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Foreword

The sport of golf is reaching more and more people through increasing numbers of high profile tournaments, inclusion of the sport in the Olympic Games and development across the globe. These factors have resulted in greater impact on ecosystems, businesses and communities. In response to this the golf industry is investing in a comprehensive set of guidelines and voluntary standards to help define sustainable golf facilities, measure their performance and raise the bar across the globe.

Building new golf facilities has potential to have a profound effect on the way the game is perceived by many. The creation of this voluntary standard recognizes this. Sustainable golf courses can make a significant contribution to greater resilience, enabling better adaption to future challenges in the areas of nature, community and business.

By aligning development practices with healthy native ecosystems, the needs of local communities and the ambition of local and international business, this document ensures benefit to developers, owners, designers, constructors and others by means of the following:

1. Understanding the baseline for sustainable golf developments
2. Supporting golf development’s associated professions
3. Ensuring rigorous and comprehensive coverage of a project’s potential gains
4. Delivering credible international recognition and messaging

The central principle underpinning the work that has gone into creating this voluntary international standard is that any golf development has the potential to enhance local ecosystems, conserve resources and support communities.
Acknowledgements
The consultation process of this standard was conducted in line with ISEAL Alliance Codes of Best Practice and was overseen by a diverse body of consultees making up the Working Group

Working Group Members
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Ross Perrett, representing the Society of Australian Golf Course Architects Task Force
Jason Straka, representing the American Society of Golf Course Architects Task Force
Preface

This document forms the international voluntary sustainability standard for the process of developing a golf course. It is part of a larger body of sustainable golf documentation that also includes guidance, mentoring and a certification system for the:

1. Operations of a golf facility;
2. Development of a golf facility;
3. Hosting of a golf tournament.

The schematic below illustrates this larger set of information and the respective ownership groups:

```
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Operations</th>
<th>Developments</th>
<th>Tournaments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEO Foundation</td>
<td>Operations Mentoring</td>
<td>Developments Mentoring</td>
<td>Tournaments Mentoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEO Certification Ltd</td>
<td>Operations Certification</td>
<td>Developments Certification</td>
<td>Tournaments Certification</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```

Figure 1: Sustainable golf documents

Application

The voluntary sustainability standard for golf developments sets out a framework for the effective integration of sustainability into the design and construction processes for golf developments.

This document is intended for use by a number of groups, including golf industry professionals and developers, to inform about a generally understood baseline. The document should also be used by governments and permitting authorities to support policy making and raising awareness.

```
1. Planning a Golf Course
2. Designing a Golf Course
3. Building or Renovating a Golf Course
4. Operations Voluntary Standard (part of a separate document)
5. Managing a Golf Course
6. Closing a Golf Course
```

Figure 2. Relationship between the activity and the appropriate voluntary standard
**Auditing and Certification**

Auditing is an information gathering process that is integral to participation in a certification system. Auditing evaluates how well voluntary standards are met and how well outcomes are delivered through the certification process.

Certification is achieved by demonstrating independently verified practical outcomes against a voluntary standard.

This voluntary sustainability standard document, the mentoring and the certification process should be viewed as individual parts. A golf development choosing to use the voluntary sustainability standard can adopt one of four scenarios. The schematic below illustrates those four scenarios, the items a proposed golf development would use and the types of claims it could make:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Golf Development Scenario 1</th>
<th>Voluntary Standard &amp; Guidelines</th>
<th>Self Declaration claim</th>
<th>No evidence available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Golf Development Scenario 2</td>
<td>use Voluntary Standard &amp; Guidelines and Mentoring</td>
<td>Self Assessed claim</td>
<td>Assess own evidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf Development Scenario 3</td>
<td>use Voluntary Standard &amp; Guidelines and Mentoring and Certification</td>
<td>3rd Party Certified claim</td>
<td>Audited evidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf Development Scenario 4</td>
<td>use Voluntary Standard &amp; Guidelines and Certification</td>
<td>3rd Party Certified claim</td>
<td>Audited evidence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Document Structure**

This document covers the stages of a golf development, from preparation to completion, as well as the range of sustainability issues relevant to the golf development process under the headings Nature, Resources and Community.

There are three core components for each criterion:

1. The **sustainability objective** sets out the individual issues to be addressed and targeted.
2. The **detailed performance requirement** represents action that should be taken and frames the outcomes to be achieved.
3. The **supporting document** is used to prove that a criterion has been met.

As an international voluntary standard, these generic criteria are as specific as they can be, setting out a framework to guide individual projects and allow the development process to respond to site specific conditions.
“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

Criteria Introduction

The criteria are written in three stages, similar to the common stages of a golf development. The first is the preparation stage, the second is the design stage and the third is the construction stage. In each stage, the three sustainability themes, Nature, Resources and Community, are covered.

Each of the three themes has a number of criteria, categorized as baseline\(^1\), improvement\(^2\) and aspirational\(^2\).

The level of consideration for any building elements on a proposed development is limited to the external skin of the core golf buildings outwards into the landscape and their placement within the landscape. No criteria relate to the internal fixtures, fittings and finishes of any buildings.

Each individual criterion has a code attached to it for ease of reference. Figure 4 explains the form of the nomenclature. The example code in Figure 4 refers to the first criterion in the Design stage of the process under the Nature theme. The letter ‘B’ means it is considered a Baseline criterion.

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\(^1\) For ease of referencing the three categories are colour coded blue - baseline; green - improvement; red - aspirational

Introduction
Possibly the most important decision for any potential golf development is site selection. A site that suits the proposed type of development is immediately well on the way to being more sustainable. A site selected for location or availability rather than suitability for golf will have a far harder job.

Site selection drives almost all of the following criteria. It is valuable to undertake a fundamental review of site suitability before starting design work so that developers understand the implications of choice of land. This fundamental review must consider the legislative context (e.g. environmental impact assessment laws), local planning context, existing land use and any local or national development plans consulted on and set by the appropriate authorities.

Example
Brief: 18 hole course capable of hosting regionally significant tournament and attracting golf tourists.
Client: Hotel chain with a strong corporate and social responsibility policy.

