GEO Certified® Report
Chartham Park Golf & Country Club

Prepared by independent verifier Tony Hanson

Certified by GEO Foundation: 2026
Recertification due: 2029

“Chartham Park Golf & Country Club demonstrates a positive commitment to environmental sustainability through responsible resource use, nature conservation, waste management and community engagement. The Club is to be commended for its efforts, and I look forward to seeing further progress and improvements over the next three years.”

Tony Hanson
(GEO accredited independent verifier)

Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that Chartham Park 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.

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

For the certification period stated above, Chartham Park 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	Discussed and observed the mix of ponds, natural springs, log pile bug habitats, owl, bat and bird boxes as well as badger sets. There is a significant population of deer also present around the site, regularly observed by greenkeepers.
	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	There are no Statutory Designations on site. There are Tree Preservation Orders on some of the Beech and Oak trees on the site.
	N1.1.3 Sound understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site, if applicable	None advised.
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	Visual assessment of wear patterns to allow fairways to be shaped to optimise areas of maintained turf. The course hosts a range of wildlife which the Club work to accommodate by sympathetic habitat management and creating log piles and standing deadwood. The Club work with local wildlife groups to help monitor the site.
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	The facility hosts approximately 31 hectares of native woodland. Discussed species found on site, there are approximately 30 different notable species present. There is a programme underway to reduce and reshape bunkers across the facility to improve drainage and reduce maintenance time.

		Prioritise native aquatic species of varying size and structure when planting Establish mowing buffer zones next to water bodies and wetlands	The Club only maintain necessary areas allowing natural unmanaged grassland areas to establish.
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	Variety of habitats around the course: bat, bird and owl boxes, badger sets and log pile bug habitats are monitored by local wildlife groups. Some areas of woodland have undergone work to clear the under-storey and improve airflow to adjacent greens as well as allowing germination of latent seed stock. Naturalisation of unused areas of fairways also promotes biodiversity.
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	The Club is satisfied with the existing turfgrass species, which consistently deliver the required playing standards with acceptable resilience to drought, pests and disease, supported by effective turf management practices. No species changes are currently planned. The Course team has a deep knowledge of the site, and how changing conditions increase risks of pests and disease. The Club has an IPM plan backed by years of collective knowledge built up by the team.
	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	Discussed how the Club monitor soil pH, nutrients and organic matter content, and the considered application of fertilisers and bio stimulants. Management considerations include soil tests, temperature, sunlight hours, rainfall and stress by footfall. Aeration and scarifying mainly used to reduce the need for chemical application, keeping pesticide application to a minimum.
	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	The Club follow legal requirements for fertiliser and pesticide applications. They considering weather conditions and forecast, ecological factors and schedule of course play when making applications. Small greenkeeping team, only course manager and deputy manager qualified to use fertilisers and pesticides and use appropriate protective

			Ensure staff use appropriate protective equipment Regularly calibrate and test applicators	equipment. Looking to put other staff members thorough the qualification soon. Spray equipment is regularly calibrated and 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	Discussed and observed course maintenance equipment and facilities. Equipment and faciility maintenance include sharpening mower blades regularly, changing hole locations frequently, removing surface moisture, aeration, and occasionally rolling instead of cutting the grass.
	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	The course is scouted daily for early signs and symptoms. Identified and tracked any pest and disease hotspots and determined the cause of weeds, pests and diseases.
		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	Pesticides specific to the weeds, pests or diseases are used over broad-spectrum. Products chosen with consideration of risk to humans and the environment. All products used are legally registered and approved and follow all legal requirements. Course manager and deputy manager are qualified to use pesticides, and PPE was observed and discussed. Pesticides are applied with a handheld sprayer where possible for better accuracy. Applicators are tested and calibrated regularly, use of shrouded sprayers and anti-drip nozzles. Any left-over products are diluted and disposed of on untreated areas of amenity turf.
	N3 Pollution Prevention			
		N3.1.1 Practical measures to ensure	Document procedures for emergency spill responses ;	A spray buffer zone is maintained around all bodies and other ecologically sensitive areas.

	N3.1 Prevent pollution across the entire site	**pollution risks are 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	Documented emergency procedures for spills in place.
		N3.1.2 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from clubhouse operations	Formal wastewater discharge agreement, if applicable	No Discharge License Required Appropriate measures are in place to minimise pollution risks from clubhouse operations. Observed and discussed compliance and how hazardous substances are stored safely and securely, and appropriate waste management practices are followed.
		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	Discussed and observed storage of hazardous materials. Stored in a well-ventilated metal building with impermeable flooring. Pesticides mixed and loaded on the closed loop wash pad that drains into an isolated sump. Pesticide containers are triple rinsed after use and collected by a Licensed Waste Contractor along with other hazardous waste. Machines and equipment cleaned on the closed loop wash pad.
	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);	Confirmed and observed the list of hazardous chemicals and amount along with Product and material Safety Data Sheets. Discussed and observed storage and containment of hazardous materials and incident response plans. Spill containment kits, and secondary containment present. Emergency eye wash and showers also present. Hazardous substances safely collected by a Licensed waste company.

