

RAMSDALE PARK



RAMSDALE PARK SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY AND PROMISES

Introduction



Ramsdale Park Golf centre is committed to driving sustainability through its interventions in both environmental and social responsibility. Our ongoing commitment to sustainable development is highlighted by our long lasting accreditation in the GEO certification, gained in September 2020, along with BGL's nine other sites also holding the same accreditation, highlighting our commitment to continued improvement. Ramsdale Park aims to improve 7 key areas:

1. Planning policies and procurement
2. Staff and golfer engagement
3. Taking climate action
4. Conserving resources
5. Fostering nature
6. Strengthen communities
7. Tracking & reporting



Planning Policies & Procurement

What's Being Done

Sustainable procurement continues to be a key focus area at Ramsdale Park Golf Centre. In 2024, we strengthened our commitment to local sourcing and efficient logistics, prioritising nearby suppliers and minimising unnecessary transportation.

Through these efforts, we reduced delivery trips by 52 per year, saving approximately 2,600 miles of travel annually. This initiative has led to notable reductions in both transportation costs and CO₂ emissions.

To further improve efficiency, we have introduced fixed delivery days, allowing suppliers to consolidate and batch orders. Within the Pro Shop, we have successfully transitioned from plastic to paper bags, eliminating the use of 2,000 plastic bags annually — preventing approximately 12 kg of plastic waste each year. Additionally, we have replaced plastic water bottles with cardboard alternatives, further reducing our plastic footprint.

Our greenkeeping team also sources around 80% of supplies locally, and when items must be ordered from farther afield, bulk orders are made to minimise the frequency of deliveries. We are also working to reduce reliance on rapid deliveries by conducting more comprehensive stocktakes, helping to prevent unnecessary orders and further limit emissions.

What Can Be Improved

While significant progress has been made, supplier engagement remains a key area for ongoing improvement. We aim to enhance coordination between departments and explore collaboration opportunities with nearby businesses that may share suppliers. By coordinating delivery runs, we can further reduce vehicle trips and associated emissions.

To support this, we are considering assigning a dedicated team member to oversee order approvals and grouping, ensuring orders are consolidated wherever possible. We are also exploring ways to embed sustainability commitments into supplier contracts, including clauses that encourage combined deliveries, improved route planning, and investment in electric or low-emission delivery vehicles.

These initiatives not only help to lower emissions and transportation costs but also provide measurable outcomes. We plan to track delivery mileage reductions on a weekly or monthly basis and report these figures as part of our ongoing commitment to sustainability and operational efficiency.



Staff & Golfer Engagement

What's Being Done

At Ramsdale Park Golf Centre, we recognise that sustainability is a shared responsibility, with both staff and visitors playing a vital role in driving continuous improvement across the site.

Operationally, staff awareness and accountability have been strengthened through the use of sustainability checklists, ensuring responsible management of air conditioning and lighting systems. These measures have helped embed energy efficiency into day-to-day operations, contributing to a reduction in Scope 2 emissions.

Member engagement has also been enhanced through the monthly newsletter, which now features a dedicated section highlighting one of our seven sustainability promises. These updates provide insight into initiatives such as biodiversity enhancement projects and charity fundraising activities, fostering a sense of shared ownership and community involvement in Ramsdale Park's sustainability journey.

In addition, initiatives such as the Cycle to Work scheme have been promoted internally. However, uptake has so far been limited due to factors such as shift patterns and site accessibility.

What Can Be Improved

There is an opportunity to relaunch and better promote the Cycle to Work scheme to increase participation and make sustainable commuting more accessible for staff. Enhancements such as installing secure bike storage or racks near the clubhouse, coupled with clear guidance on how the scheme operates, could help encourage uptake.

The Cycle to Work scheme enables employees to obtain a new bicycle and accessories through a salary sacrifice arrangement, allowing them to save on income tax and National Insurance (NI). The scheme is cost-neutral for employers and can save businesses up to 13.8% in reduced NI contributions. Each 5-mile cycle commute saves approximately 1 kg of CO₂ compared to travelling by car, promoting both environmental and personal health benefits.

To further incentivise participation, Ramsdale Park could consider reinvesting employer savings — such as NI reductions — into employee rewards or small monthly travel allowances for those using the scheme. As the scheme also includes electric bicycles, it can be accessible to employees who live farther away or face challenging commutes.