Site A: A sandy rolling land area with plentiful supplies of ground water able to be used for irrigation. The land form is an excellent match and the golf layout requires almost no earth movement. Much of the natural habitat can be retained and the golf worked in around it. The existing natural vegetation means that almost no new planting is required.

Site B: A flat site on fine-textured, slow-draining soils and largely wooded. Extensive clearance is needed and most of the site has to be reshaped to create interest. A new drainage system needs to be installed across the whole site because of the soils and the extent of the earth movement. The requirement of the client that the course be playable in all weathers means that the heavy soils need to be covered with 300mm of sand, amounting to 180,000 cubic meters of imported sand.

These are two extremes, but it is clear that, with careful planning, Site A could meet the voluntary standard quite easily. On the other hand, Site B would find this very difficult. Cases will likely happen even on Site B where individual criteria can be handled sympathetically, but potential overall losses resulting from inappropriate site selection need to be carefully considered.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Sustainability Objective</th>
<th>Detailed Performance Requirements</th>
<th>Supporting Documents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P1B</td>
<td>Appropriate site selection</td>
<td>Ensure all efforts are made to: minimise development of prime agricultural land; protect land supporting local livelihoods; protect floodplain capacity and conserve threatened and/or endangered habitats and species.</td>
<td>Site selection statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P2B</td>
<td>Establishment of legal context</td>
<td>Demonstrate that alternative sites have been considered and that Free and Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) or equivalent has been agreed. Ensure clarity around land ownership, transport access and legal permits.</td>
<td>Site selection statement Land agreements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P3B</td>
<td>Economic due diligence</td>
<td>Ensure an economic feasibility study has been carried out to determine the economic sustainability of the project.</td>
<td>Feasibility study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P4B</td>
<td>Promotion of development team leadership</td>
<td>Ensure that development team is committed to sustainable development, aware of its role and has expertise to deliver. Preferred nomination of a “Sustainability Leader” on the project team.</td>
<td>Sustainability vision statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P5I</td>
<td>Economic, environmental and social due diligence</td>
<td>Ensure that, in the feasibility study, all material issues have been considered and addressed in their environmental and social contexts.</td>
<td>Feasibility study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Design Stage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Sustainability Objective</th>
<th>Detailed Performance Requirements</th>
<th>Supporting Documents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DN1B</td>
<td>Develop clear understanding of species, habitats, hydrology and geomorphology</td>
<td>Study in detail ecology, hydrology, designations and geomorphology of the site. Any invasive species to be identified and managed appropriately.</td>
<td>Completed baseline surveys&lt;sup&gt;4&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DN2B</td>
<td>Ensure golf course and landscape design typology is clearly compatible with site and surroundings</td>
<td>Avoid per-determined artificial or enforced design styles.</td>
<td>Golf course design statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DN3B</td>
<td>Protect the most valuable landscape and ecological features</td>
<td>Avoid ecological hot spots and sensitive landscape zones. Retain existing valuable and/or protected existing trees and habitats.</td>
<td>Landscape plan, Routing plan, Baseline ecology surveys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DN4B</td>
<td>Use native or locally important species in landscaping designs, and drought-tolerant varieties if applicable</td>
<td>Landscape planting to maximise native or locally important species (exceptions for some sites where aesthetic or cultural heritage issues are relevant or for garden areas).</td>
<td>Landscape plan, Golf course design statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DN5B</td>
<td>Ensure that any topographic changes protect and enhance landscape character</td>
<td>Ensure no degradation to existing landscape character&lt;sup&gt;5&lt;/sup&gt;.</td>
<td>Grading plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DN6B</td>
<td>Consider whether open water is appropriate</td>
<td>Clear justification for any open water in desert/arid locations.</td>
<td>Water resource statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DN7B</td>
<td>Minimise pollution from maintenance facility</td>
<td>Integrate best practice pollution control measures into maintenance facility design.</td>
<td>Building design statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DN8I</td>
<td>Plan an ecologically-rich&lt;sup&gt;6&lt;/sup&gt; landscape</td>
<td>Maximise integration of native&lt;sup&gt;7&lt;/sup&gt; habitats and ecology in the design.</td>
<td>Routing plan, Landscape plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DN9I</td>
<td>Maximise habitat patch sizes and connectivity</td>
<td>Internal habitat patches to be large enough for key species. Link internal patches, maximise habitat size, and create connections to wider landscape habitats.</td>
<td>Landscape plan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<sup>3</sup> National or regional advice should be sought for the appropriate course of action to handle invasive species.

<sup>4</sup> See Supporting Document section for details of specific survey requirements.

<sup>5</sup> The design and impact of associated infrastructure such as roads are not subject to this criterion.

<sup>6</sup> A landscape with healthy interacting living organisms existing in plentiful qualities.

<sup>7</sup> Endemic species are classed as native in this context.
### Design Stage

**Nature**

**Resources**

**Community**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Sustainability Objective</th>
<th>Detailed Performance Requirements</th>
<th>Supporting Documents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DN10I</td>
<td>Adopt a ‘natural systems’ approach to water management, considering water quality and habitat creation</td>
<td>Utilise natural soakaways, attenuation areas, swales and turfgrass bio-filters. Incorporate vegetative buffer zones into design. Allow seasonal flooding where possible. Demonstrate that water table control does not adversely impact upon surrounding habitats.</td>
<td>Landscape plan&lt;br&gt;Golf course design statement&lt;br&gt;Drainage plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DN11I</td>
<td>Naturalise any water features as far as possible</td>
<td>Create diverse, living lakes and wetlands suitable to site, maximising ecological value as far as practical.</td>
<td>Landscape plan&lt;br&gt;Golf course design statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DN12I</td>
<td>Minimise the extent of intensively managed grass areas</td>
<td>Minimum area of the site within the development boundary to become intensively managed grass.</td>
<td>Grasing plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DN13I</td>
<td>Consider the visual impact of buildings</td>
<td>Avoid prominent or highly exposed positions and skylines.</td>
<td>Building design statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DN14I</td>
<td>Maximise permeable surfaces</td>
<td>Maximum possible area of car parks, paths and other hard surfaces to be made of permeable materials.</td>
<td>Landscape plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DN15A</td>
<td>Minimise visual intrusion of bunkers and tee and green complexes on visually sensitive sites</td>
<td>No significant adverse impacts on visual amenity of key receptors or viewpoints. Justify overall sand area and sand colour.</td>
<td>Golf course design statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DN16A</td>
<td>Increase ecological interest of the external skin of the buildings</td>
<td>Utilise green roofs, green walls and insect housing etc…</td>
<td>Building design statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DN17A</td>
<td>Minimise the visual impact of signage and furniture</td>
<td>Use of local materials and positioning to integrate with the surroundings.</td>
<td>Landscape plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DN18A</td>
<td>Use permeable surfaces</td>
<td>Car parks, paths and other hard surfaces to be made of permeable materials.</td>
<td>Landscape plan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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8 Where circumstances dictate that the inclusion of these water management measures will have a detrimental effect on other connected items such as historic landscape setting, downstream watershed management and increased soil damage, inclusion of such measures may not be warranted.

