

Cornfield Flowers Project



Species Cards



Night-flowering catchfly (*Silene noctiflora*)

Vulnerable

A unique arable plant, only opening its flowers from evening onwards to attract night-flying pollinators

Has experienced a significant decline since 1950s

REASONS FOR DECLINE:

Herbicides; nitrogen application;
shift to autumn cultivation

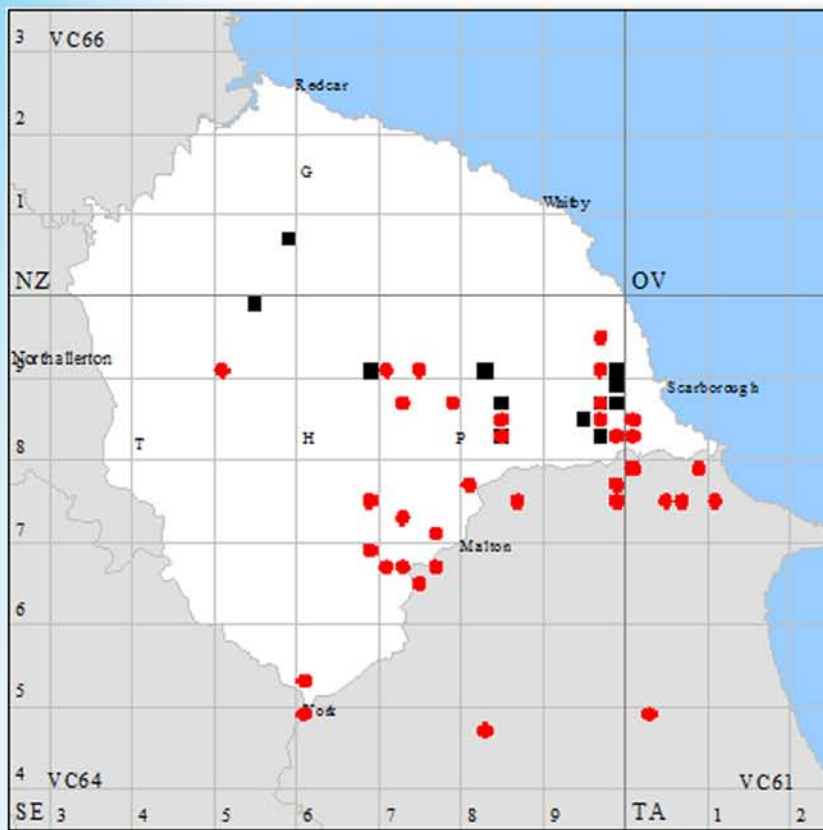
Our Night-flowering catchfly experience...

Night-flowering catchfly is classed as a Species of Conservation Concern. Formerly widespread, it is now much less common nationally, but in our area it is perhaps locally frequent. It grows mainly on our limestone and chalk soils but is also found to a lesser extent on the sands and gravels of the Vale of Pickering.

It is often a late-flowering plant and can be found in stubble fields after harvest, still trying to flower at the end of October and even into December. In the daytime it has the appearance of a 'gone-over' White campion but in the evening it unrolls and gives off an attractive scent to draw in pollinating moths.

Local records show Night-flowering catchfly is most frequent on the limestone soils just west of Scarborough, becoming increasingly less common by Pickering, and frequent on the Wolds but has only scattered records to the north and further west.

Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Night-flowering catchfly (*Silene noctiflora*)



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 - Night-flowering catchfly (*Silene noctiflora*)

- Preference for free-draining calcareous soils and sands
- Flower buds and upper stems covered with sticky hairs
- Predominantly spring germinating
- Related to the much more common White campion and Red campion

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.

