

Solitary Bees of the Sandwich Bay Area



Though the monitoring of Birds has always been SBBOT's primary aim there has always been an underlying interest in the non-avian sightings within the Recording Area. This may have started off originally as Butterflies, Moths, and Dragonflies but in recent years has expanded rapidly into Shield Bugs and Bees for instance. As more people came aware of Bumblebees and Solitary Bees this list was created to help detail all the species recorded along with their status in the recording area.

The information included in this review have been gleaned from various sources such as the raw non-avian daily record sheets stored at the Field Centre, the brilliant Atlas of Bees, Wasps, and Ants by the Kent Field Club, the Field Guide to Bees of Great Britain and Ireland by S.Falk, and also from websites such as 'BWARS'.

As of September 2019, the Sandwich Bay Solitary Bee list stands at 102 species. The diversity of species recorded in the area is primarily due to Kent's southerly and (relatively) warm location and proximity to mainland Europe. In addition, our flower-rich grassland, coastal sand, and shingle habitats provide home to many specialties found in few other places in the county.

The creation of this list also brought to light a few anomalies and unfortunate trends. Many species recorded here have not been seen for 30 years or more and there is little data on where previous colonies existed. However, there are also upsides; new additions to the list have occurred in the past few years and it is likely that many of these 'lost' species are still present in the area but at a low density. Low observer coverage is an issue but as more people become interested hopefully more can be learnt about the local status of each species. The Dusky-horned Nomad Bee was discovered new for Britain right here in 2018, as if any added incentive was needed!

Steffan Walton

Colletes cunicularius – Spring Colletes

Our largest and earliest *Colletes* bee with colonies on the wing in April and May. Until recently it was thought only to inhabit duneland on the west coast of Britain but since 2010 colonies have been discovered well inland and on the south east coast, possibly related to a continental invasion event. It's discovery here in April 2018 on the Estate beach was thus not surprising.

Colletes halophilus – Sea-aster Bee

The South and East of England holds a significant proportion of the world population of this species. It is a Nationally Scarce coastal bee which forages on Sea-aster in saltmarshes from mid-August to mid-October and can be found in and around the Pegwell/Point area.

Colletes hederæ - Ivy Bee

First recorded in the UK in 2001 it has established itself quickly in the recording area. As its name suggests, it is typically associated with flowering Ivy and can be numerous in all areas from late August to early November.



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Colletes marginatus – Little Colletes Bee

This RDB3 species is rare in the county with its distribution confined to coastal sand and shingle. It can be found visiting a range of plant species from June to August along the dunes on Prince's Beach and towards Pegwell.

Colletes similis – Plasterer Bee

A relatively common southern species on sandy soils in the area but very local in its distribution within Kent.

Hylaeus annularis – Shingle Yellow-face

This Sandwich Bay specialty (recently known as *H.spilotus*) inhabits the coastal sands and shingle along the beach. It is rare species (RDB3) found at only two sites in Kent (the other being Dungeness) with recent observations here suggesting it is quite common on various coastal flowering Stonecrop species.

Hylaeus brevicornis – Short-horned Yellow-face

This is another fairly common species in the county that has not been recorded here since 1950-84. Since it can be found readily in woodland, fenland, calcareous grassland, heathland and on the coast, it should really be present. It has a long season from May to September potentially with two-three generations.

Hylaeus communis – Common Yellow-face

An abundant species though recent research does suggest a bias towards West Kent. It has been found from late May to September visiting dead wood and Umbellifer flowers.

Hylaeus dilatatus – Chalk Yellow-face

Previously known as *H.annularis*, this southern species specialises in calcareous grassland and coastal dunes. Though it has not been recorded here since 1950-84 it has been seen recently nearby, and as such should be looked for between June and August.

Hylaeus hyalinatus – Hairy Yellow-face

A widely distributed but never particularly common species; there are recent records of this sandy soil specialist from the Bay. As a 'plasterer' bee it is best looked for nesting in old walls but can be found visiting a variety of Bramble, Umbellifers and Thistles.

Hylaeus pictipes – Little Yellow-face

A Nationally Scarce species with a few colonies scattered across the county. It is on the wing in a variety of habitats in the recording area from June to late August though favours open spaces with minimal scrub. It utilises dead wood for old Beetle holes, typically associated with Bramble, Rose, and Gorse, and declines with habitat succession.

