

Quick guide to BeeWalk

1. Find a suitable location for your transect. This should be somewhere you visit, or want to visit regularly and which has bee-friendly habitats. The route should be around 1 mile (1-2km) in length.
2. Register as a BeeWalker [here!](#)
3. Set up your BeeWalk account [here!](#)
4. Using the green F1 'Site Description' form, walk your proposed transect and note what habitats are present, where they change (where the section start and finish, your route should be split into at least 4 different sections), and what the land is used for. Form G3 lists the categories of habitats and land use.
5. Set up your transect on the website. To do this, click on the 'My sites' tab, then click 'Add site' and enter the name of your transect. Use the map to zoom in to the site of your route, click to set a central grid reference, then fill in the general details of your transect & click save.
6. On the next tab, "your route" draw the route of each transect section on the map. Click the section number and single-click on the map where it starts. Then, join-the-dots style, click on the map where the section goes before double-clicking to save it. Repeat this for each section.
7. On the next tab "section details" enter the habitat and land use types for each section.
8. It is now time to get outside and do a BeeWalk once a month between March and October. Use form F2 to note down all the relevant information. Walk your transect between 11am- 5pm, choosing approximately the same time of day every month. Where possible choose a warm, sunny day, with no more than a light breeze. Walk at a steady pace and don't linger in hotspots. Please take photos of any potentially rare species. See pages 2 and 3 for a guide to our commonest bumblebees.
9. On your return, submit your findings on the website – even if you didn't see anything. Click on the 'My walks' tab to bring up a list of dates to the present day and a dropdown menu where you can select your transect. Click on the relevant date and you will be taken to a recording screen where you can enter weather conditions and the time your walk started and ended.
10. Click 'Next step' at the bottom right-hand corner. This will take you to the data input page. In the species column, type in the name of the bees you saw. Then choose the section number from the drop-down menu and fill in the number of each caste – queen, worker or male - that you saw in that section.
11. There is a final page where you can note any changes to the transect - such as flooding - before finally clicking 'Save'. Congratulations, you have finished your first BeeWalk!

Remember to consider your health and safety ([see full details here](#)), choose a safe route and don't survey under conditions you are unsure about.

If you aren't sure of a bumblebee species, record as unknown and enter as "bumblebee" in the species column when you submit your data.

By signing up to BeeWalk you accept our data policy ([see full details here](#)), which means we share our data for wider use, including with the National Biodiversity Network where recorder names may be included in publically viewable data.

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Buff-tailed bumblebee

Bombus terrestris



Worker/male

Queen

Has a dirty/golden yellow collar near the head and one on the abdomen. The queen's tail is an off white/buff colour which can sometimes appear orange. The workers have a white tail with a subtle buff line separating the tail from the rest of the abdomen. Males have black facial hair, as opposed to yellow, and a buff-tinged tail.

Early bumblebee

Bombus pratorum



Male

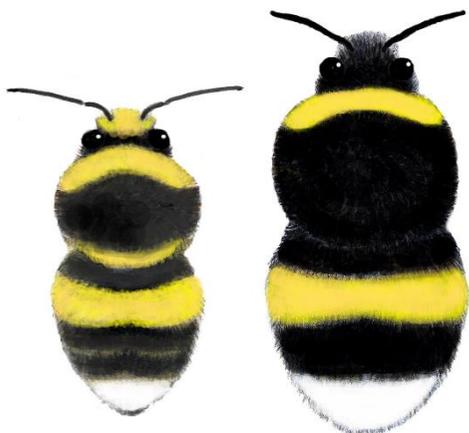
Worker

Queen

Queens and males have two strong yellow bands, but workers often only have one. The tail is dark orange-red, but fades over time. The Early bumblebee is particularly small. Males have a broad yellow collar and yellow hair on the face.

White-tailed bumblebee

Bombus lucorum



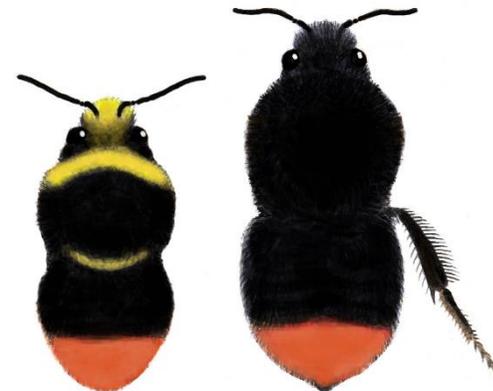
Male

Queen/worker

Queens, workers and males have a yellow band on the thorax and on the abdomen. On a fresh specimen, the tail is a bright white and the yellow bands are a bright lemon-yellow colour. The males have yellow hair on their head, and extra tufts of yellow hair on the thorax and abdomen.

Red-tailed bumblebee

Bombus lapidarius



Male

Queen/worker

The queens and workers are completely black, except for an orange-red tail. The males look similar, but have some yellow hair on the face and thorax. Females are distinguished from the much rarer Red-shanked carder bee by having black hairs on the hind leg.

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Common carder bee

Bombus pascuorum



Queens, workers and males are almost completely brown or ginger. However, the shade varies significantly, depending on the location.

Some have abdomens which are very dark, while the abdomens of others can be quite light. It is the only common UK bumblebee that is mostly brown or ginger.

Queen/worker/male

Tree bumblebee

Bombus hypnorum



Queens, workers and males all have a black head, brown-tinger thorax, black abdomen with a white tail. The proportion of white on the tail does vary significantly but is always present. This species was first found in the UK in 2001, but is now found throughout most of England, Wales and central Scotland. It prefers to nest above ground, often inhabiting bird boxes.

Queen/worker/male

Garden bumblebee

Bombus hortorum



The same pattern is shared by queen, worker and male: three yellow bands (at the front and rear of the thorax and a third band at the front of the abdomen). The tail is a clean white colour. The face is distinctly long, differentiating it from other species with similar banding, such as the Heath bumblebee. It is a very long tongued species that prefers flowers with deep tubes.

Queen/worker/male

Heath bumblebee

Bombus jonellus



Similar to the Garden bumblebee, which also has three yellow stripes and a white tail. However, the face of the Heath bumblebee is round and the bee is smaller. This species is not common everywhere, but can be quite common in Ireland and northern Scotland where it has an orange/ buff tail. Despite its name, it is not only found in heath habitats.

Queen/worker/male