

***Orchis anthropophora* (L.) All.**

Man Orchid

(formerly ***Aceras anthropophorum* (L.) W.T. Aiton**)

Native

Endangered

UKBAP

Nationally Scarce

VC5 Absent; VC6 Extinct

A tuberous perennial orchid of calcareous grassland, chalk-pits and limestone quarries. Only ever found at two sites in Somerset and long extinct at both. In 1907, J.W. White was shown a fine patch of about twenty Man Orchids growing in a garden in Clifton owned by Mr A.E.G. Way. They had been grown from roots collected by Mr Way's gamekeeper at a site found by Mr Way in about 1892, in rough pasture on Weston Lodge Farm, Weston-in-Gordano, on the ridge running between Portishead and Clevedon. The species has never been seen there since (White, 1912). Found again in Somerset in 1933 near Southstoke, south of Bath, by Miss A.E. White, who never revealed the exact locality. A specimen was deposited in the Natural History Museum herbarium (**BM**). With most sites in the southeastern part of England, the two locations in Somerset represented the most westerly extent of its range.