

## The Five Banded Tailed Digger Wasp

*Cerceris quinquefasciata*

Red Lodge Heath is home to a lot of rare and unusual wildlife, including insects which burrow into the loose sand. The five banded tailed digger wasp is one of these insects and is a tiny solitary wasp. This means they live on their own rather than in large colonies like common wasps or bees.



A Wasp burrowing into loose sand. They catch weevils, which are a type of bug, and paralyse them with their sting. But don't worry, their sting is too small to hurt humans.

They then lay an egg into the weevil, which hatches and eats the weevil! In this way, the egg has a safe place to develop and hatch, like a nursery, and also has food stored ready for it.



As well as bare ground for its nests, this wasp also needs lots of taller flowers nearby, as this is where the weevil is found which it preys on. This means it needs a range of different habitats to survive.



Look out for their holes in places where there is loose sand, for example around rabbit holes and places where rabbits dig. Look for places that look like tiny miniature cliffs, and keep an eye out for small piles of very fine sand which shows where they have been digging.