

Name:**Thames/Two-lipped door snail***Balea [Laciniaria] biplicata***UK status:**

Rare, RDB3 (Bratton, 1991). Currently restricted to lower River Thames corridor. Declining.

London status:

Very locally abundant. Historic and continuing decline. Major proportion of the known national population

Protected status:

None

Relevant London HAPs:

Tidal Thames; Built Environment

Citation:

This small but elegant snail has always been rare in the UK, with a widely scattered historic distribution across a limited number of south-eastern English counties. Since the 19th century it has declined substantially however, and all current known colonies are in the lower River Thames corridor near London. With the exception of one at Purfleet in Essex, all of these are in fact within Greater London and we therefore have a clear responsibility for the species' future. The snail is not immediately associated with wetland habitats, usually occurring amongst ground litter beneath rough herbage and strand-line rubbish on the uppermost banks and even beyond. In west London, although several previously known sites have been lost to river-side development, apparently stable populations survive at Duke's Hollow Local Nature Reserve, Isleworth and Lots Aits, the Tide Meadow in Syon Park (all in LB Hounslow), and at Occupation Lane Nature Reserve, close to Kew Bridge and alongside Kew Meadow Path (all in LB Richmond). All populations are within Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (Syon Tide Meadow is also a SSSI). Managing agencies; Richmond Borough Council, Hounslow Borough Council, London Wildlife Trust, Syon Estates (Duke of Northumberland), Network Rail, private (Lots Ait).



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Conservation priorities:

- Monitor and maintain all known populations
- Protect and maintain any new populations emerging from further survey

References:

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Bratton, J H (ed.). (1991). *British Red Data Books: 3. Invertebrates other than insects*. JNCC
Kerney, M (1999). *Atlas of the Land and Freshwater Molluscs of Britain and Ireland*. Harley Books