

***Cakile maritima* Scop**

Sea Rocket

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

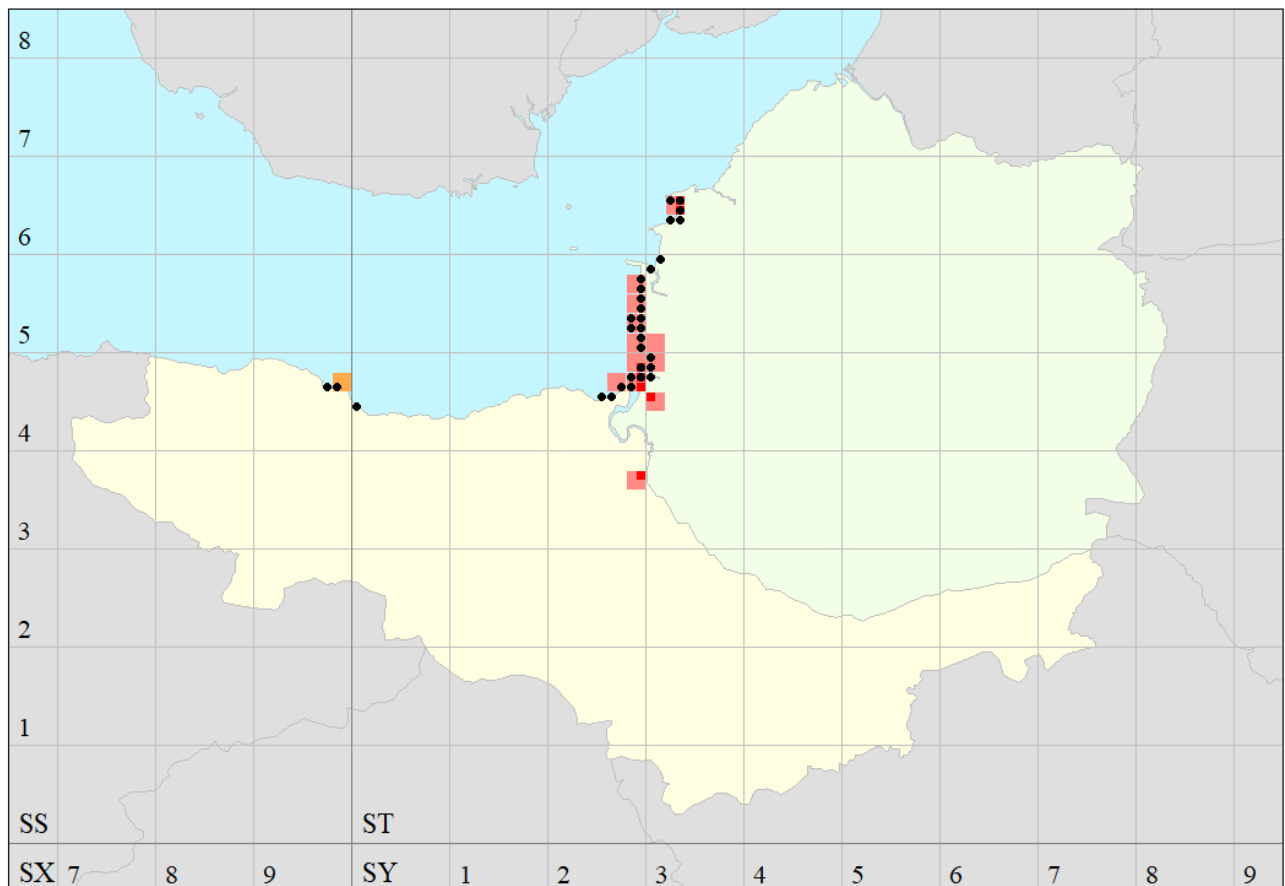
VC5 Scarce; VC6 Not Scarce

An annual of sandy shores and fore-dunes, occasionally found on shingle. In VC5 noted by Collins for Minehead and Steart (Watson, 1837). Murray (1896) knew it at Blue Anchor and Steart. In 1916 this species was found by N.G. Hadden on the shore at Minehead Warren, but was not seen there again until 1979 when N.V. Allen discovered one clump in sand at the edge of the golf links. In 2012 it was found on the beach at Minehead and in 2022 Graham Lavender found a single plant at Minehead Warren. There have been no further records at Blue Anchor, but since 2007, plants have been recorded periodically on Dunster Beach, just to the west. Marshall (1914) remarked that it “still grows in plenty at Steart Point” and added a record for Stert Island, where it was collected by Thomas Clark in 1817. This species still occurs on Stert Island and at Stert Point, and was found in 2000 just west of Steart, at Wall Common, where it persists. In 1990, a single plant was found in Bridgwater, by the docks (ST298376), a rare inland record for this species (Green *et al.*, 1997). In VC6, Murray (1896) knew this species at Burnham, along the coast from Berrow to Brean, at Weston-super-Mare and at Clevedon. It is still to be found from Burnham to Brean, at Uphill dunes, Weston-super-Mare and Sand Bay, usually growing on the strandline. In 1990, Ian Green found this species growing on a sand heap at Huntspill, the only record for VC6 away from the coast. There have been no recent records from Clevedon or indeed anywhere north of Sand Bay: this species is restricted to the sandy and occasionally shingle beaches of Somerset. *Cakile maritima* is distributed around the coast of Britain and Ireland. Its exact location and number of plants fluctuates greatly from year to year. In Somerset its range remains stable, apart from the lack of recent records for Clevedon or anywhere inland.



