

***Hieracium rigens* Jord.**

Rigid Hawkweed

Alien

GB: Least Concern

England: Endangered

GB Scarce

VC5 Absent; VC6 Lost

An aphyllipodous perennial herb of sandy heaths, grassy places, open woodland and railway banks, native in south-east England but considered an introduction elsewhere. In Somerset, only recorded from two sites in VC6. In 1980 a large number of flowering plants were found by Dave Green on the track of a disused railway near Paulton (ST651574), the identification confirmed by C.E.A. Andrews. Still present in 1996, recorded there by Ian and Paul Green, the identification confirmed by D.J. McCosh, but there have been no subsequent records despite frequent searches. Later in 1980 this species was also found by Rob Randall on a disused rail track at Newton St Loe, the identification confirmed by C.E.A. Andrews. In 1996, Ian Green collected a specimen (**BM**) from the railway at Newton St Loe (ST707658), confirmed as this species by D.J. McCosh. There have been no further records. *Hieracium rigens* has declined in south-east England due to loss of heathland and has been lost from several other sites where it was considered to be an introduction.