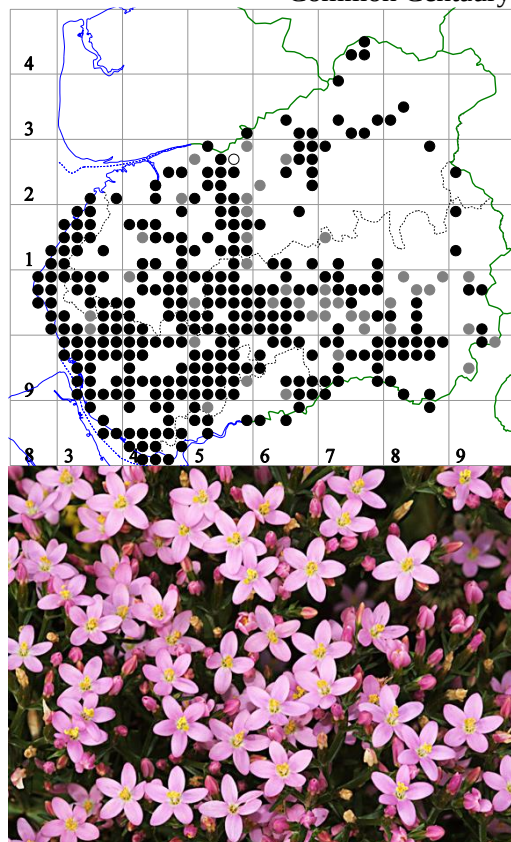


## GENTIANACEAE

Gentian family

### *Centaureum erythraea* Rafn

Common Centaury



Cabin Hill PH Smith 2012

**Status & distribution:** Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); locally common in the lowland districts.

**Habitat:** Sand-dunes, grasslands and open ground on clay soils, limestone quarries, on alkaline waste beds and industrial spoil heaps.

**Comments:** Several varieties have been recognised.

### *Centaureum erythraea* var. *latifolium*

(Sm.) T.C.G. Rich Broad-leaved Centaury

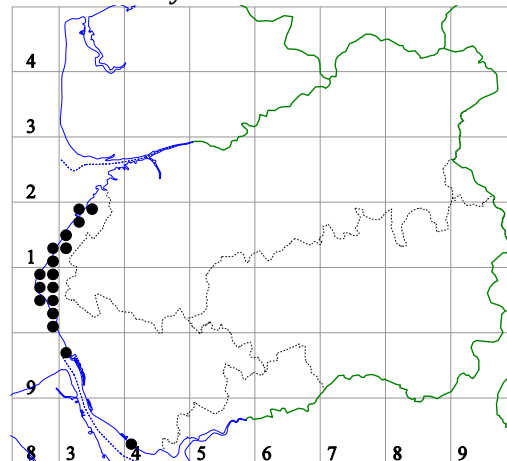
**Status & distribution:** Native, Endemic, Extinct; The Rabbit Warren, Crosby (SJ39E, J Shepherd, 1801, LIV; J Shillito 1818, LIV); Bootle (SJ39H, TB Hall, 1832 Herb. Bowman); North Shore, Liverpool (SJ39, A Bloxam, 1843, MANCH); on Seaforth Common near Rimrose Bridge (SJ39I, HS Fisher, 1854-1855, MANCH); Ainsdale, near Southport (SD31B, JB Wood, 1860, MANCH); Formby Sandhills (SD20Z, R Brown, 1871, LIV); near Freshfield Station (SD20Z, R Brown, 1871-1872).

**Habitat:** Moist ground and grassy spots in sand-dune systems near the sea.

**Comments:** It is known that the Bootle and Seaforth plants were lost to dock extensions and building, other population no doubt suffered due to over-zealous collecting. R Brown apparently collected the last two specimens from near Freshfield Station (SD20Z, 1871).

### *Centaureum* x *intermedium* (Wheldon)

Druce = *C. erythraea* x *C. littorale*



Formby PH Smith 2008

**Status & distribution:** Native, Axiophyte; locally frequent along the coast from Seaforth to Birkdale; recently found at Marshside (SD31P).

**Habitat:** Dune-slacks, damp coastal sand often in brackish conditions.

**Comments:** The earliest record traced is from Hightown (SD20W, WG Travis, 1913) but there may be earlier records for the vice-county during the early 19th Century *Smith's Eng. Fl. ed. 2* (1828).

