EDGBASTON GOLF COURSE (AREA 5)

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Edgbaston Golf Course (https://www.edgbastongc.co.uk/a brief history) takes up a large site in Edgbaston bordered by three roads making the golf course itself an urban block, in urban design terms, albeit one that is undeveloped (https://urbannext.net/block-superblock-and-megablock/).

Edgbaston Golf Club has been based here since 1936 but the clubhouse, Edgbaston Hall, now Grade II listed, has a longer history being built in 1717 when Sir Richard Gough rebuilt an earlier structure destroyed in 1688 (https://www.parksandgardens.org/places/edgbaston-hall). The golf course takes in virtually all of the park now, 47 hectares remaining of the late 18th century park designed by Lancelot Brown which originally covered a much larger site. As well as the remaining park land there is also an 11 acre lake.

As the golf club and course is surrounded on three sides by roads there is a clear edge, specifically in the boundary treatment by use of wall on two sides but with dense hedging and shrubbery vegetation on all three of these edges hiding (albeit with the odd teasing glimpse across to manicured green of the course) the course.

Priory Road has a walled boundary with dense growth abutting this. The road acts as an edge also to the different activities of Edgbaston with the Edgbaston Priory Club and The Priory School. Edgbaston Park Road sees dense vegetation and the road acting as edge and boundary with the University of Birmingham Vale, a landscape area with student accommodation that make use of former villa sites on land that was acquired from the Calthorpe Estate (historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1001483?section=official-list-entry). The Bristol Road boundary is also distinct with its heavily shrubbed and wooded edge but as in so many parts of Edgbaston overlooked when passing along the A38 being green and bounded as so much of Edgbaston is behind fence, hedge or wall.

The golf course is therefore an edge to an almost secret world that if you didn't see signs for you would never know what is hidden behind. The entrance tucked by Edgbaston Old Church is almost a secret entrance you could pass by without knowing.