The only other eucnemid to have been recorded in Leicestershire & Rutland is *Melasis buprestoides* with a total of nine records; there is also a photograph of this species in the same article.

Elateridae

Actenicerus sjaelandicus Muller, 1764 (10.0-16.0mm; Fig 6)

A quite distinctive looking click beetle, greyish brown with a mottling of light grey hairs producing an almost spotted or blotched appearance. The species has a preference for the wetter or marshy sites and a particular fondness for willows and sedges. Just three records of this species with the first from the River Soar, Leicestershire (May 1843; Henry Walter Bates) but not again until Seaton Meadows (May 1994; JT Daws). The latest record is from Narborough Bog NR in June 2013 (SA Lane).

Ampedus cardinalis Schiødte 1865 (12.0-16.0mm; Fig 7)

ICUN lower risk – near threatened

This very rare, large and striking red and black elaterid of ancient broadleaved woodland was found new to the county in 2014 when it was recorded on five occasions in Donington Park from May to October (A Jukes determined SA Lane). This species is entirely dependent upon veteran trees as it inhabits decaying heartwood a very specific habitat type which is highly fragmented and subject to continuing decline. Although this beetle has a relatively wide distribution, its area of occupancy is small as it is only found in veteran trees, which are scattered across the landscape at very low densities.

Melanotus castanipes Paykull 1800 (13.0-19.0mm)

There are only eight records of this species with the first coming from Donington Park in November 2009 (KNA Alexander). The same recorder established additional records from Saddington Reservoir, Lockington Marshes and again Donington Park all in March 2010. A specimen collected by GL Finch in Grace Dieu Woods (June 2011; confirmed SA Lane) was also this species. Further records were collected at a Sapcote garden (G Calow determined R Wright) in May and July 2012 respectively. The most recent came again from Donington Park when collected by A Jukes in June 2014 (determined SA Lane).

Lycidae

Platycis minutus Fabricius 1787 (5.0-8.0mm; Fig 8)

Nationally Notable B; VC55 R Nb

This species was added to the VC55 list when collected from Launde Big Wood (September 1984; S Costa) followed by one from Skeffington Wood (September 1990; JA Bullock). Interestingly DA Lott also recorded it in September 1998 again from Launde Big Wood. The latest record comes from close by at Rutland Water (August 2014; AP Russell). All these records were found in August/September and all in roughly the same area. It is said the species seems to prefer well-vegetated and shaded areas on lowland chalk and limestone sites where it is associated with Beech and Birch. A general search in such areas in Rutland may return additional records for this stunning beetle.

Cantharidae

Silis ruficollis Fabricius 1787 (6.0-7.0mm)

Nationally Notable B

H Peacock recorded this species for the first time in VC55 at St Mary's Mill on the River Soar in Leicester in July 2012. Stated as a rare species preferring wetland habitats, it is normally restricted to S England and S Wales with just a few thinly scattered northern records. Many cantharids can be difficult to identify with certainty but this particular species is quite distinct and so should not pose any real problem. Any medium black cantharid with an orange pronotum found near any watercourses or on sites such as Narborough Bog, Misterton Marshes or Lockington Marshes etc should be thoroughly checked.

Dermestidae

Dermestes murinus Linnaeus 1758 (7.0-9.0mm)

Recorded at Buddon Wood in the period 1922-1972 by CW Henderson, the most recent is from Ketton Quarry (April 2014; M Skevington). Other sites where recorded are Stathern Wood, Leighfield Forest, Sheet Hedges Wood and Bradgate Park with seven records in total to date. As it is often found on carrion, any corpses should be turned over and examined not just for this species but for others with similar habits.

Cleridae

Korynetes caeruleus De Geer 1775 (5.5mm)

**Nationally Scarce & Notable B;
VC55 R Nb**

This beetle is a predator of wood-boring coleopterous larvae. It is very scarce and thinly scattered from SE England to a line from the Humber to the Severn. Of the seven VC55 records for this species the latest from Donington Park (September 2014: A Jukes determined SA Lane) and previously at Barrow upon Soar (June 1982; Derek Lott).

Malachiidae

Axinotarsus marginalis Laporte 1840 (2.2-3.0mm; Fig 9)

New to VC55 in 2014 when it was recorded at Bradgate Park on two occasions (June and July; GL Finch). Several individuals were swept from low vegetation (bracken and tall grass) from two very different areas, one under trees and the other out in the open suggesting this species may be widespread within the park. This is a recent colonist and there are many similar areas which should be investigated not restricted to, but particularly on, the Charnwood Forest, where the species may be present.

Cordylepherus viridis Fabricius 1787 (4.0-5.0mm; Fig 10)

Probably the easiest way to find this species is by sweeping in flowery meadows throughout the summer. The only sites for this species have been Buddon Wood (1922-1972; CW Henderson) and Buddon Wood (1954-1960; CA Collingwood). In July 2013, M Skevington collected a single example at Ketton Quarry with a single being swept from tall grass at Muston Meadows NR in June 2014 (GL Finch) bringing the VC55 total up to just four records.

Anthocomus rufus Herbst 1784 (3.5-5.0mm; Fig 11)

First recorded at Groby Pool (August 1971; J Crocker) other records have come from Measham (August 2008; KNA Alexander), Narborough Bog NR (July 2011; D Gould), Rutland Water NR (September 2011; SF Woodward), Bagworth Heath (September 2011; DW Nicholls), Coalville (July 2012; DW Nicholls) and most recently from Misterton Marsh (August 2014; GL Finch). Sweeping grassy areas during late summer seems a good strategy for finding this bright red species. The evidence shows it may be on the increase in Leicestershire & Rutland judging by the increase in records from 2008.

