



Wyke Green Golf Club - Tree Report

4/7/24

Firstly, I must congratulate the club for the works that have been undertaken since my last visit the course has improved dramatically in the last 12 months.

The area to the right of the first hole has grown in well and is a great improvement from the scrub that previously existed and can now be utilised for whatever the club desires.

The quality of the playing surfaces has greatly improved as light, and air has been increased to tees and greens allowing the green staff the tools to reach their goals. Much hard work by the green staff has resulted in great improvements over the last year. It is always difficult to remember the condition of the course therefore having fixed point photography is a useful tool.

The area around the 11th and 13th greens is a great example of how quickly recovery can take place if the agronomic environment is improved the green staff can then achieve the high standards that are now evident. It is therefore important to continue the thinning works so that further improvements can be achieved.

Another area that has greatly improved both visually and agronomically is the 17th hole which now looks truly impressive. Well done to all involved.

The trees to the left of the 12th hole encroach forcing play towards the motorway creating danger and could possibly lead to the closure of the hole. The only solution is to remove the trees to the left and therefore redirect play away from the road, this should be done in consultation with the club's golf course architect so that the challenge and strategy can be improved. Planting could then be introduced towards the boundary to widen the screen to the motorway.

During the process the trees to the left of the green should be thinned and a gap created to widen the walk off to the next tee and to increase light and air to the green. This will improve the agronomy of both the path and green.

The 10th green is under stress from the poplar and willow which compete for water and nutrient with the grass sward, cast shade and reduce airflow. They should be removed to safeguard the agronomy.

Carbon Capture

Carbon capture - suitably managed grassland can hold as much carbon as a woodland - and for longer. The total values for Carbon pools within grassland and deciduous woodland are roughly similar at 300 tonnes per hectare. Most of this is below ground in the soil for grassland and, depending on the levels of ground disturbance, locked away for a very long while. A third of this (about 100 tonnes per hectare) in woodland is in the trees themselves. The trees will release their

Carbon as limbs fall off or the trees die, but perhaps the most significant is the seasonal release in the autumn when leaf drop occurs.

It was also noticeable how the poplars and willows have declined between the 3rd and 4th holes since my last visit, they now appear dangerous and will start to drop limbs indiscriminately. It would therefore be wise to plan to remove the poplar and willow as soon as possible. To maintain the challenge of the course a bunker programme should be implemented at the same time as the removal of the trees. Some replanting could then be introduced once the strategy of each hole has been decided and space created.

The trees closer to the tee to the right on hole 3 should be thinned to remove the encroachment that is occurring. Pruning is not a solution as the trees will quickly put on the growth and the status quo will return. A tree in the wrong place is always a tree in the wrong place and should be removed.

To the left of the 3rd hole the stands of birch serve no purpose as they do not screen the railway and they force play towards the 4th hole. If they were removed the centre line of the fairway would move to the left away from the conflict with the 4th hole. This would effectively create more space for a bunker strategy on both holes. The removal of the poplars and willow and introduction of a more strategic design will greatly improve the challenge and pleasure of golf at Wyke Green and will improve the drainage as light and air will be increased and the drains protected from root invasion.

Felling License

Please note your felling license expires on the 27th April 2027. I would strongly recommend that all tree works are completed by this date as the Forestry Commission in the South East seems to have a prejudice against golf clubs and are making unmanageable conditions on new licenses for golf courses.



The birch do not screen the railway from view.



The 12th green suffers from heavy shade note the presence of fusarium a fungal disease that thrives in such conditions. 2022.



13th green 2022.



14th tee 2022.



The areas to the right of holes 1 and 2 before works.