

Item: 4

Community Development Fund Sub-committee: 29 September 2020.

Application Number 0/5/8/14.

Stromness Golf Club.

Enhancements to Stromness Golf Club.

Report by Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure.

1. Purpose of Report

To consider an application from Stromness Golf Club for assistance towards enhancements to Stromness Golf Course.

2. Recommendations

The Sub-committee is invited to note:

2.1.

That Stromness Golf Club has applied for assistance from the Community Development Fund for assistance towards enhancements to Stromness Golf Course, in order to improve the experience and accessibility of the course for both members and visitors, at a total estimated eligible cost of £57,580.

2.2.

That, in May 2019, Stromness Golf Club secured grant assistance from the Community Development Fund of up to £2,500, amounting to 49% of eligible project costs, towards a feasibility study into the proposed enhancements to Stromness Golf Club.

2.3.

That Stromness Golf Club is contributing £2,879 of its own resources towards the project.

2.4.

That Stromness Golf Club has applied for match funding, amounting to £25,911, from Sport Scotland towards the project.

2.5.

That messages of support have been received from the undernoted groups and individuals:

- Liam McArthur, MSP.
- Orkney2023.
- Scottish Golf.

It is recommended:

2.6.

That a grant amounting to 50% of total eligible costs, up to a maximum sum of £28,790, to be met from the Community Development Fund, be offered to Stromness Golf Club towards enhancements to Stromness Golf Course, subject to a full funding package being secured.

2.7.

That powers be delegated to the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Head of Finance, to authorise advance payment of the grant, referred to at paragraph 2.6 above, on receipt of invoices, if required, in order to assist cash flow requirements of Stromness Golf Club.

2.8.

That powers be delegated to the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Solicitor of the Council, to conclude an Agreement, on the Council's standard terms and conditions, with Stromness Golf Club in respect of the funding, detailed at paragraph 2.6 above.

3. Background

3.1.

Stromness Golf Club, a formally constituted body, was established in 1923 and currently has 12 committee members.

3.2.

The main objective of Stromness Golf Club is to provide a high-quality golf course and accompanying facilities for the local community. As well as the course, Stromness Golf Club has an outdoor practice facility and putting green which is used by members, the public and various groups. A clubhouse with changing rooms is also part of the facility, with a function area available to hire for community events. The Club currently has a wide membership base of over 180, ranging from primary aged children to senior citizens.

3.3.

Stromness Golf Club has built an excellent reputation for developing golfers in Orkney, having been a part of Scottish Golf's Roving Pro Programme for six years. This link allows for junior and senior players benefitting from PGA Professional coaching during three visits annually. This is not exclusive to members and is open to all people keen to benefit from the coaching expertise on offer.

3.4.

Stromness Golf Club has a strong relationship with Active Schools to help encourage youngsters in Orkney to get involved in golf. The Club currently has over 30 junior members, with weekly coaching sessions to help develop their skills.

3.5.

A feasibility study was undertaken in Summer 2019, whereby Stromness Golf Club commissioned a golf course architect. The consultant was tasked with producing a report which would outline how the course could be enhanced. The works included a full survey of the existing course and producing concept designs which could be developed to enhance the experience available through playing the course.

3.6.

The report identified several ways that the course could be enhanced hole by hole. These enhancements would enable the course to be more attractive and safer for players of all ages and abilities. The enhancements would also enable Stromness Golf Club to showcase the course, as one of the host sports venues for the 2023 Island Games.

3.7.

After an initial meeting with a Sport Scotland officer during a visit to Orkney in January 2020, Stromness Golf Club was identified for potential grant funding support from Sport Scotland. The Club has also agreed to provide the minimum 5% contribution from in-kind contributions. This has enabled Stromness Golf Club to progress to the stage of applying for the final funds required to deliver the project.

4. Project Proposal

4.1.

Stromness Golf Club wishes to carry out enhancements to Stromness Golf Course. The project will improve the experience and accessibility of the course for both members and visitors. This, in turn, will increase interest among people of all ages and abilities to join Stromness Golf Club, thereby helping to ensure sustainability of the Club for years to come. It will also allow the course to be showcased for the 2023 Island Games. Further details of the proposed enhancement works are contained in Appendix 1 attached to this report.

4.2.

The works include the following:

- Reshaping of fairways, greens and surrounds.
- Creation of new bunkers and mounding.
- Upgrading of gates and paths to improve safety and allow easier course access, particularly for those with disabilities and golf buggy users.
- Safety upgrades to bridge, including new handrails.

4.3.

The project costs, which have been determined by way of quotations and secondment agreements, and proposed funding arrangements, are outlined below (exclusive of VAT, as Stromness Golf Club is VAT registered):

Project Details.	Cost.
Professional fees.	£15,000.
Course enhancement works.	£42,580.
Total.	£57,580.
Project Financing.	Amount.
Community Development Fund (50%).	£28,790.
Sport Scotland (45%).	£25,911.
Own Resources – in-kind contribution (5%)*.	£2,879.
Total.	£57,580.

* Confirmed

4.4.

Stromness Golf Club will continue to maintain and promote the enhanced course once the project is complete. None of the project works require planning consents.

5. Project Appraisal

5.1.

The proposals put forward in the development plan, which accompanies the application, outlines the intention to carry out a series of enhancements on Stromness Golf Course. This includes re-shaping and re-alignment at several holes and creation of new bunkers throughout the course. In addition, several health and safety improvements will be made. These enhancements will provide a welcoming and accessible course to all users of the facility.

5.2.

Letters of support in relation to this project have been received from the following groups and individuals:

- Liam McArthur, MSP.
- Orkney2023.
- Scottish Golf.

5.3.

The Community Development Fund and its predecessor, the Community Development Fund for the New Millennium, have supported a wide range of development projects involving sports and recreation, including:

- South Ronaldsay Golf Club towards establishment of a 9-hole golf course.
- Stromness Golf Club towards enhancements including a practice net and putting facility behind the clubhouse, as well as new tees and drainage on the course.
- Westray Development Trust towards development and environmental works at Westray Golf Course.

5.4.

With regard to Stromness Golf Club's application, the following is an assessment and evaluation against each of the approved assessment and evaluation criteria:

5.4.1. Evidence of need

- Stromness Golf Club, in partnership with Orkney Golf Club, undertook a feasibility study in 2019 to determine how the course could be enhanced and how participation could be increased from all demographics within the local community. The findings of the study were distributed to all members of the Club, who had an opportunity to comment on the proposals. Following this exercise, a final decision to progress on the recommended works was passed at its Annual General Meeting.

5.4.2. Achievability

- Stromness Golf Club is run by a volunteer committee of 12 people, who represent a wide demographic within the local area and possess a wide range of skills and experience to carry through the project, including financial and project management experience.
- The members of the committee have been involved in the development and coordination of the feasibility study. As the feasibility study was part-funded by the Community Development Fund, Stromness Golf Club has gained valuable knowledge and experience of the requirements of the proposed development, as well as an insight into the project management and claims process required for this, and for other potential funds.

5.4.3. Sustainability

- The project will help support the sustainability of Stromness Golf Club for the future, by providing the opportunity to enhance the facility based around the main recommendations from the feasibility study. This will help ensure current membership is maintained, as well as encouraging new members, thus helping sustain the Club and course for future generations.

5.4.4. Serving the local public and having lasting benefits

- The project will benefit the wider golfing community within Orkney as well as the tourists who choose to play this course. It is intended that, once this project is complete, Stromness Golf Club will host further open days, which will be free of charge and allow anyone who wishes to the opportunity to try golf on the enhanced course.

5.4.5. Opportunities provided or upgraded

- The proposals seek to enhance the Stromness Golf Course, which is one of the main sporting and recreation facilities within Orkney. The various facets of this project have been designed to be as cost effective and beneficial as possible to all existing and potential members of Stromness Golf Club.

5.4.6. Enriching quality of life

- Golf is a mildly active sport which can be enjoyed by a wide demographic. At present, Stromness Golf Club has a wide range of ages and abilities enjoying the course facilities. Enhancing the course will not only continue to provide for these players but will also encourage new people in the community to be involved in the sport. The physical benefits are supported by excellent mental wellbeing provided by personal challenges and social interaction offered by the sport.

5.4.7. Value for money

- Project costs have been carefully identified through completion of the feasibility study. Also, the enhancement works are to be completed by Stromness Golf Club's head greenkeeper, assistants and several volunteers. This team has significant industry experience, helped feed into the feasibility study and has been identified as a saving compared to using a building contractor. As such, utilising this experience, through a formal secondment agreement onto this project, demonstrates better value for money, as well as ensuring there is no double funding of his time.

5.4.8. Partnership funding

- There is the potential of securing external funding amounting to £25,911 from Sport Scotland.
- Stromness Golf Club has agreed to provide the minimum 5% match funding in the form of in-kind contributions. This includes volunteer labour, as well as a donation of equipment.

6. Links to Council Plan

6.1.

The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Council Plan strategic priority theme of Quality of Life.

6.2.

The proposals in this report relate directly to:

- Priority 5.10 – Work with partners to support Orkney's hosting of the 2023 Island Games.
- Priority 5.16 – Work towards implementing the recommendations of the Sports Strategy.

7. Links to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan

The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priorities of Strong Communities and Living Well.

8. Financial Implications

8.1.

In July 2016, a further £1,000,000 was allocated to the Community Development Fund, with £100,000 ring-fenced for Community Councils, leaving £900,000 remaining in the new allocation.

8.2.

A total of £471,327 has been allocated from the 2016 tranche of funding to date.

8.3.

Any award to Stromness Golf Club in respect of this project would be met from within the Fund, referred to at section 8.1 above, of which a budget of £333,000 per annum has been agreed.

8.4.

The option of accessing Community Development Fund grant as an advance payment, in order to assist cash flow, may also be required to ensure the project reaches a satisfactory conclusion. It is therefore recommended that powers be delegated to the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Head of Finance, to authorise advance payment of the grant, if approved, on receipt of invoices if required in order to assist Stromness Golf Club with its cash flow requirements.

9. Legal Aspects

9.1.

There are no legal constraints to the recommendations in this report being implemented and the relevant powers are contained in section 20 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

9.2.

If grant assistance is to be provided by the Council, a legally-binding agreement will require to be entered into between the Council and the recipient setting out the terms on which the funding is being provided.

10. Contact Officers

Gavin Barr, Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure, extension 2301,
Email gavin.barr@orkney.gov.uk.

Roddy Mackay, Head of Planning, Development and Regulatory Services, extension 2530, Email rodny.mackay@orkney.gov.uk.

Jackie Thomson, Development and Regeneration Manager, extension 2507, Email jackie.thomson@orkney.gov.uk.

Stuart Allison, Economic Development Manager, extension 2514, Email stuart.allison@orkney.gov.uk.

Jordan Low, Economic Development Officer, extension 2538, Email jordan.low@orkney.gov.uk.

11. Appendix

Appendix 1: Drawings of works proposed to Stromness Golf Club.

