

## 2018 updates

### March

Our Conservation Officer, Dr Cathy Horsley, is now taking the West Country Buzz project into its second phase. The project will focus on restoring habitat for the Brown-banded carder bee and the Moss carder bee on the north coast of Devon. Cathy has liaised with 6 farmers so far in the targeted area, and will carry out more advisory work with landowners and farmers to improve knowledge and understanding of bumblebee habitats.



### June

Daisy Headley, our [Shrill carder bee recovery](#) Conservation Officer, headed to Lundy Island to survey bumblebees with John Butler (one of our Local Volunteer Coordinators)! Daisy supports Cathy on the West Country Buzz project one day a week.

*“Thank you so much for the bumblebee day on Lundy – we all really enjoyed it and learned such a lot. It’s fantastic for us to be able to survey and record another little creature on the island, giving us an even better idea of biodiversity. We were thoroughly impressed with how the day went – you were fantastic, and you’ve got us all inspired!”*

*– Siân Scott, Assistant Warden and Education Officer on Lundy Island*



### August

We know very little about the distribution of rare bumblebees in North Devon, so this year we have been carrying out lots of surveys in flower-rich meadows and coastal grassland where they might be found. Two new sites for rare bumblebees have been discovered so far. We are mapping populations and suitable habitat to inform landscape scale conservation work. Local people and advisors have been trained in bumblebee identification through workshops and practice sessions. A Farm Day about pollinators, where neighbouring farmers are invited onto a host’s farm, demonstrated how to manage and create bumblebee habitats. Bespoke advice has been provided to over thirty landowners, and they have been doing fantastic work – creating habitat by introducing bumblebee forage plants, and tweaking management such as leaving areas of meadow uncut until after the latest flying bumblebees have finished their colony cycle. So far this summer we have also carried out three beginner and one intermediate ID workshops and one Bioblitz!