

Cornfield Flowers Project



Species Cards



Venus's-looking-glass (*Legousia hybrida*)

Least Concern

A predominantly southern plant, at the edge of its northern range in our area

Generally a good indicator of high quality arable communities on calcareous soils

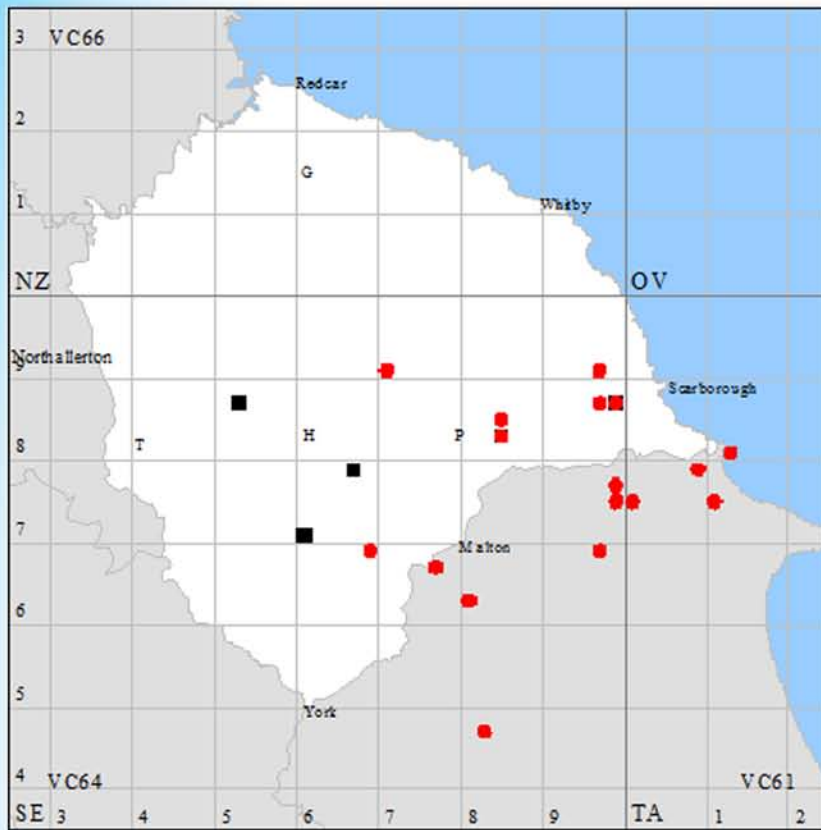
REASONS FOR DECLINE:
Herbicides

Our Venus's-looking-glass experience...

Britain's smallest *Campanula* with flowers about the size of a match-head, this plant is reaching its northernmost limits in North Yorkshire. Nan Sykes recorded it only three times during her survey of the North York Moors. Since then, there has been a scattering of records for it on the limestone southern edge of the moors. The Scarborough Naturalists recorded it as rare, giving sites at Forge Valley, Yedmandale and Ellerburn. In the East Riding, Eva Crackles classed it as uncommon especially away from the Wolds, saying it was 'most consistently recorded for the Langton area'.

We have found it growing in some quantity on the Wolds between Flixton and Fordon, and in 2012 during a survey of Don Spink's farm near Hunmanby saw hundreds of plants. It must have been a sunny day because the flowers remain closed when the weather is dull.

Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Venus's-looking-glass (*Legousia hybrida*)



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 - Venus's-looking-glass (*Legousia hybrida*)

- Grows on calcareous soils
- Autumn and spring germinating
- Low growing and shade-tolerant, its small purple flowers point straight-up and only open on sunny days
- In the *Campanulacea* family, so related to Harebells and Bellflowers

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.

