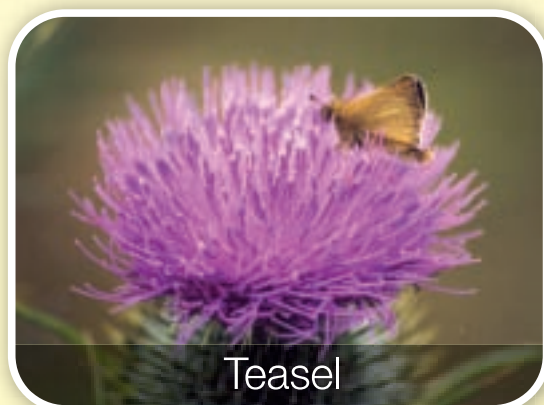




# Wildlife of EAST WICKHAM Open Space

## Bat Area

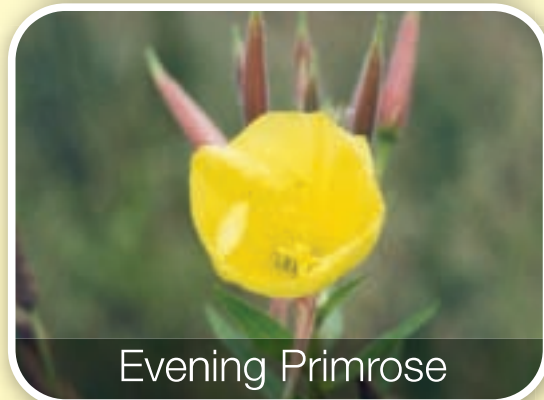
With its long grass and wild flowers such as evening primrose and field scabious, this habitat attracts large numbers of insects. These then attract a range of birds and other animals to hunt and to feed. A number of different bat species are regularly seen feeding at dawn and dusk along the Cemetery Wall. Bat boxes have been placed on the tall poplar trees by the EWCV, to encourage the bats to stay in the Park.



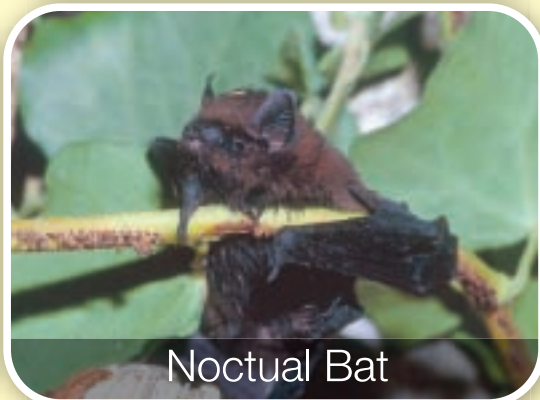
Teasel



Field Scabious



Evening Primrose



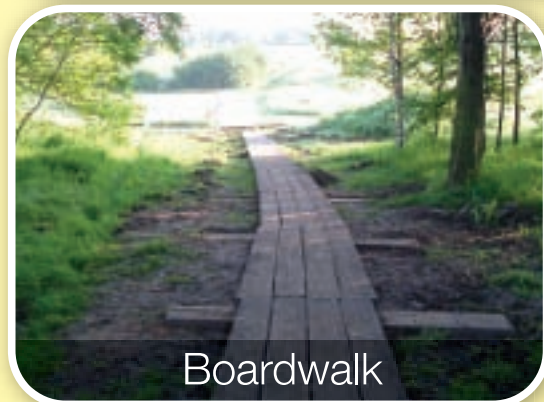
Nocturnal Bat

## Dew Pond/Boardwalk

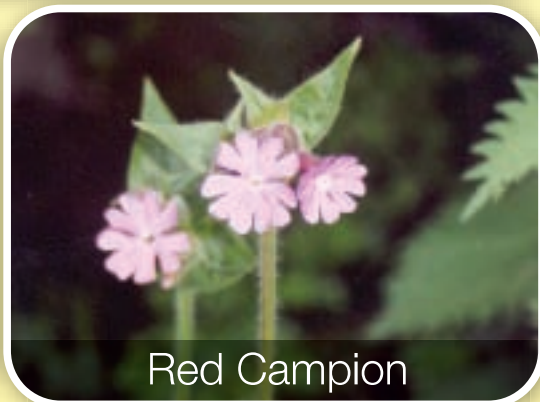
This damp shady site is home to many plants and animals and thanks to work from the EWCV people can now access this site more easily. In 2000 work began on the Boardwalk that now leads through this part of the Green Chain Walk. Iris, lesser celandine and ransoms can be seen growing along the new walkway. Excess water is channelled into a new dewpond, which is home to plants such as ragged robin and red campion. This wet area is a big attraction to insects, birds and amphibians including newts and toads.



Common Newt (male)



Boardwalk



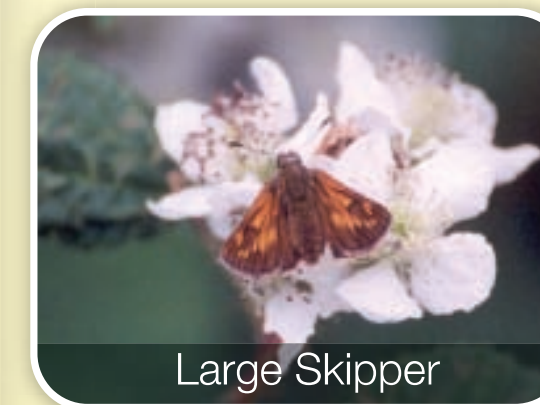
Red Campion

East Wickham Open Space is home to many plants and animals. The East Wickham Conservation Volunteers (EWCV) have worked for many years with the Council to improve the open space for wildlife. They also monitor the wildlife so that we know which species can be found here. The results of their hard work not only benefits the wildlife but can also be enjoyed by everyone who visits. Highlighted here are some of the most important wildlife sites in the park that the EWCV have worked on.

