



## Flag up actions for course managers:

14 ways in which golf course managers can make the land around their greens and fairways the most wonderful haven for wildlife.

Create wildlife corridors across the golf course by using linear features such as grass strips and hedgerows. This enables less mobile species to disperse across the landscape.

Many species like woodland edge habitat and scrub, so keep some areas of of bramble, berry-bearing shrubs such as hawthorn, nettles and tall grasses.

Species such as frogs, toads and dragonflies need waterbodies to complete their life cycle, so create a network of ponds with wide grass margins to buffer the waterbodies from any run-off from the greens.

Leave areas of taller grassland, cut just once or twice a year, to develop wildflowers for bees and other insects. Make sure you pick up the cuttings and avoid the use of fertilisers.

Bare ground is good for burrowing insects such as solitary bees and wasps. The very short turf around bunkers and the sand are good places for these species groups.

Veteran trees provide habitat for many species including bats. They are also a wonderful landscape feature, so plan for future feature trees around the course.

Create a wildlife garden around the clubhouse, with bird feeders, pollen and nectar rich plants to attract insects, a wildlife pond and a noticeboard for species sightings.

Place some interpretation boards at strategic locations around the course, with details of habitat and species present and plans for managing the area.

Control invasive plants such as Himalayan Balsam, cherry laurel and rhododendron as they outcompete native species.

Leave areas of tussocky grassland, which are cut on rotation every two or three years; these are good for small mammals and the predators that feed on them, such as barn owls and kestrels.

Reinstate coppice rotations on previously coppiced woodland and create rides and glades. Coppiced woodland is essential for species such as the rare nightingale.

Avoid the use of herbicides on the roughs or wildflower grassland areas; use weed-wiping or spot-treatment if necessary. Broad-spectrum herbicides will destroy other more desirable plant species from the same family.

Organise a wildlife walk or talk for the club members - spring dawn chorus walks and evening bat walks are always popular. Or why not set up a conservation work party?

Leave standing and lying deadwood since it is home to a variety of fungi and the insects using it as shelter will provide feeding material for birds and other animals.

## Golf courses in a Living Landscape

There are over 70 golf courses in Kent. These sites, which provide great sporting opportunities for thousands of people, can also provide a refuge for wildlife. Whether located on the urban fringe or in the countryside, golf courses can play their part as a stepping stone for wildlife in the wider landscape.