Andrena alfkenella – Alfken's Mini-mining Bee

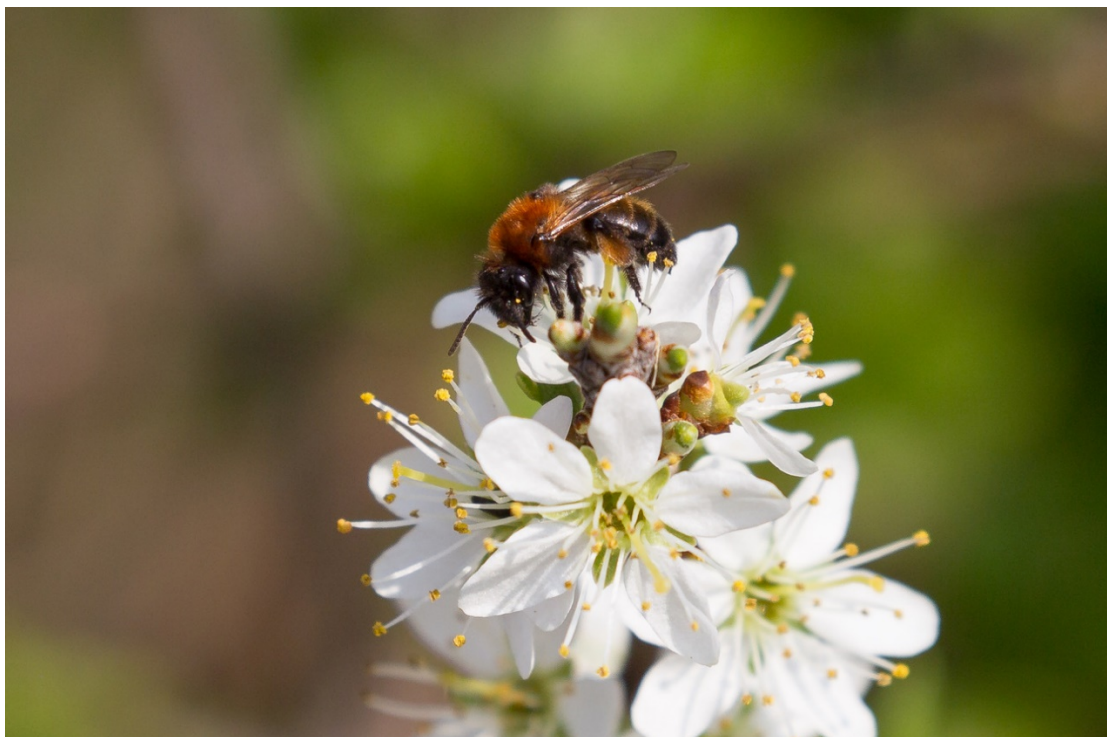
Another RDB3 species confined to less than ten sites in the county. It frequents open dry habitats with the grassland and dunes in the area providing the core of the population. It has two generations in the year (April-June, July-September) with the summer brood more numerous.

Andrena barbilabris - Sandpit Mining Bee

An uncommon species in East Kent strongly associated with sandy soils. Their exceptionally early flight period runs from March to June and best looked for by locating nests in the sandy paths in the area.

Andrena bicolor – Gwynne's Mining Bee

A surprising late addition to the Sandwich Bay list considering its abundance and distribution in the county, not to mention a wide habitat choice. An early species, it was first found in Middle Field in March 2018 but seen frequently elsewhere since.



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Andrena chrysosceles - Hawthorn Mining Bee

Another common species on sand and chalk in the county. It can be found very easily in late spring in a range of habitats in the area, often visiting the flowers of early umbellifers.

Andrena cineraria – Ashy Mining Bee

One of our most distinctive solitary bees with a banded black-and-grey thorax. It has re-colonised Kent (along many of southern counties) after a gap of many decades and was discovered at Sandwich Bay for the first time in April 2018. It favours open, sunny and sandy areas, and particularly south-facing slopes for nesting aggregations.

Andrena clarkella – Clarke's Mining Bee

An uncommon species in East Kent that emerges particularly early, sometimes on the wing in February, and forages almost exclusively on flowering Sallows and Willows. One was found in Middle Field in April 2018 but, considering the abundance of Willow in the area, is probably more widespread than it seems.

