



GEO Certified[®]

GEO Certified[®] Report Machynys Peninsula Golf and Premier Spa

Prepared by independent verifier: Dino Minoli

Certified by GEO Foundation: 2022
Recertification due: 2025

GEO Certified[®]



**GEO
Foundation**
Sustainability in and through golf

“Machynys is a well-managed golf club that shows pro-environmental values, attitudes, and actions. Highlights include well-established naturalisation and habitat renewal programmes, important wildlife for biodiversity, a natural irrigation lake, an apiary, e-vehicle charging, volunteering, and charitable donations. I look forward to seeing how the Club’s sustainability working group progresses with its sustainability strategy and policies for responsible, sustainable golf for sustainability and competitive advantage.”

Dino Minoli

(GEO accredited independent verifier)



Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that Machynys Peninsula Golf and Premier Spa 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.

Machynys Peninsula Golf and Premier Spa 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, Machynys Peninsula Golf and Premier Spa should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, Machynys Peninsula Golf and Premier Spa 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



Verifier's Report

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

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

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

NATURE			
N1 Habitats and Biodiversity			
Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
N1.1 Understand the site and surroundings	N1.1.1 Sound understanding of the nature and landscape value of the site	Map all habitats and vegetation types on the site; Regularly update landscape / biodiversity surveys	The Machynys Golf Country Club (MGCC) lies south of Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, South Wales.

			<p>In the nineteenth century, Machynys Peninsula was home to an industrial community working in brickworks and tinsplate works. In the mid-twentieth century, industrial activity ceased, the buildings were demolished, and the site lay derelict and underutilised due to pollution from industrial use.</p> <p>Since 1960, the Llanelli Waterside Regeneration Plan has transformed the site beyond recognition. The site comprises the highly-rated MCGC, Pentre Nicklaus Village, which consists of: 175 New England-style homes; Llanelli Millennium Coastal Park, which includes the National Cycle Network that runs along the coast of Machynys; and scenic views of the Gower Peninsula and Bury Esturay from the beach and Machynys Ponds, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notable for its dragonfly population.</p> <p>There is a detailed, historical, Phase 1 Habitat (Preliminary Ecological Appraisal) Survey of all the site's wildlife, flora and fauna. More recent surveys include a Countryside Council for Wales Vole Survey (2022), Carmarthenshire Bird Survey, and a Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland Joint County Recorders for Carmarthenshire (2019) Plant Survey. There is also an in-house overview of the site's landscape and wildlife.</p> <p>Machynys is awaiting a favourable biodiversity report from an independent environmental consultant, Sophie Olejnik, following a recent positive site survey.</p> <p>The Course Manager's 'hands-on' approach to course management facilitates first-hand knowledge of all the habitats and vegetation types at the site.</p>
--	--	--	--

			<p>CIP: Conduct periodic biodiversity surveys by appropriately qualified individuals and organisations (e.g., a licensed ecologist) to monitor and report on the golf course’s ecological value and quality. Make this information available to staff, visitors, and the local community.</p> <p>CIP: Update map/aerial image of the valuable habitats at the site using Google images, for example.</p> <p>CIP: Consider the ‘BirdGuides, First for Bird News’ for monitoring and reporting bird species at the site, as appropriate https://www.birdguides.com).</p> <p>CIP: Continue working with local environmental groups, consultancies and regional and national bodies on the course’s landscape and biodiversity.</p>
	<p>N1.1.2 Knowledge of legal designations for protected areas, habitats and species</p>	<p>Understand legal responsibilities for protected landscapes and species; Record and monitor protected, endangered, or rare species found on the site</p>	<p>Machynys understands its responsibilities for the site’s protected areas.</p> <p>The site is part of the Natura 2000 network, designated under the 'Nature Directives', i.e., the Birds and Habitats Directives.</p> <p>There is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest, which comprises one large pond and three smaller ponds. The main pond includes various aquatic plants, and the bulrush beds provide shelter and nest sites for waterfowl. The site also regularly supports significant numbers of passage and wintering coot, and the regionally uncommon gadwall has increased of late.</p> <p>Also, there is a Ramsar-designated estuary stretching in front of Machynys – A Ramsar is a wetland site designated to be</p>