		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	110% spill capacity is maintained for tanks, with secondary containment bunds and drip trays. Fuel tanks and fire extinguishers are inspected regularly. Site safe and fuel storage container 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	Water that falls on the courses is captured, and no water leaves the property; all water is captured and reused on-site. Stormwater that falls off-site is directed away from the courses to stormwater capture areas or natural drainage.

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	Greens and tees are predominantly Poa Annua, which offers the desired balance of playing performance and maintenance characteristics. There are 10 lakes across the course, drainage is collected in the main lake for irrigation use in season. No mains water used on the course. App controlled irrigation that allows head control to target areas based on soil moisture levels.

	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	Irrigation schedule based on soil moisture, weather forecast, visual observations and historical climate records. Irrigation policy is to maintain firm and true fairways. App controlled irrigation system targets key areas to reduce waste. Irrigate with groundwater. Staff training on efficient irrigation practices and app-controlled sprinkler heads to water playing surfaces only.
		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 monitored and recorded for Club and Course Maintenance. The Club encourage players and staff to reduce water consumption, and volume reducers are fitted in cisterns to reduce consumption. Use of times taps and efficient shower heads also reduces consumption. Rainwater collection system in the car park.
	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	Abstraction licence renewed 2 years ago with an abstraction from the main lake, with volumes reported to the EA.
	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 Club reviews the areas in play on an ongoing basis to optimise the areas in play. This allows the natural areas to be maximised offering habitat also reducing maintenance time, fuel and emissions. The Club are rationalising the bunkers on site to improve playability and reduce maintenance resource requirements.
	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.)	The Club monitor energy consumption to understand use across the site to manage demand across the site. All windows double or triple glazed to reduce heat loss. The Club use of LED lighting, and PIR motion sensors throughout and heating adjusted seasonally when needed.

			More than 50% of the appliances are energy A-rated.
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	All electricity standard grid. **CCIP: Please investigate green tariff energy and opportunities for onsite renewables**
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	The Club maintain accurate stock control to avoid excess waste Reduction of single used plastic through the removal of disposable cutlery and plastic bags.
R3.2 Purchase responsibly	**R3.2.1 Commit to sustainable purchasing practices**	Favour responsible, lower impact products	The Club chose lower-impact products and if possible, the purchased goods made from recycled/ sustainable materials, purchased in large quantities to avoid excess packaging. On site mechanic to repair equipment to reduce need to regularly buy new equipment.
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.	The Club record of weight of waste collected and destination. Labelled bins to separate general and recycling to improve environmental outcomes. **CIP: Please engage with General Waste partners to gain greater insights of waste destination and opportunities to improve environmental outcomes.**
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	The Club has a contract with a Licensed Waste contractor for the collection of general, industrial, hazardous and green waste.

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	Appropriate health and safety policies, risk assessments and emergency procedures are in place. The club maintains a safe playing and working environment, with established arrangements for responding to incidents and emergencies.
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	Membership policies are free from discrimination across age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and ethnic background. Equal opportunities monitoring across staff and golfers.
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	Equal opportunities recruitment policy. Follow all relevant legislation and best practice for hiring and employment and all relevant legislation and best practice for worker safety. Accredited professional development programmes available for staff; manual handling, pesticide, health and safety training.

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	There are footpaths around the site
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	Volunteering for local charities is encouraged Captain's charity day in September raised over £5,000 for St Catherine's hospice.

	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	3 golf pros from Chartham park are providing lessons for juniors and supporting their progression as they get older, as well as going into schools to encourage more children to get into golf. Supporting anyone of secondary school age to pursue a course at college that would help them with a career in the golfing industry.
	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	Sustainability information displayed around the site for staff and golfers to read. Involve staff in sustainability efforts – training on sustainable practices. Weekly email updates go out to members to inform them about any upgrades or changes that are taking place.
	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	The club demonstrates a commitment to promoting sustainability through its environmental management activities. Opportunities exist to develop and share at least three sustainability Highlights, showcasing positive environmental initiatives and engaging the wider community.
	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	The club has appropriate arrangements in place to maintain sustainability records, monitor environmental performance and update OnCourse annually, supporting ongoing review and continuous improvement in sustainability practices.

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