

Campanula patula L.

Spreading Bellflower

Native

GB: Endangered

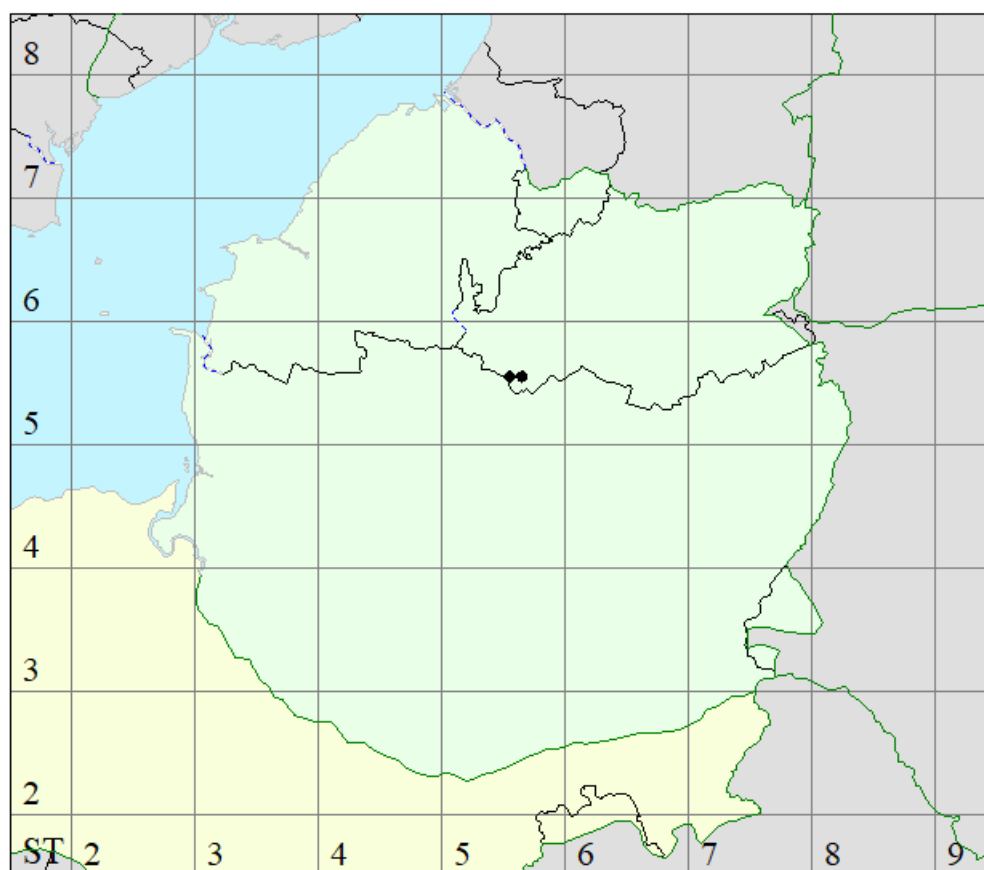
England: Critically Endangered

Section 41

GB: Scarce

VC5 Lost; VC6 Rare

A biennial, found in open sunny woodland clearings or rough grassland at the edge of woodlands, usually on poor soil. In VC5 long lost, the only record made by J. Sowerby who found a single plant at Barwick (Murray, 1896). In VC6, seen by Maton on banks bordering the road to Castle Cary, not 200 yards from Brewton [Bruton] (Murray, 1896) and recorded by Murray on a lane between Castle Cary and Cole railway station. Watson recorded this species below Creech Hill, Bruton (Marshall, 1914). Murray found one plant by the roadside at Wells in 1883; H.F. Parsons found it once at Vallis (Murray, 1896). It was reported from Compton Martin Wood, West Harptree and in a field at East Harptree near the Manor House, where it was seen by T.B. Flower in 1888 (White, 1912). There have been no subsequent records at any of these sites. Rutter (1829) recorded *Campanula patula* at East Harptree Combe, where it persists on the steep side of the combe and also on a steep grassy slope, formally the ramparts of Richmond Castle. This species has declined dramatically throughout much of its range. Seed may survive buried in the soil for many years, but lack of disturbance of the soil is believed to be a major cause of decline. With its stronghold in the Welsh borders, this species is at the southwest edge of its range in Somerset.



Distribution of *Campanula patula* in North Somerset (VC6), mapped using MapMate.
Black dots are post-2000 records

VC6

Harptree Combe	SSSI	ST55805537	2018	HJC	1 pl at top of steep grassy slope
Harptree Combe	SSSI	ST55805538	2022	HJC, SMHM, JPe	3 pl near top of steep slope
Harptree Combe	SSSI	ST55815537	2020	HJC, FJR	12 pl on steep grassy slope
Harptree Combe	SSSI	ST55815538	2022	HJC, SMHM, JPe	5 pl near base of steep grassy slope
Harptree Combe	SSSI	ST56085569	2022	HJC, SMHM, JPe	3 pl under trees, edge of ramparts of castle
Harptree Combe	SSSI	ST56085570	2021	HJC	6 pl on outer rampart of Richmond Castle
Harptree Combe	SSSI	ST56095569	2022	HJC, SMHM, JPe	1 pl on inner rampart of Richmond Castle
Harptree Combe	SSSI	ST56095570	2021	HJC	9 pl on inner rampart of Richmond Castle
Harptree Combe	SSSI	ST56095567	2018	HJC	1 pl on mound at S edge of Richmond Castle
Harptree Combe	SSSI	ST56095568	2020	HJC, FJR	2 pl by mound at S edge of Richmond Castle
Harptree Combe	SSSI	ST56105568	2021	HJC	2 pl by mound at S edge of Richmond Castle



Campanula patula at East Harptree (2008). Photo: HJC