

Cumbria Wildlife Report 2025

Beetles

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Report on Beetles (Coleoptera) recorded from Cumbria during 2025

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Introduction

In contrast to last year, 2025 turned out to be one of the hottest years on record with long periods of extremely high temperatures and very dry conditions over many areas of Britain. The effect this had on invertebrates and wildlife in general was enormous, and as the season progressed a great many species were observed in much larger numbers than in previous years. Butterflies, moths, and many other insects emerged early, but due to the warm and dry weather they were active for only a short period of time.

Throughout 2025 quite a large number of interesting and noteworthy beetles were discovered and recorded from the county, which included VC69 Westmorland and VC70 Cumberland. Along with beetles a great many other invertebrates were observed and recorded from various sites, particularly by members of the Cumbria Invertebrate Group, mainly in the north and south of the county. This report also includes the results of a survey carried out during the past five years on the beetles discovered in the newly created Beck Bottom Community Garden in Hensingham, near Whitehaven.

The arrangement and nomenclature in this report is according to the latest checklist of British beetles (Duff, 2018).

New hectads records are indicated by an asterisk *

Front page: top left *Plateumaris discolor* © Guy Broome, top right *Pogonocherus hispidus*, © Jordan Weekes, centre *Cryptocephalus bipunctatus* © Guy Broome, bottom centre *Rhagium mordax* © Guy Broome.

***Brychius elevatus* (Panzer, 1793) – Family HALIPLIDAE – Crawling water Beetles**

One specimen of this 3mm long, pale - yellowish coloured water beetle with long slender legs was netted among flowering water crowfoot, in shallow water by the edge of Gill Dubbs, SD50961593 13th July, during a Cumbria Invertebrate Group meeting at Haybridge Nature Reserve near Haverthwaite (GB). *B. elevatus* is found mainly in slow running water, usually on soft substrates. It is widespread in Britain; locally distributed in Cumbria.



Brychius elevatus © Guy Broome

***Hygrobia hermanni* (Fabricius, 1775) – Family HYGROBIIDAE - Screech Beetles**

A single individual of this large, reddish- brown water beetle was netted in a sphagnum pool on Bolton Fell Moss Nature Reserve near Longtown NY492693 29th June (SR). The beetle is commonly known as the screech beetle on account of its ability to emit a loud squeak when handled or disturbed. It is widespread in Britain; locally distributed in Cumbria with records, mainly from around the Carlisle area, and the western side of the county.

***Acilius canaliculatus* (Nicolai, 1822). – Family DYTISCIDAE - Predatory diving beetles**

This large, round shaped water beetle is found mainly in shaded peaty waters in fens and cutover bogs and peat cuttings. It is widely distributed in Britain, and has been recorded from a number of peatland sites in Cumbria, mainly in the north and northeast of the county. The beetle was recorded from three sites during 2025: Bowness on Solway gravel pits NY206616 25th July, Campfield Marsh NY199615 25th July and Watch Tree Nature Reserve NY309534 14th August (SR).

****Hydroglyphus geminus* (Fabricius, 1792)**

One specimen of this minute, 1.5mm long, and distinctively marked water beetle was found in fine gravel and clay, in shallow water by the edge of a newly created water course, during a Cumbria Invertebrate Group meeting at the Wakmill Community Woodland near Moresby, West Cumbria NY00601918, 25th May (JR). *H. geminus* is widespread in England, but tends to be locally distributed and scarce. Previously recorded from Cumbria in VC69 Westmorland by the late David Atty who recorded the beetle from North Walney SD17 and High Haybridge SD38 (Atty 2010).

***Dytiscus circumflexus* Fabricius, 1801 – The Wasp – Notable B**

Six females and one male of this very large, 22- 26mm long, black predatory diving beetle with yellow edged wing cases and pronotum were discovered on the RSPB Campfield Marsh Nature Reserve NY199615 23rd August (SR). In Britain the beetle was mainly restricted to coastal brackish ponds, but over the years it has increasingly been recorded from a large number of inland sites, mainly in England. The beetle is locally distributed in Cumbria, with records from around the Solway coastal area, and from localities in the west and south-west of the county.

***Pterostichus cristatus* (Dufour, 1820) – Family CARABIDAE – Ground Beetles**

One male specimen of this large, all black shiny ground beetle was observed on the public footpath leading to The Howck, above Whelpo Beck, Caldbeck (NY32063976) 27 April (JO). *P. cristatus* is an uncommon and locally distributed beetle in Britain and the main populations are centred on the Lake District and the Northeast of England. It has previously been recorded from several localities in Cumbria, mainly in western and northwestern areas of the county.

***Abraeus granulum* Erichson, 1839 – Family HISTERIDAE – Clown Beetles – Nationally Scarce**

One specimen of this minute histerid beetle was discovered in a vane trap set in a decaying tree trunk during the course of survey work carried out at Rydal High Park

(NY370065) June- August (SH). The beetle is mainly found under the bark of crumbly, decaying fungoid wood of various broadleaved trees; typically in ancient pasture woodland. It is scarce and locally distributed in England. This is a new county record and the first for VC69 Westmorland.

***Pselaphus heisei* Herbst, 1791 – Family STAPHYLINIDAE – Rove Beetles**

One specimen of this minute and rather bizarre-looking beetle with long antennae and legs was extracted from moss and humus beneath a large fallen, decaying oak trunk in Naddle Forest, Haweswater NY51211529 13th July (JR). The beetle is associated with wooded areas where it mainly occurs in moss and humus. It is widespread in Britain; scarce and locally distributed in Cumbria.

