

## Wheal Buzzy Project – Community and Schools brief.

Wheal Buzzy is a first of its kind project!

In the UK there are between 250 and 270 known species of solitary bee, we have 120 of them in Cornwall. Through funding from the AONB partnership and the Heritage lottery fund we are looking to increase awareness and increase habitat for the Duchy's nationally important miner (solitary) bees.

Our mining heritage (particularly the older sites) is of particular significance, the post-industrial habitats are ideal for a number of solitary bee species and other insects. The disturbed workings have a rich diversity of habitat from the bare grassland through to early successional grassland and heathland found in these disturbed areas. As many mine sites have been excluded from intensive agricultural practise, they have retained their semi-natural diverse flower rich grassland habitat, which are now scarce within an agricultural setting.

The Wheal Buzzy Project has identified a key number of sites within the AONB which are strategically important for solitary bees (mining bees)



- Loe Bar
- Praa Sands to Marazion
- West Penwith - Sennen to St Ives and inland towards Madron and Rosewall Hill
- Portreath/Godrevy Head
- St Agnes

- Stepper Point, Padstow
- Pentire Head/Port Quin
- Trebarwith/Tintagel/Boscastle

We will be working actively with a number of landowners throughout the project, including the National Trust, Several Community Projects, and Private Landowners, to increase awareness of mining bees, enhance and conserve habitats for them.

A key part of the Wheal Buzzy project is the engagement of communities in the work to conserve and enhance mining bee populations and raise awareness of the threats to bees through partnership work through walks, theatre, bee identification and events. Identify and create new wildflower meadows on land owned and managed by the National Trust. Work with local communities, schools and landowners to identify and improve land in the focus areas for mining bees. Everyone's actions are important!

Wheal Buzzy will be actively working with communities on existing and new projects, to support positive action increasing awareness and understanding of pollinator's, particularly solitary bees. Providing support and resources to do so and further developing the project through a partnership based approach. Through identifying potential areas of land that might be improved to benefit bees, regular Bee healthy walks, with local trained walk leaders, the establishment of a linked group of volunteers to survey key areas for solitary bees increasing county records and developing our understanding of the Cornish Mining (Solitary) Bee population and the creation of an education pack which will be available as a free online resource in 2019.



Wheal Buzzy has an amount of funding available to facilitate activities and training for volunteers