

PRELIMINARY REPORT FOR THE COURSE
REAY GOLF CLUB
MAY 2026



MACKENZIE & EBERT
INTERNATIONAL GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTS





INTRODUCTION



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Introduction

One of the great things about links golf is that every course is different and they come in all shapes and sizes. That is not just the size of the course but the size of the membership, annual subscription and green fee income. Reay is undeniably on the smaller end of the scale, but its very existence for more than a century is testament to the extraordinary efforts of members past and present.

Not all that long ago it was so far off the beaten track that only the hardest golf nuts would visit. With the creation of the NC500 and the unprecedented boom in links golf with the top links charging green fees that are unaffordable to most golfers, many links further down the pyramid are enjoying the benefits of players seeking out more affordable and, arguably, more enjoyable venues. The uptick of green fee revenue for Reay has only started with considerable scope for greater revenue that was previously unimaginable.

This report has been commissioned as a follow up to Donald Steel's report in 1998 and is in two sections. The first looks at how minor incremental improvement can be made within the Club's current income. The second section offers suggestions on some bolder ideas which can elevate the members' enjoyment and the reputation of the course. At some Clubs, these plans would easily be in reach but it is recognised that they are far more ambitious for a club of Reay's means. There is no doubt, however, that these proposals will pay dividends by elevating the quality of the course dramatically. In the era of social media, with clever planning, it should be possible to use the work as a vehicle to encourage more people to visit and to charge them more for the privilege. Done well, the money invested will offer a genuine return in greater revenue year on year, not to mention the increased enjoyment of the members. These are exciting times and there is a real opportunity to move up a level in links golf.



GENERAL COMMENTARY



MAKING THE MOST OF THE SETTING

The Natural Setting at Reay

Reay benefits from an outstanding natural setting, offering magnificent views across the bay where, on a clear day, the island of Orkney is visible. However, the current course layout does not fully capitalise on these vistas, with the bay only coming into view from behind the 4th green, the 6th white tee and to the left of the 9th green.

In the short term, cutting back the marram grass around the 5th tee, 6th white tee and 9th green would help open up these views and better connect the course to its surroundings.

Looking further ahead, the planned new 2nd hole will make greater advantage of the coastal scenery, providing a dramatic outlook over the bay. Similarly, the new 13th hole will showcase more of the rolling inland hills, offering a contrasting but equally memorable perspective.



COURSE LAYOUT

The Club is blessed with a wonderful piece of links, but it does come with its challenges with some areas being a little too flat and other areas being really quite extreme. One thing is for sure and that is that the course has been well laid out, given the financial restraints that the Club has always worked within. There are some things that could be considered in the longer term which would help to elevate the course further and these will be discussed later in the report.



TEES ALIGNMENT & COURSE SETUP

The tees across the course are generally well presented; however, a few provide limited visibility of the hole or make play unnecessarily difficult. On the 7th hole, the yellow and red tees are positioned too far back, significantly increasing the challenge on what is already a demanding hole.

Similarly, the tee on the 8th hole is set too far to the left, obstructing the view of both the fairway and the green. Relocating this tee to align with the yellow and red positions would create a more natural line of play and a clearer view of the target area.

The 17th ladies' tee also requires adjustment, as its current alignment directs play toward the fairway runoff. Moving this tee further forward and slightly to the left would produce a fairer and more inviting tee shot for players.



DIFFICULTY OF THE PAR THREES

Reay features a collection of par threes that combine to form a challenging set. The opening hole, in particular, could well be considered one of the toughest starts in golf and that is most certainly not a good thing. When combined with the 7th and 18th, the course presents three demanding short holes. Even the shorter 9th hole poses a stern test with its pronounced green contours adding considerable difficulty and even the shortest of them all, the 15th has a steeply sloping green.

In the short term, adjustments to tee positioning will help improve playability and give the course better balance. For instance, introducing some shorter tees on the 7th would make the hole fairer, while selective regrading of greens, particularly on the 9th and 18th, would improve playability and reduce excessive slopes.

In the longer term, a more significant redesign could greatly enhance the opening sequence. The current 1st hole could be replaced by a new par five playing to the existing 2nd green, providing a more inviting start to the round. In turn, the 1st hole would be replaced by a new par three playing to a position close the current 4th green, enjoying expansive views out towards Orkney. Additionally, a new forward tee on the 18th, located near the current 1st tee, would open up a more playable and visually appealing angle for slower swing speed golfers.



GREEN VISIBILITY & THE RUNNING GAME

While most greens are visible from the fairway, several feature blind or partially obscured approach shots. There is absolutely nothing wrong with that on a lay of the land links like Reay, but in the stretch from the 10th to the 13th holes, in particular, there are a few too many, which restricts players' ability to play running approach shots. Opening up some of these approaches would better accommodate 'the running game' and allow for differing strategies.

This principle should also be applied to other holes such as the 6th, 16th, and 18th, where the selective removal of bunkers around the greens would create more accessible entry points. Doing so would promote multiple shot options and make the course more playable for a wider range of golfers.



ROUGH MANAGEMENT

The rough at Reay Golf Club has not been maintained for several years and in places has since grown extremely thick and rank with coarser grasses smothering finer grasses and wildflowers. In playing terms, some areas are exceptionally penal. It is not uncommon to lose a ball after hitting it just a yard into the heavier rough, which is extremely easy to do considering the strength of the wind and narrowness of some of the holes. The rough should be cut and removed, perhaps by baling it, using a local farmer and managed in this way for a few years to help ease the pace of play.



