

Name:**Pennyroyal***Mentha pulegium***UK status:**

[UK BAP Priority](#). Red Data List (Endangered).
Nationally rare (14 hectads).

London status:

Very rare (1 native site).

Protected status:

W&CA, Schedule 8 (S.13a*). 'Species of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity in England' (CRoW Act, 2000)

Relevant London HAPs:

Floodplain grassland; Rivers & Streams

Citation:

A formerly widespread, wild culinary herb of seasonally flooded grassland overlying silts and clays. Most of the remaining native populations are now confined to shallow depressions and ponds on heavily grazed village greens. The historic decline of pennyroyal has continued with further habitat destruction and the loss of traditional grazing. An alien variety has recently been imported in seed mixes from North America and many new records refer to this means of introduction. In London a population discovered in 2002/3 in a rutted field entrance west of Heathrow Airport (LB Hillingdon) is currently presumed to be native. Other populations (including in the Lea Valley and Regent's Park) are most likely introductions. The native population is within a Metropolitan SINC, but is highly threatened by airport-related development. Managing authority; private leasehold on Hillingdon Borough Council land/BAA.



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Conservation priorities:

- Engage managing authority
- Re-locate and monitor native population
- Maintain population through continued favourable management of site [addresses UK SAP target T1]
- Protect any new native 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
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)