



**AERIAL VIEW LOOKING NORTH-EAST OVER THE FIRST CLASS PITCH, WITH THE PAVILION, PRACTICE AREA AND COMMUNITY PITCH BEYOND**

## 5.1 The Overall Proposition

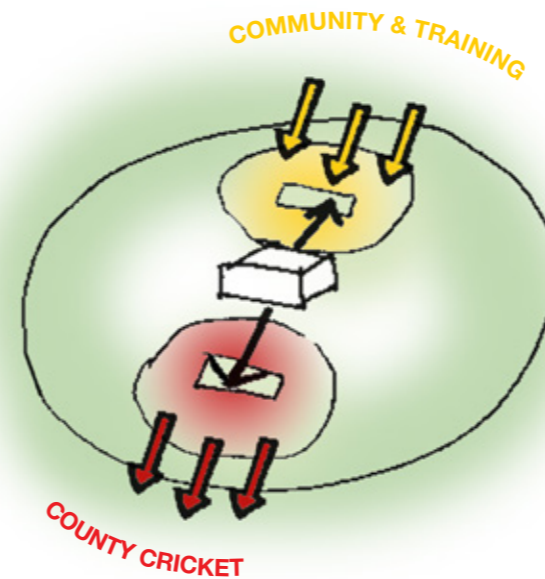
### Project Drivers

Lancashire Cricket and Lancashire County Council are working together to build a new high-quality professional and community cricket facility on the Woodcock Estate in Farington. The proposals will give Lancashire Cricket a second ground in the heart of the county, bringing together elite and community cricket in one high quality sports facility.

At the very outset and in ongoing dialogue and consultation with the wider project stakeholders, the project team have developed a series of initial project drivers which will inform the design process as we progress through concept design and respond to the unique site context.

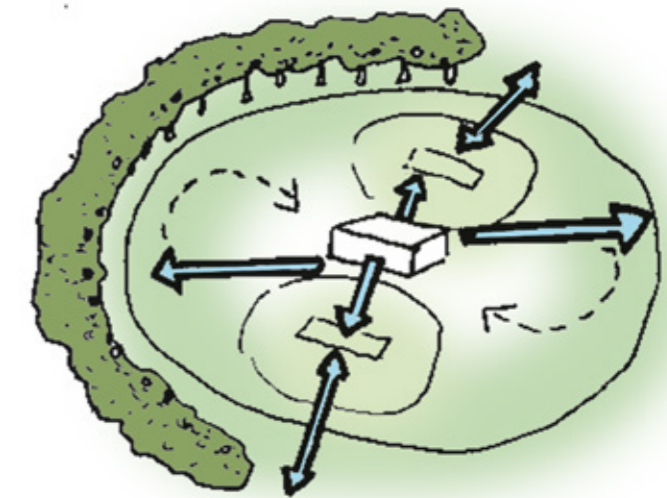
These drivers underpin the overall aims and support the project vision, and can be summarised as follows and illustrated in the diagrams opposite:

- Cricket Facility Excellence
- Visibility and Recreational Space
- Environment and Orientation
- Shelter and Microclimate
- Community Focus and Connections