***Necrodes littoralis* (Linnaeus, 1758) – Family SILPHIDAE – Burrowing and Sexton Beetles**

One specimen of this large, 15-25mm long, all black burrowing beetle with distinctive yellow - tipped antennae was caught in a u/v moth trap set in dry, coastal woodland on limestone heathland margin at Heathwaite near Windermere SD4576 16th August (GB). *N. littoralis* is widely distributed in Britain and is found in both coastal and inland situations. It occurs in a wide variety of habitats, and the adults and larvae feed on carrion, mainly that of small mammals. The beetle is widespread in Cumbria, mainly in western and south western coastal areas of the county.



Necrodes littoralis © Guy Broome

***Stenus lustrator* Erichson, 1839**

One specimen of this all black, elongate rove beetle was vacuum sampled from mixed herbage at the Otteriggs Field Nature Reserve, North Dykes NY54393719 21st June (DB). This predatory rove beetle is found mainly in peaty habitats among sphagnum moss. It is widespread in Britain, but tends to be scarcer in the north. It has previously been recorded from a few peatland sites in VC69 Westmorland and VC70 Cumberland.

***Onthophagus similis* (Scriba, 1790) – Family SCARABEIDAE – Dung and Chafer Beetles**

This 4-8mm long, greenish and bronze coloured dung beetle is associated mainly with herbivore dung, particularly that of sheep, and to a lesser extent horse, and very occasionally dog. The adults of *O. similis* dig burrows directly beneath dung deposits which are provisioned with dung, into which the females lay their eggs. Several adults were found in fresh sheep dung on sand on the Drigg dunes near the shore road SD0598 29th August

(DM). *O. similis* is a widespread but local species in southern and central England and Wales, becoming scarcer further north. It has previously been recorded from Cumbria, mainly in coastal areas in VC69 Westmorland and VC70 Cumberland.



Onthophagus similis © Deborah Muscat

***Anaspis fasciata* (Forster, 1771) – Family SCRAPTIDAE – False tumbling flower beetles**

One specimen of this small, 3mm long, false tumbling flower beetle with long narrow legs and variable, yellow spotted wing cases was discovered during survey work carried out at Rydal High Park NY370065 4th May (SH). The larvae of *A. fasciata* have been discovered in fallen dead branch wood, mainly that of oak, hornbeam and larch. The adults can occur in quite large numbers on Hawthorn blossom in early spring, and they can also be found on the flower heads of various umbellifers. The beetle is widespread in Britain, but is scarce in northern England and Scotland. It is a scarce and locally distributed species in Cumbria with only a few records from the north and south of the county.



Anaspis fasciata

***Lampyris noctiluca* (Linnaeus, 1758) – Family LAMPYRIDAE – Glow Worms**

One adult male was taken in a violet/uv spectra light trap set in woodland pasture on the National Trust's Heathwaite site near Windermere SD4576 31st May (GB). Glow worms are now severely threatened in Britain and have declined in many areas, mainly due to the loss and degradation of their grassland and hedgerow habitat. With this recent record of *L. noctiluca* from Heathwaite it is good to know that the beetle continues to survive in Cumbria.

***Synaptus filiformis* (Fabricius, 1781) – Family ELATERIDAE – Click Beetles**

Several specimens of this very rare, dark grey coloured click beetle were swept from mixed, bankside vegetation along the east bank of Rusland Pool near to Crooks Bridge SD34378612 19th June (JR & CA). The beetle was first recorded from Cumbria at this same site during the course of survey work carried out in 2003 (Read 2004). *S. filiformis* is now an extremely rare click beetle in Britain, and has only been recorded from the River Parrett in Somerset, and from several localities in Gloucestershire, in the Severn Vale region. It is mainly found on the muddy banks of tidal rivers and is thought to be associated with reed canary- grasss *Phalaris arundacea* (Mendel 2025).



Synaptus filiformis © Liz Dawson

***Malachius bipustulatus* (Linnaeus, 1758) – Family MELYRIDAE – Soft-Winged Flower Beetles**

One specimen of this elongate, and bright iridescent green coloured flower beetle with two distinct, bright red spots on the wing cases was discovered along the public footpath by Whelpo Beck, Caldbeck NY32653993 26th April (JO), and one individual was swept from mixed herbage along the east bank of Rusland Pool near Crooks Bridge SD34262858 18th June (CA). *M. bipustulatus* is mainly found on the flower heads of herbaceous plants, usually along woodland edges, and in flower rich meadows. It is widespread nationally; scarce and locally distributed in Cumbria with records, mainly from around the Carlisle area.

***Oedemera nobilis* (Scopoli, 1763) – Family OEDEMERIDAE – Thick – thighed flower Beetles**

Males and females of this impressive, bright metallic green, 8mm long flower beetle were observed in quite large numbers on the flower heads of *Hieracium* sp. and common hogweed, *Heracleum sphondylium*, and also on the flowers of *Rubus* sp. dog daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, and buttercup *Ranunculus* sp. at several localities in the Whitehaven area, mainly along the old wagon way cycle track near Parton (NX97481869) 17th May, and by the coast-to-coast footpath near Coach Road (NX97511738) 28th May (JR). The larvae of *N. nobilis* develop inside the pithy cavities of a variety of tall herbaceous plants, mainly umbellifers. The beetle is widespread in Britain; locally distributed in Cumbria in Vice Counties 69 and 70.



