

MULTIFUNCTIONAL GOLF COURSES

AN UNDERUTILISED RESOURCE



Sterf



BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

NATURAL AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION

GOLF

RECREATION AREAS

FOREWORD

Multifunctional golf courses are beneficial for society and for golf. Golf courses have several roles to play in addition to providing playing surfaces for golf. Considering golf from an outsider's perspective, it can be seen that golf courses can provide a wide range of services that should be exploited, promoted and developed. For example, golf courses can contribute to rural development, natural and cultural values and biological diversity and can provide recreation areas for active outdoor life.

Through utilising shared Nordic expertise, we want to make the Nordic region a leading example of multifunctional golf courses and of cooperation between different groups in society. This means that the Nordic region can become a driving force for integrating sport and the environment in an international context.

During 2010, STERF (Scandinavian Turfgrass and Environment Research Foundation), which is the joint research and development body of the Nordic golf federations, carried out the project 'Nordic cooperation between authorities and non-governmental organisations for creating multifunctional golf courses and healthy ecosystems'. The aim was to create networks and exchanges of experiences between experts and groups in society with an interest in the land areas used by golf

courses. The project also aimed to ensure that knowledge and tried and tested experiences from various STERF research projects is used to a greater degree by official bodies and organisations outside the golf sector.

In this guide, which we hope will inspire multifunctional activities, we define the concept of the multifunctional golf course, describe the most important factors for multifunctionality and present examples of good practice from seven Nordic golf courses.

We would like to thank the Nordic Council of Ministers, which by funding the project made it possible to develop the concept of multifunctional golf courses, raise awareness and create networks among authorities, research institutes, environmental and outdoor recreation organisations and the golf sector in the Nordic countries and internationally.

Danderyd, 15 February 2011

Maria Strandberg
Project manager, STERF



MULTIFUNCTIONAL GOLF COURSES – AN UNDERUTILISED RESOURCE CONCEPT AND SOME EXAMPLES

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A photograph of a golf course. In the background, a person is standing on a green near a flagstick. The middle ground is dominated by a large, leafy tree. In the foreground, there is a field of tall, golden-brown grass. A blue tent is partially visible on the right side, nestled in the grass. Two white lines with circular endpoints are overlaid on the image. One line starts from the text 'ADDITIONAL STREAMS OF INCOME' and points towards the person on the green. The other line starts from the text 'COLLABORATION' and points towards the tent.

◦ **ADDITIONAL STREAMS OF INCOME**

COLLABORATION ◦

SUMMARY

Nature has always been a source of inspiration for mankind. It finds expression in art and literature, imparts a sense of peace, provides invaluable experiences and improves health. Studies show that golf players value their experiences of nature on the golf course and the opportunity to be outdoors more highly than the actual game. Therefore there is good reason to offer more people the opportunity of sharing this lovely environment!

Golf courses include large areas of land that are not used for the game and in addition the clubhouse often lies empty during the winter months. There is thus huge potential for better use of the land in order to provide new opportunities for active outdoor life, particularly in the vicinity of towns and cities. If more clubs and societies were to use golf courses, this would also greatly improve the finances of golf clubs and give them deeper roots in society – so all the parties involved would benefit from the collaboration.

A multifunctional golf course views its operations from the broad, general perspective. In addition to providing a high quality arena for golf, it supplies various services that are beneficial for society at large, e.g. increasing the biological diversity and protecting natural and cultural environments, and is available for active outdoor recreation, without compromising safety. The successful creation of a multifunctional golf course requires good collaboration in which all the parties stand to gain.

The forms of collaboration must be adapted to the requirements and specific challenges faced by golf and the surrounding region, and the collaboration must be interdisciplinary, i.e. encompass different groups of stakeholders such as local authorities, government agencies, clubs and societies, landowners, residents, businesses and others. Patience, trust, communication and firm embedding of ideas are the keys to successful collaboration. Such collaboration is already underway.

This guide shows how some Nordic golf courses are collaborating across traditional boundaries in order to increase accessibility and biological diversity and preserve their cultural heritage. Some inspirational examples from Holland are also included.

Why not make the Nordic region a model of good example in terms of multifunctional golf courses and collaboration between different groups in society?

The Nordic countries can then become a driving force for the integration of sport and the environment in an international context.



Representatives from golf courses, authorities and organisations from throughout the Nordic countries on a study visit to Smörum Golf Centre during a conference on multifunctional golf courses, September 2010.

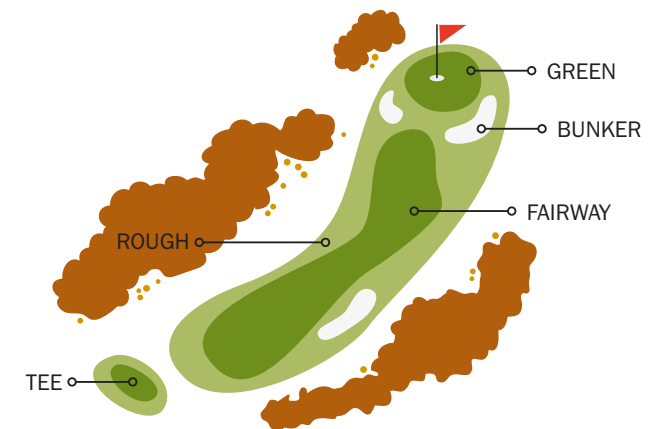
WHAT IS A MULTIFUNCTIONAL GOLF COURSE?

ACTIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION

GOOD HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Golf courses have large areas of land that are not used for the actual game of golf. These can be opened up to other sports and outdoor activities, as at Copenhagen Golf Club.