Appendix 1



Stromness Golf Club **DRAFT**

Analysis & Concept Design Report

prepared by

Rennie Design Ltd Golf Course Architects, July 2019



Stromness Golf Club

Analysis & Concept Design Report



INTRODUCTION

Rennie Design Golf Course Architects have been commissioned by Stromness Golf Club to undertake an analytical review of the existing 18-hole golf course within the overall facility. The study has been carried out in order to develop conceptual ideas and views of how the club can move forward in a sustainable, environmental and economic manner with course improvements. The commission has seen Rennie Design Ltd carry out an analytical review of the existing golf course providing professional external opinions on how the club may be able to enhance the existing facilities and future proof for many years to come. The production of this report has been carried out in advance of the International Island Games to be held in 2023 allowing for cost estimates to be generated for potential grant aid funding applications.

Golf Course Architecture

Rennie Design Ltd offers International Golf Course Architecture services based in Scotland the home of golf. We are led by an aspiring young award winning Golf Course Architect Stuart Rennie who is the Toro Sponsored European Institute of Golf Course Architects (EIGCA) Student Architect 2009. He was fortunate to have won this award after studying the coveted Post Graduate Diploma in Golf Course Architecture run by the EICGA and was also successful in passing the course with Distinction. Having studied many 'Classic' courses and the works of historical Golf Course Architects such as Old Tom Morris, Donald Ross, James Braid and Alistair Mackenzie, besides many of the modern day Architects, Rennie Design Ltd are proud to offer specialist restoration, renovation and design improvement services which respond to the classic design principles incorporating modern day Rennie Design philosophies. The Rennie Design philosophies integrate the historical golf architecture principles of designing with nature and strategic play, and combine them with analytical, environmental and contemporary approaches to design.

Golf Course Architect

Stuart Rennie is a qualified professional golf course architect & landscape architect and a senior member of the European Institute of Golf Course Architects. Stuart has worked for Peter Thomson's design practice in Australia and for their London office for the best part of 8 years. This experience has seen Stuart work on projects throughout Australia, New Zealand, China, Middle East and the UK. Stuart formed Rennie Design Ltd in 2011 his specialist international design practice based in Glasgow Scotland, focusing on Golf Course Architecture & Landscape Architecture as well as Private/Public Garden Design and Environmental Consultancy. The varied professional experience and expertise allows us to carry out projects of any size from inception to completion. Rennie Design believes in building a strong professional relationship with the client team, which helps develop the optimum design solutions.

Select Experience

Over the years Rennie Design have been working with a variety of clubs throughout the UK on similar projects, we are currently working with West Kilbride GC where we have completed the construction of some 35 bunker complexes and a new green improving the visual, strategic and playability aspect of the greenside and approach bunkering. We have also just completed the construction of the new Kings Course (previously Torvean GC) in Inverness which we designed and project managed from the inception to completion, the course was opened early in July 2019.



Stromness Golf Club

Analysis & Concept Design Report



PROCESS & GOLF COURSE STATEMENT

Strength - Rough grassland mounding



Strength - Rough grassland mounding & wall features, create playing window and visual interest.



Weakness - Large cut grass areas (paths, large tee, large blue tee and tee surrounds), creates added maintenance.



The analytical process on any given project is of paramount importance to the success of the project. An in-depth analysis has been carried out across the Stromness Golf Course to provide an overall understanding of the existing set up, studying areas such as the landscape character, vegetation, landform, health and safety aspects, playing strategy, playability for all categories and levels of golfer, key playing angles, bunker placement and positioning, maintenance, path network, slope, drainage and the like. The presentational masterplan has developed from the June 2019 site visit, committee & greenstaff meetings, note taking, photographic studies and desk study research. One of the main objectives has been to assess the challenge of the golf course for all categories of golfer looking at areas where the course can become an improved challenge for the better player without making it more difficult for the average, or high handicap player and ladies. In fact, making an objective to ensure certain characteristics of the course and its playability are easier for the higher handicap player whilst increasing the challenge for the better player. The initial analytical study has been undertaken through both field and desk studies assisting in the evaluation and production of a robust concept development. The concept masterplan for the overall facility has been presented to the committee prior to being displayed in the clubhouse for comment by the membership.

Golf Course Statement

Stromness Golf Club is set on the Ness peninsula to the south of the main town which affords magnificent views across the Hoy Sound to the Hoy Island, in towards Scapa Flow and out across the Pentland Firth to the Atlantic Ocean. The club celebrated 125 years of golf at Stromness in 2015 which is a fantastic achievement all told.

The golf course sits on the knuckle of the peninsula with holes playing up and over and around the headland. The course is fairly open to the natural environment where wind will play a big part in the day to day play. There is a mix of rugged heath, rough and cut grassland with a linky feel in areas due to its relationship with the sea. The course is self-contained but is compromised by the Ness Road access route at the Ness Point out to the historical World War Ness Battery site, the Battery is an added feature within the course with old gun placements at the 10th and 11th holes but this access route presents a health and safety risk in areas. The course is maintained to a relatively high standard throughout given that there is one full time year round greenkeeper. The quirky course is relatively short with small greens, tight fairways and varied teeing locations at each hole. Tees could be consolidated to help improve health and safety and reduce maintenance. The course does not have irrigation but mains water is available in a number of locations along with water in the pond at the 2nd. The greens are in good condition with a mix of fine native grasses but lack shape in areas. At the moment most of the course is cut wall to wall with some out of play areas being longer rough which creates texture, visual appeal and ecological areas.

Some of the main areas of focus are the greens, tees, bunkers and cut grass areas. As the course would have been laid out upon the land there are steep slopes and flatter cut and fill areas which lack contour. Over the years greenkeeping machinery and maintenance has improved therefore the once slower playing surfaces have become faster due to expectations of the golfer. Unfortunately the historical greens at Stromness have become less playable as a result and now lack pinnable areas due to steep slopes on the green surfaces. Given the size of the greens shots will require to be landed short and run on, in areas playing the running ball becomes a lottery. When conditions are like this there needs to be more focus on the outer areas of greens and approaches to allow for good playing conditions giving the golfer a better opportunity to access the green from the recovery shot. There are a couple of greens on the course which have interesting contours such as the 16th and 18th which are greens that may have had work done to them over the period. Both greens and tees are cut by hand which can be time consuming. Tees are more than likely cut by hand due to the fact that a good number of them are undulating as they are cut into the lay of the land not been graded fully during construction or they may have settled over the years. There are minimal bunkers on the course, some that come into play and others that do not, they lack visual and strategic interest and could be improved dramatically to become complimentary hazards and visual features. There are areas throughout the course that are currently cut wall to wall which is not necessary. Rough grassland creates texture, visual interest and ecological interest which requires different cutting techniques on a yearly basis freeing greenkeeper time to other activities.

One of the main areas of focus is the playing strategy and visual interest from hole to hole where bunkering/hazards tend to be the main discussion point. There are a number of areas where rough grassland has been left to grow on mounding creating visual interest, this is a fairly simple way to create strategic visual aspect to a golf hole which requires minimal maintenance. Creating a consistent and cohesive style and visual impression throughout brings the overall golf course together and makes the experience of playing more enjoyable.

In today's world golf clubs tend to have a desire to extend their courses which is often not possible due to lack of available land in already tight historical routings. Creating length is not always the answer which if implemented can make holes a longer more mundane haul. Without worrying too much about creating length a course can be improved by creating improved strategy, visual interest and enjoyable playability.

The following documentation provides a hole by hole analysis and concept design proposals with associated explanatory text which is then followed by concluding professional recommendations and suggestions.



Stromness Golf Club

Analysis & Concept Design Report

Hole 1 - Par 4
335 yards

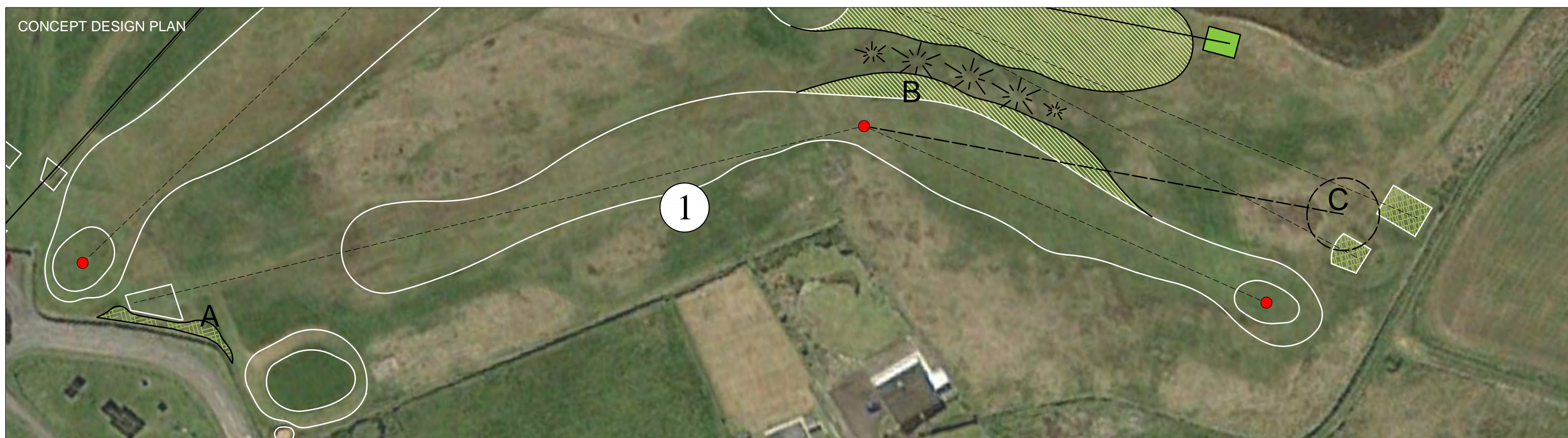


Analytical Hole Review:

Uphill start with blind dogleg to the right.
Undulating teeing area, semi rough around tee could be left more natural minimising maintenance.
Appealing rugged aspect to the hole which creates natural look and definition with the rough.
Very tight landing area, cutting the corner may present a health and safety concern with the adjacent house.
Small table top green approximately 170sqm.
Natural area of heather heath to left side of green.

Concept Design Proposal

- A. The golf course is well maintained but there is definite opportunity to have out of play areas with longer rough grassland creating texture, visual and ecological interest. This may require cutting a couple of times a year but will reduce maintenance and free up valuable greenkeeping time.
- B. Create separation with well shaped natural style mounding between the 1st and the 2nd, push the fairway left at the same time.
- C. There is an opportunity as part of an improved strategy to the second hole to create an improved 1st green. The 1st green is a simple cut and fill flat green with no real shape on the surface and to the surrounds. Steeps slopes will create maintenance issues.



