

ORCHIDACEAE

Orchid family

TRIBE 2 - NEOTTIEAE

[*Cephalanthera damasonium* (Mill.)

Druce White Helleborine

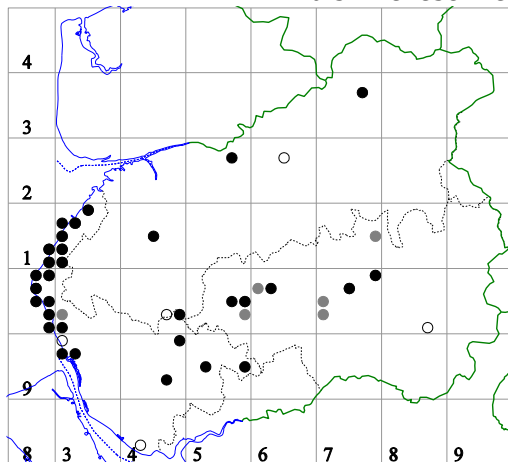
Distribution: Native, very rare with a single record for Broad Hey Wood (SD7915, Mrs. E Crompton 1920) which requires confirmation.

Habitat: Woodland.

Comments: Perhaps merely a record for *Epipactis helleborine*.]

Epipactis palustris (L.) Crantz

Marsh Helleborine



Bury J Somerville 2008

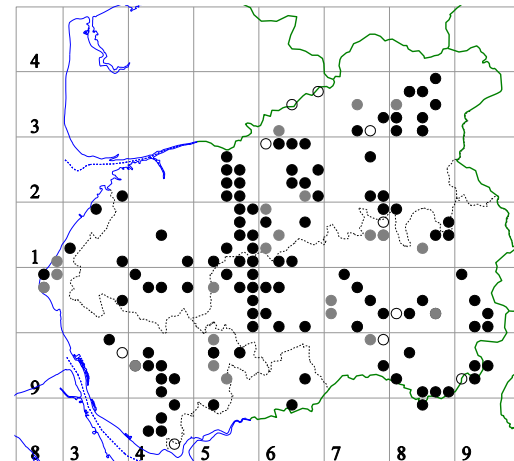
Status & distribution: Native, Near Threatened (Red List for England); Axiophyte, locally abundant along the Sefton coast, occasional inland.

Habitat: Dune-slacks, damp grasslands on former industrial sites, spoil heaps and disturbed clay soils.

Comments: The var. *ericetorum* Asch & Graebn. was recorded from dune-slacks at Southport and Ainsdale; var. *ochroleuca* has been recorded from Freshfield and recently from the dunes at Birkdale (SD31C, PH Smith, 2005).

Epipactis helleborine (L.) Crantz

Broad-leaved Helleborine



Formby Point PH Smith 2008



Blackley Forest R Snowden 2009

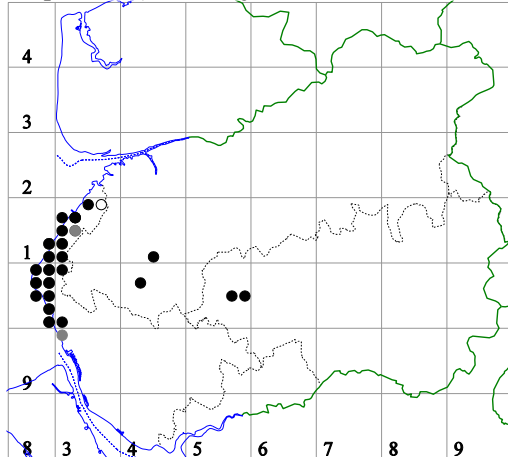
Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, widespread, most frequent in wooded areas.

Habitat: In woods, grassland bordering woodland, on shaded banks, churchyards,

wooded cuttings of former railway lines; developing *Betula-Salix* woodland on former industrial land.

Comments: Plants seldom occur in great numbers.

Epipactis dunensis (Stephenson & T.A. Stephenson) Godfrey Dune Helleborine



Birkdale PS Gateley 2008

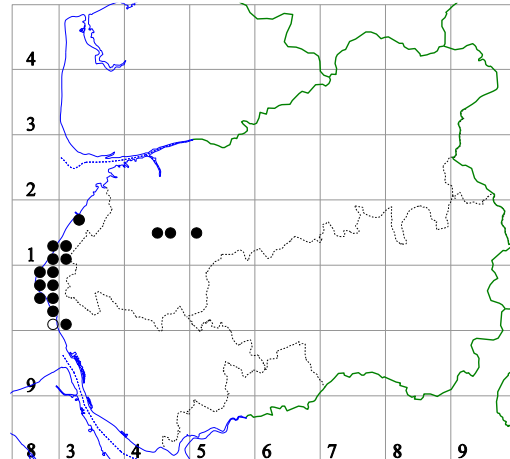
Status & distribution: Native, Endemic, Nationally Scarce, Data Deficient (Red List for England); Axiphyte, occasional to locally frequent along the Sefton coast; scarce inland within the grounds of Edge Hill University (SD4207, J Styles, 2015-2017); Scutcher's Acres (SD4510, DP Earl, PH Smith & J Watt, 2011); locally abundant in developing woodland at the site of the Westwood Power Station,

Wigan (SD5704 & SD5804, DP & J Earl, 2017) where discovered by EM Stephenson in 1999.

Habitat: Sand-dunes; under trees inland.

Comments: A provisional record from Liverpool Festival Gardens (SJ38T) requires confirmation.

Epipactis phyllanthus G.E. Sm.
Green-flowered Helleborine



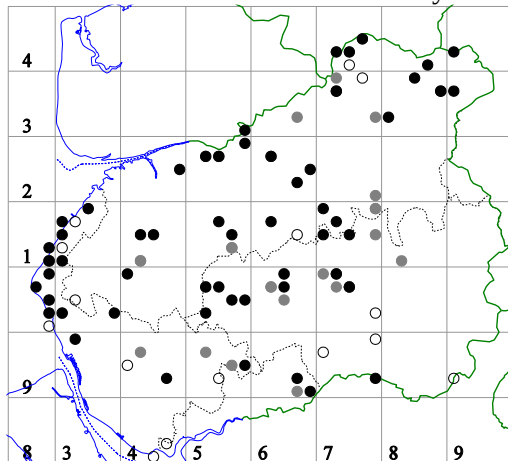
Birkdale PS Gateley 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Nationally Uncommon, Least Concern (Red List for England); a localised plant of the Sefton coast from Hightown to Birkdale; rare inland at Mere Sands Wood (SD4415, 2005 onwards); Rufford (SD4615, M Chappell, 2013); in a garden at (SD5014, Mawdesley, C Staples, 2009-2014).

