

POACEAE

Grass family

SUBFAMILY 1 - BAMBUSOIDEAE

TRIBE 1 - ARUNDINARIEAE

Pleioblastus chino (Franch. & Sav.)

Makino

Maximowicz's Bamboo



Cuerden Valley Country Park DP Earl 2020

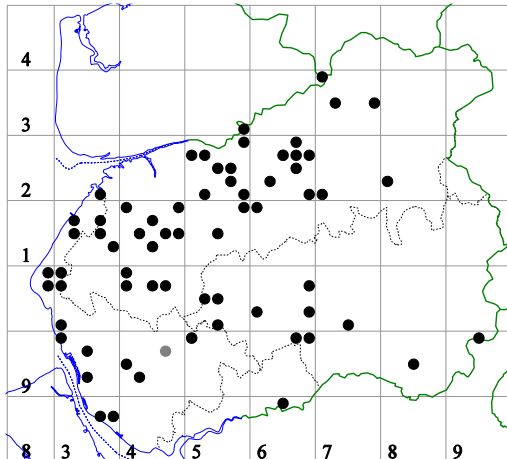
Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; established at several location between the site of Priory Farm and the River Lostock, Cuerden (SD5624, DP & J Earl, 2011, det. J Tregale & MP Wilcox, 2019) & by the River Lostock (SD5625, Bamber Bridge, DP & J Earl, 2011).

Habitat: Abandoned gardens, developing woodland and riverbanks.

Comments: Native to Japan. Appears to be spreading along the River Lostock and a clump of Bamboo at St Catherine's Park, Lostock Hall (SD5525, DP & J Earl, 2020) may be this species. Similar plants have been found at SD9212 (28/08/2023) & SD5404 during 2023.

Pseudosasa japonica Makino ex Nakai

Arrow Bamboo



Shroggs Wood Park, Leyland DP Earl 2020

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; now widely established.

Earliest records traced: Emma Wood (SJ4697) and Lion House Wood (SJ5098) 1981 Anon&Biobank.

Habitat: Sand-dunes, ornamental woodland, hedges, rank grasslands, riverbanks and tips.

Comments: Native to Japan and Korea.

Sasaella ramosa (Makino) Makino &

Shib.

Hairy Bamboo

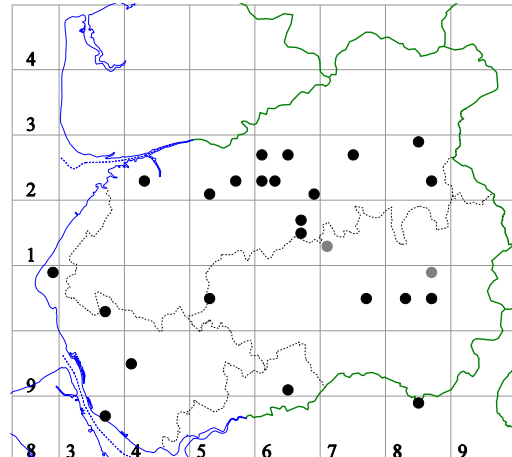
Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; Falklands Way, Ainsdale (SD3012, PH Smith & MP Wilcox, 2003).

Habitat: Sand-dunes.

Comments: Native to Japan.

Sasa palmata (Burb.) Camus

Broad-leaved Bamboo





Accrington DP Earl 2012

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; widely established.

Earliest records traced: Hopwood College (SD8708) and Alkington (SD8605) 1989, Rev CE Shaw.

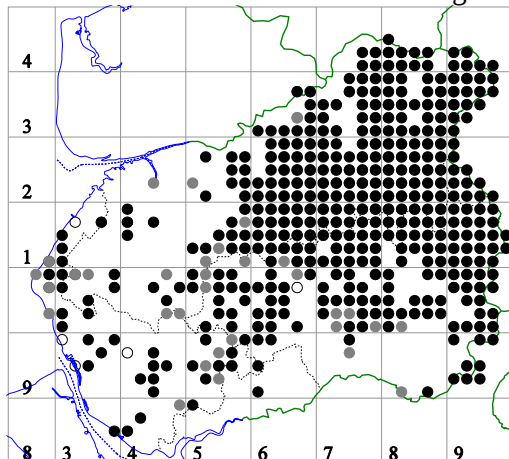
Habitat: Woodlands and streamsides.

Comments: Native to Japan. It is suggested that some established bamboos may be *Sasa veitchii* (Carriere) Rehder (Veitch's Bamboo).

SUBFAMILY 3 - POOIDEAE

TRIBE 3 - NARDEAE

Nardus stricta L. Mat-grass



Freshfield PH Smith 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Near Threatened (Red List for England); but common in upland areas and along river valleys where acidic soils feature; frequent in former mining areas; occasional elsewhere.

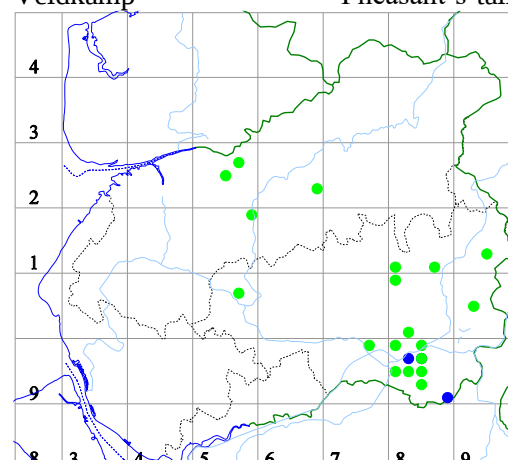
Habitat: Acid grasslands, heath and moors, also a colonist of spoil heaps especially those associated with coal mining activities.

TRIBE 4 - STIPEAE

Anemanthele lessoniana (Steud.)

Veldkamp

Pheasant's-tail



Manchester DP Earl 2020

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual but persisting and increasing as along Oxford Road, Manchester (SJ8496, DP & J Earl & MP Wilcox, 2018, det. MP Wilcox) and now well established in some areas particularly in South Manchester.

Earliest records traced: In a back alley, Stockport (SJ89V, J Clarke & AR Franks, 2000).

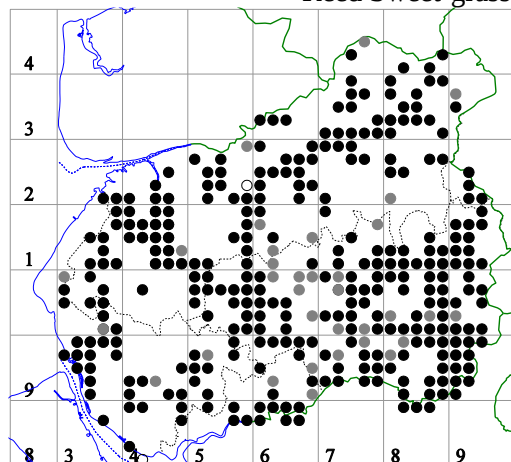
Habitat: Spreading from areas where planted to pavements, back alleys, walls and canal towpaths.

Comments: Native to New Zealand.

TRIBE 5 - MELICEAE

Glyceria maxima (Hartman) O. Holmb.

Reed Sweet-grass



Newburgh DP Earl 2008



Burscough G Clarkson 2024

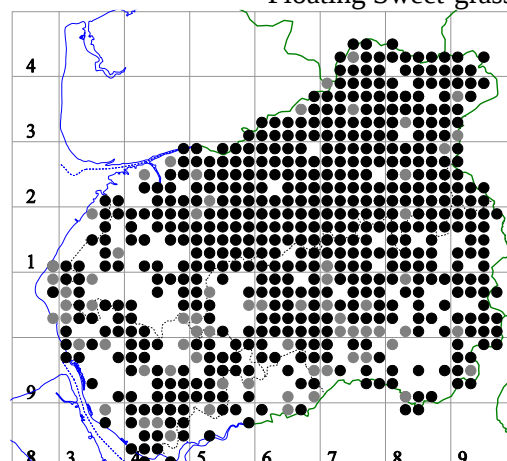
Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); common along the canal network, occasional elsewhere.

Habitat: Canal and pond margins, riverbanks, ditches, swamp, fens and reservoir margins.

Comments: The variegated form frequently becomes established as in a roadside ditch at Hill House Fold Lane, Robin Hood (SD50F).

Glyceria fluitans (L.) R. Br.

Floating Sweet-grass



Walton-le-Dale DP Earl 2020

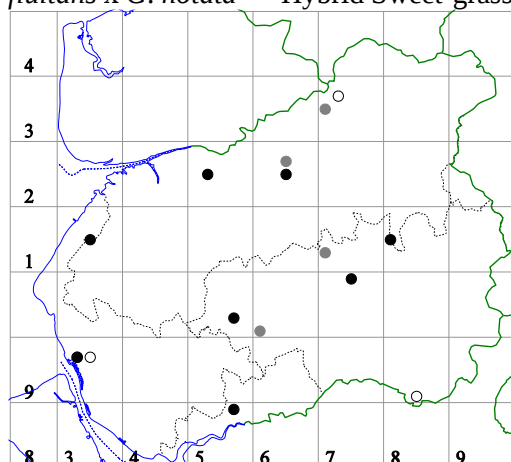


Parbold PS Gateley 2024

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); common in the hill districts and surrounding parts, less frequent in the lowland areas.

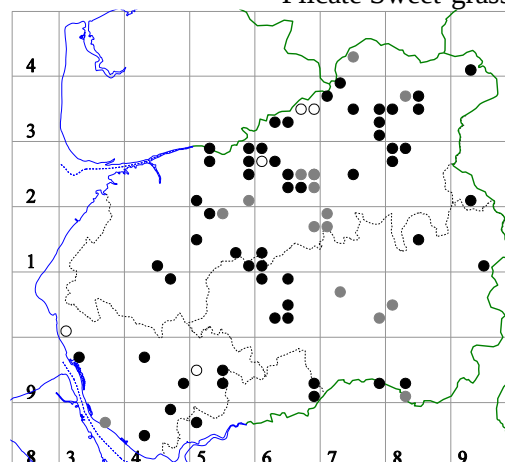
Habitat: Ditches, ponds and waterlogged fields.

Glyceria* x *pedicellata F. Towns. = *G. fluitans* x *G. notata* Hybrid Sweet-grass



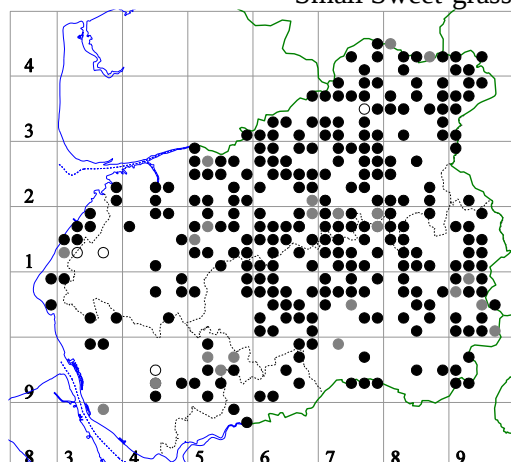
Status & distribution: Native, Axiophyte; widespread but local.
Habitat: Canals, ponds, reservoirs and wet fields.
Comments: Possibly under-recorded.

Glyceria notata Chevall. Plicate Sweet-grass



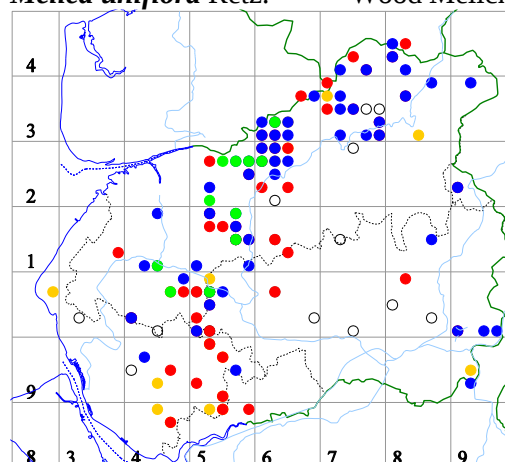
Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, widely distributed, occasional to locally frequent.
Habitat: Ponds and reservoir margins.
Comments: Possibly under-recorded.

Glyceria declinata Bréb. Small Sweet-grass



Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); widespread, frequent to locally common in the hill districts, occasional to absent elsewhere.
Habitat: Waterlogged fields, muddy ground, pond margins and ditches.

Melica uniflora Retz. Wood Melick



Cockshot Wood DP Earl 2020

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, widespread, locally frequent in the well-wooded areas from Garswood northwards, occasional elsewhere.

Habitat: In woods and on shaded banks, streambanks and ancient roadside hedgebanks.

Comments: Note the lack of recent records Greater Manchester & Merseyside as well as the surprising absence from the banks of the River Mersey.

TRIBE 6 - BRACHYPODIEAE

Brachypodium rupestre (Host) Roem. & Schult. Tor-grass

Status & distribution: Naturalised in South Lancashire;

Rare (1), discovered on Worsaw Hill (SD74R, D & J Steeden, 1981) and still occurring.

Habitat: Calcareous grassland on a south-facing slope.

Comments: This species is said to have been introduced as part of a student research project. The population is spreading and in time may threaten the native grassland communities on the hill. A record for the Bolton area by Rev. HM Livens requires confirmation and may be for a location called Bolton outside of Lancashire.

Brachypodium sylvaticum (Hudson) P. Beauv. False Brome

Cockshot Wood DP Earl 2020

Status & distribution: Native, Naturalised in South Lancashire; Axiophyte, widespread to locally common, especially along the river systems.

Habitat: Woods and shaded banks particularly on clay and base-rich soils.

Comments: Possibly under-recorded and should be looked for in woodlands in several 10km squares.

TRIBE 7 - POEAE

Schedonorus pratensis (Huds.) P. Beauv. Meadow Fescue

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, formerly considered to be very common but now occasional to locally frequent and far less common than *S. arundinaceus*.

Habitat: Pastures and damp roadside verges particularly on clay soils; recently sown wild flower meadows.

Comments: The decline in distribution was strongly linked to the ploughing up of the lower yielding meadows and the usage of high nitrate fertilisers; very robust

plants are appearing in the recently sown
wildflower meadows.

***Schedonorus giganteus* (L.) Holub**
Giant Fescue

***Schedonorus arundinaceus* (Schreb.)**
Dumort Tall Fescue

Hoghton Bottoms DP Earl 2020

Status & distribution: Native, Least
Concern (Red List for England);
widespread and locally common in the
well-wooded areas.

Habitat: In woods, hedgebanks, along
shaded lanes and streamsides.

Greaves Hall, Banks DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Least
Concern (Red List for England); locally
frequent at lower altitudes and extending
along the river valleys.

Habitat: Road verges, rank grasslands,
riverbanks, especially on clay soils; a
colonist of former industrial land and old
railways.

***X Schedolium loliaceum* (Huds.) Holub =**
Schedonorus pratensis x *Lolium perenne*
Hybrid Fescue

Status & distribution: Native, Scarce;
Higginshaw (SD90I, ARF & MPG
Tolfree, 1988); Rixton Clay Pits (SJ69V,
MPG Tolfree, 1995); Haslingden (SD82L,
DP & J Earl & A Cox, 2006); Urmston
Meadows (SJ7693, D Bishop, 2010);
Balderstone (SD6232, DP & J Earl, 2011).

Former distribution: Southport (SD31N, C Bailey, 1893, MANCH); Barley (SD83J, H Driver, 1955); (SD60, Rev CE Shaw, 1965); Darwen (SD62V, CA Howe, 1957); near Ribchester (SD63S, E Hodgson, 1965).

Habitat: Damp meadows and disturbed damp ground.

Comments: Considered under-recorded.

X *Schedolium holmbergii* (Dörfel.) Holub
= *Schedonorus arundinaceus* x *Lolium perenne*

Status & distribution: Native-casual; Bunker's Hill (SD62R, CA Howe, 1957).

Habitat: On a tip.

X *Schedolium krasanii* H. Scholz =
Schedonorus arundinaceus x *Lolium multiflorum* Hybrid Tall-fescue

Status & distribution: Native-casual; St. Helens (SJ5195, DP & J Earl & SP Toone, 2003, herb. DP Earl).

Habitat: Disturbed ground by a newly constructed road.

Comments: Requires verification.

Lolium perenne L. Perennial Rye-grass

Ainsdale DP Earl 2008

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

Habitat: Grasslands, lawns, roadside verges and waste ground.

Comments: Several varieties are listed on Travis's card index system.

Lolium* x *boucheanum Kunth = *L. perenne* x *L. multiflorum*

***Lolium multiflorum* Lam.**

Italian Rye-grass

Freshfield DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native x Neophyte; widespread, occasional, considered more frequent than indicated by recent recording.

Earliest records traced: Travis thought that this hybrid may have been record as *L. perenne* var. *aristatum* Schum by Rev. M Toohey as early as 1909 from several places near Prescott (SJ49R) and Whiston (SJ49Q).

Habitat: Recently sown rye-grass silage meadows, roadsides and tracks.

Comments: A proportion of the records for *L. multiflorum* are likely to be this hybrid.

Marshside DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; common in lowland agricultural districts, locally frequent in some hill district valleys and in urban locations.

Earliest records traced: Eccles (SJ79U, J Shaw, *Grindon* 1859).

Habitat: Recently sown grasslands, farm tracks and roadside verges.

Comments: A fast growing species extensively sown as a fodder crop for cattle and in amenity seed mixes where the rapid establishment of grassland is required.

Lolium rigidum Gaudin

Mediterranean Rye-grass

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Crown Wallpaper Tip, Darwen (SD7019) & Micklehurst (SD90R) Rev CE Shaw, 1961.

Habitat: Tips.

Comments: Native to the Mediterranean.

Lolium temulentum L.

Darnel

Status & distribution: Archaeophyte-colonist, [Critically Endangered \(Red List for England\)](#); once occasional with the most recent records being from the Crown wallpaper tip (SD7019, 1959, 1960 & 1971) and Lower Darwen (SD62X, P Jepson, 1979).

Earliest record traced: The first precise record was from Melling (SD30V, T Samson, 1848, MANCH).

Habitat: An adventive in cornfields, on rubbish tips and disturbed ground.

Comments: Native to the Mediterranean.

Drymochloa sylvatica (Pollich) Holub

Wood Fescue

Status & distribution: Native, Nationally Uncommon, Least Concern (Red List for England); Scarce (4); a localised plant of the woodlands of Darwen Valley. A record from the Ribble Valley (SD6533, 1988) requires validation.

Habitat: On steep slopes and rock outcrops in ancient woodlands.

Festuca heterophylla Lam.

Various-leaved Fescue

Status & distribution: Neophyte; near Clitheroe (SD74K, SJ Bungard, 2001). There is an un-localised record for SD63 from the Biological Record Centre.

Comments: Native to mainland Europe.

Festuca arenaria Osbeck

Rush-leaved Fescue

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Rare (2) and perhaps endangered at the vice-county level; recorded from the Sefton coast at Hightown (SD20W, Wildflower Society, 2001); Birkdale fore-dunes (SD31C, DP Earl & SP Toone, 2001).

Former distribution: Hall Road (SD20V, JA Wheldon, 1915, NMW); Formby and Freshfield dunes (SD20U, G Schoby, 1963); Birkdale (SD31C, E Drabble, n.d., det. CE Hubbard); Southport (SD31I, GC Druce, n.d.).

Habitat: Among the frontal mobile sand-dunes where competition is low.

Comments: Assumed to be under-recorded.

Festuca rubra L.

Red Fescue

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

Habitat: Grassy places.

Comments: *F. rubra* L. ssp. *rubra* is known to be very common and widespread.

Festuca rubra L. ssp. *junceae* (Hackel) K. Richter

Status & distribution: Native, Nationally Uncommon,

Least Concern (Red List for England); Rare (3), The Sands Promenade (SD2912, MP Wilcox, 2003, det. TA Cope); Birkdale Green Beach (SD3013 & SD3014, PH Smith & MP Wilcox, 2003).

Former distribution: Formby (SD20T, WG Travis, 1911, det. Hackel *Botanical Exchange Club Report* 1911); Birkdale Dunes (SD31C, DE Allen, c. 1954 as *F. rubra* var. *pruinosa*).