A multifunctional golf course views its operations from the broad, general perspective. In addition to providing a high quality arena for golf, it supplies various services that are beneficial for society at large, e.g. increasing biological diversity, protecting natural and cultural environments and providing facilities for active outdoor recreation.



▶ SHORT FACTS ABOUT GOLF IN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES

Golf is a land-demanding sport that occupies more than 60 000 ha in the Nordic countries. The Nordic golf associations have around 900 000 members who play golf on just over 900 golf courses. In comparison, Europe has around 4.5 million registered golf players and a large number of unregistered players, playing on around 6 700 golf courses.

An 18-hole golf course covers on average 65-70 hectares, of which around 20 hectares are intensively managed, active playing areas, such as tees, fairways and greens. The remaining area, which makes up around 50-70% of the course, is extensively managed natural land.

The most common system is for a golf course or golf club to be open to its own members and guest players from other golf clubs. Guest golfers pay green fees every time they play on a different golf course than their home course.

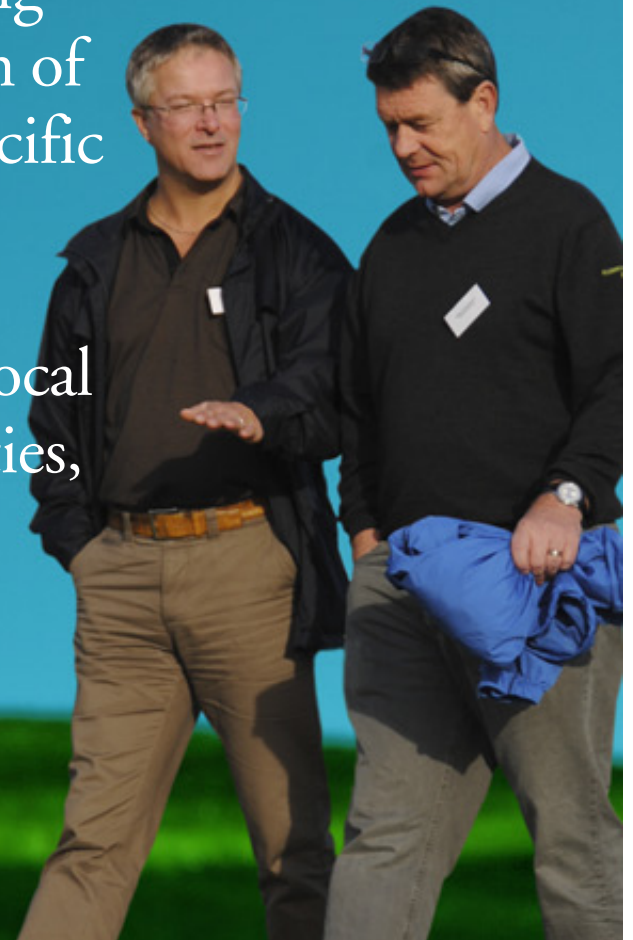
The authorities in the Nordic countries are demanding this type of establishment, which can help to achieve the national environmental quality objectives and improve public health and quality of life, particularly in areas around towns and cities where a large number of golf courses are located. For golf courses the multifunctional approach is profitable. It provides opportunities for additional streams of income, deeper roots in society through work on sustainable development,

better collaboration with the authorities, environmental and recreation organisations and other sports clubs and a better public image and greater political support.

For example, this may mean the golf course hosting other activities in addition to the game of golf and the land being used by a number of different actors. The course could establish trails and bridleways and valuable wetlands within its boundaries.

COLLABORATION - THE CRITICAL FACTOR FOR MULTIFUNCTIONALITY

Collaboration is the most important factor in creating multifunctional golf courses. The form and direction of the collaboration must be developed to meet the specific challenges faced by golf and the surrounding region. The collaboration must also be interdisciplinary, i.e. encompass different groups of stakeholders such as local authorities, government authorities, clubs and societies, landowners, residents, businesses and others.



Experience shows that active collaboration with the authorities and other organisations on the part of the golf course is often perceived as positive. There are two important conditions for success: the golf course officials must be in favour, or preferably the driving force, and there must be one or more possible projects that all the parties can benefit from. In the past there has been poor contact between golf courses, the authorities, voluntary organisations and the research world. This is now being changed in a positive way. Instead of being the direct opponent in many cases, golf courses are now collaborating in a constructive way to jointly protect the natural and cultural heritage and expand environmental work on the land they occupy.

ALL PARTIES MUST BENEFIT FROM THE COLLABORATION

A general model for how to collaborate has begun to be developed in Stockholm through a STERF-funded project. This project shows how all the parties involved, in many cases individual actors, have realised that in one way or another they stand to gain from collaborating. Examples of activities in the project include inventories of amphibians, inventories of biotopes including basic environmental protection plans, sheep grazing, nature folders and guided tours based around the golf course area. The intention is for these activities

to continue as a natural part of development, mainly of environmental and nature protection work on golf courses.

It takes patience, trust and deep commitment by the leaders of all parties to create a successful collaboration project. In order for it to succeed and to produce continual and rewarding work on nature conservation and environmental protection, it is important to find a successful complement of groups and forms of working for both the individual golf course and the external actors.

COMMUNICATION – THE KEY TO SUCCESS

When the collaboration is underway and is producing results, it is very important to continually provide information about the work to members of the golf club, the media and all those who might be interested. The collaboration project in Stockholm hosted seminars targeting actors with an interest in golf course management in terms of environmental and nature conservation criteria. These seminars proved to be highly appreciated, particularly by actors outside golf such as local authorities, universities, county administration boards and other agencies. Experiences and benefits from the project have been presented at a number of seminars arranged by the golf sector and at international conferences.

