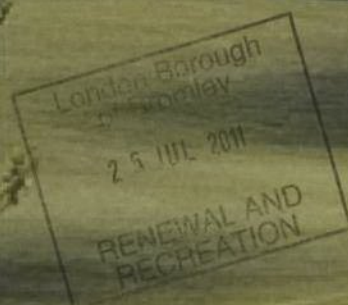


Course Alterations: Summary and Justification

Woodland Environmental
March 2011



11/02499

Forword

FORWORD

This report is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Planning Design and Access Statement for:

Modernisation of Golf Club involving: New Chipping Academy and Putting Green. Resurfaced Car Park. Installation of Multi-Shot Driving Range over existing practice ground outfield (no range netting), demolition of existing range building, provision of new single storey range building, remodelling of 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th holes to improve playability, visual amenity and safety; using recovery of inert soils, scheme of planting and landscaping including planting of 11,730 trees and shrubs. Construction of temporary haul roads and compound comprising portable building and wheel washing facility for the duration of construction operations.

At Cherry Lodge Golf Club, Jail Lane, Biggin Hill, Westerham, Kent TN16 3AX.

The document provides an in-depth hole by hole analysis of the course alterations proposed in the scheme, with a discussion of course problems and proposed solutions.

Introduction

INTRODUCTION

Cherry Lodge Golf Club dates back to the late 1960s and it would seem that little of any significance has changed with respect to the design of the golf course since then.

The course is laid out on the natural ground formation with the only discernable earth movement being what was used in the construction of the tees and greens. As a result many holes lack interest in their contouring. The holes that do have some interest are those that encounter one of the two natural valleys that run through the site. Unfortunately the layout of the course hasn't always accounted for these exaggerated contours sensibly or effectively resulting, for example, in the cross-fall on a fairway being so steep that a golf ball has little chance of staying on it. With the absence of ground shaping surface drainage is not controlled and is instead governed by the natural lie of the land. This leaves the course vulnerable to wet ground conditions in some unacceptable areas. As there is no evidence of modern day catch basin drainage or of sub-surface perforated pipes it must be assumed that the golf course relies solely on natural drainage.

The issues outlined above can all be addressed with some selective grade changes, mounding and complimentary drainage. This would lead to significant playability, maintenance and aesthetic improvements.

With regard to the main golf course features, the greens lack any real design and as is the case with the tees as well they are very small by modern day standards and generally in poor condition. The bunkers are little more than holes in the ground with some sand in the bottom. They have no real character, shape or definition and as a result lack presence on the golf course. The course often has no discernable strategy with regard to the design of the holes and with the main golf course features being so weak variety is limited.

With little or no earth movement and ground shaping and with the absence of strong bunkering, the healthy presence of mature trees provides much needed visual interest and can be considered the main feature of the golf course. They also provide valuable safety barriers in some key places. The trees comprise mainly native deciduous species but unfortunately there are a number of Leyland Cypress trees which are unattractive, non-native and quite simply out of place. Their value is confined to providing safety and protection in certain areas but elsewhere on the course they have no value at all.

Tightly packed into 44.4 Ha (110 acres), many of the golf holes are too close to each other and the course boundaries by modern safety standards, the result being many places where the golf course is unsafe as are areas adjacent to it. Adding to this problem and creating new ones is the advancement in golf equipment technology over the last 50 years. The result is a course that hasn't grown, changed or kept pace with the modern game, as the golf ball is being hit further and further especially by the average club member. In some instances safety issues are created or compounded because the natural contour of the land is unsuitable for the golf hole. For example when the angle of slope on a particular fairway is so great that a hook or slice shot is unavoidable by most players playing from it. A situation such as that undoubtedly increases the chances of shots going astray onto adjacent fairways.

There are many instances where the golf course needs safety measures putting into place to give protection to other golfers, footpath users (footpaths run adjacent to the boundaries as well as crossing the course), roads and neighbouring properties. Native, deciduous trees have been planted in certain areas but maturity is quite a number of years away and so these trees are unable to provide the level of protection currently required. Without the benefit of mature trees, mounding is the best form of safety barrier on a golf course. Providing it is shaped to look as natural as possible this can be effectively incorporated into the golf course landscape.

New planting, especially used in conjunction with new mounding, improved design of the golf holes and stronger golf course features can all contribute to improving safety and to raising the standard of the course in general.

Cherry Lodge Design Rationale

CHERRY LODGE DESIGN RATIONALE

Considerations

When assessing a golf course with a view to introducing improvements there are a number of elements that are always taken into consideration. These include course layout, appearance, condition, safety, strategy, challenge and circulation. The 'tools' available to tackle any weaknesses or issues raised in the assessment of these elements are summarised under the headings below, with specific reference to the approach taken at Cherry Lodge.

Relocation of golf features

Fundamental change to a golf course can be effected through the repositioning of greens and fairways and, to a lesser extent, through changes to the location of tees and to bunkering and other hazards (e.g. water features), but the extent to which such measures are appropriate is dependent on the space available, the degree of disruption that is acceptable to the golf club and, of course, the available budget. In the case of Cherry Lodge, where the course is owned by the Members, part of the brief was to minimise any disruption to play and not to alter any greens

DESCRIPTION

The 1st is a strong par 4 to start the round. While it is long for an opening hole, it is downhill to the green and therefore rewarding the golfer who hits a solid opening tee shot. The ideal line for the tee shot is to the left side of the fairway which then allows an easier approach shot to the green, however this means flirting with the fairway bunker on the left hand side.

The green complex is attractively framed by trees and as it sits at the bottom of the valley, there are excellent views of the green complex from the fairway.

CURRENT PROBLEMS

The hole has strong strategic and aesthetic elements and therefore no changes are proposed to this hole.

SCORECARD

Existing: 396 Yard Par 4

Proposed: 396 Yard Par 4

Hole 2

DESCRIPTION

A long par 4 with a subtle change in direction in the fairway. The tees are offset from the fairway centre and set low down offering a restricted view of the hole (and players) ahead. The three fairway bunkers give the hole its character and strategic element.

CURRENT PROBLEMS

The tees are lower than the fairway and therefore offer only limited views of the hole and players ahead. The aesthetic quality of the hole is diminished by the restricted view of the fairway. This also contributes to an increased risk of golfers on the fairway ahead being hit by shots from players on the tee unaware they are still in range.

Range balls from the practice ground do stray onto the 2nd fairway which can not only cause slow play as golfers search for their own ball amongst the others on the fairway, but there is a risk of golfers being struck by mishit range balls.

PROPOSAL ITEMS

Build a new tee complex 2 meters above existing ground level.

Increase the surface area of the tee to 450m² and formalise the shape.

Introduce mounding along the right side of the hole between the 2nd fairway edge and the practice area.

Introduce new tree and shrub planting along the right side of the hole between the fairway and the practice ground outfield.

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

As with the nearby 6th tees there is limited space available and therefore it is not possible to raise the tee complex to a level that allows a full view of the fairway. However, even a 2 meter lift will allow a good view down the hole. This will not only allow a more extensive view of the hole's features but will also allow golfers on the tee to see those on the fairway and therefore judge when it is safe to hit their shots.

The new mounding on the right of the hole will add much needed definition to the fairway, especially when viewed from the tee. The fairway edge will be shaped up onto the lower portion of the mound thereby creating an attractive effect along the right side of the hole.

The new mounding will also form a barrier between the practice ground and the 2nd fairway thereby reducing the number of range ball running onto the 2nd hole.

To further enhance the hole in years to come a programme of native tree and shrub planting is to take place as illustrated in figure 13 (purple areas). . In time the additional tree and shrub planting will further reduce the number of balls that leave the confines of the practice ground outfield, while also adding both visual interest and ecological benefits.

