

# Cornfield Flowers Project



## Species Cards



### Corn parsley (*Petroselinum segetum*)

#### Least Concern

Very rarely found in our area - at its northern limit

Its lengthy growing season requires arable management conditions not commonly found in modern farming

#### REASONS FOR DECLINE:

Herbicides; fields worked before seeds can set

### ***Our Corn parsley experience...***

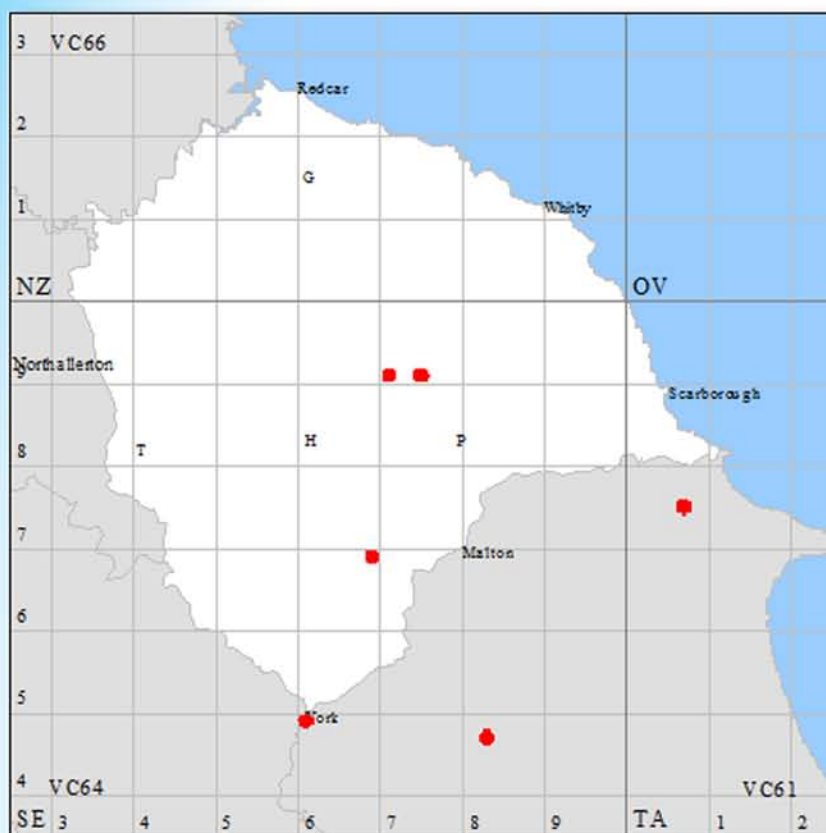
This plant is very much at the northern edge of its range in our area. Phil Wilson in *Arable Plants - a field guide* shows it just crossing the Humber in the lower part of Holderness; Eva Crackles confirms this and also gives it one old record on the Wolds at Fridaythorpe.

We had one find for this plant about 2001 when it was discovered growing near Seamer on dry soil over limestone which slopes to the south-west. It was in a winter-wheat crop that had followed a period of set-aside, and though the combine had cut the lead shoots out of the three plants present, they had branched out and were still in flower.

In 2010 it was found again in set-aside at South Fordon Farm, this time we managed to get seed from the plant and attempted to grow it. It seems to have difficulty germinating, partly because the seeds do not seem to be viable until well into autumn and it therefore does not have time to produce a strong rosette to over-winter. However the stewardship option at South Fordon Farm of a winter-wheat followed by a summer fallow does seem to favour it and also some other arable plants.

In both 2012 and 2013 we managed to grow Corn parsley in the nursery bed at the Ryedale Folk Museum but we challenge anyone to find it - it is almost invisible even when you are looking straight at it.

# Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Corn parsley (*Petroselinum segetum*)



## 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 - Corn parsley (*Petroselinum segetum*)

- Preference for well-drained calcareous-based soils
- Distinctive pinnate leaves have a parsley scent when crushed
- Early-autumn germinating - flowers August-September the following year
- Requires an autumn-sown crop in year 1, with stubbles left after harvest in year 2 and spring-sown crop in year 3 to fully complete its lifecycle

## 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.

