HIGHLIGHTS 2023

Wild about Stroud

Work and family has kept me in and around Stroud and the Cotswolds this year.

The years of motorway driving for interpretation projects is over. Most business is now very local. That which is not can be handled virtually.

Family is growing in number. The garden is now a major part of my life, inspiring and feeding into **Do You Have The Bug** and **Garden Guardians.** 

I still have Stroud and the Valleys to explore and a few places just a short distance away. The camera is always at hand.

This supplement has some of my favourite insect photographs from 2023. It isn't just about the image. It may be about the story behind the image or another reason why I have chosen it.

Why the Snipe Fly (right)? Simply that some of the predatory flies - snipe, robber, empid are personal favourites - to watch, to illustrate.

Footprint Stroud: Designing for people in Nature www.footprintdesignstroud.co.uk











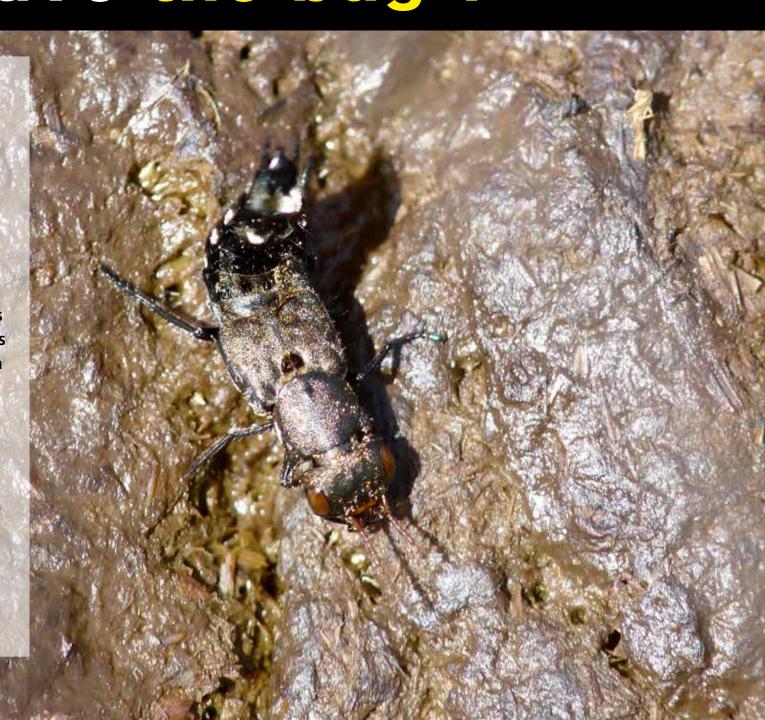


### 3 August: Rodborough Common

### **Rove Beetle:**

A fresh cow pat. An ecosystem in its own right, attracting a range of flies and beetles in particular to feast on its rich soup. While they feast, they might be distracted and fall prey to this rove beetle.

It moves quickly over the surface, disappearing quickly over the edge of the pat and then re-emerging in a different place. Not easy to get a good shot.







# 25 June: Rodborough Common

Robber Fly (Asilidae)

Slightly out of focus. I was leaning well forward trying to reduce the distance between lens and subject. In trying to gently sit down or squat close to an insect, I often frighten them into flight or a jump.

I wasn't exactly sure at first what I was photographing. I could see the one robberfly facing towards the top of the stem and assumed it had some prey.

Then realised this was a pair mating.

