

Langdon Beck road verges Special Invertebrate Site

Habitats

Flower-rich grassland and stone walls

Broad verges of knapweed, rosebay willowherb, raspberry, quaking grass, thistles, hogweed and yarrow can be found here. This range of plants ensures a food supply for pollinators from late spring through to late summer. Stone walls provide structure and basking areas.

Wet grassland

Marshy areas of wet grassland include devil's-bit scabious, sneezewort, soft rush and meadowsweet. A combination of exposed and sheltered wet grassland provides a variety of niches. These plant communities are particularly good for late summer pollinators as well as providing food plants for a wide range of wet grassland species.



Willow scrub and woodland edge

Willow scrub is found in areas of wet grassland, along with the edge of a larger pine plantation and some associated birch. This provides larval food plants and fungi for a range of species, as well as areas of shelter and structure for spiders.

Species

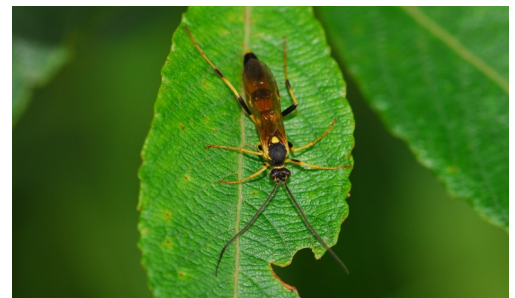
Trees provide for the larvae of the scarce pied clothes moth, twin-spot carpet moth and pink-barred sawfly moth (pictured).



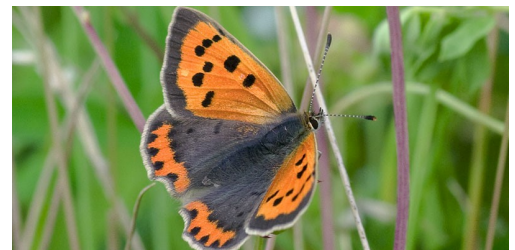
Wet grassland supports the hoverflies: blotch-winged dronefly, *Platycheirus granditarsus* (pictured) and meadow Epeodes.



Woodland edge habitat is home to parasitic wasps, *Amblyteles armatorius* (pictured) and *Vulgichneumon saturatorius*.



Sheltered areas of grassland are used by hoverfly *Melanostoma scalare* and small copper butterflies (pictured).



Structural features support rock snails and garden orb weavers (pictured). *Xysticus* crab spiders hunt on flowers.

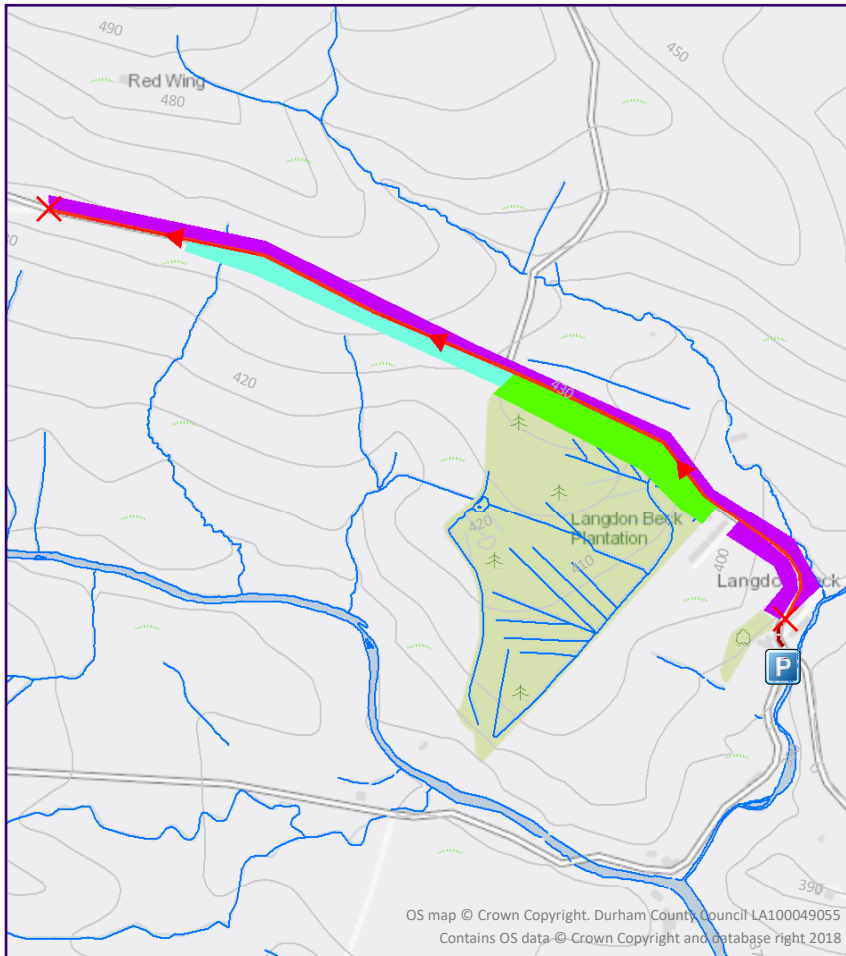


Nectar-feeders include declining broken-belted bumblebees and moss carder bees, as well as noon flies (pictured).











Langdon Beck road verges invertebrate survey route

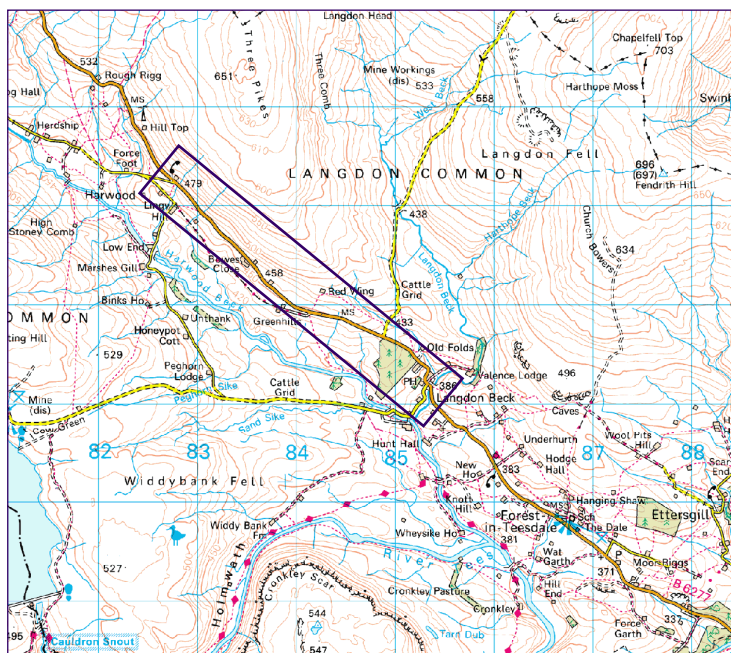
Car parking: lay-by, near Langdon Beck Hotel, B6277, County Durham, DL12 0XP; GR: NY 85321 31186



Key habitats and features

-  Parking area
-  Directions to survey route
-  Start/ end point
-  Survey route
-  Running water
-  Wet grassland
-  Wildflower-rich grassland
-  Woodland edge and wet grassland

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Terrain: the route follows a tarmacked road.

Survey route length: 2.0 miles

The survey route is on a road with sometimes fast-moving traffic. Care is therefore required when recording at this site. Please take precautions to ensure you are fully visible to traffic and follow the highway code rules for pedestrians. For more information visit: www.highwaycodeuk.co.uk/rules-for-pedestrians.html