

# Cornfield Flowers Project



## Species Cards



### **Fool's parsley** (*Aethusa cynapium*)

#### **Least Concern**

A typical member of the Umbellifer family, it has distinctive downward-pointing bracteoles beneath each flower cluster

A very frequent feature of arable habitats - recorded in 75% of CFP surveys

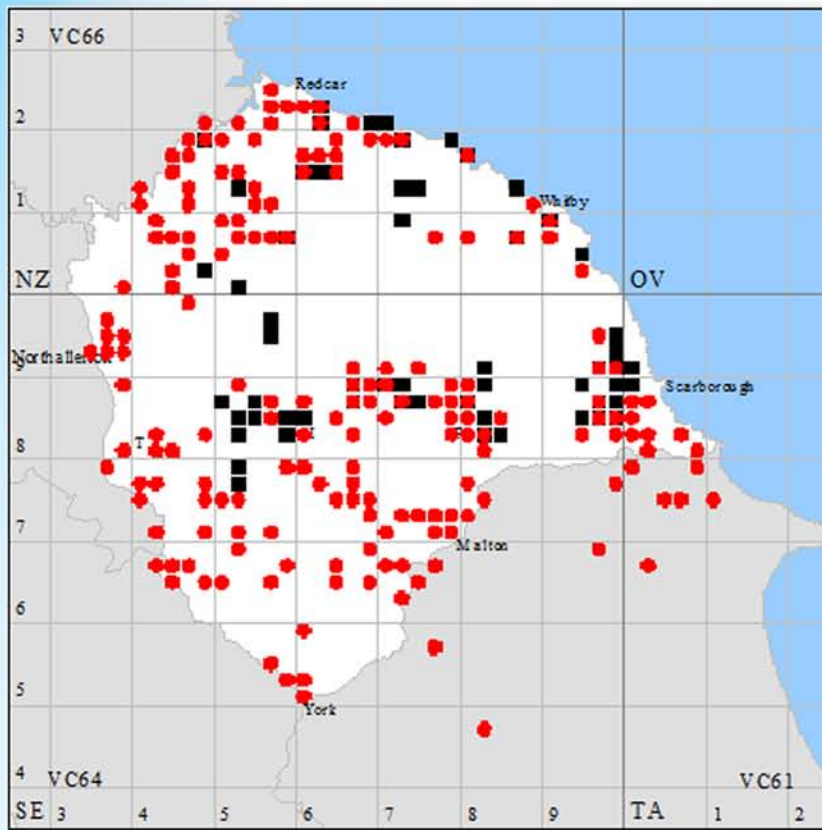
**REASONS FOR DECLINE:**  
Herbicides

#### ***Our Fool's parsley experience...***

Nan Sykes describes Fool's parsley as 'A frequent weed of waste ground, fields and gardens on sandy or limestone soil in lower land. A late flowering annual, it is sometimes abundant in autumn stubble fields'.

We would only add that botanists have made it into two sub-species, one of which looks like it has been run over with a heavy roller. This is a plant that seems to manage quite well without our help.

# Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Fool's parsley (*Aethusa cynapium*)



## 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 - Fool's parsley (*Aethusa cynapium*)

- Found on a wide variety of soils in arable, waste ground and hedgerbanks
- Autumn and spring germinating
- As with many Umbellifers the plant is poisonous, hence its common name - you'd be a fool to mistake it for Parsley
- Has two sub-species: subsp. *cynapium* features in all its habitat types, whilst subsp. *agrestis* is more commonly found in arable

## 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.