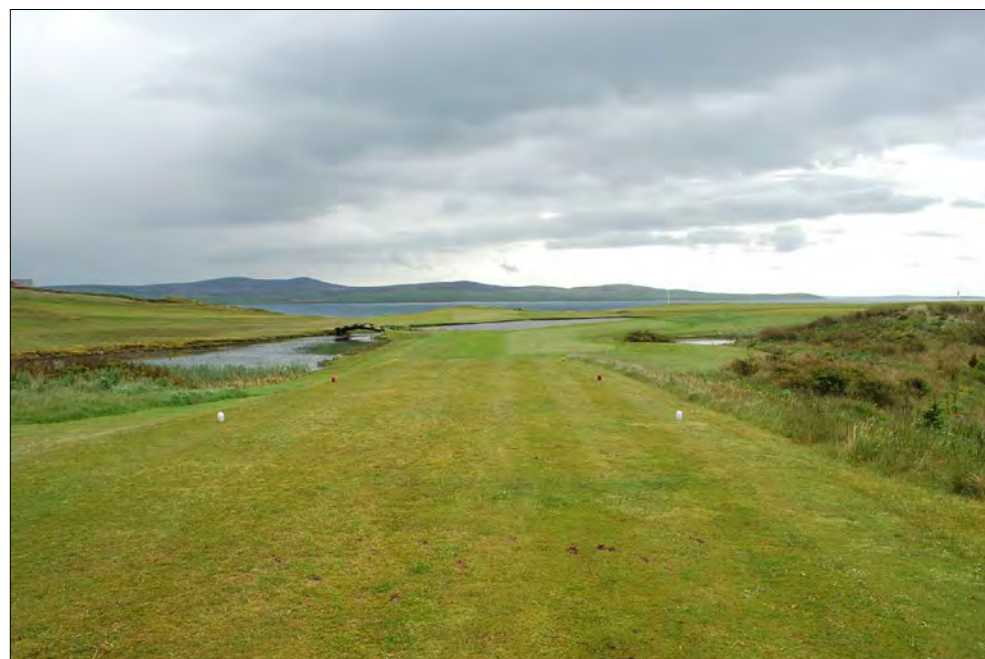
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Stromness Golf Club

Analysis & Concept Design Report

Hole 2 - Par 3
206 - 180 - 170, yards



Analytical Hole Review:

Good variety of teeing locations which could be consolidated. The water plays a big part in the strategy of the hole therefore the teeing areas could be reviewed to free up space for improvements on the 1st.

The bridge is a slight visual impact and detracts from the look of the hole, it also requires to be upgraded.

Quite a long forced carry for the ladies.

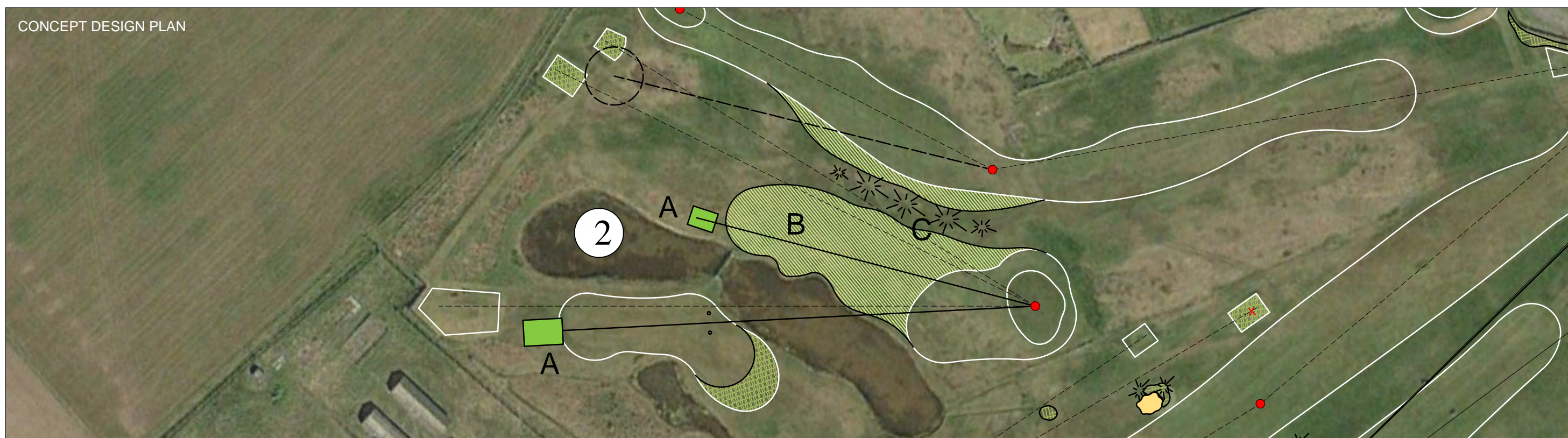
Nice green location with dune like back drop. The green falls off to the left onto the 1st fairway which is a health and safety concern. Create some separation between the holes.

Concept Design Proposal

A. Create enhanced teeing locations for both ladies and juniors. By making the teeing locations sex neutral throughout allows the golfer to choose for their own capability.

B. Create a larger landing area on the other side of the water maintaining the forced carry strategy over the water.

C. Create separation between the 1st and 2nd with some well shaped sympathetic rough grassland mounding.



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Stromness Golf Club

Analysis & Concept Design Report

Hole 3 - Par 3
219 - 180, yards

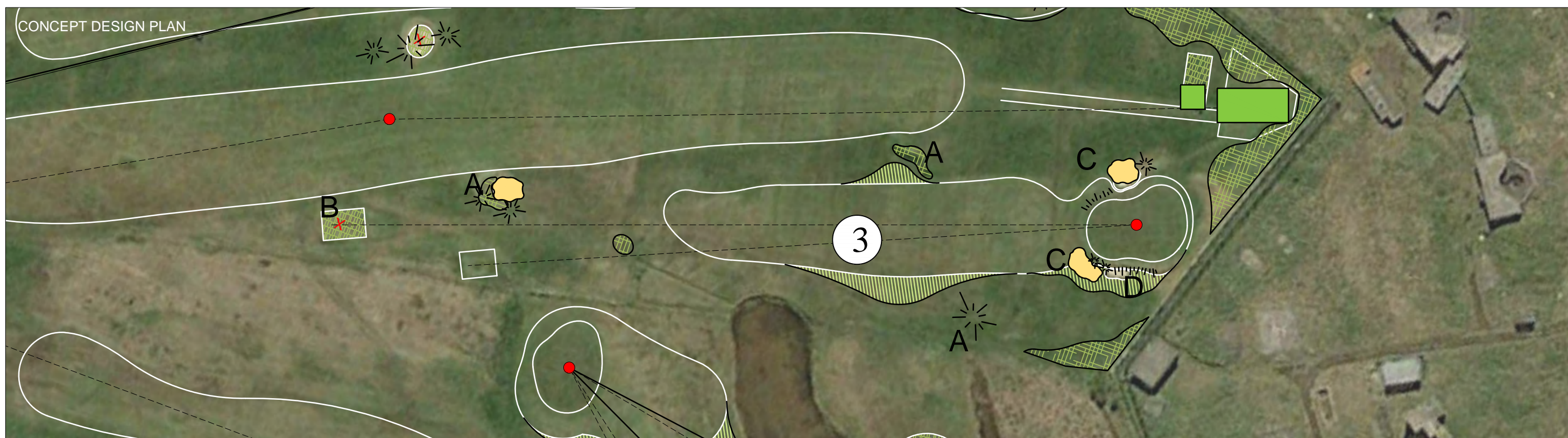


Analytical Hole Review:

Back tee location must see a few balls from the 3rd which is a health and safety concern. The tee 20yards further forward is visible from the 3rd and is a slightly safer option. Quite a long mundane shot from the back tee which lacks character. The rough grassland mound in front of the tee creates visual interest and texture and stands out when areas are cut wall to wall. This is a simple cost effective way of creating visual interest and focusing the golfers eye on the line of play. Quite an open entry to the green where the bunkers are not overly visible. Bunker shapes, style and location could be improved. Old stone wall near the tee is a nice historical feature and the wall behind the green has a fantastic array of lichen on it.

Concept Design Proposal

- A. Improve the visual aspect of the hole by allowing more rough grassland to grown on the dominant mounds and on the back of the bunker in front of the back tee. Create mound to the right to compliment other mounds.
- B. Consider removing the back teeing location and improving the size of the forward tee.
- C. Improve the size, shape and location of the bunkering to enhance the visual and strategic aspect of the hole.
- D. Re shape the mounding to the right of the green to make a good quality drop off out of the old bunkered area and reduce the sharpness on the slopes making maintenance easier.
- E. Throughout the course the greens are quite small therefore more emphasis is required to create good playing conditions to the green surrounds to allow a slightly easier recovery shot. At the moment the greens are slightly hemmed in, by freeing up time on cutting wall to wall this should be achievable.



Scale, 1:1000@A3



Stromness Golf Club

Concept Visual - 3rd

Existing



Proposed





Stromness Golf Club

Analysis & Concept Design Report

Hole 4 - Par 4
403 - 380, yards

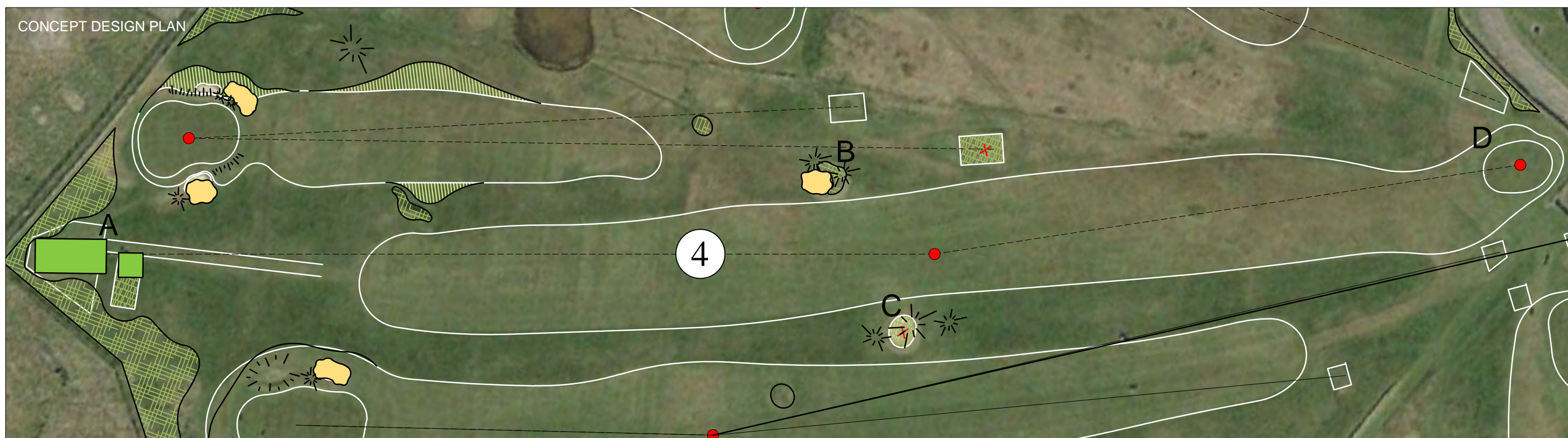


Analytical Hole Review:

Large uneven teeing area which is cut wall to wall.
Relatively blind tee shot with no real sense of direction off the tee and nothing to draw the eye in other than the marker post.
Left bunker at 212yards is visible and right bunker at 245 yards is not. The 3rd back tee is not visible which is a health and safety concern.
Downhill approach to a small green hard against the boundary wall with minimal mounding as a back stop. The green has very limited pin positions with most of the green on a 4 degree slope.
Space is cramped with the 1st tee, 4th green and 5th tee all in very close proximity to each other.

