

14TH HOLE

● 320 YARDS ● 307 YARDS ● 296 YARDS ● 292 YARDS PAR 4

Description

Good short par fours are some of the most enjoyable holes in golf and with the 14th and 15th both short fours, it is important that they are as good as they can be. The 14th is not an especially good example of a hole where players have to make decisions on the tee and on the fairway. The set-up of the hole is such that players play the hole in the same way every time. The club selection from the tee may vary with the wind strength and direction, but most players aim to lay up into the same area. That is not a good feature and is one that must be addressed.

The starting point is to move the right bunker over so that it sits centrally in the landing area. The fairway is then cut right up to the boundary to make the landing area sensible on either side of the new hazard. The next step is to make players think about which route to take. The left route is more challenging so that should provide the best line into the green. Leave the two cross bunkers short and have an approach to the green that is accessible from that side alone. Remove the right pair of bunkers and create an arc of hazards that guards the right of the green strongly. Players playing up the right will be left with a much tougher approach to the green which slopes gently away, although the pitch will be into the wind a lot of the time.

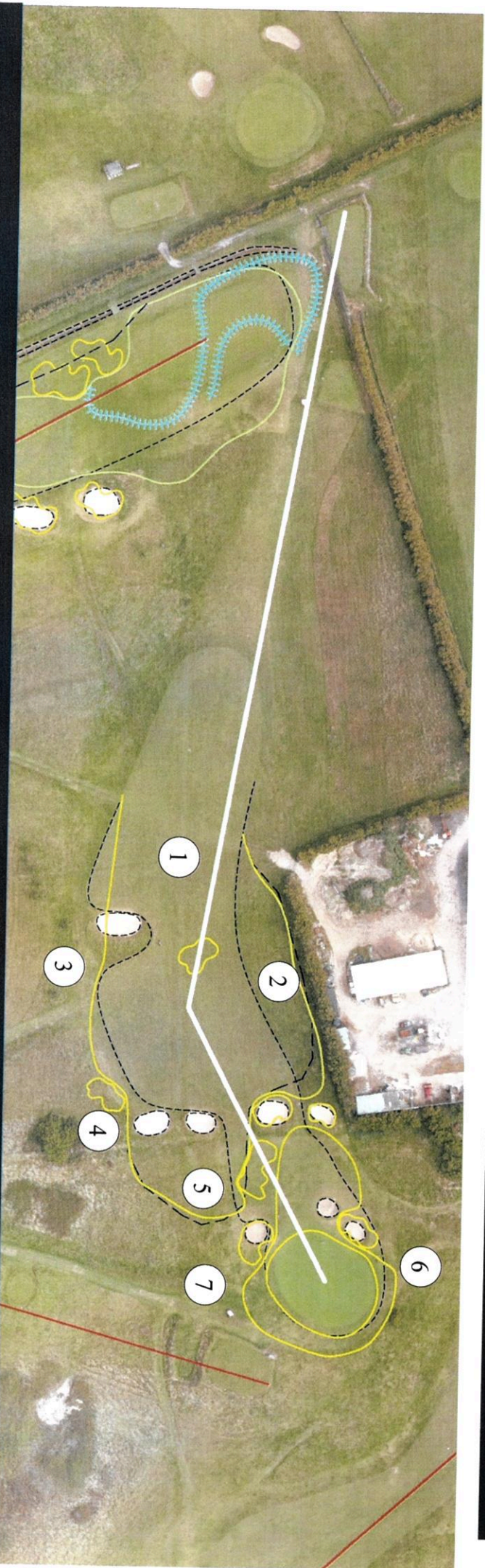
The aim with these proposals is to make players really think about their club selection from the tee. It should be feasible to hit a utility club up the left on some occasions and on others to hit driver up the right. Golfers will not have the confidence of being able to hit the same shot day in day out.

The surrounds should be reshaped and enhanced so that they can be closely cut offering lots of interesting recovery shots.

The result of these adjustments will be a short par four that tempts and teases all players much more than is the case now.

Recommendations

1. New central bunker at 230 yards carry that leaves a 18 yard wide gap to the bank.
2. Extend the fairway over to the boundary to create a good left route.
3. Fill the right drive bunker.
4. Fill the right pair of bunkers.
5. Add a new bunker to form an arc of hazards guarding the right of the green, making approach shots from the right much harder to judge.
6. Develop the green surrounds by a combination of close mowing and reshaping and re-turfing.
7. Extend the right of the green so that there are pin positions tucked behind the bunkers.



MACKENZIE & EBERT

INTERNATIONAL GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTS

SCALE 1:1000 @A3



15TH HOLE

338 YARDS ● 330 YARDS ● 325 YARDS ● 266 YARDS PAR 4

Description

The basic framework of the 15th is good but on a short par four like this, the punishment for straying is not really great enough and the result is that birdies and pars are too easy to make and double bogeys are rare. Really good short pars should offer up chances for eagles and double bogeys in equal measure. The pot bunkers are certainly effective hazards but they are small and do not really suck balls in enough to make them daunting obstacles. Similarly, they do not have the visual presence and the hole does not have the visual flare that a hole of this length should have. It should make the pulse race as you walk onto the tee, which currently does not happen.

