

Case Name: Allestree Park Golf Course

Case Number: 1473955

Background

Historic England has received an application to assess Allestree Golf Course for inclusion on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest.

Asset(s) under Assessment

Facts about the asset(s) can be found in the Annex(es) to this report.

Annex	List Entry Number	Name	Heritage Category	HE Recommendation
1	1474340	Allestree Park Golf Course	Park and Garden	Do not add to Register

Visits

Date	Visit Type
15 January 2021	External only

Context

Allestree Golf Course was run as a municipal golf course by Derby City Council until its closure on 31 December 2020. Planning permission has been granted for the use of the Grade II* listed Allestree Hall as a wedding and events venue. The parkland in which the course is situated remains open to the public.

Allestree Park was designated in 2002 as a Local Nature Reserve, the largest in Derbyshire, and it falls within the buffer zone of the World Heritage Site Derwent Valley Mills, designated in 2001. There is also a Grade II listed icehouse in the grounds.

Assessment

CONSULTATION

The consultation report was sent to the owner, the applicant, the local authority, the Historic Environment Record (HER), the Gardens Trust and the Derbyshire Gardens Trust.

The applicant acknowledged receipt of the report but had no further comments. Staff at the local authority helpfully checked if any original plans survive but none were found.

Numerous comments were made by interested parties about the advantages of allowing the course to return to managed parkland. Only information pertaining to the historic interest of the course can be taken into account.

In addition, the following points were made:

The Friends of Allestree Park expressed their hope that if the course is permanently closed, all or most of the resulting area would be added to the nature reserve, with much less mowing and the encouragement of flower-rich meadow and an increase in biodiversity, but open to all, thus adding to the richness of the park experience and to wildlife.

They also commented that the current course is only an approximate re-creation of the original and provided a scorecard layout of the course.

HE Response: whilst the plan on the scorecard shows that the holes are now played in a different order, their early layout has nevertheless been to a large extent preserved.

An interested party stated that the preservation of the historic course would not be possible without compromising the integrity of the Local Nature Reserve and would impinge upon the accessibility and enjoyment of the general visitors to the park.

They mentioned that the Harry Colt course was abandoned before the Second World War and would not have survived being used for military training.

HE Response: the description of the course given in contemporary newspaper accounts, together with evidence on the ground, strongly suggests that the original course layout is well-preserved

Another interested party pointed out some minor inaccuracies in the History section of the report which have been amended. They also quoted the website of the County Golfer Magazine which states that 'in 1948 the golf course was opened as a nine-hole course and extended to eighteen holes in 1955.'

HE Response: this information from the website is factually incorrect as newspaper articles from the time the course first opened describe the full 18 holes designed by Harry Colt

DISCUSSION

The Parks and Gardens Designation Criteria (July 2010) outline the considerations for assessing sites for inclusion on the Register of Parks and Gardens. In summary, sites likely to be designated are those formed before 1750 where at least a proportion of the original layout is still in evidence; sites laid out between 1750 and 1840 where enough of the layout survives to reflect the original design; sites with a main phase of development post-1840 which are of special interest and relatively intact, the degree of required special interest rising the further the date of construction is after 1840. Particularly careful selection is required for sites from the period after 1945. Further considerations which may influence selection, and may exceptionally be sufficient by themselves to merit designation, are sites which were influential in the development of taste; which are early or representative examples of a style of layout or type of site, or the work of a designer of national importance; which have an association with significant persons or historic events; or which have strong group value with other heritage assets.

Also relevant is the research on the design of historic courses by the European Institute of Golf Course Architects (EIGCA) in their report *Golf Courses as Designed Landscapes of Historic Interest* (Research Report Series number 42-2017) commissioned by English Heritage (now Historic England). The research report (compiled as a desk exercise without site visits) was used to inform the development of Historic England's position statement (*Golf in Historic Parks and Landscapes* Product Code: 51171 March 2007) and suite of guidance notes (2008) on golf course development in historic parks, gardens and wider landscapes. The research report was published with this guidance in 2008. Its focus was to inform handling of course development and not designation. Golf courses identified as being of particular interest in this report were those whose main phase of development was representative of a key era in the history of golf course design; that were influential in the development of golf course aesthetics and playing strategy; that had an association with significant persons or historical events; and had strong group value. Allestree is not mentioned in the report.

