

Cornfield Flowers Project



Species Cards

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Few-flowered fumitory (*Fumaria vaillantii*)

Vulnerable

As with Dense-flowered fumitory, this species is extremely rare in north-east Yorkshire, with only four known sites locally

More commonly found in south and east England

REASONS FOR DECLINE:

Herbicides; nitrogen application

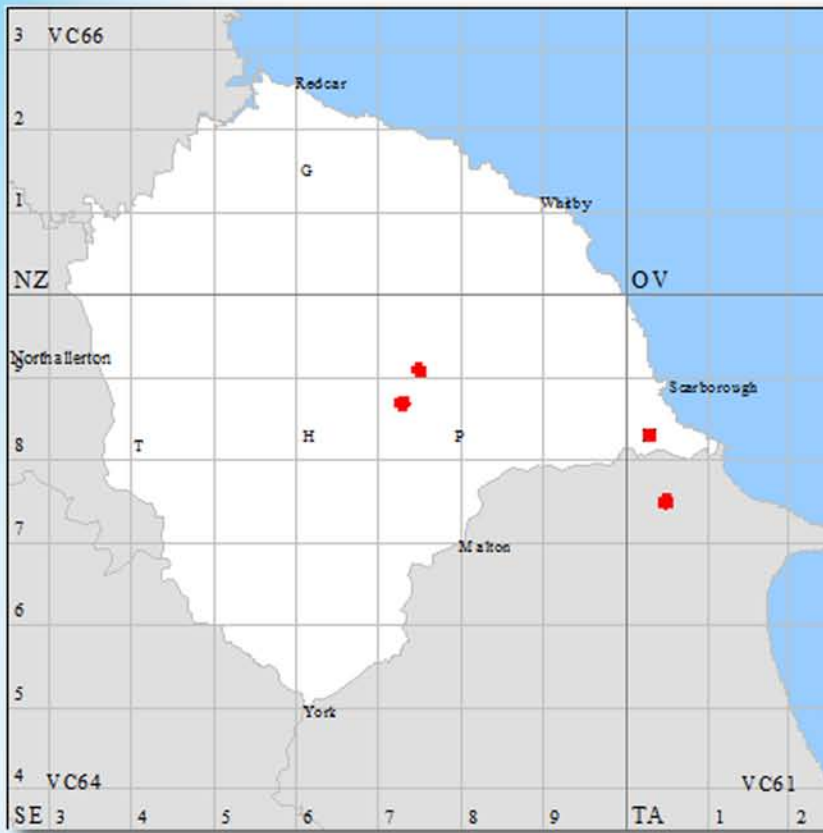
Our Few-flowered fumitory experience...

One of the advantages of looking hard for *Fumaria densiflora* at South Fordon Farm became apparent in 2011, when local botanist Cedric Gillings found yet another strange-looking Fumitory there. This turned out to be Few-flowered fumitory and was subsequently confirmed by the BSBI referee Rose Murphy. Also in 2011 Vince Jones and Bill Thompson of the North-east Yorkshire Botany Group found it growing on building spoil in a residential garden at Crossgates, near Scarborough.

Few-flowered fumitory is very much a southern plant growing on chalky soils, and has only very occasionally been found in the past growing north of The Wash. There are only three old records for it in the Scarborough area, from 1858 to 1907. In 1897, W. Foggitt found it 'plentiful' near Seamer Station, located within Crossgates, and could suggest a historical link with the recent recording here 114 years later.

We also tentatively identified Few-flowered fumitory at Low Askew Farm, near Lastingham, and at the Project's 'Mushroom Field', near Spaunton Quarry, but we would like to find it again on these sites before we are certain. Hopefully we won't have to wait another 114 years...

Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Few-flowered fumitory (*Fumaria vaillantii*)



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 - Few-flowered fumitory (*Fumaria vaillantii*)

- Normally found in spring-sown arable fields on chalk / calcareous soils
- Isolated UK distribution, mostly centred on south-eastern England
- Never found frequently, populations have declined further since 1950s
- Flowers are similar to Common fumitory, but smaller and in a sparse raceme

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.

