

BEES OF EARLHAM CEMETERY, NORWICH

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

This list of bees (order Hymenoptera) found in the Cemetery follows the order of species listed in the [Field Guide to the Bees of Great Britain and Ireland by Falk & Lewington](#) (Bloomsbury 2015). It 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: 23rd August 2022. **Current total:** 67 species.

Family/Species	Comments
Colletidae	
Colletes hederæ , Ivy Bee	<p>This species first colonised the British Isles in 2001 and spread north into Norfolk from 2013 onwards, reaching the Norwich area by 2016. It often forms large nesting aggregations and there are several in the Norwich area. In flight from late August until mid October. Females collect pollen from Ivy flowers.</p> <p>First seen in Earlham Cemetery on 24th September 2018 and observed on several dates in early October 2018 and in subsequent years (VB). Females were collecting pollen from Ivy and there were nest holes on the banks of Cemetery entrance drive. By autumn 2021 the number of nest holes had increased substantially and a notice was posted warning of "Wasps". We corrected this misidentification and subsequently put up our own poster to inform visitors about the bees.</p>
Colletes similis , Bare-saddled Colletes	<p>Females are strongly attracted to Asteraceae (daisy family).</p> <p>Seen on Sneezewort (Achillea) in the New War Graves area on 11th July 2021 (NNNS visit to Cemetery).</p>
Hylaeus communis , Common Yellow-face Bee	<p>Found in many habitats, including open woodland, grassland and coastal sites. First seen on 30th July and 17th August 2019 on Canadian Goldenrod flowers (VB), also 25th June 2020 (CB).</p>

BEES OF EARLHAM CEMETERY, NORWICH

<i>Hylaeus hyalinatus</i> , Hairy Yellow-face Bee	Widespread and locally common in much of southern Britain. First seen on 16th June 2018 (VB).
<i>Hylaeus pictipes</i> , Little Yellow-face Bee	A scarce species in England. Very rare in Norfolk, where one specimen was found in the nineteenth century, then there were no more records until 2017 when VB & JB discovered it in their garden in Norwich. It is now known from three sites in west Norwich, including Earlham Cemetery, where VB found it on 1st August 2020.
Andrenidae	
<i>Andrena bicolor</i> , Gwynne's Mining-bee	A very common species. First seen on a snowdrop flower in early April 2013 (SP). Other sightings include 26 th March 2017 (VB), 2 nd April 2017 (VB & JB), 14 th March 2018, 15 th April 2018, 5 th March 2019 (VB & JB).
<i>Andrena bimaculata</i> , Large Gorse Mining Bee	Widespread but local, with Norfolk at the northern edge of its range. First seen on 21st March 2020 (VB), on Sallow flowers.
<i>Andrena clarkella</i> , Clarke's Mining Bee	A very early species, flying from mid February to the end of May. Likes Sallow flowers. Males seen lekking around graves on 10 th and 11 th March 2022 (VB).
<i>Andrena denticulata</i> , Grey-banded Mining Bee	Widespread but localised, flies from July to September. First seen on Ragwort flowers, 22 nd July 2017 (VB) and 24 th July 2017 (IS).
<i>Andrena dorsata</i> , Short-fringed Mining Bee	Widespread in southern England. Two generations a year. One of the commonest <i>Andrena</i> species in the south of the UK but close to the northern extreme of its range in Norfolk. First seen on 22 nd July 2017 (VB), 27 th July 2017, on Canadian Goldenrod flowers (VB & JB).
<i>Andrena flavipes</i> , Yellow-legged Mining Bee	Widespread and locally common in southern Britain. First seen on 26th June 2020 (CB).
<i>Andrena fulva</i> , Tawny Mining Bee	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. First seen on 5 th April 2017 (IS), 11 th April 2017 (JB & VB).
<i>Andrena haemorrhoa</i> , Orange-tailed Mining Bee	Widespread spring species, flying from March to June. First seen on Cherry Laurel on 17 th April 2017 (IS), 3 rd May 2018 (VB).

