

Western Site Proposals (Golf Course)

Stanley Park Golf Course, Blackpool

- Established at its present site since 1925 when the golf course was opened as part of the new Stanley Park attraction.
- The course was designed by the famous golf course architect Dr Alister MacKenzie who also designed such well known venues as Royal Melbourne, Cypress Point and Augusta National, home to the US Masters.
- Blackpool Council stepped in to run the course in October 2018 when the previous operator Mack Trading went into voluntary liquidation.
- Following a procurement process, HIP was appointed in 2019 to redevelop the site for the retention and improvement of a 9 hole golf course (western site) and holiday lodges and a new Family Active Entertainment Centre to complement Blackpool's existing leisure offer with a unique new leisure destination for the town (eastern site).
- Proposals for the western site will also form part of the initial planning application and include amendments to the Golf Course, the installation of Practice Facilities and outline planning for the Clubhouse. A further application will be made for the detailed planning consent for the Clubhouse.
- Since operating the course in March 2020, HIP has already invested in equipment, drainage and maintenance.

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9 hole Golf Course Proposed Improvements

Greens

- New Greens would be constructed in a similar method as is generally used in modern day construction of tees (using a uniform minimum 200mm layer of approved Rootzone over a drained subsoil base).
- The intention is to re-use the turf from existing Greens 12 and 17 to grass the new Green 7. For the main Putting Green the preferred method would be to harvest tined cores from all greens and use them to establish the new Putting Green's grass from those cores – thereby repopulating the new surface with exactly the same grasses as contained in the retained Greens.
- The composition of the existing 18th Green and its immediate surrounds of poor draining clay soil are such that retaining the existing 18th green's surface and extending an enlarged putting surface around it would not be viable, therefore it will be removed.

Tees

- the existing tees, where they are to be retained, would benefit from levelling with the addition of a 50mm layer of rootzone with simple drainage and limited irrigation installed.
- New tee boxes (constructed with 150mm rootzone layer, simple drainage and irrigation) will be installed at each hole (number of tee boxes varies) in order to produce the course composition.

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Bunkers

- All bunkers to be retained would be rebuilt, reshaped and drained (they hold water, are in extremely poor condition, and are very far from being “MacKenzie” bunkers).
- All new and existing bunkers will be shaped in a style readily identifiable as “MacKenzie”. This is an important visual aspect for the course and improves the course in a manner faithful to its original design conception and the known views of MacKenzie.

Drainage Systems

- In line with the agronomist’s recommendation, a new pipe (provisionally 300mm diameter) and intermittent ditch to be installed through the base of the main valley. The purpose is to provide a reliable channel into which the majority of the golf holes’ drain lines can connect. This valley receives the gradient fall from seven golf holes and the Putting Green and the line would provide the fundamental drain system channel within and from the site.
- A limited number of additional drains (lateral lines and gravel banding) to fairways and semi roughs either side of the channel is also proposed.
- Capillary rope drains may also need incorporating unto the existing greens which are to be retained.

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Irrigation

- The existing irrigation system is something of a patchwork with a variety of mis-matched heads. The pumps and the system will be inspected as part of the plans to check whether the existing pipelines are still viable.
- A full new irrigation system will be provided for the two new Greens.

Filtration Pond

- The assumption is that this is unlined and relying on existing clay to hold water, proposals therefore include excavation of the pond and distribution of fill material.

