



Tree Management Programme for Aboyne Golf Club November 2018



Introduction

All golf courses are defined by several natural and manmade elements. These vary according to location i.e. Continent, Country, terrain etc.

Aboyne Golf Club like many other inland courses is partly defined by the positioning, type and number of trees located around the fairways, greens and other open areas which define the course.

Trees by their nature grow and spread over the years, and although this process is relatively slow it requires careful and considered management.

It is important in terms of good golf course management that the species, and number of trees planted is appropriate. New and existing trees should be of a native species, be located to minimise the amount of shading on greens, and that root systems do not draw nutrients from the greens. Additionally, trees should not unnecessarily hinder maintenance of the course.

They can and do however define the shape and the way a golf hole is played. Trees also present the golfer with many different challenges when playing the course. Well maintained and managed plantings also greatly enhance the joy of playing a golf course and also the overall appearance of the course.

Example of Roots Penetrating Greens



Example of Excessive Shading on Greens



Background

A number of attempts have been made over the years to look at the species of trees grown on the course. The S.T.R.I. (Sports Turf Research Institute) has also provided guidance on trees which are non-native species, and trees which are not good for the health of the golf course.

The practical management of trees on the course has been dealt with on an ad hoc basis. Trees have been pruned when they became damaged by wind or interfere with play. The removal of overcrowded trees and the provision/management of new planting has not been structured.

This situation has been allowed to continue over a number of years and if the course is to continue to develop and improve this cannot continue to be neglected.

This programme will look at various methods to rectify this situation.



1. Thinning - Removing trees which are growing into each other.
2. Pruning - Removal of growth to enhance the shape and improve the health of trees.
3. Pollarding – Removal of the upper branches to restrict growth.
4. Planting – Replacing and augmenting where necessary.
5. Transplanting – Relocating small trees which have been removed when thinning out unsuitable or overcrowded planting.

This management programme will initially set out a high-level strategy.

If the programme is adopted by Council then the detail will be worked up in a reasonable time scale to match available funds and also to phase in the work to allow adjustment and reassessment. Once a tree has been felled there is no going back and many years of growth will be lost, therefore a careful and considered approach will be necessary.

It is anticipated the work will be carried out over perhaps a number of years as part of ongoing winter programmes.

Doing nothing is not an option and it is incumbent on the present custodians of the golf course that a plan is put in place which will serve the interests of golfers over the next five, ten or fifteen years.

Control and Authorisation

This programme will be controlled and authorised by majority consent of the members of Aboyne Golf Club Council. No individual Council member will be authorised to implement any part of the programme or any project contained within the programme. It is also imperative that continuity of this authorisation is maintained when changes of personnel occur within council. This will be particularly relevant when a change of Greens Convener occurs.

Note1: All directions which follow are given looking from the tee to green.

Note2: All completed work is shown underlined in red.

HOLE 1 – “ROAD”

Left Hand Side



In the first group of trees remove four non-native trees. Between the first and second group provide new planting of broadleaf species.

In all groups of trees remove any multi stemmed trees and thin out as necessary.

Right Hand Side

Selective removal to allow remaining trees to flourish. Thinning will allow the remaining trees which include some broadleaf species to flourish.

However, these trees screen the car park and the attendant

safety issues must be born in mind.

HOLE 2 – “DYKE”



Left Hand Side

In the group of trees opposite the practice putting green remove four trees and re-plant new trees to maintain the alignment of the hole.

Right Hand Side

On the dyke behind the sheds remove the old sycamore. Also remove birch trees between the sheds and the first gap in the wall.

Beyond the first gap remove damaged sycamore close to the first large tree.

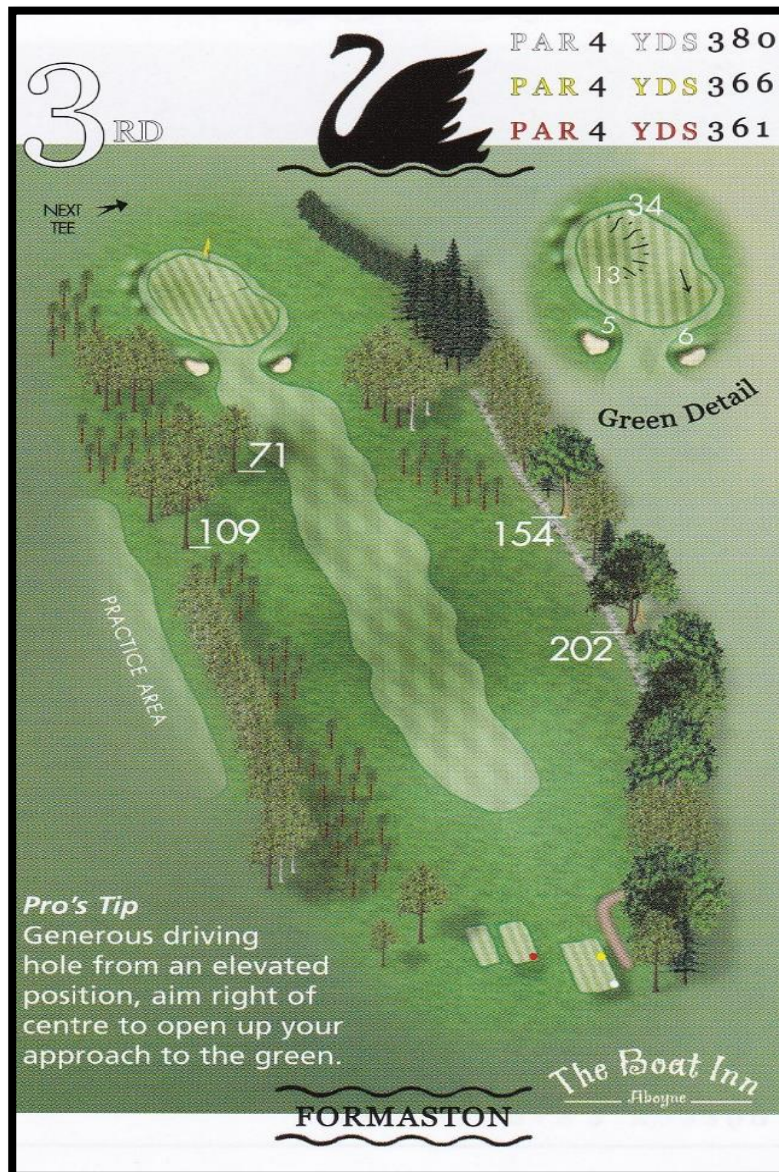
At the right-side bunker remove the large tree. This will allow the bunker to become more

