

Back from the Brink – Species summary

Five-banded Weevil-wasp

BftB project: IP07 Shifting Sands – Securing a future for the Brecks

Project lead organisation: Natural England

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Partner organisation for species: Buglife

Species name – common & scientific	Five-banded weevil-wasp (<i>Cerceris quinquefasciata</i>)
Photograph	 <p>©Mike Edwards / Back from the Brink</p>
Taxon group	Invertebrate- Hymenoptera (Crabronidae)
Conservation status	Listed as Rare (RDB3) in Shirt (1987) and Falk (1991). New Hymenoptera status review expected by 2022
UK distribution	Widely distributed in southern England, especially in the east and south east, but a scarce species.
Habitat associations	Low nutrient and sandy soils, with bare ground and wildflower-rich grasslands to provide forage for adults and their weevil prey.
BftB work carried out:	
Survey & Monitoring	Baseline surveys and post ride creation work surveys undertaken as part of the Forest Corridor works. The 2018 baseline produced records of the wasp in two rides only, both of which were already adjacent to large flower-rich rides. The 2020 surveys recorded the wasp in 9 of the 14 rides, all of females foraging on flowers. Considering the short period after habitat works, this monitoring indicated that the works were likely to be beneficial to the species and associated ground nesting aculeate Hymenoptera.

Sites habitat management works	Forest Corridor works undertaken at Kings Forest, as part of Shifting Sands- widening and creation of rides.
Conservation 'interventions' incl. reintroductions & translocations	None beyond stated management and technical advice provision.
Technical advice provision	Management recommendations for the species included in 2020 survey report by Adrian Knowles
Links made with other taxa / conservation work?	Links to other Shifting Sands species expecting to benefit from increased ride provision at Kings Forest e.g. Basil-thyme.
Wider engagement & advocacy activities?	None
BftB work carried out:	
Recorded Distribution (in BftB focal areas)	The 2020 surveys recorded the wasp in 9 of the 14 rides surveyed at Kings Forest. The project did not aim to make any wider assessment of the species distribution in the Brecks.
Recorded Abundance of species populations	Notable increase in abundance in 2020 compared to baseline surveys in 2018
Other results documented?	None
Species Recovery Curve progress made	<p>In the Brecks context the species has moved from 2 to 6. Although survey work and management has been limited to only the Kings Forest part of the species range, the successful trials of the Forest Corridor work indicate that rolling out this management approach could significantly benefit the species. Uptake of the Forest Corridor approach to management would provide a network of wildflower-rich habitats adjacent to suitable nesting areas which would provide the species with significant opportunities to expand its range and increase the resilience of the local populations. This score might improve to 6 if the species is seen to persist as the rides establish and routine management is implemented.</p> <p>However, there has been a negligible impact on the species or our understanding of the species in the national context.</p>
Other measures of species recovery progress? e.g. FCS	None
Recommendations for future work:-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to monitor use of the newly created rides by the species as they establish to ensure that the wasp is able to persist once the rides have established and management put in place. • Investigate the benefit of the ride network to other associated species of aculeate Hymenoptera, as a tool to enhance connectivity between key sites as well as being valuable sites in their own rights. • Embed the Forest Corridors work in future plantation management in the Brecks, and to demonstrate a national best practice example of restoring biodiversity to plantation environments.