

7 Bees

Bombus distinguendus great yellow bumblebee

Regionally extinct?

Current status Nationally notable; rare RDB (Watsonian Yorkshire).

Widespread in Europe and Asia but declining in many parts of its range. Mostly confined to the coast and islands of northern Scotland but with a few widely separated sites in England and Wales. Not seen in this region since 1979. Found on extensive areas of meadowland, it has drastically declined as a result of habitat loss in the modern agricultural landscape. Nests are constructed underground. Red clover *Trifolium pratense* and common knapweed *Centaurea nigra* are good forage plants.

Associated with lowland hay meadows and lowland calcareous grassland.

Bombus humilis brown-banded carder bumblebee

Regionally extinct?

Current status Rare RDB (Watsonian Yorkshire).

Widespread in Europe, formerly widespread across England and Wales. Now restricted to Wales and the south, last being recorded from this region in 1979. Declined steeply due to loss of habitat in the modern agricultural landscape.

Associated with lowland hay meadows and lowland calcareous grassland.

Bombus ruderatus large garden bumblebee

Regionally extinct?

Current status Nationally notable; rare RDB (Watsonian Yorkshire).

Widespread but declining in Europe, formerly widespread in England and Wales, now only found in southern England. Last recorded from this region in 1980, probably extinct in Yorkshire, having declined due to loss of habitat in the modern agricultural landscape.

Associated with lowland hay meadows and lowland calcareous grassland.

Bombus subterraneus short haired bumblebee

Regionally extinct

Current status Rare RDB (Watsonian Yorkshire).

Widespread, but declining, in Europe. Scattered over England, north to Yorkshire, the last known English population was in Dungeness but it has not been recorded since 1988. In this region the last records were before 1959. The decline has been due to loss of habitat in the modern agricultural landscape.

Associated with lowland hay meadows and lowland calcareous grassland.

Bombus sylvarum shrill carder bee

Regionally extinct?

Current status Nationally notable; rare RDB (Watsonian Yorkshire).

This species is widespread in continental Europe and was formerly widespread and common throughout the UK. There has been a sharp decline this century and it is now limited to seven sites in southern England. Last recorded in this region in 1979. Probably now extinct in Yorkshire. Decline has been due to changes in agricultural practice resulting in the loss of foraging and nesting sites in herb-rich grassland.