DESCRIPTION

Frog orchid in Scotland is limited to an unusual habitat in Scotland - alkaline grasslands, flushes, rocky ledges, roadsides and quarries. It reaches 915 m above sea level in Glen Doll in Angus. Although still relatively widespread across Scotland, it suffered decline before 1930 although losses have continued since, mostly because of the ploughing or improvement of pastures. Listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List and listed as vulnerable in the GB Red List.

DISTRIBUTION MAP


THREATS

As a species of grassland, this species is still threatened by the loss of its habitat, usually through pasture improvement.

FURTHER READING


ACTION REQUIRED

1. Support increased flexibility within rural development programmes to maintain open pasture through careful management of sheep grazing.
2. Promote the importance of Scotland’s grassland and support measures to protect ancient grasslands through appropriate grassland management
3. If you have this orchid on your land, consider management to enhance its populations. Advice is available from Plantlife Scotland.
4. On road verges where there is no threat to visibility and sight lines, defer mowing until after mid-July. This avoids cutting off the flowering spikes, and allows the plant to set seed

MSP SPECIES CHAMPION

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Region: Central Scotland
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