Habitat: On sand-dunes particularly within the mature pine plantations; developing *Betula-Salix* woodland at Mere Sands.

***Neottia ovata* (L.) Bluff & Fingerh.**

Common Twayblade



Rose Grove DP Earl 2008

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

Habitat: Species-rich grassland, woods, amongst the sand-dunes; a colonist of industrial spoil heaps, limestone quarries, railway cuttings and reservoir embankments.

Comments: A small form of *Neottia ovata* was found by WG Travis in 1918 in the sand-hills between Hightown Station and on the banks of the River Alt, Travis suggested that this may have been the *Neottia cordata* reported by T Williams (Dickinson 1855).

***Neottia cordata* (L.) Rich.**

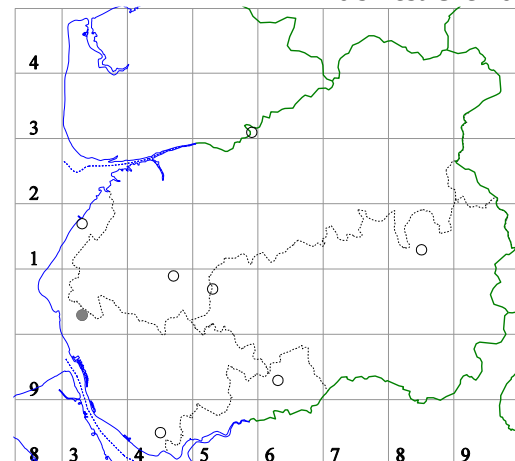
Lesser Twayblade

Status & former distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Near the Beacon at Pendle Hill (SD84A, Merrett Pinax, 1666, p.15); Robins Hoods Bed (SD91T, A Stansfield, -1888); near Knoll Hill (SD81H, J Horsefield, -1849); established on a sand-dune near the warden's lodge at Ainsdale NNR (SD3011, NA Robinson, 1969, V Gordon, 1989) but since lost.

Habitat: Formerly on moors on peaty soils at higher altitudes and on a sand-dune beneath *Pinus nigra*.

***Neottia nidis-avis* (L.) Rich.**

Bird's-nest Orchid



Status & former distribution: Native, Vulnerable (Red List for England). The last record traced is that of a single plant found under the shade of a *Rhododendron* at Ince Blundell (SD30G, V Gordon, 1974) where formerly recorded by Miss

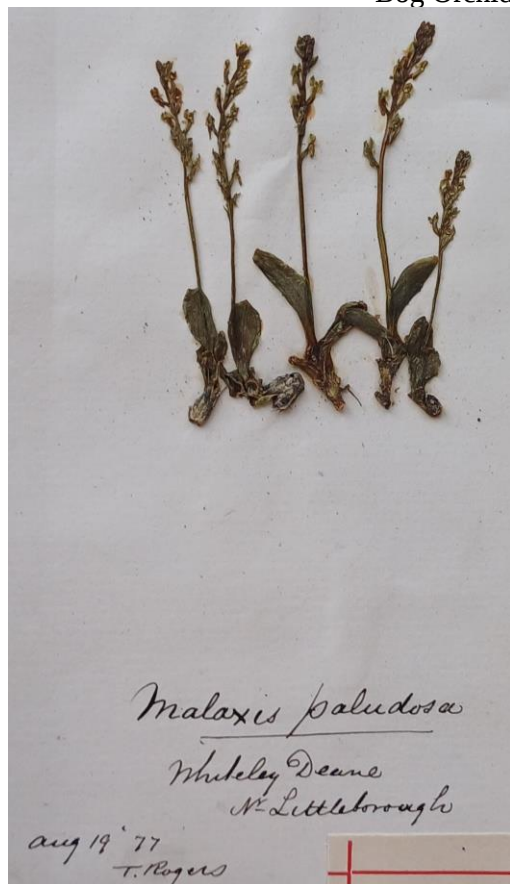
Dowie c. 1872. Additional locations were Bamford Wood (SD8512, *Buxton* 1849); Halewood (SJ48M, T Harrison, 1850); Lathom Park (SD40U, T Williams, 1855); Dean Wood (SD5306, J Harrison, 1855); Samlesbury (SD53V, *Ashfield* 1858); Croft (SJ69G, P Yates, 1868); Southport (SD31I, T Garside, 1872).

Habitat: Occurred in a few shaded woods and perhaps on the dune system at Southport.

TRIBE 4 - MALAXIDEAE

Hammarbya paludosa (L.) Kuntze

Bog Orchid



Manchester Museum

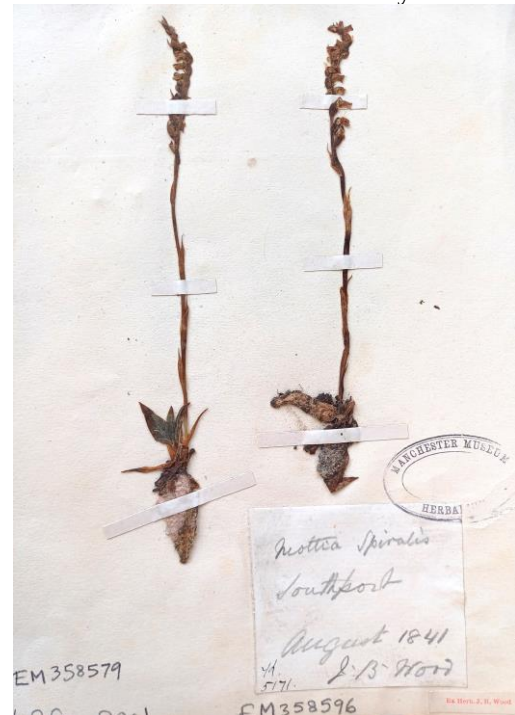
Status & former distribution: Native, Nationally Uncommon, Vulnerable (Red List for England); once very rare near Milnrow (SD91L, W Bentley, *Buxton* 1849) which is probably Whiteley Dean where the last record traced was by T Rogers in 1910.

