

ASTERACEAE

Daisy family

SUBFAMILY 1 - CARDUOIDEAE

TRIBE 1 - CYNAREAE

Echinops sphaerocephalus L.

Glandular Globe-thistle

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; Rainscough (SD8002, AR Franks, 1989); Garston (SJ48B, S Fletcher, 1995); Swineshaw (SD9501, PS Gateley & A Bamforth, 2000); Princess Road, Chorlton (SJ8393, D Bishop).

Comments: Neophyte, native to southern Europe.

Echinops exalatus Schrader

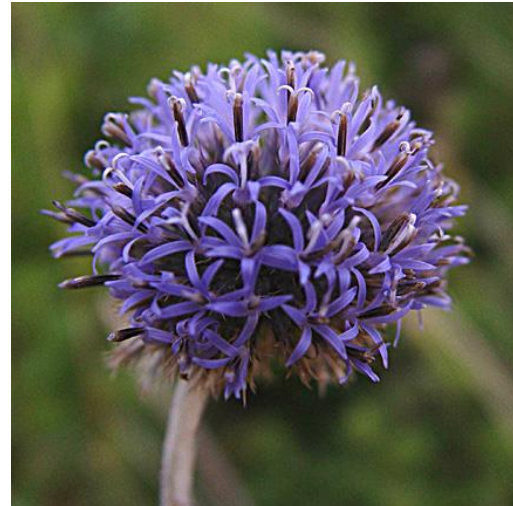
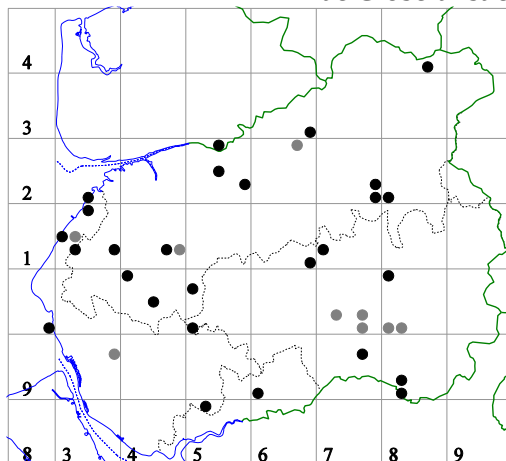
Globe-thistle

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; Darley Avenue, Didsbury (SJ89F, AR Franks, 1999); Smithills (SD6911 & SD7011, J Clarke & S Riley, 2017).

Habitat: Riverbank and garden grounds.

Comments: Native to eastern and south-eastern Europe. A record from Dallam Brook, Warrington (SJ69A, DP Earl, 2003) requires confirmation.

Echinops bannaticus Rochel ex Schrader Blue Globe-thistle



Crosby M Knowles 2008

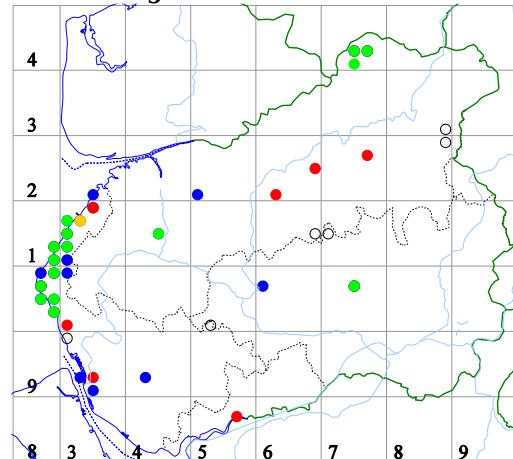
Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; widely established but occasional.

Earliest record traced: Blackburn (SD6729, E Stones, 1976).

Habitat: Waste ground, railway banks and tips.

Comments: Native to south-eastern Europe. This is probably the most common species, note however that determinations may be incorrect and further research is required.

