

Cornfield Flowers Project



Species Cards



Treacle-mustard (*Erysimum cheiranthoides*)

Least Concern

Has declined in arable fields since the 1950s, but still persists in other habitats

Reliably found on our farms at Terrington and Cropton

REASONS FOR DECLINE:
Herbicides

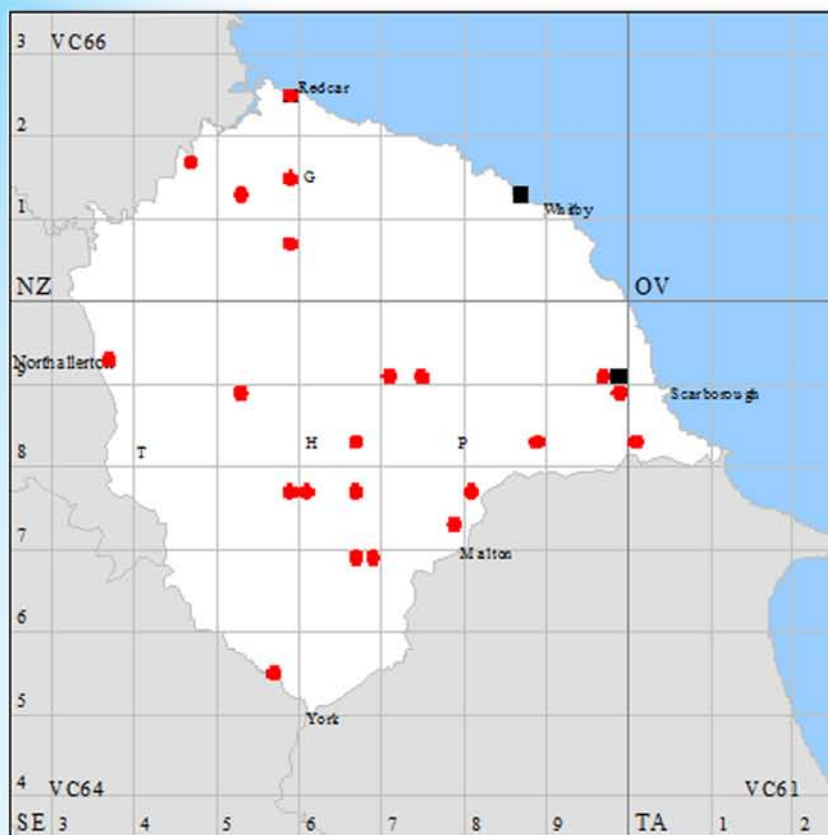
Our Treacle-mustard experience...

Although Treacle-mustard is found as far north as Scotland, it seems to be increasingly scarce in the North Riding. Nan Sykes gives only two sites for it, Harwood Dale and Whitby. Chris Wilson has found it twice in the Scarborough area growing in turnip fields, where it may have been a contaminant of the seed. Eva Crackles classes it as 'uncommon' and gives six sites for it in the East Riding, the last one being by Pocklington Canal in 1980. Scarborough Naturalists in 1953 regard it as rare giving only three sites, the last of which was Pickering in 1945.

Today Treacle-mustard can be seen growing in quantity at Birkdale Farm, Terrington, where it grows so strongly it often achieves a height of over 3-feet. Several plants are also usually found every year at Low Askew Farm, Cropton. Both farms have areas set-aside for bird seed strips and rare arable plants.

Nan Sykes and Eva Crackles designate Treacle-mustard as an alien, but the *New Atlas of British and Irish Flora*, whilst still classifying it as an alien, goes on to give it archaeophyte status and comments that 'there is archaeological evidence of this species in Bronze Age and Roman Britain!'

Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Treacle-mustard (*Erysimum cheiranthoides*)



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 - Treacle-mustard (*Erysimum cheiranthoides*)

- Preference for sandy soils
- Spring germinating
- Member of the cabbage family, with typical four-petalled yellow flowers
- Can respond well to nutrient-rich soils - robust plants can be virtually unrecognisable from those in more infertile conditions

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.

