



BEES OF EARLHAM CEMETERY, NORWICH

Compiled by Vanna Bartlett, Jeremy Bartlett, Stuart Paston, Ian Senior and Thea Nicholls

This list of bees (order Hymenoptera) found in the Cemetery is a work in progress and will be updated as new information comes in.

Please send records of wildlife in Earlham Cemetery to us at friendsofearlhamcemetery@yahoo.co.uk

Last updated: 12th May 2017.

Family/Species	Comments
<p>Andrenidae</p> <p>Andrena bicolor, Gwynne's Mining-bee</p> 	<p>A very common species. Seen on a snowdrop flower in early April 2013 (SP) and on 26th March 2017 (VB), 2nd April 2017 (VB & JB).</p> <p>Photo credit: Vanna Bartlett</p>
<p>Andrena fulva, Tawny Mining Bee</p> 	<p>Females are covered with fox red hair on their backs and black on the underside. Males are yellower in appearance and are more slender than females.</p> <p>Sightings include: 5th April 2017 (IS), 11th April 2017 (JB & VB).</p> <p>Left: Male Tawny Mining Bee. Photo credit: Ian Senior</p>
<p>Andrena hattorfiana, Scabious Mining Bee</p>	<p>This Red Data Book species was first noticed in the Cemetery in 2004 (SP). It occurs from July to August on conserved sections 3 and 6 of grassland east of the burial chapel where Field Scabious is locally plentiful. This plant is crucial to the survival of this large mining bee as the females visit the blooms to collect pollen.</p> <p>Nest burrows are excavated singly or in small aggregations both in open sites and hidden</p>

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amongst low vegetation.

Numbers of the bee have been low in recent years compared to an abundance in 2006 and 2007 but it is said to be generally encountered only in small numbers so there would appear to be no cause for concern.

Within Norfolk it is otherwise only currently known from Breckland and two other recently discovered sites by the North Norfolk coast so the Cemetery site is very isolated. However there is historical evidence of its occurrence near to Norwich.

The bee has also been sighted in nearby gardens, also on Field Scabious (TN).

Photo credit: Jeremy Bartlett

[*Andrena nitida*](#), Grey-patched Mining Bee



A large *Andrena* with, when fresh, bright, foxy-brown hair on the thorax and a polished black abdomen. Females have thin apical side-bars of white pubescence on abdominal segments 1 to 3, and males have copious white facial hair.

Several sightings (and photographed a female on dandelion flowers) just west of St. Thomas' Road TG213087 13th April 2017 (VB).

Photo credit: Vanna Bartlett

[*Andrena scotica*](#), Chocolate Mining Bee



A rather dull *Andrena* with black and white hairs on the hind tibia, and very common in May to June.

A single individual was photographed by IS on 17th May 2016. Subsequently identified by Nick Owens and Tim Strudwick, January 2017.

Also seen on 11th April 2017 (JB & VB).

Photo credit: Ian Senior

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Halictidae

Sphecodes – Blood Bees



Very small to medium sized, inconspicuously haired bees, usually with a red and black abdomen. Cleptoparasites of various ground-nesting bees.

Very difficult to tell apart (or even photograph!).

The individual in the photo was seen by VB & JB on 11th May 2017.

Photo credit: Vanna Bartlett

Megachilidae

[*Osmia bicornis*](#), Red Mason Bee



Sightings include: 11 April 2017 on Green Alkanet flowers just west of St. Thomas' Road TG213087 and 11th May 2017 on buttercup flowers (VB & JB).

Common and widespread. An aerial nesting bee, that often nests in holes in walls and timber.

Photo credit: Vanna Bartlett

[*Osmia caerulescens*](#), Blue Mason Bee or [*O. leaiana*](#), Orange-vented Mason Bee

A single male *Osmia* sp. was photographed by IS on a Comfrey leaf on 17th May 2016.

Subsequently identified by Nick Owens and Tim Strudwick as either *Osmia caerulescens* or *O. leaiana*, January 2017.

Both are common species and very tricky to separate, though *O. leaiana* is on average larger and less brightly metallic.

