

***Inula crithmoides* L.**

Golden-samphire

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

GB Scarce

VC5 Absent; VC6 Rare

A perennial herb of sea cliffs and saltmarshes. In Somerset this species was first recorded by Sir Joseph Banks upon rocks on the south side of Steep Holm in 1773 (specimen in **BM**). White (1912) noted that it still grew only on the south side of the island; however Green *et al.* (2000) stated that it had also been discovered on the north side. It is still to be found at two sites on Steep Holm: on rocks and stonework at South Landing and on rocks at the west end of the island. In 1955 a single large plant with many flowering stems was discovered at the north end of Berrow saltmarsh by A.J. Willis. It was believed to have arrived by seed from the colony on the southern cliffs of Steep Holm (Sandwith & Sandwith, 1956), but it failed to persist. This species is found at a few sites around the coast of Ireland, only at the Mull of Galloway in Scotland and at scattered localities around the coast of Wales and southern England, from Anglesey to Suffolk; the Somerset sites lie within this distribution.

VC6

Steep Holm	SSSI	ST23116054	2014	HJC, EJMCD	4 clumps on wall/rocks to W of South Landing
Steep Holm	SSSI	ST224606	2014	HJC, EJMCD	On rocks, W end of island, near Rudder Rock



Inula crithmoides at South Landing, Steep Holm (2014). Photo: HJC