Carlina vulgaris L. Carline Thistle





Ainsdale DP Earl 2009

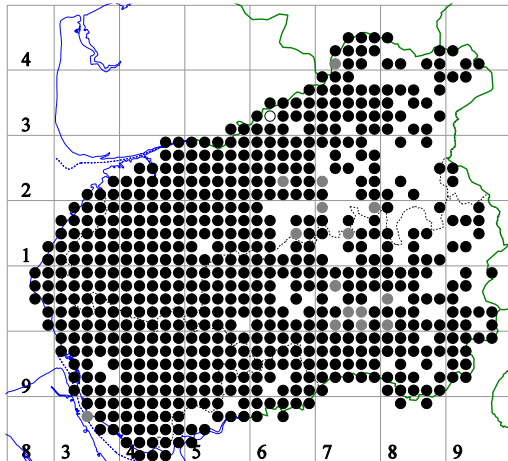
Status & distribution: Native, [Near Threatened \(Red List for England\)](#), Axiophyte; still frequent along the coast; very local small populations inland.
Habitat: Sand-dunes, limestone pastures and quarries, alkaline waste beds, industrial spoil heaps and former clay pits.
Comments: Should be looked for on the 'hushings' in the north-east of the vice-county from which this species has not been recorded recently.

Arctium lappa L. Greater Burdock

Status & distribution: Archaeophyte-denizen, Least Concern (Red List for England); Rare (2) and perhaps endangered at the vice-county level; Irlam Moss (SJ79B, V Gordon, 1992, confirmed, A Gunn); Chat Moss (SJ7(C, MPG Tolfree, 1996, conf. J Edmondson).
Former distribution: There are a number of records for this species past and present that require confirmation.
Habitat: Mossland track.

Arctium minus (Hill) Bernh.

Lesser Burdock



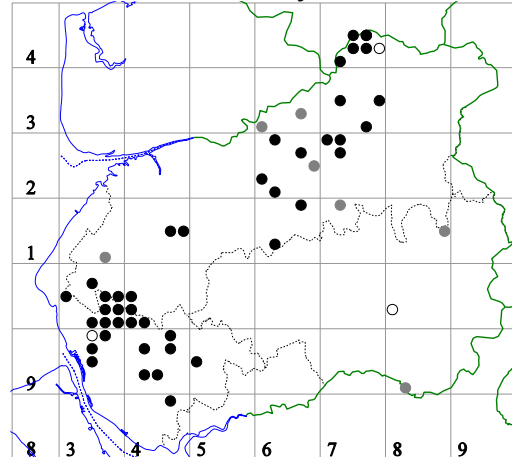
Formby DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); generally, very common although less frequent at higher altitudes.

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

Comments: At the intraspecific level ssp. *minus* is probably common and widespread in open disturbed habitats. There are records of ssp. *pubens* (Bab.) Arenes from Darwen (SD62W, E Stones, 1973); Great Altcar (SD30I, V Gordon, 1996); Chorley District (SD6123, Anon@LERN, 1996).

Arctium nemorosum Lej. Wood Burdock

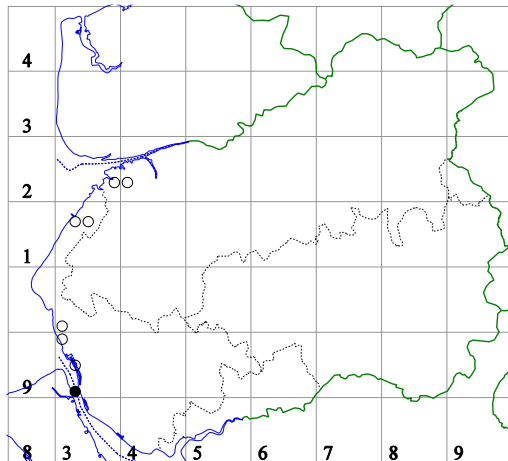


Status & distribution: Native, Axiophyte.

Comments: Is more characteristic of woods and shaded areas.

***Carduus tenuiflorus* Curtis**

Slender Thistle



Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Rare (1), Critically Endangered at the vice-county level with a few plants surviving near the Princes Dock (SJ3390, DP & J Earl, 2009) and still present in 2011.