9 When the naturalisation of water bodies will have a detrimental effect on other connected items such as historic landscape setting, downstream watershed management and increased soil damage, the inclusion of such measures may not be warranted.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Sustainability Objective</th>
<th>Detailed Performance Requirements</th>
<th>Supporting Documents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DR1B</td>
<td>Ensure responsible use of site and surrounding water resources, including watershed.</td>
<td>Undertake and analyse baseline surveys to ensure informed water resource decisions and implement recommendations.</td>
<td>Baseline hydrology survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR2B</td>
<td>Seek opportunities to minimise energy use in design</td>
<td>Design to minimise energy use and demonstrate how this is achieved.</td>
<td>Sustainable energy statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR3B</td>
<td>Minimise impact on key hydrological and flood zones on site if applicable</td>
<td>Avoid these areas for built development and net positive fill.</td>
<td>Grading plan Baseline hydrology survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR4B</td>
<td>Minimise volume of earthwork</td>
<td>Design a course which does not require excessive earthworks in order to minimise fuel use during construction.</td>
<td>Grading plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR5B</td>
<td>Maximise irrigation water efficiency</td>
<td>Irrigation system to deliver water most efficiently to smallest possible area. Restrict irrigation only to genuine priority areas with flexibility in the system to control application areas. Identify ways golf course irrigation water can come from recycled or “off grid” sources.</td>
<td>Irrigation design Water resource statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR6B</td>
<td>Use local materials</td>
<td>Minimise the average total distance construction materials will travel. Give preference to on site or locally sourced materials where feasible.</td>
<td>Materials specification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR7I</td>
<td>Select best-adapted turf species and cultivars for the local environmental conditions and to minimise resource requirements</td>
<td>Maximum stress, disease, temperature and drought resistant species to be selected where possible. Select grass species with moderate maintenance requirements such as verti-cutting and top dressing rates. Consider the final quality of the playing surface in the decision making process.</td>
<td>Agronomic statement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. The quality and potential impact of using recycled water on the local environment must be assessed before using recycled water sources as irrigation water sources.
### Design Stage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Sustainability Objective</th>
<th>Detailed Performance Requirements</th>
<th>Supporting Documents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DR8I</td>
<td>Optimise location of buildings to benefit from natural heating, cooling and lighting</td>
<td>Analyse the location and aspect of clubhouse and maintenance building.</td>
<td>Building design statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR9I</td>
<td>Reduce fuel use in maintenance</td>
<td>Consider ease of maintenance access in design to avoid excessive fuel use.</td>
<td>Landscape plan Grading plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR10I</td>
<td>Manage precipitation on site(^{11})</td>
<td>Define the amount of precipitation to be retained on site. Optimised this amount to benefit the entire watershed.</td>
<td>Water resource statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR11I</td>
<td>Maxime the energy efficiency of drainage design</td>
<td>Justify the use of piped drains in light of criterion DN10I.</td>
<td>Water resource statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR12I</td>
<td>Maxime the energy efficiency of irrigation system</td>
<td>Design irrigation system to maximise benefits of topography, soil type and climatic conditions. Design irrigation system to optimise use of pipe and wire.</td>
<td>Irrigation design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR13I</td>
<td>Use recycled materials and materials with recycled content</td>
<td>Maxime the integration of recycled material into the supply chain. Where available, maximise use of certified products and materials equal to ISEAL Alliance standards.</td>
<td>Materials specification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR14A</td>
<td>Consider development as “net zero energy”</td>
<td>Assess the potential of on site or local renewables. Assess the feasibility of exporting on-site generated energy back to the national grid.</td>
<td>Sustainable energy statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR15A</td>
<td>Minimise fuel use in buggies</td>
<td>Design a golf course that can be walked where climate and terrain permit. Use electric or hybrid powered buggies if they are required.</td>
<td>Routing plan Materials specification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR16A</td>
<td>Integrate re-use and re-cycling of water around clubhouse and other buildings</td>
<td>Utilise harvested rainwater for garden irrigation and cart/machinery wash down(^{12}).</td>
<td>Water resource statement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{11}\) Ensure a full understanding of the watershed and consider any potential detrimental effects on other connected items such as downstream watershed management and increased soil damage.

\(^{12}\) Use of harvested rainwater must be in accordance with relevant legislation.
