

***Trifolium suffocatum* L.**

Suffocated Clover

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

GB: Scarce

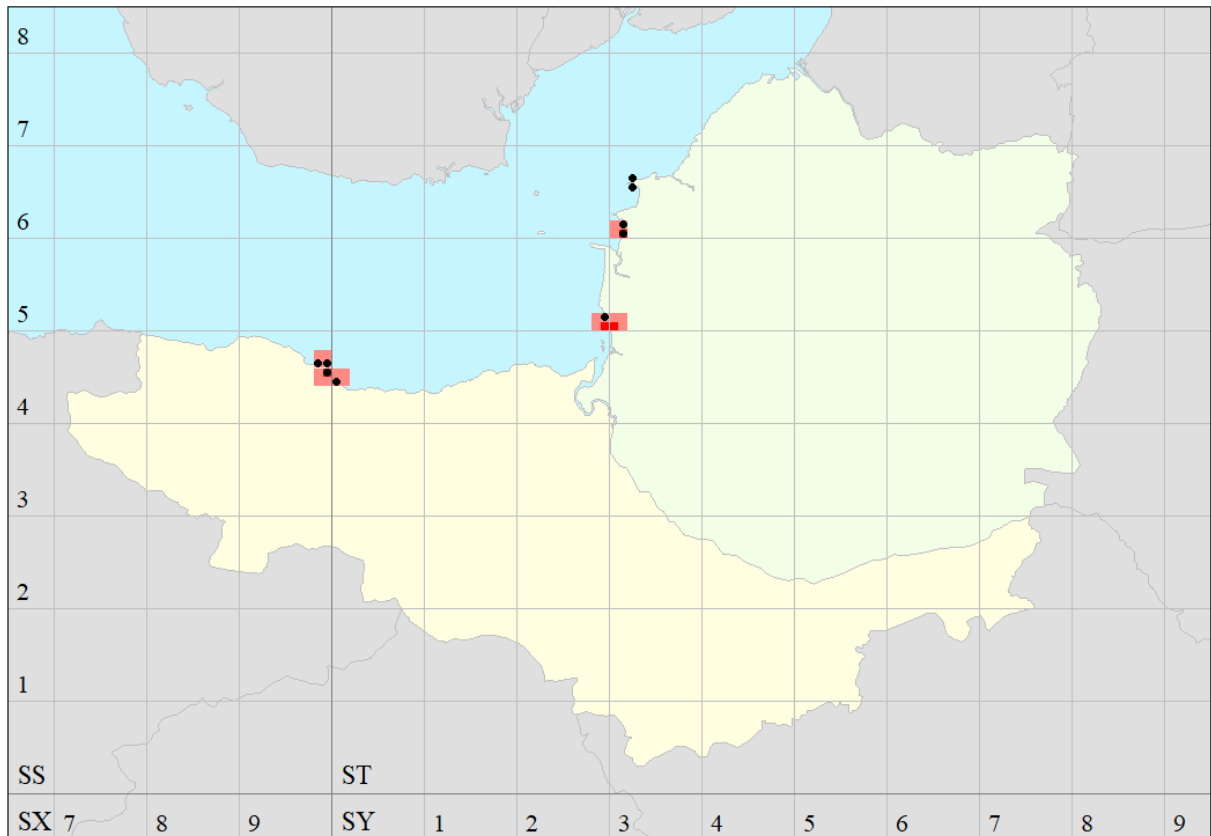
VC5 Rare; VC6 Rare

A procumbent winter annual of thin dry soils in open turf or rocky ground at the coast, also on compacted sandy or gravelly bare ground inland. In VC5 first noted at Lilstock by J.C. Collins, but there have been no subsequent records there. In 1905, discovered at Minehead Warren by E.S. Marshall (specimen, see: <http://herbariaunited.org/specimen/329007/>). There are recent records from that area, and from Dunster Beach to the east, where it was found by Caroline Giddens in 1974. In VC6 first recorded "Springly on the Strand, Weston-super-Mare" by T.B. Flower (Murray, 1896); although the site was destroyed by building work, White (1912) wrote "I confidently expect it to be rediscovered some day on the shores of N. Somerset". And it was! Around a century later, in 1983, it was found by Ro FitzGerald on the seafront lawns at Weston-super-Mare (Willis, 1984) where it persists. In 1991, Ian Green, Paul Green and Di Maxwell discovered a very good number of plants in three places on the golf course at Berrow Dunes: it has since been found at further sites on the dunes. In 2007, this species was discovered on Sand Point, north of Weston-super-Mare. *Trifolium suffocatum* is found mostly near the coast, in southern England and South Wales, but at scattered sites further north, one site in North Wales, and one in Scotland. In Somerset it appears to have increased.



