



ColSoc
Coleopterists Society
of Britain and Ireland

Coleopterists Society of Britain and Ireland
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ColSoc field meeting report

Earsham Estate, Norfolk - 13th May 2023



Fig. 1: Photo by Charlie Barnes.

Field Meeting Leaders: Martin Collier (Norfolk beetle recorder) and Andrew Duff (ColSoc Field Meetings Officer)

The ColSoc meeting at Earsham Estate on 3rd September 2022, along with survey work by M. Collier earlier that year, showed some promising results, especially amongst saproxylic species, but had not covered much of the all-important spring recording period. This 2023 meeting was arranged to cover this gap and see what species could be added to the site list. Further details of the site can be found in the field meeting report for the 2022 meeting but essentially it is a tenanted farming estate comprising arable farmland, grazing pasture & marshes, deciduous and mixed woodland, veteran parkland trees, ponds, sand & gravel pits and unimproved meadows. The owner, Nicholas Meade, is a keen conservationist and is actively involved in recording the flora and fauna on his estate, such that habitats can be managed in ways that maximize biodiversity and protect key species.

Earsham Hall owners (Rupert Derham & Annabel Stretton-Derham) kindly provided facilities for parking at the beginning and end of the meeting. A total of 11 people attended: Tony Allen, Charlie

Barnes, Roger Booth, Andy Brown, Martin Collier, Andrew Duff, Martin Fowlie, Steve Lane, Nicholas Meade, Martin Rejzek and Clive Washington. As is usual at such events, after the initial introductions people headed off in different directions, individually or in small groups, occasionally bumping into each other during the course of the day and exchanging news of their finds. People then assembled at the Hall at 4:00 p.m. to close the meeting.



Fig. 2: Glow-worm *Lampyris noctiluca* larva in larch log. Photo by Martin Rejzek.

A total of 362 beetle species were recorded on the day, getting on for double the number recorded at the 2022 meeting by a similar number of people. The highlight was undoubtedly Steve Lane's find of the rove beetle *Acrotona nigerrima*, the first British record, although, not surprisingly, this was not realised until later, when the specimen was dissected for identification. Full details have already been published in *The Coleopterist* journal (Lane, 2023). In addition, there were four first vice-county or county records and several other species for which there were very few previous Norfolk records. The full dataset will be uploaded to iRecord in due course but species of particular interest, at least locally, included: *Cantharis fusca* (C. Barnes); *Tetropium gabrieli* (R. Booth, A. Duff, C. Washington (also recorded here in 2022 by M. Collier)) – one of only two Norfolk sites with modern records; *Chrysolina banksii* (C. Barnes); *Acrotrichis insularis* (R. Booth) – second county and first East Norfolk record; *Onthophagus coenobita* (A. Duff, C. Washington) – third modern county record; *Acrotona nigerrima* (S. Lane) – first British record; *Atheta obtusangula* (A. Allen) - first county record; *Oxypoda vittata* (S. Lane, M. Rejzek) – second modern county record; *Pella laticollis* (S. Lane, M. Rejzek) – second modern county record; and *Thiasophila inquilina* (M. Rejzek) – first county record.

Martin Collier
Norfolk Beetle Recorder

Reference

LANE, S.A. 2023. *Acrotona nigerrima* (Aubé, 1850) (Staphylinidae) new to Britain. *The Coleopterist* **32**: 64-67.