

***Hymenophyllum tunbrigense* (L.) Sm.**

Tunbridge Filmy-fern

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

VC5 Rare; VC6 Absent (or Extinct?)

A small rhizomatous fern with delicate translucent fronds, restricted to very sheltered, shaded, humid habitats. Only ever found at two sites in VC5, one in the Quantocks and one on Exmoor, persisting at both. Known on damp mossy rocks in the wooded valley of Alfoxton Glen, Holford since 1860, where it was first reported by Collins (Murray, 1896). Later found by R. Blakiston in 1890 in Hawk Combe near Porlock, where it was described as plentiful (Murray, 1896) and is still to be found in some abundance on Colescombe Rocks. Recorded once in VC6, by Sole, in a shady lane near Shepton Mallet, in 1782 (White, 1912), but the record was never confirmed. This species has a mostly western distribution in Britain and Ireland, with a few exceptions, for example sites in Sussex.

VC5

Colescombe Rocks	SSSI	SS879457	2009	SRPG	Frequent on rock outcrops on N-facing slope
Colescombe Rocks	SSSI	SS87924566	2020	GEL	200-300 fronds on rock outcrop E of main site
Colescombe Rocks	SSSI	SS87994566	2020	GEL	100 fronds on mossy damp N-facing rocks
Colescombe Rocks	SSSI	SS88014574	2019	GEL	1000's on damp rocks and on moss on rocks
Colescombe Rocks	SSSI	SS88044573	2019	GEL	Patch 1m x 10cm here and more surrounding
Colescombe Rocks	SSSI	SS88054573	2019	GEL	Patch 90cm x 20cm in small gully in rocks
Alfoxton Wood	SSSI	ST15364117	2006	SJP	Large colony on steep side of combe
Alfoxton Wood	SSSI	ST154411	2010	SRPG	15 colonies along banks of stream
Alfoxton Wood	SSSI	ST15416411	2011	AJPB, SLP	On rocky bank of ravine stream
Alfoxton Wood	SSSI	ST15434118	2019	SRPG	Small patches on both sides of stream
Alfoxton Wood	SSSI	ST15475411	2011	AJPB, SLP	On rocky bank of ravine stream



Hymenophyllum tunbrigense at Hawk Combe, near Porlock (2009). Photo: HJC