Habitat: Sand-dunes and coastal sand.

Comments: Assumed to be under-recorded and probably more widespread along the coast.

Festuca rubra L. ssp. *litoralis* (G. Mey.) Auquier.

Distribution: Native, Nationally Uncommon, Least Concern (Red List for England); only recorded from Hale (SJ48Q, *Savidge et al* 1963) & Birkdale Green Beach (SD3013 & SD3115, PH Smith & MP Wilcox, 2003, det. MP Wilcox).

Habitat: Saltmarshes.

Comments: Probably locally abundant on the saltmarshes although this is yet to be proved. Populations may well occur inland particularly along salted roadsides as this subspecies is thought to be an ingredient of grassland seed mixtures.

Festuca rubra L. ssp. *commutata* Gaudin
Chewing's Fescue

Status & distribution: Native, Nationally Uncommon, Least Concern (Red List for England); distribution uncertain in South Lancashire and generally considered introduced via the extensive sowing of grass seed.

Earliest records traced: Known to occur in the Formby area (SD20, 1950 10km checklist) with more precise records for Darwen Municipal Tip (SD7019, P Jepson) and waste ground at Darwen (SD62W, E Stones) 1974.

Habitat: Common in amenity lawns and grasslands and as a pavement weed.

Comments: Widely sown and under-recorded.

Festuca rubra L. ssp. *megastachys*
Gaudin Strong Creeping Red Fescue

Festuca filiformis Pourret
Fine-leaved Sheep's-fescue

Crosby Marine Park MP Wilcox 2012

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; particularly in the lowlands usually relatively close by to habitation.

Earliest record traced: Southport (SD31I, JA Wheldon, c. 1900).

Habitat: Rank grasslands, waysides and un-mowed amenity grasslands.

Comments: Widely sown and under-recorded.

Festuca ovina L. Sheep's-fescue

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Scarce, Scarth Hill (SD40I) & Walton Park Cemetery (SJ39M) WG Travis, n.d.; Forty Pits, Allerton (SJ48C, Liverpool Botanical Society, 1933); Rossendale (SD82, 1950 10km species list); dunes at Birkdale (DE Allen, c.1951); Ainsdale (SD31B, CK Jones-Parry, 1961, LIV); Freshfield (SD20Z, V Gordon, 1968 & 1993, LIV); Nob End (SD70N, Prof. Valentine, 1970); Darwen (SD62W, E Stones, 1973); Freshfield Dune Heath (SD2909, 2011) & Woodvale Airfield (SD2910, 2016) PH Smith.

Habitat: Arid sandy ground, well-drained paths, heaths and sand-dunes.

Comments: Records for *F. tenuifolia* Sibth. are assumed to be this species; considered to be under-recorded but to be far less common than *F. ovina* ss. A record for Much Hoole Moss (SD52B, P Thomas, 2003) requires confirmation.

Festuca brevipila R. Tracey Hard Fescue

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); common in the hill districts, occasional to locally frequent at lower altitudes.

Habitat: Acid grasslands, heaths, moors, limestone grasslands and sand-dunes; an occasional colonist of former industrial land.

Vulpia fasciculata (Forsskål) Fritsch
Dune Fescue

Ainsdale DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised, frequent on sandy soils along the coast, occurs inland along trunk roads.

Earliest records traced: An unlocalised record for (SJ99,1860, Kew) with a more precise record from Brittonia, near Bacup (SD8721, CE Hubbard, 1958).

Habitat: Sand-dunes, open sandy ground, golf links and roadside verges.

Comments: Observed on dunes at Ainsdale Golf Course (SD31C, DP Earl & TGC Rich, 1984); a component of grass seed mixtures sown on very sandy soils and along inland trunk roads, which are heavily salted in the winter; assumed to be under-recorded. A record from Rumworth Lodge (*Greenlees & Holden* 1920) as *F. rigida* requires confirmation.

X *Festulpia hubbardii* Stace & R. Cotton
= *Festuca rubra* x *Vulpia fasciculata*

Status & distribution: Native, Rare along the Sefton coast and perhaps Critically Endangered at the vice-county level; Freshfield (SD20U, BSBI Excursion, det., A Melderis, 1954); Ainsdale (SD2913, DP & J Earl & SP Toone, 2002); by Southport Marine Lake (SD3318, MP Wilcox, 2003).

Habitat: Fore-dunes.

Sefton Coast J Somerville 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Nationally Uncommon, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiphyte, frequent between Crosby and Crossens; a rare casual inland at the Crown Wallpaper Tip (SD7019, det. JE Lousley, n.d.).

Habitat: Sand-dunes and sandy ground close to the coast.

***Vulpia bromoides* (L.) Gray**
Squirreltail Fescue

Habitat: Railway ballast, waste ground and pavements usually nearby to the railway network.

Comments: Considered to be more widely established in the urban areas with a proportion of the records of *Vulpia bromoides* probably being this species.

***Dactylis glomerata* L.** Cock's-foot

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, locally common in lowland districts especially within the towns and cities.

Habitat: Ballast, pavements, roadsides, sand-dunes and open ground on well-drained substrates; coastal acidic grassland where rabbit-grazed and trampled.

Comments: Declining and now far less frequent than *Vulpia myuros* by the urban railway systems and it is thought that a proportion of the urban records are misidentifications.

***Vulpia myuros* (L.) C. Gemlin**
Rat's-tail Fescue

Distribution: Archaeophyte-denizen, Least Concern (Red List for England); locally common in urban areas with a remarkable increase in records during recent times.

Earliest record traced: The Chorley area (SD51, Sir JE Salisbury, 1901, K).

Southport DP Earl 2008

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

Habitat: Neutral grasslands particularly along roadside verges and the embankments of railways and canals; common as a colonist of waste ground.

Cynosurus cristatus L. Crested Dog's-tail

Catapodium rigidum (L.) C.E. Hubb.
Fern-grass

Birkdale DP Earl 2012

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); common and widespread, although rare on peaty soils and in built up areas.

Habitat: Grasslands, especially on clay soils.

Comments: Common sown in agriculturally improved hill pastures.

Cynosurus echinatus L. Rough Dog's-tail

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Chorlton Fields (SJ89B, J Sidebotham, 1847, MANCH); Ullet Road, Sefton Park (SJ38U, R Brown, 1874); Aintree (SJ38U, JA Wheldon, 1901); Childwall Abbey (SJ48E, 1929); Orrell (SJ39N, V Gordon, 1941).

Habitat: Ballast and disturbed ground.

Comments: Neophyte, casual, native to mainland Europe.

Leigh DP Earl 2010

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, widely distributed, frequent along the coastal fringe, occasional elsewhere.

Habitat: Open bare ground, well-drained sandy and stony ground, wall tops, ballast and tips.

Comments: Formerly rare, now more frequent although adventive and not always persisting at inland locations.

Catapodium marinum (L.) C.E. Hubb.
Sea Fern-grass

Parapholis strigosa (Dumort) C.E. Hubb.
Hard-grass

Hightown PH Smith 2012
Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, once confined to the coastal fringe from Garston to Marshside but recently discovered along several roadsides inland by DP Earl and RF Goldchild and now known as far inland as Bolton (SD7209, DP & J Earl, 2018). Note the line of records along the A565 between Great Crosby and Ainsdale.
Habitat: Walls, pavements, sandy and stony ground by the sea; salted roadsides inland.

Birkdale Green Beach DP Earl 2008
Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, frequent to locally abundant between Hale and Hundred End; known from a single inland location by the A49/M6 junction, Winwick (SJ6193, R Shaw, 2013).
Habitat: Upper reaches of salt-marshes; a pioneer species of developing salt-marshes and salt-sprayed turf; central reservation of a salted trunk road.
Comments: Plants may be more widespread and should be looked for at the peak flowering, particularly at historic locations where suitable habitat remains.

Parapholis incurva (L.) C.E. Hubb.
Curved Hard-grass
Status & distribution: Casual in South Lancashire; Crown Wallpaper Tip, Darwen (SD7019, BW Fox, 1959).
Habitat: Wallpaper waste.

Comments: Note that numerous herbarium specimens of *Parapholis strigosa* gathered from South Lancashire saltmarshes have been incorrectly labelled as *Parapholis incurva*.

Hainardia cylindrica (Willd.) Greuter
One-glumed Hard-grass

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Oldham (SD90H, J Bliston, 1908 as *Aegilops cylindrica*); Oldham (SD90H) & Hollingworth (SD91M) Rev CE Shaw, 1960.

Habitat: Tips.

Comments: Native to southern Europe. This species was referred to as *Lepturus cylindrica* Trin. in Travis.

Catabrosa aquatica (L.) P. Beauv.
Whorl-grass

Status & distribution: Native, [Vulnerable \(Red List for England\)](#); Scarce (8), still present on the coastal plain usually within a few kilometres of the sea.

Former distribution: Formerly rare further inland at Chorlton (SJ89B, Grindon 1859); Rishton (SD73F, *Flora of Stoneyhurst*, 1891); at 340 on Pendle Hill (SD74V, A Wilson, 1908).

Habitat: Ditches and pond sides.

Comments: The var. *uniflora* has been recorded from the North Shore, Liverpool (SJ39G, Dr. Bostock, *Withering* 1830); salt-marshes on the shore at Birkdale (SD31C, JH Lewis, 1880) and should be looked for in suitable brackish habitats such as occur along Birkdale Green Beach.

Puccinellia maritima (Hudson) Parl.
Common Saltmarsh-grass

Birkdale Green Beach PH Smith 2012

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern ([Red List for England](#)); Axiophyte, locally abundant along the coast and within the estuarine systems; very rare inland with a single casual from by the A565, Banks (SD41J, DP Earl, 2005).

Southport J Somerville 2008

Habitat: Saltmarshes and a salted roadside.

Comments: This species may increase along the motorway and trunk road network in due course.

Puccinellia distans (Jacq.) Parl.
Reflexed Saltmarsh-grass

Puccinellia rupestris (With.) Fern. & Waeth.
Stiff Saltmarsh-grass

Status & former distribution: Native, Nationally Scarce, Least Concern (Red List for England); occurred between Princes Dock and Litherland.

Habitat: On estuarine mud and a short distance inland from the coast in muddy clay fields.

Comments: The early records indicate that estuarine creeks once extended inland along brooks to fields subject to flooding by springtides. These habitats were lost as the City of Liverpool expanded.

Sesleria caerulea (L.) Ard.
Blue Moor-grass

M6 Bamber Bridge Junction DP Earl 2020

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England): Axiophyte. Scarce as a native along the coast from Seaforth to Marshside; frequent to locally common as a colonist of salted roadsides, which in part relates to the sowing of grass seed mixtures containing *P. distans*.

Habitat: Saltmarshes and salted roadsides; a casual of paths in cemeteries.

Comments: Plants in the vice-county are ssp. *distans*; old records for Hightown and Hall Road as var. *prostrata* Beeby now classified as *P. distans* ssp. *borealis* are viewed as errors.

Status & distribution: Native and introduced, [Nationally Uncommon](#), Least Concern (Red List for England); native at Worsaw Hill (SD7743 & SD7843); a recent colonist at Eccleshill Ironworks (SD6924, P Jepson, 2006); assumed deliberately planted at Nob End (SD70N, 1962 onwards); Bull Hill, Darcy Lever (SD70I, 1984) & Hinds alkaline tip, Bury (SD70Z).

Habitat: Limestone grassland and industrial spoil heaps.

***Mibora minima* (L.) Desv.**

Early Sand-grass

Southport DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Nationally Scarce, Near Threatened (Red List for England); Rare (1), by the Marine Lake, Southport (SD3318, DP & J Earl, 1996, conf. TA Cope); (SD3418, PH Smith & PA Lockwood, 2017).

Habitat: Fore-dunes and sandy turf.

Comments: Thought to be a recent arrival, this localised population although confined to a single site is flourishing and significantly expanding. Threats to the population include succession and the expansion of dense thickets of *Hippophae rhamnoides* and to a lesser extent *Rosa rugosa*. This species grows with Isle-of-Man Cabbage at this site and this association is considered unique.

***Arrhenatherum elatius* (L.) P. Beauv. ex J.S. & C. Presl**

False Oat-grass

Preston Junction DP Earl 2020

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); common and widespread and only absent from the highest ground and saltmarshes.

Habitat: Rank grasslands particularly along roadside verges and the embankments of canals, railways and ditches.

Comments: It is thought that any gaps for inland locations at lower altitudes are due to the species being overlooked. It is likely that most plants are var. *bulbosum* (Willd.) St-Amans.

***Avena strigosa* Schreber** Bristle Oat

Status & distribution: Archaeophyte-cultivated-casual; Cheetham Hill, Manchester (SD80K, R Buxton, 1838); near Pilkington (SD70Y, J Horsefield, 1836 Wood 1840, Buxton 1849); waste heap by Bridgewater Canal, Stretford (SJ79X, GA Holt, n.d.); roadside at Lower Darwen (SD62X, CA Howe, 1956).

Habitat: Waste ground, tips; railway embankments *Grindon* (1859).

Comments: Native to Spain.

<i>Avena fatua</i> L.	Wild-oat	relic of cultivation in Travis's manuscript. The hybrid has perhaps been overlooked in recent years.
		<i>Avena sativa</i> L. Oat

Lunt Meadows SJ McWilliam 2021

Status & distribution: Archaeophyte-colonist, Least Concern (Red List for England); a common adventive in the arable districts, local elsewhere.

Habitat: Arable fields, waste ground, disturbed roadside verges, tips and the sea shoreline; at a bomb site, Liverpool (DE Allen, 1949).

Comments: Probably under-recorded in some areas.

Avena x *hybrida* Peterm = *A. fatua* L. x *A. sativa* L.

Status & distribution: Casual; formerly considered to be widespread.

Comments: Said to have been common on rubbish tips and waste ground and as a

Culcheth DP Earl 2009

Status & distribution: Archaeophyte-cultivated; casual, widespread especially at lower altitudes.

Habitat: Commonly found along roadsides, as a crop impurity, on manure heaps and tips, originating from spilt grain and a frequent relic of cultivation.

Comments: Of agricultural derivation; the historic records for *A. orientalis* Schreb. are thought to belong here.

Gaudinia fragilis (L.) P. Beauv.

French Oat-grass

Status & distribution: Casual in South Lancashire, recorded from the south

Manchester area (SJ89 between 1987 and 1999).

Comments: Native to southern Europe.

Trisetum flavescens (L.) P. Beauv.
Yellow Oat-grass

occurred at the Butterfly Park, Reddish Vale (SJ9093, E Kearns, 2003, det. GM Kay).

Comments: Possibly more widely sown and established.

Koeleria macrantha (Ledeb.) Schultes
Crested Hair-grass

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Rare (4), Southport and Ainsdale Golf Course (SD3113, D Wrench, 1997 det. Prof. AD Bradshaw); Limestone knoll, Twiston (SD84C, A Turner, n.d.); Ribble Valley (SD7943, Anon@LERN 1994); Worsaw Hill (SD74R); Fairy Hills (SD74X)

Former distribution: Habitat: Dunes on a golf course; limestone grassland and outcrops.

Rostraria cristata (L.) Tzvelev
Mediterranean Hair-grass

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Aintree (SJ39U, HS Fisher, -1872); Crown Wallpaper Tip (SD7019, BW Fox, 1958, BON & V Gordon, 1960 det. CE Hubbard).

Habitat: Tips.

Comments: Native to the Mediterranean.

Lagurus ovatus L. Hare's-tail

Preston Junction DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, locally frequent in the north-east of the vice-county, occasional elsewhere.

Habitat: Old meadows, roadside verges, riverbanks, disused railways and sand-dunes.

Comments: Declined due to the agricultural improvement of meadows.

Trisetum flavescens ssp. *purpurascens* (D.C.) Arcangeli

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; included in wildflower mixtures and



Formby DP Earl 2005

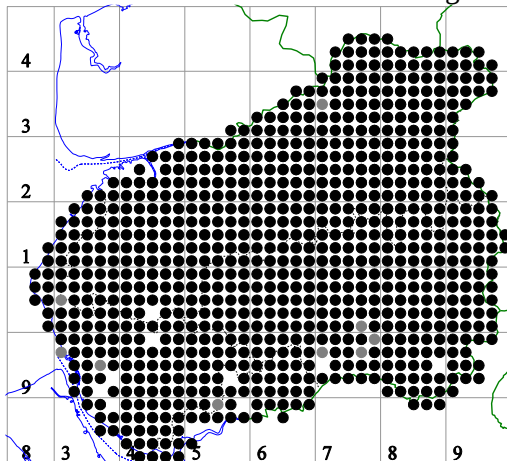
Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; Sandy ground at Birkdale (SD31C, H Britten, 1927); dunes between West Lancashire Golf Course and Blundell Road, Hightown (SD20W, MNA, 1969); in a back entry, Waterloo (SD39E, V Gordon, 1998); Falklands Way Dunes (SD31A & SD31B, PH Smith) where first discovered in 1998; well established by the Marine Lake Sailing Club (SD3318, DP & J Earl, 2000), Formby town centre (SD2907, DP & J Earl, 2005).

Habitat: Sandy ground, sand-dunes, waste ground, pavements, flowerbeds and tips.

Comments: Native to southern Europe; persisting at several locations.

***Anthoxanthum odoratum* L.**

Sweet Vernal-grass



Southport DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); common throughout the vice-county.

Habitat: Grasslands, meadows, pastures and heaths on moderately to well-drained soils, also occurring in flushes in the uplands.

Comments: An important component of the now much declined northern hay-meadows in the uplands areas. Gaps in the distribution are thought to relate to factors such as the need for spring visits, lack of access and the mowing of grassland areas.

***Anthoxanthum aristatum* Boiss.**

Early Vernal-grass

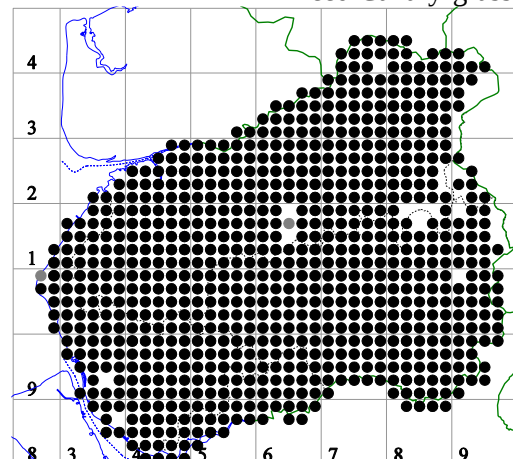
Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Walton Junction (SJ39M) & Aintree (SJ39U) JA Wheldon, 1899; Stanley Park (SJ39R, Green 1933); Crown Wallpaper Tip (SD7019, JE Lousley, 1958).

Habitat: Disturbed ground.

Comments: Native to southern Europe. The records are for *A. aristatum* subsp. *puelii*.

***Phalaris arundinacea* L.**

Reed Canary-grass





Walton-le-Dale DP Earl 2020

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); common and widespread except on the highest ground.

Habitat: Damp meadows, swamps, fens, ditch banks, roadsides, dune-slacks, ponds, reservoir and canal margins.

Comments: The var. *picta* with white striped leaves is occasionally established and was known to WG Travis.



Bold Heath DP Earl 2009

***Phalaris aquatica* L.**

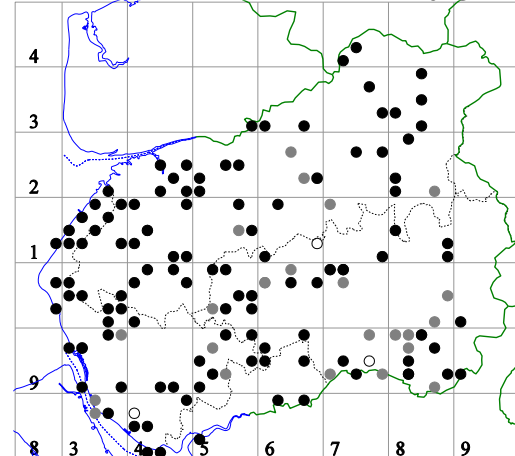
Bulbous Canary-grass

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; known to have occurred in the Rochdale area (Shaw 1971).

