

***Valerianella eriocarpa* Desv.**

Hairy-fruited Cornsalad

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

GB Rare

VC5 Absent; VC6 Rare

An annual of dry open habitats, found in arable fields, disturbed grassland, walls and quarries. This species is believed to be native in Dorset, where it occurs on thin soils in either open calcareous grassland or parched maritime grassland, in communities almost entirely composed of native species (Pearman & Edwards, 2002). Elsewhere it is considered by some to be an introduction, although Stace (2019) treats it as probably native. In Somerset, only ever recorded in VC6 where it was first found in 1935, a quantity in one spot on slopes above Cheddar, discovered by C.I and N.Y. Sandwith and H.W. Pugsley, thought to be a recent introduction there (Sandwith, 1936). In 1979 it was found by R.G.B. Roe at Charlton Mackrell on waste ground bordering a quarry, but was last seen at this site in 2000, when 100 plants were recorded by members of Somerset Rare Plants Group on sparsely vegetated old tarmac. No details can be found for a record for ST76 in DC2 (1970-86) mapped by Preston *et al.* (2002). This species may now be lost in Somerset. Since 2000 most records have been along the south and southwest coast of England (from the Isle of Wight westwards), with two sites near the coast in Wales.

VC6

Charlton Mackrell	ST532290	1993	IPG	20 plants in one small area on quarry waste
Charlton Mackrell	ST533291	1998	IPG	1 plant in the quarry
Charlton Mackrell	ST534290	2000	SRPG	100 plants on sparsely vegetated old tarmac