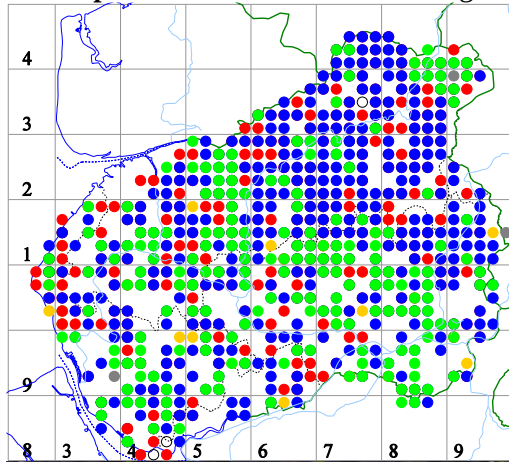


RANUNCULACEAE Buttercup family

Caltha palustris L. Marsh-marigold



Birkdale DP Earl 2009



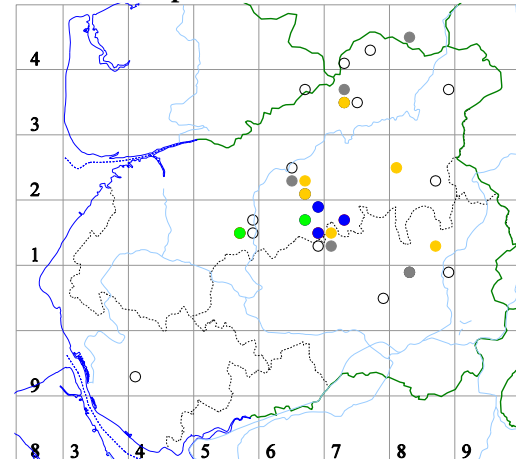
Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); widespread and locally frequent.

Habitat: Wet woods, stream and ditch sides, around ponds and mill lodges, along

canals where marginal habitat develops. A characteristic species of the remaining wet hay meadows of the hill districts.

Comments: The var. *radicans* (T.F. Forster) Hook. has been recorded from West Derby (SJ39W, J Dickinson, 1846); the edge of golf links, Birkdale (SD31C, DE Allen, c. 1950); above Pendle Hill Bridge (SD84B, A Hitchon, 1964); Northwood Forest Hills (SJ4299, M Pitchard & J Simons, 2017).

Trollius europaeus L. Globeflower



Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); SCINWE, Rare with an extant population at Bromley Bank (SD61T, P Bateson, 2020). In addition, attempts are being made to re-established a populaiaon at Charnock Richard (SD51S) by Lancashire Wildlife Trust & J Styles. An update on the survival of this species at Wayoh Reservoir (SD71I, Lancashire Endangered Plants Group, 2009); Cadshaw Clough (SD61Z, P Jepson, 2012) is sort.

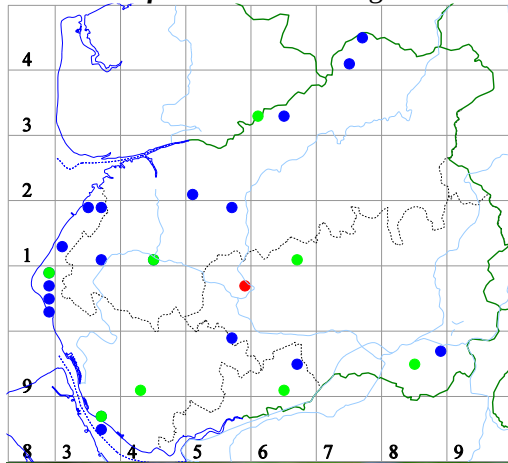
Former distribution: Populations at Whalley Nab (SD73H); Longworth Clough (SD61X) and many former sites have become extinct; formerly more widespread in the West Pennine Moors with additional populations to the north of Manchester and in the north-east of the vice-county; also known from Croxteth Hall (SJ49B, Hall 1839).

Habitat: Woodland flushes, old hay meadows and on banks by upland streams.

Comments: Two West Pennine Moors populations have declined significantly, however the exclusion of grazing at a further site resulted in a flourishing

population comprising some 3,000 blooms.

***Helleborus foetidus* L. Stinking Hellebore**



Ainsdale DP Earl 2008

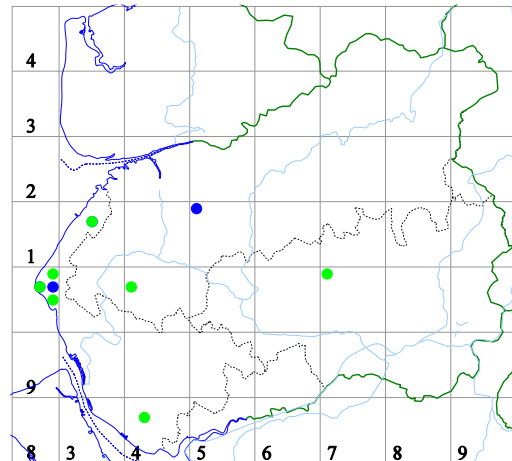
Status & distribution: Naturalised in South Lancashire; either planted or a garden outcast; several small populations between Hightown and Ainsdale, a widely scattered but increasing garden escape elsewhere.

Earliest record traced: Haigh Plantation (SD50Y, EM Stephenson, 1995).

Habitat: Woods, developing woodland on sand dunes, shaded railway banks, roadsides and cemetery margins.

***Helleborus argutifolius* Viv.**

Corsican Hellebore



Formby Point PH Smith 2009

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised.

Earliest record traced: Lifeboat Road dunes (SD2706, PH Smith, 2009).

Habitat: Sand dunes, parks, also as a pavement weed and a colonist of bare ground.

Comments: Native to Corsica and Sardinia.

***Helleborus viridis* L. Green Hellebore**



Downham DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Nationally Uncommon, Least Concern (Red List for England); SCINWE, Endangered at the

vice-county level, occurring at Old Woodfold Wood, Salmesbury (SD62J, CA Howe, 1957, still present PJ, 2003); along Ings Beck (SD74X, P Jepson, 1995 & Manchester Field Club, 2008) where only one plant was seen in 2008 and no plants have been seen recently.

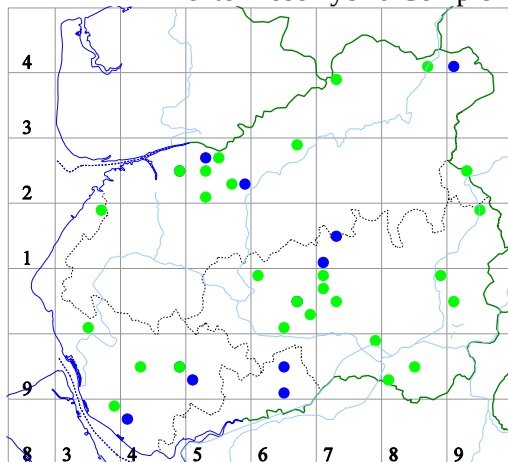
Former distribution: Langho (SD73C, Ms F Parkinson c.1912).

Habitat: Woods and woodland stream sides.

Comment: Probably native and long known from the Ings Beck locality.

***Helleborus x hybridus* Voss**

Lenten-rose hybrid Complex



Birchwood, Warrington DP Earl 2008



Daisy Hill Wood DP Earl 2020

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; occasional and usually planted.

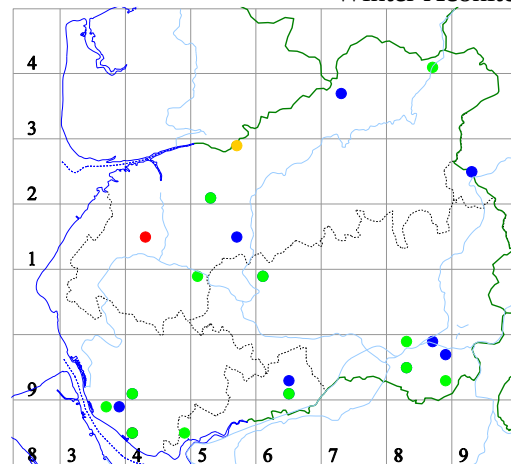
Earliest record traced: Nutter's Platt, Penwortham (SD5226, DP Earl, 2008).

Habitat: Woodlands, amongst ornamental shrub plantings, and by cottages.

Comments: Native to Turkey. Formerly recorded as *Helleborus orientalis* Lam. but plants established in South Lancashire will probably be hybrid derivatives and not the true species. Purple, cream and pale orange flowered 'hybrids' occur at Daisy Hill.

***Eranthis hyemalis* (L.) Salisb.**

Winter Aconite





Gorton DP Earl 2009

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; planted and subsequently established.

