

ANIMAL NEWS

STAG beetle season is here and experts need your help to monitor this rare and magnificent insect.

Stag beetles are the UK's largest beetle. They used to be common in the south of England, but are sadly now quite rare. For years they live underground as larvae (see below). But in May and June, the adult beetles emerge in order to find a mate.

The PTES (People's Trust for Endangered Species) is asking for our help to spot stag beetles. It wants to map where the beetles are found and track their numbers.

The best time to spot stag beetles is on a warm, summer's evening, when the insects like to fly around. They are easily recognised by their large 'antlers', which are only found on the males. And don't worry, the antlers are used to battle other males and impress the females – they don't bite!

If you are lucky enough to spot one, record your sighting at www.ptes.org/stagbeetles. The website also has lots of useful information on how you can help this iconic insect.



Stag beetle larvae

The curious life of a stag beetle:

- Stag beetles spend up to seven years underground as a larvae.
- They feed on rotting wood.
- Once fully grown, the larvae build a cocoon in the soil and change into beetles.
- In the summer, the adults dig their way out of the soil.
- They fly around to find a mate and lay eggs.
- The beetles only live for a few weeks. By the end of August, most of them will have died.

BEETLE WATCH



Stock



Male and female stag beetles

Michelle Rickards

LO: vocabulary

First, read the text or listen to me read it on the website.

Next, there's some 'tricky' words in this text that I'm going to define for you. These are words, which may be unfamiliar words and can be used in lots of different contexts. There's also some technical words, which I'll define as well. These words are very specific to the subject of the text.

'Tricky' words	
rare	Not found in large numbers so is of high interest or value.
monitor	To observe (look carefully at) and check on something.
magnificent	Very beautiful or impressive.
emerge	To move out of or away from something and become visible (able to be seen).
rotting	To decay and break down.
Technical words	
Insect	A small animal with six legs.
Larvae	The young stage of an insect. It looks very different to the fully grown insect.
cocoon	A silky case made for protection by the larvae of many insects.
species	A group of similar living things.

Task:

Use the tricky words in a sentence to show that you understand what they mean. For example...

*Goals are very **rare** in Mr Wilks' football team as they terrible at shooting.*