



Sustainable Golf Development

Voluntary Sustainability Standard

Third Edition



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Foreword

This is the third edition of the criteria since its original release in August 2016. This latest edition signifies the most significant update to the expectations the industry has today around the sustainability outcomes that projects can seek to achieve when delivering new golf courses or renovating and adapting existing layouts to new or challenging climates. A renewed focus on good stewardship of our water environment and the social good that can be generated through golf developments are key changes in this latest edition of the criteria.

The changes are driven by real-world experience and expectations from the industry, governments, policymakers and NGOs. This has been the most widely shared and commented-on set of changes to date. As the golf industry continues to see growth in its popularity and in the ways in which people experience the sport — both on and off the course — the work undertaken in this third edition demonstrates the continued value being placed on having a credible framework and set of voluntary standards to work towards and draw upon as part of a sustained growth trajectory.

The criteria are available for anyone in the industry to use as a tool to create positive dialogue with local authorities or regulators. Having a credible, transparent and informed set of criteria demonstrates the collective commitment of the industry to approaching the process of creating golf in a sustainable and responsible manner. As such, this document should be used to promote the fact that a greater game can be built for a greater good.

Through the application, over the past ten years, of the approaches advocated by this set of criteria, we have seen golf courses restore and create significant areas of new native habitat, generate hundreds of new jobs for local communities and reduce high energy demands, thereby reducing long-term emissions. Now, as the focus sharpens on water resources, community contribution and the need for more demonstrable action, we look forward to the next five years and to seeing the criteria come to life in the field and out on the golf course.

By aligning golf development practices with healthy native ecosystems, the needs of local communities and the ambitions of local and international business, this document provides benefits to developers, owners, designers, constructors and others through:

1. Understanding the baseline for sustainable golf developments.
2. Supporting golf development's associated professions.
3. Ensuring rigorous and comprehensive coverage of a project's positive impacts.
4. Delivering credible international recognition and messaging.

The central principle underpinning the work that has gone into creating this voluntary international standard is that any golf development has the potential to enhance local ecosystems, conserve resources, support communities and take climate action.

GEO Sustainable Golf Foundation
2026



photo credit: Education City Golf Club, Qatar | Architect: Jose Maria Olazabal

Acknowledgements

The consultation process of this standard was conducted in line with ISEAL Alliance Codes of Best Practice and was overseen by an International Working Group, representing industry expertise.

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Preface

This document sets out the international Voluntary Sustainability Standard (VSS) for creating a golf course. It is a document that forms a key component of the Sustainable Golf Framework that encompasses guidance and a voluntary certification systems for the:

- 1. Operations of a golf facility.
- 2. Development of a golf facility.
- 3. Hosting of a golf tournament.

The diagram below illustrates the components of the wider Sustainable Golf Framework as well as the ownership of each.



Figure 1: Sustainable Golf Framework

Application

This Voluntary Sustainability Standard applies to the design and construction of new golf developments on land not previously used for golf. While many of the principles contained within this standard are applicable to golf course renovation projects, the requirements have been written specifically for new developments where previously undisturbed or non-golf land is affected.

This VSS is intended for use by all parties involved in the planning, approval, and delivery of golf development projects, including golf industry professionals, developers, government bodies, and permitting authorities.

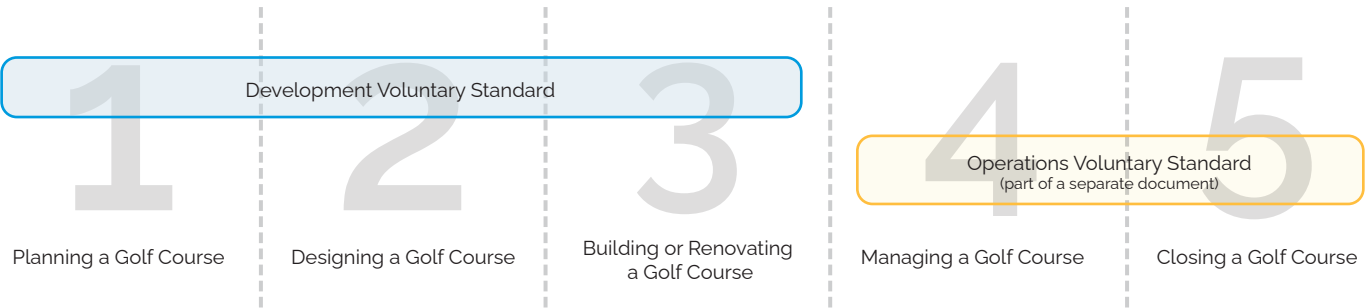


Figure 2: Relationship between the activity and the appropriate voluntary standard

Auditing and Certification

Auditing is an information gathering process that is integral to participation in any credible certification system. Auditing evaluates how well voluntary standards are met and how well outcomes are delivered through the certification process.

Certification is achieved by demonstrating independently verified practical outcomes against a voluntary standard.

For this VSS document, the mentoring and the certification process should be viewed as individual parts. A golf development choosing to use the voluntary sustainability standard can adopt one of three scenarios. The schematic below illustrates those three scenarios, the items a proposed golf development would use and the types of claims it could make:

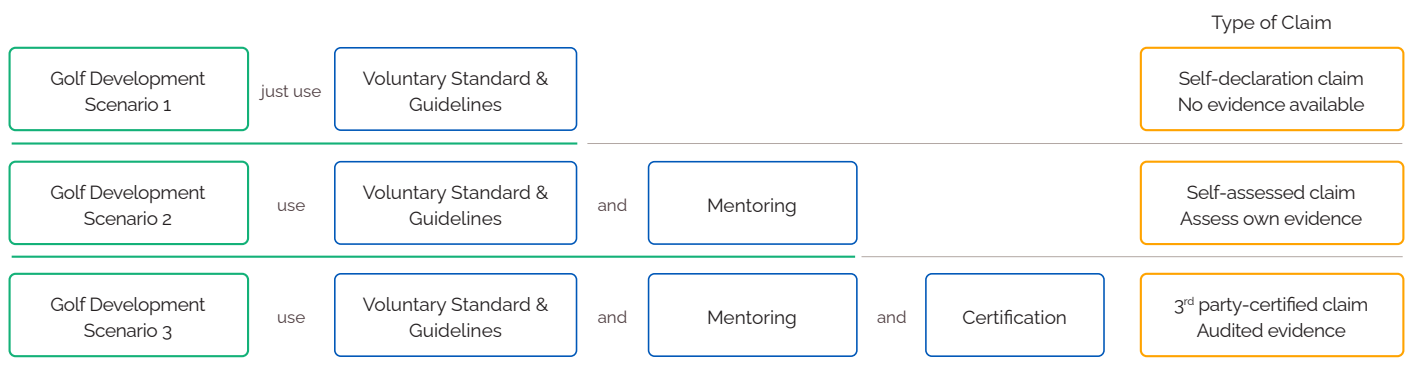


Figure 3: Golf development scenarios

Document Structure

This VSS covers the full lifecycle of a golf development, from initial preparation through to project completion. The Sustainable Golf Development Framework has three thematic areas — Nature, Resources, and Community (Figure 4) - together these address the range of environmental and social issues relevant to the golf development process.

