



## Golf Sustainability Project - Development

Following a meeting at Hoebridge Golf Centre on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016, hosted by Environmental Solutions International Ltd (ESi) and Surrey Wildlife Trust, a discussion about a local sustainability pilot resulted in a commitment to a National project. ESi and Imperial College London are working with BIGGA, CMAE and England Golf, to complete an ambitious project to complete a survey of the golf sector's benefits and impacts on the environment.

We estimate that:

- Golf courses in the UK could cover an area equivalent to the Lake District National Park
- The non-managed areas of golf courses are estimated to cover an area of just over 1,000 Sq. Km, which is:
  - 100 Sq. Km bigger than Exmoor National Park
  - Around the same size as The New Forest and Pembrokeshire Coastal Parks combined

The golf sector provides massive benefit to the natural environment and if we can confirm these estimates we will be able to give a more accurate value of the benefits provided to air quality, CO2 absorption, air cooling, flood relief, natural habitat/ecology, and community amenity. To confirm the value of golf BIGGA, CMAE and England Golf are asking members to complete and return this questionnaire covering:

1. Baseline data
  - a. Requested information includes:
    - i. Total site size
    - ii. Close mown area managed areas
    - iii. Broad habitat types
    - iv. Clubhouse size, and consumption for electricity, heating and water
2. Data will be used to:
  - a. Provide an overview of golf sectors environmental benefits and impacts
  - b. Identify the value of golf to the natural environment and community
  - c. Help to identify and share best management practices for natural and built environment to help reduce operational costs
  - d. Make the case for financial assistance and recognition of the golf sector

If we get enough data we can improve collaboration and access advice, training and potential resources from the Environment Agency, Wildlife Trusts, Water companies and help clubs reduce operational costs.

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