Nitidulidae

Eपुरaea melina Erichson 1843 (2.8-3.3mm)

Recorded only five times from VC55 with the first coming from South Wood (May 1983; AB Drane). Further records came from Buddon Wood (May 1983; DA Lott) and Normanton le Heath (May 1989; DA Lott). Not recorded again until 2014 when found by G Calow (April 2014) from Burbage Common and Woods (determined by Richard Wright) and by SA Lane at Hugglescote (June 2014). This beetle is most likely to be found on flowers.

Meligethes carinulatus Förster 1849 (1.4-2.2mm)

Habitat preference seems to be open short grassy areas where Common Bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) grows. Direct searching or sweeping in this habitat is recommended. The five records come from Thorpe Satchville (August 1983; DG Goddard), Ketton Quarry (May 1985; R Key), Stone Pit Field (June 1996; DA Lott), Bede Island, Leicester (July 1998; DA Lott) and lastly Hugglescote (June 2014; SA Lane).

Meligethes flavimanus Stephens 1830 (2.2-3.0mm)

A common species along woodland margins, hedgerows, roadsides and other rough grassy areas which support *Rosa* spp. The NBN map shows a general distribution around our area so surely this species must be more widespread than formerly thought. Two historical records came from F Bates (Leicestershire 1848-1894; Ulverscroft August 1894). Then there is a huge gap to the latest record from SA Lane at Hugglescote (June 2014).

Cryptarcha strigata Fabricius 1787 (3.0-4.0mm)**Nationally Notable B**

All nine records for this species come from Buddon Wood, Sheet Hedges Wood, Donington Park, Bradgate Park and Bardon Hill. The most recent came from Bradgate Park (June 2014; GL Finch) and Donington Park (July 2014; A Jukes determined SA Lane). The two previous records were both from Buddon Wood in the mid 1970's. The Bradgate Park records were found in association with a small sap run on an old Oak. It is worth keeping in mind Norman Joy's (Joy, 1932) comment that this species is "nearly always in connection with the moth *Cossus ligniperda*" a synonym for Goat Moth (*Cossus cossus*) - we can but hope!

Silvanidae**Uleota planatus** Linnaeus 1761 (4.5-5.5mm; Fig 12)**Nationally Notable A**

The species has only recently been found in VC55 when identified from Grace Dieu Wood (September 2011; SF Woodward) and from Stanford Park (June 2012; AB Drane). It has a liking for ancient broad-leaved woodland where it can be found under the bark of deciduous trees, but rarely conifers, throughout the winter and early spring often several being together. There are very few records in Britain before 1970 but sightings have increased and become more widespread. Its preference for a threatened habitat of standing and fallen dead wood dictates where it can survive. As most coleopterists spend a considerable amount of their time looking under bark without locating this species it suggests that it is still not at all common.

Phalacridae**Olibrus aeneus** Fabricius 1792 (1.8-2.4mm)

The two VC55 records are separated by over 100 years. First recorded by F Bates (Leicestershire 1848-1895) it was 2014 until it was again found (Hugglescote May 2014; SA Lane). Joy (1932) states that it is common on *Matricaria* spp, which include Chamomile (*Chamaemelum nobile*) and Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*). As VC55 has no shortage of either plant more work needs to be done where these occur. The NBN shows it to be generally widespread over our area.

Cryptophagidae**Cryptophagus pubescens** Sturm 1845 (1.8-2.5mm)

This beetle is regularly found in association with wasps nests. Leicestershire & Rutland has four records the first from Buddon Wood (1922-1972; CW Henderson). Following this it was located at Burley Wood, Rutland (August 1996; AB Drane) and Stanford Park (July 2007; AB Drane). Most recently collected from Donington Park (September 2014; A Jukes determined SA Lane).

Antherophagus similis Curtis 1835 (3.0-4.5mm)

HSK Donisthorpe reported finding this species at Sutton Ambien (Ambion Wood area) (1890-1906) and CW Henderson found it at Buddon Wood (1922-1972) with the latest being from Hugglescote (June 2014; SA Lane). All three species in this genus are associated with the nests of *Hymenoptera* so that any old hornet, wasp or bee nests could be rewarded on close examination.

Latridiidae

Enicmus brevicornis Mannerheim 1844 (4.5-2.0mm)

Nationally Notable; VC55 R N-

The only records for this species are Burley Wood, Rutland (July 1989; DA Lott), Buddon Wood (May 1995; DA Lott), Burley Wood, Rutland (August 1996; AB Drane) and Donington Park (June 2014; A Jukes determined SA Lane). An indicator of ancient broadleaved woodland and pasture-woodland it can be regularly found under the bark of Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) infected with sooty bark fungus (*Cryptostroma corticale*).

Enicmus testaceus Stephens 1830 (1.5-2.0mm)

The six VC55 records for this species are fairly well scattered across the area. To the east of the region it was found by C Johnson at Pickworth Great Wood (September 1977) and Wardley Wood (September 1977) while elsewhere it was at South Wood (July 1983; AB Drane), Buddon Wood (May, June 1995; DA Lott), and Donington Park (September 2014; A Jukes determined SA Lane).

Melandryidae

Melandrya caraboides Linnaeus 1761 (9.0-15.0mm; Fig 13)

Nationally Notable B

Of the eight VC55 records for this species five come from the Charnwood Forest including the latest from under bark near the River Soar at Mountsorrell (May 2014; GL Finch). It is reported to be regularly found under the bark old Willow logs in marshy situations; the Soar flood plain should provide more records of this distinctive species.