► IMPORTANT FACTORS FOR SUCCESSFUL COOPERATION

- ☐ Clear leadership and organisation
- ☐ Contact with all the actors who might be interested in collaboration
- ☐ Full acceptance of ideas, financing and results among the leadership on all sides.
- ☐ Value added in the form of individual benefits and stimulation. Identification of projects that all can benefit from.
- ☐ Good personal relations and trust take time – make haste slowly
- ☐ Transparency and democratic participation
- ☐ Concrete and continuing results
- ☐ Good spread of information about various measures and what they involve
- ☐ Seek external funding for joint projects, there is always some source to be tapped
- ☐ Have fun!

▶ EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION

HÄSSELBY GOLF lies in an old cultivated landscape in Stockholm with built-up areas on one side and green areas on the other. This facility has a well-established network for collaboration. For many years Hässelby Golf has been actively involved in the Lövsta Alliance-Kyrkhamn Association, which consists of 33 organisations that care about the natural and cultural heritage of the area. In 2005 a decision was made to restore and extend the facility's pond system. This was to be a closed system that created new habitats for aquatic life, acted as a purification system for water and, last but not least, increased the difficulty and improved the experience of playing on the golf course. A far-reaching collaboration was set up that included all the voluntary organisations concerned, plus the county administration board, the local authority, the natural history museum, the university and others. All those with a possible interest in how the pond system was constructed were invited to give their opinion and share their knowledge and experience, which they all actually did for free. This not only resulted in a new pond system, but also gave the project a strong footing so that there was no opposition to construction of the ponds. Hässelby Golf also obtained valuable goodwill and positive attention in the media and was awarded several environmental prizes.



HÄSSELBY GOLF collaborated with a wide range of interests to achieve an optimal solution and high acceptance during planning of its new pond system.

KJÖLUR GOLF CLUB is owned by the local municipality. When the golf club began to discuss expansion of the course with the local authority, the land on which they wanted to build was owned by a construction and property company that was planning to build residential housing. The company and the local authority then agreed an exchange of land areas. Through good collaboration and communication with the company, when the plans for the course were drawn up it was possible to take account of the safety of residents and houses in the planned housing area. The construction company set aside some of its land for use as a shared parking area by residents and the golf club. Through



KJÖLUR GOLF CLUB was able to build on neighbouring land thanks to good cooperation between all parties and actors interested in using the area.

this agreement, the construction company received the right to dig a gravel quarry to obtain building material. The land on which this gravel quarry was based was then restored and used to create a golf hole. The spoil excavated during road and house building had to be transported as short a distance as possible, so the golf course was able to use this material in its construction. This stipulation minimised traffic through the community and reduced emissions of carbon dioxide.

In 2003 **KRISTIANSTAD GOLF CLUB** wanted to buy land from the local authority to build an additional 18-hole course. The landscape around Åhus is unique



At **KRISTIANSTADS GOLF CLUB** The rare sand pink (*Dianthus arenarius*) grows wild at Kristianstads Golf Club in Åhus.

and is characterised by wide sandy plains with high natural and cultural values. It contains a large number of threatened (red-listed) plants, animals and fungi. Some are only found in the Nordic region. At the start, reaction to building an 18-hole golf course on this unique area was not entirely positive! However, the local authority for Kristianstad and the Biosphere Office for Kristianstad came to the conclusion that it was better to have a golf course with integrated management than an industrial area, and therefore sold the land to the golf club, on the condition that the club worked to achieve environmental certification for the course. The club, together with the Biosphere Office, is



Natural and cultural values were mapped in collaboration between **OPPEGÅRDS GOLF CLUB**, **STRI** and **THE NORWEGIAN GOLF ASSOCIATION**.

running a project funded by STERF, with the focus on culture and nature conservation measures, information and accessibility. The project is a good example of how a sports club can be combined with nature and recreation. This is being achieved through e.g. botanical tours arranged by the club together with the Swedish Botanical Society, the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation and the Biosphere Office in conjunction with the Nordic event 'Wild Flower Day'. The collaboration and activities on the land have resulted in several newspaper articles and items on local radio, which have provided good publicity for the club.

In 2007, **OPPEGÅRD GOLF CLUB**, the Norwegian Golf Association and the Sports Turf Research Institute began collaborating on an environmental project on the course. The aim was to carry out an inventory of valuable natural and cultural values on the course and draw up a management plan for developing these values. During the project period, a fruitful collaboration was also established between the golf club and the local history society in the area. As a result, information on environmental and cultural values on and around the eighteen holes of the course has been collated in a course guide. This work resulted in the golf club being the subject of many very positive articles in the media.

ACCESSIBILITY TO OTHER GROUPS IN ADDITION TO GOLFERS

The accessibility of golf courses varies, including in the Nordic countries. A few courses are private and are therefore only open to their own members, but most are open to guests and the public. Studies show that golf players rate their experiences of nature on the golf course and the opportunity to walk around in nature more highly than the actual game. Therefore there is every reason to offer more users the opportunity to share this delightful environment.



POTENTIAL FOR MORE PEOPLE IN THE CLUBHOUSE AND ON THE COURSE

On an ordinary golf course, large areas of the land are not used for the game of golf. This means that there is great, unexploited potential for multi-use – both on playing surfaces and other areas. Walking trails are common on golf courses and certain parts of the course could perhaps also be used as a landing place for parachutists, an archery range, a cycle-cross track or a playground for children in the neighbourhood.

The size and quality of clubhouses can vary widely. However, all clubhouses share the common feature of lying empty during large parts of the day and of the year. This is a huge investment that produces very little yield. It would be more profitable if clubhouse were to be used by other sports clubs, for conferences or for indoor activities for children and young people, etc. If the course is close to a town or village, the building could function as a community centre in addition to being a clubhouse.