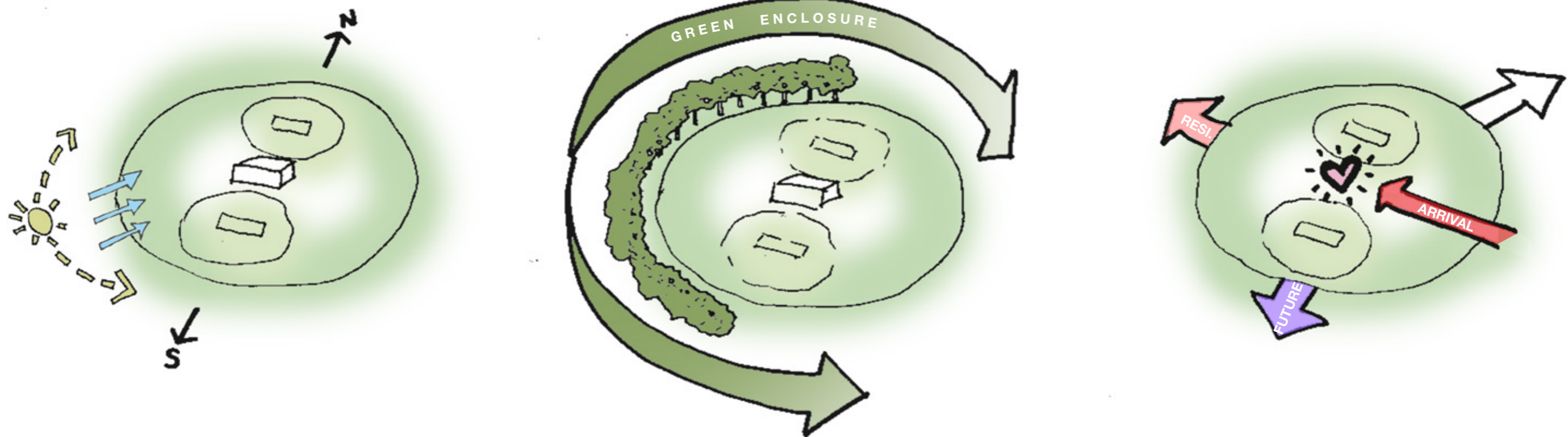
### New Cricket Facility

- Creation of a new Cricket Ground to provide a new facility to encourage sport, fun, participation and activity in a safe and managed environment.
- A pitch dedicated for community use and training purposes will provide a facility which can be used by the community, schools and colleges.
- A pitch dedicated to county cricket to promote a high standard of Cricket talent and encourage people to partake in the sport



### Visibility

- The cricket pitches will be highly visible within the compound and from the pavilion where there will be views out to both cricket pitches.



### Environment

- Locating the pavilion to the centre shelters the community pitch from the prevailing wind coming from the South West.
- The cricket pitch wickets are orientated North - South for optimum play within the natural environment conditions

### Sheltered Microclimate

- Enclosing the compound with trees provides further shelter from the prevailing winds
- The green enclosure provides a sensitive shield from the surrounding residential properties.

### Community Focus

- The pavilion is at the centre of all Cricket and accessible for all, creating a strong arrival point.
- The compound opens up new routes to the surrounding existing uses to encourage the community in and further promotes sport, fun, participation and activity.
- The pavilion will remain flexible to allow different functions and uses within by the the Club and wider community

## Design Inspiration | Cricket Grounds in Green Settings

The long-standing tradition of playing cricket in green countryside settings provides an excellent starting point for guiding the approach to creating a new cricket ground for Lancashire.

The adjacent images illustrate a range of examples from around the local region, nationally, and beyond around the world. Some of the key characteristics of these exemplars of cricket in parkland and county settings include the following:

- Using landscape and topography to form a calm, sheltered microclimate and green enclosure
- Forming natural vantage points for viewing around the pitch, working with the land formations to create a ready-made viewing amphitheatre
- Locating the Pavilion building on top of the landscaped plinth, affording views out and creating a sense of identity
- Scaling up and down to cater for numbers of people using temporary 'pop-up' infrastructure which is able to be taken away when not required
- Preserving an overall sense of openness, with visibility of the surrounding setting, forming a beautiful landscaped backdrop to the cricket



- 1. Hagley Park Cricket Ground, New Zealand
- 2. Sedbergh School Cricket Ground, Cumbria
- 3. Alexandra Park Cricket Ground, Greater Manchester
- 4. University Parks Cricket Ground, Oxford
- 5. St Edwards School Cricket Ground, Oxford
- 6. Wormsley Cricket Ground, High Wycombe
- 7. Wormsley Cricket Ground, High Wycombe
- 8. Wormsley Cricket Ground, High Wycombe
- 9. Chesterfield Cricket Ground
- 10. Alexandra Park Cricket Ground, Greater Manchester
- 11. University Park Cricket Ground, Oxford