Hypulus quercinus Quensel 1790 (4.0-6.0mm)

IUCN Vulnerable

Added to the county list in May 2014 when GL Finch located this species at Cloud Wood NR. Its larvae are reputedly found in Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Oak (*Quercus*) and/or Birch (*Betula*) stumps preferably of 30 plus years of age. This suggests that a coppice cycle of 10 years is totally inadequate to support this species and other wood boring species like it. This sole VC55 record was found on an old decaying stump although the state of decay prohibited positive identification of plant species. The stump was located in a recently cleared/coppiced area of woodland which previously would have been in a shaded damp situation promoting the continuation of rotting wood. Now this stump is exposed and is sure to begin drying out as will neighbouring micro-habitats thus encouraging the loss of organisms dependent of such a biotope.

Mordellidae

Variimorda villosa Schrank 1781 (6.0-9.0 mm; Fig 14)

Nationally Notable B

This species' only known VC55 site is Ketton Quarry where it was first recorded by DW Nicholls (June 2013). In July 2014 it was found by GL Finch when it was abundant on a variety of flowering plants in an area known as the "Donkey Paddocks" suggesting that the beetle is well established at this site. Further searches could well find this species occupies a much wider area than is known at present. There are many similar areas especially in Rutland, away from Ketton Quarry, which would be worth the time and effort spent looking for this species.

Metoecus paradoxus Lemaeus 1761 (10.0-12.0 mm; Fig 15)

A spectacular looking beetle with just as spectacular lifestyle being parasitic on wasp nests either underground or above such as in roof spaces etc. A fuller account of its habits is given in Green (2002). It is a species that is just as likely to turn up in a wasp nest in a domestic situation as anywhere. The eight records (spanning 1922 to 2011) shows no pattern of habitat preference as it has been recorded from woodland, the city centre and a rural village with the latest record being from Leicester in September 2011.

Colydiidae

Cicones undatus Guérin-Méneville 1829 (2.3-3.4mm; Fig 16)

IUCN (pre 1994) - Endangered

Added new to VC55 in March 2014 when it was found at Croft Hill by M Skevington. The beetle was originally only known from Windsor Great Park (1984) being associated with fungus-infected wood. Once listed in the national Red Data Book (Shirt, 1987) it has been classified as Endangered in Hyman and Parsons (1992). The tidying of preferred habitat by removing standing and fallen dead wood is the main threat to this expanding range species. Far too much dead wood is still being removed and/or destroyed on remaining sites suitable for this species. Where dead wood is left it is often cut into neat short lengths and stacked in small tidy piles usually out in the open after coppicing and/or clear felling a practice which does not help the conservation of this beetle.

Tenebrionidae

Pseudocistela ceramboides Linnaeus 1758 (9.0-12.0mm; Fig 17)

Nationally Notable B

New to VC55 when recorded by SF Woodward at Bradgate Park in June 2014. A couple of weeks later two more specimens were recorded at MV Light in Park Wood, Rutland (June 2014; AP Russell). This species has a fondness for wooded pasture with a good supply of decaying broadleaf wood and can be found on deciduous blossoms. Importantly we now know it can also be attracted to MV Light, so one to keep in mind if running moth traps in such habitats.

Corticeus unicolor Pillar & Mitterpacher 1783 (5.0-7.0mm; Fig 18)

IUCN Rare

The first VC55 record for this beetle came from Cloud Wood NR when GL Finch found it in April 2012. This specimen was found deep inside a very soft and soaking wet log of unknown identity on the ground. The log a matter of a few days previously would have been in a damp area of woodland about 60 years old. Due to "management" this area was coppiced/clear felled and completely opened up so the immediate habitat will gradually change over the years. Despite a failed but considerable effort to re-find *C. unicolor*, surely it must still be present although a huge area surrounding the precise location has been affected. It doesn't seem to make much sense to stack small piles of moist, dead, moss covered wood out in open situations to dry out when formerly it was in a damp and shaded sheltered woodland position.

Scraptiidae

Anaspis rufilabris Gyllenhal 1827 (2.6-3.4mm)

Bradgate Park (June 1895; F Bates) give the first record for this beetle but it was over 100 years later before DA Lott discovered it at Ulverscroft NR (June 2000) with the latest from Hugglescote in June 2014 (SA Lane). Regarded as widespread and abundant in the British Isles the species is found in woodland and scrub with a fondness for the blossom of Hawthorns (*Crataegus* spp) from early to mid summer. There are 13 *Anaspis* species in the family Scraptiidae (two of doubtful British status) and three *Scraptiia* species. Of the latter, two have been recorded in VC55 both as single records; of the *Anaspis* ten have been recorded. While a distinctive group some species can appear very similar to each other; the colour and patterning can be a clue to certain species but atypical coloured specimens occur and especially in females. Examination of male sexual characters and all appendages are needed to be sure of identification to species level. Due to these subtleties the specimen will be needed, as even good photographs will prove of little use. The excellent Royal Entomological Society key to British Scraptiidae (Levey, 2009) is necessary to make progress with this family.

Cerambycidae

Paracorymbia fulva De Geer 1775 (9.0-14.0mm; Fig 19)

IUCN Rare

Sapcote is the only known location for this beetle in VC55. In June 2011 it was collected by G Calow (determined by R Wright) where since it has been recorded fairly frequently the latest record being July 2013. Locating the larva would be a great accomplishment as it has never been found or described. It is a very local species of broadleaved woodland in central and southern England.

Stenurella melanura Linnaeus 1758 (6.0-10.0mm; Fig 20)

This is a very rare beetle for VC55 with few records to date. F Bates noted it at Ulverscroft Lane (1848-1895) while F Bouskell noted it in Leicestershire (1894-1898) and 1907 (Bouskell, 1907). It was not until July 2013 that it was next recorded this time at Ketton Quarry (M Skevington) with a further record from here in June 2014 (SF Woodward & H Ikin). The larvae are described as preferring moist, dead or decaying wood in close contact to the ground, such as fallen or partly buried branches, shallow roots and the bases of tree stumps. Adults visit flowers throughout the summer.

