GEO Certified® Report
Lahinch Golf Club

Prepared by independent verifier Bob Taylor

Certified by GEO Foundation: 2024
Recertification due: 2029

"Lahinch is a very unique place both as an inspiring place in which to play golf but also for the landscape in which the courses are set and managed and the habitats and species that are being conserved. The Castle Course lies adjacent the Inagh River Estuary comprising of internationally important saltmarsh habitats whilst the Old Course has been fitted into a series of tall Annex 1 sand hills which are some of the best examples of their type. The club manage with conservation in mind and are keen to increase the saltmarsh component further onto the course. They monitor routinely the patterns of play and work to maintain and increase the important natural assets. The greenstaff host course walks to interested parties explaining the natural importance of the site.

Not resting upon the unique landscape or the clubs unparalleled record of biodiversity conservation, Lahinch golf club have produced a strategic plan (2023 to 2027) which is sustainability driven and covers important core objectives which can be summarised as "ensuring the facility is maintained to the standards expected of a world-renowned golf club by implementing best practice and sustainable working across all operations". This document downloaded to the Sustainable Golf Documents Library eloquently covers community and social outreach aspirations. The club highlight their commitment to sustainability on their website which is available for all to see. This covers the commitment to environmental responsibility and in recognizing

the importance of protecting and restore nature, whilst conserving resources, taking climate action and strengthening communities.

The highlights are many and again are evident on the club's website. Nature conservation is a major pillar and is demonstrated by the importance given; be it the annual grassland management, which maintains such a diversity of plant species, including increasing populations of Bee orchids which the club are clearly proud or, to the course walks and the liaison with The Burren Ecotourism Network which the club play an active role.

The club are working to provide a vital hub to the community whilst working to reduce waste (evidenced by the hydrant points and the removal of single use plastic) and the measures in place to reduce energy.

A major aspiration of the club to lead sustainability within golf. It is certainly my view that Lahinch are at the forefront of golfs sustainable movement and have demonstrated their commitment admirably. I have therefore no reservation whatsoever in recommending Lahinch Golf Club for GEO Certification."

Bob Taylor
(GEO accredited independent verifier)

Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that Lahinch 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.

Lahinch 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, Lahinch Golf Club should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, Lahinch 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

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**

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

THEMES	ACTION AREAS
Nature	• Habitats & Biodiversity • Turfgrass management • Pollution prevention
Resources	• Water • Energy • Materials
Community	• Partnerships & Outreach • Golfing & Employment • Advocacy & Communications

Included below are the observations made by the Independent Verifier against each item in the Standard.

NATURE

N1 Habitats and Biodiversity

Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
N1.1 Understand the site and surroundings	**N1.1.1 Sound understanding of the nature and landscape value of the site**	Map all habitats and vegetation types on the site; Regularly update landscape / biodiversity surveys	The club have produced a Strategic plan (2023 to 2027) which covers important core objectives which can be summarised as ensuring the facility is maintained to the standards expected of a world-renowned golf club by implementing best practice and sustainable working across all operations. The strategy also eloquently covers community and social outreach aspirations. Lahinch now boasts a short game area with academy in addition to the two courses and the area of grassland adjacent the existing 6th hole Castle course. The total area occupied by the facility extends to 101ha (161acres). All areas are described within the current and extant management plans which give management prescriptions. The club have a very good understanding of the landscapes into which the courses are fitted. The management plans together with additional recent and past survey information provide the club with a strong basis of understanding not least with regards to the sensitivity of the site. The old course lies within pristine Annex 1 fixed dune grassland. The castle supports low lying dry and wet grassland much of which is part of the protected Mediterranean and Atlantic saltmarsh that borders the course to the east. These and associated habitats are mapped via the 2024 botanical survey uploaded to the OnCourse Documents Library. Most areas of this facility are managed favourably and to a very high standard. **CCIP: Liaise with Burren EcoTourism Network to source local naturalists, who may be able to provide additional survey expertise and biodiversity data. Include invertebrates lepidoptera, small mammals and bats. These could be progressed annually as expertise is located.**

