



# Greener Golf Group

## Luffenham Heath Golf Club

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022





# Welcome

- **Tom Sharpe**, Club Manager & **Jonny Peacock**, Course Manager welcome you to The Luffenham Heath Golf Club
- **No fire drill planned today**  
Follow emergency signs in the event of a fire



# Content

- The Luffenham Heath Golf Club
- SSSI
- GEO
- Habitat Management
- Club Initiatives
- Member Engagement
- Supporting local communities
- Engaging with the local community
- Looking ahead



## THE LUFFENHAM HEATH GOLF CLUB

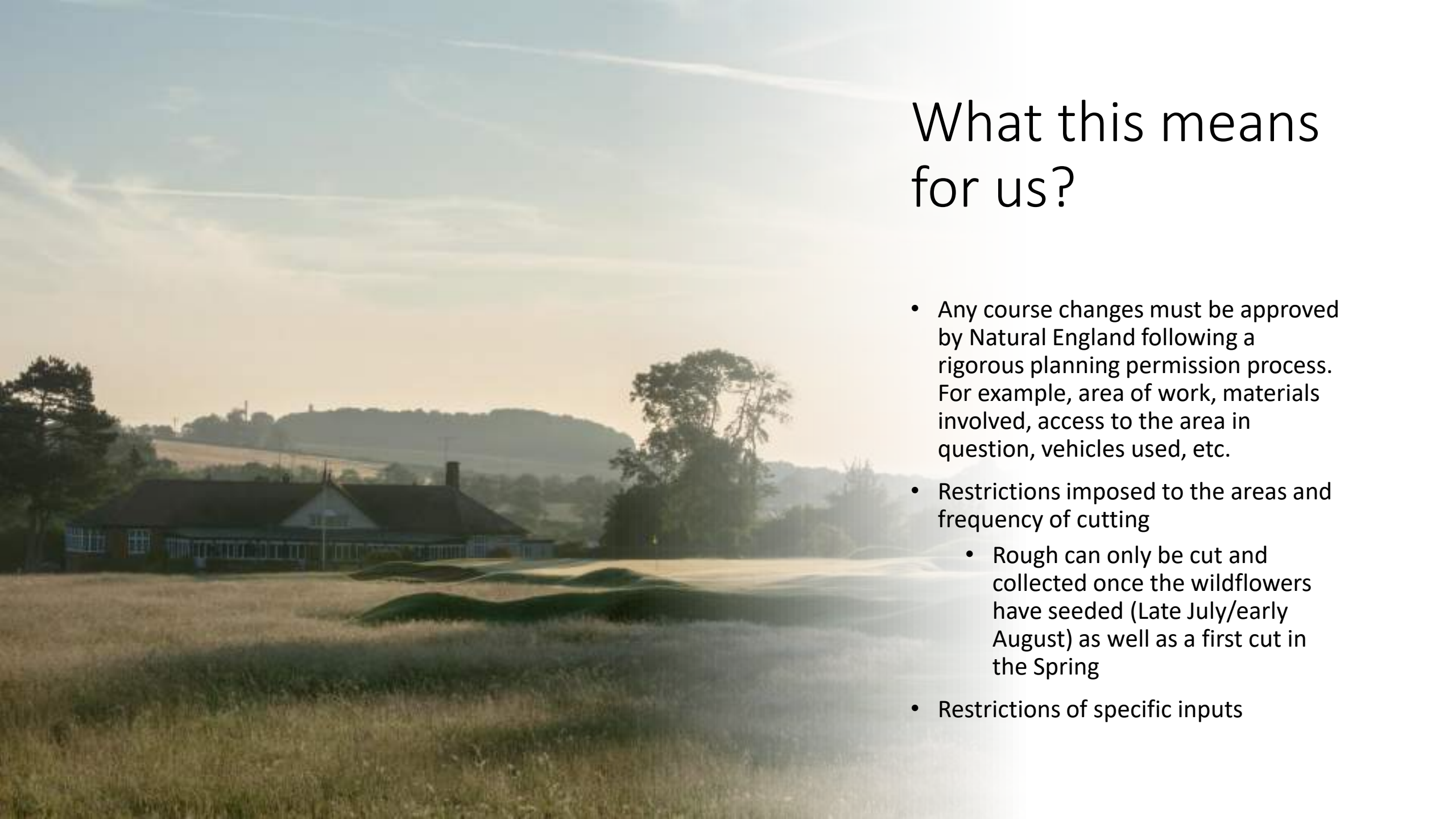
- Designed in 1909 by Charles Hugh Allison
- Opened in 1911 by the Earl of Ancaster
- Private members Club: 430 full members
- Consistently ranked in the top 100 golf courses in England
- The original course was partially changed during the war, losing 3 holes to provide ground for growing crops and vegetables. The changed layout remains in play today.
- The site covers approximately 185 acres, comprising boulder clay in the southern part of the course and limestone in the northern section



# SSSI

## Site of Special Scientific Interest

- Whole site designated a SSSI in 1973, focussing on:
  - Calcareous Grassland
  - Dwarf Shrub Heath
  - Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland
- Managed in agreement with Natural England, the site boasts rare flora such as the Clustered Bellflower and purple Vetch

A landscape photograph showing a golf course clubhouse and green in the foreground, with rolling hills and a hazy sky in the background. The clubhouse is a long, low building with a dark roof and a chimney. The green is a well-maintained, circular area with a central bunker. The sky is a mix of light blue and white, suggesting a hazy or overcast day.