Each themed criterion within the standard is structured around three core components:

- **Sustainability objective** — defines the individual issue to be addressed and the target outcome sought.
- **Performance requirement** — sets out the actions to be taken and frames the standard of delivery expected.
- **Supporting documentation** — specifies the evidence required to demonstrate that a criterion has been met. Further detail on supporting documentation requirements is provided on page 22.

As an international voluntary standard, the criteria are intentionally framed at a level that provides clear direction while allowing individual projects to respond to site-specific conditions. They establish a consistent standard for sustainable development rather than a prescriptive set of fixed outputs.



Figure 4: Sustainable Golf Development Framework Themes



Climate Action

Alongside the benefits a golf development can generate for native biodiversity and local communities are key climate positive action it takes. Throughout the voluntary sustainability standard, reference points have been added to those individual criterion that contribute the most to the climate profile of a new project in the preparation, design and construction stages – all of which have a lasting impact on the lifetime operations of the facility.

Golf development teams and the decisions they make have a direct impact on the climate impact of the project. Ensuring that this impact is positive helps the sport contribute towards restricting global temperatures, sea level rise and climate shifts predicted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). At this stage of a project key, impactful decisions can be made in areas such as:

- Minimising energy and fuel demands.
- Maximising resource efficiency measures.
- Opting for low embodied energy and recycled materials.
- Designing resilient and balanced land use plans.



The symbol used as a reference point throughout the voluntary standard to denote the relevant Climate Action criterion.

As the industry takes greater steps to increase efforts in furthering positive climate action, it is vital that the industry's voluntary sustainability standard identifies practical ways in which golf development can positively contribute. Climate resilience, resource efficiency and a reduced reliance on chemical controls are central issues to consider in the sustainable approach to golf development.

Buildings

The scope of the voluntary sustainability standard includes core golf buildings. The definition incorporates building components within the project's boundary that are exclusively used for the purposes of maintaining and operating the golf course itself. This specifically includes:

- Maintenance facility building(s).
- Starter's huts.
- Practice area(s).
- Restrooms or other small auxiliary buildings on the course.
- Shelters or rest stops.

The scope of the voluntary sustainability standard expressly does not cover operations such as food & beverage, locker rooms, well-being centers, washrooms, pro shops, check-in and bag drop facilities. This means the clubhouse is not covered by the standard.

The non-golf buildings that house these kinds of operations are clearly important considerations in the sustainability impacts of a project and very relevant to tackling climate change issues. Therefore, a sustainable design approach should be adopted at the earliest possible stage for these non-golf buildings, and appropriate sustainable buildings codes, guidelines and criteria should be followed. There are international building specialised sustainable criteria that are widely available and include systems such as:

- The US Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Designs (LEED).
- The UK Buildings Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM).
- The Green Building Council Australia's Green Star.
- The International Living Future Institute's Living Building Challenge.

All projects engaging with the voluntary sustainability standard for golf development are strongly encouraged to seek additional guidance and standards for their non-golf building components.

'Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'

World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED).
Our common future. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987, p. 43.



photo credit: Terras da Comporta, Portugal | Architect: Sergio Garcia

Criteria Introduction

The criteria are written in three stages, based on the typical stages of a golf development. The first is the preparation stage, the second is the design stage and the third is the construction stage. In each stage, the three sustainability themes, **Nature**, **Resources** and **Community**, are covered.

Each of the three themes has a number of criteria, categorised as **baseline** and **improvement**.^{1,2} The criterion have been ordered to group together criterion which are related or have related outcomes or actions. The order is not weighted by importance. All baseline criteria are of equal importance.

The level of consideration for any core golf building elements on a proposed development is limited to the external skin of the core golf buildings outwards into the landscape and their placement within the landscape. No criteria relate to the internal fixtures, fittings and internal finishes of any core golf buildings.

Each individual criterion has a code attached to it for ease of reference. Figure 4 explains the form of the nomenclature. The example code in Figure 4 refers to the **first** criterion in the **Design** stage of the process under the **Nature** theme. The letter '**B**' means it is considered a **Baseline** criterion.

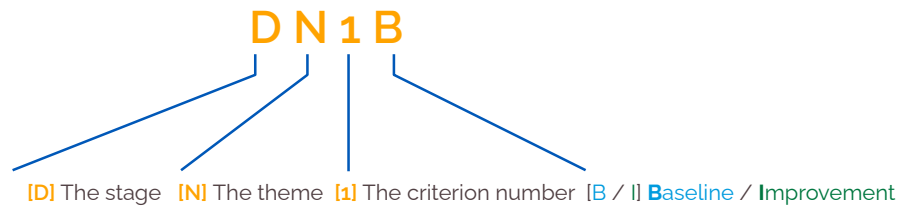


Figure 4: Criterion nomenclature



¹ For ease of referencing, the two categories are colour coded: **blue** – **baseline**; **green** – **improvement**.

² Definition of performance levels in line with ISEAL Standard Setting Baseline Guide, p. 21 – https://www.isealliance.org/sites/default/files/resource/2017-11/ISEAL_Standard_Setting_Code_v6_Dec_2014.pdf

Preparation Stage

Criterion	Sustainability Objective	Detailed Performance Requirements	Supporting Documents
P1B	Appropriate site selection	Ensure all efforts are made to minimise development of prime agricultural land, protect land supporting local livelihoods, protect floodplain capacity, conserve threatened and/or endangered habitats and species and protect important cultural resources and archaeological sites. Seek support and engage with relevant stakeholders, such as local authorities, where necessary.	Site selection statement
P2B	Establishment of legal context	Demonstrate that alternative sites have been considered, also within a larger multi-use development lot, and that Free and Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) or equivalent has been agreed or a clear and rational path to achieving this has been set out at an early stage. Ensure clarity around land ownership, transport access and legal permits from the correct local authority.²	Site selection statement Land agreements
P3B	Economic due diligence	Ensure an economic feasibility study has been carried out to determine the economic sustainability of the project, where appropriate.	Feasibility study
P4B	Promotion of development team leadership	Ensure that the development team is committed to sustainable development, is aware of its role and has expertise to deliver. Have in place a Sustainability Leader on the project team where possible.	Sustainability vision statement
P5I	Environmental and social due diligence	Ensure that, in the feasibility study, all material issues have been considered and addressed in their environmental and social contexts, in consultation with local stakeholders, community representatives/ members and suppliers.	Feasibility study

² Different forms of landownership including leasehold and multi-landowner agreements are recognised. A clear, documented path explaining the ownership is what is required.

