

Name:**Early gentian***Gentianella anglica***UK status:**

[UK BAP Priority](#). Nationally scarce (69 hectads). Red Data List (waiting list). UK Endemic

London status:

Very rare (1 site). Historic decline

Protected status:

- W&CA, Schedule 8 (S.13a*)
 - Habitats Regulations, Schedule 4
 - Habitats Directive, Annex II, IV (European protected species of plants)
 - Bern Convention, Appendix 1
- 'Species of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity in England' (CRoW Act, 2000)

Relevant London HAPs:

Chalk grassland

Citation:

An annual or biennial herb of shallow calcareous soils, especially on the chalk. Nationally, many populations have declined or been lost, largely due to reduced grazing. In London the plant was historically widespread on the North Downs and is now reduced to a single small population flowering sporadically in one area of Riddlesdown, in LB Croydon. An active recovery project for the species is underway at nearby Banstead Downs in Surrey. The London site is within a SSSI and Metropolitan SINC. Managing authority; Corporation of London.

[Note: Recent research suggests that *G. anglica* may be genetically indistinct from the widespread autumn gentian *Gentianella amarella*, which has influenced the plant's most recent RDL evaluation.]



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Conservation priorities:

- Monitor and increase population [addresses UK SAP target **T2**]
- Ensure continued favourable management of site
- 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

[Plantlife species briefing sheet – *Gentianella anglica*](#)

Preston CD, Pearman DA & Dines TD (Edit.), 2002. *New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora*. Oxford

Stewart A, Pearman DA & Preston CD, 1994. *Scarce Plants in Britain*. JNCC

*additionally protected from intentionally picking (which includes collecting seed); trade and possession for the purpose of trade (including all derivatives)