## Design Stage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Sustainability Objective</th>
<th>Detailed Performance Requirements</th>
<th>Supporting Documents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DC1B</td>
<td>Define supply chain of products and materials</td>
<td>Identify key opportunities and challenges in materials supply and demonstrate how they can be resolved.</td>
<td>Materials specification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC2B</td>
<td>Undertake local consultation</td>
<td>Consult with local community and advertise to raise local awareness. Encourage input through meetings/open days, in writing, by phone and via email.</td>
<td>Community engagement statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC3B</td>
<td>Protect cultural heritage</td>
<td>Design to protect and/or incorporate features of historical and cultural significance if any.</td>
<td>Archaeological survey and statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC4B</td>
<td>Ensure principles of 'Access for All' are implemented</td>
<td>Pro-actively consider all requirements for accessible buildings to meet the access needs of disabled people.</td>
<td>Building design statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC5I</td>
<td>Undertake local engagement</td>
<td>Engage with, listen and respond to local opinion. Encourage input through meetings/open days, in writing, by phone and via email and give transparent feedback on how this has been addressed.</td>
<td>Community engagement statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC6I</td>
<td>Promote ethically and environmentally led procurement</td>
<td>Define policy for procurement of products and services. Suppliers and contractors to conform with Ethical Trading Initiative's base code or equivalent.</td>
<td>Procurement policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC7I</td>
<td>Incorporate public access where appropriate</td>
<td>Maintain an appropriate type of community access to all or part of the property, or mitigate any detrimental affects to the existing situation.</td>
<td>Landscape plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criterion</td>
<td>Sustainability Objective</td>
<td>Detailed Performance Requirements</td>
<td>Supporting Documents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC8I</td>
<td>Justify transport impact</td>
<td>Minimise the demands placed on the community’s transportation network through development both in construction and in the future. Promote future multi-modal transport methods.</td>
<td>Community engagement statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC9A</td>
<td>Promote community integration and awareness</td>
<td>Establish ways in which the development can contribute to local communities such as promoting publicly accessible outdoor facilities on site or events programmes to help raise awareness of sustainability issues, such as local ecology, cultural heritage and renewable energy.</td>
<td>Community engagement statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC10A</td>
<td>Incorporate educational values</td>
<td>Design in educational opportunities - such as placements, open days (i.e. pre- and post-construction) and on site classroom facilities etc...</td>
<td>Community engagement statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC11A</td>
<td>Promote and improve community health and wellbeing</td>
<td>Incorporate opportunities for non-golf related health and wellbeing activities appropriate and proportional to site conditions, project scope and location.</td>
<td>Landscape plan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Construction Stage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Sustainability Objective</th>
<th>Detailed Performance Requirements</th>
<th>Supporting Documents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CN1B</td>
<td>Ensure sensitive site clearance and protective measures are implemented</td>
<td>Plan to work outwards from centreline. Incorporate “found” features where possible. Make allowance in the contract for appropriate site protection measures to be installed.</td>
<td>Site clearance plan Site protection plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CN2B</td>
<td>Avoid impacts on biodiversity</td>
<td>Phase construction works to minimise risk of disturbance to environmentally significant wildlife species. Give consideration to key times of year such as nesting times.</td>
<td>Construction programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CN3B</td>
<td>Plan sensitive haul routes</td>
<td>No areas of high ecological value to be disturbed for site routes.</td>
<td>Baseline ecology survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CN4B</td>
<td>Robust and secure site storage with critical pollution prevention measures</td>
<td>Fuels, oils and chemical stores to be on impervious bases within a containment or embankment to control spillage extent and incorporate water recycling/disposal systems. Maintain all equipment and monitor for leaks. When possible, keep storage areas away from water courses.</td>
<td>Pollution control statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CN5B</td>
<td>Minimise hazardous substances</td>
<td>Understand and comply with local and national legislation and with demonstrable voluntary measures brought on site relating to chemical application. Minimise amount of selective herbicide to be used for vegetation clearance.</td>
<td>Pollution control statement Ecology survey Staff briefing statement Site clearance plan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1. See Supporting Document section for detail on indicators demonstrating that voluntary measures have been brought in.
## Construction Stage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Sustainability Objective</th>
<th>Detailed Performance Requirements</th>
<th>Supporting Documents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CN6B</td>
<td>Protect high value landscape, ecological and cultural features</td>
<td>Set cordoned off “no impact zones” to protect areas of high ecological or cultural value, both surveyed and found in construction. No damage to be caused to these areas as a result of construction works. Ensure no net loss of individual nationally and regionally protected species of flora and fauna.</td>
<td>Baseline ecology survey, Archaeological survey, Staff briefing statement, Site protection plan, Monitoring statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CN7B</td>
<td>Protect existing water bodies and groundwater</td>
<td>Appropriate water body protection to be in place including consideration for groundwater aquifers. Minimise sediment and chemical run off from construction work.</td>
<td>Erosion control plan, Staff briefing statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CN8B</td>
<td>Minimise soil erosion</td>
<td>Use erosion control fences, temporary ditches, sediment traps, phasing of works and other measures. Minimise time bare soil is exposed. No unnecessary damage to integrity of native subsoil. No cultivation operations to be carried out in very dry/windy conditions without mitigation measures in place.</td>
<td>Soil resource statement, Erosion control plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CN9B</td>
<td>Responsible use of pesticides and fertiliser</td>
<td>Monitor and promote sensitive application of pesticides, fertilisers and other chemicals throughout construction and into grow-in stage. Strict application of buffer zones and no spray/treatment areas around watercourses, wetlands, reed beds, ditches, marshy grasslands etc.</td>
<td>Staff briefing statement, Monitoring statement, Pollution control statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CN10B</td>
<td>Minimise impact of chemical spillages</td>
<td>All chemical spillages to be cleared immediately.</td>
<td>Pollution control statement, Staff briefing statement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Construction Stage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Sustainability Objective</th>
<th>Detailed Performance Requirements</th>
<th>Supporting Documents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CN11I</td>
<td>Raise awareness of any sensitive habitats and species</td>
<td>Ensure all site staff are aware of any sensitive habitats and/or species that have been surveyed and mapped.</td>
