

Neath Sports Centre

Creation of 2Nr. Padel Courts with associated floodlighting and canopy

Padel Technical Information to Support Planning



Site	Neath Sports Centre, Neath Abbey Road, Neath SA10 7BR		
Project	Creation of 2Nr. Padel Courts with associated floodlighting and canopy		
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Associated Plans and Documents

Documents

- SSL3605 01 - Existing Site Plan
- SSL3605 02 - Location Plan
- SSL3605 03 - Proposed Site Plan
- SSL3605 04 - Proposed Padel Plan
- SSL3605 05 - Proposed Elevation
- SSL3605 06 - Floodlighting Scheme
- SSL3605 07 - Existing Drainage Layout
- SSL3605 08 - Proposed Drainage Layout
- SSL3605 09 - Existing Parking Layout
- SSL3605 10 - Proposed Parking Layout

- Padel Lighting Performance Report
- Padel Lighting Statement

Introduction

Purpose of the report

This Padel Technical Information to Support Planning Statement has been prepared by Surfacing Standards Ltd on behalf of Celtic Leisure to accompany a full planning application for the development of two new covered padel courts at:

Neath Sports Centre,
Neath Abbey Road,
Neath
SA10 7BR

In order to assist the application for full planning permission and to facilitate the implementation and delivery of the project; this document describes the context to the development and aims to explain and justify the proposal in a structured way. This statement discusses design and access issues regarding the use, amount, scale, appearance and context of the scheme.

This document should be read in conjunction with the submitted plans.

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Technical Information to Support Planning

Development Outline

- 2Nr. Padel courts with associated adjoining canopies
- 8Nr. 6m high floodlights
- 3.0m high perimeter fencing

Purpose and Use

This application seeks planning permission to create three new covered padel courts in order to contribute to the improvement of sporting and recreational facilities at Neath Sports Centre.

The provision of two new padel courts will provide the community of Neath and the surrounding area access to padel tennis. Currently there is limited access to padel tennis in the area as padel tennis is a very new and emerging sport.

Each Padel court will be capable of supporting the following formal court arrangements:

Table 1 – Padel Court Provision

Size	Quantity
Padel Tennis – 20m x 10m	1

Amount

The overall scale of development is summarised below:

Table 2 – Scale of the Development

Aspect	Area (m2)
2Nr. Padel Courts (20m x 10m)	400

Layout

The optimum location for the proposed padel courts were considered with respect to the space available on site and the existing services present on site. The proposed area provides convenient access to facilities and parking facilities whilst not impacting upon wider sports pitches on the site.

Operating Times

The proposed padel courts requires floodlighting to support scheduled use, particularly during darker winter months, ensuring safe play.

The proposed hours of use requested is as follows:

Table 3 - Proposed Hours of Use

Day	First Activity	Final Activity
Monday-Friday	06:00	22:00
Saturday	09:00	20:00
Sunday (inc bank holidays)	09:00	20:00

Appearance - Padel Carpet

The installed appearance of the playing surface will comprise a blue artificial grass system suitable for padel tennis. This surface is recognised as the most suitable artificial playing surface for padel tennis.



Figure 1 - A Typical Example of a Padel Tennis Surface

Appearance – Padel Fencing

The padel fencing consists of a combination of a transparent reinforced glass panels and weldmesh fencing. The fencing for a padel court is defined by the sides and ends. To the ends the fence is a total height of 4.0m with the lower 3.0m consisting of the reinforced glass panels and the upper 1.0m consisting of weldmesh fencing. The sides are made up of stepped wall areas at both ends, the first step 3 metres high x 2 metres long and the second step 2 metres high x 2 metres long. Weldmesh fencing complete the enclosure of up to 3 metres in the centre 16 metres and up to 4 metres at both ends.



Figure 2 - A Typical Example of Perimeter Ball Stop Fencing

Appearance - LED Floodlights

The proposed floodlighting will comprise 8Nr. 6m post mounted columns, each equipped with energy-efficient LED luminaires. The LED floodlighting system has functionality and controls to switch each padel court on separately.



Figure 3 – Proposed Philips Luminaires and Post Mounted Padel Lighting

Appearance – Padel Canopy

The padel courts will be covered with a canopy across each court to protect the courts from weather allowing year-round play. Figure 4 is an example of a similar “L shape” padel court construction.



Figure 4 – Proposed Padel Canopy Exterior

Lighting

The proposed padel courts requires floodlights to facilitate padel tennis from dusk up to the requested curfew time. The permitted times of operation will be determined via planning consultations, and these hours of use are requested to maximise padel tennis opportunities and public benefits via pre-arranged and structured access.

The lighting impact will be controlled by the strict management of permitted operating times. Automatic time clocks will be installed to ensure lights are extinguished at the curfew hour every night of use.

- Time Clocks: Time clocks will be set to operate within a pre-programmed time including a seasonal changeover facility for BST and GMT.
- Floodlighting System: The floodlighting system will operate within permitted times only. These hours will be controlled by a photocell detector and timer switch to prevent any adverse impact local amenity.

Usage of the floodlighting system will be solely within permitted times, and these hours will be controlled by a photocell detector and timer switch to ensure that any lighting does not adversely impact local amenity.

