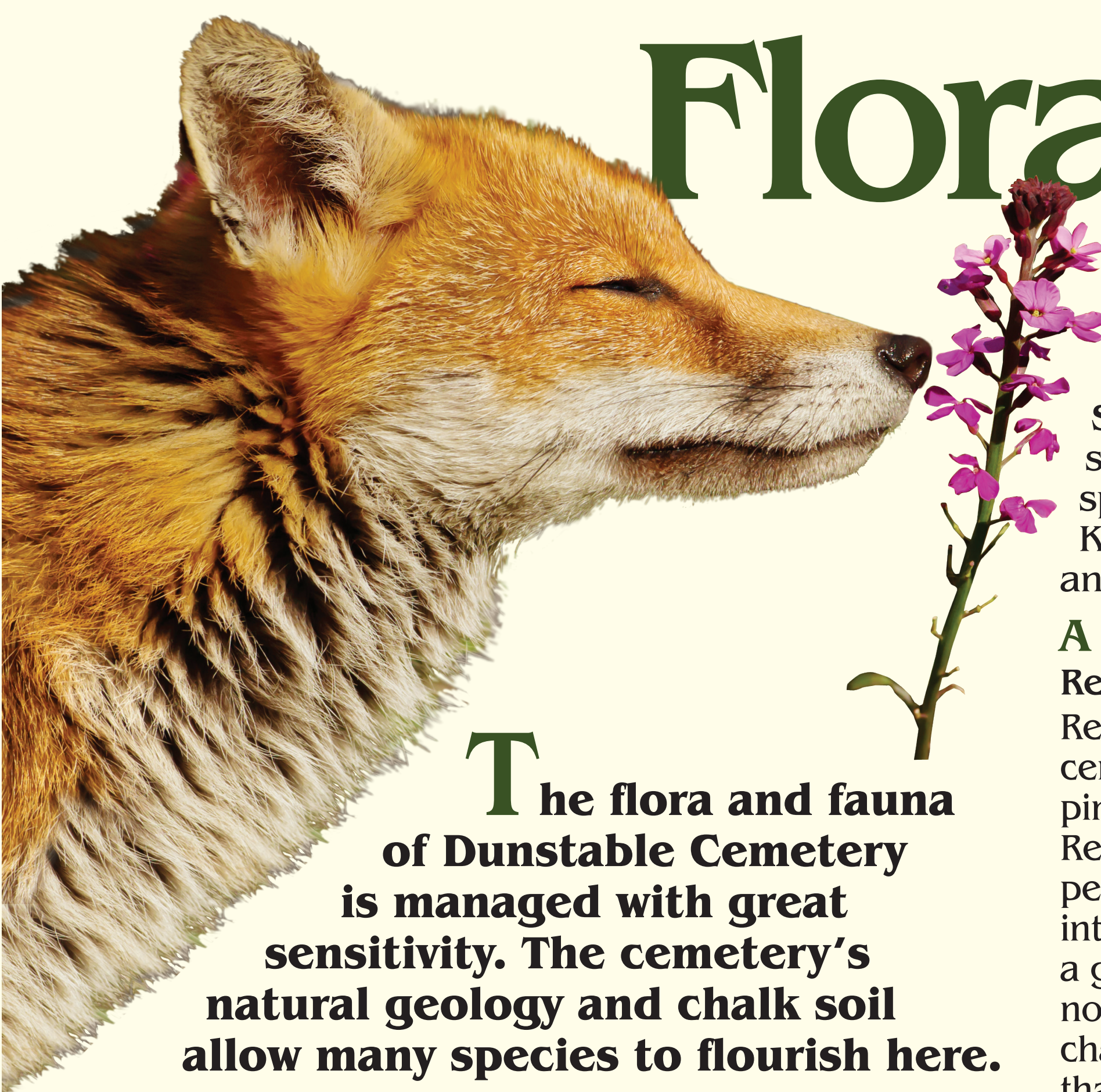


Flora and Fauna



The flora and fauna of Dunstable Cemetery is managed with great sensitivity. The cemetery's natural geology and chalk soil allow many species to flourish here.

As a Green Flag accredited site, the Council endeavours to strike a balance between the necessary management of the site while creating a sanctuary for visitors and wildlife alike.

