

MAC CONSULTING (SCOTLAND) LIMITED
LANDSCAPE | SPORT | ENVIRONMENT

HINCKLEY SCHOOL
SPECIFICATION FOR SPORTS PITCH REINSTATEMENT
SPL0001-MAC-XX-XX-T-L-0002

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1.0 BACKGROUND

The following document has been prepared by MAC Consulting (Sport and Play Construction Association Professional Services Member) in support of the planning application for the construction of a new teaching block at Hinckley School, Butt Lane, Hinckley.

Temporary teaching accommodation will be situated on an area of existing playing fields within the north west corner of the school site and the following document sets out the proposed works to reinstate the ground occupied by the temporary accommodation and associated parking following completion of the permanent build.

2.0 EXISTING SITE

The existing school site has 11.9Ha of playing field and sports surfaces (see figure 1) including:

- a) double court MUGA
- b) 1 x Sand Dressed Synthetic Turf Pitch – Hockey Multisport
- c) Rugby Pitch (winter)
- d) Football Pitch (winter)
- e) Athletics (summer)
- f) Cricket (summer)
- g) Rounders (summer)



Figure 1: Aerial View of Hinckley School Playing Fields

3.0 TEMPORARY ACCOMODATION

The proposed temporary accommodation will be located adjacent to the school car park to an area of amenity grassland in the northwest corner of the site, see figure 2 below.

The temporary accommodation will be a 2-storey teaching block with associated access paths and a 48 space car park area accessed from the existing school access road to the east.

Due to constraints with site access and levels this playing field area is the only viable site to locate the temporary accommodation without significant disruption to other school facilities or operations (ie transporting and setting the temporary block deeper into the site would require a significantly greater scope of preparatory and reinstatement works leading to greater disruption to the schools operations and sports facilities).

