

***Scilla autumnalis* L.**

Autumn Squill

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

GB Scarce

VC5 Absent; VC6 Lost

A bulbous perennial of short grassland, dune sands or terrace gravels, usually near the sea. In Somerset, only known from the Avon Gorge, but apparently eradicated during construction of the Clifton Suspension Bridge. Recorded by Sole on rocks in Burwalls Wood, facing the Hotwells (Collinson, 1791) and listed for Somerset by Watson (1835). T.B. Flower found it "on the Leigh side of the river before the bridge was finished" (White, 1912). Clifton Suspension Bridge was completed in 1864; there have been no subsequent records for this species in Somerset. Confined to southern England, this species declined prior to 1930 but its distribution is now considered stable. The Somerset site was at the northern edge of its national range.