

***Equisetum variegatum* Schleicher**

Variegated Horsetail

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

GB Scarce

VC5 Rare; VC6 Rare

A prostrate rhizomatous evergreen plant, with simple rough stems, found in dune-slacks, on the shores of lochs, on riverbanks and in quarries. This species was found new to VC5 in 2020 by James McGill, on the floor of a disused quarry in the Quantocks. In VC6 first recorded in about 1900 by Mr. Corder of Taunton, on damp sandy ground near the railway station in Weston-super-Mare, growing with *Equisetum hyemale*. It survived at that site for longer than *E. hyemale*, but was last seen there in 1951 by E.J. Hamlin. Found in 1904 in damp hollows north of Burnham by C.E. Moss (White, 1912), it has persisted on the inland part of the dune system there and can still be found near Berrow church. Most easily seen on the area of grass between the road and the church, it has also been recorded in damp hollows on the golf course, north and south of the church. With a distribution largely confined to the north and west of Britain and across Ireland, in Somerset this species is found at one of only a few scattered sites in the south of England.

VC5

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| Staple Quarry | SSSI | ST11324156 | 2021 | GEL, JMcG | c. 500 shoots in moss on quarry floor |
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VC6

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| Berrow Dunes | SSSI | ST29305225 | 2009 | HJC, RGC, SJP | In open water around willow in dune slack |
| Berrow Dunes | SSSI | ST294525 | 1998 | IPG | On golf course by scrub N of track |
| Berrow church | | ST29465248 | 2014 | SRPG | On green E of church, on area cut for turf |



Equisetum variegatum at Berrow church (2014). Photo: FJR