**Bug Safari**

This walk starts & finishes at the Information Office. How long will it take? This will depend on how many bugs you find! This will depend on the time of year and whether it is sunny or not. The walk is not way-marked by arrows, just follow the map and read the description in the text below. Happy bug hunting!

Start outside the Information Office and head towards any of the tall **grassy areas(1)** around the Caher (the large circular stone structure). These areas have been left to go wild and make ideal bug homes. In the summer, listen out for grasshoppers chirping. They are very well camouflaged and love warm, bright weather. Can you spot them? This is also a great home for hoverflies, craneflies, wolf spiders, ants, dragonflies and damselflies.

Head to the **Glenealo River(2)** and continue round to the **Upper Lake shore area(3)**. Along the way look out for pond skaters. They can walk on water and they don’t mind the rain! Also, look out for dragonflies & damselflies patrolling along the waters edge.

The **gorse bushes(4)** that grow beside the lakeshore are great places to find spiders. Check their webs for trapped flies.

Cross one of the foot bridges and head into the **woods(5)**. Dark and damp woodland is an excellent place for woodlice. Being one of nature’s recyclers, they turn dead wood into plant food. You might also find centipedes, ground beetles and earwigs here too.

Did you encounter the infamous Glendalough midge? Biting midges are female. Your protein rich blood enables them to lay lots of eggs! Unless you are able to endure them, escape to an open area (they don’t like the sun).

Return to the Information Office **Sensory Garden(6)**. Look out for butterflies and bees pollinating & feeding on flowers. This sensory garden is also very bug friendly. We don’t use pesticides and have provided a compost heap, woodpile, small pond and bee house.

How many bugs did you find?
Please, do not harm the bugs!

Legend:
- P: Car Park
- i: Wicklow Mountains National Park Information Office
- E: Education Centre
- Suggested Route: Red lines

All photographs by Ian Edwards