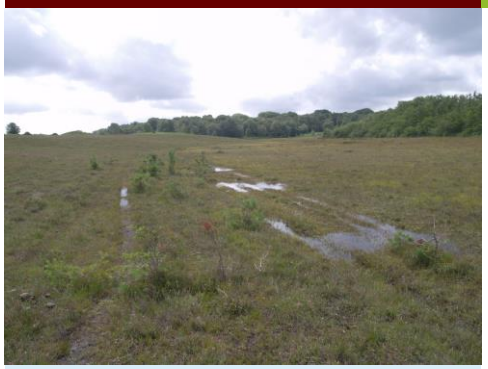
Species Factsheet

the species recovery trust

Lycopodiella inundata

Marsh Clubmoss



Red List Status:
Endangered

Threat of extinction:
Very high

Main threats:
Habitat loss, scrub encroachment, pollution.

Description: Clubmosses are simple plants that have two distinct forms; the gametophyte, which grows underground with a fungus, and the sporophyte, long trailing rooting stems covered in tiny leaf-like scales. Marsh Clubmoss forms prostrate shoots that meander along damp soil and develop cone-bearing spikes (strobili) in the summer.

Lifecycle: After 2 years, fragments clone by the disintegration of the older section, slowly spreading at 2 to 10 cm per year. Spores distribute by air or water. Dies back to terminal buds in the winter.

Habitat: It grows on wet heaths, peaty soil, lake edges and soils that are waterlogged for part of the year, preferring open ground with light disturbance.

Distribution: Has strongholds in the New Forest and Dorset heaths, and a scattering of site across the UK including the Cumbrian Fells and Thames Basin. In decline across Europe.

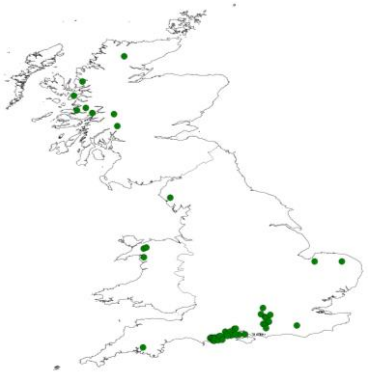
Status: Endangered in Great Britain.

Reasons for decline: Historically through loss of habitat by drainage. Today, its decline is increasingly caused by scrub encroachment, loss of extensive heathland grazing and pollution.

Protection under the Law: Listed in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) as a Priority Species. It is also listed as a species of principal importance under Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006)

What we are doing:

- Establishing a monitoring network across all sites
- Re-establishing populations
- Creating *ex situ* populations for ecological research and eventual re-introduction to the wild
- Carrying out habitat restoration work across the network of sites to enlarge the areas where plants can grow



What you can do:

- If you live locally volunteer to become a site monitor
- Become a species supporter and help fund the project