BEES OF EARLHAM CEMETERY, NORWICH

<p><i>Andrena hattorfiana</i>, Large Scabious Mining Bee</p>	<p>This rare (Red Data Book) species was first noticed in the Cemetery in 2004 (SP) in Sections 3 and 6. Field Scabious is crucial to its survival as the females visit the blooms to collect pollen.</p> <p>Numbers were at their highest in 2006 and 2007 but have declined as Field Scabious becomes less common in Earlham Cemetery, partly due to shading by maturing trees. Friends of Earlham Cemetery have recently planted Field Scabious in sunnier parts of the cemetery, in the hope that this decline can be reversed.</p> <p>Seen in the New Military Burial Plot on 23rd June 2020 (CB).</p> <p>The bee survives by using Field Scabious grown in nearby gardens (TN & IS 2017, IS 2018, 2019, 2020).</p> <p>Within Norfolk the species is otherwise only known from Breckland and by the North Norfolk coast so the Cemetery site is very isolated. However, there is historical evidence of its occurrence near to Norwich.</p>
<p><i>Andrena labiata</i>, Red-girdled Mining Bee</p>	<p>Widespread but generally scarce in the southern half of England. Particularly fond of Germander Speedwell flowers. Seen 10th June 2018 (VB), 22nd June 2020 (CB).</p>
<p><i>Andrena minutula</i>, Common Mini-miner</p>	<p>A small species of <i>Andrena</i> found in open woodland, grassland, coastal sites and in gardens.</p> <p>Sightings include: 6th June 2017, 15th April 2018, 20th March 2019, 5th April 2019 (VB).</p> <p>Appears to be nesting in one of the Cemetery paths.</p>
<p><i>Andrena nigroansea</i>, Buffish Mining Bee</p>	<p>Occurs in a wide range of habitats. Occurs in most of Britain, but it is mainly coastal in the west and extreme north.</p> <p>Flies from April to June, with a small second generation in July and August.</p> <p>Sightings include: 5th June 2017 (VB).</p>
<p><i>Andrena nitida</i>, Grey-patched Mining Bee</p>	<p>A large <i>Andrena</i> 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.</p> <p>Male seen on 28th April 2016 on Dandelion (IS).</p> <p>Several sightings (and photographed a female on dandelion flowers) just west of St. Thomas' Road TG213087 13th April 2017 (VB).</p>
<p><i>Andrena scotica</i>, Chocolate Mining Bee</p>	<p>A rather dull <i>Andrena</i> with black and white hairs on the hind tibia, and very common in May to June.</p>

BEES OF EARLHAM CEMETERY, NORWICH

	<p>A single individual was photographed by IS on 17th May 2016. Subsequently identified by Nick Owens and Tim Strudwick, January 2017.</p> <p>Also seen on 11th April 2017 (JB & VB).</p>
<i>Andrena semilaevis</i> , Shiny-margined Mini-miner	<p>One of the smaller <i>Andrena</i> bees.</p> <p>Widespread in the UK, numbers peaking in May.</p> <p>Seen on 29th May 2019 (VB).</p>
<i>Andrena synadelpha</i> , Broad-margined Mining Bee	<p>Most often found in deciduous woodland on a variety of soil types.</p> <p>First seen on 12th April 2021 (VB).</p>
<i>Andrena trimmerana</i> , Trimmer's Mining Bee	<p>Double brooded - mid March to the end of April, and again from July to late September. Summer females forage on Bramble.</p> <p>First seen 12th April 2021 (VB).</p>
Halictidae	
<i>Halictus tumulorum</i> , Bronze Furrow-bee	<p>A rather small, metallic green bee. Found widely in the British Isles.</p> <p>Sightings include: 27th July 2017 (VB), 26th June 2020 (CB).</p>
<i>Lasioglossum calceatum</i> , Common Furrow-bee	<p>A common species in the British Isles and can be found up to the north of Scotland and in parts of Ireland. Females are on the wing from mid-March to early October and males are seen from late June to end October.</p> <p>In southern Britain, including Norfolk, the bees are eusocial – i.e. they form small colonies with a queen, males and worker females. However, further north where the weather is colder and the summer is shorter, the bees are solitary.</p> <p>Sightings in the Cemetery include 11th May 2017, 18th July 2017 (on Ragwort flowers) and 21st September 2017, 22nd April 2019 (VB).</p>
<i>Lasioglossum leucozonium</i> , White-zoned Furrow-bee	<p>Widespread. Found in open areas, mainly on sandy and calcareous soils, scarcer on heavy clay.</p> <p>Seen on 21st September 2017 (VB), 9th, 23rd and 24th June 2020 (CB).</p>
<i>Lasioglossum malachurum</i> , Sharp-collared Furrow-bee	<p>A larger species of Furrow Bee. Widely distributed, it has increased its range since the 1990s.</p> <p>Seen on 29th June 2022 on Bramble flowers (VB).</p>
<i>Lasioglossum minutissimum</i> , Least Furrow-bee	<p>One of our smallest Furrow-bees. A southern species which can sometimes be locally frequent.</p>