HEALTH & SAFETY

It is reported that balls are encroaching on the garden of the house alongside the 14th. It is hard to stop this from happening altogether, without re-aligning the fairway and moving the green, which seems extremely radical. The bunker to the right of the approach pushes players to the left towards the house. Re-configuration of the bunker and fairway, while leaving the green where it is, should reduce the number of errant shots significantly. The Out of Bounds line could also be brought in closer using white posts to reduce the margin of error and encourage people to play away from the garden.



GREEN SLOPES & FLAG POSITIONS

The course boasts an excellent collection of greens, offering varied and characterful putting surfaces that would not look out of place among the top links courses in the country. However, it could be argued that some are perhaps a little too severe, particularly given their relatively small size. Green speeds are currently maintained at a modest pace by modern standards and rightly so. The combination of exposed conditions and pronounced slopes would otherwise create an excessively difficult challenge, even for the most skilled players.

Certain greens, notably the 5th, 9th, 11th, 13th, 16th, and 18th, feature particularly strong contours that can verge on unplayable under firmer or faster conditions. Regrading sections of these greens would create a fairer test for all golfers and, as a further benefit, would allow for slightly faster green speeds without compromising playability, as and when such conditions are desirable.

FAIRWAY LINES AND MOWING

The layout at Reay features well-maintained and generally well-positioned fairways; however, selective adjustments to fairway lines could further elevate both the visual appeal and strategic quality of the course.

Between the 2nd and 3rd holes, a narrow strip of rough currently separates the fairways and appears unduly narrow. Refining the mowing lines to create more space between the holes would make this section of the course feel less cramped. It has the least interesting terrain and the tightness magnifies that impression. The 2nd fairway should be extended to the boundary fence on the left-hand side, with the right-hand edge mown approximately 8 metres from the 3rd hole. Similarly, the 3rd fairway should be shifted around 7 metres to the left, creating a clean 30-metre corridor between the two holes.

The 4th fairway is strangely wide and it is proposed to narrow it on the left, again to create more space between it and the 3rd hole to give the feeling of there being more space.

The 6th hole features one of the most demanding tee shots on the course, particularly punishing for players with slower swing speeds. The fairway starts very narrow before widening dramatically to nearly 50 metres where longer hitters land their drives. Adjusting the mowing lines here would make the hole fairer for shorter hitters, while simultaneously introducing a more challenging landing area for longer players, improving balance and playability across all abilities.



BUNKERS AND BUNKER NUMBERS

Bunkers have an important function, not just by dictating how holes should play, but they are also key visual features in the character of the course. Reay is not a golf course with lots of bunkers, with only 24 on the course and all but 2 of them being greenside bunkers. This minimal approach is certainly not a bad thing and yet even with that number, several of the current bunkers feel out of place and are unnecessary. For example, the fairway bunker on the 16th hole does not integrate well with its surroundings and contributes little to the overall aesthetic of the hole. 3 of the 4 bunkers on the 12th are blind and add nothing to the look or the strategy of the hole and could easily be replaced with hollows.

Bunkers have a strategic role to play in influencing how better players play the holes. Some of the existing bunkers do not perform that role all that well and actually reduce strategic options. For instance, removing the right-hand greenside bunker on the 13th hole would 'dangle the carrot' for longer hitters, encouraging them to take on the challenge of driving the green or when playing a long approach shot.

In some cases, bunkers should simply be repositioned to better support varied styles of play. On the 6th hole, for example, shifting the bunker one width further back would open up the approach, allowing players to run the ball onto the green, while still rewarding precision from the tee.



GRASSY HOLLOWES & MOUNDS

Reay benefits from some beautiful natural contouring, with distinctive mounds and hollows that contribute greatly to the course's character. However, certain areas remain relatively flat and would benefit from additional shaping. The 2nd and 3rd holes sit on the edge of the farmers' fields and the terrain is different from the rest of the course, being largely flat. The fairways are cut too close to each other, with only a narrow strip of mown rough between them, which makes them feel even flatter. Between the 2nd approach and the 3rd tees, there is a lovely ridge and the suggestion is to replicate this with 2 ridges set diagonally between the holes which would add visual interest and strengthen the definition between the holes. They would have shallow hollows on either side of them, as long as the material is sandy so that they can be built without bringing in material.

On traditional links courses, natural hollows around the greens are a common and appealing feature, yet Reay currently has very few. With the proposed removal or relocation of several bunkers, opportunities arise to introduce these natural hollows in key areas. Doing so would not only enhance the aesthetic quality of the course, but also provide greater variety and strategic interest in the short game.

