

***Hymenophyllum tunbrigense* (L.) Sm.**

**Tunbridge Filmy-fern**

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

VC5 Rare; VC6 Absent (or Extinct?)

A small rhizomatous fern with delicate translucent fronds, restricted to very sheltered, shaded, humid habitats. Only ever found at two sites in VC5, one in the Quantocks and one on Exmoor, and persisting at both. Known on damp mossy rocks in the wooded valley of Alfoxton Glen, Holford since 1860, where it was first reported by Collins (Murray, 1896). Later found by R. Blakiston in 1890 in Hawk Combe near Porlock, where it was described as plentiful (Murray, 1896). Recorded once in VC6, by Sole, in a shady lane near Shepton Mallet, in 1782 (White, 1912), but the record was never confirmed. This species has a mostly western distribution in Britain and Ireland, with a few exceptions, for example sites in Sussex. The two populations in Somerset are at the eastern edge of the main western area of distribution.

**VC5**

Hawk Combe	SSSI	SS879457	2009	SRPG	Frequent on rock outcrops on N-facing slope
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Alfoxton Wood	SSSI	ST15364117	2006	SJP	Large colony on steep side of combe
Alfoxton Wood	SSSI	ST154411	2009	HJC, CK, MARK, FJR	Several patches on both steep sides of combe



*Hymenophyllum tunbrigense* at Hawk Combe, near Porlock (2009). Photo: HJC