GEO Certified® Report
Golfbaan Prise d'Eau

Prepared by independent verifier Tom Del Tin

Certified by GEO Foundation: 2025
Recertification due: 2028

GEO Foundation
Sustainability in and through golf

“Prise d'Eau has invested heavily in expanding the breeding habitat and habitat of crested newt, tree frog, partridge and smooth lizard, among others. Pools have been created, thickets, flowery fields, bushes and space has been made for structure-rich heathland. This makes the course a nice connection with the surrounding nature reserves. The club is very accessible and has a great appeal for the younger golfer.

Tom Del Tin
(GEO accredited independent verifier)

Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that Golfbaan Prise d'Eau has successfully achieved GEO Certified® status for its outstanding work to foster nature, conserve resources and support the community.

GEO Certified® is the most respected certification for golf, based on a credibly and transparently developed modern sustainability Standard of best practice.

Golfbaan Prise d'Eau has:

1. Met the required certification criteria for sustainable golf operations
2. Successfully completed the official third-party verification process
3. Successfully passed the final evaluation by GEO Certification Ltd. (autonomous subsidiary of GEO Foundation)

GEO agreed with the conclusions of the official verification report, that, having achieved all mandatory criteria; and with specific Continual Improvement Points (CIP) set for the future and Critical CIP's (CCIPs) to be reviewed at recertification, Golfbaan Prise d'Eau should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, Golfbaan Prise d'Eau can therefore claim a position as a leader in advancing sustainability in golf – making important contributions in protecting nature, conserving resources and strengthening communities.

The GEO Certified® Report that follows comments on the actions undertaken against the criteria, as observed by the independent verifier during the assurance process.

Certification is nearly always the result of a dedicated team effort resulting in many practical and valuable social and environmental results around the golf course, maintenance facility and clubhouse. These dedication and leadership qualities are an important part of ensuring the resilience of the golf facility and the golf industry into the future and also as part of society's wider effort to pull together for people and planet.

We congratulate all involved.

Jonathan Smith
Founder and Executive Director, GEO Foundation
GEO Certification Ltd. Board Member

Kelli Jerome
Executive Director, GEO Foundation

Carole Kerrey
Director, Certification and Credibility,
GEO Certification Ltd.

Verification and Certification

Verification

The official third-party audit was carried out by an independent verifier, accredited by GEO to undertake verifications of golf facilities applying for certification.

Verification involves reviewing practices and data, using the International Voluntary Standard for Sustainable Golf Operations as the guide to ensure comprehensive and consistent evaluation of performance. A detailed verification report is submitted for evaluation by GEO Certification Ltd, a subsidiary of GEO Foundation.

Certification

GEO Certification Ltd, an autonomous subsidiary of GEO Foundation [both not-for-profit entities], undertook a full review of all content submitted through the OnCourse® online platform and the report submitted by the verifier, ensuring:

- Comprehensiveness – activities undertaken touched on all elements of the Standard
- Consistency – that the verification approach was balanced, well weighted and with consistent depth of evaluation across each theme
- Accuracy - matching the verification report with evidence submitted by the golf facility to ensure statements and claims were accurate

GEO Foundation is an international not-for-profit founded to advocate, support and reward sustainability in and through golf. Over more than ten years, the group has worked collaboratively with dozens of golf industry associations and government and non-government organisations around the world, to help golf become a sustainability leader, striving for a net positive social and environmental impact. In addition to managing and assuring GEO Certified®, GEO Foundation also provides a suite of credible, practical programmes for golf facility management, new golf developments and golf tournaments called OnCourse®, often delivered in partnership with national golf bodies. Find out more at **www.sustainable.golf**

Credibility

GEO Certified® is part of the ISEAL Alliance, a group of the world's foremost credible certification systems including Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance, Forest Stewardship Council, Marine Stewardship Council and many others. GEO Foundation earned and retains full membership of the ISEAL Alliance global association following a rigorous evaluation against the ISEAL Codes of Credibility in Sustainability Standards and Certification. The ISEAL Codes cover standard-setting, assurance, and monitoring and evaluation. Find out more at **www.isealalliance.org**

The Sustainability Agenda for golf covers the following themes and action areas:

THEMES	ACTION AREAS
Nature	• Habitats & Biodiversity • Turfgrass management • Pollution prevention
Resources	• Water • Energy • Materials
Community	• Partnerships & Outreach • Golfing & Employment • Advocacy & Communications

Included below are the observations made by the Independent Verifier against each item in the Standard.

