



GEO Certified®

GEO Certified® Report Golfclub Kleiburg

Prepared by independent verifier Paul van Kan

Certified by GEO Foundation: 2025
Recertification due: 2030

"Kleiburg may have an isolated location, but that certainly does not apply when it comes to society; the golf club is right in the middle of it. The club is connected to various social organizations and to the golf world. In addition, safety is of paramount importance. The more than 50-year-old golf course is located on an island between the Briellse Maas and the Hartel Canal. The surrounding landscape is very diverse: from tidal areas to large-scale petrochemical industries. Within the golf course, nature and landscape are managed with respect. The water system is impressive, in which the golf club is self-managing. The water quality is being investigated in collaboration with TU Delft. The points for improvement from previous audits have been well addressed. Maintenance is gradually becoming more sustainable, and the reuse of materials is also becoming more and more common. I look forward to the new developments and have every confidence in the sustainable future of Kleiburg, which is professionally managed by a GEO committee, in which broad knowledge and a lot of experience are available."

Paul van Kan

(GEO accredited independent verifier)



Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that Golfclub Kleiburg 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.

Golfclub Kleiburg 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, Golfclub Kleiburg should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, Golfclub Kleiburg 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, Data and Reporting, 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	The golf course is a green oasis, stepping stone and corridor in the middle of the petrochemical industry; on former island, largely consisting of sprayed sand (gives limitations); primary flood defence is green spine that follows longitudinal direction of the golf course.

			88 bird species spotted in 2025 (year-round), often water-/bank-bound; richness explained by ecological connection Oostvoorne - Westlandse Natuur; Greenkeeper is a great naturalist and keeps track of everything he sees.
	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 (2025) is also baseline measurement of natural values; bat research in connection with felling trees during clubhouse renovation (2020-21); many protected species: bee orchid, tawny owl, little grebe, nightingale, woodcock, bittern, water rail, reed warbler; no Natura or NNN in or near the golf course; tree safety plan (2024) including checks and major maintenance.
	N1.1.3 Understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site	Cultural-historical elements are not an issue (sprayed sand); forest with old oaks is a special element on original clay (1960); this forest is protected and managed as a natural forest.
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	Nature opportunities map (drawn up in collaboration with NGF, 2024): 12 locations for expansion of flora; new: flowery grassland, thickets and wasteland to strengthen biodiversity; thickets are used to protect vulnerable areas from trespassing; consistent review of where less mowing is possible. CIP: The choice of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants for the 12 promising locations identified in the nature opportunities map has not yet been made. Please choose as many native species as possible. For buffering thickets, it is better not to use cultivars such as <i>Ionicera nitida</i>, as there are indigenous alternatives.
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	Ecological Work Protocol (2025) is a guideline for nature management; PNV consists of ash-elm forest (ash, elm, pedunculate oak, field maple, common maple); many ash and elms are in poor condition or dead and are gradually being replaced; replant mainly with birch, hornbeam and Scots pine, linden is also doing surprisingly well; own cultivation at nursery is in preparation. CIP: Please keep a close eye on exotics (herbaceous plants, aquatic plants) and take immediate measures to prevent further spread. Although Clematis is indigenous, it proliferates and pushes everything to bed, including planting shrubs. Blackberry is not seen as negative (hiding place, nesting place, nectar) but removed where other flora is overgrown.

N1.4 Conserve key species	N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species		Various facilities: nesting boxes, owl boxes, bat boxes, bee hotel; ceramic starling pots turn out to be very suitable as bat enclosures; strips sown with bee mixture; bee orchid spontaneously established: immediate protection measures and adjustment of mowing regime. CIP: Please make a plan for further expansion of facilities for birds, bats and wild bees. Renovations are extremely suitable for tackling this (work-with-work, nature-inclusive construction). Think of integrating facilities on (blind) walls of buildings, on a kingfisher wall or nesting places for swallows.
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	Mix of species resulting in less vulnerable turf, partly in view of climate change; rough with 50% Lolium (naturally good on clay, forms dense turf); less than 10% Poa annua is not feasible on clay soil; strategy: less N and water on fairway, scarifying and overseeding open spaces; renovation plan will be implemented in phases.
	N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition		Sanding greens and tees improves structure; range of agricultural engineering measures such as rolling, aeration; soil samples are taken regularly.
	N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation	Undertake soil tests and nutrient analysis	Do not fertilize organically - on green liquid + granule on fairway granule; decreasing trend of N dose on fairway, on rough no manure; P is sufficiently in soil; On greens use of bio-stimulants: silicon, trace mix, Foscar Energy.
N2.2 Prioritise mechanical maintenance	N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management	Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture; Hand weeding	Chemical control ended in 2020, then by exception; weed control by weed-harrowing and manual removal; e.g. dew sweeping on greens to prevent fungi.
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	Chemical control ended in 2020, in accordance with legal regulations; exception in 2025 due to clover outbreak on fairways: very efficient use of chemicals by spotsprayer (recognizes weed spots with cameras and AI).

