

Nightingale Garden habitats for wildlife

Solitary bee hotels

We have several good bee habitats in the garden, including 'bee hotels' we have made by drilling holes of different diameters into untreated logs. This is because some types of solitary 'cavity' bees like to lay eggs in these holes.



Red mason bees (Osmia bicornis/rufa) prefer holes 7–8 mm wide. They fly in Spring and are good fruit tree pollinators.

Mining bees, including *Colletes*, nest in hard soil. Look out for round holes in bare soil and watch for bees. In August, you might see balls of bees mating (see photo).



June 2019: our first bee hotel, with signs of egg-laying activity in holes of at least two sizes. You might see holes sealed with mud or even leaves (for the leafcutter bee).



Hairy footed flower bees (Anthophora plumipes) nest in soft mortar and sometimes hard soil. From Feb to June, we see the, mostly black, females feeding in the garden. They love lungwort (Pulmonaria).