



**GEO Certified<sup>®</sup>**

# **GEO Certified<sup>®</sup> Report Llandudno (Maesdu) Golf Club**

Prepared by independent verifier: Dino Minoli

Certified by GEO Foundation: 2024  
Recertification due: 2027



*“Llandudno Golf Club Maesdu is passionately advancing its sustainability efforts by protecting habitats for biodiversity, progressing sustainable turfgrass management, and reducing resource and material demands. With a commitment to responsible sourcing and fostering mental health and well-being in the community, their inspiring initiatives include beehives, a portable water bowser for irrigation, bird boxes, bug hotels, wildflower areas, tree nursery, and solar panels. Furthermore, LGC has generously donated land for a community cycle track and provides vital support to charities like Bind Veterans UK and Ty Gobiath, which delivers hospice care for children with cancer. LGC's initiatives reflect a strong and commendable commitment to sustainability and community support, promoting a healthier environment for all.”*

*Dino Minoli*

*(GEO accredited independent verifier)*



# Introduction

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GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that Llandudno (Maesdu) Golf 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.

Llandudno (Maesdu) Golf Club has:

1. Met the required certification criteria for sustainable golf operations
2. Successfully completed the official third-party verification process
3. Successfully passed the final evaluation by GEO Certification Ltd. (autonomous subsidiary of GEO Foundation)

GEO agreed with the conclusions of the official verification report, that, having achieved all mandatory criteria; and with specific Continual Improvement Points (CIP) set for the future and Critical CIP's (CCIPs) to be reviewed at recertification, Llandudno (Maesdu) Golf Club should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, Llandudno (Maesdu) Golf Club can therefore claim a position as a leader in advancing sustainability in golf – making important contributions in protecting nature, conserving resources and strengthening communities.

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

Certification is nearly always the result of a dedicated team effort resulting in many practical and valuable social and environmental results around the golf course, maintenance facility and clubhouse. These dedication and leadership qualities are an important part of ensuring the resilience of the golf facility and the golf industry into the future and also as part of society's wider effort to pull together for people and planet.

We congratulate all involved.

Jonathan Smith  
Founder and Executive Director, GEO Foundation  
GEO Certification Ltd. Board Member

Kelli Jerome  
Executive Director, GEO Foundation

Carole Kerrey  
Manager, Data and Reporting, GEO  
Certification Ltd.



# Verification and Certification

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## 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](http://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](http://www.isealalliance.org)



# Verifier's Report

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The Sustainability Agenda for golf covers the following themes and action areas:

THEMES	ACTION AREAS
<b>Nature</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Habitats &amp; Biodiversity</li><li>• Turfgrass management</li><li>• Pollution prevention</li></ul>
<b>Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Water</li><li>• Energy</li><li>• Materials</li></ul>
<b>Community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Partnerships &amp; Outreach</li><li>• Golfing &amp; Employment</li><li>• Advocacy &amp; Communications</li></ul>

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	<p>Llandudno (Maesdu) Golf Club (LGC) works well with the North Wales Wildlife Trust (NWWT) to improve the biodiversity of the golf course.</p> <p>In 2022, the NWWT visited the course and provided most helpful advice about course habitats. They have importantly confirmed that many of the club's practices benefit local wildlife.</p> <p>NWWT has produced a 'Habitat Management Advice' report for the Club i.e. the long grass areas, trees, bracken areas, ponds, hedgerows and bird boxes (see N1.3 below).</p> <p>The Club has reviewed and acted on the recommendations from this report.</p> <p>This partnership is an important step in the Club's commitment to enhancing the ecological value of LGC.</p> <p>The Club has made a valuable start by mapping the various vegetation types present on the site. This initial effort will help guide future conservation and management strategies.</p> <p>The course covers an area of 46 hectares, of which 7.5 hectares (16%) remain naturalised, and six ponds of various sizes occupy 0.5 hectares.</p> <p>The naturalised areas consist of mixed woodland, bracken and gorse.</p> <p><b>CIP: Please continue to work with NWWT to monitor and enhance the positive effects of club management practices on local wildlife.</b></p> <p><b>CIP: Please continue to develop the mapping of the various vegetation types on the site to illustrate the ecosystem and landscape significance of the area.</b></p>
	N1.1.2 Knowledge of legal designations for	Understand legal responsibilities for protected landscapes and species;	There are no statutory designations on site.

