

18-167

Design & Access Statement

Upgrading spectator facilities at existing sports centre.



Liverpool Soccer Centre,
Walton Hall Park,
Liverpool.
L4 9XP

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1.0 | Introduction

- 1.1 This Design & Access Statement has been prepared to accompany a Full Planning Application on behalf of Everton Ladies Football Club for the proposed ground upgrading to improve spectator accommodation to one pitch at the existing Liverpool Soccer Centre.
- 1.2 The scheme proposes the additional covered seating, fencing upgrades and ticketing provision to allow games to be played which conform to the grading requirements for the 2019/2020 Women's Super League.
- 1.3 The existing sports centre occupies approx. 71,000m² in the south corner of Walton Hall Park bounded by Walton Hall Avenue and Woolhope Road. The application site is approx. 6,000m² of this site.
- 1.4 The existing site houses the Lifestyle Fitness Centre and Liverpool County FA in a single storey building. Parking is available for approx. 130 spaces plus coach parking. There are 5 full size grass pitches and one artificial turf pitch. Only 2 of these pitches are flood lit and have any form of spectator accommodation. This is in the form of a single covered concrete terrace to each pitch.
- 1.5 This document is to be read in conjunction with the drawn information and supplementary information submitted in support of the full application.

2.0 | Site Description

- 2.1 The site is located within a largely residential area with residential properties surrounding the park. Two side of the application site are bounded by the large open field of Walton Hall Park. Liverpool City Centre is approximately 2.8 miles south of the site.

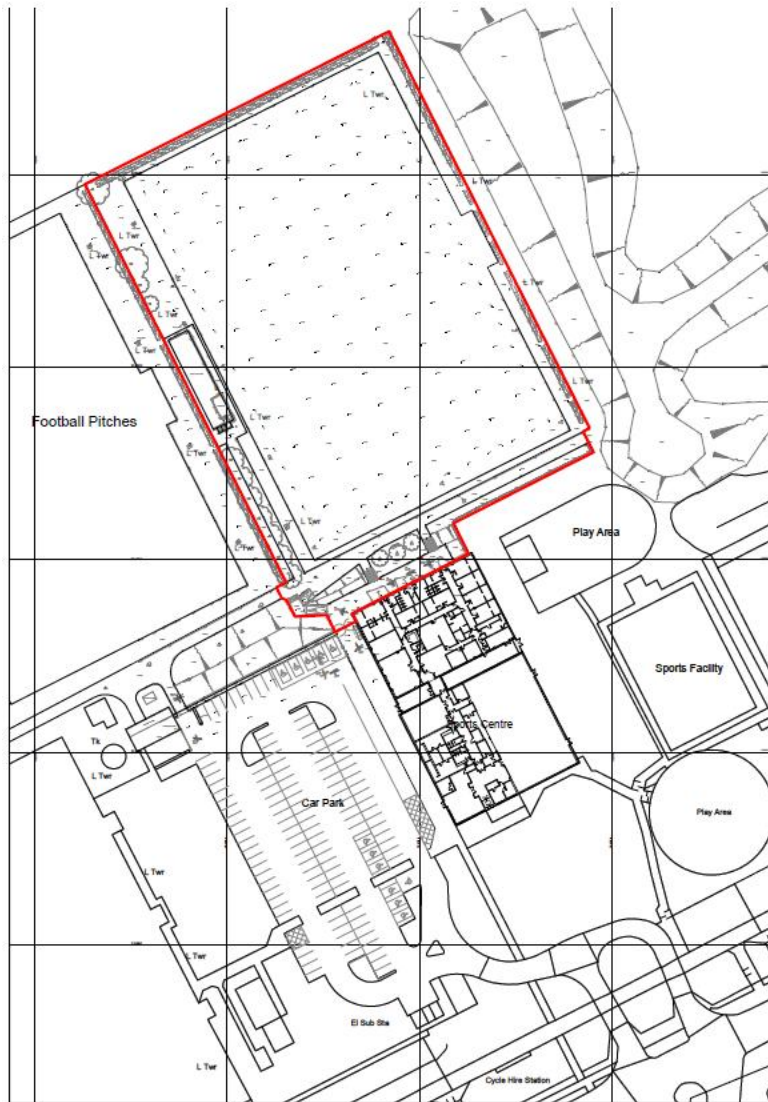


Figure 1. Site Location Plan.



Figure 2. Existing Covered Terrace



Figure 3. View from the existing car park.



