

# Cornfield Flowers Project



## Species Cards



### **Common toadflax** (*Linaria vulgaris*)

#### **Least Concern**

Another hedgebank perennial that occasionally ventures into arable margins

Locally infrequent, found in 20% of CFP surveys

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

Herbicides; annual cultivations

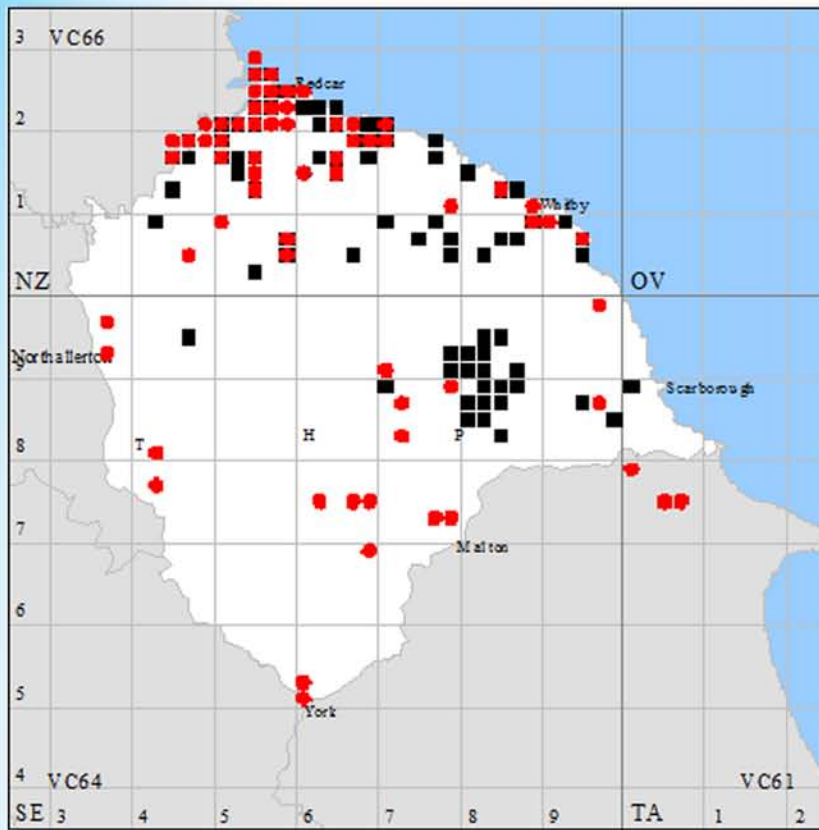
#### ***Our Common toadflax experience...***

Common toadflax is a very attractive plant, looking like it should be a garden-escape rather than the native wildflower that it is (it is related to Snapdragons and bears similar flowers).

As a perennial, it is more at home in grass verges and hedge banks, but can occasionally be found sneaking into the edges of arable fields from the grassy margins, especially as it spread by creeping rhizomes. It is regularly found at South Fordon Farm and Mushroom Field at Spaunton, reflecting its preference for well-drained calcareous soils.

Its scientific name derives from the Greek *Linon*, meaning flax, as the leaves are similar in appearance.

# Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Common toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*)



## 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 - Common toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*)

- A member of the Figwort family, related to the common garden plant Snapdragon
- Prefers well-drained calcareous and sandy soils on rough grassland, hedgebanks and disturbed ground
- Spring and summer germinating
- Strikingly attractive when in full flower and not possible to confuse with any other species

### 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.

