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Portsmouth Golf Course

Design rationale – a description of the proposed improvements

Design ideas for golf courses are dynamic - always developing and every site offers its own unique range of challenges. Glendale Golf recognises the need to be creative, innovative and skilful in designing improvements to provide the best 'fit' within the existing landscape, whilst enhancing the special qualities of the site. It is therefore hoped that the proposed improvements to the golf course will create additional playing and aesthetic interest, as well as improving the functionality of the course, particularly in relation to surface water drainage improvements.

Glendale Golf are embarking on a programme of course improvements in line with their deeper green credentials, working towards Glendale Golf's vision of providing facilities comparable to a private course but at prices available to all. Through the regeneration of the course, Glendale Golf is not only looking to improve the general design of the course but is also aiming to increase the quality of the golf course and associated practice facilities. The proposals consist of undertaking improvements to the existing golf course at Portsmouth, through ground remodelling in a cut and fill operation. Improvements are proposed to the course as a whole and do not involve a change of use to the course.

Proposals for the golf course would accord with the very latest in best practice for similar 18 hole municipal courses. The planned golf improvements involve sensitive enhancement and re-profiling of the existing ground levels in order to improve containment between fairways, make play fairer (by reducing the steepness of some of the cross-slopes) and to create a more characterful and challenging experience for golfers.

Currently, some of the original features of the golf course are outdated and as such require improvement to modernise and enhance the enjoyment of the course.

In particular, the area of the proposed course improvements extends to 8.9 hectares, focusing on holes #6, #7, #8, #9, #16, #17 and #18 and the practice area. A further important improvement includes the eradication of an inherent health and safety problem on hole #6, where we are proposing a new access track from the tees down the steep hillside to the fairway.

Another health & safety problem has been addressed in relation to the practice area, by re-aligning the landing area (outfield) further to the south and creating new protective,





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screening mounds alongside College Road, which will be planted up with native tree and shrub species.

One of the major purposes of these improvements is to improve the management of surface water across the golf course. This is because in a number of locations across the course (many being main playing areas – carry areas, fairways and green approaches) drainage is very poor and in normal wet conditions a number of holes often become unplayable.

Through careful and imaginative re-profiling of certain areas of the course we are targetting areas which experience poor drainage – this will involve the introduction of 7 no. new water features/ponds which will help to manage surface water flow across the site, provide flood attenuation (by increasing storage capacity of water on site) and this will result in the minimisation of flood risk off site. These improvements aim to improve drainage throughout the course, preventing holes becoming temporarily closed.

It is not anticipated that any of the mature trees on site would be affected by the proposals, recognising the valuable contribution these make to the area and to wildlife. The views over Portsmouth will be maintained to keep the outlook of the course one of its main attractions. In order to achieve this, visual assessments have been carried out to maintain the openness of the course and to ensure there are no adverse visual impacts of the new design.

There is an existing vehicular access to the western part of the site (for accessing holes #16, #17 and #18) from the road that leads to and past the golf clubhouse. There is also access from College Road to the eastern part of the site (practice area and holes #6, #7, #8 and #9). The proposal is to utilise these as the entry points for machinery and deliveries of construction materials throughout the period of the works.

Due to the fact that Portsmouth Golf Course is a busy and popular course, it is our intention to ensure there is the lowest possible impact/disruption to the playing of the course during the works – our temporary course layouts will enable 18 holes to remain in play throughout the construction and establishment periods. Every effort will be taken to ensure that there are minimal impacts on the surrounding playing areas during the course of the works.

