Name: Pink waxcap

Hygrocybe calyptriformis

UK status: UK BAP Priority. Vulnerable (Red Data List, ed.1); Annex

(Red Data List, ed. 2). 971 records in FRDBI. UK has over

50% of European sites

London status: Rare (5 records). Possibly under-recorded

Protected status: Legal, none.

'Species of principal importance for the conservation of

biological diversity in England' (CRoW Act, 2000)

Relevant London HAPs: Parks & green spaces; Chalk grassland; Acid grassland;

Churchyards & cemeteries

Citation:

Widespread but occasional in the UK, this beautiful fungus may actually be locally common. It has an unmistakable appearance having a bright pink conical cap measuring 25-70mm when expanded. The pink waxcap found itself at the forefront of a concerted effort in 2000 by the British Mycological Society to bring attention to rare and endangered grassland fungi. It occurs in unimproved chalk and acid grassland, especially in older large cemeteries and heritage sites, where the grass is kept short by grazing



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or regular mowing and no fertilizers are used. Since the BMS campaign it has been recorded more frequently, although very few recent records have come from the London area. Known sites include Kensal Green Cemetery (RB Kensington & Chelsea), Trent Park (LB Enfield), Kew Gardens (LB Richmond), the Holwood and other old estate grounds in LB Bromley, and Kensington Cemetery (in LB Ealing).

Conservation priorities:

- Ensure continued favourable management of known sites
- Monitor areas where this species is known to occur
- Protect any new sites emerging from further surveys [All address UK SAP target T1]

References:

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