

Cornfield Flowers Project



Species Cards



White campion (*Silene latifolia*)

Least Concern

A perennial plant found in more open habitats than Red campion - typically field edges and verges

Occasionally ventures into arable land; recorded in 30% of CFP surveys

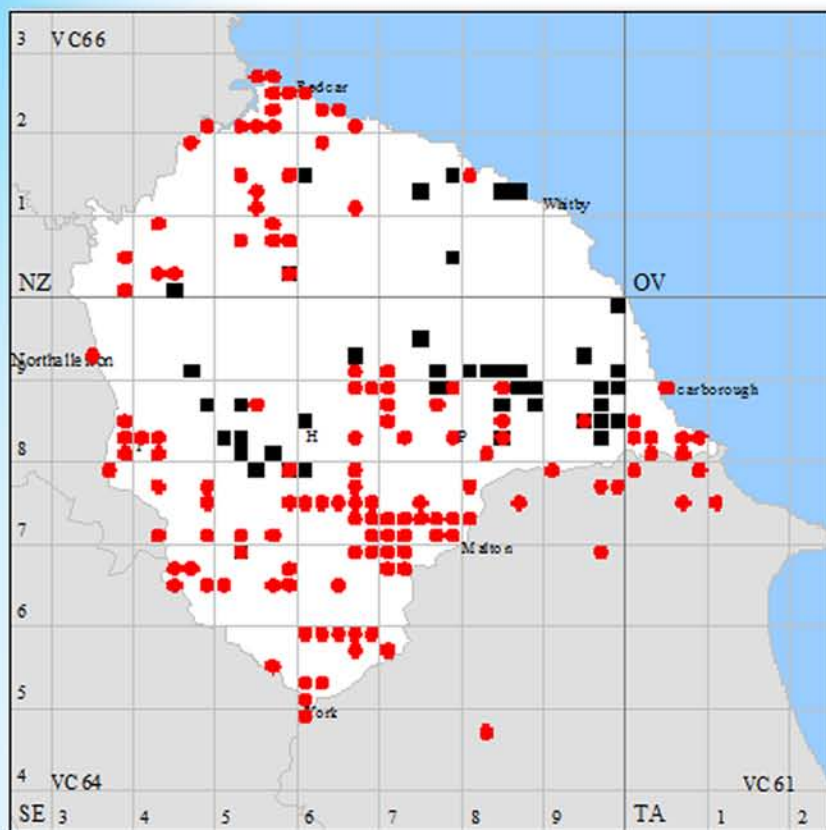
REASONS FOR DECLINE:
Herbicides

Our White campion experience...

White campion is the more typical arable inhabitant than Red campion, preferring cultivated ground and waste places on dry calcareous soils - we find it in 30% of surveys. It is typically a short-lived perennial like Red campion but can also act as an annual, which explains its ability to better cope in arable conditions.

A common plant that is difficult to mistake, except perhaps when it comes to its close relative the Night-flowering catchfly (*Silene noctiflora*). Night-flowering catchfly has flowers that only open at dusk, spending the day curled-up tightly. These can sometimes be mistaken with a White campion flower that has gone-over. However Night-flowering catchfly is usually a smaller plant than White campion, and if there's any doubt you just need to touch the swollen calyx that the flower projects from – in *noctiflora* it will be sticky.

Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: White campion (*Silene latifolia*)



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 - White campion (*Silene latifolia*)

- Preference for dry, calcareous soils on arable, roadsides and waste ground
- A common and widespread species throughout the UK
- Spring germinating
- Can only be confused with Night-flowering catchfly in arable habitat, but usually larger, with pure white flowers open in daylight

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.

