

In my capacity as Chesterton Parish Path Warden, I walk the Chesterton footpaths in December and July. My list of plants seen will not contain spring and autumn flowers. The animals will either have been seen or, for large ones, their presence recorded from dung or footprints.

While walking Chesterton Footpath 161/6 across the golf course, I have disturbed a grass snake. Recently, I have seen at least five species of dragonflies, a pair of swans, some mallard and moorhens. There are other birds, but July is too late to record nesting. Butterflies seen include the brimstone, large whites, meadow browns and gatekeepers. There is evidence of rabbits, hedgehogs, foxes, deer, possibly badger, rats and mice.

In addition to some conifers and oaks that have been on the golf course probably before it was built, there are numerous birch (including silver birch), walnut, willows, poplars, ash, hornbeam, field maples and others, many with the remains of spiral or black mesh 'protectors'. Some of these plantings are in rows and columns. There has been 'self-culling'. Most of these plantings are well established and add a very pleasing atmosphere in contrast to the severe grassland of the golf course. We suggest that CDC places a TPO – tree protection order - on all the trees on the golf course.

Golf courses are sown with several different species and varieties of 'amenity' grasses bred for the purpose. Greens, fairways and roughs have different managements as well as different uses by players. The periphery of the fairways is often not maintained to the same standard as the fairway and the greens. This is noticeable for footpath 161/6.

No unusual plants have been seen in the 'rough' of the golf course and no hands and knees searches for very small plants have been done. It is possible, therefore, that some rare plants may have been missed. Golf courses are very artificial habitats for plants and animals and so it could take many years for a particularly interesting flora and fauna to establish.

In the grass verge on the golf club side of the A4095 there is a colony of pyramidal orchids (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*). In addition, there are individuals of this orchid scattered nearby. I have not seen any on the golf course itself. There are other plants not seen on the golf course, probably because this roadside verge was created after the bridge over the M40 was constructed. The source of the soil and seed used to sow the verge will largely determine the species mix.

Will Vetcher, the current green keeper used to be Gosport borough council's conservation officer from 1986 to 1989 and worked in conservation until 2000 when he started at the golf course. He notes that the grass snakes have been breeding under the boiler room for years, he has also found them across golf course in irrigation boxes along with 3 types of newt (crested, smooth & palmate), toads, hares, bee orchids, wood peckers (green & spotted), common lizard, gold finches and dragon fly although this is not a comprehensive list.

The list of plants Below excludes the trees and shrubs mentioned above.

The names used are those in Clive Stace: 'New Flora of the British Isles', CUP, 1st Edition 1991.

Bladder campion	<i>Silene vulgaris</i>
Blue fleabane	<i>Erigeron acer</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.
Bristly oxtongue	<i>Picris echioides</i>
Broad leaved everlasting pea	<i>Lathyrus latifolius</i>
Comfrey	<i>Symphytum officinale</i>
Common Centaury	<i>Centaureum erithraea</i>
Common Figwort	<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>
Common poppy	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>
Common Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
Common tare	<i>Vicia angustifolia</i>
Common vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>
Fleabane	<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>
Goat's beard	<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>
Goose-grass	<i>Galium aparine</i>
Great willowherb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>
Hairy vetch	<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Knapweed	<i>Centaurea</i> spp
Long headed poppy	<i>Papaver dubium</i>
Marsh willowherb	<i>Epilobium palustre</i>
Meadow vetchling	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>
Medicks	<i>Medicago</i> species
Monkey flower	<i>Mimulus guttatus</i> agg.
Perforated St John's Wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>
Red Bartsia	<i>Odonites vernus</i>
Red Campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>
Smooth tare	<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i>
Teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>
Teasel	<i>Dipsacus sativus?</i>
Tufted Vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>
Watermint	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>
White catchfly	<i>Silene latifolia</i>
White melilot	<i>Melilotus alba</i>
White mignonette	<i>Reseda alba</i>
Wild Carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>
Wild Parsnip	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i> Var. <i>sylvestris</i>
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>