

Garden Stag Beetle Count

Survey Instructions



people's
trust for
endangered
species

All about your stag beetle count

This year is a little different as we're mostly confined to our homes and gardens (if you're lucky enough to have one). Instead of walking a transect, we're asking people to count stag beetles in their gardens. Only do the count in your garden if you're likely to see stag beetles.

When to do it

Do your count weekly, at least six times, during June and July when weather conditions are suitable: warm (>12°C) evenings with little or no rain and no strong wind. If the temperature doesn't rise above 12°C during one or more weeks, there's no need to do the count.

How's it done?

You should sit (or stand) in your garden for 30 minutes. The survey should start 15 minutes before sunset (the time of sunset for the nearest city can be found at www.weather.com).

Before starting the transect, please note on your **Garden Stag Beetle Count Form**:

- Site name
- Date and starting time of count
- Name of surveyor
- Sunset time
- Temperature and humidity at the beginning of your count
- Wind speed (please use 0-4 as described below):

0 = no wind (0 Beaufort)

1 = Wind felt on exposed skin, smoke, leaves and flags move (1-2 Beaufort)

2 = dust and loose paper raised, small branches move, flags and clothes flutter (3-4 Beaufort)

3 = trees rustle, small trees and large branches move, empty plastic bins tip over (5-6 Beaufort)

4 = Whole trees in motion, flags taut, effort needed to walk or bike against the wind (7+ Beaufort).



Observations

Record all greater stag beetles (*Lucanus cervus*) seen in your garden. For each observation, note the time, number, sex and activity.

- Use M (male), F (female) or U (unknown) for sex
- Use DR (dead/remains), CO (copulating), NF (non-flying), FL (flying) and U (unknown or changing during observation) for activity.

Please take a photo of any stag beetles if you can.

Yearly habitat assessment

To understand population trends, we ask you to assess the habitat annually in an area of about 200m surrounding your transect. This assessment has only four questions and each is explained on the form. If you have any queries about the assessment, please contact laura.bower@ptes.org

Results

Please either post your forms back to FREEPOST PTES (you don't need to write anything else on the envelope, if you do it will cost us more) or scan and email them to laura.bower@ptes.org

Many thanks for taking part and I hope you see some stag beetles!