Andrena dorsata - Short-fringed Mining Bee

Though a fairly common species it is rarely found in coastal habitats, however steady increases in the last few decades have cemented its status in the Sandwich Bay area. It has two generations in the year (March-May, July-August) and will visit a range of flowers for nectar.



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Andrena flavipes - Yellow-legged Mining Bee

Another dual generation (March-June, July-September) common species of Kent. It can be one of the more obvious and numerous species in the area. Their nests are often found in dense aggregations in suitable exposed banks, cliffs, flower beds, roadside verges and in sparsely vegetated field margins. As such the Bee is common in gardens and grasslands of the area where it will visit a range of plants including flowering trees and shrubs, weeds and garden species.

Andrena florea - Bryony Mining Bee

A new addition to the Sandwich Bay recording area with individuals discovered in Middle Field and Waldershare Gully in June 2018. This rare southern specialty is unique amongst the *Andrena* group in that it visits just one plant for its pollen, White Bryony, ergo find the plant and you find the bee.

Andrena fucata - Painted Mining Bee

A widely distributed species in the UK (and in Kent) but never particularly common. It emerges in early/mid May and continues in one brood until early August, preferring woody scrub with open areas. A record on the Estate in April 2018 was the first at Sandwich Bay.

Andrena fulva - Tawny Mining Bee

Commonly found across the county from early April until early June; the males emerging well before the females. Peak activity coincides with the flowering periods of fruit trees such as Pear, Cherry and Apple. Though associated with sandy soils it can be found relatively easily digging nest holes in garden lawns.



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Andrena gravida - White-bellied Mining Bee

This RDB1 and BAP species is a real specialty of the south-east and particularly Kent where it is probably now restricted to. It has declined massively and now only known from a handful of sites. Morphologically it is very similar to *A.flavipes* which are also numerous during its flight period (March to May). There is little known about its habits in the UK though possibly preferring open and sandy soils with spring-blossoming shrubs nearby. It's presence on the Sandwich Bay Estate was confirmed in April 2018 by Steven Falk.

Andrena haemorrhoa - Orange-tailed Mining Bee

Another abundant bee in the county no doubt related to the fact it will forage from an incredibly varied range of plants (though Hawthorn is the commonest used in the recording area). Often referred to as the 'Early Mining-bee' due its April to May flight period.



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Andrena labialis – Large Meadow Mining Bee

A large summer *Andrena* species first found in the area in June 2019. It is reasonably widespread in the south in open grasslands with plenty of leguminous plants.

Andrena labiata – Red-girdled Mining Bee

This distinctive black-and-red bee flies from March to late June. It is confined to sandy soils where favoured flowers of Germander Speedwell are numerous. The first individual to be found at Sandwich Bay was seen in the Observatory garden in April 2018.

Andrena minutula – Common Mini-mining Bee

Perhaps the most frequently encountered species of the subgenus *Micrandrena* in the British Isles due to its general distribution, occurring in open woodland, grassland, coastal sites and in gardens. It has two generations (March-June, July-September) and will visit a wide range of plants in the area.

Andrena minutuloides – Plain Mini-mining Bee

This species was found as recently as 2009 in Pegwell. Its similarity and confusion with the previous species may hindered past discovery, though it is a Nationally Scarce species and such could just be truly rare in the local area. It is another species with two generations (April-June, July-September) though specimens of the spring brood are very rarely encountered in the field. The species is strongly associated with Umbellifers such as Wild Parsnip, Hogweed and Wild Carrot.

Andrena nigroaenea - Buffish Mining Bee

This common species is one of the first to emerge in the spring with males often found flying rapidly over areas of bare ground or sitting on Dandelion flowers. Since the mid-1990s however, an increasing number of confirmed records of freshly emerged specimens in July point to the presence of a partial (at least) second generation.



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Andrena nitida – Grey-patched Mining Bee

Another common species though with only a scattered distribution in the local area. It is best looked for amongst short to medium-length grassland from April to June.

Andrena niveata – Long-fringed Mini-mining Bee

A rare species and welcome addition to the Sandwich Bay list in June 2019. A few specimens were confirmed by S.Falk visiting the Hoary Mustard alongside Little Gully.

