

# Beetles from a typical ancient Chiltern beechwood

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published online February 2019

## Summary

Lambridge Wood on the edge of Henley-on-Thames is an ancient, semi-natural woodland typical of many Chiltern beechwoods. It has a well-documented history that was described in *The Wood for the Trees* (Fortey 2016) proving its ancient pedigree, and that it was a 'working woodland' until the middle of the last century, since when it has had minimal management. Over five years the beetle fauna of part of the wood has been sampled, including the canopy, up to 253 species were found, which were identified in the Natural History Museum, London. Of this total, about 20% are local or Notable, and most of these are associated with ancient woodlands, including saproxylic species. Notes are given on some of these taxa. Species collected from identified fungi are discussed in more detail. This 'snapshot' may serve as a benchmark to help monitor future changes in this special habitat.

## Introduction



**Figure 1. Lambridge Wood: the study area in April 2015, when bluebells feed *Meligethes* and *Epuraea* species. Photo by Jacqueline Fortey.**

Beech woodland is particularly characteristic of high ground on the southern part of the Chiltern Hills. During the nineteenth and early twentieth century these beech stands were associated with a chair manufacturing industry centred on High

Wycombe, Bucks. In South Oxfordshire, the area west of Henley-on-Thames has a wealth of such beech woods, one of which, Lambridge Wood, is the subject of this report. RF bought a four acre piece of this large wood when it was subdivided into lots in 2011. This particular portion of Lambridge Wood was called Grim's Dyke Wood after a section of the pre-Roman feature which passes through the wood. *The Wood for the Trees* described in some detail the natural and human history of this particular wood (Fortey 2016). It proved to have a history long predating the nineteenth century. Part of the research centred on Grim's Dyke Wood entailed collection and identification of invertebrates, with the help of RF's former colleagues at the Natural History Museum, London. Beetles are the subject of this paper, and the list of authors reflects various areas of identification expertise. The species recognised provide a sample from an ancient habitat that has endured on the same site for centuries while radical changes transformed the landscape to the north towards Oxford on the Aylesbury Plain (Hepple and Doggett 1992). The beetle species present may be of service in identifying other areas of ancient woodland where the historical evidence is not as explicit as in the case of Lambridge Wood. A number of nationally scarce or threatened species have been recovered from the site, which is an SSSI.

## **Lambridge Wood as ancient semi-natural woodland**

Lambridge Wood covers nearly 74 hectares of predominantly mature beech forest between Henley-on-Thames and Nettlebed, occupying the high ground to the southwest of the Fair Mile, where the main road approaches the village of Bix, largely within National Grid SU 7384 (Vice County 23: Oxfordshire). Some areas (away from our sampling area) have been planted with Larch (*Larix decidua*) and/or Corsican Pine (*Pinus nigra*), after a felling phase in the 1950s, in a misguided attempt to grow a 'cash crop'. Otherwise, Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) is by far the most abundant tree. Within the wood, Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*) grows to a similar height as the beech trees, up to 30 metres. There is a scattering of mature Pedunculate Oaks (*Quercus robur*), including in our sampling area, and well grown Ash trees (*Fraxinus excelsior*), as well as plenty of understory Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). Wych Elm (*Ulmus glabra*) is making a good recovery in parts of the wood, and there are examples of relatively young, naturally sown Yew trees (*Taxus baccata*). With Brambles (*Rubus fruticosus*) in many parts of the wood, the community approximates to the woodland community type W14 of Rodwell (1991; also Packham et al. 2012). We know from past ownership records that the beech 'crop' continued to be harvested after the furniture industry went into decline, especially for the manufacture of tent pegs for both world wars. After this, the Star Brush Company utilised many beech trunks for making brush backs, an industry that lasted until about the middle of the last century. Since that time Lambridge Wood has largely been left to itself. From a study of growth rings on felled trees we know that the majority of trees in the wood are about 80 or 90 years old; this was to be expected as the generation of small trees matured after the last major felling. Some scattered older trees – probably about 150 years old – likely account for the natural regeneration of the forest.

Lambridge Wood has been on land held by the Manor of Greys Court, which lies less than a mile away to the southwest, since shortly after the Norman Conquest, until it was finally sold off in 1922. Hence the history of the wood is inevitably bound up with that of the families who owned the manor house, including, in Tudor times, the Knollys, who were well connected with royalty. Greys Court is now a National Trust

property. The formal definition of an ancient woodland in England is one that has been continuously forested since 1600 – although, of course, all ancient woods have had to earn their keep, and have usually been managed for timber and fuel. We have discovered direct evidence of the antiquity of Lambridge Wood from several sources. A document dated 1658 in the Oxfordshire Record Office shows a rough plan of the wood; presumably, the trees were mature then, which surely takes us back before 1600. In the same year a 99 year lease was signed between ‘William Knollis of Grayes, Gentleman, and Thomas Goodinge of Henly on Thames’ for ‘part of a wood called Lambridge Wood’. This section of woodland was later cut down to become farmland very close to Grim’s Dyke Wood, the profits from which became the Lambridge Charity Estate (Fortey 2017). In 1707 permission was granted to two Londoners to clear the land of ‘the roots and runts grubbed’ to make charcoal; again, these must have been derived from mature trees to make the exercise profitable. This land is a deer park today, but still looks obviously ‘cut out’ from the greater Lambridge Wood. There is no reason to question that Lambridge Wood as a whole is still older than the arbitrary 1600 threshold: it lies on poor, stony ground towards the edge of the Grey’s estate and its products should have contributed to the manor’s economy since medieval times. The wood shows other evidence for ancient origins, including fine spreads of English bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) in due season, together with Wood Spurge (*Euphorbia amygdaloides*) and Woodruff (*Galium odoratum*).

Although the Chiltern Hills are underlain by chalk, there is no evidence of calcareous ground in Grim’s Dyke Wood, which is founded upon a thick layer of clay-with-flints covered with superficial glacially derived material (Fortey 2016). Concerning the past species composition of the wood, it is likely that beeches were an important ‘crop’ even in Tudor times. It is known that Henley-on-Thames had major quays for supplying London with firewood before the ready availability of coal (Townley 2009), and we also know that beech was particularly popular for this purpose (Evelyn 1664). Grey’s Court even had its own Thames-side wharf outside the Henley parish, thus avoiding the town’s fees. However, it is also likely that the woods were managed on the principle of coppice with standards (Rackham 1976), allowing the regularly harvested beech to grow alongside other useful trees such as ash, hazel and oak, that still grow well in Lambridge Wood. On the other hand there are no individually ancient trees, such as are a feature in Burnham Beeches, for example. This means that beetles that are adapted to this special habitat are unlikely to be recovered. Some grasses, like Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*) are adapted to flourish in the spring and fade in the summer; hence grassland species are also not in abundance. However, there are patches of the grass, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, and sedges, *Carex sylvatica*, *C. remota* and *C. strigosa* in damper ground making a distinctive habitat. Clearings now occupied with brambles introduce sunny glades with abundant sources of pollen and nectar in spring and early summer, and fruit in late summer and autumn. Woodland fringes support ground elder (*Aegopodium podagraria*) and hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*). There is some standing dead wood, and numerous logs left lying to decay. Saprobic and mycorrhizal fungi flourish in the autumn.

