

Name:**Greater yellow-rattle***Rhinanthus angustifolius***UK status:**

Neophyte. Nationally rare (11 hectads). Red Data List (waiting list)

London status:

Very locally abundant. Significant proportion of current UK range

Protected status:

W&CA, Schedule 8 (S.13a*)

Relevant London HAPs:

Chalk grassland

Citation:

A formerly widespread root-parasite of arable land in eastern Britain. The majority of the UK population is now concentrated in a handful of sites in the North Downs (mainly in London), in grassland and open scrub on chalk. The plant was first recorded in the wild in 1724, and as such is classified in the UK flora as a neophyte. It was not recorded in the North Downs until 1966, where hay cutting and machinery sharing may have assisted its spread. The plant is abundant in several sites including Farthing Downs, Happy Valley, Coulsdon Common, Kenley Common and Roundshaw Downs. Farthing Downs is a SSSI/Metropolitan SINC and the others are all Metropolitan SINC. Managing authorities; Corporation of London, Croydon Borough Council, Sutton Borough Council, London Wildlife Trust (Hutchinson's Bank).



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Conservation priorities:

- Monitor and maintain all populations
- Ensure continued favourable management of sites
- 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

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