

## ***Campanula patula* L.**

## **Spreading Bellflower**

Native

GB: Endangered

England: Critically Endangered

Section 41

GB: Scarce

VC5 Lost; VC6 Rare

A biennial, found in open sunny woodland clearings or rough grassland at the edge of woodlands, usually on poor soil. In VC5 long lost, the only record made by J. Sowerby who found a single plant at Barwick (Murray, 1896). In VC6, seen by Maton on banks bordering the road to Castle Cary, not 200 yards from Brewton [Bruton] (Murray, 1896) and recorded by Murray on a lane between Castle Cary and Cole railway station. Watson recorded this species below Creech Hill, Bruton (Marshall, 1914). Murray found one plant by the roadside at Wells in 1883; H.F. Parsons found it once at Vallis (Murray, 1896). It was reported from Compton Martin Wood, West Harptree and in a field at East Harptree near the Manor House, where it was seen by T.B. Flower in 1888 (White, 1912). There have been no subsequent records at any of these sites. Rutter (1829) recorded *Campanula patula* at East Harptree Combe, where it persists on the steep side of the combe and also on a steep grassy slope, formally the ramparts of Richmond Castle. This species has declined dramatically throughout much of its range. Seed may survive buried in the soil for many years, but lack of disturbance of the soil is believed to be a major cause of decline. With its stronghold in the Welsh borders, this species is at the southwest edge of its range in Somerset.

### **VC6**

Harptree Combe	SSSI	ST55805537	2018	HJC	1 plant at top of steep grassy slope
Harptree Combe	SSSI	ST55815537	2018	HJC	6 plants at top of steep grassy slope
Harptree Combe	SSSI	ST56085569	2018	HJC	4 plants on ramparts of Richmond Castle
Harptree Combe	SSSI	ST56095567	2018	HJC	1 plant on mound at S edge of Richmond Castle



*Campanula patula* at East Harptree (2008). Photo: HJC