*Centaurium* x *ubsdellii* T.C.G. Rich = *C. pulchellum* x *C. erythraea*

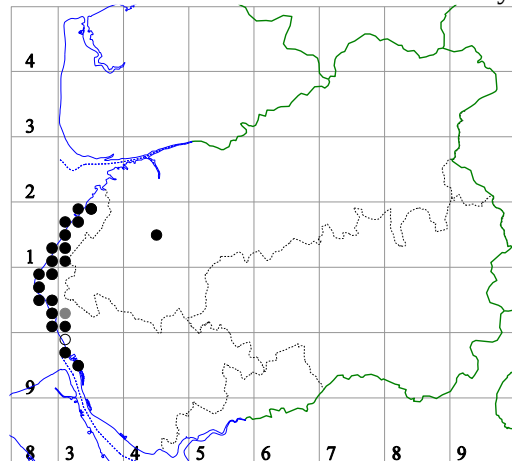
**Status & distribution:** Native, Critically Endangered or Extinct at the vice-county level; Altcar (SD30C, V Gordon, 1998).

**Habitat:** Dune-slack.

*Centaurium littorale* (Turner ex Sm.)

Gilmour

Seaside Centaury

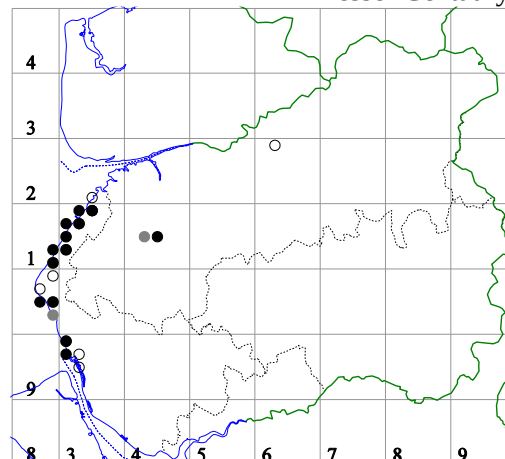


Birkdale Green Beach PH Smith 2012

**Status & distribution:** Native, **Nationally Scarce**, Least Concern (Red List for England), Axiophyte; Occasional along the coast from Seaforth northwards; locally abundant on the Birkdale Green Beach (SD31C) with *C. pulchellum*; formerly extending north to Churchtown.  
**Habitat:** Dune-slacks, damp coastal sand often in brackish conditions.

*Centaurium pulchellum* (Sw.) Druce

Lesser Centaury



Birkdale Green Beach J Somerville 2008

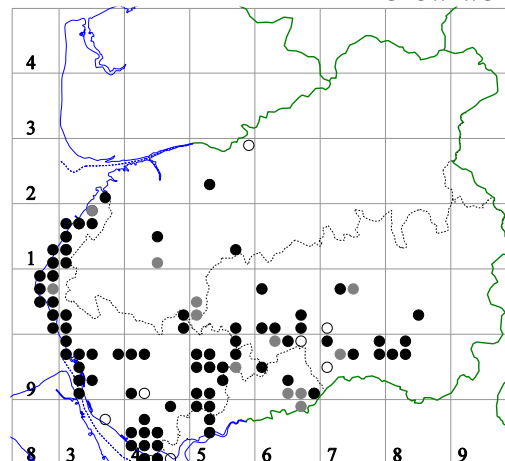
**Status & distribution:** Native, Least Concern (Red List for England), Axiophyte; mainly coastal, locally abundant along the Green Beaches at Southport, rare inland.

**Habitat:** Dune-slacks, wet coastal sand, developing saltmarshes and pond margins.

**Comments:** Populations are known to have fluctuated from locally common to declining and rare.

*Blackstonia perfoliata* (L.) Huds.

Yellow-wort







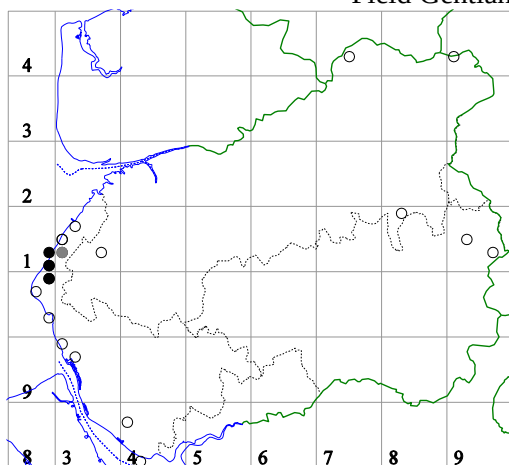
Warrington J Somerville 2008

**Status & distribution:** Native, Least Concern (Red List for England), Axiophyte; frequent along the coast, about Speke and on the former industrial sites from St. Helens to Manchester.

