

***Phleum arenarium* L.**

**Sand Cat's-tail**

Native

GB: Least Concern

England: Near Threatened

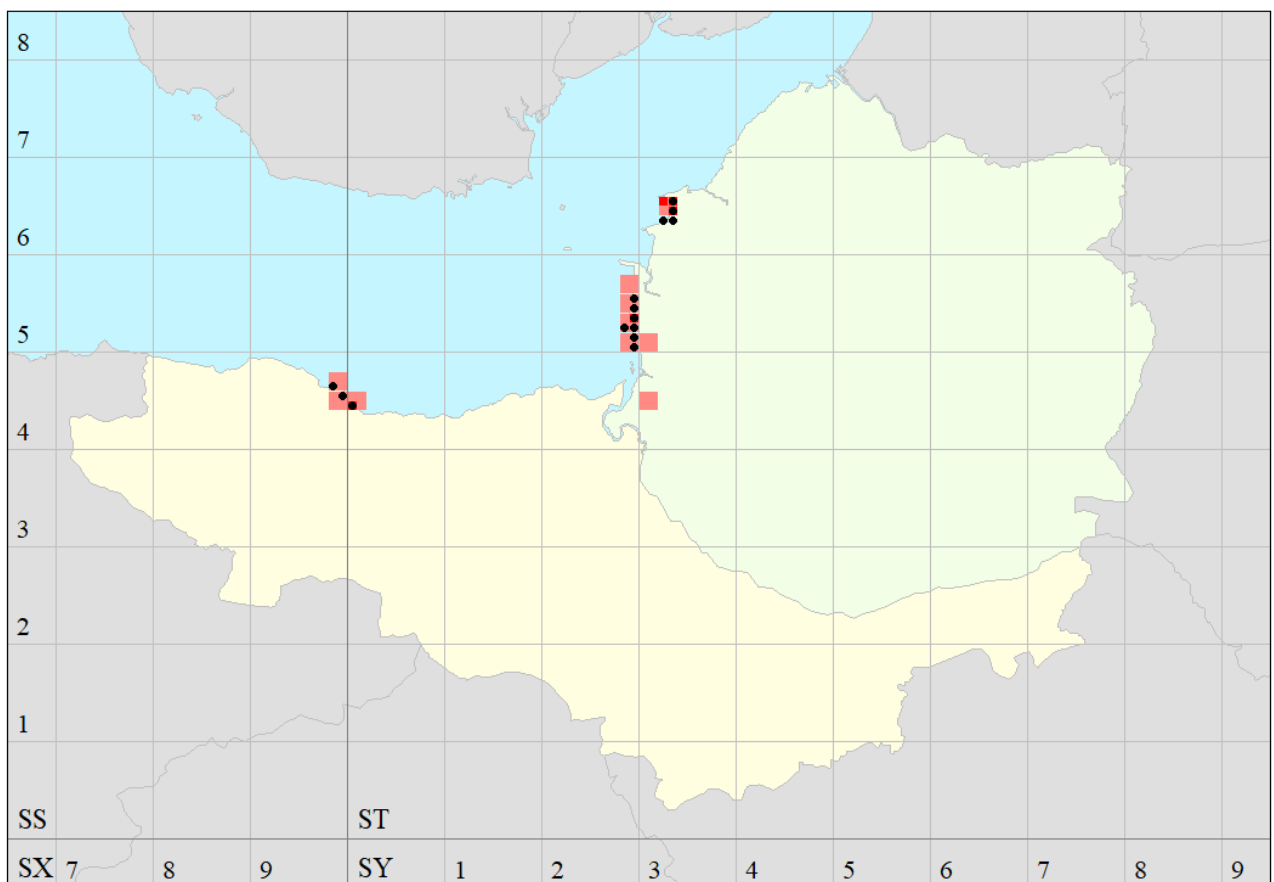
VC5 Rare; VC6 Scarce

An annual grass of coastal sand-dunes and sandy shingle, rarely inland on coastal heaths. In VC5 known to Murray (1896) only at Minehead Warren, where there are recent records at scattered locations on the beach and golf course, at Warren Point, and also further east at Dunster Beach. Marshall (1914) noted this species at Steart, but there are no subsequent records. In VC6, known to White (1886) "on the sands of the Channel shore between Burnham and Weston-super-Mare; also on Kewstoke sands". Still to be found along the coast at Berrow Dunes, north of Burnham-on-Sea, just extending to Brean, and also at Sand Bay, Kewstoke. It is no longer "abundant in many places" as noted by Murray (1896). Formerly recorded at Tickenham by L. Grindon (Murray, 1896), although unconfirmed (Roe, 1981), at Clevedon by W. Watson in 1937, and on dumped sand at Huntspill by Ian Green in 1990: there have been no further records at these sites. *Phleum arenarium* is scattered around the coast of England and Wales, east Scotland, and Ireland. In Somerset it has been lost from some sites and is now restricted to the coast at Minehead and Dunster in VC5 and Berrow Dunes and Sand Bay in VC6.



*Phleum arenarium* at Berrow Dunes (2014). Photo: HJC

<b>VC5</b>					
Warren Point		SS9846	2005	CJG	Coastal path by edge of golf links
Minehead Warren		SS985465	2002	SRPG	Golf course
Minehead Warren		SS9846	2011	SRPG	Golf course
Dunster Beach		SS9945	2011	CJG	
Dunster Beach		ST00074494	2017	GEL, RFitzG, JW, TW	Scattered on sand
Dunster Beach		ST005445	1998	SRPG	
<b>VC6</b>					
Huntspill		ST34C	1990	IPG	As a casual on dumped sand
Burnham-on-Sea		ST35A	[1990]	AFSP	
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST2950	2014	SRPG	
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29625159	2018	SRPG	Many plants on sand dunes
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29775142	2014	HJC, FJR	Few plants on dunes beside footpath
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST28985247	2005	SRPG	A few plants
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST2852	2006	SJP	
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST290520	2014	SRPG	Few plants on dunes
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29335238	2012	MAW	Scattered plants
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29305253	2014	SRPG	On dunes
Berrow Dunes LNR	SSSI	ST29265394	2014	HJC, FJR	On dunes behind <i>Hippophae</i>
Berrow Dunes (N)		ST2954	2008	SRPG	
Brean (S)		ST2955	2008	SRPG	
Brean		ST25Y	1989	AFSP	Scattered about on sand dunes
Sand Bay (S)	SSSI	ST328633	2019	HJC	Frequent on dunes
Sand Bay	SSSI	ST331639	2019	APR	On dunes
Sand Bay	SSSI	ST331645	2020	HJC, FJR	Few plants on dunes
Sand Bay	SSSI	ST331653	2012	HJC, FJR	On sandy area at back of dunes
Sand Point	SSSI	ST3265	1998	SJP	



Distribution of *Phleum arenarium* in Somerset, mapped using MapMate.  
Black dots are post-2000 records; red squares are 1987-1999 records