NATURE

N1 Habitats and Biodiversity

Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
N1.1 Understand the site and surroundings	**N1.1.1 Sound understanding of the nature and landscape value of the site**	General knowledge of the wildlife and habitats on the site	The various biotopes and nature types as they are present and/or desired have been well mapped. There are clear and comprehensive plans to realize, improve and maintain them. Amphibians and birds are monitored annually. Reptiles and flora more ad hoc. **CIP: Please establish a monitoring programme to monitor different species groups at least every three years.**
	N1.1.2 Knowledge of legal designations for protected areas, habitats and species	Identify rare, protected or endangered species found on the golf course; Understand legal responsibilities for landscape protection and special area designations, if applicable	The golf course is surrounded by NNN, but is not part of it. The land on which the golf course is built belongs to the groundwater protection area of the Tilburgsche Waterleiding Maatschappij, with the loop 'de Blaak' being located within the groundwater protection area. The use of chemical pesticides is not allowed. Fertilization is allowed to a limited extent. Maintenance of the golf course is carried out by green company de Enk Groen en Golf, who carry out ecological inspections for work and VTAs, among other things. **CCIP: Please develop an ecological work protocol that is accessible / transparent for third parties.**
	N1.1.3 Sound understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site, if applicable	The presence of farmland birds such as lark and partridge has led to the creation of a partridge reserve in the form of a grain field, as it used to be in the small-scale landscape in this region. There are no other cultural-historical landscapes or elements present.

N1.2 Opportunities to naturalise the golf course	**N1.2.1 Measures taken to identify and minimise the required area of managed turfgrass**	Monitor patterns of play to identify underutilised areas of turfgrass	The ratio of nature to playing field is about 50% and does not seem to be able to be improved much further in favor of nature. Players are tracked via GPS in order to monitor the playing field in detail and thus make adjustments where the mowing frequency may need to be adjusted. In addition to mowing, sheep are used to keep the nature area short around the playing field, which leads to more varied and therefore more valuable vegetation.
N1.3 Actively create and manage habitats for wildlife	**N1.3.1 Projects to create and manage habitats in the best way for wildlife and golf**	Prioritise native species of varying size and structure when planting Prioritise native trees and shrubs when planting Prioritise native aquatic species of varying size and structure when planting Establish mowing buffer zones next to water bodies and wetlands	Between 2019 and 2022, habitat was created for thicket and field birds. 8 breeding waters (pools) and thicket and bush strips have also been created to create habitat for amphibians (including the tree frog). In order to develop habitat for viviparous lizard (but also common spadefoot toad and nightjar), the management of the heathland area is aimed at developing more structure-rich heath vegetation. It can be seen that spontaneously emerging heather is spared when mowing. In one of the ponds, a fountain has been disconnected. Pumps underwater ensure movement of the water so that there is no longer any blue-green algae. **CIP: Around the clubhouse, the greenery is also managed by the Enk, but the planted species are not native. There are plans to completely renovate this garden soon. It is advisable to choose native species, so that the greenery around the clubhouse also contributes to biodiversity.** **CIP: The management plan of NLadviseurs contains recommendations, such as catching grass carp. This could be a great step towards making ponds more natural**. **CIP: When reseeding the grain field, consider sowing only (local) native species (i.e. no phacelia)**
N1.4 Conserve key species	**N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species**	Follow local best practice to protect or attract endangered, protected or rare species found on site	See 1.3, habitat for tree frog, viviparous lizard, partridge and nightjar.
N2 Turfgrass			
N2.1 Maintain optimum turfgrass and soil health	**N2.1.1 Appropriate turfgrass varieties adapted to climatic and**	Select appropriate grass species for the climate	When overseeding, the most suitable grass species are considered, which ensure the best possible playable turf, but are also resistant to drought and pests.