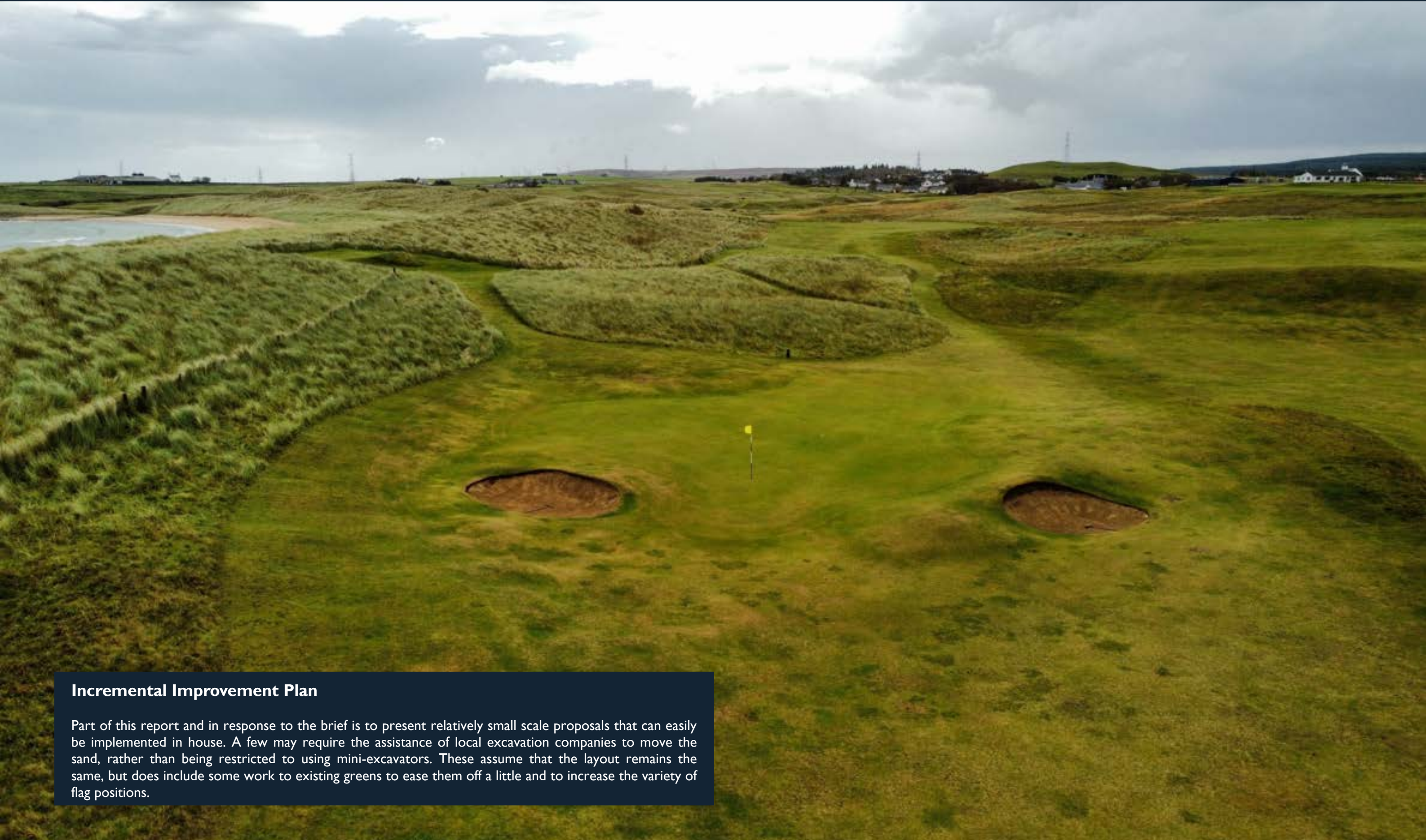


IMBALANCE OF THE 9's

Reay has two very distinctive 9's, but there is quite an imbalance between the them, although it is worth noting that there are many examples of such imbalances on established links like Royal Birkdale in its Open format. In Reay's case, the front 9 is 200 yards longer, despite featuring an extra par 3. The back 9 is perhaps more technical, but features many more short par 4's by modern standards that are similar yardages. The 10th, 12th, 13th, 16th and 17th all range from 300 yards to 350 yards and while they will rarely play their play their card yardages - some playing significantly longer into the wind - this does create a lack of variety that should, ideally, be addressed.



INCREMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN



Incremental Improvement Plan

Part of this report and in response to the brief is to present relatively small scale proposals that can easily be implemented in house. A few may require the assistance of local excavation companies to move the sand, rather than being restricted to using mini-excavators. These assume that the layout remains the same, but does include some work to existing greens to ease them off a little and to increase the variety of flag positions.



LONG TERM COURSE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Long Term Improvement Plan

There are other ways to improve the layout and these are presented in a separate report. It focuses on looking at ways to make the best of the terrain that the Club owns. There may well be restrictions because of the SSSI designations and archaeology, but it is worth looking at every option to see what is possible.

The most radical plan is dropping out the 1st. It has to be a candidate for the hardest opening hole in golf and that is not a good thing. The plan involves the existing 2nd becoming the new 1st - extending it to become a short par 5 for everyone. The lost hole is replaced with a new short hole which plays from the back right of the existing 2nd green to a new green near the 4th green which then looks out over the beach towards Orkney. That is the box office view and many visitors must miss it as it is only just in view on the walk from the 4th to the 5th. That involves shortening the existing 4th to a more manageable par 5.

There are also options for further improvement, subject to planning and SSSI consent, not to mention funding. There is scope for really significant progress, which would help to launch Reay as a must-play links for some of those making the golfing pilgrimage North, rather than a nice one to drop in on if passing on the NC500. That is a seismic change with potentially huge green fee income implications.



INCREMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN



INTRODUCTION - INCREMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

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1ST HOLE



1ST HOLE - PROPOSALS

Existing	235 Yds	225 Yds	165 Yds	Par 3
Proposed	235 Yds	225 Yds	165 Yds	Par 3



Comment

The current 1st is one of the hardest opening holes in golf, and that is unfortunately not a compliment. Playing 235 yards into wind makes this an exceptionally difficult opening hole. It is not especially safe either with the 3rd green close alongside it to the right. It is really not a good way to start the round. There is not really an easy way to resolve this and options like shortening it do not really work all that well. It could simply be called a par four because that is how it plays for most people but that does not make it a good or a safe hole.

Recommendations

Leave the hole as it is until a much bolder plan can be implemented, whereby the 1st is changed to a par 5 playing to the current 2nd green in the future. This is detailed in the other report which makes longer term and more dramatic recommendations.



