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# Making a Buzz for the Coast

## Bumblebee review 2018



**1,026**  
bee records



## Welcome to our first Making a Buzz for the Coast (MaB) project annual review

The project's purpose, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, is working to safeguard the nationally important populations of bumblebees found in Kent and along the north Kent coast.

Bumblebees, as wild pollinators, are much loved and intrinsically linked to the horticultural and food-growing history and culture of the county.

**Making a Buzz for the Coast** is working hard to provide suitable habitats where bumblebee populations can flourish, and encourage greater public and volunteer involvement in the conservation, monitoring and public recognition of this vital part of Kent's heritage – our beloved bumblebees, the sound of summer.

### Project headlines for 2018

2018 has been an excellent year for recording Kent's bumblebees – see table for species recorded.

Have you seen this bee? ... Why not submit your sighting through iRecord [www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/](http://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/)



Habitat advice given across  
**413** hectares



## Bumblebee review 2018

**Making a Buzz for the Coast** has celebrated a very exciting first year! From conservation task days creating and restoring habitat along the coastline to engagement at a wide range of events. A huge thank you to our volunteers, without whom we would not have been able to achieve all we have in the first year of this project.

This review takes a look at some of the highlights of 2018, with a particular focus on the bumblebee data we received in the first year and how everyone can get involved.

*Written and produced by Lauren Kennedy, Outreach and Volunteer Officer, and Emma Lansdell, Project Manager.*

### Shrill carder bee (*Bombus sylvarum*)

One of the rarest bumblebees in the UK, the Shrill carder bee can be found along the north coast of Kent. This is a distinctive bee which can be identified by its pale grey yellow colouring, black band of hair between the wings and reddish orange tail.

Thanks to the efforts of those conducting **BeeWalk and recording sightings** through iRecord, we are able to map the locations in which we find this rare species.



**29** task days creating and restoring habitat



**12** Swale beeroads, improving  
**11.5** ha for bumblebees

Volunteer time  
**2,870** hours

## Making a Buzz for the Coast BeeWalks

- **20 new BeeWalks in 2018** – now a total of 39 BeeWalks
- **110 transect walks** in 2018
- A total of **257 hours** spent beewalking
- **190.5 km** walked
- **1,026** bee records
- **14** bumblebee species recorded



### Meet two of our beewalkers

**Friends, Mandy and Sam, beewalking in Margate**

**Mandy** – Since doing BeeWalk I always need to give myself more time to get anywhere! If I hear a buzz I can't walk past it without trying to ID the bee!

**Sam** – Who wouldn't want to walk our beautiful coastline on a warm and sunny day, taking in the nature around you and learning more and more every time? The support and training we have received from the Trust has given us the confidence to conduct regular BeeWalks. It is good to know that our data can be used to monitor the local bee populations and our simple actions can support the conservation of these valuable species.



**6** ID workshops and a total of  
**112** attendees

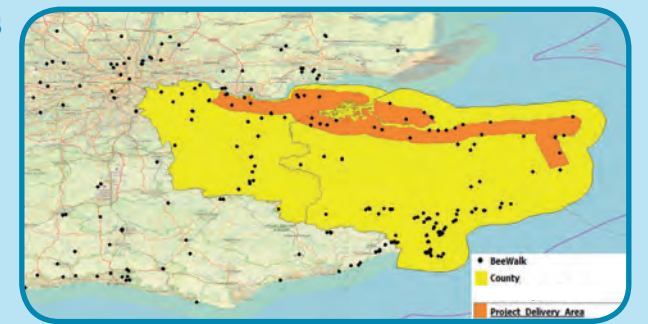


**45** community events and workshops

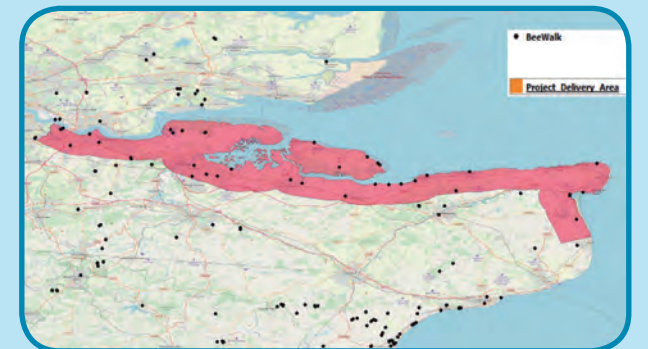
**2** traineeships

**4** project displays

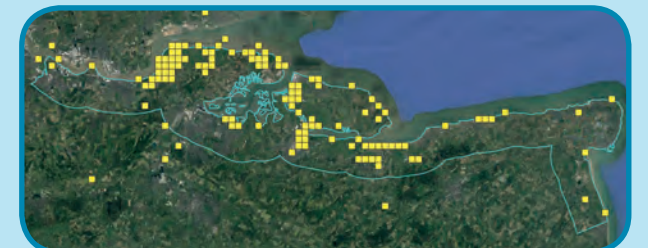
Total engagement  
**3,368**



The coverage of BeeWalk transects in the East and West Kent vice-counties, highlighting the **Making a Buzz for the Coast** project area.