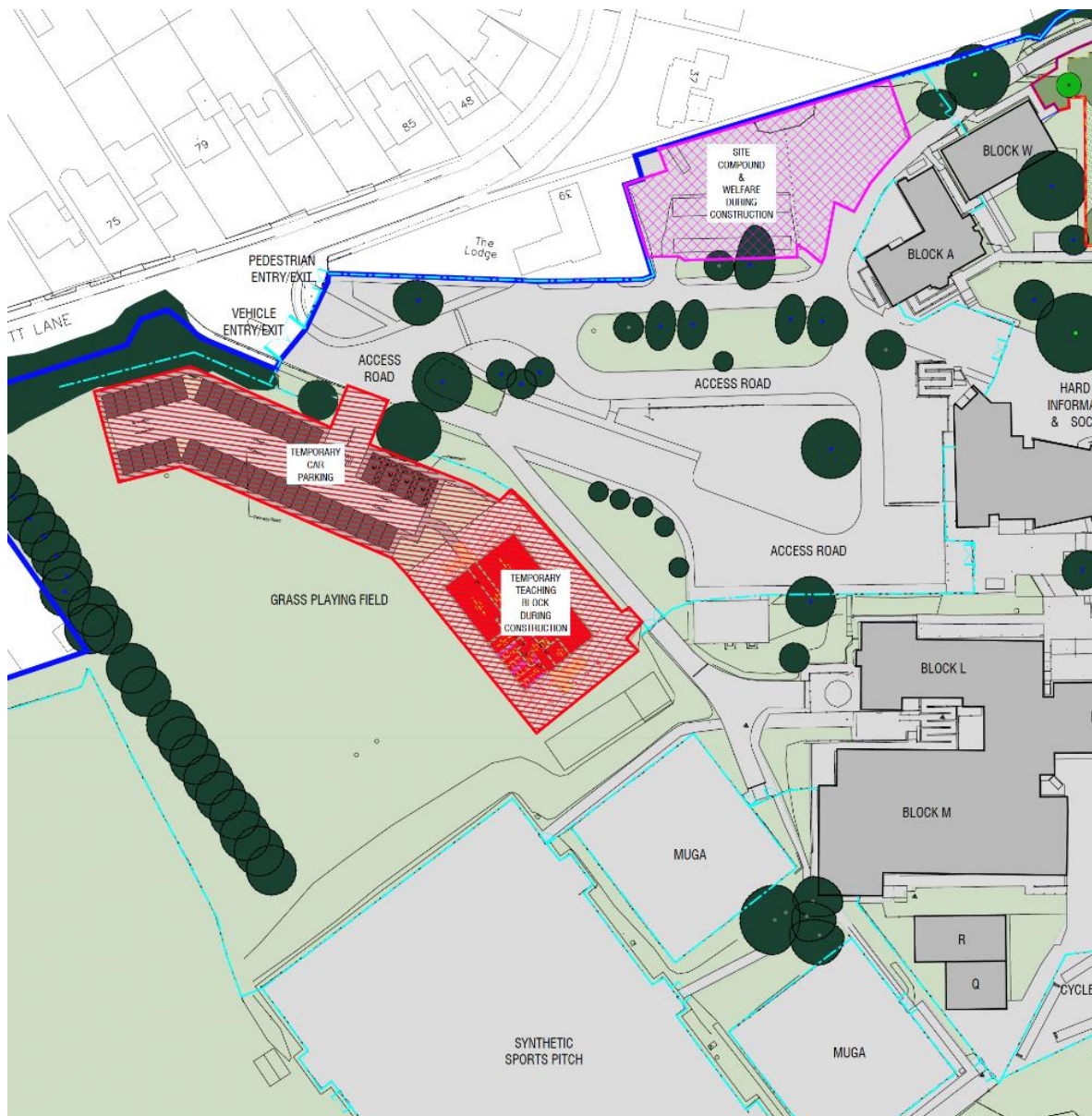


Figure 2: Area hatched in red showing location of proposed temporary teaching block and associated parking

4.0 PREPARATORY WORKS

Appendix 1 contains a plan showing the extent of the reinstatement works.

Prior to the commencement of works the area of ground to be occupied by the temporary accommodation shall be investigated to establish the extent of any field drains present within the playing field area. These shall be mapped and recorded for reinstatement upon completion of the works.

A detailed level survey shall be undertaken to allow levels to be reinstated and merge seamlessly to the surroundings following completion of the works.

Tree protection fencing shall be installed as directed by the project arboriculturist to protect local trees and associated root protection areas.

All topsoil shall be stripped from the area of temporary accommodation and stored in stockpiles to be located around the edges of the playing field in accordance with Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites (DEFRA 2009).

No soil stripping or handling works shall take place during adverse weather conditions.

5.0 SOIL STORAGE DURING CONSTRUCTION

Once the stockpiling of topsoil has been completed the area shall be cordoned off with secure fencing to prevent any disturbance or contamination by other construction activities.

As the stockpiles will be left in situ for more than 6 months the surface of the stockpiles shall be seeded with a grass/clover mix to minimise soil erosion and to help reduce infestation by nuisance weeds that might spread seed onto adjacent land.

Management of weeds shall be undertaken during the summer months, either by herbicide applications and mowing.

6.0 REINSTATEMENT WORKS

Upon removal of the temporary accommodation, car parking and all other building materials the subsoil formation layer shall be de-compacted (tractor drawn subsoiler) and existing drainage pipes made good or reinstated as required.

The stockpiled topsoil shall be replaced to a minimum depth of 200mm by loose tipping using excavators and dump trucks to avoid excessive handling or tracking over soils.

The places topsoil shall be cultivated through its full depth to provide a fine tilth using appropriate tillage equipment to decompact and fully aerate soils that have been stockpiled for a significant length of time. Undesirable material (e.g. stones, fill materials and vegetation larger than 50mm in any dimension) brought to the surface during cultivation shall be removed by picking or raking.

No soil stripping or handling works shall take place during adverse weather conditions.