Habitat: Wool tips.

Comments: Native to southern Europe; as *P. tuberosa* L. (Shaw 1971).

***Phalaris canariensis* L.** Canary-grass



Blowick, Southport DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; common and widespread introduced via birdseed.

Earliest record traced: Near Withington Old Hall (SJ8392, JR Hardy, 1868, MANCH).

Habitat: Roadside gutters, pavements, waste ground and rubbish tips.

Comments: Native to the Canary Isles and North Africa.

***Phalaris minor* Retz.** Lesser Canary-grass

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Stalybridge (SJ99U, J Whitehead, 1877); Ford (SJ39J, JA Wheldon, 1907); Walton (SJ39M, WG Travis, 1909).

Habitat: Disturbed ground, tips and corn-mill refuse.

Comments: Native to southern Europe.

***Phalaris paradoxa* L.**

Awned Canary-grass



Ince Blundell DP Earl 2009

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; ballast north of Liverpool (SJ39L, JH Lewis, 1872 & 1875); Aintree (SJ39U, JA Wheldon, 1890); Royal Oak Farm, Whiston (SJ49Q, Rev. M Toohey, 1908); Crown wallpaper Tip (SD7019, V Gordon, 1960). locally abundant in an arable field at Mawdesley (SD5015, DP & J Earl, 2007, det. Cope); Ince Blundell (SD3203 & SD33030G, DP & J Earl, 2009); Tunley Lane (SD5312, DP Earl, 2010).

Habitat: Arable fields, canal banks and tips.

Comments: Native to southern Europe.

***Phalaris brachystachys* Link.**

Confused Canary-grass

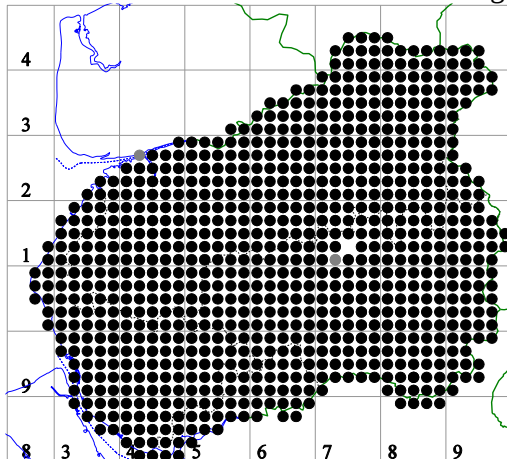
Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Crown Wallpaper Tip (SD7019) & Micklehurst Tip (SD90R) Rev CE Shaw, 1961.

Habitat: Tips.

Comments: Native to the Mediterranean.

***Holcus lanatus* L.**

Yorkshire-fog



Downholland DP Earl 2009

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); very common, absent only from areas dominated by high moorland or salt-marsh.

Habitat: Meadows, pastures, lawns, rank grassland and roadside verges.

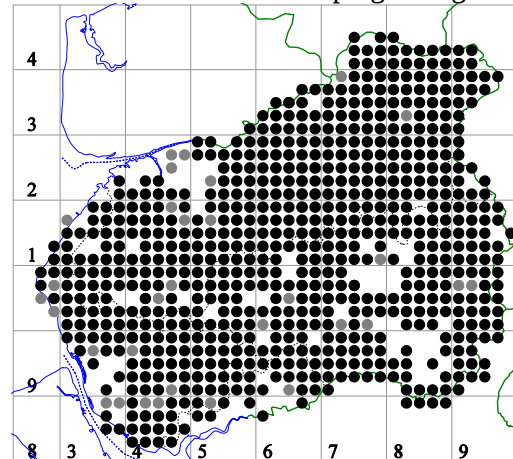
Holcus x hybridus* Wein = *H. lanatus* x *H. mollis

Status & distribution: Native, Rare (1); Beacon Country Park (SD50D, MP Wilcox, 2003, det. TA Cope).

Comments: Considered to be under-recorded.

***Holcus mollis* L.**

Creeping Soft-grass





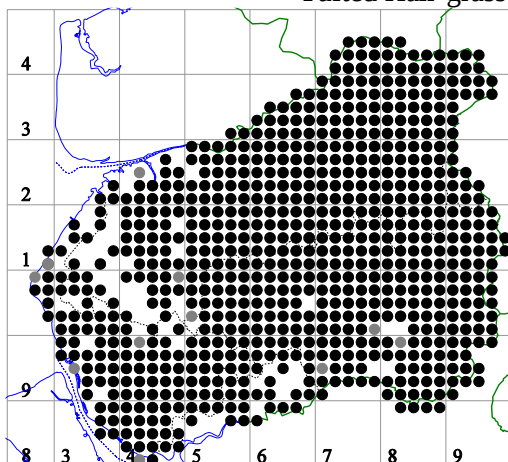
Rainford DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); generally common and widespread but not as abundant as *H. lanatus*; often absent or rare in heavily built-up areas.

Habitat: Woods, heaths, moorland flushes and railway banks.

Deschampsia cespitosa (L.) P. Beauv.

Tufted Hair-grass



Three Sisters, Eccles DP Earl 2020

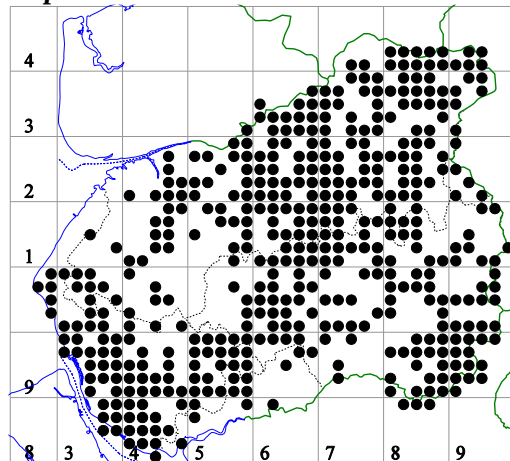


Earlstown J Somerville 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); common and widespread to the east, less frequent in the west and the lowland areas due to intensive arable farming and urbanisation.

Habitat: Damp grasslands and woods especially on clay soils; a colonist of waste ground and derelict urban areas.

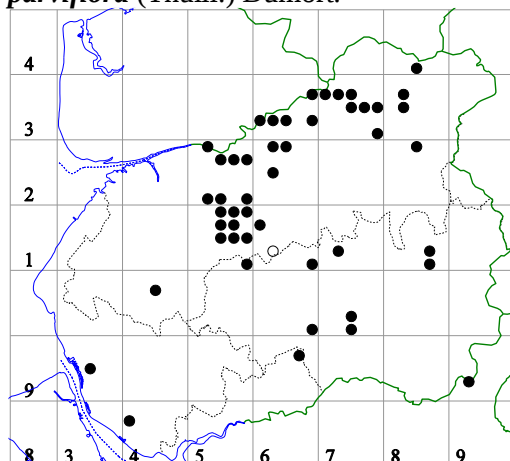
Deschampsia cespitosa (L.) P. Beauv. ssp. *cespitosa*



Worsley PS Gateley 2022

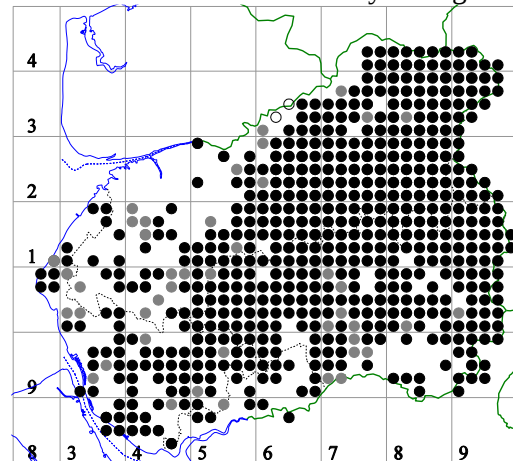
Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); the widespread robust plant that is common in grasslands.

Deschampsia cespitosa (L.) P. Beauv. ssp. *parviflora* (Thuill.) Dumort.



Status & distribution: Native, Nationally Uncommon, Least Concern (Red List for England); a characteristic less robust plant of old woodlands.

Avenella flexuosa (L.) Drejer
Wavy Hair-grass



Freshfield DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); widespread and locally common in the hill districts, less frequent in the lowlands.

Habitat: Heaths and moors, Woodlands and wooded roadsides, canal and railway embankments on acid soils where the soils are shallow, and the underlying rocks are often exposed.

Corynephorus canescens (L.) P. Beauv.
Grey Hair-grass



Ainsdale PH Smith 2008

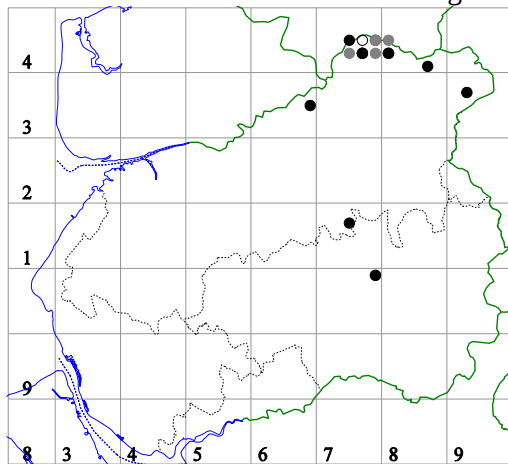
Status & distribution: Native, Nationally Rare, Near Threatened (Red List for England); Rare (2); Endangered at the vice-county level?; Southport & Ainsdale Golf Course and Ainsdale recreation ground (SD3112 & SD3113). Found on the edge of golf Links by P Doody, 1982.

Former distribution: Freshfield area (SD20U, FW Holder, 1919); Ainsdale Dunes (SD2810, Anon., 1970).

Habitat: Sand-dunes.

Comments: Plants became extinct at Freshfield by 1937. A Survey in 2007 by PH Smith showed that the Ainsdale colonies are expanding.

Helictochloa pratensis (L.) Romero Zarco
Meadow Oat-grass

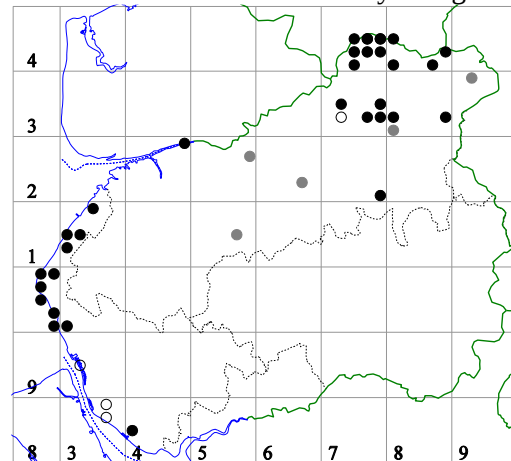


Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Scarce (6) and declining; occasional in the far north-east, rare elsewhere.

Habitat: Unimproved meadows, limestone grassland and quarries; introduced to alkaline waste beds.

Comments: Formerly more widespread in species-rich neutral grassland. Considered introduced to Lower Hinds alkaline waste bed (SD7909).

Avenula pubescens (Huds.) Dumort.
Downy Oat-grass

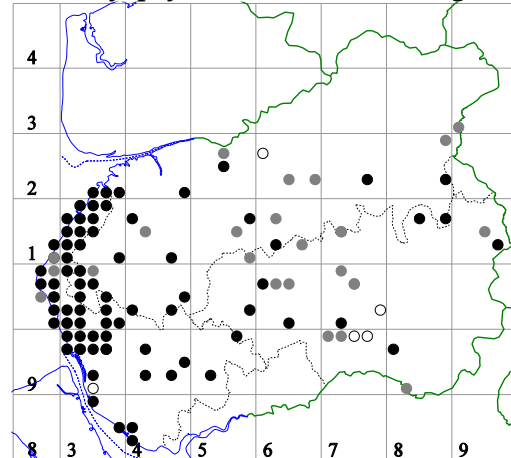


Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte; occasional along the coast and in the north-east.

Habitat: Sand-dunes, limestone grasslands, unimproved neutral grassland; rare along canal banks.

Comments: Declining and formerly more widespread in species-rich neutral grassland.

Aira caryophyllea L. Silver Hair-grass



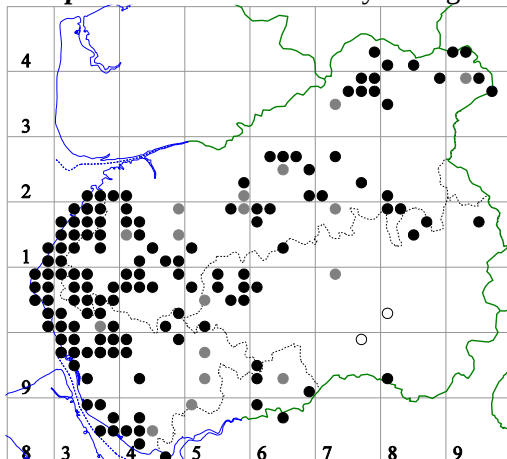


Greaves Hall, Banks DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, locally frequent along the Sefton coast and within urban areas of Sefton and Liverpool, occasional elsewhere.

Habitat: An ephemeral species of the sand-dunes and dune heaths; a colonist of former industrial land, pavements, wall tops and gardens on well-drained soils inland.

Aira praecox L. Early Hair-grass



Ormskirk PS Gateley 2021

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, locally common in the west and in hill district areas and a common garden weed in coastal regions; rare in Greater Manchester.

Habitat: Sand-dunes, dune heaths, open acid grassland, well-drained hill pastures, former industrial land, pavements, wall tops and open sandy soils.

Aira elegantissima Schur

Delicate Hair-grass

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Ormskirk (SD420089, MP Wilcox & PH Smith, 26/06/2005, conf. BSBI referee).

Comments: Native to mainland Europe, North Africa and temperate Asia.

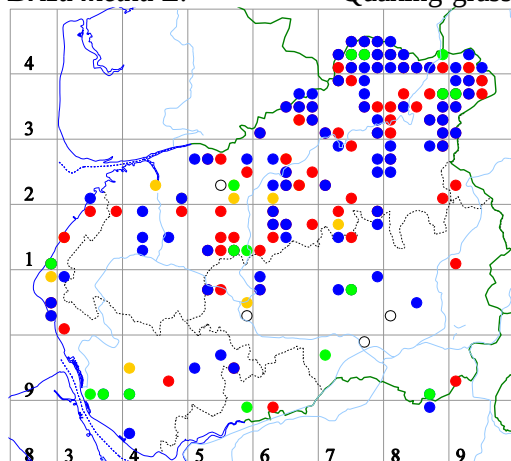
Aira provincialis Jord. French Hair-grass

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Stake Hill Tip, Chadderton (SD80Z, 1960) & Micklehurst Tip (SD90R, 1961) JE Lousley.

Habitat: Wool waste tips.

Comments: Native to France and Corsica; introduced to Asia, Australasia and Australia.

***Briza media* L.** Quaking-grass



Wavertree M Jones 2022

Status & distribution: Native, Near Threatened (Red List for England); Axiophyte, still locally common on the limestone and the base-rich soils in the Trawden district; frequent in hill pastures, occasional to absent elsewhere and often a feature of wildflower seed mixes.

Habitat: Meadows, pastures, hill district flushes, clay pits, industrial waste beds and sand-dunes on base-rich soils.

Comments: Declining in hill pastures on neutral soils.

***Briza minor* L.** Lesser Quaking-grass

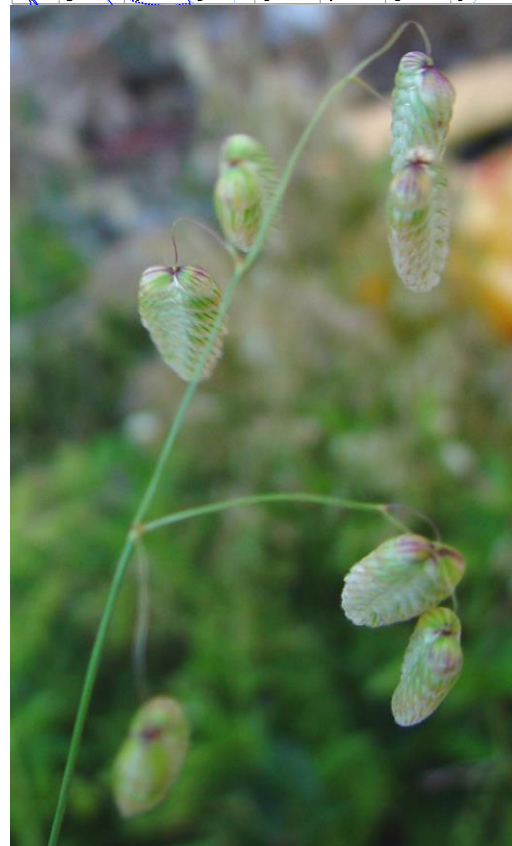
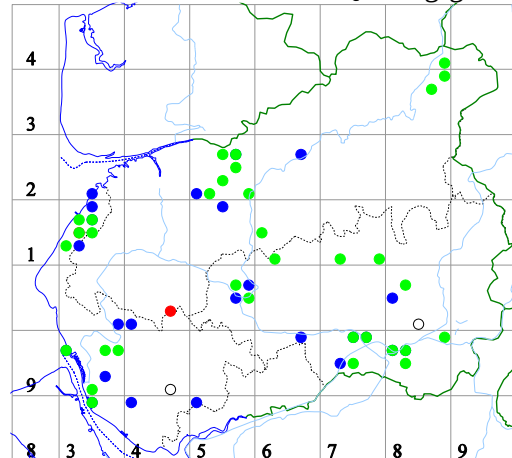
Status & distribution: Archaeophyte-colonist, Nationally Scarce; a rare casual, Bootle (SJ39H, H Shepherd, 1817); footpath edge of arable field north of

Railway View Farm, Chat Moss (SJ7096, DP Earl, 1991, BON).

Habitat: Waste ground; cereal crop impurity.

Comments: Native to the Mediterranean. The Chat Moss arable field record is interesting as this correlates with the characteristic habitat for the south-west of England.

***Briza maxima* L.** Greater Quaking-grass



Southport DP Earl 2008

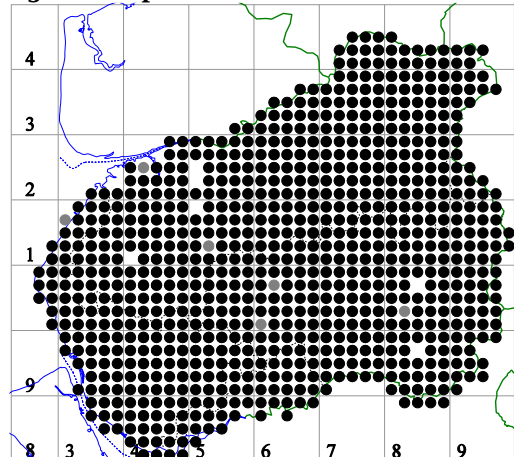
Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised-casual; an occasional but increasingly frequent garden escape usually in suburban areas.

Earliest record traced: As a weed at Cheetham Hill (SD80K, JC Melvill, 1879).

Habitat: Pavement weed, alleys, garden weed, waste ground and tips.

Comments: Native to the Mediterranean. Plants can persist and increase in abundance as pavement and alley weeds.

Agrostis capillaris L. Common Bent



Parbold PS Gateley 2023

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); common throughout the vice-county.