CREATING MULTIFUNCTION

In order to create a multifunctional golf course, it is necessary to break patterns, think in new ways and be creative. In establishing a new multifunctional golf course all the required functions should be optimal and suitably adapted to the landscape. This can mean for example laying a sand surface on a practice area such as a driving range, so that it can easily be converted into

an ice hockey rink or ski slope in the winter.

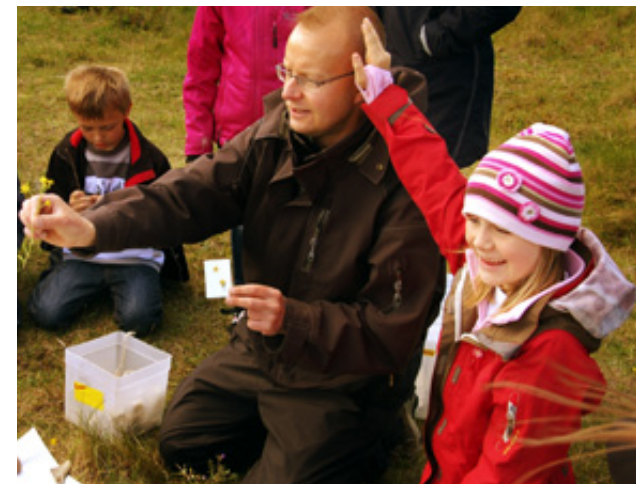
In renovating an existing course the options are naturally more restricted. It may be possible to move or remove holes to create space for a new type of activity. An 18-hole course can be converted into a 9-hole course plus a short hole course, a skateboard ramp and a football pitch. This provides a facility where people can play full-scale golf, practise and train golfers, while also offering a range of other activities.

VISITOR SAFETY IMPORTANT

The fear of being hit by a golf ball is greater among non-golfers than golfers. Very few such injuries occur in golf but the fear among non-golfers has to be taken very seriously. There are regulations and recommendations on how golf courses can be built safely and on how the areas around the course should be designed to be safe for passers-by and visitors. In order to alter the perception that the golf course is a dangerous place to pass through or visit, warning signs can be improved and positioned in strategically appropriate places. Such signs should welcome people to the course, provide information about the game and indicate safe trails and areas to visit.

► A FEW EXAMPLES

OPPEGÅRDS GOLF CLUB rents its land from the local authority. The course is centrally positioned, close to residential areas. Many residents protested when the golf course was being planned since they thought it would be a barrier to all those wishing to move around freely in the countryside. However, it emerged that the accessibility to nature would increase, since the golf club installed paths and trails through the golf course to neighbouring natural areas.



The nature and culture trail at Kristianstad Golf Club gives the public, schools and golfers the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful countryside. This picture shows a nature class using the area in teaching.



Winter and summer at a particular part of the Oppegård golf course.

The leasing contract with the local authority stipulates that the course must be made available for skiing and other winter activities. The local skiing club is responsible for making and maintaining cross-country tracks and ski slopes. The skiing club has a permanent snow cannon that uses water from the golf club water features.

One part of **KRISTIANSTADS GOLF CLUB**'s agreement with the local authority is to spread information on natural and cultural values in the area and increase the accessibility to the public. The club has set out a trail with information boards that describe valuable habitats along the way. This trail provides the public with better opportunities to access the natural beauty of the golf course and is also used by schools in the area as part of their curriculum.

COPENHAGEN GOLF CLUB leases its land, which is located in Jägersborg Animal Park. The park is a large nature reserve with huge old trees and open areas where large numbers of visitors come to walk in the forest, play golf, cycle, jog or ride. Everyone has an equal right to be in the area and all show great respect for others.

The golf club has to take account of the almost 2 000 free-ranging red deer that live in the park, which give the course a unique character and a sense of exclusivity. Twice a year the golfers have to make way for major public events – the Hubertus Hunt, where a large number of horses, riders and supporters can



In Jägersborg Animal Park, the golfers share the course not only with outdoor activities, but also with 2 000 free-ranging red deer.



Footpaths and bridleways on Kjörlur GC make the beautiful Blikastadane peninsula accessible to all.

be found on the land, and the Hermitage Race, when almost 20 000 runners and spectators pass over parts of the golf course.

During the autumn there is a kite festival, when large numbers of people cross the field with their colourful flying creations. In the winter, skiers and children with sledges make their way to the golf course land. The trails around the golf course are used by Copenhagen schools during national outdoor day in the autumn. In addition, there are bridleways around and through the golf course that are used daily by riders from the neighbouring riding school. The golf course area is popular among mushroom pickers, since mushrooms are easy to find in the well-trimmed grass. Many photographers visit the golf course – particularly during the deer rutting season in late autumn. During the hunting season some of the deer are shot, including on the golf course, without this impeding either the game or the hunt.

When **KJÖLUR GOLF CLUB** began to discuss expansion from nine holes to eighteen, it needed permission to use a natural heritage listed area on a peninsula. The Icelandic Environmental Protection Agency and the local authority demanded that public footpaths and bridleways be installed along the beach, which meant that no golf holes could be built between the paths and the sea. The planning work required active collaboration between all parties interested in having access to the peninsula. The club consulted all

the outdoor organisations and sports clubs in the area and a strategic plan was drawn up in which recreation for all interests was ensured.

Kjörlur GC now has a golf course with tracks and paths that run along the entire coastline and a track that runs straight through the new nine-hole section. The golf course is also kept at a suitable distance from the mouth of the river Korpa in order to meet the requirements of local anglers.

