

START: from the rear of the pavilion follow the footpath through the trees until you reach the 1<sup>st</sup> hole on the golf course. From here follow the path down the hill through woodland.

1. The woodland is largely composed of Scots Pine & contains a dense understorey of native trees such as holly, rowan and birch. These provide shelter and food for birds and small mammals, which in turn provide food for predators such as foxes, stoats and birds of prey. Older trees provide roosts for bat species.



2. The fenced enclosures are areas where trees (conifers and broad-leaved) have been planted to replace the pines as they reach the end of their life.

3. The holes in this dead tree were made by the **Greater Spotted Woodpecker** (cover picture). Sometimes they can be heard drumming in the woodland.

4. Look out for tree stumps covered with the remains of pine cones. These are the feeding posts of squirrels.

5. A number of Scots Pine have been felled here as part of alterations to the fairway. Native broad-leaved species, including Oak, Hazel, and Whitebeam, have been planted to replace them. This will also help to create a more varied and species-rich habitat.

6. The compost heap provides a food source for birds in the winter because the heat it retains allows insects to survive. **Grass snakes** often lay their eggs in compost heaps.



7. As you cross the grassland look out for anthills of the Yellow Wood Ant. They can be identified by the crumbly nature of the soil. This species is a sign of healthy grassland.

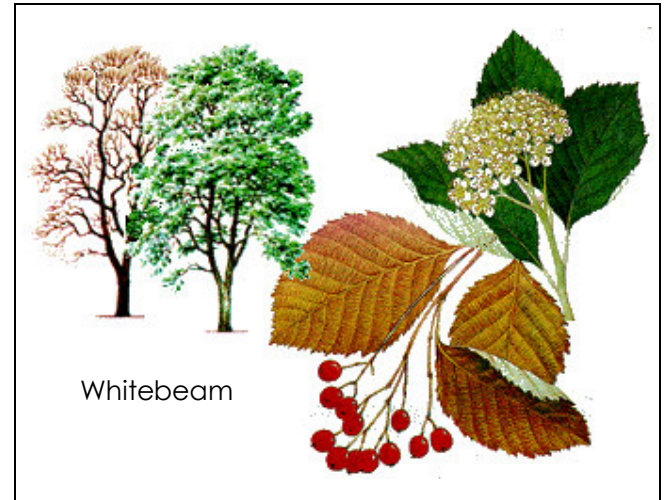
8. Here the path passes through a dense patch of Gorse, *Ulex europus*. Its attractive yellow flowers smell strongly of coconut and its spiny branches protect the nests of small birds such as the **Stonechat**. The colourful males with their red breasts and black caps can often be seen singing from the top of the gorse bushes.



The main species of heather is Ling or Common heather, *Calluna vulgaris*. Heathland is an important habitat for a number of specialist invertebrate species and for reptiles such as smooth snakes, adders, and lizards.

9. The pond was originally built as a model boating lake. A large number of carp live in the pond, and herons can sometimes be seen fishing here. Mallards breed on the island. The pond is soon to be redeveloped as a wildlife pond.

10. This area with its mature broadleaved trees such as oak and willow has many nesting birds. Chiffchaffs, a summer visitor, can often be heard singing here. Its song "chiff-chaff" gave the bird its name. Look out for **Song thrushes**, wrens, jays and less common woodland species such as Tree creepers. Green woodpeckers are often seen feeding on the edge of the fairway.



Dead wood is left to rot in the woodland because it provides an important habitat for a variety of invertebrate species, and fungi such as species of bracket fungus. As the logs rot they return nutrients to the soil.





Oak

11. Areas of long grass provide an important habitat for insects including a number of butterfly species, for example the **Gatekeeper** and Meadow brown which rely on particular grass species for their caterpillars to feed.



You may be interested in the **Bournemouth Loop**, a 15km (9½ mile) circular walk that can be started in Queen's Park, which passes along Southbourne Beach and up the Stour Valley. Details are available at the Pavilion shop.

