

Cornfield Flowers Project



Species Cards



Small nettle
(*Urtica urens*)

Least Concern

Related to the common Stinging nettle, but an annual rather than perennial

Preference for fertile, sandy soils limits its range in our area - recorded in just 15% of surveys

REASONS FOR DECLINE:
Herbicides

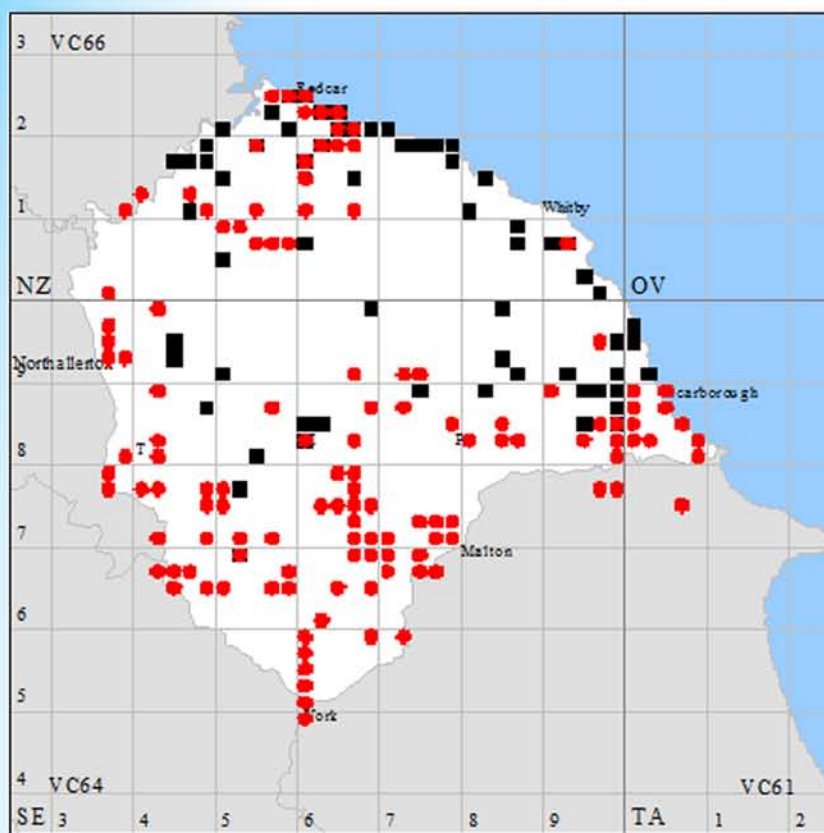
Our Small nettle experience...

This is the smaller relative of the all-too-familiar Common nettle; a low-growing annual rather than perennial that favours light sandy soils in disturbed sites. As such, it is a reliable find at Glebe Farm, Potter Brompton and Water Fulford at York. Small nettle is classed as 'occasional' in our area, due primarily to the limited range of suitable soil conditions.

The whole plant is smaller in appearance than Common nettle, has more rounded-leaves and does not form dense, creeping stands. Along with its larger relative, it is a food plant for Small tortoiseshell butterflies.

The jury is still out on whether it possesses a sting or not. Some textbooks state that it doesn't; others that it does. If you are particularly keen to 'grasp the nettle' and investigate for yourself, be our guest....

Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Small nettle (*Urtica urens*)



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 - Small nettle (*Urtica urens*)

- Found on well-drained, fertile sandy soils
- Spring germinating
- Similar to Stinging nettle but shorter and with smaller, more rounded leaves
- Still has a sting to it!

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.

