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For the attention of the elected planning officer,

Design and Access Statement

Proposed Steel Storage Container and Irrigation Compound
Hough End Playing Fields, South Manchester

1. Introduction

This Design and Access Statement supports a planning application for the installation of a steel storage container and associated irrigation compound at Hough End Playing Fields, South Manchester. The proposal is intended to facilitate the efficient watering and maintenance of Gaelic football pitches at the site, ensuring they remain in optimal condition for year-round community use.

2. Site Context

Hough End Playing Fields is a large area of open green space situated in South Manchester, bounded by Princess Parkway (A5103) and Mauldeth Road West. It is widely used for recreational sports, including Gaelic football, and supports a range of local clubs and community groups.

The proposed development is located on the periphery of the existing pitches, adjacent to existing service access routes and near existing utility connections, minimizing disruption and ensuring compatibility with current site use.

3. Design

Storage Container:

A robust, weather-resistant steel container measuring approximately 6m x 2.4m x 2.6m (standard 20ft container size) will be sited to securely house irrigation equipment, tools, and maintenance supplies. The container will be clad in timber to blend with the natural surroundings and minimize visual impact.

Irrigation Compound:

The compound will include space for a water tank, pump system, and hose reels for pitch irrigation. The area will be enclosed by a 2.4m high, green powder-coated metal mesh fence with a secure gate, ensuring safety and preventing unauthorised access.

Materials and Appearance:

The design prioritises durability, security, and visual harmony with the natural setting. Finishes will be non-reflective and in natural tones to reduce aesthetic disruption.

Evergreen planting will be used as device to soften the hard materials used in the proposed.

4. Access and Movement

Vehicular Access:

Existing service access routes through Hough End Crescent will be maintained without disruption. No new access roads are required.

Pedestrian Access:

The site will not require new public pedestrian access. Maintenance personnel will access the compound via the existing Hough End Crescent vehicle road.

5. Sustainability

The proposal promotes sustainability by enabling efficient water use through targeted irrigation, reducing water waste and maintaining pitch quality without overwatering. The use of a steel container offers long-term durability with minimal environmental impact.

The water source will be extracted from natural source's using a 100mm diameter borehole.

6. Landscaping and Ecology

Minimal disturbance to the surrounding green space is anticipated. No trees or hedgerows will be removed. The container and compound will be situated to avoid ecological sensitivity zones. Grass surfaces disturbed during installation will be reinstated.

7. Conclusion

The proposed installation of a steel storage container and irrigation compound at Hough End Playing Fields represents a minor but essential enhancement to site infrastructure. It supports the ongoing maintenance of sports facilities, contributes to the quality of community sporting provision, and has been designed to minimise environmental and visual impact.

Appendix 1. Existing Photographs







This document has been prepared by Sami Kamha and submitted on behalf of JH.
Architects

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