Oedemera nobilis male © John Read

***Agapanthia villosoviridescens* (De Geer, 1775) – Family CERAMBYCIDAE – Longhorn Wood Beetles**

Specimens of this impressive 22mm long, grey and golden coloured longhorn beetle with long black and white banded antennae were found during two Cumbria Invertebrate Group meetings – one specimen at Green Ghyll Farm, Great Salkeld (NY5336) 21st June (DS-L), and one individual was observed on a marsh thistle flower head at Bolton Moss Nature Reserve near Longtown (NY4869) (SR). *A. villosoviridescens* is unusual, as unlike the majority of Longhorn beetles which are associated with the dead and decaying wood of mainly deciduous trees, this species feeds both as adults and larvae on herbaceous plants, particularly thistles and umbellifers. The larvae feed and pupate within the pithy stems of the foodplants. The beetle is widely distributed, mainly in central and eastern England, but is now rapidly spreading northwards and westwards. It is becoming more widespread in Cumbria and has been recorded from a number of sites, mainly in the north and south of the county.

***Pogonocherus hispidus* (Linnaeus, 1758) – Thorn tipped longhorn beetle**

One specimen of this large, striking, black and white banded longhorn beetle was observed on low vegetation by the footpath above Whelpo Beck, Caldbeck (NY31973972) 27th April (JW). *P. hispidus* is associated with a variety of broadleaved trees and shrubs. The larvae develop in the thin dead twigs and branches, mainly of holly, ivy, apple and pear, often in old hedgerows. With its black and white colouration *P. hispidus*, when at rest, bears a very strong resemblance to a bird dropping. The beetle is fairly widespread throughout England and Wales, and it has also been recorded from Ireland. It is uncommon in Cumbria and locally distributed.



Pogonocherus hispidus © Jordan Weekes

***Stenurella melanura* (Linnaeus, 1758) – Black-striped longhorn beetle**

One individual of this large, black and brown, striped longhorn beetle was observed in a small area of coastal woodland at Heathwaite, Arnside SD4576 28th April (GB). *S. melanura* is associated with the dead and decaying wood of a variety of deciduous trees. The larvae feed in moist decaying, fallen wood, and old tree stumps. It is widespread in Britain, but locally distributed in Northern England. It is a scarce beetle in Cumbria and has previously

been recorded from a number of localities, mainly around the Carlisle area, and a few woodland sites in the south of the county.



Stenurella melanura © Guy Broome

***Clytus arietis* (Linnaeus, 1758) – The Wasp**

Two individuals of this very conspicuous, 6 -15mm long, yellow and black - banded wasp mimic, woodboring beetle were observed in an area of disturbed ground, with mixed vegetation and some mature broadleaved trees at Far Arnside SD4576 28th April and 5th May (GB). The beetle is usually found in mixed, woodland; mainly deciduous. The adults visit the flower heads of a variety of herbaceous vegetation, and the larvae develop under the bark and in the thin stems of oak and other trees; entering the main wood in later stages (instars). The beetle is widespread in Britain; uncommon and locally distributed in Cumbria.



Clytus arietis © Guy Broome

***Chrysolina oricalcia* (Muller, O. F., 1776) – Family **CHRY SOMELIDAE** – Leaf Beetles – Nationally Notable B**

Two specimens of this rare, 4-6mm long, all dark – purplish coloured leaf beetle were found on the leaves of cow parsley, *Anthriscus sylvestris* at a site near Brugh-by-Sands NY32646041 11th June (JO), and one individual was discovered on cow parsley in Combs Wood, Armathwaite NY515444 31st May (CR). The adults and larvae of *C. oricalcia* are associated with cow parsley *A. sylvestris*, and feed externally, mainly on the leaves of the hostplant. Larval pupation takes place in an earthen cell. *C. oricalcia* has previously been recorded from Cumbria, VC70 Cumberland. T. C. Heysham (1792-1857) the well-known

17th/18th century Cumbrian Naturalist also discovered the beetle at Combs Wood, (then known as Coombe Wood). This historical record is quoted by F. H. Day in his list of Cumberland Coleoptera (Day 1923), and by Stephens (1831), who recorded the beetle under the old name of *Chrysomela lamina*. Until now the only recent record of the beetle from Cumbria (VC70) was in 2018 when Deborah Muscat discovered several adults and larvae on cow parsley at Edderside near Aspatria (Read, 2018). *C. oricalcia* is a scarce and very locally distributed leaf beetle in Britain, and has been recorded from various other localities in England, Wales and Scotland.



Chrysolina oricalcia © Jane Orgee

Cryptocephalus bipunctatus (Linnaeus, 1758)

One specimen of this striking black and yellow striped leaf beetle was found on a stunted, grazed hazel *Corylus* tree at the National Trust's Heathwaite site (SD4576) 30th May (GB). The beetle is associated with various deciduous trees, mainly species of willow *Salix*, hazel *Corylus* and birch *Betula*. The adults feed mainly on the leaves of the hostplants, and the larvae develop inside a case which they construct by using their own excrement. *C. bipunctatus* is a scarce and locally distributed species mainly in southern England, becoming rarer in the north of England. In Cumbria it has been recorded from a small number of sites in the south of the county in VC69 Westmorland.



Cryptocephalus bipunctatus © Guy Broome

Orthochaetes setiger (Beck, 1817) – Family **CURCULIONIDAE** – Weevils

One specimen of this small, elongate, grey - coloured weevil was extracted from moss and humus in a small area of deciduous woodland near Naddle Bridge, Burnbanks NY50891601 13th July (JR). *O. setiger* is a flightless and sluggish ground - living weevil and is associated with low growing vegetation, mainly species of Asteraceae. Adults occur at the base of the hostplants. The young larvae mine the basal leaves, and on reaching maturity they pupate in an earthen cell. The weevil is widespread in Britain; scarce and locally distributed in Cumbria.