The golf course at Allestree was designed in 1929 by Harry Colt who was the leading golf course architect of his time. He belonged to a group of architects/designers who pioneered the strategic phase in golf course design in the period from the last decade of the C19 up to the late 1920s. Colt was the first course designer not to be a professional golfer and, by utilising a drawing-board design process, he set the standards by which all future golf courses would be designed. In this way, Colt can perhaps be described as the founding father of the the profession of golf course architect. He was very prolific and worked on a truly international scale, undertaking hundreds of commissions in the UK, on the Continent and further afield.

The press coverage of the opening of Allestree Golf Course was full of praise for both the design and setting of his course. The headline in the *Derbyshire Advertiser* (6 June 1930) was 'Derbyshire Club's Magnificent Course Opened', and the article goes on to describe how it provides 'magnificent views' of 'the park and beautifully wooded lake shores'. Another article (4 June 1932), which describes the course hole by hole, observed the following: 'leaving the actual game for a moment, no one could go round this course without

pausing to look around at the magnificent scenery. One moment you are seemingly on a wide moor, the next amid cool trees of every shade of green, then in a glen with a rustic bridge over a babbling stream, and at another hole by the quiet waters of the lake.' The essence of the most notable golf courses lies in the way golf holes are integrated with the landscape both individually and in combination. Identifying the layout or 'routing' of the 18 holes that makes the best use of the land requires considerable skill and understanding on the part of the golf course architect.

At Allestree, Colt took advantage of the intrinsic beauty and varied topography of the park, incorporating the natural features of the site wherever possible into the strategy of each golf hole design. He positioned the original club house near the Hall so it formed the setting for the start and end of each loop of nine holes. He designed many of the holes on an east-west axis to align them along the slope of the valley; and he used the sinuous edge of the woodland bounding the north-west side of the park to shape the holes along the western ridge. The lake was incorporated into two of the holes requiring an 'heroic' carry over the water, one of the golf hole styles that was pioneered by Colt. He retained the majority of the mature specimen trees throughout the park and planted new tree belts to define and shape the fairways. In the early days there were no golf course architects who produced tree planting plans, and Colt was the first to have been noted for introducing trees on a golf course during his time as Secretary at Sunningdale (1901-1913). He sited many of the greens on ridges and plateaus, and carefully positioned the bunkers to manipulate the approach to the hole: one contemporary newspaper article referred to his 'formidable bunkered greens'. The result is a course that blends into its landscape rather than being imposed upon it. It encapsulates Colt's design philosophies and is a good example of a course with the features notable in the strategic phase of golf course design, of which he was at the forefront. Allestree also has what is said to be one of the most challenging holes that Colt ever created – the 15th hole over the ravine.

Allestree is further representative of this period in golf course design as it was an intrinsic part of the development of housing around the park to create the town of Allestree from a small rural village. The concept of planning mixed golf and residential development emerged at courses such as St George's Hill near London (1913), the first such development by Colt, and Wentworth (1924), also by Colt. Whilst there are many variations on these forms of layout, it is the quality of the integration of the course into the landscape that should normally be judged to assess its value as a historic designed landscape. The top architects were masters of getting the maximum benefit from the natural terrain and making the best use of existing site features to reduce the need for costly earth-modelling of the landscape.

Allestree has undergone only minor modifications since it was first laid out. Golf courses inevitably evolve over time, and many have been adapted to meet the requirements of longer golf shots as equipment improves. Movement of tees backwards to extend the hole on the same line of play may not significantly alter the visual qualities of the hole but changes to greens and bunkers are more consequential. These features tended to receive the most detailed design input from the course architect as the green and its surrounding hazards acts as the start-point for the strategy of the golf hole since it dictates if there is a preferred angle of approach. Strategic designers such as Colt concentrated on careful green and bunker placement also in order to offer varied routes of play to golfers of all abilities. Crucially, at Allestree the position of the majority of the greens remains legible, as do most of the bunkers sited along fairways and placed around the greens. Although four of the original holes are no longer in use, evidence of their layout is provided by contemporary descriptions and historic aerial photographs. Overall, the original design and character of the course has been well preserved.

