



GEO Certified®

GEO Certified® Report Benton Hall Golf and Country Club

Prepared by independent verifier Keith Duff

Certified by GEO Foundation: 2026
Recertification due: 2029

GEO Certified®

 **GEO
Foundation**
Sustainability in and through golf

“Benton Hall Golf Club is an impressive example of how to manage a golf complex sustainably. The range of different habitat types on the site are well managed, and frame the playing areas well. The River Blackwater flows through the site, and the club manage this important riparian corridor sensitively. The innovative use of an artificial lake for irrigation water, fed by piped water from a nearby development, means that neither groundwater nor potable water is needed for irrigation, a significant benefit in this low rainfall area. Also of note is the array of solar panels on the clubhouse roof, which significantly reduce the amount of electricity drawn from the grid. The range of leisure facilities present on the site, in addition to golf, acts as a valuable social hub as well as making a significant contribution to healthy living activities in the area.”

Keith Duff
(GEO accredited independent verifier)



Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that Benton Hall 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.

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

For the certification period stated above, Benton Hall 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 – 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



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	General knowledge of the wildlife and habitats on the site	There are extensive areas of conservation grassland, woodland, scrub, riverine and wetland habitat on the property, and these are maintained appropriately by the greenkeeping team, who have a good understanding of what ecological management is required. In addition, the River Blackwater flows through the course, and fish counts are regularly undertaken by the Environment Agency.
	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	No statutory designations for nature conservation or landscape protection are present on the site, and there are no Tree Preservation Orders.
	N1.1.3 Sound understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site, if applicable	No archaeological, historic or cultural designations are present on the site.
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 Course Manager is very conscious of the costs of maintaining areas of managed turfgrass, especially on this large and hilly site, and has used his observations of patterns of play to transition areas of managed turfgrass into ecological grasslands. Graduated height cuts in the fringing rough help to stop running balls from running down side slopes into long rough. Current practice is to minimise areas of managed turfgrass, whilst recognising the needs of the golfer.
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	The habitat corridor along the River Blackwater is well managed, and wherever possible understorey habitats are allowed to develop within woodland areas, especially along the margins of the site. In such areas there are often good transitions from ecological grasslands into fringing woodland.

		Establish mowing buffer zones next to water bodies and wetlands	CIP: Please create a broad brush habitat map to provide a baseline to inform future continuity of habitat management, and assist with the creation of a long term habitat management plan. 5 metre wide mowing buffer zones are in place around the River Blackwater.
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	Owl boxes and bat boxes have been installed, log piles and brushwood piles have been created to provide habitat for invertebrates, and both standing and fallen deadwood is left in place wherever possible. The extensive areas of ecological grassland provide feeding areas for pollinators. CIP: Please explore the possibility of encouraging members with an interest in wildlife to record information on species present on the course (plants and animals), making this available more widely to members and visitors.
N2 Turfgrass			
N2.1 Maintain optimum turfgrass and soil health	N2.1.1 Appropriate turfgrass varieties adapted to climatic and other geomorphological factors	Select appropriate grass species for the climate	Cool season turfgrass species appropriate to the climate and geology of the site are used, with Poa/bent greens, and ryegrass added to high wear areas such as tees and fairways. The heavy clay soils are inimical to fescue.
	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	Cultural practices aimed at maintaining good turfgrass growing conditions are at the heart of the club's management strategy, using various aeration methods, including brushing and scarification to control thatch. The timing and extent of these is informed by soil testing, which is contracted out to a specialist company. The Course Manager is committed to mentoring his staff on the importance and practice of cultural management.
	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	Soil testing results are used to help inform decisions on fertiliser application, with the club's strategy being to minimise use as far as possible. All sprayers are regularly maintained, checked, calibrated and tested, and all users are appropriately licensed and supplied with appropriate PPE.

		Regularly calibrate and test applicators	
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	Integrated pest management strategy in place, with the focus being to prioritise cultural management processes over chemical use. Mower reels sharpened regularly to reduce disease risk, using the grinders at The Essex Golf Club (nearby), part of the same Group as Benton Hall. Hand-weeding of greens carried out to reduce herbicide use.
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	Daily scouting is undertaken to identify early signs of disease, with particular attention being given to known hotspots and sensitive areas. CCIP: Please consider creating a map (perhaps using a Course Planner as the basis) showing known disease hotspots, so that current and future staff can be well informed.
	N2.3.2 Application of chemicals with full safety precautions	Use legally registered and approved products; 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	All chemical products used are legally approved, and applied according to their user guidance. All staff using them are fully trained and qualified and use appropriate PPE. Spray applicators are tested and calibrated regularly. Chemical log observed, and seen to be comprehensive, listing all chemicals held, and when used. It goes back over 15 years. The Course Manager keeps a daily diary in parallel with this, recording use of chemicals and fertilisers, along with cultural practices, and a computer record is also kept.
N3 Pollution Prevention			
N3.1 Prevent pollution across the entire site	N3.1.1 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are	Document procedures for emergency spill responses ;	Emergency spill kits in place near potential risk locations, and good awareness amongst staff of what actions to take, and who to inform, should any spillage occur.