In summary, much of Lambridge Wood (of which Grims Dyke Wood is a part) growing on neutral or acid soil is undoubtedly ancient woodland, and has been managed for beech products for several centuries, with ash, cherry, oak, hazel and wych elm in addition. Natural regeneration has been the rule – hence it is ‘semi-natural’. It lacks ancient trees, and is currently dominated by mature beech trees since

commercial exploitation has ceased. In this respect it is like many other woodlands on the Chiltern Hills. While not a particularly rich habitat, it is a special part of the southern English countryside.

## Sampling methods

Sampling for beetles was carried out at various times over the five year period 2014-2018. Beginning in bluebell season in mid-April 2014 pitfall traps were dug by RF in a range of spots from canopy-dominated to the main *Rubus* covered clearing. The traps were collected several times through the summer and early autumn, particularly sampling carabids and larger staphylinids. At the same time an ethanol baited ‘Lindgren Funnel’ trap was suspended in the centre of the wood to attract beetles on the wing over the next few months. Collections were then passed to MB and colleagues at The Natural History Museum (NMH), London, for identification. On June 27, 2014, Sally-Ann Spence brought her ‘Minibeast Mayhem’ group of young entomological enthusiasts for a first pass for beetles collected from local habitats during the day. A few scientists from the Natural History Museum came as well, but there were concerns about ‘health and safety’ issues because of slightly high winds, which meant an ‘official’ delegation was cancelled. Nonetheless Sally-Ann and her willing collectors (Jordan Rainey and Friederike Gebert particularly) made a good haul of specimens for the NHM experts to identify. The following year a ‘bioblitz’ on June 5 brought many specialists from the Natural History Museum who came for an intensive day of sampling throughout the wood (including MG). RF hired a cherry picker to allow sampling up into the canopy. Since deer droppings occur in the wood some sampling of coprophagous species was also possible. This day yielded the greatest number of Coleoptera identified in the eventual tally. In order to sample other times of year and from seasonal habitats RF collected beetles *in situ* through 2017 and 2018. The various microhabitats sampled include: pollen and nectar feeders collected from bluebells, and, later, Ground Elder, brambles and Hogweed from clearings; moss banks; rotten interiors of sickly beech trees and their flooded knot holes; leaf piles; the damp *Carex* and *Deschampsia* patches. Fungi first appeared in the summer, and collections from identified agarics and bracket fungi continued into December 2017 and the following year. This sampling added a significant number of beetle species, which were identified by RB, as well as documenting associations between host fungus species and coleopterans.

## Inventory of Coleoptera

Table 1 gives a list of beetles collected, by alphabetical order of family, genus and species. Initials indicate who made the first determination. In addition to the authors, Mike Morris, Andrew Padmore, and Jordan Rainey contributed identifications. Those species without comment on rarity are presumed to be common. Notable species are in **bold**. Local species are noted. Nomenclature follows Duff (2012). A new checklist (Duff, 2018) was not used as it is not yet published online. Rarity status is taken from Hyman (1992, 1994) except where otherwise stated. More recent status reviews do not yet cover the whole of the Coleoptera, so are not used in this work; the new reviews published so far are less specific, and so for the time being we continue to use the ‘Notable A’ and ‘Notable B’ status as used in the earlier works. The date of first collection is indicated in brackets (month/year), many of which refer to the bioblitzes of June 2014 and 2015. Many of the rest are specific collections made by RF and determined by RB. Habitat is indicated where known, but species collected on the bioblitzes (netted, beaten, ground collected etc) could not be exactly located to habitat

in some cases and are just recorded as ‘bioblitz’. Just over 20% of species recorded are Local or Notable, and nearly all of these are saproxylic or associated with ancient woodland.

**Table 1**

Species	Habitat	Status
<b>Family</b> Ptinidae (woodworm beetles) (= Anobiidae <i>sensu auctt.</i> )		
<i>Anobium punctatum</i> (De Geer)(5/14) MB	Dead beechwood	
<b><i>Hedobia imperialis</i></b> (Linnaeus)(6/15) MG	Wood borer	Notable B
<i>Hemicoelus fulvicornis</i> (Sturm) (6/18) RB	On wych elm	
<i>Ptilinus pectinicornis</i> (Linnaeus) (5/14) MB	Dead beechwood	
<b>Family</b> Apionidae (seed weevils)		
<i>Ischnoptera pion loti</i> (Kirby) (6/15) MG	Seed weevil	
<i>Oxystoma cracca</i> (Linnaeus) (7/18) RB	On hazel	
<i>Oxystoma pomonae</i> (Fabricius) (7/18) RB	On hazel	
<i>Protapion apricans</i> (Herbst) (6/15) MB	Clover seed weevil	
<i>Protapion assimile</i> (Kirby) (6/15) MG	Clover seed weevil	
<i>Protapion fulvipes</i> (Geoffroy) (6/15) MG	Vetch weevil	
<i>Protapion nigritarse</i> (Kirby)(7/18) RB	On hazel	
<b>Family</b> Buprestidae (jewel beetles)		
<b><i>Agrilus angustulus</i></b> (Illiger) (6/15) RB	Oak canopy	Notable B
<b>Family</b> Byturidae		
<i>Byturus tomentosus</i> (De Geer) (6/15) MB	On brambles	Many colls.
<i>Byturus ochraceus</i> (Scriba) (6/15) MG	On brambles	
<b>Family</b> Cantharidae (soldier beetles)		
<i>Cantharis livida</i> (Linnaeus) (6/15) MG	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Cantharis pellucida</i> (Fabricius) (6/15) MG	Bioblitz coll.	
<b><i>Malthinus balteatus</i></b> Suffrian (6/15) MG	Broad-leaved trees	Notable B
<i>Malthodes marginatus</i> (Latreille) (6/15) MG	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Malthodes minimus</i> (Linnaeus) (6/15) MB	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Malthodes pumilus</i> (Brébisson) (6/15) MB	Bioblitz coll.	Local
<i>Rhagonycha lignosa</i> (Müller) (6/15) MB	Broad-leaved trees	
<b>Family</b> Carabidae (ground beetles)		
<i>Abax parallelepipedus</i> (Piller & Mitterpacher) (5/14) MB	Beech litter	
<i>Acupalpus meridianus</i> (Linnaeus) (6/15) MG	Beech litter	
<i>Amara familiaris</i> (Duftschmid) (6/15) RB	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Amara lunicollis</i> (Schiødte) (6/14) JR	Beech litter	
<i>Amara plebeja</i> (Gyllenhal) (6/15) MB	Beech litter	
<i>Carabus violaceus</i> Linnaeus 11/17) RF	Wintering in rotten log	
<i>Cychnus caraboides</i> (Linnaeus) (6/15) MG	Sedge/grass	
<i>Harpalus affinis</i> (Schrank) (6/15) MG	Beech litter	
<i>Harpalus latus</i> (Linnaeus) (4/18) RB	Sedge/grass	
<i>Leistus rufomarginatus</i> (Duftschmid) (6/18) RB	Old <i>Laetiporus</i>	
<i>Nebria brevicollis</i> (Fabricius) (5/14) MB	Beech litter	
<i>Notiophilus biguttatus</i> (Fabricius) (5/14) MB	Beech litter	
<i>Pterostichus madidus</i> (Fabricius) (5/14) MB	Beech litter	
<i>Pterostichus niger</i> (Schaller) (5/14) MB	Beech litter	

