

West Country Buzz: North Devon bumblebees and their conservation



Saving the sound of summer

Who are the Bumblebee Conservation Trust?

- Small independent charity
- Raise awareness, apply research, inform land management practices



Why are so many pollinators declining?

- **Loss of forage and nesting space**
- Agricultural intensification
- Habitat fragmentation
- Pesticides
- Diseases
- Urbanisation
- Climate change



What do bees need?

1. Food



Continuous forage March to October



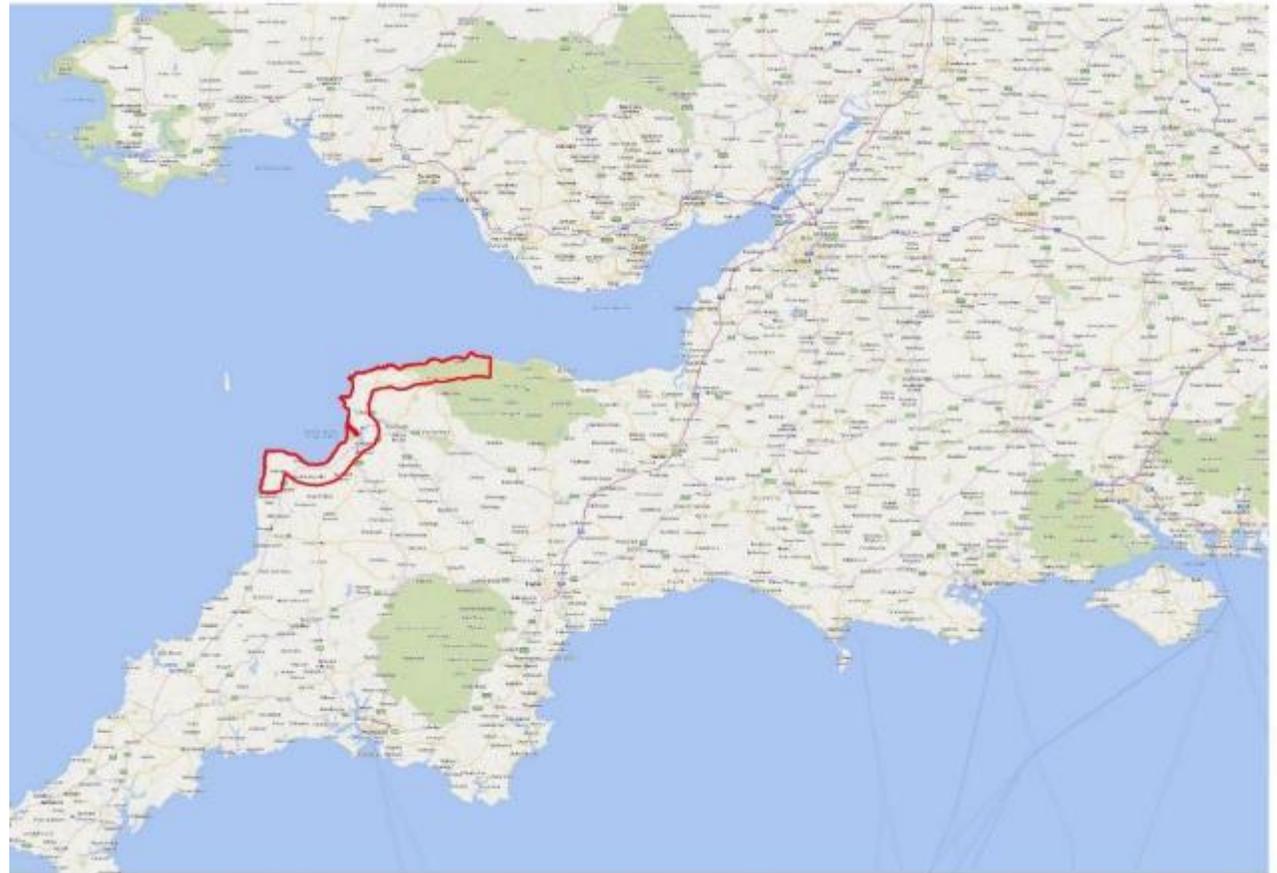
2. A home



Nesting, shelter & hibernation



West Country Buzz

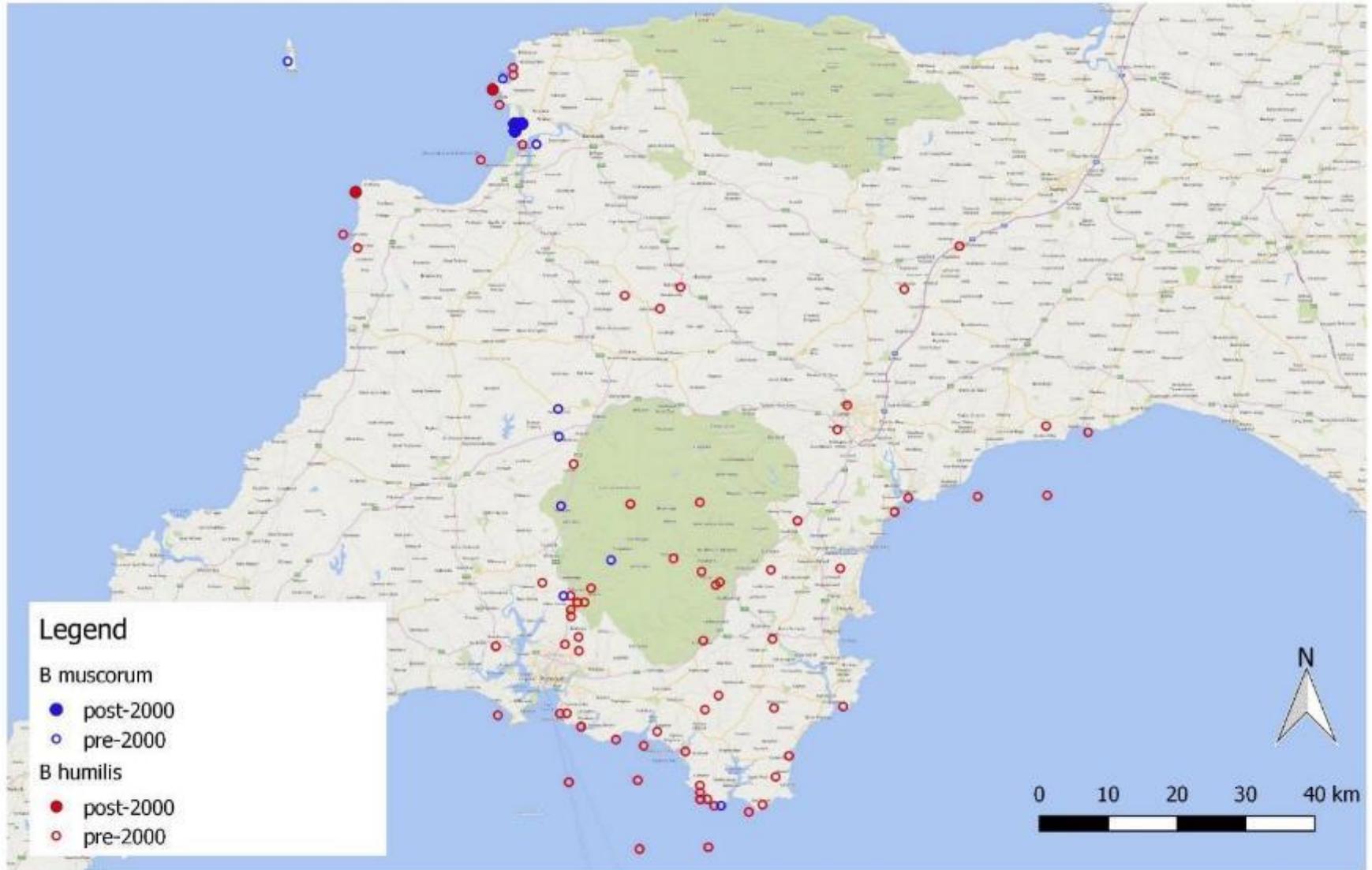


West Country Buzz: surveys

- Bumblebees are under-recorded in Devon
- Focus on priority species – Brown-banded & Moss carder bees



Distribution of priority bumblebees



West Country Buzz: surveys



West Country Buzz: survey findings



West Country Buzz: survey findings

- Hot & dry
- Little late season forage
- Habitat fragmentation
- Intensive farming

