

Winter Programme 2026–27

This winter, our greenkeeping team will carry out improvements across both courses to strengthen turf health, improve playing conditions and prepare for the 2027 season.

Greens

- Aeration, including VGR sand injection on Carrickstone, hollow coring, solid tining and two passes of deep vertidrainage, to relieve compaction and improve drainage.
- Scarifying, including Graden work, and verticutting to reduce organic matter, alongside overseeding with browntop bent grass in October and March.
- Application of 150–200 tonnes of topdressing sand to help create firmer, smoother putting surfaces.
- Leatherjacket control, granular and liquid fertilisers, and penetrant treatments to help water move through the surfaces during winter.

Tees and Approaches

- Scarifying, verticutting, topdressing and vertidrainage to improve the playing surfaces.
- New irrigation on Carrickstone's 17th and 18th tees, and new steps at the 16th tee.
- New winter tees at Antonine's 3rd and 17th, and Carrickstone's 1st and 12th.

Fairways

Shockwave aeration to relieve compaction and help water move through the soil.

Paths and Tree work

- Astroturf work on the path between Antonine's 17th and 18th, and repairs to the Astroturf at Carrickstone's 9th.
- Tree work around Carrickstone's 5th and 14th medal tees and Antonine's 16th tee to improve light, visibility and usable teeing space.

Drainage

Drainage work at Carrickstone's 11th tee, plus installation of downpipe drains in Antonine's 3rd and 15th greens.

Bunker Improvements

Across the courses, we will edge and weed bunkers, top up sand levels and repair bunker liners where required. The bunkers at Carrickstone's 14th will be reshaped and fitted with bunker mat, with wacker plate compaction work on all bunkers ahead of the 2027 season.

Antonine Bunker Removal

Following discussions with the Greens Committee, it was agreed that 15 bunkers on the Antonine would be filled in. Most are poorly positioned and rarely come into play, while others suffer from drainage issues.

Removing these bunkers will allow the greenkeeping team to redirect the time spent maintaining them towards improving other, more heavily used areas of the courses.

The bunkers to be filled in are at the following locations:

- 2nd — Fairway.
- 4th — Left-hand side of the fairway.
- 6th — The larger of the two greenside bunkers; the smaller bunker will remain.
- 8th — Right-hand side of the fairway.
- 10th — Fairway.
- 11th — Fairway.
- 13th — Greenside.
- 14th — Fairway.
- 18th — Fairway.

Other Course Improvements

- Reshaping Antonine's 4th fairway and planting gorse and trees to create a new boundary to the hole.
- Repairing and returfing areas currently marked as ground under repair.

Daily Maintenance

Alongside this programme, daily course maintenance will continue throughout the winter, including cutting and switching greens to remove dew, disease prevention, blowing leaves, moving tee markers, changing holes and traffic management.

Additional projects and improvements will be carried out as time and conditions allow, depending on progress through the programme above. Weather will influence both the timing and pace of the work, so we may need to adjust our schedule throughout the winter.

Richard Bell

Course Manager