





Championship Nature Trail 2025





1st Hole

The grassland throughout the first hole remains in great condition, particularly the offline rough, which provides important habitat for small mammals including the hedgehog which is becoming increasingly rare. At the back of the 1st green there is a badger set within the mound, surrounded by gorse making it an ideal and sheltered habitat to safeguard the protected species. Voles, mice and other animals play the role of being a key food source for birds of prey and owl species here too.

3rd Hole

Once upon a time this entire property was a pine plantation, and along the right of this hole gives an indication of what the land was like with some of the pines still standing. The left of the 3rd fairway, there is an abundance of gorse that serves as shelter areas for both deer and hare which are protected species, as well as foxes and pheasants, who like to use the area as home too.

4th Hole

Behind the 4th green we have numerous bird boxes scattered within the trees giving home to several bird species such as starlings and skylarks. As part of our ongoing sustainability initiative we are planning on increasing the amount of bird boxes on site to attract an array of different species. We would like to identify birds of conservation concern to better inform conservation measures here at the club.



8th Hole

To the right hand side of this hole, there is an important wetland area that serves as a popular wildlife hotspot. This is a space of ecological importance, supporting a number of birds, mammals and amphibians alike. Here lies a significant amount of deadwood at ground level, alongside pine, birch, goat willow and white poplar. Mammals such as deer and stoat are often spotted making use of the area.

The pond within the hotspot serves as an ideal habitat for protected amphibian species such as common frog and common toad, both of which use the water for refuge. Many different bird species, including the pheasant, buzzard and speckled wood, also utilise the woodland for nesting.

10th Hole

TRC is in consultation with Nature Scot and Scottish Forestry with a dune restoration programme targeting the primary dune complex to the left hand side. This primary dune complex is one of the largest in all of Scotland, and will see the removal of invasive sea buckthorn and trees that are not natural to the complex. To compensate, TRC has agreed to plant 12,000 trees in a location agreed with Scottish Forestry over 7.5ha of land in Loch Ardinning Nature Reserve in Stirlingshire. These dunes provide opportunity for a vast number of species to exist and thrive.



13th Hole

This is one of the most picturesque holes on the entire course. The tee is located back into the dunes, giving a view to the natural beauty of the coastline and over to the lighthouse, Fidra. From the tee, a vast amount of trees and scrubs make up the face of the cliff down onto the beach. As part of our ecological management plan, we continually remove any invasive sea buckthorn and regenerated sycamore that can interfere with ball flight and play.

14th Hole

From the tees you can visibly see the magnitude of the land we encompass, around 290 acres over the entire estate, of which the dunes make up a large proportion of. The coastal landscape is home to many bird species, namely swifts, wrens and robins.

15th Hole

Behind the 15th green there is a barrier of trees along the path leading to the beach. Within these trees we have our own composting areas where we dispose of our grass clippings in a windrow and it is flipped twice a year. This process is repeated for 2-3 years, where thereafter, we have nutrient rich compost that is used for various purposes on the golf course.



17th Hole

On the right hand side there is a hill with plenty of gorse, where within lies an abundance of habitats including a fox den. Foxes, deer and hares all utilise this area as a place of shelter and are often seen around here and down into the wildlife hotspot. We are interested in completing a butterfly survey to identify where butterflies cluster and where we can enhance their presence. They are often seen fluttering around at this particular part of the course!

18th Hole

The standout feature of 18 is the historical wall that scatters across various holes coming in from the coastline. These archaeological remains present are thought to have dated back to periods containing a deserted medieval village, then to a presumed prehistoric cairn cemetery, then to World War II remains. Accordingly, the preservation of these archaeological deposits and historical features on the course was recommended, which fortunately adds a lot of character to the land.



Other Notes

- Ground nesting birds are catered for in the deeper rough, out with the playing line so with little interference. The rough also serves as an ideal habitat for hares, along with the occasional deer who enjoy a lie down in it!
- Our playing surfaces are dominated by fescue. It is less demanding in terms of input by green staff, and less mowing/fertilisation reduces maintenance cost and environmental impact. The grass tolerates a wide range of soil types and environmental conditions, and it blends well with surrounding landscape, supporting wildlife.
- Championship holes 12, 13 and 14 are those that oversee the Firth of Forth, an ecologically important estuarine site. The entire coastline in classed as a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest). The Firth of Forth is of major importance for water birds, including divers and sea ducks. Eyebroughtey Island can be seen just off the coastline, and is host to a large amount of protected bird species. The Island is popular for both its readily available food and the offer of protection due to its isolation.
- A mixture of deciduous and coniferous trees offer visual interest while providing home to a variety of bird species, including Goldcrest and Siskin, which can often be heard calling.
- Bats inhabit the trees along the track at the driving range / GSO attendee entrance. There are ongoing plans to complete a bat survey across the whole estate before September to identify hotspots for bats and to inform the installation of bat boxes.















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