Concept Design Proposal

- A. Consolidate the tee removing the right portion which unfortunately looks quite new, at the same time pull the blue tee over in line with the back to help mitigate health and safety concerns on the right.
- B. Add improved supporting mounding to the left bunker and allow rough grassland to grow on the back to create improved visual aspect.
- C. Fill the non visible bunker on the right and create complimentary mounding to focus the direction of play from the tee. This well shaped mounding should also be visible from the 5th for the same strategic purpose.
- D. The green could probably be cut out to the left but obviously this is very close to the 1st tee. Some separation should be maintained. There is an opportunity to lift, re shape the green, approach and surrounds to help create more pin positions.



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Stromness Golf Club

Analysis & Concept Design Report

Hole 5 - Par 4
355 - 330 - 325 - 283, yards

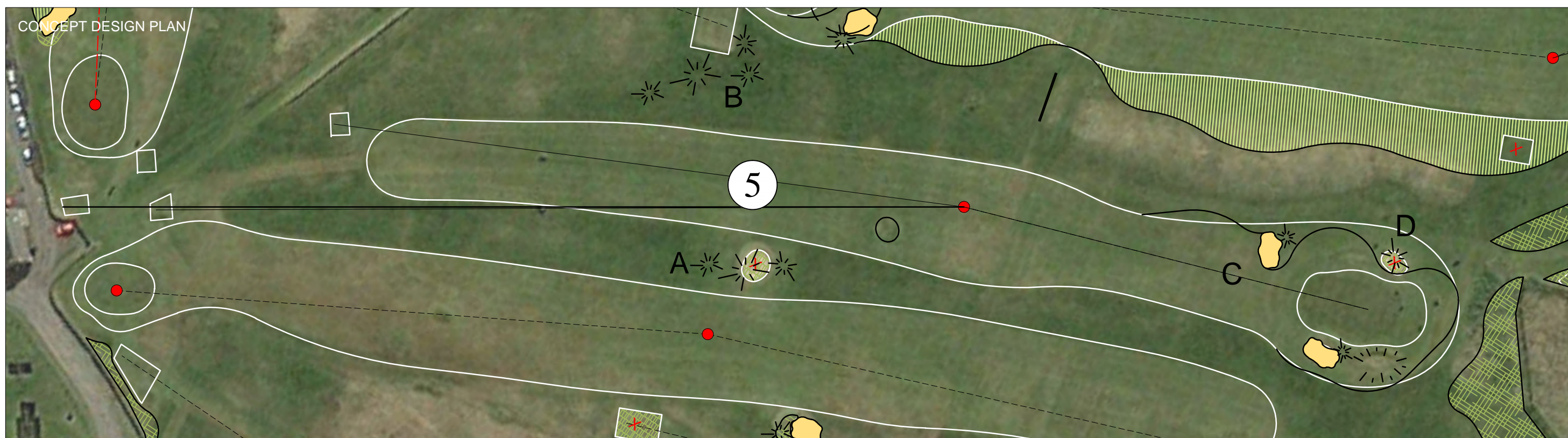


Analytical Hole Review:

Again there is a lack of sense of direction with no clear features directing play and the landing area is blind. The 8th tee is visible and in range which is a health and safety concern, consider its location. Four separate small teeing areas creates time consuming maintenance especially when the blue tee and red tee are practically the same distance. Grass mound in the middle of fairway is blind off the tee, this could be shaped into a more interesting grass bunker feature which may catch the longer hitters. Open entry to the green where improved strategy should be explored, the back left bunker is not visible. Large fairly flat green.

Concept Design Proposal

- A. Create well shaped rough grassland mounding on the right visible from both the 4th and 5th tee will help enhance the direction of play and create a visible feature.
- B. Create improved supporting mounding to the 8th tee, creating a playing window for the 5th tee shot. This can be rough grassland to create visible texture.
- C. Improve the strategy at the green with enhanced strategic bunker placement, improved bunker shape, style and visibility along with good quality surrounds and a drop off to the back right. The green could be improved in terms of contour.
- D. Remove back left bunker which is not visible and create well shaped natural style mounding.



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Stromness Golf Club

Analysis & Concept Design Report

Hole 6 - Par 3
186 - 164 , yards

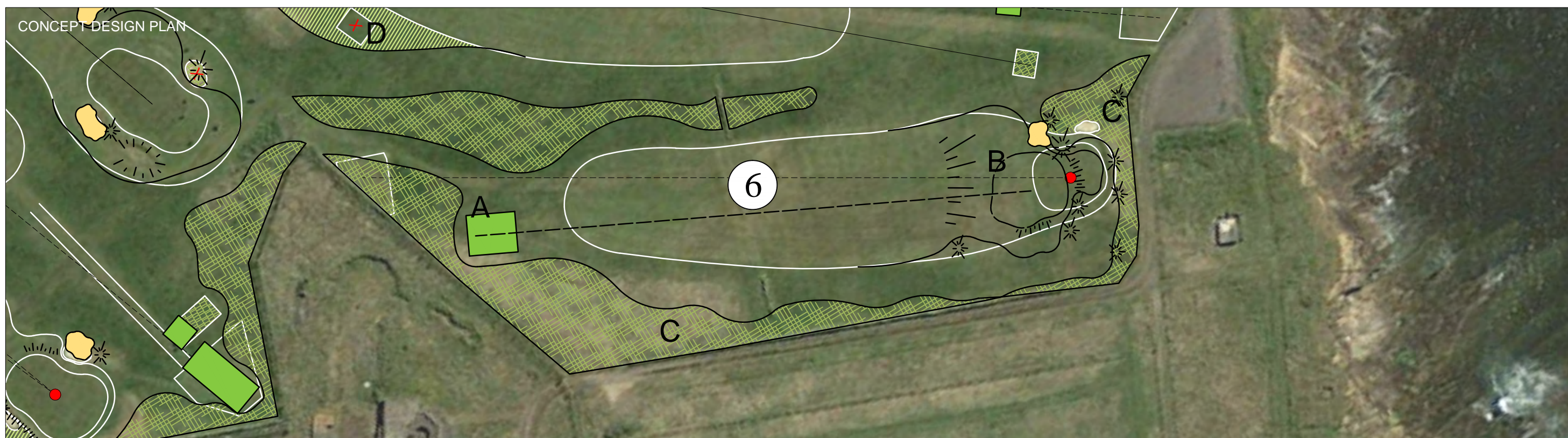


Analytical Hole Review:

Blind down hill par 3, the top of the pin is visible. The back drop of Hoy and the sea is fantastic. The walls either side of the fairway are a nice feature. Allow rough to grow in out of play areas. The green is tight to the boundary, quite square in shape with sharp mounding through the back. The bunker to the left is not visible, lacks shape and style. There could be a little more focus on creating good quality surrounds.

Concept Design Proposal

- A. This hole could be improved by pushing the tee slightly further forwards to help create more visibility.
- B. It is important to create a much more playable green and back stop, this could be achieved by pulling the green forwards which will require to be shaped by a golf course shaper. By pulling the green forward there will be an opportunity to improve the back stop and surrounds with good quality shaped mounding, a more visible bunker and good quality drop off areas through the back of the green and to the sides creating a much more natural green complex.
- C. Create rough grassland improving the visual texture and reducing maintenance.
- D. Re locate the golf sixes tee.