		other geomorphological factors		
		N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition	No specific international requirement, however, identify course management and agronomic activities and look for continual improvements	A Topchanger machine is used on the greens that injects water and sand into the turf under high pressure. This improves aeration and water drainage and impoverishment. Each year, one green per loop is sampled and then analysed by Eurofins, so that fertilisation, watering, etc. can be fine-tuned as precisely as possible. The greenkeeper is experimenting with making bokashi himself, so that it can be used to improve the soil.
		N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation	Test and monitor soil pH; Follow legal requirements when timing fertiliser applications Ensure staff are fully qualified to use fertilisers Ensure staff use appropriate protective equipment Regularly calibrate and test applicators	Each year, one green per loop is sampled and analyzed. Based on the results, the fertilization is adjusted where necessary. Personnel of de Enk are qualified for this. The pH of the soil is tested.
	N2.2 Prioritise mechanical maintenance	**N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management**	Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture; Change hole locations frequently	To combat leatherjackets and grubs, natural control has been very successful, by placing 118 starling boxes and dozens of boxes. There is little to no felting of the turf because the turf is well ventilated. Dew is removed daily with a broom wagon to prevent mould.
	N2.3 Use chemicals responsibly	**N2.3.1 Application of chemicals only when necessary to prevent or cure defined / identified turf health issues**	Identify and track pest and disease hotspots, including sensitive areas Scout the course daily for early signs and symptoms Accurately diagnose to determine the cause of weeds, pests and diseases	No chemical pesticides have been used in the last two years. No problems with dollar spot, but sometimes with snow mold.
		N2.3.2 Application of chemicals with full safety precautions	Use legally registered and approved products;	Groenaannemer (De Enk) is a certified company that provides the accounting of chemicals, ensures correct (legal) use and management and ensures qualified personnel.

		Prefer products for the specific weed, pest or disease; Follow legal requirements; Ensure staff are fully qualified to use pesticides; Ensure staff use appropriate protective equipment; Regularly calibrate and test applicators; Dilute and dispose of leftover product on untreated areas of amenity turfgrass	
N3 Pollution Prevention			
N3.1 Prevent pollution across the entire site	**N3.1.1 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from golf course operations**	Document procedures for emergency spill responses ; Retain no-spray/no-spread buffer areas next to water bodies and wetlands; Retain no-spray/no-spread buffer zones in and around ecologically sensitive areas	Buffer zones have been established around water features and ecologically sensitive areas. **CCIP: There is an extensive manual with procedures for soil and environmental protection from green manager De Enk. This is a general description for dealing with (storage of) fuels and leaks. Please document how these measures are organized specifically on this particular golf course.**
	N3.1.2 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from clubhouse operations	Formal wastewater discharge agreement, if applicable	No hazardous substances are stored in the clubhouse. Recently, it has also been forbidden to charge batteries outside opening hours due to fire hazards.
	N3.1.3 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from maintenance facility operations	Wash machinery over an impermeable, leak-free surface; Mix and load pesticides and fertilisers over an impermeable, leak-free surface; Triple rinse pesticide containers and applicators	Groenaannemer (De Enk) is a certified company with protocols and working methods that minimize pollution risks in the workshops.

	N3.2 Safely manage hazardous substances	**N3.2.1 Legal compliance in the storage, handling, application and safe disposal of all hazardous substances**	List of hazardous substances, made available to authorised staff; Product and material data safety sheets; Well ventilated concrete or metal building; Impermeable, leak-free flooring; Sufficient storage capacity; Spill containment kits; Secondary containment e.g., bunds or drip trays; Emergency wash area, as per local requirements (body shower and / or eye wash station); Hazardous substances safely collected by a registered company or body ; Follow any additional legal requirements	There is an extensive manual with procedures for soil and environmental protection from green manager De Enk. **CCIP: There is a Safety, Health, Welfare and Environment (HSE) Handbook, including a general description for dealing with (storage of) hazardous substances. Please document how safety hazards are minimized in the workplaces specifically at this golf facility.**
		N3.2.2 Legal compliance in the storage and handling of fuels and gases	Tank secured to a horizontal, flat, non-combustible surface; Secondary containment of fuel in the event of spills e.g. bunds and drip trays; Inspection of storage tank(s) at least quarterly, if required; Fire extinguisher in the immediate area	From De Enk, all safety procedures are followed in accordance with the HSE manual.
	N3.3 Responsibly manage waste / storm water	**N3.3.1 Appropriate wastewater usage, treatment and discharge**	Impermeable, leak-free surface; Treatment as per local requirements (oil, grease and / or clipping separation; Formal discharge agreement, if applicable	Oil and grease traps are provided. Rainwater under the parking lot is collected via gullies and led to an oil and grease separator. From there, the water flows to an irrigation pond to be used.

