



Harpenden Common Course Development Plan

2021

Membership Presentation

CDP - Introduction, Aims and Objectives

Introduction

- Course Development Plan (CDP) - set out the direction for future development of the golf course.
- Longer term visibility of proposed development.
- Securing the future of HCGC and raising the profile of the club within the area.
- 5 to 10 year plan – reviewed annually.

Proposals within the CDP are key to:

- Retaining our membership.
- Generating greater revenue from visitor and corporate play.
- Raising the profile of the club.
- Maintaining high quality course infrastructure.
- Improving communication on course development.

The aim of the CDP is to deliver a high quality golfing experience for members, visitors and guests, utilising input from:-

- Course consultant and advisors.
- Membership.
- Green staff.
- External specialists.
- Town Council – regarding common area and ecology.

CDP - Principles

Creation of the Course Development Plan was driven by the following guiding principles:-

- Build on the existing course layout.
- Ensure CDP is sympathetic to councils approach of managing the common area as heathland.
- Understanding the environmental and ecological impact of development proposals.
- Ensure continuity - Common/Jockey Field.
- Define and frame holes through cutting policy, planting and design.
- Extending the length of holes where possible.
- Further improving the quality of putting surfaces and greens complexes.
- Rebuilding tees and bunkers with improved drainage, irrigation and placement.
- Ongoing management of trees – creation of tree management plan in conjunction with council.
- Regular investment.
- Encouraging accurate shots with the repositioning/adding of bunkers, trees, gorse.
- Return the course closer to its original design roots.
- Ensuring fairness and playability of the course while creating an enjoyable challenge for golfers of all abilities.



Harpenden Common Course Development Plan

Hole by Hole Development Proposals

Hole 1 – Proposed Improvements

	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI
1	330	4	13	324	4	13	313	4	16

Our aim is to get your round of golf off to a great start with a picturesque hole that sets the scene with a high quality, fair but strategic challenge.

An enlarged tee will provide the view to a fairway framed by selective planting, placing a premium on accuracy off the tee.

For those willing to risk the carry over the mounds the playing surfaces in this area will be greatly improved thanks to enhanced drainage and new pathway reducing wear down the left-hand side.

The second shot to the existing narrow green will be framed by enhanced bunkering.

Thin/de-limb 3 trees left of green (723,724,725)

Install path from practice area down LHS tree line to existing path at hole exit. It is proposed to trim existing undergrowth this side of the ditch, enabling the path to be slightly wider and closer to the ditch. Add drainage to LHS of hole from mounds up to green, route drainage into ditch within trees.

Flatten mound nearest the path and investigate replacing grass on mounds with heather.

Plant semi mature trees along boundary of practice area to define hole.

Remove / thin oaks on LHS of tee. Tag numbers req'd



Trim/tidy up gorse and plant to fill gaps, improving backdrop to hole.

Enhanced bunkering on RHS of green to provide additional protection to, and reduce visual impact of, proposed new 18th tee.

Add 2/3 fairway sprinklers short of mounds.

Remove large conifers on RHS before 18th green, plant mature trees in their place to provide protection to green.

Add in new outside space to LHS of clubhouse, plant additional trees to protect this area from 1st tee shots

Grow rough from tee to short of fairway, cut grass path to fairway.

Re-build tee to create one new larger teeing area with improved drainage and irrigation, remove path to LHS of tee

Hole 2 – Proposed Improvements

	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI
2	384	4	5	376	4	5	360	4	2

Significant improvements to the playing surface of the teeing area will be achieved by removal and thinning of trees and shrubs around the teeing ground, providing the platform for players to hit their tee shot to a more clearly defined fairway.

Strategic mounding and shaping of rough cut beyond the left-hand dip will create a tighter landing area the further up the hole you drive. Club selection off the tee will be key for the longer hitter.

The quality of the green surface and approach area will be improved as a result of selective thinning of trees and addition of drainage around the green.

Remove Holly and scrub under trees LHS of green

Add new drainage LHS and short of green, option to drain to ditch by road

Thin/de-limb 1st tree on left of green (1486)

Grow standard length rough LHS from 150 semi cut to tree line up to road.

Remove Holly and scrub under trees LHS between road and rough from the tee to road

De-limb overhanging branches on oaks along edge of dip (558,562,565,566,574-576,582-584)

Create selective heather plots between tee and fairway

Remove 1 birch and remove dead branches of tree near road (#'s TBD)

Remove 2 trees and/or thin/reduce 3 trees left of green (1118,1451,1121)

De-limb trees on right of green (1124,1123)

Add 2/3 fairway sprinklers short of road.

Add grass mounding left of fairway beyond dip to create a risk and reward driving option. The pathway for walkers will remain unchanged along edge of tree line.

Grow rough from tee short of fairway, cut grass path to fairway.