Once satisfactorily cultivated the soil surface shall be levelled using a bar level to ensure the contours of the playing field area are smooth with no sudden dips or ridges that may impact play (+/- 10mm under a 3m straight edge).

Grass seeding shall then take place on the approved surface with a sports field ryegrass seed mix (e.g. Germinal A9 General Outfield Seed Mix) at 35g/m². This should be applied in combination with a pre-seeder fertiliser (6-9-6) at 70g/m².

Seeding should be carried out in a minimum of 2 equal sowings at right angles to each other via a seed drill. Fertiliser application should be carried out in 2 equal spreadings at right angles to each other and diagonally to the main pitch axis.

7.0 PITCH ESTABLISHMENT WORKS

The pitch establishment works shall include but not be limited to mowing, fertiliser application, aeration, sand top-dressing and over-seeding. It is anticipated that grass establishment will take a minimum of 8-12 weeks following seeding dependent on the prevailing weather conditions of the time.

It is envisaged that the following equipment be available to maintain the grass pitches during establishment:

- Ride-on triple with 8-blade cylinders
- Pedestrian wheeled rotary mowers with collection bags/boxes.
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The pitch shall be maintained at a suitable height for the duration of the grass establishment works.

Height of cut during establishment shall be no greater than 40mm to promote tillering and encourage knitting of the grass sward across any drain lines and secondary drainage (e.g. sand slits).

It is envisaged the first cut will be around 15-18 days after seeding (subject to weather conditions and sowing date). The following cuts shall be undertaken at intervals to optimise the establishment of the sward across the drain lines and sand slits.

The first 6 cuts shall be by rotary mower with the next 4 cuts shall be by cylinder mower with grass clippings collected and disposed of.

Fertiliser applications shall commence immediately after the first cut, allowance shall be made for two further granular applications.

The grass pitches should be top-dressed on 2 occasions during establishment with approved salt free medium fine sports turf sand ideally with a particle size distribution within the central recommended range of the STRI Grading Curve for soil modification and top-dressing of winter games pitches. The selection of top-dressing materials should however take into account compatibility with existing materials used in the construction of the pitch.

Following the application, the top-dressing sand it should be thoroughly brushed into the grass surface and levelled using a lute which will help to work the top-dressing into the verti-drain tine holes.

The dressings should be applied following aeration in dry weather and ground conditions in a uniform layer of no more than 10.0mm deep from suitable top-dressing equipment.

The area of the pitch reinstatement should be verti-drained using 19 mm solid tines set to penetrate at least 200 mm. The amount of heave should be as great as possible to prevent surface disruption. The site should be in a suitable condition to accept the level of tine penetration as above but not too soft that the equipment causes surface disruption from wheel marks. The verti-drain should be used to reduce hardness of the playing surface which should be between 35 g and 200 g when measured by the STRI method of test using a 0.5 kg Clegg Impact Hammer from a drop height of 0.55 m.

The area of reinstatement works shall be over seeded using the following seed mixture at the rate of 20 g/m²:
Germinal A9 or equal and approved.

8.0 COMPLETION AND AVAILABILITY FOR PLAY

Following completion of the reinstatement works and grass establishment and independent PQS Assessment shall be undertaken to assess pitch conditions.

The assessment shall be to the current Sport England/IOG Performance Quality Standards (PQS):

- Grass Height (30-60mm)
- Ground Cover (>75%)
- Broad-Leaved Weeds (<10%)
- Thatch Depth (<15mm)
- Water Infiltration Rate (5mm/hr)
- Surface Evenness (<25mm under a 2m straight edge)
- Surface Gradient (Direction of play <1%; Across play <1%)
- pH (5.8-7.5)
- Surface Hardness (35-200 Gravities using STRI Cleg Hammer)

Following a satisfactory assessment of the pitch quality the area shall be signed off and commissioned for play.

APPENDIX 1 – SPORTS PITCH GRASS REINSTATEMENT PLAN

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