Beyond commuting initiatives, Ramsdale Park should continue embedding sustainability across staff training, newsletters, and internal communications, while introducing recognition or reward programmes for employees who demonstrate exemplary sustainable practices. This approach would not only strengthen engagement but also reinforce the site's ongoing commitment to sustainability and well-being.



Taking Climate Action

What's Being Done

Ramsdale Park Golf Centre has already taken significant steps to reduce emissions and enhance operational efficiency. Since 2021, the club has achieved a 17% reduction in overall energy consumption, alongside the introduction of waste segregation systems in office areas to improve recycling performance.

All waste collected from on-course bins is now sorted and recycled, as the majority of course waste materials are recyclable. A simple yet impactful change was also made in hospitality operations: the removal of individually wrapped biscuits served with hot beverages. In 2023 alone, with 45,669 hot drinks served, this initiative saved approximately 91 kg of plastic packaging waste. Looking ahead, plans are in place to collect and reuse coffee grounds from the clubhouse café and kitchen, transforming what was previously waste into a valuable resource for soil enrichment. This initiative will support healthier turf and biodiversity across the course.

In 2024, Ramsdale Park unveiled a fully refurbished, all-electric kitchen, replacing older gas-powered equipment with modern, energy-efficient appliances. The results were immediate: gas consumption decreased by 5,437 units compared to 2023, reducing carbon emissions while aligning with future plans for on-site renewable electricity generation via solar panels.

Further energy savings have also been achieved through the installation of LED lighting in the hallway and Course View Suite, saving approximately 4,752 kWh of electricity in 2024 compared to the previous year.

What Can Be Improved

To build on these achievements, Ramsdale Park aims to:

Implement the planned coffee ground reuse system, reducing waste while enhancing soil health and vegetation growth on the course.

Improve recycling and waste tracking to monitor performance, ensure compliance, and hold staff accountable for correct waste segregation.

Deliver further staff training to increase awareness of proper waste management practices and embed sustainability deeper into daily operations.

Introduce timer controls for external lighting (e.g., car park areas) to ensure lights are automatically turned off when not required, minimising unnecessary energy use.

By focusing on these improvements, Ramsdale Park can continue to reduce its environmental footprint, enhance operational efficiency, and demonstrate clear progress in its commitment to sustainability and responsible resource management.



Conserving Resources

What's Being Done

Resource efficiency remains a core focus of Ramsdale Park Golf Centre's operations. Across the site, several initiatives have been implemented to reduce waste, lower emissions, and optimise resource use.

In the Pro Shop, cardboard boxes are reused for returns and storage, helping to minimise unnecessary disposal and reduce Scope 3 emissions. Meanwhile, a turf nursery has been established behind the driving range, enabling the club to grow high-quality turf on-site. This reduces reliance on external suppliers and provides a sustainable, locally sourced supply of turf for course maintenance.

During 2023/24, five holes were upgraded with new pathways to prevent recurring areas of wear that previously required re-turfing. This initiative has reduced the ongoing use of materials and the transport emissions associated with external turf deliveries—further contributing to lower Scope 3 emissions.

In catering operations, bread deliveries now use branded, reusable units, allowing all empty containers to be returned and reused rather than disposed of, reducing packaging waste.

Significant progress has also been made in water efficiency. The installation of waterless urinals and the adjustment of water pressure across facilities have resulted in savings of nearly 1,000 cubic metres of water, decreasing usage from 4,498 m³ in 2023 to 3,543 m³ in 2024. These actions not only conserve water but also reduce operational costs and environmental impact.

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What Can Be Improved

To build on this success, Ramsdale Park aims to:

Continue rolling out resource-saving pathways across both courses, particularly in high-traffic areas, to further reduce the need for re-turfing and limit material use.

Expand the turf nursery to ensure there is sufficient sustainable turf to supply the entire course.

Monitor and regularly report water consumption to maintain staff accountability and identify opportunities for further savings.

Undertake a free Severn Trent water efficiency audit to identify potential areas for additional improvement.

Investigate opportunities for rainwater harvesting, such as redirecting rainwater to a designated collection area for use in course irrigation, thereby reducing reliance on mains water.

