



**GEO Certified®**

# **GEO Certified® Report**

## Noord Nederlandse Golf & Country Club

Prepared by Independent Verifier, Janneke Vedder-Sala

Certified by GEO Foundation: June 2021  
Valid until: June 2026

*“Een verassende baan die ruimtelijk gezien heel goed in de omgeving past en waar veel te ontdekken valt qua natuurlijke aspecten. Door het areaal en de inrichting is het spel hier uitdagend. Het clubhuis is een karakteristiek gebouw waar het de moeite waard is om te genieten van een versnapering, lekkere lunch of een borrel. Het uitzicht is fantastisch!”*

*Janneke Vedder-Sala*

*GEO accredited Independent Verifier*



## Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that Noord Nederlandse Golf & Country Club has successfully achieved GEO Certified® status for its outstanding work to foster nature, conserve resources and support the community.

GEO Certified® is the most respected certification for golf, based on a credibly and transparently developed modern sustainability Standard of best practice.

Noord Nederlandse Golf & Country Club has:

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

GEO agreed with the conclusions of the official verification report, that, having achieved all mandatory criteria; and with specific Continual Improvement Points set for the future, Noord Nederlandse Golf & Country Club should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

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

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

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

We congratulate all involved.

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

Kelli Jerome  
Executive Director, GEO Foundation

Richard Allison  
Manager, GEO Certified Facilities



## Verification and Certification

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### **Verification**

The official third-party audit was carried out by an independent verifier, accredited by GEO to undertake verifications of golf facilities applying for certification.

Verification involves reviewing practices and data, using the International Voluntary Standard for Sustainable Golf Operations as the guide to ensure comprehensive and consistent evaluation of performance. A detailed verification report is submitted for evaluation by GEO Certification Ltd, a subsidiary of GEO Foundation.

### **Certification**

GEO Certification Ltd, an autonomous subsidiary of GEO Foundation [both not-for-profit entities], undertook a full review of all content submitted through the OnCourse® online platform and the report submitted by the verifier, ensuring:

- Comprehensiveness – that activities undertaken touched on all elements of the Standard
- Consistency – that the verification approach was balanced, well weighted and with consistent depth of evaluation across each theme
- Accuracy - matching the verification report with evidence submitted by the golf facility to ensure statements and claims were accurate

GEO Foundation is an international not-for-profit founded to advocate, support and reward sustainability in and through golf. Over more than ten years, the group has worked collaboratively with dozens of golf industry associations and government and non-government organisations around the world, to help golf become a sustainability leader, striving for a net positive social and environmental impact. In addition to managing and assuring GEO Certified®, GEO Foundation also provides a suite of credible, practical programmes for golf facility management, new golf developments and golf tournaments called OnCourse®, often delivered in partnership with national golf bodies. Find out more at [www.sustainable.golf](http://www.sustainable.golf)

### **Credibility**

GEO Certified® is part of the ISEAL Alliance, a group of the world's foremost credible certification systems including Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance, Forest Stewardship Council, Marine Stewardship Council and many others. GEO Foundation earned and retains full membership of the ISEAL Alliance global association following a rigorous evaluation against the ISEAL Codes of Credibility in Sustainability Standards and Certification. The ISEAL Codes cover standard-setting, assurance, and monitoring and evaluation. Find out more at [www.isealalliance.org](http://www.isealalliance.org)



# Verifier's Report

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

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

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

NATURE				
N1 Habitats and Biodiversity				
Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes	
N1.1 Understand the site and surroundings	N1.1.1 Sound understanding of the nature and landscape value of the site	Map all habitats and vegetation types on the site; Regularly update landscape / biodiversity surveys	Middels het rapport 'Inventarisatie Landschap en biotopen' zijn alle habitats en vegetatietypen in kaart gebracht.	

