

Cornfield Flowers Project



Species Cards



Smooth tare (*Vicia tetrasperma*)

Least Concern

A member of the pea family, with typical vetch-like appearance and scrambling growth

Locally rare, reaching its northern limit in our area. Birkdale Farm at Terrington is the only CFP site we have

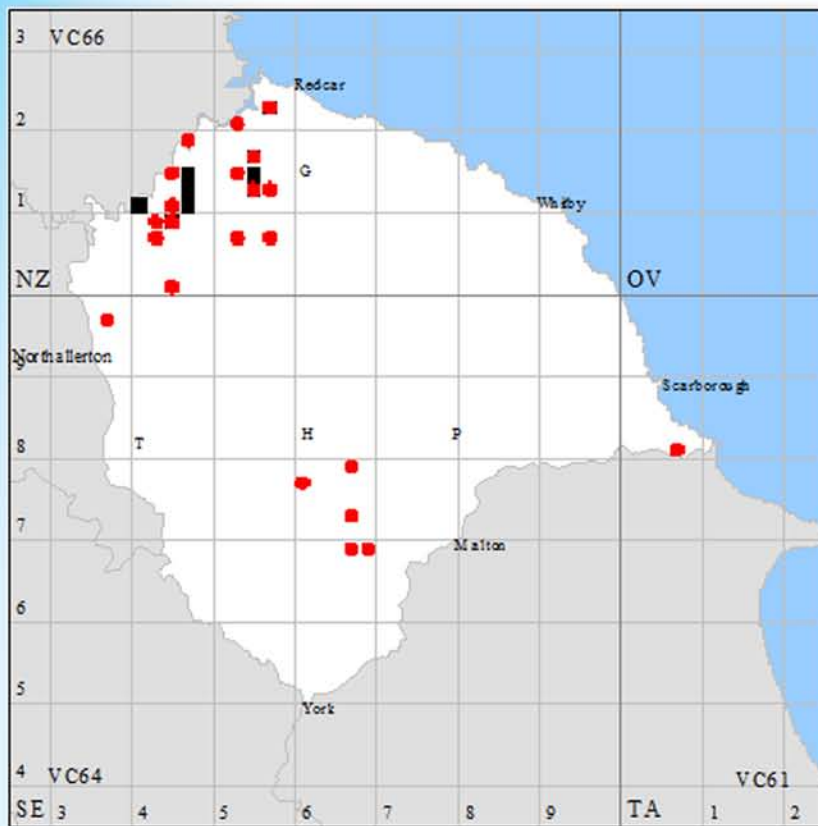
REASONS FOR DECLINE:
Herbicides

Our Smooth tare experience...

Smooth tare is reaching the northernmost limits of its range in our area. It is common south of a line from the Humber to north Wales. Except for the Tees Valley and the south part of the East Riding, it is very rare in our area. The Scarborough Naturalists and Nan Sykes' *Wild Plants and their Habitats in the North York Moors* make no mention of it. Eva Crackles described it as uncommon on grassy places, drain banks, waste places and open woodland, and then lists over a dozen known sites.

The *New Atlas of British and Irish Flora* mentions arable field margins in its description of the habitats in which Smooth tare grows, and that is where we find it. One of the few sites in our area is in the arable margins at Birkdale Farm, Terrington. Here it grows in considerable quantity on the farm's heavy clay soils.

Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Smooth tare (*Vicia tetrasperma*)



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 - Smooth tare (*Vicia tetrasperma*)

- Preference for arable field margins on heavy soils in our area
- Has the appearance of a very slender, dainty vetch with small, pale blue flowers
- Probably autumn germinating
- In our area can only be confused with Hairy tare (*Vicia hirsuta*) which has hairy pods, not smooth, containing only two seeds, not four

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.