Arhopalus rusticus Linnaeus 1758 (10.0-30.0mm; Fig 21)

Only four confirmed records of this beetle in VC55 being first seen at Charnwood Lodge NR in August 1998 (A Main) then in a Ratby garden (July 2012; DW Nicholls) and The Outwoods (July 2012; R Faulkener). In September 2014 it was found in Sapcote (G Calow). This is a large rusty brown longhorn beetle that can reach up to 30mm so will not go unnoticed if encountered. Although a conifer species it is attracted to MV light traps or house lights which when used near to conifer plantations may result in the recording of this species.

Chrysomelidae

Chrysolina americana Linnaeus 1758 (5.0-8.0mm; Fig 22)

New to VC55 when found at Sapcote (July 2012; G Calow) with a second record from Kibworth Harcourt the next year (June 2013; A Wheatcroft). A large and beautiful metallic rainbow-coloured beetle with a fondness for herbs especially Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) and Lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*) making it one to watch out for in gardens.

Chrysolina brunsvicensis Gravenhorst 1807 (5.3-6.3mm)

Recorded from Brazil Wood, Swithland Reservoir (1848-1895; F Bates), North Brook, Rutland (August 1982; DG Goddard) and Buddon Brook (September 1988; DA Lott). The most recent sighting came from Hugglescote in May 2014 (SA Lane). The beetle prefers St. John's-wort spp (*Hypericum* spp) as a host plant so that all areas supporting such plants should be thoroughly searched. Any suspected records of this species will need to be supported with the specimen due to the similarity with *C. hyperici*.

Chrysolina sturmi (violacea) Westhoff 1882 (6.0-10.0mm; Fig 23)

Nationally Notable B; VC55 R Nb

First added to the VC55 list when found at The Drift in August 1992 (JT Daws) but not again until Bloody Oaks Quarry in May 2013 (SF Woodward). A large bright metallic violet beetle usually found on the ground particularly in limestone areas in association with Ground Ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*).

Aphthona nonstriata Goeze 1777 (2.6-2.8mm)

Records (seven) for this species are mainly from Saddington, Swithland and Cropston Reservoirs with the latest from Saddington Reservoir in April 2012 (SA Lane). Stated as being a widespread and common species near water being only found on Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudocorus*). Tapping flower heads into a net or tray might reveal that this species is more widespread in VC55. This is one to look for along the many miles of canals we have.

Longitarsus brunneus Duftschmid 1825 (2.0-2.5mm)

Nationally Notable B

There is an unattributed record for this beetle at Evington (Bouskell, 1907) but it was 1985 before it was definitively identified when found at Narborough Bog NR (May 1985; P Hodge) and again at the same site by the same recorder in April. SA Lane confirmed its presence at this LRWT nature reserve in April 2013. The only *Thalictrum* growing in the VC55 is Common Meadow-rue (*Thalictrum vulgare*) seeming to be restricted from the middle to the west of the county along the banks of rivers, streams and ditches also wet roadside verges. Sites, such as Narborough Bog, Misterton Marshes and other boggy areas should give this beetle.

Allica carinthiaca Weise 1888 (3.0-4.0mm)

A confusing species first recognized as British in 2000 but since found in collections as far back as 1939. The host plant is Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*) which is extremely common throughout VC55. The NBN map shows our area to be almost at the northern limit of this beetle's distribution, but this should not stop us from looking. Added to the county list when found at Hugglescote in June 2014 by SA Lane.

Epitrix atropae Foudras 1860 (1.5-2.1mm)

Nationally Notable B; VC55 R Nb

All seven VC55 records of this species come from Rutland most recently at Ketton Quarry (May 2012; DW Nicholls). Its main host plant is Deadly Nightshade (*Atropa bella-donna*) but occasionally may be found on related species. The beetle should be searched for wherever suitable host plants are found. Although considered uncommon, tapping foliage of host plants into a net or tray could reveal more sites for this species. Apparently also known from *Daldinia* fungus on dead wood.

Epitrix pubescens Koch JDW 1803 (1.5-2.0mm)

The host plants for this beetle are members of the *Solanum* family especially Bittersweet (*Solanum dulcamara*). The latest record from Hugglescote (May 2014; SA Lane) brings the local list to eight records. Examination of the host plants should increase this.

Cryptocephalus aureoles Suffrain 1847 (5.5-7.8mm)

Nationally Notable B; VC55 R Nb

This striking bright metallic green leaf beetle has only been recorded on four occasions in VC55. First seen by DA Lott in June 1989 at Geeston Quarry the other records all came from Ketton Quarry in June 2012 (M Skevington), May 2014 (C Butterfield) and June 2014 (DW Nicholls). Perhaps the best way to find this species would be to beat the flowers of hedgerow trees and shrubs from late spring throughout the summer.

Cryptocephalus moraei Linnaeus 1758 (3.0-5.0mm; Fig 24)

Of the seven records for this species four were from pitfall traps with two of adults on its host plant St John's-Wort spp. (*Hypericum* spp). As this is quite a widespread plant in VC55 there seems a good possibility this beetle could be found to be much more widespread than presently believed. It was found on its host plant at Huncote Embankment in June 2012 (M Skevington) and on a roadside verge at Long Whatton in July 2013 (SF Woodward).

Anthribidae**Platystomos albinus** Linnaeus 1758 (7.0-10.0mm; Fig 25)**Nationally Notable B**

This species was added to the VC55 list when found by H Ikin at Ketton Quarry in April 2011. It seems to be restricted to this location having been found on four more occasions the latest being July 2014 (GL Finch). This is generally quite a scarce species nationally and one that is usually found on dead and/or dying trees. Whilst clearly established at Ketton Quarry, this is not a site well noted for the habitat type the beetle requires as there are only a few areas of suitable dead wood. The fact that it is established should encourage continued searches of such habitat in the area in the hope of adding additional sites.