	<b>protected areas, habitats and species</b>	Record and monitor protected, endangered, or rare species found on the site	<p>In 2024, the Club conducted a walkaround survey to identify various species present on site.</p> <p>The survey recorded a total of 131 different flora and fauna, including 78 plant species, 32 bird species, 2 amphibians, 10 invertebrates, 7 mammals, and 2 types of fungi.</p> <p><b>CIP: Please continue to regularly survey the site to monitor its quality, value, and importance for wildlife and biodiversity.</b></p>
	<b>N1.1.3 Understanding and respect for cultural heritage</b>	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site	<p>The site has a WW1 Trench Site at the 7th and 8<sup>th</sup>. Adjacent is a location of a Welsh King's battle.</p> <p><b>CIP: Including these features on your website could enhance visitor interest.</b></p>
<b>N1.2 Opportunities to naturalise the course</b>	<b>N1.2.1 Measures taken to identify and minimise the required area of managed turfgrass</b>	Observe, track and / or monitor golfer play	<p>In 2023, the Club participated in a woodland trust scheme in Wales, receiving several native tree saplings. The Club are committed to nurturing these saplings (in its tree nursery) and planting them in suitable areas throughout the golf course, with the goal of significantly enhancing local biodiversity.</p> <p>The Club is also proactively developing 'eco-rough' areas by transitioning some managed turfgrass. This initiative aims to enhance habitats for local flora and fauna, fostering greater wildlife and biodiversity in the community.</p> <p><b>HIGHLIGHT: Some bunker edges are also left as natural, and several bunkers are being converted to grass ones to support wildlife further and enhance the overall natural feeling of the course. These initiatives also reduce maintenance budget costs (time and money), which can be directed to other areas.</b></p> <p><b>CIP: Please continue to explore opportunities to create habitats as and where appropriate.</b></p>
<b>N1.3 Actively manage habitats for wildlife</b>	<b>N1.3.1 Projects to manage habitats in the best way for wildlife and golf</b>	Regularly review and follow a habitat management plan; Prioritise native species when planting and landscaping	<p>The above-mentioned NWWT report has resulted in the following projects for managing habitats on the golf course for wildlife and biodiversity. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Long grass areas are maintained as small perennial meadows by adding a diverse mix of seeds to enhance plant diversity.</li> <li>- A strong tree management programme involves planting various tree species, creating unmown woodland copses, and thinning wooded areas to support wildlife and boost biodiversity.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bracken areas are enhanced by increasing habitat diversity through scattered tree planting and grassland integration, strengthening the ecosystem and supporting wildlife.</li> <li>- Ponds are managed to ensure a range of microhabitats, from open water to established emergent plants.</li> <li>- Considerations in the planting of hedgerows in some areas.</li> <li>- The Club has also Installed several bird boxes.</li> </ul> <p><b>HIGHLIGHT: In 2024, the Club established a Course Maintenance Policy aligned with BIGGA greenkeeping standards, incorporating advice from Wales Golf, Sports Turf Research Institute, and the NWWT. This policy emphasises sustainability, including maintaining firm, smooth greens that are playable year-round while promoting economic and environmental responsibility, introducing ‘eco-rough’ to enhance biodiversity on the course, and supporting water conservation by reducing reliance on mains water by utilising alternative sources like ponds and harvested rainwater.</b></p> <p>There are also several ponds that host various native species, managed through a rotational system that promotes diversity and balances emerging and mature plants. For any necessary replanting, the course manager uses only native species across the site.</p> <p>Welsh Water has completed a Rainscape project at Maesdu Golf Club to manage surface water and reduce the risk of flooding and pollution. The project features an open ditch, a weir, a basin to control excess water during heavy rainfall, and plants that help filter the water. This collaboration enhances the landscape, supports local wildlife, and provides a cleaner environment.</p> <p><b>CIP: Please continue to develop, implement and monitor the Club’s NWWT Report and (Sustainable) Course Maintenance Policy.</b></p>
<p><b>N1.4 Conserve key species</b></p>	<p><b>N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species</b></p>		<p>There are several practical conservation highlights in and around the golf course. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- three bee hives,</li> <li>- several different bird boxes (e.g. owl and woodpecker),</li> <li>- tree nursery,</li> <li>- removing bracken for ‘blooming bluebells’,</li> <li>- wildflower planting,</li> <li>- two bug hotels and</li> </ul>



