

***Adonis annua* L.**

**Pheasant's-eye**

Archaeophyte

Endangered

UKBAP

Plantlife Back from the Brink species

Nationally Scarce

VC5 Extinct; VC6 Extinct

An annual of disturbed calcareous soil, particularly arable fields, but also tracks and waste ground. Only ever of casual occurrence in Somerset. In VC5, recorded once, at Kilve, in about 1880, by Miss Greswell. In VC6, a single plant was recorded at Wookey in 1880, by Miss Mayow and it was occasionally observed in cornfields on Rush Hill and Odd Down, near Bath (Murray, 1896). White (1912) gave records for Portishead station-yard, found by Miss Roper in 1907; land above Arno's Vale, in Bristol, recorded by Miss Edmonds in 1907 and West Hill, Wraxall, seen by J.W. Eves in 1909. T. Green found this species at Newbridge, Bath and at Twerton, Bath, the latter in 1914. The last plant seen in Somerset, by Miss White in 1938, was also near Bath. Nationally, *Adonis annua* has declined dramatically as a result of improved seed cleaning, the use of agrochemicals and its poor competitive ability in relation to modern crops.