Former distribution: Once a rare plant along the coastal fringe; banks between Hesketh Bank and Crossens (SD32 and/or SD42, *Flora of Preston* 1865); Southport (SD31I, *Grindon* 1859); Bootle (SJ39H, *Hall* 1839); about the old quarry, Little Crosby (SD30A, WG Travis, 1907). There is a record limited to 10km precision for SJ58.

Habitat: On the remains of a landing pier; formerly on sandy soils, sea banks and disturbed ground near the coast.

***Carduus pycnocephalus* L.**

Plymouth Thistle

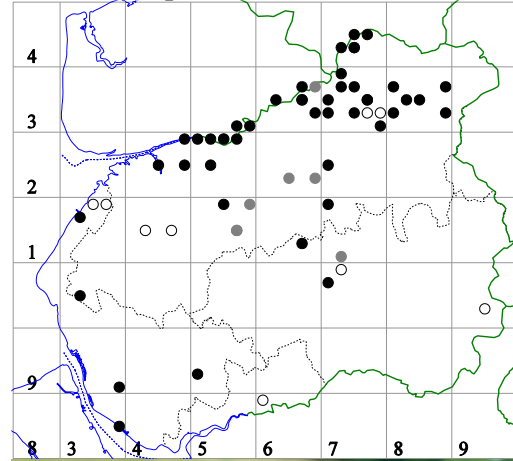
Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Stakehill (SD82Z, *Shaw* 1971).

Habitat: Wool tip.

Comments: Native to southern Europe.

***Carduus crispus* L.**

Wetted Thistle



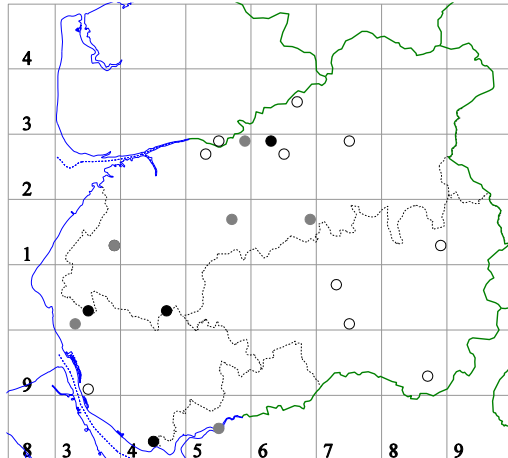
Calderstones, Whalley DP Earl 2009

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England), Axiophyte; most frequent in the Ribble and Calder valley river systems; scarce elsewhere.

Habitat: Riverbanks, species rich grasslands and scrub, roadside banks, limestone quarries; a casual of waste ground, road ballast and tips.

Comments: Usually associated with limestone or base rich soils, sometimes occurring as a casual as at Slutcher's Lane, Warrington (SJ68E, *Dunlop* 1908) and Park Tip, Oldham (SD90L, FJ Stubbs, 1908).

Carduus nutans L. Musk Thistle



Bickerstaffe DP Earl 2010

Status & distribution: Casual in South Lancashire; widely distributed but seldom persisting for any length of time with post 1994 records for Speke (SJ48L, S Fletcher, 1995); near Dawson's Fold (SD6328, C & M Harding, 1996); A570 roundabout, Bickerstaffe (SD4602, DP Earl, 2010); Lunt Meadows (SD30L, Bio-diverse Society Project, 2015).

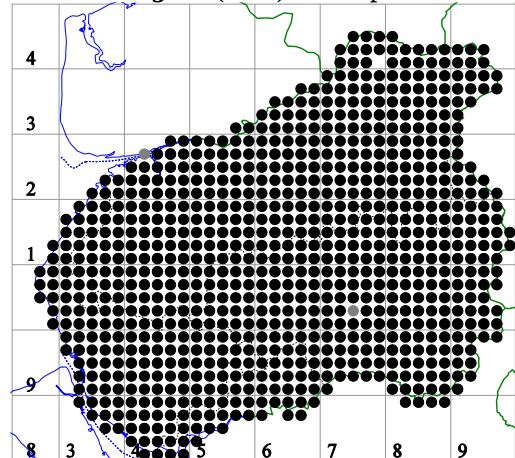
Habitat: Waste ground, field weed, railway banks, ballast and tips.

