

***Turritis glabra* L.**

Tower Mustard

Introduction?

Endangered

UKBAP

Plantlife Back from the Brink species

Nationally Scarce

VC5 Absent; VC6 Extinct

A biennial herb of disturbed sandy soil, sometimes over chalk or limestone. In Somerset, only recorded at one site and long extinct. The first and only record was made by Rev. G. Swayne, in quarries above Bath (Withering, 1796), a record that was repeated by Babington (1834). Jenyns (1866) included this species in his "Selected list of the rarer and more interesting plants", but not in his list of probable aliens or the list of extinct species; however White (1912) considered this species to be an alien here. There have been no records for Somerset since 1796. Nationally, *Turritis glabra* suffered a dramatic decline before the 1930s due to loss of habitat and is now found at sites concentrated in Breckland, the Thames Basin and around the Severn. The site in Somerset was one of the most westerly.