

The Orchid Conservation Register: A Pilot Study by UK Orchid Societies using a Digital Platform to Support *Ex Situ* Conservation.

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Abstract

There is increasing interest in conservation among orchid enthusiasts. We estimate there are thousands of orchids held in private collections of amateur growers in the UK. Many of these may have potential value for conservation purposes.

A one year pilot study was undertaken to record the orchids of UK amateur growers, using bespoke online software ('Persephone') created by UK plant conservation charity Plant Heritage, with aims of: legacy planning for important private collections to safeguard their future in cultivation; propagating and sharing orchids of conservational value with other growers; contributing to *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation projects.

We offered members of two amateur orchid societies an opportunity to anonymously enrol in the Orchid Conservation Register database and record their orchids of conservational value. By the end of the pilot, 1765 orchid plants had been successfully recorded including 826 natural species from diverse genera. 65 species were of IUCN-assessed threatened status.

We concluded there was sufficient interest from amateur growers to expand the project to other UK orchid societies. Initial communication networks have been established with three significant botanical orchid collections in the UK and with other individuals skilled in orchid propagation.

We will present the detailed findings and outcome of this pilot, also including: how we hope to use the database; the potential benefits for individual participants; potential benefits for amateur orchid societies seeking new relevance and wider appeal to prospective members; and our practical learnings for those wishing to start a similar initiative in other countries.

Introduction

The survival of orchids in their native habitats across the globe is threatened by habitat destruction, climate change, disrupted ecosystems, loss of biodiversity and pollinators, over-collection of wild species and illegal sales. *In situ* conservation is generally accepted as the ideal approach, but *ex situ* conservation may play a crucial role in species survival if the risk within native habitats and ecosystems cannot be mitigated (IUCN SCC Orchid Specialist Group, Seaton and Zettler, 2025).

Following a survey (Haywood, 2024), we estimate there are thousands of orchids held in the private collections of UK orchid enthusiasts, with potential conservational value. Alongside this, personal observations of the authors show that important awarded and specimen orchids may often be lost from cultivation in the UK through unintended neglect, for example when growers become ill.

We hypothesised that UK amateur growers would be interested in orchid conservation and would be willing to collaborate with other orchid growers, botanical gardens and charities on 'grass roots' practical conservation projects. Examples include sharing and exchanging divisions of cultivated orchids; cross-pollinating orchid species to produce seed with improved genetic diversity in *ex situ* collections, and increasing the availability of cultivated stock for amateur enthusiasts in the UK (thereby reducing demand for illegal imports or wild-collected stock); creating succession plans to ensure that important orchids and collections do not fall into decline or become lost from cultivation due to grower circumstances or external factors. In addition to natural species, conservation of historic man-made hybrids is another priority to prevent their disappearance from orchid collections after many decades of cultivation.

To facilitate such collaborations, it is necessary to create a communication framework and record a database of suitable orchids presently in cultivation. A one-year pilot study was undertaken during 2025, using bespoke online software 'Persephone' developed by UK plant conservation charity Plant Heritage (PH), to create an Orchid Conservation Register (OCR) with aims of:

- legacy planning for important private collections to safeguard their future in cultivation
- propagating and sharing orchids of conservational value with other growers
- contributing to *ex situ* conservation projects

Materials and methods

We offered members of the Devon Orchid Society (DOS) and the Scottish Orchid Society (SOS) an opportunity to anonymously enrol in the pilot OCR database, to record their orchid species and important hybrids of conservational or historic value. The project was promoted to DOS and SOS members via presentations at society meetings (in-person and Zoom), society newsletters and emails, private social media groups and direct individual approach.