For information about other walks in Bournemouth's parks contact the Community Parks and Countryside Office, Town Hall, Bournemouth BH2 6DY. Tel. 01202 451184.

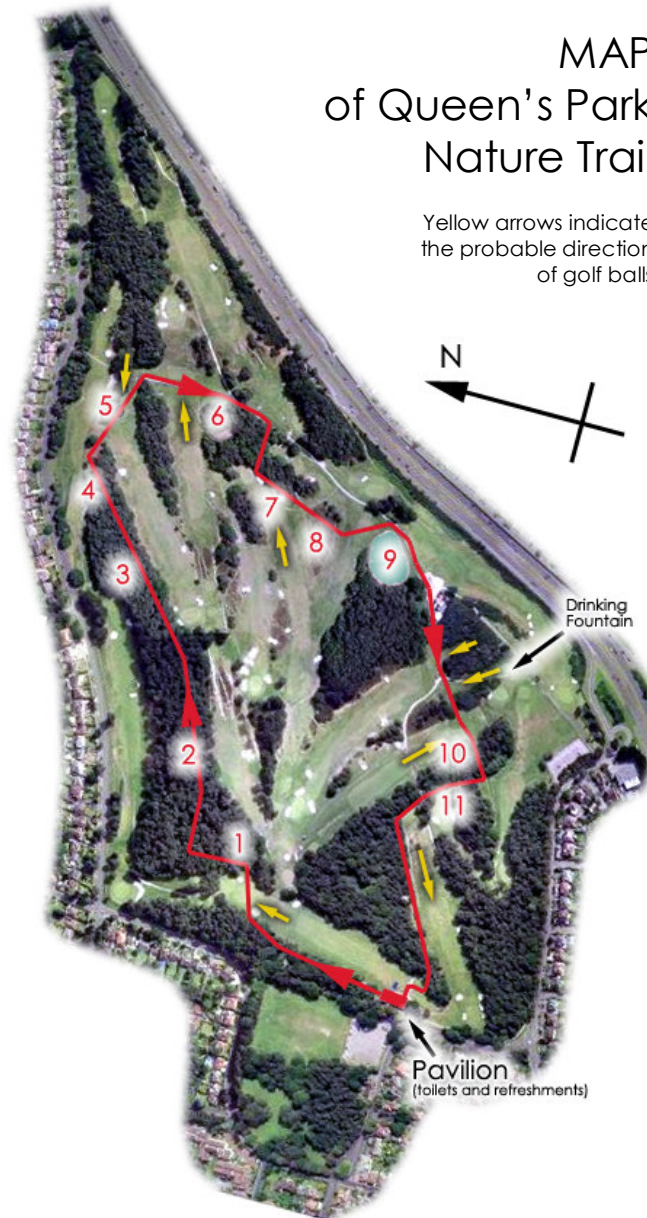
If you are interested in joining the team of volunteer conservationists who do vital work throughout the year in Queen's Park, please contact Alison Smithies at the above address.

If you have any suggestions for improvements to this leaflet, please write to QPIPS at the address on the back page. We would also be grateful for photographs of the Park's wildlife, plants, and fungi for inclusion in future editions of this leaflet or in an exhibition at the Pavilion. Thank you.

QPIPS has produced an illustrated 60-page booklet giving details of the history of Queen's Park. Please write or see our web site for details.

## MAP of Queen's Park Nature Trail

Yellow arrows indicate  
the probable direction  
of golf balls



# Queen's Park

# Nature Trail



BOURNEMOUTH  
BOROUGH  
COUNCIL

**QPIPS**  
Queen's Park Improvement  
and Protection Society

START / FINISH: Pavilion  
TIME: allow 1 hour

IN PLACES THE GOLF COURSE CROSSES THE TRAIL:  
PLEASE BEWARE OF BALLS.

The trail is marked by blue arrows (see map on  
reverse).

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