



Ireland has ~31,500 species living within 117 habitats

BIODIVERSITY LOSS IS A HUGE PROBLEM

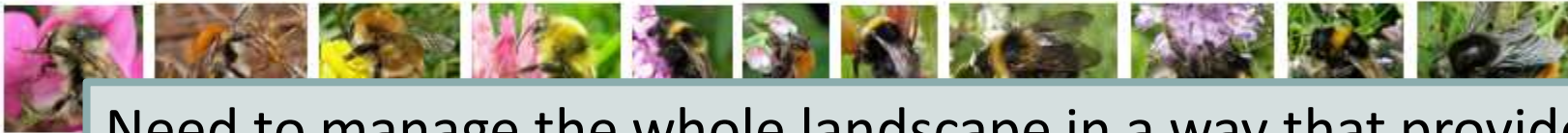
Identify simple vehicles that can be used to sell a biodiversity message to a very wide audience



- ✓ Pollinators are an element of biodiversity that people understand & relate to
- ✓ Can be communicated as a clean & simple message
- ✓ Changes can be easily monitored
- ✓ Protecting pollinators has knock-on benefits for biodiversity generally



Ireland's wild bees – 98 different types



Need to manage the whole landscape in a way that provides these wild bees with the **food, shelter and safety** they need to survive

✓ In doing this you help protect biodiversity generally



© Steven Falk

The first bee record for Ireland is from 1884



Large Carder-bee
Bombus muscorum

<https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie>

Moss Carder-bee (<i>Bombus</i> (<i>Thoracomus</i>) <i>muscorum</i>) - C9242	
Grid	C9242
Site	Portlough
Dataset	Bees
Survey	Stelfox list of Hymenoptera Aculeata of Ireland of the Acad. Sci. 355
Precision	1km
Recorder	W.F. Johnson
Determiner	
Taxon	<i>Bombus</i> (<i>Thoracomus</i>) <i>muscorum</i>
Common Name	Moss Carder-bee
Date	1884

W.F. Johnson, headmaster with pupils from the Cathedral Grammar School, Armagh. 1894

Johnson “when disturbed during hay-making operations, it is able to take care of itself”



