

Name:**Man orchid***Aceras anthropophorum***UK status:**

Red Data List (Endangered). Nationally scarce (48 hectads).

London status:

Very locally frequent on North Downs.

Protected status:

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

Relevant London HAPs:

Chalk grassland

Citation:

This understated orchid has a restricted and contracting national range, with its stronghold in the North Downs of Surrey and Kent. It is found in old chalk-pits, calcareous grassland and even on road verges. It can tolerate considerable shade and is often found at the edge of scrub with invasive tall grasses such as tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum*. An historic decline has continued, mainly due to habitat neglect and mismanagement. In Greater London, populations remain in Happy Valley, Hutchinson's Bank (both LB Croydon), Saltbox Hill, High Elms (both LB Bromley), Woodcote Park Golf Course and Roundshaw Downs (LB Sutton). All sites are within Metropolitan SINCS; 3 are in SSSI. Managing authorities; Croydon Borough Council, Bromley Borough Council, Sutton Borough Council, London Wildlife Trust, private (Woodcote Park GC).



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Conservation priorities:

- Monitor and maintain all populations
- Ensure continued favourable management of all sites
- Protect any new populations emerging from further survey

References:

- Burton R M, 1983. *Flora of the London Area*. LNHS
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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