

## ***Briza media* L.**

## **Quaking-grass**

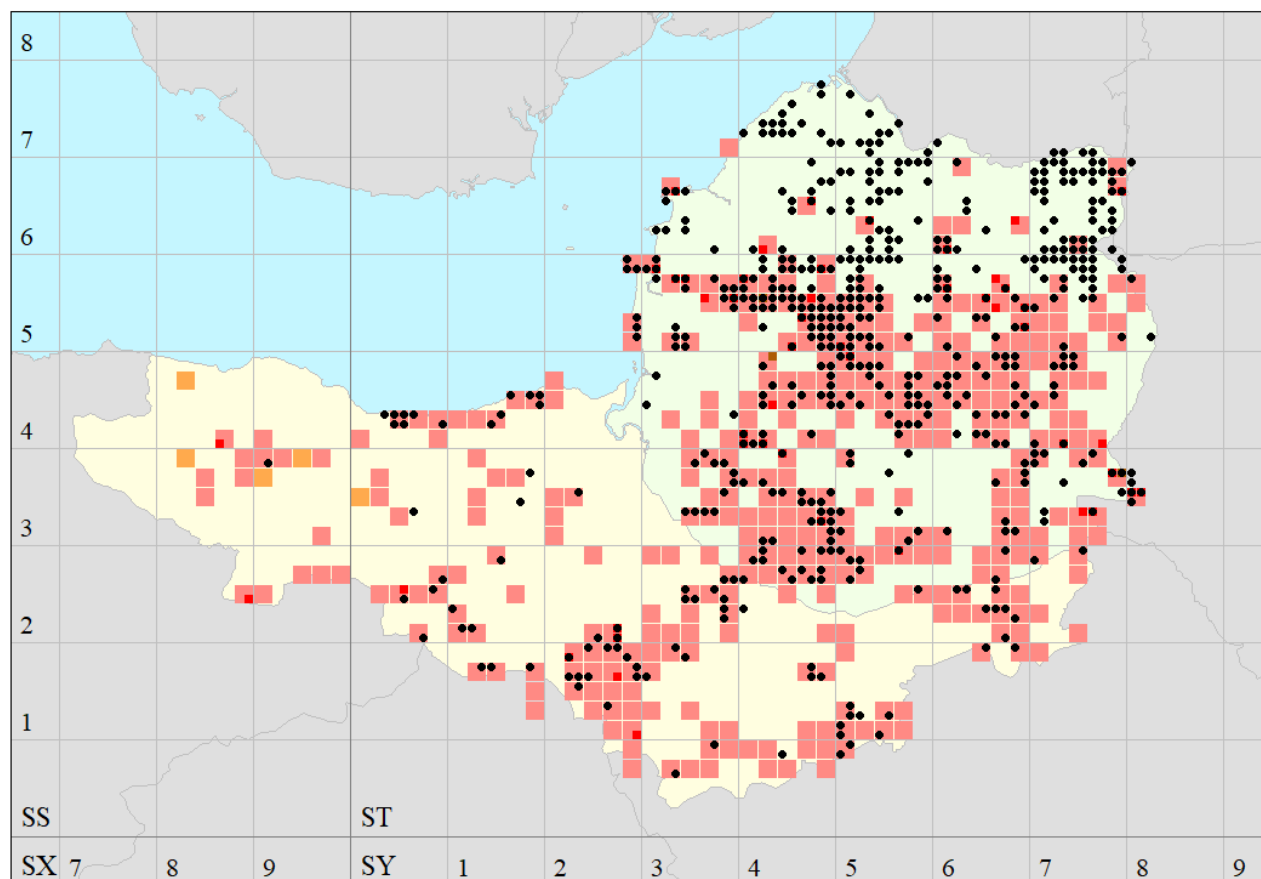
Native

GB: Least Concern

England: Near Threatened

VC5 Not Scarce; VC6 Not Scarce

A rhizomatous perennial grass of species-rich calcareous grassland, neutral meadows, disused quarries and the drier areas of fens; less often in acidic grassland. In VC5 apparently almost lost from Exmoor: since 2000 only recorded at Thorne and Elworthy Barrows. Elsewhere, absent from many areas due to lack of suitable habitat and not re-found in some areas where mapped by Green *et al.* (1997). In VC6, most common on the Mendip Hills, the Poldens, White Sheet Downs and on the Oolitic Limestone around Bath, but scattered elsewhere. *Briza media* has declined in England due to loss of habitat through improvement of grassland and eutrophication of verges. It has particularly declined in the Southeast and Southwest of England. In Somerset there appears to have been a general decline in some areas and an almost complete loss of this species from Exmoor.



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