

Goring and Streatley Golf Club, UK



49 Year Old Irrigation System Was Ready for an Upgrade

Property Details:

Irrigation Consultant
Irritech

Contractor
Irrigation Control

Rain Bird Products
Stratus™ II Central Control
IC System™
700 Series Rotors
900 Series Rotors

PROJECT OVERVIEW

In an area of outstanding natural beauty in Berkshire in the UK with stunning panoramic views of the Thames Valley and Ridgeway, Goring and Streatley Golf Club is an 18-hole, par 71 course designed by golf course architect Harry Colt.

CHALLENGE

The irrigation system was 49 years old, was leaking, and had failing electrics. In 2016, the six-man course team spent two and half months working on irrigation problems alone to keep the course playable. During long spells of drought, the ground would bake hard, causing a hydrophobic effect, leaving poor conditions in wet weather. The challenges of the site were evident from the initial survey, with its changing topography, multiple services including national electrical distribution lines and Thames Water pump stations, through to the chalk and flint ground conditions throughout the course.

The irrigation consultant designed the system upgrade to include a water storage lake and borehole abstraction, taking into account the huge static changes (circa 70 metres across the site) and the need to conserve water and be more energy efficient. Ground investigations allowed the contractor to identify and allocate the most suitable and specialist plant required and to plan with the client, a coordinated programme from the outset which ensured contract targets would be met.



RESULTS

Goring and Streatley Golf Club upgraded to a Rain Bird IC System with Stratus II Central Control software equipped with mapping functionality. The core irrigation infrastructure was completely replaced with all new pipework and a total of 739 Rain Bird Golf 700 and 900 series rotors across greens, tees, approaches and fairways.

Having a fully functioning Rain Bird system has made a significant difference in terms of time saved. Irrigation on the fairway for the first time has had an agronomic impact, enabling use of different products and wetting agents to keep specific areas receptive to moisture right through the season.

“The most vital feature defining a great golf course is its irrigation system. The major investment we’ve made helps secure the club’s future and brings to life our mission to become the club of choice in BB&O (Berks, Bucks and Oxon Golf).”

— Martin Hucklesby, General Manager at Goring and Streatley Golf Club