As Colt had hoped would be the case with all his designs, the golf course at Allestree has grown into its surroundings and become part of the landscape. The park has some historic value in its own right as an early C19 landscape park, and Colt's adaptation of its topographical features give an additional degree of added interest. Whilst the original boundary of the park has survived, along with the lake, the woodland to the north-west and many mature parkland trees, its character has evolved into that of a parkland golf course, and therefore the area assessed for registration is that which encompasses the course. The extensive area of woodland to the north-west is not in itself of particular significance in this context as although its eastern edge helped to shape Colt's design, the wood itself is not incorporated into the course. The Grade II* listed Hall – which still forms the focal point of the park – confers, along with the Grade II listed icehouse, group value with the golf course.

To date, no golf courses have been registered in their own right as a designed landscape, although there are many examples of courses, including those by Colt, that are located within registered landscape parks, some at a high grade. Examples are the Grade II registered Edgbaston Hall laid out by Capability Brown for which Colt designed the course in 1936, and the Grade II* registered Ashridge in Hertfordshire laid out by Brown and Repton for which Colt designed the course in the 1920s. It was during this time that most of the key principles of golf course architecture were established, and as the EIGCA report, *Golf Courses as Designed*

Landscapes of Historic Interest suggests, it is therefore important that the period is understood in the evolution in design thinking, which was rapidly developing over a relatively short time-frame, and the many fine architects who were practising during this era be known. In their list of the ten key courses from the strategic phase, Harry Colt either designed or advised on over half of them. Whilst Allestree is not included in this top ten, in terms of survival it occupies an important place in evidencing Colt's oeuvre as a well-preserved parkland course that encapsulates his strategic design philosophy.

However, it is not currently possible to determine adequately the relative interest of Allestree Golf Course as there is no benchmark for registration of golf courses. At present, there are no golf courses included on the Register which are designated in their own right as landscapes of special historic interest; all of those which are registered form part of parks of additional interest for other reasons. In order to establish a national benchmark for the consideration of golf courses in their own right, research on a national scale is needed to provide a better understanding of the evolution of golf course design and to establish the relative degrees of survival of a wider range of courses, to provide a better understanding against which to assess golf courses. It is not known how well the original layouts of other historically significant courses have survived. It is therefore recommended that Allestree Golf Course is not added to the Register at this time but that this assessment can be revisited when a clearer understanding of the national context has been achieved.

CONCLUSION

After examining all the available records and other relevant information and having carefully considered the historic interest of this case, Allestree Golf Course is not recommended for designation.

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION DECISION

Alllestree Golf course, designed by Harry Colt in 1929 and opened in 1930, is not recommended for designation for the following principal reasons:

National context:

* research on a national scale is needed to provide a better understanding of its place within the context of the evolution, design and survival of golf courses and to measure its case against comparable courses. It is not known how well the original layouts of other historically significant courses have survived.

Countersigning comments:

Agreed. The golf course at Allestree Park, laid out to designs by Harry Colt 1929 - 1930, has clear historic interest as an example of golf course design from this period by one of the leading designers of the day. The original course design survives remarkably well, and its maturity in its parkland setting allows us to appreciate its position within Colt's oeuvre. It should be added to the Register at Grade II.

S Mee

28 April 2021

Annex 1

Factual Details

Name: Allestree Park Golf Course

Location: Allestree Golf Course, Allestree Park, Allestree, Derby, DE22 2EU

County	District	District Type	Parish
Derbyshire	City of Derby	Unitary Authority	Non Civil Parish
	Amber Valley	District Authority	Quarndon

History

The parkland surrounding Allestree Hall was laid out in the first decade of the C19 for Bache Thornhill of Stanton who wanted a suburban villa within reach of Derby. The house, which bears a foundation stone with the date 1802, was designed by James Wyatt. The estate was subsequently sold to William Evans of the Darley Abbey Mills family, who enlarged the park to about 300 acres. The park was possibly designed by John Webb who studied under William Emes between 1782 and 1793 before establishing an extensive practice as a landscape designer and architect, working mainly in the Midlands and the north of England. The pleasure grounds were re-ordered by William Barron and Son in 1917-1923, and later municipalised by Derby Council. In 1928 the house and about 400 acres were acquired by the Commercial Construction Company for a housing development and golf course designed by Harry Colt.

