

## Adrian Knowles Report 5<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Adrian's first visit to the survey the Pits was on 5th July, when he met quite a few people on site who all seemed very supportive of the project. Highlights include:

The digger wasp *Cerceris quinquefasciata*

This is one of a suite of species that used to be called "Biodiversity Action Plan" species i.e. those in need of active conservation management to halt national declines in their populations. These are now referred to as "Section 41 Priority species" and/or Species of Principal Importance in England, as defined by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. This wasp is actually quite widely recorded across Suffolk but is dependent upon habitats such as old sand pits to provide nesting habitat.

<https://bwars.com/wasp/crabronidae/philanthinae/cerceris-quinquefasciata>

The cuckoo-wasp *Hedychrum niemelai*

This nationally rare wasp attacks the nests of *C. quinquefasciata*, so it is not surprising to find both species together.

The cuckoo-wasp *Hedychridium cupreum*

This small wasp lays its eggs in the nests of a digger wasp called *Dryudella pinguis*, which I also found during the visit. The *Hedychridium* is arguably a lot scarcer than *C. quinquefasciata* but its population is perhaps more stable, so it does not receive the same level of conservation concern. However, it is rare in Suffolk. The only records I know of in East Suffolk come from the east side of Ipswich. It has also been recorded in the Brecks in the north-west of the county.

<https://bwars.com/wasp/chrysididae/elampinae/hedychridium-cupreum>

The digger wasp *Odynerus spinipes*

Nationally, this is not a rare wasp but there are only a handful of modern Suffolk records. It nests in vertical sandy cliff faces, so would benefit from the creation of a Sand Martin cliff.

<https://bwars.com/wasp/vespidae/eumeninae/odynerus-spinipes>

The bug *Ischnocoris angustulus*

This is interesting, as a heathland specialist. It is said to primarily feed on heathers (absent from the site) but may utilise other plants. The acid grassland of the pits is often a component part of larger, heathland ecosystem, so it is perhaps an indication of the developing site quality.

[https://www.britishbugs.org.uk/heteroptera/Lygaeidae/Ischnocoris\\_angustulus.html](https://www.britishbugs.org.uk/heteroptera/Lygaeidae/Ischnocoris_angustulus.html)

The bug *Temnostethus pusillus*

Knowledge of bugs in Suffolk is rather limited, but this is the only record of which I am aware. However, it is likely to occur more widely than this suggests.

July 16th : Adrian paid another visit to the pits yesterday, before the rain showers returned.

"The highlight was a couple of specimens of a small solitary wasp called *Miscophus bicolor*. I actually discovered this new to Britain in 2003 when I caught several at Maidscross Hill near Lakenheath. Since then, it has been found at a handful of sites across north Suffolk and west Norfolk but the pits are only the ninth British location"