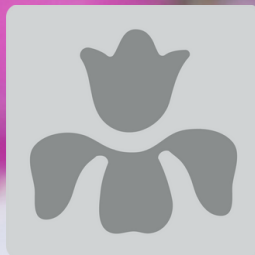




Mendip Hills
National
Landscape



Champion Species Fact Sheet

Cheddar Pink

Dianthus gratinopolitanus



mendiphills-nl.org.uk/caring/nature-recovery-plan

Why a Champion Species?

- Vulnerable and on the Red List.
- Although the plant has other strongholds in Europe, it is mainly only found in the wild in the UK around Cheddar Gorge.

Preferred habitat

- Rocky limestone grasslands on the southern slopes.
- Cliff edges.



Best time to see

- All year round, but flowers in June and July.



Points of interest

- The County flower of Somerset.
- Its scientific name is derived from the Greek word dios, meaning divine, and anthos, meaning flower.
- The tiny flowers, no more than 2cm in width, are a deep rose pink and richly fragrant, smelling strongly of cloves.

Key threats

- Restricted to exposed limestone rockfaces, so habitat is very limited and prone to being shaded out by scrub.
- Threatened also by over grazing and disturbance and picking by collectors.
- Climate change – hotter summers and wetter winters may be making the plant more prone to disease.

Where to find them



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