

Yellow legged mining bee (*Andrena flavipes*)

Fig 1: Embed in website from this file:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Andrena flavipes. Yellow-legged Mining Bee - Flickr - gailhampshire.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Andrena_flavipes._Yellow-legged_Mining_Bee_-_Flickr_-_gailhampshire.jpg)

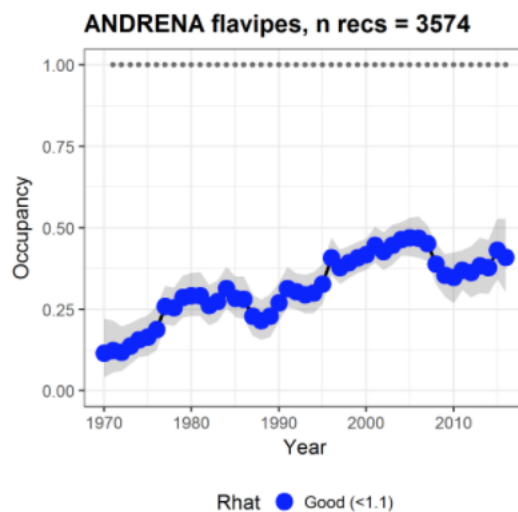
Photo credit: gailhampshire from Cradley, Malvern, U.K / CC BY (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>)

Nesting habitat and behaviour: Grassy bank on west side of Moreton Road. This is a favourite type of habitat for these bees. They like exposed banks, cliffs, lawns, flower beds and roadside verges. These are solitary bees (i.e. a single female occupies a single burrow and raises her brood alone); but they often nest in huge, dense aggregations.

Forage: These are short-tongued bees; this mean they are able to pollinate a wide range of plants with short petals, including flowering trees, shrubs, weeds and garden species.

Species distribution and status: These are one of the commonest and most obvious of the spring-flying solitary bees that you'll find in southern England. This species is becoming more widespread, with steadily increasing occupancy across the UK (Fig 1).

Fig 2: This figure uses 3574 records of *A. flavipes* from across the UK since 1970 to estimate the probability of detecting it in each grid square of the UK over time. An increase in 'occupancy' suggests that it is 'occupying' more parts of the UK. Source: <https://shiny-apps.ceh.ac.uk/speciesplotviewer/>



What to spot: *A. flavipes* is bivoltine bee: this means there are two generations per year. The first generation are the bees that overwintered and emerge in late March. The second generation are the offspring of these March bees – they emerge in June-early August and will produce the bees that overwinter. In late March/early April (and again in June) you'll see lots of bees buzzing around the banks. The bank is full of little holes – these are where bees that have overwintered are emerging. The first bees to emerge are the males; they will then be looking for females to mate with before they die.

More information here: <https://www.bwars.com/bee/andrenidae/andrena-flavipes>

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