

SCROPHULARIACEAE Figwort family

Verbascum blattaria L. Moth Mullein



Formby DP Earl 2009

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual or rarely persisting; Cressington Heath (SJ38X, S Fletcher, 1994); south of Formby (SD2905, DP & J Earl, 2009, det. M Chappell); garden wall, Scarisbrick New Road, Southport (SD3416, DP & J Earl, 2010).

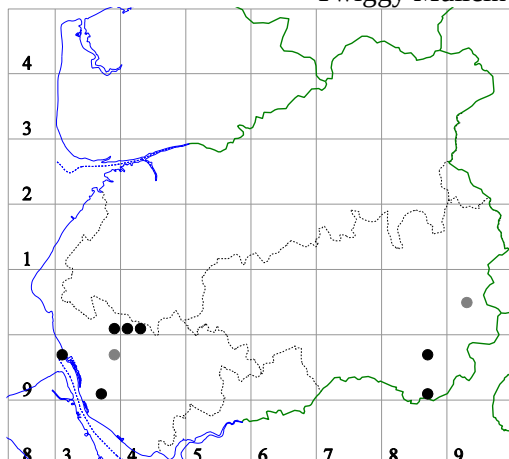
Former distribution: Spontaneous in gardens at Whitefield (J Percival, 1858 Grindon 1859); Bradshaw (SD71G, Greenlees & Holden 1920); Birkdale (SD31H, H Britten, 1927 *Wild Flower Magazine* 1927).

Habitat: Gardens, walls, disturbed ground and a mound of imported soil.

Comments: Native to mainland Europe.

Verbascum virgatum Stokes

Twiggy Mullein



Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual or rarely persisting; Higginshaw (SD90H, AR Franks & MPG Tolfree, 1988); Fazakerley Sidings (SJ39Y, V Gordon, 1993); Ardwick Sidings (SJ89T, AR Franks, 1995); (SJ89Q, AR Franks, 1996);

Seaforth Nature Reserve (SJ39D, MP Wilcox & PH Smith, 2004); Liverpool (SJ3690); Maghull (SD3800); Kirkby (SD4100) & Simmonswood (SD4300) RF Goodchild, 2006.

Habitat: Railway sidings and waste ground.

Comments: Nationally Scarce, but a casual in South Lancashire.

Verbascum phoeniceum L.

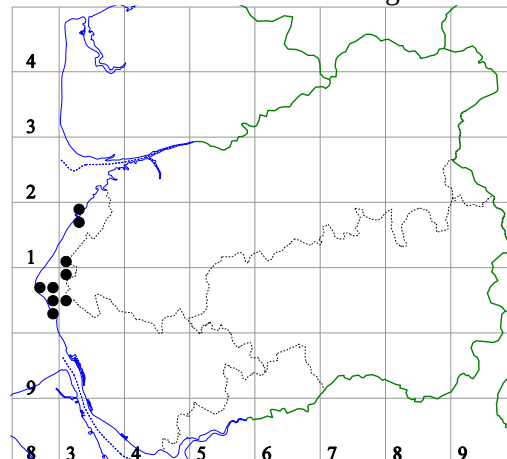
Purple Mullein

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; (SJ89, BSBI Atlas Update Project, date range 1987-1999).

Comments: Native to south-eastern Europe.

Verbascum phlomoides L.

Orange Mullein



Formby DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual or rarely persisting; occasional along or close by to the Sefton coast from Hightown Sailing Club (SD2903, V Gordon, 1997) to Waterside Lodge, Southport (SD3318, PH Smith, 2007).

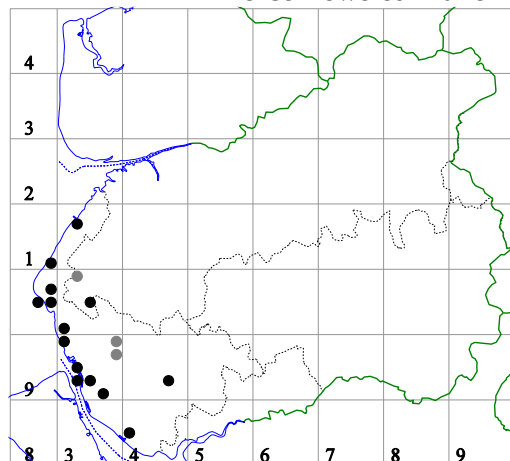
Earliest record traced: Waste sandy ground at Formby (WG Travis & JD Massey, 1943).

