

Name:**Five-banded tailed digger wasp***Cerceris quinquefasciata***UK status:**[UK BAP Priority](#). Rare, RDB3 (Shirt, 1987); declining**London status:**

Very rare (1 site)

Protected status:

Legal; none. 'Species of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity in England' (CRoW Act, 2000)

Relevant London HAPs:

Acid grassland; Wasteland

Citation:

The national range of this rare solitary wasp has contracted substantially in recent decades and it is now confined largely to the southeast of the country. It still has a stronghold in the Thames estuary but in Greater London occurs in just one site, at Hornchurch Country Park in the London Borough of Havering. The wasp nests colonially on bare, sandy banks exposed to the sun and is one of a group that specialise in provisioning their nest with weevils (giving rise to the alternative common name 'weevil wasps'). Adult wasps also depend on nearby flower-rich grassland for foraging. This wasp is part of the 'Thames Terrace invertebrate assemblage', being species for which all suitable habitat within the eastern Thames corridor is of crucial importance for their conservation. The London site is a Site of Borough Importance for nature conservation. Managing authority; Havering Borough Council



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Conservation priorities:

- Monitor population size and distribution at known site
- Maintain and extend population through sympathetic habitat creation and management
- Protect any new populations emerging from further survey [All address UK SAP target T1]

References:[Buglife habitat management website](#)Harvey, P (2000). *The East Thames corridor: a nationally important invertebrate fauna under threat*. British Wildlife, 12 (2).Shirt, D B (ed.). (1987). *British Red Data Books: 2. Insects*. JNCC