

Tufted Loosestrife



Scientific Name:
Lysimachia thyrsoiflora

Current factors causing loss or decline

Tufted Loosestrife has perhaps never been common in the local area, and it appears to have persisted at its former localities (except the now lost Monkland Canal), although comparative information on population sizes is lacking. The plant is sensitive to drainage and pollution, including nutrient enrichment, and it is likely that these pose the greatest threats at its current stations. The current work on the Canal may impact on populations and this will need monitoring (in co-ordination with a future Canal HAP).

Tufted Loosestrife appears to spread well by vegetative means, but it appears that the plant is shy flowering, and spread by seed set may be limited. An assessment of flowering and seed-set should form a part of any survey work.

Current action

Tufted Loosestrife receives no specific action at present although it is listed in the Scarce Plants Atlas (species occurring in fewer than a hundred 10km. squares in Britain). The wetland sites are either identified as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or as City-wide Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). The Canal sites are included within the Canal Important Wildlife Corridor.

LOCAL SPECIES ACTION PLAN

Current status

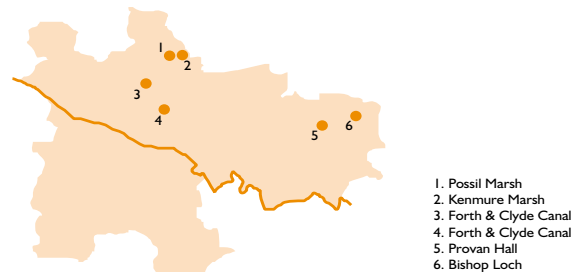
Tufted Loosestrife is a tall, rhizomatous, perennial member of the primrose family (Primulaceae). It has lance-shaped leaves, which occur in opposite pairs, and the many, small yellow flowers are condensed into distinctive, short axillary spikes (racemes).

Tufted Loosestrife is widespread in the Northern Hemisphere, occurring in Europe, Asia and North America. In Europe it is most frequent in the eastern North Sea and in the Baltic Sea region. In Britain it is known as a native species from northern England to central Scotland. There is a concentration of sites in central Scotland, with its range extending to Angus in the northeast. The species has also been deliberately introduced to a few sites in southern England.

Tufted Loosestrife is a nationally scarce plant found in fens and swamps, but is also known from the margins of open water bodies along river flood plains, ditches and canals. It was first recorded in Britain in 1738, from Nottingham and it is thought that the distribution probably increased with the building of canals 200 years ago. In Scotland the principal stronghold for the species is the Lowland Canal network, being found at many locations along the Forth & Clyde and Union Canals.

Tufted Loosestrife is currently known from eight tetrads (2 x 2km. squares) in the Glasgow area, six within the City boundary. It is known from Possil Marsh and nearby Kenmure Marsh, and also at Bishop Loch and a number of sections of the Forth & Clyde Canal. The first record dates back to 1800 when Smith noted "Edge of lake to north of Glasgow". In 1813 Thomas Hopkirk searched several "lakes near Glasgow without success" so that the first confirmed record for Glasgow is a herbarium specimen from Possil Marsh dated 1841. Roger Henneidy's Clydesdale Flora (1891) describes it as not common and notes Possil and the canal at Lambhill Bridge and also along the now developed Monkland Canal.

Locations of Tufted Loosestrife in Glasgow



Objectives and targets

A nationally scarce plant with a stronghold in central Scotland, it is important that the local populations are protected and remain viable. The key priorities are to establish the location and sizes of population at all the known sites, and to increase the awareness among landowners and users of the presence of Tufted Loosestrife.

Objective 1: *Establish current distribution and status of Tufted Loosestrife populations.*

Target 1: *Survey all existing populations and search suitable new sites by 2005.*

Objective 2: *Maintain the current distribution and population sizes.*

Target 2: *Ensure no further loss or damage to the surviving populations.*

Objective 3: *Introduce appropriate habitat management to encourage viable populations.*

Target 3: *Establish current management factors at all known sites and assess suitability.*

Objective 4: *Increase population sizes and general distribution.*

Target 4: *Investigate feasibility of increasing known population sizes and introducing to suitable new locations or sites.*

Proposed Action with Lead Authorities

Action	Lead	Delivery	Objective
Policy and Legislation			
Ensure existing sites are protected in the planning process.	GCC-LS(CG)	GCC-DRS, SEPA, SNH	2
Site Safeguard and Management			
Encourage landowners, managers and users to implement sympathetic management at suitable sites.	GCC-LS(CG)	BW, GCC-LS(CG), SEPA, SNH, SWT	2, 3, 4
Oppose, or suggest alternatives to, development applications that will cause damage to known populations.	GCC-LS(CG)	GCC-DRS, SEPA, SNH	2
Species Management and Protection			
Introduce sympathetic species management at existing sites.	GCC-LS(CG)	BW, GCC-LS(CG), SNH, SWT	2, 3, 4
Advisory			
Advise relevant landowners and users on the presence of Tufted Loosetrife and its conservation management.	GCC-LS(CG)	BW, GCC-LS(CG), SNH	2, 3, 4
Ensure information and guidance on conservation management is available.	GCC-LS(CG)	BW, GCC-LS(CG), SNH	2, 3, 4
Future Research and Monitoring			
Sample all populations to assess viability and to form basis for monitoring and management assessment.	GCC-LS(CG)	GCC-LS(CG), SNH	1, 3, 4
Include studies on flowering and seed-set in survey work.	GCC-LS(CG)	BW, GCC-LS(CG), SNH	1
Establish suitable sites or locations for potential reintroduction.	GCC-LS(CG)	GCC-LS(CG), GfC, SNH, SWT	1, 4
Conduct literature searches to discover information on former distribution.	GCC-LS(CG)	GCC-LS(CG)	1, 4
Investigate impact of Canal development work on existing populations.	GCC-LS(CG)	BW, SNH	2, 3, 4
Communication and Publicity			
Promote Tufted Loosetrife as important local species to landowners and public.	GCC-LS(CG)	BW, GCC-LS, SNH, SWT	2, 4
Co-ordinate with actions for current wetlands and future Canal HAPs.	GCC-LS(CG)	GCC-LS(CG)	1, 2, 3, 4
Review the progress of this Action Plan by 2006.	GCC-LS(CG)	GCC-LS(CG)	1, 2, 3, 4

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Glasgow City Council: Development and Regeneration Services(GCC-DRS), Glasgow City Council: Land Services(Conservation Group) (GCC-LS(CG),

Glasgow City Council: Culture and Leisure Services (GCC-CLS), Glasgow City Council: Education Services (GCC-ES), Glasgow City Council: Land Services Countryside Ranger Service (GCC-LS(CRS)),

Scottish Ornithologists' Club (SOC), Greenspace for Communities(GfC), British Waterways (BW), Forestry Commission (FC), Farming Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), The WISE Group (TWISE)

Glasgow Natural History Society (GNHS), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT).

Clyde Amphibian and Reptile Group (CARG), Butterfly Conservation (BC), Concern for Swifts (CfS)