

Eryngium campestre, 1990-2023, at least 6 fig grid ref

Best to Search: early July - late September

Yellow highlighting is for sites I favour visiting first

Site Name	Gridref	Date	Comment
Cholderton Estate, Reservoir Field area	SU24504372	27-Jul-19	One plant, planted on the reservoir. This was from seed, collected in 2015 by Tony Mundell under licence from Natural England, from the plant found beside the A34 at Sutton Scotney. The collected seed was sent under the licence to the Millenium Seed Bank at Wakehurst Place and some of it was grown on there to provide more seed for the Seed Bank.
Sutton Scotney Service Station, A34	SU459400	30-Aug-15	At SU45920 40077 where found by Paul Stanley. Companion plants in 1 metre square, <i>Malva sylvestris</i> , <i>Taraxacum</i> agg, <i>Senecio jacobea</i> and <i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i> .
Sutton Scotney, A34	SU459401	22-Aug-18	The single plant at SU4592 4011 has flowered well this year, photo taken. Searched the verge but no more plants of it found. [Clive Chatters reported that he diverted to drive past the site on 14 May 2020 and said 'I could see the dried-up remains of last year's flowering material but no fresh growth. Rather alarmingly, the verges up to a depth of 2m and the central reservation of most of the A34 through Hampshire was curling up, after having been freshly herbicided.'] [Paul Sterry confirmed on 12 Aug 2021 that there is no sign of the former plant.]
Sutton Scotney, A34	SU459401	18-Jul-16	Drove past and noted that the plant [at SU4592 4011] has reappeared and is now protected from mowing by a fence. [Evidently put there by EM Highways, as requested at the site meeting on 24 Sep 2015 - ARGM].
Sutton Scotney, A34	SU459401	24-Sep-15	Voucher specimen deposited at K. A site meeting was held with the EM Highways Agency to try to protect this plant (first found recently by Paul Stanley) from future mowing as it is only 60cm from the A34 kerb at SU45925 40114. The plant had collapsed and the stem was rotten at the base so Mervyn cut it off. However, beneath this he found two buds for next year's growth. Most of the seed (if there is any) will go to the Kew Millenium Seed Bank but a little may be used to raise more plants to plant out in a safer spot nearby. Mervyn has arranged this with Kew, the land-owner and Natural England (as it is a Schedule 8 species). Dissecting the fruits of the few capitula I took home (Mervyn took the vast majority) using my microscope, I could find hardly any seeds that looked viable. As requested by Natural England a leaf and a small piece of a few capitula will be sent to K as a voucher.
Sutton Scotney, A34	SU459401	06-Aug-15	One large plant beside the slip road onto the A34 at the northern edge of the northbound service station at SU4592 4012. Hearing of Paul's discovery, Brian Laney visited to see the plant on 15 August 2015 giving the grid reference as SU4592 4011. Jonathan Stokes also visited on 22 August and reported the grid reference as SU4592 4008. Paul returned briefly on 23 August 2015 and Ginnie Copsey also visited on 30 Aug 2015.

I have omitted some earlier records, or duplicates, with the same grid reference.

It sounds like the plant at Sutton Scotney Services was herbicided to death by the Highways Agency (re-named National Highways in Aug 2021) despite my earlier meeting with several of their staff at the site on 24 Sept 2015.