



GEO Certified® Report Kennemer Golf & Country Club

Prepared by independent verifier Paul van Kan

Certified by GEO Foundation: 2025
Recertification due: 2030

“The historic Colt course (1928) of the Kennemer Golf & Country Club is still largely intact. The current golf architect wants to further strengthen the Colt features. The oldest surviving clubhouse in the Netherlands, (also dating from 1928) has a nice position within the whole. The spacious golf course (89 hectares), now with 27 holes, has been designed with the utmost respect for the characteristic dune landscape with parabolic dunes and valleys. The image becomes increasingly beautiful and open through the gradual transformation of elements that are foreign to the area. This is partly thanks to the skilled and passionate greenkeepers. Clear choices are made here.

Respect for the far-reaching project to bundle the scattered greenkeeper facilities in a new warehouse, inconspicuously located in a valley. Prior to this, there was a lengthy and careful investigation, and several options were discussed. I am very curious about the future situation. Much appreciation also for the fact that they work as much as possible under their own management: catering, maintenance of machines, forest and nature management, signage, etc. Larger and specialist work is outsourced to contractors, ecological agencies and golf architects.

For these reasons, the Kennemer was one of the first clubs to be GEO certified (since 2010). I wish the Kennemer good luck with the further (green) plans!”

Paul van Kan
(GEO accredited independent verifier)



Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that Kennemer Golf & Country Club 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.

Kennemer Golf & Country Club 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, Kennemer Golf & Country Club should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, Kennemer Golf & Country Club 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 – that 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.isealliance.org



Verifier's Report

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	Map all habitats and vegetation types on the site; Regularly update landscape / biodiversity surveys	Monitoring every year, but not yet according to a fixed system; system will be set up on the advice of ecologists in 2025. In 2026, 3 tracks: (1) ambassador species, (2) measurement in 3 seasons, (3) PQs CCIP: Please monitor species to ensure traceable and therefore usable records of data. Use the observations for species-specific measures and for implementation of management (e.g. Ecological Work Protocol).
	N1.1.2 Knowledge of legal designations for protected areas, habitats and species	Understand legal responsibilities for protected landscapes and species; Record and monitor protected, endangered, or rare species found on the site	Ecological Work Protocol (2017-2027) is leading in management and interventions (such as the removal of the top layer to combat prinus); construction of new greenkeeping (2026) will apply according to codes of conduct, protocol N2000 area and NNN area; tree safety study (VTA) in 2020, update will follow in 2026; Habitat map GIS (2024), update will follow in 2026 (new advisor). CCIP: As per N1.1.1 above, please identify red list species and protected species, in particular Habitats Directive species. Put these species on a map (if applicable) so that it is immediately clear which species must be taken into account, particularly from the point of view of legislation, during interventions.
	N1.1.3 Understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site	Geological values respected during construction and development (parabolic dunes); characteristic parabolic dunes have become open and more visible; Middenduin-landscape (with potato fields characteristic) will be preserved; part Atlantic wall, 160 bunkers; history is shared and can be experienced; almost all paths converted to grass paths, successful, gives a calm image; strive for minimal furniture, everything in wood (e.g. shelters with grass roofs); new shed very carefully fitted into depression (former landfill), virtually invisible, partly due to the surroundings of the dunes, colour and use of materials. NB: this Colt track including clubhouse, which are both from 1928, is heritage in itself! CIP: Please place more attention on the potato fields i.e., can you