Design Stage



Criterion	Sustainability Objective	Detailed Performance Requirements	Supporting Documents
DN1B	Develop clear understanding of species, habitats, hydrology and geomorphology	Study in detail ecology, hydrology, designations, soils, geology and geomorphology of the site. Any invasive species to be identified and managed appropriately. ²	Completed baseline surveys ³
DN2B	Adopt a 'natural systems' approach to water management, considering water quality and habitat creation	Utilise natural soakaways, attenuation areas, swales and turfgrass biofilters. Incorporate vegetated buffer zones into the design of water bodies. Allow opportunities for seasonal flooding where appropriate. Demonstrate that introduced water table controls should not adversely impact upon the quality of surrounding water and habitats. ^{4 5}	Landscape plan Golf course design statement Drainage plan
DN3B	Consider whether open water is appropriate	Provide clear justification for any open water on site. Consideration should be given to disease risk and water efficiency.	Water resource statement
DN4B	Naturalise any water features as far as possible	Create diverse, living lakes and wetlands suitable to the site, maximising ecological value as far as practical. ⁶	Landscape plan Golf course design statement
DN5B	Ensure golf course and landscape design typology is clearly compatible with site and surroundings	Avoid predetermined artificial or enforced design styles.	Golf course design statement
DN6B	Protect the most valuable landscape, cultural and ecological features	Avoid ecological hot spots and sensitive landscape zones. Retain existing valuable and/or protected trees, habitats and cultural sites.	Landscape plan Routing plan Baseline surveys
DN7B	Ensure that any topographic changes protect and enhance landscape character	Ensure minimal degradation to existing landscape character. ⁷	Grading plan

² National or regional advice should be sought for the appropriate course of action to handle invasive species.

³ See Supporting Document section for details of specific survey requirements.

⁴ Water quality indicators to be in line with the International Technical Committee on Water Quality (ISO/TC 147)

⁵ Where circumstances dictate that the inclusion of these water management measures will have a detrimental effect on other connected items such as historical landscape setting, downstream watershed management and increased soil damage, inclusion of such measures may not be warranted.

⁶ When the naturalisation of water bodies will have a detrimental effect on other connected items such as historical landscape setting, downstream watershed management and increased soil damage, the inclusion of such measures may not be warranted.

⁷ The design and impact of associated development infrastructure such as roads are not subject to this criterion.



Criterion	Sustainability Objective	Detailed Performance Requirements	Supporting Documents
DN8B	Minimise the extent of intensively managed turfgrass areas	Minimum area of the site within the development boundary to become intensively managed turfgrass.	Grassing plan 
DN9B	Plan an ecologically rich landscape ⁸	Maximise the integration of native habitats and ecology in the design. ⁹	Landscape plan Routing Plan
DN10B	Maximise habitat patch sizes and connectivity	Internal habitat patches to be large enough for identified key species. Where feasible link internal patches, maximise habitat size, and create connections to wider landscape habitats.	Landscape plan
DN11B	Use native or locally important species in landscaping designs, and drought-tolerant varieties if applicable	Landscape planting to maximise native, naturalised, locally adapted and important species (exceptions for some sites where aesthetic or cultural heritage issues are relevant, or for garden areas).	Landscape plan Golf course design statement
DN12B	Minimise pollution from maintenance facility	Plan early the facility location and how to integrate best practice pollution control measures into maintenance facility design in both temporary and permanent facilities.	Building design statement
DN13B	Minimise visual intrusion of bunkers, tees and green complexes on visually sensitive sites	No significant adverse impacts on visual amenity of key receptors or viewpoints	Golf course design statement
DN14B	Justify the inclusion of any artificial lighting as required and appropriate	Ensure that all golf lighting is only included where required and is designed to have minimal environmental impact.	Lighting Plan 
DN15I	Ensure the project delivers a net gain for biodiversity levels	Create a rich and diverse golf landscape which can be shown, through biodiversity metrics, to be displaying a clear biodiversity increase from pre- to post-construction.	Baseline surveys Landscape plan
DN16I	Consider the visual impact of core golf buildings ¹⁰	Avoid prominent or highly exposed positions and breaking skylines. External materials to be in keeping with geographical region.	Building design statement
DN17I	Minimise the visual impact of signage and furniture	Maximise the use of local sustainably sourced materials and position to integrate with the surroundings.	Landscape plan

⁸ A landscape with healthy interacting living organisms existing in plentiful quantities.

⁹ Endemic species are classed as native in this context.

¹⁰ Please refer to the 'buildings' section of this document for the definition of a core golf building.

Design Stage



Criterion	Sustainability Objective	Detailed Performance Requirements	Supporting Documents
DN18I	Use permeable surfaces	Hard surfaces on the golf course property, such as cart paths, to be made of permeable materials.	Landscape plan Materials specification
DN19I	Increase ecological interest of the external skin of the core golf buildings	Utilise ecological building techniques such as green roofs, green walls and insect housing.	Building design statement



Criterion	Sustainability Objective	Detailed Performance Requirements	Supporting Documents
DR1B	Ensure responsible use of site and surrounding water resources, including watershed.	Undertake and analyse baseline surveys to ensure informed water resource decisions and implement recommendations, particularly on water sourcing.	Baseline hydrology survey
DR2B	Minimise impact on key hydrological and flood zones on site if applicable	Avoid these areas for built development and net positive fill.	Grading plan Baseline hydrology survey
DR3B	Maximise irrigation water efficiency	When needed, install irrigation systems and technologies, such as weather stations, to deliver the correct amount of water most efficiently to the smallest possible area. Restrict irrigation only to genuine priority areas with flexibility in the system to control application areas. Identify ways golf course irrigation water can come from recycled or 'off grid' sources.¹¹	Irrigation design Water resource statement
DR4B	Select best-adapted turf species and cultivars for the local environmental conditions and to minimise long-term resource requirements	Stress, disease, temperature and drought-resistant species to be selected where possible. Select grass species with moderate maintenance requirements such as mowing and top dressing rates. Consider these long-term maintenance impacts, budgets and the final quality of the playing surface in the decision-making process.	Agronomic statement 
DR5B	Minimise volume of earthwork	Design a course which does not require excessive earthworks in order to minimise fuel use during construction.	Grading plan 
DR6B	Seek opportunities to minimise energy use in design	Design to minimise energy use and demonstrate how this is achieved. Consider areas such as embodied carbon of materials, irrigation pump design efficiency, operational energy requirements, efficiency in routing layout.	Sustainable energy statement 
DR7B	Maximise the energy efficiency of drainage design	Justify the use of piped drains.	Water resource statement

¹¹ The quality and potential impact of using recycled water on the local environment must be assessed before utilising recycled water sources as irrigation water sources.

Design Stage



Criterion	Sustainability Objective	Detailed Performance Requirements	Supporting Documents
DR8B	Maximise the energy efficiency of irrigation system	Design irrigation system to maximise benefits of topography, soil type and climatic conditions. Design irrigation system to optimise use of pipe and wire. Consideration to be given to use of recycled HDPE or an equivalent high-quality pipe material.	Irrigation design 
DR9B	Optimise location of core golf buildings to benefit from natural heating, cooling and lighting	Analyse the location and aspect of core golf buildings. Consider designs of building(s) fenestrations, thermal performance, and HVAC system to optimise for energy efficient operations of buildings.	Building design statement 
DR10B	Use local materials	Minimise the average total distance bulk construction materials [i.e. sand/soil, landscape vegetation, gravel etc] will travel to site. Give preference to onsite or locally, responsibly and sustainably sourced materials where feasible and suitable quality is available.	Materials specification 
DR11B	Reduce fuel use in maintenance	Consider ease of maintenance access and mowing regimes to avoid excessive fuel use. Consider the use of electric- or hybrid-powered maintenance machinery. ¹²	Landscape plan Grading plan Materials specification 
DR12B	Minimise fuel use in buggies	Design a golf course that can be walked where climate and terrain permit. Use electric- or hybrid-powered buggies if they are required. ¹³	Routing plan Materials specification 
DR13I	Manage precipitation onsite ¹⁴	Define the amount of precipitation to be retained and released from the site. Optimise the water management design to benefit the entire watershed.	Water resource statement

¹² There may be some situations, electricity may not be the most sustainable power source. An understanding of the local power supply is required.

