

***Bromus interruptus* (Hack.) Druce**

Interrupted Brome

Neophyte

GB: Extinct in the Wild

England: Extinct in the Wild

VC5 Absent; VC6 Rare Introduction

An annual grass of light soils in arable fields and waysides, this species was first recorded in England in the late nineteenth century. Its origin is uncertain but it is believed to have been introduced as a seed contaminant from an unknown native range (D.A. Pearman in Preston *et al.*, 2002). Although recorded from thirty vice-counties, this species declined dramatically in the mid-twentieth century: the last plants seen in the wild were at Pampisford in Cambridgeshire in 1972 (Rich & Lockton, 2002). In Somerset this grass was found in a field of sown fodder on the Tyntesfield estate near Wraxall in June 1913 (Marshall, 1914) and was last seen here in 1915 (Roe, 1981). A re-introduction programme is currently being undertaken, supported by Natural England as part of their Species Recovery Programme, using seed supplied originally by Cambridge Botanic Gardens. Seed has been sown at a number of sites in southern England, for example Plantlife’s Ranscombe Farm Reserve in Kent, with mixed success (F.J. Rumsey, pers. comm.). In Somerset, seed was sown in 2015 at Apex Leisure Park, Burnham-on-Sea by Sedgemoor District Council, within a plot cultivated for arable plants; 110 flowering heads were counted in a small area at the edge of the plot later that year. Seed was harvested but not re-sown for 2016. It is unlikely to thrive without regular cultivation and sowing. In Somerset this species was at the western edge of its “natural” range: the new introduction site is west of the original range.

VC6

Burnham-on-Sea	ST30874758	2015	HJC & FJR	30 plants at S edge of sown arable plants area
Burnham-on-Sea	ST30864758	2015	HJC & FJR	50 plants at S edge of sown arable plants area
Burnham-on-Sea	ST30884758	2015	HJC & FJR	30 plants at S edge of sown arable plants area



Bromus interruptus at Apex Leisure Park, Burnham-on-Sea (2015). Photo: HJC