			<p>of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, especially those providing waterfowl habitat.</p> <p><u>A local beekeeper manages and monitors the bee hives on the site (to the right of the 5th green), likely to be reinstated.</u></p> <p>CIP: Continue to work with the local environmental groups to record, monitor and report on the wildlife and rare species at the site.</p>
	N1.1.3 Understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site	<p>CADW and Dyfed Archaeological Trust (2016) have conducted an archaeological evaluation of Machynys House (https://coflein.gov.uk/media/84/793/dat24_16.pdf).</p> <p>CIP: Maintain a file/document on the site's nearby archaeological, historical, and cultural heritage, and protect nearby areas from site operations and planning. Please also provide information to members, visitors and staff.</p>
N1.2 Opportunities to naturalise the course	N1.2.1 Measures taken to identify and minimise the required area of managed turfgrass	Observe, track and / or monitor golfer play	<p>The habitat areas are about 55 ha, so there are significant areas for wildlife and biodiversity.</p> <p>Roughs are left uncut and natural.</p> <p>Water edges are uncut, and natural growth is left to develop.</p> <p>CIP: Continue to review course practices for opportunities to naturalise parts of the course based on observation and player behaviour.</p>
N1.3 Actively manage habitats for wildlife	N1.3.1 Projects to manage habitats in the best way for wildlife and golf	Regularly review and follow a habitat management plan; Prioritise native species when planting and landscaping	<p>The course manager adopts a philosophy of direct practical experience managing the golf course.</p>

			Landscape and habitat protection practices include creating and maintaining natural corridors between habitat areas and connecting habitats on the golf course to surrounding habitats where possible.
N1.4 Conserve key species	N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species		<p>Naturalisation practices on grasslands include preventing fertilisation of natural rough, mowing and removing clippings according to local best practices and creating and maintaining wildflower patches to support onsite bee pollinators. There is spraying out of non-native, invasive fringed water lily.</p> <p>Understory vegetation can grow in woodlands when possible, and there is a natural transition between grassland and woodland.</p> <p>Creation and maintenance of shallow banks around edges to water bodies and wetlands. Water levels are allowed to fluctuate naturally with the seasons.</p> <p>Microhabitats include bird boxes, bug hotels, bee homes and a hibernaculum.</p> <p>CIP: Continue to maintain and enhance the above conservation projects and seek out new ones, as appropriate.</p>
N2 Turfgrass			
N2.1 Maintain optimum turf and soil health	N2.1.1 Appropriate turfgrass varieties adapted to climatic and other geomorphological factors	Select appropriate grass species for climate	<p>The grass species are progressively naturally adapted and actively managed.</p> <p>Progressive transition to mixed, poa and bentgrass sward over high maintenance, creeping bent and overseeding with browntop bent, a low input grassland.</p>

			<p>Turfgrass selection is based on its tolerance to drought, disease and winter stress.</p> <p>CIP: Continue to explore the potential transition of grass species, which use pesticides and fertilisers less while managing and maintaining suitable playing surfaces.</p>
	N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition		<p>Practices to maintain healthy soil communities. Include annual testing and monitoring of soil pH, use of organic/compost fertilisers and top dressings, organic soil amendments and application of compost teas / biostimulants.</p>
	N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation	Undertake soil tests and nutrient analysis	<p>Soil tests, local weather, height of cut and clipping production inform fertiliser applications.</p> <p>CIP: Continue monitoring applications of fertilisers and pesticides and integrated pest management practices.</p>
N2.2 Prioritise mechanical maintenance	N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management	Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture; Hand weeding	<p>Best mechanical practices are evident in the care of the course. Including in-house sharpening of mowing blades and removal of surface moisture, verti-cutting, solid tining, hollow coring and frequent changing of hole locations and direction of foot traffic.</p>
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	<p>The course manager and team scout the course for disease and verbally communicate any early signs.</p> <p>A turf care identification chart informs pest and disease identification.</p> <p>Frequent machinery washing to a set management plan to help prevent pests and disease.</p>