ARENDAL & OMEGN GC 's course, Nes Verks Golf Centre, is built on land used by the Nes Iron Foundry during the period 1665-1959. When the course was being built, trails and noticeboards were set up in collaboration with the local history society and the Foundry Museum. The museum also holds cultural history tours on the golf course. The golf club has set up riverside fishing and bathing sites, which are very well used during the summer. The site is also excellent for skiing during the winter. Skiing tracks, jumps and sledging slopes are installed in collaboration with local sports clubs and the local authority.

BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY – NEW OPPORTUNITIES ON GOLF COURSES

Biological diversity can be described as all life on earth in all its forms. The concept is often used to emphasise the value of a richness of variation in living organisms, both on land and in the water, and in different landscapes, ecosystems and species. We humans live off nature and the products and services it supplies, which we process in various ways. Nature has always been a source of inspiration to humans. It is represented in art and literature, imparts a sense of peace, provides invaluable experiences and improves health.



◦ INTERACTION BETWEEN WILD LIFE
AND THE ACTIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION

The proportion of environments artificially created by man is continually increasing. This means that animal and plants are often forced aside and the habitats for many species are under threat. At the same time, species that can adapt to the new conditions are expanding. The critical factor is whether the artificial environment meets the unique requirements of the species. A golf course is an artificial environment where biotopes such as pools and ponds, which have decreased drastically in the agricultural landscape, are restored and provide threatened species with new habitats. When correctly designed, managed and used, golf courses can help increase biological diversity and promote many of the plants, animals and fungi in the cultivated landscape.

HAYMAKING, GRAZING ANIMALS AND NESTING BOXES ENRICH THE LANDSCAPE

In most cases, historical land use shaped the countryside and gave it the values that it has today. For example, haymaking on meadows over many generations created the natural flora of today. However, a range of plants are becoming increasingly rare as the landscape in many areas is overgrown or built on. Golf courses can play an important role here if the areas outside the playing surfaces are managed in a nature-friendly way. The roughs are often an underutilised resource that can easily be used to create biological diversity and increase accessibility to the public. Annual mowing and collection of the grass in the roughs at the end of the summer promotes meadow flowers and gives

a rich display of flowers that pleases players and insects alike. In the same way, grazing animals are a feature we hope to see more of on golf courses in the future. When a new golf course is being built, it is important to have a course architect who is open to cooperating in nature conservation and cultural heritage protection work and who is capable of producing detailed plans for the course.

With existing courses it is important to protect meadows, cairns, copses and freestanding trees and to create small areas of open water and bare sand.

Providing golfers with information that the flowering thistles at the edge of the bunker and the willow that sheds its catkins on the green are important for many insects and birds creates understanding and gives the game another dimension. Nesting boxes for bats and birds are examples of other initiatives that enrich the course.

DOCUMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN PROVIDE GUIDANCE

A management plan that takes account of natural and cultural heritage and that is based on documentation of all the values that exist on the course and their importance should be essential for all golf courses. For example, areas where dead wood is preserved should be labelled after consultation between greenkeepers and nature conservation officers. Dead wood is an important biological resource but it is a rare feature in today's landscape and, correctly placed, it can be

incorporated into a modern golf course. The management plan should also contain planting suggestions for suitable trees and shrubs, species that enhance the game, the landscape panorama and biological values. Having a course maintenance schedule that minimises the use of fertilisers and pesticides is also very important in increasing biological diversity.



The golf course is an environment where biotopes such as dead wood can provide threatened species with new habitats.

▶ A FEW EXAMPLES

KRISTIANSTAD GOLF CLUB was given permission by the local authority to build an additional 18-hole golf course on condition that the club worked to achieve environmental certification of the courses. The outcome of this was that the club, together with the Biosphere Office and using funding from STERF, carried

out inventories of plants, insects, birds, amphibians and bats in order to identify nature values and adjust its management of the roughs accordingly.

The cultural heritage of the area was also documented.

Many of the threatened species on the land require bare sand for their survival, for example a large number of insects. Therefore a local farmer was hired to plough up small areas of the roughs, while the club also used its own digger and rotavator to create additional areas of bare sand in different areas. These measures exposed the lime-rich sand that occurs naturally a short distance below the surface. This type of sand is vital for a number of plant species, including the rare scented sand carnation, which is now present in good numbers on the course. A maintenance plan was drawn up for the areas outside the playing surfaces. Every year, some areas are tilled up to create continual access to bare



Bare sand is rare in today's cultivated landscape, but it is essential for many rare species of bees that build their nests in the ground. The roughs at Kristianstad GC have places to help these bees.

sand on the course and a mosaic in the area. A mowing and harvesting machine has been bought in and areas with valuable flora are mowed annually to encourage rare plants. An important point in this context is that it is the club's own staff who carry out many of the tasks, which serves to increase their feeling of involvement and commitment and also improves the long-term prospects for the project. The measures being introduced are not expensive but they make a great difference to biological diversity in the area. The success of these measures is being monitored through an annual inventory of the flora.

The closed pond system at **HÄSSELBY GOLF** comprises a biological treatment plant while also increasing the biological diversity and creating a more challenging game of golf. Another bonus is that it minimises



One of ten new ponds at the Hässelby Golf facility that is posing a challenge to golfers and increasing the biological diversity.

nutrient leaching to Lake Mälaren, which is Stockholm's largest reservoir of drinking water. A number of amphibians are provided with living and breeding areas and the golfers have ten water features to enhance their round of golf. In addition, the water from the lowest pond is pumped back with the help of a mini wind turbine erected by Hässelby Golf.

