

Stag Beetle



The Big Daddy

UK's largest beetle, and one of the most distinct.

Regarded with both admiration and fear, it is the only UK insect to have featured on a postage stamp twice!

Is it your favourite though?



Lucanus cervus



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British Ecological Society

Seven-Spot Ladybird

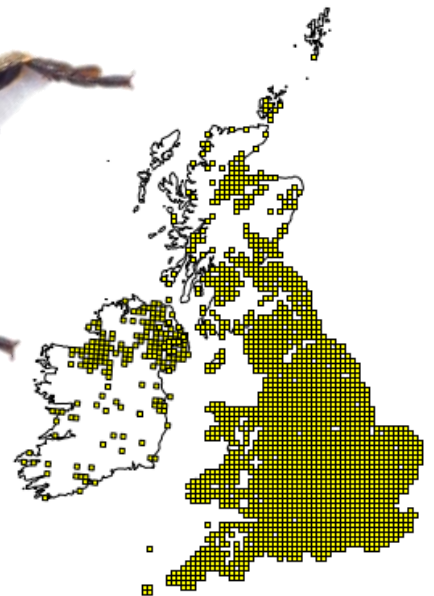
The Divine Messenger



Ladybirds enjoy one of the shiniest of reputations of any UK insect.

The seven-spot lady bird is very widespread, found throughout the UK. It is a ubiquitous inhabitant of gardens and parks and will turn up anywhere there are aphids for it to feed on. In the Middle ages it was considered a messenger from the heavens.....

Is it your favourite though?



Data from the NBN Gateway

Coccinella 7-punctata



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Garden Tiger Moth

The Woolly Bear

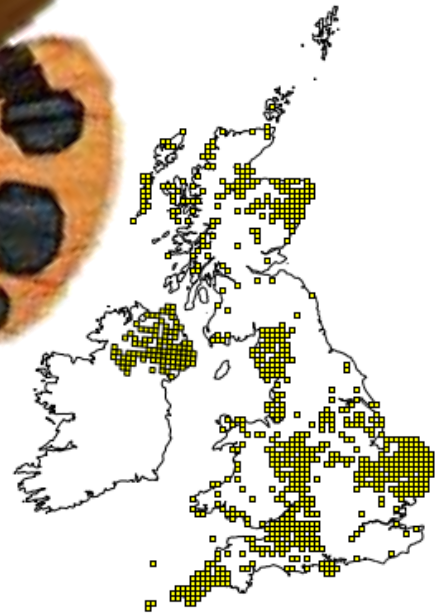
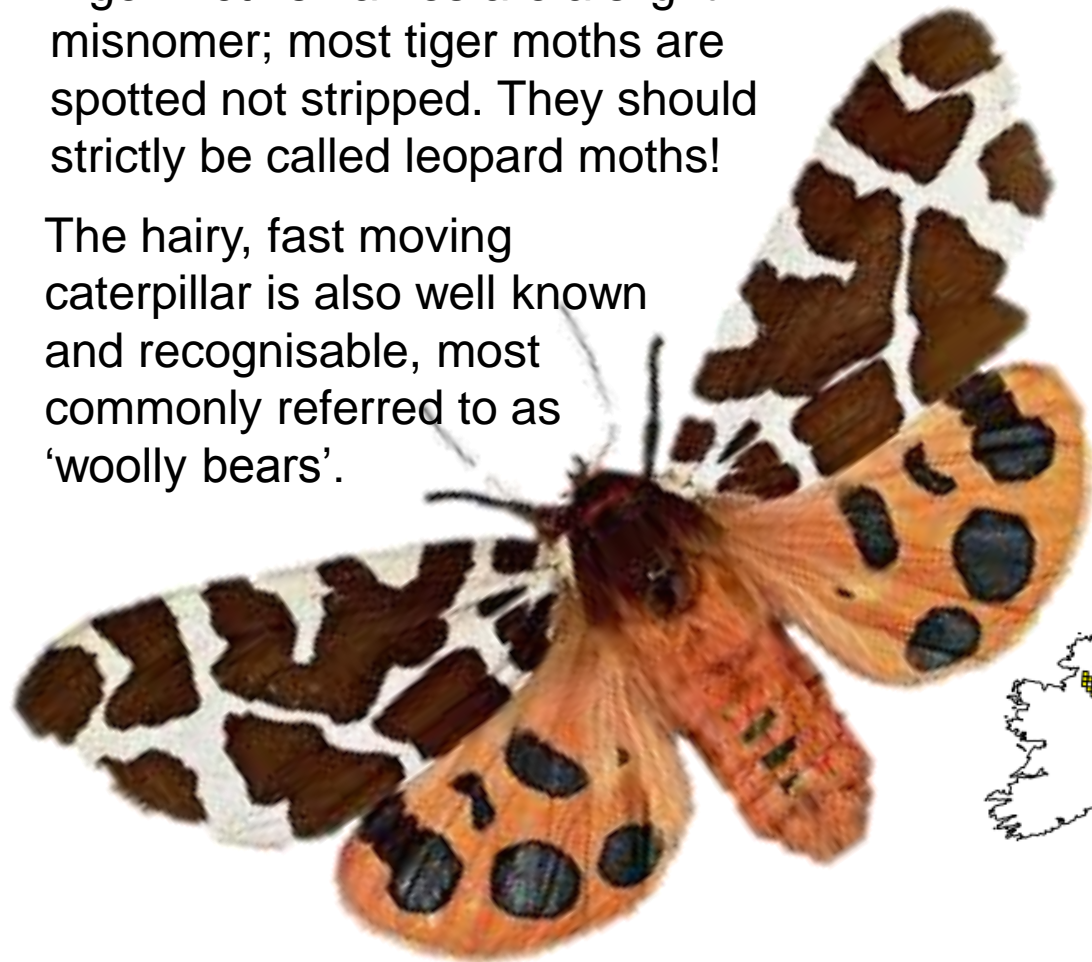


