

Species Factsheet

the
species
recovery
trust

Lobelia urens

Heath Lobelia

Description: Erect plant that grows to 60cm. Leaves grow to 7cm and are oblong and irregularly toothed. Flowers are erect or spreading, bracts are narrower than leaves, the corolla measures 10-15mm, and it has 2 lipped purplish blue flowers.

Lifecycle: Perennial rhizomatous herb, overwintering in rosettes of leaves producing flower spikes in spring. Flowers are entomophilous but can self-propagate with lots of seed produced. Damp weather may limit dispersal.

Habitat: Acid grassland and dwarf shrub heath, rough pastures, and damp, acid, often seasonally waterlogged soils.

Distribution: Extends from Morocco, Madeira and the Azores along the Atlantic coast through Portugal, Spain, France and Belgium. Britain is its northern limit.

Status: Classified as vulnerable and is therefore considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.

Reasons for decline: Historically, loss of heath through afforestation and cultivation for agriculture. Current threats include a lack of appropriate management leading to sites becoming too overgrown.

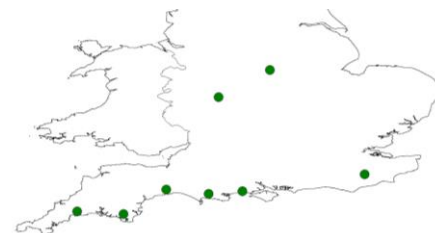
Protection under the Law: Listed under the NERC Act 2006 as a Species of Principal Importance in England, and the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) as a Priority Species.

What we are doing:

- Establishing a monitoring network across all sites
- Re-establishing coppicing rotations and grazing regimes where it grows
- 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:

- Volunteer to become a site monitor
- Become a species supporter and help fund the project



Red List Status:
Vulnerable

Threat of extinction:
High

Main threats:
Habitat loss and
changes in
habitat
management