The first golf courses were not designed but came about by the natural processes inherent in linksland sites (coastal zones of topsoil-covered sand between the beach sand and mainland soil). The result was distinctive and ideal for the game – a rolling topography of sand dunes and dune slacks with a ground cover of fine-leaved grasses, exposed to wind and sea. Gradually the game became more sophisticated: prepared areas of shorter grass were created around a hole in the ground which became the greens; and later, formal teeing grounds were added. The intermediate land, between hole and tee, consisted of less kempt areas of turf, managed by the grazing of animals and the movement of people and beasts alike. The number of holes was eventually standardised at 18 by the lead of the Old Course in St Andrews in 1764. The first courses were laid out on common land, such as at Molsley Hurst, where golfers are known to have played from 1758.

From the late C19, a philosophy of golf course architecture developed based on the way a golf course architect utilised the available landscape elements and created new golfing features. Several schools of design have evolved, known as the penal, strategic and heroic. The earliest golf course designers were the best players of their day – the golf professionals – and thus the courses were designed with the best golfers in mind. They sought to penalise less able golfers by placing hazards directly across the line of play of the hole; and the course features, such as greens and bunkers, tended to be functional in design and often geometric in shape.

The period from the last decade of the C19 up to the late 1920s was the turning point in the development of the golf course, known as the strategic phase. There was a shift away from primitive, geometric design towards a more reflective analysis of the game. This approach resulted in the birth of a new profession – that of the artistic and technical craft of golf course architecture. A group of outstanding architects/ designers practised at this time, including Harry Shapland Colt (1869-1951), who were mostly amateur gentlemen golfers with a superior talent for course design allied to a keen understanding of the strategic principles of the game. They utilised the natural features of the site and incorporated them wherever possible into the strategy of each golf hole design. The architects concentrated on careful green and bunker placement that would offer varied routes of play to golfers of all abilities.

Harry Colt studied law at Cambridge where he captained the golf team. He started work as a solicitor in Hastings but whilst there he undertook to design Rye Golf Course, and in 1900 he became the inaugural secretary at Sunningdale. Such was the demand for his time that in 1913 he resigned as secretary and became a full-time golf course architect, the first who was not a professional golfer. Colt was the first architect to consistently use a drawing board in the process of designing a course, a process which set the standards by which all future golf courses would be designed. He was also the first to prepare tree planting plans for his layouts. He explained his philosophy of golf course design in several books, including *The Book*

of Links (1912) and Golf Course Architecture (1920). Amongst Colt's key golf courses in England are Swinley Forest, Sunningdale and Wentworth (East).

As explained by Bruce Critchley in an article in *Golf Course Architecture* (July 2005), C19 inland courses were 'crude scars on the landscape, in no way blending in with their surroundings and with little or no imagination in their construction'. This was all changed by Harry Colt who set the standards in golf course design for the first half of the C20 with his overriding philosophy that courses should blend into the landscape rather than being imposed upon it. He introduced angles and bends, slopes and undulations in the approach to the green. These had hitherto been characterised by a flat terrain with only one form of bunker – a rampart of sods with a trench in front – set at right angles to the direction of the hole. Colt ensured that bunkers were set at different angles to the line of play, many as markers to the right direction, some as teasers to the longer player to test their skill and courage, and all as punishment for getting it wrong.

Colt designed the 18 hole course at Allestree in 1929. At that time it was known as Derbyshire Golf Club which had been founded in 1892 in Osmaston Park before moving to a site at Littleover around 1898. It then moved again to Mackworth in 1908 and finally to Allestree Hall when it came on the market after the death of the owner, Mrs Johnson. The course was constructed by Messrs G F Tomlinson and Sons, a local construction company, and it was opened for play by the president Brigadier General Walthall on 31 May 1930. It was designed as an intrinsic part of the development of housing built in the south-eastern part of the parkland, beyond the lake, and along the southern boundary. The concept of the residential estate layout, whereby the course is part of a planned housing complex, developed in the UK before growing very popular in the US. The first example was by Colt at St George's Hill near London in 1913.

The opening of the course at Allestree featured extensively in the local press. The *Derby Daily Telegraph* (31 May 1930) reported that 'the course was designed by Mr H S Colt, one of the foremost golf architects in the world, and it is in a beautiful setting.' The article mentions that 'an unusual feature is the claim that no two holes are alike, each hole having its own individual feature. Hazards of every conceivable kind have been provided.' It goes on to say that the 15th hole (currently the 17th) 'is said to be one of the trickiest in the country'; and Colt himself described it as being amongst the most challenging he had designed anywhere. In 1932, a County Championship was held at the course, such was the reputation it had quickly gained. The event was covered in the local press, one newspaper (unknown) containing a written description of each hole, including its distance, hazards and even the names ascribed by Colt, such as The Pitcher, Slogger, Quarndon Hill, Boathouse, Lake Hole, The Bluff, The Twin and The Long. Contemporary newspaper reports also refer to 'the Famous Lake Hole' (the 11th). This is useful documentation regarding the original layout of the course as no plans have been found, despite enquiries to Derby City Council and the Local Studies Library.

