

What is the West Country Buzz project?

West Country Buzz focuses on the North Devon coastline. This area holds the last remaining populations of the Brown-banded carder bee and Moss carder bee in Devon. With the help of volunteers and landowners, we are mapping these species' distribution and monitoring populations. Habitat management and creation is targeted in and around where populations are found.



Species in decline

The Brown-banded carder bee and Moss carder bee are at risk from habitat loss. In the south west of England, they are now mostly restricted to coastal grassland as this provides the large areas of flower-rich grassland habitat they require. However, they are vulnerable, due in part to coastal erosion and habitat fragmentation. A late-emerging species, queens usually emerge from hibernation in May – they rely on late-flowering habitat, and so are also under threat from loss of forage due to early hay cuts.

What are we doing?

Habitat management and creation: through free habitat management advice, and access to seeds. The project is encouraging neighbouring landowners to work together, to join up bumblebee habitat across the landscape, which will help isolated populations move around and expand, making them less vulnerable.

Surveying and monitoring: distribution data is essential for implementing the correct habitat management and monitoring how bumblebees are responding.

Working with communities: delivering talks, workshops and field practice sessions, the project is working with North Devon communities to raise awareness of the plight of the bumblebee, and to find and train local volunteers. The project aims to inspire people to join us. Involvement from local communities is essential to safeguard these bumblebee species.



Take action and get involved!

- If you are a landowner in the project area and would like more information or free no obligation advice, please email wcb@bumblebeeconservation.org.
- Become a BeeWalker and help monitor bumblebee populations in your local area. Even if you are outside of the West Country Buzz project area, you can still take part and make a really useful contribution to our national recording scheme. Visit beewalk.org.uk for details.
- Take part in our identification training workshops, surveying and bioblitz events, advertised on the Bumblebee Conservation Trust's website 'Events' page. Or to keep up to date by joining our mailing list, email wcb@bumblebeeconservation.org.
- Bee friendly in your own back garden. Making small changes can make a big difference for our bumblebees – by planting bee friendly flowers you will be providing much needed forage for bumblebees and other pollinators. You can find out how bee friendly your garden is by visiting our Bee kind tool at beekind.bumblebeeconservation.org.



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