

# Cornfield Flowers Project



## Species Cards



### Common cornsalad (*Valerianella locusta*)

#### Least Concern

Despite its status, in our area Common cornsalad is rarer than the Endangered Narrow-fruited cornsalad

Grown commercially as a salad crop, when it is sometimes referred to as 'Lamb's lettuce'

#### REASONS FOR DECLINE:

Population densities mostly stable in UK, though in arable habitats decline likely due to herbicides

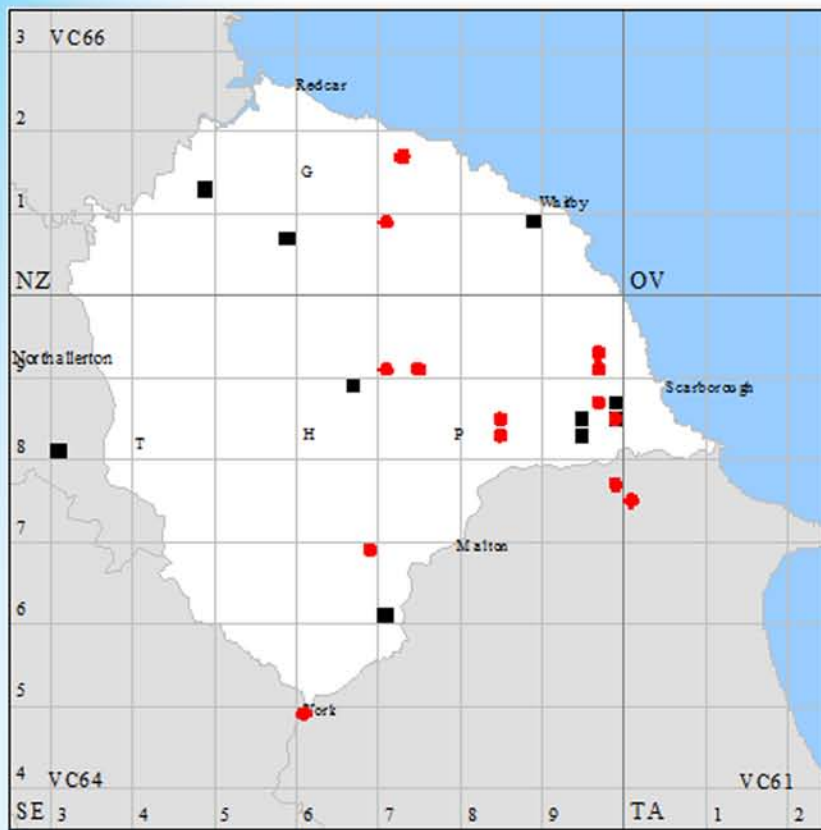
### ***Our Common cornsalad experience...***

A check for Common cornsalad in *New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora* would leave anyone with the impression that it was quite rare in our area. In *Wild Plants and their Habitats in the North York Moors*, Nan Sykes found it on seven sites and lists it as a 'Species at Risk'. Eva Crackles in *Flora of the East Riding of Yorkshire* has Common cornsalad on 33 sites, predominantly in the Holderness area.

Phil Wilson in *Arable Plants – a field guide* classes this species as 'widespread' and says it grows on 'walls, tracks, sand dunes, horticultural land but only rarely in arable field margins.' The CFP however find it on about 20% of our surveys, which are all conducted on arable land. At Glebe Farm, Potter Brompton, it grows in large quantities some years on the sandy soil. It also occurs on most other soils in our area, but we have yet to find it on peat.

The description of 'uncommon and widespread' seems to fit Common cornsalad in our area - records for Vice County 62 (north-east Yorkshire) show only 20 sites locally.

# Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Common cornsalad (*Valerianella locusta*)



## 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 cornsalad (*Valerianella locusta*)

- Found on a wide range of soils
- Autumn germinating
- Not as erect in habit as Narrow-fruited cornsalad and with pale-blue flowers
- Separated from other cornsalads by its broad seeds, with two segments split vertically by pronounced groove

### 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.