Habitat: A species of *Sphagnum* bogs.

TRIBE 6 - CRANICHIDEAE

Spiranthes spiralis (L.) Chevall.

Autumn Lady's-tresses



Manchester Museum

Status & former distribution: Native, Near Threatened (Red List for England); long extinct from the scattered locations at Allerton (SJ48D, T Townley, & G Crozier, 1825, MANCH); Hale (SJ48R, *Dickinson* 1851); Speke (SJ48G, Widnes Field Naturalists Society, 1863); Ince Blundell Woods (SD30G, JL Bostock, 1830); Bootle Sands (SJ39H, 1835); Southport (SD31I, 1826-1903).

Habitat: Formerly a rare plant of sand-dunes and pastures.

TRIBE 7 - ORCHIDEAE

Platanthera chlorantha (Custer) Reichb.

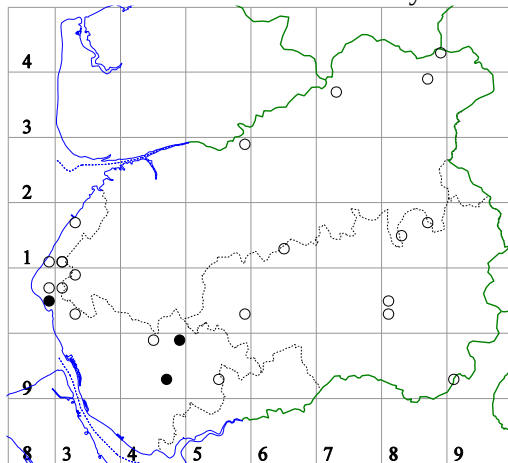
Greater Butterfly-orchid

Status & former distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); hill pastures at Accrington (SD72, J Dugdale, 1859); Barley (SD84A, A Turner, 1933). There is also a record from a Tame Valley wood about a mile beyond Stalybridge (SD90U) which could have been in one of several vice-counties.

Habitat: Hill pastures and woods.

***Platanthera bifolia* (L.) Rich.**

Lesser Butterfly-orchid



Status & distribution: Native, Endangered (Red List for England); considered to be endangered at the vice-county level. Recorded from the Rainford area (SJ49R & SJ49Z, V Gordon, 1999); a single flower spike photographed at Altcar Rifle Range (SD20X, S Cross, 2000).

Former distribution: Occasional to locally common but now declined almost to extinction.

Habitat: Damp dune-pasture; precise details for the Rainford records are not known; formerly recorded from heaths and pastures.

***Pseudorchis albida* (L.) Á. & D. Löve**

Small white-orchid



Walsden MANCH

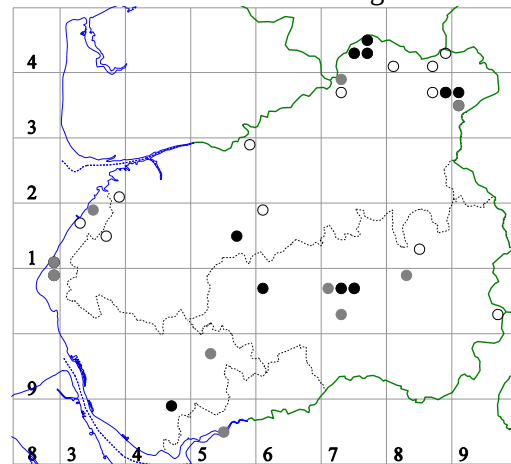
Status & former distribution: Native, Nationally Uncommon, Vulnerable (Red List for England); Walsden (SD9322, R Leyland, 1837, MANCH); near Back Rough, Todmorden (SD9126, J Nowell, 1842 & *Flora of Todmorden* 1907); near Pilkington (SD70Y, JB Wood Phyt. 1, 1842, p. 279); field at Pilsworth (SD80J, Buxton 1859); Unsworth (J Percival, *Grindon* 1859); near Milnrow (SD91G, Buxton 1849).

Habitat: Old pastures to the north of Manchester.

Comments: This species is thought to have been extinct prior to 1907.

***Gymnadenia conopsea* (L.) R. Br.**

Chalk Fragrant-orchid



Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Scarce (10) being a localised colonist of artificial habitats in the industrial south and about Clitheroe; a feature of calcareous flushes along the Catlow valley (SD8836 & SD8936) and at Coldwell Reservoirs (SD9036).

Habitat: Limestone quarries, road cuttings, calcareous flushes and swamps, un-improved pastures and alkaline waste beds; formerly on the sand-dunes.

Comments: Most plants recorded from the vice-county are perhaps within the range of this species.

***Gymnadenia densiflora* (Wahlenb.) A.**

Dietr. Marsh Fragrant-orchid

Status & distribution: Native, Data Deficient (Red List for England); Rare with populations at Nob End (SD70N, 1954, Rev CE Shaw and various recorders to the present day) & Salthill Quarry

(SD7542, MP Wilcox, 2011) considered to be this species.

Former distribution: Photographs from Slack 65, Ainsdale NNR (SD21W, 1982) & Formby Golf Course slack, Freshfield (SD20Z, 1988) PH Smith also appear to be of this species.

Habitat: Dune-slacks and a colonist of a limestone quarry and an alkaline waste bed.

Comments: Possibly under-recorded.

X *Dactylodenia st-quintinii* (Godfrey) J. Duvign = *Gymnadenia conopsea* x *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*

Status & former distribution: Native, Rainford Junction (SD40R, JD Massey & WG Travis, 1928, det. GC Druce); Nob End (SD70N, Adcock, Gordon & Morris 1977-78, *Watsonia* 14 : 379-380).

