

***Vaccinium uliginosum* L.**

Bog Bilberry

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

VC5 Rare; VC6 Absent

A small erect shrub of acidic soils, found on upland dwarf shrub heaths and blanket bogs. In Somerset, known only from one site, Haddon Hill in VC5, where it was discovered in 1994 by Ian Green. Here it grows with *Empetrum nigrum* (Crowberry), *Calluna vulgaris* (Heather) and *Vaccinium myrtillus* (Bilberry), thus in dwarf shrub heath on peaty soils. The discovery nearby of *Gaultheria procumbens* (Checkerberry) in 1994 by Ian Green and *Vaccinium corymbosum* (Highbush Blueberry) in 2006 by Jeanne and Tim Webb, both species with berries attractive to birds, lends support to the suggestion that *Vaccinium uliginosum* was probably bird-sown here. It has become a large patch, with two separate patches recorded in 2005; by 2014 there were six discreet patches. In 1983, this species was reported from Old Barrow Plantation, south of Withypool, found by A. Wilson, but it has never been re-found at that site (Green *et al.* 1997). The single site in Somerset is the most southerly in Britain and a remarkable extension of the range of this species.

VC5

Haddon Hill	SSSI	SS95572886	2014	SRPG, BSBI	Large patch 2m x 3m on N side of hill
Haddon Hill	SSSI	SS95592884	2014	SRPG, BSBI	4 patches beside/under <i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>
Haddon Hill	SSSI	SS95602885	2014	SRPG, BSBI	Large patch on N side of hill



Vaccinium uliginosum on Haddon Hill (2014). Photo: HJC