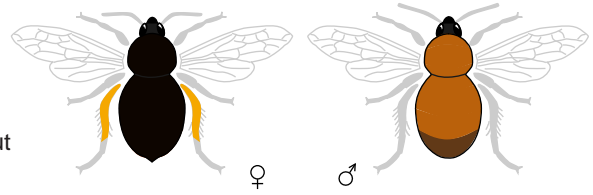


Some SOLITARY BEES found in British gardens

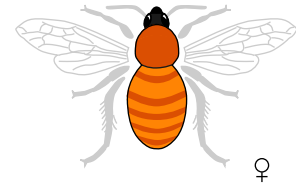
Anthophora plumipes Hairy Footed Flower Bee

One of the earliest bees. In warm weather it is out in numbers by early April. Often flies with its tongue held out below it. The male is brown; the female is all black with yellow/orange hind legs. Both have very hairy legs. *Anthophora plumipes* darts about much faster than bumblebees. Nests in walls and high banks.



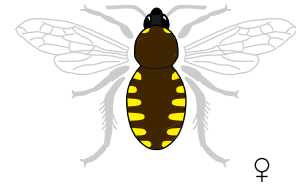
Andrena fulva Tawny Mining Bee

Found throughout Britain. The female has very bright fox-red hairs all over her body. Makes its nest in loose soil, often in lawns, leaving a characteristic cone-shaped mound of soil as it digs out the nest cells underground. The male is smaller, less brightly-coloured and does not play a part in the nest-building process. Tawny Mining Bees typically feed on currant and gooseberry flowers. Like many solitary bees, the Tawny Mining Bee's sting is too weak to penetrate human skin.



Anthidium manicatum Wool Carder Bee

Loves hairy plants such as Lamb's Ear; also smaller-flowered Foxgloves and Purple Toadflax. Aggressively territorial, a male will chase off intruding insects, often wrestling them to the ground and crushing them with three prongs at the tip of his abdomen. The male is one of the largest solitary bees. The female is smaller and less brightly-coloured than the male. Females collect hairs from plants to line their nests with, scaping them off and gathering them into a ball - hence their name.



Osmia rufa Red Mason Bee

One of our most common bees, found extensively in England and Wales; not seen in Scotland. Typically, nests in holes and crevices in crumbling masonry, plant stems or old beetle holes. The female uses mud to construct her cells, using two special horns on her face. She may build several nests during her lifetime. Around from early Spring till late June, with the males emerging first.



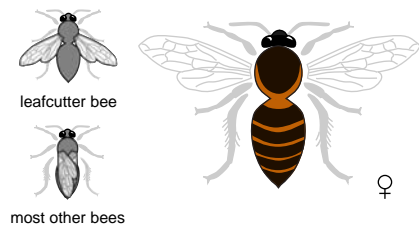
Andrena haemorrhoa Early Mining Bee

Often found in gardens with lots of bare soil. Appears in gardens in April and May, disappearing by mid-June. The male is much smaller than the female. Nests in gardens, playing fields, beside roads. A very common species, but often goes unnoticed due to its unstriking appearance. Several other ground-nesting *Andrenas* frequent gardens, ranging in size from about 8mm to honey bee size.



Megachile species Leafcutter Bees

Typically nest in soft, rotted wood or thick-stemmed pithy plants. They get their name from their habit of cutting neat, rounded circles out of plant leaves which they use to construct cylindrical nest cells. Recognisable by the way they hold their wings at rest (see illustration). Leafcutter Bees collect pollen on their abdomens rather than their hind legs.



Colletes species

Like Honey Bees in appearance, though usually much smaller and with distinctive white bands on the abdomen. Nest in friable (easily-crumbled) soil. Away from gardens, *Colletes* bees form dense colonies in places such as river banks.