Cirsium eriophorum (L.) Scop. Woolly Thistle

Status & distribution: Casual in South Lancashire; six plants at Church near Accrington (SD72P, A Hitchon, 1959).

Habitat: Embankment.

Cirsium vulgare (Savi) Ten. Spear Thistle

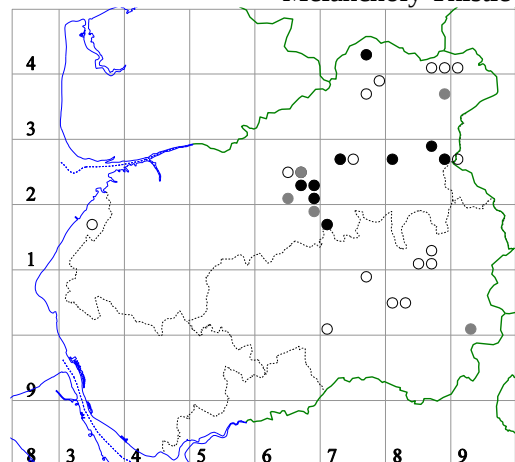


Birkdale DP Earl 2008

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

Habitat: Disturbed ground, roadsides, canal and railway banks, rough meadows and scrub.

Cirsium heterophyllum (L.) Hill Melancholy Thistle





Planted near The Barn, Cuerden DP Earl 2020

Distribution: Native, Near Threatened (Red List for England); Scarce, local in the hill districts and declining; rare to extinct elsewhere.

Habitat: Edges of meadows, stream banks, roadside verges, railway banks and churchyards in the hill districts.

Comments: Three populations at Darwen have been lost since 1995 due to urbanisation, the excessive use of herbicide and agricultural activities. Plants did occur as a casual on a reservoir embankment, Heaton Park (SD80H, T Badderley, c.1917).

Cirsium x wankelii Reichardt = *C. heterophyllum* x *C. palustre*

Status & distribution: Native, Rare (1), Critically Endangered at the vice-county level; Turton (SD71D, P Jepson, 1995); above Barley (SD84B, Anon, 1997).

Habitat: With relict population of *C. heterophyllum* in a clearing amongst a conifer plantation.

Comments: The Turton population has since been lost, plants being shaded out by in-fill planting with oaks.

Cirsium oleraceum (L.) Scop.

Cabbage Thistle



Clitheroe S Wynne 20008

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; established on a stream bank near Henthorn Road, Clitheroe (SD7340, S Wynne, 1988) and still present 2011.

Former distribution: By a ditch, Burnage (SJ89R, H Britten Jnr., several years before 1923, Lancashire & Cheshire Naturalists' XVI: 54 1923).

Habitat: Ditch bank and streamsides.

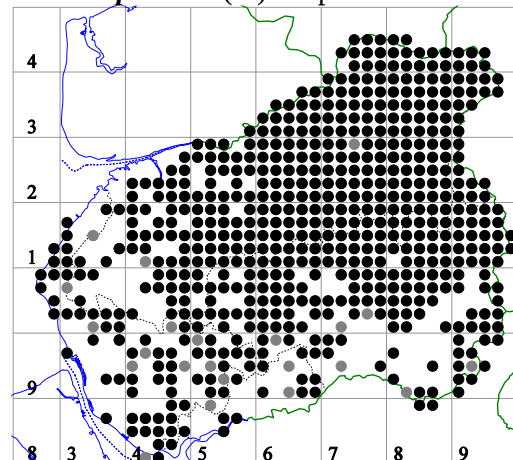
Comments: Native to mainland Europe.

Cirsium acaule Scop.

Dwarf Thistle

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual. Said to have occurred in the Merseyside area. Record to trace.

Cirsium palustre (L.) Scop. Marsh Thistle





Ainsdale DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); common in the hill districts and the foothills, occasional at lower altitudes and scarce in built up areas.