<i>Pterostichus strenuus</i> (Panzer) (5/14) MB	Beech litter	
<i>Trechus obtusus</i> Erichson (5/18) RB	Sedge/grass	
<b>Family Cerambycidae</b> (longhorn beetles)		
<i>Alosterna tabacicolor</i> (De Geer) (6/15) MG	Bioblitz coll.	Local
<i>Clytus arietis</i> (Linnaeus) (6/15) MG	Broadleaved woodland	
<i>Grammoptera ruficornis</i> (Fabricius) (6/15) MG	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Rhagium mordax</i> (De Geer) (6/18) RB	Feeding Ground Elder	
<i>Rutpela maculata</i> (Poda) (6/14) MB	Feeding on brambles	
<b>Family Cerylonidae</b> (minute bark beetles)		
<b>Cerylon fagi</b> Brisout de Barneville (3/18) RB	On <i>Trametes</i> , <i>Pleurotus</i>	Notable B
<i>Cerylon ferrugineum</i> Stephens (6/17) RB	Various fungi	Local
<b>Family Chrysomelidae</b> (leaf & flea beetles)		
<i>Altica cf. palustris</i> Weise (6/14) MB	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Altica cf. oleracea</i> (Linnaeus) (6/15) RB	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Aphthona euphorbiae</i> (Schrank) (6/14) MB	On <i>Euphorbia</i>	
<i>Chaetocnema concinna</i> (Marsham) (6/15) RB	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Chaetocnema hortensis</i> (Fourcroy) (6/15) MB	Bioblitz coll.	
<b>Longitarsus parvulus</b> (Paykull) (5/18) RB	Sedge/grass	Formerly notable
<i>Phyllotreta atra</i> (Fabricius) (6/14) MB	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Phyllotreta ochripes</i> (Curtis) (6/15) MG	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Psylliodes napi</i> (Fabricius) (6/15) MG	Bioblitz coll.	
<b>Family Ciidae</b> (minute fungus beetles)		
<i>Cis bilamellatus</i> Wood (11/17) RB	Various bracket fungi	
<i>Cis boleti</i> (Scopoli) (11/17) RB	<i>Stereum</i> , <i>Trametes</i>	
<i>Cis castaneus</i> (Herbst) (11/17) RB	Various bracket fungi	Local
<i>Cis submicans</i> Abeille de Perrin (11/17) RB	<i>Stereum</i> , <i>Trametes</i>	Local
<i>Cis villosulus</i> (Marsham) (11/17) RB	<i>Stereum</i>	Local
<i>Octotemnus glabriculus</i> (Gyllenhal) (6/15) RB	Various bracket fungi	
<b>Family Coccinellidae</b> (ladybirds)		
<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i> Linnaeus (6/14) RF	Aphid eater	
<i>Halyzia sedecimguttata</i> (Linnaeus) (8/17) RF	On Hogweed mildew	
<i>Propylea quatuordecimguttata</i> (L.) (8/15) MG	Aphid feeder	
<i>Scymnus haemorrhoidalis</i> Herbst (6/15) RB	Bioblitz coll.	
<b>Family Corylophidae</b>		
<i>Sericoderus brevicornis</i> Matthews (6/14) MB	Fungus eater	Local
<b>Family Cryptophagidae</b> (fungus beetles)		
<i>Antherophagus pallens</i> s.s. (Linnaeus) (7/18) RB	On <i>Pleurotus</i>	
<i>Atomaria fuscata</i> (Schönherr) (6/15) MG	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Cryptophagus cf. dentatus</i> (Herbst) (6/15) MB	Bioblitz coll.	
<b>Family Curculionidae</b> (weevils)		
<b>Acalles ptinoides</b> (Marsham) (6/15) MG	Dead beech	Notable B
<i>Archarius pyrrhocerus</i> (Marsham) (6/15) MG	Oak leaf	
<i>Barypeithes araneiformis</i> (Schrank) (6/18) RB	Grass/sedge	
<i>Barypeithes pellucidus</i> (Boheman) (6/15) MB	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Curculio glandium</i> Marsham (6/15) MG	Oak canopy	

<i>Curculio venosus</i> (Gravenhorst) (6/15) MG	Oak canopy	
<i>Dorytomus tortrix</i> (Linnaeus) (6/15) MG	Bioblitz coll.	
<b>Ernoporicus fagi</b> (Fabricius) (6/14)	Caught in flight	Notable A
<i>Euophryum confine</i> (Broun) (6/15) MG	Rotten wood	Common
<i>Glocianus distinctus</i> (Brisout de Barneville) (6/15) MM	Bioblitz coll.	Local
<i>Hypera postica</i> (Gyllenhal) (6/15) MG	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Magdalis ruficornis</i> (Linnaeus) (6/15) MM	Bioblitz coll.	Local
<i>Mecinus pascuorum</i> (Gyllenhal) (6/15) RB	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Nedyus quadrimaculatus</i> (Linnaeus) (6/15) MG	On nettles ( <i>Urtica dioica</i> )	
<i>Orchestes fagi</i> (Linnaeus) (6/14) MB	Beech leaves	
<i>Phyllobius argentatus</i> (Linnaeus) (6/15) MB	Broadleaf foliage	
<i>Polydrusus pterygomalis</i> Boheman (6/15) MG	Probably hazel	
<i>Sciaphilus asperatus</i> Bonnsdorf (6/15) MB	Root feeder	
<i>Sitona lineatus</i> (Linnaeus) (6/15) MB	Fabaceae (Legumes)	
<i>Strophosoma melanogrammum</i> (Forster) (6/14) MB	Root feeder	
<i>Tychius picirostris</i> (Fabricius) (6/14) MM	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Xyleborinus saxesenii</i> (Ratzeburg) (6/14) MB	Ambrosia bark beetle	
<b>Family</b> Dascillidae (soft bodied plant beetles)		
<i>Dascillus cervinus</i> (Linnaeus) (6/15) MG	On nettles	Local
<b>Family</b> Dasytidae (soft wing flower beetles)		
<i>Dasytes aeratus</i> Stephens (6/18) RB	On Ground Elder	Local
<b>Family</b> Dermestidae (skin beetles)		
<i>Anthrenus fuscus</i> Olivier (6/18) RB	On Ground Elder	
<b>Family</b> Elateridae (click beetles)		
<i>Agrypnus murinus</i> (Linnaeus) (6/18) RB	On Ground Elder	
<i>Agriotes pallidulus</i> (Illiger) (6/14) MB	Larvae grass root feeder	
<i>Athous haemorrhoidalis</i> (Fabricius) (6/15) MG	Larvae root feeder	
<i>Athous vittatus</i> (Fabricius) (6/14) MG	Larvae root feeder	
<i>Ctenicera cuprea</i> (Fabricius) (7/15) AP	Came to light trap	
<i>Dalopius marginatus</i> (Linnaeus) (6/15) MG	On nettles	
<i>Denticollis linearis</i> (Linnaeus) (6/15) MG	Larvae decaying heartwood	
<i>Melanotus castanipes</i> (Paykull) (6/18) RB	Came to light trap	
<i>Melanotus villosus</i> (Geoffroy) (6/18) RB	Came to light trap	
<b>Family</b> Erotylidae (pleasing fungus beetles)		
<i>Dacne rufifrons</i> (Fabricius) (6/18) RB	<i>Laetiporus sulphureus</i>	Local
<i>Triplax aenea</i> (Schaller) (7/18) RG	<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i>	Local
<b>Family</b> Geotrupidae (dor beetles)		
<i>Anoplotrupes stercorosus</i> (Scriba) (6/14) MB	Deer dung	
<b>Family</b> Helophoridae		
<i>Helophorus obscurus</i> Mulsant (6/15) RB	A water beetle	
<b>Family</b> Histeridae (clown beetles)		
<i>Abraeus perpusillus</i> (Marsham) (12/17) RB	In rotting beech	Local
<i>Atholus bimaculatus</i> (Linnaeus) (10/17) RB	Under old <i>Stereum</i>	Local
<b>Plegaderus dissectus</b> Erichson (5/18) RB	Damp sedge/grass	Notable B