BEES OF EARLHAM CEMETERY, NORWICH

	Seen on 24 th September 2017 (VB).
<i>Lasioglossum morio</i> , Common Green Furrow-bee	Possible <i>L. morio</i> seen on 11 th May 2017, then seen for definite on 22 nd September and 3 rd October 2017 (VB).
<i>Lasioglossum pauxillum</i> Lobe-spurred Furrow-bee	A female was seen on 22 nd April 2019 (VB). The species is listed as Nationally Scarce (Na) by Falk (1991). Scarce and very local but occasionally abundant where it is found.
<i>Lasioglossum villosulum</i> , Shaggy Furrow-bee	A widespread species. Seen on 21 st September 2017 (VB).
<i>Sphecodes ephippius</i> , Bare-saddled Blood Bee	<i>Sphecodes</i> (Blood Bees) are very small to medium sized, inconspicuously haired bees, usually with a red and black abdomen. They are cleptoparasites of various ground-nesting bees. <i>Sphecodes ephippius</i> is widespread and locally common in southern Britain, with records as far north as Cumbria. Hosts include <i>Halictus tumulorum</i> and <i>Lasioglossum leucozonium</i> .
<i>Sphecodes geoffrellus</i> , Geoffroy's Blood Bee	Widespread and locally common. A cleptoparasite of <i>Lasioglossum</i> species including <i>L. morio</i> and <i>L. pauxillum</i> . Seen on 1 st May 2019 (VB).
<i>Sphecodes monilicornis</i> , Box-headed Blood Bee	A cleptoparasite of various Furrow Bees (<i>Halictus</i> and <i>Lasioglossum</i>). First seen nectaring on Canadian Goldenrod flowers. (JB & VB, 22 nd July 2017.)
Melittidae	
<i>Melitta leporina</i> , Clover Melitta	Widely distributed in southern England. Flies from June to August and feeds on clovers and vetches. First seen 18 th July 2017 (VB). Seen 24 th , 25 th and 26 th June 2020 (CB).
<i>Dasypoda hirtipes</i> , Pantaloon Bee	Found in southern England on sandy soils, from mid June to August. Strongly associated with yellow Asteraceae such as Cat's-ear. The English name comes from the females' large orange "pantaloon" on the hind legs, which are hairs used to collect pollen. First recorded on 20 th July 2019 (IS). Other sightings include: 23 rd June 2020 (CB).
Megachilidae	
<i>Anthidium manicatum</i> , Wool-carder Bee	Males and females were first seen in early June 2017 on <i>Stachys lanata</i> in the New Military Burial Plot. Dates include 5 th and 7 th June 2017 (VB). A large and robust bee. Collects hairs from the leaves of various downy plants (such as <i>Stachys lanata</i>) to use in making brood cells.

