

***Stachys arvensis* (L.) L.**

Field Woundwort

Archaeophyte

GB: Near Threatened

England: Near Threatened

VC5 Not Scarce; VC6 Scarce

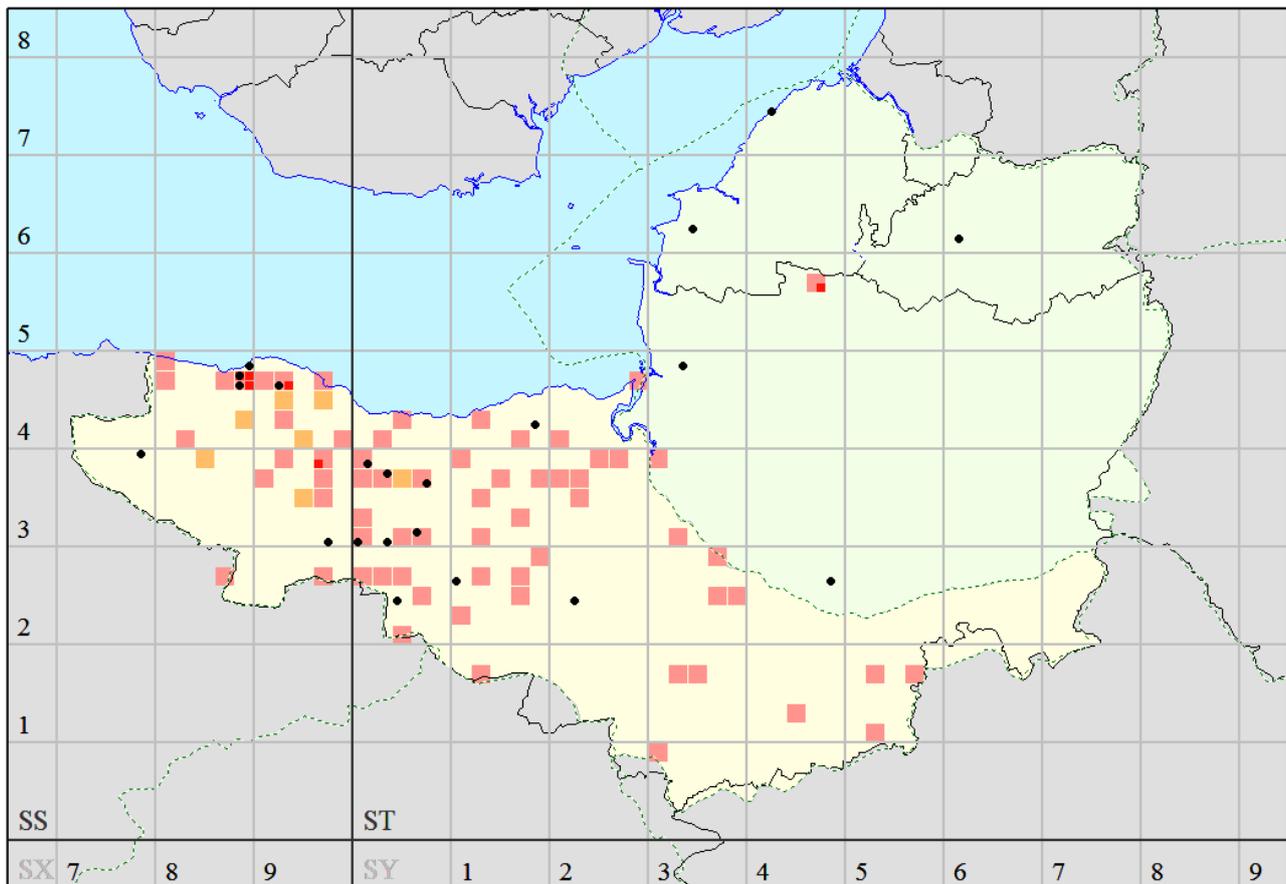
An annual of cultivated land, disturbed road verges and waste ground, usually on non-calcareous soils. Murray (1896) and White (1912) regarded this species as common; however *Stachys arvensis* clearly declined in Somerset during the Twentieth Century as Roe (1981) stated that it was “Frequent in the west and formerly elsewhere but now rare in the rest of the county”. Green *et al.* (1997) reported it “Scattered over most of VC5, with only one recent record in VC6 from arable fields above Tynning’s Farm”. Green *et al.* (2000) mapped several other records in the north of VC6; however most of these were pre-1987 records. In VC5 there have been recent scattered records, particularly across Exmoor. This species has been recorded in the Porlock area for a century, recently found by Graham Lavender in an arable field in 2014 and at Community Allotments in 2016. At Dean’s Cross, Selworthy, it was recorded in an arable field in 2002 by Caroline Giddens and recorded in increased quantity in 2012. It is also a plant of disturbed ground and has been found several times on the shores of Clatworthy Reservoir and Wimbleball Lake. In 2011, Simon Leach found a single plant on bare soil associated with roadworks in Castle Street, Taunton. In the east of VC5, however, there have been no post-2000 records. In VC6, there have been five scattered records since 2000, three of them on disturbed ground. Although still widespread in Britain and frequent over parts of its range, this species has declined in some areas, probably due to the increased use of broad-spectrum herbicides and fertilisers, together with an increase in winter cropping; it has clearly declined in Somerset.



Stachys arvensis at Clatworthy Reservoir (2012). Photo: HJC

VC6

Burnham Moor Lane	ST33984842	2014	EJMcD & CML	1 large plant in disturbed gateway in drove
Weston-super-Mare	ST34506245	2006	JWebb	Rough ground at end of footpath between roads
Watt's Quarry Lane	ST484263	2009	JP	50 plants in winter stubble field
Watt's Quarry Lane	ST486262	2009	JP	10 plants in winter stubble field
Tyning's Farm	ST471567	1991	IPG	1 plant on edge of arable field
Walton-in-Gordano	ST42697431	2014	CML & EJMcD	A few plants in waste ground
[Portishead Down]	ST454753	1987	[BRERC]	
Nover's Common	ST587704	1992	[BRERC]	
Stanton Wick Farm	ST6161	2003	PMM	1 plant



Distribution of *Stachys arvensis* in Somerset, mapped using MapMate. Black dots are post-2000 records; red squares are 1987-1999 records; sepia squares are pre-1987 records. (BRERC records are not mapped).