

White-tailed Bumblebee

Bombus lucorum

Insects · Active Mar-Oct



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A common bumblebee with two lemon-yellow bands and a crisp white tail. It is very similar to the buff-tailed bumblebee, and the yellow is usually brighter and the tail cleaner white, but the distinction is genuinely difficult and reliable separation from its close relatives needs microscopic or genetic examination. White-tails are common in gardens and open country around Dumfries.

BEHAVIOUR

Like the buff-tail it is a short-tongued bee that favours open flowers and will rob nectar from long tubular ones. Nests are underground in banks, old burrows and cavities. What is called *Bombus lucorum* in Britain is now known to be a complex of at least three nearly identical species, so most records are logged as the 'white-tailed bumblebee aggregate' rather than one name.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Bees (Apidae)
SIZE	Queens 19–20 mm
STATUS	Native; abundant, and part of a near-identical species complex

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