			make them more visible and functional by sowing with flax?
N1.2 Opportunities to naturalise the course	N1.2.1 Measures taken to identify and minimise the required area of managed turfgrass	Observe, track and / or monitor golfer play	Foregreens made more natural; place of old sheds will be returned to nature after completion of new shed; wetland developed with new natural value.
N1.3 Actively manage habitats for wildlife	N1.3.1 Projects to manage habitats in the best way for wildlife and golf	Regularly review and follow a habitat management plan; Prioritise native species when planting and landscaping	Management plan (2017) running until 2027, new nature vision/management plan in preparation; nature and forest management largely in their own hands; Exotic species control on advice PWN and Waternet, among others; American bird cherry almost under control (professional approach, excavation of top layer); felling black pines (2019), more air and light on problem greens; old and broadly grown pedunculate oaks have been set freely; sheep grazing to prevent surprise (temporarily stopped but reactivated once prunus is gone). CIP: Please consider ending beekeeping now that it is not successful. Honeybees are competitive with wild bees.
N1.4 Conserve key species	N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species		Many bunkers are winter quarters for bats, many different species; control and advice bat working group, including lighting adjusted; rabbit no longer hunted, hardly any nuisance (moved to edges); barn owl and kestrel boxes successful, barn owl working group; Successful prunus control has a positive effect: large areas of open sand on which herbaceous dunes with great biodiversity return very positive for sand lizard and natterjack toad, among others.
N2 Turfgrass			
N2.1 Maintain optimum turf and soil health	N2.1.1 Appropriate turfgrass varieties adapted to climatic and other geomorphological factors	Select appropriate grass species for climate	Agrostis and festuca are characteristic, almost no felt on greens; Fairway underwent conversion to festuca and fine-leaved lolium tetraploid (conversion was successful: strong turf, little nutrition and water needed, good stimp). Poa annua: in 2025 a maximum of 10%.
	N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition		Old holes built according to the tradition of the time, i.e. on clay layer to retain moisture, disadvantage is water stagnation but that is used in a positive way; expansion in 1985 on compost (6 cm top layer) instead of clay. 2x/year monitoring condition greens, foregreens, fairways (quality assessment); 1x/ year analysis of larger issue e.g. water management or

			disease pressure.
	N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation	Undertake soil tests and nutrient analysis	Basic plan for fertilization by greenkeeping; cation ratio (K and Ca) where necessary supplement; low, balanced fertilizer doses on green (especially N is low) and fairway (no P); since 2025 organic fertilizer based on sugar cane, also locally by means of a hand sprayer; garden compost used because of bacteria needed to stimulate grass growth; air in soil is crucial for soil bacteria; pH 6.2.
N2.2 Prioritise mechanical maintenance	N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management	Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture; Hand weeding	Vertical mowing, use of anti-dew product (preventive); iron no longer used, no moss problem; weed control by weedharrowing foregreen and fairway, manually on green. Recovery limit: plugs from our own nursery; large number of new boxes installed (since 2021) by Bird Committee, including for starling (control leatherjacket), monitoring breeding success follows.
N2.3 Use chemicals responsibly	N2.3.1 Application of chemicals only when necessary to prevent or cure defined / identified turf health issues	Establish patterns and levels of risk for pests and diseases; Scout the course daily for early signs of pests and disease; Accurate pest and disease identification; Map and track pest and disease hotspots; Establish pest and disease thresholds	IPM: including a crop protection plan and registration of fungi; approach to dollar spot: identify and tackle as early as possible.
	N2.3.2 Application of chemicals with full safety precautions	Use only legally registered and approved products; Ensure staff are fully qualified and licenced to use pesticides; Regularly calibrate and test applicators; Use appropriate protective equipment; Dilute and dispose of leftover product on untreated areas of turf .	Partly chemical (clover and yarrow very difficult to remove mechanically); Green Deal (IPM) following, so max 20% surface area; Sprayer is GPS controlled and therefore very targeted; licenses updated due to new CIP personnel CIP: Please continue with the process of ending chemical control with the ultimate goal of no longer using chemical agents. Dispose of old, unused products (registered).
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; Maintain mowing buffer zones around water and all ecologically sensitive areas; Maintain spraying and spreading buffer zones around water and all ecologically sensitive areas;	Water at a great distance from holes, so no impact from manure or chemicals; from 2021 'precision spraying' of fertilizers has been applied (GPS controlled); no over-fertilization and strong reduction of pressure of chemicals.