			<p>- bat box.</p> <p><b>CIP: Please continue to maintain and monitor the above and explore and implement further conservation projects, as and where appropriate.</b></p>
<b>N2 Turfgrass</b>			
<b>N2.1 Maintain optimum turf and soil health</b>	<b>N2.1.1 Appropriate turfgrass varieties adapted to climatic and other geomorphological factors</b>	Select appropriate grass species for climate	<p>Various cool-season turfgrass species, including fescues, browntop bent, annual meadow grass, and ryegrass, thrive on the greens, tees, fairways, and maintained rough areas. This mix enhances playing surface quality and is suited to the local climate and soil.</p> <p>LGC's Course Maintenance Policy aims to enhance the quality of its greens by transitioning from annual meadow grass to finer grass species that are better suited to withstand climate change. To support this objective, course management proactively top-seeds the greens with these finer grass seeds throughout the growing season, fostering a more resilient and sustainable turf.</p> <p><b>CIP: Please continue to transition to the most sustainable turf grass species. This is crucial for maintaining optimal, cost-effective playing conditions and a healthy ecosystem.</b></p>
	<b>N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition</b>		The course management team actively promotes a healthy soil structure by implementing regular soil testing and monitoring, along with adopting effective cultural practices. This proactive approach helps to enhance soil quality and support sustainable growth.
	<b>N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation</b>	Undertake soil tests and nutrient analysis	The course management actively employs organic fertilisers, compost teas, and biostimulants to enhance and sustain optimal nutrient levels in the soil. This approach promotes soil health and contributes to more sustainable turfgrass practices.
<b>N2.2 Prioritise mechanical maintenance</b>	<b>N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management</b>	Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture; Hand weeding	Course management actively implements industry best practices to enhance the quality and sustainability of its playing surfaces, as outlined in the Club's Course Maintenance Policy.
<b>N2.3 Use chemicals responsibly</b>	<b>N2.3.1 Application of chemicals only when</b>	Establish patterns and levels of risk for pests and diseases;	Course management has established a checklist and form for daily inspections to identify and document pest, disease, or weed issues. This

	<b>necessary to prevent or cure defined / identified turf health issues</b>	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	resource helps track problem areas, evaluate treatment effectiveness, and improve management practices by recording the location, timing, and remediation efforts. It also allows for future analysis of past issues and treatments.  Course management also uses a targeted spraying routine instead of a blanket approach. This focused method allows it to address specific areas needing treatment while minimising unwanted effects. Course management optimises its treatments by carefully measuring chemicals and considering weather conditions for better overall results.
	<b>N2.3.2 Application of chemicals with full safety precautions</b>	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 .	LGC sources its chemicals from the registered distributor Origin Amenity Solutions, purchasing only what it intends to use.  To ensure safe and effective chemical application on the golf course, all staff members must hold the City and Guilds qualifications PA1, PA2, and PA6.  The spraying and protective equipment are regularly tested and calibrated, and leftover chemicals are safely disposed of in a diluted form.
<b>N3 Pollution Prevention</b>			
<b>N3.1 Prevent pollution across the entire site</b>	<b>N3.1.1 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from golf course operations</b>	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.	Course management employs the following best practices to reduce pollution risk: having documented emergency spill response procedures for quick and effective action and establishing no-spray zones next to water bodies and ecologically sensitive areas to protect these habitats from harmful substances.  <b>CIP: Please accurately mark the locations of buffer zones and ecologically sensitive areas on a site map. This will ensure that precautions are taken to safeguard water quality and biodiversity.</b>  <b>CIP: Please update the emergency spill response procedures as appropriate.</b>
	<b>N3.1.2 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from clubhouse operations</b>	Ensure all hazardous materials are safely and securely stored; Ensure compliance with all required standards and systems for hazardous waste and wastewater discharge	The course management uses a secure metal container to store hazardous materials safely, minimising pollution from club operations. LGC partners with Northern Lubricants, a licensed and accredited waste disposal service, to ensure its hazardous waste is managed and disposed of in compliance with legal regulations.
	<b>N3.1.3 Practical measures to ensure</b>	Ensure wash areas are on impermeable, leak-free surfaces;	LGC has impermeable surfaces for the safe mixing and loading of pesticides and fertilisers, preventing leaks and spills. All containers and