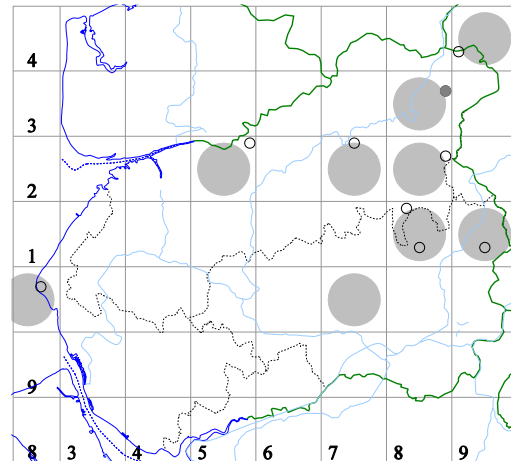
Habitat: Marshy ground and an alkaline waste tip.

Coeloglossum viride (L.) Hartman.

Frog Orchid



Todmorden MANCH

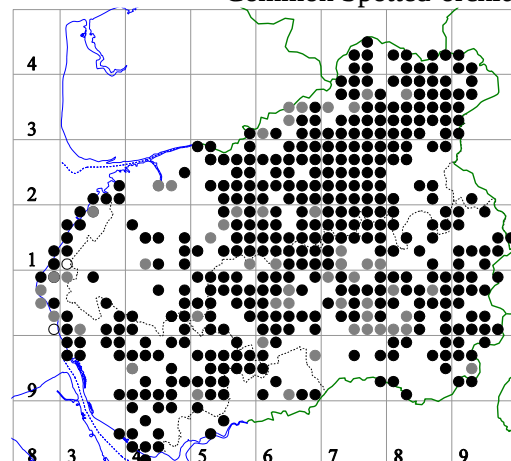


Status & former distribution: Native, Vulnerable (Red List for England); Fo Edge (SD81J, Wood 1840); Doctor Wood, Ashworth (SD81L, Dr. Buckley, 1844); near Doldrum, Milnrow (SD91L, B Belfield); field behind factory, Roach Bridge (SD52Z, Mr. Lucas, *Flora of Preston* 1865); sand-dunes between Formby and Freshfield (SD20T, JA Wheldon, 1890); dry pasture above Whitehaven (SD82Y, *Flora of Todmorden* 1907); field behind Noyna Rocks (SD94B, H Robinson); Walverden Valley (SD83Y, CR Ritching, 1913-1914); there are vague records for Bolton (SD70) and Rochdale (Buxton 1849).

Habitat: Once a feature of dune-slacks along the coast and old meadows in the hill districts.

Dactylorhiza fuchsii (Druce) Soó

Common Spotted-orchid





Kem Mill DP Earl 2008

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

Habitat: Dune-slacks, damp grasslands especially in the river valleys; mires, flushes; marshy ground particularly by railway tracks, sidings and canals; often occurring as a colonist of industrial waste ground, roadside verges on clay soils and clay pits.

Dactylorhiza x transiens (Druce) Soó = *D. fuchsii* x *D. maculata*

Status & distribution: Native, Rare; Edgerton (SD71C) & (SD70) Rev CE Shaw, 1965, det. Miss Barden of Kew; Oakfield (SD6915, E Stones, 1974, det. VS Summerheys); Oakfield (SD6916, P Jepson 1980 onwards); Rossendale (SD8119, R Brown, 1984).

Habitat: Basin mire, damp heathy fields and pond margins on acidic soils.

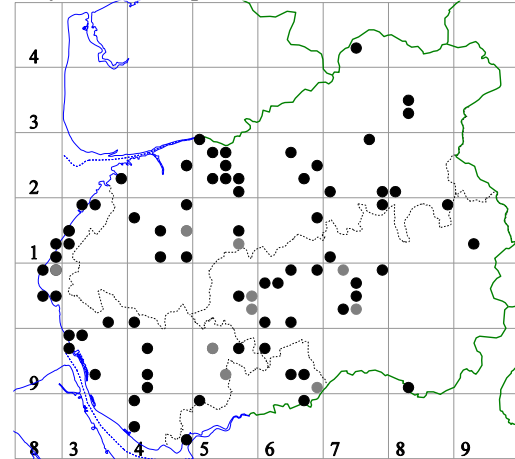
Dactylorhiza x kerneriorum (Soó) Soó = *D. fuchsii* x *D. incarnata*

Status & distribution: Native, Scarce at Freshfield (SD20Z, PA Jones, 1947 & V Gordon, 1958); possibly this hybrid with the parent species at Gathurst (SD5307, G

Morries, 1974); Nob End (SD70N, J Lowell, 1999); Blackleach (SD70L, DP Earl & MPG Tolfree, 2003); Cabin Hill (SD20X, P Green, 2005); Southport Marine Lake Dunes (SD3318, Cleveland Botany Group, 2007).

Habitat: Dune-slacks, alkaline waste bed and damp clay soil.

Dactylorhiza x grandis (Druce) P. Hunt = *D. fuchsii* x *D. praetermissa*



Skelmersdale DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Axiophyte; widespread particularly at low to mid altitudes.

Earliest record traced: Freshfield (SD20U, PA Jones, 1947, det. VS Summerhayes & A Wilmott).

Habitat: Grasslands on damp soils, roadside verges, base-rich flushes, dune-slacks and alkaline waste beds.

Comments: A frequent hybrid where the parent species coexist.

Dactylorhiza x *venusta* Stephenson & T.A. Stephenson) Soó = *D. fuchsii* x *D. purpurella*

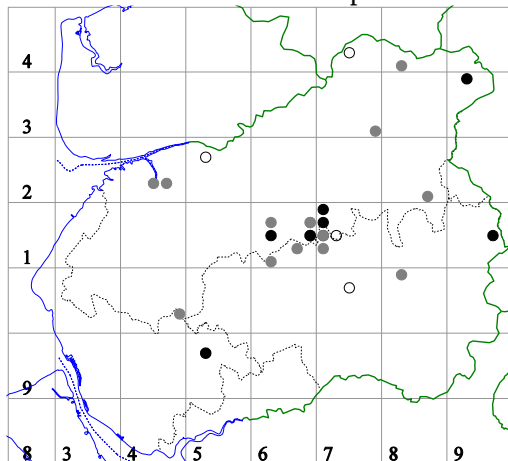
Status & distribution: Native, Rare (3). Edges of Bowring Park (SJ49F, V Gordon, 1998); Nob End (SD70N, E Stones, 1974 & J Lowell, 1999); large population at present for several years at Altcar Rifle Range (SD2904, PH Smith, conf. Prof. R. Bateman, 2007) occurring with other dactylorchids.