SCORECARD

Existing: 390 Yard Par 4

Proposed: 390 Yard Par 4

Hole 3

DESCRIPTION

The 3rd hole is an attractive short hole, nicely framed by mature trees and greenside bunkers. The approach is 'pinched in' by a line of trees about 140m out from the tees, making for a tricky shot to the left side of the green.

CURRENT PROBLEMS

Review of problems affecting the hole:

Land: High point of the hole is in the middle of the fairway therefore land falls towards green from the right creating surface drainage problems around the right side of the green, particularly for the bunker located there.

Little visual interest in movement of land on this hole.

Low tees, low green and slight crown in fairway compromise visibility to the green from the tees.

Safety: Adjacent 6th green potentially at risk from off-line tee shots to the left.

Leyland Cypress trees protect golfers walking behind the green on the 4th hole but are unnatural and unattractive.

The back tee is quite close to the perimeter of practice ground and consequently there is an increased risk of golf practice balls straying onto the 3rd tee area and someone being struck.

Playing strategy:

A straight shot is required as trees lay either side of the hole and bunkers are positioned left and right of the green.

Depending on the wind, this hole can play long or short therefore requiring different clubs at different times.

The raised ground in front of the green makes the green look nearer than it is, making club selection more difficult.

Aesthetics:

View to green from the tee is poor due to low tees, low green and general lacklustre design of green complex.

General aesthetics improved due to presence of deciduous trees but damaged by presence of Leyland Cypress trees and pine to front left of tees. Also Leyland Cypress trees behind the green are out of place among the deciduous trees and are generally unattractive.

Golf course features i.e. tees, green, bunker etc. very poor in design, condition and appearance.

Difficulty:

Small green and tree-lined fairway add elements of difficulty to this hole.

Poor visuals of green from the tee will prevent some golfers from understanding how they are going to play the hole

Leyland Cypress and pine trees to front left of tees intrude on the golfer's vision when standing on the tee looking at the green.

Direction:

Hole plays towards the south east. Prevailing wind from the south west makes hole more challenging.

Fairway width:

Hole is wide enough but trees either side make it feel narrower.

PROPOSAL ITEMS

Details of proposed course changes:

- Maintain hole length and par rating.
- Raise tee area and re-construct tees.
- Remove Leyland Cypress and pine from front left of tees.
- Remove Leyland Cypress trees from behind the green.
- Replace trees removed from behind green with mounding to separate 3rd green from 4th hole.
- Support mounding to existing bunkers can be added as part of new mounding at rear of green.
- New mounding added to right of green.
- Existing oak trees to be retained.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

Details of how the new proposals will solve the current problems:

- The existing tees are too small, uneven and in very poor condition, therefore enlargement and re-construction of the existing teeing ground on this hole will help to solve that problem. Raising the tees will provide golfers with a better view of the green.
- Removing Leyland Cypress and pine trees from front left of tees will expose the more natural and more attractive deciduous tree behind. It will also visually open up the hole more from the tee.

- Removing Leyland Cypress trees from behind the green will allow more light to the green thereby improving the growing conditions for the grass. It will also remove this non-native and unattractive species from another part of the golf course.
- By replacing trees removed from behind green with mounding, the physical separation of the 3rd green from the 4th hole is maintained. Since the trees were providing something of a safety barrier to golfers on the 4th hole, the mounding will retain that element of safety by also providing height at the back of the green. It will also generally improve the presentation of the green complex.
- Support mounding added to existing greenside bunkers will help to make them more visible from the tee.
- Introducing mounding to the right side of the green complex will give some asymmetry to the hole giving it a greater aesthetic quality. The approach fairway will be shaped up onto the lower portion of the new mounding to create an attractive visual effect.
- New mounding added to right of green will prevent surface drainage collecting in and around right greenside bunker.

SCORECARD

Existing: 180 Yard Par 3

Proposed: 180 Yard Par 3

DESIGN RATIONALE

The 3rd hole at Cherry Lodge Golf Club needs visual improvement. The design rationale is to achieve this whilst maintaining and enhancing current safety features as well as solving drainage issues.

The green complex is poorly presented, which for a par 3 hole in particular is very disappointing. Par 3s are the shortest holes on the golf course and by default short enough to be only one shot from tee to green. When you stand on the tee of a par 3 you are looking at the entire hole and therefore usually (but not always or necessarily) the green complex will be in view. As a designer it is an opportunity to 'paint' the entire picture, in other words the entire hole can be encapsulated in one view both in terms of aesthetics and strategy. It is therefore desirable to make the most of that opportunity with strong aesthetic and strategic design. Where the 3rd hole at Cherry Lodge fails to deliver in these terms is the presence of the Leyland Cypress trees and the weakness of the green complex.

By removing the unattractive Leyland Cypress trees greater attention will be drawn to the existing deciduous trees located on this hole. In the case of the Leyland Cypress and pine trees to the front left of the tees, removal of this group will bring to the fore the more attractive deciduous tree hidden behind. This will arguably be a more attractive hole with the Leyland Cypress trees gone.

There is an opportunity to introduce some interesting ground movement through new mounding at the back and to the right of the green. Instead of relying on unattractive trees to provide vertical

height and therefore a barrier between this hole and the 4th, that physical separation can be gained through mounding of a suitable scale instead. This also presents the opportunity to enhance the green complex which at present almost blends into the flat ground. Introduction of some subtle earthwork detail in and around the green complex (something that is currently missing) will help to lift its appearance and will also deal with the problematical surface drainage issues which currently exist. Exaggerating the problem of the 'low profile' green is the slightly crowned fairway which distorts the view from the low tees. Raising these tees will overcome this issue and work in tandem with the improvements being proposed at the other end of the hole.

If the presentation of the hole is improved it will most certainly be a more enjoyable hole to play.

Hole 4

DESCRIPTION

The 4th is one of the shorter par 4's on the course with an attractive green complex nestling within a copse of mature trees. The view from the tee is defined by the linear hedge line on the right and left sides of the hole. The slight dog-leg in the fairway creates some strategic element to the hole.

CURRENT PROBLEMS

Review of problems affecting the hole:

Land: Very little fall for good positive surface drainage therefore potential drainage issues.

Horizontal profile, flat and uninspiring.

Low tees, low green and slight crown in fairway compromise visibility to the green from the tees.

Safety: Adjacent 7th hole potentially at risk from off-line tee shots to the left.

Tee end of practice range to right of fairway lies only 30 – 40m off centre of fairway therefore vulnerable to errant tee shots - although in part protected by tall Leyland Cypress trees. 60m would be industry recognised minimum safety distance in this instance.

Playing strategy:

No clear playing strategy exists other than the requirement for two straight shots.

One small fairway bunker on the right – not very prominent and hardly discernable from the tee.

Out of bounds to be avoided on the right and mature copse of trees on the left will block out second shots if tee shot lands behind it.

Small green situated in a tight corner surrounded by trees presents difficult target. No bunkers.

Out of bounds to the left adjacent to the green and approach to be avoided.

Aesthetics:

Hole visually poor from the tee due to flat profile creating open expanse from left to right.

Aesthetics improve on progress down the hole towards the green as impact of mature trees increases.

Golf course features i.e. tees, green, bunker etc. very poor in design, condition and appearance.

Fairway has little definition with no visual aids such as mounds or bunkering to indicate the shape of the fairway and therefore best target line.

Difficulty:

Not as difficult with modern equipment as it would have been when first designed.

At 379 yards from the back tee this hole would be considered relatively short by modern standards.

Out of bounds makes it more difficult especially around the green which is a small target.

