Design Brief for Proposed Tennis Courts – Courtauld Sports Field Halstead

The accessibility of tennis as an all-round sport and its adaptability means this sport can be played in many different locations, with various surface materials and court sizes on offer to suit individual requirements and specifications.

What To Think About When Planning the Tennis Court Construction?

1.0 Planning Aspect #1 – THE LOCATION OF THE COURT(S)

You need to consider during tennis court construction planning is the location of the court.

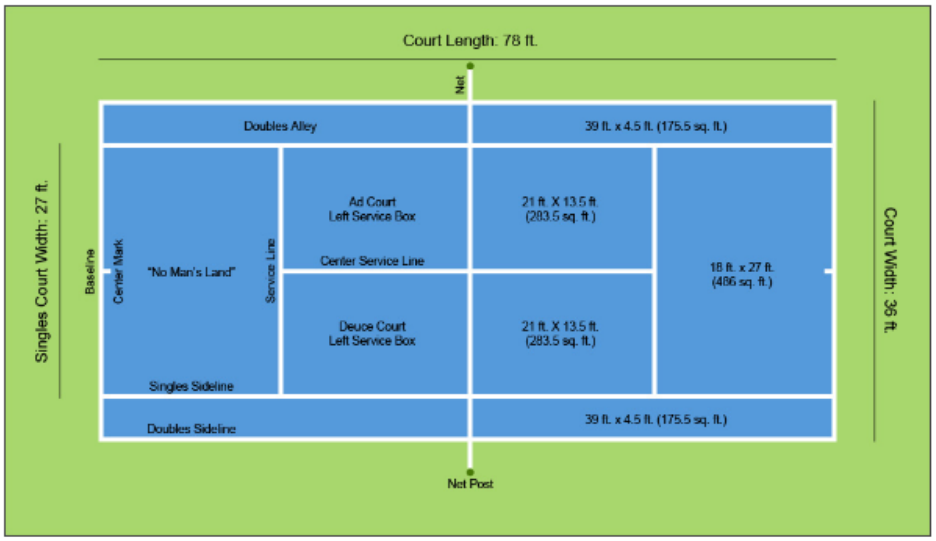
1.1 AMOUNT OF LAND

The typical exterior dimensions of a regulation tennis court are 60' x 120' which are the measurements of the fence line. For more information on exact dimensions of tennis courts, you can follow guidelines provided on the Lawn Tennis Association website.

Tennis Court Dimensions & Layout

In total, tennis courts measure 78 feet x 36 feet or 2,808 square feet. However, the full area of the court is used only for doubles matches. The singles court measures 78 feet x 27 feet or 2,106 square feet.

Typical dimensions required for a single court



1.2 ACCESS

A critical aspect to consider is the roads leading to the court. The facility needs to be accessible to enable the easy transport of construction machinery, the transport of all the materials and the public access to the proposed facility. If the location of the court has difficult access it will make it difficult and expensive to build and it will inevitably limit its use once built.

1.3 ORIENTATION

When thinking about the potential location of the court, the weather arcs also need to be considered. If possible, the court should be constructed in the direction of east-west, not north-south, as the sun's position to the players is better since you will not get the sun shining into players eyes all the time. It is also important to remember that the strong wind might start disturbing the game when the court is located in an exposed area.

2.0 Planning Aspect #2 – Primary considerations by the planning department

2.1 PLANNING CONTROLS

2.3 DISTURBENCE

Also, there is the issue of noise disturbance to local residents so regard must be had to the location of the nearest residential properties to the courts and car park

3.0 CONSTRUCTION

Once the location of the courts has been determined the next considerations fall within the following parameters:

3.1 PREPARATION

Preparing the ground for a tennis court is one of the most important aspects of tennis court installation, and how much work goes into the preparation will depend on the condition of the chosen site.

To make sure the court remains entirely flat for many years, and to avoid problems that could affect play, proper drainage of the tennis court will require a sublayer to be placed under the playing surface.