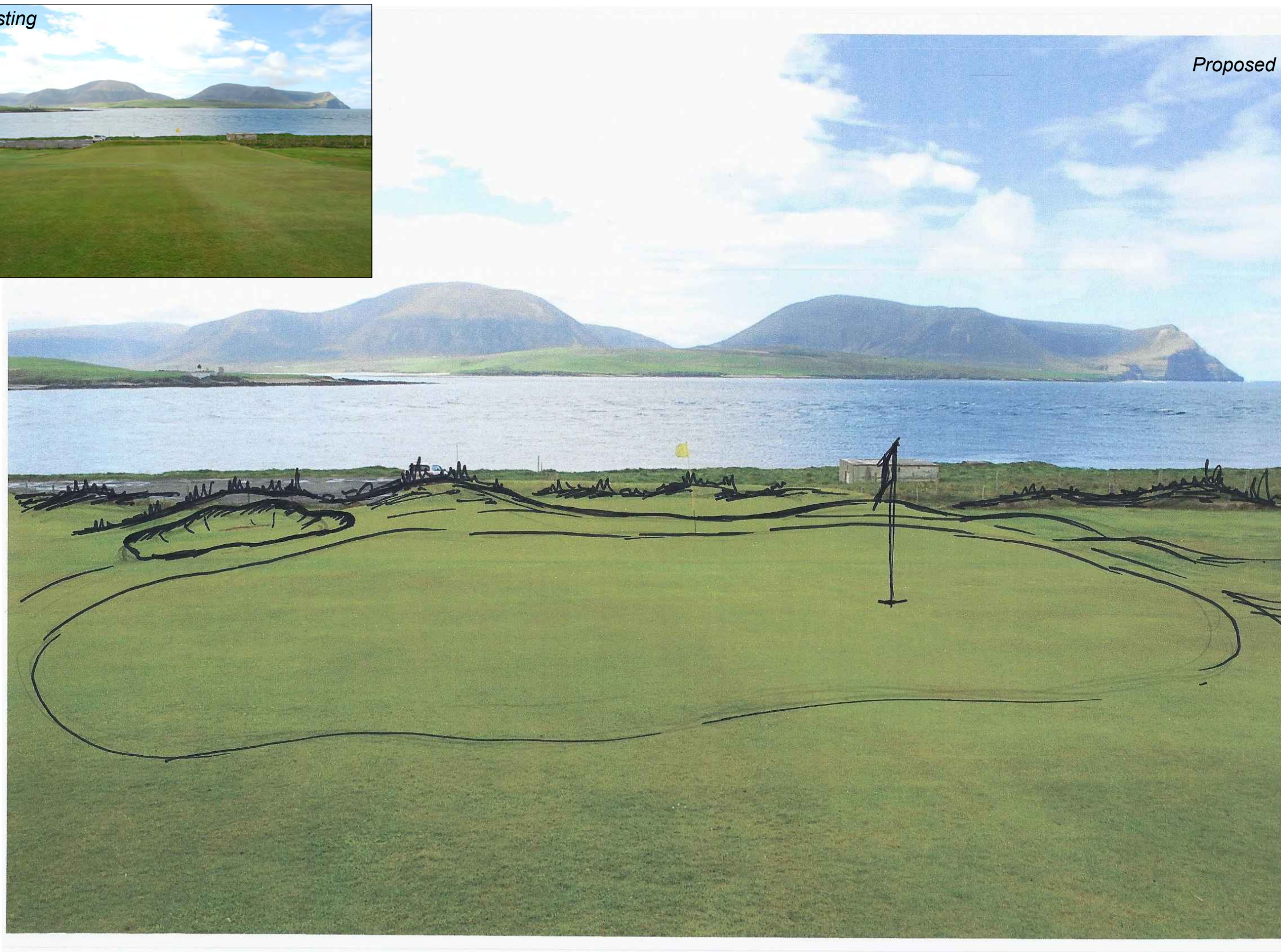


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Stromness Golf Club

Concept Visual - 6th

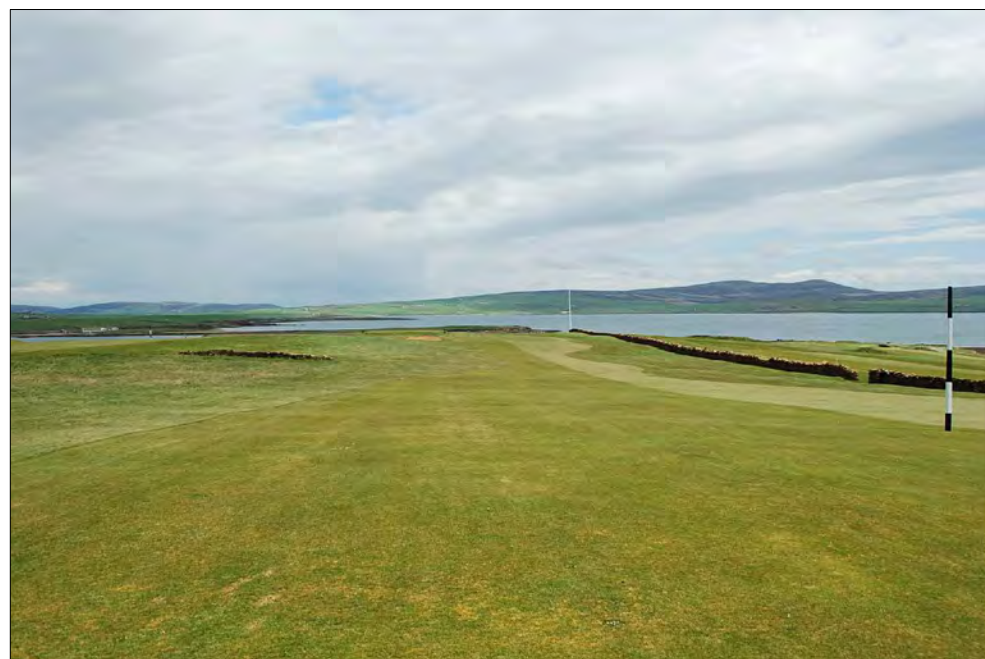




Stromness Golf Club

Analysis & Concept Design Report

Hole 7 - Par 4
402 - 372 , yards

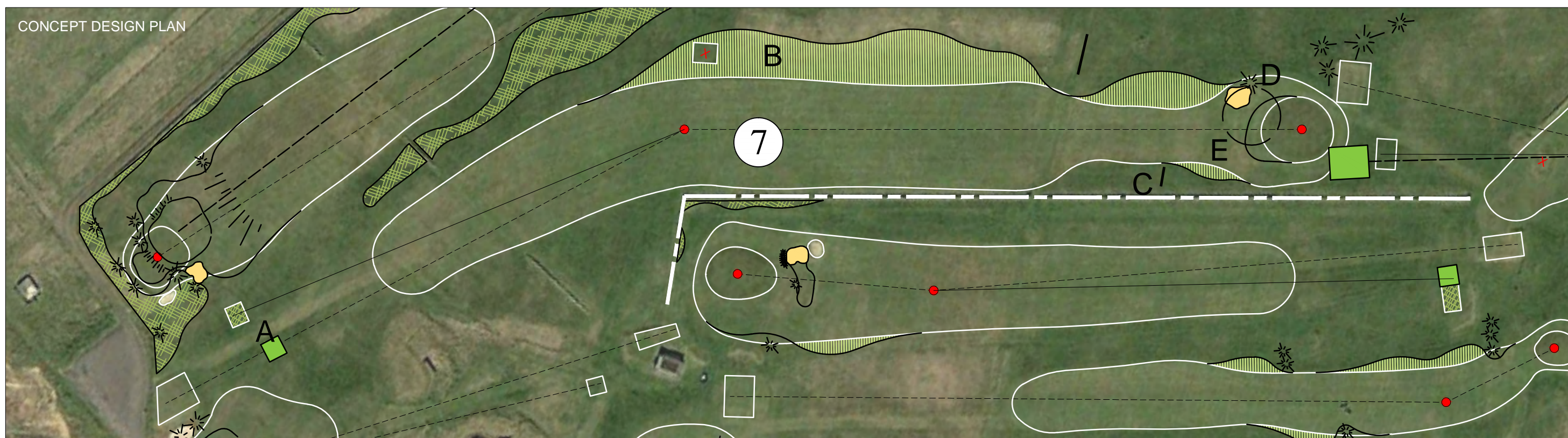


Analytical Hole Review:

The blue tee could be more in line with the back tee as it sits close to the 6th.
Blind tee shot with an internal out of bounds wall on the right side of the dogleg all the way to the green (190yards to the corner white post).
The fairway should be opened up to the left and where possible extend the landing area. Nice wall feature to the left approach in the rough, this strategic feature could be implemented elsewhere.
Approximate 220yard placed tee shot will leave a long 180 yard shot. Fairway tight at the approach.
Bunker disconnected from the fairly flat green. Next tee is quite close to the green.

Concept Design Proposal

- A. Relocate the blue tee more in line with the main teeing area.
- B. Extend the fairway out to the left from the corner to the green and on the approach.
- C. Create a small complimentary strategically placed wall on the right side approach.
- D. Improve the relationship between the green and the bunker, the green can be cut out closer but the bunker style, shape and visibility requires to be improved.
- E. There may be an opportunity to pull the green forwards to provide more space for the next tee to be relocated on the right which is a better playing angle for the 8th.



Scale, 1:1250@A3



Stromness Golf Club

Analysis & Concept Design Report

Hole 8 - Par 3
105 - 90 , yards

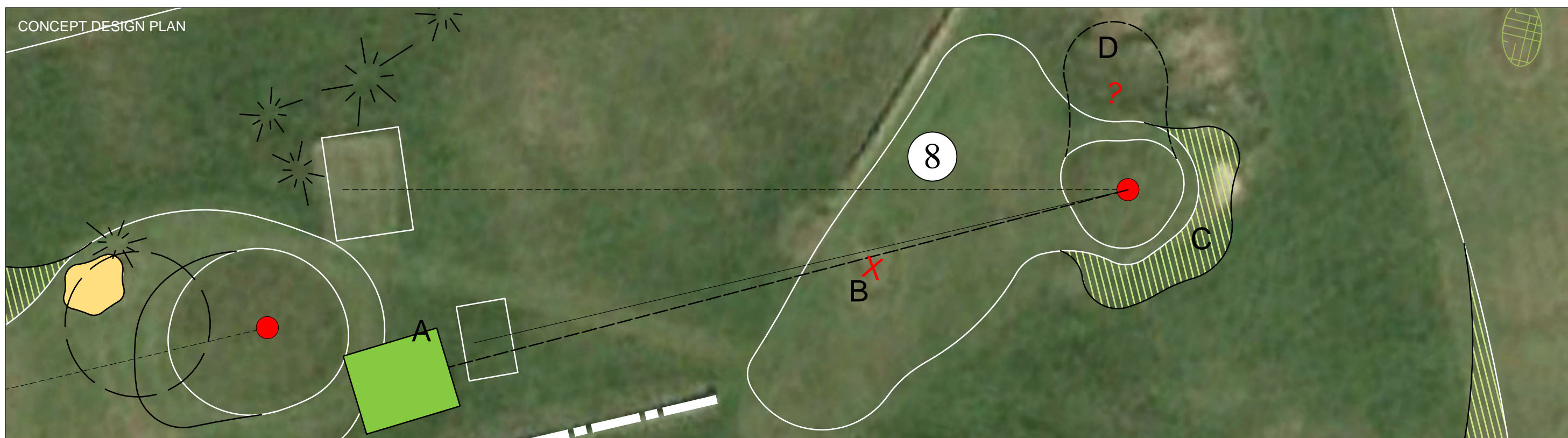


Analytical Hole Review:

Short downhill quirky par 3 with poor visibility of the green.
The tee sits in a location which may be hit from drives coming up the 5th, the hole looks like it should be played from closer to the wall where the golf sixes tee is located.
The old filled bunker short compromises the landing area even though is a nice feature.
The ball has to be landed short and released down the slope which becomes a lottery.
The surrounds could be improved to become more playable.

Concept Design Proposal

- A. More visibility would be created if the tee was to be relocated.
- B. Create an improved landing area by removing the old bunker and improving the shape of the landing area, pull the old bunker closer to the tee maintaining the visual aspect.
- C. Improve the quality of cut grass to the green surrounds.
- D. Explore the opportunity to improve the overall green complex to the left side of the existing as the green is quite severe with limited pin positions.



Scale, 1:500@A3



Stromness Golf Club

Analysis & Concept Design Report

Hole 9 - Par 4
263 - 240 , yards

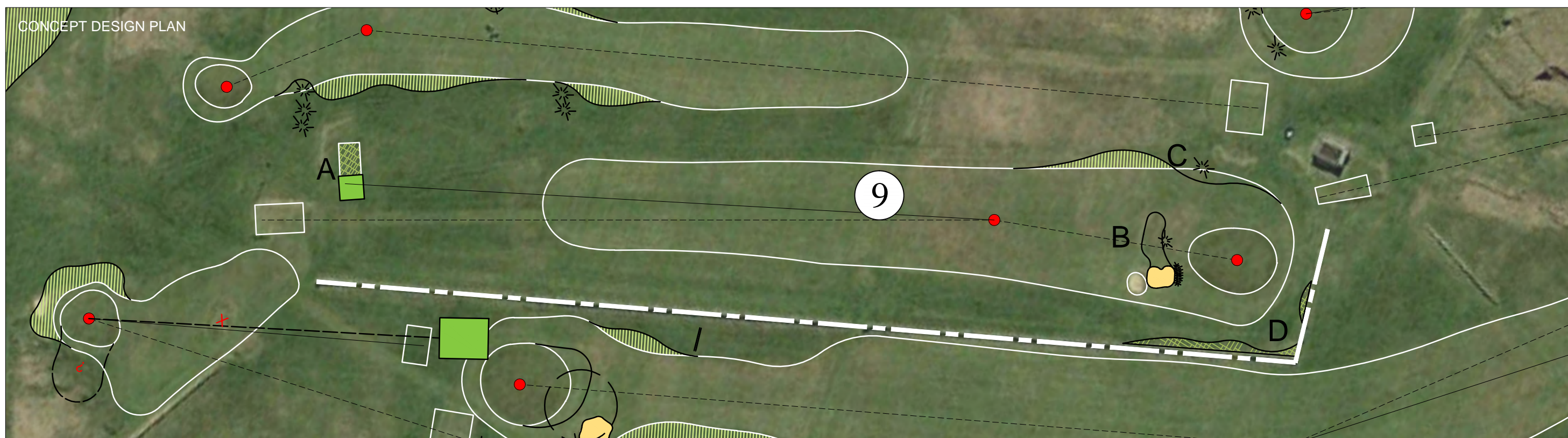


Analytical Hole Review:

Again the blue tee seems far too big which just creates added maintenance.
Nice looking tee shot with elements of rough grassland mounding and old walls which create vertical visual interest and creates the playing window.
The bunker at the green looks like a mound from the tee, this should be made more visible and could become a larger more impressive hazard. There is a small mound directly in front of the bunker which hides the sandline.
The green is one of the larger ones but lacks contour.

