

## **5 BALMUIR WOOD TRAVELLING PERSONS SITE (AN540-2003)**

The Housing Department has been reviewing the issue of lone working at the Balmuir Wood Gypsy Travellers Site following threats being made to staff. This issue of lone working is quite unique for the Site in that it is in a very isolated location and the staff office is located in the centre of the site giving little opportunity to escape from any risk situation.

During the recent Risk Assessment a number of potential risks for staff were identified. As a result specialist advice was sought as to the most appropriate remedies to make the working environment as safe as possible for staff. In keeping with the Council's Health and Safety Policy it is recommended that the following minimum measures are put in place immediately:

- Staff to be issued with a Personal Attack Alarm. This will be portable to allow staff to have access from whatever location on the site they are working. This alarm is connected directly to the Police.
- CCTV - to allow staff to monitor movement onto/off the site and to allow full visual monitoring of the area around the office.
- External Movement Detector System to alert staff to any new arrivals on site.
- Physical security for internal office door to allow staff to 'lock' the door against any potential violent incident and give time for the police to be called to the Site.
- It is recommended that these works be carried out by Electro Guard Security Systems at a cost of £3,380 + VAT. This cost can be met from the Housing Capital Account.