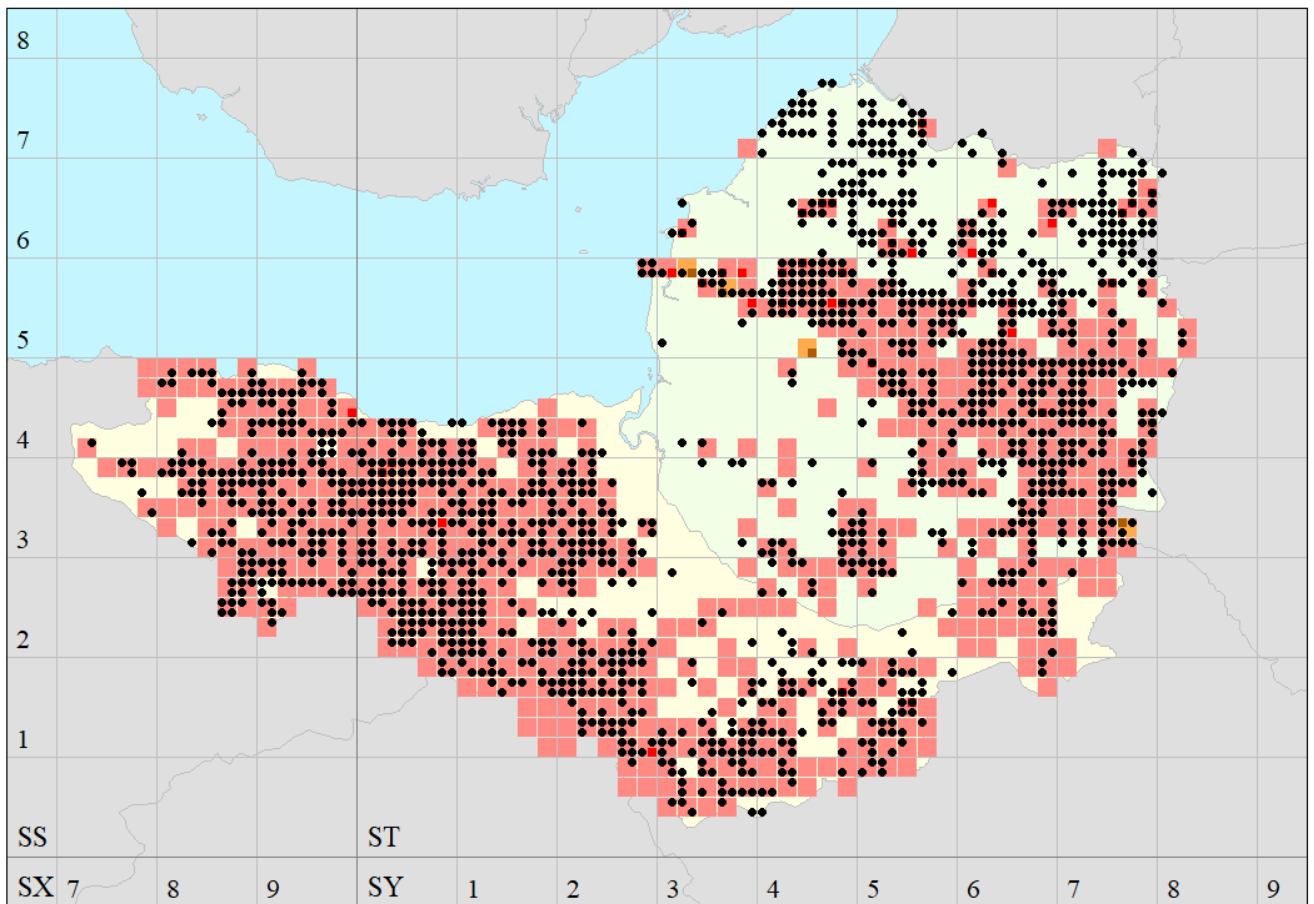


***Fragaria vesca* L.**

Wild Strawberry

Native
GB: Least Concern
England: Near Threatened
VC5 Not Scarce; VC6 Not Scarce

A perennial herb of woods, scrub, hedgebanks, roadsides and rock outcrops, also frequently colonising post-industrial sites including quarries and disused railways. In Somerset described by Murray (1896) as “Very common and generally distributed” and by Roe (1981) as “Very common ... throughout the county”. The distribution mapping of the more detailed floras of Green *et al.* (1997) and Green *et al.* (2000) illustrated that in fact this species was absent from the high moors of Exmoor and scarce or absent across the low-lying areas of the Somerset Levels and the North Somerset Levels. Its distribution does not appear to have changed appreciably: apparent losses shown on the map below may reflect lack of recording in those tetrads, and indeed there are some apparent gains in central Somerset. (Note that records from Green *et al.* (2000) for the north part of VC6 are not shown on the map below). Succession on post-industrial sites may result in decline of this early colonist, but no definite loss has been observed in Somerset. The decline of *Fragaria vesca* in England is likely to be due to reduction of suitable habitat.



Distribution of *Fragaria vesca* in Somerset, mapped using MapMate. Black dots are post-2000 records; red squares are 1987-1999 records; sepia squares are pre-1987 records