

# Cornfield Flowers Project



## Species Cards



### Prickly poppy (*Papaver argemone*)

#### Vulnerable

Many northern sites have been lost to agricultural intensification

Habit of dropping petals by afternoon makes it difficult to locate in wild

**REASONS FOR DECLINE:**  
Nitrogen application; herbicides

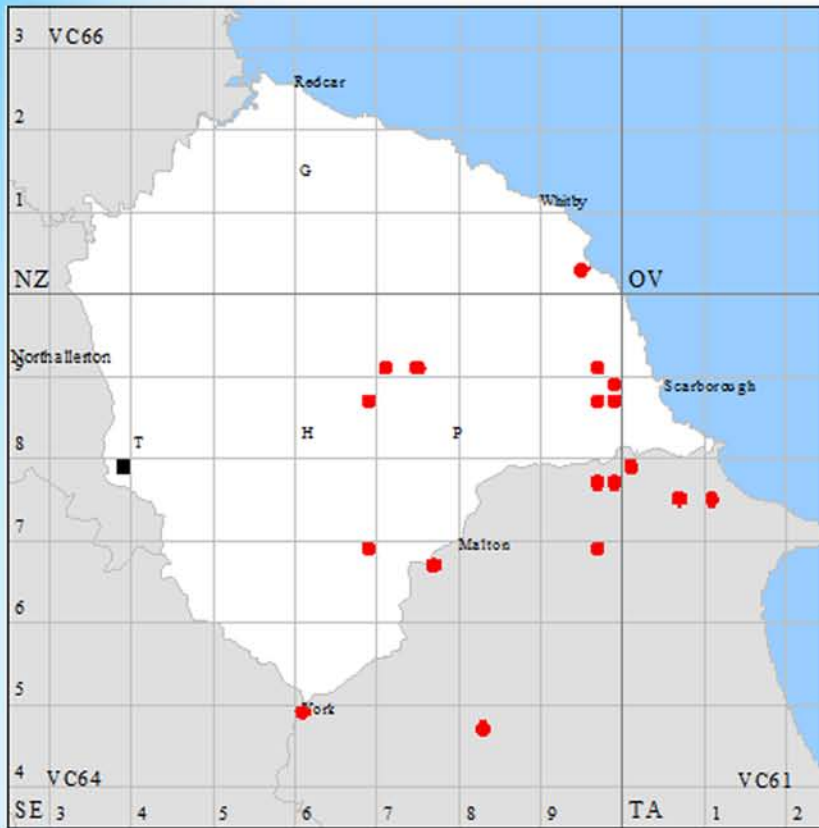
### ***Our Prickly poppy experience...***

Although Prickly poppy has been described as infrequent and uncommon in our area in the past, we would now consider it rare. It grows on calcareous sands and soils in quarries and arable fields. We found it in 2003 at Spikers Hill Farm, West Ayton - just one plant - and did not re-find it there during the following two years' surveys. However, in 2005 we discovered good numbers growing at Glebe Farm, Potter Brompton. A local botanist also found it at Kirkbymoorside.

In 2010 Andrew Middlewood, son of John Middlewood who farms at Glebe Farm, mentioned to his father that the Prickly poppy was flowering well on his conservation headland across the A64. John did not have time to go across in the morning so he went mid-afternoon, and found no sign of poppies. He asked Andrew again where he had seen them, and the following morning followed him to the headland, where all the poppies were flowering just as he'd said...

John phoned Chris Wilson to see if he had an explanation. After some investigation, the discovery was made that Prickly poppy flowers in the morning, but drops its petals by afternoon of the same day. Two days after this discovery, Chris was up at Spikers Hill Farm at 10 o'clock in the morning to see if the Prickly poppy could be re-found at its first known site - five plants were discovered, on two different sites!

# Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Prickly poppy (*Papaver argemone*)



## 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 - Prickly poppy (*Papaver argemone*)

- Formally widespread, but now more restricted to south-eastern England
- Prefers free-draining soils on chalk, sand and calcareous clay loams
- Autumn and spring germinating
- Petals fall the afternoon of flowering, leaving a typical poppy pod but featuring prounced curved prickles

## 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.