Earliest record traced: St Leonards Churchyard, Walton-le-Dale (SD5628, P Ross, 1986).

Habitat: Wooded areas of suburban areas, parks and in cemeteries.

Comment: Native to southern Europe.



Culcheth DP Earl 2009

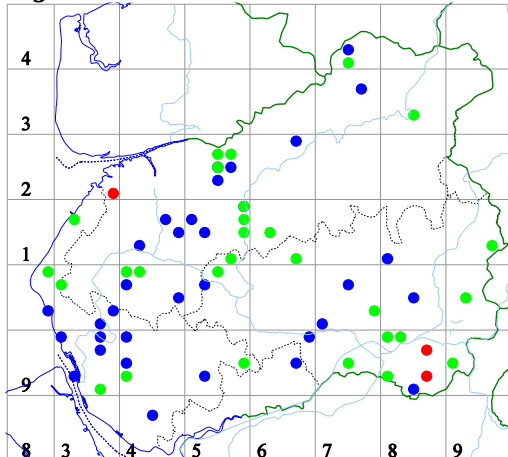
Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; widely scattered records across the vice-county with most records being from towns and villages.

Earliest records traced: The site of Banks Railway Station (SD3920, DP & J Earl, 1996); Burnage (SJ89R, AR Franks, 1996).

Habitat: Waste ground, pavements.

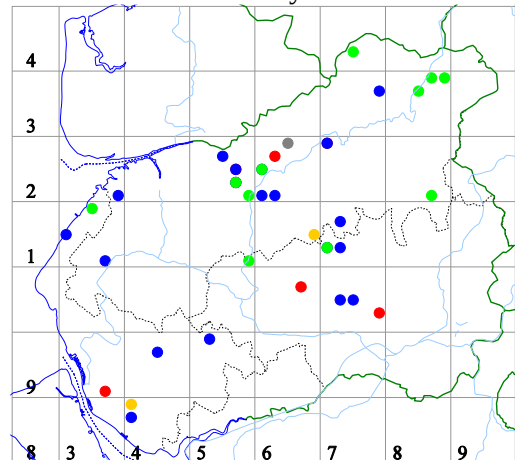
Comment: Native to southern Europe.

Nigella damascena L. Love-in-a-mist



Aconitum x *stoerkianum* Rchb. = *A. napellus* L. x *A. variegatum* L.

Hybrid Monk's-hood





Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; widely established.

Earliest record traced: There is a specimen of Monk's-hood at LIV collected by JD Massey in 1929 and estimated to SD41 (possibly from the Rufford area).

Habitat: Woodlands, shaded banks.

Comments: It is plausible that most if not all records are this hybrid. A population at Gale Clough appears to have been shaded out by encroaching woodland.

Comments: Of horticultural origin.

Records for *A. napellus sensu lato* have been placed here as plants occur as clumps and do not appear to increase from seeds. A population at Gale Clough appears to have been shaded out by encroaching woodland.



Westhoughton DP Earl 2012

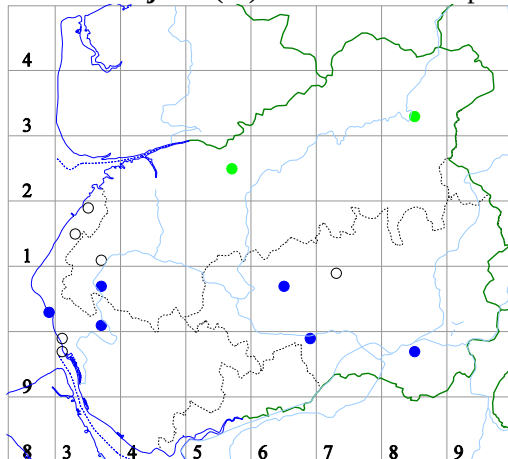
Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual and where wildflower mixes are sown.

Former distribution: Blundellsands (SJ39E, *Green* 1902); Birkdale (SD31H, *Green* 1902); Halsall (SD31Q, *Green* 1902); Bradford Park, Bolton (SD70J, *Greenlees & Holden* 1920); (SD31, 1953, BRC).

Habitat: Disturbed and waste ground.

Comments: Considered native to southern Europe and south-west Asia. Plants were frequently introduced with fowl grain. There may be some confusion with other members of this genus.

***Consolida ajacis* (L.) Schur Larkspur**



***Consolida hispanica* (Willk. Ex Costa)**

Greuter & Burdet Eastern Larkspur

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Darwen (SD62W, WH Western, n.d.).

Habitat: Disturbed and waste ground.

Comments: Native to southern and central Europe, the Mediterranean and south-west Asia. This species was formerly known as *Consolida orientalis*.

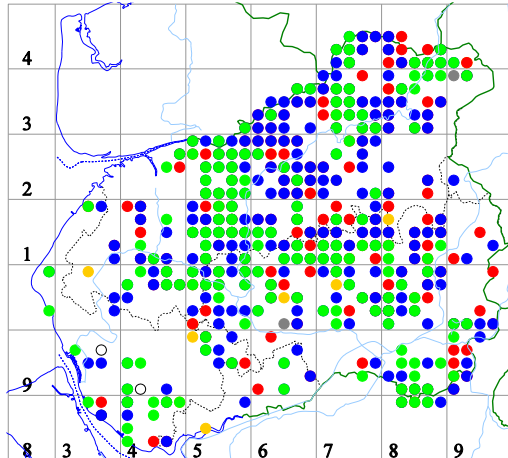
***Consolida regalis* Gray Forking Larkspur**

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Birkdale (SD31H, *LNFC* 1892); cornfield, Halsall (SD31Q, *Green* 1902); Formby (SD20Y, W Roberts, 1935); Hightown (SD20W, 1983, BRC).

Habitat: Disturbed ground, cornfield weed.

Comments: Native to mainland Europe.

Anemone nemorosa L. Wood Anemone



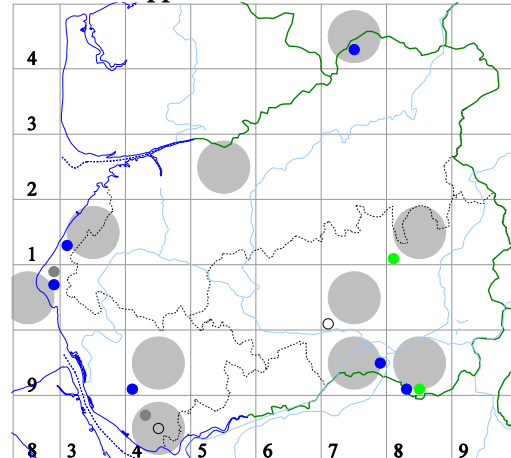
Burscough DP Earl 2009

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); locally frequent in well-wooded areas especially in the river valley systems; occasional elsewhere.

Habitat: Woodlands, shaded riverbanks, ditch banks, flushes, unimproved pastures and upland meadows; occasionally found along railway cuttings; abundant along a moorland section of roadside verge on the A675 near Belmont (SD61U, P Jepson) at 280 metres.

Comments: It is thought that many of the former Liverpool populations are probably extinct.

Anemone appennina L. Blue Anemone



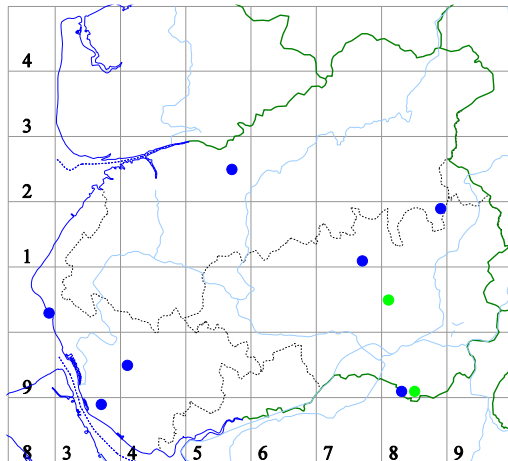
Didsbury J Somerville 2008

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; on dunes by Falklands Way, Ainsdale (SD31B, PH Smith, 2004); pavement weed, Salthill (SD7542, MP Wilcox, 2008); banks of the River Mersey, Darley Avenue, Didsbury (SJ8391, J Somerville, 2008); Stretford (SJ7994, DP Earl, 2013); Court Hey Park (SJ4190, J Simons, 2016); Larkhill, Formby (SD2807, PH Smith, 2018); Didsbury (SJ8490, A Williams, 2021); Bury Parish churchyard (SD8010, DP & J Earl, 2022).