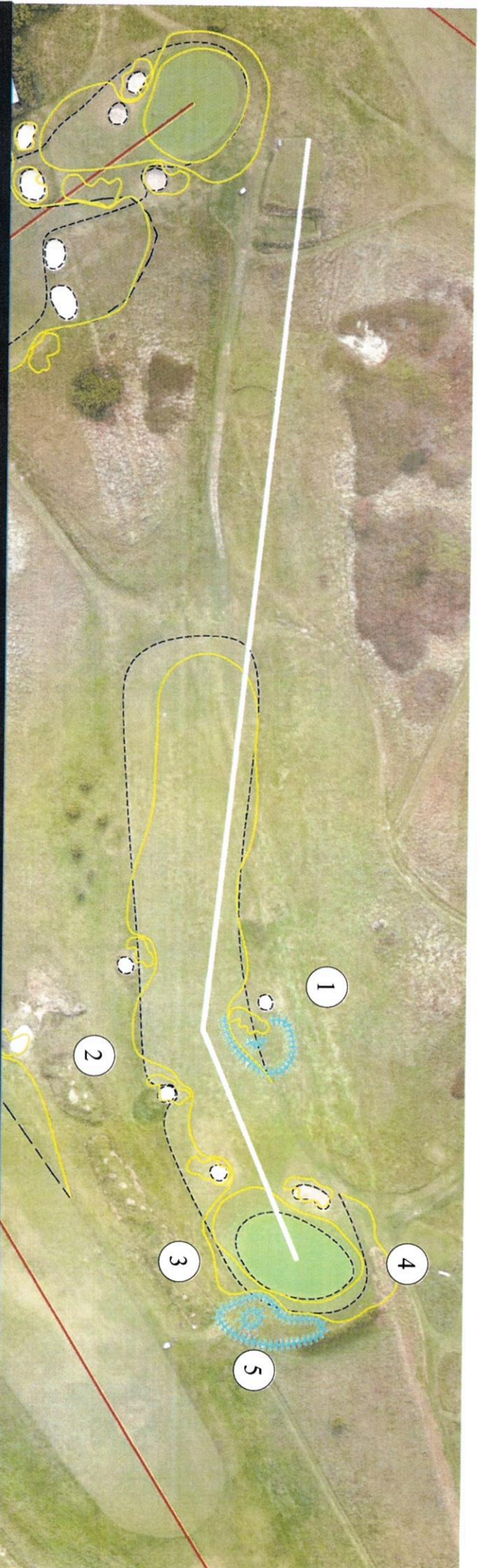
The triangular configuration of bunkers is good when viewed from the tee but the bunkers need to be bigger and deep. The left bunker is the key one and it is proposed to build a substantial hill into which to sit it so that anyone going into it will struggle to reach the green. The right bunkers should be lowered so that balls gather into them from all around and they should also be deep enough to present a real threat.

The right bunker closest to the green feels divorced from the putting surface so extend the green right up to it. It looks as if it did that before and this bunker certainly makes more sense with it like that.

The line of tamarisks behind the green is unattractive and should be removed to create room to extensively reshape the surrounds, creating hollows and hills to define the back of the green. This will also allow the sharp bank on the left end of the green to be removed which is clearly a late addition, perhaps when the green was levelled off as on the 12th.

Recommendations

1. Build a substantial hill to set an enlarged left hand bunker into. Players must know that they have to carry this bunker to gain advantage.
2. Enlarge, deepen and naturalise the right bunkers.
3. Extend the green out to the front right bunker which should also be deepened and enlarged.
4. Extensively reshape the surrounds to create interest and variety.
5. Remove the tamarisk hedge and create hills and hollows over the back of the green which will also screen the green from view from the 13th tee.



MACKENZIE & EBERT

INTERNATIONAL GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTS

SCALE 1:1000 @A3



16TH HOLE

● 240 YARDS ● 206 YARDS ● 183 YARDS ● 157 YARDS PAR 3

Description

Par threes are hugely important on links courses and almost all great links have really good par threes. The 16th is not an easy hole but few would say it is a good hole. The two bunkers only test the shortest players who find the game hard enough anyway and the strange humps short of the green will hold up some good shots in an unfair way. The last short hole of the round is a key point and it is important that the hole is improved significantly.

The recommendation is therefore to be fairly radical and to reshape the hill short of the green and to create a diagonal line of bunkers set into a new ridge, starting short and working towards the green so that the far one hugs the left edge. That means that players going for the left of the green will have to carry the ball all the way, while those wanting to land short can play short and right, with an area of fore-green just accessible over the short right bunker.

To the right of the green, reshape the surrounds to create humps and hollows from which recovery shots will be difficult while still allowing players through to the next tee without creating a bottleneck. The green was quite a bit bigger before, both at the front right and the back, and it is recommended to extend it back out to its former size.

These combined recommendations are quite extreme, but it is vital that the 16th is given a boost to improve the closing run of holes.

Recommendations

1. Short bunkers are filled in.
2. New fore-green area created that is tucked behind the new bunkers.
3. A new diagonal line of bunkers set into a new ridge is created that start short right of the green and extend up to the back left of the green.
4. Create humps and hollows on the right and back of the green surrounds.
5. Re-align the ditch so that it creeps into play more at the back left of the green.
6. Create a hollow beyond the last bunker to guard the back left of the green.
7. Extend the green back to its former size at the front and back.



MACKENZIE & EBERT

INTERNATIONAL GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTS

SCALE 1:1000 @A3