Direction:

Hole plays in a westerly direction. Prevailing wind is from the south west so during these conditions the hole will play longer than in calm conditions.

Fairway width:

Generally wide enough but little room for error around the green.

PROPOSAL ITEMS

Details of proposed course changes:

- Move tees 30m further west, enlarge and raise.
- New mounding to left of first part of fairway covering existing rough ground. Mounding up to a maximum height of 3m. Planting on top.
- Lower mounding to right side of first section of fairway avoiding existing mature trees.
- Mounding associated with reshaped practice ground extended to edge of 4th fairway.
- Existing fairway edge bunker set into the new mounding.
- Re-shape, enlarge and add support mounding to original bunker
- Add second fairway bunker on right side of fairway at 250 yards with support mounding around back to make bunker visible from tees.
- New mounding to left of second half of fairway covering existing rough ground.
- 7000m² of native broadleaf tree and shrub planting introduced on mounding to left of fairway.
- 850m² of native broadleaf tree and shrub planting to replace the cleared cypress trees.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

Details of how the new proposals will solve the current problems:

- The existing tees are too small, uneven and in very poor condition, therefore re-construction of the existing teeing ground on this hole will help to solve that problem. Raising the teeing area will help to improve the view of the green.
- New mounding to the left hand side of the fairway, prior to the copse of mature trees is a positive solution to the existing poor ground conditions as it will provide extra protection to the adjacent 7th hole. It will also improve the aesthetics of the 4th hole, help to frame the

hole from the tee and focus the golfer's eye down the line of play. This in turn improves the playability of the hole and allows the golfer to see and think more clearly about the shot he is about to play. Planting on the new mounding (not shown on illustration) could also be considered and may help to further blend this new feature into its surroundings.

- New mounding on the right side of the fairway will not only help to alleviate surface drainage problems encountered by the bunker to the right of the third green but will also complement the new mounding on the opposite side of the fairway. With some extra height on either side of the fairway the hole will visually be much more clearly defined.
- By re-shaping, enlarging and adding support mounding to the original bunker on the right side of the fairway protection for the practice range is increased in the area that is not protected by the tall, mature Leyland Cypress trees. This part of the range is separated from the 4th fairway by smaller deciduous trees which will offer better protection in the spring/summer when in leaf but inferior protection in the winter when the branches are bare. The stronger presence of a bunker in this area will help to discourage golfers from hitting in this direction for fear of being caught by the hazard.
- Adding a second fairway bunker on the right side of the fairway at 250 yards together with support mounding around back to make the bunker visible from tees, the message to most golfers not to hit the ball anywhere in that direction, long or short, will be emphasised.
- By adding new mounding to the left of the fairway beyond the copse of mature trees again deals with problem of poorly draining rough ground in a useful manner, creating improved landform. The introduction of this mounding to the golf hole will help to focus the golfer's attention towards the green and away from the boundary fence and house whose presence is close by. Supplemented by new planting it will add further protection to this property and concentrate the golfer's focus on where he should be hitting the ball as opposed to where he shouldn't. This new mounding will also compliment the other new mounding mentioned above.

SCORECARD

Existing: 379 Yard Par 4

Proposed: 343 Yard Par 4

DESIGN RATIONALE

Golf is not just a physical game i.e. swinging a club to strike a ball; it is also a mental game.

The power of the mind to influence the outcome of 'a shot' should not be underestimated, indeed it is widely recognised that there is a significant psychological element involved in playing golf. The relevance of this to golf course design is that what the golfer sees on the ground all has a psychological effect on how he assesses the challenge of the hole or shot he is about to play.

As the golfer stands on the tee today he/she will consider the fact that 'out of bounds' exists along the right side of the hole and that on the left side a copse of large mature trees provides an obstacle some way down to the left of the fairway. The existing bunker on the right is almost indiscernible

and therefore serves little purpose in its present state. The green is not visible but the top of the flag can just about be picked out a long way in the distance. He/she will see that the fairway is fairly generous and flat and this will be exaggerated by the fact that the land to the left is also flat and open (until a hedge separating this hole from the adjacent 7th hole is encountered). The golfers attention is not particularly focused on where the best place to hit his tee shot is (perhaps more likely where he shouldn't be hitting it, considering the out of bounds) and there aren't too many visual references helping him judge distance.

Through intelligent golf course design, the way a golfer thinks can be influenced and so where they select to aim and place their shots can likewise be influenced.

The key design alteration is the introduction of perimeter fairway mounding. The intention of the mounding is primarily to give definition and focus to the view from the tee. The asymmetrical mounding either side of the fairway leads the eye to the intended target. In the landing area for the drive (from c.180yds) the mounding is 'pinched in' with a new bunker on the right hand side. This adds a strategic element to the hole as the golfer needs to skirt with this bunker to get the best line into the green. To further enhance the definition of the fairway it is proposed that the toe of the mounding will be cut as fairway (contour mowing) which will give an aesthetically pleasing shape to the fairway.

There is requirement to make safety changes to the 14th hole (see 14th appraisal). These will have a direct bearing on the safety of the current 4th tee complex location as it will be in range of a majority of the golfers driving from the new 14th tees. For this reason it is proposed that a new tee complex is constructed 30 meters further forward. This does allow the opportunity to increase the size of the teeing area, which is currently a little small. By also adding additional height to the new tees the golfer will have good view of the hole ahead.

Bunkers are key features used to help establish strategy on a hole. Their presence can encourage the golfer to make a choice regarding how they are going to play their shot, which direction they are going to hit their shot and how far they intend to hit the ball. Bunkers can also be used to discourage golfers, usually those less competent or less confident, from hitting towards the area they're located. The two proposed bunkers work in tandem. They provide a reference point for distance from the tee and therefore influence club selection. Better golfers will concentrate more on the far bunker as this will be in the range of their best tee shots, whereas less competent and less confident golfers will focus more on the bunker closest to the tees. If they feel this bunker is a threat to their tee shot then they may not decide to hit a driver for fear of playing into the bunker, instead choosing a club that doesn't hit the ball as far but by default should provide greater accuracy.

To further enhance the hole in years to come a programme of native tree and shrub planting is to take place as illustrated in the figure below. Not only will the planting frame the hole, it will also be of great ecological benefit through the expansion of the woodland copse already present on the golf course.

Good players and or players playing the golf course strategically will want to play their second shot from a position on the right side of the fairway. This means getting as close to the second bunker on the right of the fairway as possible without going in. If this position is achieved from the tee then the angle opened up to the green from that position will result in an easier shot to the flag.

The proposed design strategy for this hole not only addresses the issue of interest and challenge for the golfer but equally addresses the issues of safety and course condition as described above.

Hole 5

DESCRIPTION

The 5th is an attractive hole meandering down the side of a valley. From the tees there are expansive views down the hole and across the general landscape of the golf course. The only real distraction from the aesthetic quality of the hole is the location of the practice ground to the right of the fairway.

CURRENT PROBLEMS

The existing tree line between the fairway and the practice ground, especially near the tees, is very sparse with the result that the area around the tee complex is ill-defined and somewhat exposed . This coupled with the visual intrusion of the practice ground outfield with its targets and range balls scattered across the turf do not add to the aesthetic quality of the hole.

The close proximity of the practice ground outfield does also lead to stray shots running close or onto the 5th fairway (see figure 30). This can be very annoying for golfers playing the 5th, who are faced with having to check numerous other balls before they find their own. This also leads to slow play while the search is undertaken.