of a hazard and shots landing to the right can be played over the bunker.

The group of trees adjacent to the gap in the wall require thinning.

Further thinning of the trees at the rear of the green is required.

HOLE 3 – “FORMASTON”



Left Hand Side

Manage the large tree to the left of the rear gent's tee by pruning.

Remove the large poplar to the left of the ladies' tee.

The stand of trees on the left between the fairway and the practice area requires that trees are selectively removed to promote healthy growth and reduce shading.

It may be possible at a later date to replant and reduce the straight line of these trees giving a more natural look.

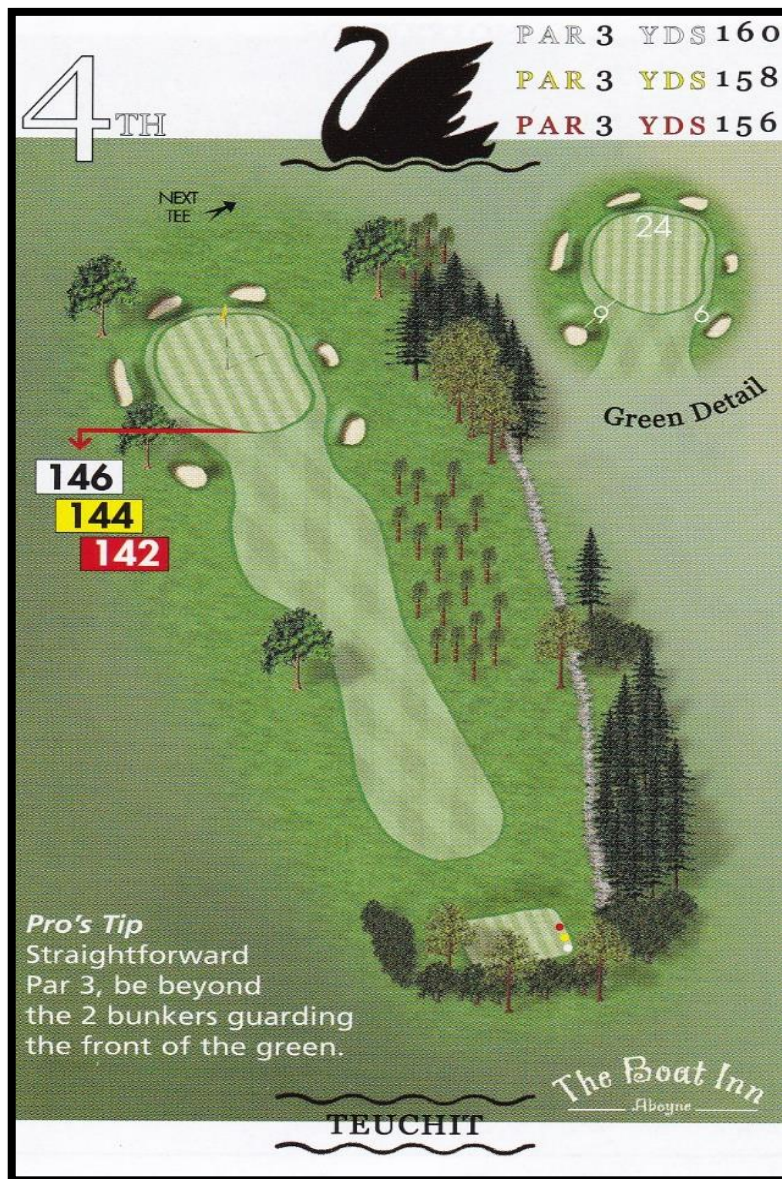
Remove two trees from the grouping in front of

the left-hand bunker to bring the bunker into play. This group could also benefit from some selective thinning.

Right Hand Side

No action required.

HOLE 4 – “TEUCHIT”



Left Hand Side

Remove the two trees to the left of the green. Roots from these trees are under the surface of the green. Shading from these trees and their roots contribute to poor grass cover and playing surfaces around the trees.

Replacement planting of an appropriate type of tree or shrubs will be provided at a suitable distance away from the green prior to the removal of these two trees.

