

***Glaucium flavum* Crantz**

Yellow Horned-poppy

Native

GB: Least Concern

England: Near Threatened

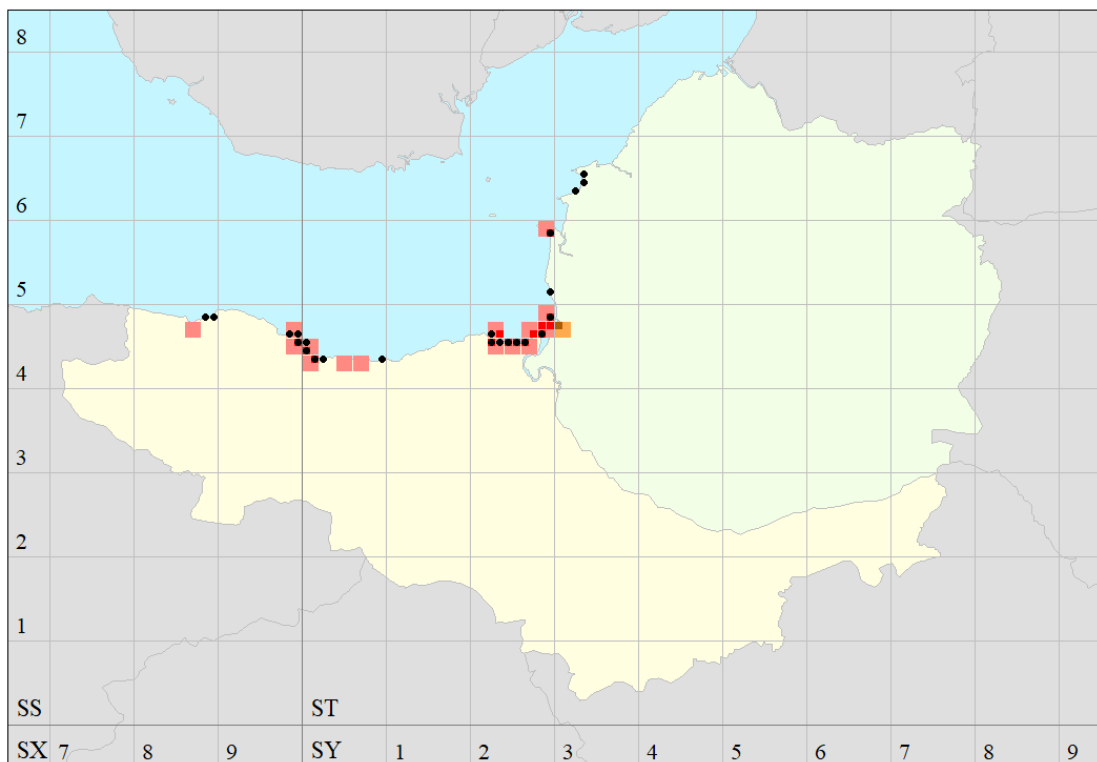
VC5 Not Scarce; VC6 Rare

A short-lived perennial herb of shingle beaches and eroding sandy cliffs. In VC5 recorded by J.C. Collins at Minehead, Stolford [Stolford] and Steart (Watson, 1837); still to be found in all three locations. Marshall (1914) added records for Porlock Weir, Dunster, Blue Anchor, below Williton and St Audries. Still found in the Porlock area, at Dunster, Blue Anchor and Doniford, below Williton, but no recent records for St Audries, or indeed anywhere between Doniford and Stolford. East of Stolford this species is found at Catsford Common, Wall Common and along Bridgwater Bay to Steart and Fening Island. It has also been found on Stert Island, although not since 2007. It was clearly dwindling there over a century ago, when White (1912) wrote "Twenty years ago it made a great show on the beaches of Steart Island and Steart Marsh. I understand, however, that cheap boating trips from Burnham have since altered the floral features of those localities." In VC6 recorded by J.C. Collins at Burnham (Watson, 1837). Although noting that it was formerly frequent at Portishead, White (1912) reported it rarely seen there or at Clevedon and lost from Weston-super-Mare, by then chiefly on Brean sands, south of Brean Down, becoming scarcer towards Berrow and Burnham. Roe (1981) reported it "now completely gone" from the coast of North Somerset. Since then, there have been transient records south of Brean Down: one large plant by the River Brue at Burnham-on-Sea (ST303479) found by Robert Cropper in 1981; one plant on the beach at Berrow Dunes, found by Margaret Webster in 2008, last seen in 2010. In 1956 P.J.M. Nethercott found a solitary specimen on shingle near the base of Brean Down (Willis, 1982), and in 1992, Paul Green found a single plant in a sandy area between rocks on the south side of Brean Down. In 2008, Robert Cropper discovered 40-50 plants on a sandy slope above the beach below Brean Down, where they were still present in 2011. Further north, the last record known to Roe (1981) was in 1917, at Kewstoke Bay (Sand Bay). In 1982 a plant was found there by M.A. Silcocks (Roe, 1983) but Green *et al.* (2000) reported no further sightings. In 2008, many young plants were discovered along the length of Sand Bay. Their fate was monitored in detail: by 2010 all had been lost (Webster & Crouch, 2012). *Glaucium flavum* is distributed around the coast of southern and western England, Wales, southeast Scotland and the east of Ireland, with scattered other records where suitable habitat exists. In VC6 this species suffered a substantial decline historically, due to pressures on the coast - White (1912) commented that "This diminution is not from natural causes" – and there is little suitable habitat for its return.



Glaucium flavum at Stert Point (2012). Photo: HJC

VC6					
Berrow Dunes	ST29265165	2010	MAW	1 plant at top of beach	
Brean Down	ST290587	1992	PRG	1 plant in sandy area among rocks, S side	
Brean Down	ST29565876	2011	HJC, FJR	50 clumps on sandy slope above N end of beach	
Sand Bay (S)	ST328634	2008	HJC, MAW	4 small plants at top of beach	
Sand Bay	ST330640	2008	HJC, MAW	2 small plants at top of beach	
Sand Bay	ST330641	2008	HJC, MAW	1 plant at top of beach	
Sand Bay	ST330642	2008	HJC, MAW	6 plants at top of beach	
Sand Bay	ST331643	2008	HJC, MAW	1 plant at top of beach	
Sand Bay	ST331644	2008	HJC, MAW	6 plants at top of beach	
Sand Bay	ST331645	2008	HJC, MAW	1 plant at top of beach	
Sand Bay	ST331647	2008	HJC, MAW	2 plants at top of beach	
Sand Bay	ST331648	2008	HJC, MAW	3 plants at top of beach	
Sand Bay	ST331649	2008	HJC, MAW	7 plants at top of beach	
Sand Bay	ST331650	2008	HJC, MAW	3 plants at top of beach	
Sand Bay	ST331651	2008	HJC, MAW	6 plants at top of beach	



Distribution of *Glaucium flavum* in Somerset, mapped using MapMate. Black dots are post-2000 records; red squares are 1987-1999 records; sepia squares are pre-1987 records



Glaucium flavum at Doniford (2009). Photo: HJC