Andrena ovatula – Small Gorse Mining Bee

A reasonably common species in the southern half of the UK where it can be found strongly associated with sandy soils. As its name suggests it will typically visit Gorse for its pollen, especially in the spring, though it can also visit a variety of leguminous plants in the summer. Records from the Gorse in Middle Field in April 2018 were the first for the area, though presumably overlooked before. It seems likely that larger populations may exist in areas with more Gorse such as along the Ancient Highway at Mary Bax.

Andrena pilipes - Black Mining Bee

Very similar to *Andrena nigrospina* but this is more common in coastal habitats and has two different generations. It prefers vertical sandy banks and cliffs and flowery habitat near to these and has been found on a few occasions on the Sandwich Bay Estate.



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Andrena praecox - Small Sallow Mining Bee

A sand and coastal shingle specialist, it can be difficult to separate from the closely-related *A.apicata* which has yet to be recorded here. Forages predominantly on Sallow catkins from early March until early May.

Andrena scotica - Chocolate Mining Bee

One of the most frequently encountered mining bees in the UK and equally abundant in the county, though readily confused in the past under other names, e.g. *A.carantonica*. It is one of the earlier bees to appear with the flight period mid-March to late June and numbers peaking late April and May. Like the previous species they especially enjoy firm sandy soils with no overgrowing plants to smother the nest, for this reason they are often found near to pathways.

Andrena semilaevis – Shiny-margined Mini-mining Bee

A common bee that is closely associated with Speedwells and Umbellifers, though easily overlooked. There is a peak in numbers in late spring (May), however there are many records of specimens being recorded during the summer (as late as August) so it is possible that in some locations the species has a smaller summer brood.

Andrena subopaca – Impunctate Mini-mining Bee

A frequent encountered species found in a range of habitats all over the UK but most often associated with woodlands. It is found widely across the county but it's confusion with *A.minutula* may explain why it was not added to the Sandwich Bay list until April 2018.

Andrena synadelpha – Broad-margined Mini-mining Bee

A very local bee in a county context with no recent records in the Sandwich Bay area, last recorded sometime between 1950 and 1984. It tends to be associated with clearings in deciduous woodland during May and June where males are often seen visiting the flowers of Wood Spurge, and the females at those of Hawthorn and Field Maple.

Andrena tibialis – Grey-gastered Mining Bee

A localised species found mostly throughout March to May on sandy substrates. In the spring it can be found visiting blossoming Willows, Blackthorn, and Gorse bushes. It was perhaps surprising that it took until April 2018 to confirm the species in the Sandwich Bay area.

Andrena trimmerana – Trimmer's Mining Bee

There has been much past confusion over the name and identification of this species in the past with its morphologically different spring and a summer broods perhaps separate species. Currently well-distributed across the county and at Sandwich Bay. It has been recorded from a variety of plants including Buttercup, Willows, Bramble, Rhododendron, Blackthorn, Gorse, Alexanders and Dandelion.

Andrena wilkella – Wilke's Mining Bee

A common bee on sand, shingle and flower-rich grasslands during May and June. Its wide variety of food plants are found in abundance in the recording area and so it's scarcity here is strange and is perhaps overlooked.

Halictus rubicundus - Orange-legged Furrow-bee

Widely distributed throughout Britain but rarely abundant at any one locality. Those living in more northern geographic locations are often more solitary than those in southern areas, a difference that has been widely studied and provided insight into the evolution of social behaviours. Queens may emerge from hibernation in April, workers present from May onwards and males and new females from July to early October. It is found predominantly on sandy soils near the coast, though strangely also associated with established woodland when inland.

Halictus tumulorum - Bronze Furrow-bee

One of the most abundant bees in the county. It can be found in gardens and open habitats in the recording area from March to October.

Lasioglossum albipes - Bloomed Furrow-bee

A reasonably common woodland edge species typically found in clearings, glades and scrubby areas but occasionally on the shingle. They visit a variety of flowers for nectar, though do quite like umbellifers, and have a long flight period from mid-March to mid-October.

Lasioglossum calceatum - Common Furrow-bee

As its English name suggests this is a widespread species found in most habitats and can be abundant in the more open and dry areas. Females emerge in mid-March with the males still on the wing as in late October.

Lasioglossum leucozonium – White-zoned Furrow-bee

A primarily coastal species that nests in short turf or sparsely vegetated sandy ground. The bee is most numerous in June and August though can be found as early as March and even as late as November. Yellow-flowered *Asteraceae* are most frequently visited.

