
Making a Buzz for the Coast

Bumblebee review 2019



6,134
people engaged

bumblebeeconservation.org

Making a Buzz for the Coast – Bumblebee review



This partnership project aims to create and restore bumblebee habitat along the north Kent coast.

Making a Buzz for the Coast is working hard to provide flower rich stepping stones to connect bumblebee populations, 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.**

Making space for bumblebees!

Through working with our project partners and a number of landowners across Kent, 2019 has been a brilliant year for creating bumblebee habitat.

From large scale seed sowing at Northward Hill RSPB reserve, to working with farmers planting nectar rich margins and native hedgerows. Creating flower rich habitat, no matter what the size, can aid in connecting our vital bumblebee populations.

The team have explored sustainable ways to manage flower rich habitat, including the cathartic activity of scything. Through a week of workshops, the team, volunteers and landowners took part in scything and traditional hay making training.

Taking a look at 2019

A year of training events, creative engagement and lots of bumblebee records, **Making a Buzz for the Coast** has flown through the second year of our three year project. In 2019 we welcomed two trainees to the project, celebrated bumblebees through poetry and surveyed for bumblebees from Dartford to Deal. Our achievements wouldn't be possible without the support of our ever-growing volunteer community.

This review takes a look at the highlights of 2019, with a focus on bumblebee recording and how you could get involved. **A huge thank you to those conducting BeeWalks and recording sightings through iRecord, all of whom have contributed to this review.**

Bee kind in your garden



Creating bumblebee habitat in your garden couldn't be easier and every flower counts! Whether it's a window box or a mini meadow, no matter the size of your space you could help the bumblebees of Kent by planting in your garden.

Register on our free Bee kind tool to find out how bee-friendly your garden is! Bee kind provides you with a score using the existing plants in your garden and then provides planting recommendations to help boost your score!

Visit: beekind.bumblebeeconservation.org



Shrill carder bee



Bee Blitz



Our 2019 **Bee Blitz** at Victory Wood, a Woodland Trust site, quickly became the most exciting day of the year. The team plus 19 volunteers on a hot August day discovered the site is not just home to outstanding scenery. We were delighted to find an abundance of Shrill carder bees (*Bombus sylvarum*), with an estimated total of **121 individuals** through the day! Now one of the rarest bumblebees in the UK, they were in good company as Brown-banded carder bees and Red-shanked carder bees (both nationally rare and scarce) were also recorded.

Kent's rare bumblebees

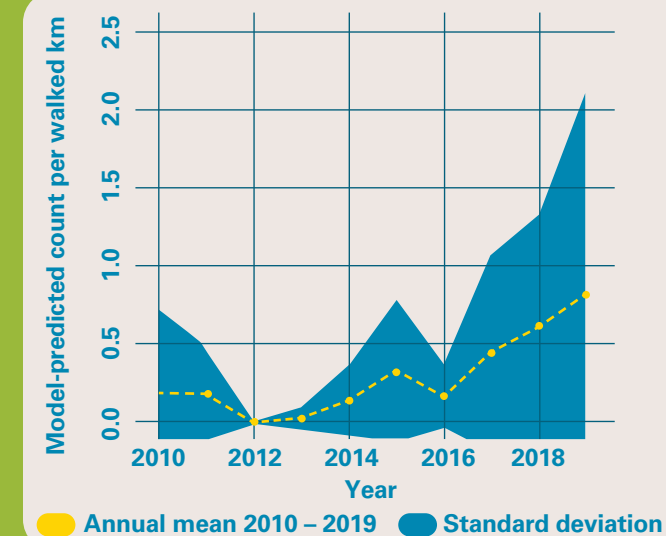
Kent's diverse landscape is home to **22 of the UK's 24 bumblebee species**. Of these, five are classified as nationally rare and scarce, and can be found within our project area. Throughout the project we monitor data received through iRecord and BeeWalk, allowing us to look at numbers recorded and where these species can be found. One of these species is the rare Shrill carder bee (*Bombus sylvarum*).

Have you seen any of Kent's rare and scarce bumblebees? Why not submit your sightings through iRecord and contribute to conservation projects like this one www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/



Location of Shrill carder bee (*Bombus sylvarum*) records from 2000 – 2019. Data from iRecord and BWARS.

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 – 2019. The grey area is the standard deviation around the mean. Calculated per km walked on transects where the species has been recorded, not total transect network length.