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- It is proposed that fairway mounding is introduced along the right hand side of the fairway. This mounding will have the dual function of restricting views from the 5th tees towards the practice ground outfield and also preventing a high proportion of range balls from running onto the 5th fairway.
- With the construction of the mounding there is an opportunity to incorporate a new complex within the mounding bank thereby giving a more intimate feel to the teeing area. The additional height of the tees will enhance the aesthetics of the hole with even better views down the fairway.
- A program of native tree and shrub planting is proposed along the new mounding. In time this will create an attractive natural separation of the 5th fairway and practice ground. Ultimately the additional height of the trees will also reduce further the number of range balls that digress onto the 5th fairway.

SCORECARD

Existing: 430 Yard Par 4

Proposed: 430 Yard Par 4

Hole 6

DESCRIPTION

The 6th is the second longest hole on the course and while the topography is relatively flat the mature trees along its perimeter and the fairway bunkering give the hole good definition.

CURRENT PROBLEMS

There are two design issues; the first relates to the back tee complex, which, being a lot lower than the level of the fairway does not permit the golfer to see any of the fairway. This has both safety and aesthetic implications.

The second is that the green complex lacks some visual interest when viewed from the approach area of the fairway.

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- The existing tees are too small, uneven and in very poor condition, therefore enlargement and re-construction of the existing teeing ground on this hole will help to solve that problem. Raising the tees will provide golfers with a better view of the green.
- It is proposed that additional mounding is introduced around the back of the 6th green. This simple addition to the complex will give an aesthetic quality by framing the view from the approach area..
- Due to the limited space it is not possible to raise the tee complex to a level that allows a full view of the fairway, however by lifting it by 2 meters it will allow the view of a section of fairway. Similarly the raising of the tee level will allow golfers on the tee to see those on the fairway and therefore judge when it is safe to hit their shots.

SCORECARD

Existing: 539 Yard Par 5

Proposed: 539 Yard Par 5

Hole 7

DESCRIPTION

The 7th is an attractive hole with a gently undulating fairway lined by mature woodland copse and hedgerow. The green complex is thoughtfully bunkered and framed by mature trees.

CURRENT PROBLEMS

The hole design is too linear in layout with a straight route between tee and green giving the golfer little to assess from the tee. This linear appearance is emphasised by the hedgerow to the right of the hole which stretches its entire length.

There is a safety issue that needs addressing as a consequence of the required changes to the 14th hole. Golfers on the 7th tee complex are in potential danger from balls being hit from the revised 14th tee complex.

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- Building a new tee complex 35 meters south in the existing woodland to address both the design and safety issue outlined above.
- Introduction of two areas of fairway mounding to the left of the fairway.
- Raise tee by 2m and increase area. Formalise shape to make more efficient mowing / maintenance
- Removal of the existing tee complex and replanting the area with native trees and shrubs
- The construction of a new tee in the woods to the south of the existing complex will have the dual function of enhancing the strategic and aesthetic appeal of the hole while also addressing the safety issues. A common design solution to add interest to a hole is to offset the tees from the centre line of the fairway. By doing this an extra dimension is added by effectively creating an angled fairway for the golfer to hit. The golfer has to assess the best line to hit his shot – aim too far left and there is a risk of not making the fairway but aim too far right and the drive can carry into a hazard such as a bunker or as in this case the hedgerow. Aesthetically the view of the hole changes quite dramatically even with a relatively small change to the view of the fairway.
- Because of the sloping land in the area of the new tee complex they will need to be built up by 2 meters in order to permit good visibility of the fairway. This is important for both safety (ensuring no golfer on the fairway is in danger of being hit from the tee) and for aesthetic reasons by allowing a good view of the hole ahead.
- The size of the teeing area will also be increased to 450m² in total, which is more in line with current design specifications. Greater teeing area permits greater spread of wear and therefore improves overall appearance and quality of the complex. The shape of the tees will also be more formal in shape (rectangle or square) which allows easier cutting than irregularly shaped tees.

- Two areas of fairway mounding are to be introduced along the left side of the hole to provide both definition and separation from the 10th fairway that runs parallel to the 7th. As with other proposed areas of perimeter fairway mounding, where the toe of the mounding meets the existing fairway level, the fairway cutting regime will extend partly up onto the slope, thereby creating a more aesthetically pleasing effect. Allowing the grass on the remainder of the bank to grow longer will create a very striking effect when viewed from the fairway.
- It is proposed that the existing tee complex will be removed and in its place tree and shrubs are to be planted. Whilst this will have limited aesthetic benefit to the hole it is required to mitigate the clearing of the trees and shrubs for the new tee location.

SCORECARD

Existing: 497 Yard Par 5

Proposed: 481 Yard Par 5

Hole 8

DESCRIPTION

The topography of the 8th hole makes it a classic par 3 with the elevated tees allowing a great view of the putting surface and surrounding features. The conifers to the right of the hole rather dominate the view and look incongruous in this context.

CURRENT PROBLEMS

Review of problems affecting the hole:

Land: Land falls quite steeply from teeing area to bottom of slope some 40m from green.

Visibility from existing back tee to green poor as slope of land in front impairs vision so that only back half of green can be seen.

Ground flattens out into a shallow valley in front of green causing poor surface drainage conditions.

Safety:

Public footpath currently crosses in front of the back tee at right angles to shot line then continues for a short distance alongside the hole before veering off to the right. Footpath users are at risk from tee shots played from the current back tee as they will emerge unseen from behind existing trees directly in front of tees.

The tees of the 9th hole lie to the left of the 8th green with the shot line of this hole angling towards them. They are at a higher elevation than the 8th green but are still in very close proximity and in danger of stray shots in their direction.

Playing strategy:

A long, downhill par 3, which when playing into the wind could easily require a driver from the tee.

In favourable conditions, a much shorter club could be employed and the opportunity to use the right to left sloping terrain to access the green is there. A shot played over the bunker on the right and onto the down slope beyond can result in the ball running onto the green.

The safe option is to land the ball short of the green as there is more room there than might appear and trouble lies left, right and over the back.

Aesthetics:

Hole visually poor from the current back tee as landform prevents golfer from seeing anything but the back half of the green.

Group of Leyland Cypress trees on the right side of the hole screen the car park but are a non-native species which look artificial and out of place.

Difficulty:

Difficult hole from the current back tee due to length (215 yards) and restricted vision to the green. Difficulty significantly increased when playing into the wind.

Out of bounds on the right somewhat of a threat but hole angles away from it so should not generally present a problem.

Direction:

Hole plays in a north westerly direction and is angled towards the 9th tees, coming too close at the green.

Fairway width:

Generally wide enough but approach to green cannot be seen from back teeing ground.

PROPOSAL ITEMS

Details of proposed course changes:

- Remove current back tee and forward tee.
- Construct new tee in position immediately in front of current forward tee, raising teeing ground in the process.
- Remove group of Leyland Cypress trees to right of fairway and replace with new mounding. Re-construct existing bunker as part of new mounding.
- Add new pond to front left of green.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

Details of how the new proposals will solve the current problems:

- It is proposed that a new tee complex is built 50 meters closer to the green. The current tee complex forces golfers to use longer hitting clubs to reach the green. Such clubs are more likely to be hit off line and consequently there is a higher risk of shots straying toward the car park and clubhouse. Moving the tee forward by 50 meters means that golfers will be using more lofted clubs which are less likely to go so far off line. The new teeing ground will be raised to give a full view of the hole and not just a limited view of the back of the green as is currently the case.
- Removing the current back tee will also remove the danger to footpath users crossing in front of this tee from the left and significantly reduce any danger to footpath users walking towards the tees from the right. The new tees are positioned such that the section of footpath to the right is in full view from them. Anyone emerging from left or right will now pass behind the new tees instead of in front as is currently the case with the existing back tee.
- Removing the group of Leyland Cypress trees to the right of the fairway will improve the general aesthetics of this hole and the golf course in general. As these trees screen the car park from view and provide it with protection, mounding of a suitable height will be added in their place to fulfil the same roles. The mounding will also give some protection to the footpath on the right. The position of the existing bunker will be retained in order to retain strategy but the bunker itself will be re-constructed as part of the new mounding in order to give it an enhanced presence.