	<b>pollution risks are minimised from maintenance facility operations</b>	Mixing and loading of pesticides and fertilisers over an impermeable surface; Triple rinse pesticide containers and applicators	applicators are securely stored before disposal to ensure safety and compliance with regulations.
<b>N3.2 Safely manage hazardous substances</b>	<b>N3.2.1 Legal compliance in the storage, handling, application and safe disposal of all hazardous substances</b>	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	LGC ensures the safe management of substances by storing them in a well-ventilated building with a modern diesel storage and dispensing tank, designed to prevent leaks and spills. The facility is equipped with strategically placed fire extinguishers and readily available spill kits for quick response to accidents. Regular inspections of the storage tanks are conducted to maintain compliance and safety. Through these measures, LGC protects both its employees and the surrounding community from potential hazards.
<b>N3.3 Responsibly manage waste / storm water</b>	<b>N3.3.1 Appropriate wastewater usage and discharge licences</b>	Wastewater discharge licence; Appropriate treatment of machinery wash water (impermeable surface, oil / grease / clipping separation)	The machinery washdown system includes a grass clipping filter and an oil and grease separator and an impermeable surface.  <b>CIP: Please research and implement current industry best practices for machinery washdown procedures.</b>

## RESOURCES

### R1 Water

Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
<b>R1.1 Minimise water demand</b>	<b>R1.1.1 Measures to reduce the need to consume water</b>	Target irrigation to essential playing surfaces only	<b>Highlight: In 2023, LGC launched a project to reduce mains water consumption and identified effective strategies to achieve this goal. LGC successfully secured a £24,000 grant from Sport Wales to implement the following recommendations:</b>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Capture rainwater for cleaning greenkeeping machinery and watering plants around the clubhouse.</li> <li>2. Explore the installation of an unlicensed borehole to provide up to 20,000 litres of irrigation water daily.</li> <li>3. Purchase a portable water bowser to transfer water from its six ponds to the greens.</li> </ol>

			<p><b>4. Install water-saving devices in toilet cisterns.</b></p> <p><b>Implementation is currently underway for 2024, contributing to LGC's commitment to environmental sustainability.</b></p> <p>Targeted irrigation focuses on the most important areas of a golf course: the tees and greens. This method ensures that these critical surfaces receive the right amount of water needed for healthy growth and maintenance. By concentrating on these areas, LGC can improve the quality of the course while saving water.</p> <p><b>CIP: Please continue to investigate ways to save water and cut costs through sprinkler head adjustment, use of recycled water, turfgrass selection, naturalisation and clubhouse and maintenance facility considerations.</b></p> <p><a href="https://sustainable.golf/news/articles/5-significant-ways-golf-clubs-can-save-water-cut-costs">https://sustainable.golf/news/articles/5-significant-ways-golf-clubs-can-save-water-cut-costs</a></p>
<p><b>R1.2 Maximise water efficiency</b></p>	<p><b>R1.2.1 Practical measures to use water more efficiently on the golf course</b></p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Course management tracks daily rainfall and records it to improve water resource planning. This data helps managers make better decisions for sustainable water use on the golf course.</p> <p>Maximising water efficiency involves: using soil moisture sensors, modern irrigation software like Bailoy, conducting regular maintenance and performance checks, providing staff training, applying irrigation based on weather data and implementing night-time applications.</p> <p><b>CIP: Please continue to explore and implement proven ways to use less water on the golf course by monitoring consumption, reducing water reliance and minimising irrigated turf areas</b></p> <p><a href="https://sustainable.golf/news/articles/three-proven-ways-use-less-water-golf-course">https://sustainable.golf/news/articles/three-proven-ways-use-less-water-golf-course</a></p>
	<p><b>R1.2.2 Practical measures to use water more efficiently in buildings</b></p>	<p>Audit water use regularly; Review bills frequently and look for irregularities; Encourage water-saving practices amongst staff and visitors; Categorise and track water consumption</p>	<p>In 2024, LGC started a monthly water audit to promote conservation by comparing usage to last year. The Club tracks water from the clubhouse, maintenance facility, irrigation system, and on-course fountain. Meter readings are recorded in the Mains Water Audit spreadsheet, which highlights significant increases in red, helping the Club Manager address large changes and support sustainability efforts.</p> <p>In 2023, LGC upgraded the clubhouse toilets with motion sensor taps, improved the hot water system, and installed percussion taps in the locker rooms.</p>

