3. Description of the Site and Surrounds

Location, Setting and Planning History

3.1 The Site, which extends to approximately 7.3ha covers the Stadium, Anfield Road Stand (the northernmost stand), Anfield Road and, predominantly, areas of hand standing at Anfield Stadium in Liverpool. A site boundary plan is provided at **Figure 1.1**.

3.2 The Site is shown on **Figure 1.1**. This includes the planning application boundary (shown in red) and, for clarity, the area which will be subject to physical works during construction of the Anfield Road Stand (shown in green). The green area includes temporary compound areas which do not require planning permission but which are subject to assessment. For more information in relation to the Proposed Scheme, please refer **Chapter 4**.

3.3 The Stadium was subject to two previous planning permissions to expand capacity and associated improvements in associated uses; those applications were approved by LCC in 2014 and, subsequently, 2016. The Applications[1] granted full planning permission for expansion of the Main Stand, and outline (in principle) consent for the Anfield Road Stand – only the siting of the Anfield Road Stand was agreed, with all other matters reserved for subsequent approval. The Main Stand development has been completed, opening in September 2016. Reserved matters were not submitted for the Anfield Road Stand and that planning permission has since expired.

3.4 The site comprises the Stadium, Anfield Road and an area of Stanley Park. Skerries Road and Alroy Road are located the south east and west respectively. The Site is bound by Gilman Street to the south west and the A5089 Walton Breck Road to the south. Stanley Park bounds the Site to the north; it is part of a wider expanse of open space, including Anfield Cemetery, extending to 101ha.

3.5 The wider area surrounding the Site to the south, east and west is predominantly residential in character. As stated, Walton Breck Road high street, which contains a mix of commercial, residential and community uses, lies immediately to the south of the Site.

3.6 The city centre of Liverpool is approximately 2.5km to the south west of the Site

Connection and Access

3.7 Several of the surrounding residential streets have movement restricted to one direction, with Alroy Road (southbound onto Gilman Street), Skerries Road (southbound), Wylfa Road (northbound) and Arkles Lane (southbound) of note, providing connections between Walton Breck Road and Anfield Road. There is a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) – the LCC controlled Football Match Parking Zone (FMPZ) in operation around the Site, requiring vehicles parking on the street within the zone to display a residents or visitors parking permit. The FMPZ operates annually between 1 August and 31 May; that has recently been extended up to 30 June annually under an Experimental TTRO linked to a current temporary permission for concerts and major events at Anfield Stadium in the closed football season.

[1] Liverpool City Council Planning Reference Numbers: 14F/1262 & 15F/2160

3.8 Scheduled bus services travel along Walton Breck Road, with stops outside the Kop Stand. The nearest railway station is Sandhills, located approximately 2.2km / 26 minute walk from the Site and is served by trains running to all three Northern Line northbound end destinations (Southport, Ormskirk and Kirkby) and to Hunts Cross in South Liverpool via Liverpool Central in the city centre.

3.9 Stanley Park is located to the north of the Site, and within the eastern side of this sits Stanley Park car park, which is leased from LCC for use on match and event days; it currently provides 1,073 standard and 46 disabled parking bays. Between Anfield Road and Stanley Park is Anfield Road car park, a private car park owned and operated by Liverpool Football Club (LFC) which currently provides 100 standard and 25 disabled parking bays. The other LFC operated car park in the immediate vicinity of the Site is outside the Sir Kenny Dalglish stand, providing a further 98 standard and 2 disabled parking bays.

3.10 Priory Road runs north of Stanley Park, and on the corner of Priory Road and Utting Avenue is a further car park providing 600 standard parking bays. The car park is operated by LFC on match days only. Access to the LFC-controlled car parks on match days is by pre-allocation only, principally linked to hospitality tickets in the Stadium.

3.11 Collectively, the existing car parks provide 1,944 parking spaces, including 73 disabled parking spaces.

3.12 Pedestrian Access to the Site is provided from Anfield Road and from Walton Breck Road. Dahlia Walk, a footpath within Stanley Park, also provides access to the Site.

Built Heritage

3.13 The Site is partially located within a designated heritage asset; the grade II* listed Stanley Park Registered Park and Garden. This asset includes a variety of listed buildings and structures (all of which lie outside the Site) associated with the park, including the grade II listed Isla Conservatory.