<i>Paromalus flavicornis</i> (Herbst)(1/18) RB	On resupinate (e.g.a fungus growing as a patch or crust)	Local
<b>Family Hydrophilidae</b> (small water scavenger beetles)		
<i>Cercyon lateralis</i> (Marshall) (6/15) RB	Decaying brambles	
<i>Megasternum immaculatum</i> (Stephens) (4/18) RB	Decaying vegetable compost	
<b>Family Kateretidae</b> (short winged flower beetles)		
<i>Brachypterus glaber</i> (Newman) (7/18) RB	Nettle pollen	
<i>Brachypterus urticae</i> (Fabricius) (6/14) MB	Nettle pollen	
<b>Family Latridiidae</b> (mould beetles)		
<i>Cartodere bifasciata</i> (Reitter) (9/16) MB	Leaf litter	
<i>Cartodere nodifer</i> (Westwood) (6/14) MB	Leaf litter	
<i>Corticicara gibbosa</i> (Herbst) (6/14) MB	Leaf litter	
<i>Enicmus testaceus</i> (Stephens) (6/14) MB	Slime moulds	Very local
<i>Enicmus transversus</i> (Olivier) (6/15) RB	Leaf litter	
<b>Family Leiodidae</b> (round fungus beetles and small carrion beetles)		
<i>Agathidium atrum</i> (Paykull) (6/15) RB	Fungus associate	
<i>Agathidium seminulum</i> (Linnaeus) (6/15) RB	Fungus associate	Local
<i>Catops coracinus</i> Kellner (6/14) MB	Carrion	
<i>Catops nigrita</i> Erichson (6/14) MB	Carrion	
<i>Nargus velox</i> (Spence) (6/14) MB	Carrion	
<i>Nargus wilkinii</i> (Spence) (4/18) RB	Rotting vegetation	
<b>Family Lymexylidae</b> (ship timber beetles)		
<i>Hylecoetus dermestoides</i> (Linnaeus) (6/15) MG	Ambrosia beetle	Notable B
<b>Family Melyridae</b> (soft-wing flower beetles)		
<i>Malachius bipustulatus</i> (Linnaeus) (6/18) RB	On Ground Elder	
<b>Family Monotomidae</b> ('root eating' beetles)		
<i>Rhizophagus dispar</i> (Paykull) (7/17) RB	Various fungi	
<i>Rhizophagus bipustulatus</i> (Fabricius) (11/17) RB	On <i>Stereum</i>	
<b>Family Mordellidae</b> (tumbling beetles)		
<i>Mordellochroa abdominalis</i> (Fabricius) (6/18) RF	On Ground Elder	Local
<i>Mordellistena variegata</i> (Fabricius) (8/17) RB	On Hogweed	Local
<b>Family Mycetophagidae</b> (hairy fungus beetles)		
<i>Mycetophagus quadripustulatus</i> (Linnaeus) (7/18) RF	<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i>	Local
<i>Pseudotriphyllus suturalis</i> (Fabricius) (6/18) RB	<i>Laetiporus sulphureus</i>	Local
<b>Family Nitidulidae</b> (pollen beetles)		
<i>Epuraea melina</i> (Erichson) (4/16) RB	From Bluebells	
<i>Epuraea aestiva</i> (Linnaeus) (4/16) RB	From Bluebells	
<i>Epuraea unicolor</i> (Olivier) (6/14) MB	From brambles	
<i>Meligethes aeneus</i> (Fabricius)(6/14) MB	Lesser Celandine ( <i>Ficaria verna</i> ), Bluebells	
<i>Meligethes atratus</i> (Olivier) (6/18) RB	On Ground Elder	

<i>Meligethes carinulatus</i> (Förster) (5/17) RB	From Bluebells	Southerly
<i>Meligethes nigrescens</i> Stephens (5/17) RB	From Bluebells	
<i>Meligethes ovatus</i> Sturm(7/18) RB	On Burdock ( <i>Arctium</i> sp)	
<b>Family</b> Oedemeridae (false blister beetles)		
<b><i>Oedemera (Oncomera) femoralis</i></b> Olivier (6/15) MG	Beech (3 records)	Notable B
<b>Family</b> Phalacridae (shining flower beetles)		
<i>Olibrus aeneus</i> (Fabricius) (6/15) RB	Bioblitz	
<b>Family</b> Ptiliidae (featherwing beetles)		
<i>Acrotrichis atomaria</i> (De Geer) (5/18) RB	Sedge/grass	
<i>Acrotrichis cognata</i> (Matthews) (10/17) RB	Old <i>Russula nigricans</i>	
<i>Acrotrichis grandicollis</i> (Mannerheim) (10/17) RB	Old <i>R. nigricans</i>	
<i>Acrotrichis fascicularis</i> (Herbst) (4/18) RB	Rotting vegetation	
<i>Acrotrichis insularis</i> (Maklin) (4/18) RB	Rotting vegetation	
<i>Acrotrichis intermedia</i> (Gillmeister) (4/18) RB	Rotting vegetation	
<i>Acrotrichis montandonii</i> (Allibert) (12/17) RB	Crumbling beech wood	
<i>Acrotrichis rosskotheni</i> Sundt (4/18) RB	Rotting vegetation	
<i>Acrotrichis sitkaensis</i> (Motschulsky) (4/18) RB	Rotting vegetation	
<i>Ptenidium formicetorum</i> Kraatz (4/18) RB	Sedge/grass	Local
<b><i>Ptenidium gressneri</i></b> Erichson (12/17) RB	Crumbling beech wood	Notable B
<i>Ptenidium pusillum</i> (Gyllenhal) (6/14) MB	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Pteryx suturalis</i> (Heer) (4/18) RB	Rotting vegetation	Local
<b>Family</b> Pyrochroidae (cardinal beetles)		
<b><i>Pyrochroa coccinea</i></b> (Linnaeus) (6/15) MG	Rotting beech	Notable B
<i>Pyrochroa serraticornis</i> (Scopoli) (6/15) MG	Rotting beech	
<b>Family</b> Salpingidae (narrow-waisted bark beetles)		
<i>Rhinosimus planirostris</i> (Fabricius) (6/14) MB	Beech bark	
<b>Family</b> Scarabaeidae (scarab beetles)		
<i>Aphodius prodromus</i> (Brahm) (6/14) MB	Deer dung	
<i>Aphodius rufipes</i> (Linnaeus) (6/14) MB	Deer dung	
<i>Aphodius sticticus</i> (Panzer) (6/15) MG	Deer dung	
<i>Melolontha melolontha</i> (Linnaeus) (5/14) RF	May bug to light trap	
<i>Phyllopertha horticola</i> (Linnaeus) (6/15) MG	On Ground Elder	
<b>Family</b> Scirtidae (marsh beetles)		
<b><i>Prionocyphon serricornis</i></b> (Müller) (6/15) MB	Larva in beech hole	Notable B
<b>Family</b> Scraptidae (false flower beetles)		
<i>Anaspis costai</i> Emery (8/17) RB	On Hogweed	
<i>Anaspis fasciata</i> (Forster) (6/18) RB	On Ground Elder	
<i>Anaspis frontalis</i> (Linnaeus) (6/15) MG	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Anaspis garneysi</i> Fowler (6/18) RB	On Ground Elder	
<i>Anaspis maculata</i> (Geoffroy) (6/15) MG	Bioblitz coll.	
<b>Family</b> Silphidae (carrion and burying beetles)		
<i>Nicrophorus humator</i> (Gleditsch) 4/14) RF (Figure 2)	On ground	
<i>Nicrophorus vespilloides</i> Herbst (6/14) MB	Near wood mouse	