Concept Design Proposal

- A. Reduce the size of the blue tee.
- B. Improve the visibility of the bunker and add to this feature by extending the rough grassland onto the old filled bunker on the left. Improve the shape of this to encompass a good quality grass bunker.
- C. Add a separation rough grassland mound between the green and the 12th tee.
- D. Create some rough grassland texture to the right and behind the green.



Scale, 1:1000@A3



Stromness Golf Club

Concept Visual - 9th





Stromness Golf Club

Analysis & Concept Design Report

Hole 10 - Par 3
163 - 136 , yards



Analytical Hole Review:

Lovely short par three downhill with Hoy and the sea in the back ground. The green can be seen from the tee playing through a gap in the old gun placements which is an interesting feature within the hole. The rough grassland creates texture and visual interest.

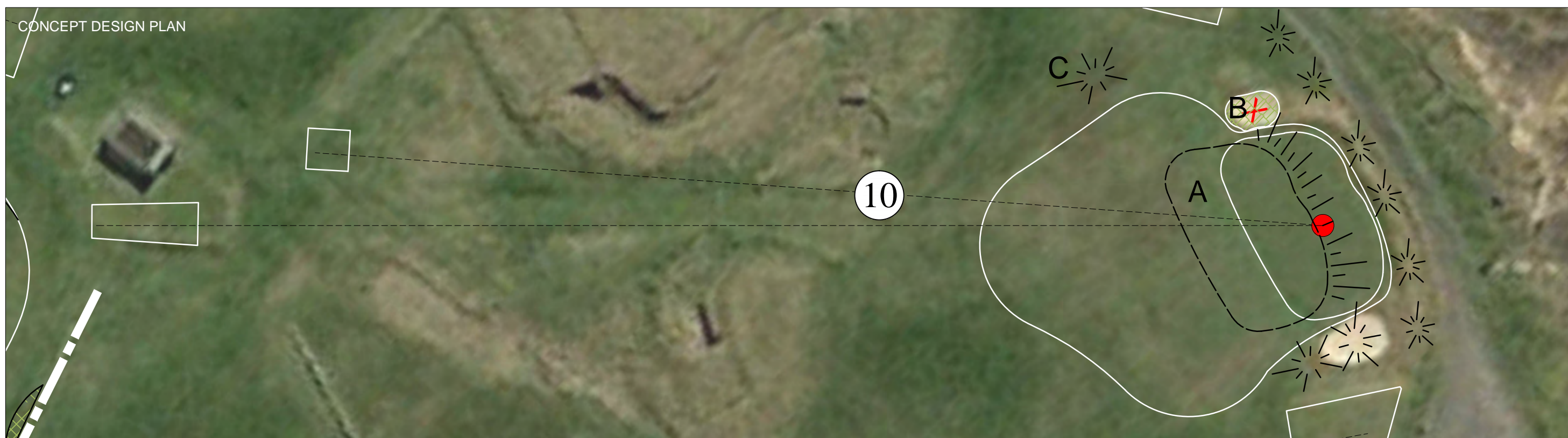
The green side bunker is not visible form the tee and the right green side bunker has been filled in and turned into mounds. The green sits very tight to the boundary like the 6th.

Concept Design Proposal

A. Similar to the 6th the green could do with being pulled forward slightly to create more space behind improving the relationship with the boundary. This green could be raised slightly to give an infinity green look differing from the strategy on the 6th. The green would require to be re graded to hold a ball and add more interest.

B. The non visible bunker is not necessary.

C. Some added rough grassland mounding will help create separation with the adjacent holes.



Scale, 1:500@A3



Stromness Golf Club

Analysis & Concept Design Report

Hole 11 - Par 3
142 - 130 , yards



Analytical Hole Review:

The blue tee is quite big and only a few yards in front of the main teeing area with a forced carry over the old gun placements.
Two greens so close create confusion.
Fairly simple cut and fill green which lacks shape, the mounding and surrounds could be shaped better.
The halfway house allows views is a good viewing area and nice feature.

Concept Design Proposal

- A. There may be an opportunity to create one larger teeing area or push the blue tee further up.
- B. There is an opportunity to create a double green but create separation with a bunker to the right side in between the two with some well shaped supporting mounding.
- C. Improve the shape of the mounding to the back and to the left side to focus the direction of play to the left green location.



Scale, 1:500@A3



Stromness Golf Club

Analysis & Concept Design Report

Hole 12 - Par 4
279 - 275 , yards

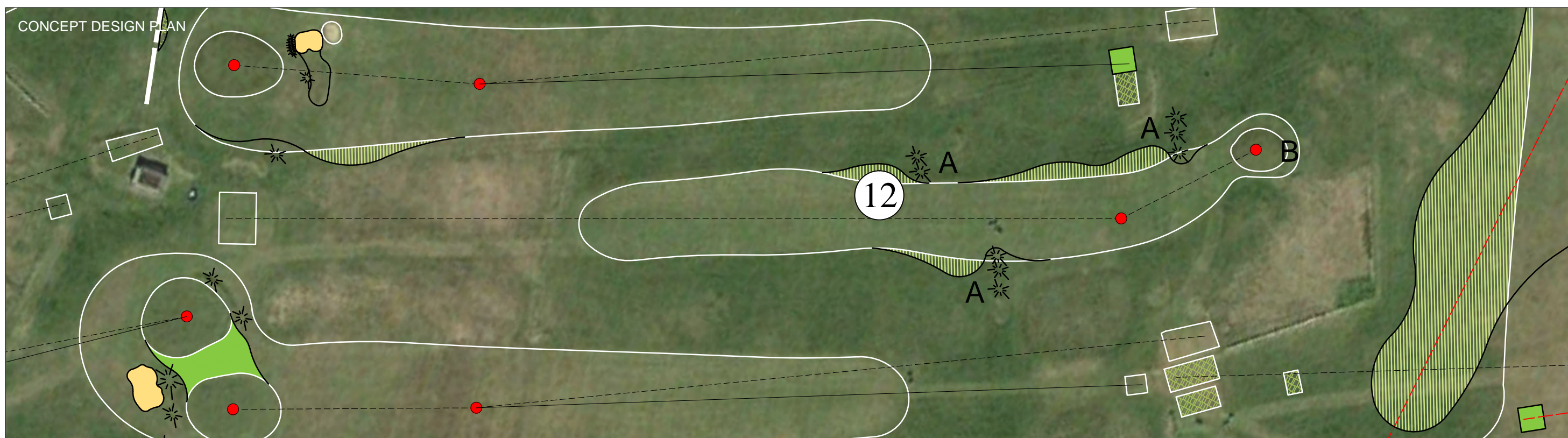


Analytical Hole Review:

Old walls provide a good playing window and sense of direction. The rugged mounds further up are visible vertical features which could be brought more into play with altering the cut line or made slightly longer to become more strategic. The fairway could be cut slightly further left at the landing area and the central cut line could look as if it goes left before the brow of the hill. Quirky small green site with limited pin positions which may require some re grading work.

Concept Design Proposal

- A. Enhance the shape and style of the existing rough grassland mounding, pulling them into the fairway slightly and alter the cut line to enhance the strategy for the tee shot.
- B. Possible re grading work in and around the green to create more pin positions. Enhance the quality of green surrounds and drop offs.



Scale, 1:1000@A3



Stromness Golf Club

Analysis & Concept Design Report

Hole 13 - Par 4
266 - 245 , yards

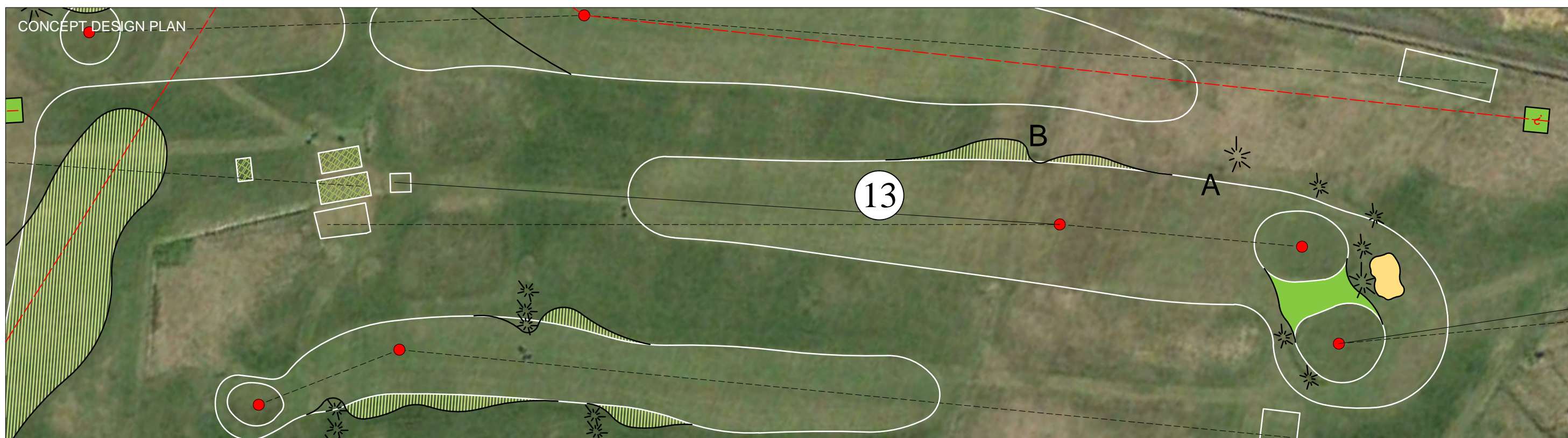


Analytical Hole Review:

Nice looking tee shot with old wall/rough grassland features providing direction of play near the landing area.
Small green at the top of the slope which could do with an element of protection on the left side to stop balls traversing down the slope towards the next tee.
Fairway could go left slightly at the landing area to bring the old wall/rough grassland feature into play.

