

CONSERVATION OF WILD PLANTS

Readers of this Journal could well consider adopting the suggestions contained in the following Code of Conduct for the conservation of wild plants approved by the Botanical Society of the British Isles.

THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF THE BRITISH ISLES

A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE CONSERVATION OF WILD PLANTS

In the interests of Conservation of the wild plants of this country the Botanical Society of the British Isles has produced the following code:

VISITING:

1. For conservation of our wild plants the first essential is to preserve the habitat - the sort of place and conditions they can grow in. This people can easily and unwittingly damage - the more people there are, the greater the chance of damage - by, for example, compacting the soil and so prevent seedlings establishment, treading on young shoots unawares, or damaging cliff surfaces.
2. When going to see a rare plant, avoid doing anything which would expose it to unwelcome attention, such as making an obvious path to it or trampling on the vegetation around it.
3. "Gardening" before taking photographs may also have this effect. Bear in mind too how readily nearby plants can be crushed by the toes of kneeling photographers.
4. Remember that photographs themselves can give clues to the localities of rare plants, quite apart from the information accompanying them.
5. Avoid telling people about the site of a plant you believe is rare. Your local nature conservation Trust should however be informed, who will help safeguard it.
6. Respect requests from conservation bodies or land owners not to visit particular sites at certain times.

COLLECTING:

7. The uprooting of wild plants is to be strongly discouraged, except with discrimination, indeed most local authorities have