# What this means for us?

- Any course changes must be approved by Natural England following a rigorous planning permission process. For example, area of work, materials involved, access to the area in question, vehicles used, etc.
- Restrictions imposed to the areas and frequency of cutting
  - Rough can only be cut and collected once the wildflowers have seeded (Late July/early August) as well as a first cut in the Spring
- Restrictions of specific inputs

A small brown bird, possibly a wood thrush, is perched on a mossy tree branch. The bird has a reddish-brown cap and a white breast. The background is a dense thicket of green leaves and branches, with a dark, semi-transparent overlay.

# Ecology

- 5-year rolling ecology plan in accordance with STR1 and approved by Natural England

# Habitat Management

- Tree, scrub and brash clearance
- Improving biodiversity for wildlife
  - Scalloping woodland areas
  - Creating log piles
  - Clearing dense woodland
  - Improving calcareous grassland
- Heather regeneration





# Water Management

- Irrigation based on data
  - Moisture content
  - Weather forecast
- No water is taken from a public drinking source or the mains to be used for irrigation
  - Water abstracted from the River Chater and delivered to our on-site reservoir
- Irrigation system annual audit
  - Improves water efficiency
- Staff training



# GEO Certification

- Awarded in October 2019
- The Club takes steps in all areas of our operation to, not simply reduce our environmental impacts, but to enhance the natural environment.

# So what do we do as a Club?

- Following our GEO accreditation in 2019, we as a Club do as much as we can to be more sustainable, both on and off the course.
- Changes in management across senior positions at the Club have allowed for a uniform sustainable direction in our day-to-day management practices.
- Over the coming slides are examples of what we currently undertake, as well as plans for the future.





# Biomass Boiler

- Fuelled with sustainably sourced woodchip from an approved BSL registered supplier
- Provides hot water and heating for the Clubhouse, Pro Shop and two Cottages
- Swapped to a local supplier and now accept a larger delivery of chip – reducing journey times and frequency of deliveries and, in turn, reducing the carbon footprint
- Serviced twice per annum and regular in-house maintenance to ensure the boiler burns and runs more efficiently

# Reducing Single-Use Plastic



All bottles and cans of drink sold at the Club (including the Pro Shop) are recyclable.



Reusable insulated bottles sold in the Pro Shop



Water refill point near the first tee – signage in operation to reinforce our message



Compostable drinking cups used at the half-way hut



Ensure all packaged food and takeaway drink cups are recyclable

# Lighting

- LED lighting in operation in the clubhouse and greens compound buildings
- Light sensors in specific areas
- Dimmer switchers in specific areas
- Staff monitor the need for lighting to be to save energy consumption

# Energy

- Our electricity provider SSE stipulates

*Our energy providers ensure **100% renewable electricity as standard**, including planting one tree a year for each customer*

- Electric buggies
- Hybrid machinery on order and looking into options for the future
- Regular adjustments of thermostats to control heating efficiency



# Supporting Local Business


- We have made every effort to support local businesses and source local ingredients, where possible.
  - For example, we have a range of products from the Grainstore Brewery in Oakham, as well as strawberries from Rutland Water Fruit Farm
- As much as possible, we use local tradespeople for various jobs. This has ranged from small electrical repairs from our local electrician in North Luffenham to more large-scale projects such as the new shed in the greens compound, built by MR Industrial services based in Corby.




WORKS CARRIED OUT BY



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# Member Engagement

- **Course walks**
  - Agronomy walks with Jonny
  - Ecology walks with representatives from BIGGA and STRI
- **Educational Evenings**
  - Ecology & Agronomy led by the STRI
- **Bird Boxes**
  - We have 30 bird boxes on the course, sponsored by members

# Washroom Services

- Recently changed to more sustainably sourced hand towels made from bamboo and toilet roll made from sugar cane
- Shared message from our supplier, Greenworks

*Here at Greenworks, we work with a number of disposal agents to ensure that we have the resources in place to use the very latest technology whilst also reducing “unnecessary waste miles”. Our agents currently recycle over £1 million worth of energy each year.*

*We are also currently utilising a composting method that is currently one of a kind in the UK. The waste is shredded and mixed with small amounts of green waste (Grass/cuttings etc). This then creates a digestive system that creates its own heat and works away the bacteria within the system. The process end result is 20% compost and 80% RDF this is then used to power ‘power generation plants’.*

# Club Administration



**We adopt a *'be greener'* approach**



**Differentiate office waste to general waste and recycling**



**Print when necessary**

we have seen a reduction in printing by 73% in the last three years



**Computers turned off at night**

Data stored to the cloud  
No need for VPN access



**Work anywhere**

Office 365 allows for access anywhere in the world, meaning remote working easily achieved



# Engaging with the Local Community

- Rutland Natural History society
- Ron Fallows Rutland Moth recorder
- Rutland Bat Society
- Dawn chorus walks with Anglian Water Birdwatching Centre
- Leicester University

# Looking Ahead

- Bee Hives
- On-course ingredients
  - Sloes
  - Blackberries
- Electric car charging ports
- On course recycling bin stations
- Rainwater collection
  - Sustainable water sourcing for watering plants both inside and outside the clubhouse
- Composting
- Grass clipping stations on the course
- Carbon footprint calculation

A photograph of a golf course landscape. In the foreground, there is a green fairway with some tall grasses and a small sand trap. In the middle ground, there is a large green fairway with a sand trap on the left and a gazebo-like structure on the right. The background is filled with tall trees under a clear sky. The text "Thank You" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Thank You