

# Cornfield Flowers Project



## Species Cards



### Common stork's-bill (*Erodium cicutarium*)

#### Least Concern

An attractive plant of dry, sandy areas with striking pink flowers giving way to long, pointed seed pods

Locally occasional, found in 16% of CFP surveys

#### REASONS FOR DECLINE:

Herbicides; shift to autumn cultivation

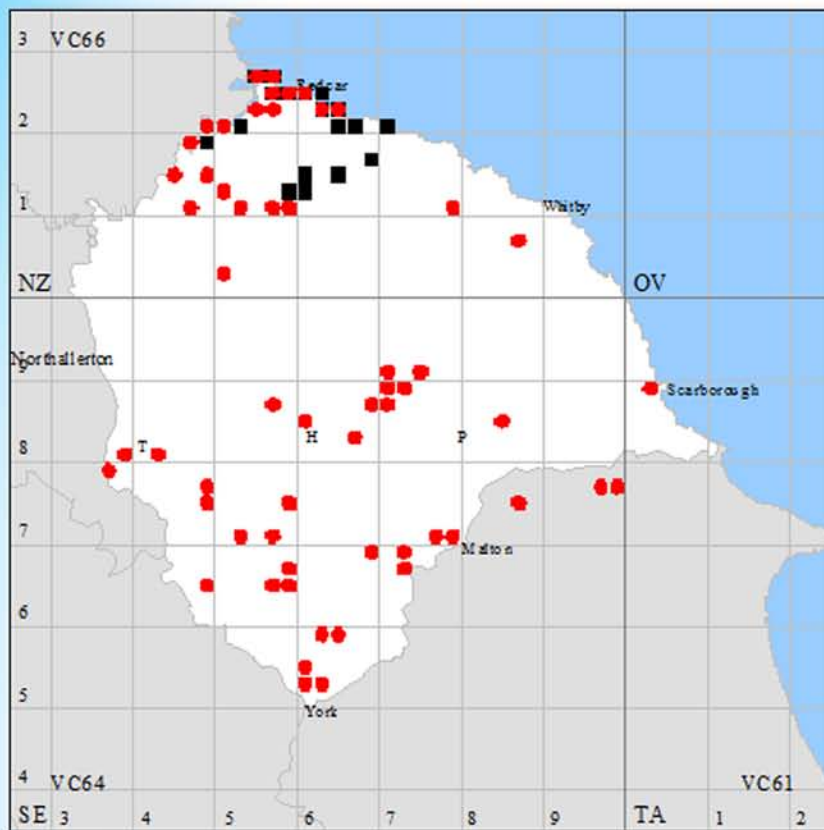
#### ***Our Common stork's-bill experience...***

Common stork's-bill is a reliable find in the right conditions – dry, sandy or rocky spots including sand dunes, roadsides, parched grasslands and arable headlands. In our area its stronghold is at Glebe Farm, Potter Brompton, and on the sandland that runs along the southern edge of the Vale of Pickering. Oddly, we've yet to pick it up at Water Fulford near York, our other sandland site, so perhaps not such a reliable find after all...

A sprawling plant, it can dominate large patches of ground in fertile farmland, as John Middlewood discovered at Glebe Farm when it took over a failed corner of his oilseed rape crop in 2013. The result was a magnificent blaze of pink, with a few Wild pansies thrown in to add to the 'wow' factor. At least it provided an attractive consolation for a lost crop.

After flowering the plant develops elongated, pointed seed pods that grow to over 5cm long and attest to its etymology - *Erodium* comes from the Greek *erodios* meaning heron, from the resemblance of the seed pods to a Heron's, or Stork's, bill.

# Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Common stork's-bill (*Erodium cicutarium*)



## 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 - Common stork's-bill (*Erodium cicutarium*)

- Preference for dry, sandy or rocky soils
- Spring germinating
- Sprawling growth habit and tolerance of fertile soils can make it a dominant plant in certain conditions
- There are three other *Erodium*, but only Musk stork's-bill (*Erodium moschatum*) will grow in arable margins and it isn't recorded in our area

## 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.

