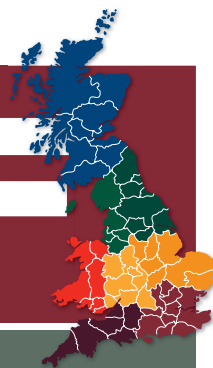


# CLUB GOLF



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The natural setting at Machrihanish Dunes makes for a stunning golfing experience

Is this Britain's prettiest course?



**BAMBURGH CASTLE**

From which other course in these fair isles can you see four castles on a good day? Bamburgh Castle may well be one of the most beautiful courses in Britain – never mind Northumberland. With views of Lindisfarne, the Farne Islands, the Cheviots and, naturally, Bamburgh Castle itself, it's a pretty stunning links track to play. Stand on the 14th tee and you can bask in an exhilarating view of the sea on three sides, alongside miles and miles of unspoiled beaches. There aren't many layouts that start with back-to-back par 3s, followed immediately by two par 5s. And while the par 68 is just 5,645 yards off the back tees, birdies and bogeys lurk in tandem. Take in those lovely views from the clubhouse, with its wood panelled bar, when you are done.



**THIS CLUB IS FAMOUS FOR**

## MACHRIHANISH DUNES

Welcome to the only course ever to be constructed on a SSSI

**M**ACHRIHANISH Dunes. Gorgeous, isn't it? A course that makes you swoon at the very sight.

Flowing from and along the sea, with the Isle of Islay in full view, there are few spots more breathtaking to take in a round than at this Argyll haven.

Harking back to the days of Old Tom Morris, this is golf as it was intended – natural and against the elements.

That was deliberate. Architect David McLay Kidd used the lie of the land to design the layout, rather than changing it to suit his plans. The only course ever created on a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), of the 259 acres on which it sits just seven were moved when it was constructed. Only the tees and



greens were shaped.

Even the mowers are used sparingly at Machrihanish Dunes – with the wandering sheep keeping the fescue in check. With the links land protected

by the Scottish Government and the dunes ever changing, you'll play shots here you would never usually countenance. It's an approach that has seen the layout, which opened in 2009, showered with awards.

From lofty positions in rankings lists, course chiefs have been recognised for their determination to protect the environment. Only last year, the International Association of Golf Tour Operators hailed Machrihanish Dunes for "outstanding commitment to sustainable golf". Can there be another that is quite as natural?

■ Part of Scotland's most heralded luxury resort, visit [machrihanishdunes.com](http://machrihanishdunes.com) for more.