Queens and males have buff orange coloured tails, but worker’s tails are often white. The yellow bands on the bee’s body are darker than the lemony yellow bands of a white-tailed bumblebee. Buff-tailed bumblebees are probably our most common and widespread bumblebees, and you can see them from March-November, though they can also make winter active nests.

The early bumblebee is a common, widespread species with yellow bands and a red tail. They are usually quite small compared to other bumblebee species. Rarely seen after July, they build their nests in early spring, hence their name!

A recent immigrant from mainland Europe, the tree bumblebee has naturalised itself in the UK. It is a unique brown, black and white bumblebee that nests above ground in bird boxes, lofts and old woodpecker holes.

The ginger teddy bear bee! This is the only common and widespread ginger bumblebee, they sometimes have a very dark abdomen and can range in size. Common carder bees are one of a number of long tongued bees that can feed on flowers with long tubular florets, such as foxglove, clover and lavender. Common carder bees like to nest in areas of long, tussocky grass.

One of our most recognisable spring flying bees, the tawny mining bee has red/orange hair, and females can often be found nesting beside one another in large groups (although they build their own individual nests). They are commonly found in urban parks and gardens, creating their nests along south facing embankments of bare earth or in mown lawns.

The queens and workers are all black with a red tail while the males have some yellow hair on their face and thorax. Red-tailed bumblebees like to nest underground, often in old vole burrows, under stones, or at the base of old walls.