The course closed during the Second World War having been commandeered by the Sherwood Forester regiment for training purposes. The Derbyshire Golf Club disbanded and after the war the course was taken over by Derby Borough Council. After some modifications to create a public park area, the course reopened in 1949 under the new name of Allestree Park. Slight changes were made to the original layout but it remained essentially as Colt had designed it.

The first golf professional at Allestree was Tom Barber, a celebrity of his day, who qualified for the 1931 Ryder Cup. His assistant John Fallon, who later became the long-standing professional at Huddersfield Golf Club, also represented Great Britain and Ireland in the Ryder Cup, captaining the team in 1963. Allestree had one of the first female golf professionals in the world: Marjorie (Margaret) Robertson was assistant to her father T B Robertson from 1932 to 1935, prior to her marriage. Women were not accepted into the Professional Golfers Association (PGA) until 1962. Allestree Golf Course closed on 31 December 2020.

Details

Golf course designed by Harry Colt in 1929 and opened in 1930.

LOCATION, SETTING, LANDFORM, BOUNDARIES AND AREA: Allestree Golf Course is located on the north side of Derby in the historic landscape park belonging to the Grade II* listed Allestree Hall. It is bounded along the east and west sides by woodland, on the south side by a C20 housing estate, and the northern tip is bounded by the gardens of houses on Burley Lane. The course covers an area of c65 hectares laid out in the rolling parkland which falls steeply eastwards into a valley, aligned north-south in the eastern half of the parkland. A sinuous track leads from the Hall in the north-east of the park down towards a large lake occupying the south-east corner.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES: the golf course is approached along a drive from the east off Burley Hill which leads to a car park situated in an area of woodland. This was the location of the original pavilion clubhouse which has since been removed.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING: the clubhouse, professional shop and associated buildings formerly occupied the Grade II* listed Allestree Hall and outbuildings, located in the north-east of the park. The house, which bears a foundation stone with the date 1802, was designed by James Wyatt. It is in a restrained neo-Classical style, of three storeys and five bays under a shallow pitched roof, and constructed of ashlar stone. The north-facing façade has a bowed central bay flanked by elegant tripartite windows divided by Ionic columns. A terrace along the southern front leads down to a sunken lawn and from there to a large rectangular pond.

COURSE: the course is about 6210 yards, laid out in two loops of nine holes, each loop beginning and ending near the location of the original clubhouse in the woodland on the north-eastern edge of the park. The course retains the historic character of a landscape park interspersed by many mature and specimen trees and partly bounded by woodland, as shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887. Additional tree belts were planted by Colt to define the holes and create fairways.

Out of the original 18 holes, 14 are still in use with their early layout preserved, although they are now played in a different order. The position of the majority of the original tees and the various-sized greens remains legible, as do most of the bunkers sited along fairways and placed around the greens. The following description gives an account of the course according to the route in which it was originally played, with reference to the description in the Derbyshire Advertiser (6 June 1930) and another account given in a newspaper report from 1932. The current number of each hole is given in brackets.

The 1st hole (1st) is a dogleg beginning from the edge of the woodland on the east side of Allestree Hall. The tee was originally sited in front of the pavilion clubhouse. The grounds of the Hall 'jut into the fairway on the right', a cedar tree marking the angle of the dogleg, after which the ground slopes steeply up the valley towards the green. This is 'guarded with a formidable trap [ie, a bunker] on the left'. The fairway is defined by mature woodland on the right and by a wide band of deciduous trees on the left, planted by Colt.

The 2nd hole (18th) has a straight fairway, defined on both sides by bands of trees planted by Colt. It descends back down into the valley and across the track to the green which has a bunker on each side. The green is no longer in use but its position is still legible on the ground, along with the bunkers.