	<p>N2.3.2 Application of chemicals with full safety precautions</p>	<p>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 .</p>	<p>Only legally registered and approved chemicals are selected and applied based on their specific weed, pest, disease, and toxicity rating.</p> <p>Staff are qualified and trained to use pesticides (NPTC). PA1 – Principles of Safe Handling and Application Pesticides Guidance PA2 – Safe application of pesticides using self-propelled, mounted, trailed horizontal boom sprayers and PA6 – Safe application of pesticide using pedestrian handheld equipment.</p> <p>The course manager is a qualified tree surgeon.</p> <p>Applicators are regularly calibrated and tested.</p> <p>Appropriate protective equipment is apparent.</p>
<p>N3 Pollution Prevention</p>			
<p>N3.1 Prevent pollution across the entire site</p>	<p>N3.1.1 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from golf course operations</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>A chemical spill procedure following the onsite verification will be on display.</p> <p>Unmown buffer zones between 5-15 metres are retained near ecologically sensitive areas defined by cut lines.</p> <p>Hand weeding whenever possible.</p> <p>CIP: Update the aerial course map showing buffer zones and no-spray areas in sensitive areas on the golf course.</p>
	<p>N3.1.2 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from clubhouse operations</p>	<p>Ensure all hazardous materials are safely and securely stored; Ensure compliance with all required standards and systems for hazardous waste and wastewater discharge</p>	<p>There is a Sitesafe for the safe storage of hazardous chemicals.</p>

	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	Wastewater discharge – machinery wash station – impermeable surface – grass clipping filter – closed loop 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; Emergency wash area; Fire extinguisher in the immediate area; Secondary containment for fuel, either externally constructed, or integrally manufactured; Regular inspection of storage tanks	There is a chemical store product Inventory following the onsite visit. Actions taken to store hazardous substances include concrete buildings, impermeable flooring, emergency wash area, and spill containment kits. Similarly, actions taken for storing fuels include their secondary containment in the event of spills, fire extinguisher to hand and double/triple skinned containers. CIP: Continue practices to safely manage hazardous substances, such as regularly inspecting storage tanks.
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)	Building wastewater discharge to mains sewer subject to formal discharge agreement. Clubhouse wastewater discharge to septic tank under a formal discharge agreement.

RESOURCES

R1 Water

Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
------------	--------------	---------------------	----------------

<p>R1.1 Minimise water demand</p>	<p>R1.1.1 Measures to reduce the need to consume water</p>	<p>Target irrigation to essential playing surfaces only</p>	<p>Irrigation targets critical playing surfaces only according to legislation, local best practices, and naturalising landscaping beds and other non-playing areas.</p> <p>During a drought, there is hand watering to only the areas that need it while maintaining healthy turf and excellent playing conditions without wasting water.</p>
<p>R1.2 Maximise water efficiency</p>	<p>R1.2.1 Practical measures to use water more efficiently on the golf course</p>	<p>Conduct regular irrigation performance checks; Provide staff training on efficient irrigation practices; Ensure effective application of water to target areas; Ensure irrigation schedules are informed by weather patterns and soil moisture analysis</p>	<p>Considerations for irrigation scheduling include local weather forecasts and soil moisture meter.</p> <p>Increasing irrigation performance includes staff training, adjusting sprinkler heads to water playing areas, and night-time application.</p> <p>Arden Lea, an established irrigation equipment supplier, is upgrading the site's computerised irrigation system to improve its performance.</p>
	<p>R1.2.2 Practical measures to use water more efficiently in buildings</p>	<p>Audit water use regularly; Review bills frequently and look for irregularities; Encourage water-saving practices amongst staff and visitors; Categorise and track water consumption</p>	<p>The Club's accountant regularly reviews water bills.</p> <p>Efficient appliances in the Clubhouse include volume reducers in cisterns, efficient shower heads, percussion taps, dishwashers and washing machines.</p> <p>CIP: Consider the Unified Water Labelled products in purchasing decisions http://www.europeanwaterlabel.eu</p>
<p>R1.3 Source water responsibly</p>	<p>R1.3.1 Measures towards alternative, lower quality sources of water</p>	<p>Ensure appropriate water abstraction permit and reporting, as required</p>	<p>Machynys responsibly sources irrigation water for the golf course by utilising its site's natural Lake, which is expanding to increase its water-holding capacity. This will ensure quality playing conditions on the golf course, provide water security in extreme drought conditions and save on potable mains water.</p>