<i>Silpha atrata</i> Linnaeus (6/14) MB	Under bark in winter	
<b>Family</b> Silvanidae (flat bark beetles)		
<b><i>Silvanus bidentatus</i></b> (Fabricius) (6/14) MB	From hanging trap	Notable B
<b>Family</b> Staphylinidae (rove beetles)		
<i>Agaricochara latissima</i> (Stephens) (11/17) RB	Numerous on poroids	Local
<i>Aleochara sparsa</i> Heer (7/18) RB	<i>Polyporus squamosus</i>	Local
<i>Amischa analis</i> (Gravenhorst) (12/17) RB	Beech frass	
<i>Anotylus sculpturatus</i> (Gravenhorst) (6/14) MB	Beech frass	
<i>Anotylus tetracarinatus</i> (Block) (6/14) MB	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Atheta britanniae</i> (Bernhauer & Scheerpeltz) (7/17) RB	On <i>Megacollybia platyphylla</i>	
<i>Atheta castanoptera</i> (Mannerheim) (6/15) RB	Beech litter	
<i>Atheta clientula</i> auctt. (7/17) RB	On <i>M. platyphylla</i>	
<i>Atheta crassicornis</i> (Fabricius) (7/17) RB	On <i>M. platyphylla</i>	
<i>Atheta liturata</i> (Stephens) (7/17) RB	On <i>M. platyphylla</i>	Local
<i>Atheta pallidicornis</i> (Thomson) (10/17) RB	On <i>Berkandera adusta</i>	
<i>Atheta ravilla</i> (Erichson) (8/18) RB	On <i>Polyporus squamosus</i>	
<i>Atheta (Anopleta) corvina</i> (Thomson) (10/17) RB	On old <i>R. nigricans</i>	
<i>Atheta (Datomicra) dadopora</i> (Thomson) (11/17) RB	Rotting <i>P. ostreatus</i>	
<i>Atheta (Mocyta) amplicollis</i> (Muisand & Rey) (12/17) RB	Rotting beech frass	
<i>Atheta (Mocyta) fungi</i> (Gravenhorst)(12/17) RB	Under <i>Schizopora</i>	
<i>Atheta (Mycetota) laticollis</i> (Stephens) (4/18) RB	Decaying vegetation	
<i>Atrecus affinis</i> (Paykull) (4/16) MG	Under bark	
<i>Autalia impressa</i> (Olivier) (10/17) RB	On old <i>R. nigricans</i>	
<i>Bolitochara bella</i> Märkel (7/18) RB	On <i>Polyporus</i>	
<i>Bolitochara obliqua</i> Erichson (6/15) RB	? fungoid	
<i>Bryaxis puncticollis</i> (Denny) (5/18) RB	Sedge/grass	Local
<i>Cypha longicornis</i> (Paykull) (12/17) RB	Fungoid log	
<i>Dinaraea aequata</i> (Erichson) (6/15) RB	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Eusphalerum luteum</i> (Marsham) (6/14) MB	Various terrestrial	
<i>Gabrius splendidulus</i> (Gravenhorst) (6/15) RB	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Gabrius</i> sp. (10/17) RB	Old <i>Inonotus hispidus</i>	
<i>Geostiba circellaris</i> (Gravenhorst) (11/17) RB	Rotting bramble compost	
<i>Gyrophana affinis</i> Mannerheim (7/17) RB	<i>Megacollybia platyphylla</i>	
<b><i>Gyrophana angustata</i></b> (Stephens) (7/18) RB	On <i>Polyporus</i>	Notable B
<i>Gyrophana gentilis</i> Erichson (7/17) RB	<i>Gymnopus fusipes</i>	
<b><i>Gyrophana joyi</i></b> Wendeler (7/18) RB	On <i>Pleurotus</i>	Notable
<b><i>Gyrophana joyioides</i></b> Wüsthoff (8/17) RB	<i>M. platyphylla</i>	Notable
<i>Habrocerus capillaricornis</i> (Gravenhorst) (11/17) RB	Rotting bramble compost	
<i>Lathrobium brunnipes</i> (Fabricius) (9/14) JR	Beech litter	
<i>Leptusa fumida</i> (Erichson) (11/17) RB	On <i>Stereum</i>	
<i>Leptusa pulchella</i> (Mannerheim) (7/17) RB	On <i>Pleurotus</i>	Local
<i>Lesteva siculus heeri</i> Fauvel (6/18) RB	Sedge/grass	
<i>Lordithon lunulatus</i> (Linnaeus) (7/17) RB	Old <i>M. platyphylla</i>	
<i>Lordithon trinotatus</i> (Erichson) (11/17) RB	Rotting bramble compost	
<i>Medon brunneus</i> (Erichson) (4/18) RB	Damp vegetation	Local
<i>Megarthritis depressus</i> (Paykull) (6/18) RB	On <i>L. sulphureus</i>	Local
<i>Micropeplus staphylinoides</i> (Marsham) (5/18) RB	Sedge/grass	