3.2 DRAINAGE

As the court will have a semi porous surface careful consideration needs to be given to how the site will drain. Ideally it needs to drain naturally so that surface water can pass from the courts to a lower level of land, any additional drainage will add considerably to the cost of the facility.

3.3 TYPES OF SUFACE

Tennis court surface design has developed significantly over the last few years, there are a number of choices:

- painted porous macadam (tarmac)
- artificial grass carpets
- artificial clay
- non-porous acrylic

All types of surfaces can be designed to suit varying levels of ability and budgets. If you are looking to hold completive matches the dimensions and surface must meet the Lawn Tennis Association requirements.

The preferred surface for public access courts is porous macadam (tarmac). The surface can then be coated by either an acrylic or polyurethane paint applied by airless sprayer, both containing slip reducing agents for optimum grip and ball bounce. The paint coating is usually applied between 3-4 weeks after the tarmac has been laid and depending upon the weather. The coating must be left for a further 3-4 days to cure and harden before play can commence.

Coating the tennis court surface not only enhances the appearance of the court, but it also helps to prolong the life of the surface by preventing UV rays from sunlight deteriorating the asphalt.

4. FENCING

The majority of tennis court designs include perimeter fencing to retain balls during play and to provide security for the court and equipment when unattended. This surround fencing design predominantly consists of intermediate metal line posts supporting chain-link mesh, which can be changed for practical, aesthetic or cost purposes. Other popular fence styles include timber structures with chain-link mesh and masonry walls. Further to this, fence structures may include other court features such as retaining walls, hit-up walls and light towers.

5.LIGHTING

Utilising floodlighting will significantly increase the amount of playing time you will get on tennis courts throughout the year, particularly late into the evening or during the shorter days in winter.

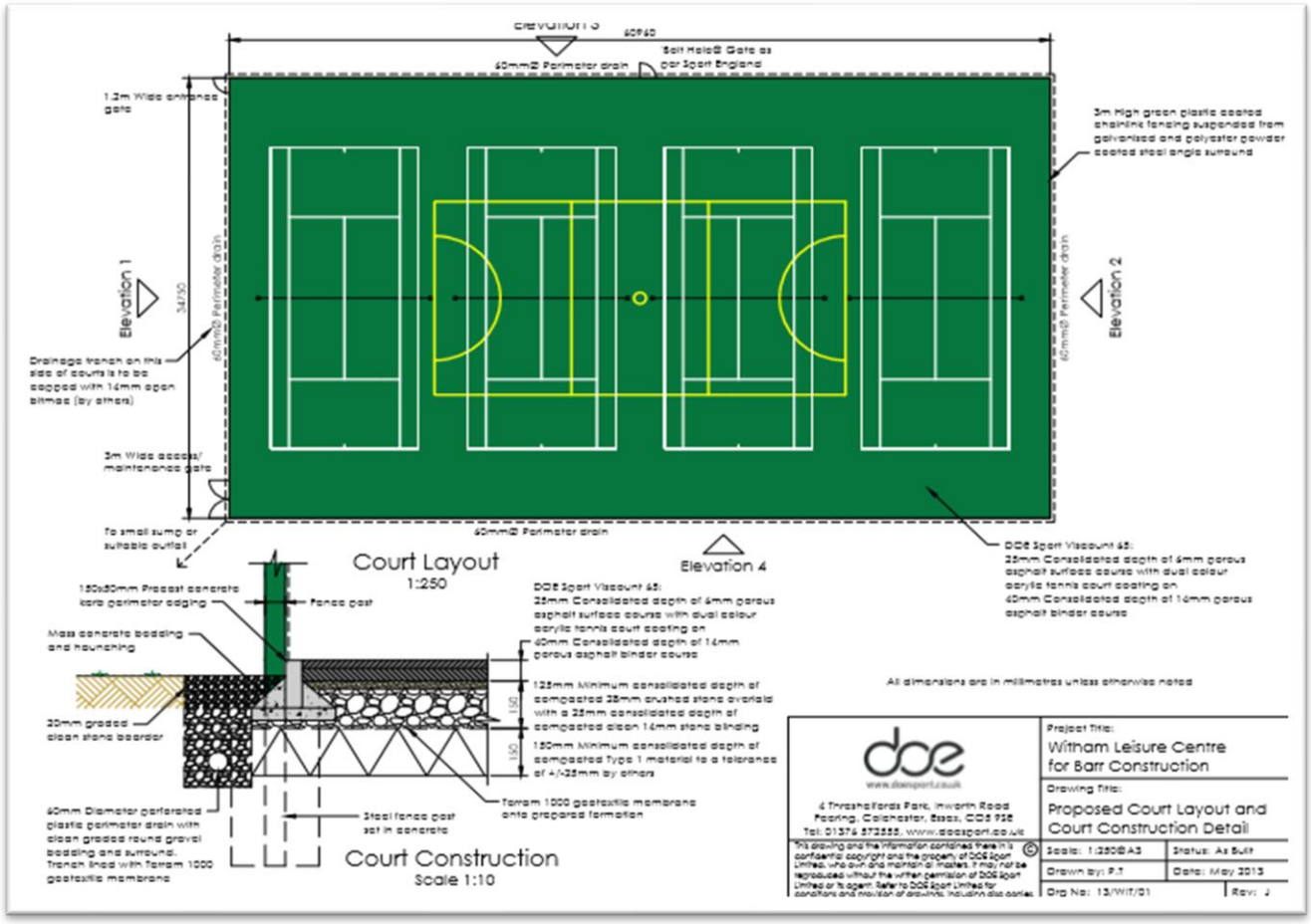
For high performance, it is strongly recommended that you opt for floodlighting which has been designed and customised to meet specific requirements of the sport. An Isolux Map will need to be produced to provide details of the level of illumination and the prevention of light pollution.

