

Name:**Four-spotted moth***Tyta luctuosa***UK status:**

[UK BAP Priority](#). Rare RDB3, (Shirt, 1987); sharp decline.

London status:

Very rare resident; probably extinct. Category 4 (Plant, 1993)

Protected status:

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

Relevant London HAPs:

Chalk grassland; Meadows & pastures

Citation:

The four-spotted moth was formerly widespread across southern England and locally common on the North Downs of Surrey and Kent, being particularly associated with sparse vegetation on the margins of calcareous grassland. Today its strongholds are in coastal Dorset and Northamptonshire, with only small relict populations clinging on elsewhere. The larval foodplant is field bindweed. In London the moth may still occur in the vicinity of Mitcham Common, where it was last recorded in 1984. Its re-discovery in London would be an extremely important event.



© David Green

Conservation priorities:

- Protect any colonies emerging from future targeted surveys [addresses UK SAP target T2]

References:

Butterfly Conservation (2006). *The State of Britain's Moths*

[Butterfly Conservation/Defra Species Factsheets](#)

Plant C W (1993). Larger moths of the London Area. (London Natural History Society)

Shirt, D B (ed.). (1987). *British Red Data Books: 2. Insects*. JNCC