3.14 There are no other designated heritage assets within the remainder of the Site. Within the surrounding area is the grade II* listed Anfield Cemetery Registered Park and Garden with its associated grade II listed buildings and structures. There are also a number of grade II listed villas along Anfield Road and the Arkles PH at the junction of Arkles Lane and Anfield Road. Additionally, there are number of designated and non-designated heritage assets within the wider vicinity of the Site.

3.15 **Figure 8.1 – Heritage Asset Plan** identifies the Site, Study Area (in relation to built heritage) and designated and non-designated heritage assets.

Archaeology

3.16 There are no nationally designated archaeological remains within 500m of the Site. North West England would have been uninhabitable during the Lower Palaeolithic era with no human activity in Merseyside recorded until the end of the Ice Age (c. 10,000BC)[1]. Prehistoric remains (c. 10,000BC to AD 43) are recorded in Merseyside, however the earliest dated find recorded by the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Services (MEAS) Historic Environment Record10 (HER) within 500m of the Site is a Roman coin, dated from 140 AD onwards, found

on Sybil Road, approximately 100m to the north-west (HER ME3982). No other Roman remains are recorded within 500m of the Site. The place names 'Everton' and 'Walton' suggest that they are small settlements or farmsteads that originated in the early medieval period, which could have been occupied throughout that time. No early medieval remains are recorded within 500m of the Site. Historic maps from the 18th century suggest that the area within the Site was rural until the first residential properties are recorded along Anfield Road in the early 19th century, opposite the Stadium and partially within the Site.

3.17 The vast majority of archaeological remains within 500m surrounding the Site relate to former 19th century buildings, in particular St Ann's Hill House, situated on the northern side of Anfield Road, partially within the Site (HER ME9852). The house was demolished in the early 20th century and buried remains such as footings and basements, might still survive, though the land has since been developed with new car parking facilities associated with the Stadium.

3.18 Overall the archaeological evidence suggests that the archaeological potential for all periods is considered low. Any archaeological remains are likely to be considered of negligible heritage value due to their limited archaeological interest[2] [3].

Townscape and Visual Environment

3.19 The Stadium forms a defining feature in the area due to its scale, massing, contribution to the localised urban grain and land use. The Stadium contrasts sharply with the neighbouring largely residential area typified by a tight urban grain. As stated, there are some grade II listed buildings within the residential context adjacent to the Site, on Anfield Road.

3.20 Stanley Park is considered to be one of the finest mid-Victorian parks in the region and is of national significance. The Park includes a number of listed buildings and structures. Stanley Park is visually and physically connected to the Stadium. Although access along Anfield Road between the Stadium and the Park is currently permitted, the relationship between the Stadium and the Park is poor, with surface parking and the rear of the existing Anfield Road Stand forming the interface.

3.21 There are a number of trees located to the boundary with the Park. Some are on LFC land but the majority are within Stanley Park. Trees within the Park are protected under its listed status.

3.22 The Grade II* listed Anfield Cemetery is located beyond Stanley Park to the north, and has visual connections to the Stadium. The cemetery is also considered to be of national significance.

Biodiversity

3.23 The Site includes the Stadium and its associated infrastructure comprising of hardstanding, small areas of amenity grassland, scattered trees and ornamental planting and Stanley Park car park. Overall, the Site has low biodiversity potential, with the exception of some limited use by bats.

3.24 As shown on **Figure 9.1**, an existing roost was identified within the Kop Stand (outside the Site) and a potential roost could not be ruled out within the Anfield Road Stand (within the Site).

Local Air Quality, Noise and Lighting Environment

Air Quality

3.25 The Site is located within the city-wide 'Liverpool City Air Quality Management Area' (AQMA), an area identified by LCC as exceeding the annual mean nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) air quality objective of 40µg/m^3. LCC undertakes monitoring and reports NO_2 concentrations across a large network of automatic and passive sites. However, there is no air quality monitoring in the immediate vicinity around the Site, indicating that air quality in this area is not a key concern. The monitoring location that is most representative of the Site is located on the southwest corner of the junction of Priory Road and Townsend Avenue. This monitoring site, known as 'B14', monitored a NO_2 concentration 30µg/m^3 in 2018, which has decreased from 45µg/m_3 in 2014, and is currently well below the air quality objective. Particulate matter (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$)[4] is monitored at a single 'urban background' automatic analyser located in Speke approximately 12km south east of the Site. Monitored PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations were 14µg/m_3 and 9µg/m_3 respectively and were well below the relevant long-term and short-term air quality objectives in 2018. The Annual Status Report 2019[5] acknowledges that there is a downward (improving) trend between 2014 and 2018 at most monitoring locations suggesting air quality is improving in Liverpool.

