

### Location

What3Words guidebook.print.demand or NY 598.155

- Species found there include:
  - Early purple orchid
  - Common spotted orchid
  - Northern March orchid
  - Pyramid orchid
  - Twayblade
  - Plus, numerous summer meadow flowers
- Sadly, these colonies of orchids are diminishing year by year as the verges are cut too early in the season, not allowing the orchids to set their seeds and ripen. The verges should not be cut until at least the traditional time of meadow cutting ie the last week of July. Guidance published by The Hardy Orchid Society recommends cutting no earlier than September!

<https://www.hardyorchidsociety.org.uk/hos%201012/RoadsideVerges.html>

**Northern & Southern Marsh-orchids, Common Spotted-orchids and Frog orchids (all species of *Dactylorhiza*).** These orchids are winter dormant, flower in June and July and scatter seed about 6 weeks later. They can be cut safely from September to early March.

- Once an orchid plant is lost it takes between 3 and 5 years for new seedlings to form a tuber and then flower, which is why they need to be allowed to reach maturity as the growing season progresses.
- This verge and all others east down the C road are now on the western edge of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Westmorland Dales extension
- We have been in touch with Angela Wakefield, Project Development Officer – Environment and Sustainability at CCC and her view is that Orchid Corner should be registered as a ‘priority habitat’ within the Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- She has checked CCCs [Cumbria Special Roadside Verges - data.gov.uk](#) and these verges are not considered ‘special’ so they probably haven’t been assigned an appropriate management regime. She will try to find out how we get them reclassified as a special verge.
- Also CWT(Cumbria Wildlife Trust) have been working with Highways to improve verge management for some time now but they need people on the ground to report this problem directly to highways via this link: [Trees, hedges, weeds and grass | Cumbria County Council Alpha](#).

The possibility of protecting the verge from vehicle over-runs using posts was raised at the meeting.

There will be an agenda item on this topic to allow us to update you at the February 2023 meeting.

Alex Barbour

Judith Harrison