Habitat: Sandy disturbed ground near the coast.

Comments: Native to mainland Europe.

***Verbascum densiflorum* Bertol.**

Dense-flowered Mullein



Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual or rarely persisting; frequent about the used and disused railway systems of the Liverpool area.

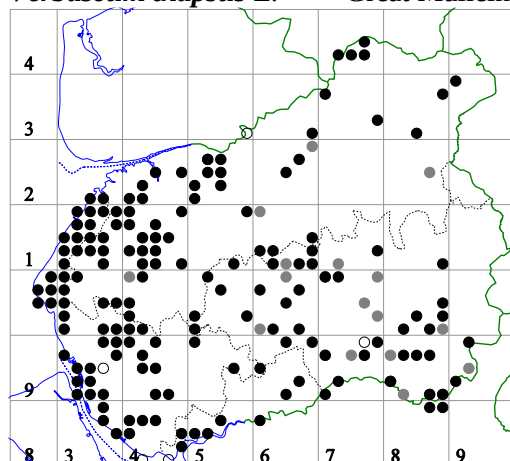
Earliest record traced: Bank Hall Station (SJ39L, V Gordon, 1985).

Habitat: Ballast.

Comments: Native to mainland Europe.

***Verbascum thapsus* L.**

Great Mullein

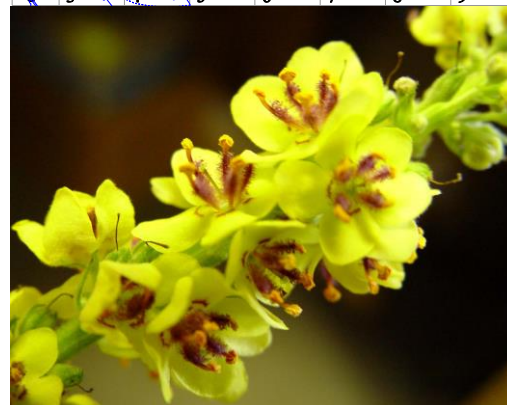
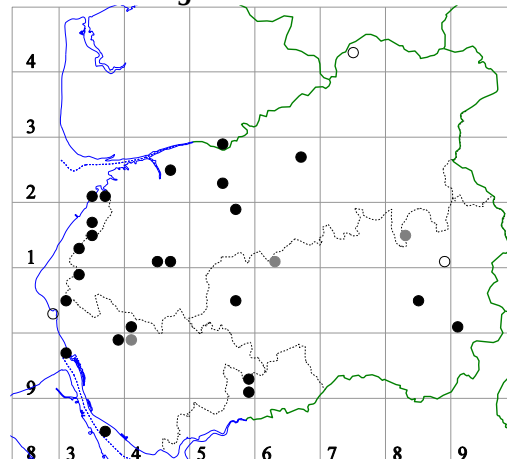


Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England), Axiophyte; frequent in urban areas, occasional elsewhere.

Habitat: On railway ballast, disturbed ground, waste ground, rubble and a colonist of former industrial sites.

***Verbascum nigrum* L.**

Dark Mullein



Blackburn DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England), casual in South Lancashire; occasional in the west, a scarce casual elsewhere. There are records limited to 10km precision for SD60 & SD70.

Earliest record traced: Railway tip, Castleton (SD81V, F Collier, 1913).

Habitat: Railway sidings, waste and disturbed ground.

***Verbascum speciosum* Schrad.**

Hungarian Mullein

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; six plants at Ravenmeols (SD2805, PH Smith, conf. BSBI referee).

Habitat: Woodland edge on the dune system.

Comments: Native to south-eastern Europe.

***Verbascum pulverulentum* Vill.**

Hoary Mullein

Status & distribution: Casual in South Lancashire; by the old River Mersey near Thelwall Viaduct (SJ68U, C Walsh & AR Locksley, 2001).

Habitat: Rough ground.

