

black net-winged beetle *Pyropterus nigroruber*, the ant-like beetle *Microscydmus minimus*, the false darkling beetle *Abdera quadrifasciata*, the small beetle *Batrisodes venustus* and the spectacular yellow and black longhorn beetle *Saperda scalaris*, all species primarily associated with hollow cavities and decaying heartwood of mature oaks. The red and black click beetle *Ampedus quercicola* is often allied to red heart rot in birch. A number of species are affiliated to fungi on deciduous trees such as the darkling beetle *Eledona agricola* and *Corticium unicolor*, a rare darkling beetle identified with bracket fungi on trees, especially birch, and which is almost confined to Sherwood Forest. A number of species which form part of this assemblage are almost exclusively restricted in their national distribution to ancient broad-leaved woodlands, such as the nationally rare mould beetle *Corticaria longicollis*.

Glades of unimproved acid grassland and heath occur amongst woodland and are largely dominated by the tussock-forming wavy-hair grass *Deschampsia flexuosa* along with sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina*, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and common bent *Agrostis capillaris*. Characteristic herbs such as heath bedstraw *Galium saxatile*, harebell *Campanula rotundifolia*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta* and sheep's sorrel *Rumex acetosella* can be abundant, with heather *Calluna vulgaris*, heath milkwort *Polygala serpyllifolia*, mouse-ear hawkweed *Pilosella officinarum*, cat's-ear *Hypochaeris radicata* and wild thyme *Thymus polytrichus* locally prominent. A local abundance of anthills area feature of these areas. In parts of Ollerton Corner, heather and bell heather *Erica cinerea* become increasingly characteristic and can dominate to form stands of lowland heath in close association with grassland communities.

Other information

This is a new site adjacent to Birklands and Bilhaugh Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified in 1983 under Section 28 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended).

The site includes Sherwood Heath Local Nature Reserve (LNR) declared under Section 21 of the *National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949* by Newark and Sherwood District Council.