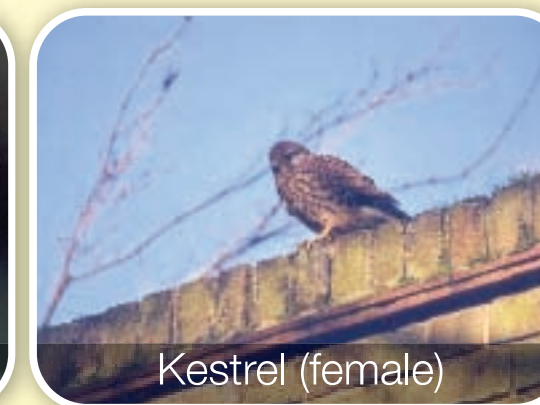


## Acid Grassland

The acid grassland is a remnant of an old landscape and it supports a diverse range of plants; more so than the improved grassland found throughout most of the park. In addition to many grass species, plants such as oxeye daisy and meadow cranesbill attract a large number of insects, including: bush crickets; and the meadow grasshopper. Butterflies and moths can also be seen in large numbers, including the common blue and the large skipper. Slow worms and grass snakes can sometimes be seen moving through the grass, while the kestrel hovers above and the sparrow hawk hunts in the sky - both raptors (special birds of prey) are looking for small birds and mammals such as the woodmouse.



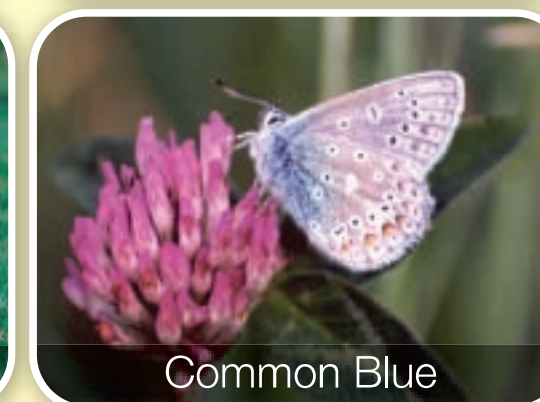
Large Skipper



Kestrel (female)



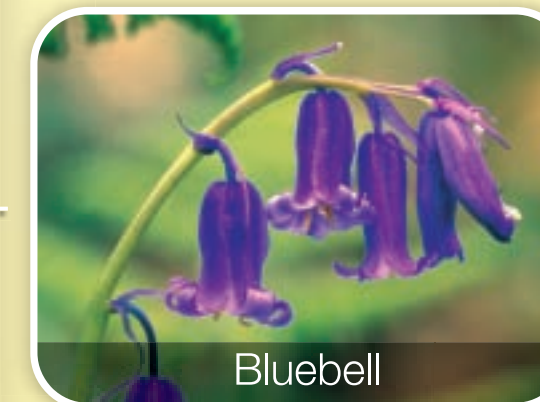
Grass Snake



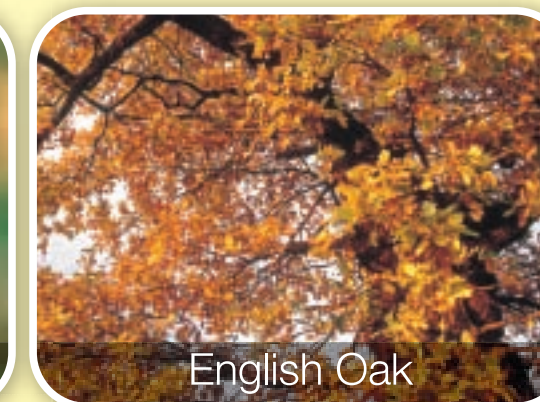
Common Blue

## Oak Woodland

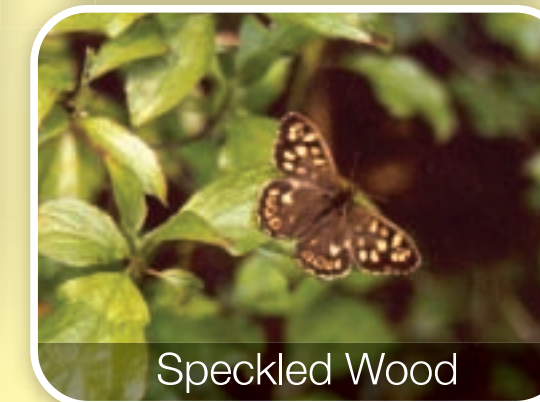
This small wooded area is the last remnant of the wood that once covered most of the valley. This was prior to the area being excavated for brick clay and then refilled, the old woodland gives us an impression of how the area once looked. Under the larger oaks are smaller trees and shrubs, such as silver birch and spindle; with its fantastic orange berries in autumn. On the woodland floor bluebells give a wonderful display in spring followed by foxgloves in summer, these attract many insects including butterflies like the speckled wood.



Bluebell



English Oak



Speckled Wood



Spindle



If you would like more information about the conservation volunteers please contact the Parks & Open Spaces department on 020 8303 7777, or see the Park's page on [www.bexley.gov.uk](http://www.bexley.gov.uk)