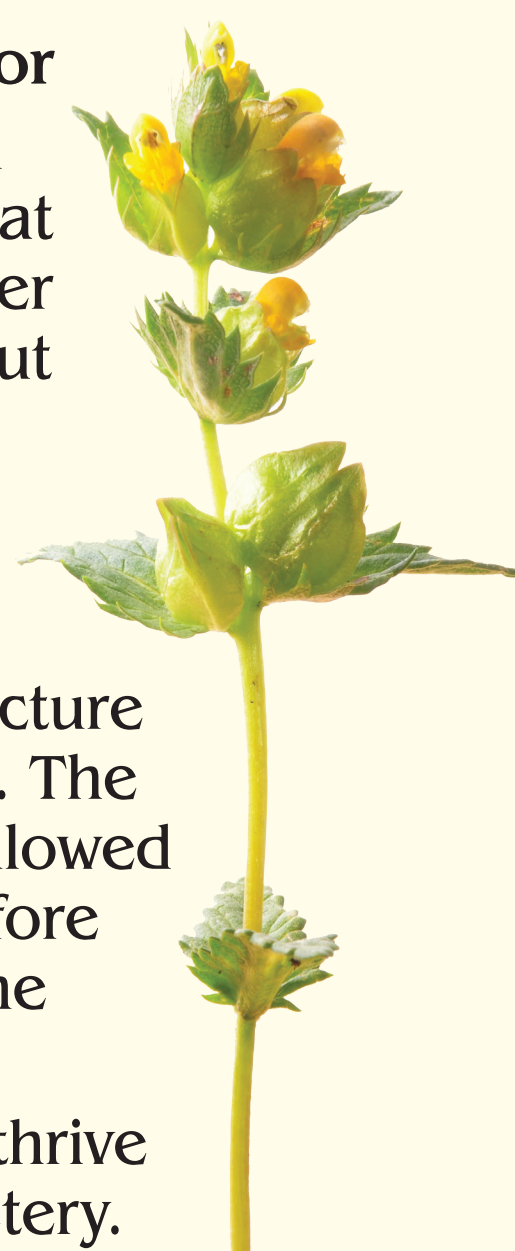
Listed here are just a few of the plants, animals, and habitats that you will see through the seasons.

SPRING AND SUMMER PERENNIAL WILDFLOWERS

Yellow Rattle: *Rhinanthus minor*

Botanical surveys have recorded over one hundred plant species at the cemetery. Perennial wildflower areas have been sown throughout the site, including Yellow Rattle. Yellow Rattle is an annual plant that parasitizes surrounding vegetation which in turn encourages the open sward structure that is necessary for biodiversity. The perennial wildflower areas are allowed to grow, flower, and set seed before cutting and collecting towards the end of the summer.

Spring: Many beneficial species thrive within the grassland of the cemetery. During Spring look out for carpets of Primroses and Common Dog Violets.



Yellow Rattle:
Rhinanthus minor

Summer: Within the wildflower areas you will see a succession of wildlife friendly, beautiful species, that include, Field Scabious, Black Knapweed, Lady's Bedstraw, Wild Mignonette and Salad Burnet.

A GARDEN 'ESCAPEE'

Red Valerian: *Centranthus ruber*

Red Valerian has naturally colonised at the cemetery. This plant produces clouds of dark pink flowers from June to August. Red Valerian is a Mediterranean perennial that was initially introduced to this country as a garden plant. An 'escapee' it now thrives in the cemetery's chalk soil and grave crevices that imitate its native cliff-side habitat. The flowers are a magnet for bees and butterfly's providing essential food for our pollinators during the summer months. When the Valerian has finished its main flowering period it is cut back to ground level and will continue to flower intermittently until the end of summer.



Red Valerian:
Centranthus ruber

DISTINCTIVE TREES

Scots Pine: *Pinus sylvestris*

The Scots Pine is a hardy, climate resilient tree that can live to over 700 years old. Identified by its height, evergreen features, and rough, scaly bark, it is sometimes referred to as the Drovers Pine. Local folklore suggests that these Pines were used as way markers guiding farmers who were bringing livestock to the market town of Dunstable and on into London. Scots Pines in this part of Southern England are the main caterpillar food plant for the pine hawkmoth and are also the preferred tree of choice for Ravens using this site for nesting.



Scots Pine:
Pinus sylvestris

IVY: LOVE IT OR LOATHE IT: WE LOVE IT!

Climbing and ground spreading Ivy: *Hedera helix* and sub species

Often misunderstood native Ivy has long been accused of strangling trees and undermining built structures. However, Ivy can also have a symbiotic relationship with some trees and with walls and stonework. Ivy can support up to 50 other species of wildlife, providing nectar from its flowers later in summer and food from its berries during winter.

