

Beetles vary in size, but are usually pea-shaped or sausage-shaped and shiny. They can walk and most fly too. You can see big stag beetles during June and July. You may be lucky enough to see one during the day, but they usually fly at dusk. Ladybirds are beetles. There are lots of different kinds of ladybird, but the most common one is reddish-orange in colour with 2 black spots on its back.

Look out for stag beetles and ladybirds along your route.



Where do you come across most of them? Perhaps near gardens, sports grounds or other types of land.

What are they doing?



There are lots of beetle stories and nursery rhymes. You may know of this one:

Ladybird, ladybird fly away home,
Your house is on fire and your children are gone,
All except one and that's little Ann,
For she crept under the frying pan.

Can you make up a rhyme featuring the beetles you have seen?

If you want to, find out more about stag beetles and tell us where you've seen them by emailing conservation@bromley.gov.uk

Did you know that there are over 4000 species of beetle in Britain? Beetles vary in size, but tend to be quite pea-shaped or sausage-shaped, and are often shiny. The stag beetle is particularly special as it is Britain's largest beetle and is uncommon. It is mainly found in London and south-east England. The adult only lives for a few weeks. When they are young, they look like fat, white worms and are called grubs. They feed on rotting wood until they are about 5 years old. They then change into adults. Unfortunately adult stag beetles are clumsy fliers and sometimes land on pavements and roads where they get squashed.

Can you see any rotting wood along your route where stag beetle grubs might be feeding?

Would stag beetle grubs do well in your area?

What could be done to improve things for them?

Think up a Green Cross Code for adult stag beetles.

How could they safely get from one place to another along your route, without getting squashed by people or road traffic?



Adult stag beetle



Stag beetle grubs in logs

If you come across a stag beetle on your route, we'd like to know about it! Please send details to conservation@bromley.gov.uk. It will help us find out how stag beetles are doing locally.