

Name: Dwarf milkwort

Polygala amarella

UK status: Nationally rare (11 hectads). Locally declining

London status: Very rare (1 site). Possibly extinct

Protected status: W&CA S.13(b); general protection from uprooting without owners' permission

Relevant London HAPs: Chalk grassland

Citation:

A perennial herb of base-rich substrates, occurring nationally in two widely separated centres of distribution. On the North Downs of Kent it is found in close-grazed chalk grassland, and has declined or disappeared from several sites. A large population (over 300 plants in 1986) formerly occurred at the edge of Blackbush Shaw near Cudham in LB Bromley. Dwarf milkwort was already declining here (50 plants in 1989) and may now be locally extinct following the application of herbicide at the site. No plants have been recorded since 1998. The site is owned and managed by the Woodland Trust, and is within a Metropolitan SINC.



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- Conservation priorities:**
- Survey for recovery of population
 - Consider re-introduction as necessary
 - Protect any new populations emerging from further survey

References:

Burton R M, 1983. *Flora of the London Area*. LNHS
Cheffings CM & Farrell L (Eds.), 2005. *The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain*. JNCC
Preston CD, Pearman DA & Dines TD (Edit.), 2002. *New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora*. Oxford