		Create a map / aerial visual reproduction, drawing etc of the course showing buffer zones and no-spray, no-spread areas.	
	N3.1.2 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from clubhouse operations	Ensure all hazardous materials are safely and securely stored; Ensure compliance with all required standards and systems for hazardous waste and wastewater discharge	Cleaning by certified company; there are no polluting materials or resources in the residential buildings; frying fat is safely disposed of and reused.
	N3.1.3 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from maintenance facility operations	Ensure wash areas are on impermeable, leak-free surfaces; Mixing and loading of pesticides and fertilisers over an impermeable surface; Triple rinse pesticide containers and applicators	The 3 floors have been inspected through external inspection until 2026 (contract); construction of new greenkeeping building with certified floor, oil and grease separator and drainage (completion expected in 2026). CCIP: Please conduct a professional inspection of all floors in planning and repair immediately where necessary. Continue an annual internal inspection of floors even in the event the new construction. Any imperfections should be repaired immediately.
N3.2 Safely manage hazardous substances	N3.2.1 Legal compliance in the storage, handling, application and safe disposal of all hazardous substances	Maintain a register of hazardous materials available to authorised staff; Safe storage in secure and ventilated concrete or metal building; Sufficient storage capacity; Impermeable flooring; Spill containment kits present; Emergency wash area; Fire extinguisher in the immediate area; Secondary containment for fuel, either externally constructed, or integrally manufactured; Regular inspection of storage tanks	Diesel tank double-walled (last inspection in 2025, fire extinguisher installed); diesel tank will be under roof in new construction; register of hazardous substances present; protocols for hazardous substances present and known to employees and contractors; hazardous substances stored in greenkeeping in accordance with safety protocols; hazardous substances, including waste oil, regularly disposed of by approved company.
N3.3 Responsibly manage waste / storm water	N3.3.1 Appropriate wastewater usage and discharge licences	Wastewater discharge licence; Appropriate treatment of machinery wash water (impermeable surface, oil / grease / clipping separation)	Wastewater spraying area, machine shed and leachate from clippings storage (container) is pumped to sewer via oil filters, legally and registered.

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	Target irrigation to essential playing surfaces only	Water consumption (groundwater) has been reduced by new irrigation per loop; all nozzles renewed (single head); very steerable on reach and angle; Each sector receives water on the basis of PF curve, depending on relief and location; irrigation programs adjustable to weather (e.g. wind, humidity); machines are hosed down with air.
R1.2 Maximise water efficiency	R1.2.1 Practical measures to use water more efficiently on the golf course	Conduct regular irrigation performance checks; Provide staff training on efficient irrigation practices; Ensure effective application of water to target areas; Ensure irrigation schedules are informed by weather patterns and soil moisture analysis	Watering maximally tailored to the vitality of the grass, evaporation degree (weather station) and soil (sensor), desire to measure infiltration capacity per green; local water stagnation (on clay top layer) has now been remedied; spraying is done late in the evening.
	R1.2.2 Practical measures to use water more efficiently in buildings	Audit water use regularly; Review bills frequently and look for irregularities; Encourage water-saving practices amongst staff and visitors; Categorise and track water consumption	Water use of the golf club includes three company houses; high drinking water consumption (leakage, cleaning after sprinkler closure); limited reduction measures, included in new greenkeeper's shed. CIP: Please explore possibilities for further reducing drinking water consumption.
R1.3 Source water responsibly	R1.3.1 Measures towards alternative, lower quality sources of water	Ensure appropriate water abstraction permit and reporting, as required	Golf course is located in a groundwater protection area; groundwater extraction permit is much higher than demand (which is declining sharply); water analyses in 2011, 2015 and 2020 (2026 to follow); water parking lots go back to the surrounding area via gullies and sand traps; roof water from new greenkeeping construction leads back to dune area.
R2 Energy			
R2.1 Reduce energy demand	R2.1.1 Measures to reduce the amount of energy consumed in course maintenance	Minimise areas of managed turf to reduce mowing, irrigation, and turf inputs	More effective and less mowing and fertilizing saves energy; mechanics come to the track with an electric bus so that energy from transport is minimal, everything is available on site for major maintenance and repairs; waste processing company comes on call (less transport).
R2.2 Maximise energy efficiency	R2.2.1 Measures to use energy and fuels more efficiently in buildings	Audit energy use regularly; Regularly review bills;	Maximum insulation of the clubhouse (thatched roof, all windows insulated HR+++); heating by heat pump, kitchen electric (all machines energy efficient); gas use will stop from 2026.