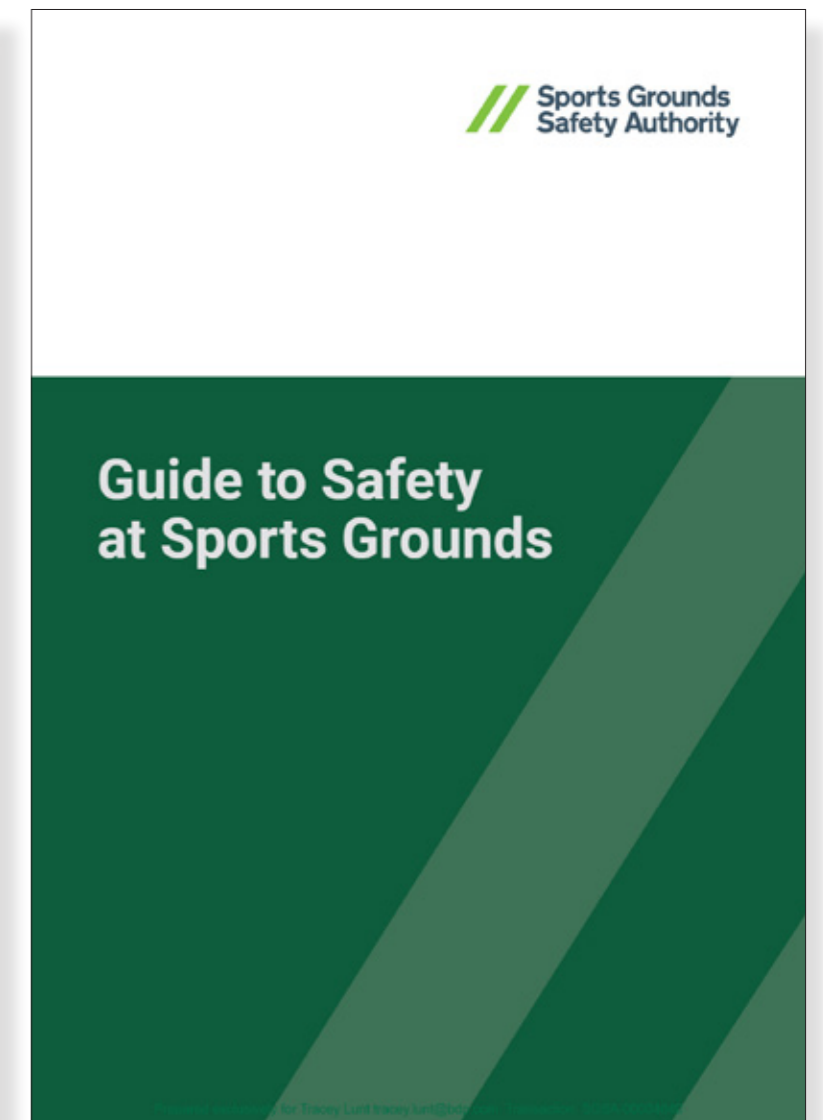


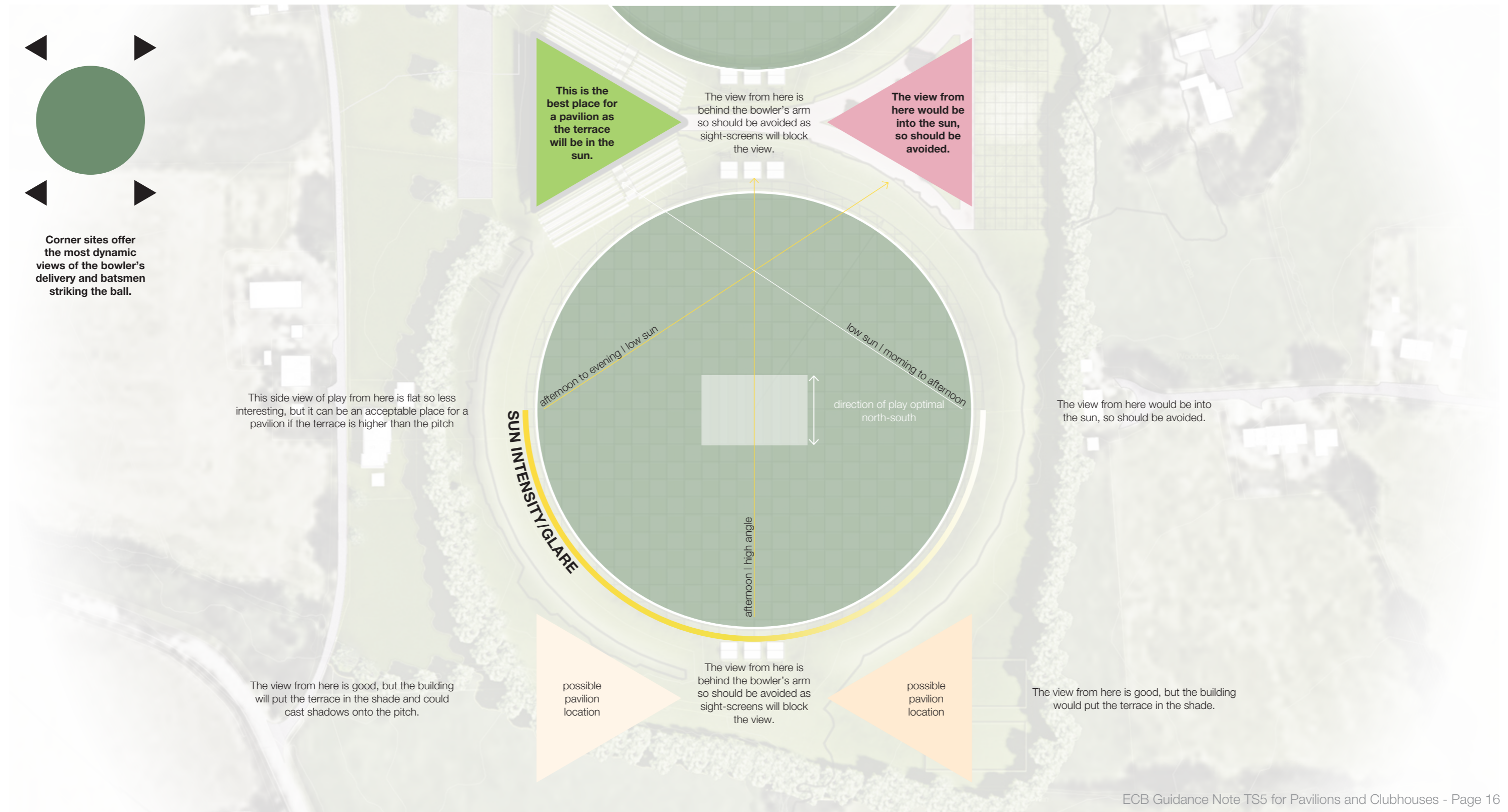
## Design Parameters | Best Practice Guidance

In addition to inspiration to guide the design of a sensitive intervention within the existing green setting, there are also a number of important technical considerations to consider when planning a new sports facility of this type. The design of the proposed cricket facility takes into account where relevant a range of guidance and standards to support adopting best practice.

