

***Iberis amara* L.**

**Wild Candytuft**

Alien

GB & England: Vulnerable

Section 41

GB Scarce

VC5 Lost; VC6 Lost

An annual of bare ground on chalk grassland, arable fields and quarries, restricted as a native to central southern England. In Somerset, found occasionally as a casual. In VC5 only ever recorded at Yeovil, where it was last seen on the corporation tip and sewage works in about 1950 by I.A. Ricketts. In VC6, recorded on Anchor Head rocks at Weston-super-Mare in 1881, at railway sidings at Fox's Wood Quarries in 1894 and at Portishead station-yard in 1904 (White, 1912). Found at an oolite quarry at Dundry in 1920 by H.S. Thompson, but then not recorded again until 2007, when several plants were discovered by Helena Crouch on a disturbed roadside near Faulkland (ST728540). Although typical arable species (including *Chaenorhinum minus* and *Euphorbia exigua*) were also found here, there were a number of obvious garden escapes, which probably arrived with imported soil; the *Iberis amara*, which appeared again in 2008, was almost certainly of garden origin. This species has a wide distribution of casual occurrences in Britain outside its native range.