

## ***Bromus hordeaceus* L. subsp. *ferronii* (Mabille) P.M. Sm. Least Soft-brome**

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

GB Scarce

VC5 Absent; VC6 Rare

A winter annual grass of bare areas on exposed cliff edges and shingle beaches. Absent from VC5, this diminutive grass was first recorded in Somerset in 1938: there is a specimen at **K** from ST35 (<http://bsbidb.org.uk/record/2cd4p9h.1ztec>). In 1953 a specimen (at **CGE**) was collected at Uphill at ST315584 (<http://bsbidb.org.uk/record/2cd4p9h.1zteg>), but there have been no subsequent records from this site. Proctor (1956) listed *Bromus* cf. *ferronii* from Brean Down; it was also recorded on Brean Down in 1968 by T.C.E. Wells (Willis, 1972) and is listed in the SSSI Citation for the site. The most recent record for Brean Down is a specimen in **RNG** collected at ST294587 by M.F. Watson, J.R. Akeroyd and S.L. Jury in 1985. The only currently known site for this species is Purn Hill, where it was first recorded by E.J. McDonnell, F. Rose and A.M. O'Dare in 1983. This taxon is distributed around the south and southwest coasts of England and Wales, with scattered sites in Scotland and Northern Ireland; sites in North Somerset are within this distribution.

### **VC6**

Purn Hill	SSSI	ST33205727	2011	SRPG	50 flowering spikes on rock ledges
Purn Hill	SSSI	ST33215715	2011	SRPG	12 flowering shoots on W-facing rock outcrop
Purn Hill	SSSI	ST33175729	2015	HJC, FJR	Many in flower on top of cleared W-facing rocks
Purn Hill	SSSI	ST33195727	2015	HJC, FJR	Many in flower on top of cleared W-facing rocks



*Bromus hordeaceus* subsp. *ferronii* at Purn Hill (2015). Photo: HJC