

# Cornfield Flowers Project



## Species Cards



### Dense-flowered fumitory (*Fumaria densiflora*)

#### Least concern

Although nationally designated as 'Least Concern', this species is very rare in north-east Yorkshire, with only a handful of known sites

#### REASONS FOR DECLINE:

Herbicides; nitrogen application;  
shift to autumn cultivations

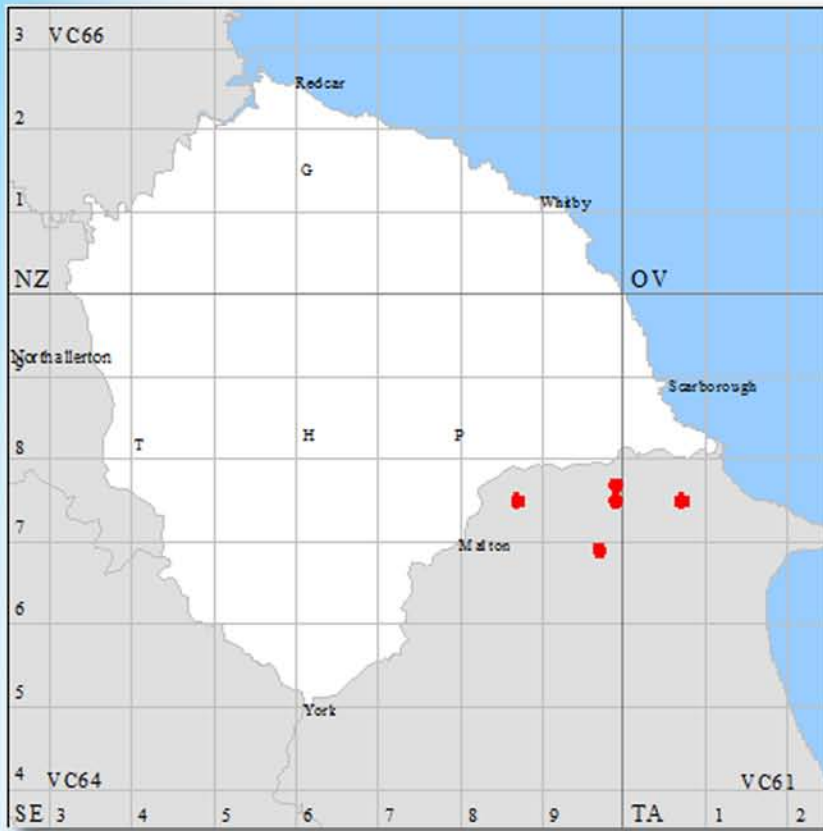
### ***Our Dense-flowered fumitory experience...***

Until the later 1900s, Dense-flowered fumitory was recorded as *Fumaria micrantha* and it apparently made a point of not growing in our area. Its main station is the south-east of England, but it is also found in south-east Scotland, indicating that it is not averse to northern climates. It has been found occasionally in the Vale of York just south-west of our area, and only rarely within East Yorkshire, with records for 1902 at 'Hull Docks', 1945 at Bridlington and 1993 near South Dalton; a good candidate then for being overlooked in our area.

In 2009 local botanist Cedric Gillings and Chris Wilson were surveying summer fallow on South Fordon Farm when Cedric found a strangely different Fumitory; it was subsequently confirmed by the BSBI referee as *Fumaria densiflora*. We were disappointed not to find it at Fordon in 2010, despite a lot of searching, however we did find it at West Knaption on yet another survey of summer fallows. Cedric found it again in 2011 growing in good quantities on Ganton Wold, in potatoes. He managed to get some seed off it, and we were able to grow some demonstration plants the following year.

We have since re-found Dense-flowered fumitory at Fordon in 2012 and 2014, along with another new site at Weaverthorpe in 2012.

# Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Dense-flowered fumitory (*Fumaria densiflora*)



### 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 - Dense-flowered fumitory (*Fumaria densiflora*)

- Most commonly found on chalk - only recorded on the Wolds in our area
- Stronghold is in south-east England
- Most likely to be found in spring-sown crops
- Superficially similar to Common fumitory, but flowers are more 'squat' and nearly hidden by the very large sepals each side

### 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:



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.