Society members who volunteered to participate ('growers') were given a spreadsheet template (Fig. 1), supplied by PH, to complete details of their orchids including genus, species, grex, infraspecific names, provenance, date of acquisition and other information. Recognising that full completion of all data may not be possible by all growers, the spreadsheet columns were colour-coded to highlight: minimum data required (green), additional desirable data (yellow) and any additional data growers wished to record (white). Grower spreadsheets were collected by a society coordinator (KG for SOS and WH for DOS). Some growers were unable to complete spreadsheets but were able to provide a list of orchids, and the society coordinator completed a spreadsheet on their behalf. Society coordinators allocated a grower number to each participant and anonymised the spreadsheets before sharing to the central coordinator (KG) Plant accession numbers were allocated to the orchid plants by the central coordinator. The accession numbers were devised to include a society code, a grower number and an individual plant number, thereby maintaining grower anonymity within the database. Spreadsheets were combined into a single CSV file from each society, for initial data cleaning and corrections, prior to upload directly to the OCR on the Persephone online platform.

Following upload onto the OCR, online digital tools within Persephone were used to cross-reference and correct the recorded orchid names to match currently accepted taxonomy and spelling. RBG Kew Plants of the World Online (POWO) was used as the lead resource for taxonomy due to the prevalence of natural orchid species in the data set. POWO and RHS Find a Plant were used to identify and record synonyms where required. Following this, species names and synonyms were checked against the IUCN Redlist of Threatened Species, using the integrated function on Persephone, to determine current threat status for each orchid species.

Feedback was supplied to the participating growers to advise their grower number and plant accession numbers, and any of their orchids found on the IUCN Redlist were highlighted for follow up and potential conservation projects.

Fig. 1 - Spreadsheet template with colour coding and example accessions

Genus	Species	Subspecies (subsp.)	Varietas (var.)	Forma (f.)	Grex (gx) (HYBRIDS ONLY)	Cultivar Name	Descriptor	Synonym	Size	SOURCE	PROPAGULE	DATE ACQUIRED	ANY OTHER NOTE
<i>Cyclopogon</i>	<i>lucicola</i>									CPG		12/10/2024	
<i>Neodevevia</i>					Aldia Tox					CPG	Launceston	11/2024	
<i>Neodevevia</i>										CPG	Launceston Hobbs	1/2024	
<i>Orchis</i>	<i>spheodes</i>		xanthina		Rippon Tor	Burnham				CPG	Ellis	Unknown	
<i>Coelochilus</i>	<i>anchochilus</i>	endresianum								CPG	Orchid Society		
<i>Coelochilus</i>	<i>anchochilus</i>									Saved	Orchid Society		
<i>Malva</i>	<i>megachlamys</i>			megachlamys							Site of Portland		
<i>Platanthera</i>	<i>brogae</i>							<i>Pleurothallus sarraconia</i>			International Trade		
											Orchid Society		

Results

13 members (10% membership) from the SOS and 7 members (9% membership) from the DOS volunteered to participate and returned completed spreadsheets. A total of 1765 accessions were recorded, including orchids of 826 species and 191 cultivars, from 167 genera. The largest number of accessions recorded by a single grower was 385 and the smallest number was 9. Table 1 shows the diversity of genera recorded and the number of accessions of each genus. Sixteen of the recorded orchid species were found to be critically endangered, 33 endangered, 9 vulnerable, and 7 near threatened on the IUCN Redlist (Fig. 2 and Table 2). Some species were represented with multiple accessions from different sources. Some growers were unaware of the IUCN threat status of their plants prior to the project. The vast majority of orchid species recorded were not found on the IUCN Redlist. The 79 accessions noted as 'Not Checked' are accessions for which we had been unable to confirm correct taxonomy by the time of writing.

A number of growers were unable to complete all the data fields on the spreadsheet within the timeframe of the pilot and supplied a list of the species and hybrid names. A common reason given was lack of time when they had large numbers of orchids to record. Some growers reported that they did not hold receipts or provenance documentation, particularly for orchids which had been in cultivation for many years or decades but could recall where orchids in their collection were obtained. Despite issuing guidance, there were errors in data entry on all spreadsheets, attributed to human error or lack of familiarity with using spreadsheets.

