

# Cornfield Flowers Project



## Species Cards



### **Basil thyme** (*Clinopodium acinos*)

#### **Vulnerable**

A UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) Priority Species

Has experienced a marked decline and now a very rare sight in arable fields. Reliant on other habitats - dry grassland, waste ground and quarries - for survival

**REASONS FOR DECLINE:**  
Nitrogen application; herbicides

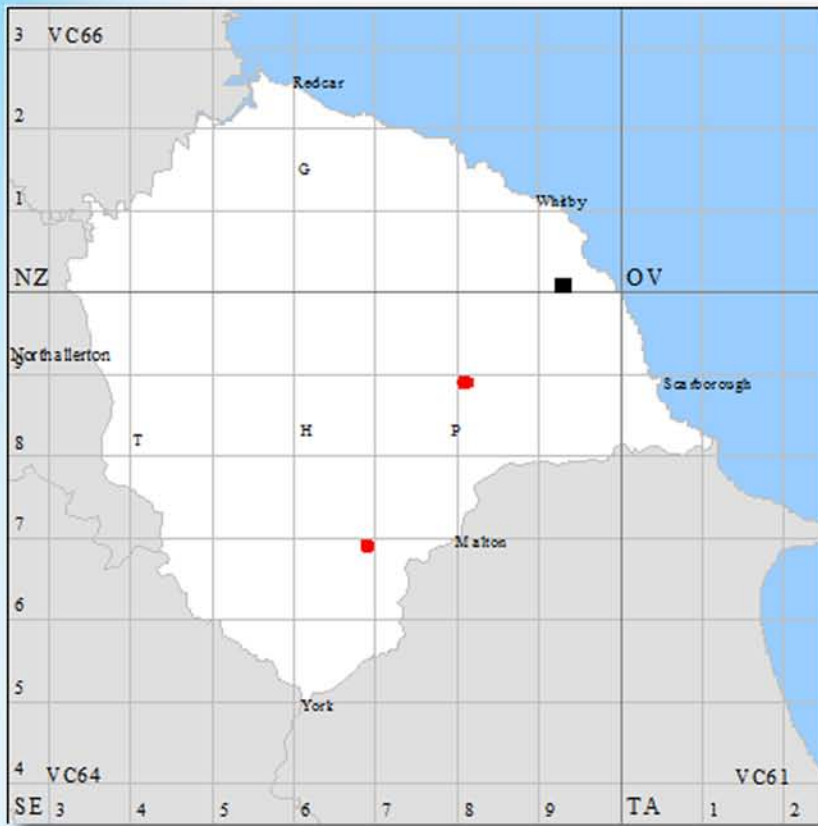
#### ***Our Basil thyme experience...***

Basil thyme is reaching its northerly limits in our area. Nan Sykes in *Wild Plants and their Habitats in the North York Moors* states that it has been seen rarely, and gives no map reference. Chris Wilson once found it growing in Yedmandale about 20 years ago and it was found in Gan Dale about 2005.

Eva Crackles has Basil thyme on over 50 sites in the *Flora of the East Riding of Yorkshire*. The largest population we have seen is in a quarry at West Heselton where we were given permission to gather seed. We have grown it for several years, mostly at Birkdale Farm and attempted to introduce it to Wharram and Spaunton Quarries, but it does not seem to persist.

Basil thyme is a short-lived perennial or annual plant that grows on dry calcareous soils. Its favourite habitat seems to be the floor of old quarries where there is little competition.

# Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Basil thyme (*Clinopodium acinos*)



## 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 - Basil thyme (*Clinopodium acinos*)

- Normally found in dry, bare ground on calcareous soils
- Requires very infertile soil with low competition to survive, hence local preference for quarries
- Autumn germinating
- Member of the *Lamiaceae* family (defined by square-stem and opposite leaves) related to Basil, Wild thyme and Mints

## 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.

