

***Himantoglossum hircinum* (L.) Spreng.      Lizard Orchid**

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

Schedule 8

GB Scarce

VC5 Absent; VC6 Rare

A tuberous wintergreen perennial orchid found on calcareous grassland, verges, quarries and dunes. First found in Somerset by Miss Stewart in 1923, on an artificial bank in the grounds of a derelict building, at Burnham-on-Sea. In 1924, J.W. White counted 84 plants at this site. Seen on the dunes between Burnham and Berrow a few times during the 1930s and 1940s (see Green *et al.*, 1997), and by E.F. Payne in 1951, after which none were recorded for forty years. Rediscovered in 1991 when eight rosettes were found on the golf course at Berrow by Ian Green. Plants were seen in the 1990s by Miss C.M. Saunders in a different part of the dunes, but are now known only around the site found in 1991, where numbers have increased considerably, with 130 seen in 2001 and 259 rosettes counted in 2009. Although this is the only current site in Somerset, this species has made sporadic appearances elsewhere in VC6: found in about 1956 by A.H. Turner in a copse near Penselwood; appeared in a garden in Charlton Adam in 1975, where it persisted for two seasons; and flowered in 1978, apparently wild, in gardens in Tickenham and Clapton-in-Gordano. In England, *Himantoglossum hircinum* is at the northern limit of its range; the site in Somerset is at the western edge of its current distribution in England.



*Himantoglossum hircinum* at Berrow Dunes (2008). Photo: HJC

## VC6

Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29565170	2009	RGC, HJC, SJP	1 rosette in grassland N of the '3' sign
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29585176	2014	SRPG	1 in flower on dunes N of number '3' sign
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST296515	2009	RGC, HJC, SJP	143 rosettes on golf course, below '3' sign
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29605153	2014	HJC, FJR	2 plants in flower beside sandy track
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29625158	2014	HJC, FJR	5 plants by path below '3' sign
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29625159	2018	HJC, SRPG	Few plants near No 3 sign on golf course
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29655152	2014	SRPG	3 in flower on dunes N of number '3' sign
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29665159	2014	HJC, FJR	3 in fl on dune E of the number '3' sign
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST296516	2009	RGC, HJC, SJP	70 rosettes on golf course, N of '3' sign
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29635166	2014	SRPG	5 in flower on dunes N of number '3' sign
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29645155	2014	HJC, FJR	16 in fl on dune NW of the number '3' sign
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29645164	2014	SRPG	2 in flower on dunes N of number '3' sign
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29605170	2014	SRPG	11 in flower on dunes N of number '3' sign
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29715155	2014	HJC, FJR	51 flowering plants on dunes SE of green
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29745154	2008	SRPG	1 on golf course away from main colony
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST293520	1994	CMS	



Distribution of *Himantoglossum hircinum* in North Somerset (VC6) mapped using MapMate  
Black dots are post-2000 records; red squares are 1987-1999, monad or tetrad records