Beetles recorded from the Beck Bottom Community Garden, Hensingham, West Cumbria

Introduction

The Beck Bottom Community Garden in Hensingham was first established in 2019 on what was once an area of derelict land, and former parkland which was owned and managed by Copeland Borough Council over thirty years ago, before the present garden was established on the same site. The primary aim of creating the garden was to transform the area into a green space that was accessible to the local community where visitors could enjoy the flowers (both cultivated and wild), and the attracted wildlife. Over the years a dedicated group of volunteer amateur gardeners have spent a great deal of time and effort in planting up formal beds and tubs with seasonal flowers, and rose beds. A wildflower meadow, and pollinator area to attract bees, butterflies and other insects has also been created, and a variety of native blossom trees have been planted in various parts of the garden. During the last few years the garden has received a number of awards which include the Green Flag Community award and the Royal Horticultural Society Britain in Bloom National Certificates of Distinction.

More information regarding the history and establishment of the Beck Bottom Community Garden is available on the official web sites: beckbottom.neocities.org /BBHistory and beckbottom.neocities.org

The beetles referred to in this report have been recorded and observed in the garden during the past five years. The report also includes a few records of beetles that were found during several visits made to the former Hensingham Park. Beetle recording in the garden has been carried out mainly in the spring and summer months, with occasional visits made in mid to late autumn. Relevant information is provided for all the beetles discovered in the garden, which include collecting methods, recording dates, brief details of the situations in which they were found, a six and eight figure national grid reference, and a brief note on the National and Cumbrian distribution for all the individual species has also been included.

Most of the beetles recorded from the garden were common and nationally widespread species, and in most cases ones that are also common and widely distributed in Cumbria. To date 55 species in 39 genera, representing 17 families have so far been recorded from the Beck Bottom Community Garden.

It is possible that as time goes by the garden will attract more beetles; especially the plant feeding (Phytophagous) species, such as weevils (Curculionidae) and leaf beetles (Chrysomelidae), which rely on various wild flowers, trees and shrubs for their development.

Also, more ground beetles and rove beetles might move in and become established if the right habitats are created.

All six figure and eight figure British Ordnance Survey grid references for the garden

Six figure - NX986169. **Eight figure** - NX96631701, NX98591691, NX98611696, NX98621698, NX98621699, NX98631697, NX98631698, NX98631701, NX98641700, NX98641701, NX98641702, NX98651695, NX98651695, NX98651699, NX98651700, NX98661699, NX98671701, NX99121736, NX99861169.

Survey dates

19. x. **2013**; 27. viii. **2017**, 27. ix. **2017**; 6. vii. **2020**; 22. i. **2022**, 11. vii. **2022**, 17. x. **2022**, 22. x. **2022**, 13. xi. **2022**, 27. xi. **2022**; 28. v. **2023**, 28. vii. **2023**, 10. viii. **2023**, 27. viii. **2023**, 21. x. **2023**; 19. v. **2024**, 20. 5. **2024**, 8. vii. **2024**; 14. viii. **2025**.



General view of the Beck Bottom Community Garden photograph: © John Read



View of the meadow area with mature silver birch tree photograph: © John Read

Annotated list of beetles recorded from the Beck Bottom Community Garden

Family CARABIDAE – Ground beetles

Leistus fulvibarbis Dejean, 1836

One in pile of heaped grass cuttings 27.xi.2022 (NX98651700). This 8mm long, dark-metallic - blue coloured ground beetle is mainly found in moss and humus in wooded areas. It also occurs in coastal sand dunes. Quite common and widespread in Britain; locally distributed in Cumbria.

Family HYDROPHILIDAE – Aquatic and semi- aquatic scavenger Beetles

Cercyon lateralis Marsham, 1802

Several found in heaped grass cuttings 27.ix.2017 (NX986169). A small 2.5mm long, deep reddish - brown beetle associated with decaying vegetation, and the dung of various mammals. It is found in a variety of habitats. Widespread in Britain; uncommon and locally distributed in Cumbria.

Cercyon melanocephalus (Linnaeus, 1758)

One in grass cuttings lying on the ground 19.x.2013 (NX986169). This 2.5mm long, all black, round-shaped scavenger beetle is associated with decaying vegetation, dung and carrion. Widely distributed in Britain; locally distributed in Cumbria.

Megasternum concinnum (Marshall, 1802)

Several individuals in heaped grass cuttings 27.viii.2017 (NX986169), 27.ix.2017 (NX986169), 6.vii.2020 (NX986169) and 17.x.2022 (NX98641701). A very small, 1.5 – 2mm, all black coloured beetle, mainly found in decaying vegetation and moss in damp habitats. Widespread nationally; widely distributed in Cumbria.

Anacaena globulus (Paykull, 1798)

One in pile of old wood chip 20.x.2022 (NX98671701). This 2.5 – 3mm long round -shaped beetle is mainly found in moss and decaying vegetation, usually by the edges of streams and ponds, and in sphagnum. Common and widespread in Britain; common and widely distributed in Cumbria.

Family **PTILIIDAE – Minute Feather Winged Beetles**

A number of adults in this family of minute (one millimetre long) beetles were found in grass cuttings and decaying compost. Due to problems with identification it has only been possible to identify the specimens as belonging to the genus *Ptendidiun* and *Acrotrichus*.

Family **STAPHYLINIDAE – Rove Beetles**

Unless otherwise stated, the various species in this family recorded from the garden were found by sieving heaped grass cuttings, and extracted from decaying composted, cut vegetation.

Omalium excavatum Stephens, 1834

One male specimen 17.x.2022 (NX98641701). A small, 2.5 – 3mm long, dark brown rove beetle, mainly found in moss and decaying vegetation, usually in damp situations. Widespread in Britain; locally distributed in Cumbria.

Megarthus denticollis (Beck, 1817)

One female specimen 27.ix.2017 (NX986169). A small 2.5mm long, dark-brown rove beetle, mainly found in moss and humus in areas of damp woodland. It also occurs in decaying vegetation. Widespread in Britain; uncommon and locally distributed in Cumbria.