	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 .	Spraying licenses available.
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; Create a map / aerial visual reproduction, drawing etc of the course showing buffer zones and no-spray, no-spread areas.	5 m buffer zone around surface water (sometimes that is not possible, green next to water); protocol leakage hydrolic oil available, fire extinguishers available.
	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	Approved cleaning company; chlorine-free, biodegradable products and (recyclable) packaging.
	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	Greenkeeping has 2 warehouses; container cleaner is standard on container, therefore no rinsing is necessary; work floor and liquid-tight spray-down floor with raised edge, connected to sewer; separator oil/grease is emptied 1x a year; external inspection report floors available (2026). CCIP: Please conduct an annual internal inspection of liquid-tight floors, in addition to the external, professional inspection. Record this in reporting.
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;	Gasoline in jerry cans in closed chemical cabinet, very limited stock in drip tray; propane tank outside, with inspection report (2021, re-inspection in 2027); diesel tank outside at a safe distance from building, drip tray double-walled (inspection in 2020); storage of other hazardous substances: as safe as possible and in accordance with rules; Chemical cabinet empty (when using herbicide once during use, no stock).

		Emergency wash area; Fire extinguisher in the immediate area; Secondary containment for fuel, either externally constructed, or integrally manufactured; Regular inspection of storage tanks	CCIP: Please include inspections of diesel tanks, propane tanks, floors, etc. in multi-year planning, ensuring that they are done on time and in accordance with any applicable regulatory requirements.
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)	Clubhouse connected to sewer, kitchen drain with oil/grease separator; spraying area connected to sewer, equipped with oil/grease separator; annual chemical analysis of water quality (inflow) by TU Delft, no salinisation; sanitary facilities on the court with septic tank.

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	Irrigation from local (retained) surface water (explanation below); self-regulating pump and precise irrigation; filters are changed weekly, pipes repaired where necessary; not all holes are irrigated. Water system: isolated water system on island between Brielse Meer (fresh water) and Hartel canal (brackish water and tide of about 1 m max 2 m); inlet from Brielse Meer to large pond from where water system is pumped in; excess water on Hartel canal from large pond by means of a short distance pump; own fixed level at -0.2 m +NAP so 'own polder' within which 2 ponds are maintained via historic windmill.
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	Computer system (2024) in which data is entered (weather forecast, climate, wind, soil), ensures optimal and efficient irrigation; greenkeepers keep track of innovations (course every two years).

	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	Modern water-saving shower heads, economy buttons at toilets; reuse of shower water for washing machines is being investigated.
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	No groundwater extraction, so no permit is required; given the ample supply of suitable fresh water in Brielse Meer, no better alternative is conceivable; water pavements (roof, parking lot) flows back to the ground; water quality measurements ponds and inlet point (golf club) from Brielse Meer (water board); two fountains in ponds provide sufficient oxygen.
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	New pump (2020) is considerably more economical despite larger capacity; LED lighting on driving range and practice holes; handcarts are charged during the day; hybrid lawn mower; mowing frequency reduced where possible, reducing fuel consumption.
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; Categorise and track energy consumption	Renovation of buildings (in phases) started, accompanied by less energy consumption; terrace at height with storage space underneath (2021), new greenkeeper's shed (2024); the starting point is: where possible, preservation and adjustment of the existing situation; numerous energy measures realized (advice Stimular, on behalf of the municipality): everything LED lighting, sensors and timers, heat exchangers, roof insulation, skylights, kitchen appliances replaced (A+); replaced 2 low-efficiency boilers (2023).
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	Own solar energy in combination with the purchase of 100% sustainable energy; expansion of solar energy is combined with renovation of clubhouse; number of EV charging stations expanded to 2 to 6 (2024); possibilities for biogas plant and heat pump under investigation. CIP: Please encourage the use of bicycles to the golf course through good facilities (e.g., electric bike charging points, covered storage, golf trailer).
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	Where possible, closed system (i.e. reuse on site); own compost of clippings and leaves is used in renovations; machines repaired on site, major repairs and grinding cages at central workshop; new benches are 100% made of recycled plastic (2026); discarded computer equipment reused after overhaul (to charities); annual exchange meet golf gear; members receive water bottles instead of PET bottles (2020).
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	Sustainable procurement policy; catering (independent company) follows efficient and sustainable business operations (GEO consultation); catering industry does not use fair trade or organic products; green contractor has a central location in the region, where maintenance takes place; green contractor has a gradual switch to hybrid as a policy.
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	Clippings stored and composted on site, for own use; members receive water bottles (waste reduction, awareness); waste squares scattered (plastic waste and residual waste, washing balls).
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	Recognized waste processor (1x per week residual waste, plastic separated); clippings stored on unpaved soil. CIP: Please explore the possibility of collecting waste less often e.g., using large underground containers. CIP: As compost accumulates, there is more than can be processed on site. Clippings provide leachate and should not flow into the soil (Soil Protection Act), so please prevent this at all times. Storage of clippings (when stored for 2 weeks to 6 months) on unpaved surfaces must be on a thick absorbent layer; it is better to install a liquid-tight floor with a leachate facility.