	<b>N1.1.2 Knowledge of legal designations for protected areas, habitats and species</b>	Understand legal responsibilities for protected landscapes and species; Record and monitor protected, endangered, or rare species found on the site	Wettelijke aspecten zijn in kaart gebracht middels het rapport 'Inventarisatie Landschap en biotopen'.  De bomen worden ruim voorafgaand aan de kap gecontroleerd door Buiting Advies in het kader van de Wet Natuurbescherming.
	<b>N1.1.3 Understanding and respect for cultural heritage</b>	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site	Er zijn geen beschermde waarden op de baan volgens de archeologische waarden kaart. Op de golfbaan van NNG&GC zijn 2 Pingo Ruïnes aanwezig en deze worden met aandacht beheerd en staan gerapporteerd in het rapport "Advies Mogelijke Pingo Ruines.pdf" opgenomen in OnCourse.
<b>N1.2 Opportunities to naturalise the course</b>	<b>N1.2.1 Measures taken to identify and minimise the required area of managed turfgrass</b>	Observe, track and / or monitor golfer play	De baan is relatief klein. Binnen het beschikbare areaal wordt maximaal niet gemaaid. De moeilijkheidsgraad is hoog voor de spelers.
<b>N1.3 Actively manage habitats for wildlife</b>	<b>N1.3.1 Projects to manage habitats in the best way for wildlife and golf</b>	Regularly review and follow a habitat management plan; Prioritise native species when planting and landscaping	Er is een ecologisch werkprotocol aanwezig. Hierin staan alle landschappen, aanwezige soorten, etc. en hoe hier mee om te gaan tijdens het beheer. De greenkeepers kennen het protocol. De Baancommissaris en de Flora & Fauna commissie toetsen of de greenkeepers zich aan het protocol houden.
<b>N1.4 Conserve key species</b>	<b>N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species</b>		Er zijn geen specifieke doelsoorten aangewezen. Wel worden er bijvoorbeeld broeihopen voor de ringslang gemaakt.
<b>N2 Turfgrass</b>			
<b>N2.1 Maintain optimum turf and soil health</b>	<b>N2.1.1 Appropriate turfgrass varieties adapted to climatic and other geomorphological factors</b>	Select appropriate grass species for climate	Algemeen wordt gekozen voor roodzwenkgras en struisgras. De rassen worden gekozen volgens internationale aanbeveling.  <b>CIP:</b> Documenteer de grassen en rassen keuze met daarbij een onderbouwing.
	<b>N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition</b>		Door veel te bezanden, weeting agents en top changer toe te passen wordt zorg gedragen voor een goede bodemstructuur. Het zand wordt met 240 bar in de zode gespoten. Resultaat is minder klachten bij de spelers en minder werk voor greenkeepers.
	<b>N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser</b>	Undertake soil tests and nutrient analysis	Middels o.a. het Lumbricus onderzoek van Maurice Evers wordt de bodem geanalyseerd

	<b>application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation</b>		<b>CIP:</b> Upload de uitslagen en adviezen van het bodemonderzoek in OnCourse.
N2.2 Prioritise mechanical maintenance	<b>N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management</b>	Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture; Hand weeding	Onkruid wordt handmatig verwijderd met behulp van vrijwilligers. Door op zeer schaduwrijke locaties bomen te verwijderen krijgen schimmels minder kans. Daarnaast wordt er minder bemest en minder water gegeven waardoor de plant sterker wordt en een beter weerstand ontwikkeld.
N2.3 Use chemicals responsibly	<b>N2.3.1 Application of chemicals only when necessary to prevent or cure defined / identified turf health issues</b>	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	Zie hier boven.
	<b>N2.3.2 Application of chemicals with full safety precautions</b>	Use only legally registered and approved products; Ensure staff are fully qualified and licenced to use pesticides; Regularly calibrate and test applicators; Use appropriate protective equipment; Dilute and dispose of leftover product on untreated areas of turf	Sputlicentie Harm de Vries aanwezig.  Ja, er worden helemaal geen gewasbeschermingsmiddelen (GBM's) meer gebruikt. Wel is er nog 20L GBM aanwezig in de middelkast. Dit is er nog omdat de hoofdgreenkeeper het zonde vindt om het weg te gooien.  <b>CIP:</b> Upload het logboek in OnCourse waarin staat welke GBM er nog aanwezig is.
<b>N3 Pollution Prevention</b>			
N3.1 Prevent pollution across the entire site	<b>N3.1.1 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from golf course operations</b>	Document procedures for emergency spill responses; Maintain mowing buffer zones around water and all ecologically sensitive areas; Maintain spraying and spreading buffer zones around water and all ecologically sensitive areas; Create a map / aerial visual reproduction, drawing etc of the course showing buffer zones and no-spray, no-spread areas.	Kaart met bufferzones is aanwezig.
	<b>N3.1.2 Practical measures to ensure</b>	Ensure all hazardous materials are safely and securely stored;	Contracten zijn aanwezig.

