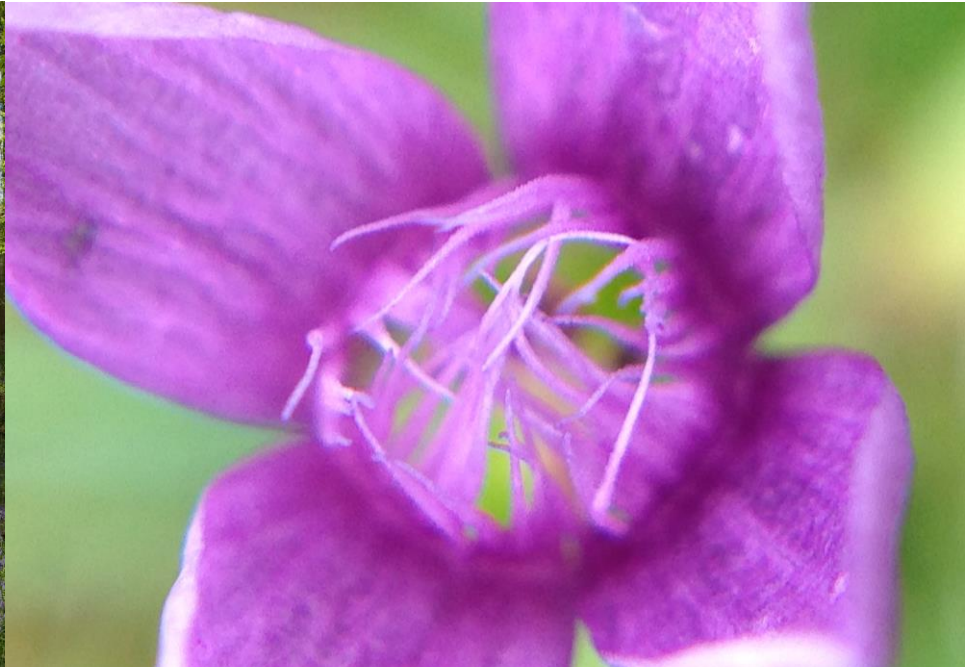


Species Factsheet

the
species
recovery
trust



Gentianella campestris

Field Gentian



Red List Status:
Vulnerable

Threat of extinction:
High

Main threats:
Loss of sites,
eutrophication,
habitat
management
changes and
neglect

Description: Erect vascular plant that grows to 30cm, with simple or branched stems, purple flowers, 4 calyx and coronal lobes, 2 outer hidings, 2 smaller inner lobes and corolla measuring 15-25mm.

Lifecycle: Annual or biennial, with usually between 7 and 10 hermaphrodite flowers. Visited by bumblebees and Lepidoptera. Regeneration is exclusively by seed, and it is not known if they have a persistency in the seed bank.

Habitat: Grows on calcareous grasslands, pastures, upland grasslands, grass heaths, sand dunes and machair, and on acid soils up to 915m.

Distribution: Widespread in Scotland and in northern England and North Wales but now very rare in England south of Cumbria and the Pennines. Widespread in northern Europe extending to the Alps.

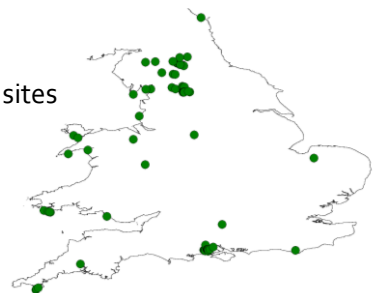
Status: Classified as Vulnerable and is therefore considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.

Reasons for decline: Sites lost due to overgrazing in the uplands and neglect of lowland pastures, eutrophication and atmospheric pollution and fragmentation of populations.

Protection under the Law: Listed under the NERC Act 2006 as a Species of Principle Importance and the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) as a Priority Species.

What we are doing:

- Establishing a monitoring network across all sites
- Undertaking ecological research to identify optimum management
- Creating *ex situ* populations for eventual re-introduction to the wild
- Carrying out habitat restoration work across the network of sites to enlarge the areas where plants can grow



What you can do:

- If you live locally volunteer to become a site monitor
- Become a species supporter and help fund the project