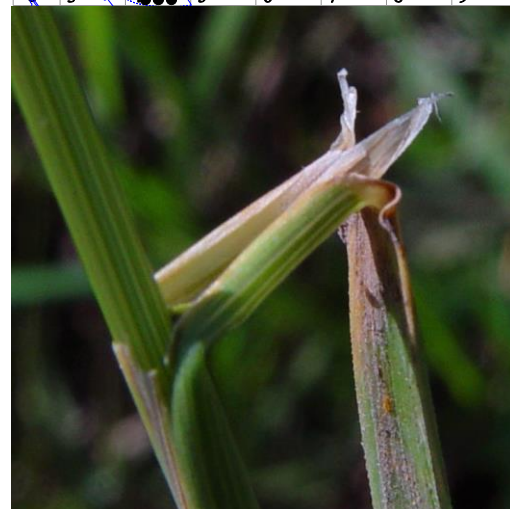
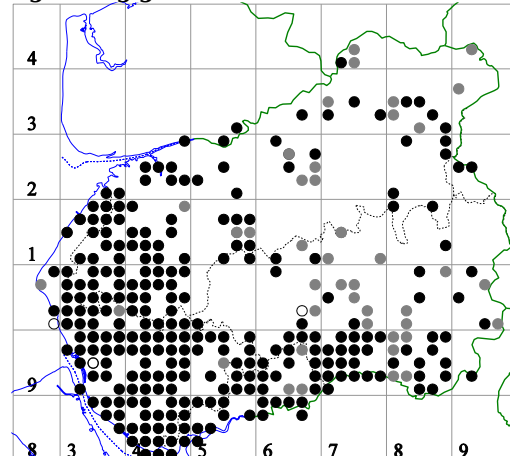
Habitat: Grasslands, heaths, moorlands, sand-dunes, lawns and waste ground.

Comments: One of the first grasses to colonise industrial waste ground; under-recorded in some areas, e.g. to the south of Preston.

Agrostis x *murbeckii* Fouill. ex P.Fourn = *A. capillaris* x *A. stolonifera*

Status & distribution: Native, Rare (2), Cabin Hill NNR (SD2805, MP Wilcox, 2007); Christian Street, Liverpool (SJ3591, Liverpool Botanical Society, 2010, det. MP Wilcox & TA Cope).

Agrostis gigantea Roth Black Bent



Coppull DP Earl 2020

Status & distribution: Archaeophyte-denizen, Least Concern (Red List for England); local frequent in the lowlands of the west extending to the southern districts of Greater Manchester, less frequent to rare elsewhere.

Habitat: Arable fields and disturbed ground.

Comments: The hybrid of *A. gigantea* x *stolonifera* might occur in arable areas.

Agrostis castellana Boiss. & Reuter

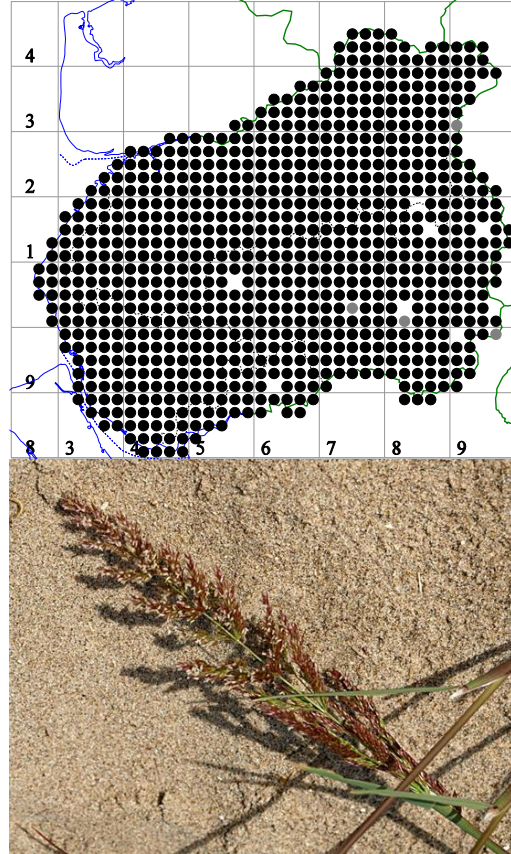
Highland Bent

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised-casual; Reddish Vale (SJ99B, E Kearns, 1999); embankment by the River Ribble, Walton-le-Dale (SD52P, DP Earl, 2002); M65 junction at Guide (SD72C, P Jepson, 2002); A570 by Edge Hill University College (SD40I, MP Wilcox, 2003); Shirdley Hill (SD3612, DP & J Earl, 2009); UU nature area, Hope Carr, Leigh (SJ6698, DP Earl & P Bowdler, 2010).

Habitat: Recently sown grasslands.

Comments: Native to the Mediterranean, a component of grass seed mixtures, assumed to be very under-recorded.

***Agrostis stolonifera* L.** Creeping Bent



Birkdale New Green Beach PH Smith 2010

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); common throughout the vice-county.

Habitat: Frequent in damp grassland, dune-slacks, the upper reaches of salt-marshes, flushes, damp rutted areas on disturbed soils, salted roadside verges and as a colonist of waste ground.

***Agrostis lachnantha* Nees** African Bent

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Crown Wallpaper Tip (SD7019); Stake Hill Wool Tip (SD80Z) & Micklehurst Wool Tip (SD90R) Rev CE Shaw, 1961; edge of car park at King Lane, Clitheroe (SD7441, MP Wilcox, 2011).

Habitat: Tips and disturbed ground.

Comments: Native to Africa.

***Agrostis avenacea* J. Gmelin** Blown-grass

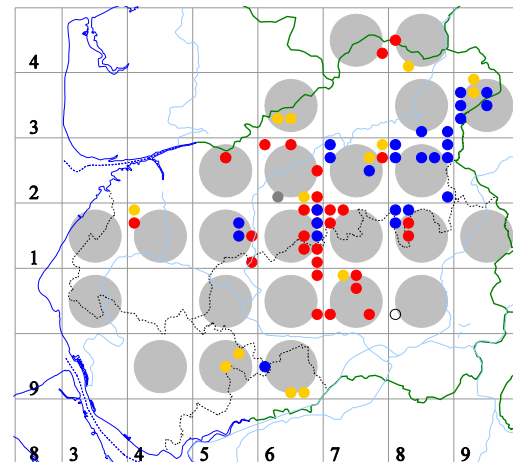
Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Crown Wallpaper Tip (SD7019); Stake Hill Wool Tip (SD80Z) & Micklehurst Wool Tip (SD90R) Rev CE Shaw, 1961; Fazakerley (SJ39Y, V Gordon, 1988, det. HJM Bowen).

Habitat: Tips and waste ground.

Comments: Native to Australia and New Zealand.

***Agrostis canina* L sensu lato**

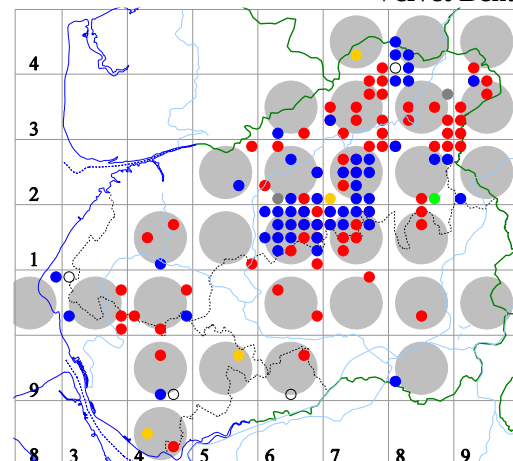
Velvet & Brown Bents



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

***Agrostis canina* L sensu stricta**

Velvet Bent



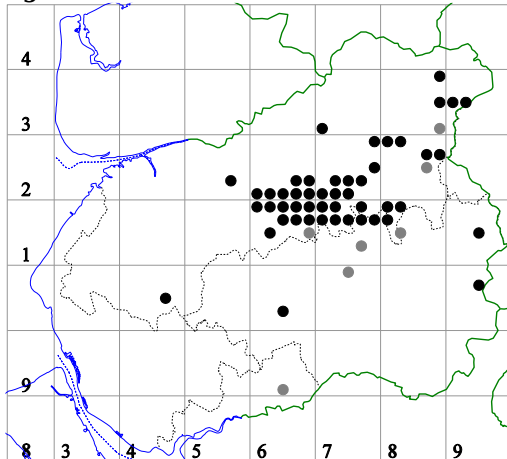


Hightown PH Smith 2012

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte. Locally frequent in the hill districts, occasional at lower altitudes.

Habitat: Wet peaty soils, moorlands and damp heaths.

Agrostis vinealis Schreber Brown Bent

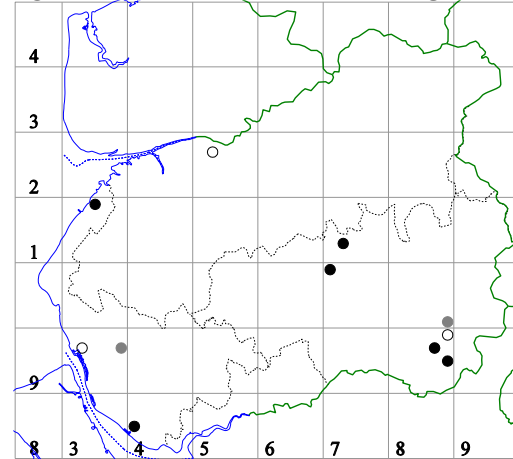


Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte. Most frequent in the hill districts particularly the West Pennine Moors, rare at lower altitudes.

Habitat: Acidic flushes on moorland often with *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Juncus effusus* and occasionally with *Molinia caerulea*; locally abundant on exposed draw-down zones of reservoirs.

Comments: Considered to be under-recorded and should be looked for in suitable habitats at lower altitudes. Whilst standard works give this species as occurring on dry heath and moorlands, this does appear to be the case for South Lancashire.

Agrostis scabra Willd. Rough Bent



Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; there are post 1994 records for Garston (SJ4185, V Gordon, 1995); Ardwick (SJ8697, 1994 & 1996) & Reddish (SJ89X, 1998) AR Franks; Bolton Station (SD7108, P Jepson, 2001; MP Wilcox, 2008; DP Earl, 2017); locally abundant at Bromley Cross Station (SD7213, DP & J Earl, 2018).

Earliest record traced: Clayton Tip (SJ89Z, Rev CE Shaw, 1966).

Habitat: Colonist of derelict ground especially railway sidings, also found on a tip and in a timber yard.

Comments: Native to North America

X *Agropogon lutosus* (Poir.) F. Fourm. = *Agrostis stolonifera* L. x *Polypogon monspeliensis* (L.) Desf.

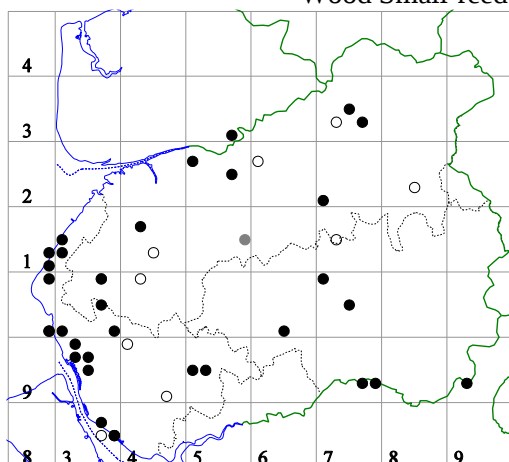
Perennial Beard-grass

Status & distribution: Neo-native-casual; Crown Wallpaper Tip (SD7019, V Gordon, 1960, det. CE Hubbard).

Habitat: Wallpaper waste.

Comments: Brian Fox (per. comm.) pointed out that this hybrid persisted for several years on the fringes of the moorland surrounding the former tip but eventually the population was replaced by *Agrostis stolonifera*.

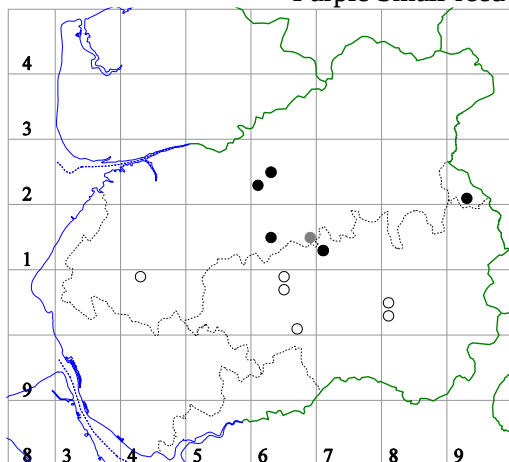
***Calamagrostis epigejos* (L.) Roth**
Wood Small-reed



Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, occasional on the coastal plain, very local elsewhere.

Habitat: Wet woods, marshy ground, ditch-banks, roadsides, railway banks; occasionally a colonist of waste ground.

***Calamagrostis canescens* (Wigg.) Roth**
Purple Small-reed



Status & distribution: Native, **Nationally Uncommon**, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte. Bath Wood (SD40J, T Williams 1859); near Southport (SD31, T Garside, 1872); Mere Clough (SD80B & SD80C, JC Melvill, 1892, MANCH); Atherton Hall (SD60Q, 1948 & 1957); Jack Shaws, Wingates (SD60N, 1957) & Lostock Fold (SD60P, 1957) Rev CE Shaw; Gale Clough (SD7013, P Jepson, 1998); Causeway Wood (SD6325, P Jepson, 2002, det HJM Bowen, DP & J Earl, 2011); Withnell Fold LNR & Miller Wood (SD6022, 2003) & Bradleys Farm,

Rivington (SD6214, 2005 & 2012) P Jepson.

Habitat: Wet woodlands flushes, swamps and marshy grasslands.

Comments: Plants may still be present at some of the former locations.

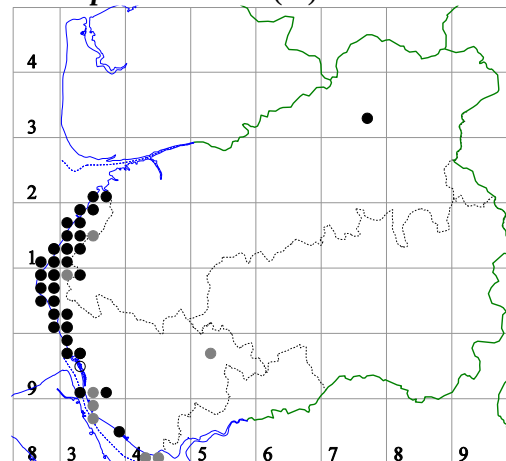
***Calamagrostis stricta* (Timm) Keoler**
Narrow Small-reed

Status & distribution: Native, **Nationally Rare, Vulnerable (Red List for England)**, Critically Endangered at the vice-county level; Robin Bank, Darwen (SD6922, P Jepson, 1980 onwards, det. HJM Bowen).

Habitat: Grassy margins of a former mill pool.

Comments: It is thought that the plants were originally determined as *Calamagrostis epigejos* but were later identified as *Calamagrostis stricta* by Nick Symons and Jermy James on a visit to the site for the Blackburn with Darwen Survey in 1991. This species is close to extinction in the vice-county and the population was almost lost in 2000 when plants were covered with river dredging from the nearby River Darwen.

***Ammophila arenaria* (L.) Link** Marram



Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, locally very abundant along the coast, rare inland.

Habitat: Sand-dunes, sandy ground near the coast; tips and disturbed ground.

Comments: Found inland originating from the importation of coastal sand at Burgy Banks, St Helens (SJ5296, T Eccles, 1989) and along a disused railway at Simonstone (SD7733, DP Earl, 2008).



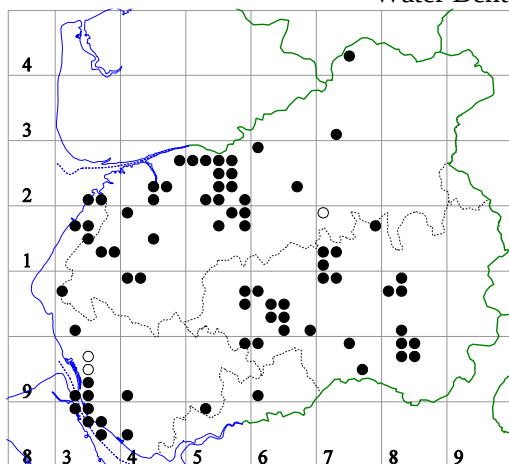
Freshfield DP Earl 2008

Gastridium ventricosum (Gouan) Schinz & Thell. Nit-grass

Status & distribution: Casual in South Lancashire; Litherland (SJ39J, HS Fisher, 1872, MANCH).

Habitat: Possibly on ballast.

Polypogon viridis (Gouan) Breistr. Water Bent



Southport DP Earl 2005

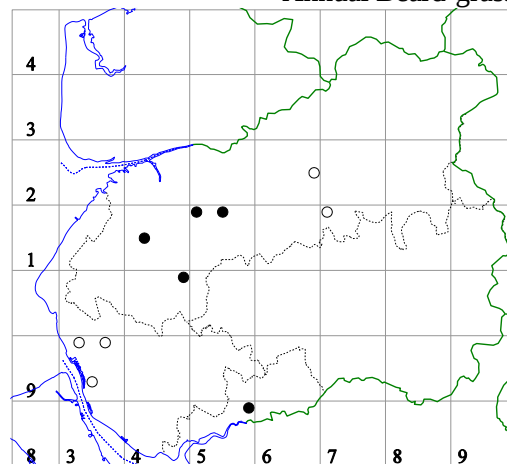
Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; now established as a persistent pavement weed particularly about Liverpool, Southport and Manchester and between Chorley and Walton-le-Dale.

Earliest record traced: Gounds of Walton Prison (SJ39N, JA Wheldon, 1913) where it was thought that seeds had been introduced with bags or on cartwheels from the docks.

Habitat: Waste and disturbed ground, pavements and tips.

Comments: Native to southern Europe. This species has increased since 2005 and persists as a stoloniferous perennial.

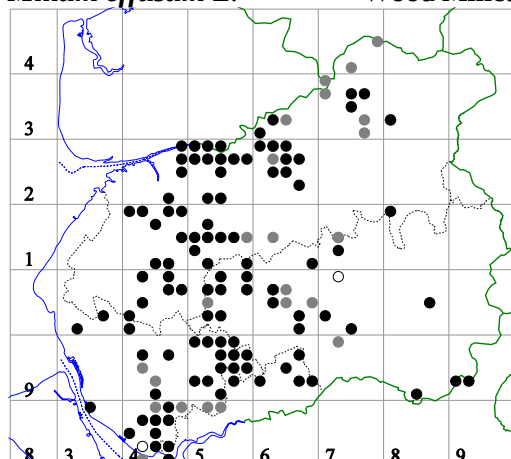
Polypogon monspeliensis (L.) Desf. Annual Beard-grass



Status & distribution: Casual in South Lancashire; north of Liverpool (SJ39L, JH Lewis, 1875); Aintree Racecourse (SJ39U, 1893) & between Ford & Seaforth (SJ39J, 1902) JA Wheldon; Crown Wallpaper Tip (SD7019, Rev CE Shaw, V Gordon & BW Fox, 1956 BON; RK Brummitt, 1960). abundant at the Island Meadow, Martin Mere SSSI (SD41H, Wildflower Society, 2012) where possibly naturalised; a single plant at the site of a demolished works, Euxton (SD5419, DP & J Earl, 2015); Lovely Lane, Warrington (SJ5988, G Quartly-Bishop, 2016). Eccleston Garden Centre (SD5118, J Styles, 2017; Round O Quarry (SD4008 & SD4009, G Clarkson, 2019, confirmed DP Earl & MP Wilcox);

Habitat: Ballast, disturbed ground and tips.

Milium effusum L. Wood Millet



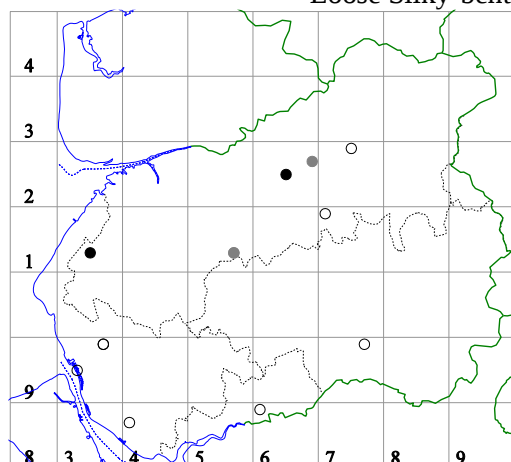
Preston Junction DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axioophyte, occasional to locally frequent in wooded areas.

