

Tees Valley railway path Special Invertebrate Site

Habitats

Flower-rich grassland

The footpath, managed by Durham County Council, is edged by flower-rich grassland and banks. Flowering currant provides much needed food for early pollinators while abundant raspberry, rosebay willowherb, sweet cicely and hogweed are important food sources during mid-summer. Knapweed, great burnet, ragwort and yarrow provide food for a variety of pollen feeders and bugs. Taller flowers and dead stems provide shelter and structure for invertebrates in later months.



Deadwood and slow-flowing water

Small areas of fallen deadwood, stumps and loose bark provide cover and structure for beetles, centipedes and spiders. A ditch provides habitat for freshwater invertebrates and supports stands of water mint for late-season pollinators.

Woodland and hedgerows

A mixture of species including willow, hawthorn, oak, elder and dog rose provide a wide variety of food plants, structure and shelter for invertebrates.

Species

Pollinators include white-footed hoverfly, banded *Meliscaeva* hoverfly and common carder bees (pictured).



Earwigs use deadwood while water crickets live in the ditch. Sawfly, *Rhogogaster viridis*, and fork-palped harvestmen (pictured) predate upon other insects here.



Hedgerows are home to grey dagger caterpillars, two-toothed door snails, oak marble gall wasps and stripe-winged droneflies (pictured).



Spider, *Larinioides cornutus*, (pictured) hides in tall vegetation, with potato leafhoppers found below.



Grassland supports white-lipped banded snails (pictured), discus snails, hedgehog slugs and field grasshoppers.

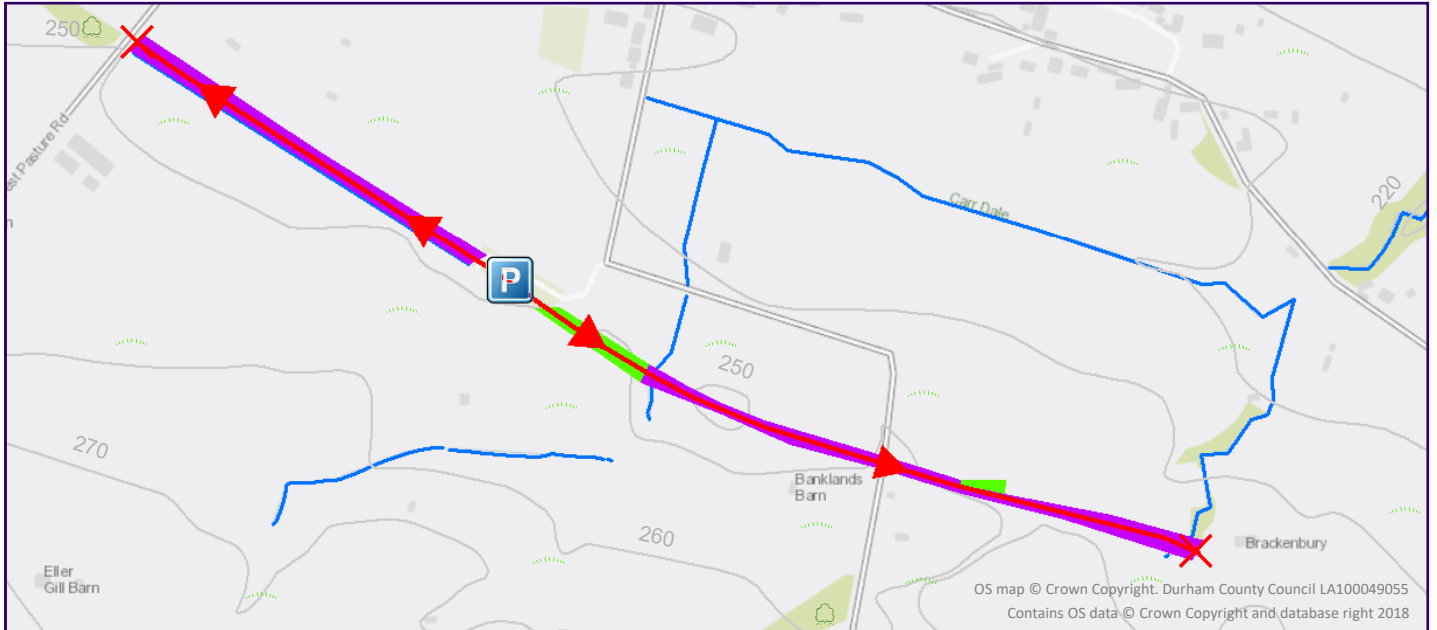


Rosebay willowherb is food for elephant hawk-moths (pictured) and little Mompha moths. Nettles are used by nettle-tap moths.









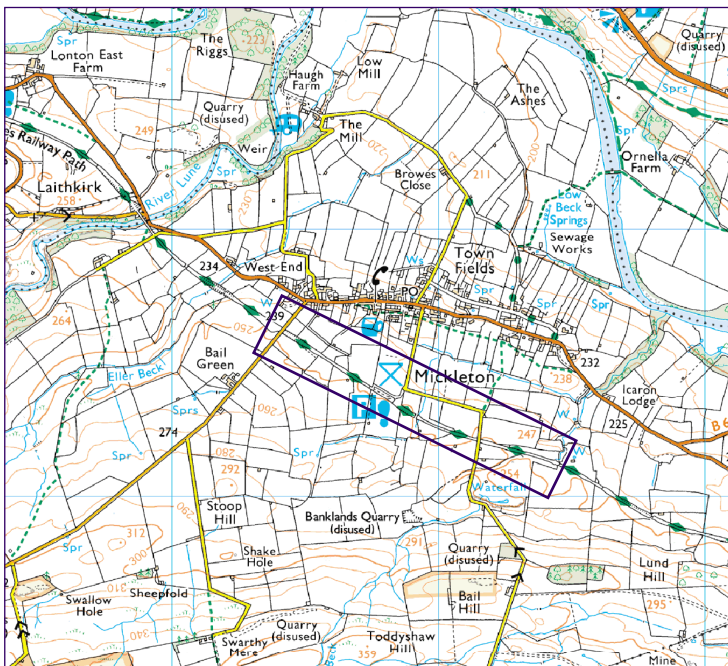
Tees Valley railway path invertebrate survey route

Car parking: Tees Valley railway path car park, Mickleton, County Durham, DL12 0JB; GR: NY 96788 23389



Key habitats and features

-  Parking area/ start point
-  Survey route
-  Flower-rich grassland and hedgerow
-  Running water
-  Woodland
-  End point



Terrain: the full route is on a rough track along level ground with some uneven areas and tree roots.

Survey route length: 0.8 miles

The survey route crosses some very small local roads. Please be aware of traffic when crossing these and within the large parking area.