

Cornfield Flowers Project



Species Cards



Field woundwort (*Stachys arvensis*)

Near threatened

Close relative of the common Hedge woundwort, this specialist annual prefers disturbed ground on chalk or sandy soils

Locally infrequent, found in 30% of CFP surveys

REASONS FOR DECLINE:

Nitrogen application; herbicides; shift to autumn cultivations

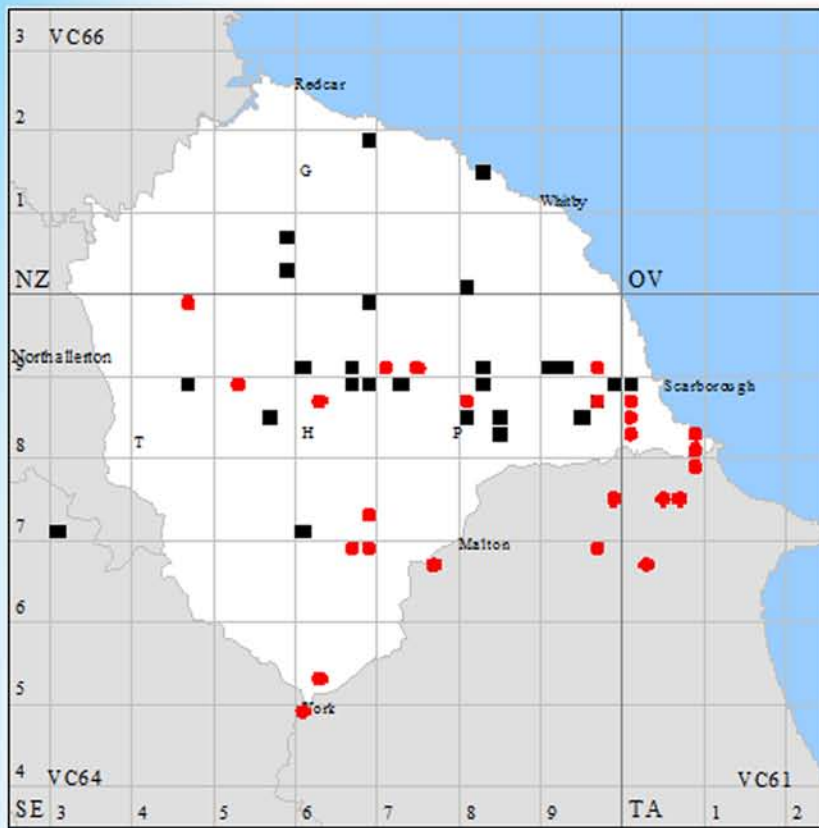
Our Field woundwort experience...

When doing an arable plant survey we are always pleased to find Field woundwort – it seems to associate itself with other good finds such as Venus’s-looking-glass and Dwarf spurge. Perhaps it is just a good indicator of an alkaline soil, so having found it we know we are in a good spot.

Eva Crackles says of Field woundwort, ‘Locally frequent on the chalk Wolds often in cornfields. Infrequent elsewhere, sometimes on sand.’ Nan Sykes describes it as formerly common in cornfields, and gives 21 scattered sites for it.

On a dry or nutritionally-poor site Field woundwort can be easily overlooked, being often less than two-inches high. However Chris Wilson once saw it growing at Sawdon, where it was the dominant species over one-and-a-half acres with thousands of plants more than twelve-inches tall.

Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Field woundwort (*Stachys arvensis*)



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 - Field woundwort (*Stachys arvensis*)

- Can be locally frequent on chalk, also light, acidic soils
- Found in arable, gardens and allotments; local and declining in UK
- Spring germinating
- Similar in form to Hedge woundwort but much smaller, with pale pink flowers and less offensive smell from leaves when crushed!

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.

