

# Cornfield Flowers Project



## Species Cards



### **Black-bindweed** (*Fallopia convolvulus*)

#### **Least Concern**

A common, easily overlooked trailing annual of arable margins

Found on a wide variety of soils in 80% of CFP surveys

#### **REASONS FOR DECLINE:**

Nitrogen application; herbicides; shift to autumn cultivation; improved seed-cleaning technology

### ***Our Black-bindweed experience...***

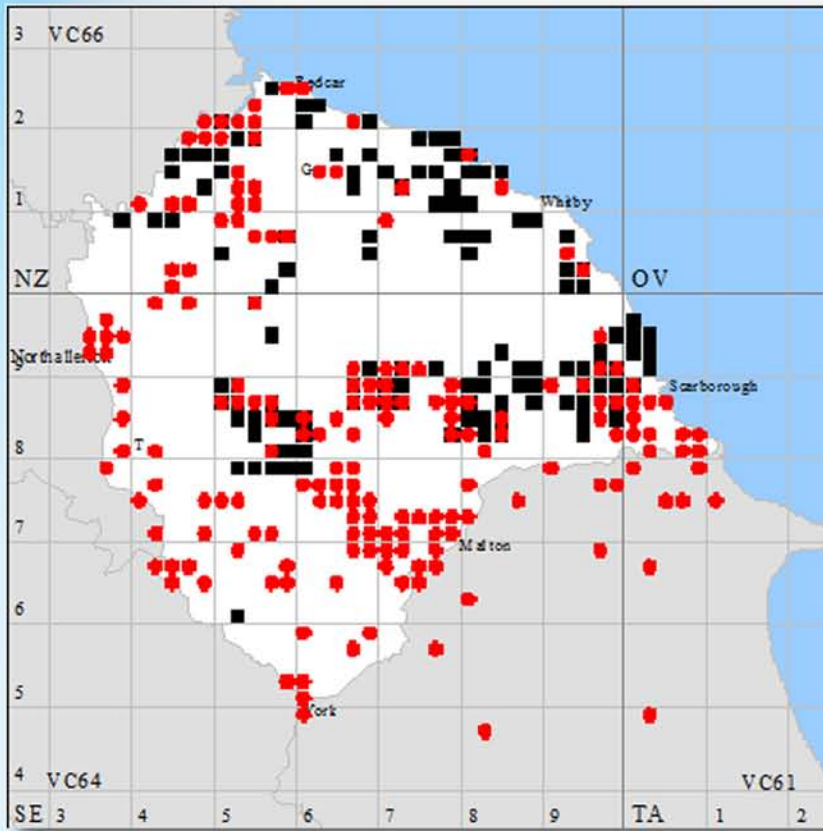
Black-bindweed appears to be a very successful plant, now naturalised throughout most of the northern hemisphere and has appeared in the British Isles since Neolithic times. In 1962 it was recorded throughout the entirety of the UK, but has since experienced a decline in Scotland and northern England.

An easily overlooked plant, it is a vine with a scrambling and climbing habit - the reddish stems twining round other plants in a clockwise direction. The insignificant flowers are a pale creamy-green and grow in clusters round the stem. It's the smallest member of the Dock-bindweed genus, which also includes the problem species Japanese knotweed, Giant knotweed and the rampant garden plant Russian-vine. It doesn't share these plants' fearsome reputations though.

In an arable habitat it can only be confused with the slightly more robust Buckwheat (*Fagopyrum esculentum*) which is sown deliberately in game cover and wild bird seed mixes. Elsewhere it will grow in waste ground, gardens and roadsides.

It's not to be confused with the Convolvulus genus, the 'true' bindweeds (*convolva* is Latin for entwine). Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*) is also a small, trailing plant of arable margins, but its flowers are worlds apart from the Black bindweed – large, trumpet-shaped blooms in a striking combination of pink and white; always a much more obvious and pleasing find.

# Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Black-bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*)



### 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 - Black-bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*)

- On dry, calcareous or sandy soils in arable, waste ground and roadsides
- Spring germinating
- Flowers are very muted - white, pink and green on trailing spikes. Leaves heart-shaped
- Although a 'bindweed' it is not related to Hedge bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*) or Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*) but lies in the Dock family and related to Japanese knotweed

### 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:



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.