¹³ There may be some situations, electricity may not be the most sustainable power source. An understanding of the local power supply is required.

¹⁴ Ensure a full understanding of the watershed and consider any potential detrimental effects on other connected items such as downstream watershed management and increased soil damage

Design Stage



Criterion	Sustainability Objective	Detailed Performance Requirements	Supporting Documents
DR14I	Integrate re-use and re-cycling of water around core golf buildings	Where possible, utilise harvested rainwater for greywater for golf and landscape irrigation as well as cart and machinery wash down. ¹⁵	Water resource statement
DR15I	Use recycled materials and materials with recycled content	Maximise the integration of recycled material into the supply chain. Where available, maximise use of certified products and materials equal to ISEAL Alliance assured standards.	Materials specification 
DR16I	Achieve an appropriate sustainability certification for the non-golf buildings within the property	Undertake an appropriate sustainability certification from the relevant authority/organisation for all non-golf buildings on the property.	Building design statement 
DR17I	Consider if the course and facilities can be 'future proofed' as far as possible	Examine the requirements of potential new technology and equipment likely to be used on site such as autonomous maintenance equipment, soil monitoring, internet and power access requirements.	Operational adaption plan 
DR18I	Consider development as 'net zero energy'	Assess the potential of onsite or local renewables such as solar panels. Assess the feasibility of exporting onsite-generated energy back to the national grid. Integrate either or both where possible.	Sustainable energy statement 

¹⁵ Use of harvested rainwater must be in accordance with relevant legislation.

Design Stage



Criterion	Sustainability Objective	Detailed Performance Requirements	Supporting Documents
DC1B	Protect cultural heritage	Design to protect and/or incorporate features of historical and cultural significance if any.	Archaeological survey and statement
DC2B	Ensure principles of 'Access for All' are implemented	Proactively consider all requirements for accessible core golf buildings to meet the access needs of disabled people.	Building design statement
DC3B	Incorporate public access where appropriate	Maintain an appropriate type of community access to all or part of the property, or mitigate any detrimental effects to the existing situation.	Landscape plan
DC4B	Undertake local consultation	Consult with local community and advertise to raise local awareness. Encourage input through meetings/ open days, in writing, by phone and via email.	Community engagement statement
DC5B	Identify any risks presented by the supply chain of products and materials.	Identify early on in the design process whether or not critical materials (soil/ sand, plants, gravel, pipe etc) can be sourced locally within country or define solutions to source such critical materials.	Materials specification
DC6B	Justify transport impact ¹⁶	Minimise the demands placed on the community's transportation network through development both in construction and long-term. Promote future multi-modal transport opportunities as part of the connections out to the wider travel networks.	Community engagement statement
DC7I	Ensure all aspects of the golf holes follow the principles of being accessible for all	The golf course design will be playable by people of all physical abilities. Ensure that those who are physically impaired can enjoy the challenge of all golf features.	Golf course design statement Routing plan



¹⁶ This is in reference to on-site considerations e.g. ev charging and cycle parking / paths and not areas outside of the projects remit.



Criterion	Sustainability Objective	Detailed Performance Requirements	Supporting Documents
DC8I	Promote ethically and environmentally led procurement	Define policy for procurement of products, services and staff conditions. Suppliers and contractors to conform with Ethical Trading Initiative's base code or equivalent.	Procurement policy
DC9I	Promote and improve community health and well-being	Incorporate opportunities for non-golf-related health and well-being activities appropriate and proportional to site conditions, project scope and location.	Landscape plan
DC10I	Undertake local engagement	Engage with, listen and respond to local opinion. Encourage input through meetings/ open days, in writing, by phone and via email and give transparent feedback on how identified issues have been addressed.	Community engagement statement
DC11I	Promote community integration and awareness	Establish ways in which the development can contribute to local communities, for example, promoting publicly accessible outdoor facilities onsite or events to help raise awareness of sustainability issues, such as local ecology, cultural heritage and renewable energy.	Community engagement statement
DC12I	Seek collaborations with nearby or local golf facilities where they exist	Explore ways to create collaboration with local golf facilities such as shared services, workforce, machinery, knowledge.	Community engagement statement
DC13I	Incorporate educational values	Design in educational opportunities such as placements, open days (i.e. pre- and post-construction) and onsite classroom facilities etc.	Community engagement statement

Construction Stage



Criterion	Sustainability Objective	Detailed Performance Requirements	Supporting Documents
CN1B	Protect existing water bodies and groundwater	Appropriate water body protection to be in place, including consideration for groundwater aquifers. Minimise sediment and chemical runoff from construction work. Establish a water quality testing plan including pre, during and post construction.	Erosion control plan Staff briefing statement
CN2B	Ensure sensitive site clearance and protective measures are implemented	Plan to work outwards from centreline. Incorporate 'found' features where possible. Make allowance in the contract for appropriate site protection measures to be installed such as appropriate tree protection fencing.	Site clearance plan Site protection plan
CN3B	Avoid net negative impacts on biodiversity	Phase construction works to minimise risk of disturbance to environmentally significant wildlife species. Give consideration to key times of year such as nesting times.	Construction program
CN4B	Protect high-value landscape, ecological and cultural features	Set cordoned off 'no impact zones' to protect areas of high ecological or cultural value, both surveyed and found in construction. No damage to be caused to these areas as a result of construction works. Ensure no net loss of individual nationally and regionally protected species of flora and fauna.	Baseline ecology survey Archaeological survey Staff briefing statement Site protection plan Monitoring statement



Criterion	Sustainability Objective	Detailed Performance Requirements	Supporting Documents
CN5B	Minimise soil erosion and protect the soil structure of the site	Use erosion control fences, temporary ditches, sediment traps, phasing of works and other measures. Minimise time bare soil is exposed. No unnecessary damage to integrity of native subsoil. No cultivation operations to be carried out in very dry/windy conditions without mitigation measures in place.	Soil resource statement Soils Management Plan Erosion control plan 
CN6B	Minimise topsoil damage	Only move topsoil when conditions are suitable. Use plant machinery expressly designed for the purpose. Minimise periods of topsoil storage, and stockpile in accordance with best practice guidelines.	Soil resource statement
CN7B	Robust and secure site storage with critical pollution prevention measures	Fuel, oil and chemical stores to be on impervious bases within a containment or embankment to control spillage extent and wash pad runoff. Where possible, incorporate water recycling/disposal systems with oil separators or equivalent systems. Maintain all equipment and monitor for leaks. When possible, keep storage areas away from water courses.	Pollution control statement
CN8B	Minimise hazardous substances used and stored on site in construction.	Understand and comply with local and national legislation and with demonstrable voluntary measures brought on site relating to chemical application. Minimise amount of selective herbicide to be used for vegetation clearance.	Pollution control statement¹⁷ Ecology survey Staff briefing statement Site clearance plan

¹⁷ See Supporting Document section for detail on indicators demonstrating that voluntary measures have been brought in.

