

Take action and get involved!

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.

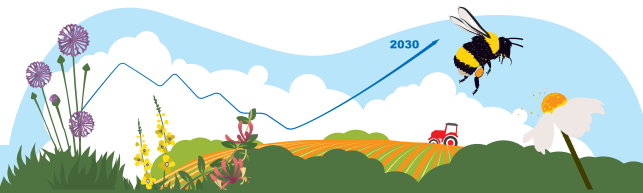


We have teamed up with Kent Wildlife Trust to award the **Garden with the Best Buzz** category as a part of their Wild About Gardens awards. For more information on how to improve your garden for bumblebees, contact the Making a Buzz for the Coast team who will help you take the next step!

Volunteering

From conservation work parties, to bumblebee surveying, you can help at events or provide gardening advice. The project has many opportunities to become involved.

For more information, or to become a volunteer, please email the team on: mab@bumblebeeconservation.org or telephone on: 01795 411548.



vision

A world where bumblebees are thriving and valued

mission

To increase the number and distribution of bumblebees



Photo credits: Steven Falk, Dave Watson and Nick Withers.

Making a Buzz for the Coast received National Lottery funding through the Heritage Lottery Fund, thanks to National Lottery players.

This is a partnership project with Kent Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Natural England, Kent County Council, Thanet District Council, Thames Water and Swale Borough Council.



bumblebeeconservation.org



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Making a Buzz for the Coast

Securing a future for Kent's bumblebees



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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.

Making a Buzz for the Coast aims to secure a future for the wild bees of Kent's coast, in which they not only survive but thrive.

Spanning 135 miles of Kent coastline from Dartford to Deal, Making a Buzz for the Coast aims to protect and strengthen Kent's wild bee populations. The project will create and restore habitat including flower rich 'stepping stones' to link isolated populations of bumblebees. Surveying habitat and bumblebees is an essential part of the project and will enable us to build better data, evaluate our activities and monitor bumblebee populations along the coast.

Through a variety of events and free courses the project hopes to raise awareness of bumblebees and other pollinators, including the benefits they provide and what can be done to help them. We aim to inspire communities to take action.



Why 'Making a Buzz for the Coast'?

Much of Kent's cultural and economic heritage is intrinsically linked to bees. With a long tradition of fruit production and flowering crops, Kent remains heavily reliant on bees and the pollination services they provide, and we are not talking just honeybees! Research shows that declines in wild pollinator populations over recent decades negatively impacts on crop yields as well as fruit and seed quality. Bumblebees are fundamental in an ecosystem and their declines are also linked to decreases in wildflower diversity in addition to impacting wider biodiversity.

Species in decline

The Kent coastline is a hotspot for a number of rare bumblebees such as the Shrill carder bee (*Bombus sylvarum*) – one of the UK's most threatened bumblebee species – Brown-banded carder bee (*Bombus humilis*) and Moss carder bee (*Bombus muscorum*). Rare solitary bees are also found along this coastline, such as the Sea aster mining bee (*Colletes halophilus*). These rare bees live in isolated populations, making them even more vulnerable to local extinction.

(right) Sea aster mining bee (*Colletes halophilus*); and (below) Shrill carder bee (*Bombus sylvarum*).



Photo-credit: Steven Falk.



Photo-credit: Dave Watson.

What are we doing?

Providing habitat

The project is working with partners and other landowners to provide pollinator habitat. The project will:

- Create and restore habitat on five sites with the RSPB, Thanet District Council and Thames Water
- Work with Kent Wildlife Trust in Swale creating 'Bee-roads'
- Provide free and bespoke advice to a variety of landowners.



Monitoring populations

Data is needed to determine where best to put our efforts and to inform the land management advice we give. We are training and supporting people to carry out bumblebee surveys and to bumble hunt in their local areas as part of our BeeWalk scheme.

Buzzing communities

We are touring the coast with a packed schedule of events, activities, competitions and free training courses. Through sharing knowledge we hope to raise awareness about the importance of bumblebees and pollination in Kent, build pride in the rare species present and most importantly of all, inspire people to take some action to help.

