

Heathland species fact file

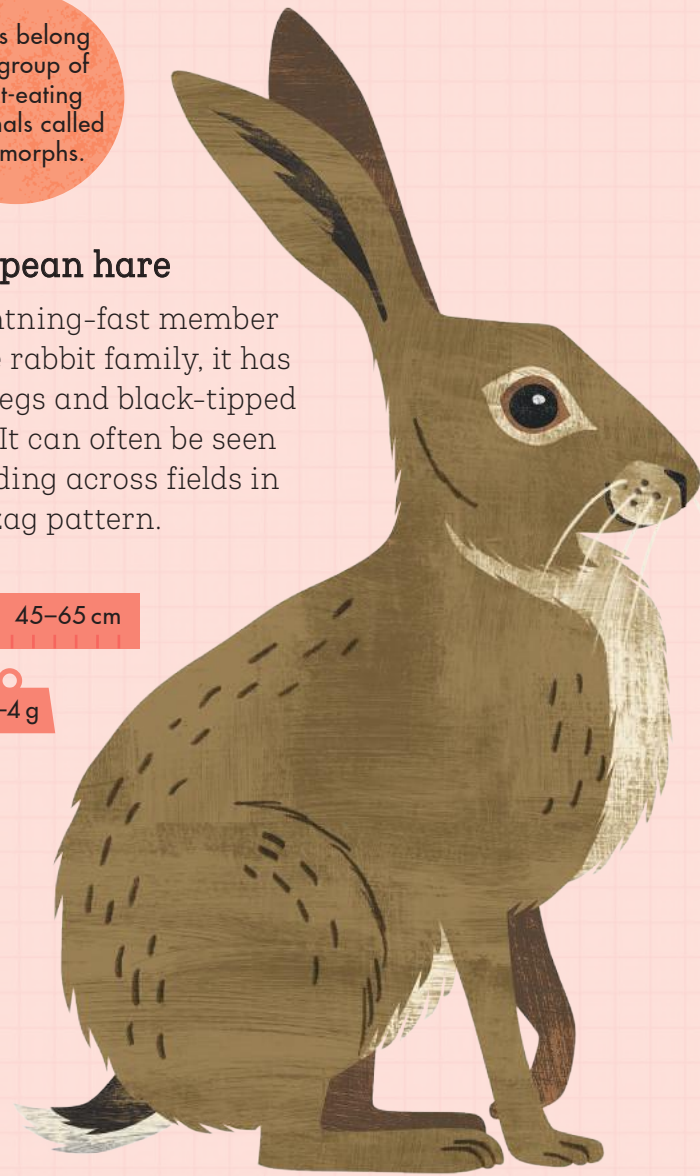
Hares belong to a group of plant-eating mammals called lagomorphs.

European hare

A lightning-fast member of the rabbit family, it has long legs and black-tipped ears. It can often be seen bounding across fields in a zigzag pattern.

45–65 cm

3–4 g



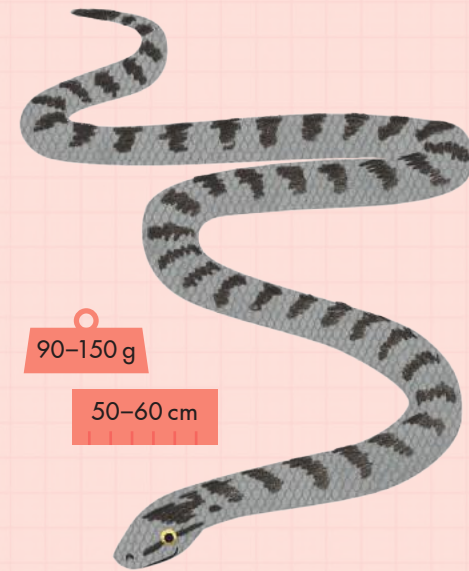
Shrill carder bumblebee

One of the smallest and rarest bumblebees, with dark stripes on a greyish-green body. When it flies it makes a very high-pitched buzz. Bees help pollinate crops so fewer bees is bad news for all of us.



10–18 mm

0.1 g



90–150 g

50–60 cm

Smooth snake

A grey-brown, spotted snake with a slender body and a small head. Very secretive and well camouflaged in heathland, it is mainly found in dry and sandy sites.

Skylark

A streaky brown bird with a tuft of feathers on top of its head, known for its beautiful song. When the male sings, it flies straight up in the air, high into the sky.

Birds can eat four-fifths of their own body weight in one day!

18–19 cm

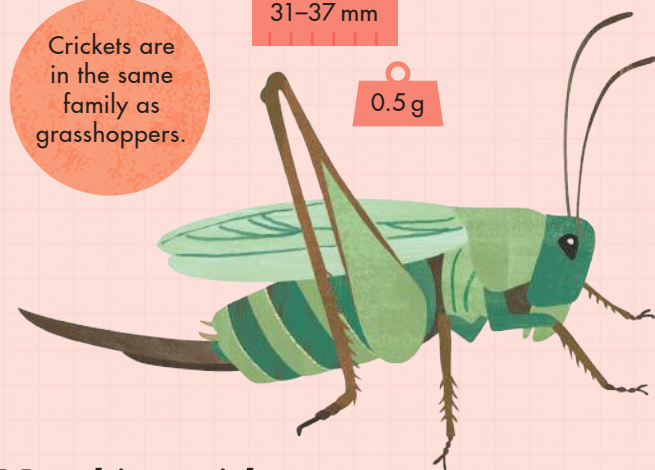
35–45 g



Crickets are in the same family as grasshoppers.

