

Ragwort Control Act 2003: Annual Review for 2017

Date of this version: 30 January 2018

Data: Survey data provided by Barn Hill Conservation Group.

Summary

Risk review:	2017	2017: Actions
High Risk	Fryent Country Park: the horse grazing land, and hay meadows, where flowering or seeding Ragwort is either present within the sward or within 50 metres.	Hay meadows: The above-ground parts of plants found in meadows were pulled (using gloves) and removed for decomposition. At Masons field additional cutting of the field should reduce the frequency of Ragwort. The horse grazing Licensee has responsibility for the horse grazing land.
Medium Risk	Fryent Country Park: the horse grazing land, and hay meadows where Ragwort is either present within the sward or within 50-100 metres. Include also the Events Field and associated fields when used for visiting animals. Western edge of Northwick Park.	As above. Ragwort is controlled by appropriate management depending upon the potential risk.
Low Risk	The remainder of the Borough.	No actions required.

Data: Frequencies are estimates averaged across monitored hay meadows at Fryent Country Park	Frequencies: 2017 (in hay meadows)
Common Ragwort <i>Senecio jacobaea</i> Hay meadows: In 2017 Common Ragwort was recorded in the monitored meadows but not within any quadrats. Ragworts were also present in hedgerows, scrub and pond-sides where it is not part of potential hay crops. Beyond those hay meadows monitored for the frequency estimates, Common Ragwort was present in Masons Field where it was widespread but not recorded in quadrats, suggesting a frequency in low single figures. There, Ragwort was pulled before the field was cut and before seeds could have dispersed. A second cut was made which should help to reduce the Ragwort.	000.04%
Non-Act species:	
Hoary Ragwort <i>Senecio erucifolius</i>	000.04%

Also present in Masons Field but not in quadrats.	
Oxford Ragwort <i>Senecio squalidus</i>	000.00%
Groundsel <i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	000.00%
Other species; and elsewhere in Borough	
Marsh Ragwort: previous records in Brent only at the Brent Reservoir.	
<p>Common Ragwort has in some years been noted at a relatively high frequency in the horse grazing fields at Fryent Country Park.</p> <p>Northwick Park: The Watford Road boundary of Northwick Park where Common Ragwort was reported in some previous years, is within 50-100 m of livestock covered by the Ragwort Control Act 2003.</p> <p>Common Ragwort is also present throughout the Borough, but not in situations where it is considered a risk under the Act.</p> <p>Except as noted above in relation to the hay meadows at Fryent Country Park, the other species are not considered a risk under the Act: Hoary Ragwort is confined, in Brent, to some areas of Fryent Country Park and the Brent Reservoir. Oxford Ragwort and Groundsel are widespread in Brent.</p>	
<p>Hemlock <i>Conium maculatum</i></p> <p>Hemlock became established in the late 1980s/early 1990s on mounds alongside Fryent Way following fly-tipping and roadside mounding. Hemlock later spread to nearby hedgerows but following control is now confined to patches on the roadside mounds. Plants found during 2017 were pulled or cut with hand-tools.</p>	000.00%

Risk guidelines

The Ragwort Control Act 2003 and the Code of Practice on How to Prevent the Spread of Ragwort (DEFRA, 2004) provide guidelines for assessing risk:

High Risk: Ragwort is present and flowering/seeding within 50m of land used for grazing by horses and other farm animals or land used for feed/forage production.

Medium Risk: Ragwort is present and flowering/seeding within 50m to 100m of land used for grazing by horses and other farm animals or land used for feed/forage production.

Low Risk: Ragwort or the land on which it is present is more than 100m from land used for grazing by horses and other farm animals or land used for feed/forage production.