

Name:**Shrill carder bee***Bombus sylvarum***UK status:**[UK BAP Priority](#). Nationally scarce, Nb (Shirt, 1987); rapidly declining.**London status:**

Provisionally very rare (probably extinct)

Protected status:

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

Relevant London HAPs:

Wasteland; Acid grassland

Citation:

Along with many of its relatives, this now very rare bumblebee has declined substantially in recent decades. This is believed to be due largely to changes in agricultural practices in formerly important areas, resulting in the loss of nesting and foraging sites in flower-rich grassland. An important refuge has therefore emerged in post-industrial sites, especially in climatically suited parts of the country, as in the East Thames Corridor. In Greater London the bee is probably now extinct, although it may still occur in some eastern boroughs (past foraging records include the Thames Barrier Park in LB Newham). It is part of the 'Thames Terrace invertebrate assemblage', being species for which our region is of primary importance to national conservation efforts. The name comes from the bee's tendency to produce a distinctive shrill sound, as made to some extent by other carder bees such as *Bombus humilis*.



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Conservation priorities:

- Undertake targeted surveys in London Boroughs of Tower Hamlets, Newham, Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Greenwich, Southwark, Lewisham, Bexley and the City
- Protect any populations emerging from survey [All address UK SAP target T1]

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