

**Name:** **Green-flowered helleborine**  
*Epipactis phyllanthes*

**UK status:** Nationally scarce (86 hectads). Locally declining

**London status:** Very rare (1 extant site). Recent decline.

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

**Relevant London HAPs:** Woodland; Wasteland

**Citation:**

An enigmatic orchid, typically found in unvegetated, shaded localities over dry low-nutrient soils. In London its recent sites have been in scrub and secondary woodland with a recent history of disturbance, always on chalk. Populations tend to be sporadic, often not persisting for longer than about thirty years. The plant has declined regionally and locally. Two former sites in LB Hillingdon have been lost through woodland clearance. Green-flowered helleborine still occurs in the vicinity of the Rose and Crown Chalk-pit near Kenley in LB Croydon, where the numbers of flowering plants fluctuate annually. The site is within the Riddlesdown SSSI and Metropolitan SINC. Managing authority; Corporation of London.



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- Conservation priorities:**
- Monitor population in extant site
  - Ensure favourable management of site
  - Resurvey suitable habitat in vicinity of historic sites
  - Protect any new populations emerging from further survey

**References:**

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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