

## ***Cakile maritima* Scop**

## **Sea Rocket**

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

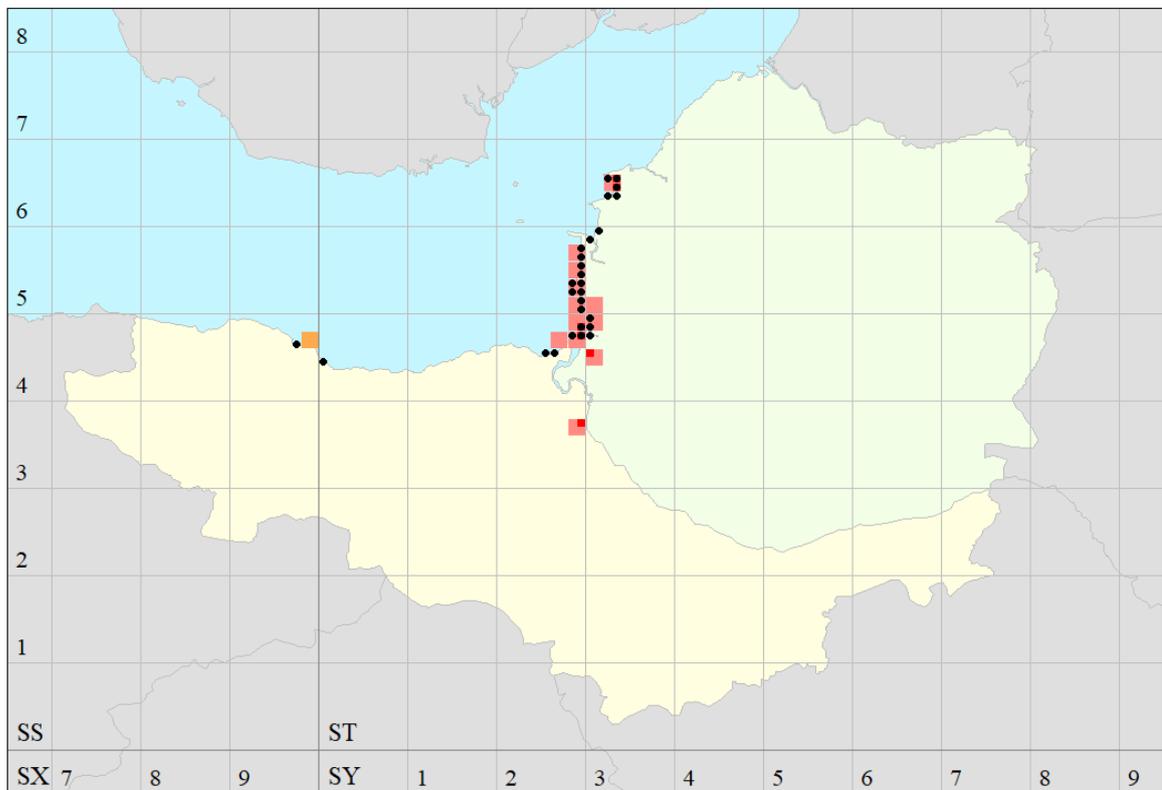
VC5 Scarce; VC6 Not Scarce

An annual of sandy shores and fore-dunes, occasionally found on shingle. In VC5 noted by Collins for Minehead and Steart (Watson, 1837). Murray (1896) knew it at Blue Anchor and Steart. In 1916 this species was found by N.G. Hadden on the shore at Minehead Warren, but was not seen there again until 1979 when N.V. Allen discovered one clump in sand at the edge of the golf links. In 2012 it was found on the beach at Minehead. There have been no further records at Blue Anchor, but since 2007, plants have been recorded periodically on Dunster Beach, just to the west. Marshall (1914) remarked that it “still grows in plenty at Steart Point” and added a record for Stert Island, where it was collected by Thomas Clark in 1817. This species still occurs on Stert Island and at Stert Point, and was found in 2000 just west of Steart, at Wall Common. In 1990, a single plant was found in Bridgwater, by the docks, a rare inland record for this species. In VC6, Murray (1896) knew this species at Burnham, along the coast from Berrow to Brean, at Weston-super-Mare and at Clevedon. It is still to be found from Burnham to Brean, at Uphill dunes, Weston-super-Mare and Sand Bay, usually growing on the strandline. In 1990, Ian Green found this species growing on a sand heap at Huntspill, the only record for VC6 away from the coast. There have been no recent records from Clevedon or indeed anywhere north of Sand Bay: this species is restricted to the sandy and occasionally shingle beaches of Somerset. *Cakile maritima* is distributed around the coast of Britain and Ireland. Its exact location and number of plants fluctuates greatly from year to year. In Somerset its range remains stable, apart from the lack of recent records for Clevedon or anywhere inland.



*Cakile maritima* at Burnham-on-Sea (2015). Photo: FJR

| <b>VC5</b>       |      |            |      |                     |  |
|------------------|------|------------|------|---------------------|--|
| Minehead Beach   |      | SS97364644 | 2012 | SJP                 | 20 plants on beach                           |
| Minehead         |      | SS9746     | 2014 | SRPG                |  |
| Dunster Beach    |      | ST00204483 | 2012 | SJP                 | 50+ plants on sandy beach                    |
| Dunster Beach    |      | ST00484455 | 2017 | GEL, RFitzG, JW, TW | 1 large clump                                |
| Dunster Beach    |      | ST00524456 | 2017 | GEL, RFitzG, JW, TW | Several plants in flower at high water mark  |
| Wall Common      | SSSI | ST2545     | 2000 | SRPG                |  |
| Bridgwater Bay   | SSSI | ST26354555 | 2017 | EJMcD, CML          | 1 plant amongst Sand Couch, on sandy shingle |
| Stert Point      | SSSI | ST2847     | 2012 | BSBI, WFS, SRPG     |  |
| Stert Island     | SSSI | ST2947     | 2007 | EJMcD, SJP, KP, JBu |  |
| Stert Island     | SSSI | ST29084807 | 2014 | HJC, RGC, SJP, ITS  | 2 plants on dunes on W side of island        |
| Stert Island     | SSSI | ST29154822 | 2014 | HJC, RGC, SJP, ITS  | Many huge plants on E side of island         |
| Stert Island     | SSSI | ST29154826 | 2014 | HJC, RGC, SJP, ITS  | Many plants on shingle on E side of island   |
| Stert Island     | SSSI | ST291483   | 2014 | HJC, RGC, SJP, ITS  | Few plants on W side of island               |
| Bridgwater Docks |      | ST298376   | 1990 | PRG, IPG, DM, MCr   | 1 plant on sand by dock                      |



Distribution of *Cakile maritima* in Somerset mapped using MapMate.  
 Black dots: post-2000 records; pink squares: 1987-1999; sepia squares: pre-1987 records



*Cakile maritima* on Stert Island (2014). Photo: HJC