	minimised from golf course operations	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	Formal Emergency Action Procedures document in place for the whole site, and includes a comprehensive section on dealing with chemical spillages. 5m wide no-spray buffer zones are in place alongside the River Blackwater to protect the river from pollution.
	N3.1.2 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from clubhouse operations	Formal wastewater discharge agreement, if applicable	All wastewater discharged from the clubhouse goes to mains sewer, hence no formal discharge agreement is required. Hazardous substances such as cleaning agents and kitchen chemicals are stored securely, with secondary containment and appropriate access control to them. Sinks in the kitchen discharge through grease traps which are emptied regularly by the clubs licensed waste contractor.
	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	All machinery is washed down on a bunded impermeable concrete wash-down pad, draining to a self-contained Waste2Water system, thus minimising risks of pollution to ground. Chemicals and fertilisers are also mixed on the washdown pad. Empty pesticide and fertiliser containers and applicators are tripled rinsed on the washdown pad and stored in plastic sacks to await uplift by the club's licensed specialist waste contractor for the maintenance facility.
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);	Comprehensive list of all hazardous substances is held in the maintenance facility. Product and material data sheets and COSHH data sheets and risk assessments also held here. All hazardous waste from the maintenance facility is stored separately to await collection by Greensman (who are fully licensed), as part of a Group-wide contract. Hazardous substances kept in a well-ventilated building with an impermeable floor, with all liquid containers sitting on secondary containment units of adequate capacity. Locked fire-proof chemical safe holds hazardous liquids. Spill containment kits placed appropriately. First aid kit and eye wash station located in the maintenance facility mess room, with emergency shower facilities available in the adjacent clubhouse.

		Hazardous substances safely collected by a registered company or body ; Follow any additional legal requirements	
	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	Diesel storage tank located inside well-ventilated building, which is also used for machinery storage. No bump protection present. The tank is double bunded with integrated secondary containment and is inspected annually by a specialist company; their reports show there are no problems. Regular visual inspections by greens staff take place in the interim. CCIP: Please install bump protection to the diesel tank to guard against impact by passing vehicles. CCIP: Please establish a procedure to inspect fuel tanks quarterly. Fire extinguisher in place.
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	Runoff from part of the clubhouse roof and part of the car park is collected and piped into the main irrigation pond. The remainder enters the mains sewer system. Water from the bunded washdown pad is recycled through the Clearwater system for reuse, and is not discharged. Oil and clippings separation via filters within the system, and disposed via the maintenance facility waste management contract. Highlight: The recent installation of a Clearwater system prioritises water conservation and pollution prevention through an advanced biological water recycling process. Using multi-stage filtration, the facility captures and treats grass clippings, oils, and chemical residues, preventing them from entering the surrounding soil and groundwater.

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	Cool season grass species are used on the site and are appropriate for the setting. Irrigation is restricted to greens and tees, with fairways and roughs left to respond to ambient rainfall. Irrigation water is drawn from a large lake on-site, fed by piped drainage from an adjacent developed area; an aerator is in place to ensure the water quality is suitable for irrigating the golf course. Extraction during the period April to October is licensed by the Environment Agency, with monthly meter readings taken. Licence conditions are being met. No potable water is used for irrigation. Inflow is supplemented by recycled rainwater collected from part of the clubhouse roof and car park. The location of the site in the dry southeast of England, along with limited irrigation water availability, ensures that drought tolerant species are used for planting and landscaping.
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	The irrigation system is checked regularly by Greens staff and tested annually by their external irrigation consultant. Watering of greens and tees is informed by visual assessments of surfaces, along with use of a moisture meter; knowledge of how individual greens (and parts of greens) perform is also used to determine when spray or hand irrigation of sensitive areas is needed. Sprinklers are adjusted to ensure that irrigation water is applied just to greens, approaches and surrounds, and tees.
	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	Water consumption in the clubhouse and other buildings is metered and recorded monthly and checked against bills for any anomalies. CCIP: Please consider undertaking a comprehensive audit of water use in the clubhouse and leisure centre area, to identify potential savings and efficiencies which can be made. Try to put an appropriate action plan in place.
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	No potable water is used for golf course irrigation, which derives from a large on-site lake fed by piped drainage from a nearby development. A water abstraction license from the Environment Agency to allow use of the lake water for irrigation is in place, and monthly usage is recorded and supplied to the EA. Licence conditions are being complied with.

