

Ivy Bee

Colletes hederæ

Both species have long antennae

Hairs on thorax usually an untidy mix of browns and paler colours

Honeybee

Apis mellifera

Hairs on thorax usually a cleaner buff-yellow colour

Abdomen colours vary, and can be striped, but stripes are less clear and less even than on Ivy Bee.

Identifying Ivy Bee and Honeybee



Abdomen with very neat, contrasting stripes. Buff-yellow bands are narrower than the black gaps between them.

For the [PoMS FIT Counts](#) you only need to distinguish “honeybees” and “solitary bees”. Ivy Bee is a solitary bee, and you may also see other solitary bee species visiting Ivy flowers.

If you would like to send in records of Ivy Bee specifically, please add them to [iRecord](#) so that they can be shared with [BWARS](#).

Hind leg quite narrow, with long hairs forming a pollen basket in the females

Hind leg broad and flattened, with shorter hairs; workers may collect pollen into a mass on the hind leg

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