Former distribution: Old Hut, Hale (SJ48R, Fisher & Webb 1872); former nursery, Gypsy Lane, Woolton (SJ48I, TS Duffy, 1946); Freshfield (SD20Z, Liverpool Botanical Society, 1947). Note also the 1950 checklist record for SD52.

Comments: Native to south-eastern Europe.

Anemone blanda Schott & Kotschy
Blue Anemone



Princes Park, Liverpool DP Earl 2006

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised-surviving; scarce but increasingly planted.

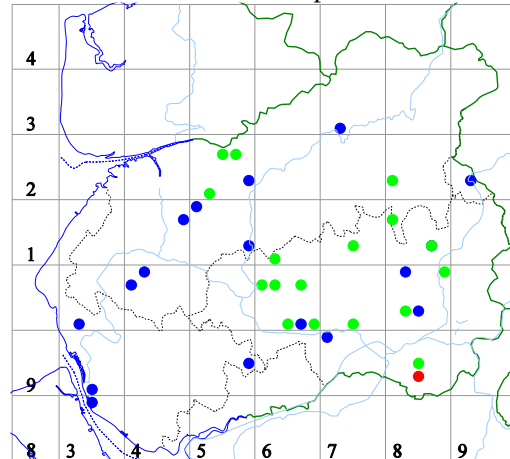
Earliest record traced: Banks of the River Mersey, Darley Ave, Didsbury (SJ8391, AR Franks, 2000).

Habitat: A riverbank, parks, cemeteries, memorial and amenity areas often planted beneath trees.

Comments: Native to south-eastern Europe. White-flowered forms are known to be in cultivation.

Anemone* x *hybrida Paxton = ***A. hupehensis*** (Lemoine) Lemoine x ***A. vitifolia*** Buch.-Ham. Ex DC.

Japanese Anemone



Aspull DP Earl 2020

Status & distribution: Neophyte-surviving; semi-established and increasing.

Habitat: Cottage walls, pavements, derelict land, canal banks and railways.

Earliest record traced: Withington (SJ89L, AR Franks, 1997).

Comments: Of horticultural origin.

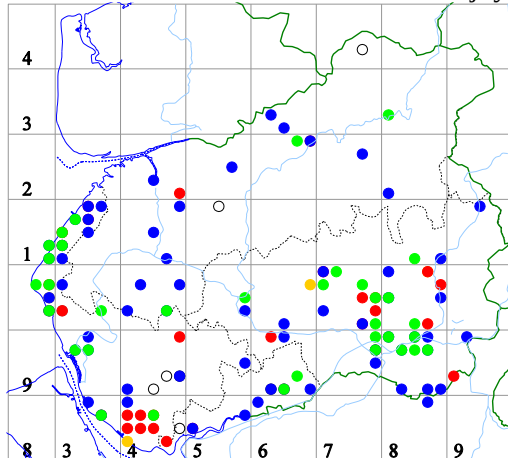
Anemone coronaria L. Crown Anemone

Status & distribution: Neophyte-planted; Blackburn area (SD62, P Jepson, n.d.); Kirkby (SD40A, RF Goodchild, 2004); Manchester (SJ8594, H Samira, 2020).

Habitat: Sown in "wildflower" seed mixes for urban amenity.

Comments: Native to the Mediterranean.

***Clematis vitalba* L.** Traveller's-joy



Ainsdale DP Earl 2009



Formby DP Earl 2020

Status & distribution: Naturalised in South Lancashire, or possibly native at some locations, increasing in frequency

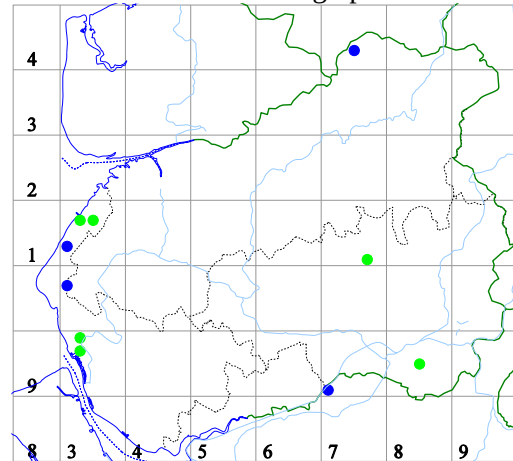
particularly along the coastal fringe but also increasing in urban areas particularly about Salford and Manchester.

Earliest record traced: Ditton Marsh (SJ48X, J Harrison, 1851).

Habitat: Sand-dune scrub, woods, hedgerows, canal and railway banks, urban shrubberies.

Comments: Assumed to be introduced at most locations although the natural spread of this species from the nearby native populations of North Wales should not be ruled out. Plants appear to be frequently introduced as part of the urban ecological enhancement programs from where they are rapidly spreading into adjoining habitats.

***Clematis tangutica* (Maxim.) Korsh**
Orange-peel Clematis



Formby PH Smith 2009

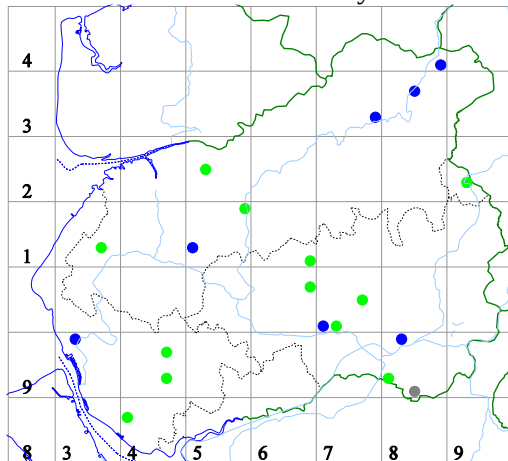
Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual.

Earliest records traced: Salthill Road, Clitheroe (SD7442, DP Earl, 2006) and Cable Street, Formby (SD3007, PH Smith, 2006).

Habitat: Generally, a pavement weed or a colonist of bare ground.

Comments: Native to China. Plants can persist for a few years at a location.

Clematis montana Buch.-Ham. ex DC.
Himalayan Clematis



Crosby Cemetery DP Earl 2009

Status & distribution: Neophyte-surviving.

Earliest record traced: Formerly semi-established on an old barn (recently converted for residence) near Parbold (SD51B, DP & J Earl, 1995).

Habitat: Parks and cemeteries, derelict ground, hedgerows and railway banks.

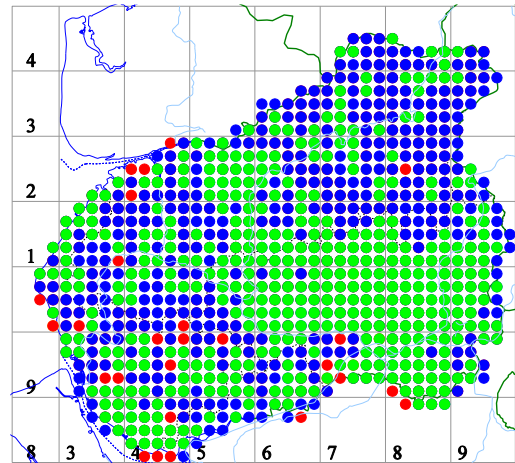
Comments: Native to Asia.

Subgenus 1 - RANUNCULUS

Ranunculus acris L. Meadow Buttercup



Lower Penwortham DP Earl 2010



Southport DP Earl 2008

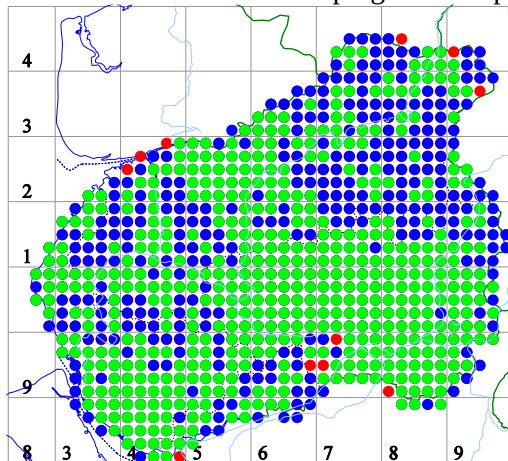
Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); common throughout most of the vice-county although surprisingly scarce in some areas such as mossland lanes in the Ormskirk district. Absent from the waterlogged moorland areas.

Habitat: Grasslands, dune turf, lawns and roadside verges.

Comments: There is a need to carry out further recording in some areas to see if this species is genuinely absent or has been overlooked. Several varieties have been recorded.

Ranunculus repens L.