		Categorise and track energy consumption	New greenkeeper shed (2026) on site of current green landfill: construction very thoroughly prepared, including by visiting other courses, first step was new cable for electric construction and future power feed-in; from 4 places to 1 place, where the starting points are: efficient, fireproof, spacious and energy-efficient, future-oriented with regard to charging electric machines.
R2.3 Source energy responsibly	R2.3.1 Measures to source alternative, renewable forms of energy	Determine potential sources of renewable energy in the area and on-site, through renewable energy providers	1200 panels with favourable exposition and corner will be installed on the new shed; heavy cable for feeding power back has already been laid; storage of surplus energy in research; purchase of green electricity (green footprint), facilities for cyclists, charging stations.
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	Undertake a review of materials consumed	Sanding requires a lot of raw material and transport (researched, necessity remains); machines are shared; fertilization via GPS-controlled precision spraying, which reduces the amount of fertilizer. CIP: The drainage and aeration of the clay-rich top layer as well as the extraction and transport of sand has a major impact (20 trucks per year). Please develop policies to reduce this demand in the future.
R3.2 Purchase responsibly	R3.2.1 Practical use of an ethical / environmental purchasing policy	Adopt a sustainable, or ethical / environmental purchasing policy to maximise the use of locally sourced goods and goods made from recycled, recyclable and certified materials	A large number of machines are electric: transporters, ball pickers, greenrollers; more will follow, such as fairway mowers, robotic lawnmowers in research; catering under own management, purchasing a lot with quality marks and fair trade; hospitality: as many regional suppliers as possible and bundling purchasing. CCIP: Please develop a sustainable procurement protocol, so that sustainable and ethical purchasing can be guaranteed. Review existing and new suppliers against the criteria.
R3.3 Reuse and recycle	R3.3.1 Waste stream separation for maximum recycling and re-use opportunity	Demonstrate waste separation, reuse and recycling; Track how much waste goes to landfill, or is reused / recycled	Material from the old shed is sold (reuse); branch wood, stumps and wood chips are removed (bio-combustion); clippings in container, goes to composting company; reuse bottles with their own bottled water ('Made Blue').
R3.4 Demonstrate legal compliance	R3.4.1 Compliance with all local and regional waste management regulations	Use authorised waste and recycling contractor for general, hazardous, industrial and green waste	Waste separation and disposal by certified company (on demand); more than 1/3 of the waste stream is recycled; hazardous substances disposed of separately by approved companies.

COMMUNITY

C1 Outreach

Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
C1.1 Diversify access and provide multi-functionality	C1.1.1 Social and recreational activities at the facility		Golf course and clubhouse accessible to members only; annual bird watching.
C1.2 Provide for volunteering and charity	C1.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes		About 130 volunteers active on many fronts, great involvement; charitable donations; special: 'Made Blue' water, which is filtered and bottled on site and contributes to drinking water per bottle in countries with scarcity.
C1.3 Establish active community partnerships	C1.3.1 Positive and constructive engagement with neighbours, the local community and other groups	Create a 'sustainability working group'	GEO Committee consists of 5 members (manager, greenkeepers and course committee members); vision and Work Plan (update 2025) is the GEO guideline; flat organization, short lines, trust in each other's skills and knowledge; where necessary, consultation with neighbors: PWN and Waternet (ecologists in particular exchange); further exchange of experiences during 'Dune Courses Consultation' and 'Old 9 Consultation'.

C2 Golfers & Employees

C2.1 Improve health and wellbeing	C2.1.1 Benefits to human physical and mental health from golf and facility activities		Shelters and bunkers are widely available and equipped with lightning rods; contingency plan with contingency cards available in every department; annual training for all 25 employees, during the emergency response training; evaluation of incidents with all those involved, victim support.
C2.2 Be open and inclusive	C2.2.1 Inclusivity and diversity in membership and visitor policies	Demonstrate inclusive policies for members and visitors	Share of young members is large (43% < 40 years); inclusive association.
C2.3 Employ fairly and safely, and provide career opportunities	C2.3.1 Ethical and legal employment, working conditions and professional development	Follow all relevant national legislation and best practice for employment, health & safety etc	Greenkeeping is substantial and grows from 9 to 12; greenkeepers have division of tasks and specializations; all greenkeepers followed the Law & Nature Management level 2 course; risk inventory and evaluation for employees (2026 update); health and safety conditions, annual personal development plans.

C3 Communications			
C3.1 Engage golfers and members	C3.1.1 Communications activities that raise awareness and understanding amongst members and visitors	Provide information on the facility's sustainability commitments, actions, or achievements	Monitoring results will be shared with members by means of posters from 2026 onwards; digital newsletter and paper club magazine in which regular explanations of work and management; annual Birdwatching Day and nest box management led by club members. CIP: Please develop a communication plan, in which communication moments and means, goals, frequencies and responsibilities are determined.
C3.2 Celebrate and promote sustainability	C3.2.1 Activities that raise awareness and engage people in the wider community	Provide evidence of external communications and community engagement	Website beautiful and clear, GEO mentioned with link to more info; many companies sponsors; 'Green Day' for new members, with tour by greenkeepers.

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