

# Cornfield Flowers Project



## Species Cards



### Early forget-me-not (*Myosotis ramosissima*)

#### Least Concern

Very similar to Field forget-me-not - generally smaller but wide variability means more involved botanical features are needed for identification

Less frequent than Field forget-me-not, but may be overlooked - found in 13% of CFP surveys

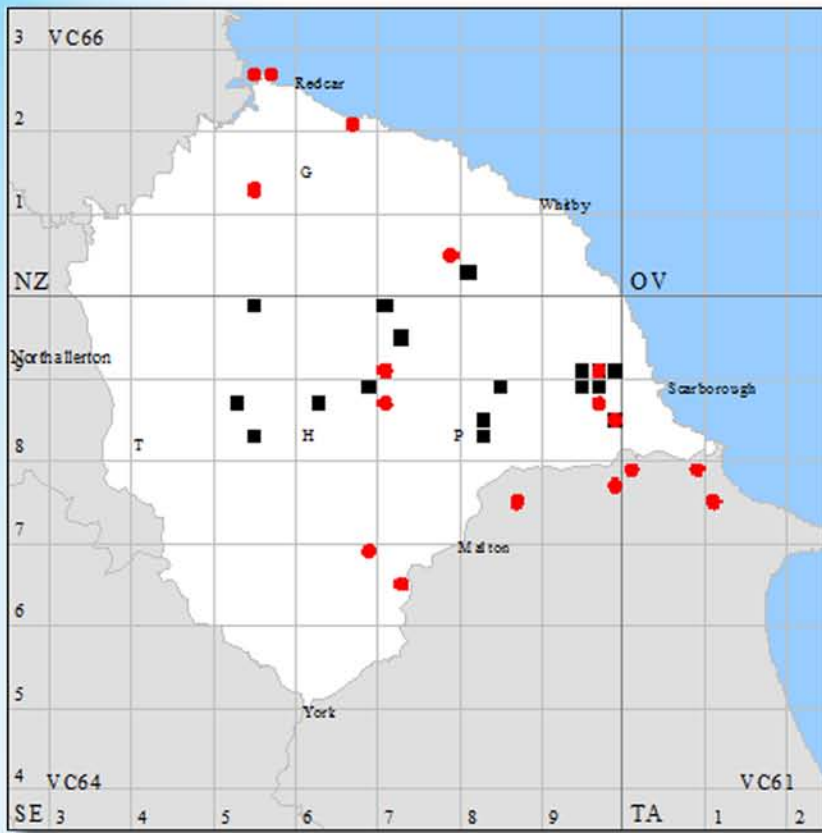
**REASONS FOR DECLINE:**  
Herbicides

### ***Our Early forget-me-not experience...***

Another annual Forget-me-not, *ramosissima* can be found in bare ground in calcareous grasslands, sandy sites, railway tracks, quarries, rocks and walls – anywhere open and free-draining. We find it infrequently in arable surveys, mostly because it's not common in North-east Yorkshire generally, but partly because of the complexities in identifying it.

It can be readily distinguished from Changing forget-me-not (*Myosotis discolor*), but separating it from Field forget-me-not (*Myosotis arvensis*) is a demanding task – largely dependent on the comparative lengths of each flower stalk and, if you read the textbooks, the size of the flowers. However in the nutrient-deprived conditions that we often survey, a depauperate *arvensis* cannot be relied upon to display any difference in size with a *ramosissima* whatsoever. An occasional head-scratcher, that's for sure.

# Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Early forget-me-not (*Myosotis ramosissima*)



## 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 - Early forget-me-not (*Myosotis ramosissima*)

- Found on dry, infertile soils in open habitats
- Autumn germinating
- Relatively frequent in most of UK, but rare and coastal in Scotland and Ireland
- Smaller flowers than Field forget-me-not, up to 3mm across and all blue - unlike Changing forget-me-not, which has small yellow flowers which later turn blue

### 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.

