

## *Alopecurus aequalis* Sobol.

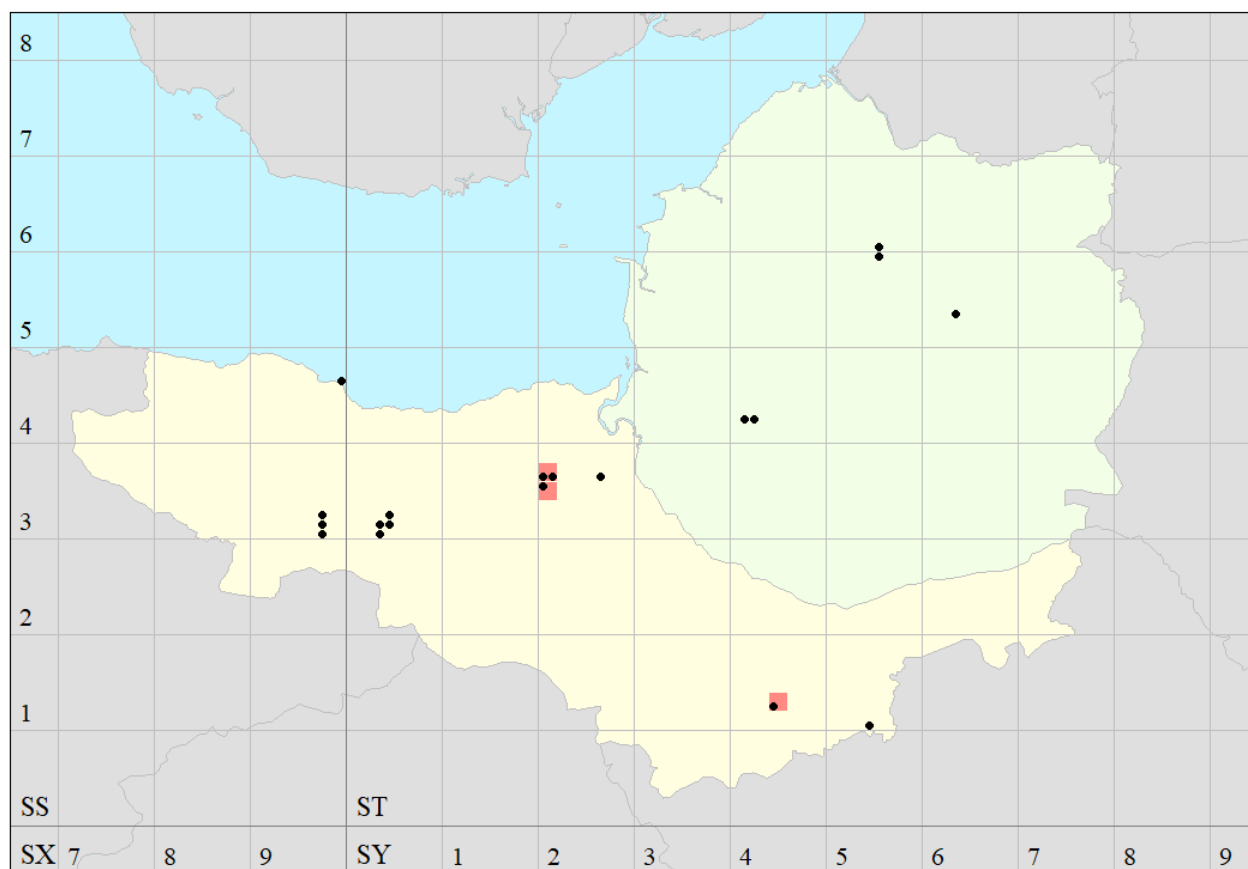
## Orange Foxtail

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

VC5 Scarce; VC6 Rare

An annual or perennial grass of drying mud on the margins of ponds, ditches, peat workings, reservoirs and other water bodies. In Somerset first noted (as *A. fulvus*) by Watson (1883) simply for "5 or 6 Somerset" with no authority. There were no further records for a century. In VC5 the first confirmed record was in 1985 when found at Scotts Nurseries, Merriott by R.B. and I.G. Roe. As a casual it was also recorded in 1985 at Wall Common (ST267450) by John Poingdestre. In 1990 Paul Green found this species on the drawdown zone of Hawkridge Reservoir. It has subsequently been recorded at Wimbleball Lake, Clatworthy Reservoir, Durleigh Reservoir and Sutton Bingham Reservoir. As a casual, it was also recorded by John Poingdestre at Minehead Golf Links in 2003 on freshly excavated mud. In VC6, first recorded by the oxbow lake at Bathampton Meadows in 1999 by P.J. Pope, but unconfirmed. Recorded in 2000 by Helena Crouch and Joseph Neaves as a casual, probably introduced, beside a pond at Farrington Golf Course. In 2015 found by Rupert Higgins on the drawdown zone of Chew Valley Lake. In 2017 many plants were found in and around a peat void near Westhay, although that site has since been flooded. *Alopecurus aequalis* has been lost from some locations in central and south-east England, but appears to colonise newly available suitable sites. In Somerset its distribution has expanded since it was first found in 1985, although some sites have only been casual.