Creeping Buttercup



Warrington J Somerville 2004



Walton-le-Dale DP Earl 2020

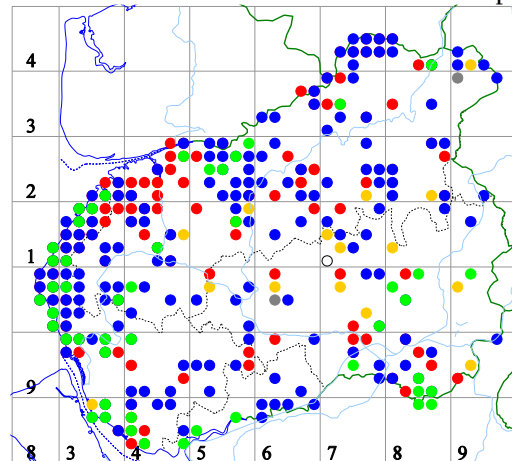
Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); very common throughout most of the vice-county.

Habitat: Grasslands, mire habitats and a weed of lawns and disturbed ground.

Comments: In general, this species is only scarce in upland areas where waterlogged moorland habitat predominates and on the more saline lower reaches of saltmarshes.

Ranunculus bulbosus L.

Bulbous Buttercup



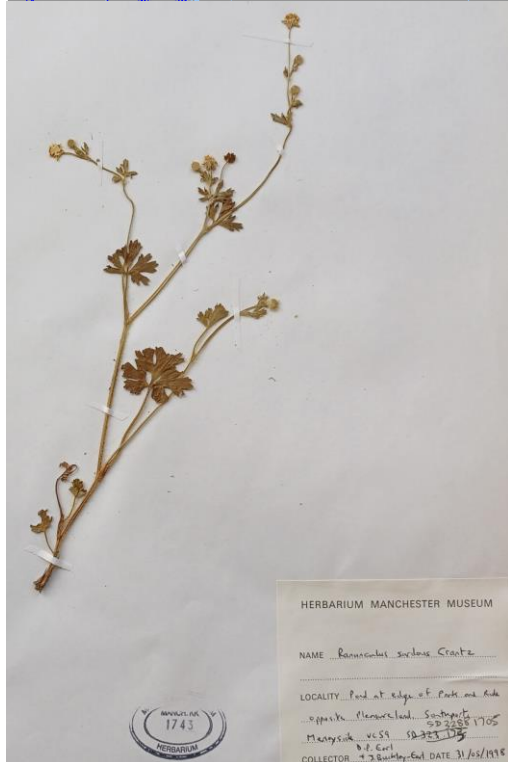
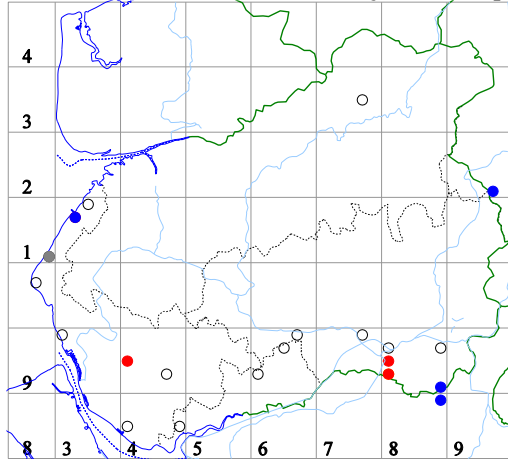
Banks of River Darwen DP Earl 2020

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte. Most frequent in the coastal districts on sandy soils, locally frequent in the limestone and hill districts, occasional elsewhere.

Habitat: Grassy places on sand-dunes, sandy soils, clay soils, limestone pastures, unimproved grasslands and neutral grasslands.

Comments: This species has declined due to the agricultural improvement of meadows and urban development. Some locations could have been overlooked as plants soon disappear after flowering.

***Ranunculus sardous* L. Hairy Buttercup**



Status & distribution: Native or introduced, Least Concern (Red List for England); SCINWE, meadows at Chorlton (SJ89B, D Bishop, 1980-1990; MPG Tolfree, 1995); Stretford (SJ89C, Manchester Field Club, 1995); Southport (SD31I, PH Smith, 2004); Trans-Pennine Trail, Stockport (SJ88Z & SJ89V, DP Earl, 2004); Light Hazzles Reservoir (SD92Q, DP Earl, 2004).

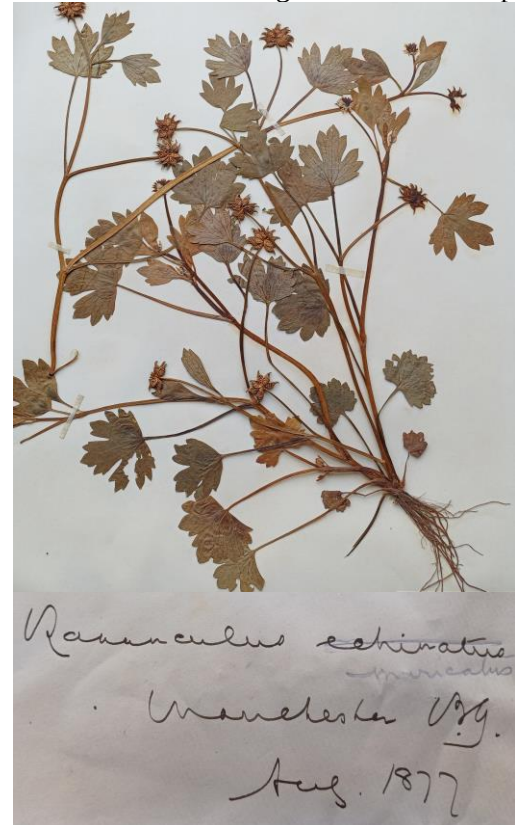
Former distribution: Savidge *et al* (1963).

Habitat: Meadows, lawns and sandy ground especially if inundated during winter months; generally, a feature of recently sown grassland.

Comments: Now gone from Chorlton and Stretford sites as the habitats have developed to rank grassland. Plants have probably introduced via amenity sowing at most if not all locations. It is suggested by P Jepson that some seed mix records might have been *R. marginatus*.

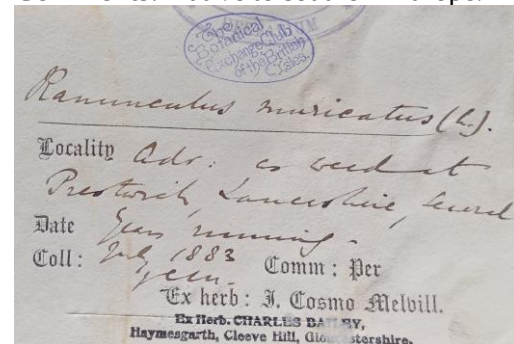
***Ranunculus muricatus* L.**

Rough-fruited Buttercup



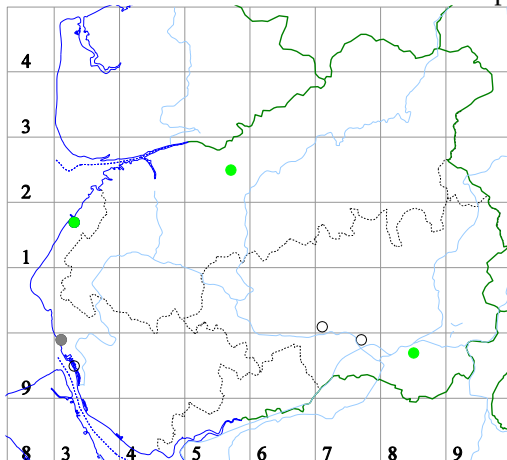
Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; occurred at Manchester Botanical Garden (SJ8196, LH Grindon, 1877 & 1880, MANCH) above and for several years at Hilton Lane, Prestwich (SD80B, JC Melvill, 1883, LH Grindon collection at MANCH) below.

Comments: Native to southern Europe.





***Ranunculus parviflorus* L.**
Small-flowered Buttercup



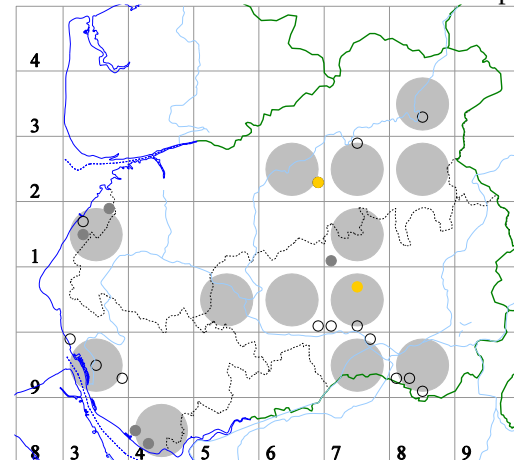
Southport DP Earl 2008

Distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England), Rare (4), established and increasing in sandy turf at Victoria Park, Southport (SD31I, DP Earl, 2000 onwards) where first discovered on disturbed sandy soil associated with the flower show temporary exhibiting areas. Casual elsewhere with one plant in a tree planting area at Withy Grove Park, Bamber Bridge (SD5625, DP & J Earl, 2023); Grosvenor Street, Manchester (SJ8497, R Webster, 2024).

