

Fallopia dumetorum (L.) Holub

Copse Bindweed

Native

GB & England: Vulnerable

Section 41

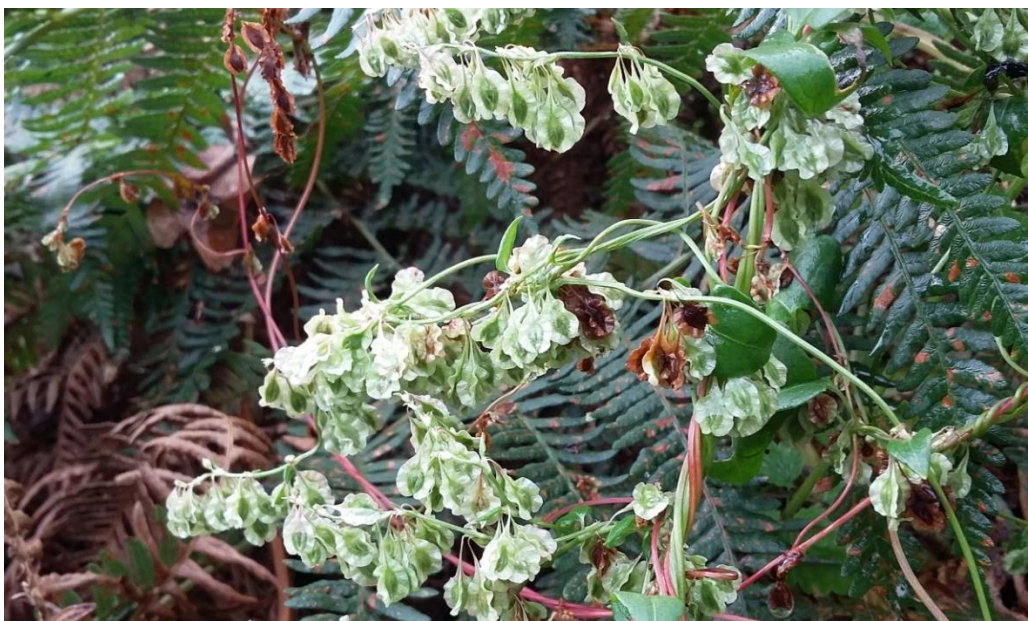
GB Scarce

VC5 Absent; VC6 Rare

An annual climber of hedges and woodland edges. In Somerset, first found near Keynsham, where it was discovered by Mr. David Don (White, 1912). Specimens were collected in 1836 by C.C. Babington on the bushy sides of a hollow through which the Western Railroad passes, about one mile from Keynsham towards Bristol, and near a bend in the river. It is worth noting that construction of the Great Western Railway only began in 1835, the Bath to Bristol section being the last to open in 1841, so the site at which Babington made his collection was a construction site, probably much disturbed. White (1912) reported that neither he nor Mr D. Fry had been able to find the plant in Babington's habitat, commenting that others had been more fortunate; however the habitat would have changed by the time White's searches began, from construction site to established railway cutting. Germination of seeds is stimulated by disturbance and seeds can remain viable for many years; nevertheless despite adjacent, more recent road construction, this species has not been found again at Keynsham. In 2016, however, Liz McDonnell and Clive Lovatt discovered a few plants of *Fallopia dumetorum* scrambling over bracken beside a track to the south of Nailsea. Although nearly 20km from Keynsham, both sites lie on the Pennant Sandstones of the Somerset Coal Measures. *Fallopia dumetorum* has been lost from many sites around the edges of its range and is now almost confined to central southern England, the site at Nailsea being the most south-westerly in England.

VC6

Nailsea	ST46586948	2016	EJMcD, CML	5 patches scrambling over bracken for 10m
Nailsea	ST46566949	2017	HJC, FJR	1 pl scrambling over bracken, edge of path
Nailsea	ST46566948	2017	HJC, FJR	3 pl scrambling over bracken, edge of path
Nailsea	ST46576948	2017	HJC, FJR	4 pl scrambling over bracken S of path



Fallopia dumetorum at Nailsea (2016). Photo: HJC