Habitat: Woods and shaded banks usually on clay soils.

Comments: The absence of this species from some wooded areas is surprising and plants may have been overlooked.

Apera spica-venti (L.) P. Beauv. Loose Silky-bent



Status & distribution: Archaeophyte-colonist, Least Concern (Red List for

England); Warrington (SJ68E, *English Flora* 2nd. Ed. 1828); Aintree (SJ39U, JA Wheldon, 1901); Accrington (SD72P, JW Bamber, 1908); Allerton (SJ48D, JD Massey & WG Travis, 1932); Crown Wallpaper Tip (SD7019, V Gordon, 1960, det. CE Hubbard); fields by Hic Bibi, Coppull (SD51R, Rev CE Shaw, 1985); Blackburn (SD6926, Anon., 1986); London Lane (SD3413, DP & J Earl & B McCarthy, 1996, det. TA Cope, BON); near Blackburn (SD6525, Anon. 2001).

Habitat: Arable fields, farm tracks, newly sown grass, waste ground and tips.

Apera interrupta (L.) P. Beauv.

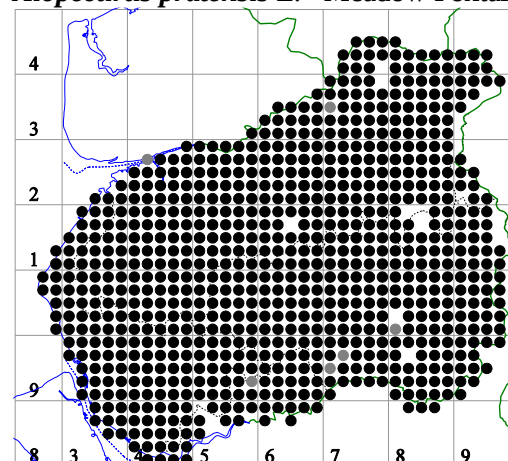
Dense Silky-bent

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; by the roadside, Victoria Road, Freshfield (SD20Z, JA Wheldon & WG Travis, 1914); Crosby dunes (SJ3098 & SJ3198, MP Wilcox & PH Smith, 2005); Marshside (SD3520, D Ross, 2011, det. P Jepson).

Habitat: On sand-dunes and dry cindery soil.

Comments: Native to southern Europe.

Alopecurus pratensis L. Meadow Foxtail



Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); common and widespread throughout the vice-county except at higher altitudes.

Habitat: Grasslands on moist fertile soils.

Comments: Some of the gaps in the distribution at lower altitudes probably indicate areas which have not been visited at flowering time.



Downholland Brook PH Smith 2012

Comments: At low altitudes it is possible that gaps in the distribution relate to urbanisation, lack of access and under-recording.

***Alopecurus bulbosus* Gouan**

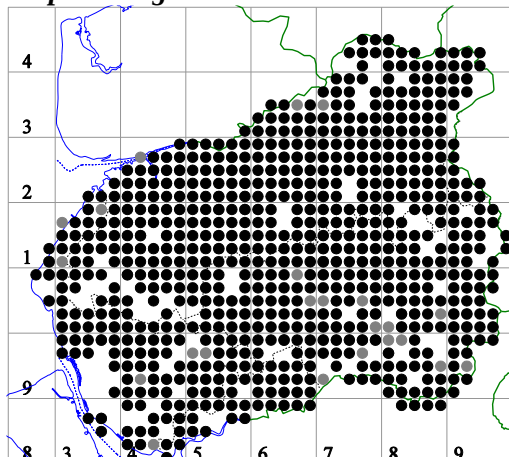
Bulbous Foxtail

Status & former distribution: Native, Nationally Scarce, Least Concern (Red List for England); formerly at Cuerdley Marsh, near Warrington (SJ58M, R Buxton, 1864).

Habitat: Saltmarsh.

Comments: Much of the Cuerdley Marsh area has been lost to the reservoir beds associated with the nearby power station; the remaining areas of saltmarsh where plants of *A. bulbosus* may exist are not open to public access. The additional locations quoted in Travis are from vice-county 58. HS Fisher thought that plants approaching this species occurred at Hale Decoy (SJ48R).

***Alopecurus geniculatus* L. Marsh Foxtail**



Much Hoole DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); widespread, absent from the highest ground.

Habitat: Wet corners of arable fields, damp grasslands, pond margins and drawn-down zones of reservoirs.

***Alopecurus aequalis* Sobol.**

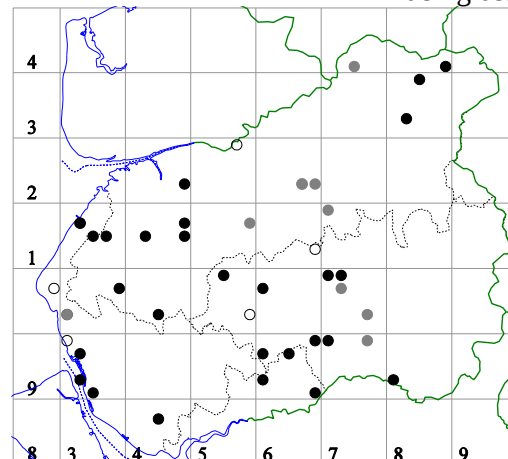
Orange Foxtail

Distribution: Native, Nationally Uncommon, Least Concern (Red List for England); Rare (2), probably endangered at the vice-county level; (SD50, BSBI Map Scheme c. 1950); Lower Rivington Reservoir (SD6312, P Jepson & DP Earl); pond by the railway, Fazakerley (SJ39Y, MP Wilcox, 2003).

Habitat: Reservoir drawn-down zone and a pond margin.

***Alopecurus myosuroides* Huds.**

Black-grass





Coppull DP Earl 2020

Status & distribution: Archaeophyte-colonist, Least Concern (Red List for England); a widespread but occasional casual.

Earliest record traced: by a wall at entrance to a Rabbit Warren, Crosby, (SJ39E, W Wilson, 1839).

Habitat: Waste ground, arable fields, newly sown grass and in pavements.

Comments: Possibly introduced with birdseed on occasions. Additional records might be gained from local floras and herbaria.

Beckmannia syzigachne (Steudel) Fern.

American Slough-grass

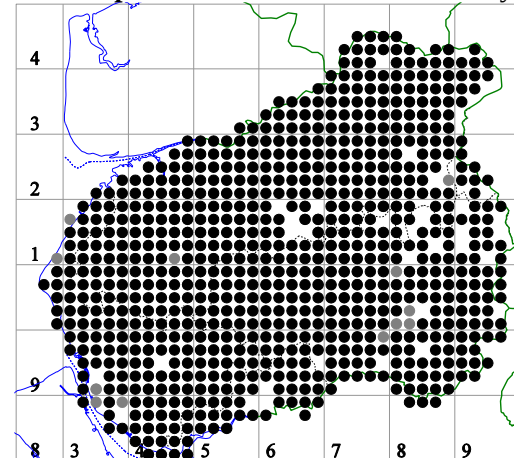
Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; between Marsh Farm and the River Douglas (SD4524, DP & J Earl, 1996, det. TA Cope, BON).

Habitat: Ditch-bank by an arable field.

Comments: Native to North America. Thought to be introduced with grain the plants did not persist.

Phleum pratense L.

Timothy



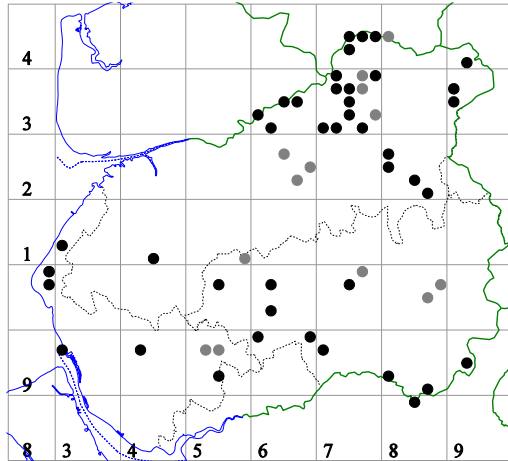
Chorley DP Earl 2009

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

Habitat: Grasslands especially on clay soils, often absent from peat-based soils.

Comments: The var. *longiaristatum* has been recorded from waste ground, Walton (SJ39M, JD Massey and WG Travis, 1929); var. *praecox* which occurred at Gaol fields, Walton (SD39N, JD Massey, 1930) is a form with a short panicle and yellow anthers.

***Phleum bertolonii* DC.** Smaller Cat's-tail



Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, widespread but localised and declining.

Habitat: Old grasslands and pastures, on sand-dunes, limestone and hill pastures particularly along the river valleys.

Comments: Some records may be small plants of *P. pratense* and this species is probably over-recorded.



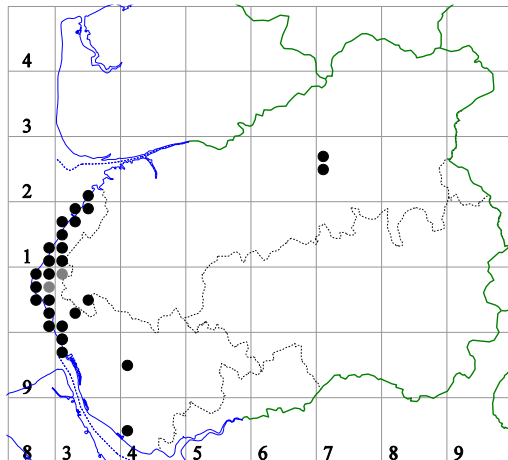
Sefton Coast PH Smith 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Nationally Uncommon, [Near Threatened \(Red List for England\)](#); Axiophyte, locally common along the Sefton coast from Crosby to Marshside, scarce further inland.

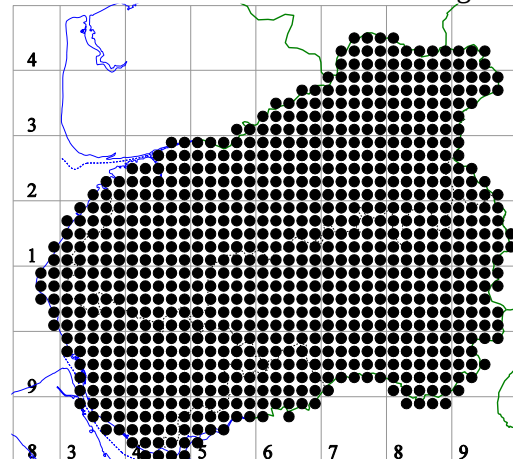
Habitat: Sand-dunes, sandy ground on the coastal plain, sandy railway banks, rare on industrial spoil heaps.

Comments: Thought to have been originally introduced to some of the inland sites via construction material and the use of sand for industrial processes.

***Phleum arenarium* L.** Sand Cat's-tail



***Poa annua* L.** Annual Meadow-grass





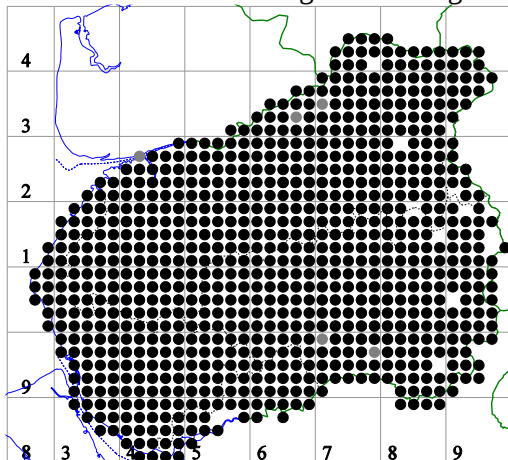
Downholland Brook PH Smith 2012

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

Habitat: Paths, pavements, tracks, disturbed open ground and lawns.

Comments: The var. *reptans* was recorded from near rubbish tips, Litherland (SJ39J, WG Travis, n.d.).

Poa trivialis L. Rough Meadow-grass



Downholland Brook PH Smith 2012

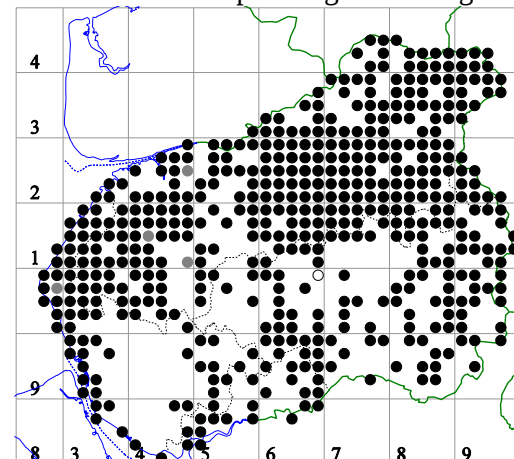
Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); common and widespread.

Habitat: Grasslands especially on damp and disturbed ground, woodlands, pond and canal margins, tracks, roadside verges and waste ground.

Comments: The var. *glabra* was recorded from woods at Rufford Old Hall (SD42S, Liverpool Botanical Society, June 1936).

Poa humilis Ehrh. ex Hoffm.

Spreading Meadow-grass



Freshfield DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); frequent

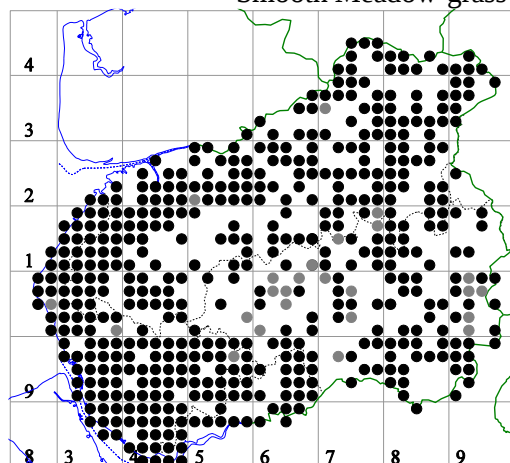
to locally common along the coastal fringe, common in the hill districts and not infrequent elsewhere.

Habitat: Sand-dunes especially on damp sand, hill pastures, saltmarshes, along salted roadside verges and on industrial spoil heaps.

Comments: Under-recorded and confused with *P. pratensis*. The var. *minor* Wahl. was recorded from Southport (SD31I, FW Holder & GC teste Scling *Botanical Exgange Club Report* 1930 p. 286).

***Poa pratensis* L. sensu stricta**

Smooth Meadow-grass



Downholland Brook PH Smith 2012

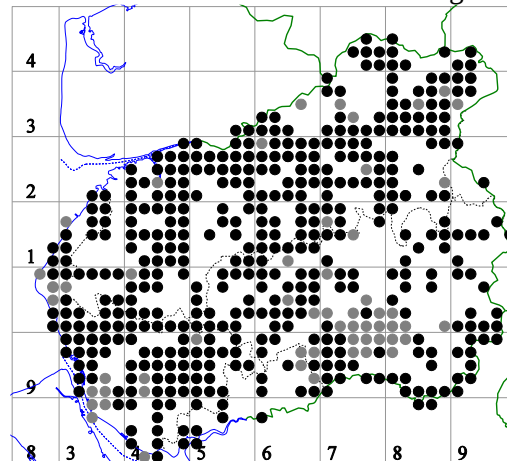
Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); widespread and locally common.

Habitat: Grasslands and sown meadows.

Comments: Many records may include *Poa humilis* especially those from the hill districts where the true plant is scarce.

***Poa pratensis* L. sensu lato**

Smooth Meadow-grass



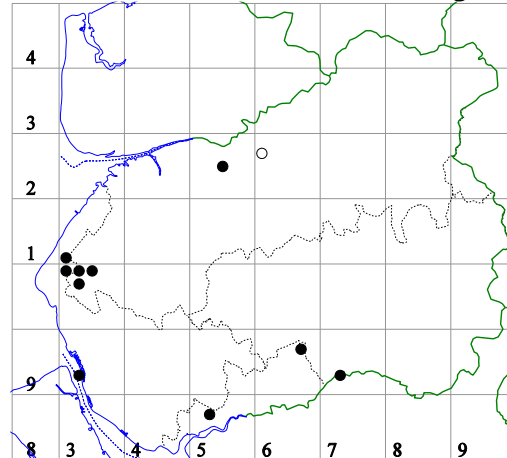
Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); frequent at lower altitudes.

Habitat: Grasslands and sown meadows.

Comments: Possibly over recorded.

***Poa angustifolia* L.**

Narrow-leaved Meadow-grass



Haskayne Cutting PH Smith 2012

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, occasional between Formby and Haskayne, scarce elsewhere but probably under-recorded with records from Salmesbury (SD62D, CA Howe, 1957); Vauxhall (SJ39G, V Gordon 1996, DP Earl & SP Tonne, 2003); by the Manchester Ship Canal (SJ79G, AR Locksley, 1999, det., J Edmondson); Lostock Hall (SD5425, DPE, 2007); Bowers Brook Valley (SJ5287) & (SJ6796) DP Earl, 2003.

Habitat: Dry tracks, ballast and well-drained open ground, possibly introduced in sown grass seed mixtures on occasions.

Comments: A series of records from the railway line survey (Institute of Terrestrial Ecology 1979) require verification.



Widnes DP Earl 2009

***Poa chaixii* Villars**

Broad-leaved Meadow-grass

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; Sunnyhurst Wood (SD62R, P Jepson, 1983 onwards).

Habitat: Woodland.

Comments: Native to mainland Europe.

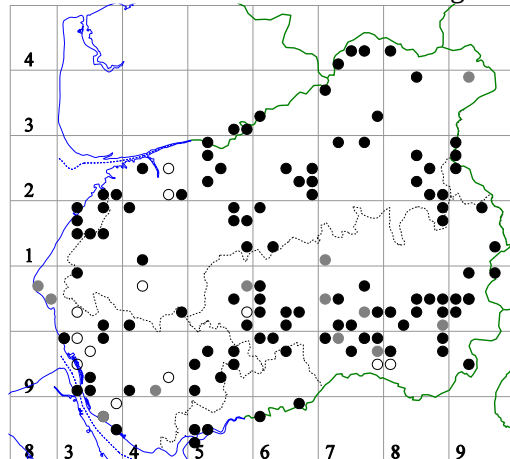
Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, widespread and locally frequent, especially in the former mining areas.

Habitat: Roadside verges, old railway tracks, industrial spoil heaps and on open ground.

Comments: Plants have colonised artificial habitats but have also been introduced at some locations as an ingredient of sown grass seed mixtures.

***Poa compressa* L.**

Flattened Meadow-grass



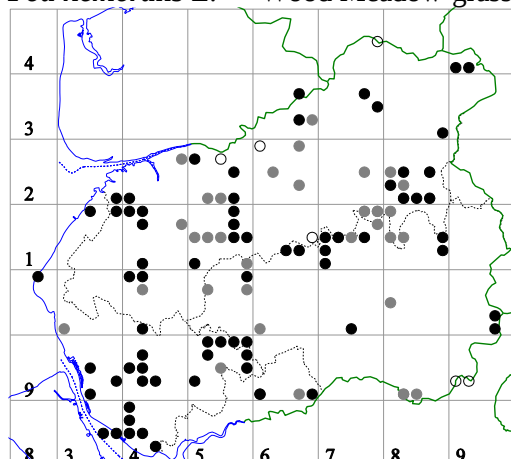
***Poa palustris* L.** Swamp Meadow-grass

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Stretford (SJ89C, GA Holt, 1908); by Walton Prison (SJ39N, JA Wheldon & WG Travis, 1913-1917, det., Hackel); Whiston (SJ49Q, Rev M Toohey, 1913); Litherland (SJ39J, WG Travis, 1915); by Waterfoot railway station (SD82G, 1965) & Ashton Tip (SJ99E, 1966) Rev CE Shaw.

Habitat: Waste ground and tips.

Comments: Native to mainland Europe. There are recent records from the Bolton area that are dubious and require confirmation.

***Poa nemoralis* L. Wood Meadow-grass**



Sabden DP Earl 2009

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, widespread but not common, locally frequent in well-wooded areas. Said to be common in the Bolton area by Rev CE Shaw.

Habitat: Woodlands, plantation strips and shaded banks.

