

Name:**Desmoulin's whorl snail***Vertigo moulinsiana***UK status:**

[UK BAP Priority](#). Nationally scarce. Edge of European range. Declining.

London status:

Very rare (1 site); historic decline.

Protected status:

- Habitats Directive, Annex II (European protected species).
- 'Species of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity in England' (CRoW Act, 2000)

Relevant London HAPs:

Rivers & Streams

Citation:

This miniscule snail lives principally in permanently wet swamps, fens and marshes adjacent to slow-flowing calcareous rivers and lakes. It normally lives amongst sedge beds and wetland grasses, and at only 2.6 mm tall is easily overlooked. Although always localised, its national range has contracted significantly and it now occurs sporadically in a broad band across southern and eastern England, from Dorset and the Isle of Wight to Norfolk. In Greater London Desmoulin's whorl snail is well known in the corridor of the Rivers Frays and Colne, and occurs at both Denham Lock Wood and Fray's Farm Meadows in LB Hillingdon. These are both SSSI, within a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation and managed as nature reserves. Managing agencies; Hillingdon Borough Council, London Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency



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Conservation priorities:

- Monitor and maintain known population [addresses UK SAP target T1]
- Protect and maintain any new populations emerging from further survey

References:

Kerney, M. (1999). Atlas of the Land and Freshwater Molluscs of Britain and Ireland. Harley Books
Killeen, I J. (2003). The ecological requirements of Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana*. Conserving Natura 2000 rivers Ecology Series No. 6. English Nature, Peterborough.

[Buflife news article](#)