

Bells Grooves Special Invertebrate Site

Habitats

Wildflower-rich grassland and bare areas

A mixture of grassland types includes plants such as raspberry, wild thyme, ragged robin and marsh valerian, for early to mid summer species and devil's-bit scabious and sneezewort later in the summer. Bare areas of shingle are found within the calaminarian grassland while bare sandy soil is found in the heathland.

Heathland

Broad areas of heather and bilberry, with thistles around the edge, provide important food plants, shelter and foraging for late season pollinators.

River

The river East Allen flows through the site, with some cobbled and marshy edges. A mix of riffles and pools allows for a variety of freshwater invertebrates, with nearby trees acting as shelter for adult riverflies.

Scrub

As well as acting as shelter, scrub, including alder and early flowering willows, is an important food source for a range of invertebrates.



Species

Marshy areas support marsh tiger hoverfly and shiny black *Melangyna* hoverfly plus four-spotted orb weaver spiders (pictured) and broad damsel bugs.



Pollinators include the bumblebee hoverfly (pictured), furry dronefly, rare broken-belted bumblebees, bilberry bumblebees and moss carder bees.



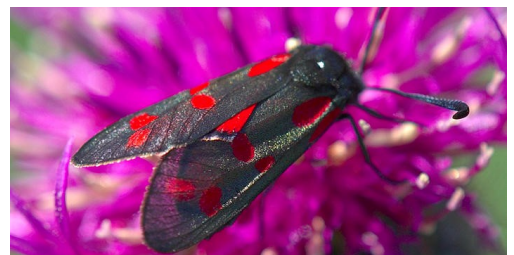
Sallow kitten moths, tree slugs, sawfly, *Nematus ferrugineus*, larvae (pictured), yellow-legged centurions and two-banded longhorn beetles use the trees.



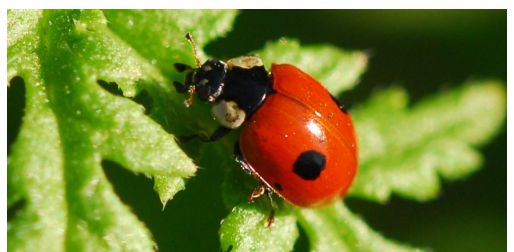
Yellow-girdled *Dasysyrphus* hoverfly (pictured), ants, *Formica lemani*, and yellow-legged furrow bees live on the heathland.



Flowers attract six-spot burnet moths (pictured), wormwood pug moths, fox moths, gold spangle moths and figwort weevils.

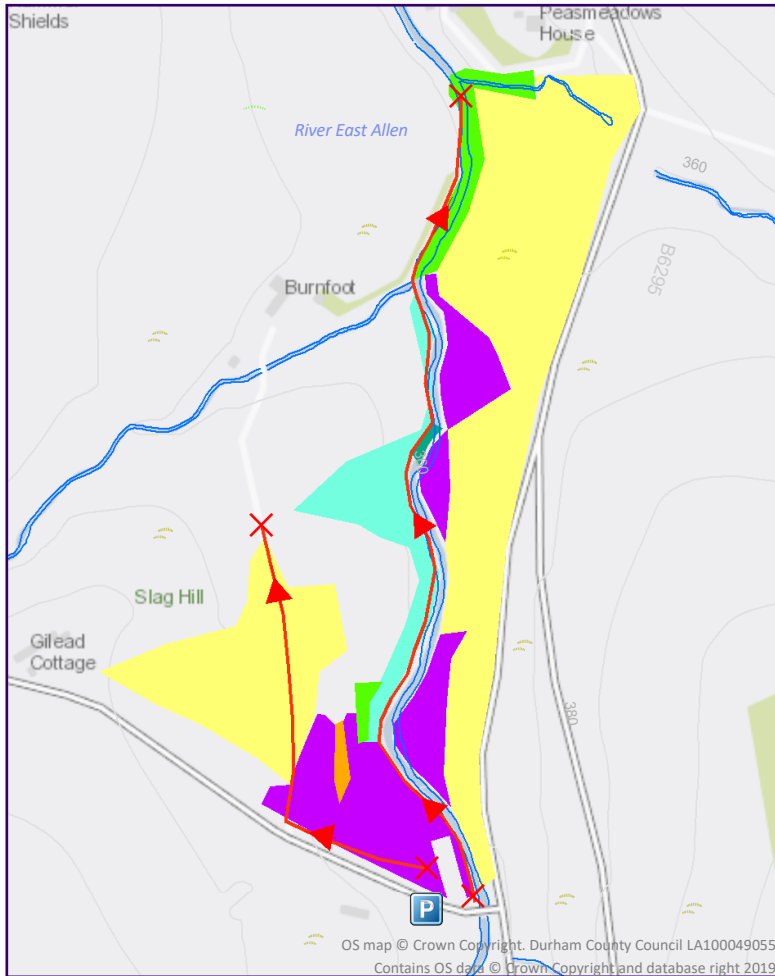


Caddisfly, *Athripsodes bilineatus*, and stonefly, *Leuctra fusca*, use the river. Predatory two-spot ladybirds (pictured) feed on aphids.



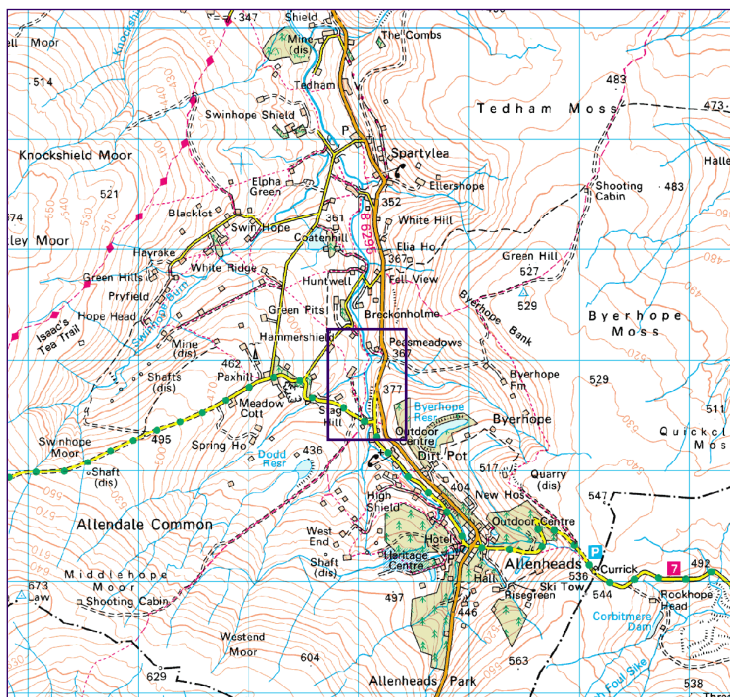
Bells Grooves invertebrate survey route

Car parking: lay-by, Dirt Pot, Allenheads, Northumberland, NE47 9HE; GR: NY 85078 46466



Key habitats and features

- Parking
- Survey route
- Start and end points
- Running water
- Access to running water
- Bare area
- Flower-rich grassland
- Heathland
- Marshy grassland
- Scrub



Terrain: the route follows rough, narrow paths on uneven ground with some wet areas and slopes.

Survey route length: 0.6 miles

There is a small road between the parking area and survey routes. Please take care when crossing this road. When using the survey route near the river, be aware that the edges are slippery and steep in places.

The habitat is very fragile at this site, and in particular some of the rare flowering plants are at risk of trampling. Please remain on the survey route.