

Join the Great British Bee Count

Bee spotter's guide

Did you know around 270 bee species have been spotted in Great Britain?

Most of these are solitary bees and bumblebees, but we also have one species of honey bee.



Honeybee

Glossy black or amber abdomen and broad, shining legs.



Ashy mining bee (female)

Black body with ash bands across the thorax.



Tawny mining bee (female)

Thick orange hairs with hairy black legs and head.



Wool carder bee

Broad and dark. Yellow spots along abdomen.



Red mason bee

Bristly orange body. Collects pollen under abdomen.



Hairy-footed flower bee (female)

Hairy black body with orange back legs.



Red-tailed bumblebee (female)

Black body and orange-red tail.



Early bumblebee

Two yellow and black bands and orange tail.



Buff-tailed bumblebee

Two yellow and black bands and white or buff tail.



Garden bumblebee

Three yellow bands and white tail.



Tree bumblebee

Ginger thorax, black abdomen and white tail.



Common carder bumblebee

Gingery-brown. Often with black hairs on the abdomen.