Construction Stage



Criterion	Sustainability Objective	Detailed Performance Requirements	Supporting Documents
CN9B	Reinstate damaged areas of the site	Areas disturbed in construction to be reinstated, restored and where possible, ecologically enhanced following completion. ¹⁸	Statement of intent
CN10B	Managed risk of wildfire	Consider management of fuel on site and consult local authority for regional practices on vegetated areas.	Statement of intent
CN11B	Raise awareness of any sensitive habitats and species	Ensure all site staff are aware of any sensitive habitats and/or species that have been surveyed and mapped.	Staff briefing statement
CN12B	Plan efficient haul routes	Where feasible, use future permanent roadways as site routes.	Construction compound plan 
CN13B	Responsible use of pesticides and fertiliser	Monitor and promote sensitive application of pesticides, fertilisers and other chemicals throughout construction and into grow-in stage, applying these controls on a last resort only principle. The strict application of buffer zones and no-spray/treatment areas around watercourses, wetlands, reed beds, ditches, marshy grasslands etc	Staff briefing statement Monitoring statement Pollution control statement
CN14B	Minimise impact of chemical spillages	All chemical, fuel and oil spillages to be cleared immediately.	Pollution control statement Staff briefing statement
CN15I	No use of hazardous substances in out-of-play areas and areas of high ecological value	Mechanical methods to be utilised to remove weed species in out-of-play areas and within areas of high ecological value.	Staff briefing statement
CN16I	Zero or the absolute minimum application of pesticides during construction and grow-in processes	Use zero or the absolute minimum pesticide applications during the construction of the golf course. Monitor and record the alternative forms of control utilised.	Pollution control statement

¹⁸ If areas of acid sulphate soils were discovered during the geomorphological survey stage, the appropriate course of action needs to be taken if these areas were disturbed during construction. Seek local or regional agency advice as appropriate.

Construction Stage



Criterion	Sustainability Objective	Detailed Performance Requirements	Supporting Documents
CN17I	Ensure construction operations are in line with 'Best Practicable Means' and prioritises environmental protection	Minimise noise, light and dust pollution as well as the impact to surrounding roads and neighbourhoods where applicable.	Pollution control statement
CN18I	Plan sensitive haul routes	No areas of high ecological value to be disturbed for site routes.	Baseline ecology survey

Construction Stage



Criterion	Sustainability Objective	Detailed Performance Requirements	Supporting Documents
CR1B	Ensure diligent water monitoring	Periodically monitor, at appropriate intervals, the quality and quantity of water courses i.e. streams, creeks, ponds and groundwater on site or directly connected to the site pre-, during and post-construction	Monitoring statement
CR2B	Minimise resources used in plant production and supply	Consider establishing an on-site plant, turf and seed nursery.	Statement of intent
CR3B	Avoid use of peat	All available alternatives to peat such as zeolites, porous ceramic and diatomaceous soils should be considered first. If peat is clearly demonstrated as the only viable option, then it must be from a certified responsible source.¹⁹ The amount of peat used must be kept to an absolute minimum.	Soil resource statement 
CR4B	Minimise fuel consumption	Minimise trip numbers; ensure efficient delivery planning and reduce unnecessary grading and landscape changes.	Construction program Logistics statement 
CR5B	Explore transportation alternatives	When possible, use low carbon haulage methods such as rail or boat/barge. Give preference to electric, hybrid, hydrogen and biodiesel powered vehicles and machinery	Logistics statement Plant and equipment schedule 
CR6B	Use low sulphur diesel oil	Low sulphur diesel must be used in countries where it is available.	Plant and equipment schedule
CR7B	Reduce waste	Sort construction waste streams onsite for safe and appropriate disposal or recycling.	Waste management plan

¹⁹ Examples of recognised certified systems for peat cultivation include Responsibly Produced Peat (RPP) or Veriflora (Canadian Certification for Responsible Peatland Management) or an accepted equivalent.

Construction Stage



Criterion	Sustainability Objective	Detailed Performance Requirements	Supporting Documents
CR8B	Efficient waste management	Reuse or recycle as many non-hazardous materials from the site as possible such as vegetation, rocks, soil, oil, antifreeze, batteries and other chemicals used in the construction process, to reduce disposal in landfills or incinerators. ²⁰	Waste management plan
CR9I	Use onsite plant production and supply	Establish an onsite plant, turf and seed nursery.	Statement of intent
CR10I	Reduce fuel used for onsite machinery and generators	Maximise percentage of machinery, generators and site traffic running on renewable fuel or, where available, responsibly sourced biodiesel.	Plant and equipment schedule 
CR11I	Take measures to minimise emissions during construction.	Minimise carbon emissions as far as practically possible. Explore the cost to credibly off-set remaining carbon. ²¹	Logistics statement 

²⁰ Any soils identified as acid sulphate soils are not to be reused.

²¹ Refer to Climate Action section of the full VSS document for details.

Construction Stage



Criterion	Sustainability Objective	Detailed Performance Requirements	Supporting Documents
CC1B	Provide staff with good working conditions	Availability of clean, hygienic onsite shelter(s) and provision of adequate sanitation and water.	Construction compound plan
CC2B	Provide opportunity and training for local workers	Maximise percentage of site staff and subcontractors from local communities. Provide proactive training for local workforce, using accredited providers where possible.	Employee schedule Staff briefing statement
CC3B	Promote sensitive traffic management	Create logistics statement to minimise impact on local people and public road surfaces. Minimise Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) that come and go to site per week. Set time limits and curfews on HGV deliveries (i.e. not before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m.).	Logistics statement
CC4I	Raise environmental awareness around site	Ensure that there are environmental awareness tools in place for end users of the site e.g. interpretation materials covering local environmental and cultural topics.	Community engagement statement
CC5I	Promote community open day(s)	Plan day(s) of site open access to an invited list, i.e. pre- and post-construction.	Community engagement statement



photo credit: GolfIt! Glasgow | Architect: Scott Macpherson

Supporting Documents Introduction

Whether a project wants to be certified or not, to make claims about its sustainability credentials, it is necessary to have compiled supporting documentation. This section is intended as a guide for project teams, enabling understanding of the kinds of information contained within the supporting documentation.

The list is by no means comprehensive or binding, but is intended to act as a guide to the kind of supporting documents anticipated in meeting the voluntary sustainability standard.

The list places supporting documents under generic document titles for organisational purposes only. It is accepted that not all golf developments can, or will, produce all the supporting documents listed, and widely understood that this information can be demonstrated through alternative methods.

The list is correct at the time of writing, but will be subject to ongoing review and amendment as new industry voluntary standards, technologies and methodologies emerge.

The relevant criteria to which each document relates are noted alongside each generic document title.

Figure 5 explains the listing components.

