

Baal Hill Special Invertebrate Site

Habitats

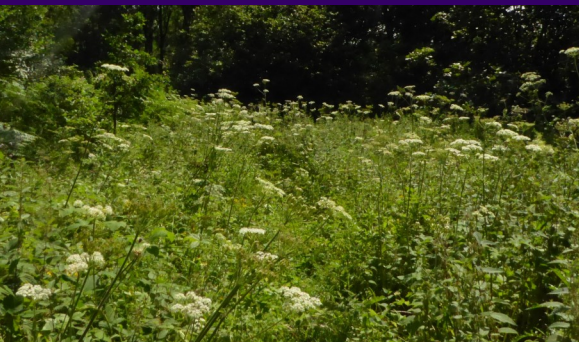
Mixed woodland

This semi-natural woodland, managed by Durham Wildlife Trust, is largely upland oak and birch with some ash, elder, yew and beech. Veteran trees, pollards, standing and fallen deadwood and stumps provide a wide range of resources for egg laying, feeding, nesting and basking.



Flower-rich glades and understory

Open glades within the woodland are rich with hogweed, thistles and ragwort. The woodland understory consists of bluebells and wild garlic in the spring and buttercups, self-heal and foxgloves during the summer. These act as important nectar sources within the shelter of the woodland.



Freshwater and bare banks

A stream runs through the site while wet flushes, small areas of exposed bank and stone provide a variety of microhabitats.

Species

Cracked bark on veteran trees is habitat for the walnut orb weaver (pictured) and laceweb spiders, *Amaurobius* species.



Flowers are used by dark-edged bee-flies, bluebell shade moths, small copper butterflies and the great pied hoverfly (pictured).



Deadwood supports four banded longhorn beetles (pictured), black-spotted longhorn beetles and beetle, *Carabus problematicus*.



Leaf litter is home to pill millipedes (pictured), white-legged snake millipedes and darkling beetle larvae.



Birch shieldbug (pictured), birch sawfly and bug, *Harpocera thoracica*, use the birch and oak woodland.

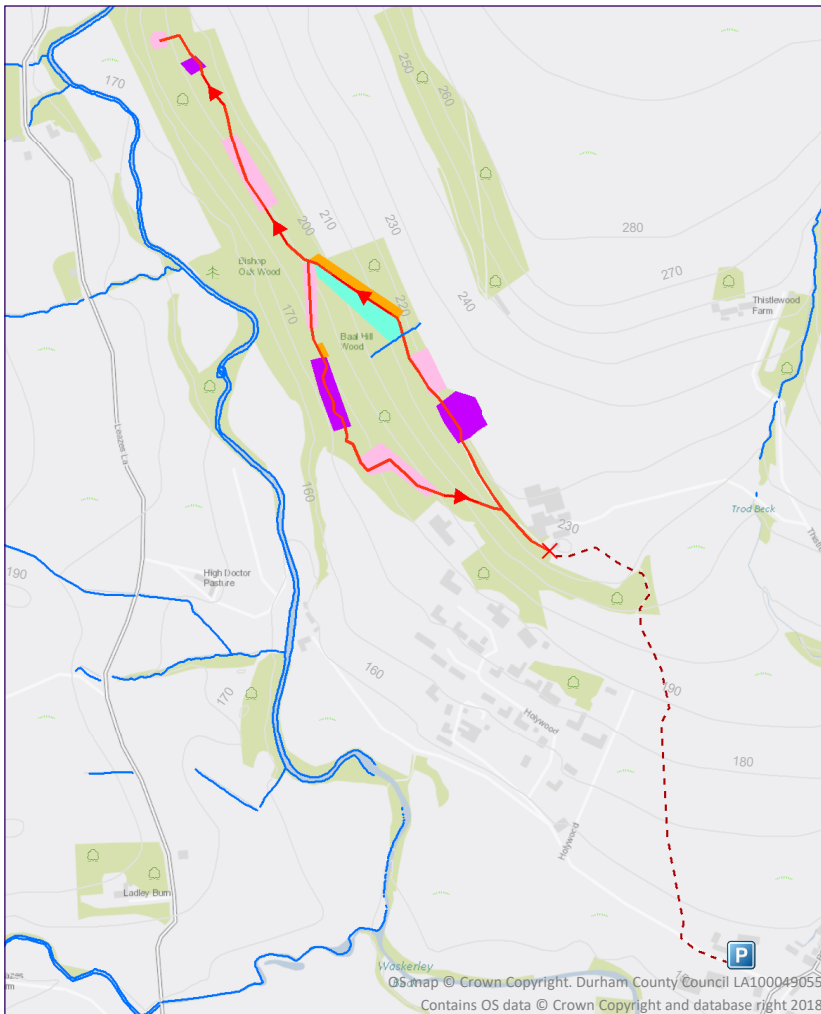


Predators like common green lacewings, kidney-spot ladybirds and saddleback harvestman (pictured) live in the woodland.



Baal Hill invertebrate survey route

Car parking: lay-by, Holywood Lane, Wolsingham, DL13 3HB; GR: NZ 07711 37859



Key habitats and features



Parking area



Start and end point



Directions to survey route



Survey route



Running water



Bare bank



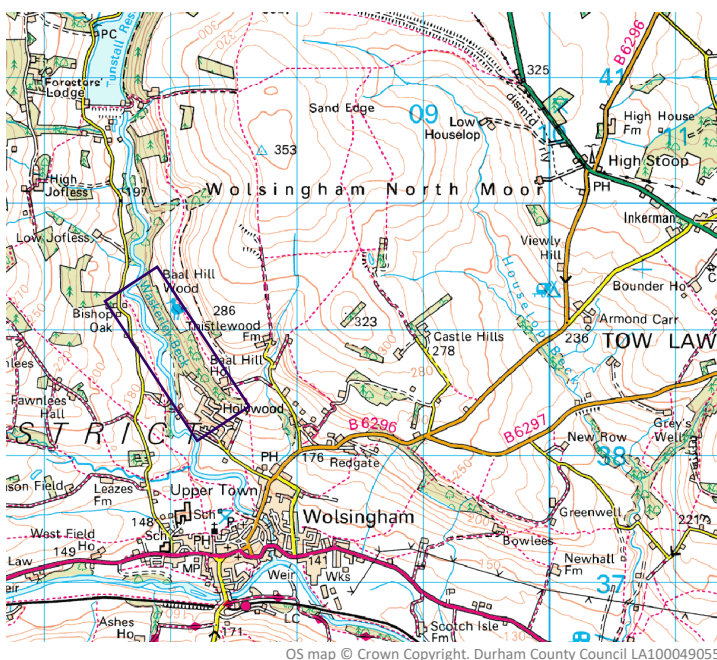
Deadwood and veteran trees



Flower-rich grassland



Wet flush



Terrain: the route follows a bare track with some steep slopes, stairs, wet areas and uneven surfaces. Long sleeved t-shirts and trousers are recommended to avoid nettle stings.

Survey route length: 1.3 miles

Adders may be found on site. If you find an adder please record it but do not approach or disturb it.

For more information about Baal Hill Nature Reserve, visit the Durham Wildlife Trust website: <https://durhamwt.com/reserves/baal-hill-nature-reserve>