			<p><b>CIP: Please continue to investigate and implement cost-effective, proven ways to save water, energy and money through minimising shower time, aerated showerheads, optimal dishwasher use (full loads), eco-setting of washing machine or dishwasher, aerator tap, turning off running taps and reusing water in kitchens</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.wrap.ngo/sites/default/files/2020-08/Steps-to-reduce-water-risks-a-checklist.pdf">https://www.wrap.ngo/sites/default/files/2020-08/Steps-to-reduce-water-risks-a-checklist.pdf</a></p>
<b>R1.3 Source water responsibly</b>	<b>R1.3.1 Measures towards alternative, lower quality sources of water</b>	Ensure appropriate water abstraction permit and reporting, as required	LGC's Water Reduction Project discovered an underground water source in 2024 to reduce potable water use for tees and greens, likely within the 20,000 litres per day limit for unlicensed boreholes. LGC will install a water meter and may seek an extraction license if necessary, reflecting its commitment to sustainability.
<b>R2 Energy</b>			
<b>R2.1 Reduce energy demand</b>	<b>R2.1.1 Measures to reduce the amount of energy consumed in course maintenance</b>	Minimise areas of managed turf to reduce mowing, irrigation, and turf inputs	<p>The site has important natural habitats that support biodiversity without needing mowing or irrigation, which reduces energy use.</p> <p>LGC has reduced the number and size of sand bunkers over the past five years and plans to remove four more during the 2023/24 Winter Projects. This will lower material needs and the Club's carbon footprint from transportation of materials.</p> <p><b>CIP: Please continue to investigate opportunities to minimise managed turf based on playing observations. Monitoring patterns of play is a great way to identify underutilised areas with scope for further naturalisation.</b></p> <p><b>CIP: Please continue to explore and implement measures to reduce energy demand across the facility where practical and cost-effective.</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.bunkered.co.uk/golf-news/10-steps-to-a-greener-future-for-your-golf-club/">https://www.bunkered.co.uk/golf-news/10-steps-to-a-greener-future-for-your-golf-club/</a></p> <p><a href="https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/hub/quick-tips-to-save-energy/">https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/hub/quick-tips-to-save-energy/</a></p>
<b>R2.2 Maximise energy efficiency</b>	<b>R2.2.1 Measures to use energy and fuels more efficiently in buildings</b>	Audit energy use regularly; Regularly review bills; Categorise and track energy consumption	<p>In 2017, LGC implemented an energy audit that led to the installation of solar panels, energy-efficient air conditioning, and LED lighting in the clubhouse and maintenance facility. In July, they began auditing mains gas and electricity usage, comparing it to the previous year.</p> <p>LGC uses separate Total Energies meters for the clubhouse and maintenance facility, which have different billing periods and tariffs. They</p>

			<p>receive quarterly gas invoices and a statement from Eon for solar panel electricity generation.</p> <p>Currently, the solar panels are out of service due to storm damage, pending insurance resolution. Energy usage is tracked in an Excel spreadsheet, with increases highlighted in red for the Club Manager's review.</p>
<b>R2.3 Source energy responsibly</b>	<b>R2.3.1 Measures to source alternative, renewable forms of energy</b>	Determine potential sources of renewable energy in the area and on-site, through renewable energy providers	<p>Course management is modernising by replacing current machines with hybrids and exploring the use of electric hand tools powered by solar panels on the maintenance shed roof. Further discussions to confirm this plan are anticipated.</p> <p>LED bulbs light the clubhouse. Locker room and restroom lights use motion sensors, while outdoor lights have light sensors.</p> <p>In early 2023, LGC upgraded the maintenance shed to energy-efficient LED lighting, which is also controlled by timers and motion sensors.</p> <p>All vehicles receive regular maintenance under a service plan.</p> <p>In 2017, LGC installed solar panels in the greenkeeping shed, providing up to 10% of its annual electricity. LGC is considering wind-generated electricity in the future. LGC has a 5-year contract with Total Energies for its electricity. Although they currently rank low in renewable energy, they are investing in offshore wind farms in the UK. LGC will review its electricity supply's sustainability profile when the contract ends within its Sustainable Procurement Policy.</p> <p><b>CIP: Please explore the possibility of partnering with a local university to develop a carbon mitigation reduction strategy.</b></p> <p><b>CIP: Please investigate energy suppliers who use the Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin scheme, which sources electricity from the national grid.</b></p> <p><b>CIP: Please continue to investigate the installation of electric car charging points subject to cost and grant support.</b></p>
<b>R3 Materials</b>			
<b>R3.1 Reduce materials demand</b>	<b>R3.1.1 Products and materials selection based on necessity, including opportunities for recycled,</b>	Undertake a review of materials consumed	<b>HIGHLIGHT: LGC has made a positive step forward by signing and approving a Sustainable Procurement Statement, which is an integral component of its Sustainable Resource Management Policy. This initiative supports LGC's commitment to responsible and sustainable practices.</b>

