

## *Carlina vulgaris* L.

## Carline Thistle

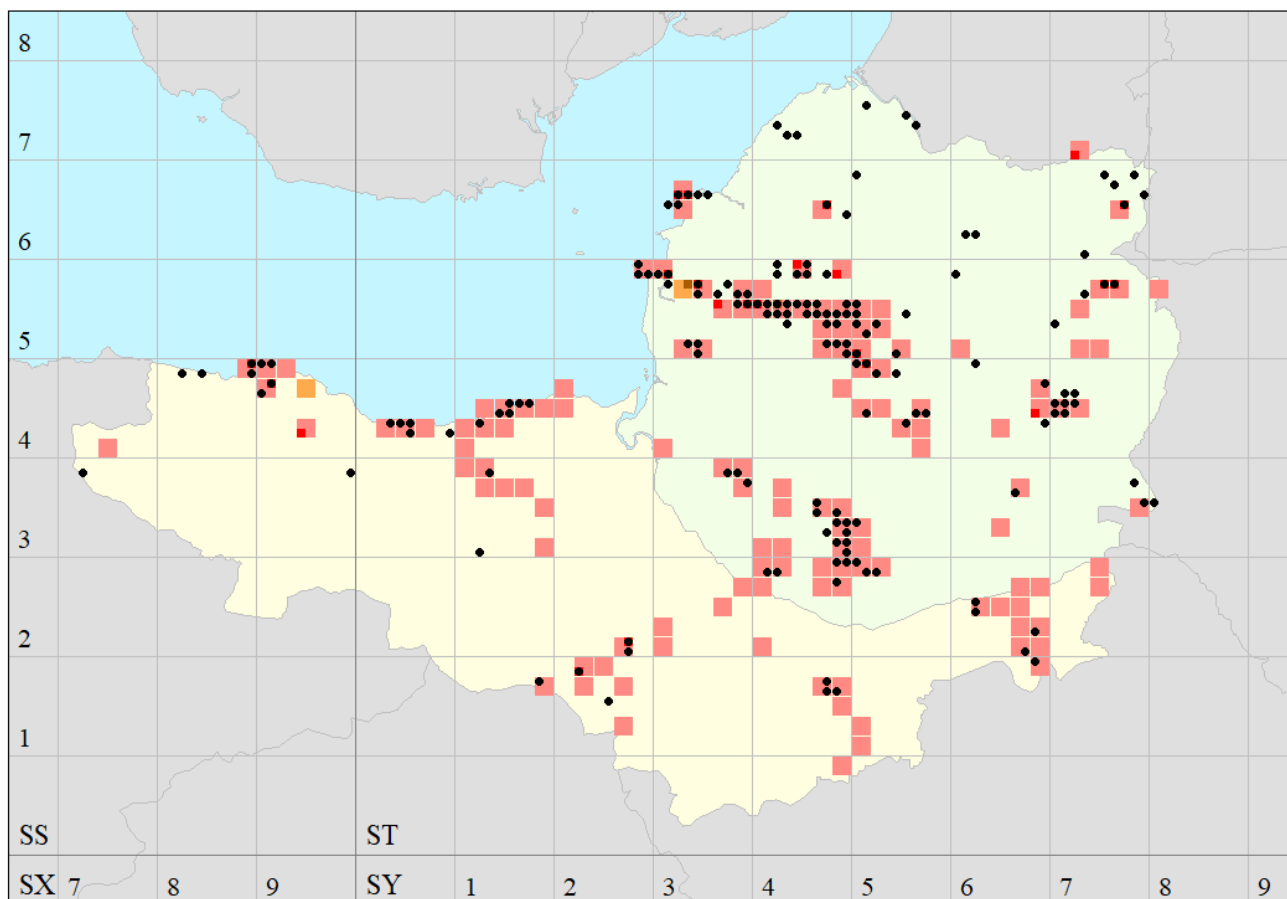
Native

GB: Least Concern

England: Near Threatened

VC5 Not Scarce; VC6 Not Scarce

A monocarpic perennial herb of open calcareous grassland, coastal cliffs and sand dunes, rocky ledges and the floors of disused quarries. In Somerset this species has a patchy distribution, absent from many areas but locally frequent in others. In VC5, found particularly on rocky cliffs at the coast. There are few recent records elsewhere in areas where it was recorded by Green *et al.* (1997), around the Quantocks, the Blackdowns, west of Yeovil and in the far east of the vice-county. In VC6 *Carlina vulgaris* is most frequent on the Mendips and coastal cliffs, but is scattered elsewhere, for example in the Avon Gorge, on Oolitic Limestone around Bath and on the chalk of White Sheet Downs. This species has declined in England due to destruction of habitat and lack of grazing. It appears to have declined significantly in VC5, whereas in VC6 it is still found in most former areas.



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