

***Crepis foetida* L.**

Stinking Hawk's-beard

Archaeophyte

GB & England: Critically Endangered

Schedule 8

Section 41

VC5 Absent; VC6 Lost

An annual or biennial of disturbed coastal shingle, formerly also found on other open well-drained sites inland. In Somerset, recorded at four locations in VC6; however at least some occurrences have been non-native subspecies and all have been casual. First found at Bathampton [ST76] by C.E. Broome in 1867 (White, 1912) and collected from here by T.B. Flower on railway banks in 1870 (see <http://herbariaunited.org/specimen/301334/>) and on waste ground in 1871 and 1876. In 1897, found by S.T. Dunn in a disused lias quarry near Twerton, amongst aliens believed to have arrived with a maltster's barley waste, the barley being imported from Turkey (Dunn, 1897). In addition, Dunn listed *Rodigia commutata* Spr., now *Crepis foetida* subsp. *commutata* (Spreng.) Babcock in the quarry at Twerton. In 1939, found by C.I. Sandwith on waste ground at Bristol (Wallace & Wilmott, 1942); however Sandwith (1962) reported that this specimen (from the former Ashton Gate tip) had been subsequently identified by J.B. Marshall as subspecies *rhoeadifolia* (M. Bieb.) Čelak., native to Central and Eastern Europe. The last record for Somerset was made in ST74 during 1987-1999, possibly on a Wild Flower Society meeting (P.R. Green, pers. comm.), however no details can be found. The only recent records for Britain are from around Dungeness in Kent (see https://bsbi.org/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/rare-plant-register-accounts-C-Ci-Cy-March-2019.pdf), where this species may have persisted naturally as well as having been reintroduced, and from a reintroduction site at Rye Harbour in East Sussex.