Noise

3.26 There are noise sensitive receptors in the form of residential dwellings immediately to the southeast, northeast and northwest of the Stadium with residences on Skerries Road, parts of Anfield Road, Arkles Lane, Gilman Street and Alroy Road having direct line of sight to the Stadium. To the southwest the Stadium is bounded by the A5099 Walton Breck Road which has a mix of commercial properties, residences, Christ Church and a licenced premises "The Park". There is an area of regeneration beyond Walton Breck Road which includes developments of recently constructed residences. The north side of the Stadium is bounded by Anfield Road with Stanley Park beyond. Match day car parking is contained within the Park with direct access routes to the Stadium.

3.27 On non-match days noise levels are typical of urban areas with the noise climate dominated by road traffic noise, particularly from Walton Breck Road, its eastern continuation Oakfield Road with contributions from the local road network including Anfield Road and Arkles Lane.

3.28 In addition to traffic noise, residents around the Stadium are accustomed to regular football games occurring on weekends and week-day evenings with associated noise impacts from transportation sources, football crowds both outside the Stadium in the lead-up to and after games and within the Stadium during games, concessions outside the ground, occasional amplified music emanating from within the ground and fan zone areas, and public address within the ground and concourse areas.

Lighting

3.29 The Site is located in close proximity to Stanley Park, with a few adjacent residential and commercial properties within the immediate area.

3.30 Due to the modifications made during the recent development of the Main Stand, which was completed in 2016, several residential dwellings were demolished. This has reduced the number of potential residential receptors to those on Alroy Road, Skerries Road, with the majority located in Anfield Road.

Flood Risk and Hydrology

3.31 The Site is located in Flood Zone 1 and as such is at low risk of flooding. There are No watercourses in the vicinity of the Site although there is a small pond, Stanley Park Lake, situated to the north of the Site.

3.32 The local area is served by a combined water public sewer network. There is a 375mm diameter sewer located in Anfield Road which flows in a south easterly direction and a 375mm diameter combined sewer on the boundary of Stanley Park which flows in a north westerly direction. A 180mm diameter water main which serves the Site is also located in Anfield Road.

3.33 Ground investigations undertaken for the Main Stand expansion show that ground water levels are approximately 30m below ground level.

Ground Conditions

3.34 Made Ground is prevalent on Site associated with the existing Stadium construction and its associated facilities (e.g. car park, merchandise shop and fan zone), along with road surfaces, sub-base and (now demolished) residential properties to the north of Anfield Road.

3.35 The bedrock underlying the Site is characterised by the Chester (previously called Bunter) Formation[6] of the Sherwood Sandstone Group, which comprises coarse-grained sandstones mixed with conglomerates of pebbles and gravels, and sporadic siltstones. British Geological Survey (BGS) mapping identifies superficial deposits as absent at the Site and there are no faults reported on the Site.

3.36 The Chester Formation is designated as a Principal Aquifer[7], which is described by the Environment Agency (EA) as "*layers of rock or drift deposits that have high intergranular and/or fracture permeability - meaning they usually provide a high level of water storage.*"[8] The Site is within an area of High Groundwater Vulnerability (for Major Aquifers), although there are no designated groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZ) located on the immediate Site. There is one licensed groundwater abstraction listed within 1km of the Site, which is associated within Stanley Park Lake. This abstraction is designated for recreational purposes and is operated by LCC.

Climate Change

3.37 The latest Met Office climate projections (UKCP18)[9] for the Anfield area (Easting 33601, Northing 393147) for the 2050s include:

- A 1.9°C increase in summer mean temperature;
- A 2.2°C increase in summer maximum temperature;
- A 1.6°C increase in annual mean temperature;

- A 5% increase in winter rainfall;
- A 19% reduction in summer rainfall; and
- A 2% reduction in annual rainfall.