Former distribution: Bootle (SJ39H, JL Bostock, *Withering* 1830); in a sandy cornfield, Crosby (SJ39E, H Shepherd, 1811, *Hall* 1839); near Garrat Hall, Tyldesley (SD70A, J Evans, *Grindon* 1859); Eccles (SJ79U, J Shaw, *Grindon* 1859).

Comments: Persisting and increasing at Southport but difficult to spot in the turf once mown, several plants were found around the base of young trees in 2023 on the Liverpool Botanical Society Excursion.

***Ranunculus arvensis* L.** Corn Buttercup



Status & distribution: Archaeophyte-colonist, Endangered (Red List for England); SCINWE, a rare casual. Occasional records from the Liverpool and Manchester districts and from the East Lancashire Valleys.

Earliest record traced: At a rabbit warren, at Crosby (SJ39E, 1839).

Habitat: Waste and disturbed ground, arable fields and fowl runs.

Comments: There are very few post-1965 records all of which require confirmation.



Whalley Abbey DP Earl 2021

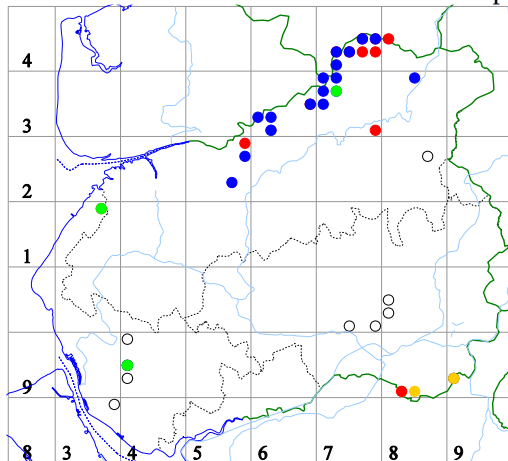
Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Scarce (21), occasional to locally frequent along the Ribble valley to the east of Walton-le-Dale and frequent on the limestone in the Clitheroe district; found along a wooded section of the River Alt, Croxteth Park (SJ4094, Liverpool Botanical Society Exc., 2015). Plants are probably introduced to the grounds of the Botanic Gardens, Churchtown (SD31U, DP & J Earl, 1995 & J Styles, 2020).

Former distribution: Perhaps extinct at Holme Chapel (SD82T, *Stanfield & Nowell* 1911); lost from the Reddish Vale (SJ99B, A Bamforth c.1975) and perhaps along the Mersey valley at Didsbury (SJ89F & SJ90K) to the pressures of urban habitat disturbance.

Habitat: Woodlands and hedgerbanks usually on basic soils.

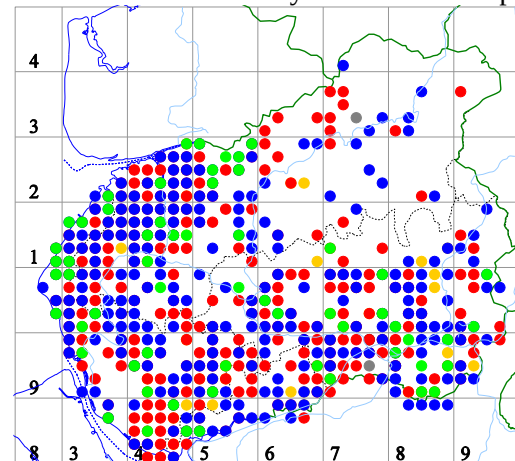
Ranunculus auricomus L.

Goldilocks Buttercup



Ranunculus sceleratus L.

Celery-leaved Buttercup





Blowick, Southport DP Earl 2008



Birkdale PH Smith 2010



Freshfield Dune Heath PH Smith 2011

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); common in lowland areas especially in the coastal districts, occasional north of the West Pennine Moors and South Pennines.

Habitat: Wet fields, ditches, the margins of pools, ponds, canals, disturbed damp ground, dune-slacks and brackish marshes.

Comments: Plants often occur as casuals of disturbed ground in the inner cities and the upland areas and can persist if such habitat is not lost to succession.



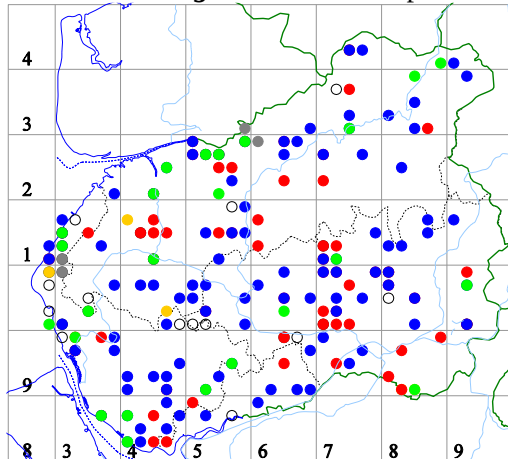
Preston Junction DP Earl 2020

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, widespread, occasional to locally frequent in lowland districts.

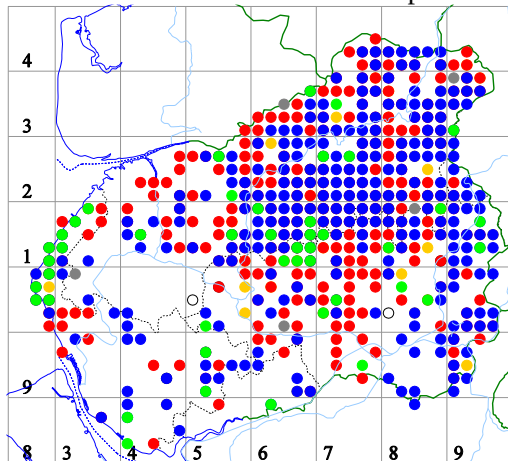
Habitat: Brackish marshes, lagoons, dune-slacks, ponds (occasionally in woods), rare as a feature of inland marshes.

Comments: Formerly considered to be a species of the coastal plain but now more widespread with frequent introductions to inland ponds to 'enhance biodiversity' and for visual amenity.

***Ranunculus lingua* L. Greater Spearwort**



Ranunculus flammula* L. ssp. *flammula
Lesser Spearwort



Ainsdale DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Vulnerable (Red List for England); locally common along the coast and in the upland areas, occasional elsewhere.

Habitat: Dune-slacks, marshes, wet meadows and flushes, the shorelines of reservoirs, peat pools, ponds and ditches.

Comments: There are historic records for var. *ovatus* C. Bailey (Journal. Bot. 1887, p. 135).

***Ranunculus aconitifolius* L.**

Aconite-leaved Buttercup

Status & distribution: Neophyte; Recorded from (SD83V, P Barnes, 1999, det. P Jepson).

Habitat: Unknown.

Comments: The plants found were var. 'Flora Plena'. It is not known whether the plants have persisted.

Details of a specimen from the Leo Grindon collection are inserted below.



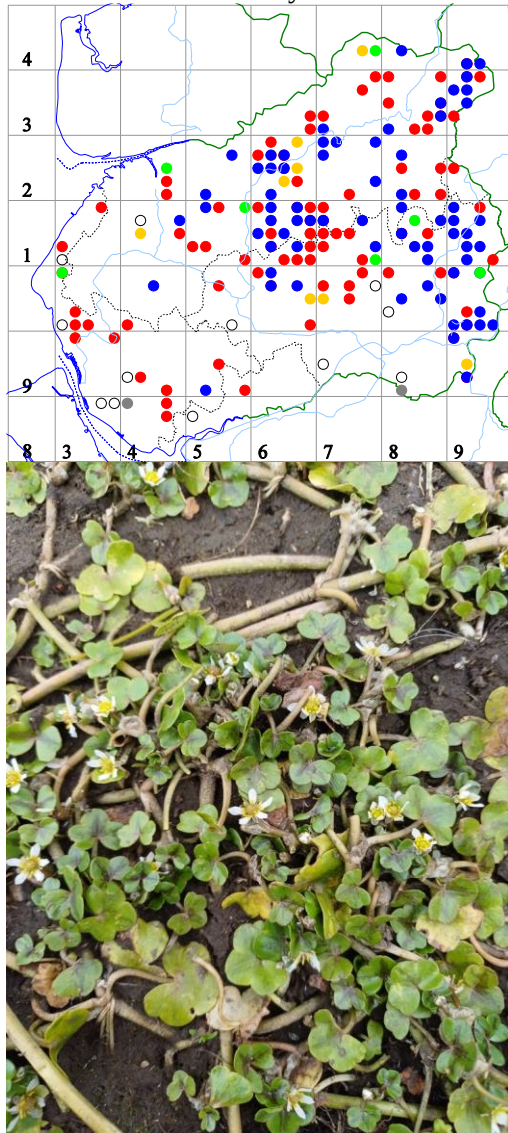
Note the origin of this specimen and the accession lot.