			Highlight: The use of a storage lake fed by piped runoff water from a nearby development, and from grey water collected from part of the clubhouse roof and car park, has meant that no groundwater abstraction or potable water is used to irrigate the golf course.
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 Course Manager is very conscious of the costs of maintaining areas of managed turfgrass, and has used his knowledge of patterns of play to transition areas of managed turfgrass into ecological grasslands. Current practice is to minimise areas of managed turfgrass, whilst recognising the needs of the golfer. CIP: Please consider the possible future replacement of diesel and petrol machinery and equipment by electric machines, which would contribute to the Group's aim of achieving Net Zero by 2040.
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.)	Energy consumption is recorded monthly from meter readings, and checked against bills as they are received. LED bulbs installed across the property in the clubhouse and leisure centre area. CCIP: Please consider undertaking an energy audit to review patterns of usage across the property, and to assist in identifying actions which could be taken to reduce energy consumption. This should include separate consideration of the maintenance facility and the clubhouse and leisure club, to allow future reporting to be more sophisticated.
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	Highlight: 100 solar panels have been installed on the clubhouse roof, generating approximately £20,000 of electricity in 2025, some 10% of the overall amount of electricity consumed in this large clubhouse and leisure complex facility. CCIP: As part of the energy audit identified above, please determine the energy mix of your supplier, and explore the possibility of moving to a greener energy supplier.
R3 Materials			
R3.1 Reduce materials demand	R3.1.1 Products and materials selection based on necessity, including opportunities for recycled,	No specific international requirement, however, identify activities to reduce the demand for	Composting of green waste, spent bunker sand and other organic arisings generates bulk material used in construction projects on-site.

	reused and locally sourced alternatives	materials and look for continual improvements	
R3.2 Purchase responsibly	R3.2.1 Commit to sustainable purchasing practices	Favour responsible, lower impact products	The Group's Environmental, Sustainability and Governance Strategy includes a Supply Chain Code of Conduct, to which their top 20 suppliers have signed up. There is also a more comprehensive list of preferred suppliers issued from the Group.
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.	Good separation of waste streams was observed, both at the maintenance facility and at the clubhouse/leisure centre. At the maintenance facility drums, packaging, chemical containers and waste fluids are stored separately prior to uplift by their licenced specialist waste contractor. Clubhouse/leisure centre waste is handled by a licenced general waste contractor, with separate bins in the public areas for recyclables and general waste, and clearly labelled and colour-coded bins in the outdoor storage area. Food waste is stored separately for composting off-site, and waste cooking oil is collected by a specialist company which converts it into biofuel. Good records kept of all waste collected from the site, including consignment notes.
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	All waste streams are uplifted by licenced contractors (ERC and Greensman) and all legal requirements are being met.

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	Plans in place to respond to incidents and emergencies	The facility operates under the Group's comprehensive corporate Health & Safety Policy, as part of their Alert 65 process, with each Department

	health from golf and facility activities		having developed risk assessments for activities within their remit, and holding the relevant COSHH documentation. Appropriate training given to staff as necessary. An annual health and safety audit for the site is carried out by a specialist external consultant. Health and safety procedures were discussed, and found to be satisfactory, with spill kits observed where necessary. Staff are clear about procedures should any incidents occur.
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	The facility operates within the Group's corporate Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, which sets out clear non-discriminatory policies which are applied across the range of activities here, both to members and visitors. There are thriving Juniors, Ladies, Mens and Seniors sections, drawing widely from the local community. In addition to the main 18 hole golf course, there is also a 9 hole par 3 course which attracts many people interested in taking up golf, and they are strongly encouraged.
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	The club operates under the Group's ethical policies on recruitment and employment, which meet all relevant legal requirements. In addition, there are published policies on gender pay gap initiatives, modern slavery, and a code of conduct for employees. New employees receive induction training, alongside training relevant to their role.
<u>C2 Outreach & Inclusion</u>			
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	The facilities present on the site cover a range of leisure activities, including golf, swimming, gym and padel, and observations during my visit indicated the popularity of all of these. There are also a number of public footpaths across the site. A number of EV charging points are placed in the car park for use by members and visitors.
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	The usual range of Captain-led club charity fund-raising activities take place at Benton Hall, with a particular emphasis being the support of a local charity for young adults with special needs.

		and charity and look for continual improvements	
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	The club hosts annual Essex County Cricket golf days for charity. Members of the golf and leisure clubs make use of the club's food and beverage facilities for socialising with non-member friends.
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 Course Manager provides strong leadership to his team on sustainability issues related to the golf course. The Course Manager puts an update on golf course matters onto the members part of the club website every month. Staff attend the first 30 minutes of the monthly members committee meeting, to discuss sustainability matters. CCIP: Please consider establishing a sustainability committee at the club, bringing together staff across departments, and also members, to identify possible initiatives and encourage their implementation. CCIP: Please consider producing regular newsletters or other communications to members and staff, to inform them of sustainability actions being taken, and to encourage them to become more engaged.
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	Particular highlights of the club's sustainability activities are to be seen earlier in this report, and on the GEO website. Of particular note are the installation of solar panels on the clubhouse roof, the use of a lake fed by piped drainage from a nearby development for irrigation water, and the recent installation of a Clearwater system to clean and recycle water from the washdown pad.
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	We discussed the need to ensure that data on the OnCourse system is kept up to date, and the Course Manager has committed to do this.

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