

# CATERPILLAR CRAWL

 40  
minutes

Predominantly path-based: The Coronation Meadow (point 5 on the map) is a short way across the grass.

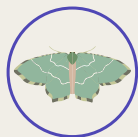
## POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Green Park Station living roof
- 2 Holly hedge
- 3 Turner's Copse
- 4 Veteran hawthorns
- 5 The Coronation Meadow
- 6 Deadwood
- 7 River Tyburn path
- 8 Bat boxes
- 9 Scrub planting



# A leisurely stroll around The Green Park to discover our meadow and scrub habitats and to meet some of the inhabitants who live there.

## POINTS OF INTEREST



### 1. Green Park Station living roof

The green roof here not only has long grass for grasshoppers, crickets, spiders and beetles to forage and shelter, but has also been enriched with wildflowers which will provide nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies, moths, flies and other pollinating insects.



### 2. Holly hedge

An evergreen holly hedge along the park boundary provides year-round nesting spots and hiding places for birds and insects. It also produces berries in winter, a welcome snack for birds during the colder months. Hedging can also filter out air pollution, providing cleaner air within the park for people and wildlife.



### 3. Turner's Copse

The Green Park has several small copses of native trees and scrub, including hawthorn, purging buckthorn, cherry and hazel. These provide year-round food for invertebrates which may collect pollen and nectar, suck sap, chomp the leaves or hunt other invertebrates!



### 4. Veteran hawthorns

Hawthorns are brilliant for invertebrates! A survey showed 412 different species using these small trees for food and shelter in Richmond and Bushy Parks. Veteran hawthorns have particular conservation value - they support lichens, fungi and saproxylic invertebrates, who feed on decaying wood.



### 5. The Coronation Meadow

The Coronation Meadow was planted as part of a nationwide initiative to restore native meadowland. The seed mix used is inspired by the ancient meadows of south east England. The meadow is managed using traditional techniques, with the help of shire horses and volunteers.



### 6. Deadwood

Where possible, we leave fallen or standing deadwood in situ as it provides an important habitat for our invertebrate-recyclers such as stag beetles and woodlice. Many species eat decaying wood as larvae or adults (or both), or lay their eggs in cracks in the wood.



### 7. River Tyburn Path

Look north towards Piccadilly and you may be able to see a shallow depression running north to south through the park. This was once the path of the River Tyburn, which in Victorian times was diverted underground, and now flows beneath The Green Park. We've now planted this area with blue pollinator-friendly flowers with the help of volunteers.



### 8. Bat boxes

Have a look up in the trees - can you see our wooden bat boxes? These were installed after an expert survey revealed that lots of common and soprano pipistrelle bats forage in this area for insects. If you're here in the evenings, see if you can spot any flitting through the trees.



### 9. Scrub planting

We've planted pockets of dog rose, buckthorn, hawthorn and gorse along Queen's Walk, improving ecological connectivity between the north and south of the park. Invertebrates, birds and small mammals can utilise these habitat chains to move through the park without feeling exposed to people and predators.

## FUN FACT

There is a myth that The Green Park is so-called because King Charles II and Queen Catherine had an argument after she discovered him picking flowers in the park for another lady! True or not, in revenge, that Queen banished all flowers from the park and there are still no formal flowerbeds in The Green Park.

We would love to see photographs of your walks  
Tag us on Instagram - @TheRoyalParks / #MoreThanBugs

