

Cornfield Flowers Project



Species Cards



Small-flowered crane's-bill (*Geranium pusillum*)

Least Concern

Short, low-growing downy annual with pale pink flowers

Locally infrequent on dry, sandy soils - recorded in only 20% of CFP surveys

REASONS FOR DECLINE:
Herbicides

Our Small-flowered crane's-bill experience...

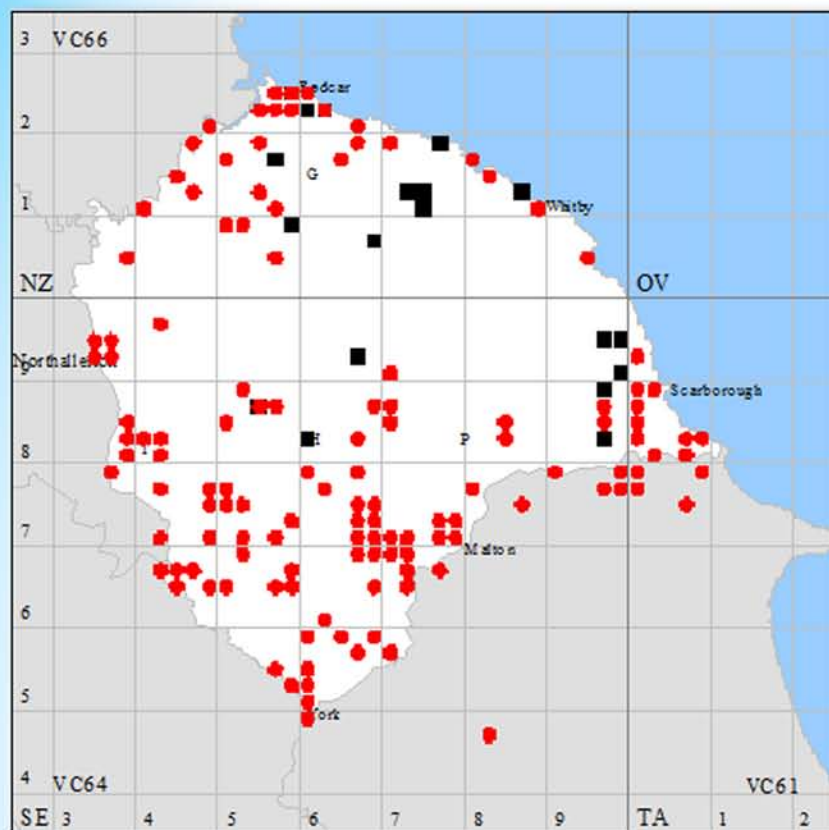
The last of the three arable *Geraniums* and the one that always interests us most. Small-flowered crane's-bill is regarded as infrequent in our area, and typically found on well-drained sandy soils. For this reason it can be an indicator of higher-quality arable communities when found - our local stronghold is Glebe Farm at Potter Brompton.

This species is possibly under-recorded due to being overlooked as *Geranium molle*. The two species look superficially similar at first glance – the leaves are virtually indistinguishable from each other. However *pusillum* generally has paler pink flowers than *molle*, and confirmation lies in the leaf-stalk hairs: all short, neat and even in *pusillum*; a combination of short and long in *molle* giving a straggly, unkempt appearance.

Small-flowered crane's-bill is a native of the UK with relatively stable range and populations.

Our *Geranium* master-class is now complete.

Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Small-flowered crane's-bill (*Geranium pusillum*)



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 - Small-flowered crane's-bill (*Geranium pusillum*)

- Found in dry sandy soils in open habitats - arable, waste-ground and roadsides
- Leaves similar to Dove's-foot crane's-bill but smaller; pale pink flowers most obvious way to tell apart
- Predominantly summer germinating
- Stems covered in very short, even length 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.

