

6 Ants

Formica lugubris northern wood ant

Current status

Needs semi-open woodland on undulating ground with an open canopy. Usually found in a dry habitat with well drained soil, but sometimes occurs in damp marshy places.

Threats Over-shading, the canopy must be kept open; loss of habitat due to woodland clearance; urban growth and inappropriate woodland management.

Formica rufa red wood ant

Current status Rare RDB (Watsonian Yorkshire).

Found in England and Wales. Needs semi-open woodland on undulating ground. Some open canopy is required as is a dry habitat with well drained soil. Makes large mound nests, usually of pine needles at the edges of woodland in sunny positions. A colony remains near Denby Dale, Kirkstall, though it is said that this was introduced early this century to feed pheasants. There are records for the 10 km squares SK39 (pre-1900) and SE18 (1961-79).

Threats Over-shading; woodland clearance; urban growth.

Formicoxenus nitidulus shining guest ant

Current status Rare RDB (Watsonian Yorkshire).

Found in England, Wales and Scotland. Recently recorded from a nest of the northern wood ant *Formica lugubris* in Sheffield. Also lives in nests of the red wood ant *Formica rufa*.

Threats Loss of nests of the host species.