The 3rd hole, known as 'The Pitcher' was the shortest in the course, although the 1932 newspaper account called it 'tricky' and warned that 'trouble with a capital "T" awaits a ball hit too heavily'. This hole is no longer in use. The position of the tee is not evident on the ground but the line of the straight fairway, which crosses back over the track, is delineated by two specimen trees through which the green is visible, guarded by two bunkers. (This green was in use for the current 7th hole, until the recent closure of the course.)

The 4th hole (8th) ascends up the west slope of the valley. The fairway is shaped by a band of trees on the right and a large Y-shaped area of woodland on the left, both planted by Colt. The necessity of avoiding a group of bunkers along the right side of the second half of the fairway makes the hole into 'an extremely difficult dogleg'. A narrow opening to the green on the plateau at the top of the valley is created by the carefully placed bunkers.

The 5th hole (2nd), known as the 'Black Nob' (due to the brook running black from rotting vegetation) is a dogleg surrounded on both sides by the mature woodland which forms the western boundary of the course and which surrounds the north and west sides of the hall. The green on the plateau of the hill falls away steeply on the right into rough, whilst a bunker is placed to the left to create a difficult approach to the flag.

The 6th hole (3rd), known as 'The Slogger', is described in the 1932 account as having 'glorious views' from the tee. The hole is another dogleg played along the rolling parkland, bordered on the right by the mature woodland on the north side of the Hall, and on the left by a line of several specimen trees and silver birches. The green is cut into a steep slope that falls away to the left.

The 7th hole (4th), known as the 'Quardon Hill', runs parallel to the 6th until the dogleg changes the direction of play to the right. The fairway is bordered on the right side by woodland, created by Colt out of an area of interspersed trees along Burley Brook. The green is sited on a high bank with a bunker on the left.

The 8th hole (5th) is played across a small valley through a narrow gap in woodland with an overgrown slope beneath the tee and a brook below. The ball needs to clear these obstacles to reach the green which is guarded by a group of bunkers.

The 9th hole (6th) is aligned south-east to bring the golfer back to the clubhouse. There is evidence of the old teeing ground (to the west of the 6th tee) from which another dogleg unfolds. The angle in the fairway is situated between two areas of woodland, after which the ground rises towards the green a short distance beyond a huge cedar tree which was, it is noted, 'greatly treasured by the club'. The green is sited opposite the principal façade of the Hall.

The 10th hole is no longer in use. It was laid out in the easternmost part of the course down the side of Gorse's Wood. The tee was located near the old clubhouse and the dogleg fairway led to the green near the boathouse on the shore of the lake. This area of the park retains some well defined ridge and furrow.

The 11th hole, also no longer in use, was described in the 1932 report as 'the famous lake hole'. The 1930 article commented that 'it might almost have been called "the lost ball" hole', and that it was 'probably the most difficult hole on the course'. The hole was a dogleg in which the first half skirted the shore of the lake and the second was played over the corner of the lake to the green on the other side. The wooden bridges that carried golfers over the water to the green have been submerged, although remnants have been identified by a diver. The green was situated in what is now a small triangle of grass, and trees have since been planted in the surrounding area.

The 12th hole (11th) has a short straight fairway that is bordered on the right by woodland and dips downwards before ascending to the green. According to the 1932 article, this 'well thought out hole looks simple, but has been skilfully bunkered, and the shot onto the green has many traps to dodge.'

The 13th hole (12th), known as 'the Hog's Back' has a straight fairway that ascends the hill westwards, defined on both sides by bands of trees planted by Colt. A view over the parkland course and the distant hills rewards the golfer on their arrival at the green upon the brow of the hill.

The 14th hole (16th), known as 'Beech Wood', is a dogleg played from between trees. The fairway is bordered along its left side by mature woodland and at the far end of its right side by a group of trees planted by Colt. The flag is visible from the tee but any shots played directly towards it 'will run down a hidden slope, and the shot to the green then has to be played over a mountainous bunker'.

The 15th hole (17th), known as 'The Bluff', was described by Colt in a newspaper report as being 'one of the most challenging he ever created'. It is fairly short but played over a substantial and unforgiving ravine. The tee shot has to be played through a gap in the woodland over a stream and surrounding rough onto the green on the opposite hill. The 1932 article describes a bunker on the left that 'runs up the whole side of the green, and others dotted around', but only one of these now survives.