Habitat: Damp grasslands, damp dune-pasture an alkaline waste bed.

Comments: There is an additional record from Sherdley Park & Golf Course (SJ5193, Anon@Biobank, 2002).

Dactylorhiza maculatum (L.) Soó

Heath Spotted-orchid



Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Scarce (7), scattered populations across the West Pennine Moors from Rivington (SD61H) to Simms Clough (SD71D); perhaps now rare elsewhere in the uplands at Windy Hill, Milnrow (SD9714, A Bamforth, 2003) & Turnholes Flushes, Wycoller Wycoller (SD9338, DP Earl, 2015); very rare in the lowlands where last recorded at Haresfinch (SJ59I, V Gordon, 1995).

Former distribution: Once more widespread in the hill districts; at lower altitudes a population occurred at Much Hoole (SD42R, PH Smith) but was destroyed in 1977.

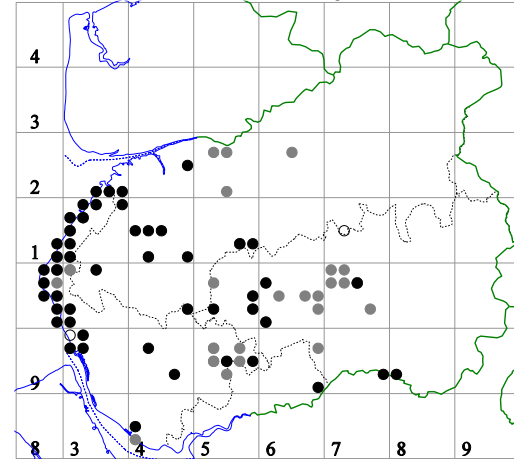
Habitat: Upland fringe flushes, damp heaths, moors and upland pastures; acid habitat on a spoil heap.

Dactylorhiza x *hallii* (Druce) Soó = *D. maculatum* x *D. praetermissa*

Status & former distribution: Native, Freshfield (SD20U, WG Travis, 1914, det. GC Druce).

Dactylorhiza incarnata (L.) Soó

Early Marsh-orchid



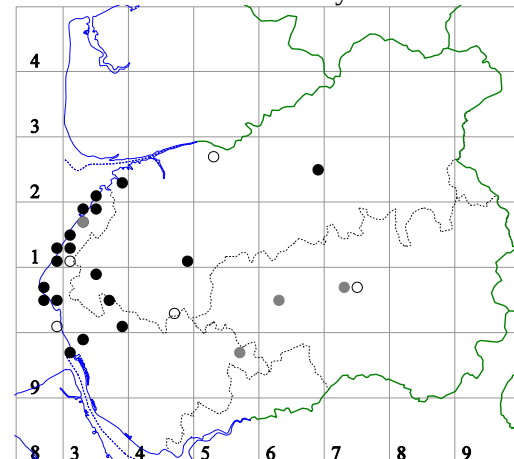
Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, common along the coast; frequent on former industrial sites and disturbed clay between St. Helens and Bury; rare elsewhere.

Habitat: In dune-slacks, grasslands on disturbed clay soils; a colonists of spoil heaps and industrial waste ground.

Dactylorhiza incarnata (L.) Soó ssp.

incarnata

Early Marsh-orchid

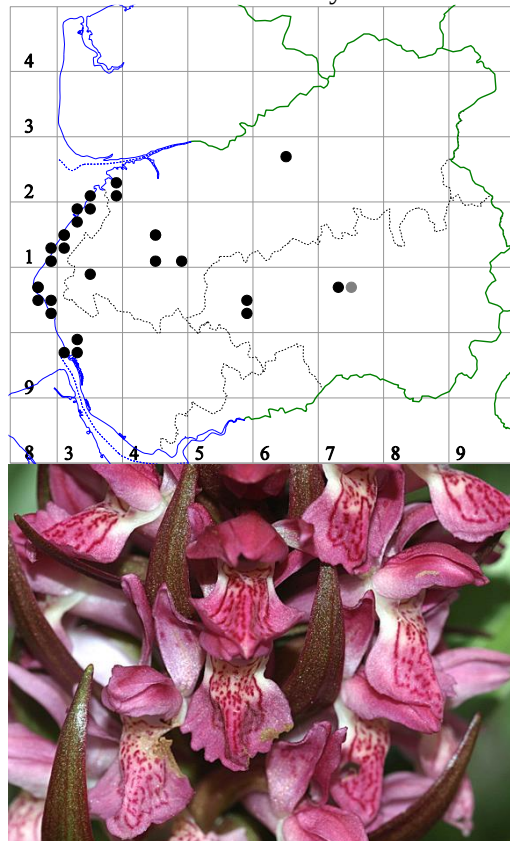


Status & distribution: Native, Nationally Uncommon, Waiting List (Red List for England); Axiophyte, mainly coastal, rare inland as far east as Eccleshill Old Ironworks (SD62X, P Jepson, 1999) and perhaps still present at some of the former

industrial sites in Merseyside and Greater Manchester.

Habitat: Dune-slacks, heath pastures, marshy ground by railways and a colonist of industrial spoil heaps.