Locations of BeeWalks highlighting those within the **Making a Buzz for the Coast** project area.

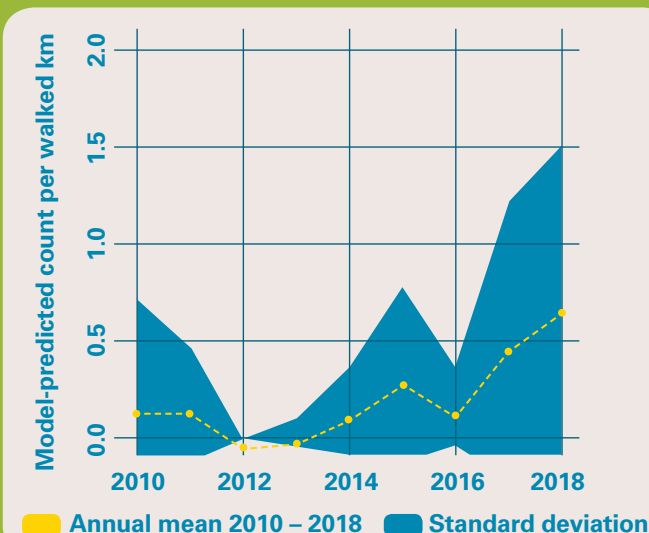


Location of Shrill carder bee (*Bombus sylvarum*) records from 2000 – 2018. Data taken from iRecord.





## Mean number of Shrill carder bee (*Bombus sylvarum*) counted on transects



The per-year mean number of Shrill carder bee (*Bombus sylvarum*) recorded per km walked on **BeeWalk transects, 2010 – 2018**. The **blue area represents standard deviation** around the mean, calculated per km walked on transects where the species has been recorded, not total transect network length.

## Adopt a BeeWalk

The team have set up BeeWalks across the project area on sites where we conduct habitat improvement for bumblebees. Monitoring on these sites is hugely important and will help to inform the Trust of our conservation efforts.

**Volunteers adopting a BeeWalk on these sites will receive a free BeeWalk kit (which includes a survey net, pots and hand lens) and support from the team.** To find out if there is a conservation site **BeeWalk** near you get in touch with the team at [mab@bumblebeeconservation.org](mailto:mab@bumblebeeconservation.org)



## Become a mentor

Sharing knowledge is a great part of **BeeWalk**! If you are a current beewalker that would be happy to share your knowledge and experience with new beewalkers, we want to hear from you. There is no time commitment required, – and would entail having a new beewalker along on your transect or joining them on their new transect.

## Bumblebee species recorded in 2018

Species	Social	Cuckoo
<b>Buff-tailed</b> <i>Bombus terrestris</i>	●	
<b>Forest cuckoo</b> <i>Bombus sylvestris</i>		●
<b>Garden</b> <i>Bombus hortorum</i>	●	
<b>Ruderal</b> <i>Bombus ruderatus</i>	●	
<b>Southern cuckoo</b> <i>Bombus vestalis</i>		●
<b>Tree</b> <i>Bombus hypnorum</i>	●	
<b>White/buff-tailed</b> <i>Bombus lucorum/terrestris</i>	●	
<b>White-tailed</b> ( <i>sensu lato</i> ) <i>Bombus lucorum s.l.</i>	●	
<b>Early</b> <i>Bombus pratorum</i>	●	
<b>Red-tailed</b> <i>Bombus lapidarius</i>	●	
<b>Red-shanked carder</b> <i>Bombus ruderarius</i>	●	
<b>Red-tailed cuckoo</b> <i>Bombus rupestris</i>		●
<b>Brown-banded carder</b> <i>Bombus humilis</i>	●	
<b>Common carder</b> <i>Bombus pascuorum</i>	●	
<b>Shrill carder</b> <i>Bombus sylvarum</i>	●	

### Rare and scarce species

### White-tailed bumblebees

### Red-tailed bumblebees

### Ginger-tailed bumblebees



**Social bumblebees**



**Cuckoo bumblebees**

For courses and training take a look at our events page for more information.



If you would like to be put in touch with a local Mentor, or would like to **offer your assistance as a Mentor email** [mab@bumblebeeconservation.org](mailto:mab@bumblebeeconservation.org)

[www.bumblebeeconservation.org](http://www.bumblebeeconservation.org)

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