**Habitat:** Sand-dunes, clay banks, grasslands on disturbed clay soils adjacent to motorways and trunk roads, colonist of industrial spoil heaps and waste ground.

**Comments:** Greatly increased inland since the times of the Victorian Liverpool, Manchester and Preston floras and of Savidge *et al* (1963).

*Gentianella campestris* (L.) Boerner  
Field Gentian



Formby M Knowles 2008

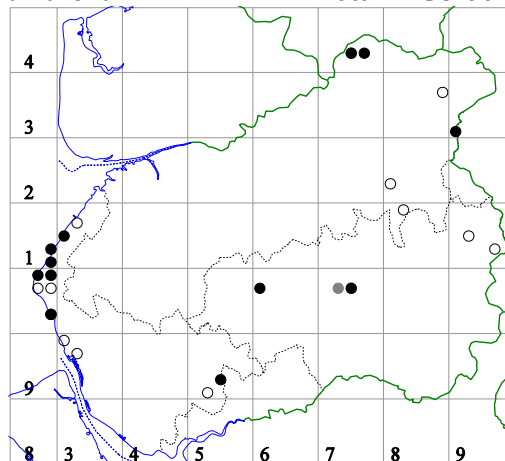
**Status & distribution:** Native, Endangered (Red List for England), Rare (3); Freshfield (SD20Z) & Ainsdale (SD21V & SD21W) with thousands of plants occurring in the slacks of the Dune Restoration Area at Ainsdale NNR. There are un-localised records for SD82 & SD83.

**Former distribution:** Along the coast from Speke to Southport; occasional in the hill districts.

**Habitat:** Sand-dunes and formerly in hill pastures.

**Comments:** Greatly declined and probably extinct in the hill districts.

*Gentianella amarella* (L.) Boerner ssp. *amarella*  
Autumn Gentian





Knob End R Snowden 2012

**Status & distribution:** Native, Near Threatened (Red List for England), Axiophyte; most frequent along the coast, very local elsewhere.

**Habitat:** Sand-dunes and limestone pastures; a colonist of alkaline spoil heaps, limestone quarries and the 'hushings'.

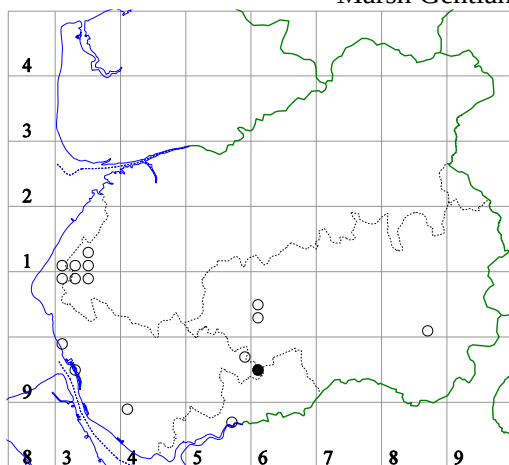
**Comments:** Declined greatly in the hill districts.

[*Gentiana asclepiadea* L. Willow Gentian  
**Status & distribution:** Neophyte; Holden Clough (SD90F, Anon., 1964, Manuscript records of alien species compiled by E.J. Clement).

**Comments:** Native to central Europe. This may be an error for a location of the same name in vice-county 64 where numerous exotic species were introduced to the clough from the adjoining garden centre.]

### *Gentiana pneumonanthe* L.

Marsh Gentian



M Knowles 2008

**Status & distribution:** Native, Nationally Scarce, Near Threatened (Red List for England), Critically Endangered at the vice-county level (1); still present in small and fluctuating numbers at Highfield Moss (SJ69C).

**Former distribution:** Formerly a local species of the lowlands mosslands especially to the east of Formby.

**Habitat:** Amongst *Molinia* on a wet lowland bog.