

Biodiversity value of Betteshanger Country Park.

1. The second most important colony of Lizard Orchids in the Country.
2. Significant numbers of rare invertebrates including the endangered Fiery Clearwing moth.
3. Exceptional population of Common Lizards plus Grass Snakes and Slowworms.
4. At least 7 species of Bat.
5. Beavers and Badgers.
6. Water Voles – an endangered species.
7. Turtle Doves the UK's fastest declining bird located in 5 different sites on the edge of the Park.
8. Red listed birds including Skylark, Linnet, Cuckoo, Yellow Hammer, Starling, Mistle Thrush, Turtle Dove.
9. Over 130 fungi species. This includes several rare species.

Hotel Site supports: Water Voles, Bats, Badgers, Beavers, Fiery Clearwing moths, Reptiles including Common Lizard, Slowworm, Grass snakes, large numbers of nesting birds including nearby Turtle Doves, Common Toad and Smooth Newt.

The Seahive and its surrounds support: the UK's second largest colony of Lizard Orchid, over 20 invertebrates with a conservation designation including Fiery Clearwing and Bright Wave moths, nesting Skylarks and other Red and Amber birds, an exceptional population of Common Lizards, Slowworms and Grass snake.

Betteshanger Country Park is one of Dover District's most important undesignated wildlife sites and it meets the criteria for Local Wildlife Site and SSSI designation. Its importance is reflected in the number of Nature Conservation organisations that have objected to the proposals - this includes the **RSPB, Kent Wildlife Trust, CPRE(Kent), Kent Wildlife Trust, Buglife, Froglife, Plantlife, the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland, the Kent Field Club and Natural England**. Natural England's involvement is particularly notable as they only intervene in planning applications involving protected species in exceptional circumstances.

We are in the midst of a Biodiversity and Climate crisis and it is vital that we protect sites such as Betteshanger Country Park, not just for its wildlife but for its value as open space and green infrastructure, which provide natural capital and ecosystem services for us all.

Friends of Betteshanger