Dactylorhiza incarnata (L.) Soó ssp. *coccinea* (Pugsley) Soó
Early Marsh-orchid

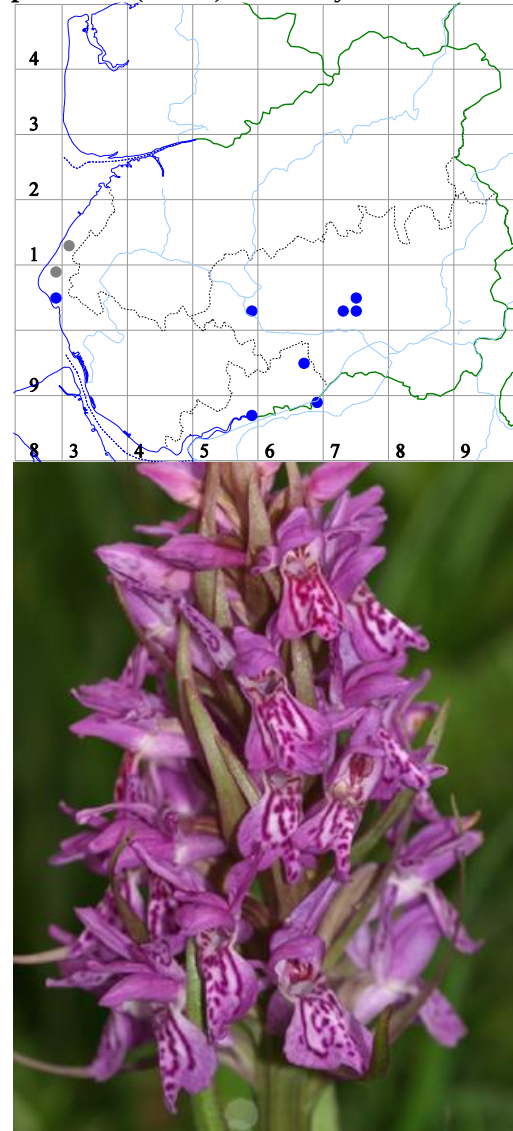


Cabin Hill PH Smith 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Nationally Scarce, Vulnerable (Red List for England); Axiophyte, strongly coastal but now occurs on the coastal plain at Mere Sands Wood (SD4415); Lathom (SD4510); Parbold (SD4910) and further inland at Pleasington Playing Fields (SD62N); Wigan Cemetery (SD5803); Westwood Ash Tip (SD5804) and Bull Hill (SD7307).

Habitat: Dune-slacks, damp clay meadows and a colonist of former industrial sites.

Dactylorhiza incarnata (L.) Soó ssp. *pulchella* (Druce) Soó Early Marsh-orchid



Altcar PH Smith 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Nationally Uncommon, Waiting List (Red List for England); Scarce (7) Ainsdale (SD31B, FW Holder, 1935); Freshfield (SD20Z, 1960); Altcar (SD20X, PH Smith, 2008); the remaining post 1994 records are from inland sites between Warrington, Wigan and Walkden.

Habitat: Dune slacks, damp clay grassland and in *Betula-Salix* woodland on peaty soils at Rixton Moss.

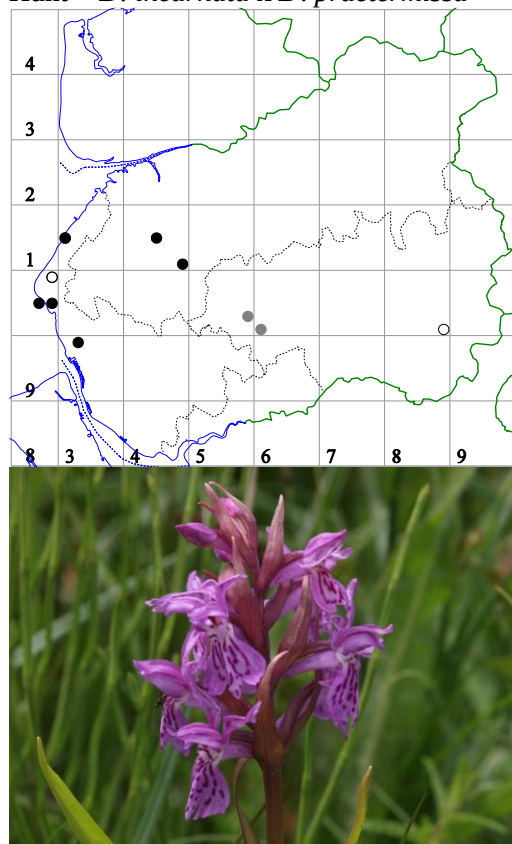
[*Dactylorhiza incarnata* (L.) Soó ssp. *ochroleuca* Boll) P. Hunt & Summerh.

Early Marsh Orchid - Pale Form

Status & distribution: There are records from Battery Cottage Meadow, Altcar Rifle Range (SD2804, 1985) & Birkdale Green Beach (SD3013, 2008) PH Smith.

Comments: These may just be pale forms of *Dactylorhiza incarnata* rather than this species which is probably confined to calcareous fens in East Anglia.]

Dactylorhiza × *wintoni* (A. Camus) P. Hunt = *D. incarnata* × *D. praetermissa*



Altcar PH Smith 2008

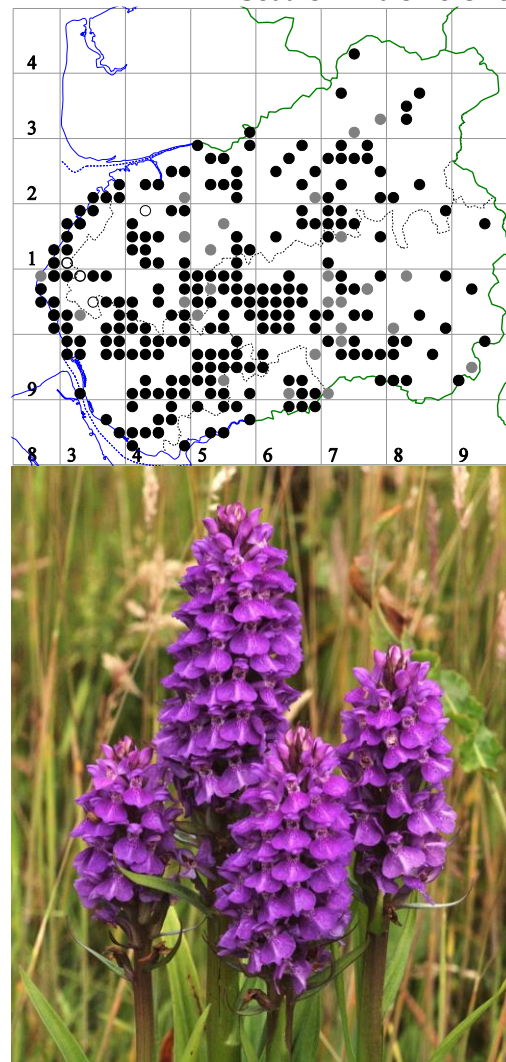
Status & distribution: Native, Scarce; Freshfield (SD20Z, WG Travis, 1914 & PA Jones, 1947); Broadway (SD8901, R Wood, 1967); Lightshaw Moss (SD6100, G Morries, 1974); Ince Moss (SD5902, E Gorton & WS Lacey, 1976); Rimrose Valley (SJ3399, D Nash, 1998); Cabin Hill (SD20X, 2004); Birkdale Green Beach (SD3115, 2006) & Ravenmeols dunes (SD2705, 2010) PH Smith; Parbold (SD4910, Anon., 2005); The Meadow, Mere Sands Wood (SD4415, DP Earl, 2016).

