

Tower Hamlets Bee Survey recording form

Tower Hamlets Bee Survey record form

Name of site:.....

Address/grid reference:.....

Date:.....

Time:.....

Weather:.....

Recorder's name:.....

Species	Count
Buff-tailed Bumblebee	
White-tailed Bumblebee	
Buff-tailed/White-tailed Bumblebees (<i>not specifically identified</i>)	
Common Carder Bee	
Early Bumblebee	
Garden Bumblebee	
Red-tailed Bumblebee	
Forest Cuckoo Bumblebee	
Tree Bumblebee	
Brown-banded Carder Bee	
Total bumblebees (including those listed above and unidentified bumblebees)	
Honey Bee	
Tawny Mining Bee	
Hairy-footed Flower Bee	
Wool Carder Bee	

Notes

Tower Hamlets Bee Survey – Instructions for recorders

Where and when to carry out your survey

Choose a site that you can visit regularly throughout the spring, summer and autumn. Try to visit the site at least once a month between April and October, preferably once a fortnight. It can be anywhere there are flowers for bees to feed on, such as a community garden, a park, a private garden, or even a planter on the street.

Carry out your surveys in suitable weather. Choose a dry, fairly warm day, preferably with some sunshine (but bumblebees will be active on cloudy days providing it's not too cold). Avoid very windy weather.

Count for 15 minutes. Walk slowly through the site, concentrating on areas with plenty of flowers, and count the total number of each type of bee you see. If your site is very small and you stand in one place to count, record the largest number of each species that you see at any one time.

The recording form

Name of site: if the site has an accepted or widely used name, such as Elf Green or Cable Street Community Garden, please use this. If there is no name in general use, make up a name that describes the location, such as “planter on corner of Harmer Street and Ben Johnson Road”.

Address/grid reference: if you know the Ordnance Survey grid reference for the site, please use this. If not, please give as exact an address as possible to ensure we can accurately map your records.

Date and time: please record the date and the time your count begins.

Weather: record details of the weather. If you have a thermometer, please note the temperature, but if you don't, then describe it in terms of mild, warm, hot, very hot (don't do your count if it's cool or cold). Say if it's sunny, partly cloudy or overcast, and whether it's calm, a gentle breeze or a moderate breeze (don't count if it is very windy). Don't count if it is raining.

Recorder's name: the name of the recorder is an essential part of all biological records, so please give your first name or initials and your surname.

The recording table: this contains the commonest and most easily identified bees which you are likely to see in Tower Hamlets. Because Buff-tailed and White-tailed Bumblebees are very similar and hard to separate, there is a row to record these as one or the other if you're not sure which you have seen. There is also space to write in the names of any other species of bees from the identification chart which you are confident you have seen.

Notes: you can use the blank area at the bottom of the form to note the presence of bee nests, or any interesting bee behaviour you see (such as which flowers they were using), or to record any other wildlife you see, such as butterflies or birds.

Submitting your records

If you are confident using the internet, please record your sightings on the online recording form on the Greenspace Information for Greater London website [www.gigl.org.uk/online/towerhamletsbeesurvey.aspx]. To use the online form, please provide your name and the name and location of your site to John Archer so these can be added to the drop-down lists.

If you are not confident entering your sightings online, please send your completed forms to John Archer, Biodiversity Officer, Sustainable Development Team, London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Mulberry Place, PO Box 55739, 5 Clove Crescent, London E14 2BY.