

Greener Golf Network Nature Recovery Pilot Project

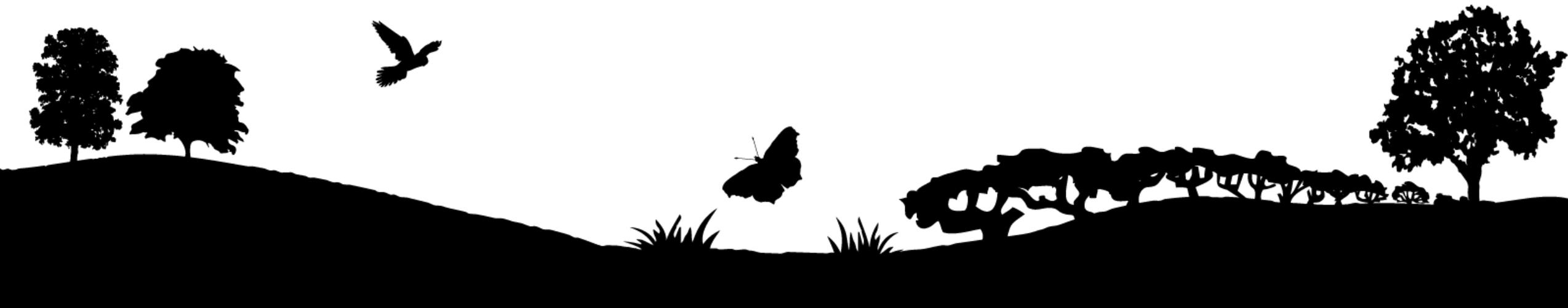


Golf & Nature

- Over 3,000 golf courses in the UK
- 126,000 ha of greenspace

“ No other game combines the wonder of nature with the discipline of sport in such carefully planned ways. A great golf course both frees and challenges a golfer's mind. ”

Tom Watson



Loss of Nature in Leicestershire and Rutland

- Fen Habitats – **99.7%** of historic fens lost (by 1997)
- Wet Grazing – **81%** lost (between 1637 – 1981)
- Lowland Bog - **44%** lost
- Species rich grassland - **97%** lost (between 1930 – 1984)
- Heath Grassland – **80%** lost (between 1800 – 1980)
- Ancient Woodland – **11%** destroyed and **43%** damaged (between 1930 – 1985)



Until the early 20th century our counties were famous for their small grass fields bounded by tall tree-lined hedges – the county was nick-named ‘leafy Leicestershire’

Now much looks like this



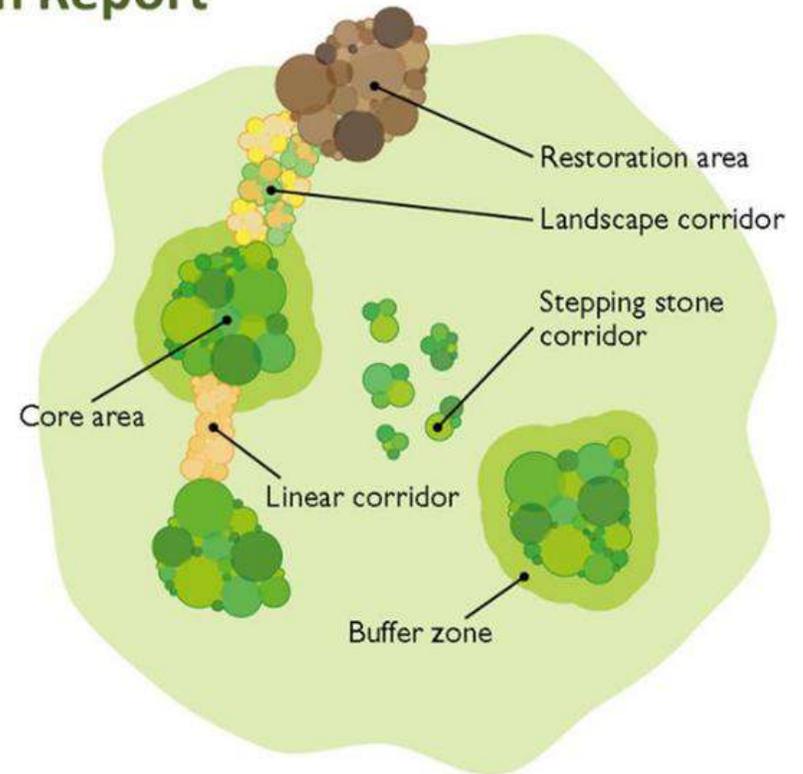
How golf courses can support nature's recovery

- Golf courses act as large **stepping stones** and valuable **corridors** for wildlife
- They can be **bigger, better, more joined-up** with improved management

