



## Beech Park Golf Club Sustainability & Environmental Programme Biodiversity

Beech Park Golf Club has always recognised the wonderful environment in which it is located. A former country estate, the property contains mainly hardwood trees, flora and fauna and a range of wildlife in one of the top parkland golf courses in Ireland.

Conscious that we are custodians of this precious asset, the club has acted in a responsible manner down through the years in maintaining our local environment for future generations.

More recently, the club has actively engaged in a positive way by formalising a Sustainability and Environmental Policy within which there are several plans of action to achieve our goals within that policy.

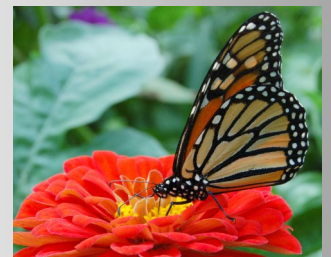
The club maintains natural habitats and creates new habitats for greater biodiversity. A two-fold approach is used by a) direct intervention or b) Leave to nature (LTN).

Under the former, natural areas are created by planting with native trees, plants flowers and grasses and protected from golf play either permanently or until well established to stand alone. Most of these areas are not impacted by golf play.

LTN areas are mainly at the edge of the golf course apart from the lake and are left to grow naturally with little or no intervention.



A newly planted area containing 25 species of native wildflower adjacent to the 11th tee box





## Biodiversity

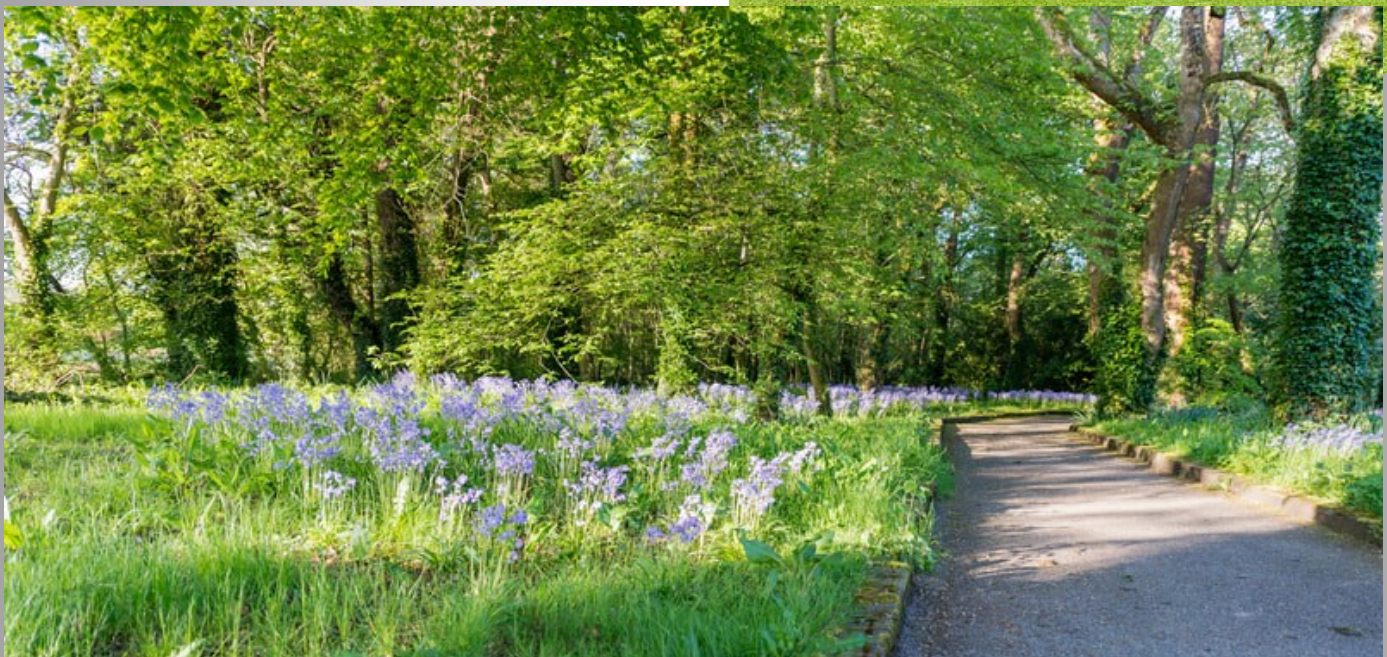
### Tree Management Plan

Over 800 native trees have been introduced to the course during the plan so far and were grown from seed collected on the course or by planting bare root saplings initially in our newly established tree nursery.

