



GEO Certified®

GEO Certified® Report The National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa

Prepared by independent verifier Dino Minoli

Certified by GEO Foundation: 2026
Recertification due: 2031

GEO Certified®

 **GEO
Foundation**
Sustainability in and through golf

“Woodhall Spa Golf Club demonstrates strong leadership in sustainable golf, with notable achievements in biodiversity, heathland restoration and environmental management. Its responsible approach to water, turf, chemicals, waste and energy, supported by active ecological monitoring, shows how golfing excellence can work alongside environmental stewardship.

The Club also makes a valuable contribution to its community through volunteering, charitable activity, partnerships and inclusive participation.

Looking ahead, clear targets, measurable outcomes and continued community engagement will enable the Club to build on this strong foundation. By leading through innovation, collaboration and positive action, Woodhall Spa Golf Club has the opportunity to inspire the wider golf sector and demonstrate that great golf, thriving nature and strong communities can flourish together.”

Dino Minoli

(GEO accredited independent verifier)



Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that The National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa 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.

The National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa 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, The National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, The National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa 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.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	General knowledge of the wildlife and habitats on the site	Woodhall Spa Golf Club provides significant habitat alongside its two golf courses, with 72.5 ha of habitat representing approximately 53% of the 137-ha site. This demonstrates a substantial commitment to managing land for ecological value alongside high-quality golf. Woodhall Spa Golf Club uses Clere Golf to support the requirements of OnCourse reporting, providing accurate mapping and data to document course features, habitats and land-use areas. The site supports exceptional biodiversity, with an estimated 591 species recorded in the Club's current biodiversity records, including 16 mammals, 64 birds, 18 trees, shrubs and plants, 7 amphibians and reptiles, 483 insects and invertebrates, and 3 fungi. Records include notable species such as Red Kite, Barn Owl, Hobby, Kingfisher, Cuckoo, Skylark, Linnet, Tree Pipit and Woodcock, alongside the significant milestone of the 450th moth species recorded in March 2026. The Club is actively enhancing biodiversity through initiatives including 32 bird boxes on the Bracken Course, which supported an estimated 199 fledged chicks in their first year, alongside ongoing heathland restoration and ecological management in partnership with Natural England. CIP: Please continue monitoring habitat extent, condition and connectivity, identifying opportunities to increase ecological value and species diversity. CIP: Please strengthen targeted ecological surveys, particularly for rare and protected species, using consistent data to distinguish total species records from notable and protected species. This will provide a robust evidence base for measuring biodiversity trends and demonstrating the impact of future conservation work.

			Together, these actions will enable Woodhall Spa Golf Club to build on its strong biodiversity foundation and demonstrate measurable, long-term leadership in nature-positive golf.
	N1.1.2 Knowledge of legal designations for protected areas, habitats and species	Identify rare, protected or endangered species found on the golf course; Understand legal responsibilities for landscape protection and special area designations, if applicable	The Hotchkin Course, designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), demonstrates strong environmental stewardship through its long-term heathland restoration programme in partnership with Natural England. Management of non-playing areas focuses on reducing unfavourable species and restoring historic heathland features, helping to protect specialist flora and fauna while reinforcing the course's distinctive historic character. Detailed ecological records, supported by dedicated staff expertise from Senior Greenkeeper and Ecologist, provide a strong foundation for understanding and protecting the site's biodiversity. CIP: Please continue the long-term restoration programme with Natural England, using habitat-condition and species data to guide management and demonstrate measurable ecological improvement. CIP: Please further develop species recording to identify priority species, habitats and conservation actions, with regular review of progress to strengthen the Club's evidence-led approach to nature conservation.
	N1.1.3 Sound understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site, if applicable	The Club has significant cultural and heritage value, including its 15th-century Grade II listed Tower on the Moor, restored with support from English Heritage and opened for occasional public tours. The site also contributes to wider public engagement through heathland restoration visits, the Viking Way long-distance trail and its longstanding connections with military history. CIP: Please continue to share and celebrate the Club's cultural, historical and conservation story through tours, interpretation and appropriate public engagement, helping visitors and the wider community understand and value Woodhall Spa's unique heritage.
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 Club actively identifies opportunities for naturalisation by assessing wear, play patterns and underutilised areas of turfgrass and bunkers. This approach supports the conversion of low-use areas into valuable natural habitat while maintaining playability and reducing maintenance requirements.