Habitat: Wet meadows, marshes, fens, ditch sides, pond sides, dune-slacks and moorland flushes.

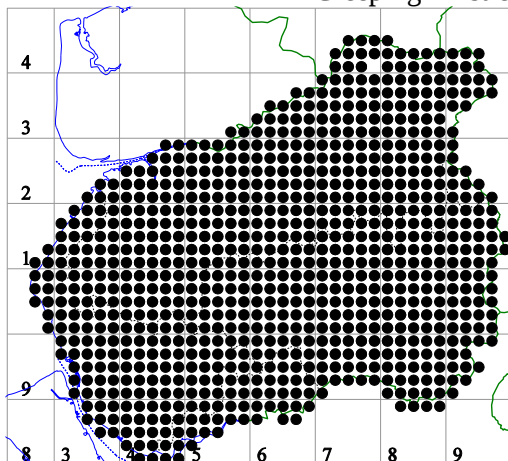
Cirsium x celakovskianum Knaf = *C. palustre* x *C. arvense*

Status & distribution: Native, Rare (1), Critically Endangered at the vice-county level; (SD60, BSBI hybrid records, Anon, 1997); by farm track Horden Rake, Feniscowles near Blackburn (SD62L) & by moorland road, Hordern Stoops, Belmont (SD61M, BON) P Jepson, 2001.

Habitat: Known from verges amongst *Cynosurus-Centaurea nigra* grassland.

Cirsium arvense (L.) Scop.

Creeping Thistle



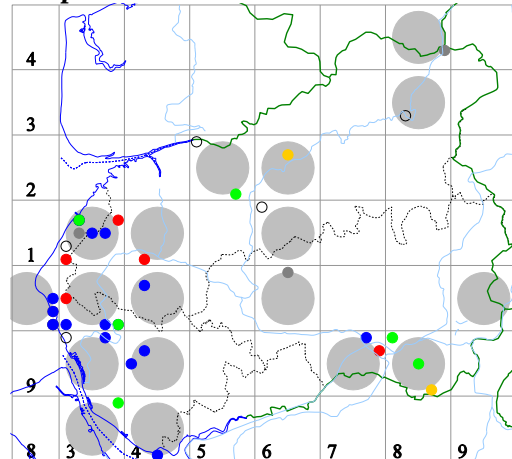
Southport DP Earl 2008

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

Habitat: Pastures, roadsides, arable field margins and waste ground.

Comments: Several varieties have been recognised in the past but only var. *incanum* (Fischer) Ledeb. is now listed in Stace. Recorded from Walton Prison (SJ39N, JA Wheldon & WG Travis, 1913); near Birtenshaw Hall (SD71G, A Boyle, 1976); this may occur along the Cheshire Lines Railway (SD30J, DP & J Earl & SP Toone, 2003).

Onopordum acanthium L. Cotton-thistle



Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; widely scattered and occasional, with most being from near the coast and about Maghull and Ormskirk.

Earliest record traced: South of Preston (SD52, *Flora of Preston* 1865).

Habitat: Waste and disturbed ground, tips and sand-dunes.

Comments: Native to mainland Europe.

***Onopordum tauricum* Willd.**

Blue Cotton-thistle

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Withington (SJ89G, Rev CE Shaw, 1958, det. WAS).

Habitat: Tip.

Comments: Native to south-eastern Europe and Italy.

***Cynara cardunculus* L.**

Cardoon

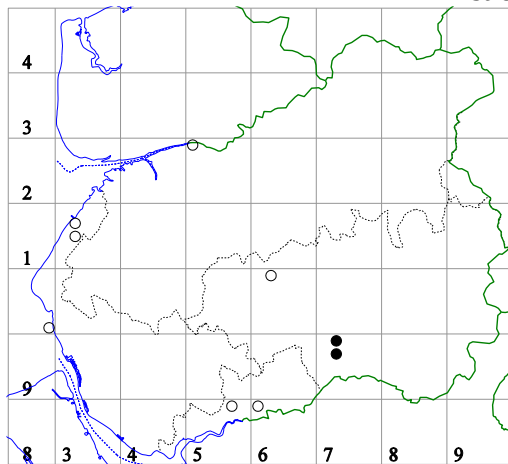
Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; near Hightown Visitor Centre (SD2903, V Gordon, 1993, PH Smith, 2004); Birkacre Brow (SD5615, C Winder, 2009).