Habitat: Dune-slacks, marshy grassland and clay pits.

Dactylorhiza × *latirella* (P. Hall) Soó = *D. incarnata* × *D. purpurella*

Status & former distribution: Native, Nob End (SD7406, E Stones, 1978).

Dactylorhiza praetermissa (Druce) Soó
Southern Marsh-orchid



Seaforth PH Smith 2012

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, widespread and locally common although scarce in the north-east.

Habitat: Often locally abundant in dune-slacks; a colonist of former industrial ground particularly clay pits, colliery spoil, alkaline waste beds and along canal towpaths.

Comments: The most frequent marsh orchid in the vice-county with the distribution extended considerably in the last 30 years.

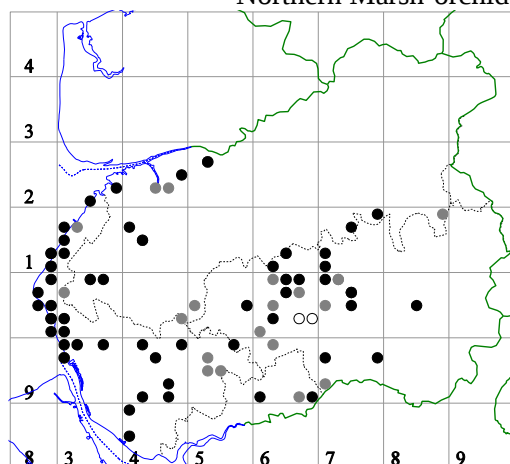
Dactylorhiza x insignis (Stephenson & T.A. Stephenson) Soó = *D. praetermissa* x *D. purpurella*

Status & distribution: Native, Rare; Nob End (SD7406, Altrincham Natural History Society, 1984); Rimrose Valley (SJ3399, D Nash, 1998); Haskayne Cutting (SD3508, Liverpool Botanical Society, 2016).

Habitat: Alkaline waste bed; developing grassland on reclaimed land and a former railway station.

Dactylorhiza purpurella (Stephenson & T.A. Stephenson) Soó

Northern Marsh-orchid



Birkdale Green Beach PH Smith 2012

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, occasional to locally frequent at lower altitudes, especially along the coast, to the east of Liverpool and about

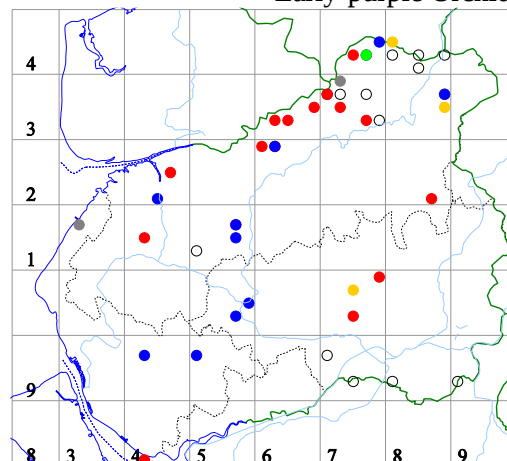
the industrial towns from St. Helens to Bury.

Habitat: Damp meadows and dune-slacks; a colonist of industrial spoil heaps, alkaline waste beds and former industrial waste ground.

Comments: Possibly over-recorded and confused with hybrid plants.

Orchis mascula (L.) L.

Early-purple Orchid



Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, declining; several small populations remain within the Ribble, Darwen and Yarrow valleys; scarce elsewhere at Catlow Swamp (SD8836, K Sutton, 2003); Wigan Flashes (SD5804, P Green, 2001); Burgly Banks, St Helens (SJ5196, D Messenger & C Felton, 2007). Records from Acorn Field Plantation and Knowsley Business Park (SJ49I, TR Harwood, 2005) require confirmation.

Habitat: Woods, pastures and grasslands on basic soils especially within river valley systems.

Orchis militaris L. Military Orchid

Status & former distribution:

Naturalised in South Lancashire; probably now extinct at Nob End (SD7406) where last recorded by PMA Francis, 2000.

Earliest record traced: Nob End (SD7406, E Stones, 1980)

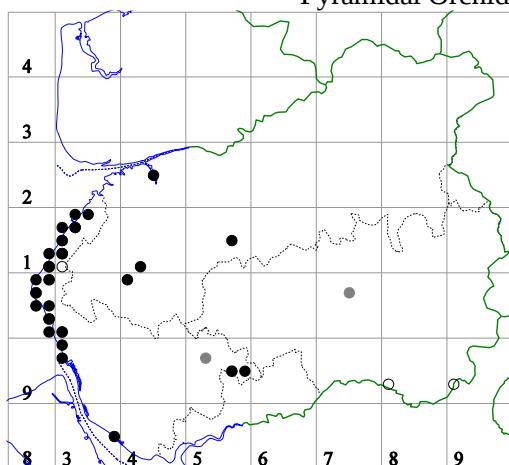
Habitat: Alkaline waste bed.