De-limb overhanging branch oak (117 or 118) Remove 3 oaks to right of tee (123,124,125)

Clear holly and scrub in trees to RHS of tee and fairway approach.

Remove tee mat (contingent on crown reduction). Longer term – refurbish tee.

Hole 3 – Proposed Improvements

	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI
3	540	5	11	530	5	11	495	5	8

The first par 5 gives players the chance to open their shoulders to clear the cricket pitch. This will be made more challenging by lengthening the tee by 10 to 15 yards. The extra length will make this a true three shot hole.

Selective planting of gorse and heather and growing rough in out of play areas on the right of the hole will define the approach to the fairway and route into the green.

The green complex will be enhanced by the removal of the lip on the green which currently allows water to pool. Extended run-offs at the back and the right will provide a variety of recovery options from improved playing surfaces.

Lower back and right of green to aid drainage, extend run off long and right of green to improve playing surface quality right of hole.

Add 3/4 fairway sprinklers between mounds and birch on RHS.

Clear scrub between left edge of rough and road

Either Extend tee block further back and move bench or build new tee 10 yards back and to the right of the existing Tee. Crown reduce trees and remove one or more poor specimens to increase yardage of hole. (1104-1108)



Grow rough from 150 post down RHS tree line, Create heather and gorse plots within this area. Leave route along edge of trees for walkers, etc

Plant semi-mature trees as succession plan for existing mature silver birches and oak. (1091-1094). Preference to use deep rooting species.

Grow rough from tee to semi cut, down RHS to hollow and LHS to hawthorn, cut grass path

Hole 4 – Proposed Improvements

	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI
4	198	3	9	195	3	9	171	3	10

This very tough par 3 will see major change with a new larger tee extending to the left from the existing white tee. This creates multiple teeing options of varying difficulty.

Drainage will be installed from the hawthorn tree to the green approach to improve playing surfaces for those coming up short. The current path right of the green will be removed and re-routed to reduce traffic around the front right of the green.

The old path will be replaced with landscaped mounding creating an enlarged playable area to the right of the green visually improving the target area.

Longer term consider succession plans for greenside birch, replace with bunker or grass bunker and extend green on left.

Cut grass from hawthorn to approach at fairway length to improve quality of playing surface in this area.

Add sand band drainage to approach area, drain to natural ditch on RHS.

Re-build existing tee and extend tee block further left, reduce length and widen LHS teeing area.



Add back-to-back sprinklers on right hand greenside to improve turf quality right of green.

Re-route path through trees to right of green to reduce traffic near apron and green. Replace old path with mounding.

Remove limbs on 973 and 972. Remove split stem on 974

Grow rough from tees to hawthorn, add grass paths. Add selective gorse plots.

Hole 5 – Proposed Improvements

	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI
5	152	3	17	142	3	17	130	3	18

Standing on the newly refurbished tee a visually enhanced target area will greet the player.

Strategic gorse, tree and heather planting frame the green and create an enclosed, more inviting and appealing target.

Bunkering on the right side and drainage short left of the green will enhance the green complex and help facilitate improved playing surfaces in these areas.

Plant semi mature small trees to LHS of green (e.g. cherry) and plant gorse long (outside of general play area) this planting will help to frame the target area.

Consider drainage in the area between heather and approach on left side

Build path diagonally from tee exit to beyond heather plantation (depends on new tee position and design), shield path with heather plots and rough

Reduce the spread of first oak tree that covers tee, could investigate thinning tree (1158)

Consider thinning of hornbeam behind tee (Tree out of image but is on common land)



Add bunker tight to right hand side of green

Plant gorse to block usage of existing route by course traffic and walkers, encourage walkers to use new route through trees.

Grow rough from tee to heather plantation, add new heather plots with natural shaping.

Trees on right of tee are an issue if the tee will be extended to the right (de-limb or consider removal). (1033,1036,1037)

Full tee rebuild including drainage and irrigation. Quality of playing surface is contingent on tree works.

Hole 6 – Proposed Improvements

	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI
6	401	4	3	392	4	3	342	4	6

A new path and improved drainage coupled with selective planting will enhance the entrance to the hole and general appearance of the teeing grounds.

Longer grass left and right of the fairway and new mounding will help to frame the tee shot, the landing area will narrow the further the player drives down the hole with an improved re-designed fairway bunker on the left. Longer hitters will need to weigh up the benefits of distance over position off the tee.

A deceptively narrow looking entrance to the putting surface will be achieved via bunkering left and right of the green. Additional planting will improve the backdrop to the hole and create a focal point of the green.

Plant semi mature trees behind and left of greenside to provide better definition to match existing paper birch trees.

Add new fairway, approach and back to back sprinklers on LHS of green.

