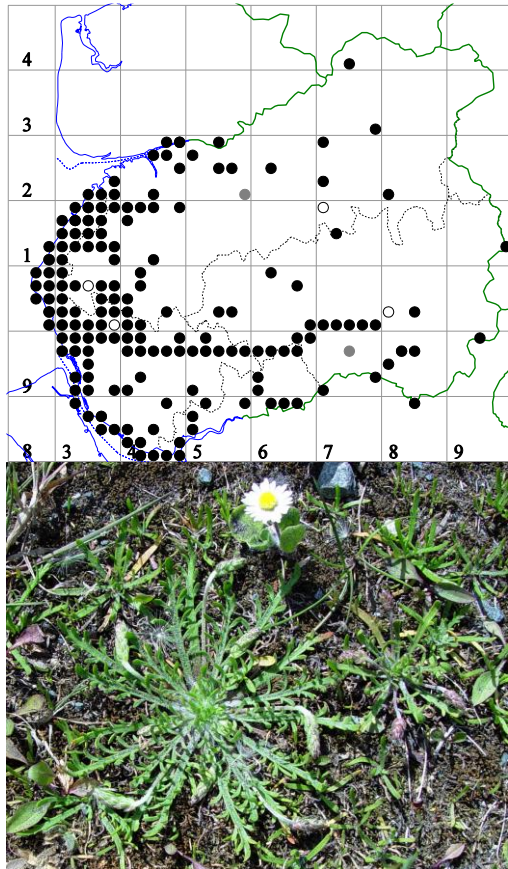


PLANTAGINACEAE Plantain family

Plantago coronopus L.

Buck's-horn Plantain



Bamber Bridge DP Earl 2020

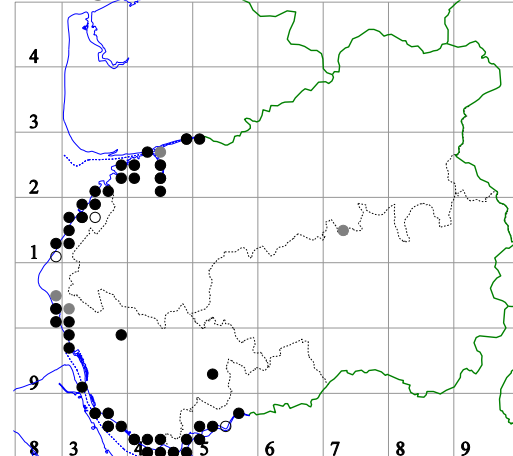
Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England), Axiophyte; locally abundant near the coast, formerly very local inland but now increasing along roadsides.

Habitat: Sand-dunes, saltmarshes, bare ground, lawns and grass verges on sandy soils near the coast; increasingly a feature of short and salted roadside turf particularly along trunk roads and probably motorways inland.

Comments: The historic inland populations were a feature of open dry sandy soils such as at Kersal Moor where horse racing formerly took place.

Plantago maritima L.

Sea Plantain



Hightown DP Earl 2008



Ainsdale PS Gateley 2023

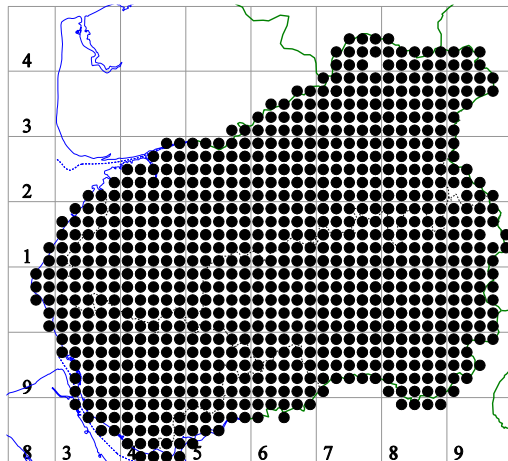
Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England), Axiophyte; locally common along the coast and the estuaries, rare inland at Jumbles (SD7314, G Morries, 1981) where a casual; Waddicar (SJ39Z) & St. Helens Junction (SJ59G) V Gordon, 1995.

Habitat: Saltmarshes, retaining walls subject to salt spray, rare on salted roadsides.

Comments: Likely to increase in frequency along salted roads.

Plantago major* L. ssp. *major

Greater Plantain



Pennington Flash SJ McWilliam 2024



Gateacre SJ McWilliam 2025

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

Habitat: Paths, pavements, roadsides, towpaths, disturbed ground, dune-slacks

and grasslands especially where trampling takes place.

