

Welcome to... Chairborough

Local Nature Reserve...

Discover...

This urban wildlife haven is set amongst the hurley-burley of Cressex Industrial Estate and housing. The mosaic of habitats across this nature reserve covers a total of 10 acres (4 hectares). Explore the path network connecting areas of scrub - with its mixture of native shrub species such as Field Maple, Dogwood, Buckthorn, Blackthorn and Hawthorn, with open chalk grassland. This valuable Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitat is at its best in summer when it is alive with invertebrates buzzing around & feeding on nectar-rich flowers such as Bird's-foot-trefoil, Scabious, Ox-Eye Daisy, Eyebright, Knapweeds and the sweetly-scented Marjoram.



Key	
	Mature woodland
	Young woodland
	Coppice
	Scrub
	Chalk grassland
	Amenity grassland
	Rough grassland
	Wildflower meadow
	Circular Walk
	Permissive paths
	Public footpath
	Information
	Steps
	Bridge
	Bench

Enjoy...

Spring breathes new life into the reserve with butterflies such as the elegant Brimstone and beautiful Peacock flitting about amongst the four species of Violets and delicate Cowslips. Listen out for the chorus of birdsong: Blackbird, Blue Tit, Blackcap, Chaffinch, not forgetting the handsome Bullfinch, all join in.

In the summer enjoy the chalk grassland at its best. Take it all in on one of the benches. Red Kites can regularly be seen & heard calling overhead during the day and Pipistrelle bats can be seen hunting their insect prey in the evenings. Watch out for Migrant Hawker dragonflies on patrol for insects in the late summer sun.

Autumn brings out the best in the trees and shrubs, with the warming ambers and reds of the Guelder Rose and Dogwood, yellows of Field Maple, contrasting with the white frothy flowers of Wild Clematis or 'Old Man's Beard' also known as 'Traveller's Joy'. The various berries, hips, haws, nuts & sloes provide a valuable food source for Chairborough's birds & small mammals.



Common Blue butterfly
Iain H Leach Butterfly Conservation

Look out for....

Grasshoppers and Crickets... spot the difference!

Grasshoppers:
Order: Orthoptera
Family: Acrididae

Meadow Grasshopper
Chorthippus parallelus

- Diurnal sun-loving insects with short antennae, herbivorous
- Females usually larger than males
- Is the only flightless grasshopper in Great Britain
- Song sounds like a sewing machine in bursts of up to 3 seconds
- The males sing or stridulate by rubbing their hind legs against the forewings
- See & hear them June-Oct

Bush-crickets:
Order: Orthoptera Family: Tettigonidae

Dark Bush-cricket *Pholidoptera griseoptera*

- Omnivorous (eating other insects plus vegetation), some are carnivorous
- Long slender antennae, females can be distinguished from males by blade-like ovipositor (sometimes mistaken for a large curved sting)
- Mostly crepuscular or nocturnal
- They sing by raising their forewings and rubbing their bases together
- Song a single, very short high-pitched chirp repeated irregularly
- Sings well into the night
- See & hear them July-Nov

Bullfinch



Kestrel



Chairborough LNR is managed by **Chiltern Rangers** for the benefit of biodiversity and the local community.

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