

Species Factsheet

the
species
recovery
trust

Dianthus armeria



Red List Status:
Endangered

Threat of extinction:
Very high

Main threats:
Habitat loss and degradation, poor recruitment and reproduction



Deptford Pink

Description: A striking member of the carnation family that can grow up to 60cm tall. Flowers measure 8-13mm across and grow in short-stalked clusters. Petals are vivid pink with pale dots and irregularly toothed tips.

Lifecycle: Can behave as an annual or biennial, it is generally self-pollinated, produces abundant seed but has a germination period of up to 5 months.

Habitat: Grows in dry grassland, hedge banks, beside roads and railways, and on well drained soils. Has been recorded on fen-peat. It is a lowland species.

Distribution: Occurs widely across western and central Europe, extending eastwards to Crimea, Anatolia and Caucasus and southwards to Spain and Sicily and has recently been recorded in Ireland.

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

Reasons for decline: Marked decline from before 1930 has continued, with most losses due to conversion of habitat to arable or building land or a lack of open area in remaining sites.

Protection under the Law: Protected under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 which makes it an offence to intentionally pick, uproot or destroy any plants. Listed as a species of Principal Importance in England and Wales under the NERC Act 2006 and is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species.

What we are doing:

- Establishing a monitoring network
- Creating *ex situ* populations for 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

