

Crouch, H.J. (date accessed). *Somerset Rare Plant Register account: Dryopteris cambrensis*. Somerset Rare Plants Group, www.somsetrareplantsgroup.org.uk [Last amended 02-03-2018]

***Dryopteris cambrensis* (Fraser-Jenk.) Beitel & W.R. Buck**
subsp. ***cambrensis*** **Narrow Male-fern**

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

VC5 Scarce; VC6 Scarce

A perennial semi-evergreen fern of acidic substrates on shady banks and in woodland. This species is part of the *Dryopteris affinis* complex, which was historically very poorly understood; *Dryopteris cambrensis* was not recognised as a separate taxon until the late twentieth century, when it was first described as *D. affinis* subsp. *stilluppensis* by Fraser-Jenkins (1980). It was later elevated to species level (Fraser-Jenkins, 2007). There are thus no historical records of *Dryopteris cambrensis* in Somerset, although there may be specimens in herbaria not yet determined as this species. In VC5, first found by Matt Stribley in 2007 on Maundown Hill near Wiveliscombe, the identification confirmed by Ken Trewren. In 2008 it was found again by Matt Stribley by Pinkery Pond, during a meeting of Somerset Rare Plants Group and the Wild Flower Society. There has only been one other record for VC5 so far, at East Water Valley, in 2011. In VC9, but administrative Somerset, this species was recorded at Bickham Wood (ST2608) and Wortheal (ST2708) by members of SRPG in 2015. In VC6 *Dryopteris cambrensis* was first found by Helena Crouch and Fred Rumsey on a bank at Pen Ridge, on the Greensand in the east of the county. It has since been found at Great Gains Wood and at Stockhill (initially by Alison Paul on a British Pteridological Society meeting in 2016): both are sites where Old Red Sandstone outcrops on the Mendips. Further sites have been found at Highbury and Ashwick, both on the Pennant Sandstones of the Coal Measures. It is likely that further sites for *Dryopteris cambrensis* will be discovered in areas of suitably acidic soils in Somerset. Although frequent in Scotland and Wales, this is an uncommon fern in England, with most sites in the north and west.



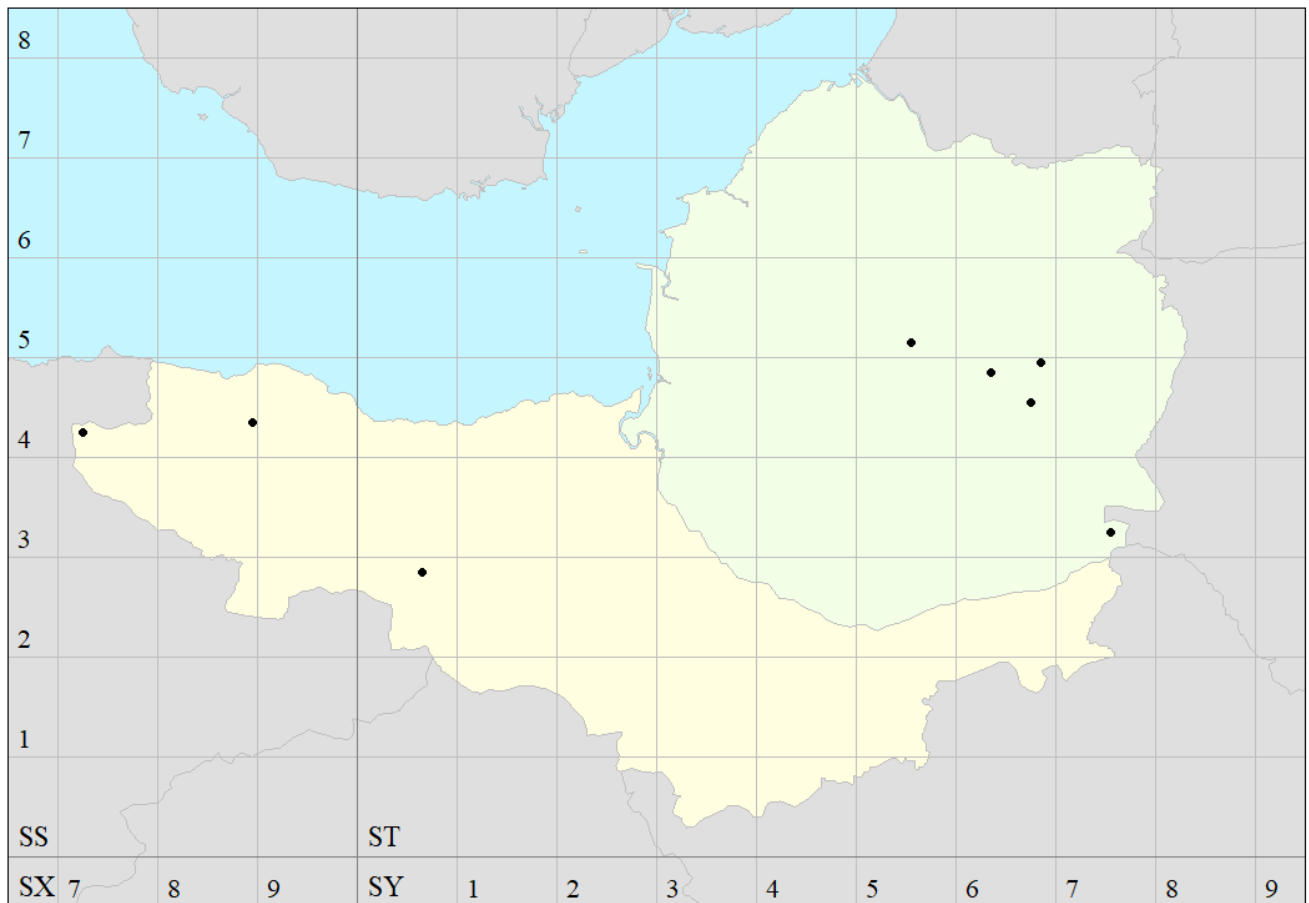
Dryopteris cambrensis at Highbury (2016). Photo: HJC

VC5

Maundown Hill		ST06042847	2007	MJS	1 plant in hedge bank, N side of track
Pinkery Pond	SSSI	SS72244230	2008	SRPG, WFS	At edge of Pinkery Pond
East Water Valley	SSSI	SS897430	2011	BPS	Several plants, N side of path by stream

VC6

Pen Ridge		ST75033279	2011	HJC, FJR	1 large plant on S side of old hedgerow
Great Gains Wood		ST67324579	2013	HJC, FJR	1 plant on W side of track in wood
Highbury		ST68924997	2016	HJC, FJR	1 plant on bank of stream in wooded valley
Stockhill		ST55695164	2016	HJC, BPS	1 large plant on N side of track in wood
Stockhill		ST55685169	2017	HJC, FJR	5 plants under trees N of track in wood
Stockhill		ST55695169	2017	HJC, FJR	1 plant under trees N of track in wood
Ashwick		ST63854866	2017	HJC, FJR	3 crowns in Brown's Wood, just S of stream



Distribution of *Dryopteris cambrensis* in Somerset, mapped using MapMate.

Black dots are post-2000 records