

COLCHICACEAE

Meadow Saffron family

Colchicum autumnale L.

Meadow Saffron



Ex herb. J. L. J. Becher.

BRITISH BOTANICAL COMPETITION. 1864.

206 COUNTY *Lancaster*

English Name *Meadow Saffron*

NATURAL FAMILY *Colchicaceae*

Genus *Colchicum*

Specific Name *autumnale*

Locality where found *Portfield*

Date when found *October 12 1864*

Status & distribution: Naturalised in South Lancashire; established planting under pines at Freshfield (SD2708, PA Lockwood, 1999 & B Allen, 2009); dunes by housing at Ainsdale (SD3011, 2008); Warrington Cemetery (SJ6288, 2009); Spike Island, Widnes (SJ5184, 2012) & Queen's Park, Harpurhey (SD8500, 2012) DP Earl.

Former distribution: The records for between Whalley and Accrington (Mr. Leigh, *Grindon* 1859); meadow at Portfield Bar (SD73M, *Fl. Preston* 1865); Clerk Hill (*Fl. Stoneyhurst* 1872) are all though to be a single location from which there is a voucher specimen dated 1910 at BON. Plants were last recorded at Portfield Bar (JW Nixon, 1912). In 1909 CC Ritching noted that over 2,000 plants were uprooted from the Portfield Bar field by the farmer and thrown in a corner of the field with many being carried away. Also recorded from near Middleton (SD80M, *Buxton* 1849) with additional records for Lostock (SD6708, EB Bangerter, 1953) & Withington (SJ89G, Ex n.d. Ex herb. Schill).

Habitat: Planted amongst the sand dunes; in amenity areas and formerly in damp meadows.

Comments: Some records might be errors for *Crocus nudiflorus* and vice-versa.