2ND HOLE



2ND HOLE - PROPOSALS

Existing	428 Yds	418 Yds	409 Yds	Par 4/5
Proposed	428 Yds	418 Yds	409 Yds	Par 4/5



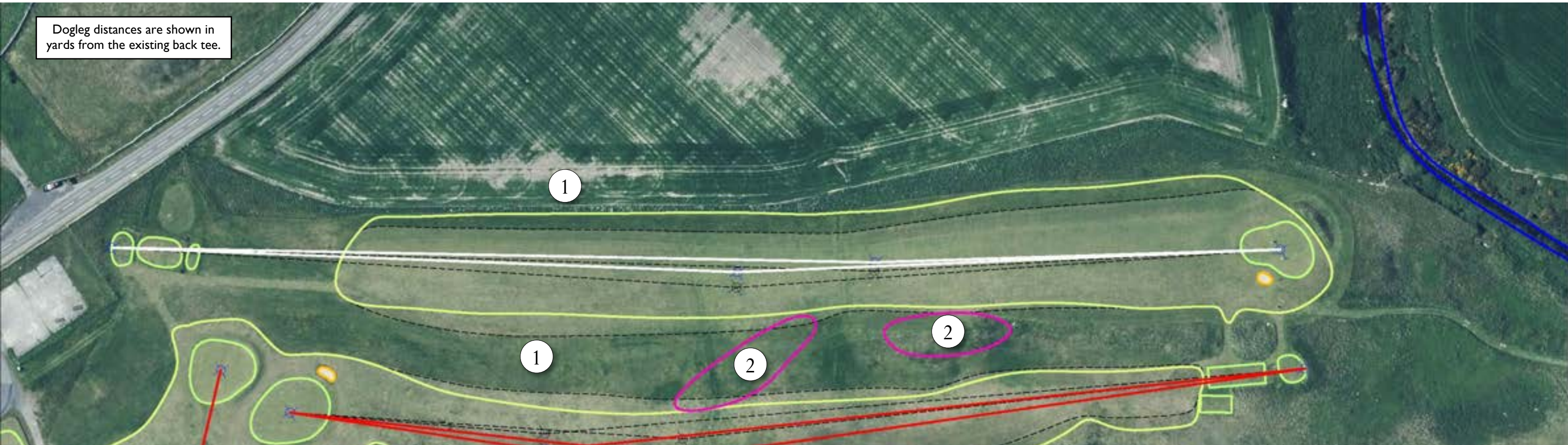
Comment

Reay is a lay of the land course where the holes are draped elegantly over the land. The problem with the 2nd is that the land lacks feature and its parallel sided fairway feels close to the 3rd. The Out of Bounds is certainly in play, but there is a band of rough between the fairway and the fence that muddies the water of when a ball is OB or not. Ideally, it would be better to cut up to the boundary fence, with one cut of semi between the fence and fairway. This eases the fairway away from the 3rd which can also move away to its left, creating more room between the holes. The second half of the hole has lovely separation from the 3rd and it is proposed to create some similar ridges to break up the flatness.

Recommendations

1. Mow the fairway lines much tighter to the boundary, with only one strip of semi rough between the fence and fairway, creating about 30 metres of space between the 2nd and 3rd holes.
2. Mounding will be introduced between the 2nd and 3rd fairway. If drainage allows then these could be humps and hollows so that the work can be done as a cut and fill exercise.

Dogleg distances are shown in yards from the existing back tee.



3RD HOLE



3RD HOLE - PROPOSALS

Existing	369 Yds	344 Yds	337 Yds	Par 4
Proposed	369 Yds	344 Yds	337 Yds	Par 4



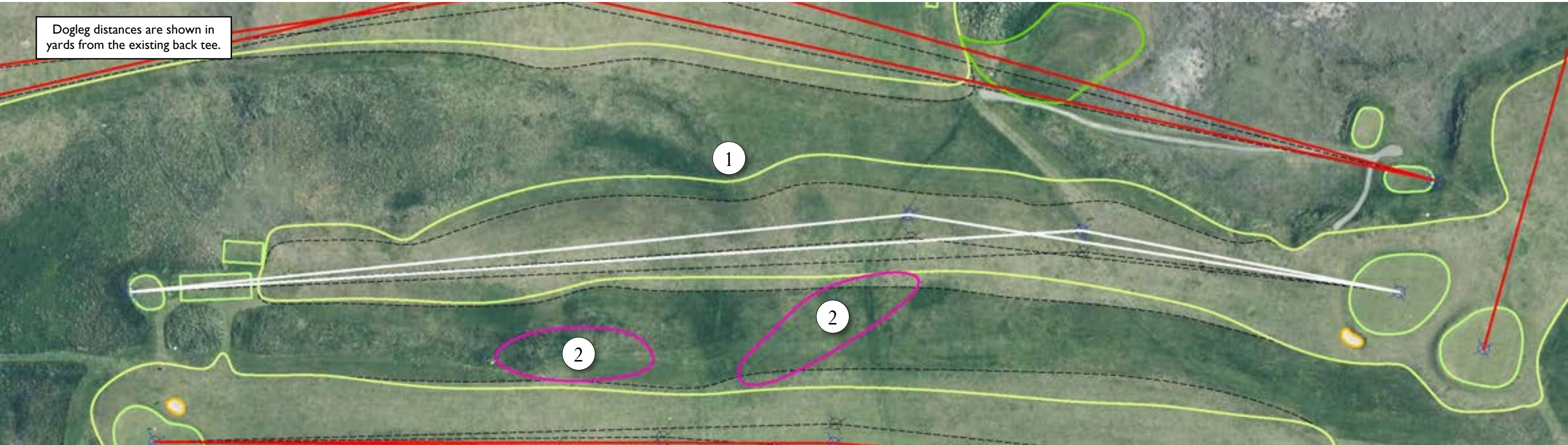
Comment

The landform right of the fairway is flat but, to the left it, is much more attractive. As explained on the 2nd, the fairway should be slipped 6 or 7 metres to the left. It is a much better and more challenging approach shot from that side. The reshaping on the right of the fairway will reward those who hit the fairway much more than is currently the case.

