



# **Childwall Golf Club (CGC)**

## **Ecology Strategy**

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# 1. Land Character

In 1939 James Braid laid out the new Childwall golf course, the current home of Childwall Golf Club.

The Club covers 110 acres of parkland in Gateacre, Liverpool.

The terrain is generally quite flat, with an impressive stock of mature trees which is regularly replenished.

There is a significant volume of land which lies outside the areas of normal play, providing good habitat for the local birdlife and wildlife, and presenting an excellent opportunity to nurture further attractive areas for the indigenous flora and fauna.

## 2. Vision:

Childwall Golf Club recognises the importance of good environmental practices and has many initiatives in place which promote sustainability and minimise our impact on the environment.

The R&A defines golf course sustainability as: “Optimising the playing quality of the golf course in harmony with the conservation of its natural environment under economically sound and socially responsible management.”

We are in the process of implementing a comprehensive and integrated environmental strategy, building on our progress to date, aiming for a systematic and measurable approach to sustainability.

The aims are to:-

- save time and resources
- avoid waste
- improve overall quality of the course, and
- build our reputation as an example of best environmental practice.

### 3. CGC Commitment

Childwall Golf Club is committed to:

1. Ensuring an integrated approach to managing the playing areas and surrounding environment in order to maintain and improve the course and to preserve the environment.
2. Ensuring that all management practices conform to best environmental practice to minimise overall impact on the environment.
3. Including Ecology as a standing item on the Council agenda
4. Continuous improvement of future actions through regular review of environmental policy and practice.
5. Improving employees' understanding of and commitment to agreed environmental practices through ongoing communication and training in a safe working environment.
6. Raising awareness of golfers, visitors and the local community of relevant environmental issues.
7. Developing and maintaining constructive relationships with relevant environmental organisations to ensure good communication and sourcing of best advice.

## 4. Environmental Objectives

1. Identify the significant environmental impacts of our activities and to develop suitable objectives, targets, operating procedures, responsibilities and accountabilities to minimise our environmental impact.
2. Comply with relevant legislation, regulation and other requirements relating to our environmental impact.
3. Raise staff awareness of relevant environmental issues that affect their activities and the benefits of improved environmental performance.
4. Prevent pollution, minimise our use of resources, endeavouring to re-use, recover or recycle materials where practicable.
5. Strive to save energy and conserve natural resources.
6. Develop and maintain constructive relationships with relevant organisations to gain accreditation for our work[ 1] and obtain the best advice[2].
7. Set targets for continuous improvement through regular review of ecology policy and practice.
8. Raise awareness of our ecology strategy amongst members
9. Establish our current carbon footprint and setting targets to achieve zero footprint, or better.

### *Notes:*

1. *OnCourse Geo accreditation*
2. *STRI, R&A, Geo Foundation, RSPB*

## 5. Environmental Management, Planning and Governance.

### Roles and responsibilities

Strategic planning (5-10 years): Council and Club Manager

Tactical planning (1-5 years): As above.

Practical planning (Day to day up to 1 year): Chair of Greens; Club Manager; Head Greenkeeper

#### A. Policy:

1. The timeframe for the Ecology Strategy will be long term (20 years+). Tactical planning will cover a period of 1 to 5 years ahead
2. Ensure that all matters relating to ecology, sustainability and environment are regularly presented to and addressed by Council and Committees in CGC
3. The Ecology agenda will be woven into the agenda for Council meetings.
4. Set up a small Ecology team to ensure focus and deliver / monitor progress.

#### B. Key areas for attention:

1. Secure strong sponsorship for the Ecology Strategy at senior level in CGC.
2. The Strategy will be a dynamic document, updated as events, science, regulation and technology develop.

#### C. Specific objectives:

1. Establish Ecology Team. (Completed)
2. Ecology as a standing agenda item at Council. (Completed)

## 6. Wildlife and Nature Conservation

### A. Policy:

The preservation of Childwall's traditional parkland, habitats, flora and fauna is of paramount importance to the Club. The club aims to:

1. Preserve and encourage wild flora and fauna
2. Monitor the biodiversity on the course to assess progress

### B. Key areas for attention:

1. Identify zones on the course which can be set aside to attract wildlife (birds, animals, native flora) to make the course a haven for wildlife, enhancing the golfing experience whilst not interfering with play.
2. Frequently review our greenkeeping procedures and methods to benefit the flora and fauna.

### C. Specific objectives:

1. Establish benchmarks against which progress can be measured and reported. (E.g., bird species; size of areas set aside for nature; bird box data). Current information indicates that 43 bird species are found on the estate.
2. Involve members and artisans with relevant skills to support progress.
3. Establish wildflower zones to encourage insect activity. (Three zones were established in 2021)



## 7. Tree and Hedge Management

### A. Policy:

The preservation of Childwall's traditional hedgerow and tree footprint, with plans to ensure future safeguarding of same.

### B. Key areas for attention:

1. Encourage the development of hedgerows
2. Tree management policy and plans

### C. Specific objectives:

1. Produce an agreed tree management plan (Completed in 2020)
2. Produce an agreed hedgerow plan

## 8. Chemicals, fertilisers and pollution

### A. Policy:

To reduce the extent and nature of non-environmentally friendly chemicals, fertilisers and pollution on the course.

