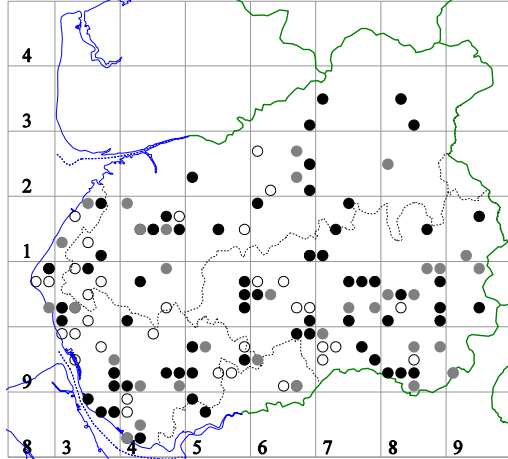


The South Lancashire Flora
(Vascular Plants Family 006 Osmundaceae)

LEPTOSPORANGIATE FERNS TRUE FERNS

OSMUNDACEAE Royal Fern family

Osmunda regalis L. Royal Fern



Mere Sands DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiohyte, widespread in the lowlands; very local in the upland districts.

Habitat: Heathland on peaty soils, dune-heaths, artificial habitats on the sandstone of railway cuttings, on the stonework of canal towpaths, mill lodges and reservoirs.

Comments: This species is now rare on the mosslands but has increased significantly as a colonist of artificial habitats. Some of the urban populations are considered to have originated from nearby cultivated plants. Plants occur at an altitude of 419m on Holcombe Moor (P Jepson).