## Forensic Science Ireland – Biodiversity Update

During FSI's recent Earth Day event on the 15th of April 2026, one of the guest speakers was Collie Ennis the Biodiversity officer for Trinity University. https://www.tcd.ie/sustainability/people/

He gave a fascinating talk on the biodiversity projects within Trinity's campus. Staff were very interested in the small improvements that could be made to improve biodiversity at home and at the workplace. Collie was given a tour of the Backweston campus afterwards. During the tour a solitary bee nesting site was discovered, and two common native species were recorded. An Ashy mining bee - *Andrena cineraria* and a Buffish mining bee - *Andrena nigroaenea*. See image 1.

Subsequent surveys by FSI staff discovered an endangered solitary bee called *Nomada goodeniana* or commonly called Gooden's nomad bee which is a parasite of the Buffish mining bee. See Image 2.

The identification was confirmed by Biodiversity Ireland. It's currently listed on the National Parks and Wildlife service as endangered. It's great to see these species thriving on the Backweston Campus. More information on Biodiversity Ireland's website: https://pollinators.ie/record-pollinators/bees/solitary-bees/

FSI will also be continuing its sponsorship of Biodiversity within the Wild acres nature reserve. In 2026, they will be building a Solitary bee nesting site. www.wildacres.ie

To date, 5 different species of solitary mining bee's have now been recorded on the Backweston Campus.

1. Ashy mining bee - (*Andrena cineraria)*
2. Buffish mining bee - *(Andrena nigroaenea)*
3. Chocolate mining bee - (*Andrena scotica)*
4. Goodens nomad bee - (*Nomada goodeniana)*
5. Marshams nomand bee - (*Nomada marshamella*)

**Image 1: Solitary bee nesting site including Ashy mining bee and buffish mining bee. Credit: Collie Ennis.**

**Image 2: Gooden's nomad bee**

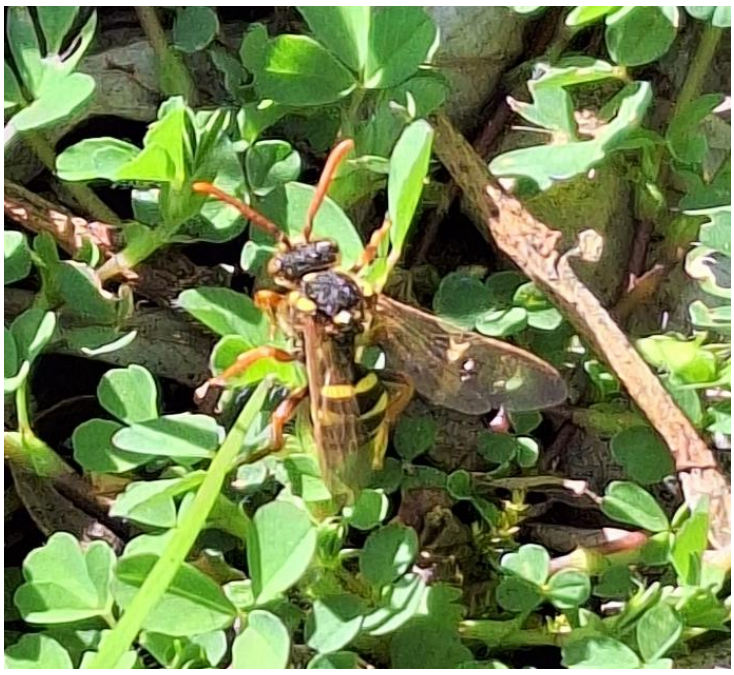

**Image 3: Ashy mining bee - *Andrena cineraria***

**Image 4 : Marsham's nomad bee**

**Image 5: Chocolate mining bee.**

**Image 6: Buffish mining bee**