

Charity Registration No. 1115634

Company Registration No. 5618710

Bumblebee Conservation Trust
(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2011

BUMBLEBEE CONSERVATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2011

Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisors.

Charity Registration Number: 1115634

Company Registration Number: 5618710 (England and Wales)

Registered Office

6 BARNMEADOW CLOSE
NEWPORT
SHROPSHIRE
ENGLAND
TF10 7NT

Headquarters

School of Biological and Environmental Sciences
University of Stirling
Stirling
FK9 4LA

Trustees

Prof. Dave Goulson	Chairman
Lara Goulson	- resigned at AGM on 30th September 2010
Dr. Paul Williams	
Dr. Ben Darvill	(- resigned 23rd May 2011)
Alasdair Rutherford	- co-opted 23rd January 2011
Peter Farr	- co-opted 23rd January 2011
Rachel Athey	- co-opted 23rd January 2011
Jane Dalgleish	- co-opted 23rd January 2011
Michael B Usher OBE FRSE	- co-opted 23rd January 2011

President

Chris Packham

Advisor

Dr. Juliet Osborne (Rothamsted Research, Harpenden)

Bankers

BANK OF SCOTLAND PLC
THE MOUND
EDINBURGH
EH1 1YZ

Independent Examiner

David Brash Consultancy Ltd.
Orchil House
Auchterarder
PH3 1NB

Website and email address

www.bumblebeeconservation.org
enquiries@bumblebeeconservation.org

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Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association and the company was incorporated 10 November 2005 as amended by special resolutions dated 8th June 2006 and 21st June 2006. The charity was registered with the Charity Commission (England and Wales) on 31st July 2006. During this accounting period the charity began the process of registering with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

Board of Trustees

Recruitment of Trustees is carried out with reference to the Charity Commission's guidelines.

Trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) by ordinary resolution or are co-opted by the Board during the course of the year. Trustees appointed by the Board hold office until the following AGM at which they are subject to formal appointment.

Trustees hold six ordinary meetings per year.

Inductions, training and ongoing support are provided to trustees to enable them to carry out their duties effectively. Each trustee receives a comprehensive induction pack which includes information on the charity's aims and procedures, and trustees' responsibilities and roles.

Trustees set the overall strategy of the organisation and determine policy. They oversee and monitor the Trust's activities. Trustees delegate the day-to-day management and administration to the staff of the Trust.

Public Benefit

The Bumblebee Conservation Trust undertakes activities that are of public benefit and are defined as charitable purposes in the Charities Act (2006). Principally, our activities relate to the following charitable purposes:

- The advancement of education
- The advancement of arts, culture, heritage or science
- The advancement of environmental protection or improvement

Our educational and awareness-raising activities directly benefit those that access them, and our work to support populations of bumblebees benefits the public at large, through maintenance of the ecosystem service that pollinators provide.

The trustees confirm that they have due regard for Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Further details of charity's aims, and of the main activities undertaken in order to carry out these aims for the public benefit, can be found in the sections that follow.

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Objectives and activities

The charity's objects are:

- 1) Promote for the benefit of the public the conservation of bumblebees
- 2) Advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment

Our vision

"Our communities and countryside are rich in bumblebees and colourful flowers, supporting a diversity of wildlife and habitats for everyone to enjoy."

Our strategic aims

- The prevention of the extinction of the UK's rarest bumblebees
- A long-term future for all our bumblebees and other pollinators which support ecosystem service provision
- The protection, creation and restoration of flower-rich habitats
- An increase in the understanding and appreciation of bumblebees

Bumblebees are an important and cherished component of our biodiversity. Several species are threatened with national extinction. We aim to ensure that populations of these species have a long-term future in the UK.

Our commoner bumblebee species contribute significantly to our economy through the ecosystem service that their pollination of crops provides. This pollination helps to maintain affordable fruit and vegetables. Bumblebees also support the wider ecosystem through pollinating a diversity of wild plant species. We aim to halt and reverse declines in the UK's bumblebees.

Vast areas of meadow habitats have been lost from the UK (97%, or over three million hectares). Meadow habitats are important for the maintenance of biodiversity but also benefit the wellbeing of the people that spend time in them. Likewise, suitably managed gardens and other amenity areas are valuable both to wildlife and the people that visit them. We aim to increase the extent of these flower-rich habitats nationally, for the benefit of both people and wildlife.

Much enjoyment can be gained from an appreciation of bumblebees. Their pollination service is also a clear and compelling example of the link between biodiversity and human health and welfare. We aim to increase the knowledge of the general public and policy makers such that they appreciate and value bumblebees and biodiversity more generally.