Figure 4. View of pitch from grass bank in the park.



Figure 5. Existing pitch to the left with changing facilities to the right.

3.0 | Design Principles

- 3.1 Everton Ladies Football Club currently play in the top flight of the Ladies game. The current facilities at the site do not meet the Football Association ground grading requirements for The Women's Super League. The proposal is to bring facilities up to a higher standard to allow for increased profile games to be played and make the centre capable of accommodating a wider range of levels of players.

Boundary treatments

- 3.2 Part of the upgrading is to allow for televised games to be played on site and as part of this requirement the proposal is to screen the pitch off from the park.
This North East boundary fence will be replaced or upgraded to a 3m high wire mesh fence which will be clad with a green woven nylon fabric. The remaining boundary fences will be retained and also clad with the same material.
- 3.3 The 2 boundaries with the park will be fitted with ball stop netting. This is in the form of 5m high steel posts at 8m centres. Open netting will be raised between these posts on match days and lowered when not in use.
- 3.4 There is a small section of fencing 2.4m high adjacent the public entrance which is to control access to the other pitches. This will include gates across the existing access road.

Site Layout

- 3.5 The site layout will remain unchanged. The existing car park will remain unaltered and all pedestrian routes into the site will also remain as existing. The existing building houses team and official changing facilities and public WC's which are all to be retained. Vehicle access to the pitch area is via the existing paths.

Stands

- 3.6 The existing pitch has a brick and steel covered stand with concrete terraces and accessible viewing area. This is to be retained and converted to an all seater stand with circa 250 seat capacity with moulded plastic tip up seats
- 3.7 New stands are to be built either side of this existing stand. These will match the profile of the existing stand to give the appearance of one unified structure. These will increase the capacity to 500.
- 3.8 The existing dugout are to be renewed. The current dugouts have a bench seat with a solid curved canopy. The proposed dugouts include 2 rows of moulded plastic seats with a light weight metal frame and clear Perspex covering.
- 3.9 As part of the TV coverage and match analysis there is a requirement for a raised gantry. This will be a simple raised steel frame platform 2.4 x 4.8m in plan and 3.6m high. This deck will have 1.2m high handrails to all side and be accessed by a fixed vertical hooped ladder. This will be fitted with a lockable hatch to prevent unauthorised access. A simple profiled metal mono pitch roof will protect the camera operators, maximum height of 6.0m.

Environment

- 4.0 3No. trees are to be removed as part of these works adjacent the existing stand. Existing boundary hedging is to be retained around the inner perimeter fencing with the exception of a small section behind the dugouts which is required access.
- 4.1 Areas of new hardstanding are to be kept to a minimum and are only to be provided to where needed for safe spectator access. The existing pitch is maintained to a high standard and has excellent drainage provision.

Parking

- 4.2 The existing parking layout provides 121 parking spaces, 10 accessible spaces and 3 coach parking bays. This arrangement is to remain unchanged.
- 4.3 Matches are typically played on Sunday afternoons, 2pm kick off. The gym is quiet at this time and closes at 2:30pm.
- 4.4 The centre is currently used for the car park for match day parking for both Goodison Park and Anfield matches and therefore is capable of operating at full capacity without detrimental effects on surrounding road. Events at Walton Hall Park would not be scheduled to coincide with these matches.

4.0 | Access

- 4.1 Vehicle access is via Walton Hall Avenue A580 with dedicated in and out gates adjacent each other. These are to be retained. The car park is generally level with drop kerb access to the existing buildings. Dedicated accessible spaces and coach parking bays are provided. Accessible spaces account for 7+% of the total allocation.
- 4.2 Pedestrian access also from Walton Hall Avenue is separate from the vehicle access with a dropped kerb zebra crossing. The existing pitch is currently approx. 1m above the height of the entrance. There is an existing wide ramp to accommodate this change in height or alternative adjacent steps. The pitch surround is level all stands will be accessed from a min 1.5m tarmac path.
- 4.3 The existing facilities provided in the sports centre are to remain unchanged. Public will have level access to male, female and accessible WC's.
It is envisaged that at match times that would attract increased spectator numbers, where visiting fans require segregation, that temporary WC's will need to be provided in an alternative location. These occasions are expected to be a rare event.
- 4.4 Catering is to be provided via 'food truck' type facilities on an event by event basis with the number matched to the expected spectator numbers.
- 4.5 There is currently a wheelchair viewing area within the exiting stand. This is to be retained.