

***Galeopsis speciosa* Mill.**

Large-flowered Hemp-nettle

Archaeophyte

GB: Vulnerable

England: Vulnerable

VC5 Extinct; VC6 Extinct

An annual of cultivated ground, often amongst root crops on peaty soil. In VC5 only recorded once, in a potato field at Merriott, where it was found in abundance by Miss S. Hastings in 1974. First recorded in VC6 in 1894, when a solitary plant was found by Miss G. Harte on the border of a cultivation at Ebbor. Found several times on the peat moors, first by C.I. and N.Y. Sandwith in 1920 in cultivated land between Ashcott Station and Glastonbury; in 1921 by N.G. Hadden on a roadside immediately south of Shapwick Station; in 1954 by E.F. Payne on Walton Heath; in 1956 by Mrs D.H. Perrett and E.J. Hamlin on Butleigh Moor and in 1968 by P.J.M. Nethercott at Street Heath. Last recorded in VC6 by Miss P. Twiney in 1969 at Gare Hill, where it had been growing in a vegetable garden for some years. Always rare in Somerset, this species has declined markedly in Britain, particularly in southern England.