Interested in our training opportunities? Get in touch to sign-up to our newsletter and be the first to know!



Project headlines for 2019



Habitat advice given across
510 hectares

Volunteer time
5,196 hours



59 task days creating and restoring habitat

60 community events and workshops



2 traineeships

165 wildflower seed-balls created



People engaged
6,134

13 Swale Bee Roads, improving

12.1 ha – **33** survey and monitoring sessions



8 ID workshops and a total of
95 attendees

13 gardens nominated for 'Garden with the Best Buzz' as part of Kent Wildlife Trust's Wild about Gardens Scheme



Project area BeeWalk highlights

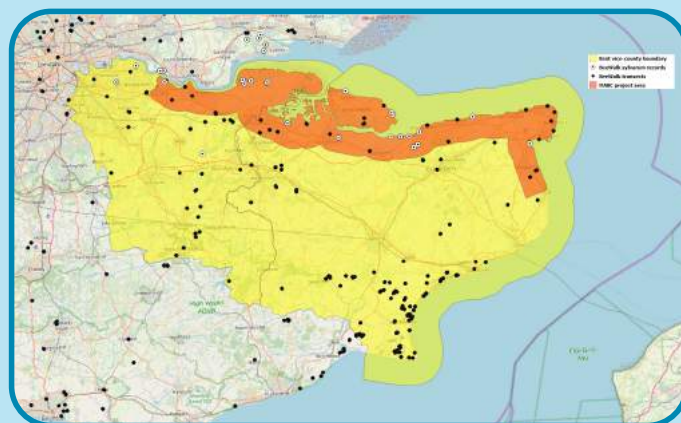
- **11 new BeeWalks in 2019** – a total of 34 BeeWalks submitting data in 2019
- **186 transect walks**
- A total of **396 hours** spent BeeWalking
- **330km** walked
- **4,677** individual bumblebees recorded
- **17** bumblebee species recorded



Adopt or foster a BeeWalk

The team have set up BeeWalks across the project area on sites where we implement habitat improvement for bumblebees. Monitoring on these sites is very important and will help to inform our conservation work. **Those that adopt or foster 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 priority BeeWalk near you, please get in touch with the team.



The coverage of BeeWalk transects in the East and West Kent vice-counties, showing the extent of the project area and highlighting those where the Shrill carder bee (*Bombus sylvarum*) has been recorded on transects.

BeeWalk 2019 recorded bumblebee species

Species	Social/ Cuckoo	Individuals recorded
Buff-tailed <i>Bombus terrestris</i>	●	1220
White-tailed (<i>sensu lato</i>) <i>Bombus lucorum</i> s.l.	●	104
White/buff-tailed <i>Bombus lucorum/terrestris</i>	●	614
Garden <i>Bombus hortorum</i>	●	97
Tree <i>Bombus hypnorum</i>	●	47
Ruderal <i>Bombus ruderus</i>	●	72
Heath <i>Bombus jonellus</i>	●	2
Forest cuckoo <i>Bombus sylvestris</i>	●	1
Southern cuckoo <i>Bombus vestalis</i>	●	39
Early <i>Bombus pratorum</i>	●	265
Red-tailed <i>Bombus lapidarius</i>	●	822
Red-shanked carder <i>Bombus ruderarius</i>	●	1
Red-tailed cuckoo <i>Bombus rupestris</i>	●	5
Common carder <i>Bombus pascuorum</i>	●	873
Brown-banded carder <i>Bombus humilis</i>	●	54
Moss carder <i>Bombus muscorum</i>	●	6
Shrill carder <i>Bombus sylvarum</i>	●	119
Field cuckoo <i>Bombus campestris</i>	●	3
Bombus sp.		333
Total		4,677

- Rare and scarce species
- White-tailed bumblebees
- Red-tailed bumblebees
- Ginger-tailed bumblebees



● Social
bumblebees



● Cuckoo
bumblebees

Training The project runs a variety of training courses from beginners to advanced. With refresher courses and field sessions to practice your skills we have an event to suit all levels. **Take a look at our website for training events in your area.**



Making a Buzz for the Coast receives funding through the National Lottery Heritage Fund, thanks to National Lottery players and other charitable trusts and foundations. This is a partnership project with Kent Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Natural England, Kent County Council, Thanet District Council, Thames Water and Swale Borough Council.

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