Ivy growth at the cemetery is carefully considered, deciding the best approach for each situation and stage of growth. As an important and beneficial species for wildlife the Council aims to strike a balance, managing rather than eradicating Ivy growth.

BATS AT THE CEMETERY

In our efforts to encourage wildlife the Council have installed bat boxes on several trees throughout the cemetery. The Common Pipistrelle Bat is known to be resident.



Ivy: *Hedera helix*

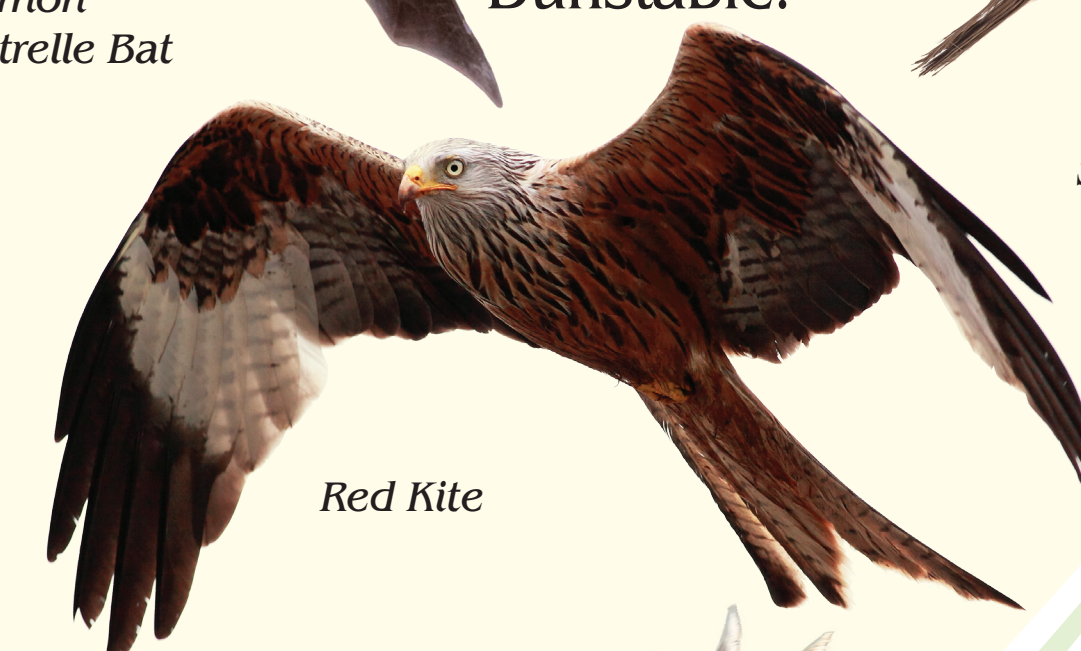


Common
Pipistrelle Bat

BIRDS OF THE CEMETERY

Over thirty species of bird have been sighted at the cemetery. Birds from the finch, tit, thrush, and corvid families are resident all year round. Since 2009 there has been an increase in sightings of raptors such as Buzzards, Red kite, and Sparrowhawk. Tawny Owls are also often heard from the East side of the cemetery.

We know that Ravens have bred successfully at the cemetery, they use the Scots Pine trees to nest and rear their families. Ravens are one of the largest members of the corvid family, known for their intelligence, they usually mate for life and can live for up to twenty years in the wild. Ravens have a distinctive, honking call, deeper than a crow's caw. Their call can be audible for more than a mile away; and ravens often give it in response to other ravens they hear in the distance.



Red Kite



Tawny Owl



Song Thrush

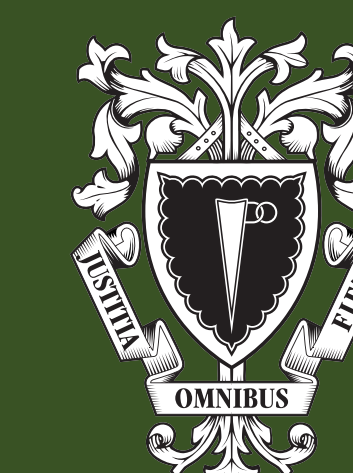


LEISURE

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.
A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

William Henry Davies

Take your time to look out for some of the plants and animals mentioned. Please enjoy this beautiful sanctuary within the heart of Dunstable.



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL