

Brassica oleracea* L. var. *oleracea

Wild Cabbage

Native/Alien

GB: Least Concern

England: Least Concern

GB Scarce

VC5 Rare; VC6 Lost

A short-lived perennial found as a native on maritime cliffs, its distribution confused by garden escapes. In VC5 J. Sowerby found the species “abundant on the banks of the Yeo between Ilchester and Mudford” but Murray (1896) considered this to be an escape from cultivation. In 2013 Steve Parker found one plant on a low cliff at Kilve, confirmed by Tim Rich from photographs as this species and mapped as native on the BSBI Distribution Database. In VC6 recorded by Rev. J.C. Collins at Berrow, Brean and Steep Holmes [*sic*] (Watson, 1837). Seen on Steep Holm by T.B. Flower in 1887 and on Brean Down by F.A. Knight (White, 1912), but never seen by White himself or by Murray (1896). Roe (1981) considered it doubtful that *Brassica oleracea* ever occurred in Somerset as a truly wild plant. As a probable native, this species is scattered around the coast of Britain; records from the coast of Somerset are within the native range of distribution.

VC5

Kilve SSSI ST14274436 2013 SJP 1 plant on low cliff