Comments: Native, but also sown as a shade tolerant woodland grass.

[*Poa bulbosa* L. Bulbous Meadow-grass

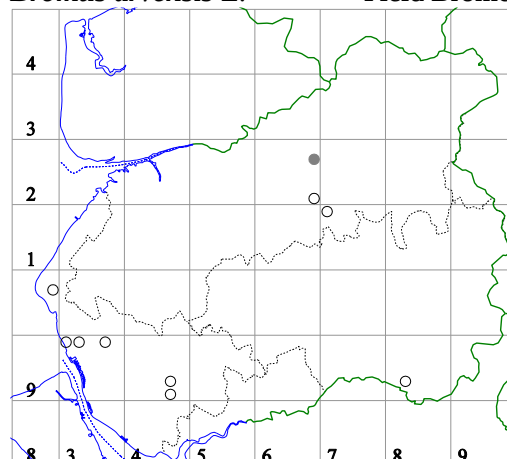
Former distribution: Fisherman's Path, Freshfield (SD20Z, Anon student, - 1995); Burden, Bolton (SD70, Greenlees & Holden 1920).

Habitat: Sand-dunes.

Comments: The records require confirmation although it should be noted that a viviparous form of this species did occur for a few years under trees at Miller Park, Preston on the vice-county 60 side of the river Ribble.]

TRIBE 8 - BROMEAE

***Bromus arvensis* L. Field Brome**

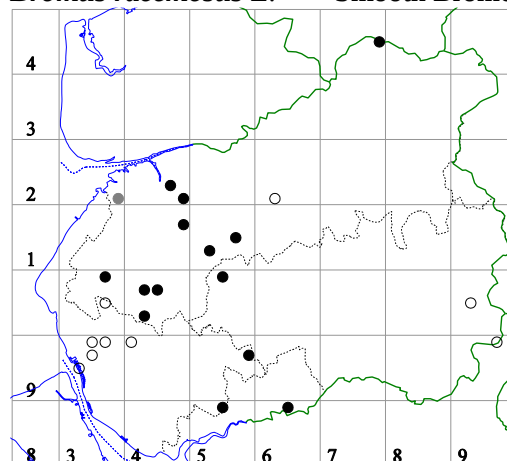


Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; field near Withington (SJ89G, Buxton 1849); Formby (SD20Y, J Shillitoe, Dickinson 1855); Ford (SJ39J) & canal bank Aintree (SJ39U) JA Wheldon, 1901; Whiston & Prescott; (SJ49R, Rev. M Toohey, 1910); tip near Darwen (SD62V, Rev CE Shaw, 1956 det. WO Howarth; CA Howe, 1957); Brandy House Brow and Higher Croft (SD62Y, P Jepson, 1979).

Habitat: Waste and cultivated ground, tips.

Comments: Native to mainland Europe.

***Bromus racemosus* L. Smooth Brome**





Warrington DP Earl 2008

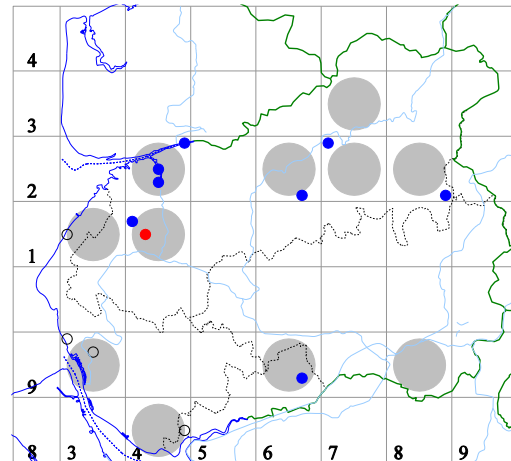
Status & distribution: Least Concern (Red List for England); casual in South Lancashire; most of the scattered recent records are of grass seed impurities amongst arable crops.

Earliest record traced: Occasional to the north of Liverpool from Bootle (SJ39H, Hall 1839).

Habitat: Meadows, cornfields, canal banks, waste ground and tips.

Comments: Probably overlooked and recorded as *B. hordeaceus*.

Records supplied as *Bromus commutatus* Schrader (Meadow Brome) are now included here.

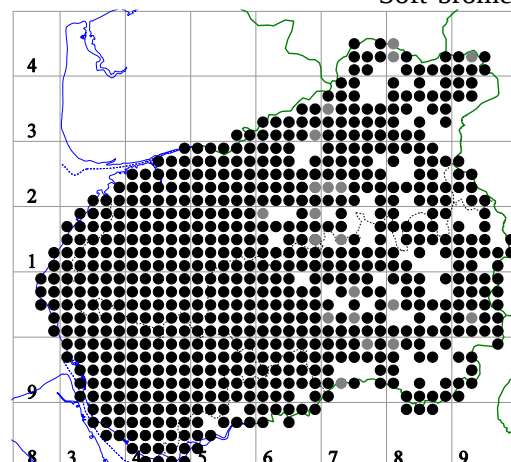


Distribution: Scattered records, which may simply indicate recorder effort.

Habitat: Meadows and arable fields.

Comments: Thought under-recorded and mistaken for *B. hordeaceus*. Plants should be looked for in meadows and rank grasslands especially on the coastal plain.

Bromus hordeaceus* L. ssp. *hordeaceus
Soft-brome



Downholland Brook PH Smith 2012

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); generally, very common except on the higher ground and probably the most widespread form.

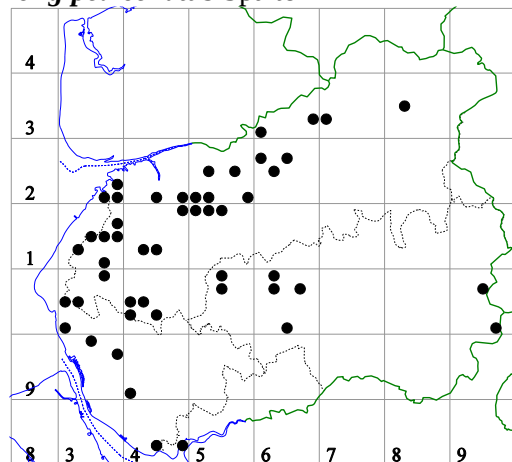
Habitat: Meadows, borders of arable fields, waste ground, roadsides and sand-dunes.

Comments: The records of several subspecies are listed below:

Bromus hordeaceus* L. ssp. *ferroonii (Mabille) P.M. Sm. **Status & distribution:** Native, Nationally Scarce Least Concern (Red List for England); Southport area (SD31, 1962).

Bromus hordeaceus* L. ssp. *thominei (Hardouin) Braun-Blanquet **Status & distribution:** Native, Nationally Scarce, Least Concern (Red List for England); Freshfield (SD20U) & Birkdale (SD31C) V Gordon, 1956 det. CE Hubbard.

Bromus hordeaceus* L. ssp. *longipedicellatus Spalton



Status & distribution: Native, Waiting List (Red List for England); a robust form which appears to be widespread in the lowlands.

Habitat: Meadows, waste ground and roadsides.

Bromus* x *pseudothominei P.M. Sm. = *B. hordeaceus* x *B. lepidus*

Lesser Soft-brome

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised, Rare (3), Hall Road (SD30A, V Gordon, 1995); Martin Mere (SD4214, T Clare, 2009); Up Brooks Road, Clitheroe (SD7542, MP Wilcox, 2010).

Habitat: Sandy soils near the sea and disturbed ground.

Bromus lepidus O. Holmb.

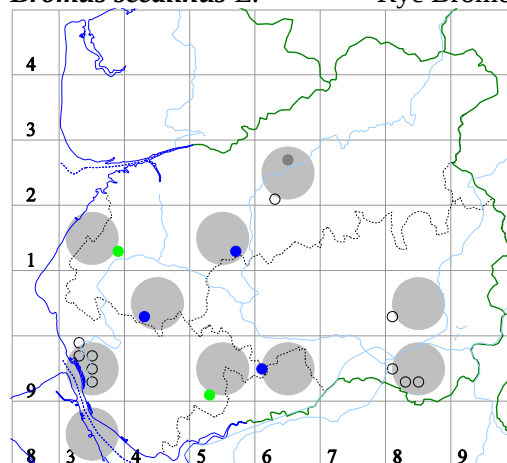
Slender Soft-brome

Former distribution: Neophyte-casual; North Liverpool (SJ39, 1907, Belfast); weed of sandy grass at Victoria Park, Southport (SD31I, DE Allen, 1952, teste TG Tutin); garden weed, Woodvale (SD31A, DE Allen, 1954); Crown Wallpaper Tip, Darwen (SD7019, Rev CE Shaw, 1958).

Habitat: Disturbed sandy ground and rubbish tips.

Comments: The variant *B. lepidus* var. *micromollis* (Kroche) Hubbard differs from typical plants because the spikelets are hairy rather than glabrous.

***Bromus secalinus* L.** Rye Brome



Status & distribution: Archaeophyte-colonist, [Near Threatened \(Red List for England\)](#); Freeman's Pasture (SD5612, MP Wilcox, 2003); footpaths near Roby's Farm, Bickerstaffe (SD4303, M Dean & R Hill, 2017).

Former distribution: Between Agecroft & Clifton Aqueduct (SD80B, R Buxton, 1838); canal bank between Bootle & Litherland (SJ39I); cornfield between Walton & Fazakerley (SJ39N); Waste ground Liverpool (SJ39K, Green 1902); by canal, Stretford (SJ89C, GA Holt, 1902, det. GC Druce); meadow at Woods Sidings, Brinscall (SD62, GH Hopley, 1908).

Habitat: Meadows, canal banks, arable fields and waste ground.

Comments: Native to mainland Europe.

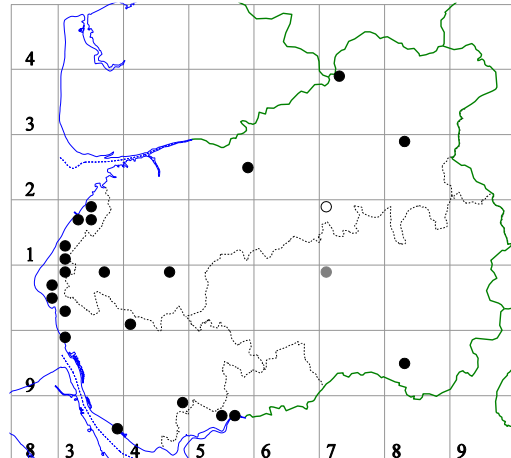
Bromus japonicus Thunb. ex Murray
Thunberg's Brome

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; tip near Darwen (SD62V, CA Howe, 1958); Middleton area (SD80M, Biological Record Centre record, 1958).

Habitat: Tips.

Comments: Native to mainland Europe.

Anisantha diandra (Roth.) Tutin ex Tzvelev
Great Brome



Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; considered by MP Wilcox & PH Smith to be established and locally frequent along the coast; more casual inland.

Earliest record traced: Crown Wallpaper Tip (SD7019, JE Lousley, 1959).

Habitat: Sand-dunes and disturbed ground by the coast, waste ground, tips and a garden weed.

Comments: Native to mainland Europe. Thought to be under-recorded, some records may be *Anisantha sterilis* and ideally require critical determination.

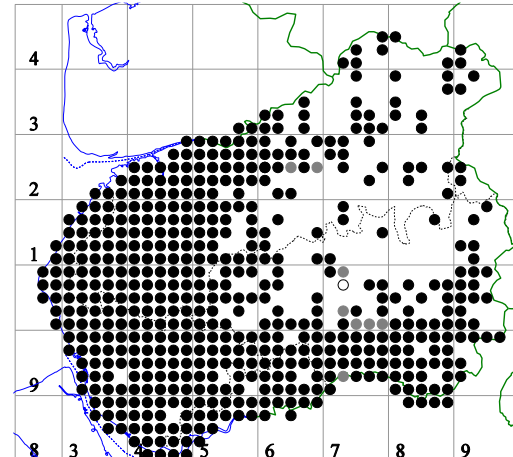
Anisantha rigida (Roth) N. Hylander
Ripgut Brome

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised or casual; by the Marine Lake, Southport (SD31J, MP Wilcox, 2003).

Habitat: Sand mound.

Comments: Native to mainland Europe.

Anisantha sterilis (L.) Nevski
Barren Brome



Lostock Hall DP Earl 2020

Status & distribution: Archaeophyte-denizen, Least Concern (Red List for England); common in the lowland areas, far less frequent in the hill districts.

Habitat: Arable land, roadsides and disturbed ground on well-drained sandy and peaty soils.

Anisantha tectorum (L.) Nevski
Drooping Brome

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Little Lever (SD70T, CR Lancaster, 1962).

Comments: Neophyte, native to mainland Europe.

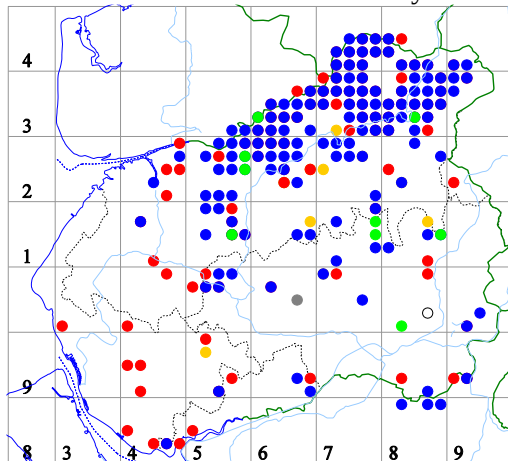
Anisantha madritensis (L.) Nevski
Compact Brome

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; railway embankment, Fazakerley (SJ39T, Rev S Gasking, 1906); rubbish tip at Nelson (SD83, CR Ritching, 1927); Crown wallpaper Tip (SD7019, BW Fox & JE Lousley, 1958, BON).

Habitat: Tips and a railway bank.

Comments: Native to mainland Europe.

***Bromopsis ramosa* (Hudson) Holub**
Hairy-brome



Walton-le-Dale DP Earl 2021

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, locally common in the well-wooded sections of the Ribble Valley catchment area, occasional to locally frequent elsewhere.

Habitat: Woodlands and shaded hedgebanks on the limestone and on clay soils, characteristic of old woods along river valleys.

***Bromopsis benekenii* (Lange) Holub**
Lesser Hairy-brome

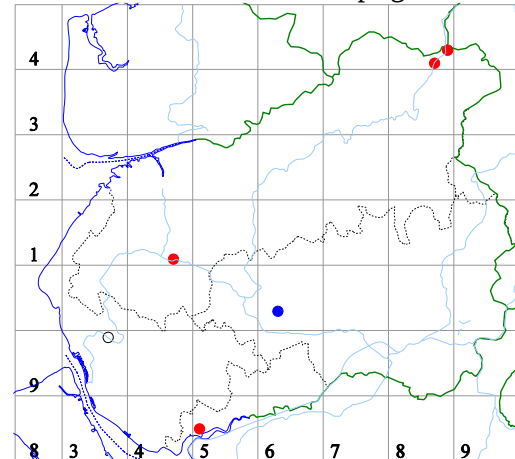
Status & distribution: Native, Nationally Scarce, Least Concern (Red List for England); Rare (2), Gypsy Lane,

Freshfield (SD20Z, V Gordon, 1997, LIV); Downham district (SD84C, A Bamforth).

Habitat: Shaded lanesides and woods.

Comments: Like *Bromopsis ramosa* and thought to be conspecific by some authorities.

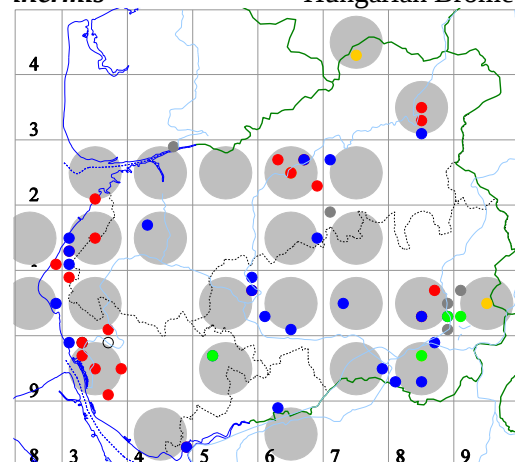
***Bromopsis erecta* (Hudson) Fourr.**
Upright Brome



Status & distribution: Naturalised or casual in South Lancashire; Aintree (SJ39U, JA Wheldon, n.d.); Leeds & Liverpool Canal, Foulridge (SD84Q & SD84W) where discovered by A Turner, 1938. Records for Bickershaw Colliery (SD60G, Anon, 2004); Tawd Valley Woods (SD41Q, J Lowell & PS Gateley, 1999) require confirmation.

Habitat: Grasslands and open scrub along canal towpath.

Bromopsis inermis* (Leysser) Holub ssp. *inermis
Hungarian Brome



Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; increasing and now well established.

Earliest record traced: Estuarine banks of the River Ribble near to Bottom of Hutton (SD42U, HE Bunker, 1940).

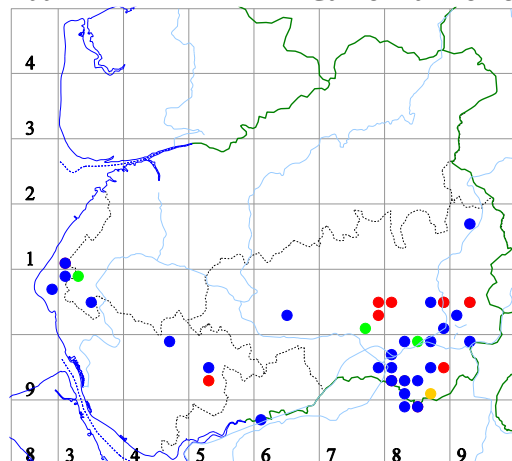
Habitat: Waysides, farm tracks, sand-dunes and rank grassland.

Comments: Native to mainland Europe.

Ceratochloa carinata (Hook. & Arn.)

Tutin

California Brome



Formby Hall DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; locally frequent as an urban weed in the Manchester district, apparently scarce elsewhere.

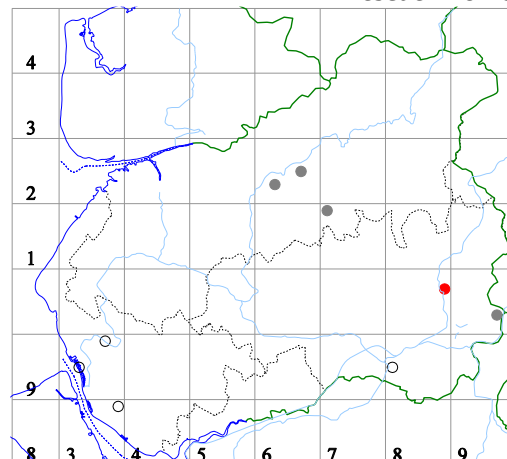
Earliest record traced: Chadderton (SD80S, Rev CE Shaw, 1958).

Habitat: Disturbed ground, pavements, rubbish tips, canal towpaths and riverbanks.

Comments: Native to America.

Ceratochloa cathartica (Vahl) Herter

Rescue Brome



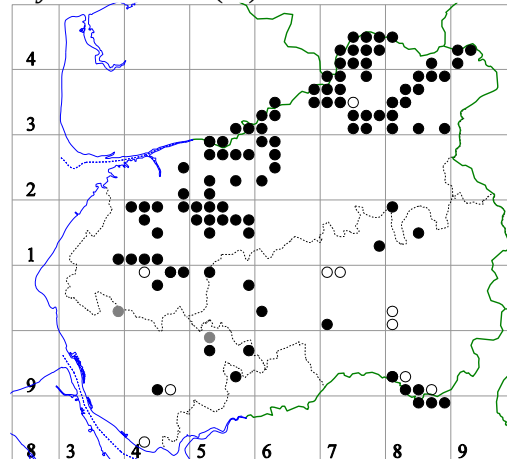
Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Aintree (SJ39U, JA Wheldon, 1897); ballast at Bootle (SJ39H, Rev S Gasking, 1898); Wavertree Quarry (SJ38Z, AA Dallman, 1903); waste heap, Bridgewater Canal, Stretford (SJ89C, GA Holt, 1904); field used as a poultry farm, Brimmicroft (SD6222, CA Howe, 1957); Micklehurst (SD90R, JE Lousley, 1960); Feniscowles (SD62S) & Crown Wallpaper Tip (SD7019) Rev CE Shaw, det. CE Hubbard.