			CIP: Please continue mapping and reviewing underutilised areas, prioritising suitable locations for naturalisation using native species and enhancing habitat connectivity. This will strengthen biodiversity, improve resource efficiency and create a more resilient and nature-positive course landscape.
N1.3 Actively create and manage habitats for wildlife	N1.3.1 Projects to create and manage habitats in the best way for wildlife and golf	Prioritise native species of varying size and structure when planting Prioritise native trees and shrubs when planting Prioritise native aquatic species of varying size and structure when planting Establish mowing buffer zones next to water bodies and wetlands	The major Hotchkin restoration, undertaken from approximately 2016, included the clearance of around 90,000 m² of scrub and removal of approximately 10,000 trees, alongside the restoration of heathland, heather and historic landscape features. Although these works pre-date the current reporting period, the restored areas continue to provide significant biodiversity and landscape benefits. The Club continues to manage and monitor these habitats, with Natural England oversight, including two planned annual visits, supporting the conservation objectives of the SSSI. The course also provides a diverse network of microhabitats, including amphibian houses, bat and bird boxes, beehives, bug hotels, hedgerows, small-mammal nesting boxes, open sandy areas, rock piles and woody debris. Bird-box locations and occupancy are actively monitored, demonstrating successful habitat provision. CIP: Please continue monitoring the extent, condition and ecological response of restored heathland, using findings to guide vegetation management and identify further opportunities to enhance the SSSI's biodiversity value. CIP: Please continue monitoring the condition and occupancy of microhabitats, using results to inform their placement, maintenance and future enhancement.
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	The course demonstrates a strong, evidence-based approach to conservation, supported by ecological surveys undertaken over many years by consultants, conservation groups, industry bodies and specialist suppliers. Management considers the needs of notable species and habitats, including grassland, woodland and wetland, with Natural England, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and other relevant organisations consulted where appropriate. The Club also maintains environmental management measures associated with Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) environmental management requirements, including controls on lime and pesticide use, protection of soil structure and wildlife habitats, and safeguards for

			ecological and archaeological features. These measures provide a robust framework for protecting the site's environmental value. CIP: Please continue reviewing ecological survey findings to maintain clear, evidence-led habitat priorities, with actions focused on notable species, habitat condition and improved ecological connectivity. CIP: Please continue monitoring HLS management areas and reviewing prescriptions with Natural England to maintain compliance, demonstrate positive outcomes and identify opportunities for further habitat enhancement.
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 Hotchkin and Bracken Courses use a predominantly cool-season turfgrass mix, including fescues, bents, Poa annua, Lolium perenne, Agrostis canina, Poa trivialis and Holcus lanatus. The composition is well suited to the UK's heathland and free-draining conditions, with fine fescues and bents offering strong potential for resilient, lower-input turf. Species selection considers disease, heat, winter stress, wear tolerance, soil type and pH to support long-term sustainability. A multi-year partnership with Turfgrass provides a tailored agronomy programme incorporating integrated pest management, irrigation optimisation, soil testing and targeted nutrient management. This evidence-led approach supports turf health and playability while improving resource efficiency and environmental stewardship. CIP: Please continue encouraging fine fescues and bents through appropriate mowing, fertility, irrigation and overseeding, reducing reliance on higher-input species where conditions allow. CIP: Please continue evaluating turfgrass performance against climate change, disease pressure and site conditions to favour resilient, well-adapted species and reduce future inputs. CIP: Please continue using agronomic data, soil testing and expert review to continually refine nutrient, irrigation and IPM programmes, with measurable targets for resource efficiency and turf performance.

