

***Hieracium cyathis* (Ley) W.R. Linton**

Chalice Hawkweed

Native

GB: Near Threatened

England: Endangered

GB Rare

VC5 Absent; VC6 Rare

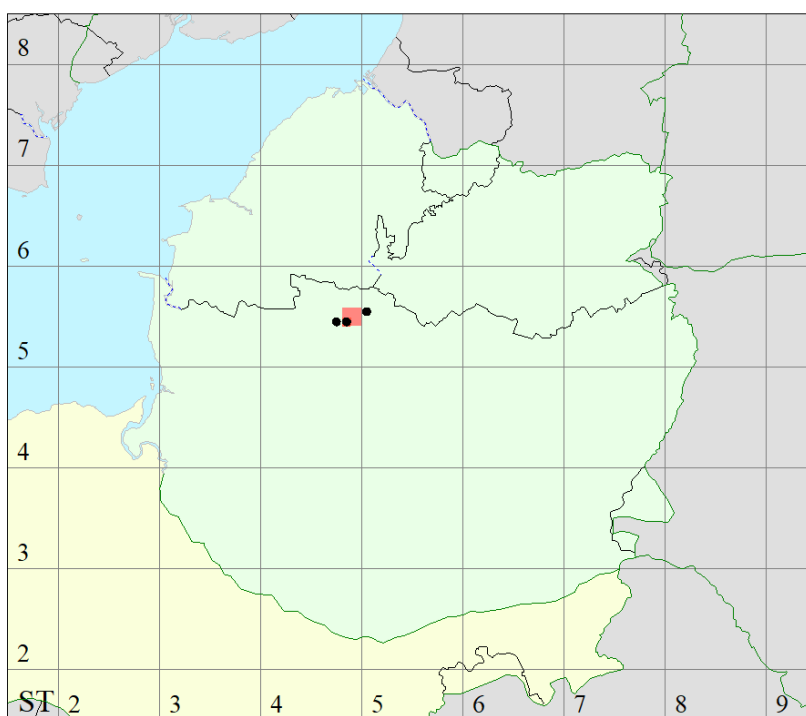
A phyllopodous perennial herb of ledges and crevices on limestone rock outcrops, endemic to Britain. In Somerset restricted to Cheddar Gorge and Ubley Warren (VC6). First collected in Cheddar Gorge in 1839 by C.C. Babington (**CGE**), this species was not recognised as distinct from *H. schmidtii* until 1898. Marshall (1914) described it as “In good quantity, chiefly about the middle of the pass”. Many collections were made during the twentieth century, which may have contributed to the decline of this species in the gorge; however the main reasons for decline are thought to be the increase in scrub and woodland on the cliffs and grassy slopes and grazing by Soay sheep (Rich & McDonnell, 2001). FitzGerald & McDonnell (1997) recorded plants in three sites, but in 2000 no plants could be found at two of these sites and only six plants were found in the gorge (Rich & McDonnell, 2001). During detailed surveys in 2016, six plants were found on the south side of the gorge and eight on the north side, scattered from the Horseshoe Bend to Bone Hole (Crouch, 2016). In 1963, G.G. Graham discovered *H. cyathis* at Charterhouse, where it was re-found in 1986 by Liz McDonnell at Ubley Warren, on rocks in a rake (linear lead mine working). 86 plants were recorded in 2000 by Rich & McDonnell (2001). During the 2016 survey, 81 plants were counted, however it is sometimes difficult to distinguish what constitutes an individual plant so this may not indicate a real loss. Plants here are easily accessible, but the site is clear of scrub and grazed by cattle, not sheep and goats as in the gorge. In England, this species is restricted to Somerset. It is also found at six (formerly seven) sites in South Wales, in Breconshire and Carmarthenshire (Rich *et al.*, 2008).



Hieracium cyathis at Ubley Warren (2018). Photo: HJC

VC6

Cheddar Gorge	SSSI	ST47175431	2018	HJC	1 pl on rocks at pinch point W of Horseshoe Bend
Cheddar Gorge	SSSI	ST47605454	2016	HJC, TCGR	1 pl on W side of rock nose, W of Pig's Hole
Cheddar Gorge	SSSI	ST47665456	2016	HJC, TCGR	1 pl in crevice on rock face W of Pig's Hole
Cheddar Gorge	SSSI	ST47685456	2016	HJC, TCGR	1 pl 2m below top of rock face W of Pig's Hole
Cheddar Gorge	SSSI	ST47705457	2016	HJC, TCGR	1 pl above and E of <i>Ulmus glabra</i> W of Pig's Hole
Cheddar Gorge	SSSI	ST47725457	2016	HJC, TCGR	1 pl high on cliff, just E of Pig's Hole
Cheddar Gorge	SSSI	ST47945452	2016	HJC, TCGR	1 pl in crevice 3m up cliff above road, N side
Cheddar Gorge	SSSI	ST47955453	2016	HJC, TCGR	3 pl on cliffs above road, N side, opposite tree
Cheddar Gorge	SSSI	ST48005467	2016	HJC	1 pl on cliff, N side of road below Bone Hole
Cheddar Gorge	SSSI	ST48075468	2016	HJC	3 pl on rock nose, N side of road below Bone Hole
Ubley Warren	SSSI	ST50455535	2016	HJC	11 pl on large rocks, S side of lead mining rake
Ubley Warren	SSSI	ST50465535	2016	HJC	6 pl on rocks, S side of lead mining rake
Ubley Warren	SSSI	ST50465536	2016	HJC	64 pl on large rocks, N side of lead mining rake



Distribution of *Hieracium cyathis* in Somerset (VC6), mapped using MapMate. Black dots are post-2000 records; red square is 1987-1999



Hieracium cyathis at Cheddar Gorge (2016). Photo: HJC