Habitat: Waste ground, quarries, waste heap by canal, textile and wallpaper tips, poultry runs.

Comments: Native to America. Most records listed in Travis are under the synonym *Ceratochloa unioides* (Willd.) Beauv. with the Mossley record given as *Bromus willdenowii* Kunth.

TRIBE 9 - TRITICEAE

Elymus caninus (L.) L. Bearded Couch



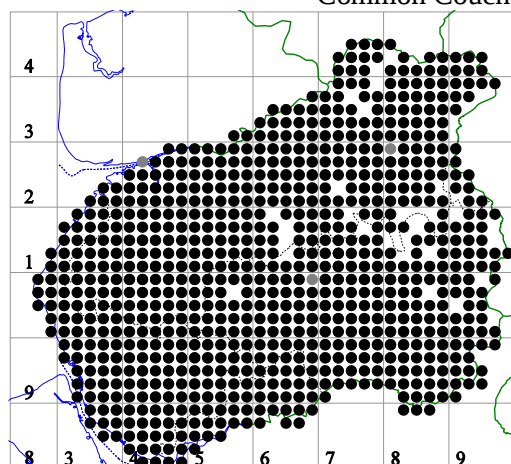
Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, locally common in the wooded areas of Ribble Valley catchment, and along the Mersey Valley between Stockport and Stretford, scarce elsewhere or under-recorded.

Habitat: Woods, shaded streamsides, banks and roadsides.

Comments: It is suggested that under recording may be due in part to later flowering time than that of most woodland flora species.

Elymus repens (L.) Gould

Common Couch



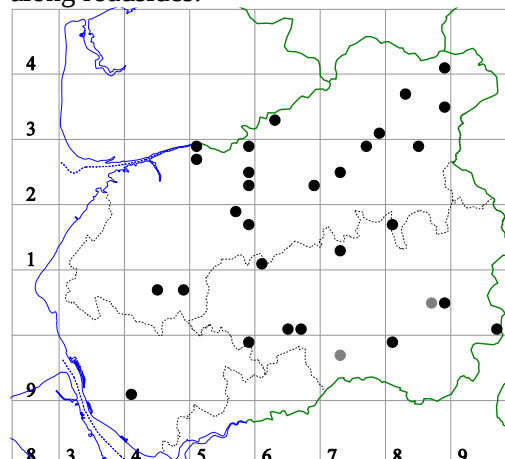
Martin Mere DP Earl 2009

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

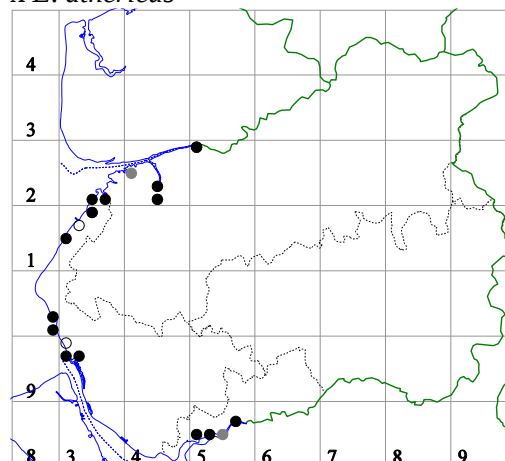
Habitat: Arable fields, rank grasslands, ditch-banks, roadsides, sand-dunes, upper reaches of saltmarshes and waste ground.

Comments: The ssp. *arenosus* (Spenn.) Melderis has been recorded from Hall Road (SD20V, VG & R Burton, 1998, det. R Burton) but is of doubtful status.

The f. *aristatus* (Schumach.) Stace is widespread particularly in rank grassland along roadsides:



Elymus x *drucei* (Stace) Stace = *E. repens* x *E. athericus*



Status & distribution: Native, Axiophyte; occasional to locally abundant in the Mersey, Alt, Douglas & Ribble estuaries.

Habitat: Upper reaches of saltmarshes.

Comments: Considered to be under-recorded.

Elymus x *laxus* (Fr.) Melderis & D.C. McClint. = *E. repens* x *E. junceiformis*

Status & distribution: Native, Scarce, Speke to Dungeon (SJ48, R Brown, 1888); Marshside (SD31P, n.d.); locally common from Seaforth to Hall Road (SJ39E; SD30A; SD20V) & Birkdale Green Beach (SD31C, PH Smith & MP Wilcox, 2003, det. TA Cope).

Habitat: Mobile sand-dunes, sand banks and along the littoral zone.

***Elymus athericus* (Link) Kerguélen**
Sea Couch

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Rare (2), probably Critically Endangered at the vice-county level with potentially correct determinations from Seaforth (SJ39D, V Gordon, 1964, LIV) to Hightown (SD21W, CK Parry-Jones, 1961, LIV); Crosby Coastal Park (SJ3098, V Gordon, 1964); Hall Road (SD20V, V Gordon, 1964 & 1999).

Habitat: Saltmarshes and along the littoral zone.

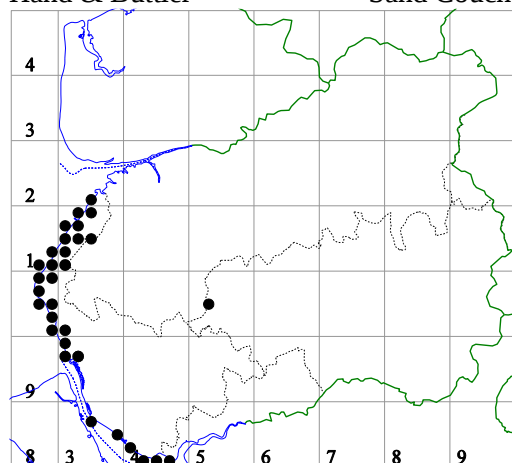
Comments: Considered to be over-recorded in the past, recently all populations studied by enthusiasts have been determined as hybrid plants.

***Elymus. x obtusiusculus* (Lange)**
Melderis & D.C. McClint. = *E. athericus* x *E. junceiformis*

Status & distribution: Native, Rare (2) and perhaps Critically Endangered at the vice-county level; Crosby (SJ39E, JH Lewis, 1875, MANCH); Seaforth Nature Reserve (SJ3197, 2003) & Crosby Marine Park (SJ3297, 2005) MP Wilcox & PH Smith.

Habitat: On sand-dunes and disturbed sandy ground near the sea.

***Elytrigia junceiformis* (Á. & D. Löve)**
Hand & Buttler Sand Couch



Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte; common along the coast at intervals from Hale to Crossens; rare inland as an adventive near Wigan (SD50H, EM Stephenson, 1995).

Habitat: Frontal and embryo sand-dunes, sandy ground along the littoral zone.

***Elymus scabrus* (Labill.) Á. Loeve**
Australian Couch

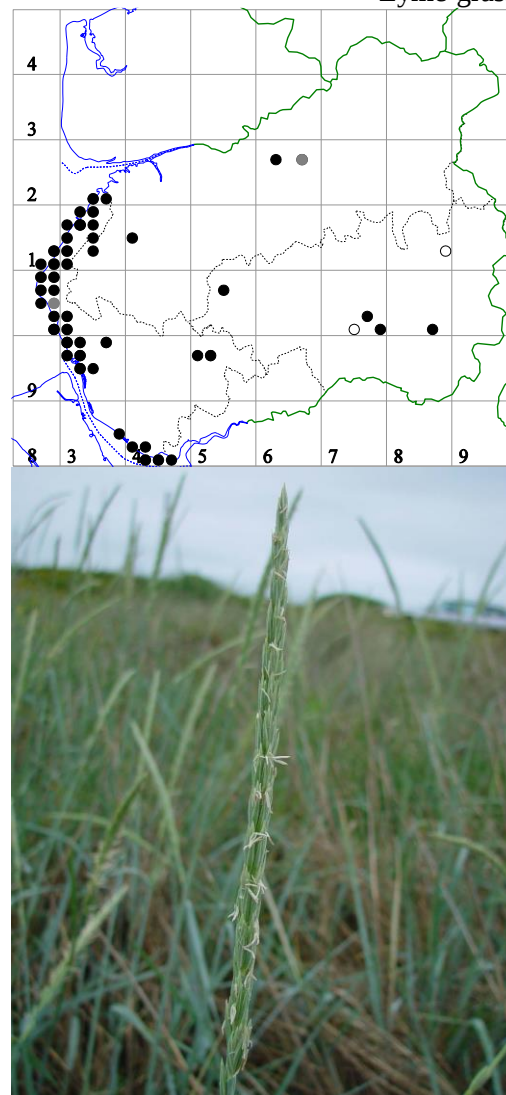
Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Micklehurst Tip (SD90R, JE Lousley, 1960).

Habitat: Waste tip, probably related to textile industrial waste.

Comments: Native to Australia.

***Leymus arenarius* (L.) Hochst.**

Lyme-grass



Marshside DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, locally common along the coast and in the Mersey estuary; very local in the Ribble Estuary; occasional inland.

Habitat: Sand-dunes, sandy shorelines and along the littoral zone; inland on

railway banks, on spoil heaps associated with glass making, the iron-ore industry and former sand quarries.

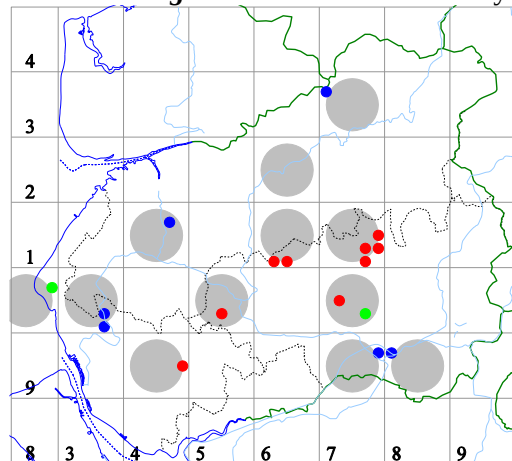
[*Hordelymus europaeus* (L.) Jessen
Wood Barley

Status & former distribution: Native, National Scarce; Extinct, formerly at Bath Wood (SD40J, T Williams, *Fisher & Webb* 1872).

Habitat: Woodland.

Comments: If correctly identified considered extinct as aerial photographs indicate that this woodland had been cleared before 1940 but should be looked for in the woods and shaded banks along the Abbey Brook Valley to the south of Burscough.]

Hordeum vulgare L. Six-rowed Barley



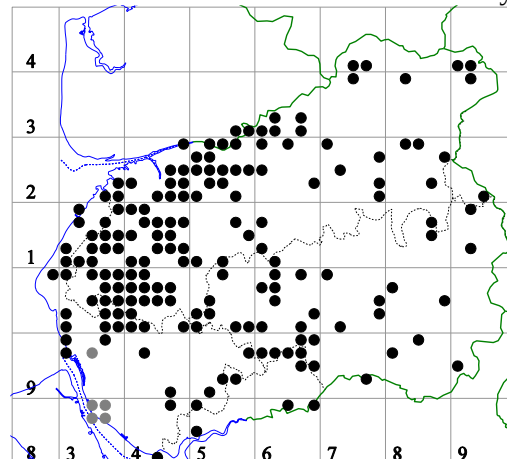
Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; occasional and probably far less frequent than *H. distichon*.

Earliest record traced: Listed for the Blackburn area (SD62, 1963) and may have been an estimate for the Crown Wallpaper Tip, Darwen (SD7019); later recorded from Blackleach Reservoir (SD7304, AR Fanks, 1994).

Habitat: Roadsides and tips.

Comments: Originating from south-western Asia.

Hordeum distichon L. Two-rowed Barley



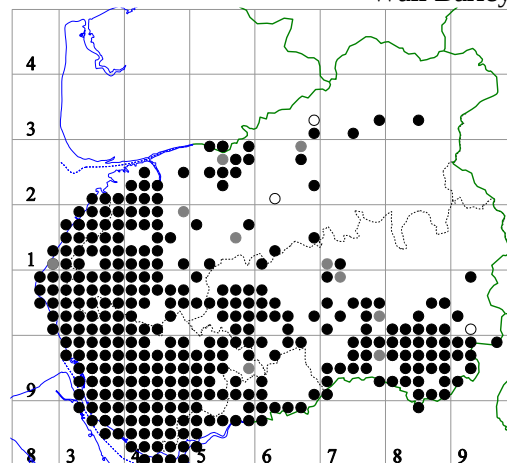
Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; a frequent casual especially in the arable districts.

Earliest records traced: Upper Parliament Street (SJ3589) & Earle Road, Liverpool gardens (SJ3789) 1977.

Habitat: Roadsides and tips.

Comments: Originating from south-western Asia.

Hordeum murinum L. ssp. *murinum*
Wall Barley



River Ribble, Penwortham DP Earl 2020

Status & distribution: Archaeophyte-denizen, Least Concern (Red List for England); locally common in the lowland districts of the west and in Greater Manchester, occasional to rare elsewhere.
Habitat: Waste ground, roadsides on sandy soil, sand-dunes and railway ballast.

Hordeum murinum L. ssp. *leporinum* (Link) Arcang.

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; new embankment to the north of Southport (SD31P, JA Wheldon, 1911-1912); Crown Wallpaper Tip (SD7019, BW Fox, 1959, BON, V Gordon, 1960).

Habitat: Disturbed ground, wallpaper waste.

Comments: Native to southern Europe. Plants may also have been found at Denmark Street, Manchester (SD8495, DP Earl, 2001, MANCH) but verification is required.

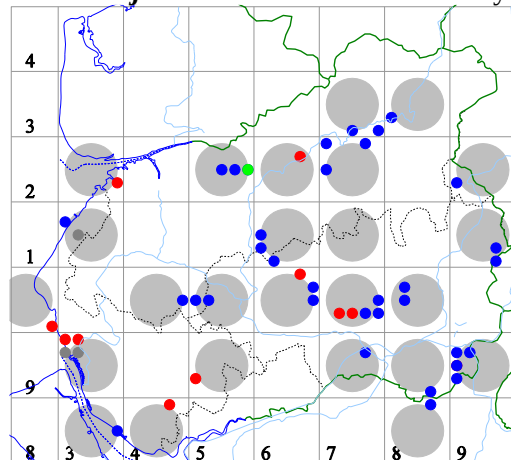
Hordeum murinum L. ssp. *glaucum* (Steudel) Tzvelev

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Crown Wallpaper Tip (SD7019, Rev CE Shaw, 1961).

Habitat: Wallpaper waste.

Comments: Native to the Mediterranean. The Biological Record Centre list the above record as from SD62. Rev CE Shaw also knew this species from wool tips, but no precise locations have been traced to date.

Hordeum jubatum L. Foxtail Barley



Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; occasional but increasing, particularly along salted roadsides.
Earliest record traced: Disturbed sand-

dunes near Birkdale Cemetery (SD31H, JD Massey, 1930).

Habitat: Tips by the sea, coastal embankments and disturbed sandy coastal soils, salted roadsides, imported soil; sown via a wildflower mix as at Blackleach Reservoir, Walkden.

Comments: Native to North America.

Hordeum secalinum Schreber

Meadow Barley



Hesketh Bank DP Earl 2020

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England): Rare, formerly along the Mersey Estuary from Fiddler's Ferry to Hale; now apparently confined to the banks of the river Douglas to the north of Hesketh Bank (SD4523, SD4524 & SD4624) and still present in 2020.

Habitat: Coastal grazing marsh and old pastures nearby to river estuary systems.

Comments: Declining, can be overlooked if plants are grazed or prior to the development of flower spikes. Some inland records may be correct as this species is supplied within wildflower mixes.

Hordeum marinum Huds. Sea Barley

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Crown Wallpaper Tip, Darwen (SD7019, V Gordon, 1961, det. CE Hubbard).

Habitat: Wastepaper tip.

Hordeum geniculatum All.

Mediterranean Barley

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; near Oldham (SD90, 1958); Crown Wallpaper Tip (SD7019, BW Fox, 1959); field once used as a poultry run, Stanworth (SD62H, CA Howe, 1960).

Habitat: Wallpaper waste tip, poultry run.

Comments: Native to southern Europe.

Secale cereale L.

Rye

Status & distribution: Archaeophyte-cultivated-casual; Corporation Tip, Darwen (SD7019, E Stones, 1972); Middleton Junction Tip (SD8804, Rev CE Shaw, 1989); Waterloo (SJ3298, S Cross, 2023).

Habitat: Tips and disturbed ground.

Comments: Originating from south-western Asia.

Triticum turgidum L.

Rivet Wheat

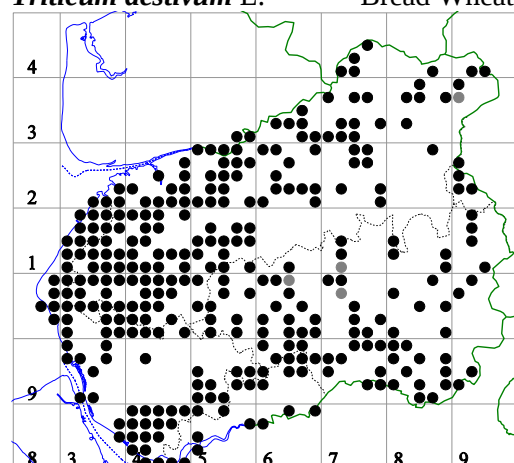
Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Darwen Corporation Tip (SD7019, E Stones, 1972).

Habitat: Tip.

Comments: Originating from south-western Asia.

Triticum aestivum L.

Bread Wheat



Botany Bay, Chorley DP Earl 2020

Status & distribution: Archaeophyte-cultivated-casual; widespread and common.

Earliest record traced: Coldwell Reservoirs (SD9036, 1978).

Habitat: Pavements, roadside gutters and tips.

Comments: Originating from south-western Asia.

Aegilops cylindrica Host

Jointed Goat-grass

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; record(s) not yet traced.

Comments: Native to Eastern Europe and Asia; a noxious weed in the USA.

SUBFAMILY 4 PANICOIDEAE

TRIBE 10 - PANICEAE

Digitaria ischaemum (Schreber ex Schweigger) Muhlenb.

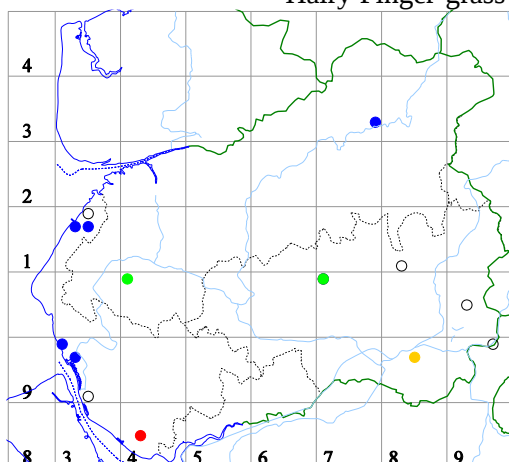
Smooth Finger-grass

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Red Lion St., Manchester (SJ89P, D Bishop, 2005).

Habitat: Waste ground.

Comments: Native to southern Europe.

***Digitaria sanguinalis* (L.) Scop.**
Hairy Finger-grass



Southport J Somerville 2008

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; widespread and apparently the most common member of the genus.

Earliest record traced: Heap Bridge (SD8210, JB Wood c. 1840).

Habitat: Usually found as a pavement weed.

Comments: Native to southern Europe.