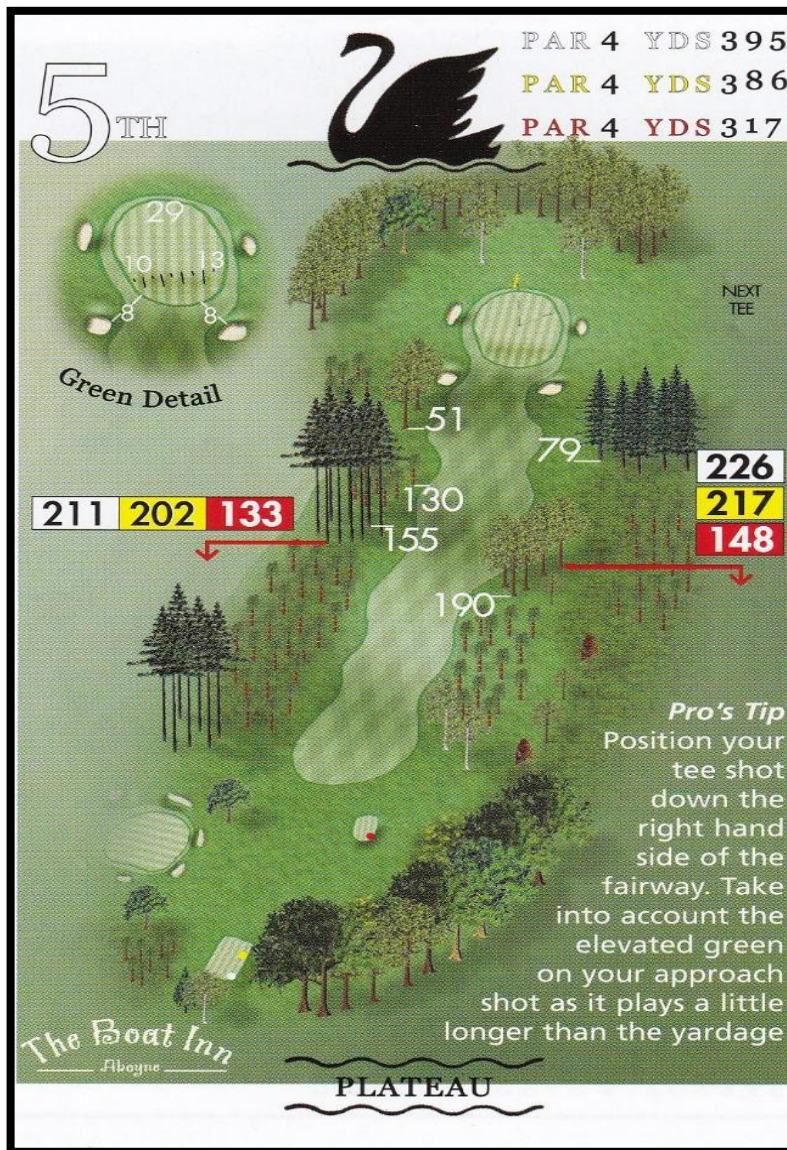
Right Hand Side

Selective removal of trees from the wall running along the right-hand side from tee to green.

Removing selected trees from the wall will help with roots penetrating the adjacent road surface.

The group of trees to the right of the green require to be thinned and the leylandii trees removed. This will significantly improve the grass growth in this area around the bunker.

HOLE 5 – “PLATEAU”



Left Hand Side

Remove both trees at the rear of the gent's tee.

At the rear left side of the green remove the lone spruce tree.

Right Hand Side

In the first stand of trees remove several small trees which will not mature due to their positioning.

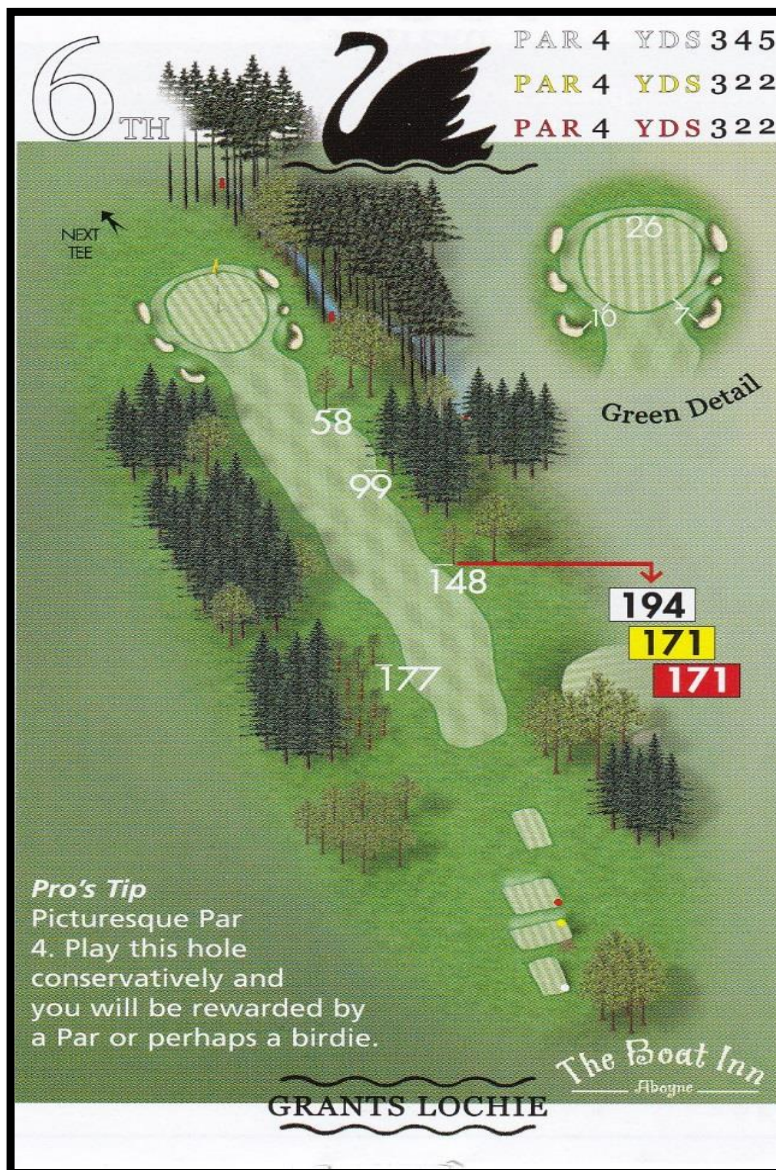
The two groups of trees which flank both sides of the path leading to the short practice area require to be thinned and the remaining trees pruned.

