

Bee identification guide



Want to know more about rare bumblebees? Found a bumble bee that's not on here? Take a picture and get it identified at bumblebeeconservation.org. It will be added to on-going research into UK bee populations.

When your wildflowers bloom you should have lots of us coming to visit. We're not all the same and it's good to know your guests' names. So we've put together this bee spotter guide to help you identify us.



Mason Bee
Osmia rufa



Early Bumblebee
Bombus pratorum



Buff-tailed Bumblebee
Bombus terrestris



Common Carder Bumblebee
Bombus pascuorum



Hairy-footed Flower Bee (female)
Anthophora plumipes



Tawny Mining Bee (female)
Andrena fulva



Forest Cuckoo Bumblebee
Bombus sylvestris



Honey Bee (worker)
Apis mellifera



Red Mason Bee
Osmia bicornis



Hairy-footed Flower Bee (male)
Anthophora plumipes



Tawny Mining Bee (male)
Andrena fulva



Great Yellow Bumblebee
Bombus distinguendus



Early Mining Bee
Andrena haemorrhoa



Garden Bumblebee
Bombus hortorum



Honey Bee (queen)
Apis mellifera



Willughby's Leafcutter Bee
Megachile willughbiella



Red-shanked Carder-bee Bumblebee
Bombus ruderarius



Blue Mason Bee
Osmia caerulea



Communal Mining Bee
Andrena carantonica



Ivy Mining Bee
Colletes hederæ



Red-tailed Bumblebee
Bombus lapidarius



Short-haired Bumblebee
Bombus subterraneus



Davies Mining Bee
Colletes daviesanus



Fabricus' Nomad Bee
Nomada fabriciana



White-tailed Bumblebee
Bombus lucorum



Brown-banded Carder Bumblebee
Bombus humilis



Shrill Carder Bumblebee
Bombus sylvarum