Table 1 : Frequency of all orchid genera recorded by growers including species and hybrids

Genera recorded	N
Cattleya	201
Maxillaria	185
Coelogyne	139
Dendrobium	129
Oncidium	104
Cymbidium	89
Phalaenopsis	74
Masdevallia	64
Bulbophyllum, Vanda	44
Paphiopedilum	42
Catasetum	28
Pleione	27
Dracula	24
Calanthe, Pleurothallis	22
Laelia	21
Epidendrum, Zootrophion	20
Guarianthe	16
Gomesa, Restrepia	15
Prosthechea	13
Aerangis, Bifrenaria, Bletilla	12
Lepanthes	11
Polystachya, Sobralia	9
Rhynchostele	8
Dactylorhiza, Gastrochilus, Lycaste, Sarcochilus, Thelymitra	7
Cuitlauzina, Encyclia, Epipactis, Miltonia, Stanhopea, Zygopetalum,	6
Angraecum, Brassia, Cynodes, Leptotes, Platystele, Psychopsis, Pterostylis, Scaphosepalum, Stelis, Stenoglottis, Trichopilia	5
Acianthera, Andinia, Brassocatanthe, Cattlianthe, Chiloschista, Dendrophylax, Fredclareara, Gongora, Mormodia	4
Acianthera, Barbosella, Burrageara, Cirrhaea, Cycnoches, Disa, Dryadella, Epicattleya, Guarechea, Habenaria, Ida, Isabela, Monnierara, Neogardneria, Phragmipedium, Renanthera, Rhyncholaeliocattleya, Rhynchostylis, Schoenorchis, Specklinia, Tolumnia, Trisetella	3
Arachnis, Brassanthe, Brassocatanthe, Caucaea, Cyrtochilum, Dimorphorchis, Erycina, Holcoglossum, Lockhartia, Ludisia, Odontoglossum, Oncidopsis, Ophrys, Paphinia, Paraphalaenopsis, Rhyncattleanthe, Rhyncholaelia, Rossioglossum, Sophrolaeliocattleya, Spiranthes, Trichoglottis	2
Acampe, Acineta, Aerides, Anathallis, Ancistrochilus, Andreettaea, Anguloa, Arpophyllum, Aspasia, Barkeria, Brassavola, Brassolaeliocattleya, Bryobium, Campanulorchis, Catanoches, Catyclia, Caularthron, Caulocattleya, Chytroglossa, Clowesetum, Clowesia, Coelia, Comparettia, Dichaea, Domingoa, Dracuvallia, Epicyclia, Eulophia, Guaricattonia, Ionocidium, Jackfowieara, Jumellea, Ledienera, Lemboglossum, Lepanthopsis, Macodes, Macroclinium, Mediocalcar, Miltonidium, Myrmecatavola, Myrmecocattleya, Myrmecophila, Neocogniauxia, Octomeria, Oncostele, Otoglossum, Pecteilis, Pelatantheria, Peristeria, Pescatoria, Pinalia, Pogonia, Porroglossum, Procyclus, Promenaea, Rhynchocattleya, Seidenfadenia, Taeniophyllum, Thunia, Trichocentrum, Trichotoma, Vanilla, Warczewiczella	1

Fig. 2 - Screenshot taken from Persephone of the conservation status of the OCR collection