6. CONSTRUCION ELEMENTS

ITEM	MATERIAL
Geotextile membrane	Terram 1000
Foundation Stone	28mm Limestone
Kerbs	150mm x 50mm HPPC Kerbs
10mm ballast	Next sub layer

60mm perforated plastic drainpipe	Perimeter drainage
3.00m high Heavy Duty Angle Iron	Surround Fence, all fittings and gates
2.75m high x 3.55/2.50 x 50mm mesh heavy duty, galvanized core, plastic covered chain-link	To clad surround fence and gates
Open graded base course pervious asphalt	Base layer of double layer asphalt
6mm open graded surfacing course pervious asphalt	Surfacing/playing layer of double layer
Sports-Cote water-based PU/Acrylic Coating Premium	Dark Green Playing Surface Tennis lines
Tennis post sockets, ground anchors, tennis posts, tennis nets, center bands and swivel adjusters	

7.0 Stylised design and layout of the proposed facility



8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

When considering the possible location of a tennis court at Courtaulds Sports Field, after the above considerations have been considered, there are only two feasible locations for the court:

Location 1.

Adjacent to the bowls club using the land between the car park and the junior football pitch.

Location 2

On what is currently being used as overflow parking next to the ATC facility

Both locations tick all the boxes in terms of suitability laid out above.

(Insert plan)

8.1 Additional Considerations when designing the proposed facility;

Additional Racket sports

In addition to the playing tennis at the proposed facility it is also recommended that to increase diversity of use short tennis and pickle ball courts could be incorporated into the design. This would increase the number of younger and older racket sports plays able to enjoy and use the facility.

Netball

To further increase the use and diversity of the proposed facility, consideration could be given to incorporate a netball court at the facility as the town is lacking a good quality netball facility and this would encourage more female participants to take up the sport.

The tennis courts have been discussed at a Courtaulds Sports Ground committee meeting, and users have been consulted.

Recommendation: that HTC recommends that the tennis court be at the top right hand corner of the ground looking from the pavilion. We understand that it will be two pitches and not 4 as per the plans, be made of porous macadam with chainlink fencing and have floodlighting, be constructed in an east-west direction and incorporate facilities for other racket sports and netball.

Sarah Greatorex

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Town Clerk