



GEO Certified[®]

GEO Certified[®] Report Golfbaan Dirkshorn

Prepared by independent verifier Paul van Kan

Certified by GEO Foundation: 2023
Recertification due: 2028

GEO Certified[®]



**GEO
Foundation**
Sustainability in and through golf

“On 58 ha, 18 holes were skilfully constructed in 2008. This 'inner links course' is proof that golf can fit perfectly well with landscape and nature, and that they can even reinforce each other. This is all a matter of good landscape design, player behaviour and a lot of explanation. The wind has free play here in the open West Frisian landscape and that can be felt and seen. The views are grand because the golf course and the landscape are in perfect harmony: sightlines to various church towers, the historic Groenvelder windmill from 1560 and the dunes of Schoorl enhance the quality. The golf course is also enhanced by the cloudy skies and special light in this open landscape.

Special birds live in and along the natural ponds, including harrier and bluethroat. It is wonderful to see how hare and oystercatcher feel much more at home here than in the surrounding farmland. At the Dirkshorn golf course, the quiet golfers and disturbance-prone nature go very well together. Thanks to a committee member who is the perfect ambassador for nature on the course, especially birds, golfers are involved in observing and managing nature. There are still challenges, such as making promising parts of the rough flowerier, protecting the calving banks naturally, and minimising chemical crop protection and fertilisation. Based on a detailed work plan, the lines for the future are set. Areas for improvement from the previous audit have been picked up and implemented.

Golfclub Dirkshorn is a social club with regular challenging club competitions and activities for young and old. Everyone quickly feels at home at this golf club with members mainly from the surrounding municipalities. Everyone is welcome in the clubhouse in the shape of an old farmhouse with a beautiful truss roof. The basis of this course and of the club is strong; there is every confidence in a green, sustainable future.”

*Paul van Kan
(GEO accredited independent verifier)*



Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that Golfbaan Dirkshorn 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.

Golfbaan Dirkshorn 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, Golfbaan Dirkshorn should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, Golfbaan Dirkshorn 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
Manager, 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitats & Biodiversity • Turfgrass management • Pollution prevention
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water • Energy • Materials
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	Thorough knowledge of nature and landscape available internally; Monitoring birds (including territories) 3-4 rounds annually (in cooperation with Tringa, a local association);

			<p>Monitoring plants, stopped since corona, will start again in 2023 (KNNV);</p> <p>Monitoring butterflies and dragonflies desirable, specialists are being sought;</p> <p>Other species groups regularly recorded;</p> <p>Characteristic (and often abundant): oystercatcher, hare, shelduck, weasel, common gull, reed orchid, broad-leaved helleborine, common kestrel, marsh harrier, various species of reed birds</p>
	<p>N1.1.2 Knowledge of legal designations for protected areas, habitats and species</p>	<p>Understand legal responsibilities for protected landscapes and species; Record and monitor protected, endangered, or rare species found on the site</p>	<p>N2000: not applicable (distant from golf course);</p> <p>NNN: adjacent dike along western boundary is a nature link, grazing by sheep;</p> <p>Map of nature types is suitable as biotope map;</p> <p>Characteristic biotopes: water with creek-like natural course surrounded by marshland and reed banks, scrub (locally) and extensively managed grassland with transitions to rough grazing;</p> <p>Red list species: little ringed plover, little grebe, kingfisher, partridge, bittern, sedge warbler, snipe, water rail</p> <p>CIP: Request an ecological work protocol from the NGF. This will be drawn up by an external consultant on the basis of present biotopes and expected species. In the meantime, work should be carried out in accordance with the approved nature management code of conduct.</p>
	<p>N1.1.3 Understanding and respect for cultural heritage</p>	<p>Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site</p>	<p>The golf course is located in the Schagerwaard (17th century reclamation along sea channel De Zijpe = Sipe/Oerij);</p> <p>The landscape architect Rijks made excellent use of landscape openness in design;</p> <p>Preserved openness and sightlines, existing historical dike around reclamation;</p> <p>Very modest shelters: 2x buried sea containers, 2x small wooden huts;</p> <p>Green field road (golf course on both sides) is historically of high value;</p> <p>Elongated water features with reeds follow more or less old ditches;</p>