	<p>reused and locally sourced alternatives</p>		<p><b>CIP: Please continue to effectively implement, monitor, evaluate and revise as appropriate the Club's Sustainable Resource Management Policy.</b></p> <p><b>CIP: Please investigate reducing plastic use in golf: 1. Use reusable water bottles. 2. Sell bananas in the shop. 3. No-plastics policy. 4. Buy eco-friendly golf clothing and equipment. 5. Install water dispensers and fountains.</b></p> <p><b><u><a href="https://www.wrap.ngo/resources?type=1499&amp;field_initiatives_target_id=All&amp;sectors=All">https://www.wrap.ngo/resources?type=1499&amp;field_initiatives_target_id=All&amp;sectors=All</a></u></b></p>
<p><b>R3.2 Purchase responsibly</b></p>	<p><b>R3.2.1 Practical use of an ethical / environmental purchasing policy</b></p>	<p>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</p>	<p>LGC encourages sustainability by providing wooden stirrers instead of disposable cutlery. The coffee machine primarily features reusable porcelain cups, with a limited supply of disposable cups for outdoor use.</p> <p>Sustainable catering practices enhance LGC's offerings by using locally sourced meat and bread, seasonal menus, and diverse options like vegetarian, fish, and chicken dishes while incorporating Fairtrade products.</p> <p><b><u><a href="https://www.sustainweb.org/reports/the_sustain_guide_to_good_food/">https://www.sustainweb.org/reports/the_sustain_guide_to_good_food/</a></u></b></p> <p>A member has established three beehives on the course and sells jars of honey to visitors and fellow members. This initiative supports local biodiversity and provides a delicious, natural product for everyone.</p> <p>The Club Professional is supporting sustainability by replacing plastic tees with bamboo. Additionally, members actively contribute to the community by donating clubs to junior players and recycling their equipment through GolfBidder, fostering a culture of support and environmental responsibility.</p> <p><b><u><a href="https://goodgolfn.com/accessories/2024-sustainable-golf-brands-eco-friendly-golf-equipment/">https://goodgolfn.com/accessories/2024-sustainable-golf-brands-eco-friendly-golf-equipment/</a></u></b></p> <p>Course management endeavours to purchase all its materials and chemicals from sustainable sources and use local resources wherever possible. For example, all the slate for paths is sourced locally, root zone/topsoil comes from Cheshire, and Origin Amenity Solutions, a reputable company, supplies chemicals/fertilisers.</p> <p>Penalty areas and out-of-bounds markers are crafted from treated timber and maintained for durability. Wooden benches are regularly refurbished, and information boards and tee markers are constructed from recycled plastic, contributing to an eco-friendly environment.</p>

			<p>LGC encourages sustainability by offering unwanted items to its members before discarding them and purchases second hand equipment, like cutlery and coffee machines, whenever possible.</p> <p>LGC purchases cooking oil from a Wrexham-based company (Fry Fresh Edible Oils), which also collects used oil and converts it into environmentally friendly biodiesel.</p>
<b>R3.3 Reuse and recycle</b>	<b>R3.3.1 Waste stream separation for maximum recycling and re-use opportunity</b>	<p>Demonstrate waste separation, reuse and recycling; Track how much waste goes to landfill, or is reused / recycled</p>	<p>The facility has clearly labelled bins for separating waste: general, plastic and metal, and paper and cardboard.</p> <p>Noticeboards display messages like "Help Keep Maesdu Tidy" and information about decomposition rates on common golf waste, such as banana peels and plastic tees. These efforts encourage environmentally friendly behaviour. Consequently, there are no litter bins on the golf course, allowing managers to focus on maintaining play conditions and conservation efforts.</p> <p><b>CIP: Please Investigate composting of grass clippings, brown waste (potato peelings and woodchips), shredded paper or cardboard</b></p> <p><a href="https://grenergolf.co.uk/greethan-valley-golf-club-composting/">https://grenergolf.co.uk/greethan-valley-golf-club-composting/</a></p> <p><a href="https://sustainable.golf/highlights/turf-teams-green-initiative-embracing-composting">https://sustainable.golf/highlights/turf-teams-green-initiative-embracing-composting</a></p> <p><b>CIP: Please conduct a waste audit to track facility waste, recycling, and landfill usage.</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.businesswaste.co.uk/waste-management-audit/">https://www.businesswaste.co.uk/waste-management-audit/</a></p> <p><b>CIP: Please consider ways in which the Club can promote a circular economy and waste management hierarchy.</b></p>
<b>R3.4 Demonstrate legal compliance</b>	<b>R3.4.1 Compliance with all local and regional waste management regulations</b>	<p>Use authorised waste and recycling contractor for general, hazardous, industrial and green waste</p>	<p>LGC is committed to responsible waste management by partnering with certified waste collection agencies. They utilise Northern Lubricants and Services Ltd (CBDU 88286) for the safe disposal of hazardous waste, World Care Wales (CBDU 023321) for landfill waste, and Ash Waste Services (CBDU 9017) for recycling efforts. This approach ensures that LGC responsibly manage all types of waste while supporting sustainable practices.</p>