Grow rough LHS on mounding beyond bunker up to level with end of fairway. Plant additional trees to block 2nd shot to green from this area.

Re-shape fairway bunker, reduce left side lip and correctly align lip in direction of hole, resolve existing drainage issues.

Further investigation and costing for use of tree spade to move trees from copse for use elsewhere on course.

Grow wispy grass on mounding around green

Install bunkers RHS of green and into mounding short left of green

Improve greenside drainage short and left of mound and area RHS of green

Add mounding in right rough near entrance to fairway to better frame tee shot.

Grow rough from tees to semi rough cut and up LHS to 40 yds short of bunker, add grass path and selective gorse / heather plots.

Install path from hole entrance to between the men's tees and out to ladies tee to reduce wear of this area in wet conditions.

Drain area in front of medal tee to borehole, create diverting drain on path from 5th green to prevent water washing from path to teeing area.

Hole 7 – Proposed Improvements

	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI
7	297	4	15	272	4	15	234	4	14

A wildflower meadow right and longer rough left will act to visually frame the fairway.

The newly extended medal tee will result in a slightly longer club being required from the tee but creates a more direct angle of attack to the fairway.

For the approach shot, In addition to the pond, players will now have to contend with a vastly improved greens complex (See diagrams in appendix 1). Bunkering, humps, mounds and runoff created by a little landscaping will demand a well executed shot to set up a scoring chance.

Add gorse area in rough short and left of water hazard.

Grow rough in LHS trees starting approx. 220 from white tee up to and around pond to 16th tees behind green.

Rebuild and Extend white tee further back by approx. 10 – 15 yards, and slightly to the left making a larger L shaped tee



Investigate options for improving the entrance to this green. Possibilities include bunkering, run offs, mounding, ponds and water features. See appendix 1 for alternative ideas.

Grow flower meadow RHS from 6th green to level with start of fairway. Grow rough from tees to semi rough cut, add grass path to fairway.

Remove path to right of forward tees

Hole 8 – Proposed Improvements

	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI
8	464	4	1	407	4	1	403	5	12

The tee shot on the toughest hole on the course does not require any major changes. However, an additional forward tee is under consideration to enable players to more easily carry the road.

Improvements on this hole will primarily be focused around the green complex.

Relocating and reshaping the greenside bunkers will visually improve the approach shot with the bunker left being moved tight to the left-hand greenside and the right bunker being remodeled and enlarged.

Install back-to-back sprinklers LHS of green to help improve turf quality left of green.

Fill in existing bunker short left of green, create mounds and gullies and install new bunker closer to left edge of green.

Consider inclusion of local rule for balls coming to rest within 2 club lengths of road to drop on fairway no nearer the hole for no penalty.

Longer term refurbish tees, consider additional forward tee position to provide options to players.



Grow rough long and right of green beyond run out area.

Extend bunker on right of green further round to right middle of green.

Add 4/5 fairway sprinklers between road and approach.

Grow rough LHS and RHS from tees to short of road. Cut grass path from hole entrance to white tees then back to existing path (option to lay path with matting).

Hole 9 – Proposed Improvements

	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI
9	405	4	7	399	4	7	386	4	4

Standing guard at the road will be made safer through the addition of a protected area in which to observe for traffic.

Visually the tee shot encourages a focus on accuracy, longer hitters will need to negotiate an enlarged area of gorse on the left side if choosing driver off the tee.

The approach shot will be visually enhanced and made fairer by reducing the chance of running out of bounds through the green. Moving the left hand bunker closer to the left greenside and enlarging the banking beyond and right of the green will frame the target area.

Slightly reduce green size to facilitate increased height and depth of banking at back of green to further reduce risk of running OOB

Remove existing left hand greenside bunker, create new bunker tight to front and left side of green.

Increase area of gorse to left of fairway back towards tee by 5 to 10 yards

Grow rough areas over road to dip, left of fairway beyond tree line and RHS up to copse of trees.

Add new tee beyond road to remove existing carry requirement and facilitate singles play.

Add protected area for watching road



Replace bunker short right of green with mounding down to RHS of green to visually enhance target.

Delimb trees that are showing signs of rot and overhang car park (654,686,689)

Plant semi mature trees as succession for the aging birch trees in this area (680,694)

Add 2 additional fairway sprinklers from RHS mound towards tee.

Hole 10 – Proposed Improvements

	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI
10	311	4	18	307	4	18	297	4	13

This short par four continues to provide a great risk and reward opportunity.

From the new larger tee the hole remains drivable for the longest hitters, though consideration of shot placement will remain key to success.

Improved bunker design and run off areas will greatly enhance the green complex requiring precise approach play.

New drainage at the back and left of the green will facilitate top conditioning of these new run off areas and lowering the lip on the left of the green will resolve the issue of water pooling on the putting surface.