### B. Key areas for attention:

1. Pesticides; fertilisers and chemicals

### C. Specific objectives:

1. Measure the nature and extent of chemicals, fertilisers and pesticides used on the course, monitoring the year-on- year usage.

## 9. Procurement and suppliers

### A. Policy:

Select suppliers who value and adhere to sustainable practices and products.

Encourage existing suppliers to adopt sustainable practices

Prevent the delivery, use and sale of items at Childwall Golf Club which are not sustainable

### B. Key areas for attention:

1. Catering: Elimination of plastic; encourage the use of biodegradable materials.
2. Pro's shop: Elimination of plastic: encourage the use of biodegradable materials.
3. Course: Selection of suppliers who demonstrate sustainable practices and provide sustainable products

### C. Specific objectives:

1. Identify suppliers by their degree of ecological compliance
2. Report on and review supplier status on a regular basis
3. Measure success

## 10. Water Management

### A. Policy:

To recognise water as a valuable resource and to ensure all water usage is carried out in line with current environmental legislation.

To minimise dependence upon United Utilities / other water providers through increased use of borehole water and reduced water consumption

### B. Key areas for attention:

1. Water consumption on the course and in the clubhouse
2. Efficiency of water utilisation
3. Explore opportunities to capture run-off water from buildings.

### C. Specific objectives:

1. Measure water consumption and include this information in the Ecology scorecard.
2. Install water butt at rear of mid-course facility.

# 11. Waste Management

## A. Policy:

To develop waste management practices which support:

- the avoidance of waste,
- the re-use of resources
- recycling
- minimal use of hazardous products with safe disposal
- adherence to relevant legislation and best practice

## B. Key areas for attention:

1. Single-use plastic
2. Catering practices
3. Professional's shop
4. Storage and disposal of old oil, empty chemical containers and aerosols, and used filters from machinery maintenance
5. Refuse collection, ensuring that all refuse is sorted (by our contractor) and recyclable material is removed before the rest goes to landfill

## C. Specific objectives:

1. Create and communicate a simple waste policy to inform staff, suppliers and members of the part they can play in waste reduction
2. Jointly develop detailed waste management plans for the clubhouse; catering; Pro's shop and green staff
3. Implement on-course recycling bins
4. Regular measurement of volume and nature of waste created by the Club

## 12. Energy Management

### A. Policy:

To develop energy management practices which reflect the use of energy in a sustainable manner - avoid, reduce and improve efficiency.

### B. Key areas for attention:

1. Replacement of boilers in due course.
2. Insulation of the clubhouse – Windows, walls and roofing.

### C. Specific objectives:

1. Reduce energy leakage throughout the fabric of the building
2. Measure energy consumption

## **13. Greens Staff – roles and responsibilities**

### **A. Policy:**

To provide direction, education and clear communication to Greens Staff to support them in adhering to the Ecology Strategy.

### **B. Key areas for attention:**

1. Two-way education in ecology best practice, with input from the Ecology team and the Greens staff
2. Regular updates in developing knowledge

### **C. Specific objectives:**

1. Ensure Greens staff are fully appraised of developments in Ecology thinking.
2. Knowledge sharing between Greens staff and the Ecology team.

## 14. Membership and staff transport

### A. Policy:

To promote the Ecology agenda to all staff and members, encouraging car sharing; the use of electric vehicles and efficient travel processes.

### B. Key areas for attention:

1. Develop and promote car sharing policies and procedures
2. Move towards replacement of petrol / diesel buggies with electric vehicles
3. Explore the potential to install a number of car charging points in the car park.

### C. Specific objectives:

1. Measure the extent of non-electric buggies in use
2. Design and launch a car-sharing process (post Covid)
3. Develop a proposal for car charging points.



## **15. Communications: Marketing, Training and Education**

### **A. Policy:**

1. Ensure all stakeholders are given an opportunity to contribute to and be fully appraised of the Ecology Strategy.
2. Produce, communicate and propagate a CGC Ecology Strategy
3. Maintain channels of communication to allow continued engagement of stakeholders

### **B. Key areas for attention:**

1. Identify and engage key stakeholders:
  - Greens staff
  - Members and prospective members
  - Artisans
  - Council
  - Local residents
  - Local authorities
  - England Golf
  - Advisors
2. Produce an Ecology Strategy Document. (Completed)
3. Create a Strategy in 2020 that is agreed as a basis for development in future years (Completed)
4. Communicate the latest version of the Strategy to stakeholders for information and input / comments and gain support for the general proposition
5. Use the document to inform and train internal stakeholders
6. Post the Strategy on the CGC website
7. Use the document to promote the CGC market proposition

### **C. Specific objectives:**

1. List stakeholders
2. Create Ecology Strategy
3. Secure authorisation / accreditation from England Golf / other
4. Circulate to stakeholders

5. Publish on website

## **16. Measures and reporting**

### **A. Policy:**

1. Develop and communicate an Ecology “dashboard” with a small number of important metrics which will facilitate measurement. (Completed)
2. Establish benchmarks which capture our position in 2020 against which progress can be measured and reported

### **B. Key areas for attention:**

1. Ensure engagement of key stakeholders (see 15.B) in reporting and progress.
2. Present dashboard to Council each quarter (in train)

### **C. Specific objectives:**

1. Design “dashboard” using OnCourse to incorporate good practice
2. Ascertain key benchmarks
3. Obtain or create ecological maps of the course