Our objectives

1. **Habitat provision.** An increase in the availability of flower-rich habitat nationally, year-on-year, aiming to halt or reverse bumblebee declines by 2020. The avoidance of further extinctions during this same time period.
2. **Policy support.** To be effective in influencing policy-makers for the benefit of bumblebees and other pollinators.
3. **Public engagement.** A year-on-year increase in public understanding and awareness, leading to concern, action and support for bumblebee conservation.
4. **Provision of information.** A significant improvement in the dissemination of evidence-based knowledge and best practice.
5. **Adding to knowledge.** The ongoing identification of knowledge gaps which are a barrier to practical conservation or policy-level support, and the rapid closing of the highest priority knowledge gaps.

Habitat provision. The principal cause of declines in bumblebees and other pollinators is a loss of flower-rich habitats. We aim to bring about an increase in the availability of bee-friendly habitats year on year. Where rare bees are threatened with national extinction we aim to ensure that sufficient habitat is provided to stabilise or increase their populations.

Policy support. Pollinator populations could benefit significantly from policy-level support. For example, management to support pollinators could be part of the activity on every farm through the Single Farm Payment and cross-compliance/GEAC. The EU Common Agricultural Policy will be reviewed in the run up to the new seven year period, from January 2014. We aim to ensure that governments locally, nationally and in Europe adopt policies that support bumblebee and other pollinator populations.

Public engagement. Public concern and individual action is strongly linked to an understanding and awareness of a problem. Hence, the problems facing bumblebees, their importance and the action needed to help them should be effectively communicated to the public. We aim to ensure that, once engaged, the public have access to informative and interactive resources. Interested individuals should be able to interact with one another and should be provided with knowledge and resources to empower them to help, and to encourage others to help, bumblebees.

Provision of information. Poor access to, or understanding of, existing knowledge is frequently a barrier to engagement in bumblebee conservation. We aim to ensure that current knowledge is made easily accessible to a range of stakeholders.

Adding to knowledge. In many cases a lack of knowledge or evidence remains a barrier to practical or political action. We aim to ensure that these knowledge gaps are recognised and that steps are taken to address those which are of highest priority.

Activities, achievements and performance

During the twelve months to 31st March 2011, our main activities in relation to these objectives have been as follows:

Habitat provision:

Our *Bumblebee Habitat Project* entered its final year during this period. This project, funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and Scottish Natural Heritage, aimed to deliver much-needed habitat for the UK's rarest bumblebees, the shrill carder and great yellow.

To date, the project has delivered nearly 2,000 hectares (ha) of sympathetically-managed habitat. A landscape-scale approach is essential if these rare bumblebee species are to be conserved, and agri-environment schemes have formed an important part of our strategy. Over 1,800 ha have been supported through this funding mechanism, predominantly by options that encourage the creation, restoration or maintenance of species-rich grassland.

Our Conservation Officers have also worked on a number of local projects, delivering 140 ha of high-quality targeted habitat. Some notable highlights include:

- DSTL Land Holdings, Porton Down, Wiltshire. 2 ha pollen and nectar-rich habitat sown on a previously arable field. A *Phacelia* cover crop was sown, with pollen and nectar-rich plants establishing well.
- Shrill Carders at Solutia. Joint project with Gwent Wildlife Trust to restore 10ha of flower-rich habitats. Supported by the Welsh Biodiversity Partnership.
- Pembrokeshire Path Project. Funded by the European Outdoor Conservation Association and the Mackintosh Foundation. Partnership with the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, Countryside Council for Wales and the Ministry of Defence. 35 hectares adjacent or near to the new path in favourable management, with further areas identified for future work.
- Bumblebees and Meadows Project. Working with Monmouthshire Meadows Project to restore foraging and nesting habitats for bumblebees in meadows in Gwent. Cutting and/or scrub clearance on 17 grassland sites to date totalling 22 ha.
- Huntspill River NNR. Joint work with Environment Agency. Locally sourced yellow rattle seed sown on existing 8 ha grassland areas to increase forage availability and habitat quality by suppressing vigorous grass growth.
- Dounreay Bumblebee Meadow. Partnership with Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd. 2 ha site benefiting from adjusted mowing regime and locally sourced seed.
- Caithness Pollen & Nectar Mix Project. Working with Caithness Biodiversity Group and eleven local farmers to deliver 2.75ha of foraging habitat. Great yellow bumblebees the most abundant species in some plots. Funded by the Highland Council through the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme.

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- Isle of Coll Pollen & Nectar Mix Trial. Small plots totalling 1.2ha sown with legumes and *Phacelia*. Variable success in establishment reflected in the use by great yellow bumblebees.

- Orkney Pollen & Nectar Mix Trial. Voluntary project in partnership with RSPB Orkney, Dick Matson and John Crossley. A simple legume mix was sown. An area approximately 500m² was sown with a simple legume mix at each of five sites. Great yellow bumblebees were recorded at all sites. A corncrake used one of the plots in 2011.

The Short-haired Bumblebee Reintroduction Project also made good progress during this period. This is a partnership project, funded by Natural England and also involving BBCT, RSPB and Hymettus. Attempts to captive-breed the species in New Zealand sadly failed due to technical difficulties and the project Steering Group took the decision to instead investigate reintroducing from a strong population in Sweden. Meanwhile habitat work around the release site continued. By working with farmers, conservation groups, small holders and other land owners the project has created, advised and assisted in the management of over 550 ha of flower rich habitat around Dungeness and Romney Marsh.