The design team have consulted with key members of Lancashire Cricket's operations team and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) during the course of the design process. Relevant reference documents include sport specific guidance from the ECB and the Sports Grounds Safety Authority's 'Green Guide' to Safety at Sports Grounds 6th Edition, along with wider national statutory guidance including building regulations and British Standards.

In addition best practice can be benchmarked with reference to other similar cricket and sporting facilities, including Lancashire Cricket's own facilities at Emirates Old Trafford where this is relevant.





# Site Planning Principles | Creating a Green Setting for Cricket

## Arrangement of the Site

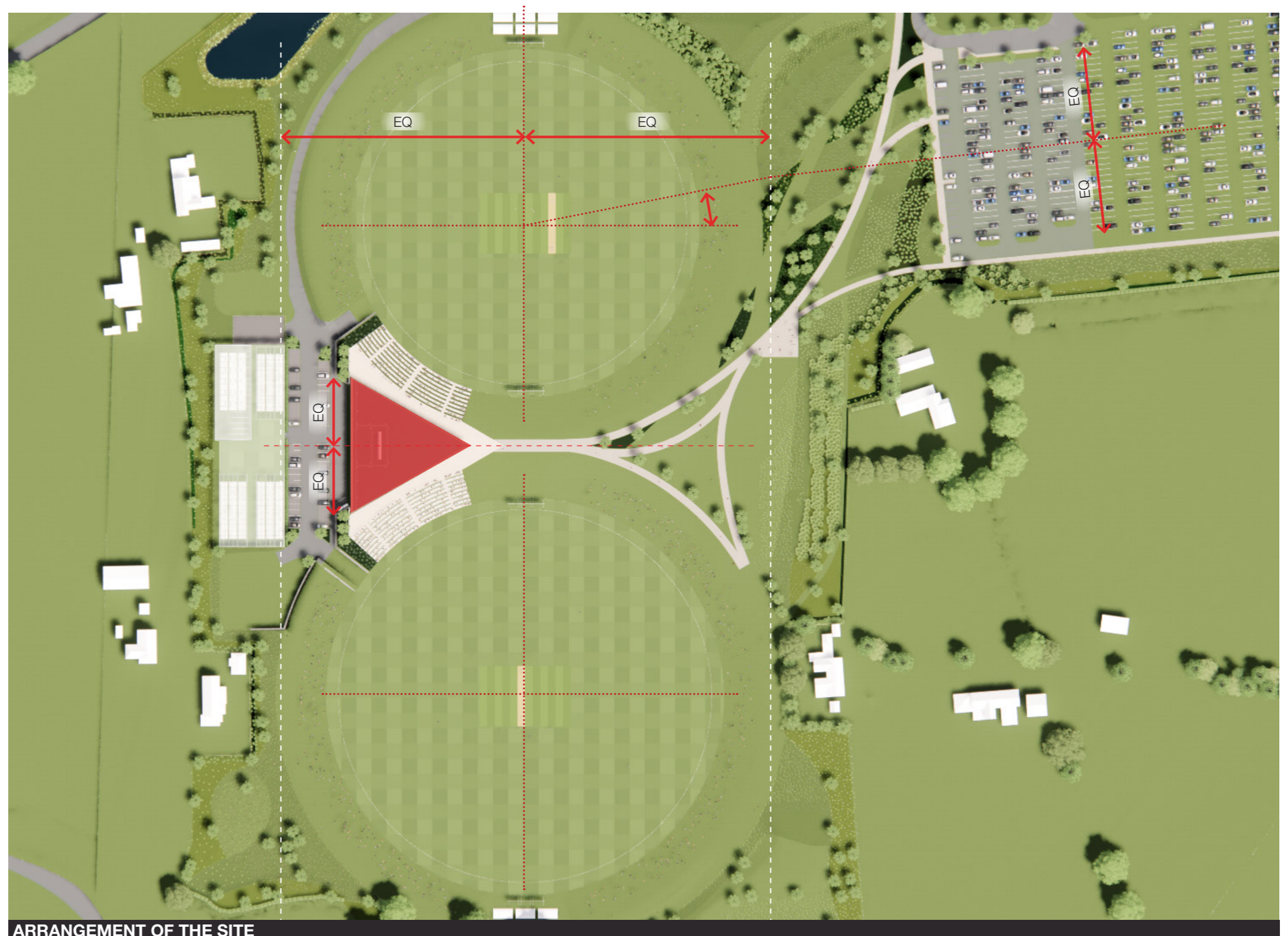
The development of the Farington site as a two-ground cricket centre and complex will provide Lancashire Cricket with an essential second centre of excellence complimenting the facilities at Emirates Old Trafford, where the Club don't have enough playing surfaces to support the current and increasing levels of demand. The proposed facility at Farington will provide two grounds, practice area (incorporating some covered nets) which will provide the ideal centre in order to meet Lancashire Cricket's needs. This will provide a sustainable base for the future development of the Club's players across all levels and ability.