Lasioglossum malachurum – Sharp-collared Furrow-bee

Restricted to southern England but widespread on coastal grassland and brownfield sites. Though previously scarce it is now one of the most common of the *Lasioglossum* group. It is a well-studied eusocial species found from March to October often found foraging on blossoming Willows and Blackthorn.

Lasioglossum morio – Common Green Furrow-bee

A common species found across the county and relatively numerous throughout. It prefers to colonise patches of south-facing exposed soil and will visit a wide range of plant species in the area.

Lasioglossum nitidiusculum – Tufted Furrow-bee

This species has undergone a significant decline in the county in the last two decades and such only exists in scattered colonies. From late March to mid-September it can be seen in sandy habitats especially where steep-sloping south-facing banks are available for nest sites.

Lasioglossum parvalum – Smooth-gastered Furrow-bee

This species is very similar in most aspects to the one previously. It is often encountered in open sandy habitats from March to October and will visit a variety of plants in the area such as Alexanders, Blackthorn, Dandelion, and Sallow.

Lasioglossum pauperatum – Squat Furrow-bee

A very small and squat species (as its name suggests) that is rare Nationally but frequent enough in the County. A poorly studied species that is thought to prefer soft cliffs and coastal grassland. New for Sandwich Bay in June 2019.

Lasioglossum pauxillum – Lobe-spurred Furrow-bee

Like the previous species this was new for the Sandwich Bay area in June 2019. This species has increased significantly in the last few decades and now occupies a lot of south-eastern Britain, and so not so surprising that it now occurs here too. It has a long flight season (April to October) and nests in large aggregations in sandy soils.

Lasioglossum punctatissimum – Long-faced Furrow-bee

A relatively common mining bee correlated with established woodland but also coastal sand and shingle. The bee is on the wing from mid-March to late September and can be found visiting Mint or Cat's Ear for pollen.

Lasioglossum smeathmanellum – Smeathman's Furrow-bee

Widespread and common using a variety of different habitats and foraging plants. However, it was only found for the first time in May 2019 in Middle Field. Current Kent data suggests it may be in decline in the county. Found from March to September, it's metallic reflections often make it appear green in the field.

Lasioglossum villosulum – Shaggy Furrow-bee

An abundant species in the county. Another species best looked for on sand and shingle (and if possible soft rocky coastal cliffs) where yellow-flowered *Asteraceae* are present. Has two generations and so can be found from as early as mid-March to as late as November.

Lasioglossum zonulum – Bull-headed Furrow-bee

Although a reasonably common species in the county it is frequent only in established woodland and may explain its scarcity at Sandwich Bay. Can be found from April to October on a range of plants (with Fleabane a favourite) but prefers to nest in areas exposed to the sun.

Sphecodes crassus – Swollen-thighed Blood-bee

This cleptoparasitic bee is believed to be most frequent on sandy soils in the county, though its status is shrouded by the difficulty distinguishing females from the related *S. geoffrellus*. The last sightings from the recording area came some time ago.

Sphecodes ephippius – Bare-saddled Blood-bee

An abundant cleptoparasitic in southern Britain with a wide number of hosts, though found to be far more numerous in West Kent than the East. This may explain the lack of records here as its food-plants are still present in good numbers.

Sphecodes geoffrellus – Geoffroy's Blood-bee

Another common species that utilises a wide variety of hosts. It is another member of this genus with no records since the 1980's. Though as it has no strong preference for a habitat type, it can be commonly found in temperate grassland on sandy substrates.

Sphecodes gibbus - Dark-winged Blood-bee

It is rarely abundant at any one locality but may be present in a wide variety of habitats between April and September. Often found on Mayweeds and Thistles in the recording area.



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Sphecodes monilicornis – Box-headed Blood-bee

A common cleptoparasitic bee mainly distributed on sandy soils though also woodland edges, gardens, and grassland. It is on the wing from April to October parasitising a range of bee species in the county. There had been no Kent records east of Canterbury since 1984 but, like many other under-recorded bee species, their food plants remained in abundance and sure enough it was re-discovered in the Sandwich Bay area in June 2019.

Sphecodes reticulatus – Reticulate Blood-bee

A rare (RDB3) species in the country and with less than ten sites with modern-day records in the county. Unfortunately, Sandwich Bay is not one of them with past records coming from 1950-84 and none since. It is associated with sandy heaths/cliffs/grassland.

