

Identification Guide

Bumblebees (Hymenoptera)

Very hairy/fluffy
Rounded, almost a ball shape



Buff-tailed Bumblebee

Tail tucked under when visiting flowers



Red-tailed Bumblebee

Queens larger than most solitary however worker bumblebees can be smaller



Early Bumblebee

Honeybees (Hymenoptera)

Smaller than most bumblebees
Only one species



Honeybee

Antenna long and can be 'elbowed' (bent)



Honeybee

Abdomen colours can range from bright orange to nearly all black



Honeybee

Solitary bees (Hymenoptera)

Smaller than most bumblebees
Generally smaller than honey bees



Yellow-legged Mining Bee

Some can be tiny!
Longer antenna than flies



Common Furrow-bee

Can be a range of colours and sizes

Watch out for the hairy-footed flower-bee often mistaken as a bumblebee



Hairy-footed Flower-bee

Hoverflies (Diptera)

Shorter antenna than bees
Large eyes



Hornet Mimic Hoverfly

No 'waist' unlike bees and wasps
Only one pair of wings



Marmalade Hoverfly

Fast hovering flight



Long Hoverfly

Wasps (Hymenoptera)

Less hairy than bees
Wings often rolled up



Common Wasp

Have a 'waist'

Head more rectangular than bees
Two pairs of wings



Ichneumon Wasp

Long antenna and ovipositor

All photo credits to Tim Ransom

Butterflies & moths (Lepidoptera)

Butterflies fold their wings vertically or sit with them open



Painted Lady Butterfly

Most moth wings fold down like a paper aeroplane



Jersey Tiger Moth

Both are part of the Lepidoptera group which translates as 'scale-wing'



Gatekeeper Butterfly

Beetles (Coleoptera)

Hard wing cases called elytra that join in a straight line down the middle of the insect



2-Spot Ladybird

Chewing mouth parts called mandibles unlike true bugs



Soft-winged Flower Beetle

Beetles smaller than 3mm should be recorded as Small Insects



Leaf Beetles

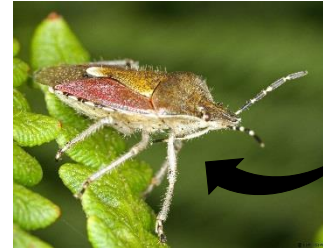
Other insects (Includes true bugs)

Wings not in a wing case and often leathery and cross in an X shape in the middle



Red-legged Shield Bug

True bugs have a long narrow feeding tube called a rostrum usually tucked beneath its head



Hairy Shield Bug

Ants that walk across the flower heads can also be counted in this group



Common Ant

Small insects (3mm or less)

Includes small beetles as they are <3mm

Includes aphids which can sometimes be spotted in flower heads



Giant Willow Aphid

Some solitary bees are very small but they are all bigger than 3mm so they should be recorded as bees



Common Green Furrow-bee

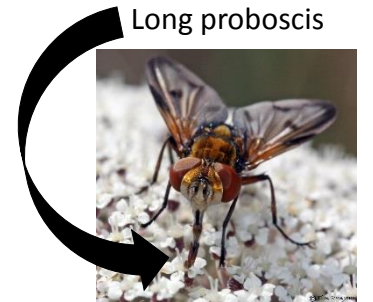
Other flies (Diptera)

Shorter antenna than bees
Large eyes



Common Green Bottle Fly

Doesn't hover and moves slower than a hoverfly
Long proboscis



Parasitic Fly

Sawflies sometimes confused with wasps but have no 'waist'



Turnip Sawfly