The approach to arrangement of these key components within the proposed site begins with careful positioning of the largest elements - the two pitches - centrally within the site, equidistant from the existing residential dwellings to the east and west of the site. Each cricket pitch is orientated so the wicket is aligned with the north-south axis to optimise playing conditions. Similarly, the practice nets are also oriented along the north-south axis, and located within a shaped landscaped enclosure to minimise the impact upon neighbouring properties.

The geometric relationship between the pitches and the Pavilion is equally important. The Pavilion anchors both pitches together, and is optimally positioned to facilitate excellent views from the spectator steppings to both north and south pitches. This location is also key in terms of the relationship with the sun path, avoiding looking into the sun from the Pavilion.

Car parking is provided in two locations; with a small car park to the rear of the Pavilion building serving the day-to-day use of the facilities for teams and staff, and a larger visitor and overflow car park with drop-off area located to the north-east of the site adjacent to the new access junction with Stanifield Lane. The proposed parking and access arrangements have been developed in consultation with a variety of stakeholders including the local highway authority to coordinate with present and future highway developments, and minimise the impact upon the immediate and wider network.

Further details of proposed highways can be found in the Transport Assessment authored by WSP.



**ARRANGEMENT OF THE SITE**



## Green Enclosure

Landscaped sloped bunds are proposed to provide enclosure to the two cricket pitches, and help set them sympathetically within the site topography, creating a natural grass amphitheatre and spectator bowl without the need for additional urbanising features. This sculpting of the landscape helps to enclose the cricket pitch from view, providing a natural slope for viewing. The centre of the first class pitch wicket is over 120m from the nearest property. For reference, the pitch boundary is a maximum of 70m from the centre of the wicket, and reduced to under 60m for women's and second team cricket. Equidistant pitch positioning makes balls reaching surrounding properties unlikely. Practice nets are enclosed, netted and fenced to contain cricketing activities adjacent the Pavilion.

The majority of each bowl is formed as informal grassed slopes which allow spectators to take position across all parts of the slope with good sight lines of the cricket. Adjacent to the Pavilion building, the spectator bowl is a more formalised stepped viewing terrace, with concrete treads set into the grassed landscape form of the bowl and fixed spectator seating and accessible wheelchair positions, providing spectators in that location with additional levels of viewing comfort.

The main car park to the north-east of the site is also proposed to be within a landscaped bunded enclosure to minimise visual and acoustic impact upon the local landscape, and neighbouring properties.

Around the perimeter of the site as a whole mature trees have been retained to preserve the existing character of the site, this will be supplemented by planting of hedgerows (including transplantation of existing hedgerows) and over 200 new trees to create a landscaped enclosure that will mature over time to form a green backdrop to the cricket activities within the Site. The new tree and wildflower planting, green spaces and sympathetic ecological landscaping will provide an attractive setting, encourage biodiversity and provide natural screening for local residents in keeping with the existing rural character of the site.

Further details of landscape design proposals authored by Urban Green are set out in report Chapter 5.6.



**GREEN ENCLOSURE DIAGRAM**

## Orientation and Spatial Planning

In terms of the detail of the playing areas themselves, as is noted earlier orientation of the two pitches is fundamental to creating a successful playing arena for elite level cricket. Orientating the wicket table along the north-south axis ensures that in the middle part of the day that the sun is at its highest position, optimising day lighting conditions for the batting player facing the bowling delivery, where visibility of the ball is critical to safety.

If the pitches were orientated in the east-west direction the low-level late afternoon sun could result in glare and difficulty in sighting the ball for the facing batting player, causing a significant disadvantage, along with potential player safety concerns - hence the importance of adopting the approach outlined above.

So, having positioned and oriented the pitches and Pavilion and practice area, the final step is the connecting infrastructure to support this. Springing from the vehicular junction connecting with Stanifield Lane to the north-east of the site, a new access road connects the primary car park and visitor drop-off area. Beyond the car park, the road extends around the perimeter of the northerly community pitch to the west of the Pavilion building, and the smaller car park and arrival space. As well as providing the artery for servicing, staff and player access to the building, a pedestrian crossing creates a direct connection between Pavilion and Practice Nets.