Trifolium suffocatum at Sand Point (2012). Photo: HJC

VC5					
Minehead Warren		SS985465	2002	SRPG	c. 1000, widespread on golf course
Minehead Warren		SS98614634	2014	SJP, GEL, ITS	50+ plants at Hole 2 of golf course
Minehead Warren		SS98714645	2013	SJP	Frequent on fairway of golf course
Minehead Warren		SS98804626	2014	SJP, GEL, ITS	Many plants on golf course
Minehead Warren		SS988463	2014	SJP, GEL, ITS	1000 plants in short turf on golf course
Minehead Warren		SS98924638	2013	SJP	Scattered on fairway to SS98914644
Minehead Warren		SS98914644	2013	SJP	Scattered on fairway to SS98924638
Minehead Warren		SS99074640	2013	SJP	Many plants on golf course
Minehead Warren		SS99214630	2013	SJP	40 plants on fairway of golf course
Minehead Warren		SS99214632	2013	SJP	10+ plants on fairway of golf course
Minehead Warren		SS99574588	2011	SRPG	On footpath, a few plants
Minehead Warren		SS997455	2009	SRPG	On golf course
Dunster Beach		SS997453	2002	SRPG	10,000 plants in front of beach huts
Dunster Beach		SS99824521	2013	EJMcD, SJP, SJL, JW	Plentiful on bare stony ground outside chalet
Dunster Beach		ST00354467	2016	AS	
Dunster Beach		ST00374464	2012	SJP	With <i>Crassula tillaea</i>
Dunster Beach		ST004446	2008	SJP	Common in the carpark
Dunster Beach		ST00514444	2008	SJP	60 plants on the bridge
VC6					
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST299507	1991	PRG, IPG, DM	In view of the club house
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST299508	1991	PRG, IPG, DM	In view of the club house
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST300507	1991	PRG, IPG, DM	In sandy area by track from club house
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29665136	2014	SRPG	Hundreds on both sides of footpath
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29705140	2014	SRPG	Hundreds in short turf, by of footpath
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29625157	2014	HJC, FJR	Hundreds on track below number '3' sign
Weston-super-Mare		ST316605	1998	SRPG	Sea lawns
Weston-super-Mare		ST31716058	2011	JPM	On sea lawns
Weston-super-Mare		ST31726059	2011	SJP, JPM	2 pl in open sandy grassland of sea lawns
Weston-super-Mare		ST31756070	2013	HJC, FJR	15 large plants on bare patch of sea lawn
Weston-super-Mare		ST31766080	2011	FJR	Few plants on sea lawn
Weston-super-Mare		ST31776077	2011	FJR	Near landward edge of sea lawn
Weston-super-Mare		ST31776080	2013	SRPG	Several pl on lawn opp. Ellenborough Park
Weston-super-Mare		ST31776081	2011	FJR	Few plants on sea lawn
Weston-super-Mare		ST31776084	2011	FJR	Few plants on sea lawn
Weston-super-Mare		ST31776087	2013	HJC, FJR	2 pl on sea lawn opp. Ellenborough Park
Weston-super-Mare		ST31796108	2013	HJC, FJR	12 plants on landward edge of sea lawn
Weston-super-Mare		ST31796108	2013	SRPG	20 pl on bare edge of sea lawn, by pavement
Weston-super-Mare	SSSI	ST319608	1998	SRPG	In Ellenborough Park
Sand Point	SSSI	ST322660	2007	PDS	3 pl on N side of path, E of rocky spur
Sand Point	SSSI	ST32356598	2012	SRPG	Several plants around rocks in path
Sand Point	SSSI	ST32406599	2012	SRPG	300 plants on rocky slope above path
Sand Point	SSSI	ST32426600	2012	SRPG	About 100 plants on ridge
Sand Point	SSSI	ST32446600	2012	SRPG	7 plants on N side of path
Sand Point	SSSI	ST32476601	2012	SRPG	13 plants on rocks by path
Sand Point	SSSI	ST32486601	2012	SRPG	1 plant on rocks by path
Sand Point	SSSI	ST32726604	2012	SRPG	1 pl on low bank by rock outcrop beside path
Sand Point	SSSI	ST32736603	2012	SRPG	1 plant on low bank by path along ridge



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



Trifolium suffocatum at Weston-super-Mare Sea Lawns (2011). Photo: FJR