31–37 mm

0.5 g



Wart-biter cricket

A large, green bush cricket with powerful back legs. It makes a clicking sound by rubbing its wings together. In the 1700s, people used them to bite warts off their skin!

How you can help



If it's not far, don't use the car. More cars means more air pollution, which is unhealthy for animals and people.



Keep dogs on a lead when you are walking in heathlands so that they don't scare birds that nest on the ground.



Buy recycled paper and wood products, such as toilet roll, to save cutting down trees in heathland areas.



Ask your grown-ups not to use chemical pesticides or fertilisers on flowers as these can kill bees.



Pack a no-rubbish lunch. If rubbish is left on the ground or blows away, it can be really harmful to wildlife if they swallow it or get stuck in it.

About one third of all the rubbish we throw away is packaging, so use a lunchbox with dividers to keep your food fresh instead.



Choose a reusable bottle for your drinks.

Woodlands



Barbastelle bat



Red squirrel



Woods and trees are home to more wildlife than any other habitat - and they have been around for thousands of years. Woodlands are especially important for beetles, woodland birds, mosses, ferns and lichens. Many mammals also depend on woodlands for food and places to hide.

Woodlands are rapidly shrinking in size. They are threatened by pollution, pests, disease and clearing for new developments. Trees are cut down to make space for new housing, train lines and farmland.



Cicada



Cosnard's net-winged beetle



Blue ground beetle

Woodland species fact file

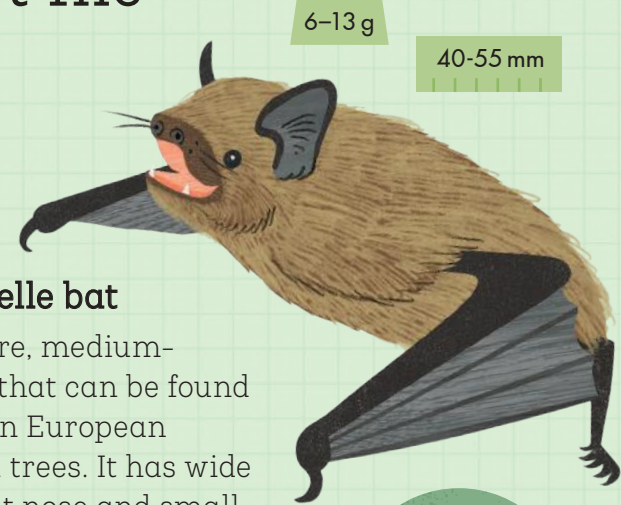
Cosnard's net-winged beetle

This red and black beetle is usually spotted around beech trees, as that is where their beetle grubs live. Beech trees are seriously threatened by climate change, which means this beetle is, too.



The Cosnard's net-winged beetle is only found in three sites across the UK.

0.1 g 5-17 mm



6-13 g 40-55 mm

Barbastelle bat

A very rare, medium-sized bat that can be found roosting in European woodland trees. It has wide ears, a flat nose and small eyes. It eats small flies, moths and beetles.

Bats are the only flying mammals! They have wings made of skin.

Red squirrel

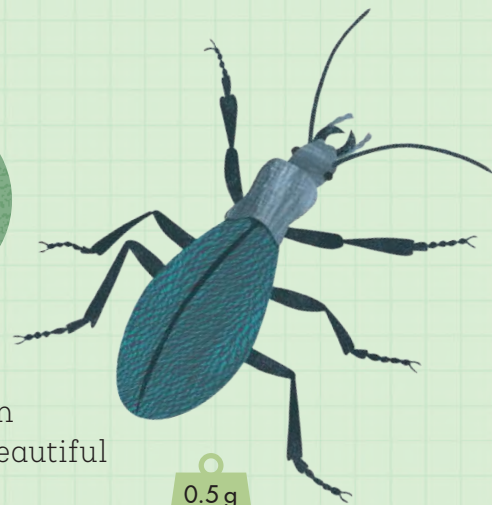
The only squirrel that is native to the UK. It has been pushed out of much of its range by the grey squirrel, which was introduced from North America. There are now only a few spots across the UK where it can be found.



Young squirrels are born in a tree nest called a drey.

250-350 g 21 cm

The blue ground beetle can't fly because it has no wings!



0.5 g 24-35 mm



Female cicadas lay their eggs in slits they make in tree branches.

2-5 cm 0.5 g

Cicada

Last seen in the New Forest over 10 years ago, but scientists believe they are still hiding in there somewhere. They are difficult to spot and most easily found by listening for their high-pitched song.

How you can help



Trees provide a warm and cosy habitat for tiny insects so don't pull bark or branches off of them.



A log pile makes a wonderful habitat for all sorts of creatures so if you disturb one, don't forget to put it back how you found it.



Adopt a red squirrel from The Wildlife Trust. By donating money each month, you can stop them from dying out.



Save paper by using the same piece on both sides. The less paper you use, the less trees will need to be chopped down.

During the winter, many insects stay warm and cosy under logs.



Download apps that help you monitor wildlife, such as the New Forest Cicada app which helps you search for cicadas if you're visiting the New Forest.



Visit your local woodlands to learn about the species that live there. Search online to find accessible routes for wheelchairs, pushchairs and mobility aids.



Highlands

The Highlands are home for dragonflies and damselflies, which are common around the lochs. Red deer, beavers and eagles can also be found in the moors, rivers and skies.



Golden eagle



Western capercaillie



Scottish wildcat



Tiger worm

Climate change is one of the biggest threats to the Scottish highlands. A change in temperature and rainfall may mean that some highland species are no longer able to survive. It will also encourage new species to spread to the area, bringing diseases that could kill highland animals.