

Green Roof Shelter

This green roof is planted with a selection of nectar-providing plants, that support pollinating insects such as bees, moths, butterflies and hoverflies. The shelter walls contain habitat for invertebrates, including native solitary bees.



1. Small Scabious

Found on the ground on chalky soils, this delicate plant has small feathery leaves and elegant flower spikes, topped with mauve/purple flowers full of nectar, a favourite with moths and butterflies including the six-spot Burnet moth.

2. Reflexed Stonecrop / Jenny's Stonecrop

This is a good nectar source and unusually is happy in the summer droughts as well as the wet winters. The arched yellow flower heads are particularly attractive to hoverflies.

3. Annuals - Corn Poppy, Cornflowers, Californian poppies and others.

Flower from June to August, often alongside other 'arable weeds' such as Corn Chamomile and Corncockle. A magnet for bees and butterflies, and gives first year colour, reappearing when

the sward opens up after a prolonged drought.

4. Marjoram

The native oregano, its flowers are loved by bees and butterflies. The plants love the heat and stress of a green roof as it mimics the shallow soils and rocky places the plant naturally prefers.

5. Chives, Garlic - wild or culinary

Great green roof plant, survives some of the driest conditions. One of few plants to make it through the spring 2011 drought. Great nectar source and eats and smells lovely.

6. Fox and Cubs

Often found in mown grass, on a roof it has a chance to flower and show the beautiful orange brown blooms the name suggests. Spreads with runners; a good nectar source.

7. Wild Dyer's Chamomile

Lovely yellow flower on grey fern like leaves, flowering from May to September and usually found along coastal cliffs, in grasslands and on commons. A favourite of bees and hoverflies.

8. Wild Thyme

Green roofs provide space for delicate plants that at ground level would often be out-competed by more aggressive species. Often grows on old ant hills in the wild and caterpillars of the large blue butterfly feed almost exclusively on this plant.

9. Vipers Bugloss

Flowers have a snake like appearance and are great for bees. Often colonises and tolerates polluted soils and provides food for a range of insects including Buff tailed and Red tailed bumble bees, honey bees and Red Mason Bees.

10. Ox eye Daisy

One of our most common meadow flowers. On a roof, forms small clumps, as it does in low-fertility old meadows, allowing other plants to grow around them. Large blooms appear from May to September and are so bright that they appear to 'glow' in the evening, hence the common names of 'Moon Daisy' and 'Moonpenny'.

11. Dark Mullien

Is a good nectar source and host for the spectacular Mullien moth caterpillar. Seed-eating birds, including Goldfinches, take advantage of the massive number of small seeds produced.