

Cornfield Flowers Project



Species Cards



Purple ramping-fumitory (*Fumaria purpurea*)

Least concern

Although nationally designated as 'Least Concern', this species is extremely rare in north-east Yorkshire, with only 2 known sites

A UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) Priority Species

REASONS FOR DECLINE:

Habitat loss; nitrogen application;
competitive crop varieties

Our Purple ramping-fumitory experience...

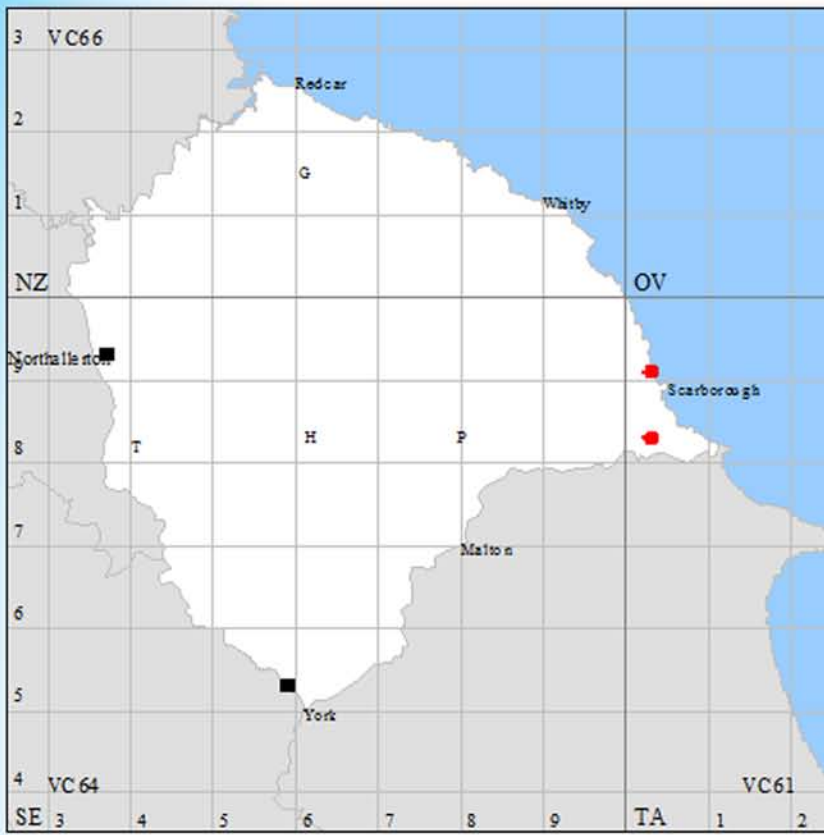
To round off his *Fumaria* finding exploits in 2011, Cedric Gillings found Purple ramping-fumitory growing at Scalby Lodge Farm, just north of Scarborough; subsequently confirmed by BSBI referee Rose Murphy. Purple ramping-fumitory is a very rare plant with scattered records throughout the British Isles so there is no good reason that it should be found holidaying at Scarborough, especially 94 years after it was last seen in the area. Chris Wilson remained a bit sceptical about this record to begin with, but became completely won-over after seeing the large size of the sepals on the pressed specimen collected – a key identifying feature.

The very next year this lonely record received some company when Tom Normandale, CFP project officer, found Purple ramping-fumitory growing at another site at Crossgates, south of Scarborough. Again, its rarity meant a confirmation was required from the BSBI referee, which it duly received.

In 2014, four mature seeds that were taken from Crossgates for identification purposes were passed on to Species Custodian Jo Simmons, who skilfully raised a single plant that had climbed to over a metre tall. From such a healthy specimen we have been able to collect a number of seeds and hope to 'captive' it for the demonstration beds at the Ryedale Folk Museum.

We have now elevated Cedric to the exalted position of 'Custodian of Fumitories' for the Project. That should slow him down a bit!

Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Purple ramping-fumitory (*Fumaria purpurea*)



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 - Purple ramping-fumitory (*Fumaria purpurea*)

- Extremely rare in north-east Yorkshire
- Has a range of habitat preferences and can be erratic in its occurrences
- Flowers tend to curve downwards and have a pale purple-pink hue with blackish-purple tip
- Mostly found in western England, south-east Scotland and Orkney, though not widespread

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.

