

***Pyrola rotundifolia* L.**

Round-leaved Wintergreen

subsp. *maritima* (Kenyon) E.F. Warb.

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

GB Scarce

VC5 Absent; VC6 Rare

A rhizomatous, mycorrhizal, evergreen perennial, usually found in damp dune slacks near the coast. Unknown in Somerset until 2002 when a patch was discovered by Anne Cole on the floor of a limestone quarry, north of Shepton Mallet, growing beneath *Salix caprea*. When found, the patch was only 1 x 0.63m, but by 2008 it had spread to 2 x 3m, with 475 flowering spikes counted. Originally recorded as subsp. *rotundifolia*, it was redetermined as subsp. *maritima* by Fred Rumsey after careful examination. The arrival of this species in Somerset is mysterious. It grows beside a footpath so is unlikely to have been overlooked for long before it was first found. The quarry has been used for scrambling bikes in the past, which may be a possible vector of arrival, but walkers are also likely since the East Mendip Way passes through the quarry. Although formerly distributed mainly around the coast, since 2000 this subspecies has been found increasingly at inland sites, particularly in South Wales and northwest England: the site in Somerset is within its current range.

VC6

Ham Woods Quarry

ST61004522

2012

SBG

4m x 2.5m patch in disused quarry



Pyrola rotundifolia subsp. *maritima* at Ham Woods Quarry (2008). Photo: HJC