

# Cornfield Flowers Project



## Species Cards



### Red campion (*Silene dioica*)

#### Least Concern

Despite its perennial nature and more typical hedgerow / woodland habitat, Red campion occasionally ventures into arable margins

Found in 20% of CFP surveys

#### REASONS FOR DECLINE:

Herbicides; annual cultivations

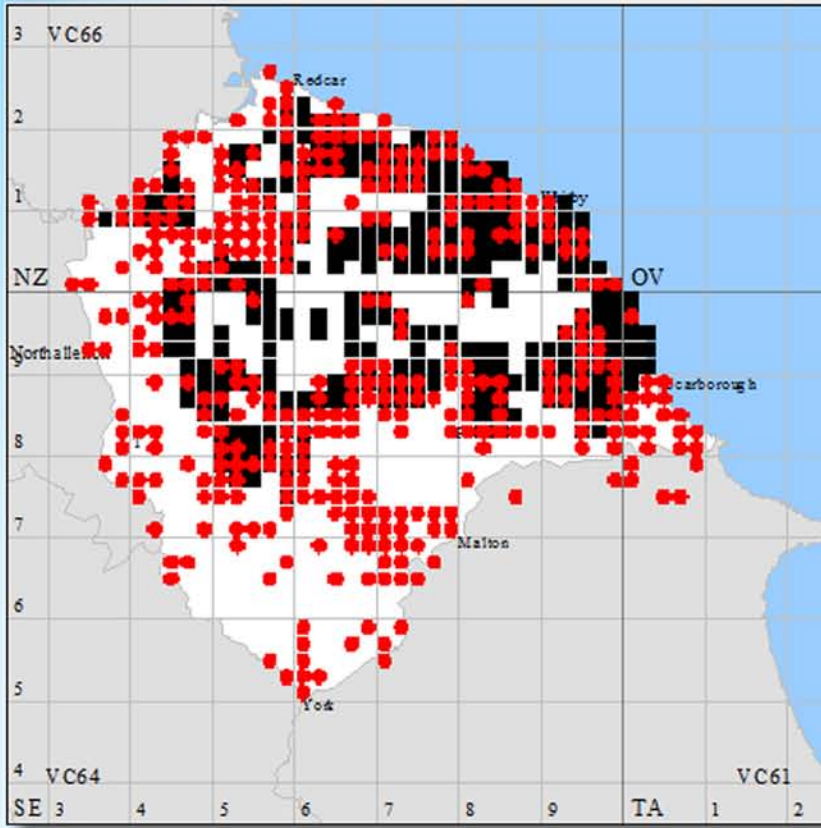
### Our Red campion experience...

Both Red and White campion are not usually considered as arable wildflowers by most people. Red campion is more associated with hedgerows and woodland edge, White with field edges and open roadside verges. However, find them in arable we do.

Of the two, Red campion is found the least in arable. This biennial / perennial doesn't cope well with annual cultivation. However as with other perennial species it encroaches into headlands from the surrounding field margins, especially when bordered by hedgerows or woodland.

Further confusion is created in the campions with the common occurrence of *Silene x hampeana*, the hybrid between Red and White, which not surprisingly produces a pale-pink flower. This cross will grow wherever both parent plants exist, and so found in a combination of both habitat types.

# Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Red campion (*Silene dioica*)



### 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 - Red campion (*Silene dioica*)

- Preference for fertile calcareous soils in semi-shade - hedgerows, light woodland
- Autumn and spring germinating
- A common and widespread species throughout UK
- A well known species, with deep-pink flowers. Plants with pale-pink flowers are hybrids with White campion

### 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:



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.

