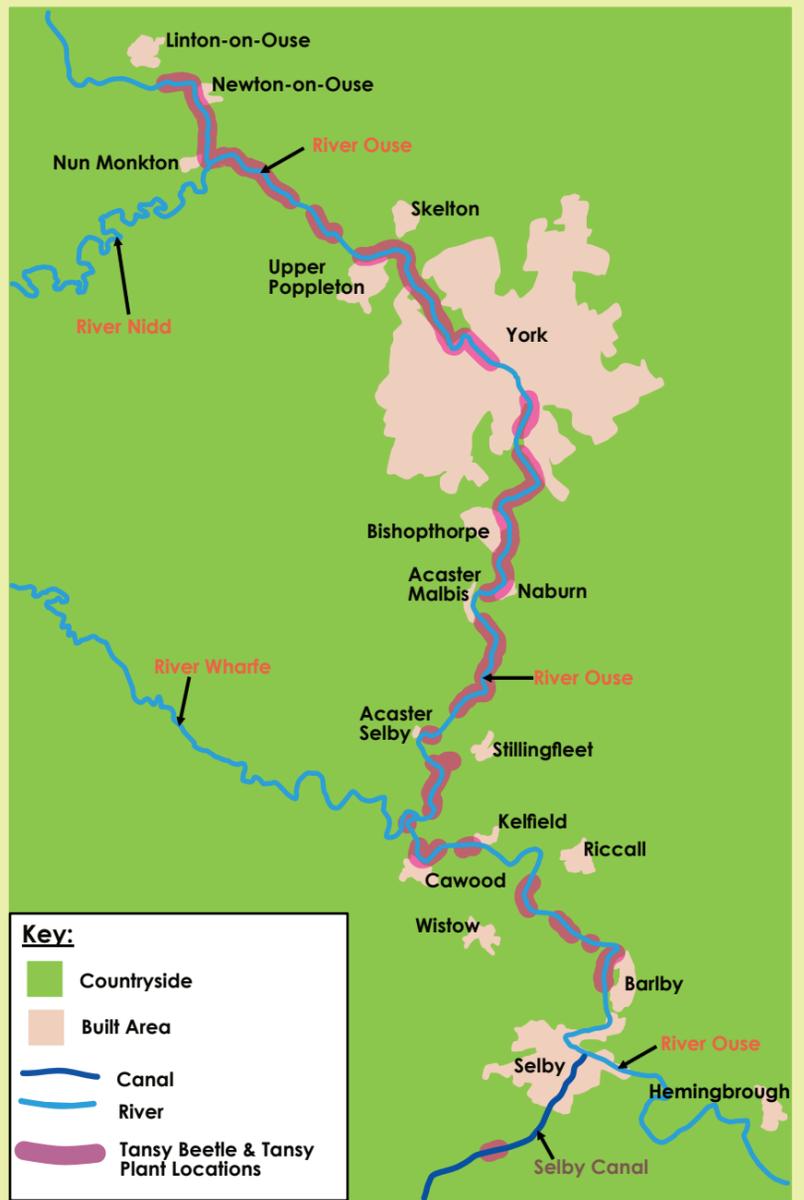




Tansy beetle on Tansy flowers © Geoff Oxford

Location of Tansy beetles along the River Ouse and Selby Canal



Action for the Tansy Beetle 'the Jewel of York'



Yorkshire hotspot

The banks of the River Ouse near York are a nationally important area for this beetle, where a large proportion of the British population is found. Therefore, it is important that the banks are in part managed for the beetle and its York food-plant, Tansy. Tansy *Tanacetum vulgare*, with its yellow button-like flowers, is a common riverside plant that often grows in clumps. Threats to the beetle on the Ouse, include:

- Tansy uprooted when mistaken for Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*
- Tansy and beetles eaten by high numbers of grazing animals
- Tansy clumps over-shadowed by willow or out-competed by the invasive plant Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*
- Mowing the riverbank when the beetle is vulnerable (March to October)
- Bank erosion and summer flooding



Tansy and competitive plants © Geoff Oxford



Tansy beetle on a one pence piece © Geoff Oxford

The beetle

The Tansy beetle *Chrysolina graminis* is an iridescent green leaf beetle that is affectionately known as the Jewel of York. This beautiful beetle is roughly 1cm long - about a quarter of the size of a one pence coin. The Tansy beetle was once more widespread in Britain, but this striking beetle is now restricted to the banks of the River Ouse (near York) and small areas of the Cambridgeshire Fens. The declines in this beetle's population and restricted location means it is a conservation priority and so is listed as Endangered (at risk of extinction) on the national Red List of threatened species.

