# What you might see in the... Orchid lawns

flowers.

Although the University sits on acidic Bagshot sand, past building works and buried spoils have changed the soil, making it more neutral. Because of this we have an amazing population of orchids across our site. We are now managing these areas differently to allow the orchids and other wild flowers to seed and grow. In a very short time the orchid lawns have become full of life and natural sounds, like grasshoppers.

## Did you know?

#### **Bee orchid**

Not only does the flower visually mimic a female Longhorned bee, it also produces its pheromone, attracting males to mate with the flower and pollinate it!

#### **Pyramid orchid** Each flower head of this plant can have up to 100 individual

#### **Common spotted** orchid

This common orchid has spotted leaves and flowers which produce tiny seeds. Approximately one million seeds weigh just one gram!

### Solitary bees

Did you know there are around 250 species of solitary bees in the UK? They are often 120 times more effective at pollinating than a honey bee!

#### Hornet hoverfly

This is the UK's largest hoverfly. It mimics a hornet's looks to evade predation.

When at rest the Ringlet butterfly's wings have unmistakable small rings, hence its name.





To find out more about the grounds visit the Living Campus royalholloway.ac.uk/living-campus

#### **Ringlet butterfly**

#### Six-spot burnet moth

This slow, day flying moth has beautiful red and black markings. Its caterpillar food plant is the often-overlooked bird's foot trefoil. This species' red marks are a warning of danger. High concentrations of hydrogen cyanide protect the moth from predation!