

***Valerianella eriocarpa* Desv.**

Hairy-fruited Cornsalad

Native/Alien

GB & England: Least Concern

GB Rare

VC5 Absent; VC6 Rare

An annual of dry open habitats, found in arable fields, disturbed grassland, walls and quarries. This species is believed to be native in Dorset, where it occurs on thin soils in either open calcareous grassland or parched maritime grassland, in communities almost entirely composed of native species (Pearman & Edwards, 2002). Elsewhere it is considered by some to be an introduction, although Stace (2019) treats it as probably native. In Somerset, only ever recorded in VC6 where it was first found in 1935, a quantity in one spot on slopes above Cheddar, discovered by C.I and N.Y. Sandwith and H.W. Pugsley, thought to be a recent introduction there (Sandwith, 1936). In 1979 it was found by R.G.B. Roe at Charlton Mackrell on waste ground bordering a quarry. Ian Green recorded 20 plants there on quarry waste in 1993 and one plant in the quarry in 1998. In 2000, hundreds of plants were recorded on sparsely vegetated old tarmac between the quarry spoil bank and the railway. By 2022 this site had become more vegetated but over a hundred plants were found on areas disturbed and sparsely vegetated due to rabbit grazing. No details can be found for a record for ST76 (1970-86) mapped by Preston *et al.* (2002). Since 2000 most records have been along the south and southwest coast of England (from the Isle of Wight westwards) and also on Great Orme in North Wales. The site in Somerset is one of only two recent inland sites, the other being in Herefordshire.

VC6

Charlton Mackrell	ST532290	1993	IPG	20 plants in one small area on quarry waste
Charlton Mackrell	ST533291	1998	IPG	1 plant in the quarry
Charlton Mackrell	ST534290	2000	SRPG	Hundreds on sparsely vegetated old tarmac
Charlton Mackrell	ST53502908	2022	HJC, FJR	32 plants on waste ground N of railway
Charlton Mackrell	ST53512908	2022	HJC, FJR	100+ plants on waste ground N of railway
Charlton Mackrell	ST53522909	2022	HJC, FJR	Few plants on waste ground N of railway



Valerianella eriocarpa at Charlton Mackrell (2022). Photo: HJC