SMÖRUM GOLF CENTRE had problems in the past with the spread of hogweed in wetter areas of the roughs. This problem was solved by allowing sheep and cows to graze the roughs, which brought the additional benefit that the grass there no longer needs to be cut. The animals also give an extra special dimension to the game of golf on the course. In late autumn, some of the animals are killed and used to supply locally produced meat to the clubhouse restaurant.



Rare breed cattle at Smörum Golf Centre maintain the roughs and increase the experience for those using the landscape.

CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION – PRESERVING OUR HISTORY FOR THE FUTURE

Traces of human activity indicate how people lived and worked in the distant past. Sometimes the traces are obvious, for example a restored mill. In other cases they are less distinct, for example a collapsed burial mound from the Bronze Age. These traces of culture give our lives meaning and place us in a historical and cultural context. However, it is difficult to say whether one type of landscape is worth more than another. Scientific studies show that green areas are valuable, since they have positive effects on our health and everyday well being.

ANCIENT BURIAL MOUNDS



ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND HISTORICAL BUILDINGS – AN EXTRA ATTRACTION ON THE GOLF COURSE

Many golf courses have revealed their cultural monuments through setting up information boards and installing footpaths leading to these objects. Through collaboration with the Board of National Antiquities, museums and the local history society, golf clubs can obtain guidance and perhaps even practical and financial support for renovating or preserving ancient monuments and the history of the area.

When building a new golf course or renovating an existing course, it is necessary to find out whether there are any archaeological remains in the area that have to be considered. Many of the oldest archaeological remains lie hidden in the ground and they must not be disturbed without permission from the authorities. There are a number of good examples of golf clubs making contact with the authorities at an early stage and thus being able to include the archaeological remains in the design and the plans. This has provided the course with a valuable asset instead of a problem.

On multifunctional golf courses historical buildings can play an important role, since they can be used for activities not related to the game of golf. Using an old building is the best way of preserving and managing that building. It may be possible to rent it out as an artist's studio, an exhibition gallery or a practice room for musicians.

CULTIVATED LANDSCAPE SHAPED BY MAN

Very few golf courses lie in 'unspoilt' nature. Most are located in a landscape that has been tilled, built upon and disturbed by man for many centuries. In this way, man has shaped and affected the cultivated landscape. The closer one comes to towns and cities, the stronger the impact of humans on the landscape and the more difficult it is to find an undisturbed area.

In the Nordic region, golf courses are often expected to blend into the landscape in which they are built. Account is taken of the existing topography, vegetation, types of nature and characteristics of the cultivated landscape. This means that every golf course is unique and suited to its own surroundings. This ambition should be maintained even when golf courses are opened up to other activities. For example, when building a bridleway or a cycle-cross track on the course, these should be fitted into the landscape with the same care as the golf course.

Although most golf courses are built on existing cultivated and agricultural land, they have a varying capacity for fitting in to the landscape picture. A course above the tree-line, on bare mountain, obviously has a greater visual impact than one situated in a dense pine forest. A multifunctional golf course on an abandoned industrial area can be easy to fit into the landscape, while a course on an open strand area is more sensitive and difficult. There is no recipe for what is right or wrong – every course must be assessed separately.

▶ A FEW EXAMPLES

SMÖRUM GOLFCENTER Smörum Golf Centre is a relatively new facility that was opened in 1993. The area contains nine listed ancient burial mounds. In 1997 the course signed a maintenance agreement with the authorities for two of these burial mounds. The grass is cut and brush is kept back so that the mounds are preserved as visible historical monuments. There have also been several archaeological digs in the area and these have found traces of the early Iron Age and Bronze Age.



Cultural history is a focal point at Smörum Golf Centre. An ancient burial mound graces the view from the clubhouse.

There are stone and earth ditches on the golf course showing the structure of farming around 300 years ago. These ditches are a characteristic feature of the course today, as are the protected ancient monuments that are maintained by course staff. The area also contains old peat bogs that were used as a source of heating fuel by local farmers up to the 1950s. The history of the clubhouse is marked by fires and a number of families have lived on the farm. The course staff quarters were formerly a small dairy.

Smörum Golf Centre has devoted great effort to describing the cultural history features of the course. This historical material has been gathered into a comprehensive plan that was drawn up a few years ago. When the plan was released, a seminar was organised and an exhibition of some of the historical images in the plan was held in the clubhouse. Along the golf course, there are information boards about the history of the ancient burial mounds, etc. One of these mounds can be seen from the clubhouse restaurant.

Nes Verks Golfpark is the course of **ARENDAL & OMEGN GOLF CLUB**. It is built on land used by the Nes Iron Foundry from 1665 to 1959. When the golf course was being planned, it was considered extremely important to preserve the rich cultural environments in the area. In addition to old buildings, industrial premises and machinery, there was a constructed pond and a romantic park from the 1800s, framed by the attractive cultivated landscape. The cultural heritage

sites have been signposted and made easily accessible to golfers and to the public.

At several places on the course there are installations and remnants from the time of the first iron works in the 1600s. Culture trails and angling and bathing sites have been installed and signposted in collaboration with the local history society and the Foundry Museum. The museum also organises cultural history tours on the golf course.

To expand its golf course from nine holes to eighteen, **KJÖLUR GOLF CLUB** required access to a nature conservation area. According to the national antiquities register for Iceland, the area has around 20 separate sites with archaeological remains, which had to be taken into account in the plans for the new course. No groundwork was permitted within a 20-metre radius of the remains.

The days of the foundry are recalled at many places on Nes Verks Golfpark. These cultural history artefacts are easily accessible to all those wanting to visit the area.