<i>Myllaena brevicornis</i> (Matthew) (7/18) RB	Sedge/grass	
<b>Ocalea picata</b> (Stephens) (2/18) RB	Rotting bramble compost	Notable B
<i>Ocypus olens</i> (Müller) (3/17) RF	Under beech log	
<i>Olophrum piceum</i> (Gyllenhal) (4/18) RB	Rotting vegetation	
<i>Othius laeviusculus</i> Stephens (6/15) RB	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Othius punctulatus</i> (Goeze) (6/14) MB	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Othius subuliformis</i> Stephens (6/15) RB	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Oxypoda alternans</i> (Gravenhorst) (8/17) RB	On old <i>M. platyphylla</i>	
<i>Oxypoda elongatula</i> Aubé (4/18) RB	Sedge/grass	
<b>Oxypoda flavicornis</b> Kraatz (11/17) RB	Rotting bramble compost	Notable B
<i>Oxypoda opaca</i> (Gravenhorst) (4/18) RB	Rotting vegetation	
<i>Philonthus carbonarius</i> (Gravenhorst) (6/15) RB	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Philonthus cognatus</i> Stephens (12/17) RB	Rotting bramble compost	
<i>Philonthus decorus</i> (Gravenhorst) (6/18) RB	Sedge/grass	
<i>Proteinus brachypterus</i> (Fabricius) (9/17) RB	Several fungi spp	
<b>Quedius aetolicus</b> Kraatz (5/18) RB	Sedge/grass	Notable A
<i>Quedius cruentus</i> (Olivier) (6/14) MB	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Quedius</i> cf. <i>fuliginosus</i> (Gravenhorst) (6/15) MB	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Quedius fumatus</i> (Stephens) (6/15) RB	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Quedius lateralis</i> (Gravenhorst) (10/17) RB	Decaying fungi	
<b>Quedius lucidulus</b> Erichson (10/17)	Decaying fungi	Few in UK
<i>Quedius mesomelinus</i> (Marsham) (6/14) MB	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Quedius nemoralis</i> Baudi (6/15) RB	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Rugilus rufipes</i> Germar (6/15) RB	Bioblitz coll.	
<b>Rugilus similis</b> (Erichson) (10/17) RB	On <i>Trametes gibbosa</i>	Notable
<i>Scaphidium quadrimaculatum</i> Olivier (6/15) MB	On <i>P. ostreatus</i>	
<i>Sepedophilus littoreus</i> (Linnaeus) (11/17) RB	Bramble compost	Scarce
<i>Stenus bimaculatus</i> Gyllenhal (5/18) RB	Sedge/grass	
<i>Stenus clavicornis</i> (Scopoli) (6/15) RB	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Stenus impressus</i> Germar (6/15) RB	Sedge/grass	
<i>Tachinus laticollis</i> Gravenhorst (10/17) RB	Old <i>R. nigricans</i>	
<i>Tachinus rufipes</i> (Linnaeus) (6/14) MB	Bioblitz, and in fungi	
<i>Tachyporus dispar</i> (Paykull) (6/15) RB	In moss	
<i>Tachyporus hypnorum</i> (Fabricius) (6/15) RB	In moss	
<i>Tachyporus solutus</i> Erichson (6/15) RB	Bioblitz coll.	
<i>Xantholinus linearis</i> (Olivier) (10/17) RB	Old <i>R. nigricans</i>	
<b>Family Tenebrionidae</b> (darkling beetles)		
<i>Eledona agricola</i> (Herbst) (7/18) RB	Old <i>L. sulphureus</i>	Notable B
<b>Family Tetratomidae</b> (polypore fungus beetles)		
<i>Hallomenus binotatus</i> (Quensel) (6/18) RB	Young <i>L. sulphureus</i>	Notable B



**Figure 2. *Nicrophorus humator* - a common burying beetle, with its associated mites. Photo by Andrew Padmore.**

### **Notes on particular species**

Many of the species recorded are widespread in southern England or over a considerable area and are not noted further. Some comments are given on more unusual species of interest, or relevance to ancient woodland, in alphabetical order by genus. Species collected from particular fungi are considered separately below.

*Abraeus perpusillus*. A scarce species associated with ancient woodland and survivors of medieval wood pasture.

*Acalles pinoides*. An uncommon weevil with three records, two of which were *in situ* inside well decayed beech wood. Crowson (1987) regards it as a reliable indicator of old forest, and Alexander (2002) associates it with primary woodland.

*Agrilus angustulus*. This beautiful and uncommon buprestid beetle was collected by cherry picker from oak canopy.

*Cerylon ferrugineum* was reported by Alexander (2002) as associated with ancient woodland sites. *C. fagi* is reported as a rarer old growth species, which might have developed under beech or oak bark in Grim's Dyke Wood.

*Cychrus caraboides*. This substantial snail eating carabid was found twice. Larger snails are almost absent from Grim's Dyke Wood, probably because of a shortage of calcium carbonate to make their shells (Fortey 2016), so the beetles are probably feeding on the numerous, small, thin-shelled oxychilids. The same remarks probably apply to *Silpha atrata*, which is a common species here, in both its colour forms.

*Enicmus testaceus* is reported to feed on slime moulds, which are frequently seen in the wood after rainy periods.

*Ernoporicus fagi* is a rare bark beetle (weevil) associated with a few old growth beech sites in southern Britain; Hyman (1992) cites no record from Oxfordshire and John Campbell (written communication 2018) confirms no recent record. It was collected by Andrew Polaszek while screen sweeping for small hymenopterans.

*Gabrius splendidulus* is known elsewhere from under dead beech bark.

*Hedobia imperialis* – often regarded as scarce - is considered to be increasing its range in recent years.

*Leptusa pulchella*. Associated with ancient woodlands in southern Britain, but recovered from the oyster mushroom in Grims Dyke Wood.

*Longitarsus parvulus* was considered a notable species by Hyman (1992) but by the time that work was published the population had exploded in southern England, possibly because the flax favoured by the adult beetle had become a common crop.

*Malthinus balteatus*. An uncommon woodland soldier beetle, collected in flight.

*Melanotus castanipes* and *M. villosus* were formerly confused in Britain under one species, until differentiated by Mendel (2004). However, both species were recovered from a light trap in Grim's Dyke Wood, but if *M. villosus* has a preference for pine wood it is possible that it originated from felled Corsican pine elsewhere in Lambridge Wood.



**Figure 3. *Melanotus* – a click beetle (15 mm), one of the two species in the wood that are hard to tell apart. Photo by Andrew Padmore.**

*Oedemera (Oncomera) femoralis* was found on three occasions, and has other records from the Chiltern Hills, which may be a stronghold for this scarce species.



**Figure 4. A Notable beetle, *Oedomera femoralis* (10 mm horns, 18 mm body), has been recovered three times from Lambridge Wood. Photo by Andrew Padmore.**

*Plegaderus dissectus* is a predatory species recorded from ancient woodland sites in southern England.

*Prionocyphon serricornis* was recognised from its distinctive larvae which inhabit flooded small pools that gather in eroded beech boles. Collected by Charles Hussey.



**Figure 5. Larva of *Prionocyphon*, not often seen, from the flooded bole of a beech. Photo by Chris Hussey.**

*Ptenidium gressneri* is an uncommon featherwing beetle with sparse records in the south of the UK from such sites as the New Forest, and Birklands (Sherwood Forest) and likely an ancient woodland indicator species.

*Ptilinus pectinicornis* is a ‘woodworm’ that develops in standing dead beech wood.