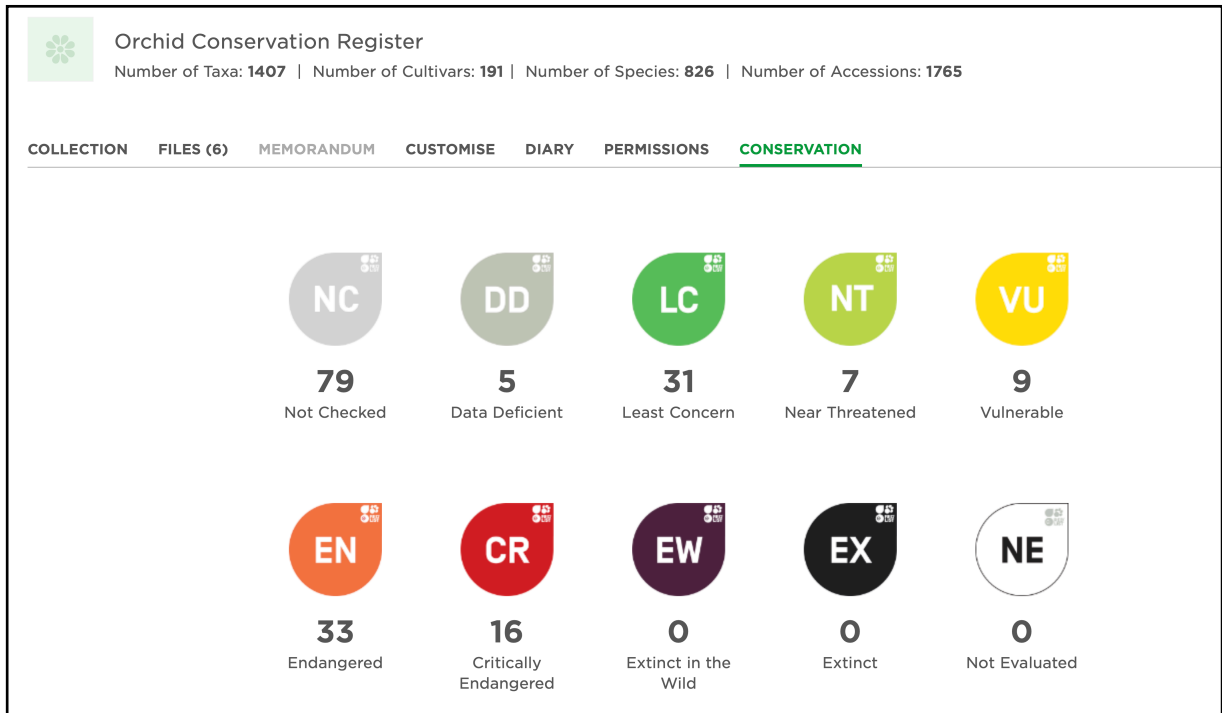


Table 2 OCR Orchid Species Current IUCN threat status

Critically Endangered		Endangered	
<i>Dendrobium</i>	<i>huoshanense</i>	<i>Angraecum</i>	<i>didieri</i>
<i>Dendrophylax</i>	<i>fawcettii</i>	<i>Cattleya</i>	<i>schroederae</i>
<i>Dracula</i>	<i>anthracina</i>	<i>Dendrobium</i>	<i>wilsonii</i>
<i>Dracula</i>	<i>dalessandroi</i>	<i>Dracula</i>	<i>gigas</i>
<i>Dracula</i>	<i>pholeodytes</i>	<i>Dracula</i>	<i>gigas</i>
<i>Dracula</i>	<i>vlad-tepes</i>	<i>Dracula</i>	<i>lotax</i>
<i>Gastrochilus</i>	<i>calceolaris</i>	<i>Dracula</i>	<i>radiosa</i>
<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	<i>delenatii</i>	<i>Dracula</i>	<i>roezlii</i>
<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	<i>delenatii</i>	<i>Dracula</i>	<i>simia</i>
<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	<i>fairrieianum</i>	<i>Dracula</i>	<i>sodiroi</i>
<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	<i>gratrixianum</i>	<i>Dracula</i>	<i>vampira</i>
<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	<i>helenae</i>	<i>Dracula</i>	<i>vampira</i>
<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	<i>kolopakingii</i>	<i>Dracula</i>	<i>vampira</i>
<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	<i>sukhakulii</i>	<i>Dracula</i>	<i>woolwardiae</i>
<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	<i>tranlienianum</i>	<i>Masdevallia</i>	<i>atahualpa</i>
<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	<i>urbanianum</i>	<i>Masdevallia</i>	<i>ignea</i>
Vulnerable		<i>Maxillaria</i>	<i>swartziana</i>
<i>Aerangis</i>	<i>fastuosa</i>	<i>Neocogniauxia</i>	<i>monophylla</i>
<i>Cattleya</i>	<i>jongheana</i>	<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	<i>appletonianum</i>
<i>Dracula</i>	<i>andreettae</i>	<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	<i>bellatulum</i>
<i>Oncidium</i>	<i>nobile</i>	<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	<i>callosum</i>
<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	<i>hirsutissimum</i>	<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	<i>concolor</i>
<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	<i>villosum</i>	<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	<i>insigne</i>
<i>Phalaenopsis</i>	<i>violacea</i>	<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	<i>insigne</i>
<i>Pleione</i>	<i>formosana</i>	<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	<i>malipoense</i>
<i>Pleione</i>	<i>formosana</i>	<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	<i>niveum</i>
Near Threatened		<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	<i>parishii</i>
<i>Aerangis</i>	<i>punctata</i>	<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	<i>spicerianum</i>
<i>Coelogyne</i>	<i>chinensis</i>	<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	<i>venustum</i>
<i>Dendrobium</i>	<i>alexandrae</i>	<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	<i>venustum</i>
<i>Dendrophylax</i>	<i>funalis</i>	<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	<i>wardii</i>
<i>Dracula</i>	<i>spectrum</i>	<i>Phragmipedium</i>	<i>caudatum</i>
<i>Peristeria</i>	<i>elata</i>	<i>Vanilla</i>	<i>planifolia</i>
<i>Stelis</i>	<i>itatiayae</i>		