			CIP: Consider reproducing and updating the course wildlife and sustainability guide for visitor's, members and the local community to show the club's ecological and sustainable status.
	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 club are aware of the international designations that are in place adjacent to the facility. The site lies out with these designations 'as do all golf courses in Ireland'. Site management however does give cognisance to the designations and the intrinsic biodiversity interests both on site and out with.
	N1.1.3 Understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site	Historic surveys are available but identify only the position of the castle dating back to around 1400 AD. The Castle is protected as part of the National Heritage features of Ireland.
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	The greenstaff are vigilant and monitor almost daily the effects of traffic over the course. They are very aware of areas of use and see little opportunity to reduce the areas of in play further. The club have the ability to track golfers on the courses using GPS and topographical equipment. The club have grown in the rough around the margins of the fairway bunkers and furthermore, are planting wildflowers within the faces of the bunkers to stabilise and improve the margins of the bunkers. A nursery of wildflowers is created on the castle course and includes wild thyme, kidney vetch, ladies bedstraw and eyebright all for establishing around the margins of the on course fairway bunkers.
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 club have a number of survey reports which together with the ecological management plan for both courses help advise and direct management. The course manager leads member and other outdoor events to demonstrate wildlife interests and management. **CCIP: Implement other biodiversity surveys over the next 3 years including invertebrates, butterflies, and bats. Burren Ecotourism Network may be able to advise individual naturalists or groups that may be able to assist in this respect.** **CIP: Work with Burren Ecotourism Network to find and enable surveys for continued wildflower audits.** **CIP: Work to increase extent of open sand over the courses to between 1 to 5% of the site (This would constitute an important**

			favourable conservation condition element). Ensure sand areas are contained to within overly rank and altered grassland areas where dune interests are poorly represented. **CIP: There are no trees or scrub on the courses but opportunities do exist for gorse planting along the southern boundary of the castle course and at appropriate locations on the same course. Consider other areas such as within the vicinity of the maintenance complex.**
N1.4 Conserve key species	**N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species**		A nationwide coastal survey for the narrow-lipped whorl snail (vertigo angustior) was undertaken in 2024 over the Old Course. The results have not been presented to the club. No other priority species are known though wildlife diversity is significant, and the club are certainly aware of the biodiversity over the entire facility. Bee orchid numbers are recorded and their positions kept secret to avoid risks of picking. The general biodiversity over the site is considered priority and is managed for conservation. The club have a series of very active management regimes particularly those covering botany and birds. Implementing additional surveys and managing to include measures outlined in N1.3 above will extend the conservation management further.
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	Management at Lahinch is appropriate but climatic conditions over the last few years have changed and are proving challenging. In response to this the club are moving to more disease tolerant grass species including hard and sheeps fescue. This is in response to a changing and more unpredictable climate. These species are more disease tolerant. In addition, works continue to overseed bent grass into the greens to further ensure resilience against both wear and climatic effects. Weed grasses are generally reduced by cultural means and daisy on fairways (the main weed) are removed physically when noted.
	N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition		Soil testing is undertaken on at least 4 occasions each year which informs the annual fertilizer programmes. In addition, aeration topdressing and other cultural practices are used to maintain soils and turf health and condition. Compost tees are used and have proven effective particularly on the Castle Course.

	N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation	Undertake soil tests and nutrient analysis	K, P and Mg are normally low within the soils and the fertiliser regimes give cognisance to this. The club also rely on repeated almost daily use of the POGO to inform soil conditions.
N2.2 Prioritise mechanical maintenance	**N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management**	Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture; Hand weeding	Climatic conditions over the last few years have led to a marked increase in dollar spot on many greens. The greenstaff use the new irrigation system to remove dew from the grass leaves as required. Sulphate of iron is used in conjunction with the bent grass overseeding programme. Lahinch benefit from the engagement of a full-time mechanic with apprentice.
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	Physical control of weeds is preferred. Disease incidence due to extreme weather patterns are problematical and have necessitated a gradual increase of chemical applications, which are targeted to problem areas. The number of applications is dependent upon climatic conditions and disease incidence. Herbicides are rarely used and if required on a spot basis. Cultural management and plugging are preferred with daisy being the main plant removed and only if problematical. No chemicals would ever be used out with the play areas. This is testament by the sheer botanical diversity of the flora present over the courses. Holes are changed regularly to reduce wear effects. Spray equipment is modern with GPS capabilities so enabling very targeted use of chemical treatments.
	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 .	The club keep a good register of product use with product safety data. The Turfkeeper app is used to log chemical use. Furthermore, all purchasing is logged to a National Chemical Database managed by the Dept. of Agric. Fisheries and Marine Ire. Stock takes of product are carried out monthly. 70% of the greenstaff are trained chemical operatives. 9 staff in total are PA2 and PA6 certificated. All staff have access and use appropriate PPE equipment. Any chemical use is targeted to greens and their surrounds, tees and fairways.

