

In the past rivers, oxbows, natural lakes and pools would have been the key Habitats for the aquatic and marginal species



River Water-crowfoots still thrive along the rivers such as Ribble and the Lune



The Fan-leaved Water-crowfoot is rare but still survives in oxbows at Melling and in Tatton Mere



**Pondweeds and Waterlilies were also a feature of rivers such as the Alt
To the north of Liverpool**



There has also been a sharp decline of species that are a feature of pond and ditch margins such as the Lesser Water-plantain shown here..

Fine-leaved Water-dropwort



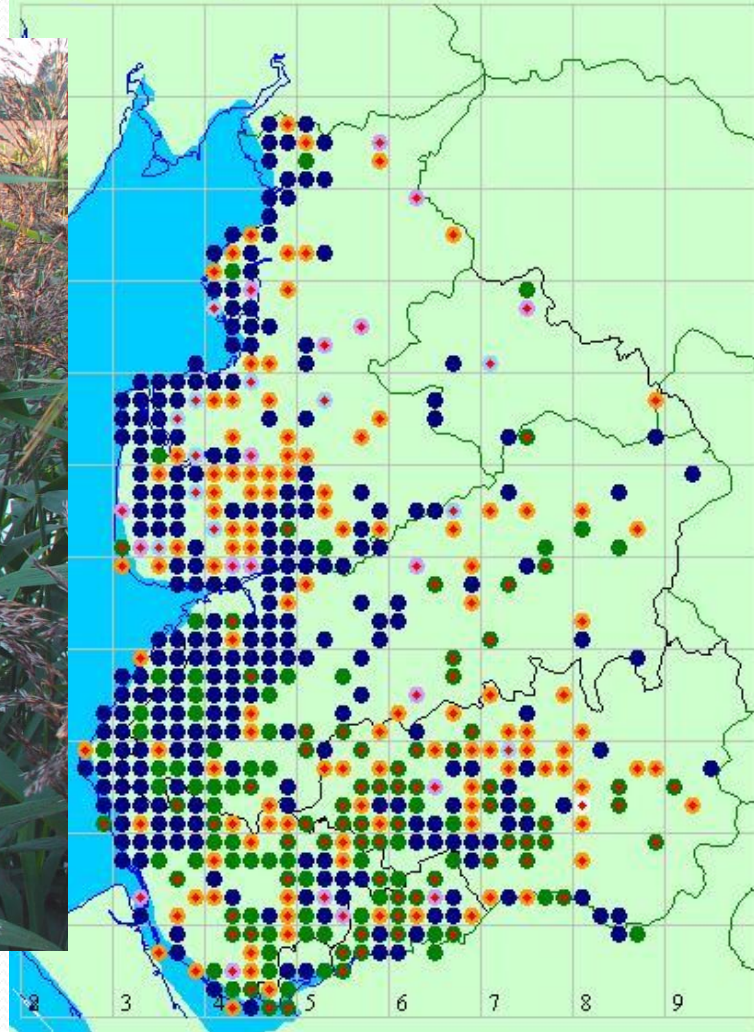
Tubular Water-dropwort



Water-dropwort species are declining from our ditch and pond systems

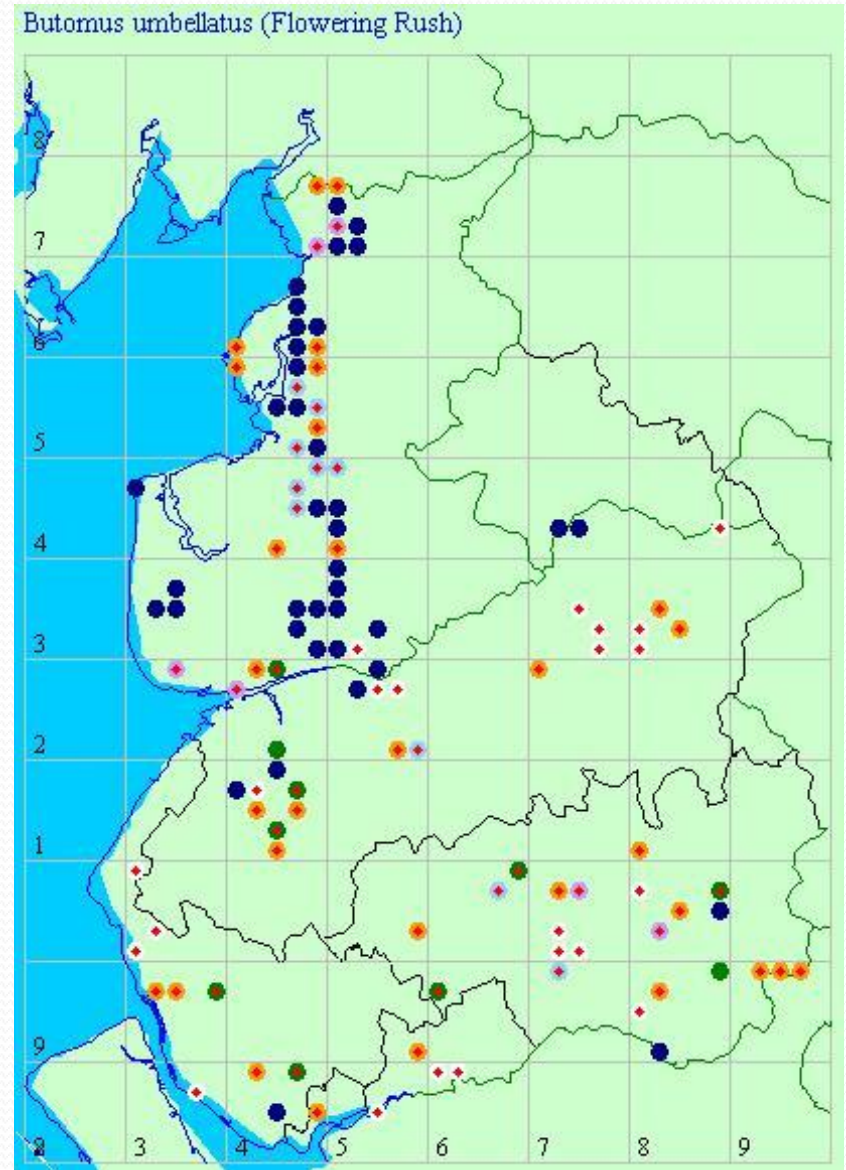


Phragmites australis (Common Reed)



It is not all doom and gloom. Common Reed is clearly widespread within lowland areas western Lancashire Merseyside and Greater Manchester and does even grow high up on the moors above Belmont

Some key species such as the Flowering Rush have colonised the canal system - note the importance of the Lancaster Canal and the Rufford Branch of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal



Greater Spearwort is another species that is increasing in frequency amongst the marginal vegetation of the Lancaster Canal and is frequent introduced to pond margins and is seen here at a dune slack at Birkdale.



Mare's-tail is an aquatic that is flourishing along sections of the Lancaster Canal





Whorled Water-milfoil

A rare plant in north Lancashire in marl pits but a feature on the disused Manchester, Bolton & Bury Canal and associated mill lodges about Prestwich

Arrowhead



Curled Pondweed



In general the aquatic species of the canal systems such as Arrowhead and in particular species of Pondweed have drastically declined as the waters are now too turbid



Alien species such as Fringed Water-lily and Floating Pennywort are however increasing along the canal systems