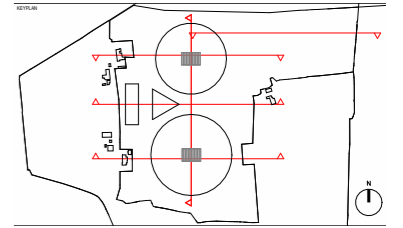
In addition to being the hub for the team and players, the Pavilion building also performs a key role in housing support functions, including grounds maintenance. Alongside the players reception, the grounds team are also located at the lower ground level, along with garage space to accommodate some of the larger grounds maintenance equipment and provisions. This location provides efficient access to the pitches on either side of the Pavilion building.

The site is also connected together by a network of external footpaths and spaces bringing people into the site on foot and bicycle. Further details of site landscaping design authored by Urban Green can be found in chapter 5.6 of this report.



**ORIENTATION & SPATIAL PLANNING DIAGRAM**





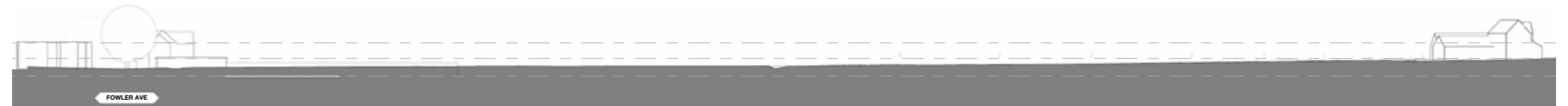
## Site Levels & Topography

In addition to key drivers and technical criteria which underpin the arrangement of the site proposals in plan, the relative levels and sculpting of topography is equally important in creating a successful cricketing environment which fits sensitively with respect to scale, massing and character of the surrounding rural context.

The design of the project has been approached with maintaining the characteristic openness of the site in mind from the outset. From the careful positioning of the green playing pitches, consideration of site levels to set these within the enclosure of sculpted 'bowls', setting the Pavilion building and the Practice Nets into the topography to reduce their relative height, enclosing car parking similarly, and maintaining a naturalistic approach to the protecting the site boundaries, creating a green enclosure with the planting of over 200 new trees. In addition, the use of natural materials and finishes further assist in seeking an appropriate and sensitive response to the setting.

The Pavilion building itself has been intentionally pushed down into the site topography, with the lower ground floor level being circa 2m below the existing site levels. This strategy means that although the building has two storeys, it's relative height above existing levels is effectively reduced to 1½ storeys. The upper ground level is subsequently tied in with the level at the top of the viewing mounds enclosing the two pitches, resulting in the north, south and east elevations only revealing a single storey of the building above the new ground level, whilst connecting visitors to the Pavilion with the viewing terrace and slopes enclosing the two pitches.

The drawings adjacent illustrate cross sections through key areas of the site; on this page as existing, and on the following page as proposed. The key aspect demonstrated by these sectional drawings is that through a sensitive approach to the design of the pitch levels, gently sloped spectator bowls, the Pavilion building and practice nets, the overall mass and height of the proposals are in keeping with the scale and character of neighbouring residential and agricultural buildings in the location, and contributes towards maintaining the existing open character of the Site.



Existing Long Section Through Pavilion



Proposed Long Section Through Pavilion

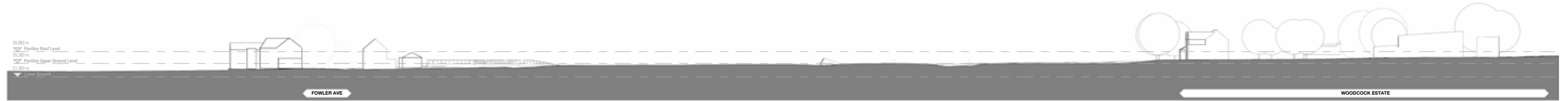
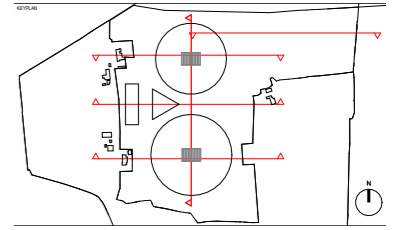


Existing Long Section Through Parking



Proposed Long Section Through Parking

## EXISTING AND PROPOSED SITE SECTIONS DRAWING AND LEVELS



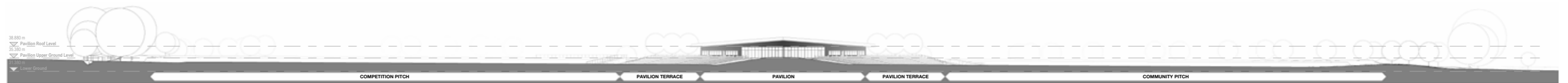
Existing Long Section Through Competition Pitch