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.	All mixing of chemicals and refuelling etc are carried out in a designated location that is bunded and linked to the Waste to Water closed loop recycling system. Fuel tanks are all double skinned and bunded. Emergency spill kits are present and available for immediate use. The extent of chemicals used is low and very targeted enabled by GPS tracking. Buffer zones on site are not deemed necessary given the very targeted GPS tracked applications. No herbicides or any other products are used within the grasslands rough. All use is concentrated to targeted in play areas.
	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	The club prides itself on using chemical free products that are environmentally sustainable wherever possible. Cleaning products are purchased from a company called Chem-free me. A biological washroom cleaner is used for bathrooms, drains, floors and walls. This is an environmentally friendly odour neutral multipurpose cleaner. Products used are stored in a locked cupboard that only the stewards have access to.
	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	As above all mixing is carried out within a bunded area linked to the Waste to Water closed loop recycling system. Fuel tanks are all double skinned and bunded. Emergency spill kits are present and available for immediate use. **CIP: Carry out feasibility with regards to upgrading the closed loop waste to water system. Quotes have been obtained and the club will within the term of this review upgrade the now 19-year-old system.**
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;	All use is logged and recorded onto own systems and onto the national database (see above). Product stock takes are recorded monthly. The maintenance facility has an area for emergency wash off, fire extinguishers are in place and regularly serviced. All fuels are correctly housed and contained, bunded and double skinned.

		Emergency wash area; Fire extinguisher in the immediate area; Secondary containment for fuel, either externally constructed, or integrally manufactured; Regular inspection of storage tanks	Notices are present, and spill kits are available.
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)	The club are looking to upgrade the existing closed loop system. Discharge licencing is not required. No water discharges without cleansing.

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	The club have installed a new fully automated irrigation system offering a much more targeted use and with less drift using limited throw and dispersal. All heads can be individually controlled. The club have also acquired a full-time irrigation technician. Hand watering is still recognised as important and is an ongoing and a routine part of the irrigation programme. Thresholds for water use are identified through the regular use of the POGO and on visual assessments of turf health and condition. Water on the castle course is limited to greens only whilst tees, greens and fairways can be irrigated on the Old course.
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	The system is serviced and maintained by the full-time irrigation technician otherwise as above.

	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	A series of new upgrades to the clubhouse are underway and this will include an upgrading wash and toileting areas as required. Existing facilities do already support water saving measures including spring loaded and or sensored taps and low flush urinals. Showers are pressurised and have been upgraded providing low volume but high pressure. Water is metered and readings are collated (logged) monthly for analysis. All staff benefit or have benefitted from a thorough induction which includes training on water conservation. Plastic waste has been massively reduced by the discontinuation of water bottles. All visitors and members receive an aluminium flask and can fill with water at any of the 4 hydrants now installed over the courses. Three have been installed in clubhouse facilities and a hydrant has also been installed in the indoor academy building. The plan is to install a hydrant in the office building.
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	Irrigation is sourced via 4 boreholes along the 17th hole. Extent of use is regulated. The water quality is checked as required and all water use is logged. Records of use are in place. Grass species selection gives recognition to water conservation.
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 club were keen to stress that the courses are monitored almost daily in respect of play and this has and continues to help more focused and prioritised maintenance. Bunker strimming is now much reduced given the introduction of wildflowers into the margins. This project has been well received and will continue. 3 groups of bunkers have been removed as a result of on course vigilance. The club are slowly transitioning to electric machinery but this to a degree is limited by terrain.
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	The club have undertaken a full audit for improvement which is now being rolled out through the new clubhouse expansion programme. Mains is the main source of electricity but solar is being installed as part of the ongoing clubhouse renovations.

