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## Outreach and education

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As part of the Glasgow Natural History Society/RSPB Scotland programme for the great yellow bumblebee (*Bombus distinguendus*), RSPB Scotland prepared a set of teaching materials for primary schools on bumblebees in general and the Great Yellow in particular. The material demonstrated the importance of bumblebees, provided schools with identification materials and activities for learning about the species likely to be encountered in their area. There was a special emphasis on practical steps that can be taken to provide food plants and habitat for bumblebees.

Two important characteristics of the project were that it was geographically restricted to schools within the current range of *B. distinguendus* or those areas where it is like to expand, covering the Western Isles, the Argyll Islands, north Sutherland and Orkney. This in turn led to the decision to produce all pupil materials in English and Gaelic versions.

The materials were designed to link to the existing curriculum and to the new curriculum being developed at the time of writing and to other initiatives, such as EcoSchools. An over-riding priority was to provide materials that were sufficiently local, so that they would work in the areas targeted. Much school biodiversity material does not work in highland or island Scotland.

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