How to recognise Tansy

Tansy has button-like flowers that mature in July to October. It has a strong aromatic scent with leaves dissected and finely toothed. Similar plants, such as Ragwort, have daisy like flowers, whilst their leaves are not toothed and have an unpleasant smell when crushed.



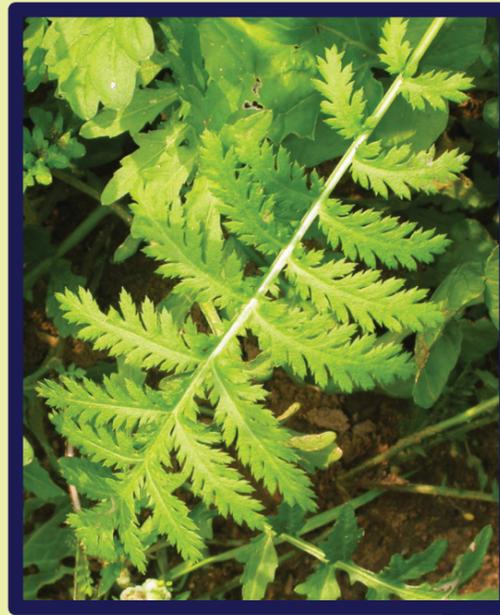
Ragwort plant © Douglas Louis



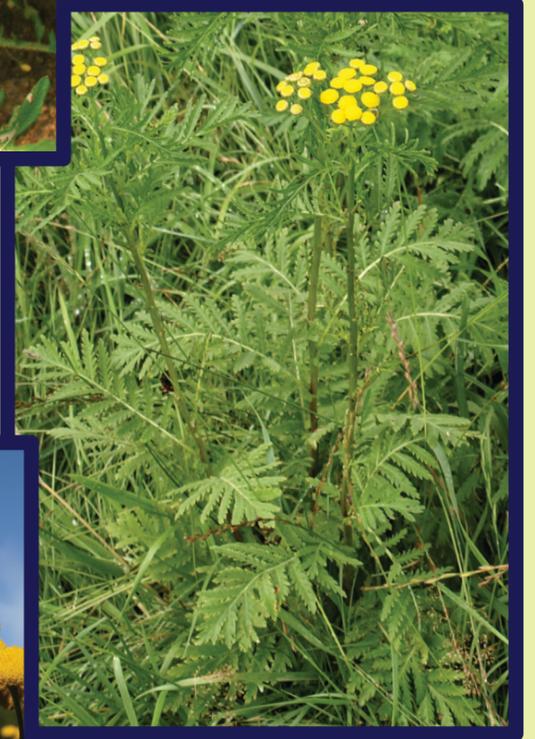
Ragwort leaves © Douglas Louis



Ragwort flowers © Douglas Louis



Tansy leaf © Geoff Oxford



Tansy plant © Douglas Louis



Tansy Flowers © Douglas Louis



Good tansy beetle habitat © Geoff Oxford



Tansy beetles are often found on non-food plants © Geoff Oxford

How you can help

- Seed and plug plant Tansy on your land, the closer to the river the better
- Develop patches of Tansy that cover an area of at least 2-3m² and are no more than 50m apart – ideally the bigger and closer together patches are the better!
- Reduce grazing of Tansy by fencing or grazing between October and February
- When cutting areas with Tansy, avoid patches or schedule between October to February when the beetles are below ground
- Cut back or remove scrub/competitive plants – particularly willow and invasive Himalayan Balsam near Tansy patches
- Keep an eye on your Tansy patches and beetles, and let us know of any interesting changes

TBAG

The Tansy Beetle Action Group (TBAG) is a partnership of local and national organisations working together to conserve the beetle on the River Ouse and in Cambridgeshire.

Contact tansybeetlevc@gmail.com



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