Proteinus ovalis Stephens, 1834

One specimen 22.x.2022 (NX98641701). A small 2.5mm long, dark-brown beetle mainly found in moss and humus in areas of damp woodland. It also occurs in decaying vegetation. Widespread in Britain; uncommon and locally distributed in Cumbria.

Reichenbachia juncorum Leach, 1817

Several 17.x.2022 (NX98641701) and 13.xi.2022 (NX98651700). This 1.5mm long, reddish- brown beetle with long legs and antennae, is mainly found in moss and general decaying vegetation in a variety of habitats. Widely distributed in Britain; rather scarce in Cumbria.

Tachinus rufipes (Linnaeus, 1758)

Several 17.x.2017 and 6.vii.2020 (NX986169). A 5mm long, deep -red, elongate rove beetle, mainly found in moss and humus in mixed woodland. Also found in grass tussocks and plant roots in areas of rough grassland. Common and widespread nationally; widespread in Cumbria.

Atheta (Mocyta) fungi (Gravenhorst, 1806)

Several 17.x.2022 (NX98641701). A 2mm long, brown rove beetle, mainly found in moss, humus and decaying vegetation in damp situations. It also occurs in fungi in deciduous woodland. Very common and widespread nationally; common and widely distributed in Cumbria.

Anotylus rugosus (Fabricius, 1775)

Several 27.ix.2017, 6.vii.2020 (NX986169) and 17.x.2022 (NX98641701). This 5mm long, all black shiny rove beetle is associated with leaf litter, moss and carrion. Common and widespread in Britain; widely distributed in Cumbria, mainly in wooded areas.

Anotylus tetracarinatus (Blick, 1799)

Several specimens 6.vii.2020 (NX986169). A minute, 2mm long, dull coloured rove beetle. Mainly found in moss, but also herbivore dung, carrion and grass tussocks. Common and widely distributed in Britain, common and widespread in Cumbria.

Stenus cicndeloides (Schaller, 1783)

Several specimens 17.x.2022 (NX98641701). A small, slender all black rove beetle with yellow and black banded legs. It is mainly found among emergent vegetation in marshy places, and occasionally overwintering in grass tussocks. Common in southern England, but scarer in the north, and more locally distributed; uncommon in Cumbria.

Stenus picipes Stephens, 1833

One female 27.ix.2017 (NX986169). A 3-4.7mm long, black rove beetle and mainly found in dry to wet grassland, usually among decaying vegetation, and also in moss, humus and grass heaps. Widespread nationally; uncommon in Cumbria.

Stenus clavicornis (Scopoli, 1763)

Several 17.x. 2020 (NX98641701). A 4mm long rove beetle with large prominent eyes. Found in a variety of habitats, on low growing vegetation, mainly on dry and damp soils; quite often in marshy areas. It can also be found overwintering under stones and fallen branches. Widespread nationally; quite common and widely distributed in Cumbria.

Stenus juno (Paykull, 1789)

Several 17.x.2022 (NX98641701). This 6-7mm long, rove beetle is mainly found in wet habitats, especially in moss and humus, also in decaying vegetation. Common and widespread in Britain; quite common and widely distributed in Cumbria.

Stenus brunnipes Stephens, 1833

Several specimens 17.x.2022 (NX98641701), 20.x.2022 (NX98671701) and 13.xi.2022 (NX98651700). A 4mm long, all black rove beetle and found in moss and humus, mainly in mixed woodland. Also found in sand dunes and on heathy areas. Widespread nationally; quite common and widely distributed in Cumbria.

Lithocharis nigriceps Kraatz, 1859

One specimen 17.x.2022 (NX98641701). This 3-5mm long, reddish-yellow coloured rove beetle with an all-black head, is an established introduction from the Oriental region, and was first discovered in Britain in 1955. It is mainly associated with decaying, composted vegetation, grass heaps, and dung in a variety of habitats. Widely distributed in England and Ireland; uncommon and locally distributed in Cumbria.

Rugilus orbiculatus (Paykull, 1789)

Found on three occasions in an old decaying pile of wood chip – one 11.vii.2022 (NX98661699), one 7.x.2022 (NX98641701) and one on 28.x.2023 (NX98651700). An elongate, 5mm long, rove beetle with long legs and large head. It is found in a variety of habitats and is associated mainly with compost heaps and piles of decaying vegetation in open situations. Widespread in Britain; uncommon and locally distributed in Cumbria

Gyrophaena punctulatus (Paykull, 1789)

Several specimens 27.viii.2023 (NX98651699). This all black, 7.5mm long rove beetle with dark-brown coloured legs is associated with decaying vegetation, and various kinds of mammal dung, in a variety of habitats. It is locally distributed in Britain; uncommon in Cumbria.

Xantholinus linearis Olivier, 1795

A few specimens 28.viii.2017 (NX986169). An elongate dark – brown coloured beetle, mainly found in dry, open situations, and in wooded areas in moss and damp humus. Common and widespread nationally; quite common and widely distributed in Cumbria.

Xantholinus longiventris Heer, 1839

One specimen 27.viii.2017 (NX986169). An 8mm long, brown coloured rove beetle and found in similar habitats to *X. linearis*. Locally distributed nationally; scarce in Cumbria.

Ocypus aeneocephalus (De Geer, 1774)

One female specimen 17.x.2022 (NX98641701). This very large 12 – 14mm long, copper - coloured rove beetle with a large head is found in open, damp situations, usually in moss and decaying vegetation. A widespread species nationally; locally distributed in Cumbria.