The group of trees which run along the

rear of the green require selective removal to improve the grass growth around the bunker and the overall appearance of the hole.

It may also be possible to provide new planting in the area short and right of the green to give more definition and challenge the golfer.

HOLE 6 – “GRANTS LOCHIE”



Left Hand Side

This group of trees will be addressed on the seventh hole.

Right Hand Side

In the group of trees adjacent to the short practice green remove three poplar trees.

Remove the two large trees on the short practice area. This will better utilise the extended practice area.

Remove the two stands of trees at the start of Grants Lochie. These will be replaced by bunkers which will catch wayward shots. Grants Lochie will also become a hazard on the right-hand side of

this hole.

To the right of the green remove one pine tree and one poplar.

Additional Project for Short Practice Area

Remove the bunkers nearest the sixth fairway adjacent to where the two large trees have been removed. Build a contoured area to replace the bunkers which would give enhanced short game practice options. The long bunker will remain for practice of sand shots.

HOLE 7 – “AULD LINE”



Left Hand Side

In the stand of trees between the sixth and seventh fairways remove the spruce trees to liberate the broadleaf trees and then replant using native broadleaf varieties.

At the left of the green remove one pine tree.

Right Hand Side

A stand of trees run the full length of this fairway adjacent to the boundary fence. The number of trees in this planting need to be managed over a 5 – 10-year period bearing in mind any public liability the club may have to users of the pathway and public

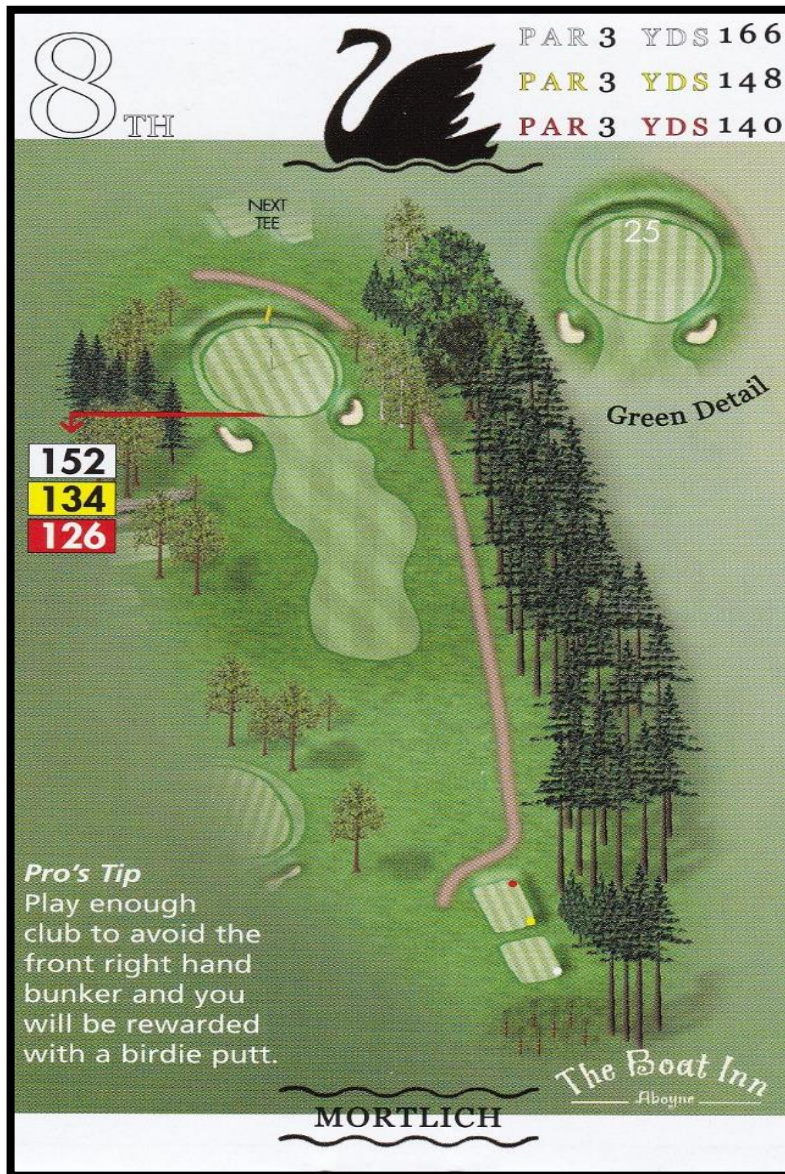
road.