Verbascum lychnitis L. White Mullein

Status & distribution: Casual or rarely persisting in South Lancashire; Piccadilly Sidings (SJ89P, AR Franks, 1987, DP Earl, 2003); between Bankhall and Sandhills stations (SJ39L, V Gordon & PA Lockwood, 1995, S Taylor, 2005); Miles Platting railway track (SD80Q, DP Earl, 2003); near Southport Pier (SD3317, DP & J Earl, 2010).

Habitat: Railway sidings and nearby disturbed and waste ground.

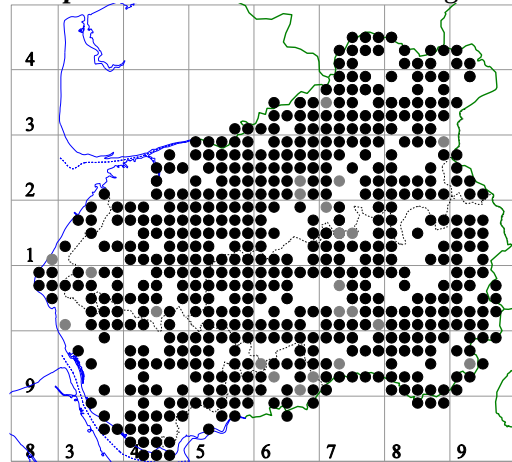


Mere Sands Wood SJ McWilliam 2024

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); widespread and generally common, less frequent on higher ground and in urban areas.

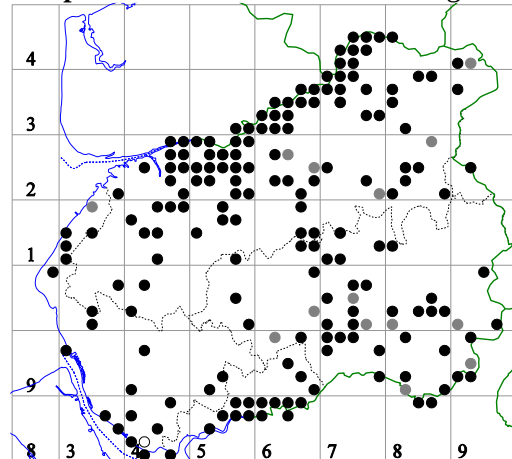
Habitat: Woods, woodland borders, hedgebanks, roadsides and streamsides; a colonist of waste ground and former industrial sites.

Scrophularia nodosa L. Common Figwort



Walton-le-Dale DP Earl 2008

Scrophularia auriculata L. Water Figwort



Calderstones, Whalley DP Earl 2009



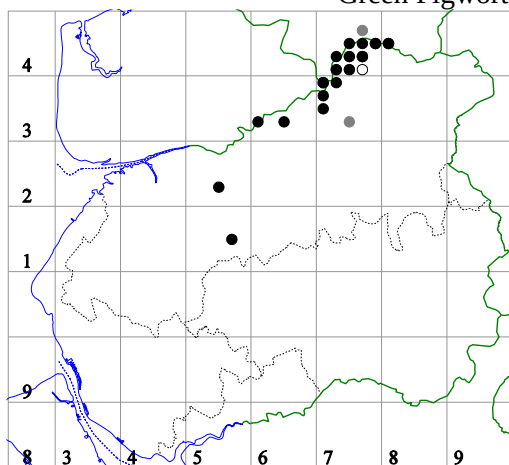
Withy Grove Park DP Earl 2020

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England), Axiophyte; frequent to locally common especially along the river valleys. Note the relative abundance of this species along the river Ribble.

Habitat: Riverbanks, streamsides and ditch sides; canal, reservoir and pond margins; dune-slacks.

***Scrophularia umbrosa* Dumort.**

Green Figwort



Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England), Axiophyte; locally abundant in the Ribble Valley especially in the Clitheroe area. Records to the south require confirmation.

Habitat: Wet woods, swamps, streamsides and riversides.

Comments: Occasionally found growing with *Scrophularia auriculata*.