	<b>polution risks are minimised from clubhouse operations</b>	Ensure compliance with all required standards and systems for hazardous waste and wastewater discharge	Spoelplaatsen e.d. zien er keurig uit. Geen opmerkingen over.
	<b>N3.1.3 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from maintenance facility operations</b>	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	Ziet er prima uit. Water loopt niet volledig weg tijdens audit. Hoofdgreenkeeper heeft verzoek ingediend om de putten te legen. Hier is hij op aan het wachten op het moment van de audit.  <b>CIP:</b> Houdt de putten nauwlettender in de gaten zodat ze tijdig geleegd kunnen worden. Hiermee voorkom je dat het water niet meer weg will open.
<b>N3.2 Safely manage hazardous substances</b>	<b>N3.2.1 Legal compliance in the storage, handling, application and safe disposal of all hazardous substances</b>	Maintain a register of hazardous materials available to authorised staff; Safe storage in secure and ventilated concrete or metal building; Sufficient storage capacity; Impermeable flooring; Spill containment kits present; Emergency wash area; Fire extinguisher in the immediate area; Secondary containment for fuel, either externally constructed, or integrally manufactured; Regular inspection of storage tanks	Geen gewasbeschermingsmiddelen meer gebruikt, hoewel bekend is dat het nog in voorraad is.  Er is een brandstoffank aanwezig en is gekeurd. Keuringsrapport is na de audit opgenomen in OnCourse.
<b>N3.3 Responsibly manage waste / storm water</b>	<b>N3.3.1 Appropriate wastewater usage and discharge licences</b>	Wastewater discharge licence; Appropriate treatment of machinery wash water (impermeable surface, oil / grease / clipping separation)	Vetput wordt 4 x per jaar leeg gehaald door Van Happen.  Er is op dit moment geen beeld bij hoe de hoeveelheid afvalwater verminderd kan worden. Behoeft voor nu ook geen aandacht.

## RESOURCES

### R1 Water

Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
R1.1 Minimise water demand	R1.1.1 Measures to reduce the need to consume water	Target irrigation to essential playing surfaces only	Er zijn twee grondwaterputten geslagen op 90 meter diep. Deze zijn vergunningsvrij. In de winter van 2021 is het volledige beregeningssysteem vervangen. Er kan nu gedifferentieerd beregend worden.
R1.2 Maximise water efficiency	R1.2.1 Practical measures to use water more efficiently on the golf course	Conduct regular irrigation performance checks; Provide staff training on efficient irrigation practices; Ensure effective application of water to target areas; Ensure irrigation schedules are informed by weather patterns and soil moisture analysis	De temperatuur, vochtgehalte, hardheid en snelheid worden elke week handmatig gemeten.
	R1.2.2 Practical measures to use water more efficiently in buildings	Audit water use regularly; Review bills frequently and look for irregularities; Encourage water-saving practices amongst staff and visitors; Categorise and track water consumption	Door middel van alle kleine dingen binnen zoals waterbesparende douchekoppen, etc. worden waterbesparende maatregelen getroffen. Daarnaast wordt er gewerkt aan meer wateropvang op de baan.
R1.3 Source water responsibly	R1.3.1 Measures towards alternative, lower quality sources of water	Ensure appropriate water abstraction permit and reporting, as required	Er wordt grondwater ontrokken en dit vergunning vrij
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	Alles wat extensief beheerd kan worden wordt zo beheerd. Locaties zien er goed uit en er is onlangs ingezaaid met een inheems bloemenmengsel.
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;	Er heeft ook een haalbaarheidsonderzoek plaats gevonden voor de energiebesparende maatregelen. Het rapport hierover

