

***Adonis annua* L.**

Pheasant's-eye

Archaeophyte
GB & England: Endangered
Section 41
GB Scarce
VC5 Lost; VC6 Rare

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 Creswell. 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; in 1938 Miss White also found a plant near Bath. This species was not seen again in Somerset until 2019, when John Poingdestre discovered a large plant flowering profusely beside a ditch near Parchey Bridge, far from any house. The origin was unknown, but it must be considered a casual appearance again. 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.

VC6					
Parchey Bridge		ST35143787	2019	JP	1 plant with c.100 flowers on W bank of ditch



Adonis annua at Parchey Bridge (2019). Photo: HJC