GOOD INDICATOR OF POLLINATOR DIVERSITY





Bumblebees are 25 to 40 million years old

Bombus muscorum was originally described in 1758 by Linnaeus

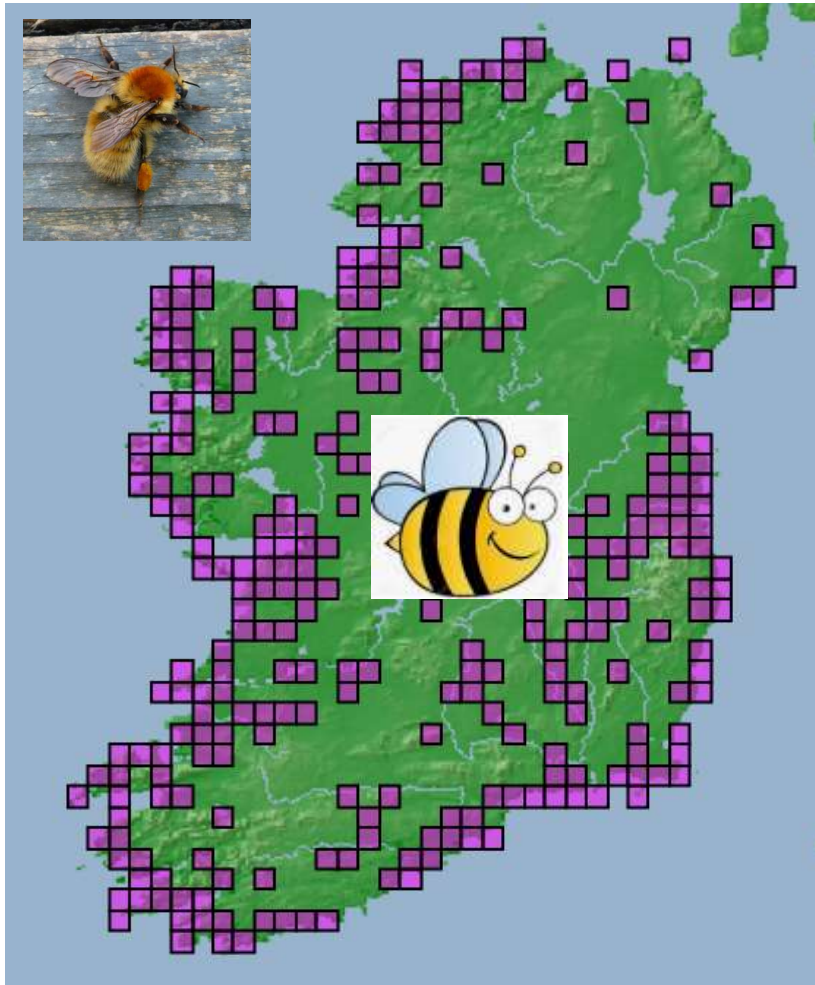
Distribution

World distribution(GBIF)

Palearctic region



Records since 2000

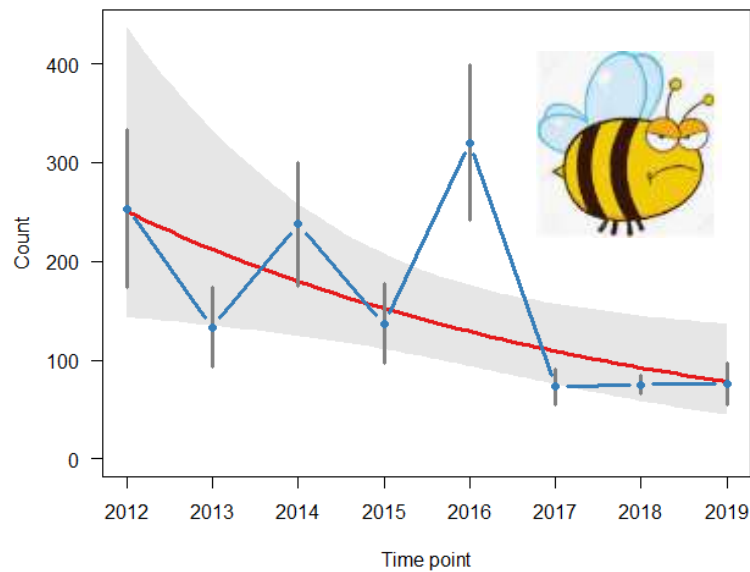


A unique variety
occurs on the Aran
Islands



Citizen science scheme – standardised methodology – scientifically rigorous trend data

Large Carder Bee: 2012-2019

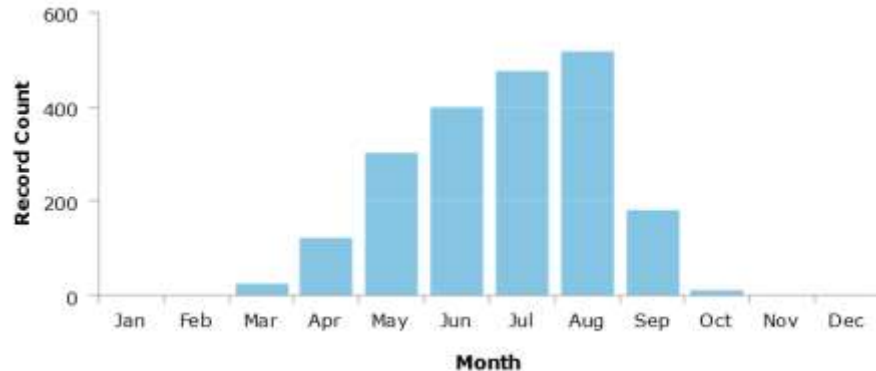


Showing a worrying decline



WHY?

It's fussy and needs as much natural habitat as possible



Nests on or just under the ground. It cards together collected moss and dry grass to cover the nest.

Nest sizes are small, with between 40 and 120 workers. The life of the nest is short, about 3 months.