# COMMUNITY

## C1 Outreach

Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
<p><b>C1.1 Diversify access and provide multi-functionality</b></p>	<p><b>C1.1.1 Social and recreational activities at the facility</b></p>		<p>A public footpath runs along the northern edge of the golf course, offering an excellent route for walkers to appreciate the surrounding nature, which includes the golf course and its different habitats and vegetation types.</p> <p>Moreover, the Club's generous donation of land to Sustrans—a charity that facilitates walking, cycling, and other forms of active transportation—significantly contributes to the development of a national cycle network. This initiative not only promotes healthier lifestyles in the community but also supports carbon reduction goals.</p> <p>The Club operates as a Private Member Club, ensuring an exclusive environment for its members. To foster community engagement, the Club offers a Social Membership category that currently boasts over 400 members (as of 2023), granting access to all non-golfing activities. All members are also encouraged to utilise the clubhouse facilities for private functions, gatherings and celebrations.</p> <p><b>CIP: The Club could further enhance its community engagement by, for example, organising nature trails in collaboration with local schools, creating valuable outdoor learning experiences as part of a Community Improvement Project.</b></p>
<p><b>C1.2 Provide for volunteering and charity</b></p>	<p><b>C1.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes</b></p>		<p>The Club's goal is to positively impact the community and provide support for those who support others.</p> <p>The Club hosts annual competitions to support charities like the Dementia Ward at Llandudno Hospital and Macmillan Nurses.</p> <p>Since 2018, the Club has focused on Ty Gobiath, which provides hospice care for children with cancer.</p> <p>The Ladies' Section holds a Pink Day to raise awareness of breast cancer and encourages donations through a charity bottle in the clubhouse.</p> <p>The Club also collaborate with Blind Veterans UK to provide golf activities for veterans and their caregivers, ensuring they have a rewarding day with refreshments and lunch.</p>

			<p>The Club's professional provides Veterans with a series of golf challenges/competitions during a full day of activities, that also offers valuable rest for carers. The professional also gives charity golf lesson vouchers.</p> <p>The Club appreciates the vital contributions of volunteers in areas such as the board of directors, house management, competitions, social events, and the junior, senior, ladies, and men's sections. Their support for course maintenance and sustainability efforts led to over 2,000 volunteer hours in 2023, reflecting their community's strong commitment to enhancing the Club experience.</p> <p><b>CIP: Please continue to quantify and qualify the Club's important charitable support and volunteering.</b></p>
<b>C1.3 Establish active community partnerships</b>	<b>C1.3.1 Positive and constructive engagement with neighbours, the local community and other groups</b>	Create a 'sustainability working group'	<p>LGC's Sustainability Working Group is spearheaded by a dedicated volunteer from the Club (who plays an essential role in researching and fostering communication among management and members), the head greenkeeper, Club Chairman and Club Manager.</p> <p>This proactive group addresses critical environmental challenges facing the Club and collaborates with GEO OnCourse to develop and implement constructive solutions that benefit the Club, community and the environment.</p> <p>The Club proudly supports the North Wales Wildlife Trust as a corporate member, contributing to the conservation of the natural environment.</p> <p><b>CIP: Please explore effective ways to integrate sustainability into your management structures, strategies, policies, and constitution. Consider the roles of sustainability champions and a coordinator to improve decision-making and enhance sustainability performance, ultimately future-proofing the Club.</b></p>
<b>C2 Golfers &amp; Employees</b>			
<b>C2.1 Improve health and wellbeing</b>	<b>C2.1.1 Benefits to human physical and mental health from golf and facility activities</b>		<p>LGC provides health and well-being benefits for its members, including many walking rounds of golf. The Club has a secure trolley shed and offers trolleys for hire to both members and visitors.</p> <p>LGC values community spirit and hosts tournaments with organisations like Wales Golf and the Ladies Golf Union. Their members contribute time and expertise, supporting events such as the Aberconwy Trophy and volunteering at local golf clubs.</p>