RESOURCES

R1 Water

Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
R1.1 Minimise water demand	**R1.1.1 Measures to reduce the need to consume water**	Select appropriate grass species for the climate e.g., drought and disease tolerance; Target irrigation to essential playing surfaces; Prioritise native, drought tolerant species for landscaping and planting	Rainwater is collected on the site via a stepped system for use. No tap water is used on the playing field. By using turf injection with a Topchanger machine, water is drained better so that it cannot flow away.
R1.2 Maximise water efficiency	**R1.2.1 Practical measures to use water more efficiently on the golf course**	Schedule irrigation based on informed assessment of soil moisture and weather forecasts; Evaluate new irrigation technologies e.g., central control, precision sprinklers etc.; Provide staff training on efficient irrigation practices; Adjust sprinklers to playing surfaces only	Moisture content, temperature and salinity are measured to determine the water requirement of the turf. Targeted spraying is done, only on the playing field. Wetting agents and other moisture retainers are used to reduce the need for irrigation. Turfpower ensures good growth of the roots, so that grass can absorb water well.
	R1.2.2 Practical measures to use water more efficiently in buildings	Monitor and record water consumption (bills, flow meter etc.); Encourage water conservation practices amongst players and staff	There are agreements with staff who work in the kitchen to pay attention to water consumption. Showers in the changing rooms have sensors to prevent unnecessary water consumption. In the clubhouse they sell their own water (bottled tap water from the water extraction area of which the club is a part), instead of spa or the like. **CIP: The building is old and therefore not equipped with the most modern gadgets in the field of water conservation. For future renovations, choose water-saving systems.**

R1.3 Source water responsibly	**R1.3.1 Measures towards alternative, lower quality sources of water**	Water abstraction permit, if required; Report water consumption to environment agency, if required	Machines are cleaned by using collected rainwater.
R2 Energy			
R2.1 Reduce energy demand	**R2.1.1 Measures to reduce the amount of energy consumed in golf course maintenance**	Naturalise non-playing areas to reduce mowing and other energy intensive inputs	The fairways are mowed with a robotic lawnmower, which is more efficient. Lights on the driving range are not on unnecessarily and there are plans to make the lights more sustainable.
R2.2 Maximise energy efficiency	**R2.2.1 Measures to use energy and fuels more efficiently in buildings**	Monitor and record energy consumption (bills, meters etc.)	Green electricity is used. In the clubhouse, air curtains have been placed at the entrances and exits to ensure that heat stays inside. Staff are reminded not to use printers unnecessarily. **CCIP: Please monitor energy consumption carefully, preferably via different meters, in order to be able to make targeted investments in measures that reduce consumption.**
R2.3 Source energy responsibly	**R2.3.1 Measures to source alternative, renewable forms of energy**	Understand the energy mix of your electricity supplier; Explore possible greener energy providers	The building is now not suitable for solar panels. **CIP: Install solar panels for future renovations, such as the shed.**
R3 Materials			
R3.1 Reduce materials demand	**R3.1.1 Products and materials selection based on necessity, including opportunities for recycled, reused and locally sourced alternatives**	No specific international requirement, however, identify activities to reduce the demand for materials and look for continual improvements	Catering is outsourced, but there is a system in place that prevents over-orders. Roadwork cutlery is no longer available in the clubhouse, as well as plastic bags. Staff are made aware of the retained use of paper and printers.
R3.2 Purchase responsibly	**R3.2.1 Commit to sustainable purchasing practices**	Favour responsible, lower impact products	Materials for playing field activities are purchased with sustainability in mind, e.g. purchasing in large quantities to minimize packaging.

			In the kitchen, local and seasonal products are bought as much as possible. **CIP: Choose organic products and a wide variety of vegetarian/vegan dishes.**
R3.3 Reuse and recycle	**R3.3.1 Waste stream separation for maximum recycling and re-use opportunity**	Put in place a recycling separation system, according to local rules and availability; Clear, simple and visible bin signage; Monitor and record weight of waste for each stream e.g. invoices, bills etc.	Waste is collected and processed separately. There is an initiative to collect bottles with a deposit for a good cause (see C2.2.1). Petrol drums are returned empty to the supplier for reuse. An experiment is underway with making bokashi yourself, so that raw materials are used in a circular way.
R3.4 Demonstrate legal compliance	**R3.4.1 Compliance with all local and regional waste management regulations**	Authorised waste collector for general, hazardous, industrial and green waste, if required	Waste is processed by approved collectors.

COMMUNITY

C1 Health & Wellbeing

Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
C1.1 Improve health and wellbeing	**C1.1.1 Benefits to human physical and mental health from golf and facility activities**	Plans in place to respond to incidents and emergencies	There is an extensive emergency plan.
C1.2 Be open and inclusive	**C1.2.1 Inclusivity and diversity in membership and visitor policies**	Membership policies free from discrimination across age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and ethnic background	There are no waiting lists to become a member, and everyone is welcome. There are initiatives to attract young people (e.g. use of game elements on driving range). There is a program for disabled golfers (G-golf). Recently, dress codes have been converted into clothing tips.

