



Identify 100 Species – Common Hoverflies

10 species you are likely to find in Leicestershire and Rutland

How easy is it to identify? Easy ● Care needed ●

Target species

Marmalade Hoverfly – *Episyrphus balteatus* ●

ID: The two black 'moustache' bands on the orange abdomen are unique.

Similar species: None.

Where to look: Flowers in gardens, hedgerows, parks.

About: Can be extremely common in summer when numbers are boosted by migrants.

Recording: Photo required.



Tapered Dronefly – *Eristalis pertinax* ●

ID: 2 orange triangles on a dark abdomen. Pale front tarsi (feet). Males (eyes touching) with tapered abdomen.

Similar species: [Common Dronefly](#) (dark tarsi).

Where to look: Flowers in gardens, hedgerows, parks.

About: Named because it is a mimic of bee drones (males).

Recording: Photo required. If a female (eyes separated) the front tarsi need to be visible.



The Footballer – *Helophilus pendulus* ●

ID: Stripy thorax. Orange/yellow pattern on a black abdomen.

Similar species: [Helophilus trivittatus](#) (lemon yellow), [Helophilus hybridus](#) (yellow patches merge in male).

Where to look: Sunny areas near water.

About: The larvae are found in wet manure, drains or wet sawdust where they thrive on the nutrient-rich decaying organic matter.

Recording: Photo required showing the dorsal patterns.



Other common Leicestershire hoverflies to check out:

[Common Dronefly](#), [Chequered Hoverfly](#), [Pied Hoverfly](#), [Bumblebee Hoverfly](#), [Migrant Hoverfly](#), [Bulb Hoverfly](#)

Batman Hoverfly – *Myathropa florea* ●

ID: Large. Grey spots/stripes on thorax resemble the 'batman' icon. Yellow body hairs. May-Oct.

Similar species: None.

Where to look: Flowers in well-wooded areas, gardens, parks. Ivy flowers later in the year.

About: It breeds in rot holes in trees and also amongst decaying leaves in cavities around tree roots.

Recording: Photo required.



To find out more about the [100 Species Challenge](#), how to submit records of your sightings and lots more about the wildlife of Leicestershire and Rutland, visit www.naturespot.org.uk.

Pellucid Hoverfly – *Volucella pellucens* ●

ID: Large. Cream band on black body. Dark wing patches.

Similar species: [Leucozona lucorum](#) (yellow scutellum).

Where to look: Woods, hedges – likes brambles and umbellifers.

About: One of the largest flies in the UK. Its larvae live in the nests of social wasps and bumblebees, eating waste products and the bee larvae.

Recording: Photo required.



Blotch-winged Hoverfly - *Leucozona lucorum* ●

ID: White band across the abdomen + white patches on the tip. Yellow scutellum (arrowed).

Similar species: [Pellucid Hoverfly](#) (larger, brown scutellum – see above).

Where to look: Damp woodland. Hedgerows.

About: Like many flies, it likes to sunbathe so is most easily seen on sunny leaves in well-wooded areas.

Recording: Photo required.



Long Hoverfly – *Sphaerophoria scripta* ●

ID: Male body longer than wings. Females cannot be identified in the field. Apr – Nov.

Similar species: None (males only).

Where to look: Open grassland. Wasteland.

About: The larvae feed on ground-dwelling aphids.

Recording: Photo required. Only record males.



Common Snout-hoverfly - *Rhinqia campestris* ●

ID: Long snout. Orange abdomen with black lines.

Similar species: [Rhinqia rostrata](#) (no black lines on abdomen).

Where to look: Hedges, woodland edges. Apr-Oct.

About: The larvae feed on cow dung where they are extremely well camouflaged.

Recording: Photo required showing the abdomen and legs.



Thick-legged Hoverfly - *Syritta pipiens* ●

ID: Small. Dark with whitish patches. Thick femora (thighs).

Similar species: None.

Where to look: Gardens, meadows, hedgerows. Apr-Nov.

About: Breeds in rot holes and amongst decaying vegetation.

Recording: Photo required with hind femora visible.



Hornet Hoverfly – *Volucella inanis* ●

ID: Large. Black bars on yellow abdomen.

Similar species: [Volucella zonaria](#) (chestnut at front of the abdomen).

Where to look: Flowery meadows, verges, hedges. June-Sept.

About: This species has been expanding northwards and first arrived in Leicestershire around 20 years ago.

Recording: Photo required.