- Install drainage to left and back of green to allow extension of run off and improve lies in rough.
- Lower left edge of green to enable water run off or extend drainage into green.
- Grow rough from 190 yards LHS far tree line diagonal to 240 yards up to end of hole.

- De-limb trees along left of path from tee (715-718, 749,758,764,771,780,781,788,802,806)
- Extend path to left of tee further along edge of trees to fairway.
- Upgrade tee sprinkler heads (Rainbird 551's)



- Removal or redesign of back bunkers and possibly create run off area in their place (consider keeping a redesigned back LHS bunker).
- Re-shape and deepen front bunkers.
- Add additional fairway sprinkler level with first birch (Fairway sprinklers already in place near green).
- Grow rough from tee down RHS tree line to green.
- Consider expanding and rebuilding existing tee, possibly by removal of path behind and right of existing forward tee.

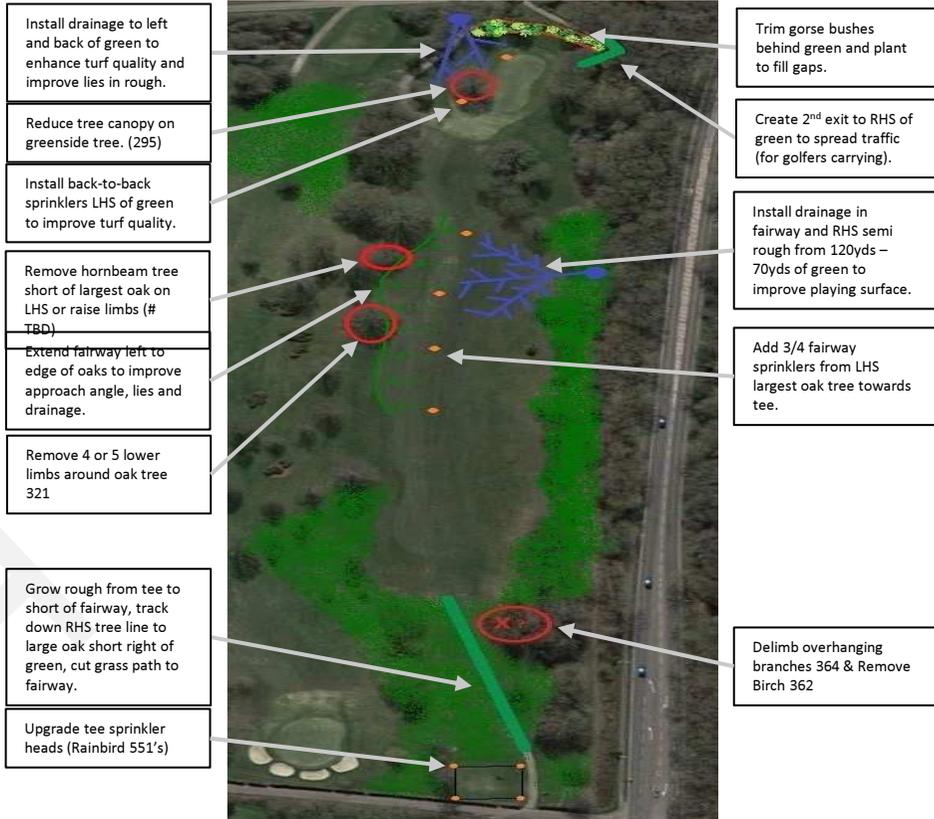
Hole 11 – Proposed Improvements

	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI
11	379	4	6	374	4	6	363	4	1

Removing obstructive branches from the copse of trees front right of the teeing area will provide the golfer with a clear view to the newly re-aligned fairway.

Extending the fairway further left will create more of a dogleg shape to the hole and steer the golfer away from the wettest areas on the right of this hole. This, coupled with Improved fairway drainage, will enhance the playing surfaces around the landing area for drives and improve the angle of approach to the green.

The target will be framed with a backdrop of gorse and broom on the mounding beyond the green and the playing surfaces surrounding the green will be improved with new drainage and irrigation.



- Install drainage to left and back of green to enhance turf quality and improve lies in rough.
- Reduce tree canopy on greenside tree. (295)
- Install back-to-back sprinklers LHS of green to improve turf quality.
- Remove hornbeam tree short of largest oak on LHS or raise limbs (# TBD)
- Extend fairway left to edge of oaks to improve approach angle, lies and drainage.
- Remove 4 or 5 lower limbs around oak tree 321
- Grow rough from tee to short of fairway, track down RHS tree line to large oak short right of green, cut grass path to fairway.
- Upgrade tee sprinkler heads (Rainbird 551's)

