

Mountain & Upland Habitats - Graeme Dey MSP

Hello, I am Graeme Dey, Member of the Scottish Parliament for Angus South, and I am the Nature Champion for both the Alpine Blue Sow Thistle and the Woolly Willow.

Both of these important and rare species can be found in the mountains and uplands of Scotland.

The Alpine blue sow-thistle is a tall plant which can be found in Scotland's rare mountain grasslands, and it occurs naturally in just a handful of places in Scotland.

The Woolly Willow, meanwhile, is Scotland's rarest montane willow, and it is found in north-facing, high corries.

Mountains and uplands cover over half of Scotland, and are home to many different important habitats and species. Some of the most important upland habitats for wildlife include upland heathlands and scrub, grasslands, woodlands, fens and swamps, and blanket bogs.

Many upland species thrive in the high altitude, and as Scotland's mountains are further south than other arctic mountains, they have a more varied climate. Mountains and moors can be cold, uninviting places in winter, but visit in spring and you'll find them full of life.