In the first stand of broadleaf trees remove all poplars.

Remove two trees from the group where the fairway rises and provide new planting nearer the green.

Remove three poplars to the right of the green.

HOLE 8 – “MORTLICH”



Left Hand Side

Remove the birch tree at the end of the wall. This will expose the left-hand bunker and allow it to perform its primary function as a hazard.

Right Hand Side

Remove leylandii hedge to the right side of the tee to allow more light to the teebox.

Prune the large lower branches of the trees along the boundary fence to raise the canopy and allow more light penetration.

Remove four Leylandii and two Douglas firs to the right of the green.

HOLE 9 – “LOCH”



Right Hand Side

The trees between the loch and the right-hand side of the yellow tee need to be thinned and lower branches removed to raise the canopy.

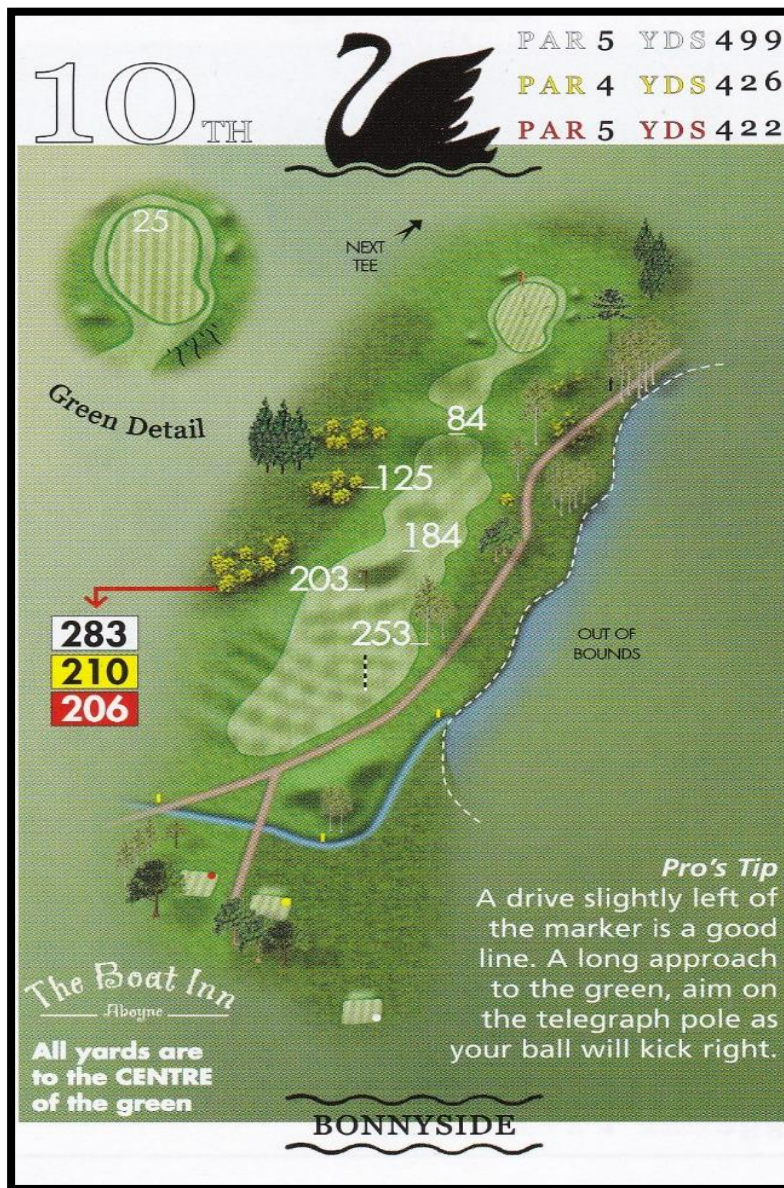
This will allow more light penetration and improve the view over the loch from this tee.

In the stand of trees adjacent to the tenth tee remove one poplar.

Opposite the approach to the green remove all poplars and replant using more appropriate species.

Remove poplars at the rear of the green.

HOLE 10 – “BONNYSIDE”



Left Hand Side

The stand of trees to the left of the gent's tees require to be thinned and on the remaining trees the lower branches should be removed to raise the canopy.

Right Hand Side

Thin out the trees to the right of the tee to allow more light penetration. The remaining trees will then attain better growth and shape.

