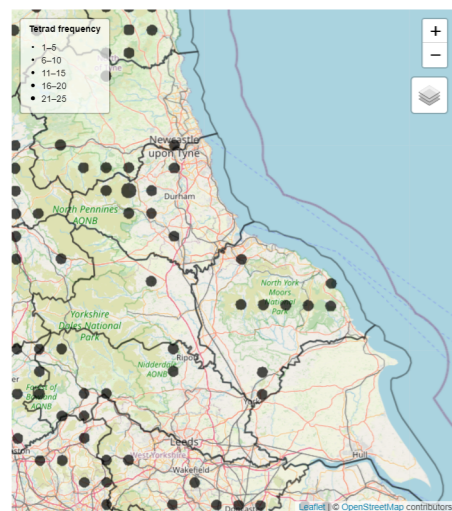


Conservation of *Genista* in Durham and Yorkshire

By Barry Jobson

Genista anglica (Petty Whin)



BSBI Plant Atlas: <https://plantatlas2020.org/atlas/2cd4p9h.8n8>

Classified as 'Vulnerable' to extinction in England.

Flowering peak in May, with seed ripening in July and August. Germination takes place over two years. Propagation also possible from cuttings in late summer.

Populations vary from one or two plants and produce little viable seed, to over a hundred with abundant seed.

Genista anglica is an ace at hiding in plain sight. Finding new plants is extremely difficult except for when in full-flower. It really is like playing a game of "Where's Wally?"



Despite this, in 2022 and 2023 four new sites were found for VC62.

Herbarium specimens and historic records hint at lost sites and a wider distribution. In fact, two of these recent finds may be rediscoveries found during early 20th Century Yorkshire Naturalist Union excursions.

Successes:

- New populations found in VC62
- High germination rate
- Cuttings growing well
- Linking up with Whitby Naturalists

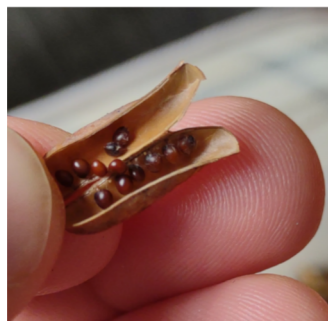
Challenges:

- Difficult terrain
- Surveying time clashes with bird nesting season

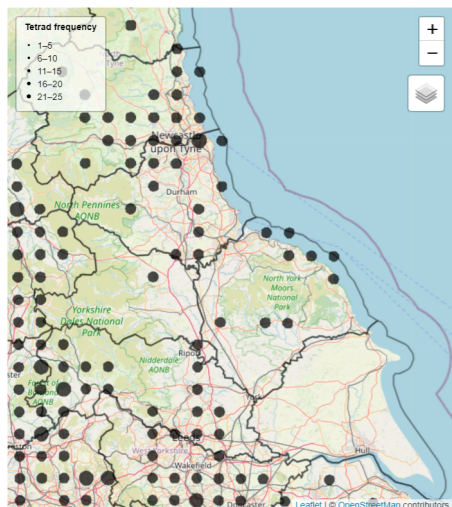


What next?

- Work with land-owners to reintroduce and link-up populations.
- Work with land managers on appropriate management
- Survey historic sites to hopefully re-find populations



Genista tinctoria (Dyer's Greenweed)



BSBI Plant Atlas: <https://plantatlas2020.org/atlas/2cd4p9h.c2m>

Classified as 'Vulnerable' to extinction in England.

Flowering peak in June, with seed ripening in August and September. Germination takes place over two years. Propagation also possible from cuttings in late summer.

Populations are too small in most cases, producing little viable seed. Few sites produce abundant seed.

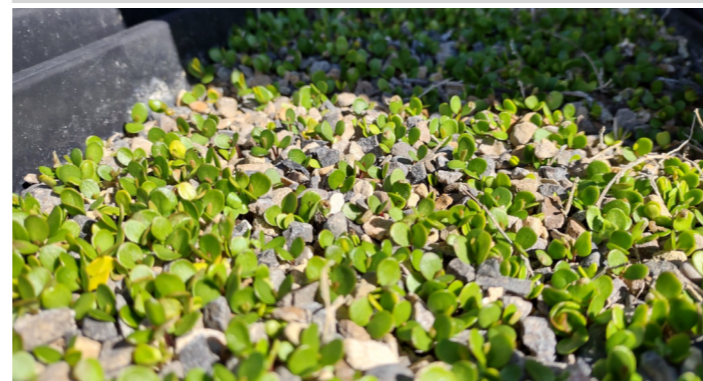
Successes:

- High germination from some sites
- Working with Durham Wildlife Trust and Whitby Naturalists to plant seedlings back in the wild
- Cuttings growing well for ex-situ pollination between otherwise too-distant plants
- A healthy new population for VC66 found in 2020
- Raised awareness with land owners



What next?

- Gain access to new sites
- Work with land-owners to link-up and reinforce isolated populations, as well as reintroduce to former strongholds



Challenges:

- Gaining site access to some known records on private land
- Collecting viable seed and cuttings from weak and likely inbred populations



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