SPAARNWOUDE GOLF – A MULTIFUNCTIONAL EXAMPLE

Who in 1977 could believe that a small, newly built 9-hole pay-and-play course could grow to become one of Europe's largest golf courses, with 66 golf holes and many other facilities? The fact is that Spaarnwoude Golf Club transformed the entire golf sector in Holland. Not so very long ago, there were mostly private golf clubs in that country, but now golf in Holland has been opened up to a much wider membership through a number of affordable public golf courses.

Spaarnwoude is an excellent example of how an area of land can be used for many other activities besides golf. The golf course is one of the largest outdoor recreation areas in the Netherlands. Visitors to the course can also walk, jog, ride, cycle, paddle, play in the playgrounds and even ski on a 30-metre high artificial hill, created using two million cubic metres of soil and ballast. The golf course area has been continually improved with the intention of making it safe and accessible for as many people as possible. For example, a network of footpaths has been installed through the golf courses. Additional sight lines have been created so that non-golfers have the best views, while at the same time the safety is improved by making people more visible in places where accidents would otherwise occur.

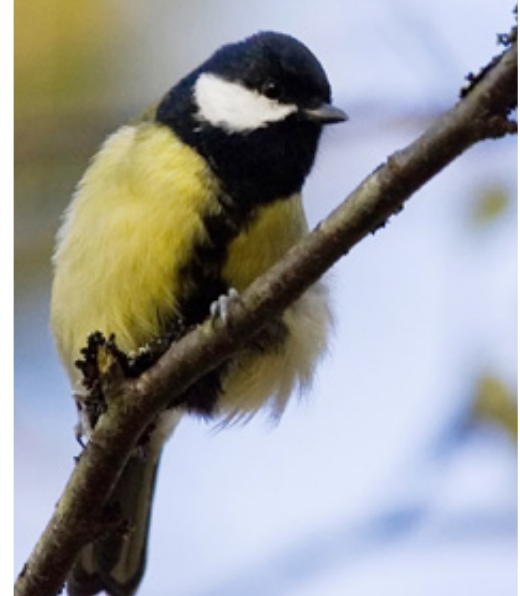
The proximity to Amsterdam and to the motorway resulted in immediate success once Spaarnwoude opened. Visitors happily drove for 90 minutes to get there and queue up on the first tee. With the demand for golf that was created, it was a natural progression to extend the course. A 'golfhouse' was built, which included a



restaurant that was open every day of the week. Most outdoor recreation facilities in Holland only have a little kiosk that is open on Sundays, so the 'golfhouse' was something new and became a great success. It emerged that the word 'clubhouse' had negative connotations for many non-golfers, but calling the building the 'golfhouse' signalled a welcome to anyone who wanted to come in.

In the summer the course staff work intensively on the fairways and greens of the golf courses, while in

the winter they take care of the forest and other areas. This division of work has meant that the many natural habitats on the land have been developed in a positive way over the years. In order to succeed with a multifunctional project such as this, it is important to involve people with the appropriate expertise. Careful planning is required and slightly more land is needed than for a conventional golf course in order to make space for an optimal mixture of activities.



SUGGESTIONS FOR POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES ON A GOLF COURSE

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ☐ Archery | ☐ Guided nature tours | ☐ Stamp collector meetings |
| ☐ Arboretum (tree collection) | ☐ GPS navigation races | ☐ Quiz evenings |
| ☐ Bee keeping | ☐ Horse riding | ☐ Rules classes for golfers |
| ☐ Bird watching | ☐ Indoor golf lessons – with soft balls, putting competitions. etc. | ☐ Running |
| ☐ Boules | ☐ Kite flying | ☐ Seminar evenings |
| ☐ Bowling | ☐ Lectures on archaeological finds | ☐ Shows and exhibitions of different types |
| ☐ Bridge | ☐ Local history talks on the cultural history on the land | ☐ Skiing trials |
| ☐ Classes in zumba, salsa and other dances | ☐ Long distance skiing races | ☐ Sledge and toboggan slopes |
| ☐ Cooking classes | ☐ Minigolf | ☐ Stamp collecting meetings |
| ☐ Cooking teams – who meet to prepare food for the week | ☐ Model boat sailing on ponds | ☐ Walks around the golf course |
| ☐ Cross-country riding – equestrian events | ☐ Model aeroplane flying | ☐ Weight training |
| ☐ Exercise classes | ☐ Mushroom picking | ☐ Wine tasting |
| ☐ Fashion shows | ☐ Nordic walking (with poles) | ☐ Yoga |
| ☐ Film evenings with refreshments | ☐ Obedience or agility classes for dogs | ☐ Own suggestions:..... |
| ☐ Football gol | ☐ Orienteering (running or walking – combined with a treasure hunt) | |
| ☐ Frisbee golf | | |

CONTACT DETAILS AND REFERENCES

STERF

Maria Strandberg
Box 84, 182 11 Danderyd
+ 46 70 620 17 87
maria.strandberg@golf.se
sterf.golf.se

NORDIC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Nordic Council of Ministers Working Group for Terrestrial
Ecosystems (TEG)
Jannica Pitkanen-Brunnsberg
c/o Forststyrelsen, PB 94, FI-01301 Vanda
+358 40 1968 632
jannica.pitkanen-brunnsberg@metsa.fi
www.norden.org

PROJECT GROUP

NORWAY

Ole Römer Sandberg, Department of Landscape Architecture
and Spatial Planning, Norwegian University of Life Sciences,
ole.sandberg@umb.no
Bård Andresen, Vestfold Fylkeskommune, Norway,
barda@vfk.no
Svein Tveitdal, UNEP and Arendal & Tvedestrand kommun,
Norway
Svein.Tveitdal@mail.unep.no
Pål Melbye, STERF and Norwegian Golf Association,
Paal.Melbye@golfforbundet.no

