

Twelve-spotted Asparagus Beetle *Crioceris duodecimpunctata*, found at a second site at North Littleton, Worcestershire.

Gary Farmer

During a work party on 20th March 2019 at Vale Landscape Heritage Trust's reserve at North Littleton (grid reference SP07531 47618) we were removing tree-guards from young hedge plants (whips) to clear grass and other debris out of the guards before replacing them round the whips. One of the guards contained a bright red ladybird-like beetle (01). I knew immediately what it was as I had recently seen the same species pictured in an article in *Worcestershire Record* 45 (Carter 2018).



01. *Crioceris duodecimpunctata* 19 March 2019, North Littleton, Worcestershire.. Gary Farmer

It was a Twelve-spotted Asparagus Beetle *Crioceris duodecimpunctata*, a species only recently found in the UK. Hubble (2012) comments that *C. duodecimpunctata* has been found in Britain but has not yet become established.

This second record was less than 500metres along the same road as the site of the previous record so is there a self-sustaining population in the area? Had this one over-wintered in the tree-guard? Or are these brightly coloured beetles being transported on the many lorries carrying produce along this road?

Reference

Carter, W. 2018. Twelve-spotted asparagus beetle *Crioceris duodecimpunctata* at North Littleton, Worcestershire. *Worcestershire Record* 45:33.

Hubble, D. 2012. *Keys to the adults of seed and leaf beetles of Britain and Ireland*. AIDGAP, FSC Publications, Telford.

Images

01. *Crioceris duodecimpunctata* 19 March 2019, North Littleton, Worcestershire. Gary Farmer