Recommendations

1. The fairway lines should be cut further left 6 or 7 metres towards the 4th hole.
2. Introduce mounding between the 2nd and 3rd fairway. If drainage allows then these could be humps and hollows so that the work can be done as a cut and fill exercise.

Dogleg distances are shown in yards from the existing back tee.



4TH HOLE



4TH HOLE - PROPOSALS

Existing	581 Yds	566 Yds	343 Yds	Par 5
Proposed	581 Yds	566 Yds	343 Yds	Par 5



Comments

On a course of this length, it is a real oddity to have a really long par 3 to start and then a par 5 as the 4th which is almost 600 yards long. It is too long for the vast majority of those who play the course and the forward tees give little relief unless playing from the forward tee at the start of the fairway.

That said the area of the green is attractive with the hill and river as the backdrop, but, somehow, it does not make the most of the glorious views in this area of the mouth of the river and out across to Orkney.

Recommendations

- I. The beginning of the fairway is very wide, and therefore it is recommended that the fairway line is cut 4 metres away from the 3rd hole, leaving the right edge as it is.



5TH HOLE



5TH HOLE - PROPOSALS

Existing	144 Yds	141 Yds	139 Yds	Par 3
Proposed	144 Yds	141 Yds	139 Yds	Par 3



Comments

The second par 3 of the course is a lovely hole and would be at home on many top links courses around the country. It offers fantastic natural views from the tee and has a challenging green. The left side of the green has a severe slope down from the left bunker which makes it unusable for flag positions. The rear of the green was extended to accommodate this. It would be best, however, to soften off the hill on the left and remove the left-hand bunker to open this area up for flag positions.

Recommendations

1. Remove the left hand bunker to allow more running shots to be played into the green.
2. While the green is full of character, the left hand side of the green is too steep and cannot be used for flag positions. This is due in part to the mound behind the bunker and, therefore, it is proposed that the left side of the green is regraded to allow for more varied flag positions.



6TH HOLE



6TH HOLE - PROPOSALS

Existing	500 Yds	442 Yds	442 Yds	Par 5
Proposed	500 Yds	442 Yds	442 Yds	Par 5

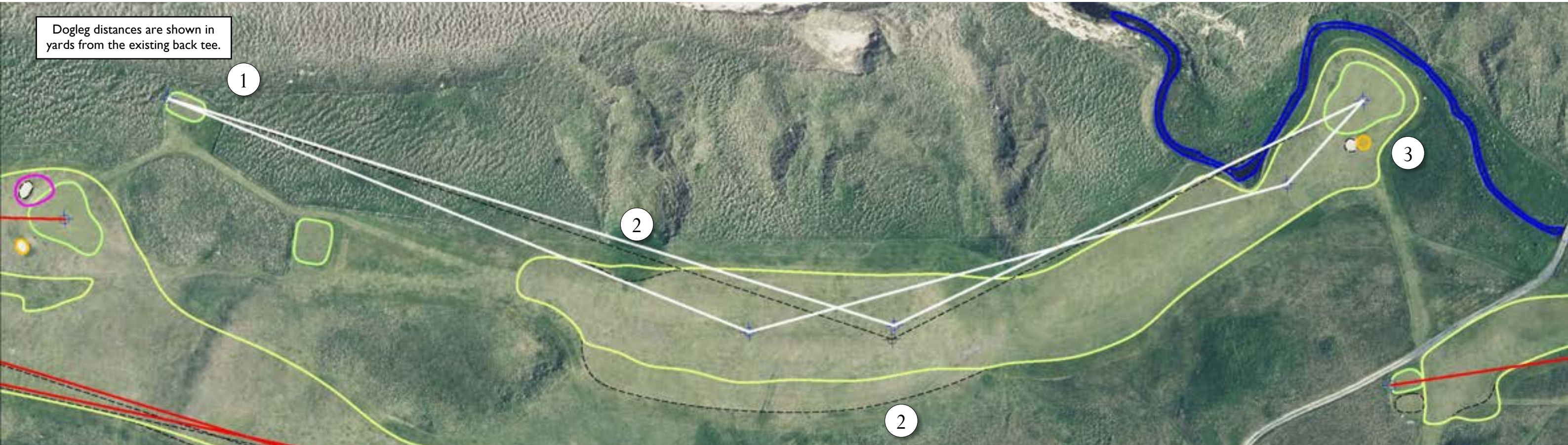


Comments

This is a strong par 5 and a wonderful hole. The drive is intimidating and the approach shot is fraught with danger and really ‘dangles the carrot’ well for the lower handicap player. The drive is penal for those with slower swing speeds, while being much too wide for the longer players. It is therefore proposed that the fairway be widened at its beginning and then narrowed later on. Additionally, the shot in is tough for those having to run the ball on, because the bunker is cut very tight to the green, therefore the bunker should be moved one bunker width right to open up the approach.

Recommendations

- 1. Cut the marram to give a view out over the beach from the tee.
- 2. The tee shot is challenging, especially for those with slower swing speeds, as the narrowest part of the fairway is at the beginning. The fairway lines should be changed to make it an easier shot for the shorter hitters, while narrowing the fairway by 10 yards between 175 and 310 yards from the back tee to tighten the target for longer hitters.
- 3. The approach shot is really tough for those trying to run the ball onto the green, as the bunker makes the approach very narrow. Move the existing bunker one bunker width back to open up the approach.