DENMARK

Christina Boje, Environmental Board, Denmark
chboe@mst.dk

Maria Kock-Jensen, The Danish Outdoor Council,
mkj@friluftsraadet.dk
Torben Kastrup Petersen, STERF and Danish Golf Union,
tkp@dgu.org
Thomas Roland, Heritage Agency of Denmark,
roland@kulturarv.dk

ICELAND

Hildur Vesteinsdottir, Umhverfisstofnun, Environment Agency
of Iceland
hildurv@Umvhverfisstofnun.is
Hödur Thorsteinsson, STERF and Icelandic Golf Association,
hordur@golf.is

SWEDEN

Mårten Wallberg, Swedish Society for Nature
Conservation - Stockholm Branch,
marten.wallberg@naturskyddsforeningen.se
Bette Malmros, Regional Planning Office, Stockholm
County Administration Board,
Bette.Malmros@regionplanekontoret.sll.se
Carina Wettemark, Biosphere Office,
Kristianstad Vattenrike, Biosphere Reserve
Carina.Wettemark@kristianstad.se
Maria Strandberg, STERF,
maria.strandberg@golf.se
Karin Schmidt, STERF
karin_dagmar@hotmail.com

FINLAND

Kristiina Laukkanen, Finsk Golfunion,
kristiina.laukkanen@golf.fi

GOLF COURSES

ARENDAL & OMEGN GOLFKLUBB, NES, TVEDESTRAND KOMMUN, NORWAY.

Arendal & Omegn Golfklubb, Nes, Tvedestrand kommun, Norway.

Nes Verk Golfpark, 18-hole course and 9-hole short course (pay and play). The area covers around 750 hectares.
<http://www.arendalgk.no/>

HÄSSELBY GOLF, HÄSSELBY /STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

9-hole golf course, practice range and large, year-round driving range. Approx. 16 hectares.
www.hasselbygolf.se

KJÖLUR GOLF CLUB, MOSFELLSBÆR MUNICIPALITY, ICELAND.

18 hole course using 67 hectares of the Blikastadane peninsula. www.gkj.is

KRISTIANSTADS GK, ÅHUS, SWEDEN.

Two 18-hole courses covering a total of 120 hectares.
www.kristianstadsgk.com

KÖPENHAMNS GK, JÄGERBORG ANIMAL PARK, KGS LYNGBY /COPENHAGEN, DENMARK.

Golf course with 18 holes. Covers 27 hectares. Scandinavia's oldest golf club, founded 1898.
www.kgkgolf.dk

OPPEGÅRD GK, OPPEGÅRDS MUNICIPALITY, NORWAY.

The course has 18 holes, a practice area and a driving range with a total areal of around 260 hectares.
www.oppegardgk.no

SMÖRUM GOLFCENTER, SMÖRUM/COPENHAGEN, DENMARK.

The golf course has 36 holes on an area of 217 hectares. The land is leased from the local authority.
www.smorumgolfcenter.dk

GOLFBAAN SPAARNWOUDE, VELSEN-ZUID, HOLLAND.

A large golf and outdoor recreation facility with a total of 66 golf holes, spread over approx. 130 hectares.
<http://www.golfbaanspaarnwoude.nl>

NORDIC GOLF ASSOCIATIONS

Danish Golf Union, www.danskgolfunion.dk
 Finnish Golf Union, www.golf.fi
 Golf Association of Iceland, www.golf.is
 Norwegian Golf Association, www.golfforbundet.no
 Swedish Golf Association, www.golf.se/SGF

STERF PROJECTS

Information from the following projects has been used in this guide. Find out more about these projects at sterf.golf.se

The role of golf course management in the support of wetland-associated organisms in greater metropolitan Stockholm.
 Johan Colding, Beijer Institute of Ecological Economics, Royal Swedish Academy of Science (2006-2008)

The influence of golf on nature and environment – analyses and evaluation of the environmental performance in Scandinavia. Bente Mortensen, GreenProject (2006-2008)

Environmental Management Systems for Golf Facilities: a Case Study in the Stockholm and Uppsala Golf Districts.
 Mårten Wallberg, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation -

Stockholm Branch (2007-2009)

Multifunctional golf course with unique natural and cultural values. Carina Wettemark, Biosphere Office, Kristianstad Water Kingdom (2009-2010)

Preservation of cultural landscapes and cultural heritage elements on golf courses.
 Ole Römer Sandberg, Norwegian University of Life Sciences (2009-2012)

EDITORS FOR THE PUBLICATION

LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE:

Maria Strandberg, e-mail maria.strandberg@golf.se

EDITOR: Karin Schmidt

ART DIRECTOR AND GRAPHIC DESIGN: Björn Andersson

TEXT AND PICTURES: Björn Andersson, Art Director, Swedish Golf Federation

Carina Wettemark, ecologist, Biosphere Office, Kristianstad Water Kingdom Edwin Roald, golf course architect and journalist, Iceland

Karin Schmidt, communicator and editor, STERF and others.

Maria Strandberg, director and project manager, STERF
 Mårten Wallberg, chairman, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation - Stockholm Branch

Philip Spogård, golf course architect, Spogård & VanderVaart Golf Course Architects

Pål Melbye, course manager, Norwegian Golf Association

Ole Römer Sandberg, architect and professor, Norwegian University of Life Sciences Torben Kastrup Petersen, course director, Danish Golf Union

Patrik Olofsson, Eco Images Karin Magntorn, Biosphere Office, Kristianstad Water Kingdom. Fredrik Linse, Hässelby Golf Club.

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