

***Vaccinium vitis-idaea* L.**

Cowberry

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

VC5 Rare; VC6 Error

A small erect or decumbent shrub of acid substrates, including heathland, moors and open peaty woodland. In VC5 first discovered in 1917 by Rev. C.Q. Knowles in Smith's Combe, above East Quantockshead [*sic.*], at about 500 to 700 foot. Although he reported "quite a lot of it ... all along the high ridge between the two streams" (Marshall, 1918), no trace could be found again for decades. In 1958, A.D. and O.M. Hallam discovered numerous patches within an area of about 40 feet in diameter, about a quarter of a mile from what was believed to be the original locality (Roe, 1981). It is still to be found there, the only known site in Somerset. In VC6, reported by Rutter (1829) above Weston and by J.C. Collins in Watson (1837) at Leigh Woods near Bristol: both these unconfirmed reports are believed to be errors (Murray, 1896; White, 1912; Roe, 1981). *Vaccinium vitis-idaea* is common in Scotland, northern England and Wales, and found at scattered sites in Ireland. In southern England it is only found as a native plant in Somerset and at two sites on Dartmoor.

VC5

Herridge, E. Quantoxhead	SSSI	ST12944092	2023	SRPG	Large patch on hillside
Herridge, E. Quantoxhead	SSSI	ST12944093	2023	SRPG	Large patch on hillside
Herridge, E. Quantoxhead	SSSI	ST12954091	2023	SRPG	Large patch on hillside
Herridge, E. Quantoxhead	SSSI	ST12954092	2023	SRPG	Large patch on hillside
Herridge, E. Quantoxhead	SSSI	ST12954093	2011	JW	200+ pl under bracken over c. 25m x 10m
Herridge, E. Quantoxhead	SSSI	ST12954094	2023	SRPG	Scattered on hillside
Herridge, E. Quantoxhead	SSSI	ST12984090	2023	SRPG	Many scattered patches
Herridge, E. Quantoxhead	SSSI	ST12984092	2023	SRPG	Many scattered patches



Vaccinium vitis-idaea at Herridge, near East Quantoxhead (2023). Photo: HJC