			<p>Clubhouse in shape of old farmhouse, inside beautiful trusses in the open roof</p> <p>CIP: Guard the characteristic openness by means of established targets. Trees minimal and only on a few spots while maintaining openness. If trees fail, holes can be separated by (low) bushes instead of trees. Structures of dense thicket next to rough and water fit in perfectly here.</p>
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	<p>The sometimes wide fairways go unnoticed into rough;</p> <p>Playing surface reduced from 26 to 22 ha with a gain for natural grass (rough);</p> <p>Part of the rough sown with indigenous mix including daisy (appreciated by players)</p>
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	<p>The management plan is part of report -</p> <p>90% of the banks consist of nature banks with part reeds (not mowed);</p> <p>Banks all around managed by water board (inspection obligation);</p> <p>Dike along border grazed by local herd;</p> <p>Trees very limited, assortment small and largely indigenous;</p> <p>Due to strong winds and clay soil many trees are languishing or falling out;</p> <p>VTA is not applicable (hardly any trees and also far from play); Pollarded willows (pollarded in phases);</p> <p>CIP: The bat cellar is unique and appears to be compliant. Seek out a bat expert to use this to get a better picture of bats on and around the course and how they can be further supported (adapt basement, vegetation, group of bat boxes or pole).</p> <p>CIP: Erosion of unvegetated banks due to wave action is a major and growing problem. In banks with reeds and cattail, erosion is less of an issue. While maintaining open banks, the choice is: (1) shoring up or (2) installing foreshores using coir rolls planted with dotter, marsh forget-me-not and other flowering bank plants. The first option limits opportunities for wildlife and produces a less attractive image. The second option is three times gain: riparian</p>

			<p>defence, natural values, beautiful image.</p> <p>CIP: Over the next five years, work on an update of the management plan focusing on target images, management areas and promising spots and spots of concern. This is in relation to safeguarding the unique nature and landscape values.</p>
N1.4 Conserve key species	N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species		<p>Numerous species-specific facilities: bat cellar (atmosphere good, no draught, but not yet used), bat crate, nesting boxes (including tits, kestrel, little owl, house and barn swallow, swift), duck decoys, insect hotel, river bank nooks, pond verges, fish-free toad pool, natural banks with shrubbery, small dense bushes;</p> <p>Bunkers often used by oystercatcher, walls by wild bees;</p> <p>GUR applied during breeding case (i.e.: do not mow, do not enter);</p> <p>CIP: Deposit loamy sand (loam fraction 10-15 %) in spots at top and bottom of walls for wild bees. Or construct a beehive.</p>
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	<p>Greens, tees and fairways composed of at least 3 grass species, with festuca rubra occupying the most important position (less drought-resistant, but that is not a problem here);</p> <p>Rough is composed of at least 6 grass species;</p> <p>Grass mix makes the turf less vulnerable, little nutrition needed; poa annua no problem, tolerated, including vertical mowing</p>
	N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition		<p>Annual soil survey and fertilisation advice externally, fertilisation plan based on this;</p> <p>Monthly greenkeeping consultations and adjustments where necessary; spot with structural flooding solved by drainage measures</p>
	N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation	Undertake soil tests and nutrient analysis	<p>Amounts of N are average, K and P are relatively low (largely non-organic manure);</p> <p>Annual measurements of pH, organic matter and water permeability;</p> <p>Foliar analysis used to adjust fertilisation;</p>

