

About us

Fill in your details

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Email address: _____

Age (if under 18): _____

**Please send us your records by
21st September 2007.**

Your can do this either:

**(1) By post - cut out and return
your completed form to:**

Buglife, 170A Park Road,
Peterborough, PE1 2UF.

(2) Or submit it on our website at

www.buglife.org.uk/big

bumblebeehunt this will help

*us save money and to speed up the
analysis of the results.*

The results will be summarised on
our website and in our membership
newsletters.

* If you do not want to receive further
information from us, please tick here .

We will not share your personal details with
any third party.

Join Buglife

Buglife is the
only organisation
in Europe
devoted to the
conservation of
all invertebrates —
the small things that run the world!
By becoming a Buglife member,
you will be helping to support the
Trust's work in saving bumblebees
and other rare bugs.



Visit www.buglife.org.uk



Conserving the small
things that run the world
Registered Charity no.1092293

What else can you do to help Bumblebees?

Gardening for bumblebees

The bumblebee's furry
appearance and gentle,
bumbling flight is a feature of our
summer gardens and wildflower
meadows. Bumblebees are
dependent on flowers for
nectar and pollen, and gardens
have become important refuges
for bumblebees.

You can encourage bumblebees
to visit your garden by:

- Planting a variety of nectar-rich
flowers that will provide food for
them throughout the year, even
in late winter or early spring.
- Avoid using pesticides that could
harm them and other insects.
- Creating an undisturbed log pile
or compost heap will also help
provide quiet nesting and over-
wintering spots for bumblebees.

For a suggested list of flowers or to
find out more information on
gardening for bumblebees,
visit our website at
www.buglife.org.uk/big
bumblebeehunt



This project has been supported by:



Conserving the small
things that run the world

Count Bumblebees and help save them

1 JULY - 31 AUGUST 2007

Cover photo - David Woodfall/Woodfall Wild images, Denis Greenough, Peter Harvey.
Inside - Peter Harvey, Dave Goulson/BBCT, Nicolas J. Vereecken, Ted Benton, James Lindsey, Richard
Burkmar, Roger Key, Ken Preston-Mafham/Premaphotos, Dan Tunstall Pedoe, Greg Hitchcock/Buglife

How to take part

Step 1



Choose a warm, sunny day
Bumblebees are reluctant to go out when it's wet and windy.

Step 2



Visit a local open space
It can be your garden, local park, or even a safe, accessible brownfield site. Bumblebees are more likely to visit places where there are lots of flowers.

Step 3



Record your bumblebee sightings. For about 30 minutes, count the bumblebees you see in each colour group shown in the ID guide, and see if they are carrying pollen. (If you can't tell whether they are carrying pollen or not, count them as without pollen). When you have finished, record your results in the survey form.

Step 4



Submit your survey form
You can do this by simply sending us the attached survey form. Alternatively, if you have access to the internet, please transfer your records to our web form at www.buglife.org.uk/bigbumblebeehunt. That way you can do as many surveys as you like!



Look for the basket ladies!

Female bumblebees carry pollen in a special basket, called a corbicula, as seen on the back leg of this white-tailed bumblebee



Bumblebees under threat

Bumblebees play a crucial role in pollinating our flowers and crops, such as apples and raspberries. Unfortunately, numbers of bumblebees are falling and urgent action is needed to save them. In Britain, we have 25 kinds of bumblebees, but three are now extinct and six species have declined by at least 80% in recent decades. This decline has been largely due to the loss of wildflowers from our countryside and urban wild spaces.

Help to count bumblebees

It's not all bad news. Gardens, parks and brownfields (wastelands) have become central to bumblebee survival and can offer good habitats for them.

Now we need your help to build a clear picture of how bumblebees are doing in our towns and cities. This will enable us to direct our conservation efforts to help save bumblebees. Take part in this survey and help us record bumblebees in your garden and local open spaces.



I.D. your Bumblebee

Bumblebees can look very similar to one another. To make it easy for you to identify, you only need to record them to the five main colour groups, as shown.

Black Red-tails

All black with a red tail
Commonest species:
Red-tailed bumblebee
(*Bombus lapidarius*)



Banded Red-tails

Yellow stripes with a red tail
Commonest species:
Early bumblebee
(*Bombus pratorum*)



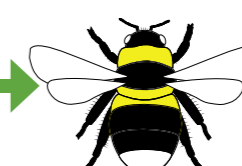
Two-banded White-tails

Two yellow stripes with a white or buff tail
Commonest species:
Buff-tailed bumblebee
(*Bombus terrestris*) or
White-tailed bumblebee
(*Bombus lucorum*)



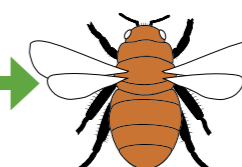
Three-banded White-tails

Three yellow stripes with a white tail
Commonest species:
Garden bumblebee
(*Bombus hortorum*)



Browns

Mostly gingery-brown on all parts of the body
Commonest species:
Common carder bee
(*Bombus pascuorum*)



'I'm ready to start recording bumblebees.....'

Complete all sections using CAPITAL letters

Number of bumblebees:	
With pollen	Without pollen
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Where did you record your bumblebees? Nearest place name / Grid reference

or Postcode:

Date of bumblebee hunt: (DD/MM/YYYY) / /

Type of habitat (Please tick one category only) Garden Park

Wasteland / Brownfield Other, please state:

CAUTION: Bumblebees are gentle creatures but can sting when they feel threatened.