

*This is One of the  
Peak District's*

# Buzzing Stations



Friends of Buxton Station invite you to  
make tracks from here to enjoy a

## BUMBLEBEE SAFARI



**Bumblebee**  
Conservation  
Trust





Bilberry bumblebee  
illustrations courtesy of  
Becca Thorne and  
Matt Cooper

# Self-guided BUMBLEBEE SAFARI to the Light Wood area

Bilberry bumblebee

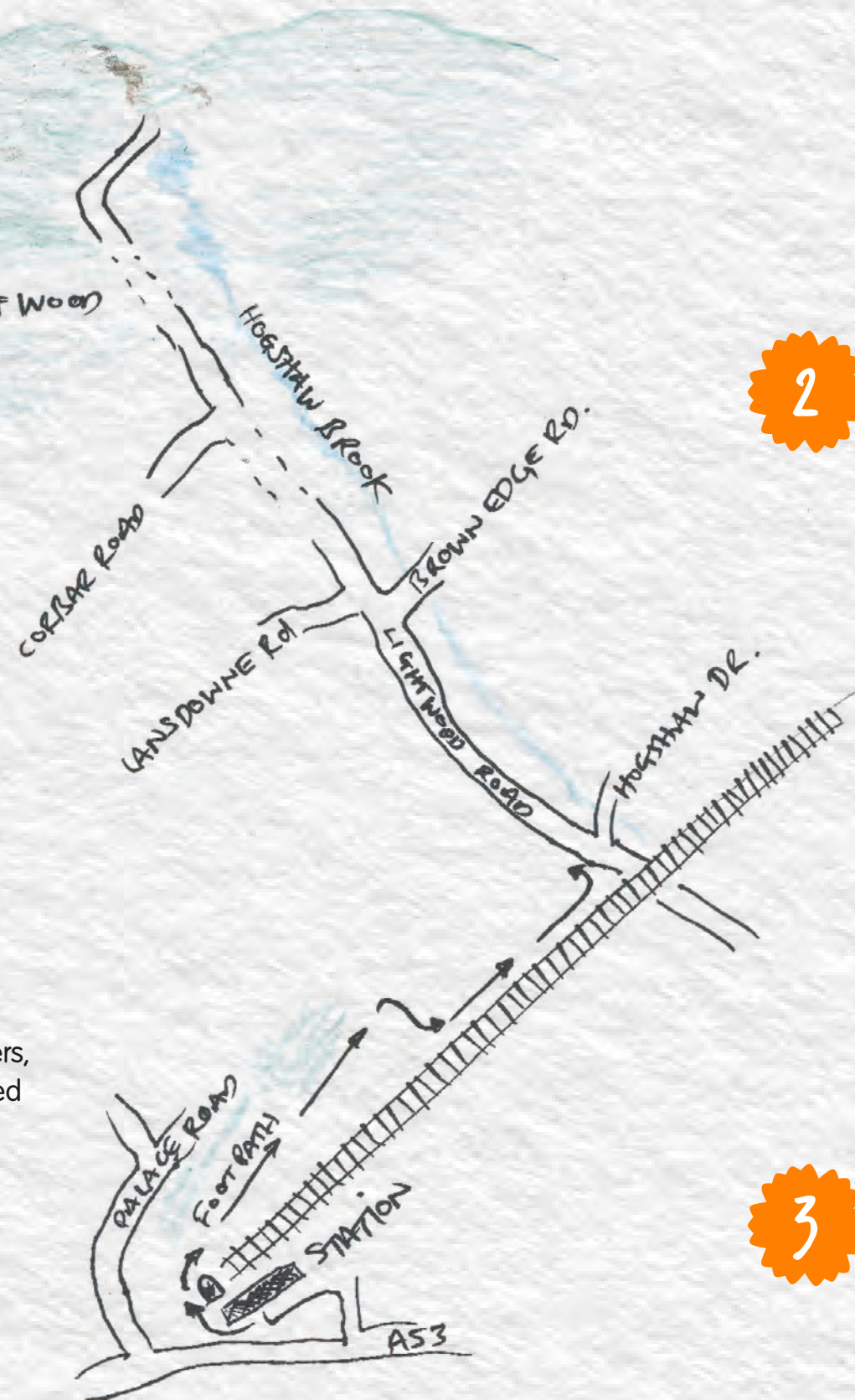
Red-tailed bumblebee



1

Leave the main station building and turn immediately right.

Go to the right again, around the glorious fanlight window and then take the footpath on the right. This area is owned by one of our partners, DB Cargo (UK) Ltd, they have allowed FoBS to "rewild" the area with help from local young people: saplings, shrubs and flowers have been planted; nesting material, suitable homes food supplies have been provided.



2

At the end of the path, turn left onto Lightwood Road. Follow it until the roadway becomes a gravel track, ignoring all turnings on your left and right.

In spring/summer, this is the right place to spot our special Bilberry bumblebees as well as more common bee species. Look closely at clumps of yellow flowers, wild raspberries, thistles, foxgloves, bilberries and many multi-coloured meadow flowers that fill this area. Follow the track up through the wooded and shaded area, keeping an eye out for the various bumblebees shown around the edge of this leaflet and small lizards sunning themselves on the fences!

3

Retrace your steps back down Lightwood Road, back to the station.



White-tailed bumblebee



Tree bumblebee



Common Carder bee



# Why Bumblebees need your Help

Changes in agriculture over the last 80 years or so have had a drastic impact on our bumblebees, leaving them often very hungry and homeless. Almost all of our rich wildflower hay meadows have gone, being replaced by large fields growing the same crop. Many hedges have been removed to make fields bigger and there has been an increased use of chemicals like pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers.

Hedges provide great food sources as well as perfect nesting and hibernating sites. They also act as corridors between good feeding and nesting sites, most important to those bumblebees that don't fly long distances.

Killing chemicals have had an obvious impact on bees. It's less well known that fertilisers can make soil less suitable for some flowering plants bees rely on for food.

Climate change has altered times when plants flower and bees come out of hibernation - if the two don't coincide, bees go hungry when they most need food!

Pests and diseases are also major threats to our various bumblebee species.

Some UK bumblebee species have already become extinct, gone forever! Those left behind, like our rare High Peak resident the Bilberry bumblebee (*Bombus monticola*) really need our help!

Our bumblebees are not just cute, cheery and charming, they are vital pollinators to many of our food crops and wildflowers. We enjoy strawberries, apples, tomatoes and many other lovely foods thanks to the humble bumble! Give 'em a helping hand!



Use this leaflet to enjoy a short trip from Buxton Station to see our bumblebees as nature intended. You might be lucky and spot a Bilberry bumblebee, seen from spring to late summer. The first part of the gravel track is wheelchair-friendly, but it can get a bit tricky further up. You'll need stout footwear if going up onto the moors.



See how you can make your garden more bee-friendly at  
[www.beekind.bumblebeeconservation.org/](http://www.beekind.bumblebeeconservation.org/)