- Adding a new pond to the front left of the green is a positive solution to the poorly draining ground present there and will provide protection to the closely situated 9th tees. It will also add a new strategic element to the hole which has been shortened (by some 55 yards) and therefore made easier due to the positioning of the new teeing ground.

SCORECARD

Existing: 215 Yard Par 3

Proposed: 164 Yard Par 3

DESIGN RATIONALE

The current back tee presents two problems:

- 1) Footpath users are in danger of being hit by tee shots.
- 2) Only the back half of the green can be seen from there.

Bringing the tee forward and raising it solves both these problems. From a golfing perspective it is very disappointing not to be able to see the majority of a par 3 hole in front of you, especially the green as that is the target from the tee.

Shortening the hole makes the hole easier because shorter, more accurate clubs can be used from the tee. The addition of a new pond short left of the green will compensate for this by placing the emphasis on greater accuracy from the tee. The original line into the green from the right will still be a viable option so the existing bunker to the right of the fairway will be retained as a hazard. Its shape and visibility will be enhanced as it becomes part of the new mounding.

The new pond serves two other functions apart from that of strategy: it provides a safety feature for the 9th tees by encouraging golfers to avoid it by playing their shots further right; and it provides a solution to the poor drainage in this area.

Whilst the Leyland Cypress trees provide valuable height for screening and protection they remain unattractive and out of place. Grass mounding is realistically the only viable alternative on a golf course. This can provide the required height and mass to block out the car park and the path. Through skilled and imaginative shaping it can also provide the hole with improved visual interest.

Hole 9

DESCRIPTION

The 9th is an attractive short par 4. All the elements are present for an challenging and visually exciting shot. The tees are elevated well above the green complex giving a good view of the fairway bunkers and green. The hole is framed beautifully by the mature trees and hedgerow on its perimeter.

CURRENT PROBLEMS

This is solid hole in design terms and as such there are no problems or weaknesses that need addressing.

SCORECARD

Existing: 365 Yard Par 4

Proposed: 365 Yard Par 4

Hole 10

DESCRIPTION

The 10th hole is the longest hole on the course and consequently one of the more challenging. There are attractive elements to this hole with mature copse on either side of the fairway and a panoramic view of the green from the turning point of the fairway.

CURRENT PROBLEMS

Review of problems affecting the hole:

Land: Tees 3 or 4 metres below the landing area for the tee shot.

Land crowns around landing area and falls away quite steeply beyond making many second shots blind if drive is short. Some golfers will not see their tee shots land/finish. Any shots played from the down-slope are at risk of heading right, towards the 11th hole.

Bottom of valley runs through i.e. across fairway at second landing area resulting in poor surface drainage where land is low lying.

Safety:

Adjacent 7th hole potentially at risk from off-line tee shots to the left especially where large gaps exist between groups of trees.

12th tees potentially vulnerable to errant tee shots.

11th tees and first part of 11th hole extremely vulnerable to shots played to 10th green as these two holes get closer and closer to each other at this end of the golf course.

Playing strategy:

With a total length of 587 yards this hole will demand 3 shots to reach the green for the vast majority of golfers.

A tee shot with a driver favouring the left half of the fairway will allow an easier 2nd shot as the hole doglegs to the right.

From a reasonable drive most golfers will be aiming to play their second shots to the bottom of the hill. Most second shots will be blind unless a very good/long drive has been hit. A second shot down the left side of the fairway sets up a better third shot to the green and helps to avoid the fairway bunker

With a 2 tiered green as the target, the uphill 3rd shot needs to be accurate in order to land on the correct tier and thereby avoid a more difficult putt. This places a lot of emphasis on good club selection.

Aesthetics:

Hole better visually than most due to left to right dogleg and relatively dramatic land movement on second half of hole.

Groups of mature trees help to shape hole in places and provide good visual presence.

Open areas to left and right of hole contrast poorly with other sections of the hole that are defined with planting.

Difficulty:

A long hole for most golfers, who will find difficulty in having to hit 3 good shots to reach the green.

Sloping lies on the second half of the hole will present problems for the less competent golfer.

Blind second shot will present directional problem for some players.

Two tiered green will be tricky if on the wrong tier to the hole.

Direction:

Hole plays in an easterly direction which could present problems playing into low early morning sun if 10th hole used as starting point e.g. during competitions.

Fairway width:

Generally wide enough but narrowing down towards the green especially around the landing area for the second shot.

PROPOSAL ITEMS

Details of proposed course changes:

- Raise and re-construct tees.
- New mounding between deciduous tree groups to front left of tees. No tree removal except for group of Leyland Cypress.
- New mounding to right side of first section of fairway with new planting.
- New mounding to left of first landing area in gap between trees.
- New mounding along right side of fairway beyond landing area towards green.
- Continue adding mounding along right side of green (to help separate and protect 11th tees).

PROPOSED SOLUTION

Details of how the new proposals will solve the current problems:

- By raising and levelling off tee area the right hand tee will be able to move away slightly from the public footpath immediately to the right. A better vantage point resulting from higher tees will provide golfers with a better view of their tee shots therefore giving them the advantage of being able to shout a warning if an off line shot is heading towards other golfers.
- New mounding between deciduous tree groups to left in front of tees will provide extra safety to the adjacent hole 7.
- New mounding to right side of first section of fairway will improve the aesthetics of the hole by reprofiling a large, unused open area. As well as give further definition to the hole this mounding also serves a strategic function, requiring the golfer to hit their second shot to a zone left of centre and far enough along to get a clear view of the green. A second shot hit too short and right will result in a blind shot to the green. The combination of this and new planting will also provide better protection for the 12th tees.
- New mounding to the left of the first landing area in the gap between the trees will provide a continuous 'edge' to the fairway on this side of the hole. Not only will this improve the aesthetics of the hole but it will also provide extra safety for the adjacent 7th hole.
- By adding new mounding along the right side of the fairway beyond the landing area better separation and protection to Hole 11 is provided. Again, a continuous, physical 'edge' to the right side of this hole will also be created thereby improving the aesthetics of the hole. Raising the ground levels with this mounding will also help to deal with the poor surface drainage being experienced in the bottom of the valley crossing the second half of the hole.
- Continuing with mounding along the right side of the green will help to separate and better protect 11th tees whilst still retaining a line of sight to them.

SCORECARD

Existing: 587 Yard Par 5

Proposed: 570 Yard Par 5

DESIGN RATIONALE

The low position of the tees on the 10th hole present problems relating to vision as described above.

Psychologically golfers feel more comfortable and relaxed when they can clearly see where their ball is going to land. By raising the tees and therefore providing a better view from them, this hole will immediately be improved for the golfer. Better vision will also lead to better safety.

By introducing new mounding either side of fairway not only is safety further enhanced but a visual aid for the golfer is also provided. The height down the sides of the fairway provided by the combination of existing trees and new mounding (with additional planting) will define the hole much more clearly and focus the eye down the middle of the hole. This will enable the golfer to visualise where the ball should be played rather than allowing the eye to wander from left to right, which psychologically brings into play adjacent golf holes. Blocking out or reducing the visual presence of adjacent holes helps golfers to concentrate better on the hole they're playing which subsequently helps them not to think about the danger from an errant shot. The psychological side of golf is such that golfers will often be adversely affected by knowing or seeing where they do not wish to hit the ball.

