

Cornfield Flowers Project



Species Cards



Common poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*)

Least Concern

One of the very few cornfield flowers that survives well enough without intervention

Producing long-lived seed in large quantities, when conditions are right they can dominate landscapes

REASONS FOR DECLINE:

Nitrogen application; herbicides

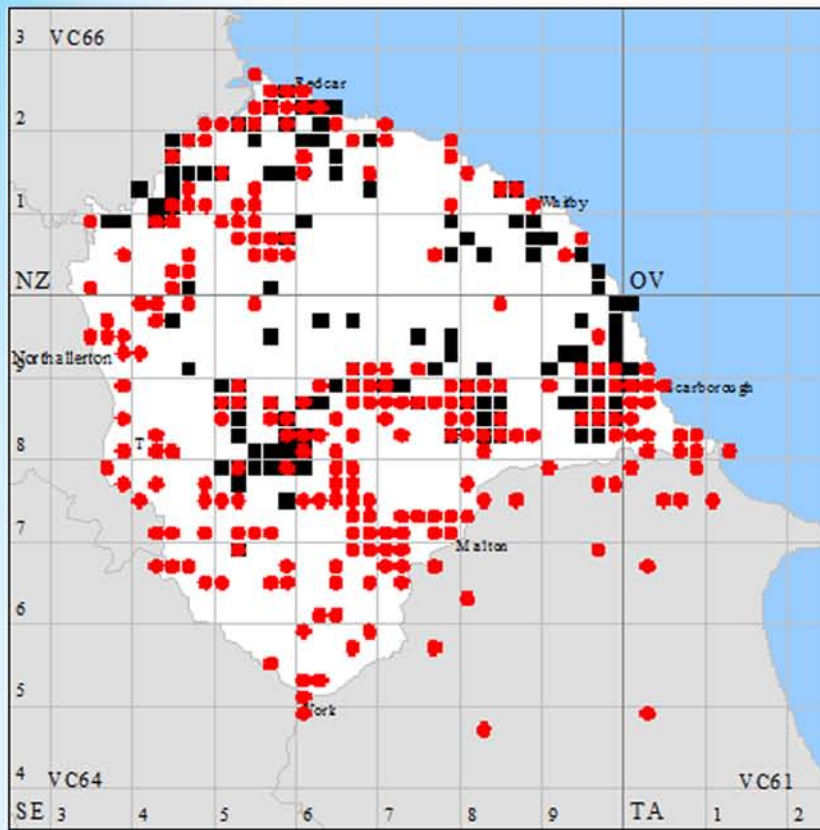
Our Common poppy experience...

Common poppy, Corn poppy, Field poppy, or even its old Yorkshire name of Cup-rose – whichever of these names you use is matter-less. It is a very common plant throughout Britain in arable fields, and all the more apparent because even if there's only one in a ten-acre field, you can still see it waving at you a quarter of a mile away...

It very much favours autumn-sown crops, because it likes to develop a rosette in autumn and get a good start in spring, which is why Oil-seed Rape crops are sometimes infested with it.

Although we think of it as being bright red, in our field at Silpho we have a good mix of colours and every year there are white, burgundy and pink ones mixed amongst the red. These occur quite naturally and, unusually for our Project, we have not interfered with them in any way...

Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Common poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*)



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 poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*)

- Common and widespread throughout the UK
- Can produce very impressive blooms in suitable conditions
- Autumn and spring germinating
- Seed can remain dormant in soil for many years, thriving when herbicide / nitrogen fertiliser levels are reduced

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.

