GEO Certified® Report
Wentworth Club

Prepared by Independent Verifier, Tony Hanson

Certified by GEO Foundation: October 2020
Valid until: October 2025

GEO Foundation
Sustainability in and through golf

"The site-visit underlined and highlighted the commitment to and range of activities being undertaken across the courses, clubhouse and maintenance facilities, driven by the knowledge and enthusiasm of the staff. Traditional course management based on deep intuition and experience, and the introduction of new technology such as GPS modelling for applications to turf offers significant potential for development across the facility."

Tony Hanson

GEO accredited Independent Verifier

Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that Wentworth 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.

Wentworth 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 set for the future, Wentworth Club should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, Wentworth 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.

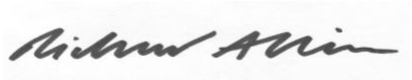
The GEO Certified® Report that follows comments on the actions undertaken against the criteria, as observed by the Independent Verifier during the assurance process.

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



Richard Allison
Manager, GEO Certified Facilities

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.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**	Map all habitats and vegetation types on the site; Regularly update landscape / biodiversity surveys	Site images reviewed Habitat surveys reviewed and discussed Advice and input for local wildlife groups discussed during the course walk.

		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	The site hosts: a. Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) b. Special Area of Conservation (SAC) c. Special Protection Area (SPA) The club engages with Surrey Wildlife Trust and other conservation groups to protect and enhance these key sites.
		N1.1.3 Understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site	No archaeological, historic or cultural designations advised
	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	Course fairway areas and shapes are reviewed based on round times, staff observation and feedback from players
	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	The habitat management plan is based on advice from local wildlife groups. Projects to manage and maintain habitat and ecological diversity are reviewed and updated annually. Discussions during the course walk showed the range and depth of knowledge. The recent heath fire, spreading from the SWT Reserve, has devasted a significant area of heathland habitat and some course infrastructure. Recovery will take some time and rely heavily on natural regeneration.
	N1.4 Conserve key species	**N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species**		Advice is taken from a variety of specialist groups to inform the management of habitats. Biodiversity consultancy is commissioned to offer specific management planning.
	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	Turfgrass species on site provide the required quality of playing surfaces, together with drought and disease resilience. Trial turf nurseries are maintained to review quality and to provide training and testing opportunities.

				Turfgrass quality will continue to be monitored with consideration to the changing climate.
		N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition		Cultural practices include spiking, slitting and hollow-tining and top dressing to reduce compaction and encourage water penetration and root depth.
		N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation	Undertake soil tests and nutrient analysis	Soil nutrition and inputs were discussed during the course walk, with regular testing and visual inspections guiding the use of fertilisers. STRI provides regular testing and reports to help guide and inform management decisions
	N2.2 Prioritise mechanical maintenance	**N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management**	Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture; Hand weeding	Equipment maintenance is seen as being a key component of disease management. The depth of knowledge and experience of the site, along with the stress prone areas mapped on the ITM allow early warning of potential issues and guide pre-emptive physical interventions.
	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	The ITM plan provides the structure and course mapping to help and assess risks and implement preventative actions. Course condition is constantly reviewed during general maintenance tasks to help identify potential issues. The need for chemical intervention is assessed based on site knowledge, forecasts to ensure need, and estimated outcome of application.
		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	Reviewed chemical stock recording and discussed spray training and licences. PPE and personal wash areas reviewed. New GPS tracking systems are being used to provide accurate dosing and delivery, a technology common in agricultural settings and now transitioning to turfgrass management. Maintenance of equipment includes calibration to ensure accuracy of targeted delivery.
	N3 Pollution Prevention			
	N3.1 Prevent pollution across the	**N3.1.1 Practical measures to ensure**	Document procedures for emergency spill responses;	Discussed the emergency response plan – this is being