Melitta leporina – Clover Melitta

A fairly common bee widely distributed across chalk and sandy grasslands in southern Britain with a short flight period of June to August. Known in the area for some time and can be found visiting its preferred plant for pollen; White Clover.

Melitta tricincta – Red Bartsia Bee

A nationally scarce bee in the country but not uncommon in Kent. It is closely related to the previous species but only visits Red Bartsia. It can be fairly numerous in the Sandwich Bay area from late July to September.

Dasypoda hirtipes - Hairy-legged Mining Bee

Also known as the 'Pantaloone Bee' due its unmistakable hind-legs, it is a Nationally Notable species closely associated with sandy soils where it nests. It can be found relatively easily visiting yellow flowers in the recording area from late June to the end of August or even the beginning of September.



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Anthidium manicatum – Wool Carder Bee

One of the largest UK solitary bees and quite distinctive with yellow spots along the side of the abdomen. It is known for its behaviour; gleaning hairs of plants (particularly the underside of Lamb's Ear) and using it for constructing nests. The species seems to be regular but thinly spread around the Sandwich Bay Estate.

Stelis odontopyga – Smooth-saddled Dark Bee

Another potential Sandwich Bay claim to fame. An individual photographed in Waldershare Gully on 4th July 2018 was thought to be this species but could not be confirmed. It would've been new to Britain at the time. In 2019, one collected by S.Falk on 23rd June was confirmed as the third British record.

Stelis punctatissima – Banded Dark Bee

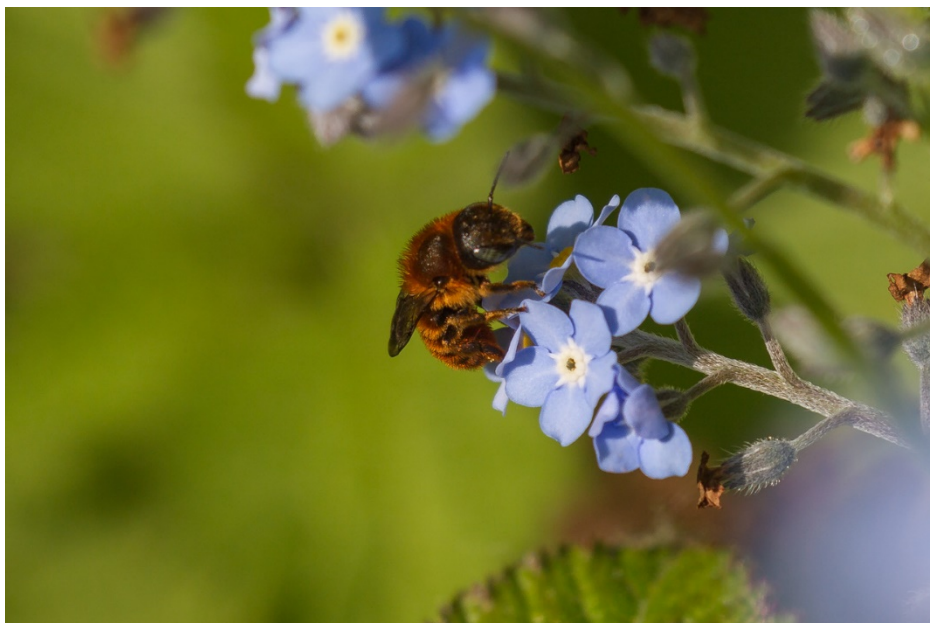
This species is well-distributed but always particularly rare, possibly in decline. It flies from June to August and often found in gardens.

Heriades truncorum – Large-headed Resin Bee

A small elongate bee that utilises resin in the construction of its nests and so requires a source of dead timber nearby. It is found in south-eastern Britain but seems to be spreading nicely. It can often be associated with Ragwort from June to September.

Osmia aurulenta - Gold-fringed Mason-bee

A rather uncommon bee in the county with all records strictly coastal from dunes, grassland, and shingle. It is very common here at Sandwich Bay and constructs its nest in empty snail shells from April to early August.



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Osmia bicolor - Red-tailed Mason-bee

A rare species of (usually) calcareous soils which chooses to nest in old snail shells. The males of this species are among the first of the solitary bees to appear in the spring (exceptional records as early as late February), and are shortly followed by the distinctive females. A relatively recent addition to the Sandwich Bay area.

