

# Cornfield Flowers Project



## Species Cards



### **Bird's-foot** (*Ornithopus perpusillus*)

#### **Least Concern**

Not to be confused with the grassland perennial Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), this tiny annual grows in dry, sandy soils

Locally rare, only known by the CFP at Glebe Farm, Potter Brompton and a single site at West Knapton

#### **REASONS FOR DECLINE:**

Nitrogen application; herbicides

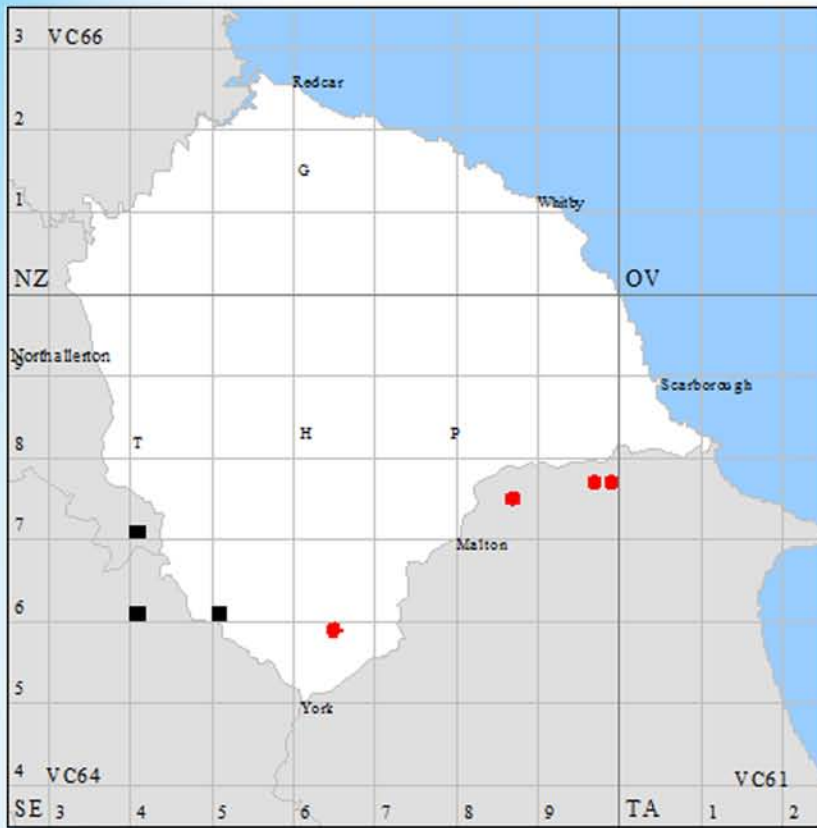
### ***Our Bird's-foot experience...***

Bird's-foot is much more a plant of dry, sandy heaths and open grassland than it is an arable plant, though it is one of the species that has benefitted from the Environmental Stewardship arable headlands and summer fallows. It seems to thrive in situations where it can germinate in late-summer or early-autumn and flower the following year. Not uncommon in the rest of Britain except the far north, it is much scarcer in our area.

Scarborough Naturalists call it 'Common bird's-foot', then go on to class it as 'uncommon', giving only one site at Flixton sand-pits in 1915 and 1916. Eva Crackles in *Flora of the East Riding of Yorkshire* said it was 'infrequent in the Vale of Pickering, locally frequent in Lower Derwentland. Decreasing.' In the East Riding it is currently classed as 'regionally scarce', with only six sites recorded in the last ten years.

We find it every year at Glebe Farm, Potter Brompton, on the arable headlands and summer fallow. It is also present on a similar site at West Knapton.

# Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Bird's-foot (*Ornithopus perpusillus*)



## 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 - Bird's-foot (*Ornithopus perpusillus*)

- Low-growing beneath other vegetation on dry sandy soils
- A member of the pea family with typical flowers and seed pods
- Summer germinating
- A tiny plant, leaves have rounded leaflets off central stem, and very attractive flowers but only 3mm big!

### 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.

