
FREETHS

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

IMPERIAL COLLEGE SPORTS GROUND, SIPSON LANE, HARLINGTON, UB3 5EH

PROPOSED MULTI-USE GAMES AREA AND ASSOCIATED DEVELOPMENT

MAY 2021

Introduction

1. We act on behalf of Imperial College London ("ICL") in relation to Imperial College Sports Ground, Sipson Lane ("the Site"). The scheme is for the installation of a Multi-Use Games Area ("MUGA") and associated development ("the Proposed Development").
2. This Design and Access Statement will outline the design of the scheme and also detail the access arrangements. Full policy analysis is provided in the accompanying Planning Statement.

Design

3. The Proposed Development is for the installation of a MUGA which will be available for the use for tennis and netball (marked on the MUGA) but could be used other sports informally. The MUGA will be surrounded around the perimeter by a 3m high chain link fence with two entrance points in the south east and north west corners of the games area. The chain link fence will be painted green in order to minimise any impact on the surrounding area.
4. The MUGA will be accompanied with 6no. 8m tall floodlights to allow for play on the MUGA to continue into the evening hours. The floodlights will also be painted green in order to minimise their impact on the surrounding area. The floodlights will be located in each corner of the MUGA and then two halfway along the longest sides. The lights to be installed will have a built in shield that will minimise the light spill from the LED lights. Along with the application we have submitted a specification sheet for the lights to be installed and a plan showing the light spillage as being contained in a very tight area around the MUGA (Drawing ref: HLS2191).
5. There will be a small layer of top soil that will be removed for the purposes of laying the MUGA surface (approx. 250mm). This top soil will be removed from the Site and placed the south of Sipson Lane on land under ICL ownership. There is an existing bund in this area and this will be extended as part of the works for the MUGA. The bund cannot be placed in the surrounding area of the MUGA as this would take up additional grass space for other sporting activities that currently take place at the Site.
6. The MUGA will include drainage below the surface which will channel water away from the surface, through to a new connection to the existing drainage systems on Site. A plan (ref: S20-261/DWG/DP0001 Rev 03) has been submitted to demonstrate the drainage channels to be included in the Proposed Development.

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Access

7. The current access arrangements into Imperial College Sports Ground are not proposed to be changed for altered as part of the Proposed Development. Therefore all current parking arrangements will remain the same.
8. The MUGA itself will be accessed the two aforementioned entrance points, one to the south west corner of the MUGA and the other to the north west. These will allow access into and out of the MUGA and given the flat nature of the Site and the wider Imperial College Sports Ground access will be possible to all people and users of the Site.
9. The MUGA will be accessible via the car parking area to the south of the Site and from the northern end of the main pavilion building where there is an entrance / exit point.

Conclusion

10. As can be seen from the above Design and Access Statement, the scheme is designed in such a way that it would minimise its impact on the surrounding area and the openness of the Green Belt thanks to its low lying, open nature, and any built form itself being painted green in order to assimilate better with the surroundings. Furthermore, the MUGA will be seen in its context of an existing sports site, with existing floodlighting and sports pitches surrounding. As such, it is not considered there will be any detrimental impact from the design of the Proposed Development.
11. Access to the MUGA will be possible from two gates in the south east and north west corners, these will allow flat and easy access to the MUGA for all. In addition, the existing access arrangements to the wider Imperial College Sports Ground will not be altered, with all current parking arrangements remaining the same. As such, the Proposed Development will have easy access arrangements for all.

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