Cakile maritima at Burnham-on-Sea (2015). Photo: FJR

VC5					
Minehead Beach		SS97364644	2012	SJP	20 plants on beach
Minehead Beach		SS97474641	2022	GEL	Just above high tide area on sandy beach
Minehead		SS9746	2014	SRPG	
Minehead Warren		SS98484647	2022	GEL	1 pl on dune, landward side of coastal path
Dunster Beach		ST00204483	2012	SJP	50+ plants on sandy beach
Dunster Beach		ST00434459	2021	GEL, RFitzG, WFS	Scattered along shingle edge.
Dunster Beach		ST00484455	2017	GEL, RFitzG, JW, TW	1 large clump
Dunster Beach		ST00524456	2017	GEL, RFitzG, JW, TW	Several plants in flower at high water mark
Wall Common	SSSI	ST2545	2000	SRPG	
Wall Common	SSSI	ST26344556	2021	GEL, AB, APR, LE	1 large plant in flower on sand near inlet
Bridgwater Bay	SSSI	ST26354555	2017	EJMcD, CML	1 plant amongst Sand Couch, on sandy shingle
Bridgwater Bay		ST263455	2022	SRPG	Many plants at top of beach on sand
Stear		ST27954683	2022	SJP, GEL	Scattered plants above high water mark.
Stert Point		ST28234700	2022	SJP, GEL	100+ plants scattered along strandline
Stert Island	SSSI	ST2947	2007	EJMcD, SJP, KP, JBu	
Stert Island	SSSI	ST29084807	2014	HJC, RGC, SJP, ITS	2 plants on dunes on W side of island
Stert Island	SSSI	ST29154822	2014	HJC, RGC, SJP, ITS	Many huge plants on E side of island
Stert Island	SSSI	ST29154826	2014	HJC, RGC, SJP, ITS	Many plants on shingle on E side of island
Stert Island	SSSI	ST291483	2014	HJC, RGC, SJP, ITS	Few plants on W side of island
Fenning Island		ST28754677	2022	SJP, GEL	Many plants on sandy ground



Distribution of *Cakile maritima* in Somerset mapped using MapMate.
 Black dots: post-2000 records; pink squares: 1987-1999; sepia squares: pre-1987 records