

Back from the Brink – Species summary

Black Click Beetle

BftB project: IP02 Ancients of the Future

Project lead organisation: Buglife

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Species name – common & scientific	Black click beetle (<i>Ampedus nigerrimus</i>)
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Taxon group	Invertebrate – Coleoptera (Elateridae)
Conservation status	Near threatened (on the red list of European saproxylic beetles 2010).
UK distribution	All known UK records restricted to Windsor Forest and New Forest
Habitat associations	<p>This species is associated with red-rotting heartwood in mature oak trees over 200 years old. Larvae are most often found in stumps, but also in the trunks and large boughs of standing trees. However, the larval development period is unknown, larval diet is unknown and adult diet is also unknown, among other elements of their life cycle leaving significant gaps in our understanding of their autoecology.</p>
BftB work carried out:	
Survey & Monitoring	General beetle recording was facilitated at Windsor in 2018 when 2 individuals were recorded. An independent survey in 2019 recorded a further single individual

Sites habitat management works	Veteranising management techniques implemented at High Standing Hill and site management plans influenced to maintain existing trees with red rot and plan for future recruitment of veteran trees. Some of this has been as a result of the project but with the deadwood assemblage in mind, not this particular species.
Conservation 'interventions' incl. reintroductions & translocations	None specific to this species beyond the provision of management advice
Technical advice provision	Advice issued to Crown Estates at Windsor through the provision of the Cross taxa guidance document.
Links made with other taxa / conservation work?	Advice on habitat management links closely to that of other click beetles using red rot in oaks.
Wider engagement & advocacy activities?	None, bar promoting management for dead wood assemblages
BftB results obtained:	
Recorded Distribution (in BftB focal areas)	Recorded at High Standing Hill, Windsor Forest.
Recorded Abundance of species populations	Two individuals recorded in 2018 facilitated by this project, with a further one recorded in 2019 by an independent surveyor.
Species Recovery Curve progress made	Species has remained at 2 . We know aspects of its habitat associations and that there are problems with habitat continuity as a result of the age structure of trees on its sites. However, there is insufficient evidence to date that the works to bridge the age gap, retain existing trees or plan for future veteran trees will directly benefit the species, with very long timescales at play Some elements of Steps 5 and 6 have been actioned by the project, with habitat works delivered on site, but they are very much works in progress and based on an incomplete picture of their autoecology. We remain confident that improving the resources of ancient trees and dead wood features on sites will help the species to recover, but a score beyond 2 would be based on significant assumptions.
Recommendations for future work:-	Improve understanding of the autoecology of the species, species specific surveys to improve understanding of its distribution on key sites, and long-term funded species monitoring to assess the success of veteranisation techniques in providing suitable habitat.