

***Equisetum variegatum* Schleicher**

Variegated Horsetail

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

GB Scarce

VC5 Absent; VC6 Rare

A prostrate rhizomatous evergreen plant, with simple rough stems, found in dune-slacks, on the shores of lochs and on riverbanks. Now restricted to a single location in Somerset, this species was unknown in the county until around 1900, when it was found by Mr. Corder of Taunton on damp sandy ground near the railway station in Weston-super-Mare, growing with *Equisetum hyemale*. Persisting at that site until after *E. hyemale* had disappeared, it was last seen there in 1951 by E.J. Hamlin. Found in damp hollows north of Burnham by C.E. Moss in 1904 (White, 1912), it has persisted on the inland part of the dune system there and can still be found near Berrow church. Most easily seen on the area of grass between the road and the church, it is also known from damp hollows on the golf course, north and south of the church. With a distribution largely confined to the north and west of Britain and across Ireland, in Somerset this species is found at one of only a few scattered sites in the south.

VC6

Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29305225	2009	HJC, RGC, SJP	In open water around willow in dune slack
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST294525	1998	IPG	On golf course by scrub N of track to church
Berrow church		ST29465248	2014	SRPG	On green E of church, on area cut for turf



Equisetum variegatum at Berrow church (2014). Photo: FJR