

Cornfield Flowers Project



Species Cards



Small-flowered buttercup (*Ranunculus parviflorus*)

Least Concern

Rare in north-east Yorkshire - at its northern limit

Stronghold in south-west England, where populations remain stable

REASONS FOR DECLINE:

More competitive crop varieties; increased nitrogen application

Our Small-flowered buttercup experience...

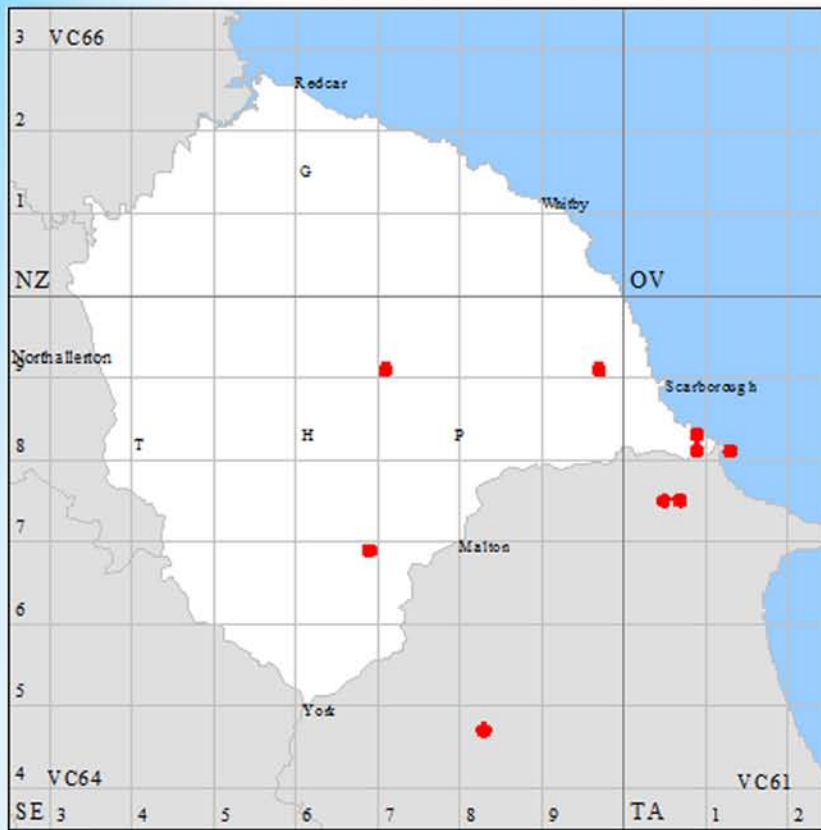
Ranunculus parviflorus is one of Britain's rarer buttercups. It has a generally coastal distribution but does not extend as far north as Hairy buttercup. North Yorkshire is its extreme northern limit. It grows on calcareous grassland and clay fallow nearer to the sea.

Historical records have Small-flowered buttercup growing in the Filey area, with one site in the North York Moors at Thornton-le-Dale. Eva Crackles in *Flora of the East Riding of Yorkshire* rates it as 'uncommon' in the East Riding and confirms its presence in the Filey area with sites in fields north of Filey Brigg (though this may well have fallen in the North Riding) and at Hunmanby Gap and Reighton. Local botanists have occasionally seen it on the Wolds in recent years. During Nan Sykes' survey of the North York Moors it was not recorded at all, and the exact site at Thornton-Le-Dale is no longer known so we cannot say if it is still present here.

In 2007, Chris Wilson of the Cornfield Flowers Project and Cedric Gillings of Scarborough Field Naturalists found numerous very small plants of *R. parviflorus* growing in Nine Spring Dale, near Duggleby. One of these was collected and given to Nan to photograph, who managed to propagate a few plants from the seed of this. In 2008, ten plants were introduced to Wharram Quarry. More plants were introduced in 2009 and 2010, by which time at least five spontaneous plants were recorded. Small-flowered buttercup has also been introduced to Spaunton Quarry with similar success.

In 2008 Philip Winter found a strange buttercup on his farm at West End, Muston, which was identified as *R. parviflorus*. In 2010 it was also found growing in summer fallow on Peter & Mike Hayton's farm at Fordon, in sufficient quantity to provide an abundance of seed for the Project. In 2013 during a survey of Low Mowthorpe Farm, Kirby Grindalythe, up to 100 plants were found growing in a field corner.

Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Small-flowered buttercup (*Ranunculus parviflorus*)



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 - Small-flowered buttercup (*Ranunculus parviflorus*)

- Most populous in our area on the free-draining chalk-based soils at Fordon
- Easier to spot by its bright yellowy-green leaves rather than the insignificant flowers
- Mainly autumn germinating
- Tiny flowers often have petals missing, giving a ragged appearance

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.