Bisnius fimetarius (Gravenhorst, 1792)

Several males and females 27.ix.2017 (NX986169), 13.xi.2022 (NX98651700) and 27.viii.2023 (NX98651699). A 5mm long, dark- brown coloured rove beetle, associated with decaying vegetation, dung and rotting fungi, mainly in wooded areas. Also found in underground mammal nests. Widespread in Britain; fairly common and quite widely distributed in Cumbria.

Bisnius nigriventris (Thomson, C. G., 1867)

Several 27.viii.2023 (NX98651699). A 6-7mm long rove beetle, and mainly found in ground litter, decaying vegetation, rotting fungi and occasionally in mammal nests. Locally distributed in Britain; scarce in Cumbria.

Philonthus carbonarius (Gravenhorst, 1802)

One female 17.x.2022 (NX98641701). An 8mm long, all black rove beetle and mainly found in damp situations, in moss and humus, usually in open woodland, also in heath-grassland. Widespread nationally; quite common and widely distributed in Cumbria.

Philonthus concinnus (Gravenhorst, 1802)

Two male specimens 20.x.2022 (NX98671701). An all black 6-8mm rove beetle and mainly found in decaying grass heaps and litter on damp, but usually well drained soils. Widespread in Britain; locally distributed in Cumbria,

Philonthus varians (Paykull, 1789)

Several 27.viii.2023 (NX98651699) and 20.v.2024 (NX98651700). Another all-black rove beetle with red-spotted wing cases. It is associated with various kinds of herbivore dung, but it can also be found in decaying vegetation. Quite common nationally; uncommon, but quite widespread in Cumbria.

***Gabrius* sp.**

One female 22.i.2022 (NX98671701). The species in the genus *Gabrius* are difficult to identify, and males need to be collected and examined in detail in order to make a positive identification. So far only females have been discovered in the garden.

Family **BYRRHIDAE – Pill Beetles**

Cytilus sericeus (Forster, 1771)

One specimen was tapped from the leaves of Curled dock (*Rumex crispus*) 19.v.2024 (NX98631697). This 3mm long, very round-shaped pill beetle with variegated grey and black wing cases is mainly found in moss and humus on damp soils. It is uncommon and locally distributed in Britain; scarce with a scattered distribution in Cumbria.

Family **DRYPOIDAE** – Long – toed water Beetles

Dryops ernesti Gozis, 1886

Several males and females in heaped grass cuttings 27.viii.2017 (NX986169), 27.ix.2017 (NX986169), 6.vii.2020 (NX986169) and 13.xi.2022 (NX96581700). A long, grey-coloured, semiaquatic beetle, mainly found in moss and under stones by the edges of ponds, also on muddy soil in damp situations. Widespread nationally; quite common and widely distributed in Cumbria.

Family **CANTHARIDAE** – Solider and Sailor Beetles

Cantharis cryptica Ashe, 1947

One tapped from Silver Birch foliage 20.v.2024 (NX98631698). This large, 10mm long, orange and yellow coloured solider beetle is associated with rank vegetation, deciduous trees, and scrub in damp grassland, and open marshy places. Common and widespread in Britain; locally distributed in Cumbria.

Rhagonycha fulva (Scopoli, 1763)

Several on the flower heads of wild carrot (*Dacus carota*) 28.vii.2023 (NX98621699) and 8.vii.2024 (NX98621698). This bright orange and red coloured solider beetle with black - tipped wing cases can be found in very large numbers from late spring to mid-summer on the flower heads of various plants, particularly common hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), usually in tall herb, rich grassland and flower meadows. The larvae of *R. fulva* feed voraciously on a variety of insects and other invertebrates. Very common and widespread nationally; common and widely distributed in Cumbria.

Family **BYTURIDAE** – Raspberry and Gooseberry Fruit worm Beetles

Byturus tomentosus (De Geer, 1774)

Several tapped from hawthorn (*Crateagus monogyna*) blossom 19.v.2024 (NX98631701). This variably coloured, 4mm long beetle is associated mainly with blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). The larvae develop inside the soft fruit, particularly those of blackberries, and the developing fruit of wild and cultivated raspberries, and also gooseberries. A very common and widely distributed beetle in Britain; common and widespread in Cumbria.

Family **KATERIDAE** – Short-winged Flower Beetles

Brachypterus glaber Newman, 1834

Several were tapped from the flower heads of common stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*) 28.v.2023 (NX98641702). This very small, 3mm long, all black pollen beetle is mainly found on the flower heads of nettles where it feeds on the pollen. The adults often occur in quite large numbers on the hostplant. *B. glaber* can be found in a variety of habitats and is common and widespread nationally; common and widely distributed in Cumbria.

***Brachypterus urticae* (Fabricius, 1792)**

Several tapped from the flower heads of common nettle 28.v.2023 (NX98641702). Both *B. glaber* and *B. urticae* often occur together on the same individual plants of common nettle. *B. urticae* has a similar national, and county distribution to *B. glaber*.

Family NITIDULIDAE – Pollen Beetles & Sap Beetles

***Meleigethes aeneus* (Fabricius, 1775)**

Several adults tapped from hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) blossom 19.v.2024 (NX98631701). A very small, dark blue coloured pollen beetle, mainly found on the flower heads of yellow – flowering cruciferous plants, especially mustard and oil seed rape. Very common and widespread nationally; common and widely distributed in Cumbria.

Family COCCINELLIDAE – Ladybirds

***Rhyzobius litura* (Fabricius, 1787)**

Several individuals were tapped from hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) blossom 19.v.2024 (NX96631701) and one was observed on a leaf of ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) 20.v.2024 (NX98651695). A small 2.5-3mm long, pale brown, non-spotted ladybird with a U-shaped mark near the tip of the wing cases. It is mainly found on mixed vegetation, especially various grasses, thistles and common nettle. Widely distributed in Britain, mainly in England; locally distributed in Cumbria.

