

Pellucid Hoverfly

Volucella pellucens

Insects · Active May-Sep



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A big, striking hoverfly: glossy black with a broad translucent ivory-white band across the front of the abdomen and dark patches on the wings. It is among the largest hoverflies in Britain. Pellucid hoverflies favour woodland edge, rides, hedgerows and shady gardens around Dumfries, and often hold a sunlit patch a couple of metres up.

BEHAVIOUR

Adults hover conspicuously in sunny gaps along woodland paths, males holding station and seeing off rivals. The larval life is remarkable: the female lays in the nests of social wasps and bumblebees, and the larvae live on the nest floor as scavengers and predators, eating debris and dead or dying brood while the colony tolerates them. Adults feed at bramble and umbellifers.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Hoverflies (Syrphidae)
SIZE	15–16 mm · one of our largest hoverflies
STATUS	Native; common in and around woodland

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