

Take action and get involved!

Landowners

If you are a landowner in the project area and would like more information or a free no obligation site visit, please email wcb@bumblebeeconservation.org.



Volunteer

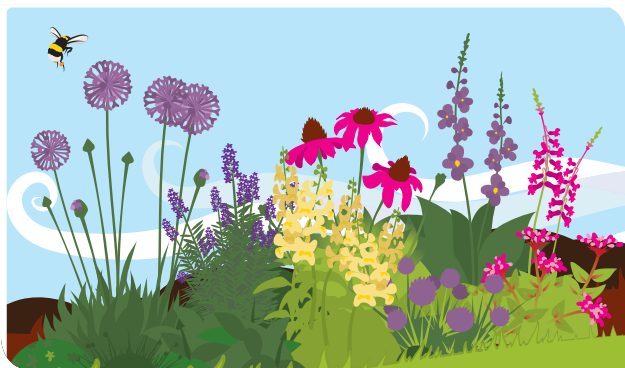
Become a BeeWalker and help monitor bumblebee populations in your local area. Even if you are outside of the West Country Buzz project area, you can still take part and make a really useful contribution to our national recording scheme. Visit beewalk.org.uk for details of how to join.

Take part in our identification training workshops, surveying and bioblitz events, advertised on the Trust's website 'Events' page.

Help the project spread the message about the plight of the bumblebee by managing a stall at events, or manage one of your own in your local area.

Bee friendly in your own back garden

Making small changes can make a big difference for our bumblebees – by planting bee friendly flowers you will be providing much needed forage for bumblebees and other pollinators. You can find out how bee friendly your garden is by visiting our Bee kind tool at beekind.bumblebeeconservation.org.



For more information or to become a volunteer, please contact wcb@bumblebeeconservation.org.

Our vision

Our vision is to ensure that our communities and countryside will be rich in bumblebees and colourful wildflowers, supporting a diversity of wildlife and habitats for everyone to enjoy.

Our mission:

To halt and then reverse the decline of bumblebees.



With thanks to:

Nick Withers, North Devon AONB
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bumblebeeconservation.org



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West Country Buzz

Securing a future for North Devon's bumblebees



bumblebeeconservation.org

About the Trust

The Bumblebee Conservation Trust was established in 2006 and is a science led organisation with projects across the UK. The Trust aims to inspire people to help provide the habitat these charismatic insects require across communities and the countryside to ensure that populations have a long term future in the UK.

West Country Buzz aims to safeguard threatened bumblebee species on the North Devon coast, by working with landowners and communities.

The Brown-banded carder bee (*Bombus humilis*), and Moss carder bee (*Bombus muscorum*), were once widespread across Devon, but alarmingly are now found at just a few sites along the North Devon coast. Both species are declining nationally.

The project is working with landowners in North Devon to create and advise on managing bumblebee habitat, including free assistance with Countryside Stewardship and access to seeds. This helps support the declining Carder bees and a range of other bumblebee species and pollinating insects.

With help from volunteers, we are carrying out bumblebee surveys and monitoring, through BeeWalk, the Trust's national bumblebee recording scheme.



Why 'West Country Buzz'?

West Country Buzz focuses on the North Devon coastline. This area holds the last remaining populations of the Brown-banded carder bee and Moss carder bee in the county. With the help of volunteers and landowners, we are mapping these species' distribution and monitoring populations. Habitat management and creation is targeted in and around where populations are found.



Photo credit: Nick Withers.

Moss carder bee (*Bombus muscorum*)

Species in decline

The Brown-banded carder bee and Moss carder bee are at risk from loss of habitat. In the south west of England, they are mostly restricted to coastal grassland as this provides the large areas of flower-rich habitat they require. However, they are vulnerable, due in part to coastal erosion and habitat fragmentation. A late-emerging species, queens usually emerge from hibernation in May – they rely on late-flowering habitat, and so are under threat from loss of forage due to early hay cuts.

What are we doing?

Habitat management and creation

This is through free habitat management advice, help with Countryside Stewardship, and access to seeds. The project is encouraging neighbouring landowners to work together, to join up bumblebee habitat across the landscape, which will assist isolated populations to move around and expand, making them less vulnerable to extinction.

Surveying and monitoring

Distribution data is essential to enable the project to implement the correct habitat management and monitor how the bumblebees are responding. The project is encouraging people to join, by signing up to the Trust's national recording scheme, BeeWalk.

Working with communities

Delivering talks, workshops and field practice sessions, the project is working with North Devon communities to raise awareness of the plight of the bumblebee, and to find and train local volunteers. The project aims to inspire people to join us. Involvement from local communities is essential to safeguard these bumblebee species.