<td>Staff briefing statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CN12I</td>
<td>Plan efficient haul routes</td>
<td>Where feasible, use future permanent roadways as site routes.</td>
<td>Construction compound plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CN13I</td>
<td>Minimise topsoil damage</td>
<td>Only move topsoil when conditions are suitable. Use plant machinery expressly designed for the purpose. Minimise periods of topsoil storage, and stockpile in accordance with best practice guidelines.</td>
<td>Soil resource statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CN14I</td>
<td>Reinstate damaged areas of the site</td>
<td>Areas disturbed[sup]14[/sup] in construction to be reinstated, restored and where possible, ecologically enhanced following completion.</td>
<td>Statement of intent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CN15A</td>
<td>No use of hazardous substances in out of play areas and areas of high ecological value</td>
<td>Mechanical methods to be utilised to remove weed species in out of play areas and within areas of high ecological value.</td>
<td>Staff briefing statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CN16A</td>
<td>Reduce impact of ground works on adjacent roads</td>
<td>Prior to commencement of work, suitable measures to be implemented to ensure that sediment and other materials are not tracked onto a public road by vehicles leaving the site.</td>
<td>Pollution control statement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[sup]14\[/sup] If areas of acid sulphate soils were discovered during the geomorphological survey stage, the appropriate course of action needs to be taken if these areas were disturbed during construction. Seek local or regional agency advice.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Sustainability Objective</th>
<th>Detailed Performance Requirements</th>
<th>Supporting Documents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CN17A</td>
<td>Managed risk of wildfire</td>
<td>Consider management of fuel on site and consult local authority for regional practices on vegetated areas.</td>
<td>Statement of intent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CN18A</td>
<td>Reduce noise levels to a minimum</td>
<td>Carefully plan construction compounds to be away from neighbouring property and areas of high ecological value. Use machinery with high noise operating levels responsibly when within 50m of any neighbouring property.</td>
<td>Pollution control statement Baseline ecology survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CN19A</td>
<td>Reduce dust/smoke emissions to a minimum</td>
<td>Minimal on site burning. Screen areas or use non-potable water bowser to minimise dust. Plan and manage timing of earthworks to reduce dust.</td>
<td>Pollution control statement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Construction Stage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Sustainability Objective</th>
<th>Detailed Performance Requirements</th>
<th>Supporting Documents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CR1B</td>
<td>Minimise fuel consumption</td>
<td>Minimise trip numbers; ensure efficient delivery planning and reduce unnecessary grading and landscape changes.</td>
<td>Construction programme Logistics statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR2B</td>
<td>Reduce waste</td>
<td>Sort construction waste streams on site for safe and appropriate disposal or recycling.</td>
<td>Waste management plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR3B</td>
<td>Use low sulphur diesel oil</td>
<td>All diesel vehicles and equipment engines to use low sulphur diesel.</td>
<td>Plant and equipment schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR4I</td>
<td>Efficient waste management</td>
<td>Reuse or recycle as many non-hazardous materials from the site as possible such as vegetation, rocks, soils(^{15}), oil, antifreeze, batteries and other chemicals used in the construction process to reduce disposal in landfills or incinerators.</td>
<td>Waste management plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR5I</td>
<td>Minimise resources used in plant production and supply</td>
<td>Consider establishment of an on-site plant, turf and seed nursery.</td>
<td>Statement of Intent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR6I</td>
<td>Ensure diligent water monitoring</td>
<td>Monitor the quality and quantity of water courses and ground water.</td>
<td>Monitoring statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR7I</td>
<td>Avoid use of peat</td>
<td>Identify and implement all available alternatives to use of peat</td>
<td>Soil resource statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR8A</td>
<td>Explore transportation alternatives</td>
<td>When possible use low carbon haulage methods such as rail or boat/barge. Give preference to electric or hybrid maintenance vehicles.</td>
<td>Logistics statement Plant and equipment schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR9A</td>
<td>Use on site plant production and supply</td>
<td>Establish an on-site plant, turf and seed nursery.</td>
<td>Statement of Intent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR10A</td>
<td>Reduce fuel used for on site machinery and generators</td>
<td>Maximise percentage of machinery, generators and site traffic running on renewable fuel or, where available, responsibly sourced biodiesel.</td>
<td>Plant and equipment schedule</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{15}\) Any soils identified as acid sulphate soils are not to be reused.
## Construction Stage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Sustainability Objective</th>
<th>Detailed Performance Requirements</th>
<th>Supporting Documents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CC1B</td>
<td>Promote sensitive traffic management</td>
<td>Create logistics statement to minimise impact on local people. Minimise Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) that come and go to site per week. Set time limits on HGV deliveries (i.e. not before 8am or after 6pm).</td>
<td>Logistics statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC2B</td>
<td>Provide good staff working conditions</td>
<td>Availability of clean, hygienic on site shelter(s) and provision of adequate sanitation and water.</td>
<td>Construction compound plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC3I</td>
<td>Promote community open day(s)</td>
<td>Plan day(s) of site open access to an invited list – i.e. pre- and post-construction.</td>
<td>Community engagement statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC4I</td>
<td>Provide opportunity and training for local workers</td>
<td>Maximise percentage of site staff and subcontractors from local communities. Provide proactive training for local workforce.</td>
<td>Employee schedule Staff briefing statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC5A</td>
<td>Raise environmental awareness around site</td>
<td>Provide environmental awareness for people in the form of, for example, site interpretation panels, notice boards covering key environmental, cultural and community topics, leaflets and educated staff members.</td>
<td>Community engagement statement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Supporting Document Introduction

Whether a project wants to be certified or not, to make claims about its sustainability credentials, it is necessary to have compiled supporting documentation. This section is intended as a guide for project teams, enabling understanding of the kinds of information contained within the supporting documentation.

This list is by no means comprehensive or binding, but is intended to act as a guide to the kind of supporting documents anticipated in meeting the voluntary sustainability standard.

This list places supporting documents under generic document titles for organisational purposes only. It is accepted that not all golf developments can or will produce all the supporting documents listed and widely understood that this information can be demonstrated through alternative methods.

This list is correct at the time of writing but will be subject to ongoing review and amendment as new industry voluntary standards, technologies and methodologies emerge.

The relevant criteria to which each document relates are noted alongside each generic document title.

Figure 5 explains the listing components.
