

***Calystegia soldanella* (L.) R. Br.**

Sea Bindweed

Native

GB: Least Concern

England: Vulnerable

VC5 Lost; VC6 Rare

A trailing coastal perennial found on sand dunes and sandy or shingle shores. In Somerset this species has only been found at scattered sites and has declined. In VC5, formerly recorded at Steart by J.C. Collins and Porlock Weir by Miss Huish (Murray, 1896) but not seen subsequently at either site. The last record for VC5 was made in 1954 by G.F. Lawrence in Minehead. In VC6, White (1883) reported this species on the sands north and south of Weston-super-Mare and abundant on Brean Sands. Murray (1896) added a record by J.C. Collins for Burnham, where it was first noted in 1847 by W.W. Spicer. North of Weston-super-Mare, this species was recorded at Kewstoke Bay (Green *et al.*, 2000), but was feared lost there for many years: it was re-found in 2019 by Andrew Robinson. South of Weston-super-Mare *Calystegia soldanella* was recorded by S.M. Hedley along the seaward side of Uphill Golf Course in 1986 (Green *et al.*, 2000), but there are no subsequent records for that site. The last record for Brean Sands was made by Paul Green in 1989. At Berrow Dunes, just north of Burnham-on-Sea, this species is still known at two sites on the golf course, both further inland than its typical foreshore habitat. White (1912) feared that this species would gradually disappear because “its showy flowers are so much gathered by our watering-place populations”. In reality, pressure for land-use, changes to the coastline and invasion by *Hippophae* are perhaps responsible for the decline of this attractive seaside plant. This species is scattered around the coast of Britain and Ireland, although absent from much of Scotland.



Calystegia soldanella at Berrow Dunes (2014). Photo: FJR

VC6

Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST299508	1991	PRG	Lots on large dune
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29785115	2018	SRPG	Several plants on dune between fairways
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29805116	2018	SRPG	3 plants on E-facing slope of dune
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29695158	2018	SRPG	5 plants in hollow on golf course
Brean		ST295567	1989	PRG	1 large patch on sand dunes S of footpath
Uphill		ST313593	1992	[BRERC]	At Weston-super-Mare golf course
Sand Bay	SSSI	ST331655	1992	[BRERC]	
Sand Bay	SSSI	ST33046393	2019	APR	2m x 2m patch on last dune before beach



Distribution of *Calystegia soldanella* in North Somerset (VC6), mapped using MapMate. Black dots are post-2000 records; red squares are 1987-1999, monad or tetrad records