7TH HOLE



7TH HOLE - PROPOSALS

Existing	196 Yds	166 Yds	131 Yds	Par 3
Proposed	196 Yds	166 Yds	131 Yds	Par 3

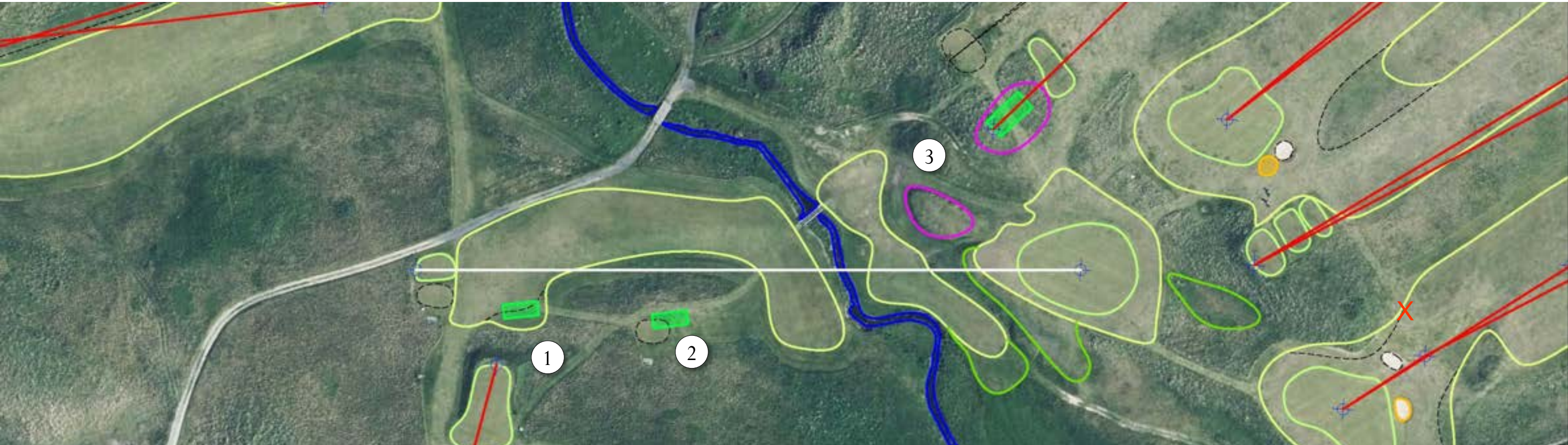


Comments

This is another strong par 3 - a one of a kind - where a great shot is needed to hit the green. Due to its difficulty, it is proposed that the yellow tees be moved forward 26 yards, so that the hole now plays 166 yards. The red tees should also be moved forward and left slightly by 5 yards to allow for a better angle into the green. The large mound on the left means that there is no sensible place to lay up on the windiest days or for the slowest swing speed players and it should be removed and left as a plateau or gentle hollow below the level of the green.

Recommendations

1. Add a new yellow tee forward 26 yards to make it more playable.
2. The red tee should be moved forward 9 yards and left 5 yards to give shorter swing speed players a better chance at hitting the green.
3. Remove the mound on the left of the green and leave it as a plateau or gentle hollow below the level of the green to add a lay up option on the windiest days.



8TH HOLE



8TH HOLE - PROPOSALS

Existing	399 Yds	380 Yds	383 Yds	Par 4
Proposed	399 Yds	380 Yds	383 Yds	Par 4



Comments

This is a good par 4, with one of the most interesting and challenging greens on the course that needs to be approached from the right hand side. The angle from the current back tee is poor, as neither the flag nor the green are in view - much worse than from the forward tee where the green surface itself is visible. It should be moved further right so that it is on line with the rest of the tees.

Recommendations

- I. Move the back tee to the right, so it is on line with the forward tee and from where the green is in view.



9TH HOLE



9TH HOLE - PROPOSALS

Existing	176 Yds	162 Yds	162 Yds	Par 3
Proposed	176 Yds	162 Yds	162 Yds	Par 3



Comments

Another one of Reay’s excellent par 3s (excluding the 1st of course), this is a good hole which enjoys some fantastic views of the nearby bay. The green is the only shortcoming of the hole, with the back left corner containing a severe slope, that in the right weather can result in a lost ball from a teeshot that hits the green. It is proposed that this corner of the green becomes green surrounds and is regraded, with a lower shelf added to stop balls running too far from the green. Additionally, the back right corner of the green should be extended back behind the bunker to make up for the loss of green surface.

Recommendations

- 1. Reduce the left side of the green in size and regrade the left green surrounds, creating a lower shelf or hollow to slow balls up.
- 2. Extend the right side of the green out behind the bunker to create more interesting flag positions and also to replace the green area lost on the left hand side.

Dogleg distances are shown in yards from the existing back tee.



10TH HOLE



10TH HOLE - PROPOSALS

Existing	351 Yds	345 Yds	340 Yds	Par 4
Proposed	351 Yds	345 Yds	340 Yds	Par 4



Comments

This is an attractive looking hole, which is beautifully shaped by the natural dunes on either side of the start of the fairway. It plays uphill to a table-top green which is one of the less natural looking greens on the course. As on the 3rd, there are two flags in view which makes the approach shots feel busy and confusing. There is a good alternative position for the green to the left of the present green in the valley off to the left with a mound guarding its front left. It will be much more receptive to running shots. The house will be backdrop to the green, rather than the 12th green and the power pylons.

Recommendations

1. Add a new red tee here about another 40 yards further forward. The difference between the white and red course is only 11 yards and 340 yards uphill often into the wind makes this a far harder hole for the slower swing speed players than for the rest.
2. Look to move the green to a good alternative position to the left of the present green in the valley off to the left with a mound guarding its front left, but this is something to consider in the major adjustment plans.



