

BEE WALK: NORTHFIELD DA3 (HARTLEY / NEW ASH GREEN) 2017 REPORT

SITE GRID REF: TQ608664 (Centre of yellow outlined square)



N.B. Original route & sections revised on 01/06/2017 following reassessment on 31/05/2017. (See below).

03-05-2017: 2 members examined the area. The weather was cloudy, cold & damp, so no bees seen, but we agreed a transect, & registered it on the national Bee Walk site, with some section details still to be decided/recorded.

31-05-2017: We attempted our 1st 'proper' Bee Walk; a warm, pleasant day. We found it tricky but stimulating, & recorded at least 5 species + some unidentified. As expected, our handling & ID skills needed much improvement, but we were encouraged by our results! It took twice as long as estimated to walk the route, & the woodland sections produced no Bumblebee sightings, so we decided to *revise the transect* if possible. As it had already been submitted online, we emailed the BBCT, & Helen Dickinson, (Surveys & GIS Officer), kindly made the revisions.

28-06-2017: Cloudy; Heavy overnight rain –few flowers open. 5 species + 6 unidentified sightings, but numbers low - nothing seen in section 4.

18-07-2017: Sunny & Very windy, but some areas well sheltered. *The annual hay mow was in progress.* Numbers low & only 3 species + 3 unidentified sightings were seen.

01-08-2017: Warm & Sunny, moderate wind. 6 species found + 4 unidentified, but numbers small. Nothing seen in sections 1 & 7.

15-08-2017: Warm & Sunny / moderate wind. Good conditions but only 2 species + 2 unidentified; numbers very low & none at in sections 1, 2, 3, & 4

29-08-2017: Very warm; a little cloud. Only 2 Bumblebees seen (both *B. Pascuorum* in section 5). Very disappointing.

13-09-2017: Gusty & mixed sunny/cloudy conditions. A total of 6 bees observed, all Common Carder.

26-09-2017: Autumn colours now in evidence. Good conditions, calm & warm. Generally more flowers in the previously mowed area. 9 bees seen in total, 6 Common Carder, 1 White Tailed & 2 unidentified (probably Common Carder). *The remaining un-mowed area of wildflower meadow had also been completely mowed!*

24-10-2017: Autumn now well advanced with fallen leaves etc. Conditions good for this late stage in the season, though wind slightly gusty. Only 2 bees were seen, 1 Common Carder & 1 Tree Bumblebee. The area mowed on 18-07-2017 was now showing some flowers again, but not that mowed just before 26-09-2017.

Section	Grid Ref	(m)	Habitat	Land Use
1	TQ605661	178	H25 Hedgerows H18 Agriculturally improved grassland	L28 Education L6 Outdoor amenity & Open Spaces. <i>Grass area belonging to 'Milestones' School used as approach to open field area.</i>
2	TQ607662	142	H18 Agriculturally improved grassland H25 Hedgerows	L6 Outdoor amenity & Open Spaces. <i>Grassland used as play area. Mown fortnightly.</i>
3	TQ608662	142	H18 Agriculturally improved grassland H25 Hedgerows	L6 Outdoor amenity & Open Spaces. L1 Agriculture. <i>Grassland mown for hay once per annum.</i>
4	TQ610662	259	H18 Agriculturally improved grassland	L6 Outdoor amenity & Open Spaces. L1 Agriculture. <i>Grassland mown for hay once per annum.</i>
5	TQ608664	288	H26 Mature Broadleaved Woodland	L3 Managed Forest <i>Track by field/wood edge.</i>
6	TQ606666	681	H18 Agriculturally improved grassland	L6 Outdoor amenity & Open Spaces <i>Fringe of wild flower meadow. Meadow sprayed annually to control Ragwort.</i>
7	TQ606664	199	H18 Agriculturally improved grassland H25 Hedgerows	L6 Outdoor amenity & Open Spaces. L1 Agriculture. <i>Grassland mown for hay once per annum.</i>
	TOTAL M	1889		

