

Name:**Mudwort***Limosella aquatica***UK status:**

Nationally scarce (74 hectads). Regionally declining

London status:

Very rare (1 site).

Protected status:

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

Relevant London HAPs:

Ponds, lakes & reservoirs; Open landscapes with ancient trees

Citation:

A diminutive annual of open mud on the edges of rivers, standing water-bodies, rutted tracks and roadsides. It may favour mildly acidic, nutrient enriched soils which are regularly poached by stock. Although the plant is erratic in appearance, there have been many losses, especially in the western Weald. Reasons include drainage and infilling of ponds, track surfacing and lack of grazing. In Greater London mudwort has long been recorded from Heron Pond in Bushy Park (LB Richmond-upon-Thames), an extremely isolated population which may owe its survival to the continued presence of deer. Numbers vary annually and this inconspicuous plant has been pronounced extinct at least twice in recent history. In 2004 a minimum of 5 plants were present (Hyde P, *pers. comm.*). Bushy Park is a Metropolitan SINC. Managing authority; The Royal Parks.



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Conservation priorities:

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

References:

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