Duplicates indicate more than one accession recorded, raising prospect of cross-pollination

During the pilot project, practical examples came to light which illustrate the potential applications and utility of the OCR:

- Several accessions of some threatened species were identified, including *Paphiopedilum* and *Dracula* species. Multiple accessions obtained from varied sources raises the prospect of cross-pollination and collaboration with botanical gardens.
- *Coelogyne rochussenii* is a desirable species among orchid enthusiasts. Two participants in the OCR pilot were able to arrange cross-pollinations of this species during 2025, with pollinia collected and exchanged via postal mail services.
- *Schoenorchis fragrans* 'Dorothy' is an RHS-awarded orchid which declined and was almost lost when its skilled amateur grower became ill. After rehoming to another grower, the plant was saved and returned to health. Subsequently it was exhibited and won prizes, remains healthy in cultivation after many years, and is now recorded in the OCR to ensure its ongoing longevity.
- An incorrectly labelled *Angraecum* species was researched and its true identity confirmed by expert botanist opinion, by sending digital photographs and plant habit details.

Discussion

This pilot study showed that there is an appetite among UK amateur orchid growers to participate in conservation projects, and that there is a reservoir of diverse orchid species within the collections of amateur growers in the UK. Some growers had large collections of potentially valuable orchids (both in conservational and monetary terms). Some of these orchids are of IUCN-assessed threatened species and could potentially be extremely useful for *ex situ* conservation. However, as the *in situ* threat status is not formally monitored for most natural orchid species, the authors suggest that all species held in amateur collections could be usefully conserved in cultivation. Without the OCR project, or similar efforts, these individual orchid plants would remain in isolation, in a genetic or conservational 'dead-end'. The current structure of regional orchid societies in the UK communicating via the umbrella of the British Orchid Council (BOC) provides an opportunity to create the administrative framework to roll out this project to the wider UK. Funding has been secured from the BOC to continue the next phase during 2026.

Following initial feedback on the spreadsheet template from growers, advice was refined that, if required, simply recording the orchid genus and species or grex name was sufficient during initial data collection. Time constraint was the main factor preventing growers with large collections from completing the full data set within the requested time frame, and growers often reported that missing data could be supplied in due course, or for individual orchids at appropriate times. The authors therefore felt that simply recording the orchid name would be sufficient in the pilot stage and would not obstruct the overall aims or outcomes of the project. Growers with smaller collections were more often able to complete all the data fields.