Native species planted included Alder, Oak, Aspen, Birch, Mountain Ash, Scots Pine, Hawthorn, Buckthorn, Hazel. All but one or two native species are represented on the course.

In addition to native species, there are several naturalised species such as Beech, Sycamore, Chestnut, Lime and Maple as well as other species like Eucalyptus, Walnut, Western Hemlock Larch and Cedar.

The club is over halfway through this plan. It focuses on the control of invasive species such as Laurel and the removal of sterile non-native hybrids mainly Leylandii which are near end of life replacing with native species. The purpose is to create mini native woodlands within the course and to plant to replace future losses of mature trees.





## Biodiversity

BPGC tree nursery was started in 2019.



The nursery was stocked with 1 year old bare root whips, Rowan, Birch, Alder, Aspen, Scots Pine, Cherry and

Seed was also collected from trees on the course and propagated including





## Biodiversity

Tree Nursery

One year later in 2020



In winter 2021, most of the nursery trees were transplanted around the course





## Biodiversity

Removing invasive species  
(Laurel) on 10<sup>th</sup> Hole



After removal of  
the Laurel, native  
species of Oak  
and Ash are ex-  
posed allowing  
more air and light  
to help create  
more natural  
habitat to devel-  
op.





## Biodiversity

### Wildlife.

There is a variety of wildlife on the course including Deer, Fox, Badger, Otter and Rabbit as well as many smaller mammals. Bird life is plentiful and include notable ones such as Buzzard and other birds of prey, Heron, Duck and Moorhens.



There are some Grey squirrel on site but are in noticeable decline in recent years. It is hoped that the planting of Scots Pine, Hazel and Oak will encourage more pairs of Buzzards and hopefully the return of the native Red Squirrel at some time in the future.





## Biodiversity

### Wildlife

#### BPGC Pollinators

Bee hives were introduced to the club recently from which honey is obtained. Bee Hotels for solitary Bee species have also been installed.



Planting of native trees, plants and wild flower ensures an increase in the food supply for the bee, butterfly and other insects population.

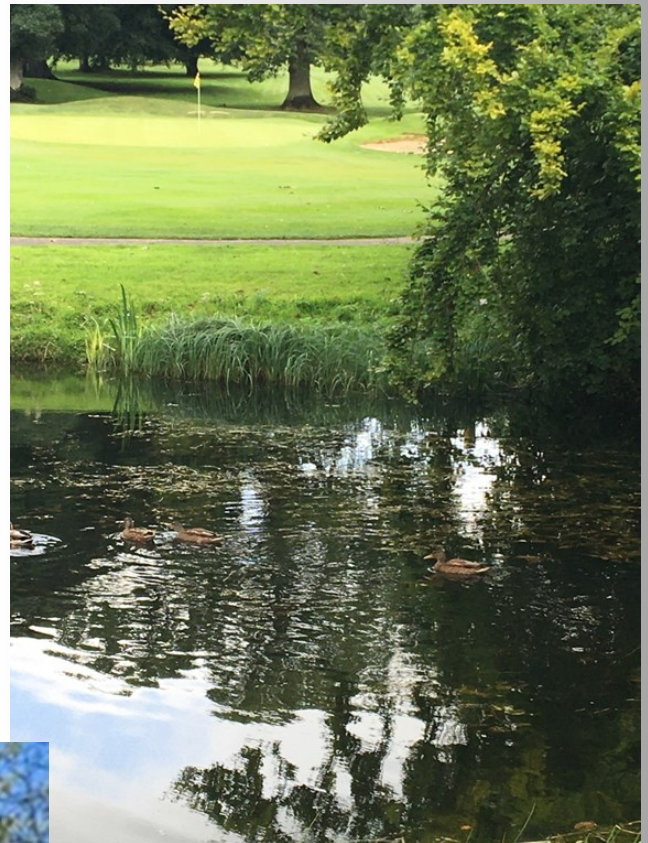


## Biodiversity

### Water sustainability.

Water supply is harvested from on course natural springs some of which feed the lake from which the water needs of the course is met.

Potable water is sourced from another on-site well to meet all the needs of the clubhouse and other facilities. Waste water is removed to on-site septic tanks. There are no water connections with Local Authority water infra-



Recently, the club dredged the overgrown part of the lake to increase storage and to meet the club's water requirements for the medium to long term.