- Trim gorse bushes behind green and plant to fill gaps.
- Create 2nd exit to RHS of green to spread traffic (for golfers carrying).
- Install drainage in fairway and RHS semi rough from 120yds - 70yds of green to improve playing surface.
- Add 3/4 fairway sprinklers from LHS largest oak tree towards tee.
- Delimb overhanging branches 364 & Remove Birch 362

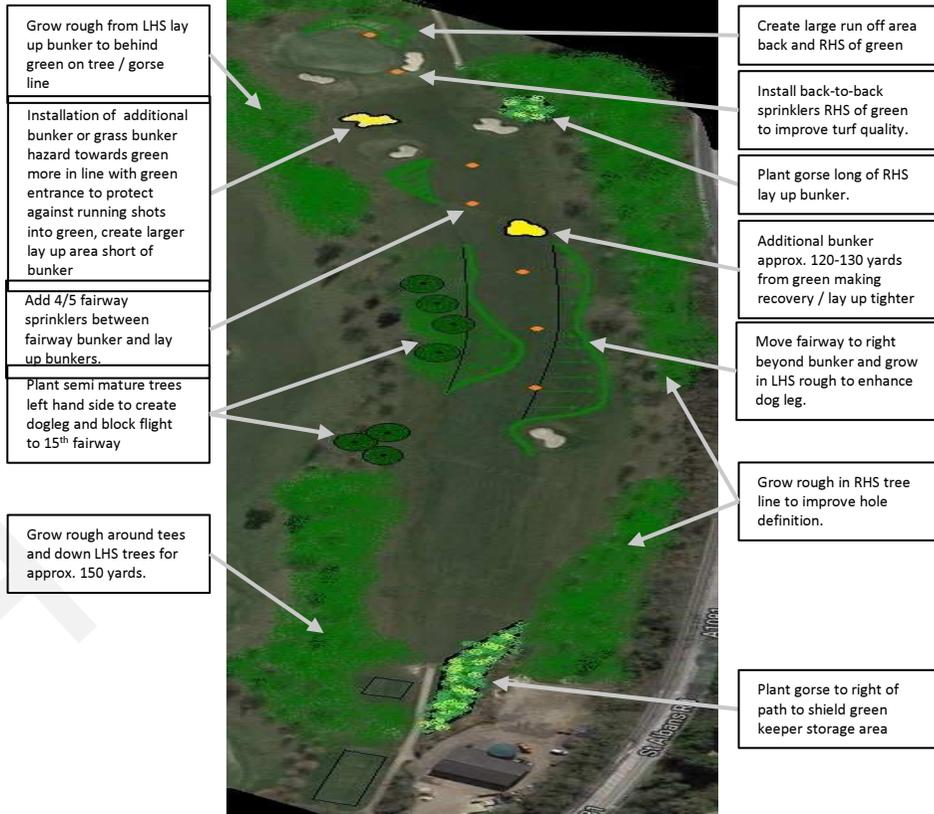
Hole 12 – Proposed Improvements

	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI
12	486	5	10	464	5	12	412	5	9

This hole is by far the easiest hole on the course. Our aim is to make this hole tougher from the tee and 2nd/3rd shots into the green more strategic.

Proposed changes include routing the fairway further right beyond the fairway bunker creating a sweeping dog leg feel to the hole.

We are considering additional sand or grass bunkering to encourage greater decision making when attacking the green in two or executing lay up shots. Subtle use of rough cuts and run off areas will once again place a premium on the accuracy of 2nd and 3rd shots to the green.



Grow rough from LHS lay up bunker to behind green on tree / gorse line

Installation of additional bunker or grass bunker hazard towards green more in line with green entrance to protect against running shots into green, create larger lay up area short of bunker

Add 4/5 fairway sprinklers between fairway bunker and lay up bunkers.

Plant semi mature trees left hand side to create dogleg and block flight to 15th fairway

Grow rough around tees and down LHS trees for approx. 150 yards.

Create large run off area back and RHS of green

Install back-to-back sprinklers RHS of green to improve turf quality.

Plant gorse long of RHS lay up bunker.

Additional bunker approx. 120-130 yards from green making recovery / lay up tighter

Move fairway to right beyond bunker and grow in LHS rough to enhance dog leg.

Grow rough in RHS tree line to improve hole definition.

Plant gorse to right of path to shield green keeper storage area

Hole 13 – Proposed Improvements

	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI
13	365	4	12	358	4	10	296	4	11

A new medal tee will add around 30 yards to this hole bringing the upslope and fairway bunker back into play for the longer hitters and removing the option to hit up the 14th hole.

Additional trees will be planted up the left side to fill gaps in the area beyond and left of the fairway bunker

Alterations to the greenside bunkers will improve playability from these areas and visually enhance the approach shot to this excellent and tricky green complex

Re-model bunkers and improve drainage front and left of green. Consider additional bunker back left.

