

***Carex extensa* Gooden.**

Long-bracted Sedge

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

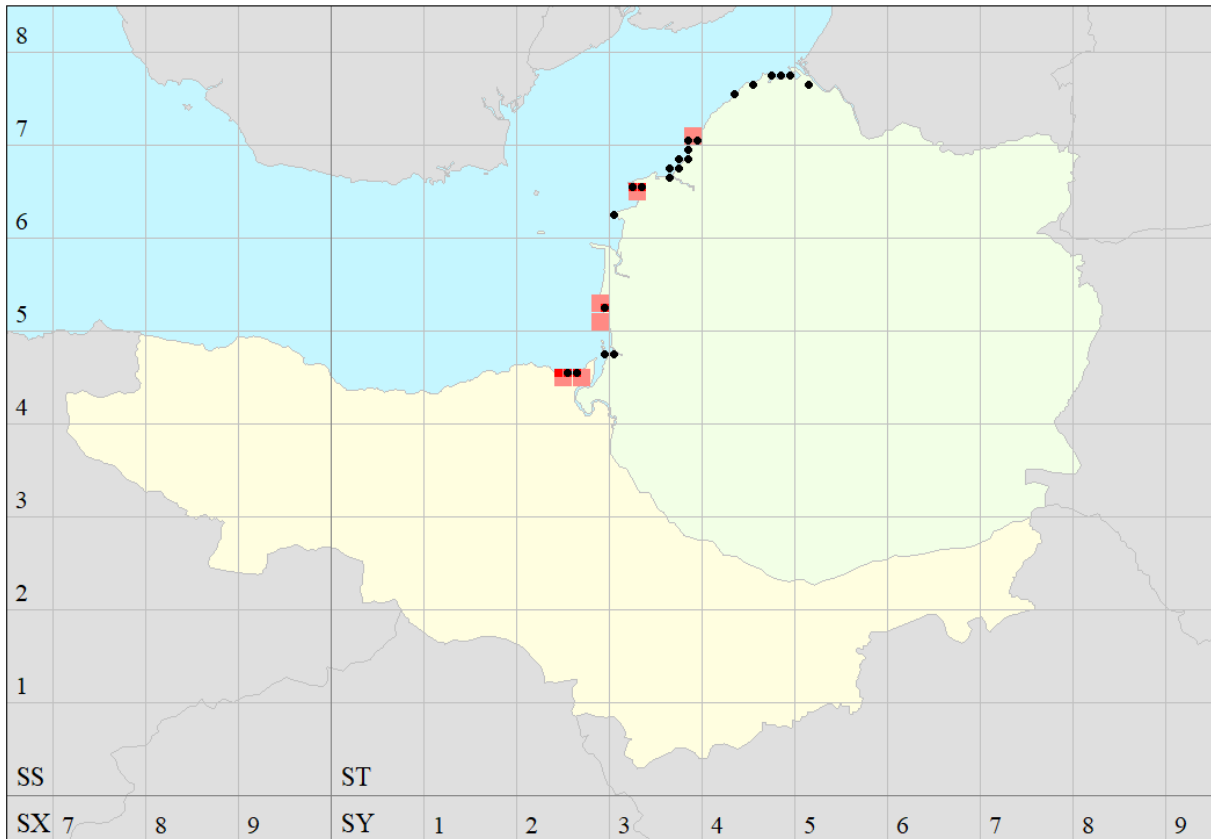
VC5 Rare; VC6 Not Scarce

A densely tufted perennial coastal sedge of muddy or sandy estuaries and upper saltmarshes, also found on low cliffs and ledges within reach of sea spray. In VC5 first discovered by Mark Galliot at Wall Common in 1988 (Green *et al.*, 1997). Still only known along a short stretch of coast at Wall Common and east towards Steart. In VC6 first collected in 1842 at Weston-super-Mare, a specimen in Herb. Stephens (White, 1912). Not found at Weston-super-Mare again until 2018 when two clumps were recorded at Anchor Head by Helena Crouch and Fred Rumsey. The only other site mentioned by Murray (1896) was dune marsh near Berrow, where White (1912) suggested it was lost due to drainage of the marsh, but it has been re-found periodically (Miller, 1933; Yemm, 1961; Green *et al.*, 1997); the last record was made in 2005. South of Berrow, it was discovered by Ian Salmon in 2013 on the saltmarsh of the Brue Estuary at West Huntspill: in 2020 there were many plants. In VC6 the strongholds for *Carex extensa* are north of Weston-super-Mare. In 1995, found by Ian Green and Paul Green at Sand Bay, where it is now frequent on the upper saltmarsh. In 1933 recorded by Cecil and Noel Sandwith on the shore of the Channel at Kingston Seymour (Sandwith, 1939): there are recent records from here north to Clevedon, where first found by I.W. Evans in 1955. North of Clevedon, first found by H.J. Gibbons in fair quantity at a spot on the Channel shore between Portishead and Walton Bay in 1924. There are recent records from Redcliff Bay, Portishead, and the saltmarshes at Portbury Wharf, Royal Portbury Docks and Pill. *Carex extensa* is scattered around the coast of Britain and Ireland. Its distribution in Somerset has expanded and it appears to be spreading.



Carex extensa at Sand Bay (2016). Photo: HJC

VC5					
Wall Common	SSSI	ST249452	1989	IPG, JM, DM	Good numbers in ditches and dried up pond
Wall Common	SSSI	ST259452	1989	IPG, JM, DM	Good numbers in ditches and dried up pond
Wall Common	SSSI	ST25984532	2002	BSBI, EJMcd	
Wall Common	SSSI	ST2545	2012	BSBI, WFS, SRPG	
Wall Common	SSSI	ST26024528	2018	SRPG	On ditch edge and in upper saltmarsh
Bridgwater Bay	SSSI	ST26254540	2017	EJMcd, CML	Many plants in saltmarsh near Wall Common
Bridgwater Bay	SSSI	ST26334541	2017	EJMcd, CML	Abundant in Sea Couch saltmarsh



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



Carex extensa at Sand Bay (2011). Photo: HJC