***Scrophularia vernalis* L.** Yellow Figwort

Status & distribution: Neophyte-surviving; lane to the Fisherman's Retreat (SD81D, LE Smith, 2003); Pleasington

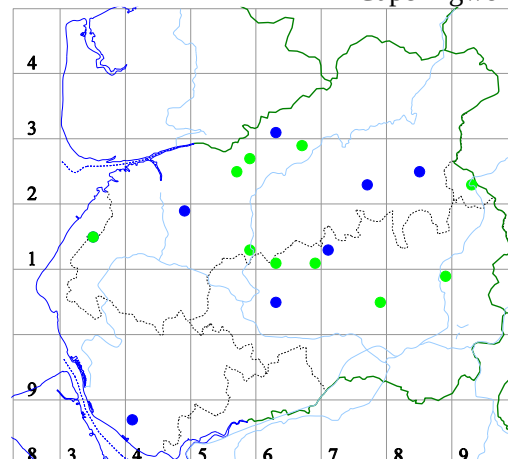
Walled Garden (SD6427, Bio-diverse Society Project, 2016 & D Patel 2023).

Former distribution: Stakehill Brickworks, Castleton (SD80Z, Liverpool Botanical Society, 1960).

Comments: Native to mainland Europe.

***Phygelius capensis* E. Mey. ex Benth.**

Cape Figwort



Southport DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Neophyte-surviving; widely scattered.

Earliest record traced: Duke Street Cemetery, Southport (SD3415, DP & J Earl, 2008).

Habitat: Planted by walls and in hedges.

Comments: Native to South Africa.

***Chaenostoma cordatum* (Thunb.) Kuntze**
Bacopa



Lostock Hall DP Earl 2011

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual.
Earliest record traced: Burscough (SD4412, MP Wilcox, 2002).
Habitat: Pavements and street gutters.
Comments: Native to South Africa. Plants are self-sown and can persist for a year or two. Both pink and white flowered forms occur.

***Nemesia stromosa* Benth.** Cape-jewels

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; by Clitheroe Library (SD7441, MP Wilcox, 2009).

Habitat: Pavement.

Comments: Native to South Africa. This species is widely grown for ornament in the British Isles.

***Nemesia fruticans* (Thunb.) Benth.**



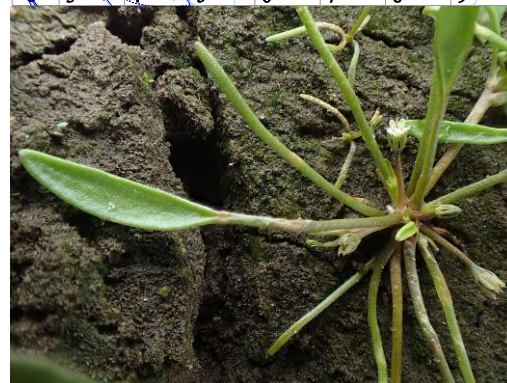
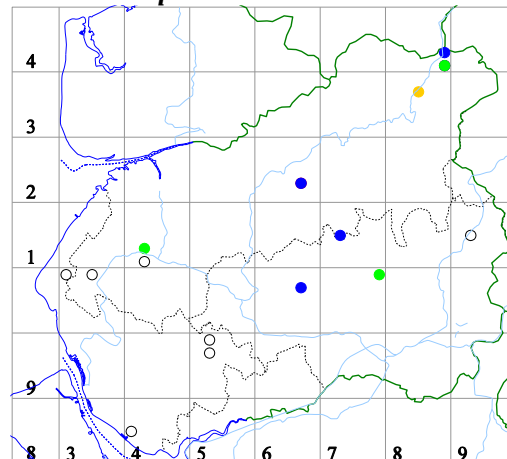
Colne, H Beck 2020

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Alkincoats Road, Colne (SD8840, H Beck, 2020) determined as the cultivar 'Aromance Pink'.

Habitat: In a pavement crack.

Comments: Native to South Africa.

***Limosella aquatica* L.** Mudwort



Foulridge H Beck 2022

Status & distribution: Native, [National Scarce](#), Least Concern (Red List for England); Scarce (4) there are post 1994 records from Earnsdale Reservoir (SD6722, 1995 & 2013) & Foulridge Upper Reservoir (SD8941, 1995) P Jepson; Foulridge Lower Reservoir (SD8841 & SD8842, DP & J Earl, 2010) & (SD8841, H Beck, 2022); Rumworth Lodge (SD60T, P Waring, 2003); two plants at Jumbles Reservoir (SD7314, DP & J Earl, 2015).