R2 Energy			
R2.1 Reduce energy demand	R2.1.1 Measures to reduce the amount of energy consumed in course maintenance	Minimise areas of managed turf to reduce mowing, irrigation, and turf inputs	<p>In total, over 55 ha of natural habitat is primarily left unmanaged.</p> <p>The Club is progressively installing LED lighting across the facility, and there are also AAA-rated appliances and handheld electric tools (maintenance facility).</p> <p>There are four e-vehicle charging points for members and visitors and eight electric buggies and hybrid mowers.</p> <p>The restaurant in the Clubhouse makes use of natural lighting.</p> <p>CIP: Progressively replace old maintenance machinery and tools with cost-effective electric ones.</p>
R2.2 Maximise energy efficiency	R2.2.1 Measures to use energy and fuels more efficiently in buildings	Audit energy use regularly; Regularly review bills; Categorise and track energy consumption	<p>Energy use is regularly reviewed and tracked across the facility.</p> <p>Machynys is auditing its energy use across the facility.</p> <p>In 2022, 4 new energy-efficient boilers were installed in the Clubhouse.</p> <p>CIP: Progressively instal more motion sensors or switch-off soft signage throughout the facility, as appropriate.</p> <p>CIP: Investigate solar panels.</p> <p>CIP: Explore further opportunities to use natural lighting across the facility where appropriate.</p>

<p>R2.3 Source energy responsibly</p>	<p>R2.3.1 Measures to source alternative, renewable forms of energy</p>	<p>Determine potential sources of renewable energy in the area and on-site, through renewable energy providers</p>	<p>CIP: Consider buying a green energy tariff. Some or all of the electricity comes from renewable electricity with a Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origin Certificates.</p> <p>(See Energy Saving Trust https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/advice/switching-your-energy-supplier/ and Centre for Sustainable Energy, for example).</p>
<p>R3 Materials</p>			
<p>R3.1 Reduce materials demand</p>	<p>R3.1.1 Products and materials selection based on necessity, including opportunities for recycled, reused and locally sourced alternatives</p>	<p>Undertake a review of materials consumed</p>	<p>The course manager and catering manager favour local suppliers, when practical and cost-effective, to reduce the carbon footprint of the Club's supply chain and support the local economy.</p> <p>An onsite apiary produces honey for sale in the pro shop.</p> <p>The head Chef also uses this honey in recipes in the Bar & Brasserie, along with providing honey to the members and visitors. The honey was recently awarded the highest rating by 'Great Taste'.</p> <p>There is free drinking water in the bar, gym and spa.</p> <p>CIP: Consider water fountains on the golf course and changing rooms.</p>
<p>R3.2 Purchase responsibly</p>	<p>R3.2.1 Practical use of an ethical / environmental purchasing policy</p>	<p>Adopt a sustainable, or ethical / environmental purchasing policy to maximise the use of locally sourced goods and goods made from recycled, recyclable and certified materials</p>	<p>Whilst the Club is developing a formal ethical procurement policy, there are examples of green purchasing practices. The pro shop sells bamboo tees, branded refillable water bottles, and honey from onsite hives, and the catering buys certified organic products (e.g., Fairtrade) and seasonal produce.</p>

			<p>The maintenance facility purchases bulk whenever possible to limit packaging, transport, and woodchip.</p> <p>CIP: Establish a formal ethical procurement policy for all purchasing departments and managers across the facility. Include green procurement goals and criteria, identify suppliers and products, evaluate and compare options, implement and monitor practices and review and improve them.</p>
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	<p>There is good practice in waste separation, reuse and recycling.</p> <p>The Clubhouse separates glass, food, dry cardboard and general waste.</p> <p>Materials for composting and reuse on the golf course include cores, turf, scarified material, and clippings.</p> <p>Used cooking oil and food are recycled, as biofuel and bio-fertiliser, by a licensed contractor Olleco. Leftover food is also given to staff.</p> <p>Machynys's waste contractor, Veolia, breaks down the site's waste flow, carbon and cost. It shows no waste to landfill, over 7,000 kg of diverted waste and 12,000 kg of recycled and a 780kg saving of CO₂e.</p> <p>CIP: Monitor and annually report on waste generated across the site. Set appropriate targets/key performance indicators for continuous improvement.</p> <p>CIP: Consider how the Club supports a Circular Economy https://www.bitc.org.uk/circular-economy/</p>

			and the Waste Management Hierarchy https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69403/pb13530-waste-hierarchy-guidance.pdf
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	All waste management practices use the official contractors, Veolia, and Greensman, who are leading UK-licensed companies.

