

***Helianthemum apenninum* (L.) Mill.**

White Rock-rose

Native

GB & England: Vulnerable

GB Rare

VC5 Absent; VC6 Rare

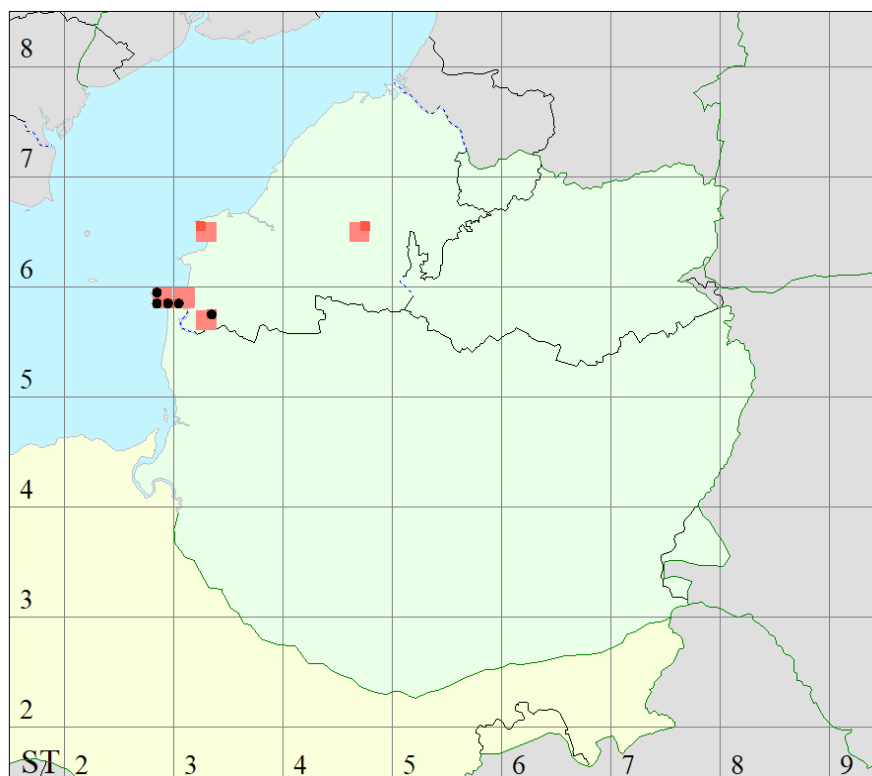
A perennial, procumbent sub-shrub restricted to dry rocky limestone grassland on south-facing slopes. First discovered in Britain on 'Brent Downs' (Brean Down, North Somerset VC6) by Leonard Plukenet (Ray, 1688); Murray (1896) described it as plentiful on the southern side of Brean Down and this is still the case. In 1888 David Fry found this species on Purn Hill, Bleadon (Fry, 1888), where it also still occurs. In 1955 *H. apenninum* was introduced to Burrington Combe and Goblin Combe as part of an experiment by the University of Bristol (Hope-Simpson, 1987). By 1987 no plants could be found at Burrington Combe, but ten were present at Goblin Combe; the species was last recorded at Goblin Combe in 1990 by Ian Taylor. In 1993 this species was recorded by Mark and Clare Kitchen in very small quantity with many naturalised plants at the site of a former cottage at Sand Point, where it had been known since 1984 (Willis, 1995). It has not been seen there since 1993. As a native, *Helianthemum apenninum* is otherwise only known from a few sites on the Torbay limestone of South Devon. A species of south and west Europe, it occurs in Somerset at the northern edge of its range.



Helianthemum apenninum on Brean Down (2011). Photo: HJC

VC6

Brean Down	SSSI	ST28465887	2014	HJC, FJR	Few patches at base of landslip
Brean Down	SSSI	ST284589	2014	HJC, FJR	Abundant on S-facing slope
Brean Down	SSSI	ST28515894	2014	HJC, FJR	On S-facing rocky slope
Brean Down	SSSI	ST286588	2014	HJC, FJR	Abundant on S-facing slope
Brean Down	SSSI	ST286589	2008	HJC, FJR	In short turf on S-facing side of ridge
Brean Down	SSSI	ST287589	2017	SRPG, SANHS	Frequent on S-facing slope
Brean Down	SSSI	ST28155912	2019	JMP, DPL	
Brean Down	SSSI	ST282590	2014	HJC, FJR	In flower on S-facing slope
Brean Down	SSSI	ST28205909	2019	JMP, DPL	
Brean Down	SSSI	ST28235907	2014	HJC	On S-facing rocky slope
Brean Down	SSSI	ST293587	2009	HJC, JPC	Masses on S side
Brean Down	SSSI	ST293588	2014	HJC, FJR	In short turf on S side
Brean Down	SSSI	ST29415880	2019	JMP, DPL	
Brean Down	SSSI	ST295587	2011	HJC, FJR	On sandy slope above N end of beach
Brean Down	SSSI	ST295588	2017	SRPG, SANHS	Abundant on S-facing slopes
Brean Down	SSSI	ST296587	2008	HJC, FJR	Abundant on S-facing side by steps
Brean Down	SSSI	ST296588	2005	JC	
Brean Down	SSSI	ST297588	1989	RFitzG	
Brean Down	SSSI	ST30235883	2009	HJC, JPC	Small patch 2m x 0.75m on E promontary
Purn Hill	SSSI	ST33205716	2019	JG	
Purn Hill	SSSI	ST33215714	2015	HJC, FJR	Few plants on SW-facing rocks
Purn Hill	SSSI	ST33215716	2015	HJC, FJR	Several plants on SW-facing rocky slope
Purn Hill	SSSI	ST33225713	2011	SRPG	Many plants on W-facing side of hill
Purn Hill	SSSI	ST33205720	2011	SRPG	Several patches on W-facing side of hill
Sand Point	SSSI	ST329659	1993	CK, MARK	In very small quantity at site of former cottage
Goblin Combe	SSSI	ST473653	1990	IT	Introduced



Distribution of *Helianthemum apenninum* in North Somerset (VC6), mapped using MapMate. Black dots are post-2000 records; red squares are 1987-1999 records