	C1.3 Employ fairly, safely and provide career opportunities	**C1.3.1 Ethical and legal employment, working conditions and professional development**	Adopt an equal opportunity recruitment and hiring policy; Follow all relevant legislation and best practice for hiring and employment; Follow all relevant legislation and best practice for worker safety	Fair and safe workplace with room for interns. Green manager De Enk has a close collaboration with the HAS (University of Applied Sciences for Agro Food and Living Environment) and thus provides knowledge and technology.
	C2 Outreach & Inclusion			
	C2.1 Diversify access and provide multifunctionality	**C2.1.1 Social and recreational activities at the facility**	No specific international requirement, however, identify multifunctional activities and look for continual improvements	Everyone is welcome to exercise or eat something in the clubhouse. The club is at the heart of the community. There is a walking route over the site and also a part of a mountain bike route. There are activities for non-members, for example, the site was recently part of the longest barefoot path in the Netherlands.
	C2.2 Provide for volunteering and charity	**C2.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes**	No specific international requirement, however, identify activities to support volunteering and charity and look for continual improvements	Every two years, the entire golf course is made available to the Gijsje Eigenwijsje foundation for one day. This foundation provides a week's holiday for families with a serious/incurably ill child. Money will then be donated by the club. Furthermore, money is raised for disabled golf (G-golf) through a collection campaign of deposit bottles. There are about 150 volunteers involved in the club, from marshals in the course, groups for flora and fauna inventories, to organization of competitions and maintenance of the birdhouses.
	C2.3 Establish active community partnerships	**C2.3.1 Positive and constructive engagement with neighbours, the local community and other groups**	No specific international requirement, however, identify partnerships and community activities and look for continual improvements	There is a close cooperation with the Tilburg Water Supply Company, which owns the land, and with Stadsbos 013, where the golf course is located. Through green company de Enk, there is cooperation with the HAS (university of applied sciences), which stimulates the use and development of new technology and innovations. See also the collaboration with Gijsje Eigenwijsje (C2.2.1).

	C3 Communications & Advocacy			
	C3.1 Engage staff and golfers	**C3.1.1 Communications activities that raise awareness and understanding amongst members and visitors**	Involve staff and committees in sustainability efforts; Involve golfers in sustainability efforts; Post sustainability information in the clubhouse and / or on the golf course	The website informs members and non-members about sustainability. In the periodic newsletter, members are informed about sustainability, GEO management plans, etc. Information about sustainability is available to everyone. Attention is paid to initiatives that make it to the press, such as a recent interview in Elsevier magazine.
	C3.2 Celebrate and promote sustainability	**C3.2.1 Activities that raise awareness and engage people in the wider community**	Share at least 3 Highlights on sustainable.golf	Prise d'Eau has a great appeal to young people and is therefore in a position to strengthen sustainability awareness among young people as well. A renewed GEO certification should be celebrated in a big way. **CIP: Please take advantage of the moment of Recertification and try to recruit volunteers to participate in flora and fauna monitoring programs.**
	C3.3 Follow a journey of continuous improvement	**C3.3.1 Measures to help track, review and improve sustainability and climate action**	Put measures in place to ensure that OnCourse can be updated annually	There is still a lot to be gained from making buildings more sustainable. When renovating in the future, it is desirable to pay a lot of attention to this and, for example, to install solar panels, ensure good insulation, use sustainable materials, etc. Through the collaboration with green company De Enk, it is expected that the latest technology and innovations can be applied in the field of management to become more sustainable.

Golf and Sustainability

Among all sports, golf has a particularly close relationship with the environment and communities, golf facilities can bring many benefits to people and nature - from the protection of greenspace and conservation of biodiversity; healthy recreation for all ages; local supply chains; and jobs, tourism and other forms of economic value.

Adopting a more sustainable approach is also good for golf. It's about presenting a high-quality golf course and providing a memorable experience in natural surroundings. It's about being as efficient as possible. And it's about supporting the community in a range of ways that bring increased recognition, respect and contact.

At a broader level, it's important that golf credibly demonstrates its commitment, and its social and environmental value – strengthening the sport's image and reputation for the long term.

Golf facilities that participate in OnCourse®, an international sustainability initiative assured by the non-profit GEO Foundation, are taking a comprehensive approach and striving to be leaders in the community.

Find out more at www.sustainable.golf