

Name:**A crane-fly***Lipsothrix nervosa***UK status:**[UK BAP Priority](#). Local (Shirt, 1987); declining. UK near-endemic.**London status:**

Rare (2 sites)

Protected status:

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

Relevant London HAPs:

Woodland (wet), Rivers & streams

Citation:

Crane-flies are the familiar 'daddy long-legs' of late summer and their larvae the soil-living 'leather-jackets' commonly found in lawns. There are around 300 species in the UK, including our largest true fly *Tipula maxima*. Many are quite rare however, and these include *Lipsothrix nervosa*, which is found in a few widely scattered sites across southern England and Wales.

Lipsothrix would appear to occur only in Britain and is therefore considered to be near-endemic to this country. The insect is found in shaded, wet woodland habitats adjacent to flowing water, where it is associated with damp, decaying timber. It has become locally extinct at many of its former sites where these have dried out due to the falling water-table (especially in the drought-prone south-east of the country). In Greater London *Lipsothrix* has been recorded recently at the Ruislip Woods National Nature Reserve (LB Hillingdon), at Brent Reservoir (LB Brent) and may also occur in suitable habitat in the London section of Epping Forest (LB Waltham Forest). There is an un-locatable record from LB Greenwich (possibly from wetter sections of Oxleas Wood). Managing authorities; Hillingdon Borough Council/ Natural England, Brent Borough Council/Welsh Harp Conservation Committee.

**Conservation priorities:**

- Monitor and maintain population at known sites [addresses UK SAP targets **T1**, **T2**]
- Targeted surveys in suitable habitats to enhance distributional data
- Protect any new populations emerging from further survey

References:[Buglife habitat management website](#)Shirt, D B (ed.). (1987). *British Red Data Books: 2. Insects*. JNCC