The Garden Tiger Moth is a striking beauty, and one of the best known moths in the UK.

Is it your favourite though?

Tiger moth's names are a slight misnomer; most tiger moths are spotted not striped. They should strictly be called leopard moths!

The hairy, fast moving caterpillar is also well known and recognisable, most commonly referred to as 'woolly bears'.



Data from the NBN Gateway

Small Tortoiseshell

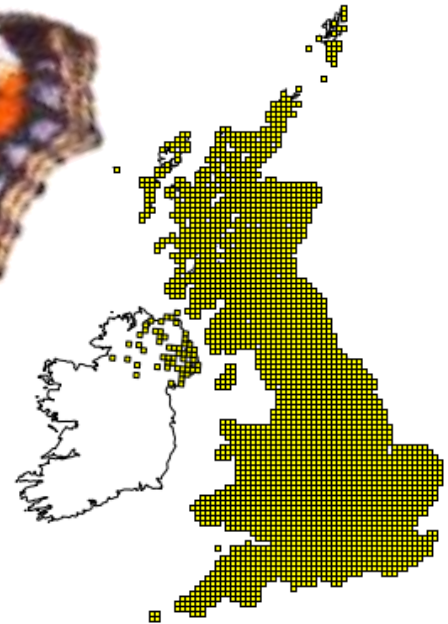
The House Sitter



One of our most familiar butterflies, visiting gardens to feast on buddleia and ice-plants.

The Small Tortoiseshell is one of the emblems of sunny days in the gardens, and its colourful form encapsulates all our pleasant associations with butterflies. It is also the butterfly most likely to hibernate inside the house, Would it be welcome in your home?

Is it your favourite UK Insect?



Aglais urticae

Data from the NBN Gateway

Black Garden Ant

The Socialite



The Black Garden Ant is the common small ant found in gardens.

Ants are not big on individuality; instead, most live for the colony, a tightly knit organisation, formed by altruistic cooperation, with interior networks, caste systems and even a kind of chemical language.

Are you an admirer of the colony?

Is the Ant your favourite?



Lasius niger

Data from the NBN Gateway

Buff-tailed Bumblebee

The Bees Knees



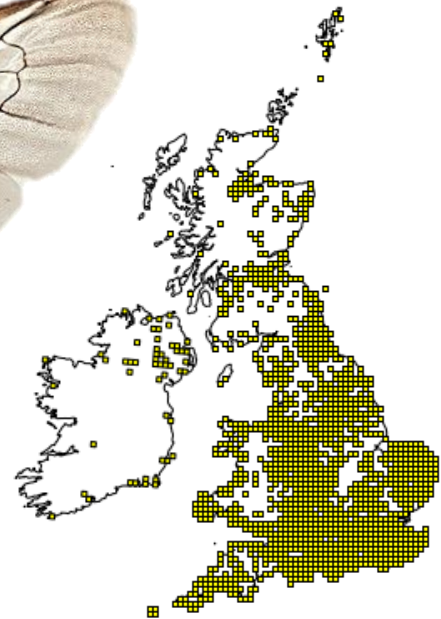
Bumblebees have large furry bottoms, but their name refers to their hum, not their bum.