	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	The courses use regular aeration, verti-draining, solid-tining, hollow-coring and topdressing to maintain soil structure, drainage and rootzone health. Greens receive approximately 25,000 kg of topdressing across 12 applications, with a further 40,000 kg applied to tees annually, supporting consistent playing surfaces and long-term turf resilience. CIP: Please continue using soil testing and monitoring of compaction, infiltration and organic matter to target aeration and topdressing where they deliver the greatest agronomic and environmental benefit, while optimising material use and maintaining healthy rootzones.
	N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation	Test and monitor soil pH; Follow legal requirements when timing fertiliser applications Ensure staff are fully qualified to use fertilisers Ensure staff use appropriate protective equipment Regularly calibrate and test applicators	The Club demonstrates a controlled, evidence-based approach to fertiliser management, using defined-rate liquid applications, seasonal Urea/AMS and a single slow-release granular application. Rates and timing are informed by temperature, shade, rainfall, height of cut, foot traffic, clipping production and soil testing. Nutrient inputs are recorded by playing area, with relatively low inputs on fairways demonstrating a lower-intensity approach. Biostimulants, including Maxtim Sport and molasses, are also used on greens and fairways as part of the wider turf and soil health programme. CIP: Please continue reviewing N, P and K inputs against soil testing and turf performance, refining rates and timing in response to weather and growing conditions to optimise nutrient efficiency and minimise losses. CIP: Please continue to monitor turf and soil response to biostimulants and, where practical, assess their effectiveness in supporting plant health and reducing reliance on conventional inputs.
	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 The Club uses a comprehensive range of cultural and mechanical practices across greens, tees and fairways, including aeration, verti-cutting, scarification, mowing management, rolling, blade sharpening, moisture removal and traffic management. Adjusting mowing patterns and heights helps maintain turf health, surface quality and resilience while reducing reliance on chemical interventions. An independent machinery assessment and training visit in May 2025 reviewed quality of cut, turf definition, unwanted grass species and sharpening intervals. Recommendations on mowing procedures,

			machinery improvements and reel selection demonstrate a proactive approach to improving both turf quality and machinery efficiency. CIP: Please continue reviewing mowing, aeration and traffic-management practices to optimise turf performance, minimise stress and wear, and reduce remedial inputs. CIP: Please continue to implement and periodically review machinery recommendations, recording sharpening intervals and quality-of-cut outcomes to demonstrate measurable improvements in turf performance and operational efficiency.
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 courses demonstrate a proactive Integrated Turfgrass Management (ITM) approach, combining appropriate species selection, cultural and mechanical practices, balanced nutrition and irrigation, routine scouting and hotspot monitoring. Pest and disease risks are assessed against soil, turf species, drainage, shade, weather and wear, with targeted pesticide use supported by trained staff, calibrated equipment and spot treatment. Pesticide records provide evidence of targeted fungicide and insecticide use on greens, with active ingredients and application quantities recorded. Routine scouting, wear monitoring and mapped historic hotspots help inform treatment decisions and minimise unnecessary intervention. Primo Maxx 2 (trinexapac-ethyl) is used across greens, tees and fairways to regulate growth, helping control clipping production and potentially reduce associated maintenance inputs. CIP: Please continue strengthening monitoring records and treatment thresholds to support evidence-based decisions and further reduce pesticide reliance where practical. CIP: Please continue hotspot mapping and routine scouting records to identify trends, refine thresholds and target applications more precisely. CIP: Please continue monitoring growth response, clipping production and turf quality to optimise PGR timing and rates, avoiding unnecessary applications and improving resource efficiency.

