

**The Bumblebee Conservation Trust needs your help to search out bumblebees across Wales.**

The wonderful Welsh landscape is home to some very special bumblebees. We have 23 out of the 24 UK species, including some of the rarest. In the mountains, we have one of Britain's most beautiful bees – the bilberry bumblebee (*Bombus monticola*). On the flower-rich grasslands of the south coast, we have some of the last remaining populations of the UK's most threatened bumblebee, the shrill carder bee (*Bombus sylvarum*).



*Bilberry Bumblebee, Pembrokeshire. Clare Flynn*

Bumblebees are a familiar and popular sight in gardens and play a vital role in pollination, but most have suffered declines in Wales, just like everywhere else. They continue to face pressures including the loss of their flower-rich habitats, use of harmful chemicals, and climate change.



*Shrill Carder bee, Kenfig. Mary Gallagher*

The first step to successfully conserving Welsh bumblebee populations is to know where they are hanging on, and how many remain. But for many species, we have very little up-to-date data on this – **we need more sightings as a matter of urgency.**

**Skills for Bees: Cymru** is a new BBCT project (2021-2024), generously funded by the Moondance Foundation. Through training days and mentoring focused on identification and monitoring, we will help people to become bumblebee recorders, both for the BBCT's citizen science scheme, BeeWalk, and bumblebee recording more generally. We will be working in partnership with other conservation organisations and special interest groups as well as existing recorders (let us know if you'd like to be part of it!) to bring bumblebee monitoring into the management plans of nature reserves and other special sites. We are looking forward to creating a supportive network of new (and old!) bumblebee recorders and BeeWalk volunteers across Wales. Discovering new sites for rarer species such as the beautiful Bilberry bumblebee, threatened Shrill carder and other scarce species, will also be a significant part of the project's aims.

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*Enthusiastic survey volunteers, Pembrokeshire! Clare Flynn*

If you would like to get involved or find out more, please contact our Skills for Bees: Cymru project officer, at [Clare.Flynn@bumblebeeconservation.org](mailto:Clare.Flynn@bumblebeeconservation.org) or follow us on Twitter @buzzingwales