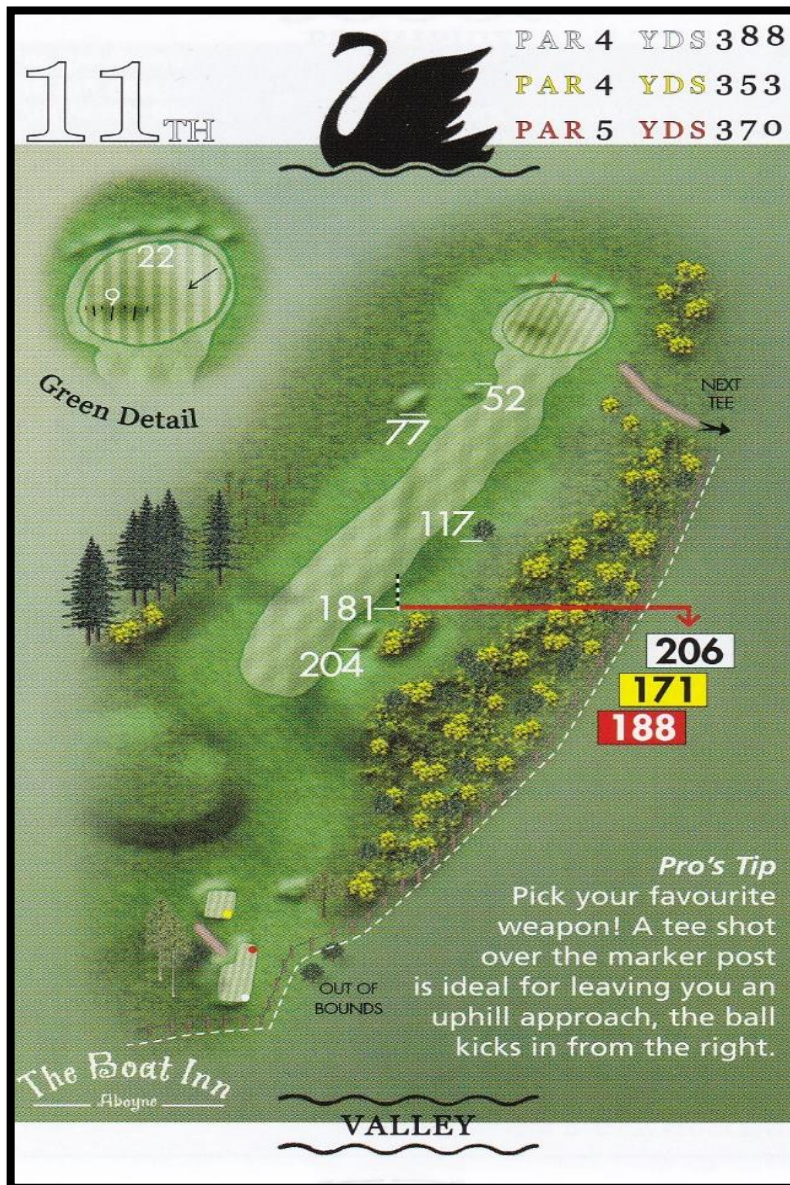
If agreed by Council, it has been suggested that one tree is planted before the lone birch tree at the start of the fairway. Also, that three or four trees are planted after the birch

tree towards the bell. These trees would be planted in the rough to provide definition and maintaining the integrity of this par 5 hole.

Remove large partially broken branch from the pine tree opposite the right-hand bunker.

Top the three leylandii at the fence opposite the green to control their growth.

HOLE 11 – “VALLEY”



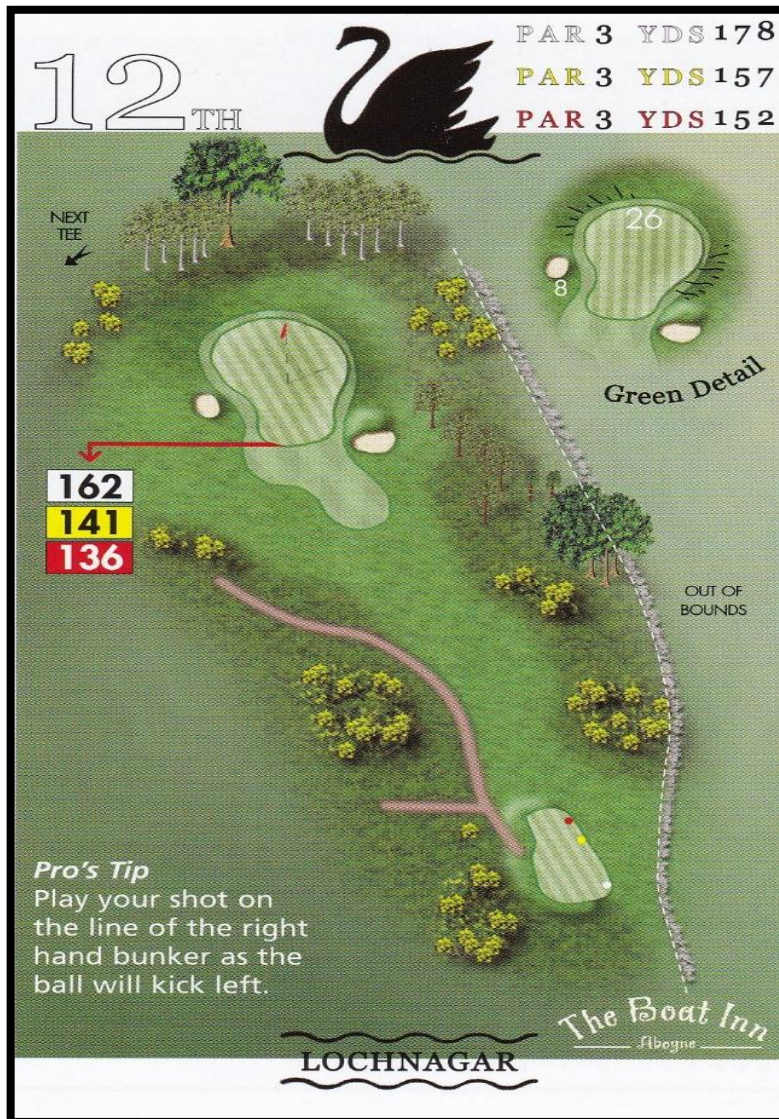
Left Hand Side

Prune the birch trees next to the tee to improve light penetration by raising the canopy which will also improve the overall shape and health of these trees.