	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	The Club demonstrates good chemical management practices, including planned machinery washing, use of legally approved products, trained and licensed operators, regular sprayer calibration, spot treatment and precision application equipment. Shrouded sprayers and anti-drip nozzles further reduce spray drift and off-target application, supporting responsible and efficient product use. CIP: Please continue reviewing application methods, equipment and staff competency, ensuring all residual products and washings are handled, stored and disposed of strictly in accordance with product labels and regulatory requirements.
N3 Pollution Prevention			
N3.1 Prevent pollution across the entire site	N3.1.1 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from golf course operations	Document procedures for emergency spill responses ; Retain no-spray/no-spread buffer areas next to water bodies and wetlands; Retain no-spray/no-spread buffer zones in and around ecologically sensitive areas	The Club has robust measures in place to reduce pollution risks, including impermeable, curbed areas for spill containment, no-spray zones and unmown buffers adjacent to water bodies and sensitive areas. LERAP buffer requirements are applied to protect aquatic environments, while light irrigation following fertiliser application supports effective nutrient incorporation and helps minimise losses. CIP: Please finalise and clearly display the emergency spill response procedure, and continue reviewing buffer zones, application methods and irrigation timing to minimise pollution risks and improve nutrient efficiency.
	N3.1.2 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from clubhouse operations	Formal wastewater discharge agreement, if applicable	Chemicals are logged, securely stored and clearly signed, with appropriate ventilation and access controls. Waste is stored in designated areas prior to collection, with glass, cardboard and mixed waste collected for recycling by a registered waste carrier. CIP: Please continue monitoring chemical and waste storage areas and review recycling streams to maximise recovery and minimise waste sent for disposal.

	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	Pesticide and fertiliser mixing and loading are undertaken on an impermeable surface, with pesticide containers triple-rinsed and safely stored prior to disposal. CIP: Please continue reviewing mixing, rinsing and storage procedures and staff training to minimise contamination risk and ensure full compliance with product labels and waste regulations.
N3.2 Safely manage hazardous substances	N3.2.1 Legal compliance in the storage, handling, application and safe disposal of all hazardous substances	List of hazardous substances, made available to authorised staff; Product and material data safety sheets; Well ventilated concrete or metal building; Impermeable, leak-free flooring; Sufficient storage capacity; Spill containment kits; Secondary containment e.g., bunds or drip trays; Emergency wash area, as per local requirements (body shower and / or eye wash station); Hazardous substances safely collected by a registered company or body ; Follow any additional legal requirements	The course has robust controls for hazardous materials, including secure and appropriately contained storage, impermeable mixing areas, spill kits, emergency wash facilities, fire protection and a new secondary fuel containment. Hazardous waste is securely stored and collected by registered contractors (e.g. Greensman). CIP: Please continue regular inspection, staff training and review of storage, spill-response and waste procedures to maintain compliance and minimise environmental risk.
	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	The course has robust controls for hazardous materials, including secure and appropriately contained storage, impermeable mixing areas, spill kits, emergency wash facilities, fire protection and a new secondary fuel containment.

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	The maintenance facility uses a closed-loop ESD Waste2Water system for machinery washdown, incorporating separation of grass clippings, oil and grease. This provides controlled wastewater management and reduces the risk of pollutants entering the wider environment. CIP: Please continue monitoring system performance and maintenance requirements, and review opportunities to further reduce water use and improve recovery and reuse.
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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	The course recorded 20,447 m³ of surface water from onsite reservoirs for golf course irrigation, which provides an alternative to potable mains water. The Club is taking steps to reduce water demand by limiting irrigation to essential playing surfaces and prioritising firmer, drier course conditions where appropriate. The approach includes selecting grass species suited to the local climate and promoting the naturalisation of underutilised turfgrass and non-playing areas. Native and drought-tolerant vegetation is also prioritised where practicable, reducing reliance on irrigation while supporting biodiversity and the natural character of the course. Irrigation scheduling considers factors such as soil moisture, weather conditions, wind speed and evapotranspiration, helping to ensure water is applied only when and where it is required. CIP: Please continue monitoring irrigation demand and water-use efficiency, using weather, soil moisture and turf requirements to optimise applications and minimise abstraction.

