

Back from the Brink – Species summary

Red-horned Cardinal Click Beetle

BftB project: IP02 Ancients of the Future

Project lead organisation: Buglife

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Species name – common & scientific	Red-horned cardinal click beetle (<i>Ampedus rufipennis</i>)
Photograph	 <p>© Christophe Quintin / Back from the Brink</p>
Taxon group	Invertebrate-Coleoptera (Elateridae)
Conservation status	Classified as Least Concern on the European Red List of Saproxylic Beetles (2010). It is a Red Data Book species in Britain.
UK distribution	The main strongholds are Windsor Forest, Moccas Park, and the north Cotswolds, but is known from seven counties: Berkshire, Surrey, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Kent, and Norfolk.
Habitat associations	In the UK, the species is mainly associated with old trees in active, defunct or remnant wood pasture, as well as trees formerly in a regular pollard management cycle. Tree species appears to be less important than the stage of soft white-rotten heartwood as Beech, Ash, Elm, Birch, Apple, and Plum are all used.
BftB work carried out:	
Survey & Monitoring	<p>General beetle recording was undertaken at Windsor in 2018 but no individuals were recorded. An independent survey in 2019 recorded a single individual.</p> <p>No general invertebrate surveys were carried out at Moccas Park and surveys for other key species (Moccas beetle and Western wood-vase hoverfly) did not pick up any Red-horned cardinal beetle.</p>

Sites habitat management works	Veteranising management techniques have been implemented at High Standing Hill, Windsor, and Moccas Park. Site management plans have been influenced to maintain existing ancient trees with white rot features and plans made 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. Natural England were advised at Moccas park through a series of visits and the provision of cross taxa guidance.
Links made with other taxa / conservation work?	Species requirements links closely to other species requiring white-rotted heartwood for their lifecycle.
Wider engagement & advocacy activities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An arboriculture workshop was held at Moccas Park and adjacent landowners have also been engaged about tree management. • Arts event held. • Seed collection carried out • Film made of biodiversity around the park • Arborist training course at Windsor
BftB results obtained:	
Recorded Distribution (in BftB focal areas)	Recorded from High Standing Hill, Windsor during the project timescale, but from an independent surveyor.
Recorded Abundance of species populations	Just one individual was recorded in 2019 through independent surveys
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:-	Long-term funded species monitoring to assess the success of veteranisation techniques in providing suitable habitat.