

Wetland fringe habitat

Transitional habitats provide a naturalised feel to the course as well providing a food source and refuge areas for many species. Species like ragged robin, meadowsweet and marsh woundwort will also provide a splash of colour. Wetland fringe vegetation can also help improve water quality.

Wetland vegetation

Plant native species that flower and are good for invertebrates as well as aquatic species. Species like purple loosestrife, water mint, water forget-me-not, water lily and marsh marigold.

Semi rough

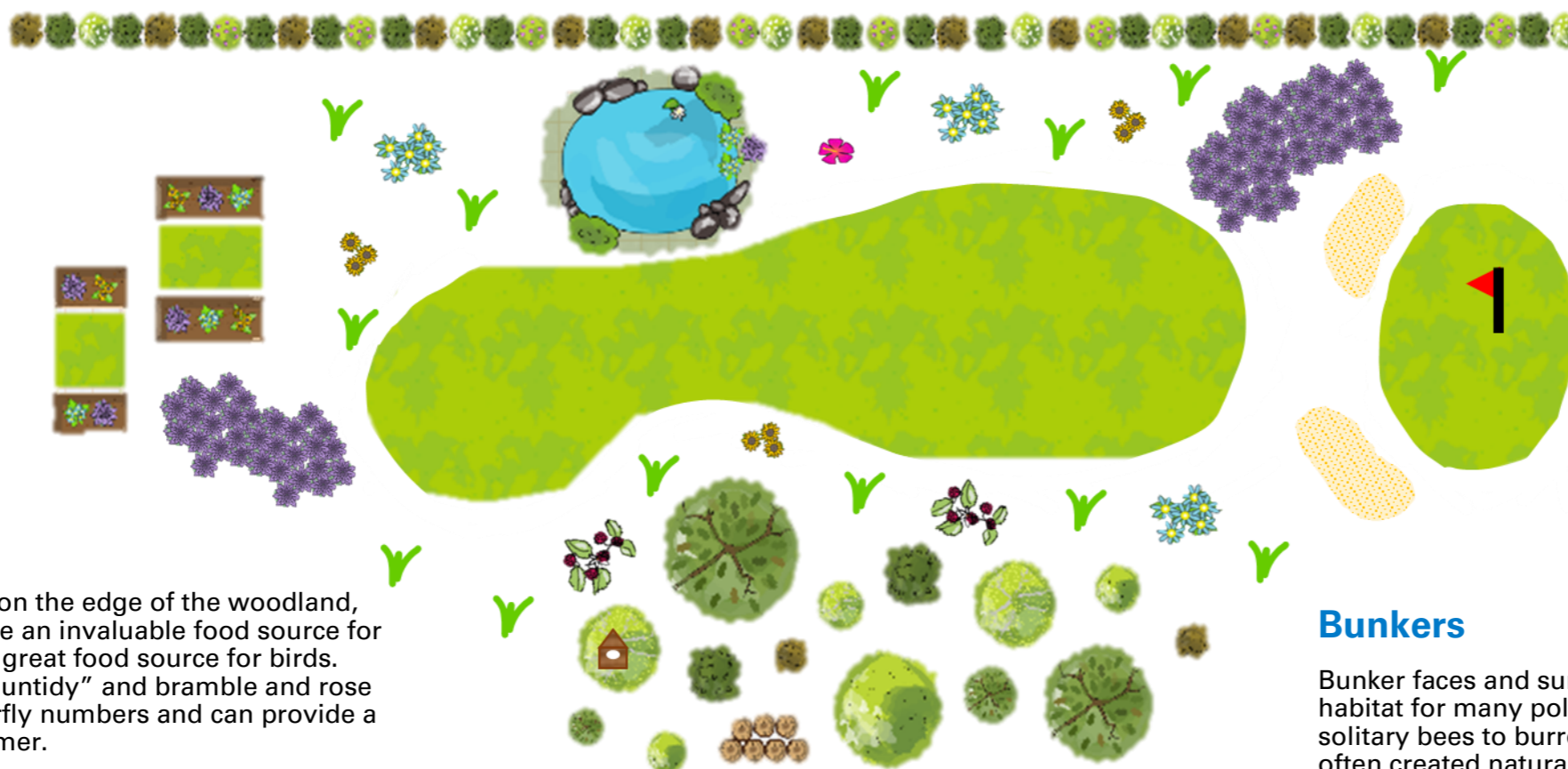
Transitional habitats provide a naturalised feel to the course but a short sward can still be beneficial for wildlife too. Species like birds-foot trefoil and clovers will do well on a reduced mowing regime.

Hedgerow

Managing a hedgerow to allow species to flower and fruit provides a food source for pollinators and birds. Cutting your hedge network on a 3-year cycle, cutting a third of the hedgerows every year will allow them to flower and fruit. For new hedgerow planting use a mixture of native species like blackthorn, hawthorn, elder, rowan and hazel.

Formal planted areas

Plant native species that are accessible to pollinators throughout the year in formal planted areas around tees or the clubhouse. Species like crocus, pansy, heather, catmint, toadflax, scabious and single flowered dahlias can provide food throughout the year.



Long rough and carry areas

Long in-play rough can be playable and good for biodiversity. Seeding of wildflowers is not always necessary, cutting and removing the cuttings in these areas in the autumn can reduce the nutrient levels in the soil and allow the native wildflower seed bank to be revived. Yellow rattle is a hemi-parasitic species that helps to reduce the vigour of coarse grasses and will also help wildflowers flourish. If you want to plant wildflower seeds be sure to use native, locally sourced seed appropriate to the habitats on your course. If you are a heathland golf course could you manage the heathland in these areas for wildlife, limiting tree and scrub encroachment and allowing heather and acidic grasses to flourish.

Woodland edge

Allow scrub species to colonise on the edge of the woodland, species like bramble and rose are an invaluable food source for pollinators and the berries are a great food source for birds. These areas don't have to look "untidy" and bramble and rose flowers often attract good butterfly numbers and can provide a beautiful sight through the summer.

Bunkers

Bunker faces and surroundings can provide nesting habitat for many pollinators. Leave bunker faces for solitary bees to burrow and nest. Similar habitat is often created naturally on links dune systems.

Homes for wildlife

Bird and bat boxes can provide homes for wildlife when natural crevices are lacking. Choose appropriate bird boxes for species that use your course e.g. open fronted bird boxes for spotted flycatchers or a series of swift boxes on your clubhouse or outbuildings. Attracting species like starlings and brown long-eared bats that eat species like midges and crane flies may also benefit the golf course.

Woodland

Leave deadwood, it is a valuable underrepresented habitat for many scarce species. Several rare birds require deadwood to excavate nest cavities and many invertebrate communities rely on it too, which in turn feeds many other species. A large number of our declining pollinators also rely on deadwood. It's not just about providing flowers to help our pollinators so leave dead wood where you can.

Out of play areas

Out of play areas can be used to establish plant communities that would be beneficial elsewhere on the course e.g. heathland. Or they can be managed sensitively for pollinators and other wildlife.

Contact

A partnership between the R&A and the RSPB exists to address wildlife conservation and the management of natural habitats at golf courses throughout the United Kingdom. If you want any advice relating to nature and wildlife on your golf course contact Dr Marie Athorn.



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Working together to give nature a home