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		<p>Multi-functionality at the facility includes golf, sport and leisure, walking and nature trails, and birdwatching.</p> <p>A lock and code gives residents access through the site to the coastal path at holes 5, 8 and 9.</p> <p>There is a bench at the side of the 18th Lake for birdwatching.</p> <p>Public footpaths are shown by three signposts by the 13th green, for example.</p> <p>Function rooms are available to various organisations, including County Council, Welfare Officer, Non-</p>

			Privileged Children Presentation, Corporate Membership and Local Cricket Club and free hire and course vouchers for Cancer Research charities (e.g. Wear it Pink, a fundraising day for Breast Cancer).
C1.2 Provide for volunteering and charity	C1.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes		<p>Club members volunteer for professional golf tournaments hosted at the Club, such as the recent Clutch Pro Tour.</p> <p>Staff volunteering to a local Blind Bowls Team ‘to show them how to play bowls’.</p> <p>The Club supports stroke survivors through golf and gym classes.</p> <p>The Club’s Captains annually support two charities. Charitable support includes Ty Hafan (Children’s Hospice), Wales Air Ambulance, Bryngwyn Hospice, a local food bank, and a dog home. In 2021 and 2020, £8K and £7k were raised for charity, respectively.</p>
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'	<p>MGCC is developing a ‘Sustainability Working Group’ to ‘steer progress towards (GEO OnCourse) certification and sustainability improvements at the Club’. The group meets quarterly and involves the Chairman, Course Manager, Director of Golf, Catering Manager, Golf Operations Manager, Golf Committee, Club Member and Rotarian, Advisor and Rotarian and Foothold Cymru Trustee.</p> <p>CIP: Include female members in the Sustainability Working Group.</p> <p>CIP: Set environmental goals for the golf facility based on the UNSDGs. See R&A Golf Course 2030 and the UNSDGs.</p> <p>https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/its2.38</p>

			<p>MGCC is developing a core ideology on sustainable golf with a strategy, mission, vision and statements.</p> <p>CIP: Include a core values statement above to say something about who you are and, more importantly, who you are becoming on the journey to reach your vision. What kind of conduct do you expect? What type of behaviour do you tolerate? Who are you going to be in the process of fulfilling that vision?</p> <p>MGCC’s sustainability policy (2023) is signed and dated and includes a commitment to continual performance improvement across environmental, economic and social themes and progress against several sustainability objectives.</p> <p>CIP: Implement, review and update the above environmental policy (https://sustainablebusiness.org.uk/news/an-easy-guide-to-writing-an-environmental-or-sustainability-policy/).</p> <p>MGCC constructively engages with its stakeholders on sustainability at the facility, including Carmarthenshire Bird Club, Richard and Kath Pryce Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland Joint County Recorders for Carmarthenshire, Countryside Council for Wales, National Resources Wales, Llanelli Wetland Centre and independent environmental consultant Sophie Olejnik and Llanelli and Carmarthenshire County Councils.</p> <p>Machynys also supports field trips such as the University of Wales, Trinity St Davids students ‘Llanelli Green Infrastructure Study’.</p>
--	--	--	--

C2 Golfers & Employees			
C2.1 Improve health and wellbeing	C2.1.1 Benefits to human physical and mental health from golf and facility activities		<p>The golf course is easy to walk that supports mental health and wellbeing.</p> <p>The total rounds played were over 30k in 2020 and 2021, of which 95% were walking rounds.</p> <p>The total number of tournaments hosted and participants were 72 and 3,600, respectively.</p> <p>Trolleys and eight buggies are available for those that require them, and no carts are allowed on the course from April to October.</p> <p>There are accessible toilets and lifts in the Clubhouse.</p> <p>There is a cycle-to-work scheme, and most catering staff either cycle or walk to work.</p>
C2.2 Be open and inclusive	C2.2.1 Inclusivity and diversity in membership and visitor policies	Demonstrate inclusive policies for members and visitors	<p>Machynys runs a ‘Junior Coaching Programme’ with local schools that offers pupils a fun and focused way to learn and improve their golf. The programme has been running for six years to help expand junior golf in the local area and has grown from strength to strength, with numbers exceeding 90 children in the academy tuition scheme.</p> <p>A reduced rate membership scheme, the ‘New Junior Membership Programme’, is offered to juniors.</p> <p>There is also a ‘buddy’ scheme to support juniors at the Club, and Juniors are encouraged to get involved in R&A events, work in the pro shop, and sell drinks on the course.</p>