The Buff-tailed Bumblebee is named after the queen's buff-coloured 'tail'. It is the earliest Bumblebee you are likely to see in your garden, with the fat queen Buff-tailed Bumblebee emerging first, to replenish her food reserves.. Have you spotted the Buff-tailed bumblebee in your garden.

Is it your favourite?



Bombus terrestris



Data from the NBN Gateway



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Large Bee-fly



The Impersonator

There are more than a dozen species of bee-fly in the UK, but the Large Bee fly is one of the most common.

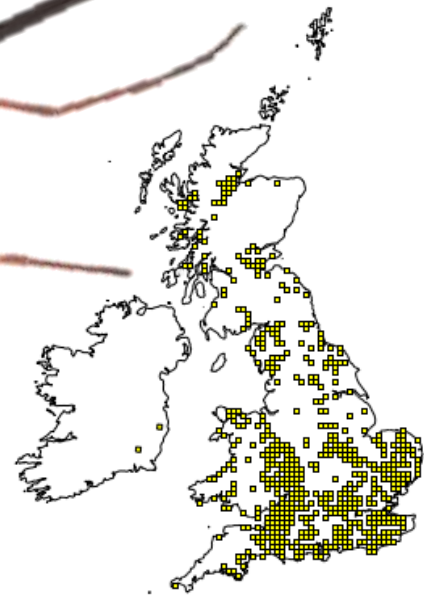
It is a bee mimic; a tiny, furry ball of an insect, with a long stiff tongue out in front like a drawn out sword, with long hairy legs. Don't be fooled by its friendly image however, as it is also a parasite of solitary bees, wasps and beetles.

'Cute' or 'nasty', but.....

Is it your
favourite
UK
Insect?



Bombylius major



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Marmalade Hoverfly

The Gardner's Friend



Hoverflies are among the friendliest and least disconcerting of flies, hovering effortlessly at flowers.

Hoverflies are the most popular groups of flies. Many gardeners go out of their way to attract them, and to some they are considered the 'Butterflies of the flies'. They are very important pollinators, as well as pest controllers.

Gardner's love them, but....

Is it your favourite?



Episyrphus balteatus

Data from the NBN Gateway

Green Shieldbug

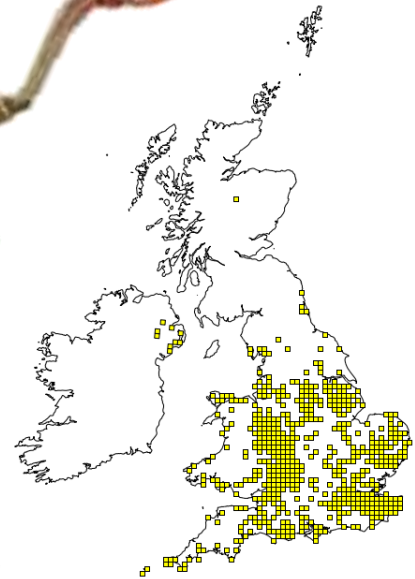
Kicking up a stink



Shield bugs are 'true bugs' belonging to the order Hemiptera.

Being less skittish than many insects, Shieldbugs often allow us to get a good look at their squat, geometrically shaped bodies, whether it be basking on a leaf, or running along the ground. Have you seen one where you live?

Is it your favourite?



Data from the NBN Gateway

Palomena prasina



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Emperor Dragonfly

Lord of the Skies



The Emperor Dragonfly is a very large, impressive dragonfly - the biggest in the UK.

Perhaps the most dazzling of insects: a colourful acrobat with large wings on a broomstick body. The dragonfly will fiercely defend its territory, tirelessly patrolling the margins of ponds and lakes. The Emperor Dragonfly is perhaps the most impressive of all, but....

Is it your
favourite
insect?



Anax imperator

Data from the NBN Gateway