

COURSE DEVELOPMENT

14th Hole

BACKGROUND

As most members will be aware, the Course Committee carried out a review with advice from Swan Golf Design, a leading golf course architect to understand a number of issues:

- Within the overall Course Policy, what potential exists to improve the course for the members
- How can the course be adapted to offer operational benefits to the Course team, thereby reducing the number of man hours spent doing work that yields little benefit to the course
- What is the optimal solution to the long-standing problems of the quality of the bunkers, and also how appropriate are they currently.



14th Hole pre woodland management.

Stage 1

The hole needed a lot of Woodland Management work and this was initially carried out during lockdown by our Course Manager Kevin Hensman and his team under the oversight of Swan Golf Design. Some basic landscaping was carried out to enable the cleared areas to re-grow in a natural way. The initial clearance work opened up the hole dramatically. Wildflower seed was sown to bring a different aspect to the hole, and the resulting appearance has been widely commended as a much-needed improvement. In fact, it was significantly more successful than had been anticipated as a wildflower meadow was not the intended outcome. In future years this will become an area of fine grasses with wildflowers scattered throughout.



14th Hole after woodland management

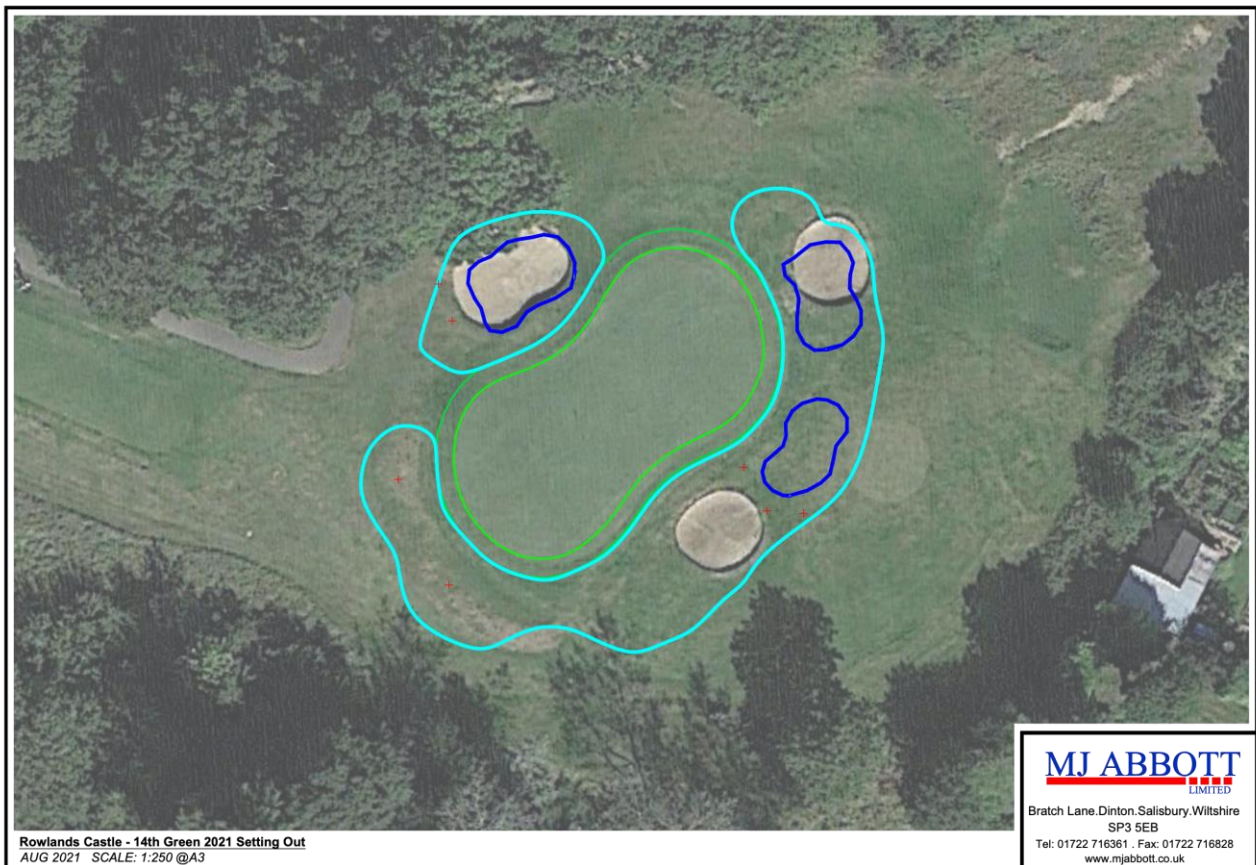
Stage 2

Due to start on Tuesday 31st August and will take approximately 10 days to complete.

A budget of just over £50000 (including VAT) was agreed and approved by the executive committee.

The work will comprise of the renewal of the three bunkers, reshaping the green complex (area), turfing the area, drainage and if necessary, some changes to the irrigation system.

The biggest change will be the re-design of the bunkers. Over the years many different solutions have been tried to deal with flint, drainage and stability. The decision has been made to install “rubber crumb” bases which retain the sand well, provide a fixed contoured base and offer excellent drainage, several golf courses in Hampshire have gone down this route including Stoneham, Waterlooville, Corhampton and Hockley. Rubber was also chosen as the base for the bunkers on the West Course at Wentworth.



This aerial view shows, blue for the new bunkers, and the turquoise area will be reshaped to include humps and Swales.

In addition, we have agreed our green staff will re-lay the path from the 14th tee to the green, prior to the hole being re-opened.

We very much hope that this is welcome news to you all and we look forward to seeing the work on the 14th completed to give us a taste for what could be possible for the rest of the course.