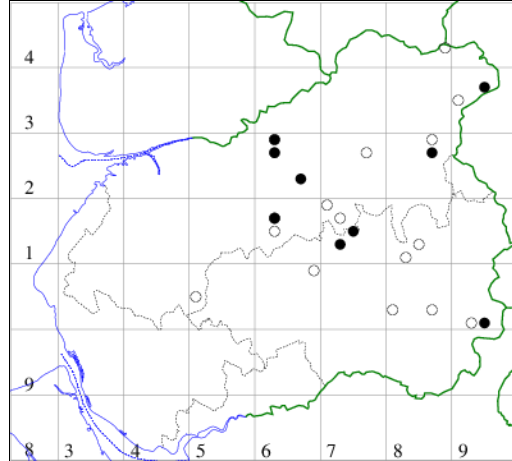


**The South Lancashire Flora**  
(Vascular Plants Family 013 Cystopteridaceae)

**LEPTOSPORANGIATE FERNS** TRUE FERNS

**CYSTOPTERIDACEAE** Bladder-fern family

*Gymnocarpium dryopteris* (L.) Newman Oak Fern



**Status & distribution:** Native, Near Threatened (Red List for England), SCINWE; Scarce (9), very local in the hill districts with populations appearing to decline.

**Habitat:** Rocky wooded cloughs, shaded banks above streams, screes and gaps in grit-stone walls.

*Gymnocarpium robertianum* (Hoffm.) Newman Limestone Fern

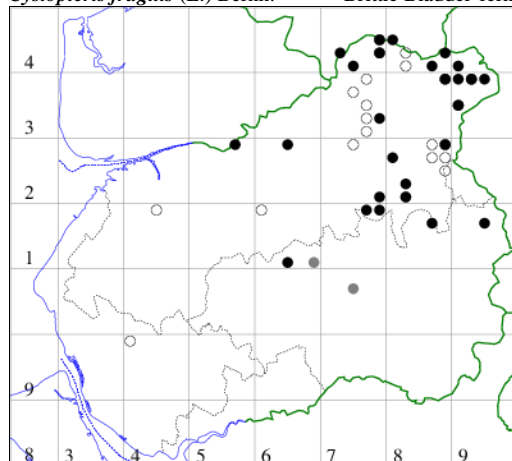
**Status & distribution:** Native, Nationally Scarce, Least Concern (Red List for England); SCINWE; Endangered at the vice-county level and only known from Cadshaw Clough (SD61Z, P Jepson, 1972 onwards).

**Former distribution:** Sheddon Clough (SD82Z, S Gibson); Broadbank (SD93C, S Gibson).

**Habitat:** Mortared wall in culvert watercourse growing in association with *Molinia caerulea*.

**Comments:** Plants may have been found at Cadshaw Clough by A Hitchon, 1964 and recorded in error as *G. dryopteris*.

*Cystopteris fragilis* (L.) Bernh. Brittle Bladder-fern



Wycoller DP Earl 2008



Foulridge Tunnel DP Earl 2019

**Status & distribution:** Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte; this species is occasional to locally frequent in the north-east of the vice-county.

**Habitat:** In the crevices of rock outcrops, damp mortared walls along lanes, walled watercourses and bridges over streams and rivers.

**Comments:** This species may have declined from rock outcrops but has increased in frequency as a colonist of artificial habitats.