

Bearwood Lakes Golf Club GEO Certified™

Regarded as an “outstanding natural woodland refuge just outside London,” and one of the finest inland courses to be built in Britain in the past twenty years, Bearwood Lakes has added another important accolade - recently being awarded GEO Certified™, golf’s international ecolabel certifying comprehensive commitment and achievement around sustainability.

The 18-hole golf course in Berkshire meanders through a backdrop of mature pines, beech and cedar trees and three natural lakes that were originally part of Windsor Great Park and part of the hunting grounds of the Kings of England since the 11th century.

The original design by Gil Hockley under the direction of Martin Hawtree retained much of the original landscape, using tree coverage and nature of the area as a unique backdrop to the course that rolls around the Bearwood estate.

Managing Director, Carl Rutherford added: “We have integrated sustainability into our decision-making from every-day items like irrigation and pest-control, to purchasing decisions in the clubhouse and on the course, and certainly around the renovation work undertaken recently.

The natural lakes and forested terrain on historically significant land perhaps add to the responsibility we all feel, but environmental stewardship also helps set our course apart from others, and makes good business sense.”

Golf Course Manager, Daniel Lightfoot MSc added: “As part of a rolling 5-year Ecology



Daniel Lightfoot receiving GEO Certification

and Landscape Management Plan, The GEO OnCourse programme gave us an easy way to record and report this work. We are already focusing ahead on new ideas, including a new irrigation storage reservoir which will become another open water habitat.”

“A great golf experience should draw on nature in many ways. And whilst we no longer have the bears here from past centuries, deer can be regularly seen along with badgers, grass snakes, and a variety of aquatic wildlife.”

Jonathan Smith, GEO Chief Executive added that “Bearwood Lakes is a great story of a club that has been factoring sustainability into their operations for years and we’re delighted that the

OnCourse programme and GEO Certified ecolabel have helped them tell this story more publicly.”

Jim Croxton, Chief Executive Officer of BIGGA shared his endorsement:

“BIGGA members are passionate about the environment they manage and we see a lot of value in participation in the GEO OnCourse programme as a great roadmap to improved environmental stewardship.

The GEO Certified™ label makes a strong statement to golfers, local communities, and the overall golf industry regarding dedication to continued sustainable golf course management and we commend Daniel Lightfoot and

all his colleagues at Bearwood Lakes for their achievement.”

Dino Minoli, GEO Sustainability Associate (GEOSA), and accredited independent Verifier:

“The environmental performance of golf facilities is an important issue. This ecolabel signifies commitment to environmental governance and positions the game of golf at the vanguard of sustainable sport and leisure. This certification recognises the pro environmental values and actions of their excellent Course Manager, responsible Owner, pro-active Management and supportive Club Members.

Full reports can be viewed at <http://www.golfenvironment.org/clubs/bearwoodlakes>

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