BEES OF EARLHAM CEMETERY, NORWICH

	On the wing from late May to early August.
<i>Heriades truncorum</i> , Large-headed Resin Bee	<p>First seen in the Norfolk Brecks in 2012, this species is spreading north and has been seen in several places in Norwich in 2019. Nests in dead timber.</p> <p>Two seen on Canadian Goldenrod flowers on our walk on 17th August 2019 (VB) and one in same place on 2nd September 2019 (IS).</p>
<i>Chelostoma campanularum</i> , Small Scissor Bee	<p>One of Britain's smallest bees. Flies from June to August and has a strong association with bellflowers (<i>Campanula</i>), from which females collect pollen. Nests in holes in dead wood, such as dead trees, building timbers and fence posts.</p> <p>First recorded on 20th July 2019 (IS).</p>
<i>Osmia bicornis</i> , Red Mason Bee	<p>Sightings include: 11 April 2017 on Green Alkanet flowers just west of St. Thomas' Road TG213087, 11th May 2017 on buttercup flowers and on 5th April 2019 on Red Deadnettle (VB & JB). Seen collecting mud from a pile of soil on 22nd April 2019.</p> <p>Common and widespread. An aerial nesting bee, that often nests in holes in walls and timber and readily uses bee hotels.</p>
<i>Osmia leaiana</i> , Orange-vented Mason Bee	<p>Recorded 2nd, 8th and 27th July 2017 (VB), 23rd June 2020 (CB).</p> <p>The related <i>Osmia caerulea</i>, Blue Mason Bee, possibly occurs too, but needs to be confirmed. Both <i>O. caerulea</i> and <i>O. leaiana</i> are common species and very tricky to separate, though <i>O. leaiana</i> is on average larger and less brightly metallic.</p>
<i>Megachile centuncularis</i> , Patchwork Leaf-cutter	<p>A widespread species. Found from mid-June through to mid-August.</p> <p>Leaf-cutters construct their nests using cut pieces of leaf.</p> <p>Sightings include: 2nd and 18th July 2017 (VB), 26th June 2020 (CB).</p>
<i>Megachile ligniseca</i> , Wood-carving Leaf-cutter	<p>Flies mid-June to September and mostly found in the south-east of England.</p> <p>Seen 8th and 18th July 2017 (VB), 26th June 2020 (CB).</p>
<i>Coelioxys</i> sp.	<p>A male Sharp-tail Bee was seen on 6th May 2020 (VB). Males of this genus are impossible to identify in the field.</p> <p>Likely to be <i>Coelioxys inermis</i>, Shiny-vented Sharp-tail Bee. This and <i>Coelioxys rufescens</i>, Rufescent Sharp-tail Bee, have been found in a garden half a mile away.</p>
Apidae	

BEES OF EARLHAM CEMETERY, NORWICH

<i>Anthophora furcata</i> , Fork-tailed Flower Bee	<p>A male was seen on 5th and 7th June 2017 on <i>Stachys lanata</i> in the New Military Burial Plot.</p> <p>Nest burrows and cells are excavated in rotten wood.</p>
<i>Anthophora plumipes</i> , Hairy-footed Flower Bee	<p>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, spring 2018 from 13th March and spring 2019 from 24th February (VB & JB).</p> <p>Males are brown haired with extensive cream coloured markings on the face and long hairs on the mid tarsi.</p> <p>Females are all black with orange hairs on the hind tibia.</p>
<i>Melecta albifrons</i> , Common Mourning Bee	<p>A parasite of <i>Anthophora plumipes</i>.</p> <p>Sightings include: 5th April 2017 (IS), 8th April 2017 (VB) and 11th April 2017 and 5th April 2019 (JB & VB). A very worn individual seen on French Lavender flowers on 5th June 2017 (VB).</p>
<i>Apis mellifera</i> , Western Honey Bee	<p>The well-known hive honey bee.</p> <p>Many sightings, including 26th March 2017, 11th May 2017 (VB), 5th April 2019 (VB & JB).</p>
<i>Bombus campestris</i> , Field Cuckoo Bumblebee	<p>Seen once, on 8th July 2017 (VB).</p> <p>Widely distributed. A cuckoo of <i>Bombus pascuorum</i>.</p>
<i>Bombus hortorum</i> , Garden Bumblebee	<p>A widespread, fairly common species.</p> <p>Sightings include: 26th March 2017 (VB), 23rd June 2020 (CB).</p>
<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 Norfolk record was from Earlham Cemetery in 2008 (SP). Unlike other species of bumblebee, <i>Bombus hypnorum</i> nests above the ground, especially in bird boxes.</p> <p>Sightings include: 15th March and 13th April 2017 (VB). Numerous on Bramble flowers, 5th June 2017 (VB & JB), 14th March 2018, 15th April 2018 (VB & JB), 24th February 2019 (VB), 26th June 2020 (CB).</p>
<i>Bombus lapidarius</i> , Red-tailed Bumblebee	<p>A widely distributed species.</p> <p>Sightings include 15th April 2018, 24th February 2019 (VB), 26th June 2020 (CB).</p>
<i>Bombus lucorum</i> , White-tailed Bumblebee	<p>Widespread and common.</p> <p>Sightings include: 12th March 2017 (VB)</p>
<i>Bombus pascuorum</i> , Common Carder Bee	<p>A widespread and common species. Sightings include: 25th March and 13th April 2017, 15th April 2018 (VB), 26th June 2020 (CB).</p>

