

Tansy beetle (*Chrysolina graminis*)

DESCRIPTION



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The Tansy beetle is big bumbling green beetle that has captured the hearts and minds of people, particularly in York where the largest population survives along the River Ouse.

In York this is a floodplain inhabitant that feeds on Tansy, and historically on mint in the Fens where it was recently rediscovered at Woodwalton Fen.

Tansy beetles rarely fly; they find new food-plants and habitats by walking.

There are a number of threats causing a long term decline in Tansy beetle population sizes and distribution.

Riverside walkers enjoy seeing the beetles, looking like green baubles on little Christmas trees, and there is keen engagement with the beetle including a Tansy Beetle Action Group (TBAG) and a project establishing local Tansy beetle champions who will protect the beetle.

CONSERVATION ACTION

The Tansy beetle has greatly declined and remains in difficulty.

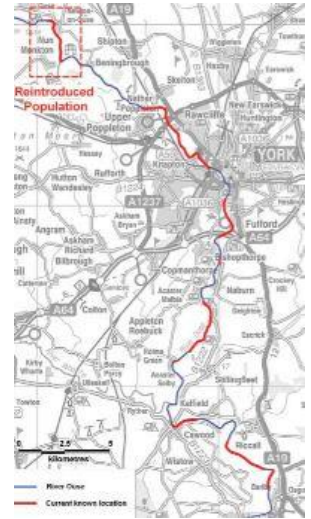
Non-native Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) plants are spreading and out-competing the Tansy.

Tansy can also be eliminated by overgrazing, shading, herbicides and misguided ragwort pullers.

TBAG and the local Tansy beetle champions are working with land managers in York to get the habitat right for this very rare beetle.

Habitat restoration work in Cambridgeshire aims to create the right conditions for the reestablishment of populations across the Fens.

The beetles are monitored and bred in captivity to ensure that the populations do not disappear.



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