

Thurso: Gateway to the Great Yellow



Overview

Thurso: Gateway to the Great Yellow worked with communities in Caithness to style Thurso as the UK's first Great yellow bumblebee town.

The Great yellow bumblebee (*Bombus distinguendus*) is one of the rarest UK bumblebees. It is a specialist species, needing extensive meadows and particular types of flowers to survive year-to-year. It is a distinctive furry insect with bright yellow and black markings. Caithness, on the far north east of the UK mainland, is one of the last places you can still find Great yellows in the country. The main town in the county is Thurso, a vibrant and welcoming community with an impressive natural history and culture.

This project created strong community ownership of the rare Great yellow bumblebee and encouraged grassroots support for its conservation. Through education, outreach, interpretation and wide-ranging practical measures, we raised awareness of the county's unique natural heritage, created and managed habitats for pollinators and carried out vital monitoring work.

Partners

Forestry Commission Scotland, University of the Highlands and Islands.

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Photo credit: Mary Harris.