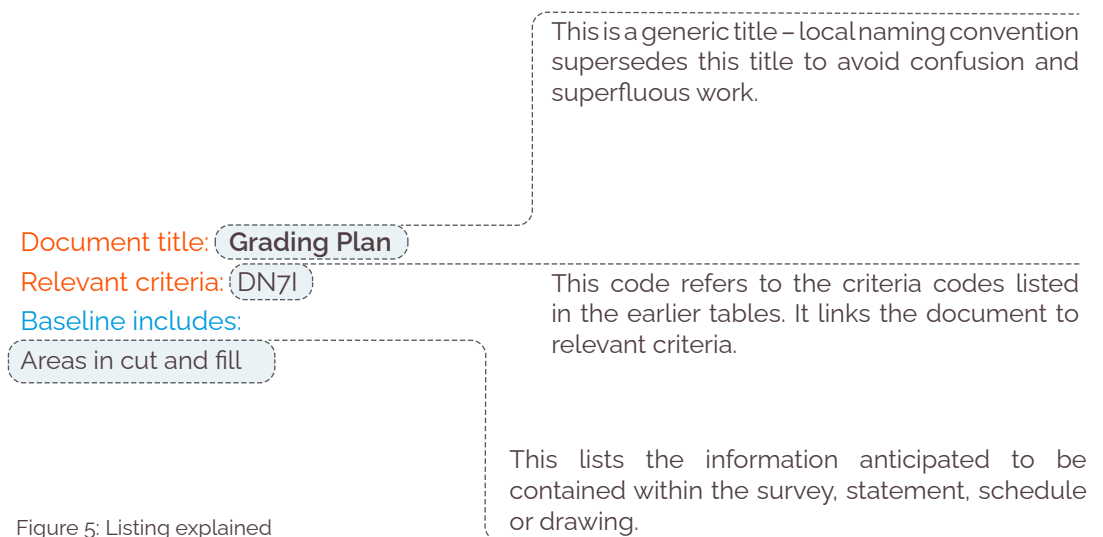


Figure 5: Listing explained



photo credit: Rumanza, Pakistan | Architect: Sir Nick Faldo

Preparation Stage

STATEMENTS

Must submit:

Document title: Site selection statement

Relevant criteria: P1B, P2B

Baseline includes:

Justification for chosen site, considering agricultural land status, floodplain capacity and protected or threatened habitats and species

Explanation of the alternatives considered and why they were not chosen

Discussions with local authorities and stakeholders

Document title: Land agreements

Relevant criteria: P2B, P3B

Baseline includes:

Clarity around any Free and Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) or equivalent legal agreements

Clarity around land ownership, transport access and any local authority permits or equivalent

Document title: Feasibility study

Relevant criteria: P3B

Baseline includes:

Justification for site selection supported by market research for locality and region

Sustainable business case or rationale for development

Document title: Sustainability vision statement

Relevant criteria: P4B

Baseline includes:

Outlining project team's management structure/organisation chart

Project's sustainability vision

Individuals' expertise and their assigned roles and responsibilities

Document title: Feasibility study

Relevant criteria: P5I

Improvement includes:

Preliminary findings for supply chain challenges

Local environmental and social issues to be addressed in an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or similar.

Local stakeholders and suppliers consultation records.



photo credit: Hilversumsche, Netherlands

Design Stage

SURVEYS

Document title: Hydrology survey and statement

Relevant criteria: DN1B, DN3B, DN6B, DR1B, DR2B

Baseline includes:

- Site mapping of drainage channels and existing watercourses
- Available mapping of watersheds and hydrological zones²²
- Available mapping of groundwater aquifers
- Available flood risk assessment
- Water quality sampling

Document title: Ecology survey and statement

Relevant criteria: DN1B, DN6B, DN15I

Baseline includes:

- Site mapping of habitats, trees and hedgerows and location of protected or vulnerable species
- Available classification of existing vegetation types and areas of high ecological value
- Available river corridor and habitat survey and assessment (if applicable)
- Invasive plant surveys and responsible management recommendations (if applicable)
- Available protected plant and animal species survey and any national action plans referenced

Improvement includes:

- Biodiversity score / figures

Document title: Archaeological survey and statement

Relevant criteria: DN1B, DN6B, DC1B

Baseline includes:

- Assessment of likelihood of archaeological interest
- Available information on past human cultures
- Mitigation measures if there is a likelihood of archaeological interest on site
- Responsible management recommendations of any archaeological interest

Document title: Geomorphological survey and statement

Relevant criteria: DN1B, DN6B

Baseline includes:

- Area characteristics, geomorphological features and sites for collection of data
- Available mapping or listing of soil types and locations
- Available mapping of any acid sulphate soils and methods for their management
- Available data for river or wetland sediments to identify erosion or pollution risk

Document title: Contaminated land survey and statement

Relevant criteria: DN1B

Baseline includes:

- Assessment of likelihood of contaminated land
- Categorisation of contaminants and mapping of affected areas

²² Available mapping refers to publicly available mapping typical held in local or national authority collections.

Design Stage

STATEMENTS

Document title: Golf course design statement

Relevant criteria: DN2B, DN4B, DN5B, DN11B, DN13B, DC7I

Baseline includes:

Design approach, including proposed course typology, features and context

Planting strategy, including proposed and existing plant species

Overall approach to water management and design

Statement on character of water feature(s) or wetland area(s), including indicative detail of construction technique

Assessment of impact the course design has on key receptors

Improvement includes:

Assessment of playability for those with disabilities

Document title: Sustainable energy statement

Relevant criteria: DN14B, DR6B, DR18I

Baseline includes:

Overall efforts to reduce energy in the design

Assessment of the requirement and need for artificial lighting

Improvement includes:

Exploration of potential on site or locally sourced renewable sources

Assessment of potential to export energy back to national grid

Document title: Community engagement statement

Relevant criteria: DC4B, DC6B, DC10I, DC11I, DC12I, DC13I

Baseline includes:

List of community stakeholders and interested parties and methods of gaining their input

Consideration of multi-modal transport options and access to the site

Improvement includes:

Methods for contributing to local communities such as promoting an inclusive ethos and raising awareness of sustainability achievements and local ecology

Open day(s) to promote public education on proposals and on site classroom day(s)

Assessment of impact of developments on local transport networks with mitigation measures

Details on club partnerships and how local facilities can support each other

Document title: Agronomic statement

Relevant criteria: DR4B

Baseline includes:

Assessment of local environmental conditions such as soil and climate

Clear and logical recommendation of the mix of appropriate species in turfgrass areas for the proposed course type or presentation style

Estimate maintenance budgets and projected number of rounds

Assessment of recommended species mix against stress, disease, temperature, drought tolerance, playing quality and maintenance requirements

Detailed specifications for rootzone mixes, drainage materials, sands and other agronomic material recommended for use

Document title: Water resource statement

Relevant criteria: DN3B, DR3B, DR7B, DR13I, DR14I

Baseline includes:

Justification for any open water in desert/arid locations

Justification for amount of piped drainage

Water sources for irrigation and any opportunities to diversify

Improvement includes:

Proposed amount of water to be discharged from site with justification²³

Opportunities for reuse and recycling of water for buildings and surrounds²⁴

²³ Into the public mains drainage system.

²⁴ The use of harvested rainwater must be in accordance with relevant legislation.