It may be necessary to consider planting trees behind the large stand of trees on the bank at the left beyond the ditch. This would be a long-term project. The reasoning being that at some time we may lose some or all of this stand of trees.

Monitor and maintain the planting of small trees in the rough by thinning and pruning.

HOLE 12 – “LOCHNAGAR”



Right Hand Side

This par three now plays longer than was originally planned. The bank and bunker to the right have been adjusted as much as possible to enable the hole to be played as intended. However, a large proportion of golfers play this hole with a long iron or rescue club. Played into a head wind it can be a daunting tee shot.

When a wayward tee shot is played to the right it is impossible to see where the ball has landed and how far it has travelled. This can contribute to slow play which is a problem on

the back nine and can deter return business from visitors. In order to somewhat alleviate the above situation two options could be considered.

Option1

The trees all along the right-hand side to be thinned and pruned back as much as possible to allow golfers to follow the flight of the ball. However due to the location and size of the trees nearest to the tee this will not fully alleviate the situation.

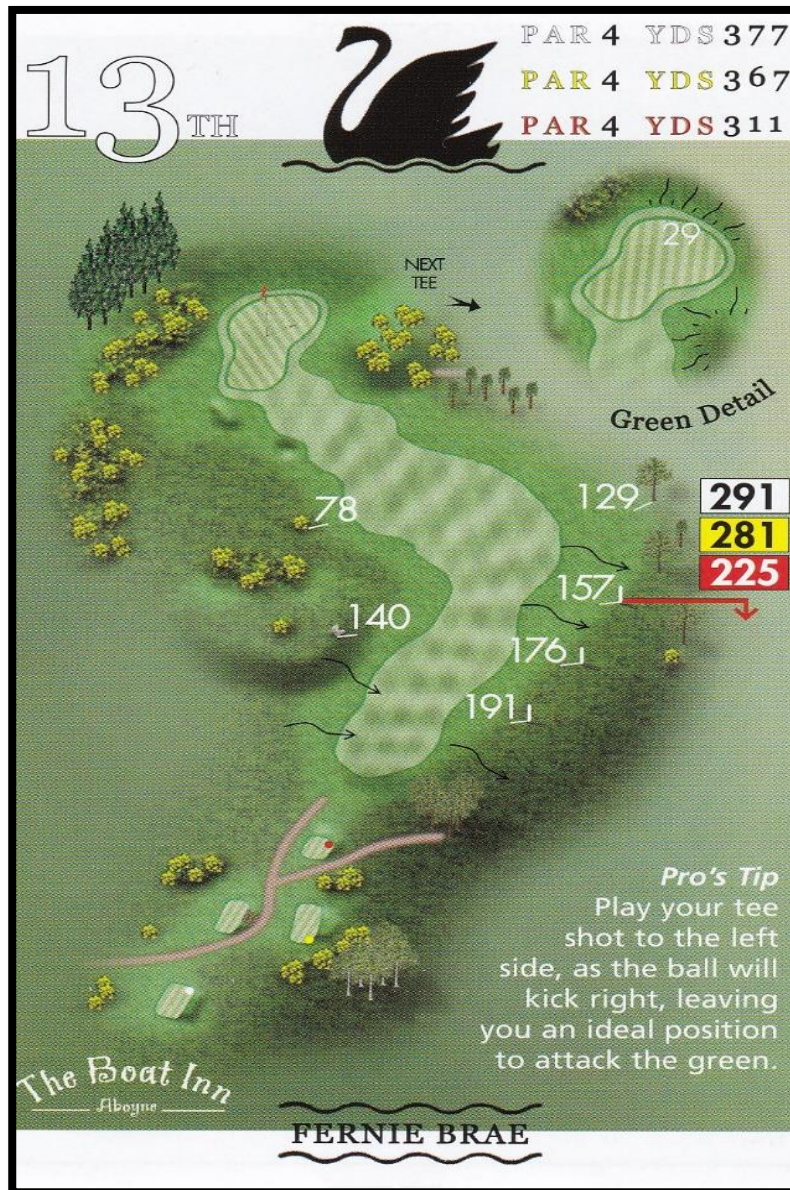
Option 2

Remove some trees in the first copse nearest the tee. There are two groups of large stones located under these trees which would be difficult



to remove and they may also have some historical significance. After removing the trees these stones could be covered with cores and earth. Option 1 & 2 will contribute the biggest gain in reducing slow play.

HOLE 13 – “FERNIE BRAE”



Right Hand Side

Below the bank at the gent's medal tee remove and thin two stands of birch trees right back to the boundary fence.

Next to the fairway at the dogleg (150-yard marker) maintain the small trees in the rough by thinning if necessary and by pruning to remove some of the growth particularly the lower branches.

HOLE 14 – “BURN”



Left Hand Side

Remove two trees near the green to allow more uniform growth of the remaining trees.