***Harmonia axyridis* (Pallas, 1873) – Harlequin Ladybird**

One adult was observed in the garden by David Todhunter 21.x.2023 (NX98591691). This large, variable, red and black spotted ladybird was first recorded from England in 2003, and has since spread rapidly throughout Britain, reaching as far north as southern Scotland. The ladybird is classed as an established introduction originally from Central and Eastern Asia. The adults and larvae of *H. axyridis* mainly feed on aphids, but they will also eat other insects, soft fruit, pollen and nectar. In recent years there has been a big increase in the number of records of this ladybird from Cumbria, but in general the ladybird is still locally distributed in the county, and possibly under recorded in many areas.

Family LATERIIDAE – Mould Beetles

***Cartodere bifasciata* (Reitter, 1827)**

Several adults found in heaped grass cuttings and composted vegetation on three occasions in the garden: 27.ix.2017 (NX986169), 6.vii.2020 (NX986169) and 27.viii.2023 (NX98651699). A very small 1.5-2.00mm, long, yellowish-red mould beetle, mainly found in mouldy decaying vegetation. It is an established introduction from Australia and was first discovered in Britain in 1950. It is now widespread nationally; uncommon in Cumbria, but possibly overlooked in many areas.

Family **ODEMERIDAE** – False Blister Beetles

Oedemera lurida (Marsham, 1802)

Two individuals were observed on the flower head of Buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp.) 28.v.2023 (NX98641700). This slender, silvery-green blister beetle is mainly found on the flower heads of mixed, herbaceous vegetation, especially ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), usually in grassland and flower rich meadows. The larvae live and develop inside the pithy stems of the hostplants. The beetle is widespread nationally; quite common and widely distributed in Cumbria.

Family **ANTHICIDAE** – Ant-like Flower Beetles

Omonadus floralis (Linnaeus, 1758)

Two specimens in heaped grass cuttings and composted vegetation 27.viii.2017 (NX986169). This small 3mm long, deep-reddish brown flower beetle is associated with decomposing vegetation, and at times can occur in large numbers, especially in grass and compost heaps. Widespread nationally; quite widely distributed in Cumbria.

Omonadus formicarius (Goeze, 1777)

Several specimens were also found in grass cuttings 27.ix.2017 (NX98631701). This species is very similar to *O. floralis* in size and colour, and occurs in the same situations. The beetle is also widely distributed in Britain; rather scarce and locally distributed in Cumbria.

Family **SCRAPTIDAE** – False Tumbling Flower Beetles

Anaspis frontalis (Linnaeus, 1758)

Several individuals were tapped from hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) blossom 20.v.2024 (NX98631701). This all black, false tumbling beetle with long thin legs is mainly found on hawthorn blossom in hedgerows and woodland edges. The larvae have been reared from decaying wood of oak and maple. *A. frontalis* is widespread in Britain; quite common and widely distributed in Cumbria.

Anaspis maculata (Geoffroy in Fourcroy, 1758)

Several tapped from hawthorn blossom on three occasions 28.v.2023 (NX98641702), 19.v.2024 (NX98631701) and 20.5.2024 (NX98631701). This 2-3mm long, yellowish-brown coloured flower beetle with black spotted wing cases, can occur in very large numbers on the blossom of various trees, mainly hawthorn and elder. A common and widely distributed species nationally; common and widespread in Cumbria.

Family **CERAMBYCIDAE** – Longhorn Wood-boring Beetles

Grammoptera ruficornis (Fabricius, 1781)

One individual was tapped from hawthorn blossom 28.v.2023 (NX98641702). This 3-7mm long, greyish-black, woodboring beetle with long thin legs and long antennae, is mainly

found in wooded areas on deciduous trees and shrubs. Adults occur on blossom, especially that of hawthorn, and the flower heads of various umbellifers. The larvae bore into, and develop in the fungus-infected twigs of decaying small branches of broadleaved trees and shrubs. *G. ruficornis* is quite common and widespread in Britain; uncommon and locally distributed in Cumbria.

Family **CHRYSOMELIDAE** – Leaf Beetles

Cassida rubiginosa Muller, O. F., 1776) – Green Tortoise Beetle

Several specimens were observed on the leaves of common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) in the pollinator area 19.v.2024 (NX98621698), and one larva was recorded on the leaf of creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) 14.viii.2025 (NX98611696). This round-shaped, green tortoise beetle with very short legs is associated with a range of hostplants, particularly thistles, which includes creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), *Carduus* sp., and also common knapweed, and greater burdock (*Arctium lappa*). Both the adults and larvae of *C. rubiginosa* feed externally on the hostplants. The beetle is common and widely distributed in Britain; common and widespread in Cumbria.

Longitarsus pratensis (Panzer, 1794)

Several adults were observed on the leaves of ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) in the pollinator area 20.v.2024 (NX98611696). This very small 1.5-2mm long, yellowish-brown coloured, jumping leaf beetle, feeds mainly on the leaves of various plantains, mainly ribwort and sea plantain (*Plantago maritima*). The adults feed mainly on the leaves where they make characteristic, small round holes, and the larvae feed in the roots of the hostplants. A common and widely distributed species in Britain; quite common and widespread in Cumbria.

Prasocuris marginella (Linnaeus, 1758)

Several individuals were observed feeding on the pollen of buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp.) flower heads 20.v.2024 (NX98651695). This dark green and yellow striped leaf beetle is associated with various species of buttercup, mainly creeping and meadow buttercup. The adults and larvae feed externally, mainly on the leaves and flowers of the hostplants. A common and widespread species in Britain; quite common and widely distributed in Cumbria.

