

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

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

GB Scarce

VC5 Absent; VC6 Rare

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 bank on the south side of the railway, east of C.A. Howe's original site. It is still to be found there. 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. *Hieracium subamplifolium* is largely restricted to southern Wales and the bordering English counties. The site in Somerset is the most south-westerly apart from an outlying site at Shaugh Prior in South Devon.

VC6

Charlton Mackrell	ST535290	1991	JGK	Large patch on railway bank, S. side, near bridge
Charlton Mackrell	ST53572910	2021	NFS	Dense patch 20m x 5m on S bank of railway
Charlton Mackrell	ST53562909	2021	NFS	Dense patch 20m x 5m on S bank of railway