

Equisetum variegatum Schleicher

Variegated Horsetail

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

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 two of only a few scattered sites in the south of England.

VC5

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

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 to church
Berrow church		ST29455248	2023	HJC, FJR	In damp depression, grassland E of church
Berrow church		ST29465248	2023	HJC, FJR	In damp depression, grassland E of church



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