

HOLE NO. 4

4TH AT THE PIT GOLF LINKS, PINEHURST, NORTH CAROLINA.

DAN MAPLES, DESIGNER.

232 / 162 / 120 / 103 YARDS, PAR 3.

As the name implies, The Pit was created from an abandoned sand pit south of Pinehurst, and no hole displays that heritage better than this thread-the-needle par-3. Golf architect Dan Maples didn't design this hole so much as he discovered it. At the far end of the property, he found several huge mounds of earth, spoils from the sand mining process that were piled up decades ago, there so long that mature pines were growing from them. These served as a perfect frame for a very simple green complex, which he laid out at the base of the largest mound.

Opposite the mounds was the elevated track bed of an old mining train, so Maples positioned a train-track straight tee box atop it.

The hole has no bunkers. With wiregrass, tree trunks and pine needles on the surrounding mounds, there are hazards aplenty for errant tee shots. The smart shot is to use the straightest club you've got, hit short and let the ball roll on to the green. Don't let those mounds spoil your hole.