

Cornfield Flowers Project



Species Cards: non-arable



Wild clary (*Salvia verbenaca*)

Least Concern

A locally rare perennial grassland species that the CFP helps to conserve in our area

Included under the Rare Plants section of the Scarborough Biodiversity Action Plan

REASONS FOR DECLINE:
Changes in land use

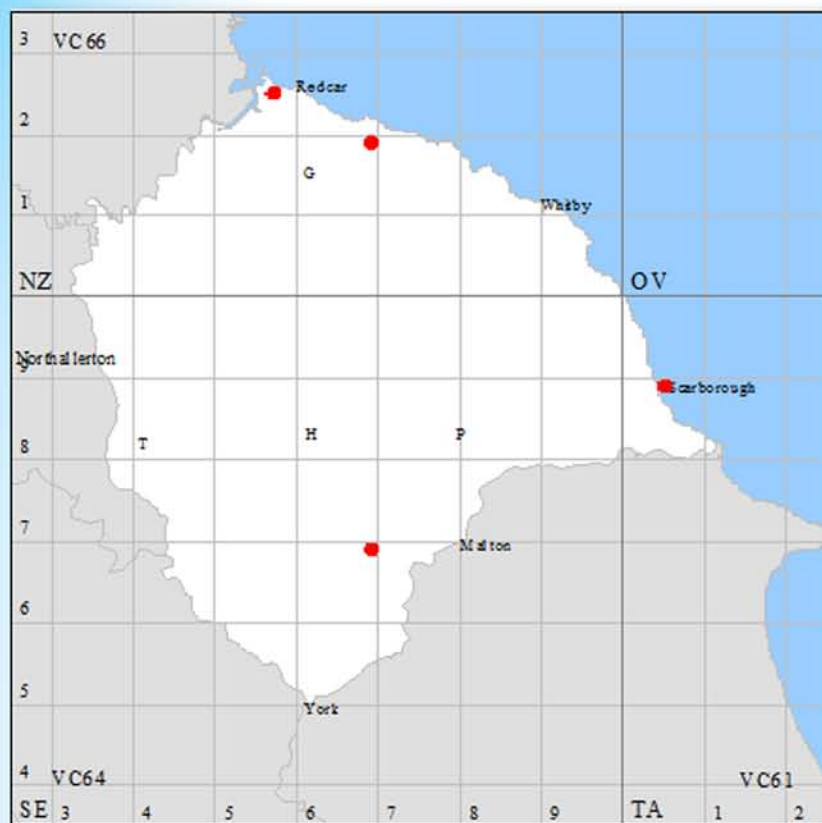
Our Wild clary experience...

Wild clary is another of these plants that reach their northernmost limit in our area. Four sites are shown north of us in the *New Atlas of British and Irish Flora*; one on the Firth of Forth and three in Durham. The Scarborough site is shown as 'last seen 1970-76'. This is not strictly true; it was still on Castle Hill, though declining, but nobody remembered to tell the New Atlas.

Eva Crackles, in *Flora of the East Riding of Yorkshire*, tells us of sites at Kirkham Abbey and Weaverthorpe. Chris Wilson can vouch for the Weaverthorpe site, as it can be seen on the roadside of the hill up to the church every year unless it is cut before you get there.

Wild clary is a rare plant in our area. Because of its association with Scarborough it was included in the Scarborough Biodiversity Action Plan, and the Cornfield Flowers Project agreed to grow it on and introduce it to suitable sites. The seed is relatively easy to collect and germinates readily, however our attempts to introduce it to other sites have not been met with success; the only place it produces spontaneous plants is in the garden of project officer Tom Normandale. More application needed here we think.

Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Wild clary (*Salvia verbenaca*)



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 - Wild clary (*Salvia verbenaca*)

- Preference for dry calcareous soils, including seasonally parched clay
- Extremely quick to germinate - seedlings appear in a matter of days
- Appears to be popular with slugs, but robust growth means the plants usually overcome this threat
- Not to be confused with the closely related Meadow clary (*Salvia pratensis*) a legally protected rarity of southern England

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.

