

Cornfield Flowers Project



Species Cards



Sharp-leaved fluellen (*Kickxia elatine*)

Least Concern

Common and relatively stable in the south of England, at its northern range limit in our area

A low-growing mat-forming plant that will scramble amongst other vegetation, with tiny flowers

REASONS FOR DECLINE:

Herbicides; modern competitive crop varieties

Our Sharp-leaved fluellen experience...

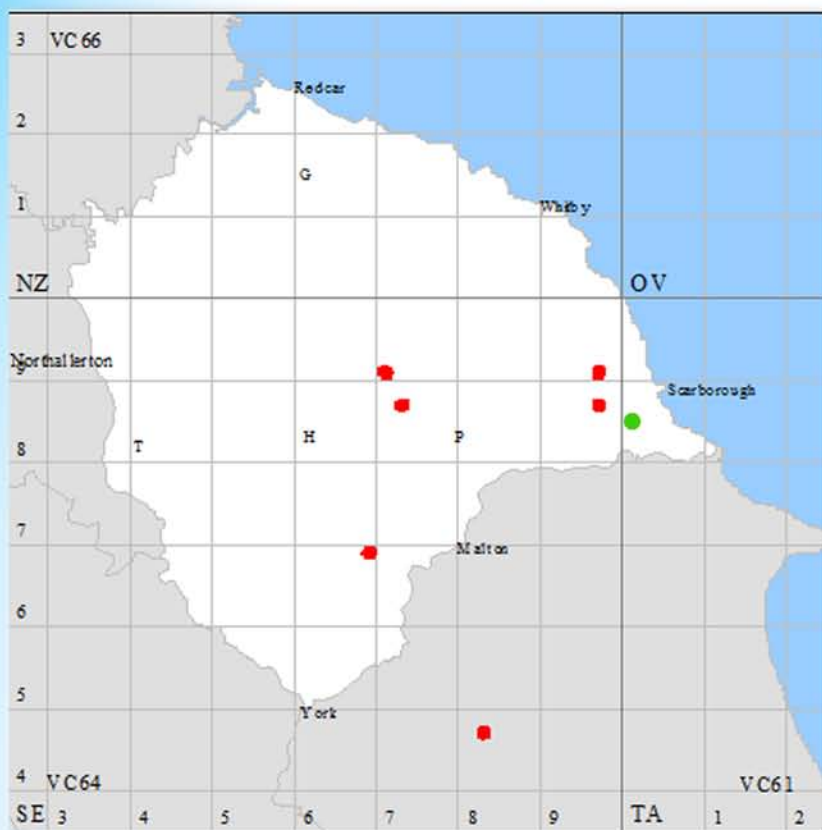
Sharp-leaved fluellen reaches its northern limit in our area, and together with Round-leaved fluellen (*Kickxia spuria*) had been recorded in the Scarborough area by members of the Scarborough Naturalists at some unspecified time in the past.

Chris Wilson found it growing in a cornfield near Seamer in 2004, this being the first record of it in a considerable number of years. When Chris approached the farmer, a friend of his, for permission to take some plants for our nursery at the Ryedale Folk Museum his answer was "There's only one condition Chris – that you take the bloody lot!" We tried, but not very hard and consequently Sharp-leaved fluellen still grows every year on this site, protected by a strategically placed electric pole that prevents the sprayer getting too close.

People from the south of England may wonder why we bother protecting Sharp-leaved fluellen since it is a common plant in the south. However unless the site on the Isle of Man is still extant, our site near Seamer is its most northerly, and so is very rare in our area. Eva Crackles tells us that in the East Riding it is rare and was last seen on the Wolds at North Newbald in 1977.

All sites shown on the map overleaf, other than the one near Seamer, are introductions made by the CFP. Of Round-leaved fluellen, so far we have found no trace.

Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Sharp-leaved fluellen (*Kickxia elatine*)



Key

● Post-2000 records
(inc. CFP introductions)

■ Pre-2000 records

● Original known site

G: Guisborough T: Thirsk

H: Helmsley P: Pickering

Data: BSBI, 2014 Maps produced by MapMate®

Key Facts - Sharp-leaved fluellen (*Kickxia elatine*)

- Found across a range of calcareous based soils
- Spring germinating
- Late-flowering; they can only be seen from July onwards, and then with some difficulty due to their tiny size!
- A member of the Figwort family, its identification could only be confused with the similar Round-leaved fluellen

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.