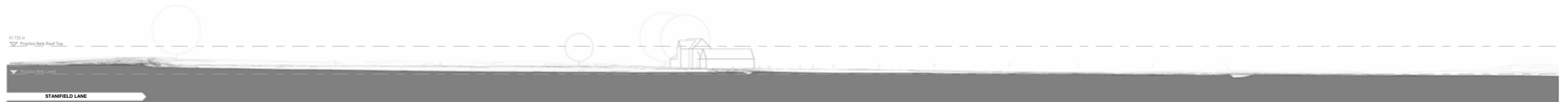
Proposed Long Section Through Competition Pitch



Existing Long Section Through Pitches



Proposed Long Section Through Pitches

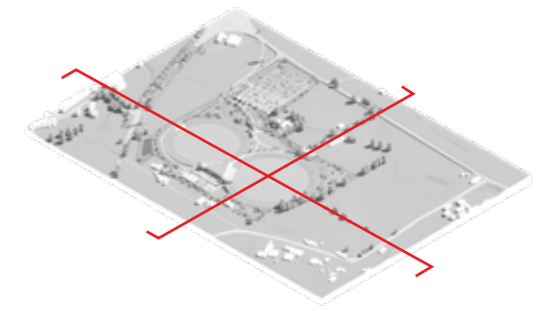


Existing Long Section Through Community Pitch

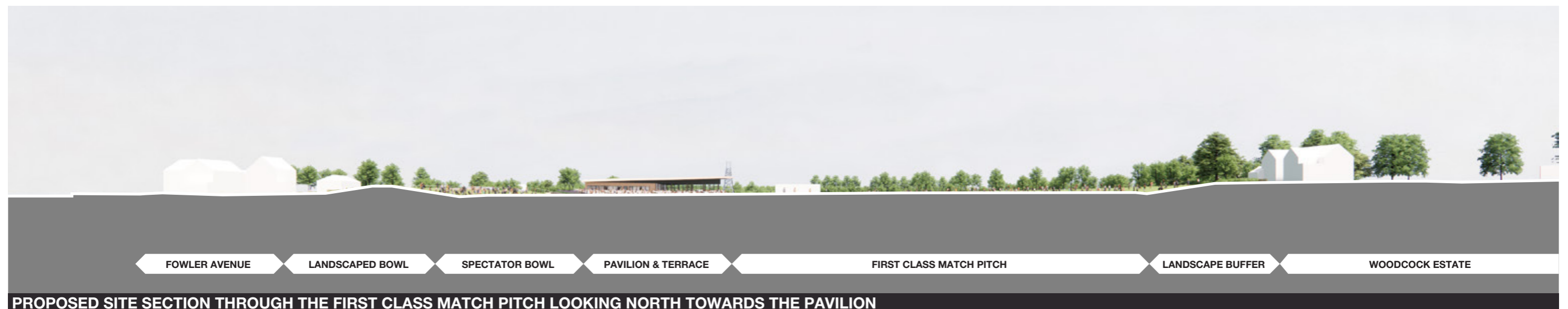


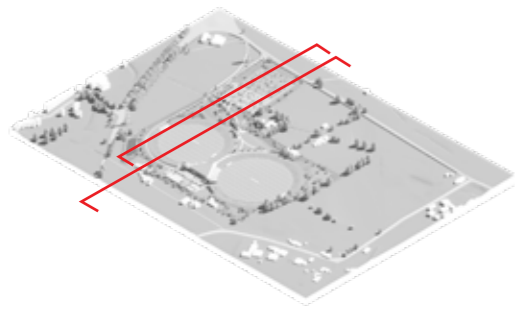
Proposed Long Section Through Community Pitch

**EXISTING AND PROPOSED SITE SECTIONS DRAWING AND LEVELS**



# Site Planning Principles | Sections







FOWLER AVENUE

LANDSCAPED  
BOUNDARY

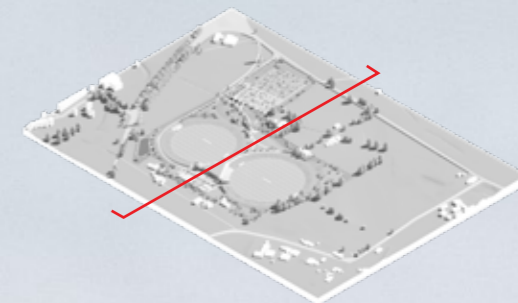
PRACTICE NETS

STAFF & VISITOR PARKING

PAVILION BUILDING

PROPOSED SITE SECTION THROUGH THE PAVILION BUILDING LOOKING NORTH TOWARDS THE COMMUNITY PITCH AND PRINCIPAL SITE ENTRANCE





ELEVATED SPECTATOR ARRIVAL SPACE AND GREEN VIEWING PLATEAU

GREEN OVERLAY SPACE

LANDSCAPED BOUNDARY

WOODCOCK ESTATE

## Design Inspiration | Buildings in Green Settings

As described within our design approach, the proposed cricket facility will be sensitively designed to compliment its green belt setting, maintaining openness, ecological value and an engaging landscaped setting for the proposed sport, wellbeing and recreational uses.