The next phase of the project will include granting direct online access to the OCR on Persephone for individual growers. This will allow them to add any missing data, orchid photos, growing notes, documentation, and any research they have undertaken about their orchids. Therefore, over time, the OCR database has potential to become an extremely useful resource to conserve the knowledge of skilled amateur growers - termed unofficially by the authors as 'conservation of cultivation'. There is encouragement for growers to consider and record their wishes regarding succession planning for their collection. Although potentially a sensitive subject, normalising discussion of this topic allows growers to plan objectively to ensure important orchids are moved to another skilled grower at an appropriate time if their personal circumstances should change.

Regarding practical *ex situ* conservation projects, there are important points to consider. The use of the Persephone online platform helps facilitate the following. Firstly, correct identification of the orchids is vital. In amateur collections, the pilot has shown that inaccurate labelling is common. This can include incorrect spelling, use of outdated synonyms, or completely misidentified orchids. Persephone is very useful to check and correct spellings and synonyms via the links within the database to POWO and RHS Find a Plant. Photographs can be uploaded to the database as part of an orchid accession record and assist in confirming correct identity. Secondly, provenance of the orchids can be recorded, and documents and purchase receipts can be uploaded to each accession on Persephone. One issue arising is that, whilst formal botanical collections retain documentation for their orchids, currently most UK amateur orchid growers do not retain evidence of provenance because there is no legal or personal compulsion for them to do this, or in many cases the orchids were first cultivated before current national and international regulation of the orchid trade existed. When collaborating with formal botanical collections, there is greater incentive to prove that the plant is legally and ethically sourced. This project provides an opportunity to educate amateur orchid growers, raising awareness and improving ethical compliance, and the Persephone platform facilitates convenient, accurate record-keeping, for example uploading plant passports, receipts and other certification directly via mobile phone. Thirdly, biosecurity issues are possible when transferring orchids between collections and when cross-pollinating orchids. This can be addressed by issuing guidance on biosecurity measures, and virus testing can be made available to participating growers at cost price via the project if required.

At a time when global environmental news is largely negative, individual amateur growers may feel they are unable to contribute any meaningful effort to orchid conservation. The aim at the outset of this pilot was to facilitate practical 'grassroots' conservation projects and provide growers with a means to direct their interest and resources in a worthwhile and personally rewarding manner. It is the view of the authors that any effort, no matter how small, can be useful: for example, a single successful cross-pollination can yield thousands of orchid seeds. While the work of rolling out the OCR across the UK continues, we are pleased to report that practical outcomes are already being achieved. Cross-pollinations of cultivated orchid species have already been attempted. Contact links have so far been established with two botanical gardens (RBG Kew, Glasgow Botanic Gardens) and a charitable foundation (The Mathers Foundation) with a view to donating orchid species and rare historic hybrids to benefit their botanical collections and scientific work. An Orchid Exchange Programme will commence in 2026 for OCR participants to exchange their surplus plants. At regional orchid society level, orchid propagation and cultivation skills are being shared and taught (Seaton and Ramsay, 2005), and orchid seedlings deflasked to disseminate among members for growing on. A network of skilled orchid propagators is being established. Many of these practical projects have proved popular with orchid society members and have also attracted interest from non-member orchid enthusiasts. The use of public social media platforms has raised wider awareness of these activities, and we believe has attracted new orchid society member subscriptions (personal observations, KG and AM) at a time when many regional orchid societies may be struggling to attract new members (Matikka, 2024).

Conclusions

This pilot has shown that UK amateur orchid growers are interested in orchid conservation and willing to engage in conservation efforts. Amateur growers often hold orchid species and hybrids of high conservational value within their collections. It is possible to record large numbers of orchids from a relatively small number of participants, so engaging even only a small number of growers is worthwhile. The threat status is not formally monitored for the majority of natural orchid species so, on a pragmatic basis, we conclude that amateur orchid growers should be encouraged to usefully propagate all of their orchid species in cultivation. Finally, it is possible to successfully record a collection of orchids which is widely dispersed over many locations using the Persephone software, and this platform brought a number of significant benefits to the project.

