

Environmental

Caring for the environment

At **Coventry Golf Club** we take our responsibility for environmental stewardship seriously. For many years we have taken actions to conserve and enhance the natural environment and reduce our use of resources. This is all aimed at improving the golfing experience for our members and visitors.

We are proud to be the first golf club in England to achieve the prestigious, international **Golf Environment Organisation** (GEO) award in 2012 and recertification in 2015 and most recently in June 2019.

Richard Allison Manager of GEO said:

"We are delighted to be able to confirm that Coventry Golf Club has successfully achieved GEO Certified® status once again for its outstanding work to foster nature, conserve resources and support the community. Many congratulations to you and the team on this thoroughly deserved achievement! "



Our parkland course supports a range of man-made and semi natural wooded, grassland and **wetland habitats**. It consists of managed grassland, together with substantial areas of woodland (broad-leaf, coniferous and mixed).



River, Riverbank & Fairway Hole No. 11



Fairway Hole No. 2

The **River Sowe** flows along the northern and eastern boundaries of the course and there is a natural buffer along most of its length that provides a wide range of habitats.

Several ponds are distributed throughout the course that support submerged or marginal aquatic species.

The woodlands and the pond network function together in supporting both terrestrial and breeding habitat for a population of great crested newts.



Signature Hole No. 12



Pond Hole No. 7



Pond Hole No. 15

The range of **woodland habitats** provide excellent opportunities for bats and breeding birds.



English Oak *Quercus robur* Hole No. 2



Woodpile Hole No. 4

Over 70 species of birds have been recorded on the course including song thrush, redwing, field fare, lapwing, starling, skylark, dunlin, all of which are on the **RSBP** list of conservation concern.



Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*



Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Over the years members have donated funds to provide over 40 boxes aimed at encouraging Bats, Owl, **Kestrels**, Robins and Tits.



Owl Box Hole No. 13



Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

We value our corporate membership of **Warwickshire Wildlife Trust** (WWT).

WWT play a key role, enabling us to understand the wide-ranging habitats on the course and the simple, practical steps we could take to protect and enhance those habitats.



Kestrel *Falco tinnuculus*



Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

In partnership with WWT we have installed an **Otter Holt** on the banks of the River Sowe and included a motion camera. Videos from the camera are edited and provided to club members, the latest video can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1qVCBwCISM&feature=youtu.be&a=>

The species recorded on the video include: Otter, badger, muntjac, roe deer, stoat, shrew and foxes.



Otter *Lutra lutra*



Roe Deer *Capreolus capreolus*

We take part in **Operator Pollinator** and as well as providing insect boxes around the course, working with WWT we have created a wild flower meadow to the left of our 11th tee box that contains a wide mixture of wild grasses and flowers that include: Yellow Rattle, Meadow Buttercup, Oxeye Daisy, Foxglove and Birdsfoot Trefoil.



Wild Flower Meadow Hole No. 11

We have shown that good environmental practice makes good business sense by adopting schemes that reuse water and generate electricity, thereby significantly reducing costs.

We have an excellent relationship with our neighbours, **Severn Trent Water**, and for many years we have used final treated effluent water from their adjacent sewage treatment works, that would otherwise be discharged to the River Sowe, to irrigate our greens.



Greens Irrigation Hole No. 2

Our use of water is controlled by a computerised **irrigation** system that ensures that only the right amount of water is used.

Back in 2010, we commissioned a report on **energy saving** proposals. As a result, the club has invested in a more efficient boiler and air conditioning, low energy light fittings, motion sensors, improved insulation and installation of Photovoltaic cells on the club house roof. As a consequence, we have significantly reduced our consumption of energy, putting over 3,000 kwh into the national grid and saving around £8,000 a year.



Photovoltaic Panels Clubhouse Roof

We produce 120 tonnes of waste a year of which 21 tonnes are **recycled**. We are conscious that we can do more to minimise our waste production, in particular food waste and single use plastics.

Much has been achieved over the years, not only to enhance the playing experience of members and guests but to reduce our environmental liabilities and business costs. We are totally committed to continuing our proud record of being one of the most environmentally sustainable golf clubs in the UK.

At Coventry Golf Club we have an active **Environment Group** who work with the club Committees to deliver sustainability initiatives. If you want to get involved in enhancing the experience for members and visitors through creating a better place, speak to the secretary, you will be made most welcome.

John Claridge, a long standing member says *"I love the variety of trees on the course, their shapes, colours and blossom make playing golf here so, so enjoyable, even when the ball is not going where I want it to go!"*

Jeanette Grimston said:- *"I consider myself very lucky to have such a strong & committed team at Coventry Golf Club looking after the environment on our behalf"*