			CIP: Please continue to reduce the irrigated area where practical and increase the use of drought-tolerant and native vegetation. CIP: Please continue and expand upon, where appropriate, the use of soil-moisture sensors and weather/evapotranspiration data to further optimise irrigation scheduling, minimise water consumption, and demonstrate ongoing efficiency improvements.
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	Modern Toro irrigation systems are installed on both the Hotchkin and Bracken Courses, with the Bracken upgrade completed since the previous verification. Improved sprinkler calibration and targeting allow irrigation to focus on essential playing areas, reducing overspray and unnecessary water use. Irrigation is managed by the greenkeeping team according to course conditions and weather, with hand watering used where appropriate for localised areas. Woodhall Spa Golf Club undertakes 2–3 water quality tests annually, with testing by ENVOQ Ltd confirming water quality meets ‘open water swimming quality’ standards. Regular monitoring supports responsible water and environmental management. Irrigation audits are undertaken twice annually to monitor system performance, identify inefficiencies and improve water-use efficiency. The Club also uses ProData weather systems to inform irrigation and disease management based on local weather conditions and forecasts. POGO Turf Pro sensor technology provides GPS-referenced data on key turf performance variables, supporting targeted decisions around irrigation, nutrition and cultural practices. Wetting agents are also used across greens, tees and fairways to improve soil moisture distribution and irrigation efficiency, particularly in areas prone to localised dry conditions. CIP: Please continue using soil-moisture, weather, evapotranspiration and irrigation audit data to refine scheduling, wetting-agent applications and system performance, with the aim of reducing water consumption and improving irrigation efficiency. CIP: Please continue annual water quality monitoring and retain records to demonstrate trends and inform ongoing water management and the protection of water resources. CIP: Please continue reviewing emerging irrigation technologies and maximise the use of available data to improve precision, reduce water consumption and strengthen long-term water resilience.

	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	A new clubhouse at the National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa, is scheduled for completion in Autumn 2027. The contemporary design draws on the site's local character, materials and architectural heritage while maximising views across the Hotchkin Course. Sustainability is a key priority, with the building designed to achieve a BREEAM 'Very Good' rating and incorporate solar panels, air-source heat pumps, LED lighting, enhanced thermal performance, natural daylight and EV charging. A dedicated Heritage Room will celebrate the history of England Golf and Woodhall Spa Golf Club, connecting the site's heritage with its future. Water use at the maintenance facility is monitored and recorded, supported by water-efficient plumbing, appliances and staff awareness measures. CIP: Following completion, please regularly monitor energy, water and waste performance to identify further efficiency opportunities and ensure the building continues to deliver strong sustainability performance beyond its initial BREEAM assessment. CIP: Please continue monitoring seasonal water-use trends and periodically review the facility for further efficiency measures, including water audits and upgrades to efficient fixtures where appropriate.
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	The Club uses onsite water resources (reservoirs) for golf course irrigation, reducing reliance on mains drinking water. Water abstraction and consumption are managed in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements, with abstraction licensing and reporting undertaken where required. CIP: Please continue to investigate opportunities to increase the use of rainwater harvesting, water retention and other lower-impact water sources for irrigation, where technically, environmentally and economically appropriate. Continue monitoring abstraction and water use to support responsible long-term water management.
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's annual electricity consumption is approximately 253,603 kWh, alongside reported fossil fuel use of approximately 24,000 litres of diesel, 14,416 m³ of natural gas and 12,000 litres of petrol. The mixed fleet includes diesel, petrol and electric machinery and vehicles, with 12

			electric golf carts and 6 electric ride-on/maintenance vehicles already in operation. Energy demand is also reduced through the naturalisation of non-playing areas, heathland restoration and the use of low-maintenance, low-irrigation vegetation where appropriate. These measures reduce mowing, irrigation and other energy-intensive maintenance requirements. CIP: Please continue monitoring energy and fuel consumption, identifying opportunities to improve efficiency, expand on-site renewable generation and progressively transition machinery and vehicles to electric or other lower-carbon alternatives where operationally suitable. CIP: Please continue expanding naturalised and low-maintenance areas where appropriate, reducing maintenance inputs while increasing the proportion of electric machinery and vehicles across the operational fleet.
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 maintenance facility uses energy-efficient lighting, including LED lighting, to reduce electricity consumption. Heating is provided by a biomass boiler system, with all fuel sourced on site, providing a lower-carbon alternative to conventional fossil-fuel heating. Maintenance vehicles and equipment are regularly serviced, and the Club uses electric maintenance equipment to further reduce fossil-fuel use. CIP: Please continue to improve energy efficiency through LED upgrades, efficient appliances and increased use of electric equipment where practical. Continue to monitor biomass fuel use and boiler performance to optimise efficiency.
R2.3 Source energy responsibly	R2.3.1 Measures to source alternative, renewable forms of energy	Understand the energy mix of your electricity supplier; Explore possible greener energy providers	The Club has taken positive steps to source greener energy and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. The electricity supply has been confirmed as renewable/green, with the supplier's energy mix reviewed and a renewable tariff or supplier in place. The Club is also transitioning machinery and vehicles to electric or hybrid alternatives where practical. The Club consults experts annually on opportunities for small-scale renewable energy and is exploring the use of a biodigester to support renewable energy generation and resource recovery.