Rhynchitidae**Temnocerus nanus** Paykull 1792 (2.0-2.8mm)

Although considered as being fairly common and widespread in Britain there are only six VC55 records for this species. First recorded from Newtown Linford (June 1845) by F Bates who then went on to record it from Sheet Hedges Wood and Bardon Hill (1848-1895). It was not noted again until June 1933 when found at Buddon Wood by KJB Clark. The latest record comes from 20 Acre Piece near Six Hills in May 2012 (DW Nicholls). It is mainly associated with Birch so should be found more frequently than it has been.

Attelabidae**Apoderus coryli** Linnaeus 1758 (5.9-8.0mm; Fig 26)

F Bates reported this species from Leicestershire (1848-1895) with KJB Clark noting it at Leighfield Forest (1929-1950). A modern record came from Fosse Meadows in July 2012 (DW Nicholls & G Calow). This is a distinctive weevil exclusively associated with woodland coppiced Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) forming distinctive leaf rolls on younger growth.

Apionidae**Diplapion confluens** Kirby 1808 (1.9-2.3mm)

This species appeared on the VC55 list when it was found at Rawdykes Power Station (Leicester) in May 1992 (JT Daws) with a second record from Newfield Colliery in August 2014 (GL Finch). Reported as being locally common in England on Chamomile and Mayweeds which are usually found in waste or/and disturbed places.

Holotrichapion aethiops Herbst 1797 (2.0-2.5mm)

Two early records for Leicestershire are from the late 1800's (F Bates) and the early 1900's (F Bouskell). In April 1989 DA Lott found the beetle at Loughborough Big Meadows (April 1989) with others at the Great Central Railway, Loughborough (1993; P Kirby) and Narborough Bog NR (April 1993; P Hodge). SA Lane recorded it from Hugglescote in May 2014. One of several species that has vetches (*Vicia* spp) as its host plant especially Tufted Vetch (*Vicia cracca*) and Bush Vetch (*Vicia sepium*) growing on roadsides, waste places, in hedgerows and lightly wooded areas.

Oxystoma cerdo Gerstaecker 1854 (2.4-3.0mm)**Nationally Notable B**

A species associated with various vetches found along hedgerows, woodland boundaries and waste places particularly Tufted Vetch (*Vicia cracca*). It is considered to be more likely to be found in the Midlands and northern England. The two VC55 records come from Wigston Triangle, Leicester (July 2003; DA Lott) and Hugglescote (May 2014; SA Lane).

Oxystoma craccae Linnaeus 1767 (2.2-2.6mm)

Three of the five VC55 records are from the period 1989 to 1999. In May 2002, it was found by AB Drane at Stanford Park with the last record coming from Hugglescote in May 2014 (SA Lane). The hosts are a wide variety of vetches particularly along hedgerows and woodland boundaries.

Oxystoma subulatum Kirby 1808 (2.4-3.0mm)

This species was added to the VC55 list when DA Lott located it at Launde Big Wood in September 1984. This was followed by a record from Thistleton Gullet in July 1987 (P Kirby). There were no more records until SA Lane recorded the species at Hugglescote (April 2014). Later in the year (August 2014) GL Finch found the species at two NW Leicestershire sites, Newfield Colliery and Hick's Lodge near Ashby de la Zouch. Larvae live in the pods of Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*) feeding on the unripe seeds so should be looked for wherever the host plant grows typically alongside hedgerows or the margins of woods.

Catapion pubescens Kirby 1811 (1.5-2.0mm)**Nationally Notable B**

First recorded from the Leighfield Forest in the period 1929-1950 (KJB Clark), the second coming from Hugglescote in May 2014 (SA Lane). The host plant for this species is unknown in Britain but on the continent is associated with the small yellow-flowered clover species (*Trifolium* spp). Nationally the beetle is regarded as being local and not very common but widely distributed.

Stenopteration meliloti Kirby 1808 (2.4-3.3mm)

There are seven records for this species with the most recent being from Humberstone Quarry in May 1992 (JT Daws) and Hugglescote in May 2014 (SA Lane). Expected to be found in waste places and roadsides etc wherever Melilots (*Melilotus* spp) grow especially Ribbed Melilot (*Melilotus officianalis*, which is fairly widespread in VC55) and White Melilot (*Melilotus alba*, which is only occasional in VC55).

Betulapion simile Kirby 1811 (1.7-2.7mm)

DA Lott recorded this beetle during the 1980s at Spring Wood near Staunton Harold (May 1984), High Sharpley (August 1984) and Buddon Wood (June 1985). Modern records come from SA Lane who found the beetle on two occasions at Hugglescote (May and June 2014) and later in the Narborough area (August 2012). Stated as widely distributed throughout England on Birch in woodland and on heathland based on this, it should be found much more frequently.

Curculionidae**Curculio rubidus** Gyllenhal 1836 (3.1-3.8mm; Fig 27)**Nationally Notable B**

This rare (three records) VC55 weevil has been recorded by CW Henderson from Buddon Wood (1922-1972), Buddon Wood again in 1975 but recorder unknown and in August 2014 by M Skevington at Newfield Colliery. This species prefers areas with young regrowth Birch (*Betula*) which includes many areas throughout the county. Beating young saplings mid-summer through to October could help discover more records of this species.

Isochnus sequensi Stierlin 1894 (2.2-2.6mm; Fig 28)

Only added to the VC55 county list in 2014 when it was found during August at Misterton Marsh by GL Finch where it was extremely abundant. Remarkably the same day it was located at Ratby Burroughs by J Clough and SF Woodward who also found mines caused by this species. Mines were taken and adults emerged later in the year confirming this species. The main distribution for the beetle species appears to be south and eastern England with records from Nottinghamshire and now Leicestershire showing a westward spread. Areas with substantial growth of *Salix*, especially long leaved varieties, should be examined. Priory Water NR and a nearby hedgerow had numerous leaf mines in September 2014 (GL Finch).