11TH HOLE



11TH HOLE - PROPOSALS

Existing	406 Yds	401 Yds	320 Yds	Par 4
Proposed	406 Yds	401 Yds	320 Yds	Par 4

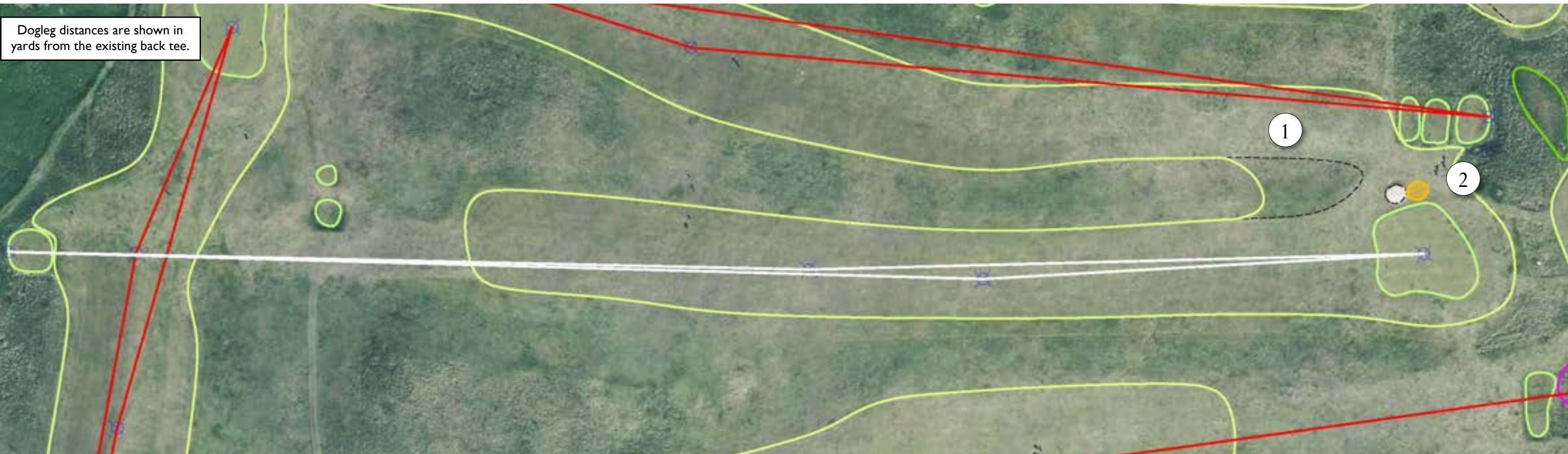


Comments

The 11th hole is an enticing downhill driving hole and offers impressive views across much of the course and beyond. The approach to the green is exceptionally tricky due to the length of shot many people are playing to it, the natural mounding and the putting surface which slopes away from play. In order to offer more chance of playing running approach shots, it is proposed that the rough is cut back 20 metres on the left approach and the bunker is moved one bunker width further back to allow for more space for running approaches.

Recommendations

1. Cut the rough back 20 metres on the left approach to allow more play down the left hand side.
2. Move the bunker back by a bunker length to create more room for running approach shots.



12TH HOLE



12TH HOLE - PROPOSALS

Existing	348 Yds	342 Yds	333 Yds	Par 4
Proposed	348 Yds	342 Yds	333 Yds	Par 4



Comments

This is an impressive looking hole, however, it is unclear where exactly the green is for those who have never played the hole before. Consider adding a marker behind the green to help with alignment. This green has four bunkers around of which only one is visible because of the uphill nature of the approach. On a course which is minimally bunkered that is wasteful, so it is recommended to remove three of the bunkers (one on the right and two over the back) and turned into hollows.

Recommendations

1. Remove all but the front left greenside bunker and turn the rest into hollows.
2. Add a marker behind the green to help with alignment from the fairway.



13TH HOLE



13TH HOLE - PROPOSALS

Existing	305 Yds	295 Yds	238 Yds	Par 4
Proposed	305 Yds	295 Yds	238 Yds	Par 4



Comments

This downhill short par 4 is reachable for the longer hitters. The fairway towards the green is slightly too narrow and should be opened up 3 metres on the left and 4 metres on the right, to provide more incentive for the longer player to hit driver. The right hand bunker should also be removed to open up the green for more running shots.

Recommendations

1. Open up the approach on the left by 3 metres and 4 metres on the right to encourage more players to have a go at driving the green.
2. Remove the front right bunker to help 'dangle the carrot' for the longer player looking to drive the green.
3. Cut the thick marram on the back of the dune so that fewer balls get snagged and potentially lost within yards of the green.

Dogleg distances are shown in yards from the existing back tee.



14TH HOLE



14TH HOLE - PROPOSALS

Existing	476 Yds	470 Yds	429 Yds	Par 5
Proposed	476 Yds	470 Yds	429 Yds	Par 5



Comments

There are excellent views from the tee. The uphill teeshot is quite daunting but, so long as the drive is reasonably long, the landing area is generous as it opens up over the hill. The green is small and on two levels making it one of the toughest on the golf course, which is a good defence for the hole. It is reported that balls are ending up in the garden of the house. The approach bunker encourages play towards the house and an easy step to reduce the number of nuisance shots is to move it one full bunker width to the left, moving the fairway over to the right by 10 metres.

Recommendations

1. Move the centre right approach bunker one bunker width left and leave the grass as rough between it and the hedge, moving the fairway right as well.
2. Cut the right side of the fairway out into the rough by 10 metres to push play right, away from the boundary.

Dogleg distances are shown in yards from the existing back tee.



15TH HOLE



15TH HOLE - PROPOSALS

Existing	136 Yds	126 Yds	127 Yds	Par 3
Proposed	136 Yds	126 Yds	127 Yds	Par 3



Comments

This is a good short par 3, whose large sloping green gives it its menace, with great variety of flag positions. The strong slope from left to right makes judgement of approach shots difficult. The two bunkers on the right should be removed and replaced by grassy hollows, as they are not in view from the tee and hollows will be equally good features that also reduce maintenance time.