Habitat: Riverbank where garden refuse is disposed of.

Comments: Native to southern Europe, North Africa and western Asia. The Hightown plant was originally determined as *Cynara scolymus* L. (Globe Artichoke).

***Silybum marianum* (L.) Gaertner**

Milk Thistle



Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; infrequent in the lowlands, with recent records from the Barton Moss area (SJ79I & SJ79J, MPG Tolfree, 1995). There are records limited to 10km precision for SD61 & SD71.

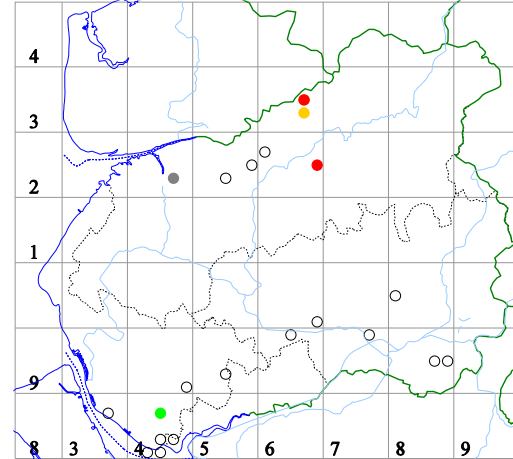
Earliest record traced: Southport (SD31I, H Aughton, *Dickinson* 1851).

Habitat: Waste ground, tips, arable land and garden refuse disposal areas near habitation.

Comments: Native to mainland Europe.

***Serratula tinctoria* L.**

Saw-wort



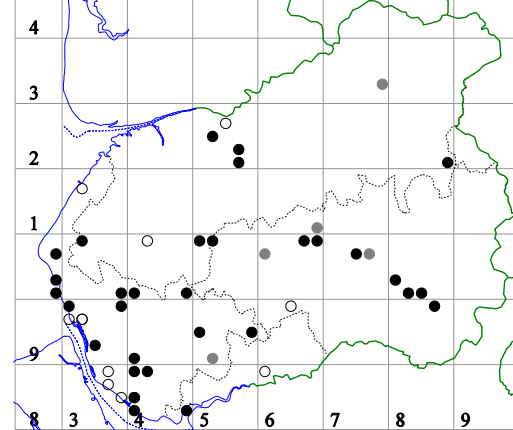
Status & former distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); formerly widely scattered and known to have occurred at approximately twenty sites. Until recently the last records were from near Davy Field Brook, Eccleshill (SD62X, P Jepson, c. 1987) but lost to the construction of the M65 and Copster Green (SD6734, 1988). Plants have recently been introduced to the Lee Park Golf Course (SJ4487, J Styles, 2023).

Habitat: Old meadows, hedgebanks and clay cliffs.

Comments: Declined due to the 'improvement' of pastures, urban development and road construction.

***Centaurea scabiosa* L.**

Greater Knapweed



Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); possible native along the coast in the past; occasional in lowland areas usually as a deliberate introduction particularly in Merseyside and Greater Manchester.

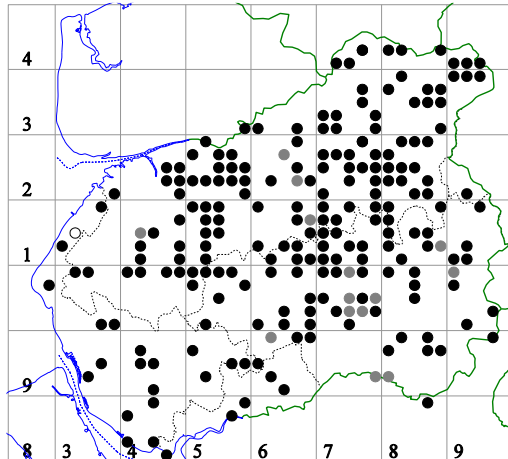
Earliest record traced: Southport (SD31I, Glazebrook 1826).