With the 11th tees being so close to the 10th green additional mounding in this area is proposed with a view to providing something of a physical separation. The mounding will not be so high as to block line of sight to the tees however, as in this instance it is important to be able to see the potential danger of golfers on and around the tees in order to be able shout a warning if a stray shot should head towards them.

Hole II

DESCRIPTION

The 11th is a tricky short hole with a narrow fairway and a green well guarded by bunkers and closely flanked by mature trees. The view from the tee is dominated by the regimental conifers down either side of the fairway.

CURRENT PROBLEMS

Review of problems affecting the hole:

Land: Land falls from left to right for first part of fairway.

Valley cuts across fairway at landing area.

Land rises from bottom of valley 3 - 4m up to green.

Safety:

Teeing area very tightly positioned between 10th and 13th greens making golfers here very vulnerable to misplaced shots to both those greens.

First half of hole is too close to adjacent fairways, especially the 13th fairway.

Playing strategy:

Slight dogleg from right to left with corner protected by group of Leyland Cypress trees.

Left side of green partially protected by large tree on left edge.

Tee shot should anticipate left to right slop on fairway and should finish on right side of hole for best shot to green. This will ensure second shot is not blocked by tree on left edge of green.

Right to left dogleg, strategic shots to the right and left to right sloping fairway all make off-line shots to the right more possible and therefore adjacent 10th fairway vulnerable.

Aesthetics:

Leyland Cypress trees along right side of hole unnatural and unattractive.

Copse of mature deciduous trees is an attractive feature adjacent to green and provides important vertical scale and mass.

Leyland Cypress trees along left side of hole also unnatural and unattractive but give 'shape' to hole by creating dogleg. They also provide separation and safety from Hole 11.

The lack of foreground definition in the area to the right of the 11th tees draws the eye to the 10th green and fairway beyond rather than down the 11th hole. This is to the detriment of the holes aesthetic appeal.

Difficulty:

Not as difficult with modern equipment as it would have been when first designed as green now in range for a long drive.

Holes becomes difficult if behind trees from tee shot or blocked out by large tree on edge of green.

Any shot to green too long will result in a more difficult putt.

Direction:

Hole plays in a westerly direction. Prevailing wind is from the south west so during these conditions the hole will play longer than in calm conditions.

Fairway width:

Wide enough for length of hole from tee to landing area.

Perhaps too generous around approach to green for a short par 4.

PROPOSAL ITEMS

Details of proposed course changes:

- Add low mounding to left of teeing area.
- Remove Leyland Cypress trees and add mounding along right side of hole.
- Add bunker right side of fairway at top of hill in front of landing area.
- Add second bunker on right side at around 250/260 yards from tee.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

Details of how the new proposals will solve the current problems:

- Low mounding added to the left of the tee area will help provide protection from off line shots to the 13th green.
- By removing the Leyland Cypress trees and adding mounding along the right side of the hole aesthetics and safety are both improved. The Leyland Cypress trees are a non-native species and look unnatural in this environment. Their removal from the right side of this hole will improve the aesthetics of the general landscape and from the tee will fully open up the view to the mature copse of deciduous trees beyond. Removal of the trees will make way for some mounding between this hole and the 10th hole. This will now fulfil the role of safety and separation. The mounding will also help to partially block out the view of the tenth fairway from the tees thereby keeping golfers eyes focused on the hole they're playing.
- Adding a bunker to the right side of the fairway at the top of the hill in front of the landing area will enhance the strategy of this hole and add an extra safety feature in an attempt to keep golfers from erring too far right with their tee shots.
- A second bunker added to the right side at around 250/260 yards from tee will further enhance the strategy of the hole by narrowing the fairway in this area.

SCORECARD

Existing: 317 Yard Par 4

Proposed: 317 Yard Par 4

DESIGN RATIONALE

Removal of the Leyland Cypress trees on the right allows for better aesthetics but also for the introduction of some feature mounding thereby adding more interest to the hole. The mounding will also help to partially block off the view of the 10th fairway from the 11th tees. This safety precaution will seek to keep the focus of attention of the golfers on their own hole. Mounding to the right of the landing area where the trees were should represent a hazard for the golfer just as the trees did, thereby maintaining this strategic element of the hole.

The new bunkers can be shaped into the feature mounding to bring better strategy to this short par 4. The first right side fairway bunker makes the golfer think about the positioning of the ideal shot down the right of the fairway and helps to provide the message not to stray too far right towards the 10th fairway. This bunker has to be at the top of the hill so that it can be seen from the tee.

The second right side fairway bunker at 250/260 yards from the tee will come into play for the better players thinking of hitting a driver and trying to get as close to the green as possible with their tee shots. At present the approach area to the green is very generous and as a result encourages better and more confident players to go for the green in one or to hit a big drive. Without the proposed bunker this does not present enough of a risk as there is no danger in the area the ball will land. Both bunkers encourage golfers to consider their choice of club and shot off the tee and make them think about accuracy rather than distance. This should improve safety.

Despite being detrimental to the general aesthetics of the golf course, the Leyland Cypress trees on the left side of the hole should be kept as they give shape to the hole by forming the dogleg. They also provide separation and safety from Hole 11 in the form of a tall, dense, evergreen mass.

Hole 12

DESCRIPTION

The 12th hole is a medium-length par 3, set on an even, gentle downhill slope. The 3-tier green is defended by bunkers to the front left and right, and by a grassy hollow set in the centre of the fairway a little over 30m short of the green. Visually only a shallow sliver of green can be seen, together with the banks (but not the sand) of the bunkers, and the top edge of the hollow. Three sizeable native trees (two ash and an oak) and a number of Lawson cypress sit behind the green on the course boundary, and the uphill slope of the arable field to the west, rising to a wooded hill top, is visible beyond. However, the vista from the tees is dominated by parallel rows of mature Lawson cypress that line the fairway, creating a dense, dark green tunnel down to the green.

CURRENT PROBLEMS

Review of problems affecting the hole:

Land: Land falls very gently from tees to green.

Relative heights of tees and green make green difficult to see from the tees. Slight rise in the ground prior to green compounds this problem because changes in level are so subtle.

Horizontal profile flat and uninspiring.

Safety: Tees potentially vulnerable from tee shots from 10th hole to the right (see 10th hole report).

Hole plays on a narrowing angle towards the 13th tees with the edge of the main tee located only 30m from the centre of this green. Separation between the 12th and 13th holes is partially achieved by a row of individual Leyland Cypress trees. This row of trees stops some 35m short of the green leaving an open area between the holes where they begin to converge to within an unsafe proximity of each other.

Playing strategy:

With greenside bunkers situated both left and right the emphasis is very much on hitting a straight shot.

Poor definition of the green complex makes judging club selection difficult.

For shots into greens, as tee shots on par 3 holes always are, visibility of the target and any surrounding hazards almost always makes for a better golf hole, both strategically and aesthetically. On the 12th, there is insufficient visibility of the green to give any clear indication of the form of the putting surface or the relative positions of the hazards.

Boundary fence immediately behind green means shots that are too strong will be punished with out of bounds.

As hole plays down hill ball can be landed short to then run on to green.

Bunkers are just about visible but do not have a strong presence therefore do not contribute as much as they should do to the design of the hole. Left side bunker does not have the presence to dissuade golfers from straying left with their shots i.e. towards 13th tees.

Aesthetics:

Backdrop of trees and fields provide aesthetic setting for the hole.

General aesthetics compromised by straight rows of Leyland Cypress trees either side of the hole. These trees dominate the view from the tee detracting from the other features of the hole and the view beyond.

Green complex has no impact from the tee due to poor visibility.

Difficulty:

Hole plays straight into prevailing wind so will play longer and therefore harder on windy days.