Rhamphus pulicarius Herbst 1795 (1.4-2.1mm)

F Bates noted this species in Leicestershire in the period 1848-1895 and it was also found at Buddon Wood in the period 1922-1972 by CW Henderson. DA Lott reported the beetle during May 1984 from Holwell Mouth and Burton on the Wolds. SA Lane recorded the species from Hugglescote in June 2014. The beetle's preferred hosts are *Populus*, *Salix* and *Betula* again no shortage of any of these in the county so the beetle should be found more widespread.

Ceutorhynchus assimilis Paykull 1792 (2.3-3.0mm)

All four records of this species have been in the last 20 years. First seen at Ketton Quarry in July 1999 by P Kirby, the next three were all recorded in April 2014 by GL Finch from Potters Marston, Upton and Ibstock in SW Leicestershire. This is one of several species known as Cabbage Stem Weevil or Cabbage Seed Weevil and can cause considerable commercial damage to cruciferous crops especially Rape (*Brassica napus*). On that basis, this species if searched for should be found to be much more widespread. The larvae develop inside the pods whilst adults feed on the flowers with both causing damage. The best areas to sweep for this are the edges of lanes, tracks, fields, roadside verges and pathways or shady banks at the margins of woodland from mid-April through to early August.

Ceutorhynchus cochleariae Gyllenhal 1813 (1.7-2.4mm)

F Bates reported this beetle in VC55 in the period 1848-1895 followed by records from Buddon Wood in the period 1922-1972 (CW Henderson). In April 1977 H Mendel found the species at Narborough Bog NR while SA Lane noted it at Hugglescote in May 2014. This should be searched for in wet meadows, grassland, the edges of streams and ponds etc; it can also be found in damp woodland wherever the various species of Bitter-cress (*Cardamines*) grow.

Mogulones euphorbiae Bristout de Barneville, Ch 1866 (1.9-2.5mm)**Nationally Notable A**

This species was first recorded from Barkby Holt in May 1935 by KJB Clark but it was not until August 2014 before it was rediscovered at Newfield Colliery by GL Finch on Forget-me-not (*Myosotis* spp). A species, worthwhile looking for on *Myosotis* mainly of dry grasslands, field, road and track edges. The beetle is quite thinly distributed throughout Britain with very few records much further north than VC55.

Mogulones geographicus Goeze 1777 (3.2-5.0mm; Fig 29)**Nationally Notable B**

At present only known from Ketton Quarry where it can be found in abundance on Viper's Bugloss (*Echium vulgare*). An early record by JP Bartlet reported its occurrence in Leicestershire but no precise location details were given. Ketton Quarry records started with July 2004 (DA Lott) with further sightings in June 2014 (GL Finch) and August 2014 (M Skevington). A search of other disused quarries and areas of its known host plant should be searched. As this species was in such abundance at Ketton it must be at other suitable Rutland sites with Viper's Bugloss (the plant is rare in Leicestershire being more commonly encountered on alkaline soils). Overwintering as larvae in the rootstock, pupating in the soil late spring with adults evident through the summer months.

Zacladus geranii Paykull 1800 (2.4-3.3mm; Fig 30)

Although there are 11 records for this species most are from 1930 to 1999 with the latest three records from Donington Park June 2014 (A Jukes (determined by SA Lane), Fosse Meadows July 2014 (G Calow (determined by R Wright) and the last from Narborough Bog NR August 2014 (GL Finch). Found on various species of Cranesbill (*Geranium* spp) which, having different flowering periods themselves, can lengthen the phenology of this species. This ought to give us an extended opportunity for survey so this species should be looked for wherever any of the species of Cranesbill occur.

Rhinocyllus conicus Frölich 1792 (4.2-6.7mm; Cover figure)**Nationally Notable A**

This species first appeared on the VC55 list when it was discovered at Croft Pasture NR in June 2014 (D Gould). This was followed by the second record when a singleton was taken at Frolesworth in October 2014 (G Calow determined by R Wright). The beetle favours open and disturbed areas with thistles where the larvae feed in the flower heads.

Cossonus linearis Fabricius 1775 (4.4-5.1mm; Fig 31)**Nationally Notable A**

This nationally rare species was first found at Burley, Rutland in August 1996 by AB Drane and then again at Bagworth Heath in June 2013 by GL Finch. A dead and decaying wood specialist, it seems to be particularly associated with Poplar and Willow. Found in rotten wood especially of fallen trees and also under bark, in open woodland, marshy areas and parkland.

Graptus triguttatus Fabricius 1775 (5.4-7.2mm)

Recorded at Bradgate Park by F Bates in the period 1848-1895 and twice again by F Bouskell in Owston Wood during March 1905. It was June 1983 when the species was again found when DA Lott recorded it on Ulverscroft NR. Two further records followed from Loughborough Big Meadows NR in June 1993 (AC Sanderson). As it is associated with Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) sweeping of this plant in mid-summer should produce additional records. Fosse Meadows and Aylestone Meadows (LWT meadow/grassland sites) would be good candidate sites for further survey. This is a very distinctive weevil and becoming familiar with the habitat and patterning should be quite straightforward. The VC55 list has seven records for this species the latest being from Muston Meadows NR during June 2014 (GL Finch).

Otiorhynchus armadillo Rossi 1792 (7.0-12.0mm)

Appearing on the British list in 1998 being an addition to a small group known as Vine weevils. New to VC55 when recorded from the Narborough area in August 2012 by SA Lane. It is stated to have a preference for Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) tree leaves, Rosacea plants and Ivy (*Hedera helix*). [This species has been found by SA Lane in July 2009 on ornamental Willow in Warwickshire with further specimens beaten off ornamental *Viburnum* in Coventry].