Osmia bicornis - Red Mason Bee

Previously *O. rufa*, it is a common bee found widely across the county but most frequent on sandy soils from April to June. This species has gained a notorious reputation from the females' habit of excavating their nesting burrows in crumbling mortar joints, thereby, in time, undermining and weakening the fabric of masonry. The bee also utilises existing holes, including 'Bee Hotels', and will visit fruit blossom (and other plants) for nectar.



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Osmia caerulea - Blue Mason-bee

A common and widely-distributed species but surprising unrecorded here at Sandwich Bay until June 2019. It will occupy various habitats, particularly gardens, in two generations from April to September.

Osmia leaiana - Orange-vented Mason Bee

Although widespread and frequent over southern Britain, the two sightings in 2019 were our first ever records. It favours dead wood for nesting and large yellow-flowered plants for foraging during May to August.

Osmia spinulosa - Spined Mason Bee

A bee restricted in its distribution in the county being found primarily coastal in the North and East (with a few exceptions). It is another species which favours old snail shells to nest in and is found in a range of open grassland habitats, provided that there are plenty of *Asteraceae* flowering and a degree of litter build-up around tussocks. This is where the snails, whose shells provide the nest site, live out their lives, and as such Hay-cut and hard-grazed grasslands are not suitable for this bee.



S.Reynaert

Hoplitis claviventris – Welshed Lesser Mason-bee

A widespread species that frequently nests in Bramble and Rose Stems and forages on Bird's-foot Trefoil. It is particularly small, resembling an *Osmia*, and flies from late May to August.

Megachile centuncularis - Patchwork Leaf-cutter

A common leaf-cutter bee in the county especially on sandy soils. It can be found readily in gardens from mid-June to mid-August and nests in old beetle exit holes in dead wood. Often found on Bramble and Thistles.

Megachile leachella - Silvery Leaf-cutter

Previously known as *M.dorsalis*, this is a scarce bee in the county with modern records entirely confined to coastal sand and shingle. It prefers to nest in non-compacted sandy ground with fine plant roots. The UK's smallest leaf-cutter bee has a flight period of June to August where it will visit a range of species for cuttings, such as Restharrow, but also including the petals of Bird's-foot Trefoil.

Megachile maritima - Coast Leaf-cutter

Almost identical to the previous species in terms of rarity and distribution. This fairly large leaf-cutter is found from early June to mid-August in light sandy soils.

Coelioxys conoidea - Large Sharp-tail

This is not a common bee in the county with colonies restricted to just four coastal areas in Kent. Usually locally common when found, it favours coastal dunes and land-slips with its flight period from mid-June to late August. Needless-to-say it prefers to visit coastal flora such as Sea-lavender, Sea rocket, Sea-holly, and Sea Bindweed, but can also be found occasionally on Bramble and Ragwort.

Coelioxys elongata - Dull-vented Sharp-tail

A very scarce bee found from June to August in the coastal dunes of Sandwich Bay. It is likely to visit Bird's-foot-trefoils and possibly other legumes including species such as Melilot.

Coelioxys inermis - Shiny-vented Sharp-tail

An individual in the Observatory carpark in September 2019 was new for the area. It is very local in its distribution in the UK and found primarily in the west of the County but may visit a wide variety of flowers.

Coelioxys mandibularis - Square-jawed Sharp-tail

A RDB3 coastal dune species and something of a Sandwich Bay specialty with the entire Kentish distribution in the recording area. It is on the wing in July-August along the beach and sand dunes. Interestingly individuals of this population are far smaller than others in the UK and could eventually prove to be a different species.



S.Reynaert

Coelioxys rufescens – Rufescent Sharp-tail

The commonest of this group in Kent but apparently showing a recent decline, including at Sandwich Bay with no records this millennium. It is most common on sandy soils though will utilise a range of habitats and will visit Ragwort readily from June to August.

Nomada bifasciata – Dusky-horned Nomad

A female found by S.Falk on the Sandwich Bay Estate on 20th April 2018 was new to Britain. It is a cleptoparasite of *Andrena gravis*, itself a rare species, and presumably a recent colonist from the Continent.



S.Falk

Nomada fabriciana – Fabricius' Nomad

A distinctive species that is reasonably abundant in the County though scarcer towards the coast. It utilises a range of habitats and flowers and is cleptoparasitic on a number of species.

