

***Equisetum hyemale* L. Rough Horsetail**

Native

VC5 Absent; VC6 Extinct

An erect evergreen plant with simple scabrous stems, arising from rhizomes, growing in damp clay or sandy soil, particularly along shaded stream banks, but also on sand dunes. In Somerset, only ever known from one site, on damp sandy ground near the railway station at Weston-super-Mare. First observed by Mr H. Corder of Taunton in 1900, and described by White (1912) as “abundant in a sandy field”. The last mention of this species in Somerset was by Miller (1933), who reported that the site was being rapidly overwhelmed by rubbish tips and poultry pens and predicted that the species could not last more than a year or two longer. The exact date of its disappearance is not known but the site was subsequently built upon. A record made by Dr Davis in 1802 on the canal bank at Bath was listed by Babington (1834) but was never confirmed (White, 1912). *Equisetum hyemale* has a largely northern distribution, with only a few scattered sites in the south of England.