

2025 Tansy Beetle Conservation Summary

The 2025 surveys for Tansy Beetles showed another year of decline for Tansy Beetle numbers, with the 72% decrease of 2024 being followed by a 70% drop in numbers for 2025, where only 3685 Beetles were observed across the River Ouse range. These figures are potentially not as dramatic as they first seem however, as this could actually be an artifact of a shift that has been observed in peak beetle activity periods due to the weather conditions through the year, leading to the beetles hibernating earlier than anticipated.

There were several transects in which beetle numbers saw an increase on the 2024 survey numbers, with Rawcliffe Meadows increasing by 88% to 60 beetles, the transect between Clifton Bridge and Scarborough Railway seeing 367 beetles leading to an increase of 194%, Linton Locks to Newton-on-Ouse seeing an increase of 50% with a count of 716 beetles, a 192% increase at the Blue Bridge to Fulford Picnic area transect with a beetle count of 35, and the Riccall to Barlby transect increasing by 394% with a beetle count of 63.

Ark sites also saw declines in beetle numbers from 2024, with Askham Bryan College observing more beetles in the spring surveys than during the summer survey window and of these ark sites, the numbers seen at the farm site were higher than those observed at the wildlife park site. A single beetle was seen at the York St. John Sport Field ark site, which saw beetle introductions in 2022 and 2023. Further ark sites are still in development and plans for 2026 include beetle introductions to the newly developed Flamingo Land ark site and reintroductions into the redeveloped York Museum Gardens ark site. Work is continuing for ark site development at Bugtopia Zoo, Hornsea, and Banham Zoological Gardens.

Several individual reports have been sent to landowners in attempt to encourage more sympathetic approaches to land use and management, which is hoped to help increase beetle numbers through increasing optimum habitat whilst also mitigating any anthropogenic effects on the decline of beetle numbers.



clutch of seven Tansy Beetle eggs on the underside of a Hemp Nettle leaf (*Galeopsis tetrahit*) seen at the Woodwalton Fen NNR. The developing larvae can be seen through the eggshells, indicating that the eggs were close to hatching.