

Storm Damage Update – 31/10/2023

Storm Babet started on the 19th of October and although the worst of the rain in Scotland missed us, the damage from the sea made the biggest impact. The Coastal Erosion zone at the back of the 11th green was relatively unscathed and had the usual bit of sand receding that we get every year, some tree trunks blocking the flow of the Eel Burn at the walker's bridge and a large amount of sand deposited in the Eel Burn from the high tide.



Figure 1: Tree trunk obstructing the flow of the Eel Burn

The dune along the 3rd hole received some damage with some of the rock-filled gabions bursting and depositing the rocks on the beach. There was a bit of dune damage but nothing at that moment which was too concerning.



Figure 2: Burst rock-filled gabions along the 3rd.



Figure 3: Burst rock-filled gabions beside the Rock Armoury at the 2nd.

There was also sand blown onto the 1st fairway beside the walker's path which required a bit of tidying up to get rid of the seaweed.

The yellow weather warning over the weekend of the 28th till the 30th of October again didn't leave too much damage on the course, however, the damage from the sea has been significant.

The Coastal Erosion zone on 11 has receded at the bottom with the high tide line visible on the marram grass. The area adjacent area to the Coastal Erosion zone and further up the dune has receded a lot after building up quite a lot over the past few years. The flow of the Eel Burn has snaked off to the left which is also damaging/threatening to the Coastal Erosion zone. There are more big tree trunks obstructing the flow of the Eel Burn and more sand has been deposited in the burn. Using our digger, our team do their best to tidy this area and allow the Eel Burn to flow as freely as possible.



Figure 4: The Coastal Erosion zone at 11.



Figure 5: Further up the coastline, this area has receded a lot as the sand used to go up to the fenceposts.



Figure 6: Area adjacent to the Coastal Erosion zone.



Figure 7: The Eel Burn snaking off the left of its normal path.



Figure 8: Debris obstructing the Eel Burn.

The dune along the 3rd has received the worst damage over the weekend with the dune eroding right up to the right side of the 3rd tee. The rock-filled gabions in this area have burst and the high tides have now further eroded this section. We have roped this area off to ensure members, visitors and the general public keep away from this unstable ground.



Figure 9: The damage at the 3rd tees with a lot of the dune disappearing and been swept to sea.

There has been further sand and debris blown onto the 1st fairway which again our team will do their best to tidy up.

We have contacted Envirocentre who were part of the Coastal Protection projects at the 2nd and 11th holes to try and formulate a plan going forward to best protect our course and coastline.

Kyle Cruickshank
Course Manager