

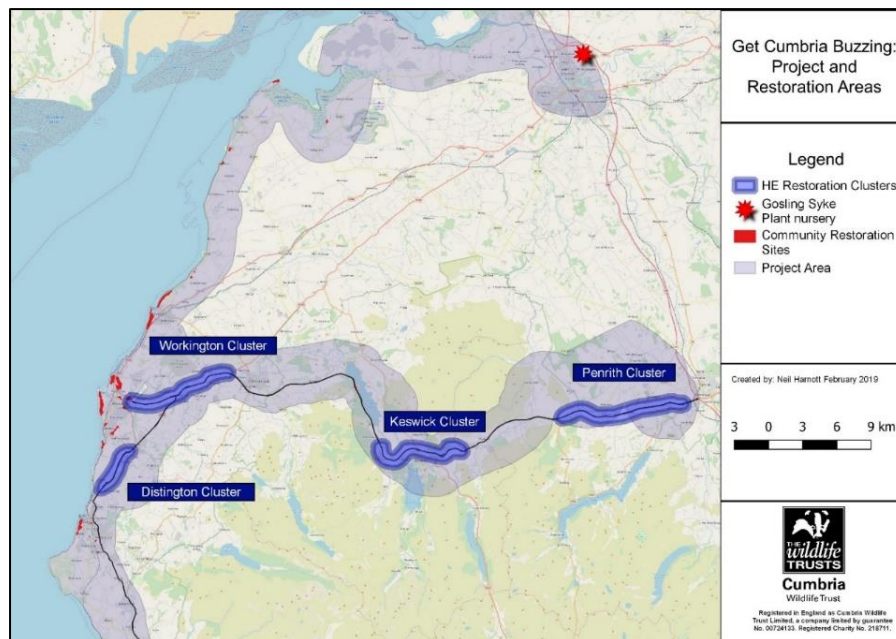
Get Cumbria Buzzing!



Delivered by Cumbria Wildlife Trust 'Get Cumbria Buzzing!' is a three year partnership project (2019-2022) which aims to increase the abundance and diversity of pollinators across northwest Cumbria, connecting and creating habitats along ecological networks. Working closely with partners, local communities, and residents, we aim to create over 115 hectares of wildflower rich habitat for pollinators, at over 62 sites across our project area. Creating stepping stones of habitat will help link natural environments and green spaces together, enabling our pollinators to travel more freely across the landscape.

Project area

The map below shows Get Cumbria Buzzing! project area, which includes the Strategic Road Network managed by Highways England (HE) and part of the B-Line pollinator network. Researched and mapped by charity Buglife, B-Lines are a series of 'best fit' pathways that run through our towns and countryside and have the potential to link fragmented habitats.



Achievements within our first year:



With a call to action, we've enlisted the help of residents of northwest Cumbria, to get everyone's garden, school, allotment and green space buzzing – and to plant for pollinators! Watch our short film to find out more [here](#). The film received a Bronze Award in the Charity Film Awards 'People's Choice' category.

So far over 700 people have participated in specific pollinator friendly activities – including conservation volunteering, gardening workshops, learning how to identify and record pollinators, arts and crafts, and wildflower planting in schools, gardens and community sites. In addition

132 residents have also added postcode pins to our [project map](#) informing us that they've added pollinator friendly plants to their gardens. We're also asking people to record their sightings, so that we can create the first ever Cumbrian pollinator database, to better understand their abundance and distribution across the county.



Ground Control contractors undertaking grassland restoration works on A66 near Threlkeld, March 2020

Using innovative techniques and specialist machinery, we've worked closely with Highways England and contractors Ground Control to create a range of habitat for pollinators on parts of the A595/A66 Strategic Road Network. We've added over 200 native nectar and pollen rich trees, planted over 50,000 wildflower plugs, and sown over 90kg of wildflower rich seed to create or enhance species-rich grassland, sunny banks and glades, tussocky areas, and flowering lawns.

Ongoing sensitive management is now in place, along with yearly surveying and monitoring, to ensure that each site thrives. Recognised for its importance and pioneering approach, Get Cumbria Buzzing! is a finalist in the Highways England 'Excellence in the Environment' Awards 2020.



Small blue butterfly. Image Courtesy of Steve Doyle, Butterfly Conservation

Our project partners have been equally busy transforming community parks and green spaces into pollinator havens in the coastal towns of Workington, Whitehaven, and Maryport and along the Solway Coast. Many sites have been specifically planted with Kidney vetch, to help boost local populations of the Small blue, a nationally scarce butterfly. Our wildflower nursery specially created for the project will help provide an ongoing supply of plug plants to enrich sites further starting this summer. To date we have grown 5000 plants, and aim to grow 9,000 wildflower plants to be used at sites across the project area.

We are delighted to say that one year into the project, we've restored 83 hectares to create pollinator friendly habitat at 108 different sites across northwest Cumbria. With help from our partners, and northwest Cumbria residents and communities, we hope to exceed our project target of 115 hectares over the next two years. In addition to this, since creating the Cumbria Pollinator database in 2019, sightings of pollinators have been flooding in from across the county, with over 17,000 records being verified by county recorders via our local County Records Office: Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre, already.

In light of Covid-19 pandemic, we've recently had to change the way we do things, and are running a series of webinars and online workshops, which include talks by eminent bee experts such as Professor Dave Goulson, on topics as far ranging as 'Introduction to Bumblebees' to 'Averting the Insect Apocalypse'. We've also created a range of pollinator friendly guides and resources, which can be found on our webpage: <https://www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk/getcumbriabuzzing>



This £1.6 million project has been made possible by National Lottery Players and support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Highways England, Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust, Hadfield Trust, Rees Jeffreys Road Fund, Tesco, Allerdale Borough Council & Solway Coast AONB.

Administered by Cumbria Community Foundation, the following organisations have also funded the project: Robin Rigg West Cumbria Fund, Fairfield Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund, Winscales Moor Community Benefit Fund and United Utilities Legacy Fund.

Our partners include:

[Allerdale Borough Council](#), [Workington Nature Partnership](#), [Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre](#), [Florence Arts Centre](#), [Buglife](#), [Copeland Borough Council](#), [National Trust](#), [Butterfly Conservation](#), [Highways England](#) and [Solway Coast AONB](#).