The 16th hole (9th) is known as 'the Twin' because it shares a green with the 13th. The tee shot is played back over the ravine (though in a less tricky place) onto the straight fairway laid out across the brow of the hill and defined by areas of trees planted by Colt.

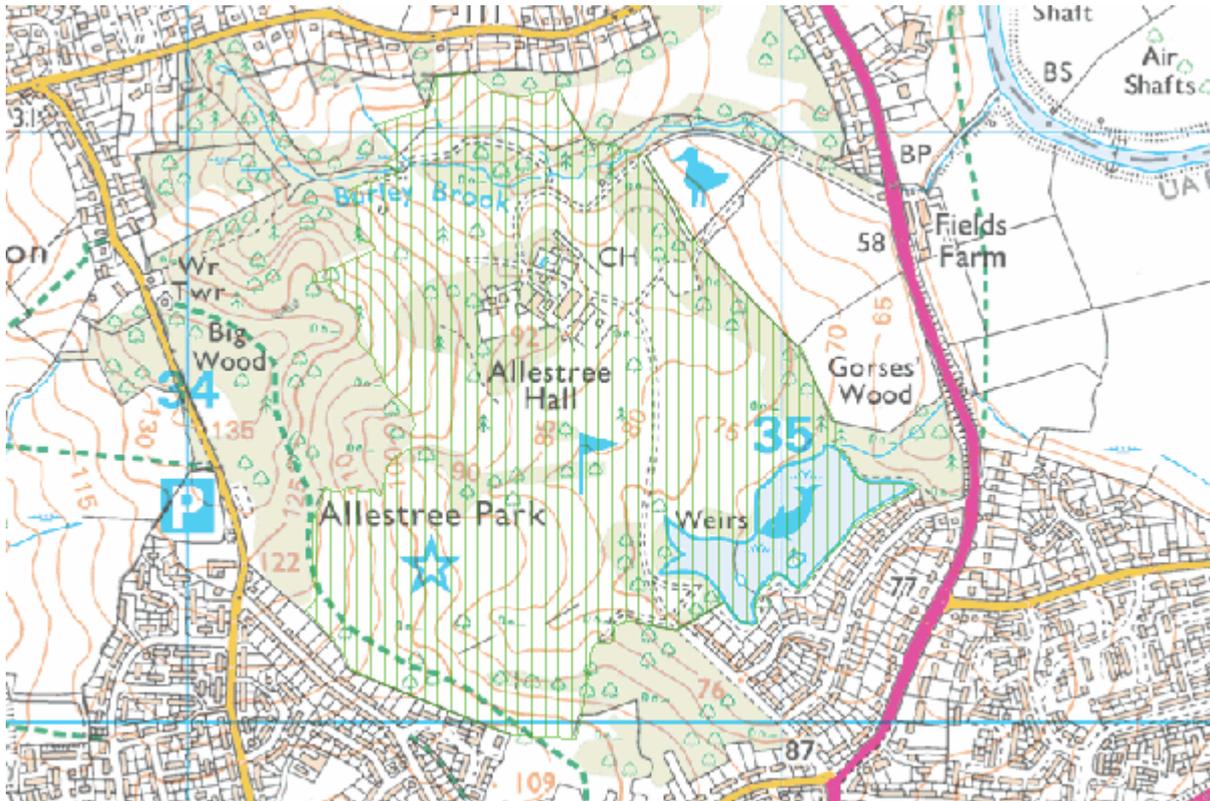
The 17th hole (10th) is known as 'The Long' as it is the longest hole on the course. From the tee is a view down the valley and across the parkland to the 18th hole. The fairway is a dogleg with woodland either side, planted by Colt to shape the hole. The green was sited on the other side of the track but it no longer exists, a more recent green having been built nearby.

The 18th hole, which is no longer in use, was laid out in the eastern part of the park. The tee was located on a plateau jutting into the western corner of the lake so that 30 yards of lake had to be cleared to avoid losing a ball in the water. A historic aerial photograph shows that the fairway had a slight dogleg lined by numerous bunkers. It passed the old oak tree to the green, surrounded by five bunkers, ending up near the pavilion clubhouse – 'an interesting finish to an interesting course.'

Selected Sources

Map

National Grid Reference: SK3471040539



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The above map is for quick reference purposes only and may not be to scale. For a copy of the full scale map, please see the attached PDF - 1474340_1.pdf