

Name:**Slender bedstraw***Galium pumilum***UK status:**

Red Data List (Endangered). Nationally scarce (15 hectads). Declining

London status:

Very rare (1 site). Possibly extinct.

Protected status:

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

Relevant London HAPs:

Chalk grassland

Citation:

A perennial of species-rich calcareous grassland where the sward is kept short by grazing or mowing, and on anthills. This species has apparently disappeared from many of its former sites, particularly on the chalk of southern England (including an alarming number of sites in the North Downs of Kent and Surrey). The most likely cause of this on sites that have not been completely destroyed is under-grazing. Slender bedstraw was last recorded in Greater London in 1992, as a strong population of 100 plants at Purley Downs Golf Course (LB Croydon; a Borough SINC in private ownership). If still extant this population must be regarded as highly vulnerable. Managing authority; private.



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Conservation priorities:

- Re-find and audit population size and vulnerability as a matter of urgency
- Engage managing authority
- Review current management regime as necessary
- Protect any new populations emerging from further survey

References:

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