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

| <b>VC5</b>           |      |            |      |                 |  |
|----------------------|------|------------|------|-----------------|--|
| Wimbleball Lake      |      | SS977307   | 2000 | IPG             | On muddy, weedy bank, NE of causeway                     |
| Wimbleball Lake      |      | SS973318   | 2000 | IPG             | Lots of plants around reservoir NE of road               |
| Wimbleball Lake      |      | SS976317   | 2003 | SRPG            | Plentiful on margins of lake                             |
| Wimbleball Lake      |      | SS97843227 | 2020 | GEL, ITS, LE    | 1 pl in flush from small spring in drawdown zone         |
| Minehead Golf Links  |      | SS995460   | 2003 | JP              | 1m <sup>2</sup> patch on fresh mud banked up on sea wall |
| Clatworthy Reservoir |      | ST032307   | 2000 | IPG             | Fairly plentiful around upper margin of reservoir        |
| Clatworthy Reservoir |      | ST031308   | 2001 | PRG, IPG        | On shore of reservoir                                    |
| Clatworthy Reservoir |      | ST03303077 | 2020 | GEL, LE, CMLn   | 100s on shore in damp mud                                |
| Clatworthy Reservoir |      | ST034304   | 2003 | WB, TCGR        | 3 patches  |
| Clatworthy Reservoir |      | ST037309   | 2003 | SRPG            | On upper reaches of water line                           |
| Clatworthy Reservoir |      | ST0331     | 2001 | SRPG            |  |
| Clatworthy Reservoir |      | ST047319   | 2001 | PRG, IPG        | On shore of reservoir                                    |
| Clatworthy Reservoir |      | ST045323   | 2001 | PRG, IPG        | On shore of reservoir                                    |
| Clatworthy Reservoir |      | ST0432     | 2016 | SRPG            | Few plants in flush where R. Tone enters lake            |
| Hawkrige Reservoir   |      | ST20603599 | 2005 | PRG, MLS        | Shore of reservoir                                       |
| Hawkrige Reservoir   |      | ST20623600 | 2005 | PRG, MLS        | Scattered along top of shore line                        |
| Hawkrige Reservoir   |      | ST20323598 | 2011 | SRPG            | 500 pl along shore, to ST20583599                        |
| Hawkrige Reservoir   |      | ST20583599 | 2011 | SRPG            | 500 pl along shore, to ST20323598                        |
| Hawkrige Reservoir   |      | ST20503602 | 2011 | SRPG            | 100 pl along the shore, to ST20533606                    |
| Hawkrige Reservoir   |      | ST20533606 | 2011 | SRPG            | 100 pl along the shore, to ST20503602                    |
| Hawkrige Reservoir   |      | ST20773610 | 2011 | SRPG            | 500 plants   |
| Hawkrige Reservoir   |      | ST21083643 | 2011 | SRPG            | Few plants on N shore, to ST21063643                     |
| Hawkrige Reservoir   |      | ST21063643 | 2011 | SRPG            | Few plants on N shore, to ST21083643                     |
| Durleigh Reservoir   |      | ST26703614 | 2013 | SRPG            | A few plants at the top of drawdown zone                 |
| Merriott             |      | ST449129   | 2006 | JP              | In damp hollow along track at Scotts Nursery             |
| Sutton Bingham       |      | ST54711047 | 2019 | EJMcD, EMcD, AF | 1 small pl in low draw-down zone of reservoir            |
| <b>VC6</b>           |      |            |      |                 |  |
| Westhay              |      | ST41974234 | 2017 | SRPG            | Several pl on disturbed soil, S side of peat void        |
| Westhay              |      | ST41984233 | 2017 | SRPG            | Several pl on disturbed soil, S side of peat void        |
| Westhay              |      | ST41994232 | 2017 | SRPG            | Several pl on disturbed soil, S side of peat void        |
| Westhay              |      | ST41994233 | 2017 | SRPG            | Several pl on disturbed soil, S side of peat void        |
| Westhay              |      | ST42004232 | 2017 | SRPG            | Several pl on disturbed soil of peat void                |
| Westhay              |      | ST42014229 | 2017 | SRPG            | Several pl on disturbed soil of peat void                |
| Westhay              |      | ST42014230 | 2017 | SRPG            | Several pl on disturbed soil of peat void                |
| Westhay              |      | ST42014235 | 2017 | SRPG            | 1 pl on disturbed soil, N edge of peat void              |
| Westhay              |      | ST42024229 | 2017 | SRPG            | Several pl on disturbed soil of peat void                |
| Chew Valley Lake     | SSSI | ST557591   | 2021 | RJH             | At Herons Green Bay                                      |
| Chew Valley Lake     | SSSI | ST55726027 | 2015 | RJH             | Edge of reservoir, in a few sites at Villice Bay         |
| Farrington Park      |      | ST632539   | 2000 | HJC, JFN        | Around pond at bottom end of golf course                 |



*Alopecurus aequalis* at Hawkrige Reservoir (2011). Photo: HJC