



Ymddiriedolaeth  
Natur  
Gwent  
Wildlife Trust

# Shrill Carder Bee

## *Bombus sylvarum*

Species  
Action  
Plan



One of the rarest and most threatened bumblebees in England and Wales. It has undergone a major decline in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and is now found in only five isolated population areas, with the Gwent Levels a stronghold. The shrill carder bee is a late-emerging and long-tongued species which favours foraging plants of the pea, mint, broomrape and daisy families. It is associated with open, often tall grassland sites with a varied sward structure and a high density of diverse forage sources. Little is known of nesting and hibernation sites, but ensuring these are provided in close proximity to abundant forage is thought to be key.

### Status

- ❖ Species of Principal Importance - Section 7 - Environment (Wales) Act 2016
- ❖ Priority Species - UK Biodiversity Action Plan (2007)
- ❖ Nationally Notable B – review by Falk (1991)

### Threats

- ❖ Inbreeding and loss of genetic diversity → increased risk of local extinction
- ❖ Loss and fragmentation of flower-rich mosaic habitats - drivers: inappropriate or lack of management; development pressures
- ❖ Climate change and extreme weather events such as flooding and drought
- ❖ Other interrelated threats may include: an inability for bees to disperse and track with climatic shifts; phenological shifts caused by climate change impacting foraging; pesticides; pathogens; and possible competition and disease risk from commercial bee populations.

### Current Action

- ❖ Natur am Byth (2023-2027)
- ❖ Pollinating the Levels (Living Levels, 2018-2022)
- ❖ SSSI management across the Gwent Levels
- ❖ Bumblebee Conservation Trust – advice, monitoring and ‘*Conservation Strategy for Shrill Carder Bee in England and Wales 2020-2030*’
- ❖ DEFRA National Pollinator Strategy (2021-2024)
- ❖ Wye Valley AONB – A Priority Species for their Action Plans

	Objectives	Action
A	No net loss of occupied area for existing populations	1,2,3,5
B	Populations increasing in occupied area, abundance and viability	1,2,3,5
C	Habitats increased in size, quality, resilience and connectivity	2,3,5
D	Knowledge and understanding of the species increased, leading to appreciation, sense of responsibility and action	1-5

	Key Actions	Target
1	Establish annual surveys on GWT reserves; signpost volunteers towards public surveys (specific Shrill Carder Bee survey protocols) to monitor existing colonies	2025
2	Produce/distribute advice booklet and work with key stakeholders to ensure appropriate habitat management	2026
3	Undertake survey and mapping to identify populations, key areas and opportunities to build connectivity	2027
4	Increase awareness through media and publishing platforms, talks, events, training	2030
5	Respond to potentially damaging developments through the planning process; campaign for better site protections	2030

**Lead:** Gwent Wildlife Trust

**Key partners:** TBC