

***Ophioglossum azoricum* C. Presl**

Small Adder's-tongue

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

GB Scarce

VC5 Rare; VC6 Absent

A small rhizomatous fern, with deciduous fronds present only in spring and early summer, found on well-drained, mostly maritime turf or open damp sandy or peaty hollows. Unknown in Somerset until 1994 when it was found by Ian Green at Land Combe on Exmoor, at the western boundary of the county. Thousands of fronds are present in short turf and under bracken on a SW-facing slope, where it appears to be increasing. This species is found in the New Forest and at scattered sites on the western coasts of Britain and Ireland, from the Isles of Scilly to Shetland, with recently discovered sites in NE Scotland. The Somerset site falls within this area of distribution.

VC5

Land Combe SS79924555 2018 GEL, ITS, JW 500-1000, below large Hawthorn under bracken



Ophioglossum azoricum at Land Combe (2011). Photo: HJC