			<p>A defibrillator is located at the clubhouse entrance and the 'what3words' address is posted on all hole information boards for emergencies.</p> <p>In 2023, LGC improved member safety by creating a new road crossing point, changing the hole layout, and updating the handicap management system for a safer golfing experience.</p> <p>The Club's maintenance policy requires regular inspections of course boundaries to check for infected trees, ensuring the safety of golfers and staff.</p>
<b>C2.2 Be open and inclusive</b>	<b>C2.2.1 Inclusivity and diversity in membership and visitor policies</b>	Demonstrate inclusive policies for members and visitors	<p>The Club Professional engages youth through the Junior Academy, offering weekly coaching sessions, competitions, and six lessons for local schools as part of HSBC Golf Roots.</p> <p>In 2023, the Club introduced gender-neutral tees for all golfers and hosts two monthly competitions open to everyone.</p> <p>The Club supports inclusivity through partnerships with Wales Golf and diverse leadership initiatives. The Junior Section runs competitions during school holidays.</p> <p>The Junior Captain shares important information with members in the Junior Committee's WhatsApp group, promoting communication and confidence.</p> <p>The Wales Golf "New to Golf" scheme provides taster sessions leading to a reduced 3-year membership with free lessons in the first year.</p> <p>The Club offers reduced membership fees for low-income individuals and hosts various annual events for all members.</p> <p>LGC is run by a board elected annually by full members, with ex-officio directors that include the Club President and Captains. The president's role is gender-neutral.</p> <p>LGC also provides six two-seater golf buggies for hire and has secure storage for up to 31 personal buggies. The main entrance includes wheelchair access and an accessible toilet.</p>
<b>C2.3 Employ fairly and safely, and provide career opportunities</b>	<b>C2.3.1 Ethical and legal employment, working conditions and professional development</b>	Follow all relevant national legislation and best practice for employment, health & safety etc	<p>The Club has engaged Eryri Consulting Limited to ensure compliance with the Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and protect its workforce. They provide regular assessments and recommendations. The Club also upholds a Health and Safety Policy.</p>

			For HR management, the Club works with Peninsula Business Services and implements HR Policies focused on Equality, Inclusion, and Diversity. A staff policies document supports a positive workplace culture.
<b>C3 Communications</b>			
<b>C3.1 Engage golfers and members</b>	<b>C3.1.1 Communications activities that raise awareness and understanding amongst members and visitors</b>	Provide information on the facility's sustainability commitments, actions, or achievements	<p>The Club's website proudly showcases a dedicated Sustainability page, highlighting its commitments to sustainable practices and providing access to its latest newsletter. The Club actively engage with its members through regular communications on sustainability initiatives to foster awareness and participation and support.</p> <p><b>CIP: Please explore the possibility of setting sustainability goals for your Club, inspired by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This can be a great opportunity to make a positive impact and contribute to a more sustainable future!</b></p> <p><a href="https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/its2.38">https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/its2.38</a></p>
<b>C3.2 Celebrate and promote sustainability</b>	<b>C3.2.1 Activities that raise awareness and engage people in the wider community</b>	Provide evidence of external communications and community engagement	<p>LGC has shared its GEO OnCourse Highlights.</p> <p><a href="https://sustainable.golf/highlights/?region%5B%5D=4">https://sustainable.golf/highlights/?region%5B%5D=4</a></p> <p>The club actively participates in the annual Llandudno in Bloom competition, and in 2024, it achieved a gold award for its entry titled 'Communal Garden'. This accomplishment highlights the Club's dedication to enhancing community spaces.</p> <p><b>CIP: Please consider hosting an environmental charity event on Earth Day or during GEO Foundation Sustainable Golf Week.</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2023/">https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2023/</a></p> <p><a href="https://sustainable.golf/sustainable-golf-week-2022/">https://sustainable.golf/sustainable-golf-week-2022/</a></p> <p><b>CIP: Please consider a new competition(s), such as the 'Sustainability Challenge Cup', for the Club's Members and Open Competitions to help promote, raise awareness, gain golfer support, and raise the profile of the Club for competitive advantage.</b></p> <p><b>CIP: Please consider a survey to gauge the environmental attitudes of your members and visitors and other stakeholders (e.g. suppliers). This will raise awareness of sustainability issues and help you develop effective strategies to encourage pro-environmental behaviour.</b></p>

## 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](http://www.sustainable.golf)