Move trees from nearby tree nursery to this area

Grow rough from level with bunker in LHS far tree line diagonal to trees adjacent to fairway @ 270 yards near semi rough cut and up to end of copse.



Grow rough RHS 120yds from green beyond first tree line to edge of hazard.

Add 2 fairway sprinklers beyond LHS fairway bunker.

Grow rough around tees to end of path and into LHS & RHS trees. Add selective gorse plots in this area.

Possible for additional white tee up to 40 yards further back.

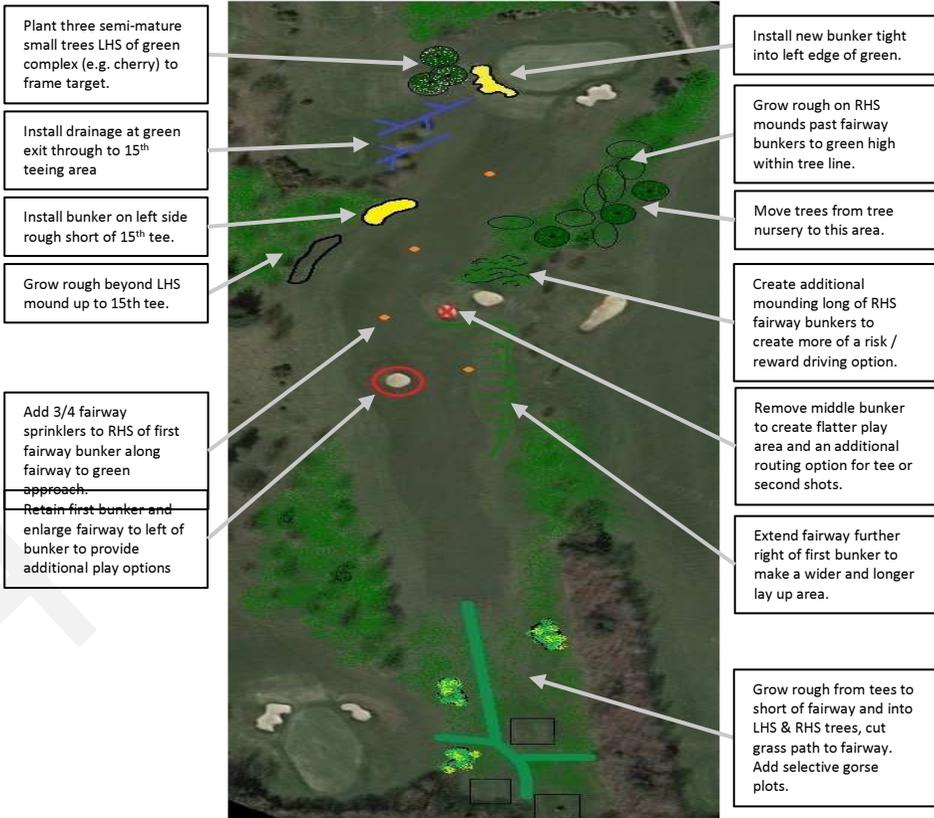
Hole 14 – Proposed Improvements

	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI
14	376	4	8	367	4	8	336	4	7

The fairway will be extended back in front of the two large fairway bunkers, returning the lay up area short of these bunkers back into play as intended in the original hole design. This coupled with additional landing zones created through alterations to fairway bunker positioning will provide the golfer with multiple options off the tee.

Mounding and rough beyond the right-side fairway bunkers will create more of a risk / reward tee shot for longer hitters who may take the direct route over the hazards.

Bunkering and planting left of the green will provide enhanced definition to the target area and create a greater variety of pin placement options.



Hole 15 – Proposed Improvements

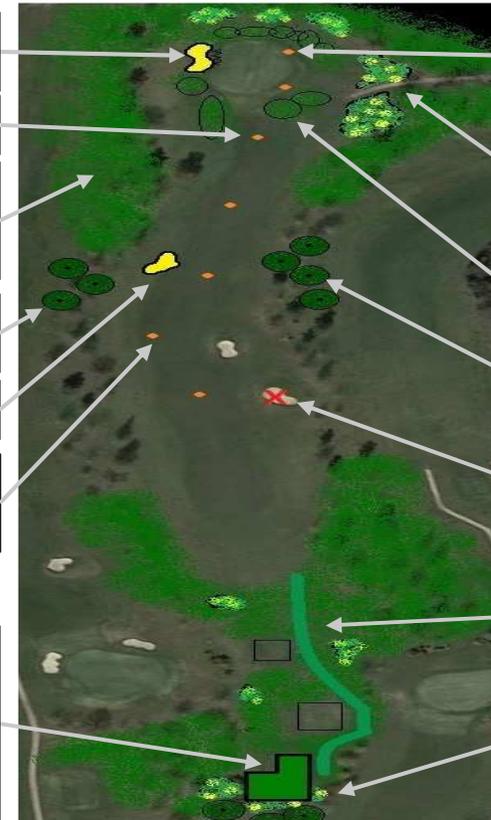
	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI
15	410	4	2	383	4	2	340	4	5

Through the addition of a new tee the hole will be lengthened and, due to change in elevation, will play significantly longer. The positioning of the tee will also make the hole appear a visually stronger challenge.

