

# The Manor House Summer Mini Beast Trail

# ILKLEY MANOR HOUSE

Can you find all 15 pictures of the mini beasts when you visit Castle Yard at Ilkley Manor House? Wharfedale Naturalists' Society have helped us bring you loads of facts and figures to help you discover how mini beasts are crucial for our survival!

## Ant

**Scientific name:**  
**Lasius Niger (black garden ant)**



Ants are social insects and live in colonies. They nest in soil, under paving stones, in the lawn or at the base of walls. Some ants milk aphids for their honey dew and protect them from other predators.

**What they eat:**  
Ants feed on anything especially if it is sweet. They leave a trail for other ants to follow to find food.

## Slug

**Scientific name:**  
**Arion hortensis (garden slug) Arion ater (large black slug)**



Slugs can be found throughout the garden but are best seen at night. They are closely related to snails but have no protective shell to hide under. They are hermaphrodites, which means they have both male and female sexual cells. Slugs live for about two years.

**What they eat:**  
Slugs eat decaying matter and plant debris but also new seedlings, leaves and fruit and vegetables.

## Woodlice

**Scientific name: Oniscidea**



Woodlice are crustaceans. This means that they are related to crabs and lobsters. They like damp, dark places. You can find them under stones and under plant pots. Some species roll themselves into a ball if they are frightened. They have 14 legs.

**What they eat:**  
They eat dead plants and dead creatures. They are important recyclers.

## Caterpillar

**Scientific name: Lepidopteran larva**



Caterpillars are young butterflies or moths that have just hatched out of an egg. When it reaches full size, it will change into a pupa and then into a butterfly or moth. Caterpillars have tubular bodies, are voracious eaters and shed their skin when it gets too tight! They are an important food source for many birds.

**What they eat:**  
They mainly eat leaves but can be found living off dead wood. Some live indoors and eat carpets and woolly jumpers!

## Wasp

**Scientific name: Vespus vulgaris**



Wasps come in lots of different colours, although we think of them as black and yellow, there are blue, brown, red and two tone combinations. They have slimmer bodies than bees but like bees are also very sociable insects living in colonies of up to 10,000 workers.

**What they eat:**  
Adults feed on sugary liquid secreted by the wasp larvae and aphid honey dew. In late summer as the larvae have matured, they eat nectar and other sweet substances such as ripe fruit.

## Wolf spider

**Scientific name: Lycosidae**



The wolf spider has eight legs and eight eyes in three rows. They don't hunt their prey in packs like wolves but wait quietly for it to pass by and then pounce. The female wolf spider carries her eggs around in a silken cup that she makes and then attaches to her spinnerets. When they hatch she carries them around on her back.

**What they eat:**  
Wolf spiders are carnivores. They eat other small insects and spiders.

## Ladybird

**Scientific name:**  
**Two spot ladybird, Adalia bipunctata**  
**Seven- spot ladybird, Coccinella septempunctata**



Ladybirds are brightly coloured, which tells predators that they taste yucky! Some of them can also give off a fluid to ward off ants, birds and people.

**What they eat:**  
Adults and larvae feed on aphids and small insects.

## Garden snail

**Scientific name: Helix aspersa**



Newly hatched snails have a fragile shell which takes about 2 years to mature. Snails rest during the day and come out to feed at night. During the winter garden snails will hibernate.

**What they eat:**  
Leaves, algae, lichens, fungi and rotting plant debris

## Aphids

**Scientific name: Aphidoidea**



Aphids are commonly called plant lice, and gardeners regard them as pests as they multiply quickly and cause great damage to plants. During the spring and summer female aphids give birth to live young. They have many predators and are a valuable food source for other insects and birds.

**What they eat:**  
Aphids are sap sucking insects and feed off the foliage, stems, flowers and roots of plants.

## Worm

**Scientific name: Lumbricus terrestris (common earthworm)**



When worms tunnel they bring air into the soil. They are often called the gardener's friend. They don't have legs but have hairs or bristles that help them move. Worms live for about 4-5 years.

**What they eat:**  
Dead leaves and dead plant material.

## Honeybee

**Scientific name: Apis mellifera**



Honeybees make honey from the pollen and nectar that they collect from flowers. They are social insects and live in colonies with a queen bee. Honey bees will only attack when threatened. They are very important pollinators.

**What they eat:**  
Nectar and pollen.

## Flat backed millipede

**Scientific name: Polydesmus angustus**



It doesn't have a thousand legs, but it does have two pairs of legs for each body segment! They spend most of their time buried in the soil or leaf litter. When the young hatch they only have a few pairs of legs but grow more as they get older.

**What they eat:**  
They eat decaying plant matter.

## Green bottle fly

**Scientific name: Lucilia sericata (green bottle fly)**



Flies can carry diseases and they eat animal waste and decaying matter. They have two wings and can fly up and down, side to side and even backwards. They have hairy sticky feet and can even walk upside down! Their young larvae are called maggots. They don't have teeth, instead they have a long tongue called a proboscis and they suck up their food.

**What they eat:**  
They eat dead animals, rubbish, and animal waste.

## Earwigs

**Scientific name: Forficula auricularia**



Earwigs can be quite scary to look at but they are harmless to humans and their "armour" is for their own protection. They hide during the day and although they have wings, they are usually reluctant to fly. Earwig mothers look after their young until they can look after themselves.

**What they eat:**  
Dead animals and plants, flowers and small insects.

## Violet Ground Beetle

**Scientific name: Carabus Violaceus**



These beetles are nocturnal so they are active at night. They live in gardens and fields. They can be found sleeping under wood and stones during the day.

**What they eat:**  
slugs, insects, snails and worms.