

***Prunella laciniata* (L.) L.**

Cut-leaved Selfheal

Neophyte

VC5 Absent; VC6 Rare

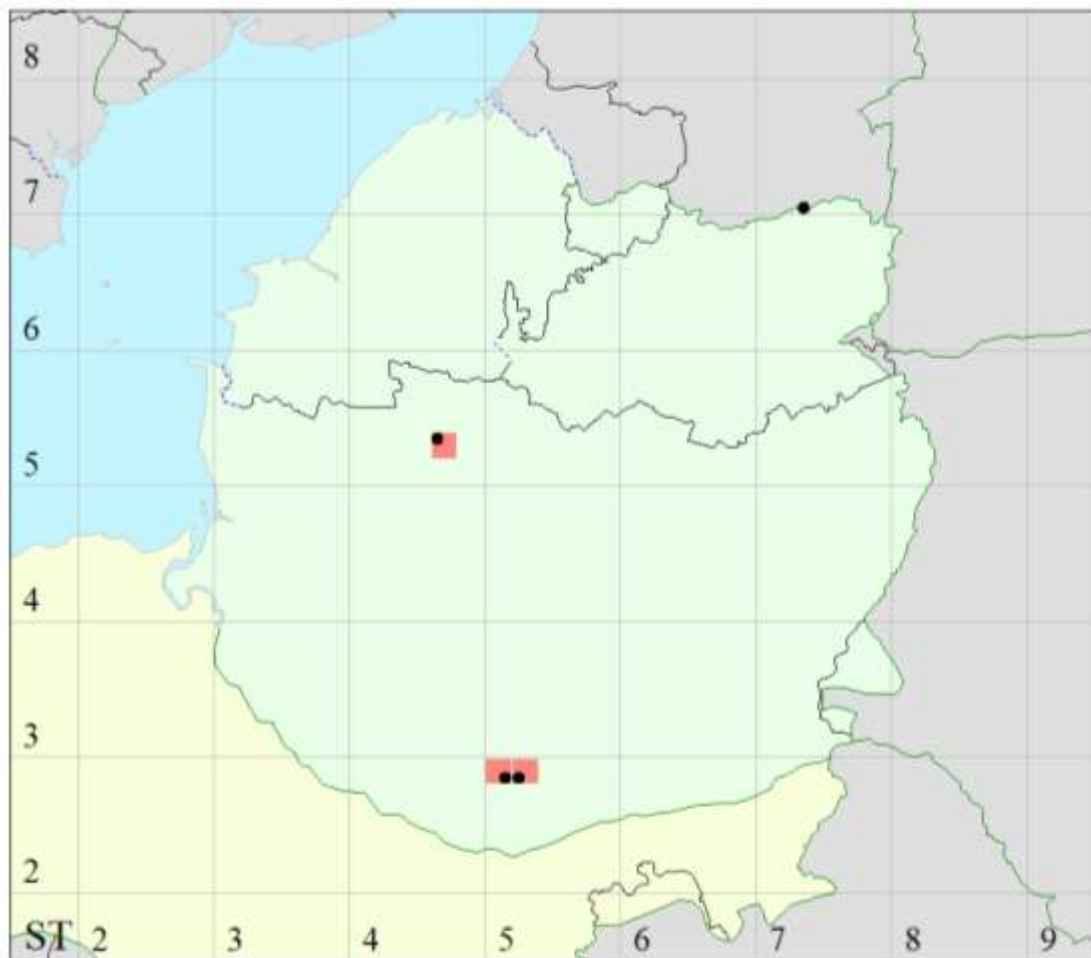
A rhizomatous perennial of short calcareous grassland. First formally described as a British plant from Somerset, by James W. White, who had known it from above Cheddar for twenty years (White, 1906), although Clement (1985) discovered a description by Mott (1878) of a white variety of *P. vulgaris* in Leicestershire which he decided must be this species, thus predating White's record. This species has never been recorded in VC5, yet the hybrid with *P. vulgaris* was discovered in 2014 at Cadbury Castle and nearby, suggesting that this species may once have occurred in that area. In VC6, still found in 2009 above Cheddar, near the top of Jacob's Ladder on the south side of the gorge, although the site is seriously threatened by trampling and no plants have been seen recently. Recorded on the south side of Creech Hill, Bruton by C.E. Moss and also by W. Watson (Marshall, 1914) but not reported here since. Discovered in 1966, by C.A. Howe, on Green Down near Charlton Mackrell, where it has been suggested that it was introduced by nearby trains; still persisting there in good numbers. In 2000 Donald MacIntyre found this species at a new site at Langridge, north of Bath, where it grows on a dry south-facing slope amongst native calcareous grassland species. *Prunella laciniata* declined dramatically during the twentieth century and is now largely restricted to southern England. In Somerset this species is at the western edge of its range in Britain, although it also occurs at scattered sites in Ireland.



Prunella laciniata at Cheddar (2009). Photo: HJC

VC6

Cheddar	SSSI	ST46555379	2009	HJC, FJR	Few plants in grassland S of path
Cheddar	SSSI	ST465538	2009	HJC, FJR	16 plants on path just W of craggy rocks
Cheddar	SSSI	ST46595380	2009	HJC, FJR	Many plants in grassland to S of path
Cheddar	SSSI	ST46625379	2009	HJC, FJR	2 plants in short grass S of fence by path
Green Down	SSSI	ST51642888	2009	HJC, FJR	Small patch on footpath on upper S-facing slope
Green Down	SSSI	ST517288	2009	HJC, FJR	Few patches on upper S-facing slope
Green Down	SSSI	ST518288	2009	HJC, FJR	Few small patches on upper S-facing slope
Green Down	SSSI	ST51982879	2009	HJC, FJR	Small patch on upper S-facing slope
Green Down	SSSI	ST51932882	2017	AB, SBG	On upper S-facing slope above gallop
Green Down	SSSI	ST51942881	2017	AB, SBG	1 pl on upper S-facing slope above gallop
Green Down	SSSI	ST51962881	2017	AB, SBG	1 pl on upper S-facing slope above gallop
Green Down	SSSI	ST51972881	2017	AB, SBG	4 pl on upper S-facing slope above gallop
Green Down	SSSI	ST52002878	2009	HJC, FJR	20 plants on upper S-facing slope
Langridge		ST73267003	2014	SRPG	4 plants in glorious grassland on S-facing slope
Langridge		ST73257003	2014	SRPG	2 plants in glorious grassland on S-facing slope



Distribution of *Prunella laciniata* in North Somerset (VC6), mapped using MapMate. Black dots are post-2000 records; red squares are 1987-1999 monad or tetrad records