

***Sabulina verna* (L.) Rchb.**

Spring Sandwort

Native

GB: Near Threatened

England: Least Concern

GB Scarce

VC5 Lost; VC6 Scarce

A small cushion-forming perennial of short grassland, exposed soils and bare scree on Carboniferous limestone, basalt or serpentine. In Somerset now restricted to areas of former lead mining activity on the Mendips. Recorded once in VC5 at Will's Neck (the highest point of the Quantocks) by H.S. Thompson in 1888; not seen since. In VC6, first noted by Turner & Dillwyn (1805) for the Mendip Hills. White (1912) gave the distribution of this species as The Mineries near Priddy on Mendip and on similar ground at Charterhouse, stating that all old records for North Somerset, including E.S. Marshall's 1896 record for Pen Hill, refer to the Mineries. A specimen in Herb. Stephens collected "near the Castle of Comfort" (White, 1912) might in fact have come from Yoxter Ranges, between Priddy Mineries and Charterhouse, where Joan Appleyard recorded this species in 1976, about a mile SE of King Down Farm (Willis, 1978). Still to be found at Priddy Mineries, Blackmoor Reserve at Charterhouse, Yoxter Ranges and GB Gruffy Reserve, where it was known by John Boyd and Valerie Cornell in 1995, but not seen again until 2017, when Rupert Higgins found a single plant. There are no recent records for Velvet Bottom, where it was found by J.E. Lousley in 1946 and last seen on a BSBI field meeting in 1959. With its main centre of distribution in the north Pennines and the Peak District, sites in the Mendips are a southern outpost for this species, the only other southern site being in Cornwall, where a morphologically distinct population is found on the serpentine of the Lizard.



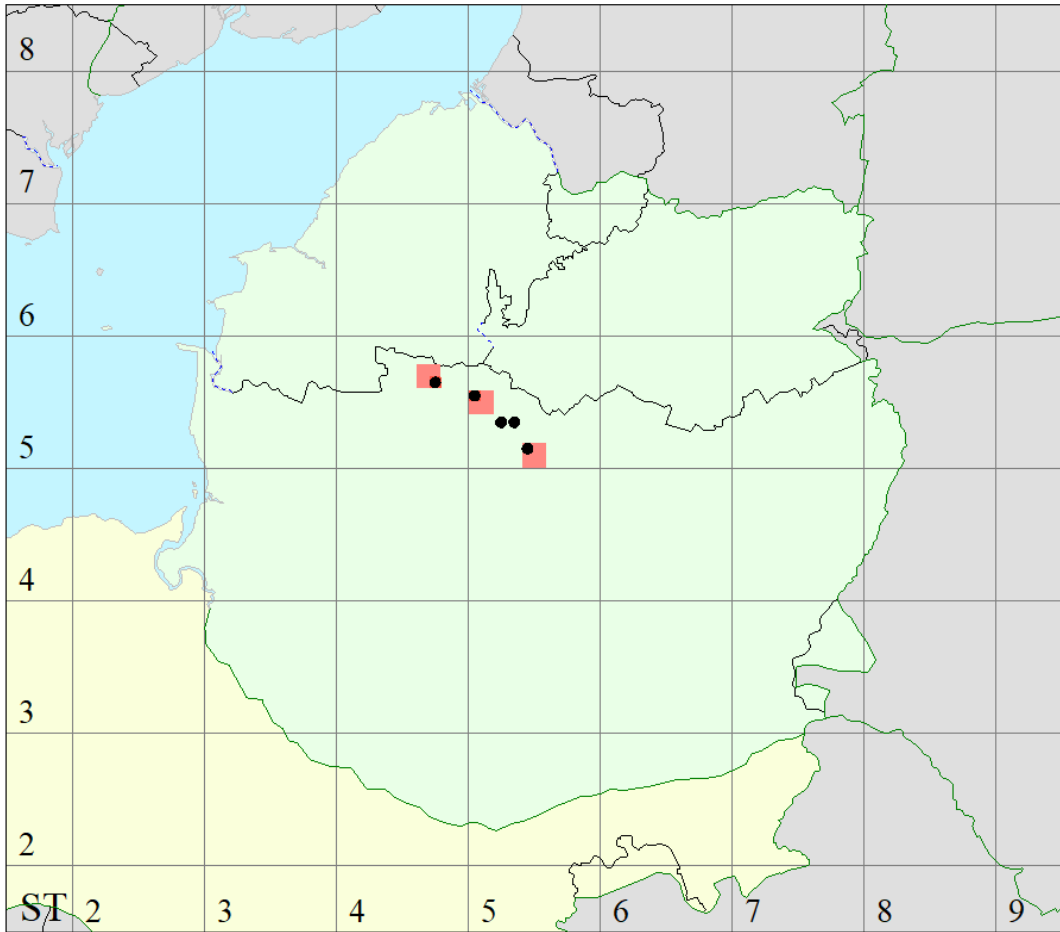
Sabulina verna at Priddy Mineries (2012). Photo: HJC