*Pyrochroa coccinea* was found alongside the commoner *P. serraticornis* in rotting beech wood inside a hollow tree. It is most often recorded in ancient woodland such as the Forest of Dean, Windsor Park and Sherwood Forest (Denton 2001), where the larvae feed under loose bark of large trees. Although scarce, it has recently been recorded sufficiently to no longer be considered Notable.

*Quedius aetolicus* is a rare or threatened rove beetle with a very few records from sites such as Windsor Forest, and other southern ancient woodlands or wood pasture. It reproduces in the nests of birds or squirrels – the latter are numerous in Lambridge Wood.

*Rutpela maculata* is our most conspicuous longhorn beetle which has been seen on four occasions nectaring on bramble flowers in summer.



**Figure 6. *Rutpela maculata* is one of the commoner longhorn beetles, here visiting bramble flowers. Photo by Andrew Padmore.**

*Sepedophilus littoreus*. According to Alexander (2002) mainly confined to ancient woodland. Recovered from rotting bramble compost in Grim's Dyke Wood, presumably feeding on fungal hyphae.

*Sericoderus brevicornis* was first reported in Britain in Middlesex by Galsworthy and Booth (2007) and from the Isle of Wight by Alexander (2013) but may have been present in Britain since the late 1990s.

*Silvanus bidentatus*. A scarce, flattened species 'secretive fungus feeder under bark' (Jones 2018), possibly with predatory larvae (Alexander, 2002). Presumably associated with ancient woodland, as in Sherwood Forest and Bookham Common, although there are few records on the Saproxylic Quality Index database.

## Beetles directly associated with fungi

Some beetle species were recovered directly from fungal fruitbodies (Table 2), as compared with a larger group of saproxylic species that will exploit wood more or less affected by fungally mediated decay. The former category is briefly discussed here, based mostly on samples collected in 2017 (identified by RB), which was not a particularly rich year for fungi, with follow-up in 2018.

Fruiting bodies of fungi appear from late summer onwards in most years. Beech trunks that have been lying for two or three years since felling produce oyster mushrooms (*Pleurotus ostreatus*) at any time from June onwards. The minute spore eating staphylinid *Gyrophana affinis* was first found on oyster mushrooms on June 2017, as was *Cerylon ferrugineum* and *Leptusa pulchella*. On another occasion in 2018 the attractive species *Triplax aenea* and *Mycetophagus quadripustulatus* were also collected. *Gyrophana affinis* continued to be abundant on the gills of early specimens of *Gymnopus* (formerly *Collybia*) *dryophilus* in July 2017, and *G. fusipes*, which also yielded *Gyrophana gentilis*. When numerous *Megacollybia platyphylla* fruitbodies appeared associated with buried beech wood in July and August 2017 many *Gyrophana affinis* were accompanied by the uncommon species *G. joyioides* (Notable according to Hyman 1994) on the fungus gills. A variety of mid-sized staphylinids collected – *Atheta liturata*, *A. castanoptera*, *A. britanniae*, *A. crassicornis*, *A. clientula* (*sensu auctt.*) and *Oxypoda alternans* – may well be predators on the smaller species. Inside the hollow stipes of mature or decaying fruitbodies a comparatively large, very active predatory tachyporine staphylinid *Lordithon lunulatus* was found in several examples, and may represent the next step up in the food chain.

2017 was not a particularly productive year for fungi associated with mycorrhiza on beech trees. However, decaying *Russula* spp. were associated with the small staphylinid *Proteinus brachypterus*. Mature, and eventually black and aging specimens of *Russula nigricans* also yielded *P. brachypterus* in abundance, accompanied by a variety of staphylinids and the ptiliids *Acrotrichis grandicollis* and *A. cognata*. The staphylinids included the widespread *Xantholinus linearis*, *Tachinus laticollis*, *Atheta* (*Anopleta*) *corvina* as well as *Quedius lucidulus*. The latter species is of particular interest as it may have arrived only recently in the United Kingdom and has few records. It was found in Sussex in 2010 and reported as new for Britain two years later (Telfer 2012), although it is widespread in continental Europe (Coiffait 1978). This raises the question whether it crossed the Channel as a result of climate change, or whether it may already have been a rare native. It is an opportunistic predator rather than specifically associated with fungi. A second record in 2018 shows it is well established in these beech woods.

Resupinate and bracket fungi were collected for beetles in several sites. The shining fungus beetle *Scaphidium quadrimaculatum* was found in association with *Phanerochaete* in the Autumn and under beech bark in April. The minute spore-eating staphylinid *Agaricochara latissima* often replaced *Gyrophana* on poroid fungi of several kinds: notably *Schizopora*, *Trametes*, *Polyporus* and *Datronia mollis*, persisting in numbers into winter. From *Polyporus squamosus* and *P. varius* species with similar habits, *Bolitochara bella*, *B. obliqua*, and *Dinaraea aequata* were found in numbers in 2018, together with the scarce *Aleochara sparsa*. Ciidae were commonest in *Trametes versicolor*, rare in most brackets of *T. gibbosa* (although one small example was much eaten away), and none were recovered from *T. hirsuta*, a

species otherwise much resembling *T. versicolor*. *Octotemnus glabriculus* was ubiquitous in those bracket fungi with Ciidae. *Cis boleti*, *C. submicans*, and *C. castaneus* were recovered from *Trametes* spp. and the last named also from *Bjerkandera adusta* and *Datronia mollis*. From *Stereum rugosum* *Cis villosulus* was collected, and also *C. bilamellatus*, an Australasian species whose spread has been documented by Orledge, Smith and Reynolds (2010). In some areas *C. bilamellatus* has become the commonest ciid, but the present evidence suggests that this is not yet the case in the Chiltern beechwoods. From the same fungi that yielded ciids, the cerylonid *Cerylon ferrugineum* was found on several occasions, continuing after the frosts, with two collections of the rarer *C. fagi* – also from oyster mushrooms. The predatory monotomid *Rhizophagus dispar* was recovered from the same samples – from *Trametes versicolor*, *Stereum rugosum* and *Datronia mollis*. While not confined to fungi it seems plausible that *Rhizophagus* seeks out this habitat with numerous prey species, such as *Agaricochara*. The same probably applies to the active rove beetle *Quedius lateralis* which was recovered several times from old *Bjerkandera adusta*, and the histrid *Atholus bimaculatus* found under *Stereum hirsutum*. Early summer fruiting in 2018 of the distinctive soft bracket *Laetiporus sulphureus* on cherry was quickly discovered by numerous examples of the scarce species *Hallomenus binotatus*, accompanied by *Dacne rufifrons*, *Pseudotriphyllus suturalis*, and the proteinine staphylinid *Megarthritis sinuaticollis*. As the fruitbodies dried out they were colonised by another uncommon species *Eledona agricola* making tunnels within the old brackets of the sulphur polypore. *Hallomenus binotatus* was raised from another ‘soft polypore’ *Tyromyces* by Alexander (2008). The uncommon *Hylecoetus dermestoides* is a special case in that the beetle itself supplies the ambrosia fungus which feeds the larva inside its tunnel in standing dead wood. According to the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) database this species is usually found in the Midlands and Wales, and so an Oxfordshire occurrence is interesting. Alexander (2004, p. 16) has noted that this species appears to have been expanding its range. The tiny bark beetle *Xyleborinus saxesenii* has similar life habits, and its association with fruit woods in general suggests that cherry is its host in Lambridge wood.