Preparation Stage

STATEMENTS

Must submit:
Document title: Site selection statement
Relevant criteria: P1B, P2B
Baseline includes:
Justification for chosen site - considering agricultural land status, floodplain capacity and protected or threatened habitats and species
Explanation of the alternatives considered and why they were not chosen

Document title: Land agreements
Relevant criteria: P2B
Baseline includes:
Clarity around any Free and Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) or equivalent agreements
Clarity around land ownership, transport access and any legal permits or equivalent

Document title: Feasibility study
Relevant criteria: P3B
Baseline includes:
Justification for site selection supported by market research for locality and region
Sustainable business case

Document title: Sustainability vision statement
Relevant criteria: P4B
Baseline includes:
Outlining project team’s management structure
Project’s sustainability vision
Individuals’ expertise and their assigned roles and responsibilities

Document title: Feasibility study
Relevant criteria: P5I
Improvement includes:
Preliminary findings for supply chain challenges
Local environmental and social issues to be addressed
**SURVEYS**

**Document title:** Hydrology survey and statement  
**Relevant criteria:** DN1B, DR1B, DR3B  
**Baseline includes:**  
Site mapping of drainage channels and existing watercourses  
Available mapping of watersheds and hydrological zones  
Available mapping of groundwater aquifers  
Available flood risk assessment  
Water quality sampling

**Document title:** Ecology survey and statement  
**Relevant criteria:** DN1B, DN3B  
**Baseline includes:**  
Site mapping of habitats, trees and hedgerows and location of protected or vulnerable species  
Available classification of existing vegetation types and areas of high ecological value  
Available river corridor and habitat survey and assessment (if applicable)  
Invasive plant surveys and responsible management recommendations (if applicable)  
Available protected plant and animal species survey and any national action plans referenced

**Document title:** Archaeological survey and statement  
**Relevant criteria:** DN1B, DC3B  
**Baseline includes:**  
Assessment of likelihood of archaeological interest  
Available information on past human cultures  
Mitigation measures if there is a likelihood of archaeological interest on site  
Responsible management recommendations of any archaeological interest

**Document title:** Geomorphological survey and statement  
**Relevant criteria:** DN1B  
**Baseline includes:**  
Area characteristics, geomorphological features and sites for collection of data  
Available mapping or listing of soil types and locations  
Available mapping of any acid sulphate soils and methods for their management  
Available data for river or wetland sediments to identify erosion or pollution risk

**Document title:** Contaminated land survey and statement  
**Relevant criteria:** DN1B  
**Baseline includes:**  
Assessment of likelihood of contaminated land  
Categorisation of contaminants and mapping of affected areas

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25 Available mapping refers to publicly available mapping typical from local or national authorities
Design Stage

STATEMENTS

**Document title:** Golf course design statement  
**Relevant criteria:** DN2B, DN4B, DN10I, DN11I, DN15A  
**Baseline includes:**  
Design approach including proposed course typology and context  
Planting strategy including proposed and existing plant species  
**Improvement includes:**  
Overall approach to water management and design  
Statement on character of water feature(s) or wetland area(s), including indicative detail of construction technique  
**Aspirational includes:**  
Assessment of impact the course design has on key receptors

**Document title:** Sustainable energy statement  
**Relevant criteria:** DR2B, DR14A  
**Baseline includes:**  
Overall efforts to reduce energy in the design  
**Aspirational includes:**  
Exploration of potential on site or locally sourced renewable sources  
Assessment of potential to export energy back to national grid

**Document title:** Community engagement statement  
**Relevant criteria:** DC2B, DC5I, DC8I, DC9A, DC10A  
**Baseline includes:**  
List of community stakeholders and interested parties and methods of gaining their input  
**Aspirational includes:**  
Methods for contributing to local communities such as promoting an inclusive ethos, raising awareness of sustainability achievements and local ecology  
Open day(s) to promote public education on proposals and on site classroom day(s)  
Assessment of impact of developments on local transport networks with mitigation measures  
Consideration of multi-modal transport options

**Document title:** Agronomic statement  
**Relevant criteria:** DR7I  
**Improvement includes:**  
Assessment of local environmental conditions such as soil and climate  
Recommendation of mix of appropriate species in grassed areas  
Assessment of recommended species mix against stress, disease, temperature, drought tolerance, playing quality and maintenance requirements

**Document title:** Water resource statement  
**Relevant criteria:** DN6B, DR5B, DR10I, DR11I, DR16A  
**Baseline includes:**  
Justification for any open water in desert/arid locations  
**Improvement includes:**  
Water sources for irrigation and any opportunities to diversify  
Proposed amount of water to be discharged\(^17\) from site with justification  
Justification for amount of piped drainage  
**Aspirational includes:**  
Opportunities for re-use and recycling\(^18\) of water for buildings and surrounds

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\(^{17}\) Into the public mains drainage system.  
\(^{18}\) The use of harvested rainwater must be in accordance with relevant legislation.
**Document title: Procurement policy or Purchasing policy**

Relevant criteria: DC6I

**Improvement includes:**
- Policy for procurement of products and services
- Procedures to assess suppliers and contractors for compliance with ETI base codes or equivalent

**Suggested content:**
1. Commitment to FSC or equivalent sourcing of timber
2. Commitment to minimising waste
3. Use of recycled materials
4. Sourcing of legal and ethical services and materials
5. Project list of banned materials
6. Prioritisation of local suppliers and workforce where practicable

**Document title: Building design statement**

Relevant criteria: DN7B, DN13I, DN16A, DR8I, DC4B

**Baseline includes:**
- Design of maintenance wash down areas that include pollution control measures
- Confirmation that all buildings and accessible approaches meet the needs of disabled people

**Improvement includes:**
- Reasons for location of building(s) with respect to natural lighting, heating and cooling benefits
- Reason(s) for the chosen location of building(s) including consideration of key receptors

**Aspirational includes:**
- Design of any ecological improvement(s) to external skin of the building


**Design Stage**

**DRAWINGS**

**Document title:** Routing plan  
**Relevant criteria:** DN3B, DN8I, DR15A  
**Baseline includes:**  
Ecological hotspots, sensitive landscape zones, existing trees and habitats  
**Improvement includes:**  
Areas set aside for habitats outside play areas  
**Aspirational includes:**  
Circulation path layout with clear indications of tee and green locations and general land relief

**Document title:** Grading plan  
**Relevant criteria:** DN5B, DR3B, DR4B, DR9I  
**Baseline includes:**  
Existing and proposed contours at 500mm or 2ft intervals  
Areas in cut and fill  
Volumes being cut and filled and the net result of works  
**Improvement includes:**  
Detail(s) of green complexes