The green complex will be framed by reinstated wispy rough on greenside mounding that many of us remember.

Additionally, new bunkering and a gorse backdrop create a visually improved target whilst maintaining fairness and encouraging tactical positional play.

- Install bunker or deep run off area to left edge of green.
- Add new approach sprinkler.
- Grow rough in trees surrounding green from approx. 100 yds out on left and right side to behind green.
- Move trees from tree nursery to area between 12 and 15 fairway
- Install bunker on left side of rough
- Add 3/4 fairway sprinklers to LHS fairway bunkers along fairway to green approach.
- Extend medal tee back and left at lower elevation than existing medal tee by 10 to 15 yards, giving slight uphill tee shot and a larger L shaped tee. Need to take existing irrigation mains into account



- Install back-to-back sprinklers RHS of green to improve turf quality.
- Plant gorse either side of current hole exit path up to tree line and in selective plots on mounding behind green to further define target area and hide path
- Grow wispy rough on all mounding around green to frame target
- Move trees from tree nursery to area between 7 and 15 fairway
- Remodel fairway bunkers and remove first bunker as trees now provide sufficient hazard.
- Grow rough from tees to short of fairway and into RHS trees & up to LHS trees, cut grass path to fairway. Add selective gorse plots in this area
- Plant gorse and small trees behind white tees to act as protection for proposed tee extension.

Hole 16 – Proposed Improvements

	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI
16	182	3	14	155	3	14	129	3	17

This hole will see the biggest changes. The forward tee will be lengthened towards a new raised medal tee to form an improved teeing complex, enhancing the hole by creating different angles of approach to the green.

The appearance of the hole from the tee will be greatly improved through selective planting of heathland plant varieties, providing visual interest and definition between tee and green.

OB on the right will be extended to the boundary of the jockey field, trees and mounding will replace the current hawthorn hedge and storage area, making the hole fairer and improving the overall aesthetic. A new path will take players right of the green earlier resulting in improved lies around the green.

Additional bunkering in the dip long of the green will further improve the green complex.

Create pot bunker in dip long middle of green.

Consider re-modelling front right bunker

Grow rough in LHS trees and round to 12th tee, grow rough between tee and green approach.

Consider raising current medal tee to visually enhance tee shot, add gorse planting to protect tees from 7th.



Install back-to-back sprinklers RHS of green to improve turf quality.

Clear storage area to RHS of bunker and remove hawthorns. Sculpt and turf cleared area, add semi mature trees and install path to right of newly landscaped grass area. Move OB to land boundary.

Plant gorse or heather between end of tees and well short of approach to provide definition, route path alongside to green

Extend forward tee to make it usable as yellow tee, leaving existing yellow tee as possible winter tee (Tee move visually enhances the hole significantly)

Hole 17 – Proposed Improvements

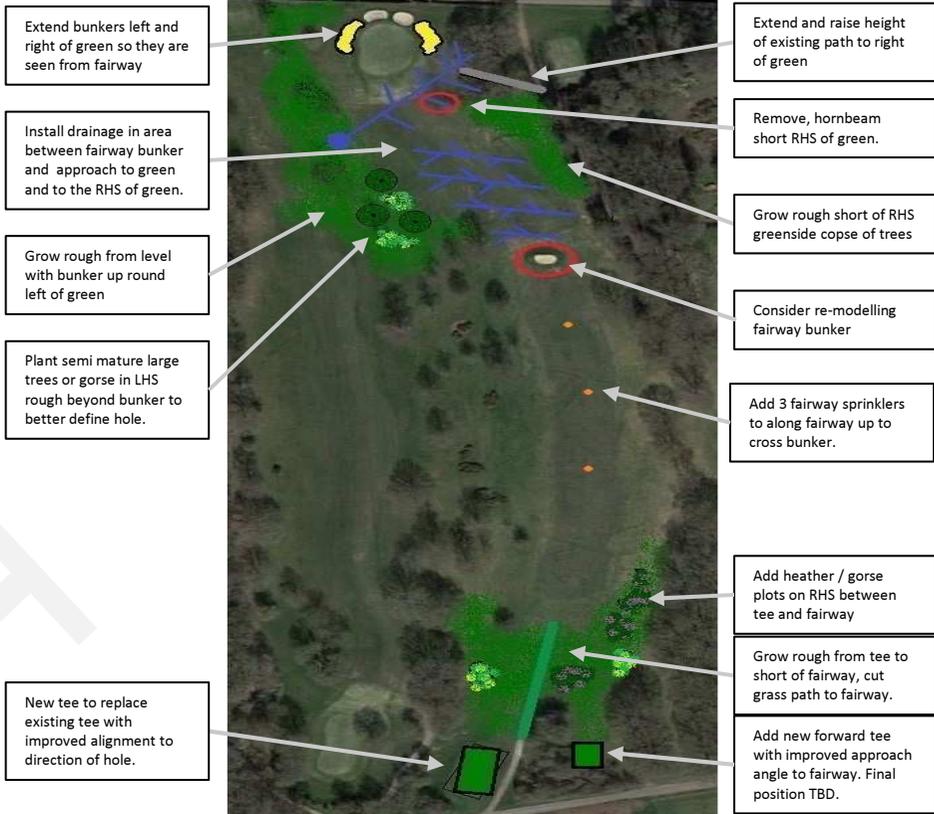
	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI
17	377	4	4	373	4	4	362	4	3