			Biological fertiliser pilot started in collaboration with agricultural technician
N2.2 Prioritise mechanical maintenance	N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management	Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture; Hand weeding	Frequent sharpening and adjustment of blades; Manual removal of weeds on greens; Environmentally friendly weed removal for parking areas; Preventive: iron to reduce susceptibility to fungus
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	Contractor De Enk follows IPM when using crop protection products; Use pesticides using environmental ladder to minimise environmental impact
	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 .	Limited fungicide use on greens; On tees, fairways and rough svarious herbicides (especially against daisy and clover); greenkeepers in possession of a certificate of competence; Valid spraying licences 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.	2 m buffer zone around surface water used; Protocol visible in shed
	N3.1.2 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are	Ensure all hazardous materials are safely and securely stored; Ensure compliance with all required	Descaler and Heavy Duty Cleaner in a dedicated detergent room in basement;

	<p>minimised from clubhouse operations</p>	<p>standards and systems for hazardous waste and wastewater discharge</p>	<p>Kitchen uses Caustic Alkali Liquid and a biologically environmentally friendly agent;</p> <p>Given the very limited scope of use, no protocol;</p> <p>Kitchen drains grease trap with filter, in compliance with environmental legislation</p>
	<p>N3.1.3 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from maintenance facility operations</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Floor wash bay/tank area has raised edge, no cracks in sealants, drain channel to pit is functioning properly;</p> <p>Oil and grease separator and grass filter is frequently emptied by a recognised company;</p> <p>Environmental department Kop Noord-Holland monitors this through the permit and inspections</p> <p>CIP: Carry out your own annual inspection of the floor and store it.</p>
<p>N3.2 Safely manage hazardous substances</p>	<p>N3.2.1 Legal compliance in the storage, handling, application and safe disposal of all hazardous substances</p>	<p>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 manufactured; Regular inspection of storage tanks</p>	<p>Storage and handling of hazardous, flammable substances according to environmental management law (contractor);</p> <p>Very spacious, former agricultural shed, all remote, concrete floor;</p> <p>Fire extinguishers everywhere;</p> <p>Chemicals in fireproof cupboard, locked and ventilated, registration stock;</p> <p>Double-walled diesel tank 2500 litres is sealed;</p> <p>Petrol supply outside in metal cupboard, max 3 jerry cans in shed for immediate use;</p> <p>Grass clippings (tees and reeds) are stored on a non-watertight plate, but never more than 3 cubic metres;</p> <p>Grass clippings from the fairway remain on the ground, grass clippings from the greens are spread over the mowing paths</p> <p>CIP: Provide sufficient absorbents within reach, check for oil leaks.</p>
<p>N3.3 Responsibly manage waste / storm water</p>	<p>N3.3.1 Appropriate wastewater usage and discharge licences</p>	<p>Wastewater discharge licence; Appropriate treatment of machinery wash water (impermeable surface, oil / grease / clipping separation)</p>	<p>Wastewater clubhouse and greenkeeping connected to sewer;</p> <p>No sanitary facilities on the course;</p> <p>Contact with Provincial Groundwater Protection Policy Framework</p>

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	Recording consumption data; Irrigation water high consumption, but very abundant surface water; Sprinkled area reduced from 14 to 11 ha, about 50% playing surface; Applied drought-resistant grasses require less water
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	Sprinkling with surface water; Fully automated irrigation (Toro irrigation system, type trident); Watering based on weather station data, Meteoconsult evaporation data, TDR moisture measurement; Irrigation performance audit available, annual adjustment; Use of wetting agents
	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	Very low drinking water consumption; Water-saving measures: showers, small cistern, economical dishwasher, sensors on taps, spraying with sprinkler water
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	Ponds are used by Hollands Noorderkwartier as a buffer; Water quality measurements since 2013, these are better than inlet water on job; Rainwater disconnected from buildings; Car park provided with green wadi's