**Document title:** Drainage plan  
**Relevant criteria:** DN10I  
**Improvement includes:**  
Areas of water attenuation, soakaways or flood controls  
Layout of water connections both below and above ground including typical details of pipes, connectors, swales, gullies and access chambers  
Locations of water inlets and outfalls and connections to any public main drains or waterways

**Document title:** Irrigation design  
**Relevant criteria:** DR5B, DR12I  
**Baseline includes:**  
Materials such as valves, taps, sensors, heads and pumps specified  
Any irrigation controls, zones and management equipment  
Maps of areas of any automated irrigation water source locations and quality  
**Improvement includes:**  
Exploration of using gravity fed systems and justification for chosen solutions for sites

**Document title:** Landscape plan  
**Relevant criteria:** DN3B, DN4B, DN8I, DN9I, DN10I, DN11I, DN14I, DN17A, DN18A, DR9I, DC7I, DC11A  
**Baseline includes:**  
Any ecological hot spots or sensitive landscape zones  
Habitat areas retained  
Proposed and existing areas for planting  
List of Latin names of plant species in key/legend, both proposed and existing  
**Improvement includes:**  
Proposed and retained habitat typologies and layouts  
Any water filtration vegetation or buffer zones and proposed plant list  
Any water features or wetland areas and their character  
Paths, car park and locations of built elements  
Wider public access network  
**Aspirational includes:**  
List of hard landscape materials and elements (signage, furniture)  
Areas of permeable paving  
Any other recreation areas
Design Stage

Document title: *Grassing plan*
Relevant criteria: DN12I
Improvement includes:
Areas of intensively managed grass
Areas and species mix of grassed areas
Areas to be seeded and/or turfed

SCHEDULES

Document title: *Materials specifications*
Relevant criteria: DR6B, DR13I, DR15A, DC1B
Baseline includes:
List of external materials proposed, including supplier and origin
List of key opportunities and challenges involved in sourcing materials – demonstrate how any challenges were addressed
Improvement includes:
List of external materials proposed, including recycled content and any certification marks
Aspirational includes:
List of golf buggy specifications proposed (if applicable)
Construction Stage

SURVEYS

Document title: Ecology survey and statement
Relevant criteria: CN3B, CN5B, CN6B, CN18A
Baseline includes:
- Site mapping of habitats, trees and hedgerows and location of protected or vulnerable species
- Available classification of existing vegetation types and areas of high ecological value
- Available river corridor and habitat survey and assessment (if applicable)
- Invasive plant surveys and responsible management recommendations (if applicable)
- Available protected plant and animal species survey and any national action plans referenced

Document title: Archaeological survey & Statement
Relevant criteria: CN6B
Baseline includes:
- Assessment of likelihood of archaeological interest
- Available information on past human cultures
- Mitigation measures if there is a likelihood of archaeological interest on site
- Responsible management recommendations relating to any archaeological interest
Construction Stage

STATEMENTS

**Document title:** Construction programme
**Relevant criteria:** CN2B, CR1B
**Baseline includes:**
- Phasing of construction work
- Consideration of important ecological activities on site such as nesting seasons
- Phasing of work across site

**Document title:** Logistics statement
**Relevant criteria:** CR1B, CR8A, CC1B
**Baseline includes:**
- Efficient planning of haulage trips and maximised load fill of trucks
- Timings and anticipated frequency of site deliveries
- Number of haulage trips involved in construction
**Aspirational includes:**
- Haulage methods for imported materials

**Document title:** Pollution control statement
**Relevant criteria:** CN4B, CN5B, CN10B, CN16A, CN18A, CN19A
**Baseline includes:**
- Design and locations of fuel, oil and chemical storage areas
- Design of wash down areas and disposal systems
- Procedures for machinery wash down and routine maintenance
- Confirmation of compliance with national legislation with regard to hazardous material
**Statement or list of voluntary measures in place such as:**
1. Storage and access protocol for chemicals, fuel and plant
2. Demonstration of awareness of fertility levels required for site’s soil
3. Demonstration of credible recommendations for soil fertility treatment
4. Details of efforts made to reuse organic matter generated on site such as leaf litter
5. Demonstration of awareness of hazardous nature of any chemicals being used
**Operator guidance on herbicide applications for vegetation clearance**
**Procedures for clearing spillages**
**Improvement includes:**
- Operator guidance on no spray zones, particularly around watercourses, wetlands, reed beds, ditches and marshy grassland
**Aspirational includes:**
- Procedures for vehicles entering and leaving construction sites and wash down facilities
- Procedures for minimising or mitigating incidents during construction relating to air quality, noise and vibrations
- Conditions suitable for earthworks and mitigation measures for dust control
Construction Stage

**Document title:** Staff briefing statement  
**Relevant criteria:** CN5B, CN6B, CN7B, CN9B, CN10B, CN11l, CN15A, CC4l  
**Baseline includes:**  
Instructions for herbicide application and methods for vegetation clearance in out of play areas and areas of high ecological value  
Instructions regarding “no impact zones” in respect of high ecological value areas, retained trees and wildlife corridors  
Instructions regarding silt and chemical run off risks in areas close to water bodies  
Promotion of sensitive application methods for any pesticides, fertilisers and other chemicals Procedures for dealing with chemical spillages  
**Improvement includes:**  
Instructions to all site staff, visitors and subcontractors drawing attention to sensitive habitats and/or species on site and in the local area  
Instructions regarding no spray/treatment areas in respect of watercourses  
Training procedures focused on skill development for locally sourced staff  
**Aspirational includes:**  
Method statement on weed removal in out of play areas and high ecological value areas

**Document title:** Community engagement statement  
**Relevant criteria:** CC3l, CC5A  
**Baseline includes:**  
Open day(s) promoting public education and opportunities to explore topics such as habitat and water systems  
**Aspirational includes:**  
Awareness raising techniques

**Document title:** Monitoring statement  
**Relevant criteria:** CN6B, CN9B, CR6l  
**Baseline includes:**  
Monitoring of any nationally or regionally protected species of flora and fauna  
Monitoring of applications of pesticides, fertilisers and other chemical applications  
**Improvement includes:**  
Monitoring of water quality and pH levels in water courses, water bodies, groundwater and water outlets during construction

**Document title:** Soil resource statement  
**Relevant criteria:** CN8B, CN13l, CR7l  
**Baseline includes:**  
Methods for stripping, stockpiling, re-spreading and ameliorating landscape soils and conditions conducive to this activity  
Areas, depths and types of topsoil and subsoil to be stripped  
**Improvement includes:**  
Methods for topsoil handling, spreading and storage  
Alternatives to peat used

**Document title:** Waste management plan  
(soil resource statement can be included in this document)  
**Relevant criteria:** CR2B, CR4l  
**Baseline includes:**  
Disposal action proposed for each different waste type  
**Improvement includes:**  
Action proposed for each different waste type, including reusing and recycling