		Categorise and track energy consumption	beschrijft goed welke maatregelen genomen kunnen worden in de situatie van de NNGCC.
R2.3 Source energy responsibly	R2.3.1 Measures to source alternative, renewable forms of energy	Determine potential sources of renewable energy in the area and on-site, through renewable energy providers	De nieuwe karrenloods wordt bedekt met zonnepanelen. De nieuw te bouwen greenkeepersloods wordt ook voorzien van panelen en de mogelijkheden voor een windmolentje worden verkend.
<b>R3 Materials</b>			
R3.1 Reduce materials demand	R3.1.1 Products and materials selection based on necessity, including opportunities for recycled, reused and locally sourced alternatives	Undertake a review of materials consumed	Afval is al minimaal. En het restaurant koopt heel zuinig in. Die moet vaker bij bestellen dan dat er teveel is ingekocht.
R3.2 Purchase responsibly	R3.2.1 Practical use of an ethical / environmental purchasing policy	Adopt a sustainable, or ethical / environmental purchasing policy to maximise the use of locally sourced goods and goods made from recycled, recyclable and certified materials	Het restaurant koopt lokaal in. Daarnaast worden er door de golfclub zoveel mogelijk lokale diensten ingekocht.
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	De afvalverwerker draagt zorg voor de afvalscheiding.
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	Contract is aanwezig

## 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		Zie hiervoor ook succesverhaal.
C1.2 Provide for volunteering and charity	C1.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes		De club wordt gedragen door vrijwilligers. Er zijn vele vrijwilligers groepen.
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'	De Duurzaamheidscommissie is de GEO commissie en bestaat uit de baancommissaris Jaap Engbers, de hoofdgreenkeeper Allan Salmond, de Office manager Janine Douwes, Jaap Bos, Wilfred Alsem en Joost de Groot (vz. GEO commissie). Na de audit heeft de commissie het bijbehorende document "GEO commissie functie beschrijving en samenstelling vs d.d. 18-4-2021.docx" in OnCourse geupload.
C2 Golfers & Employees			
C2.1 Improve health and wellbeing	C2.1.1 Benefits to human physical and mental health from golf and facility activities		
C2.2 Be open and inclusive	C2.2.1 Inclusivity and diversity in membership and visitor policies	Demonstrate inclusive policies for members and visitors	Er is een zeer sociaal beleid ten aanzien van leden en bezoekers. Zo krijgen zieke leden een kaartje en er wordt een herdenkingsmoment georganiseerd voor overleden leden. Elke bezoeker van de baan wordt gegroet. Dit wordt van iedereen verlangt. Daarnaast is er nog een samenwerking met 11 banen verspreid over het land.
C2.3 Employ fairly and safely, and provide career opportunities	C2.3.1 Ethical and legal employment, working conditions and professional development	Follow all relevant national legislation and best practice for employment, health & safety etc	BHV plan aanwezig. De noodnummers en een stappenplan staan op de scorekaart, tassenlabel en bij de fairways.
C3 Communications			

	<b>C3.1 Engage golfers and members</b>	<b>C3.1.1 Communications activities that raise awareness and understanding amongst members and visitors</b>	Provide information on the facility's sustainability commitments, actions, or achievements	GEO logo aanwezig op de website Er wordt aandacht geschonken aan de flora en fauna op de baan. Hiervoor is een hele pagina ingericht.
	<b>C3.2 Celebrate and promote sustainability</b>	<b>C3.2.1 Activities that raise awareness and engage people in the wider community</b>	Provide evidence of external communications and community engagement	Er wordt met de volgende partijen samengewerkt: Sponsoren van de baan MBO Terra The Old Granddad's club  Er is de mogelijkheid om bedrijfsuitjes te organiseren op de baan.

## *Golf and Sustainability*

Among all sports, golf has a particularly close relationship with the environment and communities, golf facilities can bring many benefits to people and nature - from the protection of greenspace and conservation of biodiversity; healthy recreation for all ages; local supply chains; and jobs, tourism and other forms of economic value.

Adopting a more sustainable approach is also good for golf. It's about presenting a high-quality golf course and providing a memorable experience in natural surroundings. It's about being as efficient as possible. And it's about supporting the community in a range of ways that bring increased recognition, respect and contact.

At a broader level, it's important that golf credibly demonstrates its commitment, and its social and environmental value – strengthening the sport's image and reputation for the long term.

Golf facilities that participate in OnCourse®, an international sustainability initiative assured by the non-profit GEO Foundation, are taking a comprehensive approach and striving to be leaders in the community.

Find out more at [www.sustainable.golf](http://www.sustainable.golf)