On calm days hole will play shorter than yardage suggests as downhill from tee to green.

Direction:

Hole plays in a south westerly direction and therefore as noted above into the prevailing wind. As hole will play longer during these conditions longer clubs will be used from the tee which is likely to lead to less accurate tee shots.

Fairway width:

Made to look narrow by rows of Leyland Cypress trees.

Opens out on approach to green once past trees.

PROPOSAL ITEMS

Details of proposed course changes:

- Raise teeing area and re-construct tees.
- Remove row of Leyland Cypress trees and add new mounding to right of hole, covering existing rough ground and tying into fairway edge. Planting on top.
- Right side mounding to continue alongside green and around bunker to provide this with some support mounding.
- Remove row of Leyland Cypress trees and add new mounding to left of hole tying into fairway edge.
- Left side mounding to continue alongside green and around bunker to provide this with some support mounding.
- Add a second left greenside bunker. This will be incorporated into the new mounding.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

Details of how the new proposals will solve the current problems:

- Raising the existing tees on this hole will provide a better view of the green. Higher mounding to the right of the tees will provide protection from errant tee shots from Hole 10.
- Removing the row of Leyland Cypress trees to the right of the hole and adding new mounding up to the fairway edge will improve the aesthetics of this hole considerably. The existing Leyland Cypress trees are unattractive and out of place on a golf course such as this. Their removal will open up the views beyond the green. The new mounding will help to maintain a physical barrier and separation between this hole and Hole 10 and provide some relief to the uniform nature of the landform in this area. Supplementing this with new planting will further improve the general aesthetics.
- By continuing the right side mounding alongside the green and around the existing bunker the green complex will be better defined which also means the bunker will have an improved presence.
- Removing the row of Leyland Cypress trees to the left of the hole and adding new mounding up to the fairway edge will also improve the aesthetics of this hole considerably. As with the proposals for the right side of this hole, the removal of the unattractive and out of place Leyland Cypress trees will open up the views beyond the green. The new mounding will help to maintain a physical barrier and separation between this hole and Hole 13 and again provide some relief to the uniform nature of the landform in this area. Supplementing this with new planting will further improve the general aesthetics.
- By continuing the left side mounding alongside the green and around the existing bunker better separation from the 13th tees will be achieved. As with the right side proposals, the green complex will also be better defined and the bunker will have an improved presence.
- Incorporating a second left greenside bunker will provide an extra safety feature to persuade golfers to hit away from the 13th tees.
- The new trees and shrubs will be chiefly broadleaf species that will, unlike the cypress, let light through their canopies and have a much gentler framing and filtering effect. The new mounding merges into that on the adjacent 10th and 13th holes.

SCORECARD

Existing: 176 Yard Par 3

Proposed: 176 Yard Par 3

DESIGN RATIONALE

Providing a better view of the green makes judgement of tee shots easier, therefore the number of bad shots should be reduced.

Replacing the non native 'artificial' Leyland Cypress trees with tree planted mounding will transform the aesthetics of the hole. Interestingly shaped mounding provides more visual interest and better aesthetics than the regimented row of trees and uniform nature of the current landform. In addition

better views of the landscape beyond will be afforded. On the left side the proposed new mounding will maintain separation and safety whilst again providing greater visual interest.

Adding an extra bunker on the left side of the green and boosting the support mounding for the existing bunker will help to make golfers wary of going left off the tee. This will in turn help to protect the 13th tees from stray shots.

Hole 13

DESCRIPTION

The 13th hole is a par 5. The fairway crosses a shallow ridge before sloping downhill and right to left through the main landing area - a good drive will finish in view from the tee – then slopes gently down from east to west up to the green, which is protected by a bunker to either side.

An assortment of trees line either side of the fairway: there are a few mature native specimens but also a large number of large Lawson cypress and Lombardy poplars. A public right of way follows the course perimeter beyond a post and wire fence to the right of the fairway.

CURRENT PROBLEMS

Review of problems affecting the hole:

Land: Very little fall on fairway to begin with - horizontal profile flat.

Just before landing area ground begins to fall away into a shallow valley and slopes from right to left. Poor drainage exists in this area.

Very little fall on fairway beyond landing area to green – again, horizontal profile flat.

Some poorly shaped, low, individual mounds are in evidence along the right edge of the hole.

Safety: Tees very close to 12th green and vulnerable to shots missing that green on the left.

Footpath running alongside right hand boundary very close to hole is vulnerable to stray shots.

11th tees too close to green and therefore vulnerable to shots missing green to left.

Playing strategy:

Tee shot should be hit up the right half of the fairway to allow sloping fairway to feed ball into the centre. The ball will not be seen from the tee following a good shot.

Green can be reached with another good shot following a good drive. If the golfer has reached the top of the rise or beyond, they can think about going for the green in two.

A golfer laying up short of the green needs to concentrate on hitting the fairway as a wayward shot to the right will result in out of bounds and a danger to footpath users.

A third shot to the green should be a relatively straightforward pitch onto a large sloping putting surface bunkered left and right.

Aesthetics:

View from the tee relatively good but compromised by presence of Leyland Cypress trees.

Tees themselves in very poor state and condition.

Presence of Leyland Cypress trees along hole continues to detract from more attractive deciduous trees.

Small mounds along right side of hole look out of place.

Green complex flat and uninspiring.

Difficulty:

Out of bounds along the right side adds difficulty to an otherwise straight forward par 5 hole.

No fairway bunkers to negotiate.

If going for green in two then accuracy with a long club is tested as boundary very close to green on right.

Direction:

Hole plays in a north easterly/easterly direction. Prevailing wind is from the south west so during these conditions the wind will be behind the golfer helping them get distance on their shots.

Fairway width:

Generally wide enough.

Landing area generous

Little room for error around the green.

PROPOSAL ITEMS

Details of proposed course changes:

- Raise tee area to re-construct tees and give extra protection from 12th green (see also 12th hole proposals).
- Remove Leyland Cypress and Lombardy Poplar trees from right side of hole and add mounding.
- Incorporate existing individual mounds into new mounding.
- At 260 metres (284 yards) add new right side fairway bunker by incorporating it into new mounding.
- Continue mounding along right side of hole beyond poplar trees to green. Add new planting to this section of mounding.
- Add second greenside bunker on left by incorporating it into new mounding here (see also 11th hole proposals).
- Planting of a native, broadleaf hedgerow along the course perimeter, 525min length, to replace the post and wire fence.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

Details of how the new proposals will solve the current problems:

- The existing tees are too small, uneven and in very poor condition, therefore enlargement and re-construction of the existing teeing ground on this hole will help to solve that problem. Raising the teeing area in the process will help improve the vision to the currently blind landing area.
- Removing the Leyland Cypress trees along the right side of the hole will improve the aesthetics and view from the tee. These existing Leyland Cypress trees are unattractive and look out of place amongst the native deciduous trees. Adding mounding will help with safety and with the poor drainage around the area of the valley. It will also allow the existing mounds to be improved through their incorporation into the new landform.
- A new bunker at 260 metres (284 yards) on the right side of the hole can be incorporated into the new mounding along the side of the fairway as the land rises out of the valley. In this position it will be seen from the tee and therefore act as a deterrent to errant shots to the right, thus helping protection of the public footpath. The new bunker will also add some strategy to the hole by posing a threat to the tee shot of the better player.
- By continuing the mounding along the right side of the hole beyond the poplar trees consistency with new mounding is achieved from tee to green. With new planting supplementing this mounding a physical barrier is created between the fairway and the boundary thereby providing better protection for the footpath users.
- As outlined in the proposals for the 11th hole, some new mounding will help to separate the 11th tee from the 13th green. Adding a second greenside bunker on left of the 13th green by incorporating it into the new mounding will help to prevent golfers playing shots towards the 11th tees in an attempt to avoid the out of bounds on the right.

