

***Hieracium subamplifolium* (Zahn) Roffey Balloon-leaved Hawkweed**

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

GB Scarce

VC5 Absent; VC6 Lost

A phyllopodous perennial herb of roadside and railway banks, rocky banks, cliffs and quarries, endemic to South Wales and the west of England. In Somerset, only known from VC6 where it was first found in 1965 by C.A. Howe at Charlton Mackrell (ST532288) and in an old gypsum quarry at Hurcot (ST507297), both specimens now in **CGE**, determined by P.D. Sell. In 1966, C.A. Howe found this species near Bruton, north of the railway track (ST709367) and in 1967 he collected it on a railway bridge [near Lovington] (ST594312), both specimens also determined by P.D. Sell. In 1969 he found it again by a railway track (Grid reference given as ST537302, but this is 1km north of a railway track). B.N.K. Davis recorded this species at Shipham Hill Quarry (ST4556) in 1975 and suggested that plants in Somerset may be introductions from W. Gloucs. or South Wales (Davis, 1977). In 1991 John Keylock recorded it at Charlton Mackrell, where he found a large patch on the railway bank, S side, near the bridge (ST535290), east of C.A. Howe's original site. It was still plentiful there in 1996 (Green *et al.*, 1997), but alas this site no longer looks suitable, being covered in scrub and brambles. There have been no subsequent records for this species in Somerset. Although native in South Wales and the bordering counties of England, the occurrence of this species in quarries and on railway banks led Roe (1981) to suggest that it was probably introduced in Somerset, which is outside its main area of distribution; however McCosh & Rich (2018) only suggest that it is introduced at its one site in Ireland.