A new single level raised tee will correctly align the player to the target line.

Strategic planting increases the definition of the hole and places a premium on position off the tee. Shots to the left of the fairway will be blocked out by additional tree planting in and around the gorse.

Conditioning of the playing areas beyond the fairway bunker and the green surrounds will be improved through installation of new drainage.

The green complex will be enhanced with re-designed bunkers now more visible from the fairway and in play for more pin placements.



Hole 18 – Proposed Improvements

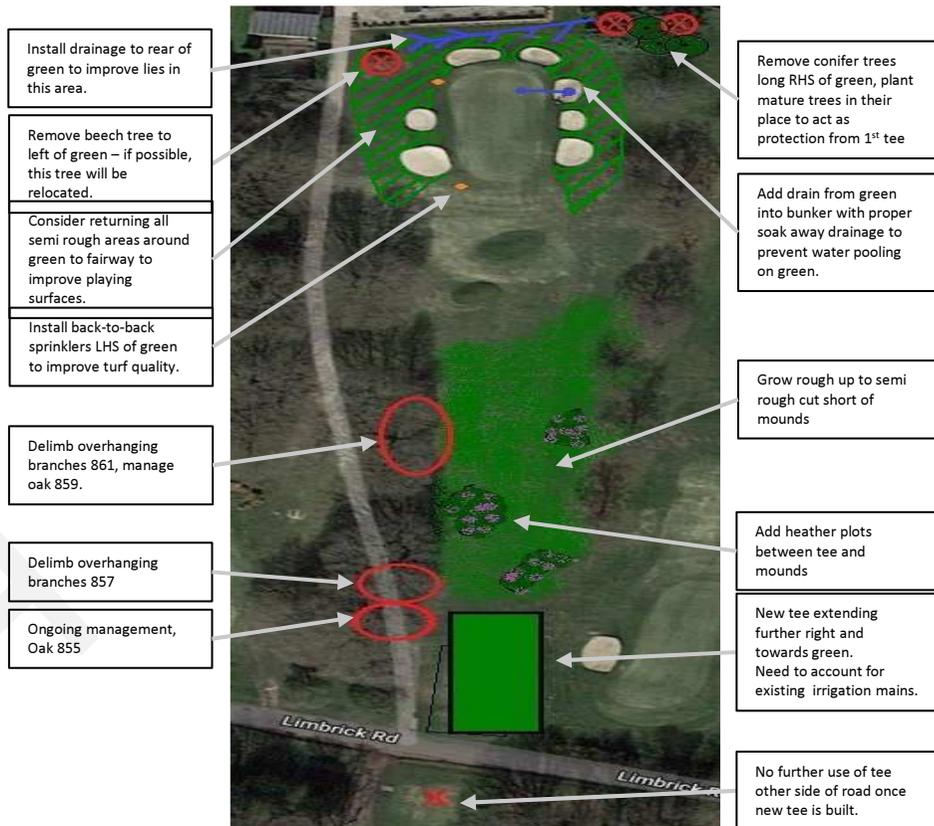
	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI	Yrds	Par	SI
18	157	3	16	152	3	16	141	3	15

This is a great finishing hole, both as a test of nerve for the player and as a fitting backdrop to the clubhouse. It is the first and last impression that members and visitors alike have of the club and the course.

A larger, purpose built, tee further to the right will lessen the impact to the player of the left side trees.

Improved drainage, irrigation and changes to the cutting policy around this green complex will improve the turf quality and visual appeal of the green, surrounds, and approaches.

Selective planting of trees to replace the leylandii and planting of heather plots will further enhance the visual appeal of the hole leaving a lasting memory for the golfer as they leave the course to play the 19th.



Appendix 1 – Hole 7: Design Sketches – Green Approach Diagrams