Subgenus 2 - *BATRACHIUM* (DC.) A. Gray

***Ranunculus hederaceus* L.**

Ivy-leaved Crowfoot

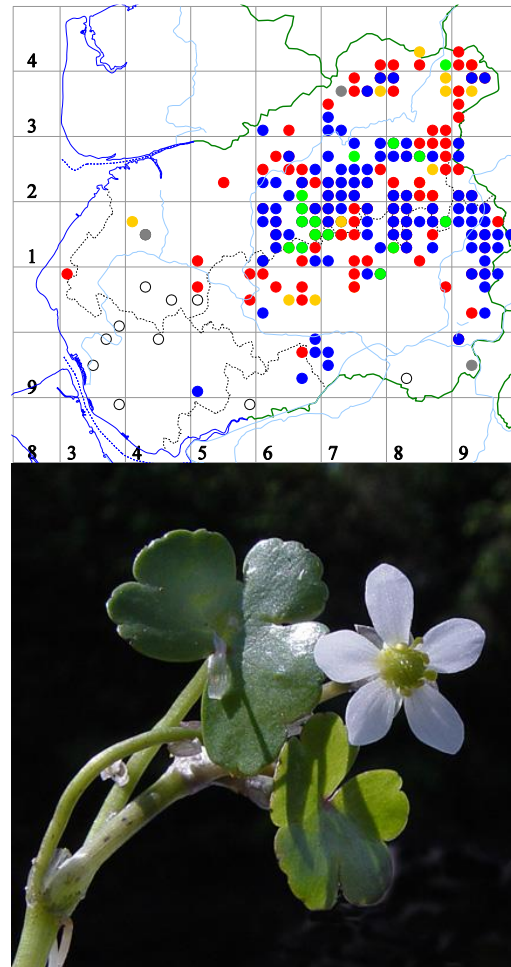


Newton-le-Willows A Clarke 2024

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, occasional, most frequent in the hill districts at mid-altitudes.
Habitat: In muddy open places in damp fields, around the margins of ponds, reservoirs and along ditches.
Comments: Formerly considered to be most frequent in the lowlands before significant decline due to habitat loss.

***Ranunculus omiophyllus* Ten.**

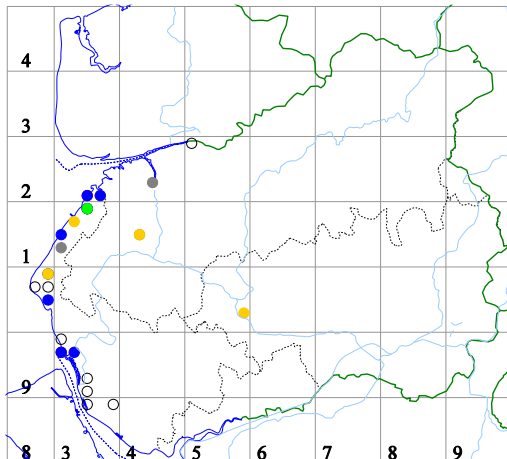
Round-leaved Crowfoot



Rivington J Somerville 2007

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, locally frequent in upland areas, now rare elsewhere. Note the cluster of records from the remnants of the Chat Moss complex (SJ69 & SJ79).
Habitat: Muddy places particularly along upland stream, ditch sides, flushes and springs.
Comments: Historic records indicate a decline for the lowland areas.

***Ranunculus baudotii* Godron**
Brackish Water-crowfoot



Altcar PH Smith 2009

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); SCINWE, Scarce (7), locally frequent in the coastal grazing marshes between Marshside and Crossens (SD31P, SD32K, SD32Q); known elsewhere at Seaforth Nature Reserve (SJ3196, SJ3197, SJ3297, SJ White, 2003); Altcar Rifle Range (SD2804, PH Smith).

Former distribution: Note the inland records from the Martin Mere district (SD4215, FW Holder, 1931, EF Greenwood, 1971); Ince Moss (SD5902, EF Greenwood, 1973, det. CDK Cook, LIV).

Habitat: Saline meadows and the margins of brackish pools.

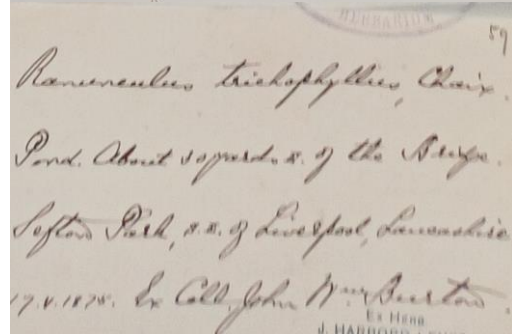
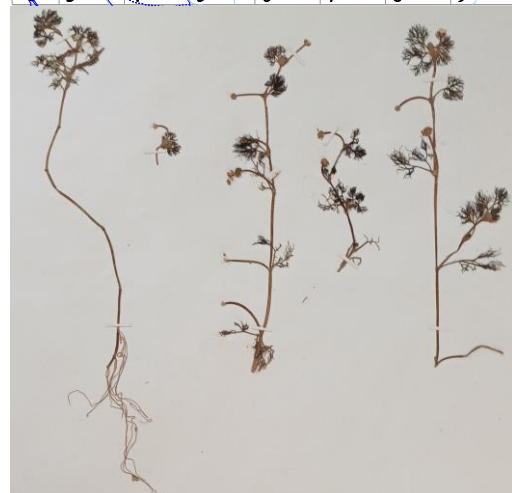
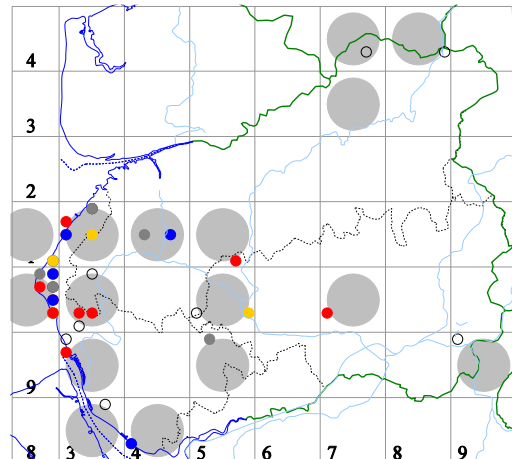
Comments: Declined due to the reclamation of brackish marshes and to dune succession processes.

Ranunculus baudotii* x *R. peltatus

Former Distribution: Native, Endemic; a single tentative record for Kirkby (SJ49E, J Summer, 1956, det., CDK Cook).

Habitat: Pond.

***Ranunculus trichophyllus* Chaix**
Thread-leaved Water-crowfoot



Sefton Park, 1875 MANCH

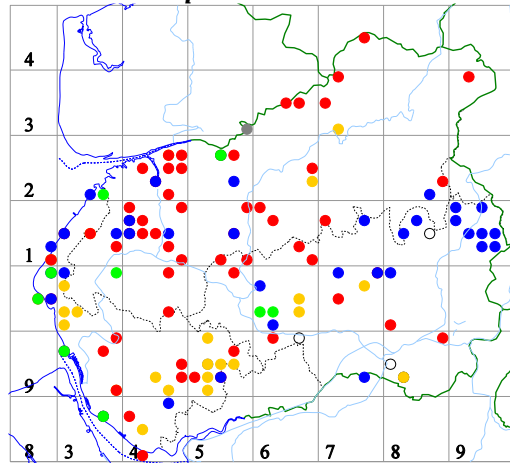
Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); SCINWE, Scarce (9), a localised plant most frequent along the Sefton coast, now rare inland on the coastal plain and in mill lodges.

Habitat: Ditches, ponds, streams and reservoirs.

Comments: Scarce. Overlooked in recent years or declining. Historically most records have been determined as ssp. *drouetii* (Godr.) Clapham, whilst ssp. *trichophyllus* was recorded from the Martin Mere district (SD31X, FW Holder,

RW Wagstaffe, det. WH Pearsall, n.d.)
and Ashton Moss (SJ99E, H Searle, 1883).