Policy support

During this period we participated in ongoing discussions regarding development of and modifications to agri-environment schemes in Wales and Scotland.

We actively contributed to the work of the Scottish Environment LINK, most frequently through the agriculture task force.

We also joined forces with Butterfly Conservation, Buglife and Landlife to inform Richard Benyon MP, Minister for the Natural Environment and Fisheries, of a number of key priorities which we hoped would be reflected in the Natural Environment White Paper. In the event the document contained a prominent box about pollination which highlighted the importance of bees. We hope to build on this to promote the adoption of specific objectives and delivery methods.

It remains a priority for the trustees to be effective in ensuring that the needs of pollinators are addressed during the review of the EU Common Agricultural Policy prior to the new seven year period, from January 2014.

Public engagement

One of the main public-engagement highlights during this period was receiving the award for 'Best Environment Project 2010' on live prime-time television at the National Lottery Awards ceremony. This was welcome recognition for the work that we'd already carried out, but also a wonderful platform to raise further awareness of the importance of bumblebees and of our efforts to conserve them.

Additionally, we continued with awareness raising work through television, radio and in print.

With the generous support of volunteers, our programme of talks, walks and other events continued, with over 40 delivered during this period.

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Provision of information

Spring of 2011 saw the finishing touches being put on a new range of land management factsheets, now available for download from the BBCT website.

The website itself remains popular, with over 140,000 unique visitors accessing the site during this accounting period.

Research

The Trust's national bumblebee monitoring scheme, BeeWalk, further developed. Together with the University of Stirling we supported a research student tasked with running the scheme and analysing the data as it is submitted. Around 125 volunteers walked monthly transects and their data is helping to build a national picture of changes in bumblebee populations.

The Trust also continued supporting a researcher based at Leeds University who is studying the disease risks associated with the commercial trade in bumblebees.

BBCT staff and volunteers worked with the North Pennines AONB Partnership to conduct a survey of seasonal habitat use by bumblebees. The survey unearthed several new records of rare/scarce bumblebees for the area. We also produced a set of management recommendations which were subsequently passed on to, and well received by, local Natural England staff. It is hoped that these changes will be adopted locally to help the bumblebees in this area.

Internal developments and future plans

Grant funding for the *Bumblebee Habitat Project* was coming to an end during this period, as we approached our 5th birthday. This was an important time for the Trust to reflect on work to date and to consolidate before moving forward.

The Board of Trustees was expanded considerably, adding a breadth of expertise. The following board members were co-opted during this period:

Alasdair Rutherford

Peter Farr

Rachel Athey

Jane Dagleish

Michael B Usher OBE FRSE

A strategic review was undertaken, encompassing our performance to date, priorities for future work and looking more broadly at our role alongside other conservation organisations within the UK.

A Development Officer joined the BBCT team to assist with fundraising and developments in support of our strategic aims.

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Development and fundraising work for the *Bees for Everyone* project began. This project will build on the most successful elements of our work to-date to safeguard populations of our rarest species whilst raising awareness of the importance of bumblebees among the general public. In practical terms the project aims to deliver a substantial area of flower-rich habitat, an increase in opportunities for public participation and significant improvements in many other areas including our website and printed materials.

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Financial review

The Trust has continued to attract funding, receiving a total of £319,293 in the financial year ending 31st March 2011.

Restricted income was £140,473 comprising in the most part grant payments for new and ongoing projects.

Funds raised with no restrictions were £178,820. By careful control of unrestricted costs a surplus of £40,694 was carried forwards. Over the period total income exceeded total expenditure by £25,971.

Investment policy

The trustees have the power to invest in such assets as they see fit.

The trustees have considered the most appropriate policy for investing funds and utilise fixed-rate deposit accounts of variable lengths, in addition to the current account.

Reserves policy

BBCT holds financial reserves in order to ensure that the charity:

- Has sufficient levels of working capital to allow for seasonal fluctuations
- Can maintain priority conservation activities in the event of temporary grant and/or operational income shortfalls
- Can respond to unforeseen priorities and opportunities

The Trustees have determined that we should maintain a reserve equivalent to four months' operating costs. For the financial year ending 31st March 2012, the required reserve is forecast to be £127,000. Unrestricted reserves at 31st March 2011 were £89,277.

It is therefore a priority for the Trust to:

- Secure the funding of priority conservation programmes
- Build financial reserves to cover four months of expenditure
- Develop fresh sources of unrestricted core income

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Statement of trustees' responsibilities

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare statements of accounts for each financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- i) select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- ii) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- iii) state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements ; and
- iv) prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the trust will continue to operate

On behalf of the board of trustees:



Prof. Dave Goulson
29th October 2011

Chairman