

## Ashey mining bee

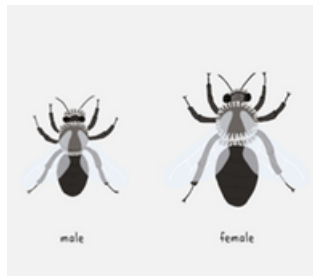
Ground nester.



Black with double ashy bands across the thorax.

This monochrome mining bee often nests in large aggregations along sunny footpaths and short turf, though each female has her own nest. This bee is an important pollinator of oilseed rape.

This is another spring flying species, flying from April to early August, which is extending its range in Britain. The females are highly distinctive and are black with two broad ashy grey bands on their back.



## Early mining bee

Ground nester.



Foxy brown on top; the abdomen is black, except for the rear end, which is foxy brown again. The male is much smaller than the female and its hairs are much lighter colour, tending to grey or even white



This is another common spring bee species with females active from April to July. This species has a beautiful blood red tip. Females of this species are often found on fruit trees.



## Tawney mining bee

Ground nester.

Thick orange coat. Black leg and face hairs.  
Collects pollen on legs.

This bee makes volcano-like mounds of soil at its nest entrance in lawns and mown banks. The bright orange females forage on spring blossoms.



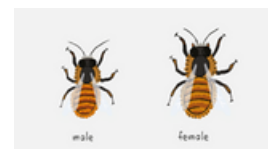
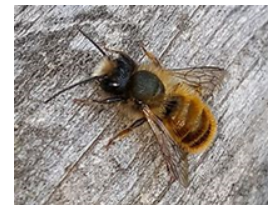
## Red mason bee

Aerial nester including bee hotels.

Bristly orange hair with dark head and thorax showing through. Males have white face hairs. Female collects pollen under abdomen.

Females gather mud to build their nest cells and are efficient pollinators of fruit-tree blossoms. Smaller males hover around nest sites.

Probably the most familiar solitary bee to many people. Flies in a single brood from March to July. They use mud to build their nests in a range of natural cavities. This mud is carried beneath the head and seals off the individual sections of the nest. This species takes rapidly to artificial bee hotels and due to its efficiency at pollinating fruit trees, is sometimes introduced to orchards



## Hairy footed flower bee

Aerial or ground nester (banks, walls or bare ground).

The males and females of this species look completely different.

Females: Black with yellow legs. Males: Brown with a pale face and hair plumes on their middle legs.

These bumblebee-lookalikes are amongst the earliest bees to emerge in spring. They dart rapidly between flowers and blossoms, particularly favouring lungwort, deadnettles and wallflowers.

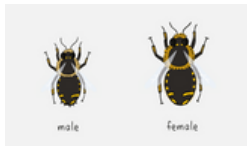


## Wool carder bee

Aerial nester including bee hotels.

Yellow spots along abdomen. Males have prongs on their rear.

Female wool carder bees gather balls of plant hairs to build their nest cells. Males guard hairy plants such as lamb's-ear, fighting off other bees to ensure they get to mate with visiting females. Unusually as the females of this species emerge before the males. The males are much larger than the females.



## Leaf cutter bees

Aerial nesters including bee hotels.

Broad head and body. Females have a brush of hairs under the abdomen.

Found neat crescents cut from your rose bush? That's a sign that leafcutter bees are about.

The female uses the leaves to line her chosen nest cavity and build snug cells for her young. There are 7 species in Britain, all of which have large jaws. Remarkably up to 40 pieces of leaf are needed just to build one nesting cell for one offspring. This is a group of species that you can attract to your garden by providing a bee hotel.