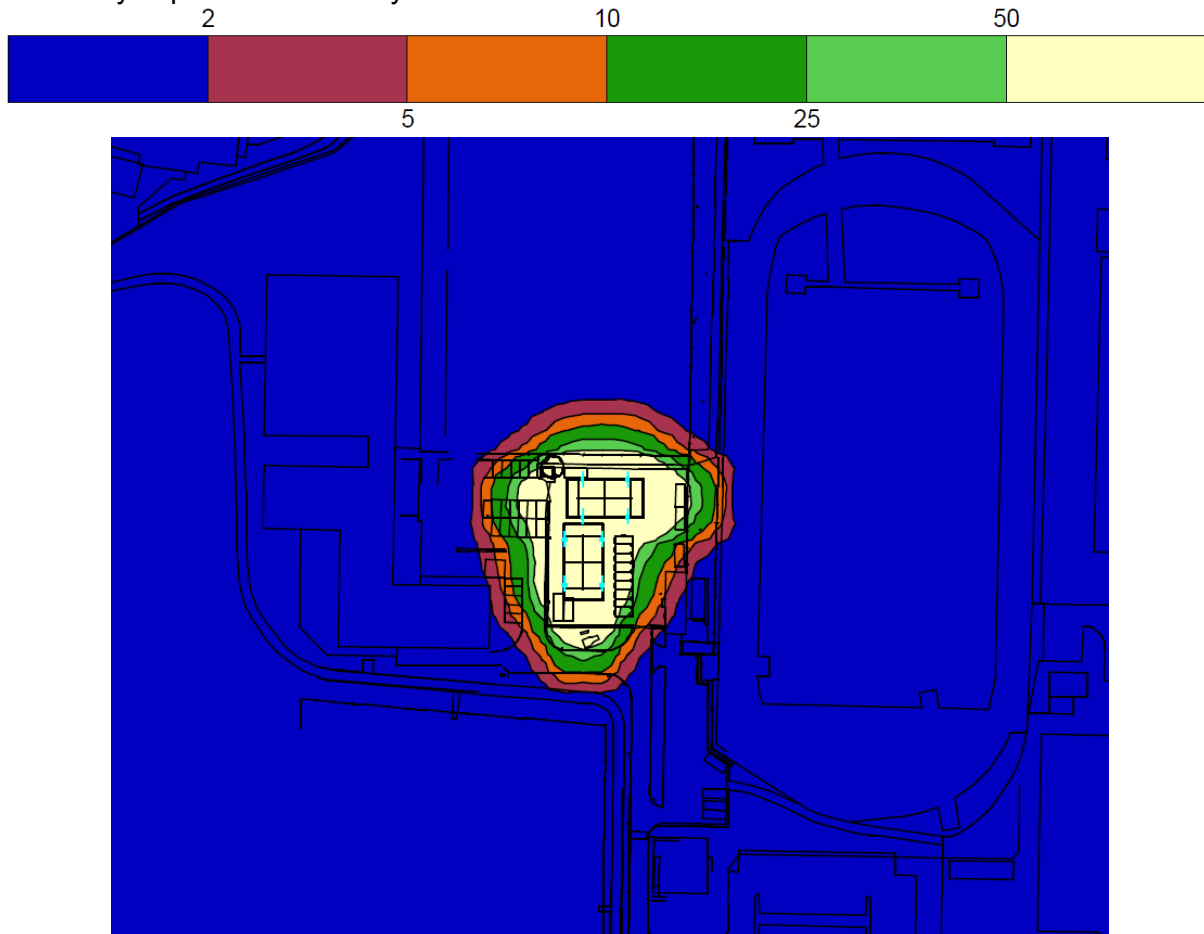


Figure 5 - Floodlighting Illuminance (Lux)

A sports lighting statement has been provided within the document “Padel Lighting Statement”.

Drainage

The existing development area is currently an impermeable tarmacked area. The hardstanding area slopes from the east to the west and has gullies to the western length to connect the surface water runoff from the hardstanding and outfalls into a soakaway to the southwest corner within the existing grassed area outside the hardstanding. The proposed padel courts will have associated canopies with roof gutters which will connect into a carrier drain underneath the courts and connect into the existing gully drainage to the west to outfall into the existing soakaway. The area is currently considered to be impermeable and the installation of the covered padel courts will have no impact on the volume surface water entering the soakaway compared to the impermeable area it currently services.

Parking

The site provides free dedicated on-site parking facilities for all users of the facilities. The existing and proposed parking provision includes:

Table 4 - Parking Provision

Vehicle	Current Spaces	Proposed Spaces
Car	43	43
Motorcycles	5	5
Disability Spaces	6	6
Cycle Spaces	8	8
Other – Hardcourt Overflow	37	9
Other – School Overflow	131	131

The proposed padel courts are to be located on an existing hardcourt area within the wider sports centre site. This area has historically been used as overflow car parking; however, its use for parking has been for ancillary parking rather than forming part of the main site parking provision.

The proposal will result in a reduction of 28 overflow car parking spaces, with the number of overflow car parking spaces reducing from 37 to 9. All other parking provision will remain unchanged. The site will therefore continue to benefit from retained formal parking provision, including 43 car spaces, 5 motorcycle spaces, 6 disabled spaces and 8 cycle spaces and 120 car parking spaces available from the adjacent school car park.

The neighbouring school car park is available for use during busy periods in evenings and weekends outside of school hours, when demand associated with sports and leisure use is most likely to occur. This provides access to up to 131 additional car parking spaces when required and ensures that the site can continue to accommodate peak parking demand.

Operation and Management

The new padel courts will be operated and managed by sports centre site staff.

The opening and closing of the padel courts will be managed by this site team as the padel courts will be located in the grounds of Neath Sports Centre. Whilst any of the sports centre facilities are in use, there is always at least one of the site team on site to coordinate the use and to deal with any enquiries/emergencies.

The site has on site parking provision, clear signposting and a traffic management plan in place. The proposed location of the new padel courts means the parking facilities are within easy access.

The general maintenance of the padel courts will be carried out by site staff along with the addition of specialist surface maintenance throughout the year.

A sink fund will be established to cover the costs of long-term facility maintenance and refurbishment such as replacement of the padel court surface or LED lamps

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