

While on an organised trip to Wells-next-to-sea (12 October, 2023), I noticed what I thought was an Ivy Bee (*Colletes hederae*) on Hogweed, which caught my interest as I have only seen Ivy Bees feeding on Ivy flowers. The timing was end-of-season when Ivy has fewer flowers, which may be a factor. In 'The Bees of Norfolk' book by Nick Owens, feeding on Ivy, Prickly Sow-thistle and Ragwort are mentioned, but not Hogweed. The book is dated 2017 when Ivy bees had just arrived in Norfolk, and now they are ubiquitous, so more records on different flowers are to be expected.



Ivy Bee feeding on Hogweed, Wells 12 October 2023
Image / Chris Durdin

Nonetheless I reported this sighting to Tim Strudwick, Norfolk recorder for Bumblebees, Solitary Bees and Wasps. Tim says: "Yes, certainly a male Ivy Bee as the thorax is too ginger for any alternatives. There are now records from a large variety of flowers, mostly daisy family but in Norfolk also *Calluna*, *Reseda*, *Scabious*, *Clematis*, *Mint* and *Chives*, but not Hogweed as far as I can see."