

Bumblebee Survey May- August 2018

1. Common carder (*Bombus pascuorum*) – very wide range of flowers used. Photo below shows with pollen on hind leg. Out later than other species, very long season. Very similar to two other British species, which aren't found as frequently around here. Has a very long season, out later than most other UK species. Often nests above ground in tall grasses.

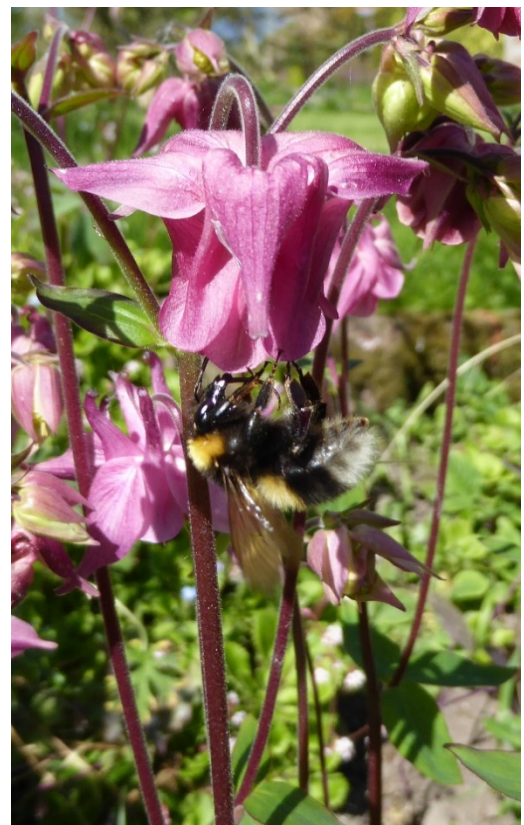
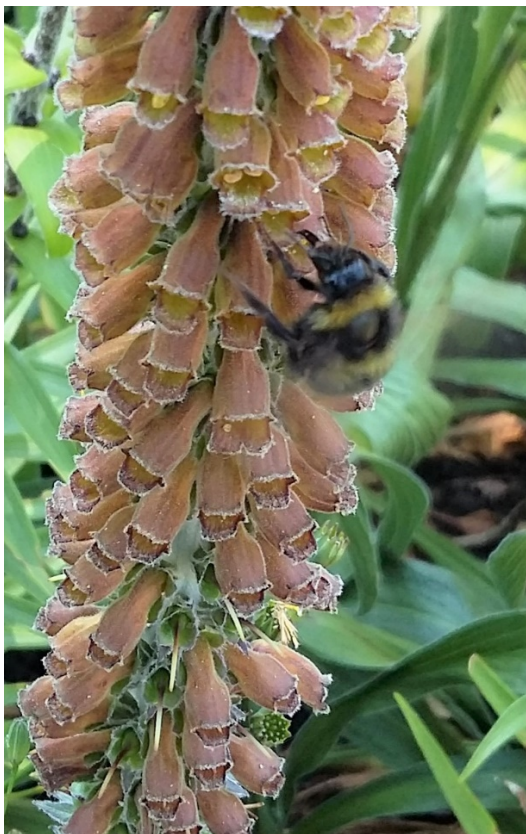


2. Buff-tailed (*Bombus terrestris*) – one of most common, and often nests in old mouse holes. Earliest bumblebee out, and is beginning to have a generation that's active all winter, unlike others who all hibernate as queens. Lots in gardens.



3. White-tailed (3 species that can only be separated by genetic sampling) *Bombus lucorum* agg. (agg. means 'aggregate' to signify the three species). short tongue, prefers Asteraceae and more open flowers. Lots in gardens.

4. Red-tailed (*Bombus lapidarius* – queen is huge, I saw one on the wisteria, other than that a lot of workers and males)
5. Early bumblebee (*Bombus pratorum* – around earlier than most, very small bumblebee)
6. Tree bumblebee (*Bombus hortorum* – newly arrived in country about 12 years ago, spread rapidly, nests in holes in trees/bird boxes etc). Fairly early in year, you had a number in April and May around the *Rubus beneden*, trees in flower, white roses, and later on around brambles.
7. Garden bumblebee (*Bombus hortorum* – very long-tongued, so goes for all the flowers with deep corollas like nasturtiums, aquilegia and foxgloves). Couple of photos showing very long face and even a bit of its tongue!



8. and 9. *Bombus vestalis* (Southern cuckoo bee) and *Bombus bohemicus* (Gypsy cuckoo bee). *Bombus vestalis* is a cuckoo of the Buff-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*). *Bombus bohemicus* is cuckoo of *Bombus lucorum*.



Also at Harthill were 2 other cuckoo bumblebees: Barbut's cuckoo bee (*B.barbutellus*) and the Wood cuckoo bee (*B.sylvestris*).