Nomada flava - Flavous Nomad

A well-distributed Cuckoo bee favouring a variety of habitats from May to June. One of the commonest Nomads in southern Britain where it will cleptoparasitise a range of *Andrena* species.

Nomada flavoguttata - Small Nomad

Abundant in the county though rarely numerous in coastal locations such as Sandwich Bay. It is easily overlooked due to its size but can be found favouring Dandelion and Ragwort.

Nomada fucata - Painted Nomad

Although considered Nationally Scarce it is actually an abundant and widespread species in the area. It can be found (April-June, July-August) in a wide variety of habitats including roadside verges, grassland, banks and lawns, soft rock cliffs and undercliffs.



S.Reynaert

Nomada goodeniana - Gooden's Nomad

A large and abundant single-generation (April-June) Nomad bee. It is found visiting Dandelions and Brassicas and flying over short vegetation and bare ground in sunny places.



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Nomada guttulata – Short-spined Nomad

A small, reddish and very rare bee across the country (with its host equally rare). There have been very few recent Kent records so one found in Middle Field in May 2018 was an excellent find. Can be found visiting flowers of Germander Speedwell, Buttercup, and Silverweed.

Nomada marshamella – Marsham's Nomad

Widely-distributed and plentiful across the county including gardens and urban situations utilising a variety of plant species. This Wasp mimic is most numerous in the spring and early summer though can appear later in the year depending on which host it parasitises.

Nomada ruficornis – Fork-jawed Nomad

Reasonably common in the county in a range of habitats though found to be particularly numerous along the margins of woodland. Can be rare in low-lying areas but will visit a range of flowers between April and June.

Nomada signata – Broad-banded Nomad

A rare and declining UK species and very scarce in the County. The females have distinctive uninterrupted transverse yellow bands on the abdomen. One found in Middle Field in April 2019 was new to Sandwich Bay.

Nomada zonata – Variable Nomad

This continental cleptoparasite was new to Britain in 2016. It's discovery around the Haven on 21st April 2018 made Sandwich Bay only the 6th UK site. It was then subsequently found in two places in the area in 2019. It usually has two generations peaking in April and July and as its name suggests is a notoriously variable species.

Epeolus cruciger – Red-thighed Epeolus

Widely distributed throughout much of southern and central Britain but a rare bee in the county with only four discrete colonies. Favours coastal sand dunes from June to September. Known to visit Willowherbs, Clover, Mint but assumed to visit other plants as well.

Epeolus variegatus – Black-thighed Epeolus

Commoner than the last species but sporadic in its distribution and declining in the county. It is usually associated with sandy soils and coastal saltmarsh and frequently visits Ragwort from June to late August. The sand dunes along Prince's Beach are good for this species.

Anthophora bimaculata - Green-eyed Flower-bee

Also known as the 'Little Flower-bee', this species favours hard-packed sands and shingle. Though a scarce bee Nationally, it is sometimes abundant where found, particularly here at Sandwich Bay in the vicinity of its nesting sites from June to September.

Anthophora furcata – Fork-tailed Flower-bee

Colonies are dotted across the county but look to be declining in the North and the East. It is often found in gardens, but it is never common, and specialises on the Mint family and often associated with Hedge Woundwort, Lambs Ears and Foxgloves, though nests in dead wood in June and July.

Anthophora plumipes - Hairy-footed Flower-bee

With its swift, darting flight and predilection for Lungwort flowers, this attractive bee is commonly encountered in a range of habitats in southern England from March to early June. It often nests in old mortar walls or soft cliff faces and in favoured locations it will nest in aggregations of hundreds.

Anthophora quadrimaculata – Four-banded Flower-bee

Kent remains the stronghold for this species in the UK but is in decline, particularly along the North coastal areas. It is another species that favours old mortar walls or soft cliff faces to nest in. There are no records from the Sandwich Bay area since 1984 but searching Cat-mint and Lavender particularly from early June to mid-August could bring rewards.

Melecta albifrons – Common Mourning-bee

An uncommon cleptoparasite nationally and locally, though quite large and fairly distinctive. It will happily visit a variety of sites where it's host appears from March to June. Our first records came in April 2018 with sightings in the Observatory carpark and in Middle field.



S.Reynaert