

Name:

Veilwort
Pallavicinia lyelli

UK status:

[UK BAP Priority](#). Red Data List (Vulnerable).

London status:

Rare (currently known from 2 sites). Continued historical decline

Protected status:

- W&CA S.13(b); general protection from uprooting without owners' permission
- 'Species of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity in England' (CRoW Act, 2000)

Relevant London HAPs:

Acid grassland; Heathland; Open landscapes with ancient trees

Citation:

Veilwort is a narrow, rather delicate, thalloid liverwort which grows on bare, damp acidic substrates. In London, as in much of its British range, it typically grows at the sheltered bases of purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* tussocks near to streams, ditches and at bog margins. Sexual reproduction is rare; the species has separate male and female plants and most UK populations are of one sex only. Survival and spread are therefore reliant on essentially stable environments along with limited local disturbance by grazing animals, in order to move fragments of the plant but not destroy it all. Because of its poor reproductive potential and thus colonising ability, it is vulnerable to loss through habitat destruction (eg. removal of *Molinia* to restore bog habitat; overgrazing, poaching and dunging by deer), and would be adversely affected by drainage, or changes to water quality. Populations are currently known from Richmond Park (LB Richmond-upon-Thames; one of only two UK sites with both male and female plants) and Farm Bog on Wimbledon Common (LB Merton), where first found on a discarded boot in 1948; only females are known from here. Both sites are in Metropolitan SINC. Managing authorities; Royal Parks Agency, Wimbledon Common Conservators/London Wildlife Trust



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Conservation priorities:

- Monitor both extant populations [addresses UK SAP targets T1]
- Review current management regimes as necessary
- Consider translocation of sexes to promote reproduction [addresses UK SAP target T2]
- Protect any new populations emerging from further survey

References:

Church J M, Hodgetts N G, Preston C D & Stewart N F (2001). *British Red Data Books - Mosses and Liverworts*. JNCC

[Turner J \(2004\). *Pallacinia lyelli* \(Plantlife Species Dossier\)](#)

Preston CD, Pearman DA & Dines TD (Edit.), 2002. *New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora*. Oxford