

Long Meadow Bumblebee Report



Early bumblebee



Red-tailed bumblebee



Common carder

Nine species, out of a UK total of about 24, visit and use the meadow collecting nectar and pollen from the various flowering plants that grow within the meadow.

Species seen include buff-tailed, white-tailed, red-tailed, tree, early, garden, common carder. Two species of parasitic cuckoo bumblebees have been seen, southern and field cuckoo bumblebees which parasitise the nests of buff-tailed and common carder respectively.

They have been seen from March throughout the spring and summer until September although not all species were seen every month. They were seen most often on the sunnier warmer side of the meadow in particular in sections 11 and 12 which are rich in sources of nectar and pollen provided by large areas of bramble and raspberry.

Bumblebees have been declining and need help with sources of food and nesting sites. A good range of nectar and pollen bearing plants throughout the year in gardens and the wider countryside is what they need plus undisturbed nest and hibernating sites in old holes in the ground and wood stacks.

Long meadow is managed to provide both food and nest/hibernating sites for these important insects which pollinate many of our food plants.



Buff-tailed bumblebee



White-tailed bumblebee



Tree bumblebee