









White-tailed bumblebees - Factsheet

During the count we asked you to look for white-tailed bumblebees. This is a category of bee which includes species that look very similar. Here are some tips from Buglife on how to tell the commonest ones apart:

Common name Scientific name	Buff-tailed bumblebee <i>Bombus terrestris</i>	White-tailed bumblebee <i>Bombus lucorum</i>	Garden bumblebee <i>Bombus hortorum</i>	Heath bumblebee <i>Bombus jonellus</i>
Photos:	 Queen © Steven Falk	 Female © Steven Falk	 ©Steven Falk	 Female © Steven Falk
	 Worker© Steven Falk	 Male © Jaybee	 Face and tongue © Rory Dimond	 Male © Steven Falk
Yellow bands:	Two – dark yellow in queens to bright yellow in workers.	Two - lemon yellow in colour.	Three - bright yellow in colour.	Three – buff/yellow bands.
Tail colour:	Buff in queens. White with a thin buff band at the base in workers and males.	Pure white	Extensive pure white	Extensive pure white
Male face hairs:	Black	Yellow	Black. Forehead sometimes yellow.	Yellow
Other notes:	One of the earliest to emerge in February. Can overwinter in Southern England and Wales.	Be especially careful not to confuse workers with worker Buff-tails. If unsure, record as ' <i>Bombus lucorum</i> agg.'	Long tongue so likes tubular flowers e.g. foxglove, deadnettle. Long face.	Short, round face. Found in parks and gardens as well as heaths.

Want to learn even more? Check out this fantastic [identification guide from the Natural History Museum](#) or this great [video from Blooms for Bees](#)