Right Hand Side

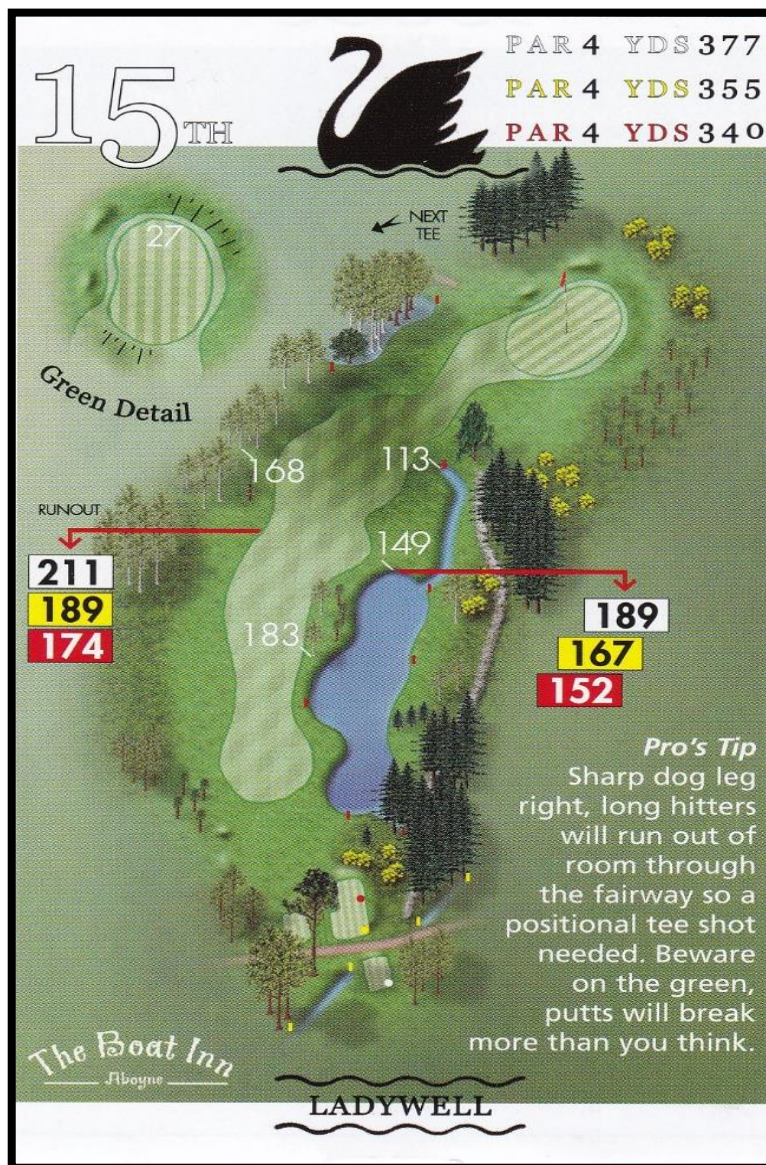
Thin out the trees at the tee while maintaining ample numbers to retain the corridor effect when approaching the tee.

In the stand of trees immediately over the burn remove two douglas firs (non-native) and one stem of the ash tree.

Thin out the trees at the rear right hand side of the green. This may only involve the removal of one or two trees. Once again this

will allow the remaining trees to flourish leaving better shaped trees. This will also reduce root penetration under the green and shading.

HOLE 15 – “LADYWELL”



Left Hand Side

The beech tree which is to the right of the path from the 14th green to the 15th tee should be removed. The trunk is hollow and it is in danger of falling at any time. **This work should be treated as urgent as it constitutes a health and safety issue.**

Maintain the copse of trees adjacent to the yellow tees by thinning and pruning as required.

The stand of birch trees at the dogleg should be thinned and then maintained by regular pruning.

The trees on the bank to the left of the green will require thinning at some point in the future.

Right Hand Side

The stand of trees which run along the wall behind the pond require to be thinned. This should be done by removing the smaller trees and those which are deformed due to overcrowding.

The trees which are planted from the burn up to just before the green should be monitored and maintained by thinning and regular pruning.

HOLE 16 – “DARACH MOR”



Left Hand Side

Remove two sycamore trees to the left of the lower tees.

The trees between the 16th and 15th fairway are well spaced and require only regular pruning to maintain health and shape.

The trees between the green and the 17th tee only require regular pruning and the removal of lower branches to raise the canopy.

Right Hand Side

Trees to the right of the lower tees require pruning to remove branches which will affect play from the tee at a later date. A

number of small trees which are not flourishing can also be removed.

In the copse to the right of the winter tee remove selected trees to maintain the shape and growth of the remaining trees.

Outwith this programme, careful consideration must be given to the planting of trees which will maintain the way this hole is played should we lose the large oak trees.

HOLE 17 – “QUEENS HILL”



Left Hand Side

The copse of trees from the ladies' tee to the bunkers require to be thinned when necessary and lower branches removed to raise the canopy.

The above can also be applied to the copse of trees in the rough between the front of the stone dyke to a point just short of the greenside bunker.

Right Hand Side

The trees in the rough which run from the 17th tee to the stone dyke will require to be thinned when necessary and lower branches removed to raise the canopy.

The trees which are planted on the dyke will require to be thinned removing the smaller trees first. This can then be reassessed and the remaining numbers managed bearing in mind growth and stability.

HOLE 18 – “HAME”



Left Hand Side

Remove the fifth tree from the row of trees between the 18th and 9th fairways.

Right Hand Side

Remove the tree to the right of the path leading from the 17th green. This tree is dying and has a large branch which is broken and may be a health and safety issue for golfers using this access to the 18th tee.

Although not affecting the golf course, it is recommended that the large trees close to the cottage and overspill car park be removed

for safety reasons. This would also reduce maintenance activity connected to the upkeep of the cottage. It may also be advisable to check insurance liability for the cottage should these trees come down and damage the building.