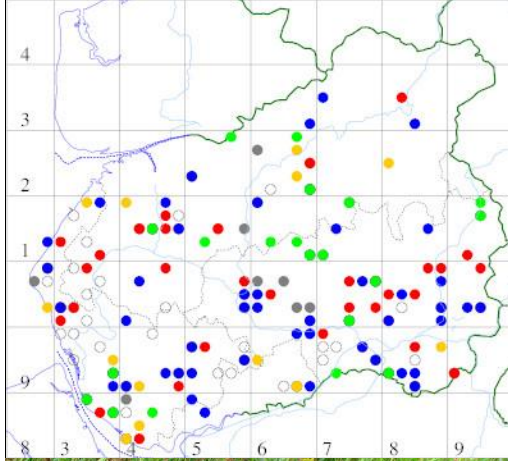


**LEPTOSPORANGIATE FERNS**  
**TRUE FERNS**

**OSMUNDACEAE** Royal Fern family

*Osmunda regalis* L. Royal Fern



Mere Sands DP Earl 2008

**Status & distribution:** Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte; 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 moss-lands 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).



Manchester, Bolton & Bury Canal  
J Sommerville 2008



Freshfield Heath DP Earl 2008