Construction Stage

**DRAWINGS**

**Document title:** Site clearance plan  
**Relevant criteria:** CN1B, CN5B  
**Baseline includes:**  
Methods for clearing site

**Document title:** Site protection plan  
**Relevant criteria:** CN1B, CN6B  
**Baseline includes:**  
Protection measures and locations  
*No impact zone(s)* to be protected during construction

**Document title:** Erosion control plan  
**Relevant criteria:** CN7B, CN8B  
**Baseline includes:**  
Erosion prevention measures for soil erosion and sediment pollution of surface and ground water  
**Improvement includes:**  
Control of cultivation operations to minimise soil loss

**Document title:** Construction compound plan  
**Relevant criteria:** CN12I, CC2B  
**Baseline includes:**  
Areas for workers’ shelter and the provisions included  
**Improvement includes:**  
Site plan(s) indicating haul routes around site;

**SCHEDULES**

**Document title:** Plant and equipment schedule  
**Relevant criteria:** CR3B, CR8A, CR10A  
**Baseline includes:**  
List of all plants and fuel sources to be used  
**Aspirational includes:**  
List of maintenance fleet and vehicle fuel type  
List of all site generators, machinery and fuel sources to be used

**Document title:** Employee schedule  
**Relevant criteria:** CC4G  
**Baseline includes:**  
List of construction staff, their key roles and responsibilities and their locations
### Glossary of Terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acid Sulphate Soils</td>
<td>Naturally occurring soils, sediments or organic substrates (e.g. peat), formed in waterlogged conditions. In an undisturbed state below the water table, acid sulphate soils are benign. However, if the soils are drained, excavated or exposed to air by means of a lowering of the water table, the sulphides react with oxygen to form sulphuric acid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amenity Grass</td>
<td>Short mown grass not used for golf.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As Built</td>
<td>A record drawing showing built conditions such as irrigation systems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aspect</td>
<td>Direction in which a building, window, piece of land, etc., faces; the side of a building facing in a particular direction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certified Material</td>
<td>Certified programmes complying with or equal to ISEAL Alliance Codes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Buildings</td>
<td>Includes clubhouse, maintenance facilities, halfway huts and convenience stations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecological Hot spots</td>
<td>Areas of a site with a collection of species considered to be under threat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecologically Rich</td>
<td>Places with clusters of ecological community types, species and associated landscapes that are unique, rare or threatened or are valued for their long-term services to keep our environment healthy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardens</td>
<td>An area within the site typically adjacent to buildings where planting design is mainly ornamental or fruiting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geomorphology</td>
<td>The scientific study of the origin and evolution of topographic features created by physical, chemical and biological processes operating at or near the earth’s surface. Both past and future landform changes can occur in response to factors such as tectonic and volcanic activity, climate and sea level change, and human activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf Development</td>
<td>The creation or improvement of 1 or more golf hole(s) that requires the carrying out of the building, engineering, or other operations in, on, over or under land, or the making of any material change in the use of any buildings or other land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grow-in Stage</td>
<td>The stage in the construction process following installment of grass in an area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invasive Plant Species</td>
<td>A plant with the ability to thrive and spread aggressively outside its native range. A naturally aggressive plant may be especially invasive when introduced to a new habitat. Refer to national or regional agency for site specific guidance on invasive species for your area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intensively Managed Grass</td>
<td>An area of grass sward maintained for the purposes of playing golf.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISEAL Alliance</td>
<td>Global membership association for sustainability standards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Renovation</td>
<td>Includes but is not limited to; amendments to the golf course and/or associated core buildings beyond one single aspect such as bunkering or drainage or practice facilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-modal Transport</td>
<td>Provision of more than one transport mode option to enable reaching the golf course site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native/Indigenous</td>
<td>In the context of plants and/or habitats this refers to plants or habitats that originate from that locality or are endemic of that area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Positive Fill</td>
<td>In the context of grading works, not reducing floodwater capacity to areas by adding overall fill material in defined flood zone areas when compared to existing conditions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>No Impact Zones</strong></td>
<td>Areas to be protected from construction work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>No Spray Zones</strong></td>
<td>Areas where application of soluble chemicals is banned or strictly managed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Off-grid Water Source** | Not being connected to mains or national water system – e.g. well, stream, treated sewage effluent (TSE) or rainwater harvesting.  
Note: Water sourced from off-grid needs to meet national or regional water quality guidelines for its use and its extraction must be undertaken responsibly. |
| **Priority Irrigation Areas** | Targeted areas considered vital to facility operation. |
| **Plant/Machinery** | Durable apparatus or part of apparatus employed in carrying out activities of construction work. |
| **Sediment** | Any particulate matter able to be transported by fluid flow or wind and eventually deposited as a layer of solid particles. |
| **Statement of Intent** | It is understood that the scale of a development influences construction methodology and recording. In the absence of a piece of evidence, a statement of intent is requested to confirm a requirement. This statement is verified by a site visit from an independent verifier or video/photographic evidence. |
| **Sustainability** | Relates to social equity, environmental protection and economic development. It is very difficult for something to be absolutely sustainable, so qualifying words such as “more sustainable” should be used, meaning that you are describing an active process, not a static one. |
| **Sustainability Leader** | A member of the project team acting as the point of coordination for a project’s sustainability work. |
| **Target Plant and Animal Species** | Protected species as defined by local, regional or national policies, plans or legislation. |
| **Key or Sensitive Receptors** | A physical landscape resource, special interest or viewer group which will experience an effect from a site or part of a development in question – e.g. an individual dwelling, a point on a road or access way or an elevated location. |