Family **APIONIDAE** – Apionid Weevils

Perapion curtirostre (Germar, 1817)

One specimen was swept from mixed vegetation 20.v.2024 (NX98641701). This small 2-5mm long, grey-black coloured apionid weevil feeds on various species of docks and sorrels, particularly broad-leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), curled dock (*Rumex crispus*), and to a lesser extent common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*). The larvae feed and develop in the stems of the hostplants where they also pupate. A very common beetle nationally; common and widely distributed in Cumbria.

***Protapion apricans* Herbst, 1797**

Three specimens were found in old seeding flower heads of red clover (*Trifolium pratense*) 10.viii.2023 (NX99121736). This small 2.5mm long, black weevil with red and yellow banded legs is associated with various species of clover (*Trifolium*) especially *T. pratense*. The adults feed on the leaves where they make minute round feeding holes, and the larvae feed within the flower heads where they also pupate. This is a common and widespread species in Britain; very common and widely distributed in Cumbria.

***Ischnopterapioin loti* Kirby, 1808**

One specimen was tapped from plants of yellow flowering trefoil in the pollinator area 20.v.2024 (NX98611696). This all black, 3mm long weevil is associated with various species of trefoils, especially birds foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*). The adults feed mainly on the leaves, and the larvae develop and pupate inside the seed pods, where they consume the individual developing seeds. A common and widespread species in Britain; common and widely distributed in Cumbria, especially in coastal areas.

Family CURCULIONIDAE – Weevils

***Rhinoncus pericarpus* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

One individual was found in heaped grass cuttings and general decomposing vegetation 6.vii.2020 (NX99861169), and one specimen was tapped from flowering buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp.) 20.v.2024 (NX98651695). This deep – reddish brown weevil, with cream-coloured scales on the wing-cases is mainly associated with dock plants (*Rumex* spp.) particularly, broad-leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), curled dock (*Rumex crispus*), and to a lesser extent common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*). The beetle is very common and widely distributed in Britain; common and widespread in Cumbria.

***Leiosoma deflexum* (Panzer, 1795)**

A single individual was found in heaped grass cuttings and composted vegetation 6.vii.2020 (NX99861169). This all-black, shiny weevil is nearly always found in association with species of buttercup (*Ranunculus*), especially meadow buttercup (*R. repens*), and also wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*). The adults feed mainly on the leaves, where they make, small round, distinctive holes, and the larvae develop in the roots systems of the hostplants. A common and widespread weevil nationally; common and widely distributed in Cumbria.

***Nedys quadrimaculatus* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

One specimen was tapped from plants of common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) on the edge of the pollinator area 19.v.2024 (NX98631701). This small, grey - black weevil with small white spots on the wing cases, feeds exclusively on common nettle. The adults feed on the leaves making small irregular shaped holes, and the larvae feed and develop in the roots, and pupate within an earthen cell. A very common weevil nationally; common and widespread in Cumbria.

Taxonomic list of all beetles recorded from the Beck Bottom Community Garden

Arrangement and nomenclature is according to Duff (2018)

CARABIDAE – Ground Beetles

Leistus fulvibarbis Dejean, 1826

HYDROPHILIDAE – Aquatic and semi- aquatic scavenger Beetles

Cercyon lateralis Marsham, 1802

Cercyon melanocephalus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Megasternum concinnum (Marsham, 1802)

Anacaena globulus Paykull, 1798

STAPHYLINIDAE – Rove Beetles

Omalius excavatum Stephens, 1834

Megarthus denticollis (Beck, 1817)

Proteinus ovalis Stephens, 1834

Reichenbachia juncorum Leach, 1817

Tachinus rufipes (Linnaeus, 1758)

Atheta (Mocyta) fungi (Gravenhorst, 1806)

Anotylus rugosus (Fabricius, 1775)

Anotylus tetracarinatus (Blick, 1799)

Stenus cicindeloides (Schaller, 1783)

Stenus picipes Stephens, 1833

Stenus clavicornis (Scopoli, 1763)

Stenus juno (Paykull, 1789)

Stenus brunnipes Stephens, 1833

Lithocharis nigriceps Kraatz, 1859

Rugilus orbiculatus (Paykull, 1789)

Gyrophynus punctulatus (Paykull, 1789)

Xantholinus linearis Olivier, 1795

Xantholinus longiventris Heer, 1839

Ocypus aeneocephalus (De Geer, 1774)

Bisnius fimetarius (Gravenhorst, 1892)

Bisnius nigriventris (Thomson, C. G., 1867)

Philonthus carbonarius (Gravenhorst, 1802)

Philonthus concinnus (Gravenhorst, 1802)

Philonthus sanguinolentus (Gravenhorst, 1802)

Philonthus varians (Paykull, 1789)

BYRRHIDAE – Pill Beetles

Cytilus sericeus (Forster, 1771)

DRYOPIDAE – Long-toed Water Beetles

Dryops ernesti Gozis, 1886

CANTHARIDAE – Soldier and Sailor Beetles

Cantharis cryptica Ashe, 1947

Rhagonycha fulva (Scopoli, 1763)

BYTURIDAE – Raspberry and Gooseberry Fruit worm Beetles

Byturus tomentosus (De Geer, 1774)

KATERIDAE- Short-winged Flower Beetles

Brachypterus glaber Newman, 1834

Brachypterus urticae (Fabricius, 1792)

NITIDULIDAE – Pollen Beetles and Sap Beetles

Meligethes aeneus (Fabricius, 1775)

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Harmonia axyridis (Pallas, 1873)

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Nedys quadrimaculatus (Linnaeus, 1758)

List of recorders

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