



Machinery Washdown: Gogarburn Golf Club

INTRODUCTION: Many products and practices used in golf course management have the potential to impact on the land and water environment such as burns, watercourses, ponds, lochs and groundwater. Effluents resulting from golf course machinery washing need to be managed correctly to comply with legislation and avoid potential pollution of the surrounding environment.

THE ISSUE

In 2011 Gogarburn Golf Club were made aware that the area they were using to wash down their course management machinery was too close to the Gogar Burn which runs through the course and there was a potential pollution risk. To comply with the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (CAR) and GBRs 10 and 11 they decided to install a new wash water system at a suitable location.

THE SOLUTION

The club used guidance produced by Scottish Golf in partnership with SEPA and enlisted the services of a local architect and builder. The proposed solution was approved by the local SEPA Officer and the club paid them a small fee of £75.

The club already demonstrates best practice following grass cutting, by using a return maintenance track which allows the majority of grass clippings to fall off the machinery wheels before reaching the maintenance area. They minimise the amount of water used to wash down machinery by appropriately planning frequency of washdown and use brushes and air hoses where applicable to reduce water use.

A new concrete bunded washpad area was designed and built at the other side of the car park, a suitable distance from the Gogar Burn. Machinery is now able to drive on to the area and straight off the other end without having to reverse.

The water hose still comes from the original supply point so a new water connection was not required.

AT A GLANCE...

>> Gogarburn installed a new machinery washpad in accordance with SEPA legislation.

>> Grass clippings are removed from an interceptor chamber

>> Effluent from the new washpad is treated in a grass swale/soakaway

>> Further legislation guidance for machinery washdown can be found on the [NetRegs page for Golf](#)

The area is for the washdown of turf management machinery only. All pesticides are stored, prepared and rinsed in accordance legislation and do not enter the wash pad.

OUTCOMES

The concrete benching and bunding guides the wash water to a central interceptor chamber to trap any grass clippings. The clippings are easily removed from the interceptor and appropriately disposed of.

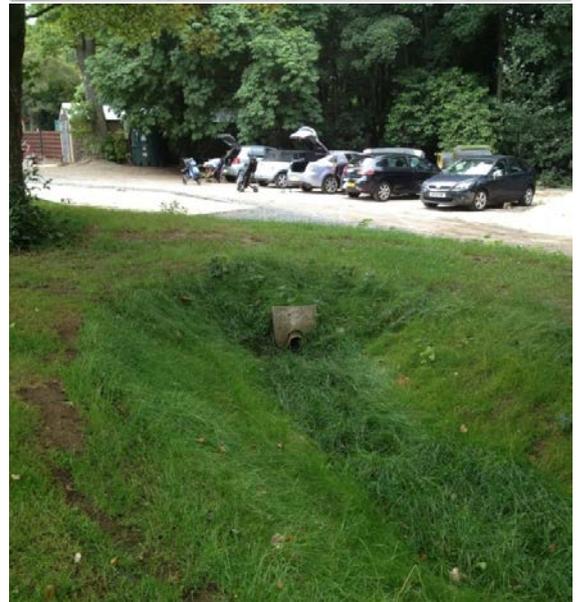
A number of options for disposal of the wash water effluent were considered including discharge to sewer, to a reed bed or biobed, through an activated carbon filter system or to a biological closed loop recycled system.

As the water use is minimal, it was decided that the effluent would be discharged into a grass swale a few metres from the washpad. This grass swale will naturally filter the effluent and will cope with light background contamination (allowing degradation in the topsoil) giving sufficient treatment. The swale was integrated successfully into the landscape of the course along the side of the 1st hole fairway. The swale was designed to slow down the water flow and although unlikely, any flow passing over the swale will flow into a natural soakaway area in the woodland edge.

This solution was also deemed the most economical option with the total cost of architect design, materials, mini digger hire and labour (plus a small SEPA fee) being below £10k.

FIND OUT MORE

If your club would like to promote its business success story or require support in this area, please contact your Club Development Officer or Environment Manager Carolyn Hedley c.hedley@scottishgolf.org



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