NORTHFIELD DA3 - 2017 SURVEY RESULTS

Date >>>	31/05/2017							28/06/2017							18/07/2017							01/08/2017							15/08/2017						
Wind Speed (Beaufort Scale) >>>	2							2							5							3							3						
Temperature (°C)>>>	22°C							15°C							25°C							23°C							22°C						
Weather Conditions: >>>	Cloudy							Cloudy							Sunny							Sunny							Sunny						
SECTIONS >>>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
B.Hypnorum (Tree)	6		25										1																						
B.Lapidarius (Red Tailed)	1		2				19																												
B.Lucorum (White Tailed)	2																													1					
B.Lucorum/Terrestris Workers	5						2			3	2						1				6	2													
B.Pascuorum (Common Carder)									1											1										1					
B.Species Unidentified			11				2			1			1				1					2								1					
Total Bumblebees seen	14	0	38	0	0	23	0	1	4	2	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	7	4	0	0	9	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1
No of Bumblebee Species	4	0	3	0	0	3	0	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	5	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1
Apis Mellifera (Honey Bee)							1						1							2															
	(Original Transect)														(Annual Hay Mow)																				

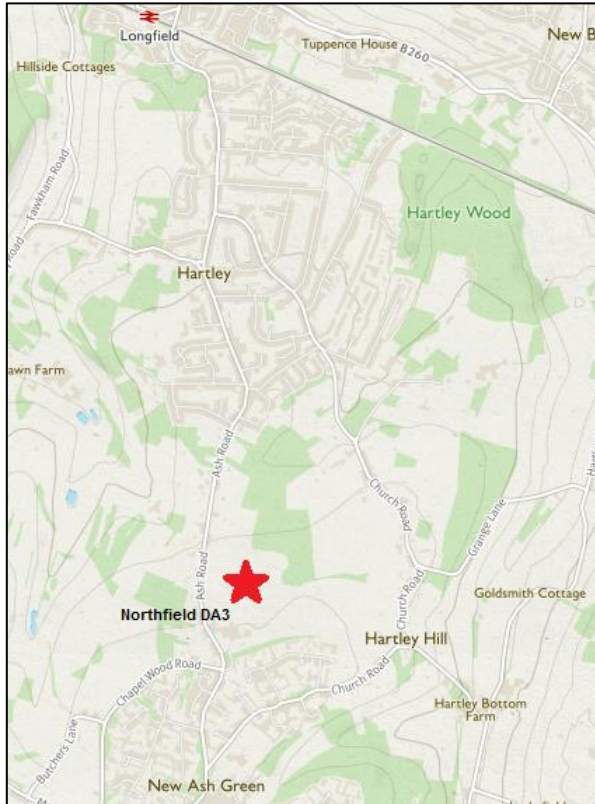
Date >>>	29/08/2017							13/09/2017							26/09/2017							24/10/2017													
Wind Speed (Beaufort Scale) >>>	1							3							1							3													
Temperature (°C)>>>	29°C							17°C							20°C							18°C													
Weather Conditions: >>>	Sunny / Cloudy							Sunny / Cloudy							Sunny							Cloudy / Occasional sun													
SECTIONS >>>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7							
B.Hypnorum (Tree)																																			
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B.Pascuorum (Common Carder)						5				1	1	1	2							2		4							1						
B.Species Unidentified													1				1			1															
Total Bumblebees seen	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3	0	0	1	0	3	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
No of Bumblebee Species	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Apis Mellifera (Honey Bee)																																			
															(Second Area Mowed)																				

CONCLUSIONS:

We feel that a good start was made to our 1st season, but are not able to draw any significant conclusions, partly due to our lack of expertise. Results indicated the presence of at least 5 of the 'Big Seven' bumblebee species, (i.e. the most common British species), plus Honeybees, although a fall-off in numbers after the annual hay mow on 18/08/2017 was noticeable. Most of the higher numbers observed during the early part of the year were from the margins of the area, where brambles were in flower. We look forward to continuing our surveys & increasing our accuracy in 2018.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

NORTHFIELD DA3 - LOCATION:



ORIGINAL TRANSECT (Revised on 01/06/2017):



(Surveys made by C Hague-Smith, P Allen & L Rolph; Records & Report by Chris Hague-Smith)