



**THE HEATHER TRUST**

*Promoting Integrated Moorland Management*

## Heather Beetle Survey

- 1 The Heather Trust has been running the survey of heather beetle outbreaks for over 10 years, in conjunction with the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust. We are keen to know more about heather beetle and what causes the large population explosions that can be so devastating to heather moorland.
- 2 The results of this survey are helping us to quantify the extent and nature of the outbreaks throughout the UK and establishing the level of threat posed by heather beetle to heather moorland.
- 3 The survey form seeks to establish whether there is any connection between wet areas, and areas that have been re-wet as part of peatland restoration, and the location of heather beetle attacks.
- 4 Large land holdings may have more than one area affected by heather beetle. Please could separate forms be completed to record the information for each attack?
- 5 Damage is most obvious during July to September. Damaged areas of heather turn a foxy red colour during this period. Damage may not cover a complete plant and only part of it may be damaged by the attack.
- 6 For more information about heather beetle, please see the guidance available in the Priority Issues section of the Trust's web site: <http://www.heathertrust.co.uk>
- 7 Section I of this form contains basic information about the outbreak, but it would be most helpful if you could also complete Section II as far as possible, to provide us with more information.

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**PO Box 7749, Lochmaben, Lockerbie DG11 9AE**

*Scottish Charity No: SC010204*

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**SECTION I – BASIC INFORMATION**

1 Where is the heather moorland you are reporting on? Please complete at least one of the following options:

1.1 Post Code AB12 10CD

1.2 OS Grid Reference AB 123456

1.3 Location Place name

2 Is there any heather beetle damage on your heather this year?

Yes  Please complete questions 3 & 4

No  Please go to question 5

**SECTION II – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

3 **Details of the Attack this year**

3.1 How certain are you on a scale of 1 - 3 that the damage to the heather has been caused by heather beetle?

Certain 1  2  3  Not certain

3.1.1 Have you managed to shake and positively identify any heather beetle grubs from affected heather?

Yes  No

3.2 How severe is the attack this year?

3.2.1 Very severe  Heather killed over a large area

3.2.2 Medium severity  Heather killed in patches

3.2.3 Minor damage  Parts of plants killed

3.3 Over what area has the attack occurred?

Area Hectares Acres

3.4 How many distinct patches are affected?

1  2  3  4  5  >5

4 **Details of the Land Affected**

4.1 What age of heather is affected? Old = at least 10 years old.

Old  Young

4.2 What is the altitude of the affected area?

<1000ft  >1000ft

4.3 Which way does the area slope?

North  East  South  West  Flat (no slope)

4.4 What % of the damage is on hard ground?

<25%  <50%  <75%  <100%

4.5 What % of the damage is on peatland?

<25%  <50%  <75%  <100%

4.6 If some of the damage is on peatland:

4.6.1 What is the approximate depth of the peat in the damaged area?

Depth metres

4.6.2 Is the peat wet and active, or is it dry?

Wet  Dry

4.6.3 Has any of the peatland been subject to re-wetting as part of a peatland restoration plan?

Yes  Please complete questions 4.6.4- 4.6.6

No  Please go straight to question 4.7

4.6.4 When was the restoration work carried out?

Year

4.6.5 How effective has the restoration work been effective in raising the water table? Please comment:

4.6.6 Have there been any obvious changes to the vegetation mix and/or cover as a result of the restoration work? Please comment:

4.7 Some photographs of the area and some close up photographs of the damaged heather would help to illustrate the scale of the problem and allow us to confirm the detail of the outbreak. Please could the photographs be forwarded with your completed survey form. Have you taken photographs?

Yes  No

## 5 Previous Attacks

5.1 When was the last heather beetle attack on this area of ground?

Last yr 2-5 5-10 10-20 20+ years ago

5.2 How frequently have outbreaks occurred on this area of moorland? Every:

1 5 10 15 20 years

5.3 Have these outbreaks been more, less or equally as extensive as this year's?

More Less Equal

5.4 How have you treated the heather after previous outbreaks?

Burn  }  
Cut  } Please answer question 5.4.1  
Leave  Please go to question 5.5

5.4.1 When did the burning or cutting take place?

Month

5.5 Did the heather recover fully?

Yes  No

5.6 If yes, how long did it take to recover?

1 5 10 15 20 years

**Thank you** for taking the time to answer these questions.

If this questionnaire has not covered some aspects of the heather beetle outbreak, please feel free to provide further details.

If you are willing to allow us to contact you, if we have further questions, please tick

It would be helpful if you would complete the contact details below:

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Postcode:** AB12 10CD

**Telephone:**

**E-mail:**

**When completed:**

Please save this form onto your computer and send it as an attachment to an e-mail message with a subject of "Heather Beetle Survey Form" to: [info@heathertrust.co.uk](mailto:info@heathertrust.co.uk)

**If you would prefer, please print it and send it by post to:**

The Heather Beetle Survey, The Heather Trust, PO Box 7749, Lochmaben, Lockerbie DG11 9AE