Described as a **doorstep forager**

Will only travel around 100m from its nest to feed (unusually low for bumblebees)

Favourite foods

Red Clover
Knapweed
Dandelion
Kidney Vetch
Bird's-foot-trefoil
Devil's-bit Scabious
White Clover
Vetch

Phacelia
Lavender




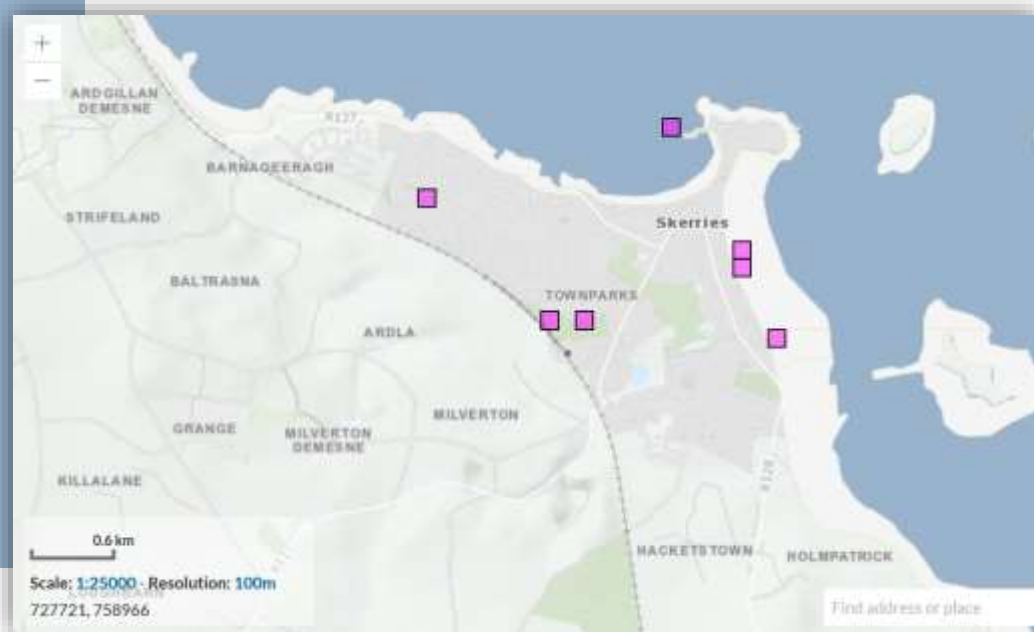


New Plan for 2021-2025



5.2: Raise awareness of rare pollinators

Action	Progress measure	Responsibility
<p>3 Concerted effort to assist recovery of the endangered Great Yellow Bumblebee (<i>Bombus distinguendus</i>)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guideline document (<i>Protecting rare pollinators: Great Yellow Bumblebee 2019</i>) promoted and distributed to all relevant stakeholders Awareness raising within local communities in remaining strongholds (Mullet Peninsula, Mayo) Development of a species recovery plan for the Great Yellow Bumblebee Continued management of BirdWatch reserves in the Mullet Peninsula to also support the Great Yellow Bumblebee. Investigation into funding mechanisms to increase the area of land that is managed to support the Great Yellow Bumblebee. 	<p>National Biodiversity Data Centre, NPWS, BirdWatch Ireland, Mayo County Council, Belmullet Tidy Towns, UCD</p>
<p>4 Concerted effort to assist recovery of the near threatened Large Carder Bee (<i>Bombus muscorum</i>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to monitor its status - data from the All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme (2012-2019) shows an ongoing decline. Identify a series of key locations where healthy populations remain Work with Local Authorities and local communities to raise awareness of the bee in these areas and to encourage pollinator-friendly actions to support it 	<p>AIPP team in collaboration with relevant partners</p>



Sustainable Skerries

If you can show that it's possible to live alongside the Large Carder Bee in Skerries and we can use that to encourage other communities across the island

= AN ISLAND THAT IS GENUINELY BETTER FOR BIODIVERSITY & ALSO FOR PEOPLE