

***Cerastium arvense* L.**

Field Mouse-ear

Native

GB: Least Concern

England: Near Threatened

VC5 Lost; VC6 Lost

A mat-forming perennial of dry calcareous or acid grasslands, found on dry pasture, verges and banks, sand dunes and other sandy areas. In VC5 first discovered by J.V. Carrington in 1972, at Minehead Warren (SS993462). Seen again in 1974 by E.B. Giddens, in 1988 by W.H. Tucker, and also by C.J. Giddens and R. Perry, and in 1993 by P. Green along the seaward edge of the golf course. There have been no subsequent records. In VC6 first discovered in 1894 by E.S. Gregory in seven or eight distinct spots on a hillside above Loxton (White, 1912). Seen there again periodically, but last recorded in 1986 for the *Flora of the Bristol Region*, although there is an unconfirmed record nearby at Christon (ST37925787) in 2010 (record at BRERC). In 1915 recorded by H.S. Thompson above Axbridge, where Roe (1981) reported that it was still to be found. In 1960 found on Wavering Down, between Loxton and Axbridge, but not seen there again. In 1939 recorded by Pleasaunce Catchpool on the south side of Brean Down (Sandwith & Sandwith, 1948) but not found again. In 1921, recorded by C. and N. Sandwith on a limestone outcrop on the edge of Limeridge Wood, Tickenham (White, 1922). In 1945 a very small quantity was found by J.P.M. Brennan in open hilly pasture on top of the ridge on the east side of Court Hill (Sandwith, 1946), west of the site at Limeridge Wood. There were no further records for these sites, or for Portbury, northeast of there, where it was found by I.M. Roper in 1900 on a high bank by the roadside through the Charlton Estate. In 1915, recorded at Lansdown, near Bath by Mrs Price, over a considerable area near the monument, but not found subsequently. *Cerastium arvense* is found particularly in the south and east of England and eastern Scotland, with a few sites in Wales and Ireland. It has declined, especially at the edge of its range. Sites in Somerset were west of its main area of distribution and most were transient. It persisted only at Minehead, Loxton Hill and above Axbridge and is now considered lost to Somerset.