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	<p>Diesel consumption average, petrol consumption low;</p> <p>Mowing GPS-controlled and therefore efficient, adjustments possible at all times;</p> <p>Area to be mowed reduced from 26 to 22 ha;</p> <p>New pump (2020), joggy pump is sometimes used as an extra pump;</p> <p>No heating of maintenance shed, excluding small canteen</p>
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	<p>Gas and electricity consumption relatively low with declining trend;</p> <p>Energy audit: keeping slope to stockroom frost-free is an energy eater. This has been resolved;</p> <p>Clubhouse well insulated (walls, roof, windows), high room is disadvantage, however;</p> <p>Almost everything LED, also driving range, sensors;</p> <p>Kitchen equipment largely energy-efficient;</p> <p>Buggies are being tested for energy efficiency;</p> <p>Use of natural light and heat</p> <p>CIP: To keep heat low in the high space of the canopy, noiseless propellers are effective.</p>
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	<p>102 panels on driving range, provides significant proportion of electricity;</p> <p>Purchase of green energy since 2014</p>
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	<p>Reuse such as old agricultural shed for greenkeeping, sea containers;</p> <p>Major maintenance arranged centrally with contractor;</p> <p>Grinding once a year, rapid free and backlap;</p>

			CIP: Consider grinding cages more often.
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	Organic was the ambition of the previous operator, there is contact with the new operator on this; Regional products are used wherever possible; After the switch, almost all suppliers are now (very) close by; Complete overview of suppliers in work plan; In connection with ISO standardisation, golf club complies with sustainable purchasing policy; Desire to grow herbs and part vegetables near the clubhouse
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	Bulk packaging is used wherever possible; Grass clippings (tees, reeds) and organic waste composted externally (fertilisation pilot); Separation of paper, residual waste, organic waste, glass, grass clippings, rubble, wood, metal, grease, and oil filters; Per hole waste bin with flap (against birds)
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	Waste collected separately by licensed waste company. Glass, grease and paper recycled; Per residual flow approximately once a month, on demand

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		Clubhouse/restaurant also open to non-golfers; Spaces rented out to local community; For hiking trails no place (safety) and no need
C1.2 Provide for volunteering and charity	C1.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes		Lots of volunteer effort; Support 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'	GEO: first certification 2010 immediately after construction, successful renewals in 2013 and 2016; GEO committee of 5 members including naturalists and head greenkeeper; Intensive contact GEO evidenced by IM Richard Allison in club magazine Greenvelder, among others; Good contacts with governments and local nature organisations (knnv, tringa); Clubhouse in connection with neighbours at other location (minimal traffic and light nuisance); High nets around driving range CIP: Make an update of the 2024-2030 work plan with ambitions, trigger, planning and budgeting.
C2 Golfers & Employees			
C2.1 Improve health and wellbeing	C2.1.1 Benefits to human physical and mental health from golf and facility activities		AED and BHV widely available; Greenfield crossing safe, lies on speed bumps slowing traffic (in cooperation with municipality) CIP: Create protocol for incidents, including a scenario for incidents and access to emergency services. Incidents that have occurred are also recorded and evaluated in this, with possible adjustments to the protocol.

C2.2 Be open and inclusive	C2.2.1 Inclusivity and diversity in membership and visitor policies	Demonstrate inclusive policies for members and visitors	Open and inclusive club culture; Male-female ratios equal; Youth committee active, tournaments
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	Contracts in line with collective labour agreement and working conditions; Limited staff development opportunities given limited number of employees; Work experience positions greenkeeping and club house
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	Communication takes place via the web, e-mail, the Greenvelder and notice board; Newsletter Greenvelder, including information on recertification, is available via a public website; 'Club of 100' is separate association with over 100 donors who sponsor actions such as: gallery of nature photos in stairwell; birdwatching 3-4x a year led by GEO committee member (bird expert and nature promoter); annual meeting for participants in which foundation board gives account; club meets twice a year CIP: Utilise the digital screen at reception also for nature and landscape photos. Provide brief info on current management or special observations.
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	Thematic meetings with nature organisations; Website including club magazine publicly accessible; Club is strongly region-oriented: small communities with short lines of communication CIP: The website is clear and beautifully designed and has a separate GEO page. This could be filled with the how and why of

				GEO and the certifications obtained since 2010. Also focus on the unique interplay between golfers and nature in the vast West Frisian landscape.
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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