Photo credit: Ian Senior

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Apidae

[Anthophora plumipes](#), Hairy-footed Flower Bee



Flies in spring and can be found on Primrose flowers in the Cemetery and especially on Lungwort and Primrose flowers in surrounding gardens. Very numerous, spring 2017 from 15th March onwards (VB).

Males are brown haired with extensive cream coloured markings on the face and long hairs on the mid tarsi.

Females are all black with orange hairs on the hind tibia.

Left: Female on Perennial Wallflower.

Photo credit: Vanna Bartlett

[Melecta albifrons](#), Common Mourning Bee



A parasite of *Anthophora plumipes*.

Sightings include: 5th April 2017 (IS), 8th April 2017 (VB) and 11th April 2017 (JB & VB).

Photo credit: Vanna Bartlett

[Apis mellifera](#), Western Honey Bee

The well-known hive honey bee. Many

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	sightings, including 26 th March 2017, 11 th May 2017 (VB).
<i>Bombus hortorum</i> , Garden Bumblebee	A widespread, fairly common species. 26 th March 2017 (VB)
<i>Bombus hypnorum</i> , Tree Bumblebee 	<p>Spreading north in Britain, after first arriving here in 2001. Spreading northwards and sightings are being mapped. The first Norwich record was from Earlham Cemetery in 2008 (SP).</p> <p>Sightings include: 15th March and 13th April 2017 (VB)</p> <p>Photo credit: Vanna Bartlett</p>
<i>Bombus lapidarius</i> , Red-tailed Bumblebee 	<p>A widely distributed species.</p> <p>Photo credit: Jeremy Bartlett</p>
<i>Bombus lucorum</i> , White-tailed Bumblebee	Widespread and common. Sightings include: 12 th March 2017 (VB)
<i>Bombus pascuorum</i> , Common Carder Bee	<p>A widespread and common species. Sightings include: 25th March and 13th April 2017 (VB)</p> <p>Photo credit: Vanna Bartlett</p>

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Bombus pratorum, Early Bumblebee

A common species. Sightings include: 12th March 2017 (VB)

Bombus ruderarius, Red-shanked Carder Bee

This is a scarce and declining species with rather few recent Norfolk records.

One of these concerned the discovery of a dead queen in the Cemetery on 16 March 2009, a very early date for this species to be active. It was found on the pathway close to the main Bowthorpe Road entrance (SP).

No further evidence of the species in the Cemetery has been forthcoming; the only other recent Norwich record relates to a colony at Thorpe St Andrews Business Park where it was found between 2000 and 2006 by David Richmond. It is thought this colony may have fallen victim to the intensification of development in the area.

B.ruderarius is found in a wide range of open flower-rich habitats, nesting generally in tall tussocky grassland often close to trees or scrub.

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[Bombus terrestris](#), Buff-tailed Bumblebee



A common and widespread species. Sightings include: 12th, 15th, 25th March 2017 (VB).

Photo credit: Vanna Bartlett

[Bombus vestalis](#) - Vestal Cuckoo Bumblebee



Widely distributed in England, Wales and south-east Scotland.

Sightings include 2nd April 2017, on Red Deadnettle (VB & JB).

Photo credit: Vanna Bartlett

[Nomada goodeniana](#) - Gooden's Nomad Bee

Fairly common and occurs from April to June, with a small new generation in July and August.

A cuckoo bee. It does not make its own nest, but lays its eggs in the nests of the Buffish Mining Bee, *Andrena nigroaenea* and related species.

Sightings include 8th and 13th April 2017 (VB), 11th April 2017, 11th May 2017 (VB & JB).

Photo credit: Vanna Bartlett

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The order of this list follows that in the [Field Guide to the Bees of Great Britain and Ireland by Falk & Lewington](#) (Bloomsbury 2015). This is currently the best guide to British bees.

The BWARS website (<http://www.bwars.com/>) provides useful information on our bees, wasps and ants.

Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society (NNNS) have produced an online guide to Norfolk's Bumblebees -

<http://www.nnns.org.uk/sites/nnns.org.uk/files/imce/user11/speciesguides/Bumblebees.pdf>.

A guide to Norfolk's bees, [The Bees of Norfolk, by Nick Owens](#), has been published in May 2017.

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