

KINGS HILL GOLF LTD
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DOCUMENT

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Introduction

The aim of this document is to lay down plans, standards and procedures that will benefit both the environment and the golf course at Kings Hill.

The management plans have been produced with the best interests of the golf course and environment in mind and its interaction with the area of countryside it occupies and for the purpose of long-term continuity of maintenance.

It is the intention of the company to follow the principles of the document as much as possible, however where conditions prevail that make this difficult, procedures that are suitable alternatives will be adopted.

The golf course is an ever-evolving landscape and through time the composition of certain elements of the course might change. If these elements change, the principles of the document will remain the same, however the methods employed to ensure appearance and quality will be altered within the document.

History

The site comprises approximately 220 acres, with early records showing a number of mixed uses.

On early local plans a significant part of the site was open heathland bordered by woodland of various species. Over time the compartments have changed in size and shape due to the influence of man and agriculture. The site before the golf course being of mixed agricultural use divided between coppice sweet chestnut, arable crops, fruit orchards interspersed with hop gardens with the northern most part of the site being part of the former west malling air station and comprising heathland and grassland.

In deciding a suitable environmental management plan for the site the old records have provided invaluable information in determining a strategy for the various elements that predominate and that would provide the most valuable habitats in environmental terms.

The following management plans recognise the importance of these areas and have been developed to restore, enhance and improve the areas for the benefit of the native fauna and flora.

Environmental Impact

Kings Hill Golf Ltd in its management and maintenance of Kings Hill Golf Club and Course will undertake to minimise its impact on the environment by implementing a number of policies as listed below.

Minimise the use of both pesticide and fertilizers in its maintenance of the golf course

Where possible compost for reuse on the golf course all green waste materials.

Minimise the use of water in maintaining the golf course through weather data equipment.

Use and recycle as many products as possible.

Create habitat shelters for wildlife throughout the course.

Implement and use energy efficient products where possible

Maximise the use of local suppliers where possible.

Implement management plans for the maintenance of specific areas

Dispose of hazardous materials in an environmentally friendly way

Recycle wash down water from equipment maintenance areas

Natural Grassland

Kings Hill Golf Course will comprise many acres of natural (uncut) grassland. The company's policy is to maintain a golf course that encompasses all the elements (hazards) of golf, which includes uncut rough.

The management plan for this grassland exists (see plans) so as to define the objectives, which will hopefully lead to the reappearance of many species of wild flowers and native fauna. An annual cut will take place at the end of the growing season when seed has set, with the cuttings being removed to either a compost heap or an area of the site that is in the process of being regenerated back to native grassland.

No chemical or nutritional applications will be made to these areas

Heathland

Kings Hill Golf Course possesses one of the last remaining tracts of heather on a golf course in the county of Kent. It is the company's policy to not only maintain the existing stands of heather but to actively encourage and regenerate through scrub clearance new areas of heathland.

The management plan for the areas of heath exists so as to define sound methods to promote regeneration of existing and new heath. It is the company's intention to double the areas of heather in 10 years through either aeration, bought off site seed or spreading of on site brash cuttings.

Methods to promote regeneration of relic heath will include scrub removal, cutting back to ground level to introduce light to the seed bank, scarification to remove brashings and surface litter for reuse elsewhere and burning. Operations will be carried out through the winter months.

Methods to create new areas of heath will include turf cutting and topsoil removal in areas close to existing stands of heather. Seed and brashings will be used on these areas to increase the chances of success.

In other areas of the golf course transplanting of heather turf, gorse and broom will also be carried out.

Existing juvenile stands of heather will receive an annual cut each August or September with the seed collected for reuse

Woodland

Flite wood which forms a large part of the area comprising Kings Hill Golf Course, has for the last 200 years been commercially managed for timber in the forms of coppice Sweet Chestnut, Ash, Hazel and Willow. Commercial production has died out largely due to cheap imported timber and so the woodlands of Kings Hill have decayed and become derelict over the past 7 or so years when production ceased.

A separate management plan exists for the woodlands (see John Nicholson Associates document and plans) so as to define methods to recover the dereliction and to reintroduce single stem indigenous high canopy woodland species.

The woodland floor comprises mainly bluebell and bramble cover. To enhance and maximise the bluebell cover a management regime to control the bramble will be undertaken. Regimes will include physical removal and a spraying programme through the winter months

Other Information

Wildlife survey