SCORECARD

Existing: 503 Yard Par 5

Proposed: 503 Yard Par 5

DESIGN RATIONALE

It is important to improve the safety for people using the footpath which runs very close to the fairway along the right hand boundary of the 13th hole.

Having knowledge of the out of bounds will make the golfer immediately wary of keeping his/her shot away from the extreme right of this hole. Physical barriers will reinforce the psychological awareness and so anything that can force the golfer to play away from the right side boundary and therefore the footpath should be put in place. This should be done without compromise to the aesthetics of the hole and indeed with enhancement of aesthetics very much in mind. The mounding on the right will supplement the existing trees and be supplemented by new planting.

The height and scale of this new landform will be kept in proportion to the space available, with the height of the actual barrier being maximised by the existing and proposed vegetation.

Adding another visual and recognisable hazard in the form of a right side fairway bunker will provide a further warning sign to golfers as they stand on the tee. At 260 metres (284 yards) this bunker is in range for a good tee shot and therefore will encourage the better player to consider club selection and choice of shot. As strategically the best drives should be aimed down the right of the fairway this bunker is perfectly positioned to catch anything slightly off line, thereby ruining chances of reaching the green in two. The hidden ground in front of it will make it appear closer to the less experienced golfer so that it becomes a deterrent for them as well.

With the out of bounds and therefore the footpath being so close to the right edge of the green, the difficulty of shots to this green are increased. The psychological presence of this boundary will affect the vast majority of golfers and in so doing will force them to seek safety with their shots, whether intentionally or not, away from the boundary and to the left of the green. This puts the dangerously close 11th tees at risk of stray shots. A second bunker, with support mounding, to the left of the green will help to protect those tees and send a message to golfers that a shot in that direction will not necessarily be a safe option as two hazards now await.

Hole 14

DESCRIPTION

The 14th hole, considered the toughest on the course, is a long par 4 requiring a drive across a valley followed by a long second shot into a sloping green protected to the left by a bunker. As with many holes on the course, the golfer is faced with an assortment of native and exotic trees to either side of the fairway. Visually the 14th is more interesting than the flatter holes that precede it, but a telegraph line intrudes on the view from the tee (one pole is actually set into the fairway), as does a length of safety fencing on the right hand side 35m from the tee.

CURRENT PROBLEMS

Review of problems affecting the hole:

Land: Large valley running across the fairway has to be negotiated from the tee.

Valley deep enough to ensure balls landing in the bottom are unseen from the current tees. Shots played out of the valley will be blind.

Poor drainage conditions prevail in this low lying area.

Shots played from the upslope are likely to fly right unless the golfer compensates for this significant slope.

Land flattens off beyond valley to green.

Horizontal profile – straight/flat.

Safety:

Significant safety problems along right side of hole due to the close proximity of the property boundary.

A road parallels the boundary for half the length of the hole with private property lying close to it around the area of the green. Existing mature trees currently provide screening and some protection.

4th tees, 6th green and 7th tees may be vulnerable from tee shots but are currently protected by existing trees.

Playing strategy:

Main aim from the tee is to carry the valley and find a good position on the flatter ground beyond - while avoiding the out of bounds on the right..

Hole doglegs from left to right with large tree standing in fairway on corner of dogleg. This will block out the green from any shots short and right.

If the golfer has not reached the top of the hill with their drive, they should lay up with their second shot; taking care to avoid the row of trees 80yds from the green on the left.

Very accurate shot to green required to avoid left greenside bunker and out of bounds close on the right.

Aesthetics:

Aesthetics of hole compromised by presence of Leyland Cypress trees. These detract from the strong presence of deciduous trees around this part of the course.

Wooden poles carrying electricity or telephone wires stretch down the fairway and the left side of the hole. One pole stands in the fairway, further compromising the view from the tee.

Valley across fairway provides interesting landform and a welcome departure from flat fairway views common from many of the tees on the course.

Green complex lacks presence, height and form, therefore hard to decipher from flat landform surrounding it.

Difficulty:

Significantly Stroke Index 1, therefore considered the hardest hole on the course.

Very difficult for weaker players to reach flatter ground beyond valley with tee shots.

Any shot behind the tree in the fairway and/or in the bottom of the valley makes the hole even more difficult.

Out of bounds very close to entire right side of hole and therefore a threat on every shot until safely on the green

Direction:

Hole plays in a north westerly/northerly direction.

Fairway width:

Landing area normally considered wide enough for present tee positions but narrow on approach to green and around green.

PROPOSAL ITEMS

Details of proposed course changes:

- Relocate tees some 80 – 90m further forward and cut down 1m. Mounds created immediately to right of new tees for added protection.
- Add new mounding to left and right of fairway.
- Narrow fairway down with new mounding at around 200 m (approx 220 yards).
- Cut back existing vegetation situated at approximately 250m (approx 275yards) from new back tee (approx 80 yards short of green) and add new bunker in its place.
- Remove bunker front left of green and add new bunker front right.
- Add new mounding between 14th green and 15th tees and tie in to low right greenside mounding and new bunker.

- New bunker 200m from new back tee, set on left edge of widened fairway into foot of a new mounded area.
- Planting of 2500m² of native trees and shrubs on the new mounding.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

Details of how the new proposals will solve the current problems:

- Relocating the tees some 80 – 90m further forward from their existing position will enable many more golfers to carry the valley with their tee shots and reach a better position on the flatter part of the fairway for their second shots. The new tee positions will also provide a better view of the hole beyond the dogleg. Shortening the hole also reduces the need for a long drive, allowing many golfers who would otherwise feel obliged to use a driver to take the option of a more restrained shot played for position rather than distance, thus further reducing the chances of wayward tee shots.
- By adding new mounding to the left and right of the fairway on the slopes to the valley the hole is relieved of its flat horizontal profile and the fairway is better defined. To the left of the valley bottom, new mounding here will help surface drainage issues and thereby address the wet conditions experienced in the low area.
- The new mounding will continue predominantly down the right side of the hole but some will be added to the left side just beyond the area of the 4th tees. From the right side fairway tree to a distance of about 260 yards from the back tee, new mounding will be brought into the fairway to narrow it down. The extra mounding on the left will perform a similar function. Providing a narrower, more definitive target area will seek to force the golfer not to hit a driver from the tee but to encourage the use of a shorter club such as an iron or rescue club. This should improve the accuracy of tee shots and reduce the number of long, wayward drives heading out of bounds on the right or towards the 4th tees on the left.
- A row of existing vegetation sits at right angles on the left edge of the fairway at approximately 250m (275yards) from the new back tee (this is approximately 80 yards short of the green). The end of this row which stops at the fairway edge compromises the view of the green from back down the fairway and because of its height and position will force many shots to the right. By cutting the end of this vegetation back the view to the green will be improved and less shots heading for the boundary on the right should result. Replacing this section of vegetation with a bunker, shaped so that a clear view to the green is maintained, will provide a hazard for better golfers trying to hit a long shot off the tee.
- By removing the existing front left greenside bunker, the route to the green on this side is opened up. With the addition of a new bunker to the front right of the green, these two proposals should together help to force golfers away from the boundary and therefore offer better protection for the property beyond.
- Adding new mounding behind the 14th green, between it and the 15th tees, will provide a visible profile to the green complex which will improve the golfer's ability to judge his distance to the green. This should result in a greater percentage of more accurate shots. By blending in this mounding with some low, right greenside mounding and the new bunker, the whole target area is better presented and defined.