



## In the London area, the Lee Valley is the only known site for this plant

The Early Marsh Orchid is a plant of wet or damp habitats on calcareous or neutral soils. It has declined sharply in many areas of its range, mainly because of the decline in its favoured habitats.

In the Lee Valley colonies of orchids have become established on areas of dumped Pulverised Fuel Ash a waste product from coal burning power stations. Of special interest is the formation of 'hybrid swarms' between the three other orchid species. These colonies are large and of high aesthetic appeal at time of flowering.

Adopting this iconic species could help with the following specific actions or projects for this species:

- Habitat works to keep sites in excellent condition for orchids
- Survey work to establish numbers of orchids

The key actions for this species your support could go towards are:

- Retain viable populations of Early Marsh Orchid at all presently known locations
- Raise awareness of best practice management with landowners, managers and general public of Early Marsh Orchid populations