Pachyrhinus lethierryi Desbrochers 1875 (3.6-4.5 mm)

Added new to the VC55 list when collected by G Calow at Sapcote in May 2012 (determined by R Wright) with two more records from the same site and records later. The latest record is from the Narborough area in August 2012 (SA Lane) bringing the total to just four records. Cypress x *Cuprocyparis leylandii* and Lawson's Cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*) trees are preferred and these are planted commonly in gardens and parks. Beating such trees ought to produce additional records. [For an accessible key to the three *Pachyrhinus* species see Plant *et al*, 2006].

Polydrusus formosus Mayer 1779 (5.5-7.0mm)**Nationally Notable A**

The only record of this species comes from the Narborough area during August 2012 when it was found by SA Lane. It is a polyphagous beetle feeding on broadleaved trees but particularly Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and has been known to be a pest of fruit trees. It overwinters as full-grown larvae with adults being found from May to July but often later.

Sitona cylindricollis Fähræus 1840 (3.6-5.0mm)

The four VC55 records of this species come from Scraftoff Lane, Leicester (1982; J Owen), Acresford Sandpit (July 1989; DA Lott) and twice from Hugglescote in May 2014 (SA Lane). The beetle prefers dry places such as disturbed land, old quarries and roadsides with Ribbed Melilot (*Melilotus officianale*) and White Melilot (*Melilotus alba*). Eggs are laid in the spring with larvae developing in early summer, adults emerging in late-summer onwards.

Trachyploeus scabricul Linnaeus 1771 (2.5-3.1mm)

F Bates noted this beetle at Bradgate Park in the period of 1848-1895 but it was not until September 1992 that SA Lane found it at Moira. The species is usually found in open sandy and/or calcareous areas such as the Brecks in Suffolk. The frequently disturbed tracks in Bradgate Park must be to its liking as with the Green Tiger Beetle.

Hypera suspiciosa Herbst 1795 (5.3-5.8mm)

The six VC55 records for this species are scattered over a long period with the first being Leicestershire in the period 1848-1895 (F Bates) and the most recent two being from Stonesby Quarry (May 1994; C. Kirk determined DA Lott) and Loughborough Big Meadow (June 2013; SA Lane). Usually found in waste places with tall herbaceous communities in the more open situations.

Hypera meles Fabricius 1792 (3.7-4.2mm)**Nationally Notable A**

Added new to the county from a specimen collected in 2013 from kelham Bridge NR (GL Finch confirmed by Roger Booth February 2015), positively identified at a workshop on Weevils arranged by BENHS February 2015. Once considered a very rare beetle RDB3, NBN map shows a very thin scattering of dots. Host plants are Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*) and White Clover (*T. Repens*) as both species are amongst the most common flowering plants in the county, surely sweeping and/or direct searching ought to provide a substantial amount of extra records for this species.

[Note: there are issues with some of the couplets in the RES weevil Handbooks: an example in Morris (2008) True Weevils Part 2 the keys to families miss out *Hypera* altogether, but are included in Morris (2012) True Weevils Part 3, but even here they are a little ambiguous. The genus *Hypera* can be reached from both sides of couplet 26 but it is considered "a bit of a mess". For further discussion see <http://markgtelfer.co.uk/beetles/curculionoidea-weevils/>].

Xyleborinus saxesenii Ratzeburg 1837 (2.5-3.0mm)

AB Drane added this species to the VC55 list when the beetle was found at Stanford Park in June 2002. The only other record came from Donington Park where it was found in September 2014 (A Jukes determined by SA Lane). A member of the Scolytidae (Pinhole Borers) this species attacks decaying trees particularly Oaks (*Quercus*). Regarded as nationally common, it can be found from mild mid-February through to the Autumn although July and August seem to be peak activity months for adults; it can be abundant in window traps.

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Publications aiding beetle identification

Many of the keys are part of the Royal Entomological Society (RES) (sometimes in partnership with the Field Studies Council) series *Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects*. Many are available as free downloads in pdf format from the internet although some may take a little searching for.

Hydradephaga- Water Beetles

Foster, GN, & Friday, LE (2011). *Keys to the adults of water beetles of Britain and Ireland (Part 1)*. Royal Entomological Society Handbooks.

Hydrophilidae – Water Beetles

Foster, GN, Bilton, DT & Friday, LE (2014). *Keys to the adults of water beetles of Britain and Ireland (Part 2)*. Royal Entomological Society Handbooks.

Carabidae – Ground Beetles

Luff, ML (2007). *The Carabidae (ground beetles) of Britain and Ireland*. Royal Entomological Society Handbooks.

Ptilidae – Featherwing Beetles

Duff, AG (2012). *Beetles of Britain and Ireland Vol 1*. AG Duff Publishing. ISBN 978 0 9573347 0 0

Staphylinidae – Rove Beetles

Freude, Harde & Lohse (1974). *Die Käfer Mitteleuropas Band 5, Staphylinidae 2*.