VC6

GB Gruffy	SSSI	ST476561	1995	JMB, VMC	
GB Gruffy	SSSI	ST475561	2017	RJH	1 plant in SW corner of reserve
Blackmoor Reserve	SSSI	ST50565566	2016	HJC, PTFW	12 plants on top of rocks above car park
Blackmoor Reserve	SSSI	ST50575565	2016	HJC, PTFW	2 pl on rocky slope facing Ubley Warren
Blackmoor Reserve	SSSI	ST50575566	2016	HJC, PTFW	8 plants on top of rocks above car park
Blackmoor Reserve	SSSI	ST50575568	2016	HJC, PTFW	1 pl, bare rocky slope near telegraph pole
Blackmoor Reserve	SSSI	ST50585568	2015	HJC, JCh, AR	4 plants on rocks above car park
Blackmoor Reserve	SSSI	ST50585570	2018	HJC, SBG	11 plants in flower on slope above track
Blackmoor Reserve	SSSI	ST50595569	2015	HJC, JCh, AR	3 plants at top of rock 'steps' near car park
Blackmoor Reserve	SSSI	ST50605570	2015	HJC, JCh, AR	1 plant on trodden path above car park
Yoxter, Stow Barrow		ST52065360	2015	HJC, JCh, AR	2 pl, bare patch of toxic soil N of barrow
Yoxter Ranges		ST52645339	2015	HJC, JCh, AR	Many plants on bare gravelly ground
Yoxter Ranges		ST52655338	2015	HJC, JCh, AR	25 plants on bare gravelly ground
Yoxter Ranges		ST52655339	2015	HJC, JCh, AR	Many plants on bare gravelly ground
Yoxter Ranges		ST52655340	2015	HJC, JCh, AR	Many plants on bare gravelly ground
Yoxter Ranges		ST52695335	2015	SLP	Many pl on barely vegetated mine waste
Yoxter Ranges		ST52695337	2015	HJC, JCh, AR	Several on spoil near capped mine shaft
Yoxter Ranges		ST52705333	2015	HJC, JCh, AR	Few plants on bank beside large rake
Yoxter Ranges		ST52705340	2015	SLP	
Yoxter Ranges		ST52715335	2015	HJC, JCh, AR	Many pl on long linear patch of bare areas
Yoxter Ranges		ST52725335	2015	HJC, JCh, AR	Many plants on/around a huge bare area
Yoxter Ranges		ST52725336	2015	HJC, JCh, AR	Many plants on/around a huge bare area
Yoxter Ranges		ST52735336	2015	HJC, JCh, AR	Several pl around bare toxic patch of soil
Yoxter Ranges		ST52945338	2015	HJC, JCh, AR	On gravelly area of former lead workings
Yoxter Ranges		ST52945339	2015	HJC, JCh, AR	On gravelly area of former lead workings
Yoxter Ranges		ST52975337	2015	HJC, JCh, AR	On gravelly area of former lead workings
Yoxter Ranges		ST52985337	2015	HJC, JCh, AR	On gravelly area of former lead workings
Yoxter Ranges		ST52985338	2015	HJC, JCh, AR	On gravelly area of former lead workings
Yoxter Ranges		ST52995338	2015	HJC, JCh, AR	On gravelly area of former lead workings
Yoxter Ranges		ST52995339	2015	HJC, JCh, AR	On gravelly area of former lead workings
Yoxter Ranges		ST53015338	2015	HJC, JCh, AR	On gravelly area of former lead workings
Yoxter Ranges		ST53015339		SLP	Numerous plants on mine spoil.
Priddy Mineries	SSSI	ST54745143	2007	SRPG	Few pl on low grassy tump by small path
Priddy Mineries	SSSI	ST54755133	2007	SRPG	Scattered over small tump
Priddy Mineries	SSSI	ST54755132	2015	HJC, JCh, AR	By path to Waldegrave Pool
Priddy Mineries	SSSI	ST54755144	2016	HJC, CVWG	1 pl, bank of path S of Waldegrave Pool
Priddy Mineries	SSSI	ST54765142	2015	HJC, JCh, AR	Few pl on small path across gruffy ground
Priddy Mineries	SSSI	ST54775142	2016	ARGM	Here, and in a few other places
Priddy Mineries	SSSI	ST54795131	2016	HJC, CVWG	Several on tump by Monarch's Way



Sabulina verna at Blackmoor Reserve (2018). Photo: HJC



Distribution of *Sabulina verna* in North Somerset (VC6), mapped using MapMate. Black dots are post-2000 records; red squares are 1987-1999, monad or tetrad records



Habitat of *Sabulina verna* at Yoxter Ranges (2015). Photo: HJC