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		Meeting rooms in clubhouse also available for others; recreationists welcome in catering (new entrance, clearly visible from the road); no paths through the golf course, but can be experienced from paths on

			both sides.
C1.2 Provide for volunteering and charity	C1.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes		Commitment of volunteers is 1200 hours on an annual basis; large number of charities supported financially (or by making the facilities available free of charge) including Golf4health, Lions, Muscles for Muscles, Handicart Foundation, neighboring schools.
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'	Primary flood defence (dike, retaining wall) maintained by the water board, in consultation (7 m zone must be kept free of storage); due to its location on the island, there are no neighbours; cooperation between the Forestry Commission, NGF, the KNNV bird working group; cooperation golf clubs via SGWN (Samenwerkende Golfclubs West Nederland) w.b. administrative consultation, member discount, knowledge exchange; collaboration with TU Delft and LU Wageningen (water quality research) sustainability committee consists of 5 people (manager, 3 members, 1 board member); various disciplines present: garden bird consultant, waste expert, expert building and course management, communication, greenkeeper very committed to nature. CCIP: The sustainability vision and work plan is valid until 2024 and has therefore expired; please update or make an alternative multi-year plan with 2035 or 2040 as a target.
C2 Golfers & Employees			
C2.1 Improve health and wellbeing	C2.1.1 Benefits to human physical and mental health from golf and facility activities		Safety has a high priority within the club and on the golf course (safety plan):- First Aid Protocol- Safety and Thunderstorm Protocol; including five shelters; emergency telephone procedure, including emergency numbers on T-box and scorecard; drinking water on the road; tree safety plan. Company emergency response plan (BHV); annual AED training and instructions in case of fire or accident for employees; signs what to do in case of fire or accident; water quality test to prevent legionella; fire safety checks (unannounced and annually by external company); evacuation system (annual inspection).
C2.2 Be open and inclusive	C2.2.1 Inclusivity and diversity in membership and visitor policies	Demonstrate inclusive policies for members and visitors	Golf club is accessible to everyone; mentor for new members promotes integration; juniors are encouraged to participate in various activities and, if possible, also play a role in their organisation (youth committee);

			clubhouse accessible for people with physical disabilities (footbridge).
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	Working conditions legislation and collective labor agreement are followed; Continuing Professional Development; RI&E present (Risk Inventory and Evaluation); restaurant is a recognized training company, at Greenkeeping Werkerkveringsplaatsen
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	Members involved as volunteers in one of the 14 committees; newsletter as the most important means of communication awareness; annual richly illustrated 'Kleiburg Magazine' with attention to nature and management; annual bird counting day led by KNNV department Voorne-Putten, well-attended. CIP: Please encourage more publicity about the landscapes and rich nature on the golf course and the role in the regional ecosystem (which is your strength!). E.g., consider a large poster or information board outside the entrance of the restaurant, visible to passers-by.
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 indicates that club is GEO certified, link to GEO; regular press releases, e.g. on the occasion of the renewal of the GEO certificate CIP: Please support a more creative, attractive and active way to show how you consciously choose sustainability and contribute more and more to biodiversity and the regional ecosystem. Consider linking up with existing local initiatives.

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