

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

Proposed Swing Room for Bury Golf Club

Bury Golf Club was founded in 1890 as a 9 hole course which was extended to 18 holes in 1907 at Redvales in Bury. The first club professional was the great Harry Vardon who won six open championships, a record that still stands today. Unfortunately, the golf course did not survive the years after the first world war when the land was needed for housing and a new road to Radcliffe. The current site was acquired by Norman Duxbury and Sam Roberts in 1920. Dr. MacKenzie, a famous course designer, designed the current course which was opened as a 9 hole course in 1921 and a 18 hole course in 1922, this year is therefore its centenary year.

A swing room is a room where a golfer can have a lesson with the golf professional or be fitted for new golf clubs regardless of the time of day or indeed the weather conditions.

With the advent of ball tracking flight technology several years ago now, it is possible to fine tune a golfers swing and to ensure the correct golf club choice or type of golf ball best suited to that particular golfer. The golfer hits balls into a practice net area and the 'flight monitor' provides technical data for the professional to interpret and make the necessary adjustments to the golfer or golf club. Being carried out indoors means there is no need to retrieve golf balls from the course and it is not weather dependant. Most golf professionals now provide this service which is considered a must for golfers.

The proposed building has been designed to link to the existing professionals shop. It has been positioned to have minimum impact on the grounds of the club. It will be constructed on steel posts so as to retain one of the water tanks and also to provide 'out of sight' storage for some of the green keepers expensive machinery. The external finish is to be tanalised timber with a flat profiled sheet roof.

Paragraph 149 of the NPPF 2021 states "A local planning authority should regard the construction of new buildings as inappropriate in the green belt. Exceptions to this are:

b) The provision of appropriate facilities (in connection with the existing use of land or a change of use) for outdoor sports, outdoor recreation, cemeteries and burial grounds, and allotments, as long as the facilities preserve the openness of the green belt and do not conflict with the purposes of including land within it".

It can be seen from the proposed drawings that the application as submitted complies with the national planning policy framework.

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