Design Stage

Document title: Procurement policy or Purchasing policy

Relevant criteria: DC8I

Improvement includes:

Policy for procurement of products and services

Procedures to assess suppliers and contractors for compliance with ETI base codes or equivalent

Suggested content:

1. Commitment to FSC or equivalent sourcing of timber
2. Commitment to minimising waste
3. Use of recycled materials
4. Sourcing of legal and ethical services and materials
5. Project list of banned materials
6. Prioritisation of local suppliers and workforce where practicable

Document title: Building design statement

Relevant criteria: DN12B, DN16I, DN19I, DR9B, DR16I, DC2B

Baseline includes:

Design of maintenance facility that include pollution control measures

Confirmation that all core golf buildings and accessible approaches meet the needs of disabled people

Reasons for location of core golf building(s) with respect to natural lighting, heating and cooling benefits

Improvement includes:

Reason(s) for the chosen location of core golf building(s) including consideration of key receptors

Design of any ecological improvement(s) to external skin of the core golf buildings

Confirmation of non golf buildings' sustainability certifications

Document title: Lighting Plan

Relevant criteria: DN13B

Baseline includes:

Artificial lighting designs

Light pollution models

DRAWINGS

Document title: Routing plan

Relevant criteria: DN6B, DN9B, DR12B, DC7I

Baseline includes:

Ecological hotspots, cultural sites, sensitive landscape zones, existing trees and habitats

Areas set aside for habitats outside play areas

Circulation path layout with clear indications of tree and green locations and general land relief

Improvement includes:

Assessment of playability for those with disabilities

Document title: Grading plan

Relevant criteria: DN7B, DR2B, DR5B, DR11B

Baseline includes:

Existing and proposed contours at 500mm or 2ft intervals

Areas in cut and fill

Volumes being cut and filled and the net result of works

Detail(s) of green complexes

Document title: Drainage plan

Relevant criteria: DN2B

Baseline includes:

Areas of water attenuation, soakaways or flood controls

Layout of water connections both below and above ground, including typical details of pipes, connectors, swales, gullies and access chambers

Locations of water inlets and outfalls and connections to any public main drains or waterways

Document title: Irrigation design

Relevant criteria: DR3B, DR8B

Baseline includes:

Materials such as valves, taps, sensors, heads and pumps specified

Any irrigation controls, zones and management equipment/technology

Maps of areas showing any automated irrigation water source locations and water quality noted

Exploration of using gravity-fed systems and justification for chosen solutions for sites

Document title: Landscape plan

Relevant criteria: DN2B, DN4B, DN6B, DN9B, DN10B, DN11B, DN15I, DN17I, DN18I, DR11B, DC3B, DC9I

Baseline includes:

Any ecological hot spots or sensitive landscape zones

Habitat areas retained

Proposed limits of site disturbance

Proposed and existing areas for planting

List of Latin names of plant species in key/legend, both proposed and existing

Proposed and retained habitat typologies and layouts

Any water filtration vegetation or buffer zones and proposed plant list

Any water features or wetland areas and their character

Paths, car park and locations of the hard landscape elements

Wider public access network

Improvement includes:

Biodiversity score/rating of site existing and proposed

Areas of permeable paving

List of hard landscape materials and elements (signage, furniture)

Any other recreation areas

Design Stage

Document title: Grassing plan

Relevant criteria: DN8B

Baseline includes:

- Areas of intensively managed turfgrass
- Areas and species mix of turfgrass areas
- Areas to be seeded and/or turfed

Document title: Operational adaptation plan

Relevant criteria: DR17I

Improvement includes:

- Assessment of potential use of future technology such as shot tracking, AI, internet, more power, robotic machinery etc.

SCHEDULES

Document title: Materials specifications

Relevant criteria: DN18I, DR10B, DR11B, DR12B, DR15I, DC5B

Baseline includes:

- List of external materials proposed, including supplier and origin
- List of key opportunities and challenges involved in sourcing materials – demonstrate how any challenges were addressed
- List of maintenance vehicles/machinery and fuel type (if applicable)
- List of golf buggy specifications proposed (if applicable)

Improvement includes:

- List of external materials proposed, their source, including recycled content, and any certification marks
- List of external materials proposed for car parks, cart paths and other hardstanding to include permeability of materials proposed



photo credit: Hoiana Shores, Vietnam | Architect: Bruce Charlton ASGCA, Mike Gorman ASGCA

Construction Stage

SURVEYS

Document title: Ecology survey and statement

Relevant criteria: CN4B, CN8B, CN13B, CN18I

Baseline includes:

Site mapping of habitats, trees and hedgerows and location of protected or vulnerable species

Available classification of existing vegetation types and areas of high ecological value

Available river corridor and habitat survey and assessment (if applicable)

Invasive plant surveys and responsible management recommendations (if applicable)

Available protected plant and animal species survey and any national action plans referenced

Hazardous substances storage details and intended uses

Suggested haul route

Improvement includes:

Document title: Archaeological survey & statement

Relevant criteria: CN4B

Baseline includes:

Assessment of likelihood of archaeological interest

Available information on past human cultures

Mitigation measures if there is a likelihood of archaeological interest on site

Responsible management recommendations relating to any archaeological interest

Construction Stage

STATEMENTS

Document title: Construction programme

Relevant criteria: CN3B, CR4B

Baseline includes:

Phasing of construction work

Consideration of important ecological activities on site such as nesting seasons

Phasing of work across site

Document title: Logistics statement

Relevant criteria: CR4B, CR11I, CC3B

Baseline includes:

Efficient planning of haulage trips and maximised load fill of trucks

Timings and anticipated frequency of site deliveries

Number of haulage trips involved in construction

Improvement includes:

Haulage methods for imported materials

Carbon off setting strategy

Document title: Pollution control statement

Relevant criteria: CN7B, CN8B, CN14B, CN15B, CN16I, CN17I, CN18I

Baseline includes:

Design and locations of fuel, oil and chemical storage areas

Design of wash down areas/pads and disposal systems

Procedures for machinery wash down and routine maintenance

Confirmation of compliance with national legislation with regard to hazardous material

Statement or list of voluntary measures in place such as:

1. Storage and access protocol for chemicals, fuel and plant
2. Demonstration of awareness of fertility levels required for site's soil
3. Demonstration of credible recommendations for soil fertility treatment
4. Details of efforts made to reuse organic matter generated on site such as leaf litter
5. Demonstration of awareness of hazardous nature of any chemicals being used

Operator guidance on pesticide applications for vegetation clearance

Procedures for clearing spillages

Improvement includes:

Operator guidance on no-spray zones, particularly around watercourses, wetlands, reed beds, ditches and marshy grassland

Procedures for vehicles entering and leaving construction sites and wash down facilities

Procedures for minimising or mitigating incidents during construction relating to air quality, noise and vibrations

Conditions suitable for earthworks and mitigation measures for dust control

Record of non-chemical and other alternatives to pesticide applications during construction

Document title: Agronomic statement

Relevant criteria: CR3B

Baseline includes:

Rootzone specification with % of peat specified

Document title: Statement of Intent

Relevant criteria: CN9B, CN10B, CR2B, CR9I,

Baseline includes:

Outline of plans to reinstate damaged areas and habitats on the site

Outline of how wildfire risk will be mitigated on site

Details on how a turf and plant nursery will be established on site

Improvement includes:

Details on how a turf and plant nursery will be established on site

Construction Stage

Document title: **Staff briefing statement**

Relevant criteria: CN1B, CN4B, CN8B, CN11B, CN13B, CN14B, CN15B, CN16I, CC2B

Baseline includes:

Instructions for herbicide application and methods for vegetation clearance in out-of-play areas and areas of high ecological value

Instructions regarding 'no-impact zones' in respect of high ecological value areas, retained trees and wildlife corridors