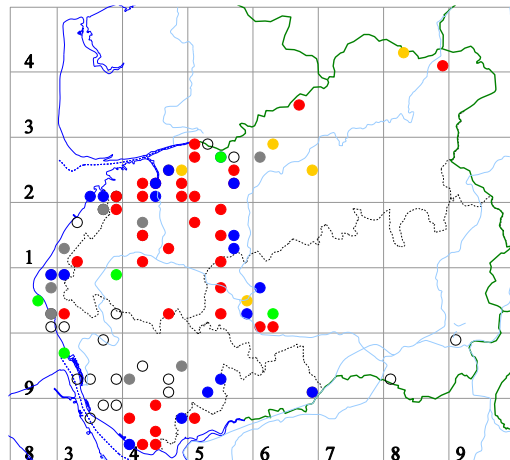
***Ranunculus aquatilis* L. s.l.**



Comments: Note that there are numerous sites with records made at the aggregate level and thus further studies of populations determined as *Ranunculus aquatilis* L. s.l. are required.

***Ranunculus aquatilis* L.**

Common Water-crowfoot



Cabin Hill, Formby PH Smith 2010

Status & distribution: Native, Least
Concern (Red List for England);

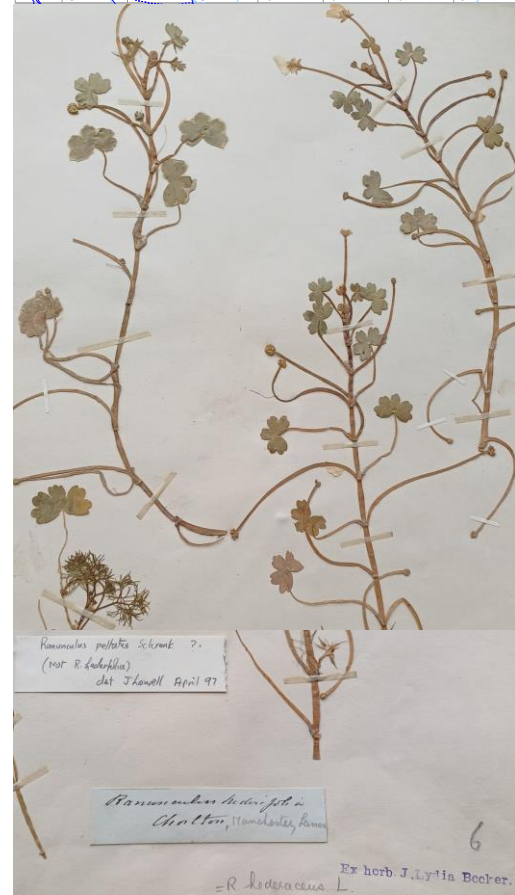
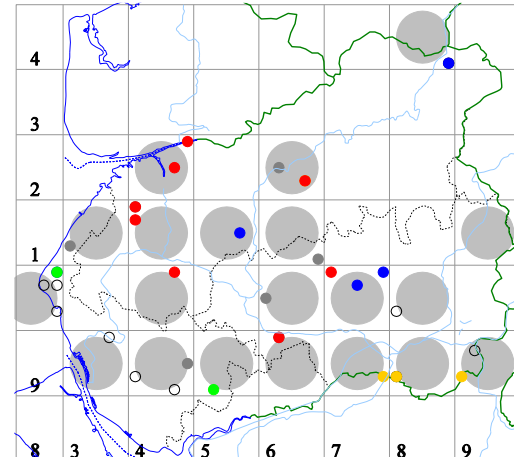
Axiophyte. It is thought that the true species is frequent in the western lowlands and very local elsewhere.

Habitat: A feature of ponds, ditches and reservoirs.

Comments: This species has declined as indicated by the historic records.

***Ranunculus peltatus* Schrank**

Pond Water-crowfoot



Status & distribution: Native, Least
Concern (Red List for England);
SCINWE, Scarce (9), Mere Brow
(SD41D & SD41E, DP Earl, 1997);
Penwortham (SD42Z, DP & J Earl, 1999);

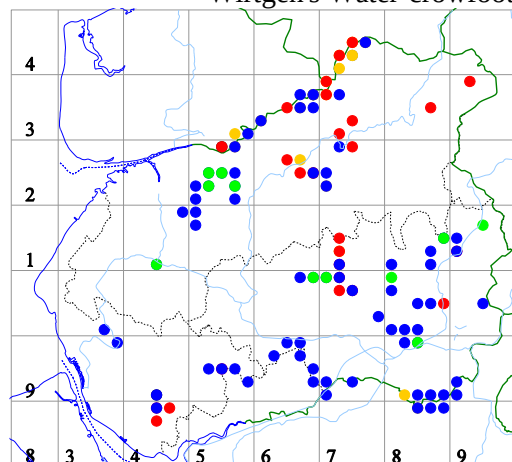
Bolton (SD70E, J Lowell, 1998); the River Croal (SD70N, PR Smith, 2000); near Bury (SD70Z, J Lowell, 2000); Sunnyhurst fish ponds (SD62R, P Jepson); Foulridge Lower Reservoir (SD84V, DP Earl, 2004); pond at Yarrow Valley Park (SD5715, DP Earl, 2015) where possibly introduced.

Habitat: Reservoirs, pools and ditches.

Comments: Formerly more widespread and clearly declining as indicated by the historic records from the coastal plain and from South Manchester.

Ranunculus x bachii Wirtgen sens. lat.

Wirtgen's Water-crowfoot



River Lostock DP Earl 2020

Status & distribution: Native, Nationally Scarce?, UKSCC, SCINWE. Locally abundant along the non-tidal sections several rivers including the Ribble, Alt, Glazebrook, Sankey, Mersey and associated tributaries.

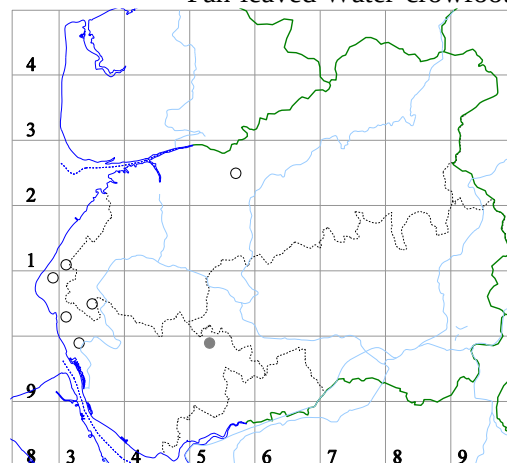
Habitat: Rivers.

Comments: Specimens need to be collected from each river system to see if the identity is correct. All the former records of *Ranunculus penicillatus* subsp. *pseudofluitans* and *Ranunculus fluitans* have been placed here in line with the

classification used for North Lancashire by EF Greenwood.

Ranunculus circinatus Sibth.

Fan-leaved Water-crowfoot



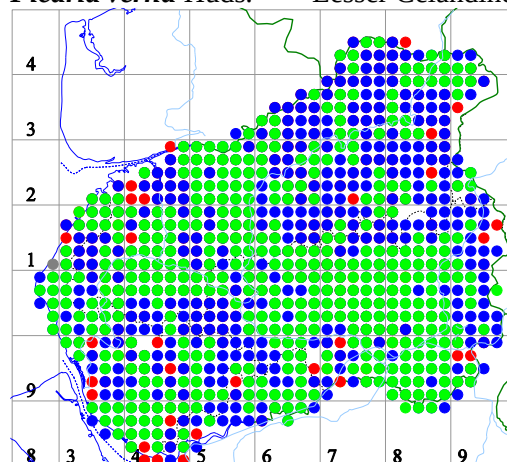
Status & former distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); SCINWE, canal near Ford (SJ39J, n.d.) & ditches at Lydiate (SD30M, 1899) JA Wheldon; between Freshfield and Ainsdale (SD20Z and/or SD31A, JA Wheldon & WG Travis, 1914); between Hightown and Lady Green (SD30B, Green 1933); disused canal, Walton Summit (SD52S, *Lanc. & Ches. Nat.*, 1923); Carr Mill Dam (SJ59J, D Philcox, c. 1959).

Habitat: Formerly in ditches on the coastal plain, rare in a former canal and a reservoir.

Comments: Searches should be made at the historic locations to see if any plants can be found. Note that this species can easily be overlooked when not in flower.

Ficaria verna Huds.

Lesser Celandine





Prescot DP Earl 2010

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); common and widespread except on the highest ground and remote saltmarshes.