Habitat: Drawn-down zones of reservoirs; occurred once as a casual in a goods yard at Brierfield (SD8436, A Driver, 1970).

Comments: Populations at sites such as Earnsdale can decline or be lost due to the build-up of silt c.1cm per year burying the seeds, but plants can reappear at a later dates.

***Buddleja alternifolia* Maxim.**

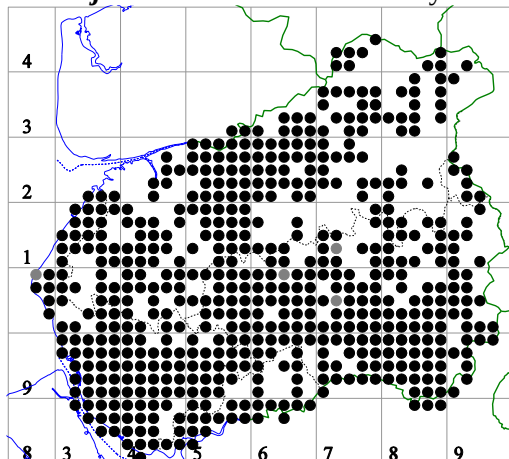
Alternative-leaved Butterfly-bush

Status & distribution: Neophyte-surviving; planted by Lickers Lane, Prescott (SJ4790, DP & J Earl, 2016).

Habitat: Shrub planting screen.

Comments: Native to China.

***Buddleja davidii* Franch.** Butterfly-bush



Formby DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; widespread and locally abundant at lower altitudes in towns and cities.

Earliest record traced: Darwen (SD6922, P Jepson, 1976).

Habitat: Waste ground, walls, tips, railway sidings and tracks. Plants will even colonise the heights of mill chimneys as at Royton (SD91E).

Comments: Not listed in *Savidge et al* (1963) but seen to increase rapidly over the last 30 years. PJ suggests that some established plants may be cultivars derived from hybridisation of several closely related species.

***Buddleja* x *weyeriana* Weyer = *B. davidii* Franchet x *B. globosa* Hope**

Weyer's Butterfly-bush



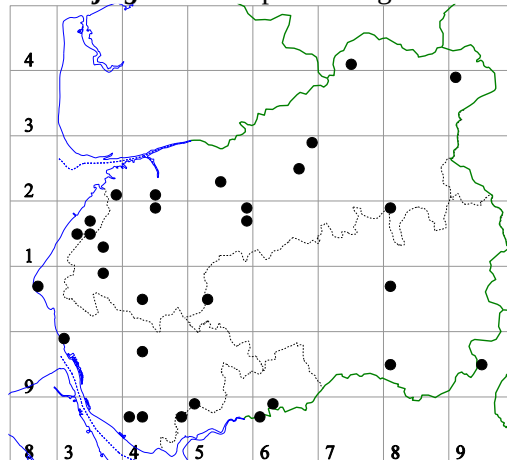
Clock Face DP Earl 2009

Status & distribution: Neophyte-surviving; Clock Face, St. Helens (SJ5291, DP & J Earl, 2009); Calderbrook (SD9420, DP Earl & P Bowdler, 2010); Halewood (SJ4485, J Wilson, 2013).

Habitat: Waste ground at site of former colliery works and at the site of a derelict garden.

Comments: Of horticultural origin.

***Buddleja globosa* Hope** Orange-ball-tree



Warrington DP Earl 2009

Status & distribution: Neophyte-surviving, scattered solitary bushes.

Earliest record traced: Reynolds Park, Woolton (SJ4287, S McWilliam, 1996).

Habitat: A relic of cultivation amongst planted shrubberies.

Comments: Native to Chile & Peru.

Collinsia heterophylla Buist. ex Graham
Purple Chinese-houses

Status & distribution: Neophyte-sown; Switch Island (SD372005, SD369001, SJ367998; RF Goodchild, 2006).

Habitat: Disturbed ground sown with a 'wildflower seed mixture'.

Comments: Native to North America.

Diascia barberae Hook. f. Twinspur



Status & distribution: Neophyte-surviving; White Ash, near Bury (SD8312, DP Earl & P Bowdler, 2009, det. J Clarke).

Habitat: On the top of a wall.

Comments: Native to southern Africa. Not seen on return visits.