	entire site	**pollution risks are minimised from golf course operations**	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.	formalised currently. Site images and maps outlined above. “No spray” buffer zones were discussed and are in place. Continued Improvement Points Formalise the Pollution Incident Response Plan in line with PPG-21 Fuel delivery site is located in close proximity to a watercourse a. Remote tank level monitoring is advised b. Tank and pipes are sub surface and inspection by a specialist should be undertaken at regular intervals to ensure integrity Water testing in the watercourse on a regular basis would pick up low volume leaks before they became apparent on stock records
		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	Licenced contractors provide waste collection and disposal for the site. Wastewater discharge licences were discussed and confirmed
		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	Washdown area drains to a closed loop treatment system. Fuels and oils are stored in appropriate bunded proprietary storage equipment. Mixing of materials takes place over the closed loop wash down area.
	N3.2 Safely manage hazardous substances	**N3.2.1 Legal compliance in the storage, handling, application and safe disposal of all hazardous substances**	Maintain a register of hazardous materials available to authorised staff; Safe storage in secure and ventilated concrete or metal building; Sufficient storage capacity; Impermeable flooring; Spill containment kits present; Emergency wash area; Fire extinguisher in the immediate area; Secondary containment for fuel, either externally constructed, or integrally	Log confirmed. Reviewed hazardous materials storage with bunding. Spill kits and personal wash/safety equipment was in place. Observed the wash down infrastructure. Observed fuel storage tanks with integrated bunding. Infrastructure is regularly inspected to ensure integrity Continued Improvement Points

			manufactured; Regular inspection of storage tanks	Formalise the Pollution Incident Response Plan (as detailed above)
	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)	Discussed discharge licences. Observed washdown bay and Closed Loop System

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 water use is based on need with moisture levels and turf health closely monitored. Moisture monitoring is provided by handheld GPS moisture probes
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	Visual turf and soil inspections for the basis for the assessment of irrigation need. Irrigation control and dosing can be controlled remotely or on site. Irrigation systems and infrastructure are maintained regularly to ensure delivery accuracy and to identify potential leaks.
	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	Invoices and volumes are checked regularly. Volumes are recorded as part of normal site management procedures helping to identify use and consumption by operational area.
R1.3 Source water	**R1.3.1 Measures towards**	Ensure appropriate water	Mains water is used for irrigation currently.

	responsibly	**alternative, lower quality sources of water**	abstraction permit and reporting, as required	Management discussions include climate adaption and the situation will be monitored. Continued Improvement Points Review the potential for alternative sources of water for irrigation e.g. land drainage and formal/informal attenuation pond/tank, borehole. The club's location makes it advisable to create onsite water stock to provide secured irrigation stock
	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	The area of managed amenity turfgrass is monitored and minimised to reduce operational costs and emissions
	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	Energy invoices are regularly reviewed. Energy consumption is allocated to operational areas where possible
	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	Renewable energy options are discussed and reviewed regularly.
	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	Waste management includes monitoring total volumes and confirming the final destination. The reduction of waste to landfill is a key management target.
	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	Discussed the purchasing policy with aims including minimising delivery miles and packaging among other KPI's.

	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	Waste separation is operated within staff areas of operations A further review of waste management and separation is in place – findings and actions can be discussed at the next verification.
	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	Discussed waste and licenced contractors used to collect and dispose of waste for the facility. Discussions are ongoing to look for methods to reduce waste and reduce waste to landfill.

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**		The facility provides a community facility with nature trails, footpaths and bridleways providing recreational opportunities. Clubhouse facilities are available for local groups and meetings.
C1.2 Provide for volunteering and charity	**C1.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes**		Staff are encouraged to help and volunteer for local charities Events are hosted regularly raising funds for a range of good causes
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'	Discussed meetings and methods of engaging with stakeholders There appears to be a core of stakeholders involved and engaged, the management are seeking methods to expand the engagement across a broader spectrum of patrons.
C2 Golfers & Employees			
C2.1 Improve health and wellbeing	**C2.1.1 Benefits to human physical and mental health from golf and facility activities**		The facility has seen a significant bounce with many new people starting to play golf post Covid-19 lockdown. The physical and mental benefits of golf and socially responsible

				socialising
	C2.2 Be open and inclusive	**C2.2.1 Inclusivity and diversity in membership and visitor policies**	Demonstrate inclusive policies for members and visitors	There is an open and inclusive policy across all areas of operations
	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	Discussed staff training and induction to provide safety, environmental and broader commercial training. Continued Improvement Points Consider the introduction of a “Champions” system with staff encouraged to take on more active roles to monitor and improve management of energy, waste, water etc. Encourage suggestions on operations and use it as a training & team building opportunity.
	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	Communications have broadly switched to electronic newsletters and social media. Notice boards and interpretation boards are still used widely.
	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	Discussed marketing and direct communication to highlight the facility and sustainability messages

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