			CIP: Please continue reviewing opportunities for onsite renewable generation and resource recovery, including the potential implementation of the biodigester and other suitable technologies, while maintaining a progressive transition towards electric equipment and vehicles.
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 has a well-established waste management system supported by Veolia, with detailed monitoring through its online portal. Current records show 20,282 kg of waste, including 6,097 kg recycled and 14,185 kg sent for energy recovery, with 100% diverted from landfill. The Club's performance has been recognised by Veolia, which has approached the site to develop a best-practice case study. Resource efficiency is also supported through stock control, reduced paper use, seasonal and local produce, reusable alternatives and refillable water bottles (at the bar). On-site honey production provides a local food source while supporting the Club's wider biodiversity initiatives. The onsite turf nursery provides sustainability benefits by enabling the Club to grow and maintain turf on site, reducing reliance on external sources, transport requirements and associated emissions, and helping to reduce the Club's overall carbon footprint. It also supports more efficient use of resources and greater resilience in turf management. The Club uses approximately 40,000 kg of quarried/mined sand for bunker and general maintenance, presenting an opportunity to explore more sustainable sourcing. CIP: Please continue monitoring waste streams, increasing recycling and reducing waste generation while maintaining 100% diversion from landfill. CIP: Please explore suitable local or recycled material sources, where technically appropriate, to reduce reliance on quarried materials and associated transport impacts. CIP: Please continue to maximise the sustainability benefits of the onsite turf nursery by maintaining and, where appropriate, expanding on-site turf production.

			CIP: Please continue reducing material use at source through digital processes, sustainable catering procurement, reusable products and reduced packaging.
R3.2 Purchase responsibly	R3.2.1 Commit to sustainable purchasing practices	Favour responsible, lower impact products	The Club demonstrates a growing commitment to sustainable procurement, with approximately 100 of its 350 suppliers (29%) located within 100 miles, supporting the regional economy and helping to reduce transport impacts. Purchasing decisions consider product durability, whole-life environmental impact and supplier sustainability credentials. Where practicable, recycled and sustainable materials, eco-friendly cleaning products and reduced packaging are preferred. Larger-volume purchasing and the new inventory system also help reduce packaging and transport-related emissions. Sustainability considerations extend to course and facility procurement, including durable furniture, hybrid and electric machinery and the EcoBunker system, supporting operational efficiency objectives. CIP: Please continue increasing the proportion of local suppliers where commercially and operationally appropriate, maintaining accurate records to measure progress. CCIP: Please develop and implement a formal sustainable procurement policy covering supplier selection, environmental criteria, product durability, packaging and whole-life impacts, with the approach communicated to relevant departments, staff and suppliers. Use this policy to embed consistent, measurable sustainability criteria across purchasing decisions and strengthen the Club's influence throughout its supply chain.
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 makes effective use of reused and recycled materials where appropriate, reducing demand for virgin resources and associated environmental impacts. Examples include recycled or reclaimed aggregates, compost-derived soils, recycled timber and metal, woodchip, signage and fencing. Established recycling systems across the clubhouse and maintenance facility use clearly labelled, colour-coded bins to separate and monitor waste streams. Green waste is retained as a resource through woodchipping, biomass fuel, composting, soil reuse and

			habitat piles, reducing disposal requirements and supporting a circular approach to resource management. CIP: Please continue identifying opportunities to increase the use of reused and recycled materials across course construction, maintenance and landscaping, considering suitability, durability and whole-life environmental impacts to maximise resource efficiency.
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 uses authorised waste contractors, including Veolia, Booker and Greensman, to collect and manage waste materials in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements. This provides assurance that waste is handled responsibly and supports the Club's wider commitment to compliant and sustainable waste management.