Comments: The common plant is ssp. *major*; ssp. *intermedia* (Gilib.) Lange is a

***Plantago major* L. ssp. *intermedia* (Gilib.) Lange**



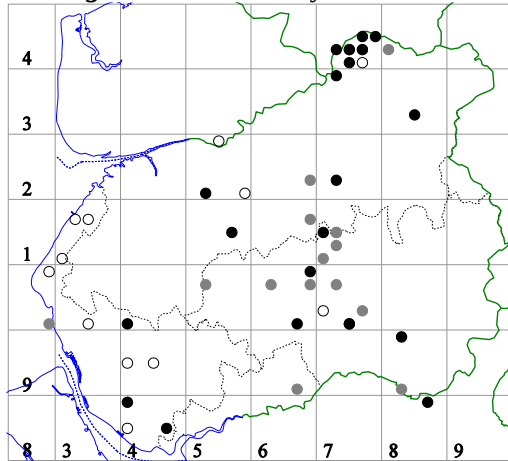
S Hartnett Southport 2024

Status & distribution: Native, **Nationally Uncommon**, Least Concern (Red List for England); Scarce (5), considered to be locally frequent along the Sefton coast from Birkdale (SD31C & SD31D) to Southport (SD31I) with inland records for Holden Wood Reservoir (SD7722, DP & J Earl, 2011) & Elton Reservoir (SD7809, AR Franks, 1996).

Habitat: dune-slacks and draw-down zones of reservoirs.

Comments: The var. *minima* DC and var. *pubescens* Lange which may be synonymous with ssp. *intermedia* have been recorded from sandy and cindery ground at Hightown and Altcar on the banks of the river Alt (*Botanical Exchange Club Report* 1895 p. 492) and from Southport (SD31I, GC Druce 1911 *New Phyt* p. 318).

***Plantago media* L.** Hoary Plantain

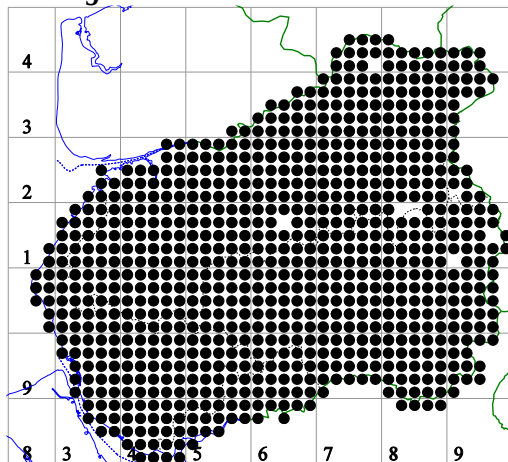


Status & distribution: Native, Near Threatened (Red List England); Scarce as a native plant in the limestone district, occasional as an adventive and a feature of wildflower seed mixture sowing elsewhere.

Habitat: Limestone grassland, recently sown areas.

Comments: Many records especially those to the south of the Ribble Valley require validation and are often aberrant forms of *P. lanceolata* that resemble *P. media*.

***Plantago lanceolata* L.** Ribwort Plantain



Southport DP Earl 2008

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

Habitat: Grasslands, sand-dunes, roadside verges and waste ground.

Comments: The var. *anthroviridis* Watson was recorded from sand-dunes and dune-slacks at Birkdale (SD31C, 1951); Southport (SD31I); Parbold (SD41V) by DE Allen.

***Plantago arenaria* Waldst. & Kit.**

Branched Plantain

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Hightown (SD30B, JA Wheldon & C Bailey, 1895); Garston (SJ48C, Rev S Gasking, 1898); Formby (SD20Y, 1901, Green 1902); Nelson (SD83U, A Turner, 1949); Crown Wallpaper Tip (SD7019, A Hitchon, 1961); Rochdale (SD81V, Rev CE Shaw, Savidge *et al* 1963).

Habitat: Tips, sandy waste ground, railway ballast, and allotment weed.

Comments: Native to southern Europe.

***Plantago afra* L.**

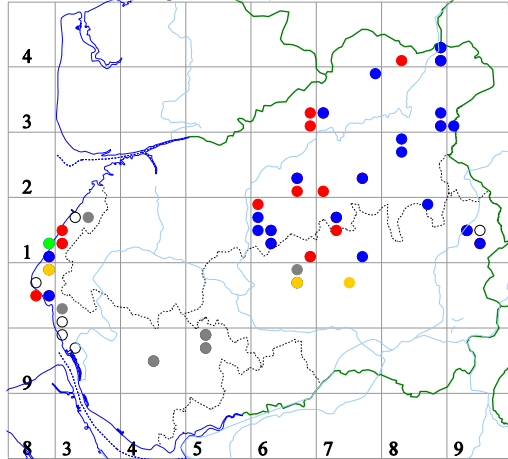
Glandular Plantain

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; north of Liverpool (SJ39L, JH Lewis, 1870, MANCH).

Habitat: Ballast.

Comments: Native to southern Europe.

***Littorella uniflora* (L.) Asch. Shoreweed**



Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England), Axiophyte; occasional and often sporadic along the coast with recent records from Ravenmeols (SD20X, V Gordon & PA Lockwood, 1995); Ainsdale NNR Slack 49 (SD21V, PH Smith, 1995); The Sands Lake, Ainsdale (SD30B, DP Earl, 1998); Ainsdale LNR slack 166 (SD2912, PH Smith, 2009); locally frequent at reservoirs in the hill districts.

Habitat: Amongst short turf in dune-slacks, man-made lakes and reservoirs where sometimes the dominant species with extensive lawns being visible when water levels fall to summer levels.

Comments: Plants will occur in dug dune scrapes but subsequently disappear (PH Smith).