Habitat: Riverbanks, roadsides, railway banks, sidings, waste ground and recently sown wildflower meadows.

Comments: The rayed form of *C. nigra* may have been confused with this species at a few locations.

***Centaurea montana* L.**

Perennial Cornflower



Padiham DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; extensively established usually as isolated clumps where garden refuse has been disposed.

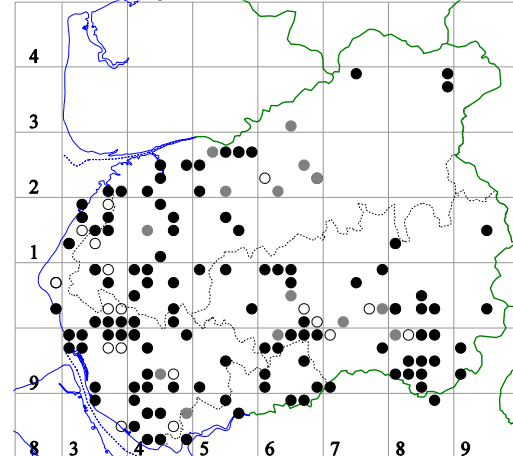
Earliest record traced: Waste ground by Chatburn Station (SD74S, WG Travis, 1918).

Habitat: Waste ground, roadsides, railway banks and tips.

Comments: Native to central and southern Europe.

***Centaurea cyanus* L.**

Cornflower



Blowick, Southport DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Archaeophyte-colonist, Least Concern (Red List for England); widely sown at lower altitudes in recent years, formerly an infrequent adventive. There is an un-localised record for SD82.

Habitat: Recently sown ground in urban areas, country parks, along trunk roads etc. Formerly a casual weed of waste, cultivated and arable land, cornfields, meadows, rubbish tips and poultry runs.

***Centaurea calcitrapa* L.** Red Star-thistle

Status & distribution: Archaeophyte-denizen, Endangered (Red List for England); casual in South Lancashire with records from Ince Moss (SD50W, T Greenlees, 1897, BON); rubbish tip at Colne (SD84V, CR Ritching, 1923); Burnage (SJ89R, H Britten, 1923, MANCH); Barden Lane Tip (SD83H, H Ellis, 1926); Horwich (SD61K, A Hazelwood & CR Lancaster, 1953); Crown Wallpaper Tip (SD7019, BW Fox, 1958, BON); Crown Wallpaper Tip (SD7019, V Gordon, 1960, LIV).

Habitat: Rubbish tips.

Comments: Native to mainland Europe.

Centaurea aspera L. Rough Star-thistle

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; canal bank near Aintree (SJ39U, JA Wheldon, 1903); Freshfield Tip near the Cheshire Lines Railway (SD31A, V Gordon, 1959).

Habitat: Tips and disturbed ground.

Comments: Native to mainland Europe.

Centaurea solstitialis L.

Yellow Star-thistle

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Warrington (SJ68E, GA Dunlop, 1891 & 1906); ballast at Aintree (SJ39U, JA Wheldon, 1892); ballast at Garston (SJ48B, Rev S Gasking, 1898); Ince Moss (SD50W, *Greenlees & Holden* 1920).

Habitat: Ballast and tips.

Comments: Native to mainland Europe.

Centaurea melitensis L.

Maltese Star-thistle

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Clayton Green (SD52R, JC Melvill, 1880); Whiston (SJ49Q, Rev M Toohey, n.d.); Great Harwood (SD73G, F Savage, 1913); Whitelands, Ashton-under-Lyne (SJ99P, 1913) & Spring Hollow (SJ99U, 1914) F Collier; Oldham Sewage Works (SD80X, A Hitchon & Rev CE Shaw, 1960).

Habitat: Waste ground, sewage beds and rubbish tips.

Comments: Native to southern Europe.