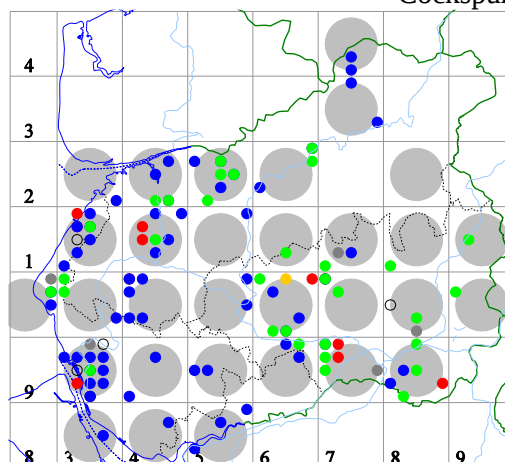
***Digitaria ciliaris* (Retz) Koeler**
Tropical Finger-grass

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; tip at Heywood (SD81K, J Whittaker det. Kew *N.W. Nat.* 1938 p.137); by railway wall, near Morrison's supermarket, Bolton (SD70E, J Lowell, 1999, BON).

Habitat: Rubbish tip; a pavement weed where birdseed was scattered.

Comments: Native to the Tropical Africa and Asia.

***Echinochloa crus-galli* (L.) P. Beauv.**
Cockspur



Stanley Park, Liverpool DP Earl 2009

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; frequent and widespread.

Earliest record traced: Bootle (SJ39H, Rev WW Mason, 1880).

Habitat: Disturbed ground, arable fields, roadsides, tips and fowl runs.

Comments: Native to the tropical regions.

***Echinochloa esculenta* (A. Braun) H. Scholz**
Japanese Millet

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Martin Mere Wildfowl Trust Reserve (SD41H, PJ W isniewski, 1989, det. EJ Clement); Twiss Green (SJ6596, DP Earl, 2013).

Habitat: Areas where birdseed was scattered and an arable weed.

Comments: Of horticultural origin from Japan; formerly known incorrectly as *E. frumentacea* Link.

***Panicum schinzii* Hack. ex Schinz** Transvaal Millet

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Stake Hill (SD80Z, Rev CE Shaw, 1961).

Habitat: Wool Tip.

Comments: Native to Africa. Listed as *P. laevifolium* in Travis.

***Panicum capillare* L.** Witch-grass

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; paper mill, near Bury (SD81A, B Carrington, *Phytologist* 1847);

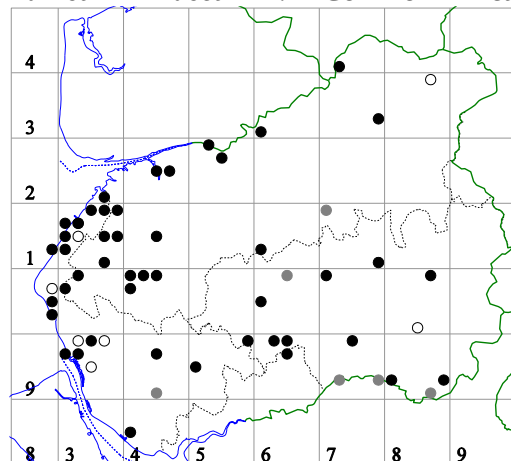
embankment north of Southport (SD31P, 1898); Aintree (SJ39U, n.d.) & Ford (SJ39J, , n.d.) all by JA Wheldon;

Gambrel Bank (SD90F, 1911) & near Micklehurst (SD90R, 1913) by F Collier.

Habitat: Tips and disturbed ground.

Comments: Native to North America.

***Panicum miliaceum* L.** Common Millet



Near Ormskirk DP Earl 2008

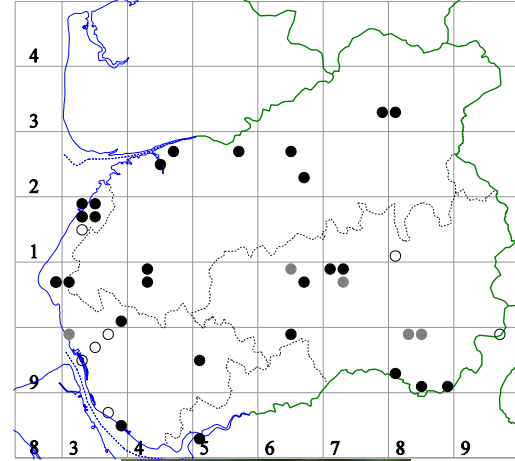
Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; frequent in the west and south.

Earliest record traced: On ballast, Southport (SD31I, JA Wheldon, 1898).

Habitat: Tips, a garden weed, on ballast, in pavements where birdseed is scattered.

Comments: Native to Asia.

***Setaria pumila* (Poiret) Roemer & Schultes** Yellow Bristle-grass



Hesketh Park, Southport J Somerville 2008

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; frequent.

Earliest record traced: Near a paper mill at Bury (SD81A, Dr. B Carrington, 1847).

Habitat: Tips, pavements, imported with topsoil and areas where birdseed is scattered.

Comments: Thought to have originated from the tropical regions prior to becoming a worldwide weed.

Setaria verticillata (L.) P. Beauv.

Rough Bristle-grass

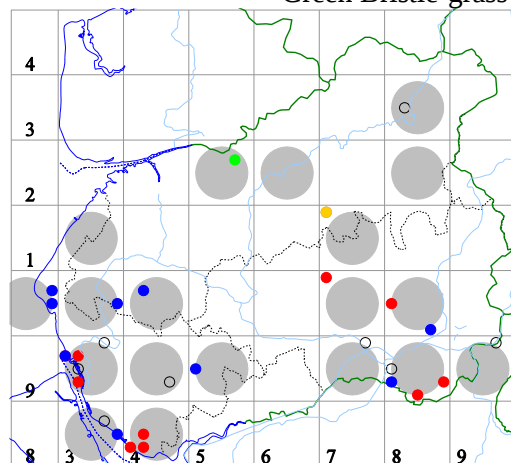
Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; tip by canal, Stretford (SD89C, GA Holt, 1911); Bootle (SJ39H, WG Travis, 1915); Mossley (SD90R, Rev CE Shaw, 1959, BON); Ormskirk (SD4108, MP Wilcox, 2003); Otterspool Park Tip (SJ3785, J Clarke & M Chappell, 2005).

Habitat: Tips, pavements, waste ground and areas where birdseed is scattered.

Comments: Thought to have originated from the tropical regions prior to becoming a worldwide weed.

Setaria viridis (L.) P. Beauv.

Green Bristle-grass



Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; frequent, mainly in urban areas.

Earliest record traced: Monton Fields (SJ7699, J Shaw, 1848).

Habitat: Tips and pavements especially where birdseed is scattered.

Comments: Possibly native to southern Europe, North Africa and Asia.

Setaria faberi Herrm.

Nodding Bristle-grass

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; along Dock Road, Bank Hall (SJ3393, V Gordon, 1995, LIV).

Comments: Native to eastern Asia. This species may have been introduced via imported grain or soya bean waste from North America.

Setaria italica (L.) P. Beauv.

Foxtail Bristle-grass

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; near Queen's Road, Collyhurst (SD80K, JR Ironside-Wood, 1964); Droylsden Tip (SJ99E, Rev CE Shaw, 1966); Stretford Tip (SJ7893, DP Earl, 1983); (SD82, BSBI Map Scheme, n.d.). BSBI Map Scheme records for SD62 & SD71 are perhaps from the Crown Wallpaper Tip (SD7019); Mossley Hill Road (SJ3887, V Gordon, 1995).

Habitat: Rubbish tips and areas where birdseed is scattered.

Comments: Probably of agricultural origin.

TRIBE 11 - PASPALEAE

Paspalum distichum L.

Water Finger-grass

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Crown Wallpaper Tip (SD7019, Rev CE Shaw, 1961).

Habitat: Tip.

Comments: Native to the tropics.

TRIBE 12 - ANDROPOGONEAE

Sorghum halepense (L.) Pers.

Johnson-grass

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; neglected border, Victoria Park, Southport (SD31I, 1994, LIV) & Liverpool Cathedral (SJ3489, 1995) V Gordon.

Habitat: Areas where bird seed is scattered.

Comments: Native to North Africa.

Sorghum bicolor (L.) Moench.

Great Millet

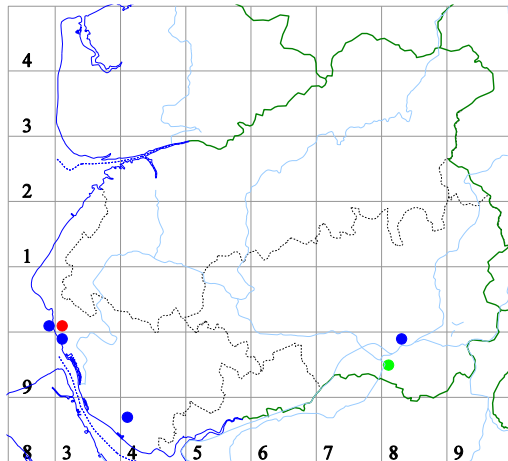
Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Bolton (SD7008, J Lowell, 1999, BON).

Habitat: Pavement.

Comments: Native to Africa; introduced via birdseed.

Miscanthus x giganteus J.M. Greef & Deuter ex Hodkinson & Renvoize = *M. sinensis* Andersson x *M. sacchariflorus* (Maxim.) Hack.

Giant Silver-grass

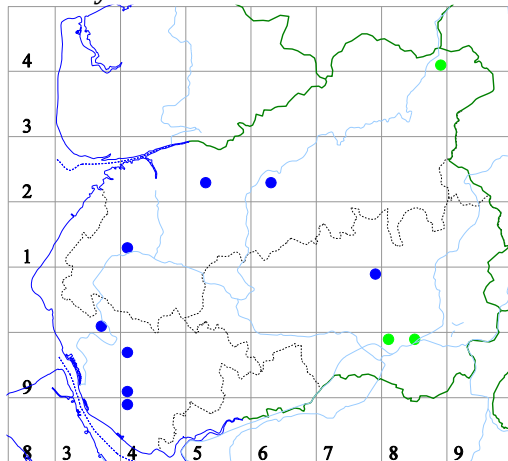


Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised or surviving; West Lancashire Golf Club (SD3001, PS Gateley, 1997); Hall Road, Crosby (SD2901, PH Smith, 2004, det. PS Gateley); Crosby Marine Park (SJ3098, PH Smith & MP Wilcox, 2004); railway, New Windsor, Salford (SJ8298, DP Earl, 2018); Calderstones Park (SJ4087, SJ McWilliam, 2019); Old Trafford (SJ8195, M Pilkington, 2023).

Habitat: Sand-dunes, parks and on a railway embankment.

Comments: Native to North America. There are thought to be additional records of *Miscanthus* which has yet to be determined.

***Zea mays* L. Maize**



Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual.

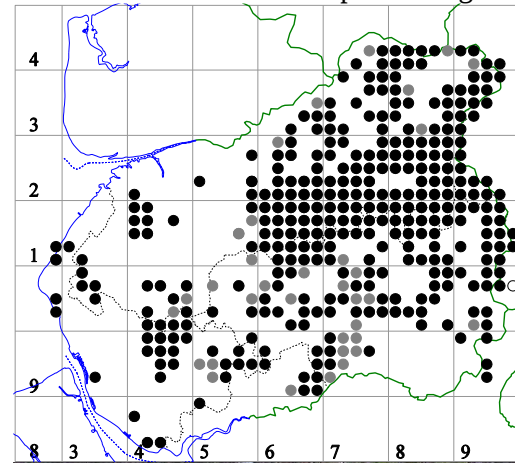
Earliest record traced: A59 near Switch Roundabout (SD30Q, RF Goodchild, 2006).

Habitat: Disturbed ground, a pavement weed and tips.

Comments: Native to Central America.

TRIBE 13 - MOLINIEAE

***Molinia caerulea* (L.) Moench**
Purple Moor-grass



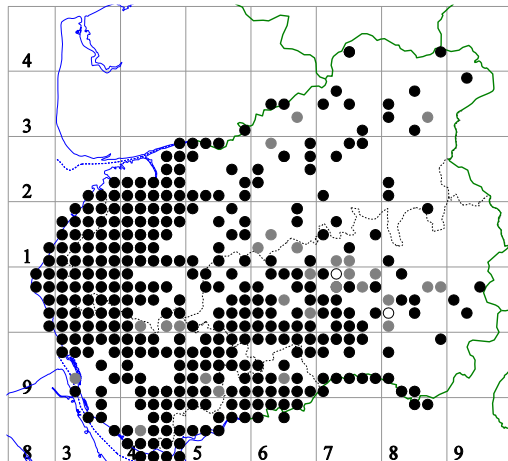
Ellerbeck Colliery DP Earl 2020

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); locally abundant on the higher ground and locally frequent in lowland areas.

Habitat: Moorlands, blanket bog, oak-birch woodlands, heaths, marshy grassland and lowland mosslands.

Comments: All the recent determinations at subspecific level have been of ssp. *caerulea*. There are historic records for ssp. *arundinacea* (Schrank) K. Richter from Simmonswood Moss (SJ4599, 1897, NMW, det. PJO Trist) & Risley Moss (SJ69Q, 1907) made by JA Wheldon.

***Phragmites australis* (Cav.) Trin. ex Steudel** Common Reed



Newburgh DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); locally common along the coast, the estuaries and lowlands areas east of Southport and Formby. Populations extend along the Mersey inland as far as Didsbury and have developed about the flashes in the former mining areas.

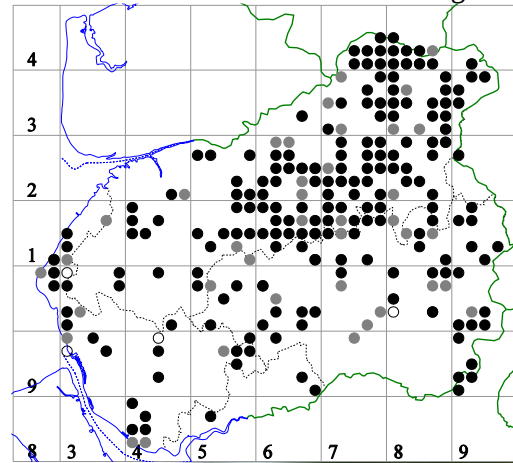
Habitat: Coastal lagoons, upper reaches of saltmarshes, dune-slacks; reservoir, pond, canal and flash margins; ditches, damp roadsides, railway hollows and riverbanks.

Comments: A population occurs in an upland flush at 290m in the West Pennine Moors.

Some population originate from plantings and there is a variagated for at the crescent pool, Centurion Way, Farington.

TRIBE 14 - DANTHONIEAE

***Danthonia decumbens* (L.) DC.** Heath-grass

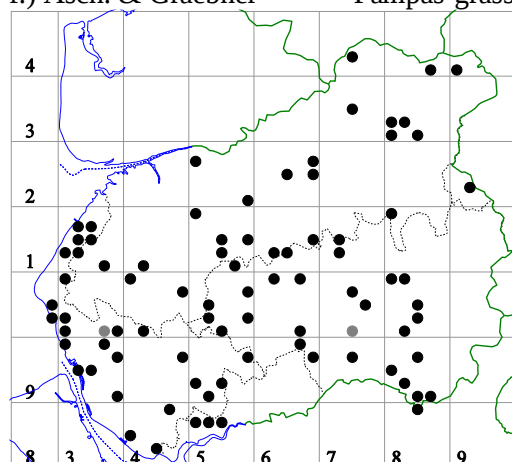


Earlstown J Somerville 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, widespread and locally common especially in the hill districts.

Habitat: Hill pastures, acid grassland, heaths, moors and coastal heaths.

Cortaderia selloana (Schultes & Schultes f.) Asch. & Graebner Pampas-grass



Hightown PH Smith 2008

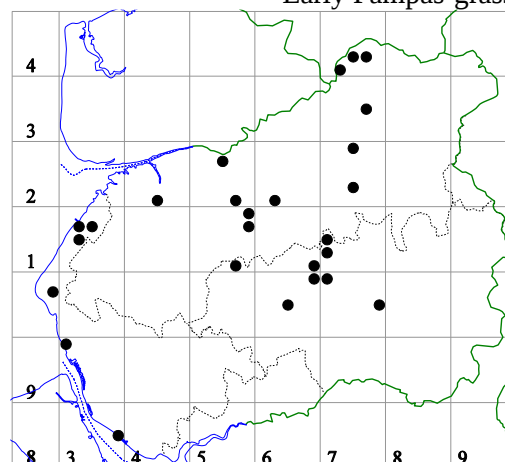
Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; widely distributed usually as semi-naturalised plants close by to habitation.

Earliest record traced: Whinny Brook, Damfield Lane, Maghull (SD3701, 1989, Anon@Biobank).

Habitat: Railway banks, sand-dunes, waste ground and tips.

Comments: Native to South America.

Cortaderia richardii (Endl.) Zotov Early Pampas-grass



Worthington DP Earl 2009

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; increasing as a widespread adventive and becoming established at some locations such as on sand dunes at Crosby (SJ3098, PH Smith, 2015).

Earliest record traced: Eastbank Street, Southport (SD3316, DP Earl, 2004).

Habitat: In pavements and at the base of suburban hedgerows, on derelict ground and on sand dunes.

Comments: Native to the South Island, New Zealand. Readily germinating from seed, this species has narrower leaves and more delicate flowering panicles than the more widely grown *C. selloana*.

TRIBE 15 - ERAGROSTIDEAE

Eragrostis capillaris Nees Lace Grass

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Aintree (SJ39U, JA Wheldon, 1914 *Botanical Exchange Club Report* p. 56 1917 p. 56).

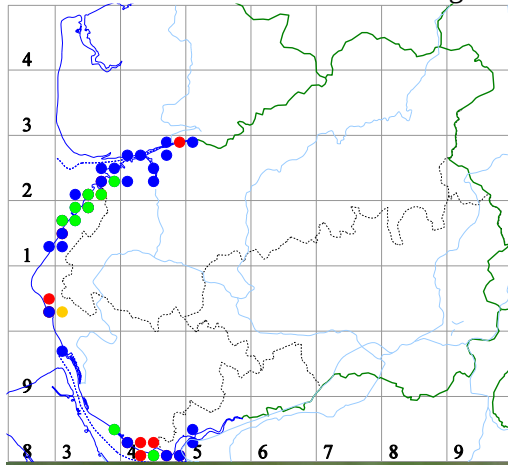
Habitat: Canal bank.

Comments: Native to North America and Northern Mexico.

TRIBE 16 - ZOYSIEAE

Spartina anglica C.E. Hubb.

Common Cord-grass



Southport DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Neo-native-naturalised; locally abundant on the saltmarshes along the coast and in the Mersey and Ribble estuaries.

Earliest record traced: is from the mouth of the Alt, Hightown (SD21W, 1929).

Habitat: Tidal mud flats and saltmarshes.

Comments: Records for *Spartina x townsendii* are thought to belong here.

Spartina pectinata Bosc ex Link

Prairie Cord-grass



Walton-le-Dale DP Earl 2019

Status & distribution: Neophyte-planted; established and increasing; A6 Greenway, Brownedge (SD5526, DP & J Earl, 2019, det. J Tregale).

Habitat: Grassland margins of pond.

Comments: Native to North America.

TRIBE 17 - CYNODONTEAE

Eleusine indica (L.) Gaertner Yard-grass

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; the situation is complicated by the fact that there are two subspecies. Ideally herbarium specimens need to be traced and critically determined.

It is thought that *E. indica* ssp. *africana* (Kenn.-O' Byrne) S. Phillips occurred on wool waste at Stalybridge (SJ99U, Milne & Stubbs, 1908, as *E. aegyptium* in Alien Plants of the Mersey Province JA Wheldon, 1914) and at Spring Grove, Stalybridge (SD90R).

Plants recorded from near Sandhills Station (SJ39L, HS Fisher 1872) & by a paper mill near Bury (SD81, Dr. Carrington Phyt II NS p.565) could have been *Eleusine indica* ssp. *indica*.

Habitat: Tips.

Comments: Native to Africa and Asia.

Cynodon dactylon (L.) Pers.

Bermuda-grass

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Rochdale area (Shaw 1971).

Habitat: Wool Waste.

Comments: An established weed in many countries across the world, originating from the Old-World countries of Asia and Africa with several varieties being recognised.

Cynodon incompletus Nees.

African Bermuda-grass

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual;
Rochdale area (*Shaw* 1971).

Habitat: Wool Waste.

Comments: Native to South Africa.