



ColSoc
Coleopterists Society
of Britain and Ireland

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Secretariat:
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Appleton Park
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Mar Lodge Estate **20th – 22nd June 2025**



Photo: Bruce Philp

Field Meeting Leader: Bruce Philp (ColSoc Scotland Rep.)

Mar Lodge Estate belongs to the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) and is the largest National Nature Reserve in Britain. It covers a wide range of habitats from the valley of the River Dee up to the tops of some of Britain's highest mountains and includes some of the best examples of native pine woodland in the country. Although there has been extensive survey work on the estate in the past, the current NTS Conservation Manager asked ColSoc if its supporters could arrange a site visit focussing on beetles and with one of their priority species (*Ampedus tristis*) as a particular target.

Accommodation in the Braemar area was an issue with some attendees and some having to stay some distance away but the NTS kindly provided a meeting room where people could gather before heading off and returning in late afternoon to discuss the day's activities. A total of twelve attended the meeting for some or all of the three days: Charlie Barnes, Rosalin Mistry, Garth Foster, Sue Foster, Rob Smith, Lydia Cocks, Kay Dinsdale, Chris Foster, Richard Lyszkowski, Nial Currie, Calum Maclure and Bruce Philp.

The sheer size of Mar Lodge Estate presented some problems in that there was too much ground to cover in detail. In particular the high ground received relatively little attention due to the time needed to get there. In addition, some recording was done on neighbouring properties, further increasing the area to be covered. Consequently, there was little time for each habitat to be sampled in detail but, in spite of these constraints, a total of 180 species was recorded.



Three Red List species were recorded, reflecting the habitat variation in the area: *Amara quenseli* (Kay Dinsdale) on the gravel soil of the Morrone birchwood, *Dictyopectera aurora* (Charlie Barnes) in the pinewood and *Curtonotus alpinus* (Kay Dinsdale) on the higher ground. Some species apparently new to Mar Lodge included *Brachonyx pineti* (Charlie Barnes), *Cryptocephalus bipunctatus* (Rob Smith),



Dianous coerulescens (Lydia Cocks and Charlie Barnes), *Harpalus laevipes* (Kay Dinsdale), *Thymalis limbata* (Niall Currie), *Anthonomus phyllocola* (Bruce Philp), *Pterostichus quadriveolatus* (Bruce Philp) and *Ropalodontus perforatus* (Chris Foster).

Unfortunately, we did not find *Ampedus tristis* during our visit but there is plentiful apparently suitable habitat for this pinewood specialist so further targeted searching may well rediscover it.

ColSoc is very grateful to the National Trust for Scotland for permission to access Mar Lodge Estate and, in particular, to Shaila Rao and Andrew Painting for their help during the visit.

Bruce Philp,

ColSoc Field Meeting Leader