COMMUNITY			
<u>C1 Health & Wellbeing</u>			
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	The Club provides broad opportunities for participation, with 975 members and approximately 18,000 visitors during the reporting period. Its membership spans all age groups, while female participation currently represents 18% of golfers. The Club's main decision-making group has 50% male and 50% female representation, demonstrating balanced governance. The Club employs 60 people, including full-time, part-time and seasonal staff, and has achieved Women in Golf Charter status through England Golf and The R&A. A strong ladies' section, supported by golfing buddies, helps women and girls develop confidence and progress within the sport. The Club's Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy, SafeGolf accreditation, safeguarding procedures and Social Media Policy provide a

			clear framework for fairness, respect, inclusion and responsible participation. CIP: Please continue broadening participation across all ages and genders, with particular focus on increasing female and junior participation through the Golf Academy, junior competitions, mixed-gender activity and accessible tuition. CIP: Please monitor participation, membership and feedback data to identify barriers, measure progress and strengthen opportunities for women, girls and under-represented groups. CIP: Please continue reviewing and embedding equality, diversity and safeguarding policies to ensure they remain effective, current and reflected in day-to-day Club operations.
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 Club provides a range of opportunities for community access, recreation and participation beyond golf. • Public access: The Viking Way passes through the golf course, and the Club actively supports the maintenance of public footpaths and rights of way across the site. Signage and path maintenance are provided in collaboration with relevant groups to ensure safe and accessible routes for non-golfers. • Community facilities: The Club makes its building facilities available to local community groups, including catering facilities, meeting rooms and function rooms for hire. The presence of England Golf headquarters also provides substantial conference, meeting and function space for public and golfing organisations. • Health and wellbeing: The Club promotes good nutrition and injury avoidance programmes, supporting the health and wellbeing of golfers and participants. • Inclusive participation: The Club's Golf Academy provides tuition opportunities for all, helping to broaden access to the sport. • Junior golf: There is an increasing programme of junior competitions and matches, supported by dedicated tee times and a junior academy course. • Gender inclusion: Mixed-gender matches and away fixtures provide opportunities for inclusive participation and engagement with other golf clubs. CIP: Please continue to improve public access, community use of facilities and inclusive golfing opportunities, with particular focus on

			expanding junior participation, mixed-gender activity and access to golf for people from a wider range of backgrounds and abilities.
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 demonstrates a structured approach to health, safety and operational risk through documented procedures, risk assessments and staff training. COSHH controls cover hazardous substances, including risk assessment, appropriate control measures, safer alternatives, equipment maintenance, training and the maintenance of COSHH assessments and Safety Data Sheets. A DSEAR assessment for the Golf Club/WSGM was completed on 14 November 2025, with review scheduled for November 2026. Risk assessments for greens maintenance volunteers and pond maintenance were also completed on the same date. Emergency arrangements include a Code Red procedure, first-aid provision and accessible defibrillators, supported by radio communication, 999 emergency response and What3Words locations. Course safety is further supported through the Course Safety, Poor Visibility and Greenkeeper Priority procedures. CIP: Please continue reviewing COSHH and operational risk assessments annually, or sooner where circumstances change, ensuring controls, training and working practices remain effective. CIP: Please regularly check emergency procedures, equipment, signage and location information to ensure they remain accessible, operational and clearly understood by staff and golfers.
<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 Club provides a highly accessible golfing environment, with approximately 65,000 rounds played during the reporting period. An estimated 95% of rounds are completed on foot, supporting a lower-impact approach to course access and reducing reliance on motorised transport around the course. The recommended round length is approximately 4 hours. The Club continues to provide a strong platform for competitive and community golf, hosting 29 tournaments during the reporting period, with an estimated 3,200 participants.