Concept Design Proposal

- A. The simplicity of the hole works well but there may be an opportunity to create a feature front left.
- B. Bring the left wall/rough grassland feature into play by pulling the fairway out slightly.



Scale, 1:1000@A3



Stromness Golf Club

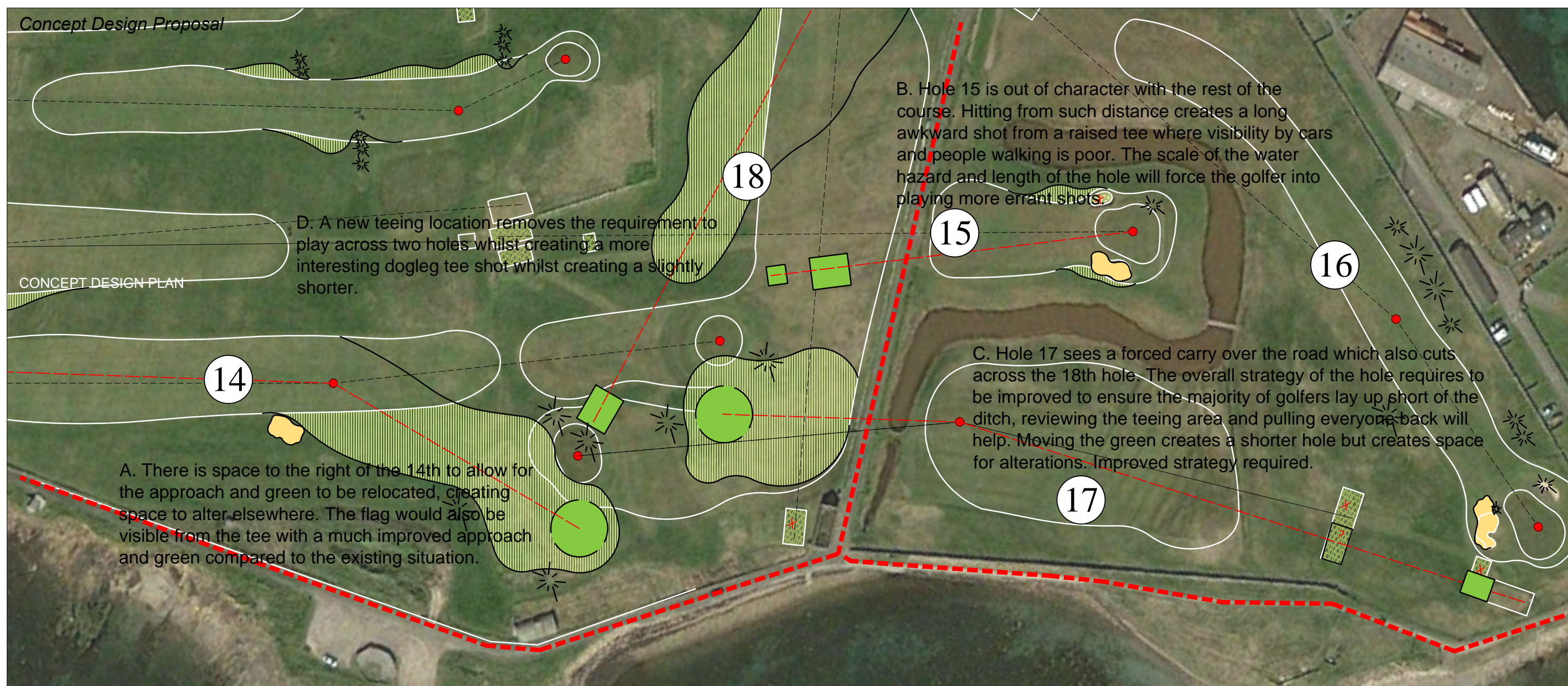
Analysis & Concept Design Report

Hole 14 - 18
HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES



Analytical Hole Review:

Significant health and safety issues present themselves on the finishing stretch which requires review to help mitigate the issues as best possible. Hole 15 and 17 cross the road and the 18th hole. When altering one element this will always have a knock on effect elsewhere. Given the lack of space on this historical golf course complete elimination of the health and safety issues will be difficult but mitigation as follows will help with awareness and help reduce the risk.



Scale, 1:1250@A3



Stromness Golf Club

Analysis & Concept Design Report

Hole 14 - Par 4
376 - 366? - 357 , yards

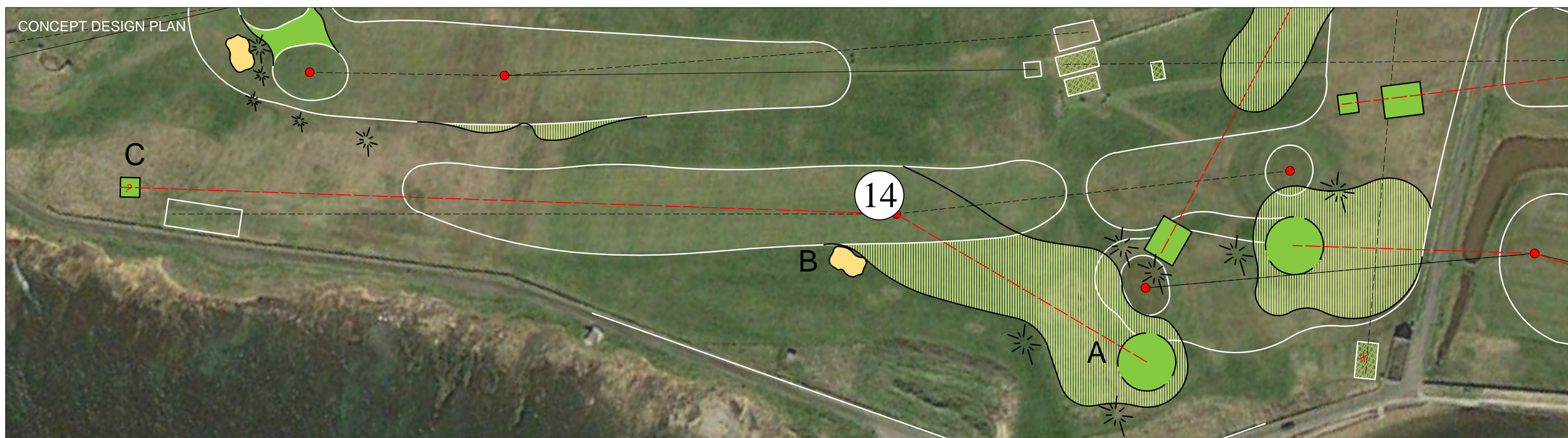


Analytical Hole Review:

Decent sized long teeing area directly adjacent to the road which is a health and safety concern although the landing area is a good distance from the road.
Slightly featureless tee shot which detracts from the direction of play.
The approach into the green is quite bland too.

Concept Design Proposal

- A. In order to help mitigate the various health and safety issues that arise over the closing stretch there is an opportunity to relocate the green to the right of the existing 17th green which would be a visible pin from the 14th tee.
- B. Create a fairway bunker at the corner to give the player sense of direction from the tee and creates added strategy.
- C. There may be an opportunity to create a small back tee which will need to be reviewed on site.



Scale, 1:1250@A3



Stromness Golf Club

Analysis & Concept Design Report

Hole 15 - Par 3
221 - 187 , yards



Analytical Hole Review:

The 15th hole is out of character with the rest of the course and looks slightly out of place with an unnatural water feature. The elevated tee and length of shot makes it more dramatic than it needs to be.

The green is quite high in relationship with the water feature with a significant amount of cut grass slopes.

The back tee is not pointing to the green and the hole crosses over the 18th fairway and the coast access route.

In order to address some of the health and safety issues that arise on the final stretch this tee may be beneficial of being relocated.

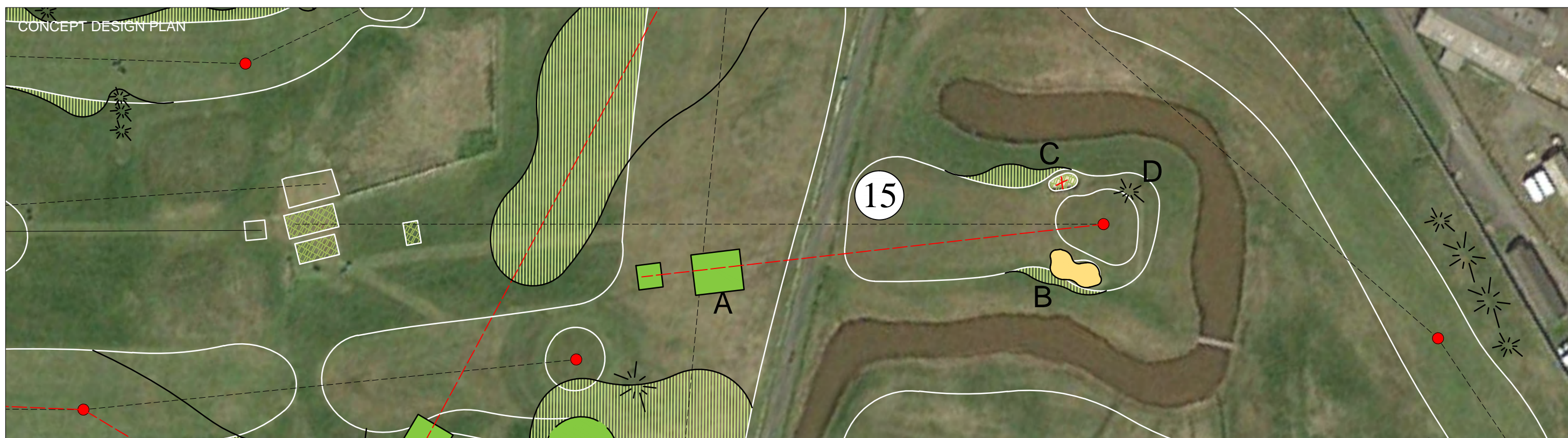
Concept Design Proposal

A. It may be costly to take bold steps to improve the 15th hole but by simply relocating the tee to make it a shorter shot and bringing the players eye line down more in line with the green the drama will be clamed down. By moving the tee lower and playing from this new angle less water will be visible. The road will still be in play but those using the road are more likely to see golfers playing within close proximity. Becomes approximately 130yards.

