

Mr Richard Hamilton
Course Manager

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To whom it may concern,

Re: Screening Opinion La Grande Mare

My name is Rick Hamilton and I am the Course Manager for the whole of the La Grande Mare site.

I have been asked to comment on the condition of the site (generally). My experience is based on the following:

- 28 years' experience in land management all over the World;
- City & Guides qualified engineer;
- Turf Management Certificate from the University of Georgia;
- Overseeing and applying the first ever environmental certification in Hong Kong & China with the Audubon Society;
- I have worked with the Golf Environmental Organisation for a number of years;
- I am a PGA Tour golf course auditor;
- I have worked in Australia, Asia, America and the UK; and
- I am from Guernsey and attend many local wildlife and biodiversity lectures and events and including the very first Pollinators Project at Les Cotils.

I commenced employment at La Grande Mare in 2018 and the land (whilst open and used) was coming to the end of its life expectancy in certain areas. In applying my knowledge as the former head consultant for the PGA Tour of America and the whole of China, we applied good land management techniques to improve landscaping (generally), consult qualified tree surgeons, eradicate Japanese Knotweed (to which the Douzaine commended us) and manage the ditches and ponds by dredging them and installing a new outfall pump. All green waste was stored and recycled and nothing goes off site or wasted. These best practices were applied to the greater part of the site and including the better SSS which is cut and maintained.

A fair description of the land from when I was employed to present was fair/good to improving and lacked best-practice maintenance, which it has now received. There is a clear delineation in the land between the golf course and wildlife. They are both managed differently but visually and sustainably go hand-in-hand. That is a fundamental part of my job and expertise.

In terms of the "new" areas of land, the other SSS outside of my workshop is best described as poor, pungent and contains noxious weeds. It is so poor it cannot be grazed. The other areas are a very overgrown redundant glasshouse site (which is an eyesore) and two areas of arable land which are compacted areas that offer little or nothing to sustain biodiversity or contribute to climate change. I have experience in turf and land management quality as I devised Asia's first turf/land management programme from 2006-2015. These areas, collectively, could make a far superior contribution.

The new course areas only utilise a part of these areas and the remainder would make a vastly improved contribution to biodiversity and landscaping. I have applied similar plans in Royal Perth (Australia), Kau Sai Chau (Hong Kong) and Palm Island (China), amongst others. This not only

including application of varying landscape management plans but also training staff and employees in applying and sustaining them.

I take my job and roles extremely seriously and engage in Guernsey best practice and work alongside key States of Guernsey bodies and initiatives at every opportunity. For me, proper and sustainable land management is about awareness, sustainable management and education/learning.

This is an excellent project that should be embraced.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R Hamilton
Course Manager