



Queen



Worker

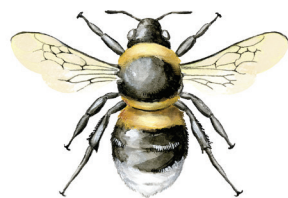


Male

### Tree bumblebee (*Bombus hypnorum*)

Queens, workers and males all have a brown-tinger thorax, and a black abdomen with a white tail. This recent arrival from France is now present across most of England and Wales, and is thought to be moving northwards.

Size: queen 18mm, worker 14mm, male 16mm



Queen



Worker



Male

### Heath bumblebee (*Bombus jonellus*)

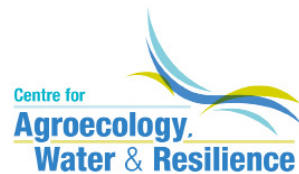
Queens, workers and males have three yellow bands. Individuals generally have a white tail, while those in Ireland and northern Scotland have an orange/ buff tail. The colouration is similar to the Garden bumblebee, but this species is smaller and the is face round. Patchy distribution across the UK.

Size: queen 16mm, worker 12mm, male 12mm

There are 24 species of bumblebee in the UK. This field guide contains illustrations and descriptions of the eight most common species. All illustrations 1.5x actual size.

There has been a marked decline in the diversity and abundance of wild bees across Europe in recent decades. In the UK, two species of bumblebee have become extinct within the last 80 years, and seven species are listed in the Government's Biodiversity Action Plan as priorities for conservation. This decline has been largely attributed to habitat destruction and fragmentation, as a result of urbanisation and the intensification of agricultural practices.

The Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience at Coventry University is working with Garden Organic, to conduct research to encourage and support bumblebees in gardens and allotments.



The Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience (CAWR) at Coventry University is driving innovative, transdisciplinary research on the understanding and development of resilient food and water systems internationally.

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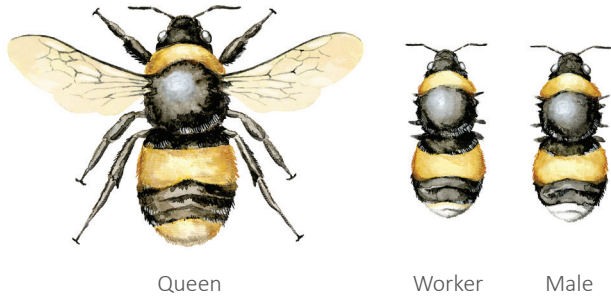
Illustrations: Matt Miles | [www.datmattmiles.com](http://www.datmattmiles.com)  
Photograph: Gemma Foster (CAWR)



# Common Bumblebees of the United Kingdom



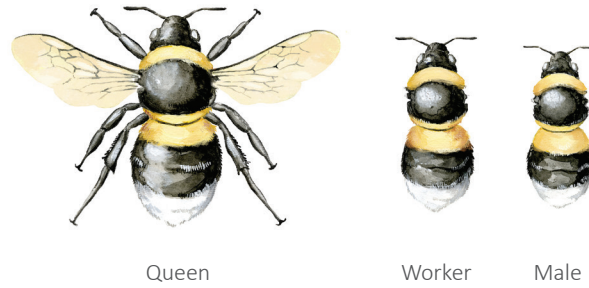
Field guide to the UK's eight most common species



Buff-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*)

Queens, workers and males have two dull-yellow bands. The queens and males have an off-white/ buff colour tail, which can sometimes appear brownish. The workers have a white tail with a subtle buff line. Common throughout the UK, although absent in parts of Scotland.

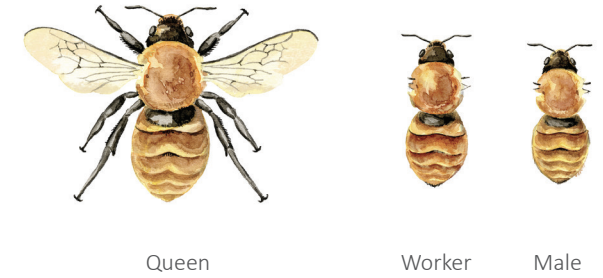
Size: queen 20-22mm, worker 11-17mm, male 14-16mm



Garden bumblebee (*Bombus hortorum*)

Queens, workers and males have three yellow bands and a white tail. The face of this species is longer than others with similar markings. Common throughout the UK.

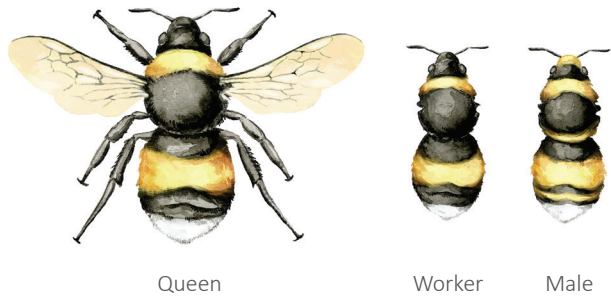
Size: queen 17-20mm, worker 11-16mm, male 14-15mm



Common carder bee (*Bombus pascuorum*)

Queens, workers and males are almost completely brown or ginger. Common throughout the UK, but the shade of the abdomen varies from dark to light depending on location.

Size: queen 16-18mm, worker 10-15mm, male 13-14mm



White-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus lucorum*)

Queens, workers and males have two bright lemon-yellow bands, and a bright white tail. Males also have tufts of yellow hair on their head, thorax and abdomen. Common throughout the UK.

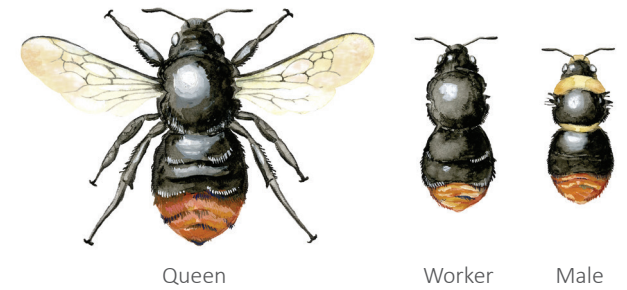
Size: queen 19-20mm, worker 11-17mm, male 14-16mm



Early bumblebee (*Bombus pratorum*)

Queens, workers and males have two yellow bands, and dark orange-red tails. Abdominal yellow band is often less pronounced or missing in workers. This species is particularly small. Common throughout the UK, although absent in parts of northern Scotland.

Size: queen 15-17mm, worker 10-14mm, male 11-13mm



Red-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus lapidarius*)

Queens and workers have a black body with an orange-red tail. Males also have a yellow band on the thorax and yellow facial hairs. Common throughout the UK, although absent in parts of Scotland.

Size: queen 20-22mm, worker 11-16mm, male 14-16mm