BEES OF EARLHAM CEMETERY, NORWICH

<i>Bombus pratorum</i> , Early Bumblebee	<p>A common species. Sightings include: 12th March 2017 (VB), 14th March and 15th April 2018 (VB & JB), 24th February 2019 (VB), 26th June 2020 (CB).</p> <p>Queens seen early in year. A worker seen on 5th April 2019 (VB & JB).</p>
<i>Bombus ruderarius</i> , Red-shanked Carder Bee	<p>This is a scarce and declining species with rather few recent Norfolk records.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>No further evidence of the species in the Cemetery has been forthcoming. Another relatively 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.</p>
<i>Bombus rupestris</i> , Red-tailed Cuckoo Bumblebee	<p>Abundant in Norfolk in the nineteenth century, but numbers crashed in the late twentieth century. The population has been recovering since about 2000.</p> <p>A cleptoparasite of the <i>Bombus lapidarius</i>, the Red-tailed Bumblebee.</p> <p>Seen on 22nd July 2018 (VB).</p>
<i>Bombus sylvestris</i> , Forest Cuckoo Bumblebee	<p>Widely distributed, but rarely common.</p> <p>A cleptoparasite of the <i>Bombus pratorum</i>, the Early Bumblebee.</p> <p>Seen on 23rd April 2018 (VB & JB).</p>
<i>Bombus terrestris</i> , Buff-tailed Bumblebee	<p>A common and widespread species.</p> <p>Sightings include: 12th, 15th, 25th March 2017 (VB), 14th March and 15th April 2018 (VB & JB), 24th February 2019 (VB).</p>
<i>Bombus vestalis</i> - Vestal Cuckoo Bumblebee	<p>Widely distributed in England, Wales and south-east Scotland.</p> <p>A cleptoparasite of the <i>Bombus terrestris</i>, the Buff-tailed Bumblebee.</p> <p>Sightings include 2nd April 2017, on Red Deadnettle (VB & JB), 11th April 2017 and 7th and 15th April 2018 (VB), 9th, 17th, 26th June 2020 (CB).</p>
<i>Nomada fabriciana</i> – Fabricius' Nomad	<p>A parasite of several <i>Andrena</i> species, including <i>Andrena bicolor</i> and <i>Andrena nigroaenea</i>. Seen on 30th April 2019 (VB).</p>

BEES OF EARLHAM CEMETERY, NORWICH

<i>Nomada flava</i> – Flavous Nomad	A parasite of <i>Andrena nigroaenea</i> . Seen on 24 th April 2019 (VB).
<i>Nomada flavoguttata</i> – Small Nomad	A parasite of <i>Andrena minitula</i> . Sightings include: 4 th May 2018, 5 th April 2019 (VB & JB).
<i>Nomada fulvicornis</i> – Orange-horned Nomad	A cuckoo bee on various <i>Andrena</i> species. (Most likely host in Norwich is <i>Andrena tibialis</i> , which hasn't yet been seen in Earlham Cemetery, but occurs in the area.) Seen on 3 rd May 2018 (VB).
<i>Nomada goodeniana</i> - 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, <i>Andrena nigroaenea</i> and related species. Sightings include 8 th and 13 th April 2017 (VB), 11 th April 2017, 11 th May 2017 (VB & JB).
<i>Nomada ruficornis</i> , Fork-jawed Nomad	A cuckoo bee on <i>Andrena haemorrhoa</i> . Seen on 4 th May 2018 (VB & JB).
<i>Nomada zonata</i> , Variable Nomad	A recent arrival to Norfolk (2019). The host is <i>Andrena dorsata</i> . First seen on 13 th April 2021 (VB).
<i>Epeolus</i> sp.	A cuckoo bee of various <i>Colletes</i> species. There are two British species. Several seen on bank at Earlham Road entrance, 23 rd August 2022 (VB).

The [Field Guide to the Bees of Great Britain and Ireland by Falk & Lewington](#) (Bloomsbury 2015) is currently the best field guide to British bees.

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

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

BEES OF EARLHAM CEMETERY, NORWICH



FRIENDS OF
EARLHAM CEMETERY