B. Improve the right green side bunker in terms of shape and style.

C. Fill the left bunker creating a good quality drop off and enhance the bale out apron to the left.

D. Create good quality shaped mounding through the green to help stop any balls from falling off the back .



Scale, 1:1000@A3



Stromness Golf Club

Analysis & Concept Design Report

Hole 16 - Par 4
251 - 205 , yards

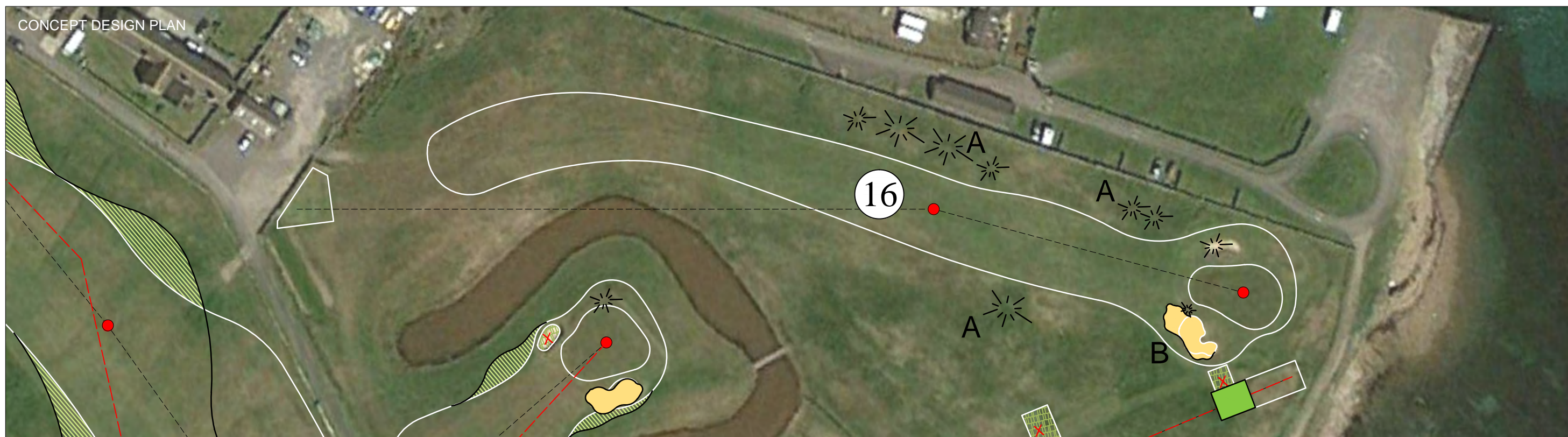


Analytical Hole Review:

Nice short hole down towards the sea. There is a risk on the right side of the tee shot with those playing the 15th.
There is a risk all the way along the left side where separation should be created.
This is one of the first greens that has a bit of shape to it.
There is a more rugged style edge to this bunker which is actually quite small especially where the wee grass island is within the bunker which is a nice feature.
There is a linky feel to the approach to this green which could be capitalised upon.

Concept Design Proposal

- A. Incorporate good quality shaped mounding down the left side to create an element of separation from the boundary and create a complimentary mound to the right enhancing the playing window.
- B. Enhance the size shape and style of the green side bunker to bring it more into play.



Scale, 1:1000@A3



Stromness Golf Club

Analysis & Concept Design Report

Hole 17 - Par 4
333 - 270 , yards

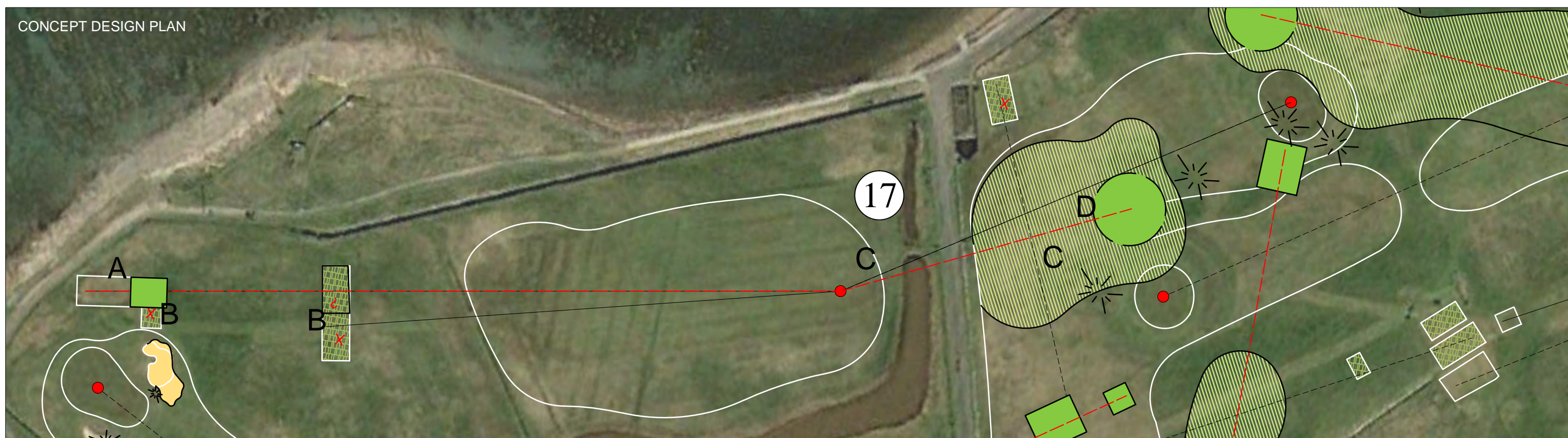


Analytical Hole Review:

The strategy of different teeing areas quite a distance apart requires more thought. There are also quite a number of teeing locations which could be consolidated.
The strategy of laying up short of the wall works and should be enforced to stop players taking the green on which creates a health and safety risk.
The old ruin is quite a nice feature but playing directly over it and the 18th tee to access the green from the tee is a major health and safety concern.

Concept Design Proposal

- A. Consolidate all of the tees to the furthest back tee which may need to become larger.
- B. Remove/relocate tees
- C. Improve the hole strategy to minimise the golfer going for the green over the road which is a health and safety issue.
- D. Move the green as part of the bigger picture to improve the health and safety issues in this area.



Scale, 1:1000@A3



Stromness Golf Club

Analysis & Concept Design Report

Hole 18 - Par 4
299 - 299 , yards

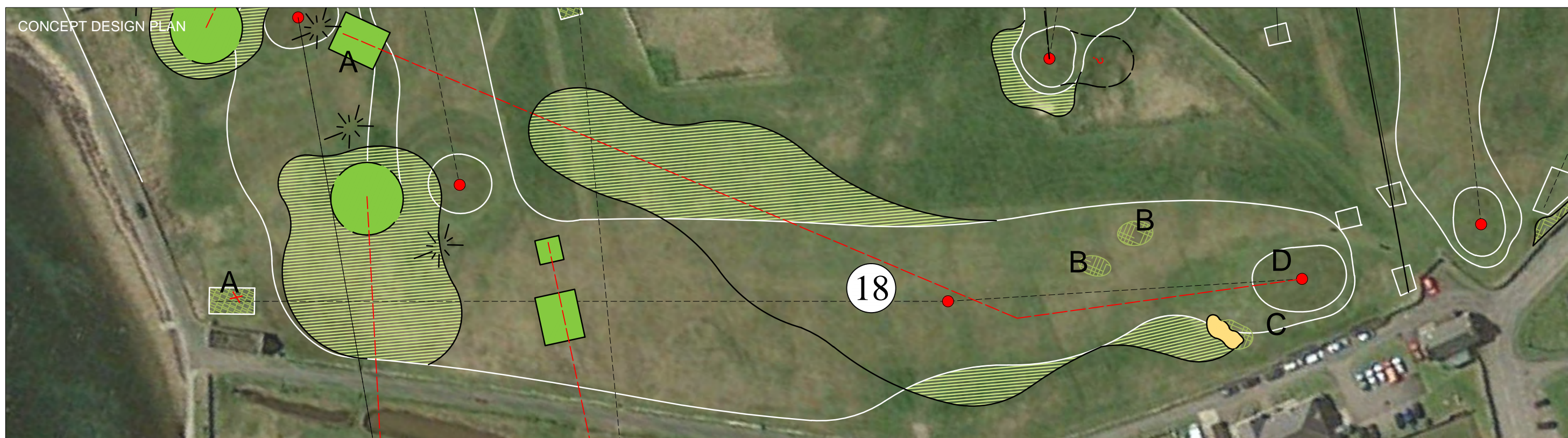


Analytical Hole Review:

The 18th crosses over the 17th which is another health and safety issue that should be addressed.
The 18th runs along side the coast access road.
Some interesting shapes short and around the green which makes maintenance awkward. It would be nice to see more good quality green surrounds.
There is some shape to the green with a little ridge running through it which adds character.

Concept Design Proposal

- A. Re locate the tee to improve and help mitigate the overall health and safety issues that present themselves in this location. Creating a dogleg where emphasis on the positioning of the ball from the tee shot will come into play. Remove existing tee.
- B. Enhance the rough grassland mounds and capitalise upon this within the strategy.
- C. Enhance the quality of the surrounds to make the recover shot slightly easier.
- D. The green could be enlarged slightly with the opportunity for a bunker short right.



Scale, 1:1000@A3



Stromness Golf Club

Concept Visual - 18th





Stromness Golf Club

Analysis & Concept Design Report



CONCLUSION

Rennie Design spent an extremely productive day on site at Stromness Golf Club carrying out the initial field survey analysis, this was then followed by desk studies of the findings to help develop and form design concepts. Analytical evaluation of any given golf course is carried out in a professional manner assessing a wide variety of key points such as playing strategy, playability for all categories and levels of golfer, landscape character, health and safety aspects, key playing angles, bunker placement and positioning, landform, maintenance, path network, slope, drainage and the like. Professional external thoughts and opinions were noted and assessed, in turn providing more robust views and comments.

This initial analytical report has looked at the existing golf course/holes in detail, highlighting opportunities and constraints that have then been explored further and developed into masterplan for display.

Recommendations/Suggestions

Rennie Design Ltd are delighted to provide professional golf architecture consultancy to assist Stromness Golf Club in preparing design solutions for course improvements which will prompt costings for grant aid funding applications in advance and for the International Island Games. We look forward to assisting the club further with the implementation of the agreed concepts and where necessary can provide further expertise and call upon our wide range of professional colleagues within the golf industry to assist.

The following highlights the main recommendations and suggestions:

- Grade all teeing areas and consolidate into main teeing complexes rather than varied teeing locations all over the place where paths require to be cut taking up valuable greenkeeping time. This will free up time to focus on other areas such as green surrounds.
- Create consistency in the visual and strategic placement of hazards including bunkering and rough grassland mounds.
- Improve and mitigate health and safety issues throughout. The major health and safety concerns arise where holes cross over the public road/access and where golf holes cross over each other. Some bold measure may need to be taken to mitigate the risk.
- Improve the textured rough grassland, reducing maintenance and improving the visual aspect in out of play areas.
- Enhance strategy throughout.
- Improve the greens contours, approaches and surround throughout. This may require greens to be lifted, shaped and replaced, creating more pinnable areas and better quality shaped surfaces with much more interest where the surface will be more receptive to the golf ball.
- Gaining length is difficult without additional land and unfortunately some length will need to be forfeited to help mitigate health and safety issues.

Next Stage

Agree
Develop costings for grant aid funding
Develop a phased plan of works.