Finally, the NHM bioblitzes captured a number of small fungivorous species belonging to the families Mycetophagidae, Leiodidae and Latridiidae; these are listed above. At the moment there is no information on their host fungi based on *in situ* collecting in Lambridge Wood.

**Table 2. Beetles associated with fungi in the wood, with more details than given in Table 1. Beetles in alphabetical order by genus.**

Beetle	Associated fungi
<i>Acrotrichis cognata</i>	<i>Russula nigricans</i>
<i>Acrotrichis grandicollis</i>	<i>Russula nigricans</i>
<i>Agaricochara latissima</i>	<i>Datronia mollis</i> , <i>Schizopora paradoxa</i> , <i>Stereum rugosum</i> , <i>Trametes versicolor</i>
<i>Aleochara sparsa</i>	<i>Polyporus squamosus</i>
<i>Antherophagus pallens</i>	<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i>
<i>Atheta britanniae</i>	<i>Megacollybia platyphylla</i>
<i>Atheta castanoptera</i>	<i>Polyporus squamosus</i> , <i>Megacollybia platyphylla</i>
<i>Atheta clientula (sensu auctt)</i>	<i>Megacollybia platyphylla</i>
<i>Atheta crassicornis</i>	<i>Polyporus squamosus</i> , <i>Megacollybia platyphylla</i>
<i>Atheta liturata</i>	<i>Megacollybia platyphylla</i>
<i>Atheta pallidicornis</i>	<i>Polyporus varius</i> , <i>Bjerkandera adusta</i>

<i>Atheta ravilla</i>	<i>Polyporus squamosus</i>
<i>Atheta (Anopleta) corvina</i>	Old <i>Russula nigricans</i>
<i>Atheta (Datomicra) dadopora</i>	Rotting <i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i>
<i>Atheta (Mocyta) fungi</i>	Under <i>Schizopora</i> sp.
<i>Atholus bimaculatus</i>	Under <i>Stereum hirsutum</i>
<i>Autalia impressa</i>	Old <i>Russula nigricans</i>
<i>Bolitochara bella</i>	<i>Polyporus squamosus</i> , <i>P. varius</i>
<i>Bolitochara obliqua</i>	<i>Polyporus squamosus</i> , <i>P. varius</i>
<i>Cerylon fagi</i>	<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i> , <i>Trametes versicolor</i>
<i>Cerylon ferrugineum</i>	<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i> , <i>Stereum rugosum</i> , <i>Trametes versicolor</i>
<i>Cis bilamellatus</i>	<i>Polyporus squamosus</i> , <i>Trametes versicolor</i> , <i>T. gibbosa</i> , <i>Stereum hirsutum</i> , <i>S. rugosum</i>
<i>Cis boleti</i>	<i>Trametes versicolor</i> , <i>T. gibbosa</i> , <i>rugosum</i>
<i>Cis castaneus</i>	<i>Trametes versicolor</i> , <i>Bjerkandera adusta</i> , <i>Datronia mollis</i>
<i>Cis submicans</i>	<i>Trametes versicolor</i>
<i>Cis villosulus</i>	<i>Stereum rugosum</i>
<i>Cypha longicornis</i>	<i>Schizopora paradoxa</i>
<i>Dacne rufifrons</i>	<i>Polyporus squamosus</i> , <i>Laetiporus sulphureus</i>
<i>Dinaraea aequata</i>	<i>Polyporus squamosus</i>
<i>Eledona agricola</i>	<i>Laetiporus sulphureus</i>
<i>Gyrophanaena affinis</i>	<i>Megacollybia platyphylla</i> , <i>Gymnopus dryophilus</i>
<i>Gyrophanaena gentilis</i>	<i>Gymnopus fusipes</i>
<i>Gyrophanaena joyi</i>	<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i>
<i>Gyrophanaena joyioides</i>	<i>Megacollybia platyphylla</i>
<i>Hallomenus binotatus</i>	<i>Laetiporus sulphureus</i>
<i>Leistus rufomarginatus</i>	Old <i>Laetiporus sulphureus</i>
<i>Leptusa fumida</i>	<i>Stereum rugosum</i>
<i>Leptusa pulchella</i>	<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i>
<i>Lordithon lunulatus</i>	<i>Megacollybia platyphylla</i> (old)
<i>Megarthrus sinuaticollis</i>	<i>Laetiporus sulphureus</i>
<i>Mycetophagus quadripustulatus</i>	<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i> , <i>Phanerochaete radicata</i>
<i>Octotemnus glabriculus</i>	<i>Polyporus squamosus</i> , <i>Trametes versicolor</i> , <i>Trametes gibbosa</i> , <i>Stereum rugosum</i>
<i>Oxypoda alternans</i>	<i>Megacollybia platyphylla</i>
<i>Paromalus flavicornis</i>	<i>Hyphoderma</i> ? sp.
<i>Proteinus brachypterus</i>	Old <i>Russula nigricans</i> , <i>Coprinopsis picaceus</i>
<i>Proteinus ovalis</i>	<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i>
<i>Pseudotriphyllus suturalis</i>	<i>Laetiporus sulphureus</i>
<i>Quedius lateralis</i>	Old <i>Bjerkandera adusta</i>
<i>Quedius lucidulus</i>	Old <i>Russula nigricans</i>
<i>Rhizophagus dispar</i>	<i>Stereum rugosum</i> , <i>Datronia mollis</i> , <i>Trametes versicolor</i>
<i>Rhizophagus bipustulatus</i>	<i>Stereum rugosum</i>
<i>Rugilus similis</i>	<i>Trametes gibbosa</i>
<i>Tachinus laticollis</i>	Old <i>Russula nigricans</i>
<i>Tachinus rufipes</i>	Old <i>R. nigricans</i> , <i>Pleurotus</i>
<i>Triplax aeneus</i>	<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i>
<i>Xantholinus linearis</i>	Old <i>Russula nigricans</i>
<i>Rhizophagus bipustulatus</i>	<i>Stereum rugosum</i>

## Future studies

This is the first detailed scientific report from this part of Lambridge Wood. Ongoing studies focussing on the fungi are being worked up by RF (Fortey 2017), and a long-term study linking fungus gnats to their food preferences is an ongoing joint project between RF and Peter Chandler.

## Acknowledgments

We thank Neil Mellany for arranging the cherry picker to sample the canopy during the summer of 2015. Sally-Ann Spence and her “Minibeast Mayhem” enthusiasts added plenty of species to the collections, and their help in 2014 is gratefully acknowledged. We particularly thank Friederike Gebert, Jordan Rainey, Marios Aristophanous, Joana Cristóvão, Svetlana Nikolaeva, Oliver and George Spence and Nicholas and Catherine Barclay. Glenda Orledge is thanked for her wisdom on ciids. The entomologists from the Natural History Museum who took part in the bioblitz are gratefully acknowledged. Jackie Fortey was supportive throughout the project. Andrew Padmore kindly supplied the photographs. Dick Vane-Wright kindly read the manuscript.

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