

Vulpia unilateralis (L.) Stace

Mat-grass Fescue

Native/Alien

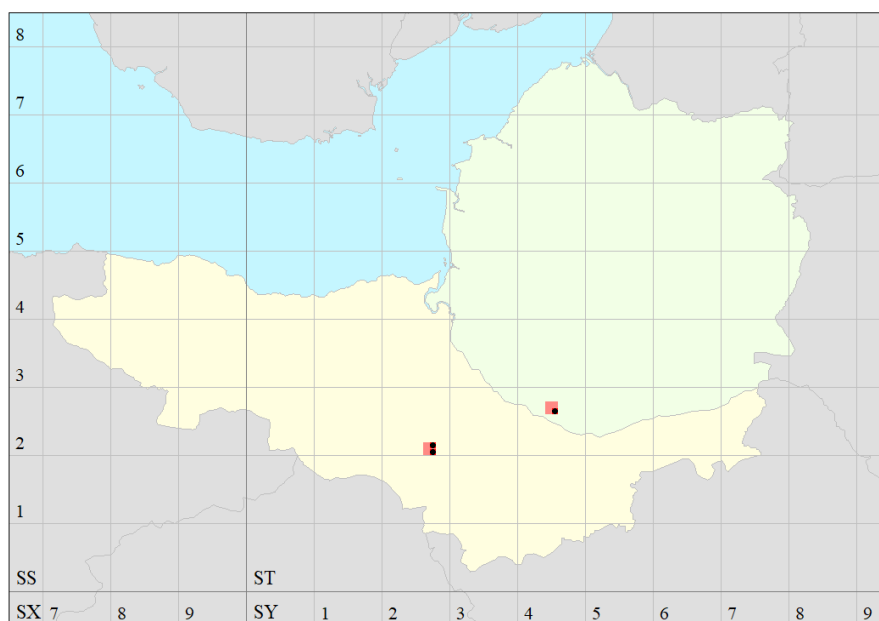
GB & England: Least Concern

GB Scarce

VC5 Rare; VC6 Rare

An annual of dry, open, bare ground on chalk or limestone, also occasionally on walls, railway tracks and rubbish tips. In VC5 first found in 1949 on a chalk [limestone] hillside a few miles south of Taunton, a specimen collected by M. McCallum Webster (**K**), according to whom the site was Priors Park Wood; A.D. Hallam said it was Adcombe Wood (Green *et al.*, 1997). There have been no further records from that locality. A specimen in **BM** collected in 1949 by D.P. Young from calcareous grassland at Thurlbear was identified as this species in 1986 by J.M. Mullin and E.J. Clement. *Vulpia unilateralis* was re-found at Thurlbear by Ian Green in 1998 and has been recorded several times subsequently. In VC6 this species was first recorded in 1937 on Bristol rubbish tip at Ashton Gate Iron Works by J.P.M. Brenan and C.I. Sandwith (Stace, 1961). In 1994 it was discovered by Paul Green on a wall at Upton, on the east side of the road, south of the railway: it was still present in 2017. This grass was first recorded in Britain in 1903, in South Lincolnshire. It has since been found at scattered sites in England south of Lincoln. Sites in Somerset are the most southwestern.

| VC5 | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|------------|------|-----------|---|
| Thurlbear Quarrylands | SSSI | ST272208 | 1998 | IPG | 1000+ plants, in several places in reserve |
| Thurlbear Quarrylands | SSSI | ST272209 | 2002 | IPG | |
| Thurlbear Quarrylands | SSSI | ST2720 | 2011 | SJL | 125 on top of bank by road, in barish ground |
| Thurlbear Quarrylands | SSSI | ST273211 | 1999 | SRPG | Thousands of plants |
| VC6 | | | | | |
| Upton | | ST45672692 | 2005 | PRG, SRPG | 200 pl over 6m stretch of wall, S of field gate |
| Upton | | ST45652695 | 2009 | JP | 450 fr spikes along 20m of wall top, E side of road |
| Upton | | ST45662696 | 2017 | JP | Still on wall, E side of road, becoming overgrown |
| Upton | | ST45682693 | 2017 | JP | Still on wall, E side of road, S of site above |



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