

BEES and WASPS

Just a few of the bees and wasps found at the farm. Some of these were identified from the photos by members of BWARS (Bees, Wasps and Ants Recording Society).

TAWNY MINING BEE

Andrena fulva (female)

In Wildlife Garden - 11 'burrows' found in March and April. Is noticeable by its striking orange hair. This specimen has a balder thorax than usual – normally the thorax is also thick with orange hair.



LEAF-CUTTER BEE

Megachile centuncularis (female)

Seen amongst plants alongside turkey enclosure in early July. The female has a bright orange pollen brush under her abdomen, and she cuts semi-circular sections out of leaves (especially rose leaves) to use to make nest cells.



HAIRY-FOOTED FLOWER BEE

Anthophora plumipes (female)

Seen on Phacelia flowers in early May. An urban bee which often nests in old walls. Looks like a small bumblebee; the female is all black with orange-red hairs on its hind legs.



Species of CUCKOO BEE:

Melecta albifrons

Seen April / May; this is actually the cuckoo bee of the Hairy-footed Flower Bee, above, laying its eggs in its nests and acting much the same way as the cuckoo bird. This bee is fairly scarce, and mainly found in the south-east.



Species of BUMBLEBEE:

Probably either *Bombus hortorum* (male) or cuckoo bee *Bombus barbutellus* (male).

Seen early June. *Bombus hortorum* has an unusually long face for a bee, though it isn't visible on these photos to identify it for certain. Could also be *Bombus barbutellus*, a cuckoo bee which lays its eggs in the nests of *B. hortorum* and other similar bees.



Species of ICHNEUMON WASP:

Exact species not identifiable, but likely to be a *Pimpla* or *Lissonota* species.

Found in riverside plant beds in late April. It parasitises moth caterpillars And pupae.



Species of ICHNEUMON WASP:

Amblyteles armatorius

Found alongside 'Secret Garden' in early June.

One of the larger and more colourful ichneumon wasps, it parasitises many caterpillars, especially noctuid moths. The adult feeds on pollen, especially umbellifers such as hogweed.



COMMON WASP

Vespula vulgaris

In riverside plant area in early May. Identifiable by the anchor-like black markings on its face. May be seen scraping at wood fencing to collect wood pulp to build its nests.

