

Species Recovery Report 2023 - Tormentil mining bee *Andrena tarsata* in North Yorkshire

In 2023 there was a significant success for Tormentil mining bee on Allerthorpe Common, extensive habitat management resulted in a large amount of Tormentil growth and it also saw the Tormentil mining bee population for this site was at its highest, when compared over the last five years. A standardised transect method was used together with ad hoc observations and the survey work at Allerthorpe by SRT was supported by two great volunteers. Using the standardised method 69 individuals were recorded in 2023, compared to 8 individuals using the same methodology in 2022. This was also higher than 2021, when 28 individuals were recorded.

This suggests that the bees are starting to respond to the management practices being implemented. In early 2023 Forest England (FE) did a very severe cut of scrub along the bee track; additionally, scrub was removed in key areas in the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT) reserve, and a new bee bank was created by the amazing YWT volunteers – this work all appears to have greatly benefitted the species.

Results from the other North Yorkshire sites were mixed. The species was not re-found at Jugger Howe in 2023 and the numbers and habitat in previous years at this site have been very low – it is possible that this small population is going extinct and we were a bit too late to save it. The species is still present at Pamperdale Moor but in low number, unfortunately there is no engagement from the landowner with the work. The species has not been re-found yet on Strensall Common nor at the Hole of Horcum, but efforts are still being made at these large sites to check.

In 2023 SRT were also worked with Agrisounds to record *Andrena tarsata* and we may have achieved this, and we hoping in 2024 to be able to test the listening devices in the field.

Andrena tarsata female, credited Ian Andrews

