Inula crithmoides L.  

Golden-samphire

Native
GB & England: Least Concern
GB Scarce
VC5 Absent; VC6 Rare

A perennial herb of sea cliffs and saltmarshes. In Somerset this species was first recorded by Sir Joseph Banks upon rocks on the south side of Steep Holm in 1773 (specimen in BM). White (1912) noted that it still grew only on the south side of the island; however Green et al. (2000) stated that it had also been discovered on the north side. It is still to be found at two sites on Steep Holm: on rocks and stonework at South Landing and on rocks at the west end of the island. In 1955 a single large plant with many flowering stems was discovered at the north end of Berrow saltmarsh by A.J. Willis. It was believed to have arrived by seed from the colony on the southern cliffs of Steep Holm (Sandwith & Sandwith, 1956), but it failed to persist. This species is found at a few sites around the coast of Ireland, only at the Mull of Galloway in Scotland and at scattered localities around the coast of Wales and southern England, from Anglesey to Suffolk; the Somerset sites lie within this distribution.

VC6
Steep Holm SSSI ST23116054 2014 HJC, EJMcD 4 clumps on wall/rocks to W of South Landing
Steep Holm SSSI ST2246606 2014 HJC, EJMcD On rocks, W end of island, near Rudder Rock

Inula crithmoides at South Landing, Steep Holm (2014). Photo: HJC