Instructions regarding silt and chemical runoff risks in areas close to water bodies

Promotion of sensitive application methods for any pesticides, fertilisers and other chemicals

Procedures for dealing with chemical spillages

Instructions regarding no-spray/treatment areas in respect of watercourses

Training procedures focused on skills development for locally sourced staff

Improvement includes:

Method statement on weed removal in out-of-play areas and high ecological value areas

Document title: **Community engagement statement**

Relevant criteria: CC4I, CC5I

Improvement includes:

Open day(s) promoting public education and opportunities to explore topics such as habitat and water systems

Awareness-raising techniques such as toolbox talks and notice boards

Document title: **Monitoring statement**

Relevant criteria: CN4B, CN14B, CR1B

Baseline includes:

Monitoring of any nationally or regionally protected species of flora and fauna

Monitoring of applications of pesticides, fertilisers and other chemical applications

Monitoring of water quality and pH levels in water courses, water bodies, groundwater and water outlets flow during construction

Document title: **Soil resource statement**

Relevant criteria: CN5B, CN6B, CR3B

Baseline includes:

Methods for stripping, stockpiling, resspreading and ameliorating landscape soils and conditions conducive to this activity

Soil erosion mitigation

Areas, depths and types of topsoil and subsoil to be stripped

Methods for topsoil handling, spreading and storage

Alternatives to peat used

Document title: **Soils management plan**

Relevant criteria: CN5B

Baseline includes:

Soil erosion mitigation

Methods for topsoil handling, spreading and storage

Document title: **Waste management plan**

(Soil resource statement can be included in this document)

Relevant criteria: CR7B, CR8B

Baseline includes:

Disposal action proposed for each different waste type

Action proposed for each different waste type, including reusing and recycling



photo credit: Terras da Comporta, Portugal | Architect: Sergio Garcia

Construction Stage

DRAWINGS

Document title: Site clearance plan

Relevant criteria: CN2B, CN8B

Baseline includes:

Methods for clearing site

Outline of areas to be cleared and to be left untouched

Document title: Site protection plan

Relevant criteria: CN2B, CN4B

Baseline includes:

Protection measures and locations

'No-impact zone(s)' to be protected during construction

Document title: Erosion control plan

Relevant criteria: CN1B, CN5B

Baseline includes:

Erosion prevention measures for soil erosion and sediment pollution of surface and ground water

Control of cultivation operations to minimise soil loss

Document title: Construction compound plan

Relevant criteria: CN12B, CC1B

Baseline includes:

Areas for workers' shelters and the provisions included

Improvement includes:

Site plan(s) indicating haul routes around site

SCHEDULES

Document title: Plant and equipment schedule

Relevant criteria: CR5B, CR6B, CR10I

Baseline includes:

List of all plants and fuel sources to be used

Improvement includes:

List of maintenance fleet and vehicle fuel type

List of all site generators, machinery and fuel sources to be used

Document title: Employee schedule

Relevant criteria: CC2B

Baseline includes:

List of construction staff, their key roles and responsibilities and their locations

Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
Acid Sulphate Soils	Naturally occurring soils, sediments or organic substrates (e.g. peat), formed in waterlogged conditions. In an undisturbed state below the water table, acid sulphate soils are benign. However, if the soils are drained, excavated or exposed to air by means of a lowering of the water table, the sulphides react with oxygen to form sulphuric acid.
Amenity Grass	Short-mown grass not used for golf.
As Built	A record drawing showing built conditions such as irrigation systems.
Aspect	Direction in which a building, window, piece of land, etc. faces; the side of a building facing in a particular direction.
Certified Material	Certified programs complying with, or equal to, ISEAL Alliance Codes.
Core Golf Buildings	Buildings essential to the golf operations. Includes maintenance facilities, halfway/starters' huts, practice area(s), restrooms and other similar small auxiliary buildings and convenience stations. Specifically excludes the clubhouse.
Ecological Hot Spots	Areas of a site with a collection of species considered to be under threat.
Ecologically Rich	Places with clusters of ecological community types, species and associated landscapes that are unique, rare or threatened, or are valued for their long-term services to keep our environment healthy.
Gardens	An area within the site typically adjacent to buildings where planting design is mainly ornamental or fruiting.
Geomorphology	The scientific study of the origin and evolution of topographic features created by physical, chemical and biological processes operating at, or near, the earth's surface. Both past and future landform changes can occur in response to factors such as tectonic and volcanic activity, climate and sea level change, and human activities.
Golf Development	The creation or improvement of one (1) or more golf holes that require the building, engineering or other operations on, over or under land, or the making of any material change in the use of any buildings or other land.
Grow-in Stage	The stage in the construction process following the installment of grass in an area.
Invasive Plant Species	A plant with the ability to thrive and spread aggressively outside its native range. A naturally aggressive plant may be especially invasive when introduced to a new habitat. Refer to a national or regional agency for site-specific guidance on invasive species for your area.
Intensively Managed Grass	An area of grass sward maintained for the purposes of playing golf.
ISEAL Alliance	Global membership association for sustainability standards.
Major Renovation	Includes, but is not limited to, amendments to the golf course and/or associated core buildings beyond one single aspect, such as bunkering or drainage or practice facilities.
Multi-modal Transport	Provision of more than one transport mode option to enable reaching the golf course site.
Native/Indigenous	In the context of plants and/or habitats, this refers to plants or habitats that originate from that locality or are endemic in that area.

Net Positive Fill	In the context of grading works, not reducing floodwater capacity to areas by adding overall fill material in defined flood zone areas when compared to existing conditions.
No-Impact Zones	Areas to be protected from construction work.
Non-golf Buildings	Buildings that house operations, such as for food & beverage, locker rooms, well-being centers, washrooms, pro shops, check-in and bag drop facilities. Any residential buildings are also viewed as non-golf buildings.
No-spray Zones	Areas where application of soluble chemicals is banned or strictly managed.
Off-grid Water Source	Not being connected to mains or national water system, e.g. well, stream, treated sewage effluent (TSE) or rainwater harvesting. Note: Water sourced off-grid needs to meet national or regional water quality guidelines for its use, and its extraction must be undertaken responsibly.
Priority Irrigation Areas	Targeted areas considered vital to facility operation.
Plant/Machinery	Durable apparatus or part of apparatus employed in carrying out activities of construction.
Sediment	Any particulate matter able to be transported by fluid flow or wind and eventually deposited as a layer of solid particles.
Statement of Intent	It is understood that the scale of a development influences construction methodology and recording. In the absence of a piece of evidence, a statement of intent is requested to confirm a requirement. This statement is verified by a site visit from an independent verifier, or video/ photographic evidence.
Sustainability	Relates to social equity, environmental protection and economic development. It is very difficult for something to be absolutely sustainable, so qualifying words such as 'more sustainable' should be used, meaning that you are describing an active process, not a static one.
Sustainability Leader	A member of the project team acting as the point of coordination for a project's sustainability work.
Target Plant and Animal Species	Protected species as defined by local, regional or national policies, plans or legislation.
Key or Sensitive Receptors	A physical landscape resource, special interest or viewer group that will experience an effect from a site or part of a development in question, e.g. an individual dwelling, a point on a road or access way, or an elevated location.



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