The Lawton Report

- Bigger
- Better
- Connected

Put the
Right Habitat
in the
Right Place



Making Space for Nature: a review of England's wildlife sites and ecological networks: defra 2010



LRWT and GGN Nature Recovery Pilot Project



Surveys

- Walkover surveys
- Mapped using UKHab
- Current work
- Opportunity mapping
- Report & map



**Ullesthorpe
Court Golf
Club**

Working With



**Leicestershire
& Rutland
Wildlife Trust**

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| ○ Target note labels | HEDGEROWS | Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface |
| INDIVIDUAL TREES | Non-native and ornamental hedgerow | Developed land; sealed surface |
| Existing Large Rural Tree | Line of trees | Mixed scrub |
| Existing Medium Rural Tree | Native hedgerow | Modified grassland short |
| Existing Small Rural Tree | | Modified grassland medium |
| WATERCOURSES | | Modified grassland long |
| Ditches | | Other woodland; broadleaved |
| Other rivers and streams | | Other woodland; mixed |
| | | Ponds |



Grassland





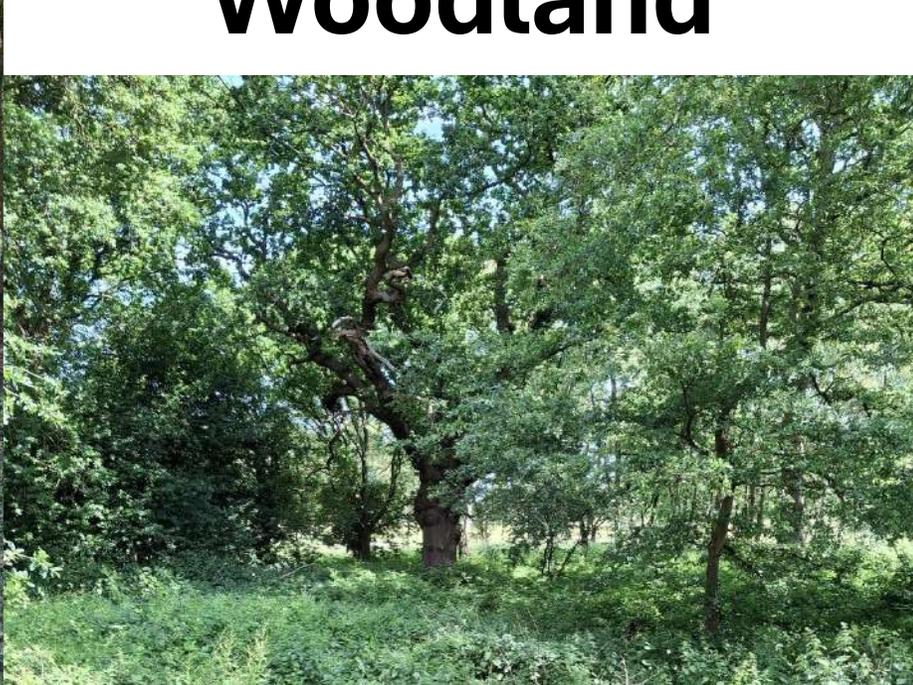
Heathland



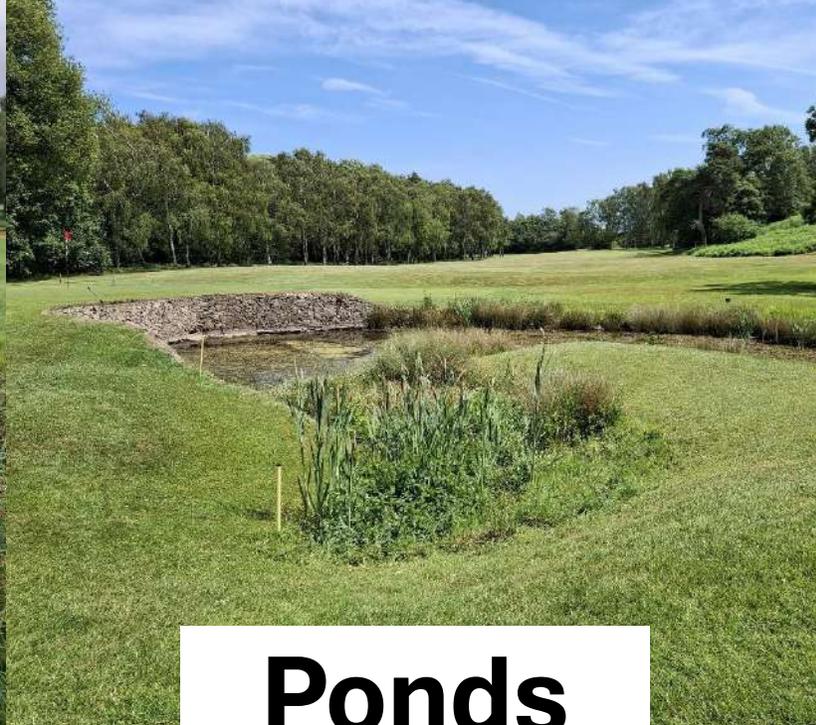


Scrub & hedgerow





Woodland



Ponds





Watercourses & Wetland





Terry Whittaker/2020VISION

Helen Buckingham

Invasive non-native species



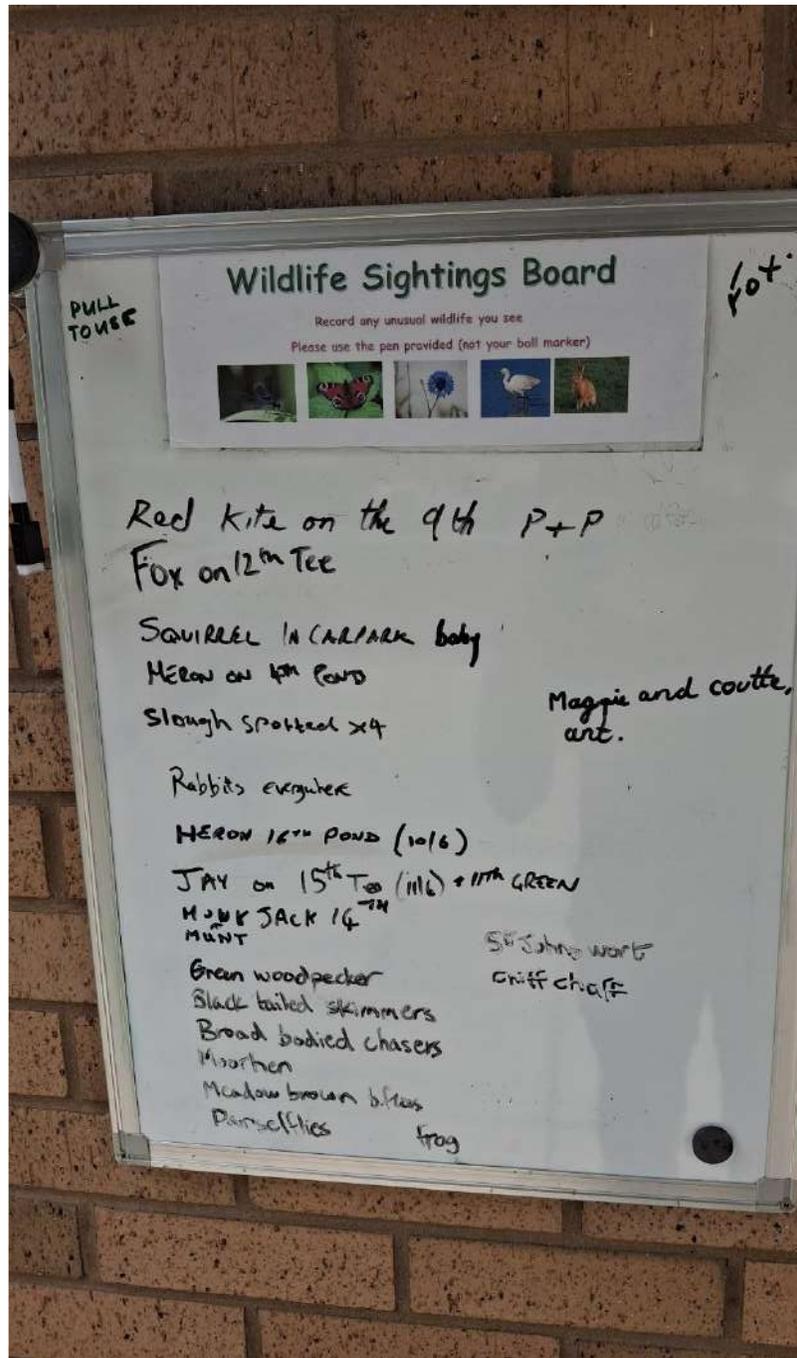
Himalayan balsam



American mink

Amy Lewis

Tim Hibbert





Gareth Cooper, Charnwood Forest Golf Club



Year 2 Proposal

Establish a
Biodiversity
Project Group

Identify common
issues and
opportunities

At least one site
visit to every Golf
Club

Connect Clubs
with specialist
nature groups

Survey new
Clubs

Produce annual
report

Explore external
funding
opportunities

Marketing
strategies &
materials



Thank you

Any questions?

Contact details:

Hannah Sellers

Senior Nature Recovery Officer

Email: hsellers@lrwt.org.uk

Mobile: 07706 335414

