

## Step-by-step guide to getting started with BeeWalk

1. Before you start, consider if you are able to commit to doing a monthly BeeWalk between March and October inclusive. You will need a couple of hours or so each month to walk your transect and submit the data.
2. [Register as a BeeWalker here](#) and then create an account on the [BeeWalk website here](#).
3. To improve your identification skills: attend a bumblebee [ID and survey training event](#), or see the ID resources listed on the website [beewalk.org.uk/resources](http://beewalk.org.uk/resources), we also have ID and survey training videos available on the [Trust YouTube channel](#).
4. Find a suitable location for a transect, somewhere you can visit regularly, which has a range of bee-friendly habitats, these can be anything from gardens and grass verges to coastal dunes and heathland.
5. Using our [Habitat and Land Use site form](#), walk your proposed transect and split it into at least 3 different sections (based on habitat, or if it is all one habitat, split by land mark/topography). Note what habitat each section falls under and what the land is being used for. This will also give you an idea of how long it will take to survey your transect. **Remember it will take longer in summer months when bumblebees are at their peak.**
6. Set up your transect on the [website](#). Click on 'My sites' tab, then click 'Add site' and enter the name of your transect. Use the map to zoom in to the site of your route, click to set a central grid reference, select the county, enter the number of sections and the year you are setting it up in. Click save. The length will be automatically calculated once you have drawn your route.
7. Draw the route of each section on the map. Click the section number and single-click on the map where the section starts. Then, join-the-dots style, click on the map where the section goes, double-clicking to save it. Repeat this process for each section.
8. Now click 'Section details' to enter the habitat and land use types for each section. **Once the transect has been approved, you will receive a confirmation email.**
9. It is now time to survey! Read the [BeeWalk Health and Safety guide](#) then download the [monthly recording form](#). Ideally, walk your transect between 11am-5pm, around the same date each month. It is best if the weather is warm and sunny, with no more than a light breeze. Don't forget to record the date, start and finish time and weather conditions.
10. On your return, submit your data to the website, **even if you didn't see anything**. Click on the 'My walks' tab, select the date of your survey. Select your transect from the location drop down and complete the details of the survey. Please use the 24hr format for times. Click 'Next step' at the bottom right corner. This will take you to the data input page.
11. On the Your observations page, in the species column type in the name of the bee you saw (common or scientific) and select the correct species. Next choose the transect section number from the Section ID drop-down, then fill in the number of each caste (queen, worker or male) that you saw in that section. **You can record an unidentified bumblebee by entering Bumblebee in the species column. For White and Buff tailed workers, you can select the White/buff-tailed worker option in the species list, as the workers of these species can be very difficult to tell apart in the field.**
12. There is a final page where you can note any changes to the transect, such as flooding, before finally clicking 'Save'. Congratulations, you have finished your first BeeWalk!