			CIP: Please continue to encourage walking golf wherever practical and monitor participation patterns to maintain the environmental and wellbeing benefits associated with high levels of walking rounds. CIP: Please continue to host a diverse programme of tournaments and events, while seeking opportunities to increase participation and maximise the positive social, sporting and economic benefits to the Club and wider community.
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	The Club makes a significant contribution to the community through volunteering, charitable events and fundraising. During the reporting period: • 750 hours of volunteering were undertaken at or on behalf of the Club. • 8 charitable events were supported or hosted. • 8 charities received support. • £27,500 was raised for charitable causes. • Charitable support includes Dementia UK, St Barnabas Hospice and Care and Support. CIP: Please continue to increase volunteering opportunities, charitable activities and fundraising, while maintaining accurate records of hours, events, charities supported and funds raised.
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 has developed active partnerships with a range of local organisations, supporting environmental, cultural, sporting, tourism and community initiatives. These include: • Lincolnshire Wolds – supporting the local landscape, environment and tourism offer. • Woodhall Spa Outdoor Festival – supporting local community and outdoor activities. • Woodhall Spa Festival of Storytelling – contributing to the local cultural programme. • Woodhall Spa in Bloom – supporting local environmental and community enhancement. • Lincoln City FC – supporting regional sporting and community initiatives. • Woodhall Spa Cricket Club – supporting local sport and community participation. • Mainland Lodge Retreats – working with a local tourism and accommodation partner.

			These partnerships help strengthen the Club's connection with the local community and contribute to the wider social, cultural and economic wellbeing of the area. CIP: Please continue to strengthen existing partnerships and develop new relationships with local organisations, with a focus on opportunities that provide measurable benefits for the community, environment and local economy.
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 Club has an established Sustainability Working Group, comprising the General Manager, Course Director, Sustainability Officer and General Manager, which meets every two months to review sustainability performance, priorities and ongoing initiatives. Meetings are minuted, with regular communication and follow-up between meetings to maintain momentum and ensure actions are progressed. Woodhall Spa Golf Club communicates its wildlife and conservation work through its dedicated wildlife and conservation blog, member newsletters and engagement activities. These channels help members and visitors understand the ecological value of the Hotchkin and Bracken Courses and the positive role golf can play in supporting nature. The Club's 2025 wildlife update highlighted 57 bird species, 18 butterfly species, 16 dragonfly/damselfly species and 448 moth species, alongside the success of the nestbox project, with 55 of 63 boxes occupied and 498 chicks fledged. Wildlife activities, including a bat walk with the Lincolnshire Bat Group, provide further opportunities for members and visitors to engage directly with the site's biodiversity. CIP: Please continue to strengthen the Sustainability Working Group by maintaining regular meetings, tracking actions and outcomes, and using the review process to identify and implement further measurable sustainability improvements across the Club. CIP: Please continue strengthening regular communications on wildlife records, conservation projects and measurable biodiversity outcomes, highlighting practical ways members can support environmental objectives.

			CIP: Please continue developing guided walks, surveys and other wildlife activities to encourage greater member and visitor participation and strengthen the Club's role as a centre for environmental learning and engagement.
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 has a dedicated Sustainability section on its website, communicating the ecological importance of the Hotchkin Course as a designated SSSI, its partnership with Natural England, ongoing heathland restoration and the specialist flora and fauna supported by the site. The Club also promotes its GEO Certified status and wider sustainability commitment. Sustainability achievements are further shared through the GEO Foundation's Sustainable Golf platform, extending the Club's reach and providing an external showcase for its environmental and conservation work. CIP: Please continue regularly updating the Sustainability section with conservation progress, wildlife highlights, measurable outcomes and practical guidance for members and visitors. CIP: Please continue sharing key sustainability achievements through Club and external channels to strengthen awareness, engagement and recognition of Woodhall Spa Golf Club as a leader in sustainable golf.
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 an established Sustainability Working Group, comprising the General Manager, Course Director, Sustainability Officer and General Manager, which meets every two months to review sustainability performance, priorities and ongoing initiatives. Meetings are minuted, with regular communication and follow-up between meetings to maintain momentum and ensure actions are progressed.

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