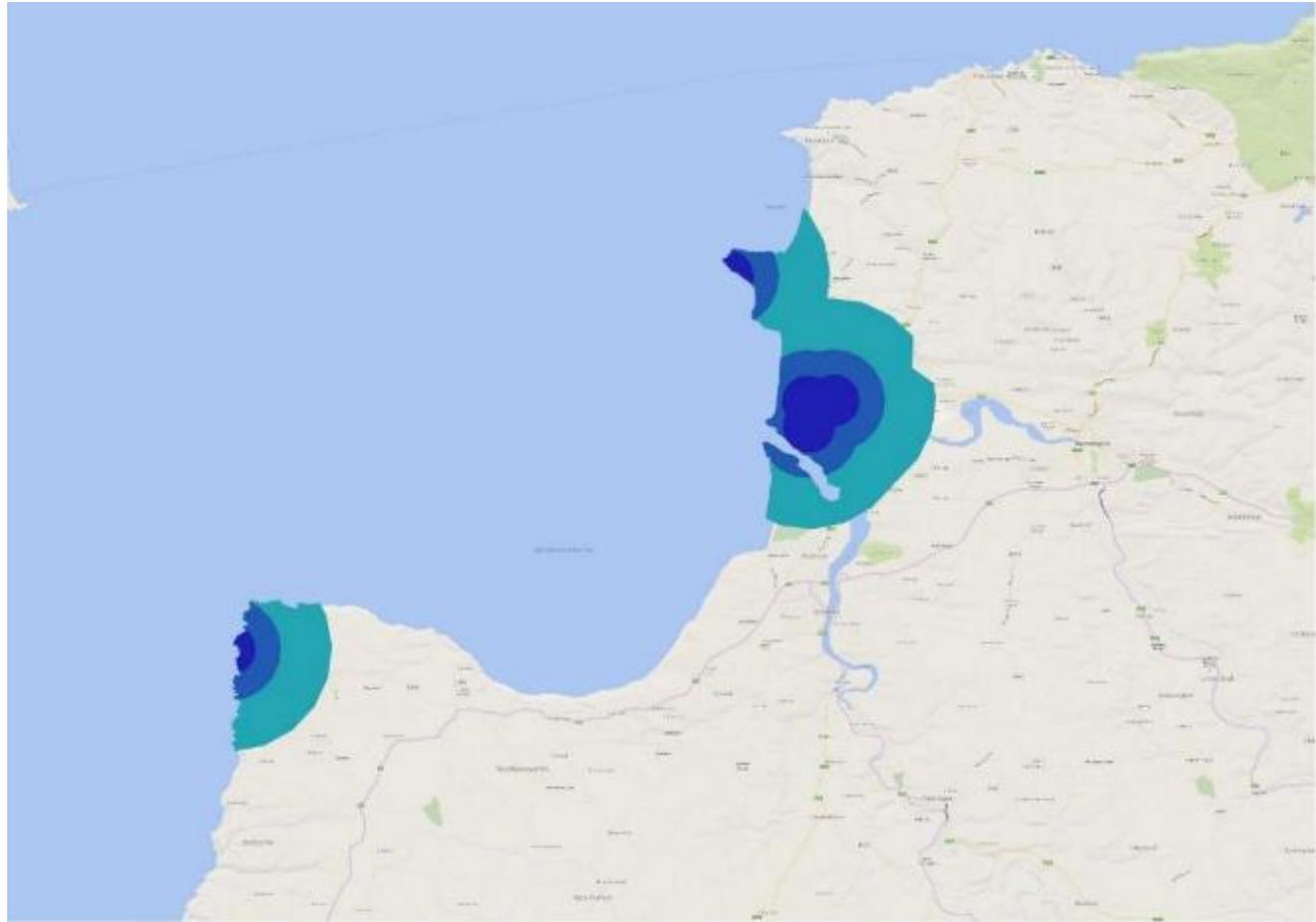


What habitat?



West Country Buzz: Nature Recovery Network

- Radiate out from known areas



West Country Buzz: working with landowners



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West Country Buzz: joining up habitat



West Country Buzz: joining up habitat





Legend
Species-rich grassland



Legend

 Flowering species-rich grassland

How can AES increase pollinator habitats?

- Rotational late cuts
- Encourage rotational grazing
- Bigger financial incentives for grassland farms



West Country Buzz: raising awareness

- Farm days & training days



West Country Buzz: raising awareness

- Talks
- Workshops
- Bioblitzes



West Country Buzz: get involved!

- Id workshops & survey days
- Twitter @BuzzingDevon
- Volunteer



Gardening for bumblebees

- Small spaces - create a bee café or “drive-thru”!
- Wildflower mixes, herbs, fruit, vegetables



What can you do to help? Recording



Record your sightings
Take a photo

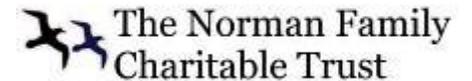
<https://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/>

What can you do to help? Recording

- Monitor bumblebees with **BeeWalk**:
 - National scheme to collect abundance data
 - Helps detect population declines over time
 - Volunteers walk **1-2km** route once a month between **March and October** recording all bumblebee species & how many



Thanks



Dr A & Mrs G P Darlington Charitable Trust

www.bumblebeeconservation.org