Pollinator Identification Guide

A guide to the different groups of pollinating insects you might see visiting your plots and how to identify them. All the fantastic photos in this guide were provided by Will George.

BUMBLEBEES

LARGE, FURRY bees with **rounded bodies** and dark legs, bumblebees may have **stripes of yellow, white or brown** depending on the species. There are 24 different species of bumblebee in the UK.

Buff-tailed bumblebee

Common Carder bumblebee

Red-tailed bumblebee

Early bumblebee

HONEYBEES

There is one species of honeybee in the UK, **Smaller and more slender** than bumblebees, they are **orangey-yellow to brown with dark stripes** and have shiny back legs, which are often packed with pollen.

Honeybees- note pollen baskets on hind legs.

SOLITARY BEES

There are over 200 species of solitary bee in the UK, which vary in appearance and can be as **small as 6 mm long**. You can tell them apart from hoverflies by their **longer antennae**.

Bees have two pairs of wings

Solitary bees carry pollen on their body

Long antenna with 'elbow' joint

WASPS

Social wasps are **more SMOOTH looking** and much less hairy than bees. They usually have bright **yellow and black** stripes, and yellow legs. Solitary wasps vary in colour and size, from small and black to metallic red, blue and green.

Social wasps are usually black and yellow

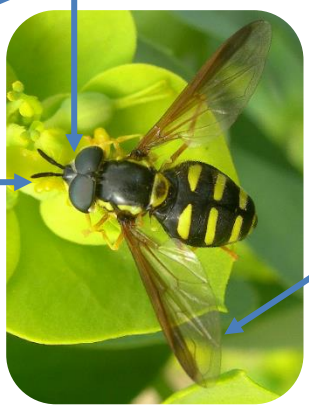
Solitary 'jewel' wasps are often parasites of solitary bees

ID guide produced by Linda Birkin and Beth Nicholls

HOVERFLIES

Many hoverflies mimic bees/wasps and often have a stripy pattern. They have very **SHORT STUBBY ANTENNAE** and **LARGE EYES**. Hover/dart between flowers.

Hoverfly eyes make up most of their head



Very short antenna

One pair of clear wings

OTHER FLIES

Other flies, such as metallic soldier flies also visit flowers. They also have **short antennae**, **large eyes** and one pair of clear wings.

BEETLES

Beetles outer wings form a **hard protective cover** (elytra) which is often shiny or metallic and forms a t-shape on their back.

BUTTERFLIES and MOTHS

Butterflies have **BRIGHTLY COLOURED WINGS** and long antennae. Butterflies fly during the day and have **clubs at the end of their antennae**. Most moths fly at night and have feathery antennae.

ID guide produced by Linda Birkin and Beth Nicholls