



# Ecology at Childwall Golf Club





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## *Welcome to Childwall Golf Club*

The course was built in 1938 on farmland. There were no trees other than an orchard, of which only an odd apple and plum tree remain. There is also the remnant of the hawthorn boundary hedges. All the current trees were planted shortly after the course was opened and some are now over 80 years old. The course is described as parkland.

The course is rich in species that would be associated with a woodland. There are 83 different species of shrubs and trees, 48 different species of flowering plants, mosses, liverworts and ferns and 295 different species of fungi.

This booklet highlights what type of wildlife you are most likely to encounter during your round at Childwall Golf Club.



A wildlife sighting book is located in the clubhouse and you are encouraged to write in any interesting sightings that you may encounter. The book includes lists of all flora and fauna already recorded at the course.



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## Wildlife at Childwall Golf Club (CGC)

This booklet is divided into the four time-periods of the seasons:

**Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.**

### Spring

The wooded copses are a delight in Spring with an abundance of bluebells.



Many birds are busy pairing up and looking for suitable nest sites. You are likely to see Jays, Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Buzzards, Blue-tits, Great-tits, Robins, Wrens and many other common woodland and garden birds. Our nest boxes are homes to many of these birds.



Jay



Great Spotted Woodpecker



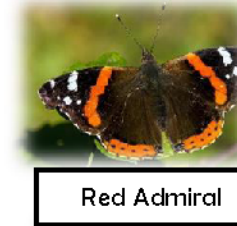
Great-tit

### Summer

The 'wildflower zones' are in full bloom by now and you will see poppies, marigolds, scabious, cornflowers, ox-eye daisies amongst other meadow plants providing a dash of colour. Many insects will be collecting pollen including Red Admiral, Peacock and Orange tip butterflies, Buff-tailed and Large red-tailed bumble bees alongside Hover flies and Cockchafer beetles.



Wildflower meadow by the 3<sup>rd</sup> tee



Red Admiral



Orange tip



Peacock



Buff-tailed bumblebee

Migrant birds such as swallows, house martins and swifts can be seen hunting for insects around the fairways. Willow warblers and chiffchaffs can be seen and heard amongst the shrubs and trees.

Buzzards and other raptors such as Sparrowhawk and Kestrel can be seen hunting during the daytime. After darkness, Tawny Owls can be heard and other nocturnal animals emerge like Pipistrelle bats and Hedgehogs.

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## Autumn

During Autumn an abundance of fungi appear like Fly Agaric, Honey fungus, Wax Cap and Milk Cap. The fruiting body appears above ground from a mass of threads (mycelium) underground. Millions of spores are produced from these fruiting bodies



Fly Agaric



Honey fungus



Wax Cap



Milk Cap

An abundance of fruit appears on the shrubs and trees providing food for our local populations of woodland and garden birds and attracting many birds on migration.



Hawthorn berries

## Winter

Even though Winter is regarded as a time of hibernation and dormancy, Childwall Golf Course is still alive with many birds foraging for berries, insect larvae or worms. Pink-footed geese are often seen and heard flying overhead on their way to the Mersey or Dee estuaries. Winter migrant birds like Redwing are not an uncommon sight on the fairways and trees. Flocks can often be seen feeding on worms and berries.



Redwing (a small thrush) with its distinctive pale and creamy stripe above the eye and red/orange underwing and flanks

## Ecology and Sustainability at Childwall Golf Club

Childwall Golf Club is committed to a sustainability policy. We are currently in pursuit of 'OnCourse' accreditation for sustainability, an award linked to the GEO Foundation for sustainable golf. The club's website has more information: <https://childwallgolfclub.co.uk/ecology>

The Club has erected over 80 nest boxes around the course, introduced a number of 'wildflower zones' and maintains 'log piles' and 'brush' (piles of sticks and branches) to encourage wildlife.

Childwall Golf Club recognises the importance of good environmental practices and continues to introduce initiatives which promote sustainability and minimise our impact on the environment.