			Wind energy has been ruled out due to visibility impacts. The kitchens are fitted with induction cooking facilities which is reducing energy costs. All bills are recorded and analysed monthly. A spreadsheet has been produced covering the 8 separate metres used over the facility.
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	Full feasibility in place ruling out wind. Solar panels are being included as part of ongoing clubhouse renovation. Solar panel opportunities at the maintenance facility will be reviewed during the next phase of improvements. Club constantly reviewing course maintenance equipment and their suitability for this site - ongoing.
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	The club enforce a strict waste policy and have in place a waste review. On the course plastic waste has been cut massively given the roll out of flasks and the installation of hydrants. The club also works with local suppliers wherever possible and is able to advise waste minimisation. Indeed, the club point out that working with local suppliers is helping significantly in reducing waste wholescale. The club are very strong in enforcing waste management with all suppliers. All food products are purchased from Lahinch Doonbeg or Kilrush. Salad products are sourced from North Clare. The club see buying local as a key part of their philosophy. All builders working on the clubhouse renovations (2024/2025) are local. Building materials have been sourced locally or from within Ireland. Waste removal is carried out through Clean Ireland Recycling who weigh and record waste uplifts. The club keep a record of waste removal.
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	As above all waste is monitored and the club pursue a very active waste minimisation and management policy.

		recycled, recyclable and certified materials	The restaurant menu outlines just where foods are sourced. Visitors receive an aluminium flask on arrival instead of single use plastic water bottles.
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	As above records are kept and split. Clean Ireland recycling is used to remove waste which on the invoices is split into brown bin waste, mixed dry recyclables, mixed waste, and mixed glass. The club use 1100 ltr bins for mixed waste and mixed dry recyclables. 120 ltr bins for brown bin waste. Glass is recycled in 240 ltr bins.
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	Copies of the trade waste licence and recording were available to view. Clean Ireland retain responsibility for removal of dry wastes and glass etc. Chem Free are the company who supplier chemical free products and also remove & reuse all containers.

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**		Community forms a major pillar of the club's strategic plan uploaded to the OnCourse Documents Library. The club recognise the need to be a integral part of the local community and undertake numerous activities that include or benefit the local community. The club offers school coaching and a junior club rental scheme. Coaching is offered from 10yrs of age. The club are an integral member of the Burren EcoTourism Network.
C1.2 Provide for volunteering and charity	**C1.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes**		The club provide numerous fund-raising opportunities such as a 'Play in Pink' day to support Breast Cancer research. A community fund has been established which benefits from annual donations normally around €10000 euros for the benefit of the town.

			The course is given to local and good causes throughout the year for fundraising efforts. The club are keen to point out that the clubhouse once upgraded will be used as a hub during periods of need - such as following major storm events causing power outages and services loss. The club will install generators which will cover this purpose. The club have installed EV electric car charging points which are available to both golfers and the wider public.
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'	As above. The club are an integral member of the Burren Ecotourism Network. The club attends meetings and with over 35000 followers massively extends the Ecotourism reach.
C2 Golfers & Employees			
C2.1 Improve health and wellbeing	**C2.1.1 Benefits to human physical and mental health from golf and facility activities**		Confirmed.
C2.2 Be open and inclusive	**C2.2.1 Inclusivity and diversity in membership and visitor policies**	Demonstrate inclusive policies for members and visitors	The club was the first club to be listed as “A Great Place To Work [tm]”, which is accredited independently. This accreditation has been retained for the past 3 years. Since the last verification review the club have increased opportunities for vegan and vegetarians within the restaurant and moreover the restaurant is open to locals as well as to golfers.
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	The club was the first club to be listed as “A Great Place To Work [tm]” and it prides itself on being totally open with respect to recruitment opportunities. This is laid out in the club’s procurement policy.
C3 Communications			
C3.1 Engage golfers and members	**C3.1.1 Communications activities that raise awareness and understanding amongst members and visitors**	Provide information on the facility's sustainability commitments, actions, or achievements	Members are briefed via email, which includes sustainability interest. The club have a strong social media network and as above are a close ally with The Burren Ecotourism Network. A major part of the club’s interest is to foster and promote the unique site into which the courses sit.

	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	In addition, and in respect to the above C3.1 the club undertake periodic course walks to interested parties highlighting the wildflower and associated interests. The club recently hosted Kildalton College students for a guided course walk and are keen to expand this to local schools. The club recognise the importance of the relationship with local community. A key goal is continually enhance this relationship and be supportive in promoting Lahinch as a holiday destination for all. This has included making the new clubhouse a community hub during periods of need, introducing electric car charging for all and charitable events the club run for the benefit of the town where possible. **CIP: Source local naturalists, both amateur or professional, to enable further access for a survey.**

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