

Cornfield Flowers Project



Species Cards



Annual knawel (*Scleranthus annuus*)

Endangered

A 'Priority Species' of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP); it is very rare in our area

Has declined significantly throughout the UK since 1950s

REASONS FOR DECLINE:

In arable habitats, decline likely due to herbicides

Our Annual knawel experience...

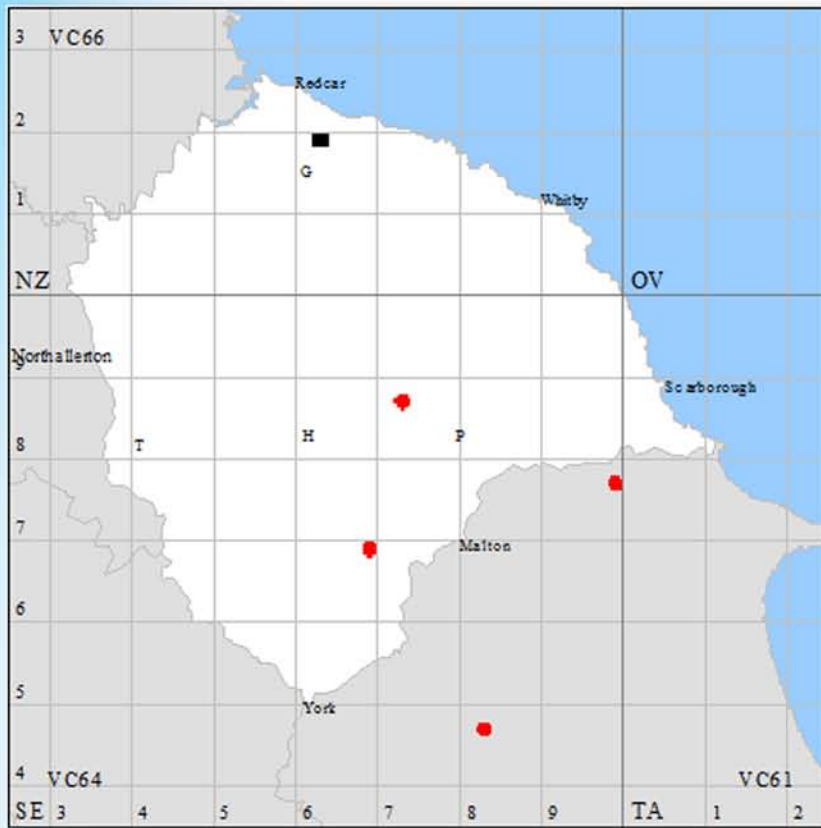
Nan Sykes had old records of Annual knawel growing in North Yorkshire but it was not found during her surveys of the North York Moors in the late 1980s and early 90s. Perhaps this is not surprising, because it likes to grow on sandy, lime-free soils which in our area are mostly in the East Riding.

Eva Crackles in *Flora of the East Riding of Yorkshire* says 'locally frequent in Lower Derwentland in the 1950s, becoming uncommon.' It was recorded in sand pits at Staxton and Flixton in 1956 and '57; Wintringham in 1957; Speeton in 1973. There was a later record at Manor Farm, Bugthorpe, and also one near Redcar. In the last three decades, it has only been recorded five times in the East Riding.

Annual knawel was found in 2007 at Birkdale Farm, Terrington, growing in a crazy-paving crack in the garden. Joceline Gibson suggested it may have been brought in with the sand which was used to bed in the paving stones. The plant now has protected status at Birkdale Farm, and has been encouraged to increase its range.

It was introduced to Glebe Farm, Potter Brompton, in 2013 where it flowered prolifically. It was also introduced to the Ryedale Folk Museum in 2010 but without success.

Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Annual knawel (*Scleranthus annuus*)



Key

● Post-2000 records
(inc. CFP introductions)

■ Pre-2000 records

G: Guisborough T: Thirsk

H: Helmsley P: Pickering

Data: BSBI, 2014 Maps produced by MapMate®

Key Facts - Annual knawel (*Scleranthus annuus*)

- Preference for sandy soils
- Can be found in both arable field margins and heathy grasslands
- Predominantly autumn germinating
- A member of the 'Pink' (or Carnation) family, it is related to some much more showy plants such as Corncockle and the Catchflies

UK Conservation Designations

The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain (2006) designates all UK wildflowers by their rarity, and hence conservation importance, in the following order:

Extinct → Extinct in the wild → Critically Endangered → Endangered
 Vulnerable → Near Threatened → Least Concern

The Cornfield Flowers Project is spearheaded by the Carstairs Countryside Trust, Ryedale Folk Museum, North Yorkshire Moors Association and North York Moors National Park Authority. It has a demonstration field and nursery at Ryedale Folk Museum and a working arable field at Silpho, near Scarborough. It is supported by the North York Moors National Park Sustainable Development Fund, North York Moors Coast & Hills LEADER Programme and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

