

Species Factsheet

the
species
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trust

Phyteuma spicatum

Spiked Rampion

Description: Erect plant with a basal rosette of leaves and flowering shoots less than a metre tall. The flowers grow in tall spikes and are creamy-white and leaves are often roundly toothed.

Lifecycle: Perennial. Leaves and flower buds are present from April, flowering from May to June, and with seed heads present up to September.

Habitat: Grows along the shady edges of paths and rides in woodlands, and in the hedge banks of roadside verges. Most of the extant populations are on slow-draining clay soils.

Distribution: Endemic to Europe. Currently only present at 9 sites in East Sussex, has been recorded in 15 over the last half century.

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

Reasons for decline: The main threat to this species is lack of woodland management, leading to over-shading of sites. Other threats include competition from other plants, herbivory by deer, slugs and rabbits and trampling by people.

Protection under the Law: Protected under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. This makes it an offence to intentionally pick, uproot or destroy any plants. It is also listed as a species of principal importance under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006.

What we are doing:

- Carrying out habitat restoration work across the network of sites to enlarge the areas where plants can grow
- Establishing a monitoring network across all sites
- Re-establishing coppicing and glade creation in woodlands where it grows
- Re-introducing plants back into the wild.

What you can do:

- If you live locally volunteer to become a site monitor
- Become a species supporter and help fund the project

