



Taking part

Taking part in the North East Bee Hunt is simple. Find a bee, take a photo, and share your sighting on iRecord. Records of all bee species are welcome, but researchers are especially interested in sightings of eight distinctive yet under-recorded target species you could find at home.

Every record counts, wherever you live in the North East. Whether you take part in your garden, or on a walk close to home, by contributing, you'll make a difference for bees this summer.

For further information, see:

www.nhsn.org.uk/north-east-bee-hunt/

We need your help to record bees across the North East

Bees play an important role in the environment. To protect them, we need to know where they are.

Many species are under-recorded in the North East. Your observations hold the key to revealing the mysteries surrounding bees across the region, from the Tees to the Tweed.

Urban or rural, beginner or expert, by taking part in the North East Bee Hunt, you'll not only increase knowledge and understanding of these amazing insects but help protect bees for years to come.

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Red-tailed Bumblebee



Solitary bees

Tawny Mining Bee *Andrena fulva*

Active: March - June

Nesting habit: Nests in bare or short vegetated ground such as lawns.

Females

- Dense, fox-coloured coat
- Black-haired legs, head and sides

Males

Males are more challenging to identify and confident identification is achieved by examining antennae in a good quality photo: antennal segment three is much longer than four.

- Smaller and slimmer than females with longer antennae
- Very long mandibles and white hair on face



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Ashy Mining Bee *Andrena cineraria*

Active: March - June

Nesting habit: A species of mining bee, nesting in bare or short-vegetated ground.

Females

- Two broad ash-coloured bands on thorax
- Black shiny abdomen with blue sheen
- Honeybee-sized

Males

- Smaller and slimmer than females
- More extensive ashy hairs across body
- 'Shoe-brush' tuft of grey hair on face



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Red Mason Bee *Osmia bicornis*

Active: March - June

Nesting habit: Nests in aerial cavities such as bee hotels and walls.

Females

- Orange-red abdomen and light brown hairs on thorax
- Two facial 'horns' on face used to collect mud
- Light orange pollen-collecting hairs under abdomen

Males

- Smaller and slimmer than females with longer antennae
- 'Shoe-brush' tuft of light hair on face



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Fork-tailed Flower Bee *Anthophora furcata*

Active: June - August

Nesting habit: Nests in dead wood unlike other members of its group.

Often mistaken for a small bumblebee but the darting flight and high-pitched buzz help to give this species away.

Females

- Brown-furred with orange-red tail tip
- Dense brown pollen-collecting hairs on hind legs

Males

- Distinctive yellow 'mask' on face with sparse facial hair
- Brown-furred and lacks orange-red tail tip



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Bumblebees

Red-tailed Bumblebee *Bombus lapidarius*

Active: March - October

Nesting habit: Large nests underground with around 300 workers

Females (queens and workers)

- Black-haired body with red tail
- Workers resemble small queens

Males

- Black-haired body with red tail
- Yellow banding behind head and at bottom of thorax
- Yellow facial hair that resembles a 'moustache'



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Tree Bumblebee *Bombus hypnorum*

Active: March - October

Nesting habit: Nests aerially such as in tree cavities, old bird boxes and roof eaves

This species has a unique colour pattern among British bumblebees.

Females (queens and workers)

- Chestnut-brown thorax, black abdomen and white tail
- Workers resemble small queens

Males

- Same colour pattern as females but brown hairs often extend onto abdomen



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Garden Bumblebee *Bombus hortorum*

Active: March - October

Nesting habit: Nests are typically underground, such as in old rodent burrows

This species has a unique long, thin face often described as 'horse-shaped'. This is a long-tongued species so you will typically find this bumblebee on deep flowers.

White tail with three yellow bands: a band behind the head, at the bottom of the thorax and at the top of the abdomen. These last two bands are close together, forming a midriff band.

Females (queens and workers)

- Workers resemble small queens

Males

- Same colour pattern as females
- Often an additional yellow tuft of hair on top of head



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Red-tailed Cuckoo Bee *Bombus rupestris*

Active: May - August

Nesting habit: A species of cuckoo bumblebee, taking over the nests of Red-tailed Bumblebees

Females

- Large bees with a black-haired body and red tail
- Distinctive dark, smoky wings
- Hair is often sparser to reveal shiny black body
- A faint yellow band behind head can be present
- Dense black hairs on hind legs as lack pollen baskets

Males

- Smaller with a black-haired body and red tail
- Often have grey- or straw-coloured banding across body



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