			<p>Currently, 10% and 20% of members are under 18 and 25, respectively, and only 20% are over 40.</p> <p>Machynys also works with local colleges to provide work experience opportunities in Spa and Beauty Therapy, for example.</p> <p>Machynys is a signatory to the ‘Women in Golf Charter’, a set of objectives supporting a Club’s commitments to develop Ladies, Girls and family golf. The Director of Golf and Chairman review the Charter annually, signed and dated. Specific programmes run at the Club include ‘New2Golf’ weekly group sessions.</p> <p>The Club is abandoning traditional men’s and women’s markers, replacing them with neutral colours that encourage players to use those most suited to their choice or ability – allowing golfers – regardless of gender – to play together rather than separately.</p> <p>Inclusivity highlights are over 50% of staff female, including senior management; Lady members have equal rights to run for Club captaincy, Saturday Ladies competition, Sunday mixed gender competition and the hosting of the R&A Ladies Seniors Home Internationals in 2021.</p> <p>CIP: Continue equal opportunity monitoring across staff and club members. To support under-representative groups and avoid discrimination.</p>
<p>C2.3 Employ fairly and safely, and provide career opportunities</p>	<p>C2.3.1 Ethical and legal employment, working conditions and professional development</p>	<p>Follow all relevant national legislation and best practice for employment, health & safety etc</p>	<p>MGCC has a compliance officer/advisor to ensure it follows all relevant legislation and best practice for employment, health and safety.</p>

			<p>CIP: Monitor and follow all relevant legislation and best practices for employment (see, for example, Netregs https://www.netregs.org.uk).</p> <p>There are training and licences on pesticide application, for example.</p> <p>Appropriate adults and children safeguarding policies.</p> <p>Machynys supports a ‘living wage’ instead of a ‘minimum wage’, overtime or time back in lieu and CPD training and NVQs.</p> <p>CPD is encouraged and supported through, for example, the Club’s GEO OnCourse registration and recertification.</p> <p>CIP: Consider sustainability training days on ethical procurement, green marketing and events, applied behaviour change and change management, for example.</p>
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	<p>Regular communications on sustainability initiatives via social media, such as Mailchimp (a marketing automation and email marketing platform), exist.</p> <p>MGCC’s website includes a Nature section that details the site’s habitats and important varied wildlife (e.g., grey heron, Canada geese mute swan, oystercatchers, curlews, black-tailed godwits, reed bunting, coot, orchids and a new plant species, the Common Centaury).</p> <p>CIP: Consider joining Sustainable Greenkeeping, a group of Greenkeepers who believe minimal inputs and</p>

			<p>traditional management can achieve fine turf. Biology and fungi are encouraged to help achieve this aim. https://www.facebook.com/groups/433889575110134/discussion/preview</p> <p>CIP: Include information on GEO OnCourse on the website. It symbolises excellence that helps build brand value, customer loyalty and competitive advantage, and there is a demand for environmental quality on the golf course.</p> <p>CIP: Promote the GEO-certified label across the facility, such as Pro Shop, Reception, Course Entrance and Scorecard and Website.</p> <p>CIP: Consider a cost-effective survey of stakeholders' environmental attitudes, as they are a factor in an individual or group's intention to support pro-environmental behaviour.</p>
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	<p>MGCC has posted its GEO OnCourse Highlights on GEO Foundation for Sustainable Golf. https://sustainable.golf/highlights/?cat%5B%5D=Courses&country%5B%5D=96</p> <p>MCGC supports the three interlinked pillars of sustainability: providing valuable sports and recreation opportunities for mental health and well-being, protecting and conserving habitat areas for wildlife and biodiversity, and providing jobs and income and work experience in the local economy that, in turn, should give rise to a competitive business advantage.</p> <p>CIP: Consider hosting a new green amateur golf tournament to celebrate and promote sustainability in</p>

			and through golf, and to position the Club at the vanguard of sustainable golf.
--	--	--	--

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