Increasing Alien Plants



***Lysichiton americanus* (Skunk Cabbage)**



Note also the carpet of *Crassula helmsii*

Tellima grandiflora (Fringe-cups) **Increasing**



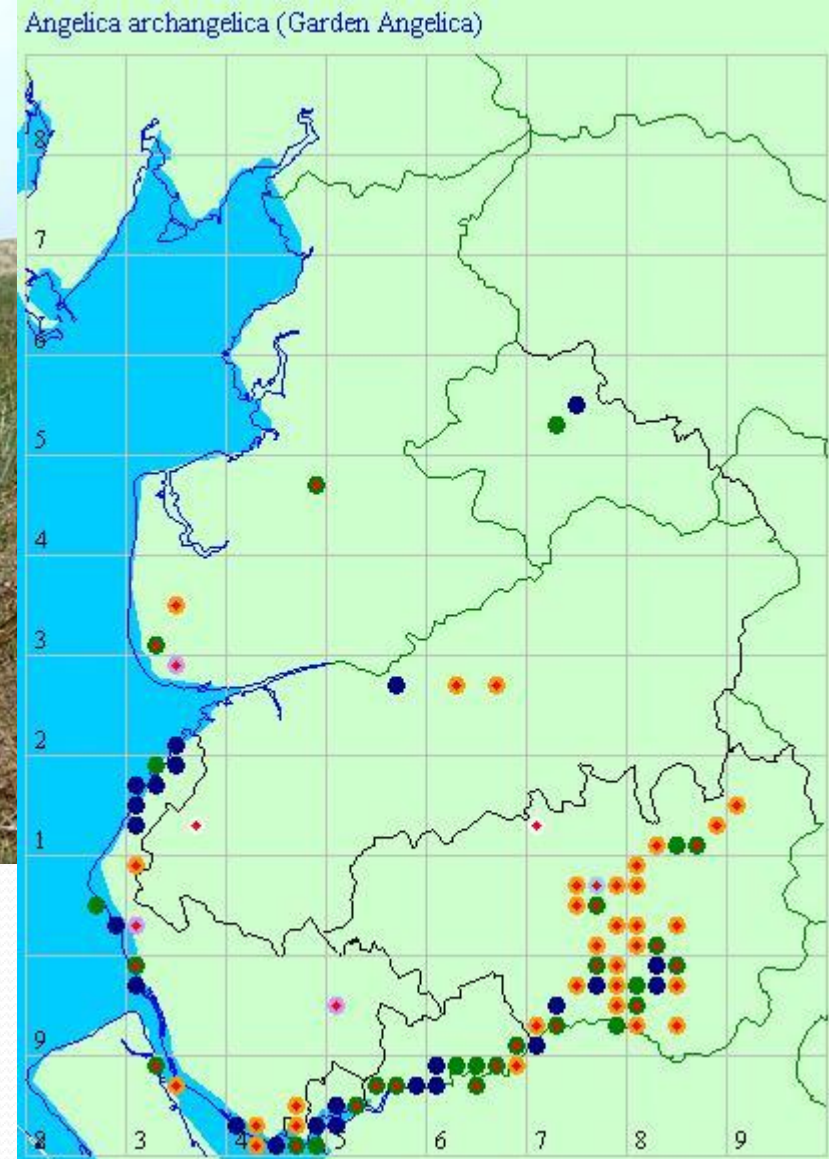
Now well established, often along riverbanks and shaded stream-sides

Tolmiea menziesii (Pick-a-back Plant) Increasing



less frequent than Fringe-cups but Now well established along riverbanks such as the Ribble about Chatburn

Garden Angelica



Note the spread of this alien species from Rochdale along the Irwell and Mersey valley and then along the coast to Marshside

Special natives Whorled Caraway



Confined to marshy grassland at Martin Mere SSSI where this species is locally abundant.

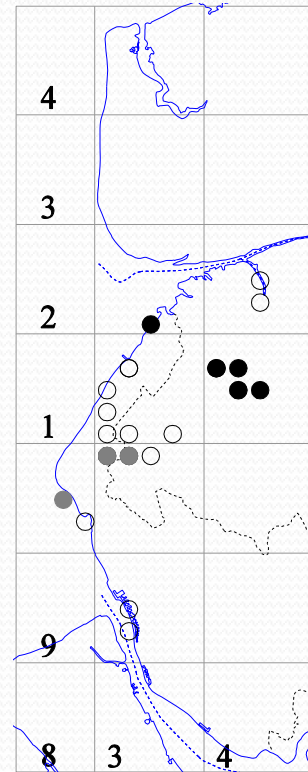
Marsh Stitchwort



**Confirmed as present
at Martin Mere.**

**Perhaps now lost from
a ditch north of Martin
Mere but not always
visible due to a short
flowering season and
grazing by livestock.**

Rumex maritimus (Golden Dock)



Rare in North Lancashire along the margins of open water at Leighton Moss and Haweswater. The seasonally inundated margins of wetlands area about Rufford are a stronghold and note the return of this species to the brackish marshes at Marshside

White Beak-sedge



Marsh Gentian



Lowland bogs have been almost obliterated over the last 200 years but **efforts are being made to re-establish several species.** The White Beak-sedge has been discovered at an historic site. Marsh Gentian is now very rare and action is probably required to avoid extinct.

Many stemmed Club-rush



Large Sundew



Upland bogs and flushes are also important in particular the West Pennine Moors, the Southern Pennines and the Forest of Bowland

Marsh Lousewort



Thought extinct in vc59 but discovered by the Lancashire Endangered Plant Group above

Grass-of-Parnassus



Generally declining but still thriving at **Coldwell** Reservoirs and the associated Catow Valley to the east of Burnley



Several reservoirs such as Stocks are important for drawn-down species such as Mudwort, Slender Rush and Lesser Water-pepper

And finally



Our natural lakes & associated margins such as Haweswater can support several key species such as Butterworts and Bird's-eye Primrose