

# Cornfield Flowers Project



## Species Cards



### Dove's-foot crane's-bill (*Geranium molle*)

#### Least Concern

A short, low-growing annual with rounded leaves

Common on dry, sandy arable and grassland habitats - found in over half of all CFP surveys

**REASONS FOR DECLINE:**  
Herbicides

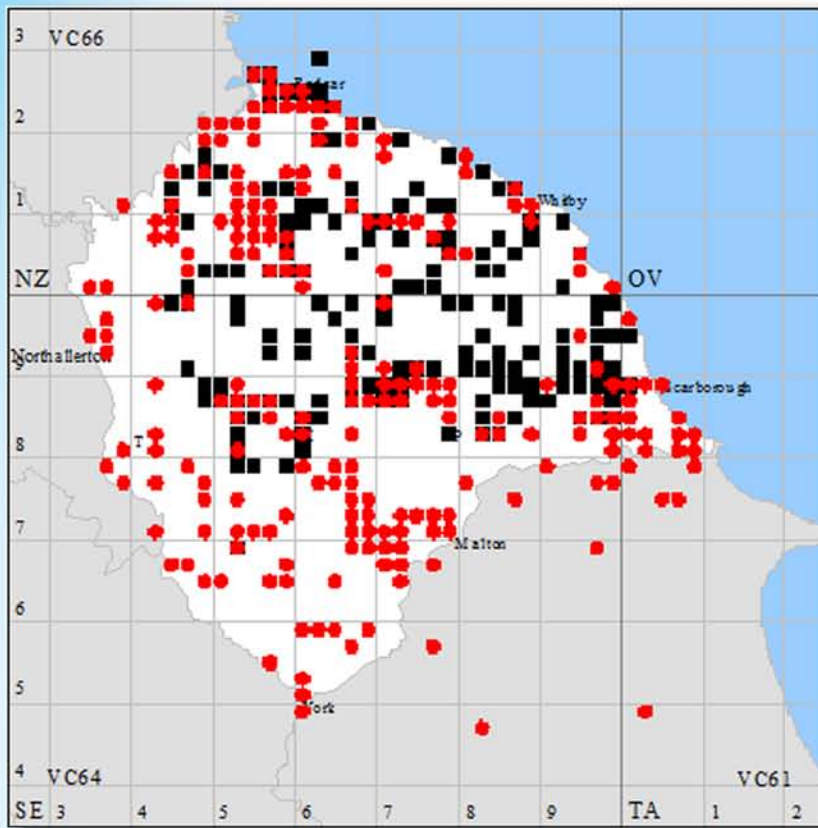
### ***Our Dove's-foot crane's-bill experience...***

Once Cut-leaved crane's-bill has been ticked off the survey sheet, if you find another *Geranium* then it's not quite so easy. Dove's-foot crane's-bill is as frequently found as Cut-leaved, but needs more careful work to identify it correctly. The confusion comes with Small-flowered crane's-bill (*Geranium pusillum*) which looks very similar, particularly in the leaves. The solution comes from a close-up look at the leaf-stalk – *molle* has a mix of short and long hairs, giving an unkempt appearance; *pusillum* just has short, even hairs, the overall appearance being best described by local botanist Cedric Gillings, 'as if it's had a shave'.

With experience, *molle* and *pusillum* can sometimes be told apart from the shade of pink in the flowers, *pusillum* tends to look paler and more washed-out, though it's always worth a confirmation with the hairs.

Dove's-foot crane's-bill is a widespread native found in arable land, dry grassland, waste ground and verges. *Molle* comes from the Latin for 'soft', and if you feel its leaves you'll understand why.

# Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Dove's-foot crane's-bill (*Geranium molle*)



## 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 - Dove's-foot crane's-bill (*Geranium molle*)

- Found in light, dry soils especially calcareous and sandy
- Predominantly autumn germinating
- Widespread and common species throughout UK
- Pink flowers similar to Cut-leaved crane's-bill, but leaves are rounded and stems have a mix of long hairs and short glandular hairs

### 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.

