

***Carex filiformis* L.**

Downy-fruited Sedge

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

GB Rare

VC5 Absent; VC6 Rare

A rhizomatous herb of calcium-rich damp meadows, also found in drier grassland and roadsides. Discovered new to Somerset by Liz McDonnell in 2003 on Cheddar Moor, where it grows in a fantastic herb-rich damp hay meadow. The species is particularly abundant in a series of damp linear depressions within the meadow and is easily distinguished from other *Carex* species by its very hairy, small, subglobose utricles. In Britain this sedge is found only in England, its distribution mostly limited to a band extending from Surrey, through Oxfordshire and N. Wiltshire to E. Gloucestershire. A location of Leigh Woods, Somerset given by Davies (1956) for a sample used for chromosome counts is believed to be an error. In 2018 this species was found new to Essex, the first record for eastern England. The single site in Somerset also lies outside the former known range and is the most southerly and westerly site for this species.

VC6

Cheddar Moor	ST46655127	2009	HJC, FJR	Hundreds of flowering spikes carpeting 10 sq m
Cheddar Moor	ST46695131	2009	HJC, FJR	Many flowering/fruitlet spikes
Cheddar Moor	ST46705132	2009	HJC, FJR	Hundreds of flowering/fruitlet spikes



Carex filiformis at Cheddar Moor (2009). Photo: HJC