Taking inspiration from the English tradition of cricket grounds in green settings, a coordinated architectural approach to the design of the pavilion and other ancillary buildings will create the feeling of a green campus, with materials such as lightweight structure, glass, wood, stone and concrete embracing the site's green character and contributing to an environmentally sustainable design approach.

A complimentary site wide landscape strategy has been developed to create an appropriate setting for the facility, whilst preserving the green and semi rural aspect of the site from surrounding areas.

The adjacent precedent images aim to demonstrate examples of how this approach will successfully and sensitively enable the new building to sit comfortably and respectfully within its setting.



1



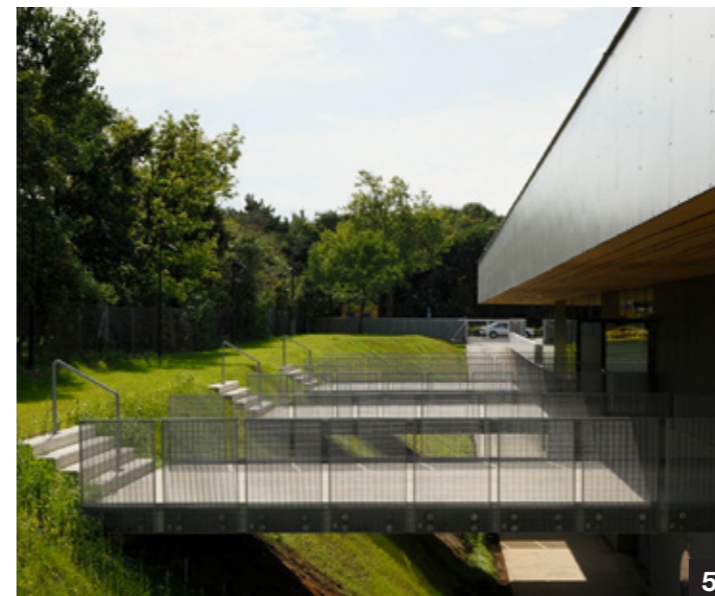
2



3



4



5



6

1. A concrete plinth with timber upper level and organic roof form complement the landscape at Alfriston School, Beaconsfield
2. Views out connecting dining space inside with the surrounding green setting at Broughton Hall Pavilion
3. Broughton Hall Pavilion in its formal landscaped setting
4. Larger scale leisure centre building nestled into the rolling green landscaped topography
5. Connecting building and landscape at FK Austria Football Training Centre, Austria
6. An entrance built into the topography at a Canoeing Training Centre, Tychy, Poland
7. Vertical timber cladding helps soften the appearance of this two storey pavilion building against a woodland backdrop
8. Equine training centre nestled in an expansive formal green landscape in the French countryside
9. A stone and timber pavilion building set within an informal green landscape at Feldon Valley Golf Club, Lower Brailles
10. Natural materials create warmth in a green waterside setting
11. Informal rectilinear geometry and natural materials compliment the green setting at this American countryside dwelling
12. Stone walls and green embankments creating a landscaped plinth to minimise the relative impact of built form





AERIAL VIEW OF THE PROPOSED CRICKET GROUND FROM THE WEST



## 5.2 The Pavilion

### Elements of the Pavilion Diagram

The Pavilion building is by its nature the focal point of the cricket activities, and the centrepiece expressing the identity and character of the proposed cricket ground. Inspired by some of the traditional exemplars illustrated within this report and the powerful geometrical rules governing the site-wide setting out of the facilities, the Pavilion is designed as a two storey building, set into the topography of the existing landscape, with lower ground (circa 500sq.m) and upper ground (c.1,050sq.m) floor levels. The upper ground floor provides key functional adjacency and visibility of the two cricket pitches, while the lower ground level contains support accommodation, grounds maintenance, servicing and the staff and team entrance.

The building footprint is conceived as an equilateral triangle in plan facilitating views of the two pitches to the north and south, positioned optimally for cricket, and brings daylight to changing and support functions to the third elevation to the west. With respect spacing from site boundaries, at the closest point the west elevation is around 65m from the nearest neighbouring property.

The roof overhangs to the building footprint to provide passive solar shade and shelter for players and spectators alongside the viewing terraces located adjacent to the north and south elevations. The roof of the building slopes gently from a low point to the west, rising to a high point to the east which announces the arrival point for visitors arriving from principal arrival space to the north-east. The low point of the roof coincides with the building's rear (west) elevation which is the only visible two storey elevation of the building.

The double storey elevation to the west is set into the landscaped topography such that only 1½ storeys are revealed above the existing site levels. With the high demand for visibility of the cricket and accessibility to spectator viewing areas to north and south elevations, the lower ground level of the west elevation provides essential accessibility to the access road, affording access for teams and staff along with essential servicing and grounds maintenance functions.