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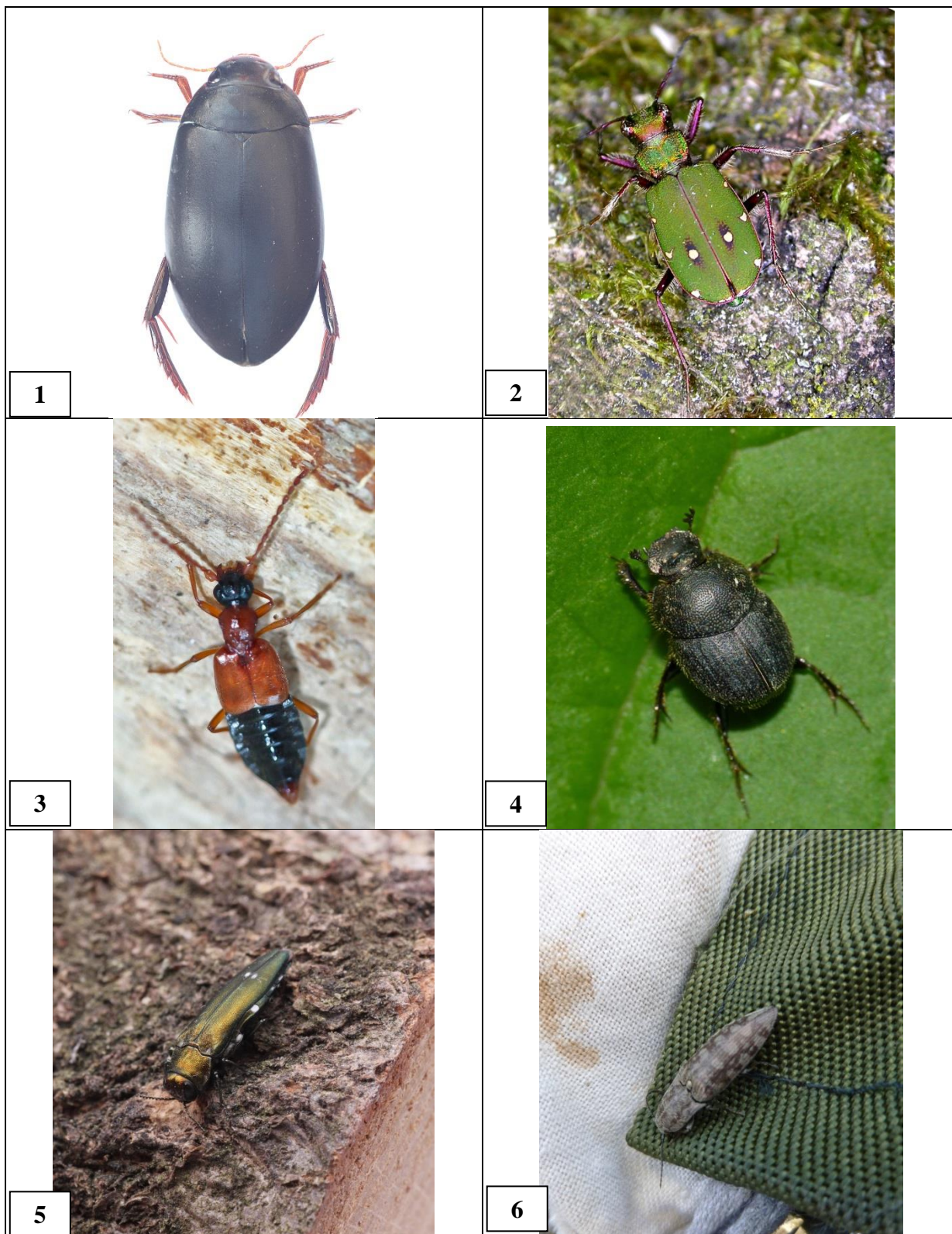
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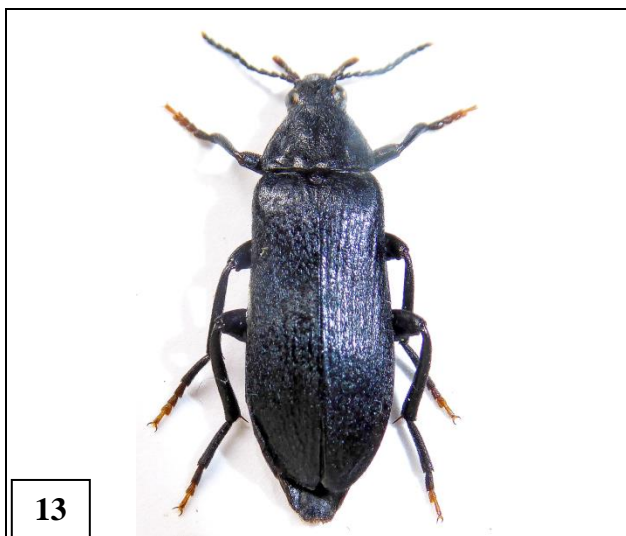
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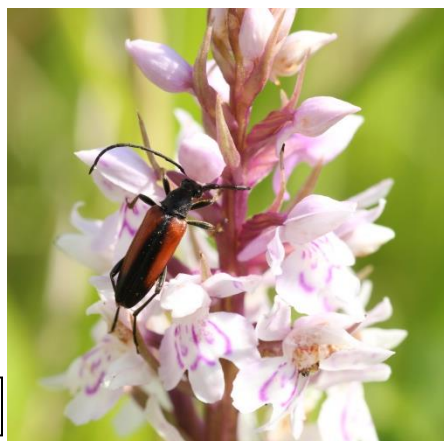
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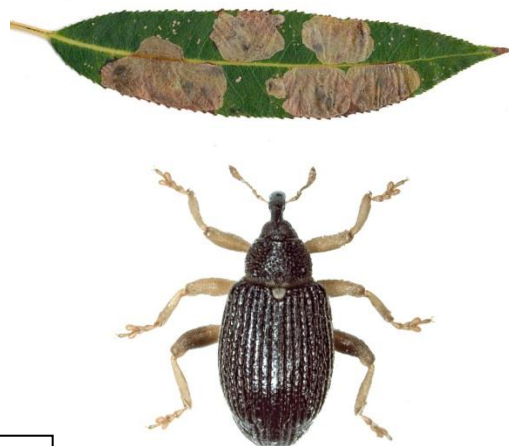
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Dead wood log
pile at Ketton
Quarry

32



Dead wood site
at Ketton Quarry

33

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