

# Cornfield Flowers Project



## Species Cards



### Thyme-leaved speedwell (*Veronica serpyllifolia*)

#### Least Concern

Another perennial Speedwell, more at home in grassy heaths and woodland rides, occasionally found in arable habitats

Recorded in 10% of CFP surveys

**REASONS FOR DECLINE:**  
Herbicides; annual cultivations

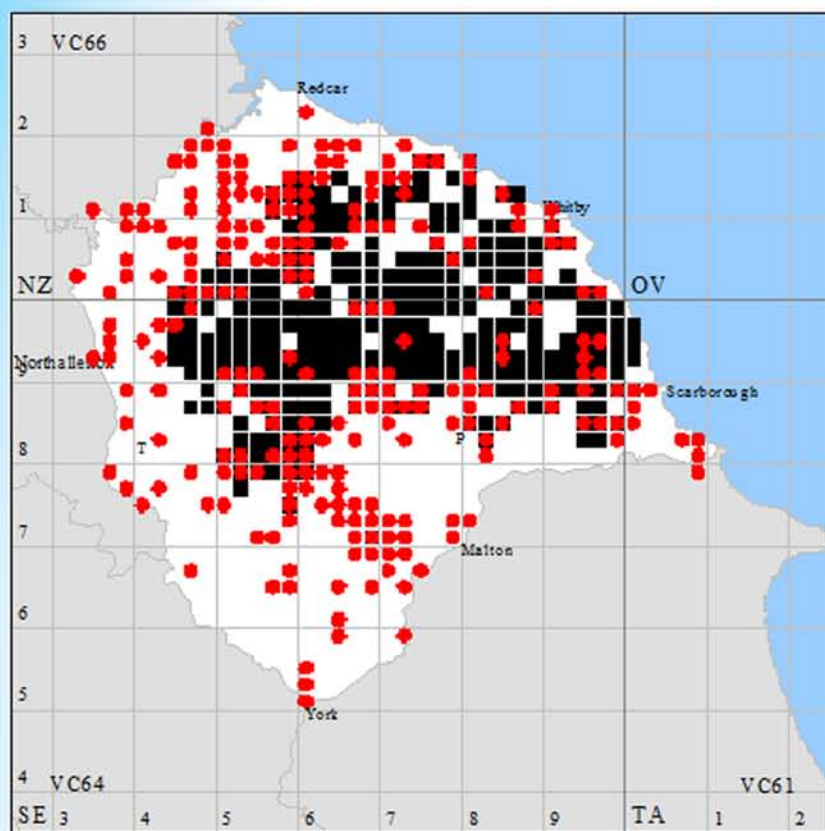
#### ***Our Thyme-leaved speedwell experience...***

Another *Veronica* that comprises two sub-species: *subsp. serpyllifolia* is the commonly found plant, whilst *subsp. humifusa* is a specialist of Scottish mountains, so happily none of our concern.

As a perennial, it isn't ideally suited to arable conditions so tends to migrate into the field from the margins. Its usual habitats include woodland rides, short grasslands, rock ledges and gardens. We only tend to come across it about once a year, and it doesn't persist at the same sites for very long.

Identification-wise this plant has slender, erect flowering stems, medium-sized pale blue or white flowers with dark veins, and shiny, oval-shaped leaves that are reminiscent of Thyme, hence the reference to the corresponding Latin word, *serpyllum*.

# Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Thyme-leaved speedwell (*Veronica serpyllifolia*)



## 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 - Thyme-leaved speedwell (*Veronica serpyllifolia*)

- A creeping plant with clusters of white or pale-blue flowers are the diagnostic features
- Has two sub-species, *serpyllifolia* is the one normally seen (subsp. *humifusa* is a montane specialist of Scotland)
- Autumn and spring germinating
- Preference for damp, acid soils means less commonly recorded by CFP than other Speedwells

### 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.