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APPENDIX

Summary of Practical Outcomes, Benefits and Learning Points from the OCR Pilot

Practical Outcomes from the Orchid Conservation Register

- An Orchid Exchange Programme will commence in 2026 for OCR participants to make available or request any surplus plants to or from other participants
- The OCR can be used to identify lone orchid plants in different collections which could be usefully cross-pollinated or divided, to increase the number of plants in cultivation
- The 'hub and spoke' communication framework between central OCR coordinators and orchid societies can be used to put individual growers in touch with other, to arrange cross pollinations (indirectly or anonymously if they prefer).
- Contact links have so far been established with two botanical gardens (RBG Kew, Glasgow Botanic Gardens) and a charitable foundation (The Mathers Foundation) with a view to collaborative conservation projects within the UK
- A network of skilled orchid propagators is being established to sow and bring on orchid seedlings arising from successful cross-pollinations

Benefits of the OCR for Orchid Conservation

- Rare and hard-to-find orchids are recorded, to allow their conservation in cultivation within the UK
- Facilitates collaboration between growers to propagate rare orchids and share cultivation knowledge
- Reduces demand for illegal imports of horticulturally-desirable species from unethical sellers, by making UK-grown orchids more available

Benefits of the OCR for Orchid Growers

- Access to an award-winning database to record their orchid collection
- Access to orchid species and hybrids from other growers which may not be easily available in the UK post-Brexit
- Sharing surplus divisions and plants with other growers and locating 'wanted orchids' for their collection through a regular orchid exchange programme
- Succession planning - locating good homes for important orchids if growers are no longer able to keep them
- Contributing to conservation projects such as pollinating and flasking orchids in the UK
- Making a worthwhile contribution to conservation work by donating orchids to important UK botanical collections
- Increased knowledge of botanical terminology and collection-recording relating to orchids

Benefits of the OCR for Orchid Societies

- A unique orchid conservation offering for orchid society members which is not available through other forums or online platforms
- The practical project outcomes are likely to appeal to a wide spectrum of orchid growers, and a new incentive to encourage membership of regional orchid societies

Benefits of using the Plant Heritage Persephone online platform for the Orchid Conservation Register

- Online database which is easily accessible by multiple users from any location, using desktop, tablet or smart phone, ideal for recording a widely dispersed collection
- Secure data storage, data protection compliant and backed up, ensuring continuity of oversight by Plant Heritage
- Persephone has integrated links to other online resources including RBG Kew Plants of the World Online, RHS Find a Plant, and the IUCN Redlist, which are used to automatically check and correct taxonomy, and establish the current IUCN threat status for species orchids
- Facility to add orchid photos, cultivation notes, provenance information and other documents to accessions, through direct upload by individual grower login access
- Recording of photographs of orchid flowers and plant habit is useful to help confirm correct identity
- Recording of cultivation notes is useful to ensure that knowledge and experience of skilled growers is also conserved and passed on, so that cultivated orchids can continue to thrive
- Facility to create a succession plan for important cultivated orchids and collections

Learning points for others wishing to start a similar project

- Starting small and building up is recommended – keep the project to a manageable size for the available personnel in the learning phase. Some of our participants had very large collections.
- The benefits of the project should be actively promoted and ‘marketed’ to orchid societies and growers
- Using various communication methods over a period of several months (e.g. orchid society newsletters, presentations at in-person or online meetings, social media channels and direct approach to individuals) resulted in improved participation.
- Even if only a small number of growers participate, very useful results can be achieved.
- This is a long-term project. We expect that more participants will join over time if the initial experience is successful. We have used this first year as an exploratory phase to identify pitfalls before starting to roll out to greater numbers of societies and participants.
- Maintaining grower anonymity was vital for our project, to maintain the confidence of participating growers, as well as complying with data protection regulations.
- Collecting simple data is recommended: recording large collections takes time, and no participant managed to complete their spreadsheet exactly as directed. Simple data can be recorded more quickly and accurately, allowing earlier commencement of practical projects.
- Providing support to participants (e.g. those unfamiliar with spreadsheets) enabled some growers to participate who otherwise would not have done so.

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