

Name: **A click beetle**
Elater ferrugineus

UK status: [UK BAP Priority](#). Endangered, RDB1 (Shirt, 1987).

London status: Very rare resident (2 sites)

Protected status: None

Relevant London HAPs: Woodland; Open landscapes with ancient trees

Citation:

This nationally very rare click beetle now occurs at just a few sites across the UK. Two of these are in Greater London, both in the London Borough of Richmond. Click beetles are characterised by an audible click made when jerking the body rapidly upwards as a defensive strategy to avoid predation. This species is dependent on the dead wood associated with “veteran” trees of several species, with the larvae living in hollows where there have been animal nests and/or activity of the lesser stag beetle *Dorcus parallelipedus*. One well-known site is Richmond Park, which is a National Nature Reserve and SAC/SSSI. The beetle has also been discovered recently in Bushy Park. Both sites are within Sites of Metropolitan Importance. Managing authority; The Royal Parks



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Conservation priorities:

- Monitor and maintain populations through sympathetic habitat management
- Protect any new populations emerging from further survey

References:

[UK BAP – Grouped statement for saproxylic beetles](#)
[Buglife habitat management website](#)

Shirt, D B (ed.). (1987). *British Red Data Books: 2. Insects*. JNCC