Comments: Thought to have been deliberately introduced prior to 1980 and considered to be of continental origin. A record from this location for *Anacamptis laxiflora* Loose-flowered Orchid in 1954 might be of *Orchis militaris* or could

indicate the date of the original planting(s).

***Anacamptis pyramidalis* (L.) Rich.**

Pyramidal Orchid



Birkdale DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, locally frequent along the coastal dune system with small isolated populations at Cressington (SJ38X, S Fletcher, 1996) & Hesketh Bank (SD4525, J James, 2000); Hale Road Woods LNR, Ditton (SJ48X, T Banks, 2007); scarce further inland near Charnock Richard (SD5715); Mucky Mountain (SJ5794); Vulcan Sports Ground (SJ5894); Abbey Lane Brick Pits (SD4310, B Hargreaves, P Gravett & S Preistley, 2014); Bath Springs Court, Ormskirk (SD4108, M Joyce & J Watt, 2015).

Former distribution: Jackson's Boat, Chorlton (SJ89B, Wood 1840); Reddish Vale (SJ99B, Grindon 1859); Nob End (SD70N, 1973); Stanley Bank Meadows, St. Helens (SJ5397, PH Smith, 1984).

Habitat: Sand-dunes, estuarine riverbank, grasslands on clay soil and a colonist of

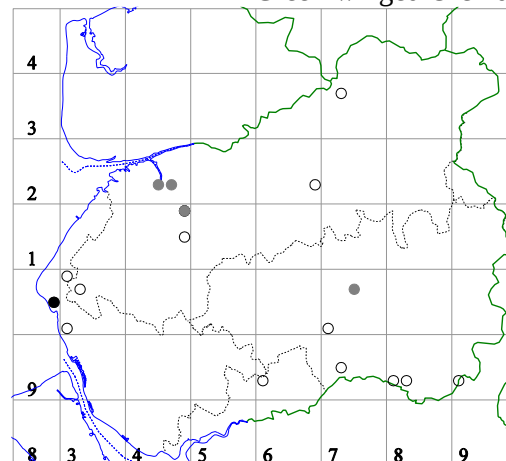
alkaline waste beds; formerly in meadows along river valleys.

Comments: In recent times the number of plants recorded from the sand-dune system has increased (PH Smith).

***Anacamptis morio* (L.) R.M. Bateman,**

Pridgeon & M.W. Chase

Green-winged Orchid



Status & distribution: Native, **Vulnerable (Red List for England)**; Rare (1) but locally abundant at Altcar Rifle Ranges (SD2804 & SD2904) with an estimated 34,000 plants present in 2017 amongst the moist pastures on sandy soil; a single plant was discovered at Range Lane Formby (SD2805, PH Smith, 2014) with two plants present in 2016.

Former distribution: A widespread but localised species of moist meadows particularly by the Irwell, Mersey, Tame and Alt rivers. Now thought to be lost from Nob End, Bolton (SD70N) where plants were last seen in 1979.

Habitat: Damp meadows, dune-slacks and a colonist of an alkaline waste bed.

Comments: Populations have declined drastically due to habitat loss. This species was formerly classified as *Orchis morio* L.

***Anacamptis laxiflora* (Lam.) R.M.**

Bateman, Pridgeon & M.W. Chase

Loose-flowered Orchid

Distribution: Nob End (SD70N, Anon., 1954, Bolton Museum database).

Habitat: Alkaline waste bed.

Comments: This could be a misidentification and an early record for *O. militaris* which was planted at this location.]

[*Himantoglossum hircinum* (L.) Sprengel
Lizard Orchid

Former distribution: At the south end of Formby (SD20, Anon., 1954), BSBI Proc. 1: 334.

Habitat: Sand-dunes.

Comments: Near Threatened. Rumour has it that a single plant was found by a child, but this record has been disputed as a hoax.]

clay pits and disturbed clay soils that are developing as grasslands.

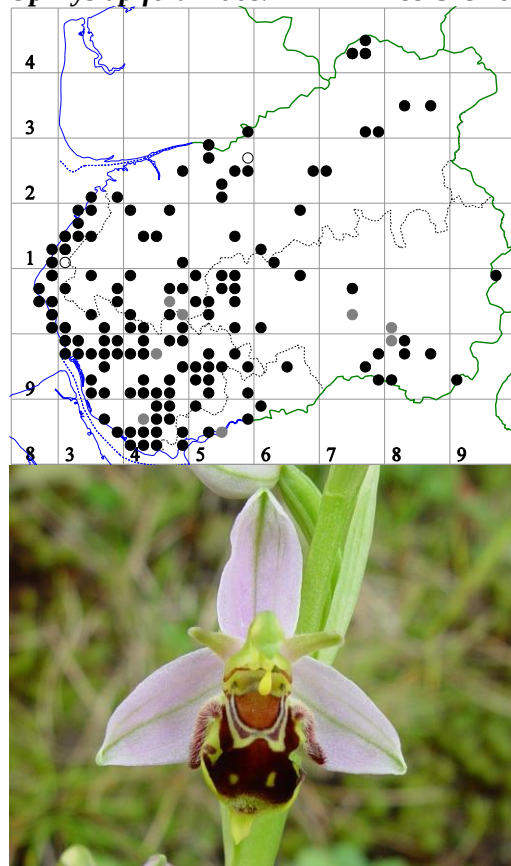
Comments: The species occurs on a moorland roadside verge near Blemont at 290m. The var. *belgarum* is recorded from Maghull (SD3601, RF Goodchild, 2005); var. *trollii* has been recorded from the Southport area (SD31, 1952).

***Ophrys insectifera* L.** Fly Orchid

Status & former distribution: Native, [Nationally Uncommon, Vulnerable \(Red List for England\)](#); in a field behind a factory at Roach Mill, Samlesbury (SD52Y, Mr. Lucas, c. 1860's, *Flora of Preston*).

Habitat: Meadow.

***Ophrys apifera* Huds.** Bee Orchid



Preston Junction DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, occasional to locally frequent, especially in the lowlands. Much increased in recent times.

Habitat: Sand-dunes; a colonist of disused limestone quarries, abandoned