There is a possible site for a new hole to the left of the 15th and this is something that should be explored in the long term plan.

Recommendations

- I. The two front right bunkers should be removed and replaced by grassy hollows.



16TH HOLE



16TH HOLE - PROPOSALS

Existing	314 Yds	309 Yds	268 Yds	Par 4
Proposed	314 Yds	309 Yds	268 Yds	Par 4

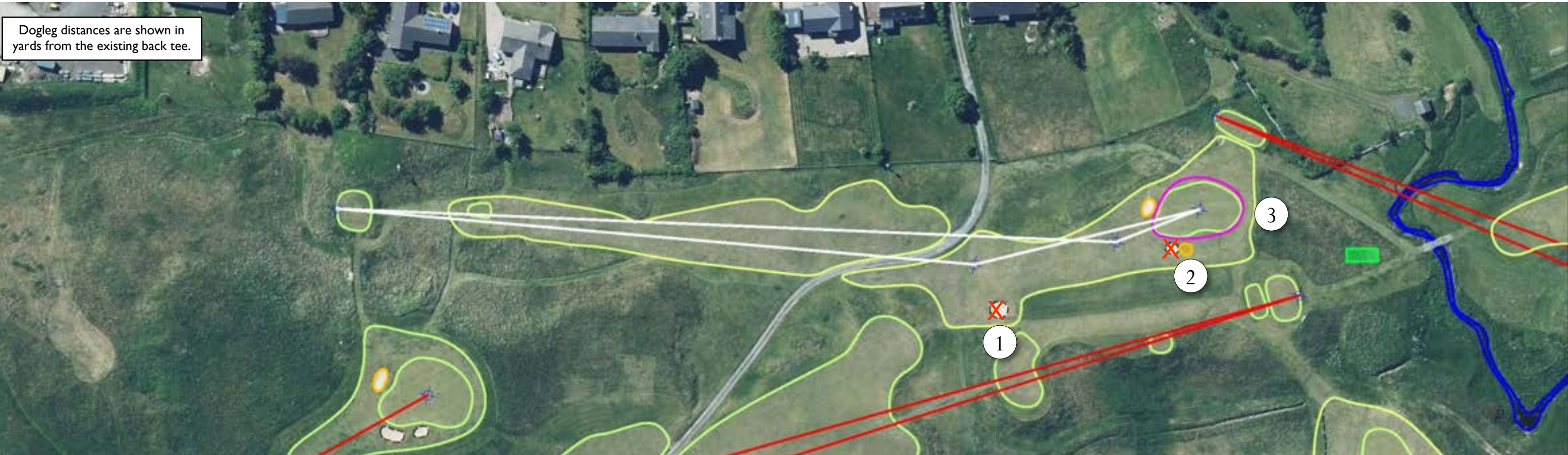


Comments

This is another dramatic downhill driving hole, which tempts players to be over-ambitious as all good short par 4s should. It is reachable for the longer player in favourable conditions, but the devilish nature of the green defends the hole against too much aggressive play. For mere mortals, however, the tee shot is difficult, due to the natural contours of the hole. The right-hand fairway bunker should be removed, as it is out of character with the rest of the golf course. Additionally, the bunker to the right of the green should be moved one bunker length back to open up the green for running shots. The green itself has a very severe slope running away from the fairway and there is a good case to level off sections to make sure that they are suitable for flags on the windiest days when the greens are at their quickest.

Recommendations

1. Remove the right drive bunker.
2. The right greenside bunker should be moved one bunker length away from the tee to open up the green for running shots.
3. The green slopes severely away from front to back. Level off sections to make sure that they are suitable for flags on the windiest days when the greens are at their quickest.



17TH HOLE



17TH HOLE - PROPOSALS

Existing	328 Yds	318 Yds	292 Yds	Par 4
Proposed	328 Yds	318 Yds	292 Yds	Par 4



Comments

The 17th is arguably the best hole on the golf course with a wonderful green. It tempts players to bite off more than they can chew, with severe punishment for straying right or left. For those laying up, the tee shot is perhaps slightly too narrow with only a narrow strip of managed rough along the left before extremely thick rough. It is therefore proposed that the fairway is extended further left 3 to 4 metres to create a larger landing area. Manage the left rough by cutting and collecting to start to thin it out. The forward tee should also be moved 20 metres forward to create a better angle to the fairway - the current tee makes the dogleg too sharp and it is not a good hole there.

Recommendations

1. The current forward tee shot is extremely difficult and pushes players out to the hollow on the right. The tee should be moved further forward and left to create a better angle of the teeshot.
2. The actual landing area for this hole is extremely small, especially considering that the prevailing wind is often off the left. The fairway cut should be extended left to make give a little more forgiving.
3. Manage the left rough by cutting and collecting to start to thin it out.



18TH HOLE



18TH HOLE - PROPOSALS

Existing	162 Yds	152 Yds	141 Yds	Par 3
Proposed	162 Yds	152 Yds	141 Yds	Par 3



Comments

The final hole at Reay Golf Club is not one of the better holes on the course. It is a tough uphill par three ending with a tricky approach played into the wind. There is not an easy way to play it for those who struggle to fly the ball up the hill and, for that reason, the left hand bunker should be removed to provide a way to chase the ball up. The green was recently rebuilt, but it is not in character with the rest of the greens on the course which are delightfully rolling and eccentric. It is a much too severe slope which makes large sections unusable for flag positions. It should be rebuilt again with a series of shelves at different levels tumbling down towards the tee. The course deserves a really great final green.

Recommendations

1. Remove the left hand bunker.
2. The green slope is too severe with its large step cutting across it. Rebuild it again with a series of shelves at different levels tumbling down towards the tee. The course deserves a really final green.







MACKENZIE & EBERT

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