

Ragwort Control Act 2003: Annual Review for 2014

Date of this version: 16 October 2015

Data: Survey data provided by Barn Hill Conservation Group.

Summary

Risk review:	2014	2014: 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 elsewhere. Restoration of Masons Field should reduce the frequency of Ragwort within that field. Horse grazing: 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 golf course.	As above. Ragwort is controlled by appropriate management where it is a 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: 2014 (in hay meadows)
Common Ragwort <i>Senecio jacobaea</i> Hay meadows: In 2014 Common Ragwort was found in the monitored meadows but outside of the quadrats. Quantities of Ragwort were also present in non-cropped areas, e.g. hedgerows, scrub, pond-sides. Ragwort was present in Masons Field, which is not part of the series of monitored meadows from which the average frequencies are produced. At Masons Field the frequency was 30%. There, Ragwort was pulled before cutting and the shedding of seeds, while planned cutting could help to reduce the frequency.	000.09%
Non-Act species:	
Hoary Ragwort <i>Senecio erucifolius</i> Probably present in some meadows in 2014 but at very	000.00%

low frequencies.	
Oxford Ragwort <i>Senecio squalidus</i>	000.00%
Groundsel <i>Senecio vulgaris</i> Recorded in Masons Field at a frequency of about 1%.	000.00%
Other species; and elsewhere in Borough	
Marsh Ragwort: previous records in Brent only at the Brent Reservoir.	
Common Ragwort has in some years been noted at a relatively high frequency in the horse grazing fields at Fryent Country Park. Northwick Park Golf Course was not inspected for Ragwort. However, the Watford Road boundary of the golf course, where Common Ragwort was reported in some previous years, is within 50-100 m of livestock covered by the Ragwort Control Act 2003. Common Ragwort is also present throughout the Borough, but is not present in situations where it is considered a risk under the Act. 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.	
Hemlock <i>Conium maculatum</i> A population of Hemlock became established in the late 1980s/early 1990s on mounds alongside Fryent Way following fly-tipping and roadside mounding. This later spread to nearby hedgerows. Plants found during 2013 were pulled or cut with hand-tools.	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.