

Melmerby Green Special Invertebrate Site

Habitats

Flower-rich grassland

The long grasses of the hay meadow supports a wide variety of invertebrate species while flowers such as foxgloves, upright vetch and dyers greenweed, provide food for pollinators. Occasional grazing horses provide manure for dung beetles and some fly larvae.



Running and still water

The Melmerby beck runs through the site which, along with a pond, provides habitat for riverflies, water beetles, bugs and dragonflies. Damp areas of grassland are also found near the streams and ponds.

Bare areas

Worn areas within the grassland reveal bare sandy soil, providing nesting, basking and hunting habitat.

Woodland and riparian trees

A small hollow of woodland, comprising mainly of sycamore, provides food plants, shelter and structure for a range of invertebrates. Trees and shrubs, such as willow, also line stretches of the beck.

Species

Flowering plants attract hoverflies like smudge-winged *Neoascia*, Hawkbit *Cheilosia* and thick-thighed hoverflies (pictured).



Cream-spot ladybirds, brimstone moths (pictured), common orange legionnaire flies and scarce red-legged robberflies use the trees on site.



The beck holds white-clawed crayfish, yellow may dun mayfly and iron blue mayfly. The pond attracts common blue damselflies (pictured).



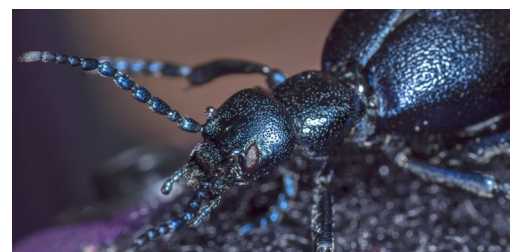
The grassland is home to local bug *Orthocephalus saltator*, broad damsel bug (pictured) and plant bug, *Pithanus maerkelii*.



Damp grassland is used by moorland snipefly, giant lacewings and ringlet butterflies (pictured).

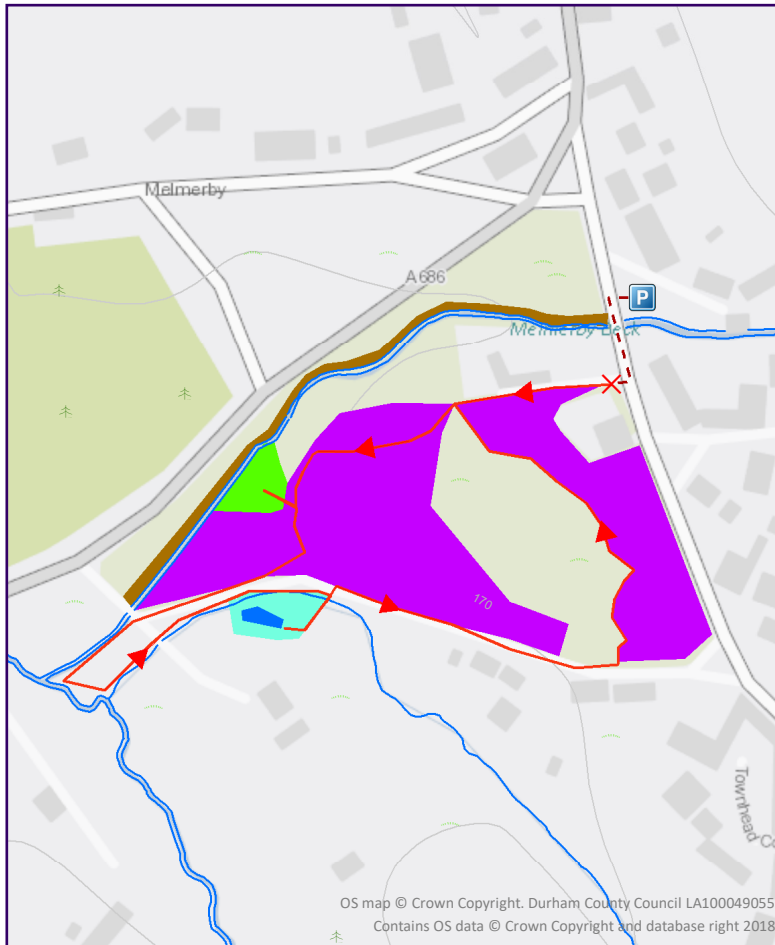


Mining bees, like tawny mining bee, nest in bare areas, hosting violet oil beetles (pictured). Dung supports beetle *Cercyon lateralis*.













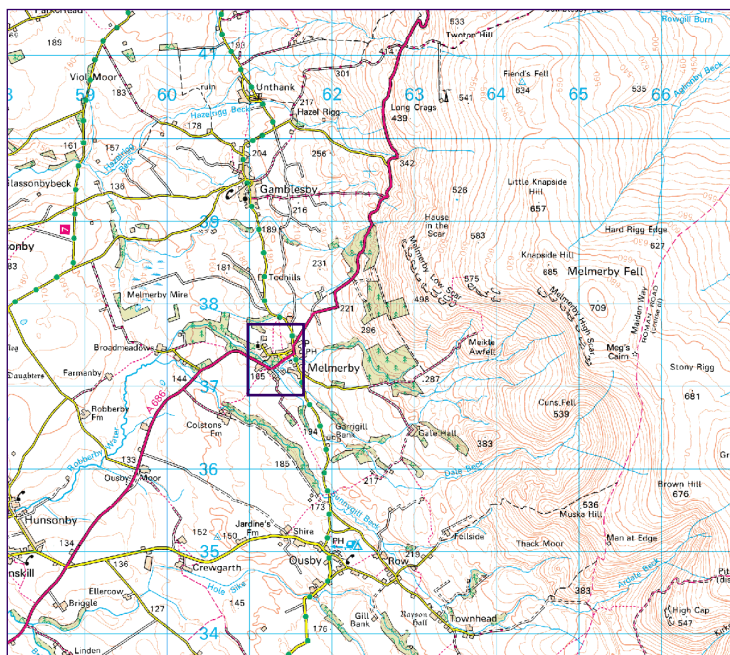
Melmerby Green invertebrate survey route

Car parking: lay-by, Melmerby Green, Cumbria, CA10 1HL; GR: NY 61550 37334



Key features and habitats

-  Parking area
-  Directions to survey route
-  Start and end point
-  Survey route
-  Running water
-  Damp grassland
-  Flower-rich grassland
-  Pond
-  Riparian trees
-  Woodland



Terrain: the directions and survey route follow tarmarked tracks and a rough, uneven footpath with slight slopes.

Survey route length: 0.5 miles

The directions from the parking area to the survey route crosses a small road. Please take care when crossing this road.

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