Centaurea diluta Aiton

Lesser-Star-thistle

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Seaforth sand tip (SJ39D, JE Lousley, 1958); Atherton and Tyldesley Corporation tips (SD60W, BW Fox, 1959); rubbish dump at Queen's Road, Collyhurst (SD80K, JR Ironside-Wood, 1964); Formby Tip (SD20Z, J Hodgson, 1966).

Habitat: Tips.

Comments: Native to the western Mediterranean.

Centaurea jacea L. Brown Knapweed

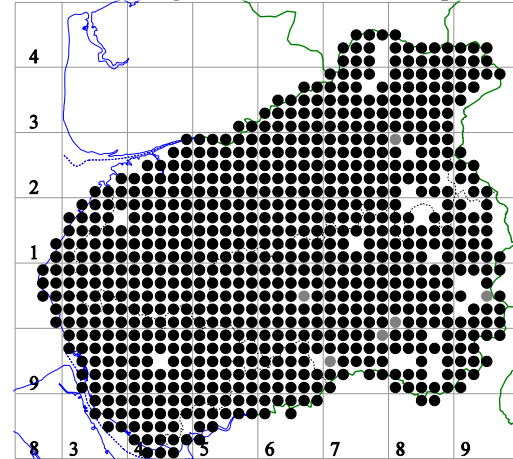
Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; a single plant, Hartley's Village,

Fazakerley (SJ39T, JA Wheldon & WG Travis, 1916).

Habitat: Waste ground.

Comments: Widespread in mainland Europe.

Centaurea nigra L. Common Knapweed



Leeds & Liverpool Canal R Darlington 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); common throughout except on higher moorland and densely urbanised areas.

Habitat: Grasslands, roadside verges, along railway and canal banks.

Comments: Both native and non-native rayed forms of this species may have been confused with *C. scabiosa* at a few locations. Non-native forms of this species are known to have been introduced via wildflower and grassland seed mixtures.

Centaurea macrocephala Muss Puschk.
ex. Willd. Giant Knapweed

Status & distribution: Neophyte-established; a single clump along Lower House Lane, Rochdale (SD9017, L Turner, 2024).

Habitat: Grassy field margin.

Comments: Native to the Caucasus region.

Comments: Native to southern Europe.

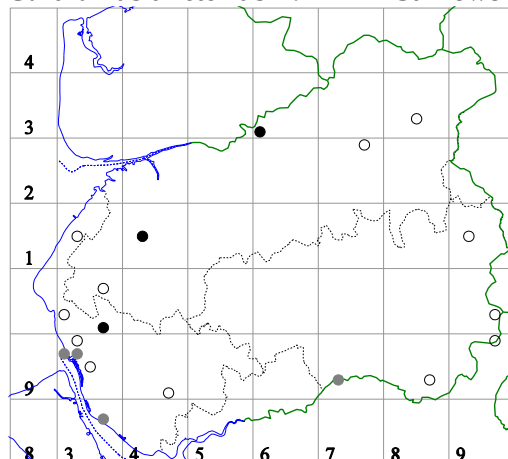
Mantisalca salmantica (L.) Briq. & Cavillier Dagger Flower

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; a single plant at the Gaol Fields, Bootle (SJ39H, JD Massey, 1930).

Habitat: Waste ground.

Comments: Native to the Mediterranean region; formerly known as *Centaurea salmantica* L.

Carthamus tinctorius L. Safflower



Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; occasional with historic records mainly in urban areas. There are post 1994 records from Martin Mere (SD4214, C Tomlinson, 1996); A59, Salmesbury (SD63A, DP Earl & SP Toone, 2003); Switch Island (SD3700, RF Goodchild, 2006).

Earliest record traced: Tip between Smithy Bridge and Littleborough (SD91H, F Williamson, 1911).

Habitat: Tips, waste ground, grass seed impurity, areas where birdseed is scattered.

Comments: Native to south-western Asia.

Carthamus lanatus L. Downy Safflower

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Stake Hill (SD80Z, n.d.) & Micklehurst Tip (SD90R, n.d.) Rev CE Shaw.

Habitat: Wool tips.