

Caledonian Links Land

Links golf first started in the 15th century in St Andrews, Scotland.

'Links' land was originally described as the rough sandy area, mostly dunes, that connected the sea and the arable land, this "linked" the land to the sea.

The links land was considered not suitable for farming because of the lack of decent topsoil and conditions that are needed to grow good stock feed for animals. Thus 'Links' are found to be ideal land to play the sport of golf on.

The land formations and dunes that are naturally created by mother nature, provide interesting targets, obstacles and playing options to hit the ball in the air and along the ground that challenge golfers endlessly. The best and most natural links golf courses navigate the land in such a way that there has been minimal disturbance in the creation of them by man, because most of them were built before the invention of a steam shovel - a great links golf course usually has most of the golf holes already formed by nature.

The 'Links' sandy profile, although not good for arable farming, provides a fantastic environment for grass species like Fescues and Browntops, that prefers low fertility and a well-drained profile. This resulted in the firm turf associated with links courses and the 'running' game.

The unique nature of links courses necessitates a distinct style of play. The challenges links golf presents include - uneven fairways, thick rough, small deep bunkers and windy conditions created by their coastal location and lack of trees.

Links golf courses pride themselves on a more browned out dry look, and not as much on a soft, emerald green appearance that you would usually see on TV - i.e. a highly engineered environment.

Links playing conditions are achieved through sandy soil type, low fertility and careful turf management.