

# Species Factsheet

# Heath Tiger Beetle

*Cicindela sylvatica*

Conservation Status:

**Endangered**

Threat of extinction:

**Very High**

Main threats:

- **Decline in quality and extent of heathland**

Number of sites in UK: **Unknown**



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**Description:** The largest of the tiger beetles, it can reach 19mm in length. Charcoal-black in colour, with a black labrum, large mandible and pale yellow markings on the wing cases.

**Lifecycle:** Adults breed in late spring to early summer and are found from late April to early September. Both adults and larvae are predatory. Larvae dig burrows in the soil from which they can ambush their prey, while adults actively hunt other invertebrates.

**Habitat:** Lowland heathland with extensive bare and sandy ground and patches of tall heather.

**Distribution:** Occurs throughout north, central and north-west Europe. In the UK, restricted to Dorset, Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire

**Status:** Classified as endangered.

**Reasons for decline:** The conversion of heathland for agriculture, forestry and development. In addition, the decline in the quality of the remaining heathland, for example, through scrub encroachment reducing the amount of bare ground. Also may be limited by poor dispersal ability.

**Protection under the Law:** It is listed as "a species of principal importance" under Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006) and is included on the UKBAP list of species (2007).

## What we are doing:

- Setting up a monitoring network of volunteers to survey for the beetle
- Investigating the habitat requirements of the beetle
- Liaising with site managers to develop conservation plans

## What you can do:

- If you live locally volunteer to become a site monitor
- Become a species supporter and help fund the project

