

***Vulpia fasciculata* (Forssk.) Fritsch**

Dune Fescue

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

GB Scarce

VC5 Rare; VC6 Scarce

A loosely tufted annual of sand dunes. In VC5 first noted by W.H. Coleman in 1849, in his catalogue of plants seen around Minehead and Dunster (Green *et al.*, 1997). It was not recorded again in VC5 until 1987, when found by Ian Green on sand dunes at Dunster. In 1993 Paul Green recorded this species at the edge of sand dunes at Minehead Golf Links, where it has been re-found several times subsequently. In VC6 the earliest record is a specimen from the herbarium of William Hunt Painter, collected at Burnham in 1854 (<http://herbariaunited.org/specimen/258107/>): this may be the record listed by Murray (1896) as "Sandhills at Burnham". White (1912) recorded it as "Abundant among the dunes and on sandy turf along the Channel shore above Burnham" *Vulpia fasciculata* was collected by E.S. Marshall in 1914 from sand hills at Berrow (TTN) and is still to be found along the coast at Burnham and Berrow. In 2020 it was recorded by Andrew Robinson slightly further north than previous records, at Brean. This coastal grass is found in suitable areas of sand dunes around the coast of England, Wales and southeast Ireland, and at Findhorn in Moray, where found by Ian Green in 2004. *Vulpia fasciculata* appears to have increased, possibly following reduction of grazing by rabbits due to myxomatosis (S.J. Leach in Preston *et al.*, 2002); this slight expansion of distribution has been observed in Somerset.



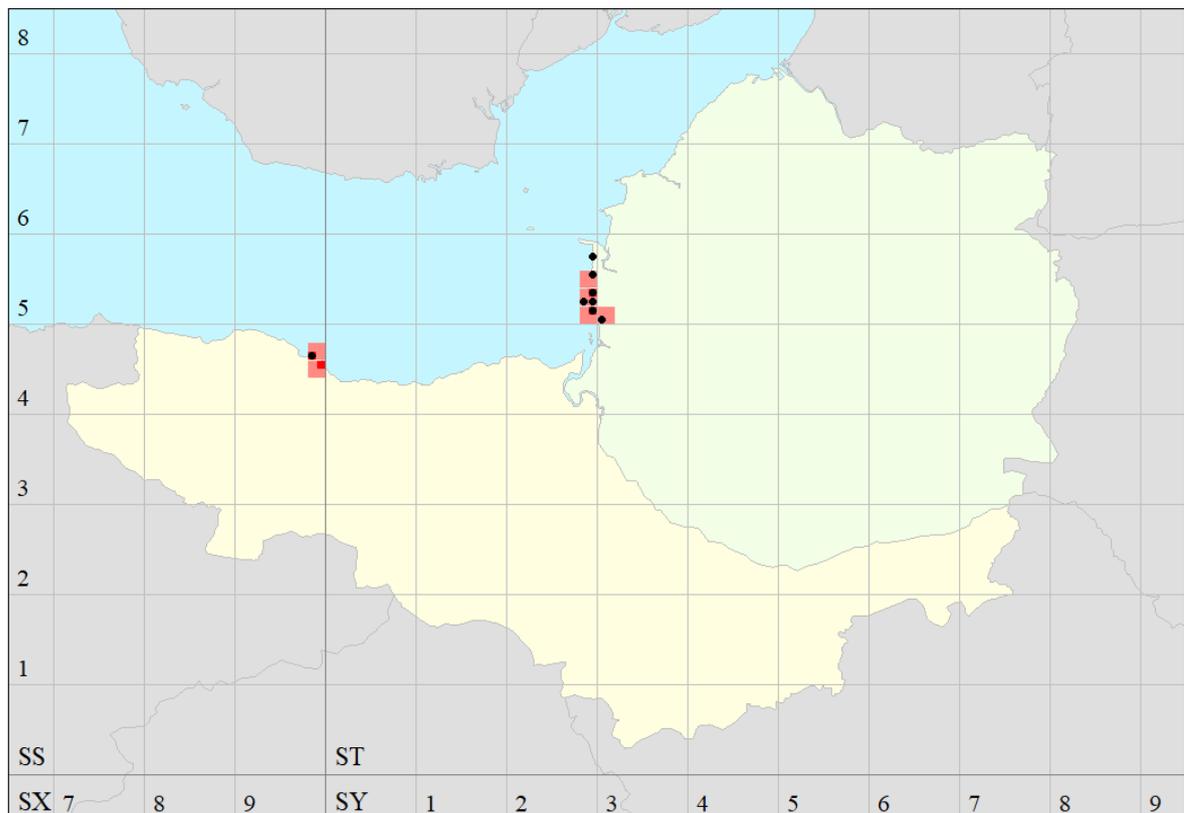
Vulpia fasciculata at Berrow Dunes (2014). Photo: HJC

VC5

Minehead Golf Links	SS984464	1993	PRG	Abundant at edge of dunes
Minehead Warren	SS98584648	2020	GEL	Frequent just off path in compressed sand
Minehead Golf Links	SS98724648	2011	SRPG	Edge of golf course
Dunster Beach	SS998451	1989	CJG, BG	Sandy area near chalets

VC6

Burnham-on-Sea		ST30205009	2008	EJMcD	Dozens of plants on dunes
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST28995247	2005	SRPG	Abundant in small area
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29095197	2014	SRPG	Few clumps on eroding sand dune
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29125190	2009	HJC, RSC	On back of first mature dune
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29625159	2018	SRPG	Several plants on dunes on golf course
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29985101	2018	SRPG	Small patch on dune, E edge of golf course
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29005238	2005	IPG, SRPG	Many plants growing on the dunes
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29005241	2005	IPG, SRPG	Several plants growing on the dunes
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29005243	2005	IPG, SRPG	Abundant in bare areas on the dunes
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29005254	2014	HJC, FJR	Small patch by footpath across dunes
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29015225	2005	IPG, SRPG	Abundant on the dunes
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29075204	2014	SRPG	Large patch in dunes
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29125367	2005	IPG, SRPG	On open sand on Berrow Dunes
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29215370	2014	HJC, FJR	Small patches on dunes
Brean (S)		ST2955	2008	SRPG	
Brean		ST297570	2020	APR	Very dry remains on road verge



Distribution of *Vulpia fasciculata* in Somerset, mapped using MapMate.
Black dots are post-2000 records; red squares are 1987-1999 records