

SITES OF IMPORTANCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

Bushfield Camp contains three separate Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).

'**Bushfield Camp C**' includes the old hard-standing and derelict buildings of the old camp site. The SINC designation also refers to the presence of areas of impoverished chalk grassland and a number of uncommon insect species. The adjacent SINC of **Bushfield Camp A** and **B** also contain areas of largely unmanaged impoverished chalk grassland with records of a number of other threatened insect species.

Bushfield Camp also contains other habitats such as species rich scrub, woodland and rough unmanaged ground referred to as 'ruderal vegetation' that contribute to its particular wildlife value.

Conserving the wildlife of Bushfield Camp

Development at Bushfield Camp will need to be designed to conserve and enhance its value for wildlife, both within the site and in the context of the wider landscape. More information is needed to help understand what wildlife currently lives in and around Bushfield Camp and how that might be conserved in the future. It is clear that some management will be needed to maintain and enhance the wildlife habitats of the area and integrate these with the proposed development. This might include.

- **Keeping areas of tall rough flowery grassland.**
- **Create areas of shorter chalk grassland – ideally by grazing.**
- **Introducing a greater diversity of chalk grassland species**
- **Cutting back some areas of scrub to create more chalk grassland.**
- **Restoring areas of new chalk grassland on arable and improved grassland.**
- **Coppicing patches of scrub to diversify age structure and create more 'edge'.**
- **Using native trees and shrubs in any landscaping to reflect natural chalk woodlands**
- **Maintaining a supply of dead wood in all forms.**
- **Integrating wildlife habitats into the new built environment – chalk grasslands, scrub and trees, bat and bird boxes.**
- **Creating new chalk grassland on 'green roofs' – quarry and rubble grasslands to attract the 'blue' butterflies.**



Mature beech hanger with old-man's beard and rough grassland



Green roofs can provide opportunities for the establishment of calcareous grassland



Native berry bearing shrubs (far left);
Pyramidal orchid (left);
Hover fly (btm left);
Bumble bee (btm centre) and Blue
carpenter bee (btm right) and floristically
rich, calcareous
grassland

