

Cornfield Flowers Project



Species Cards



Wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*)

Least Concern

A widely occurring plant in arable conditions, has typical *brassica* growth form with white, lilac or yellow flowers

Recorded in over 20% of CFP surveys

REASONS FOR DECLINE:

Nitrogen application; herbicides

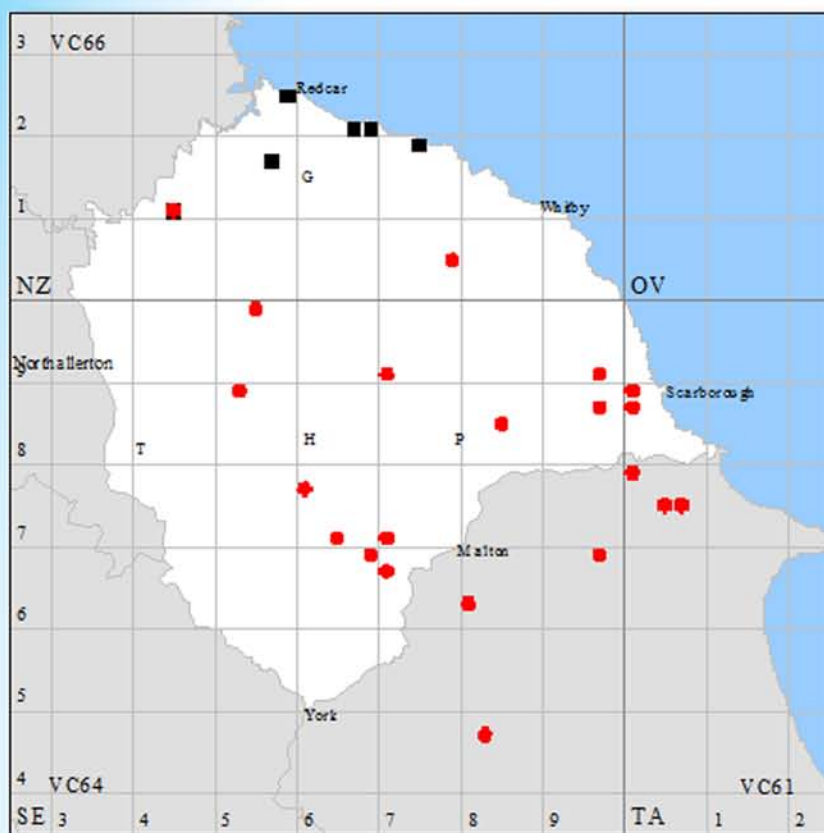
Our Wild radish experience...

Raphanus raphanistrum subsp. *raphanistrum* is a member of the Cabbage family - a large grouping of very similar species, some of which are complex to tell apart. Wild radish however is one of the easier ones, potentially only confused in an arable setting with Charlock and Fodder radish, which is sown as a game cover crop. The former always has yellow flowers and stalk-less leaves at the top of the stem, the latter has much more inflated seed pods than the Wild radish and without the long tapering point.

It's an occasional find in our surveys, usually possible to spot from some distance as its white or pale-lilac flowers stand just proud of the surrounding plants.

It is a popular plant for bees and other invertebrates, and in south-east England it is the sole pollen source for a very rare Solitary Bee, with only 4-5 sites remaining for this species. It perfectly demonstrates that even the most humble of arable plants can play a crucial role in the survival of other wildlife.

Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*)



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 - Wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*)

- Normally found on calcareous soils in arable and waste ground
- Has two subspecies - *raphanistrum* is the arable weed; subsp. *maritimus* is 'Sea radish', a coastal perennial
- Spring germinating
- Can be confused with Fodder radish (*Raphanus sativus oleriformis*) - widely sown as a game crop. However this species has larger seeds and pods

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.