By continuing to prioritise resource efficiency and responsible water management, Ramsdale Park will strengthen its position as a leader in sustainable golf course operations, supporting both environmental stewardship and long-term operational resilience.



Fostering Nature

What's Being Done

Ramsdale Park Golf Centre continues to play an important role in supporting and enhancing local biodiversity. As a golf course, the site provides a mosaic of habitats that are vital for a wide range of wildlife species.

In 2024, the club expanded its biodiversity initiatives with the installation of 25 bird boxes across the course, providing safe and secure nesting sites to compensate for the loss of natural habitats. This initiative supports local bird populations and contributes to the long-term preservation of native species.

To further encourage biodiversity, bee-friendly flower beds and hanging baskets have been planted throughout the site, offering valuable forage for pollinators throughout the season. These efforts not only enhance the ecological value of the course but also improve its visual appeal for members and visitors.

Additionally, the pond constructed on the 9th hole of the Seely Course in 2022 has developed into a thriving ecosystem, now home to carp, ducks, and various other aquatic and terrestrial species. This habitat has become an important feature in Ramsdale's landscape, supporting water quality, biodiversity, and natural balance.

Ecological surveys conducted in 2024 also confirmed the presence of common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle bats, both of which are protected species in the UK. Their presence highlights the ecological value of Ramsdale Park and reinforces the need for continued, targeted habitat conservation efforts.

What Can Be Improved

To further enhance Ramsdale Park's biodiversity impact, the next step is to develop a deeper understanding of the species present on-site and to tailor conservation efforts accordingly.

This can be achieved by:

1. Conducting annual biodiversity monitoring to track species presence, abundance, and activity.
2. Developing a comprehensive species list to inform targeted conservation strategies. For example, the common pipistrelle bat, a known resident species, typically inhabits woodland edges and grasslands near ponds, where they forage for flying insects. Conservation measures could therefore focus on enhancing waterbodies and improving woodland management around these areas to create more suitable foraging and roosting habitats.
3. Continued support for pollinators is also essential. Ramsdale Park can maintain and expand seasonal planting schemes, particularly in low-traffic or out-of-play areas, by introducing wildflower meadows. These landscapes are low maintenance, cost-effective, and provide multiple environmental benefits, including:
 - a. Creating vital habitats for pollinators
 - b. Improving soil health and preventing erosion
 - c. Enhancing flood resilience through water retention
 - d. Acting as natural carbon sinks, with the potential to store up to 3 tonnes of carbon per hectare each year

These actions not only support local wildlife but also contribute to Ramsdale Park's broader climate action goals, demonstrating the club's ongoing commitment to sustainable land management and habitat enhancement.



Strengthening Communities

What's Being Done

Community engagement continues to be a cornerstone of Ramsdale Park Golf Centre's sustainability strategy. The club remains deeply committed to supporting local initiatives and strengthening relationships within the community.

In 2024, Ramsdale Park raised £30,000 for two local charities — the Nottingham Homeless Support Team and a mental health charity for teenagers. This funding helped 92 homeless individuals secure accommodation during the year, making a tangible difference in the lives of vulnerable members of the community.

On-site, the club also supports ongoing clothing donation initiatives, with approximately four collection bins filled and distributed every two months to assist local homeless individuals.

Ramsdale Park takes pride in actively participating in community events, such as the Calverton Village Get Together, where staff hosted stalls, shared information about the club's sustainability initiatives, and engaged residents in fun and interactive activities. In 2024, the club also welcomed local Brownie and Squirrel groups to the driving range and adventure golf, offering a day of enjoyable, inclusive activities that help connect young people with the sport.

Additionally, Ramsdale Park is a local sponsor of the Paviers Women's Rugby Club, further supporting the development of grassroots sport and community well-being.

What Can Be Improved

Looking ahead, Ramsdale Park aims to further strengthen its community connections by:

1. Reintroducing structured work experience placements in 2025, providing opportunities for local students to gain practical skills and insight into golf course operations and sustainability.
2. Maintaining and expanding fundraising activities to continue supporting local charities and causes.
3. Building stronger partnerships with local schools, charities, and community groups to promote inclusivity, education, and shared environmental awareness.

Through these actions, Ramsdale Park will continue to enhance its positive social impact, ensuring the club remains an active and valued contributor to the local community.