3.38 A climate emergency was declared by LCC in July 2019.

Community and Socio-Economics

3.39 The Site is located within Anfield ward, in the city of Liverpool, but is adjacent to the boundary with neighbouring Everton ward. These wards collectively accommodated a resident population of around 31,600 people in 2019[10]. This equated to around 6% of the population of Liverpool and 2% of the population of the Liverpool City Region, which covers the city and the adjoining authorities of Halton, Knowsley, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral (for a plan showing each of these areas, see **Figure 6.1**).

3.40 There are approximately 648,000 jobs in the economy of the wider City Region, as of 2018. This is inclusive of circa 254,000 jobs based in the city of Liverpool, and 10,100 jobs across Anfield and Everton wards[11]. The 2011 Census indicated that the vast majority of jobs in the City Region (the 'L' postcode area) (86%) are taken by people living therein, and the city of Liverpool similarly drew the majority of its workforce (91%) from the City Region[12]. There is a relatively high level of labour force containment at the City Region level.

3.41 Liverpool ranks amongst the most deprived local authorities in England[13]. Employment is a factor taken into account in comparing deprivation, and as such it is relevant to note that – as of September 2020 – circa 2,835 people living in Anfield and Everton were claiming benefits for the principal reason of being unemployed[2]. This is equivalent to around 11% of adults aged over 16 residing in the area, based on the latest available population estimates for 2019.

Waste

3.42 The association of Greater Manchester Authorities, Merseyside and Halton (including Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral) and the unitary authority of Warrington have jointly produced the Joint Local Aggregate Assessment that outlined the aggregate sales and reserves in Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Warrington for 2016[14]. Aggregates include crushed rock from Carboniferous and Permo-triassic rock, sand and gravel mostly made up of Glaciofluvia sand and gravel, Carboniferous Millstone Grid and Triassic Sandstone. Across this region there are 11 permitted aggregate quarries. The Port of Liverpool has significant marine infrastructure to handle primary landings of aggregate materials and crushed rock shipped from Glensanda Super quarry, which is then transported by road for use in the region.

3.43 In 2018, England produced 212.9 million tonnes of waste that was managed across 6,324 permitted waste facilities. The North West region produced over 31 million tonnes of waste managed in 870 facilities and Merseyside produced over 8 million tonnes. With respect to construction and demolition waste, the Environment Agency recorded that 584,000 tonnes

[2] This includes people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance plus those claiming Universal Credit that are required to seek and be available for work

of inert construction and demolition waste was deposited in landfill in the North West region[15].

3.44 Within 5km of the Site, there are 51 waste facilities with 21 able to treat or transfer construction and demolition waste.

Daylight, Sunlight and Overshadowing

3.45 The existing daylight and sunlight levels to the neighbouring properties and open areas are currently determined by the scale and massing of the Anfield Stadium, including the existing Anfield Road Stand, and the neighbouring properties. The baseline position is the scale and massing of the Stadium, in particular the existing Anfield Road Stand and neighbouring properties.

Wind Microclimate

3.46 The immediate environment surrounding the Site generally consists of low-rise residential housing to the south, east and west, and open parkland in the north. These surroundings provide little shelter to the Stadium, most notably from the prevailing south-south easterly winds.

3.47 However, the Stadium including the recently constructed Main Stand sits immediately to the south and south west of the Site and provides shelter from the prevailing winds.

Risk of Major Accidents and Disasters

3.48 The Site is not in an area which experiences particular risk of major accidents or disasters, being outside areas of flood risk and the UK not being susceptible to natural disasters. Current risks are associated with the use of the Site for football games and other events.

3.49 The closest emergency services to the Proposed Scheme are as follows:

- Kirkdale Fire Station is located approximately 2.8km east;
- The Royal Liverpool University Hospital is located approximately 3km south; and,
- Walton Lane Police Station is located approximately 2.4km north

References

[1] Oxford Archaeology North (2003). Stanley Park, Liverpool Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment Issue number 2003-2004/134
[2] Historic England (2015). Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment.
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[4] PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ refer to particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter less than 10 and 2.5 microns respectively.
[5] Liverpool City Council (2019). Local Air Quality Management Annual Status Report.
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[10] Office for National Statistics (2020). Population estimates – small area based by single year of age.
[11] Office for National Statistics (2019) Business Register and Employment Survey.
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