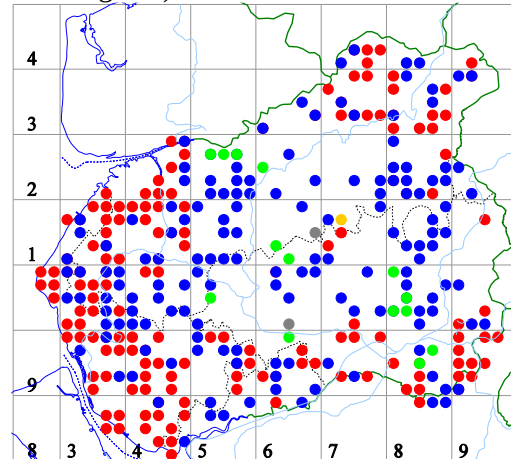
Habitat: In woods, on shaded banks, along streams, riverside, ditch banks, in churchyards and lawns.

Comments: The following two subspecies are widely distributed, but records usually reflect recorder effort rather than the overall subspecific distributions. Garden varieties are established locally.



var. Brassen Hussy Pendleton DP Earl 2016

Ficaria verna Huds. ssp. *fertilis* Lawalree ex Llaegaard) Stace Lesser Celandine

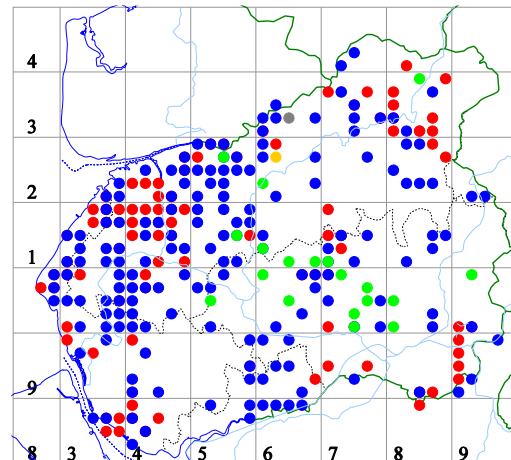


Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); widespread.

Habitat: More specific to woodlands, on shaded banks, along streams, riversides and ditch banks.

Comments: The widespread native form.

Ficaria verna Huds. ssp. *verna* Bulbiferous Celandine



Birkdale DP Earl 2008



Southport Crematorium DP Earl 2010

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); widespread and increasing in lowland areas.

Habitat: In woods, roadside verges, lawns and churchyards.

Comments: More frequent in suburban areas and increasing. The Bulbiferous Celandine has increased greatly over the last thirty years and appears to be linked to use of grass cutting equipment, particularly for shaded amenity lawns and roadsides.

Adonis annua L. Pheasant's-eye

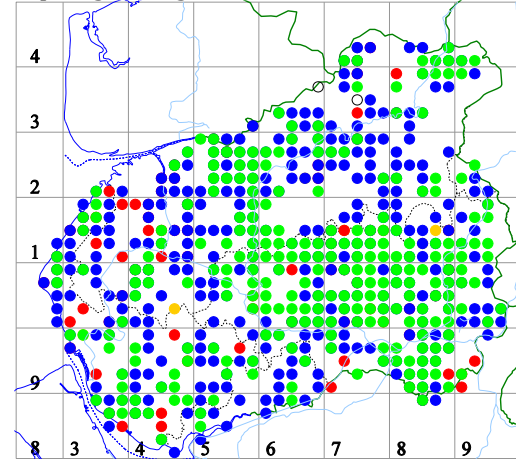
Status & former distribution: Archaeophyte-colonist, Endangered (Red List for England); cornfield, Crosby (SJ39E, Hall 1839); Oldham (SD90H, *Fl. Ashton* 1888); market gardens, Prescott (SJ49R, 1907, Rev. M Toohey); Burnley (SD83L, CRR); Birkdale (SD31H, 1924, H Britten); by the shooting box, Martin Mere (SD3916, AG Langdon & FW Holder, 1932, LIV); Darwen (SD62W, *Darwen Flora* (1934-1935).

There is a record limited to 10km precision for SJ99.

Habitat: Cornfields, market gardens, waste ground.

Comments: Native to the Mediterranean. Plants declined to extinction as a cornfield weed due to advancements in arable farming.

Aquilegia vulgaris L. Columbine



Walton-le-Dale DP Earl 2020

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; now widespread as an established garden escape close to habitation.

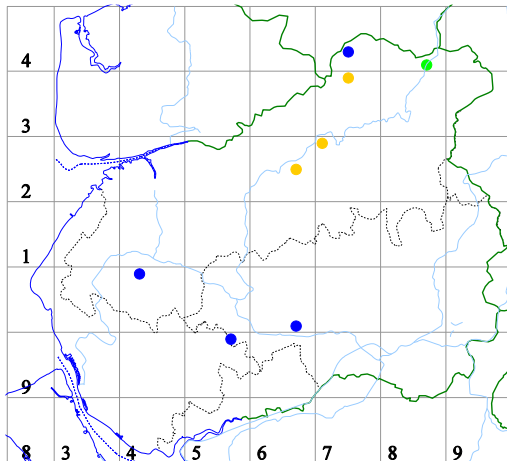
Former distribution: Possibly once native at a few historic locations such as between Sale Wheel and Dinckley Hall (SD63Y, *Flora of Preston* 1865); Whalley (SD73M, Anon, 1872).

Habitat: Roadsides, waste ground, railway banks, tips, woods, stream banks, hedgebanks and sand-dunes.

Comments: Plants are often found as the *flora plena* and larger flowered horticultural hybrids do occur on occasions.

***Thalictrum aquilegiifolium* L.**

French Meadow-rue



Status & distribution: Neophyte-surviving;

Earliest record traced: Darwen Valley Parkway (SD6725, P Jepson, 1976 onwards).

Habitat: Urban tall-herb grasslands and waysides.

Comments: Native to mainland Europe and Asia. This species is probably under-recorded.



Hightown DP Earl 2009

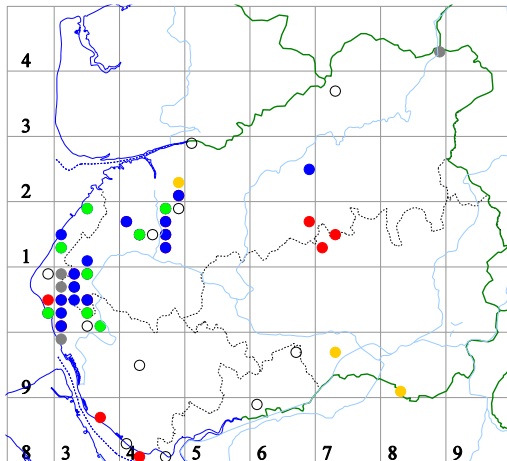
Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); small populations remain on the coastal plain between Little Crosby and Croston; rare elsewhere and assumed to be lost from many former locations.

Habitat: Tall herb marshland communities as at Hightown (SD20W) but often a relic on ditch-banks and damp field corners.

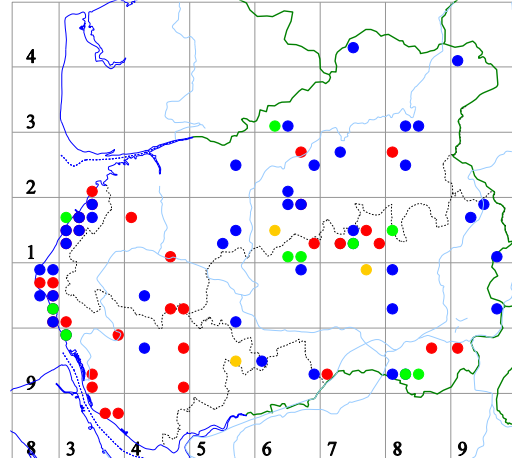
Comments: Drainage and agricultural 'improvement' of lowland wet meadows has contributed to species decline. A plant at Lower Darwen (SD62X, P Jepson) found in an area of former fen may have grown from dormant seed.

***Thalictrum flavum* L.**

Common Meadow-rue



***Thalictrum minus* L. Lesser meadow-rue**



Status & distribution: Possibly Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); well established along the Sefton coast, occasional as established garden escapes inland.

Earliest record traced: Southport (SD31I, 1826).

Habitat: Sandy soils, sand-dunes; roadsides, waste ground and tips inland.

Comments: Most if not all populations are of garden origin although plants considered to be the native ssp. *arenarium* (Butcher) A.R. Clapham were recorded at Hall Road (SD30A, V Gordon, *Savidge et al* 1963).

[*Thalictrum alpinum* L.

Alpine meadow-rue

Distribution: Listed in the Darwen Flora 1934 - 1935.

Comments: This is almost certainly an error.]