



Hampshire
Cricket

utilita
bowl

Utilita Bowl Refurbishment PAA - Design and Access Statement P04

AFL
architects

UBM-AFL-ZZ-XX-T-A-00006-P04- PAA - Design and Access Statement

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with





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1. Introduction

1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

Hampshire Cricket Company Limited (herein the Applicant) is applying to Eastleigh Borough Council (Eastleigh BC) for full planning permission for proposed Improved Facilities at Utilita Bowl, Botley Rd, West End, Southampton SO30 3XH.

This statement describes the layout, scale, accessibility, sustainability and appearance of the proposals.

The key elements of the proposal include the extension of level 0 and level 01 of the Rod Bransgrove Pavilion, the incorporation of new player and match official spaces, the proposal of new premium lounge spaces and the extension of the Arlott Atrium. A more developed brief can be found in section 2.2.

These works are to be completed urgently in order to comply with the requirements for hosting the ashes in the summer of 2027.

This document should be read in conjunction with all other drawings, documents and reports submitted as part of this Planning Application.

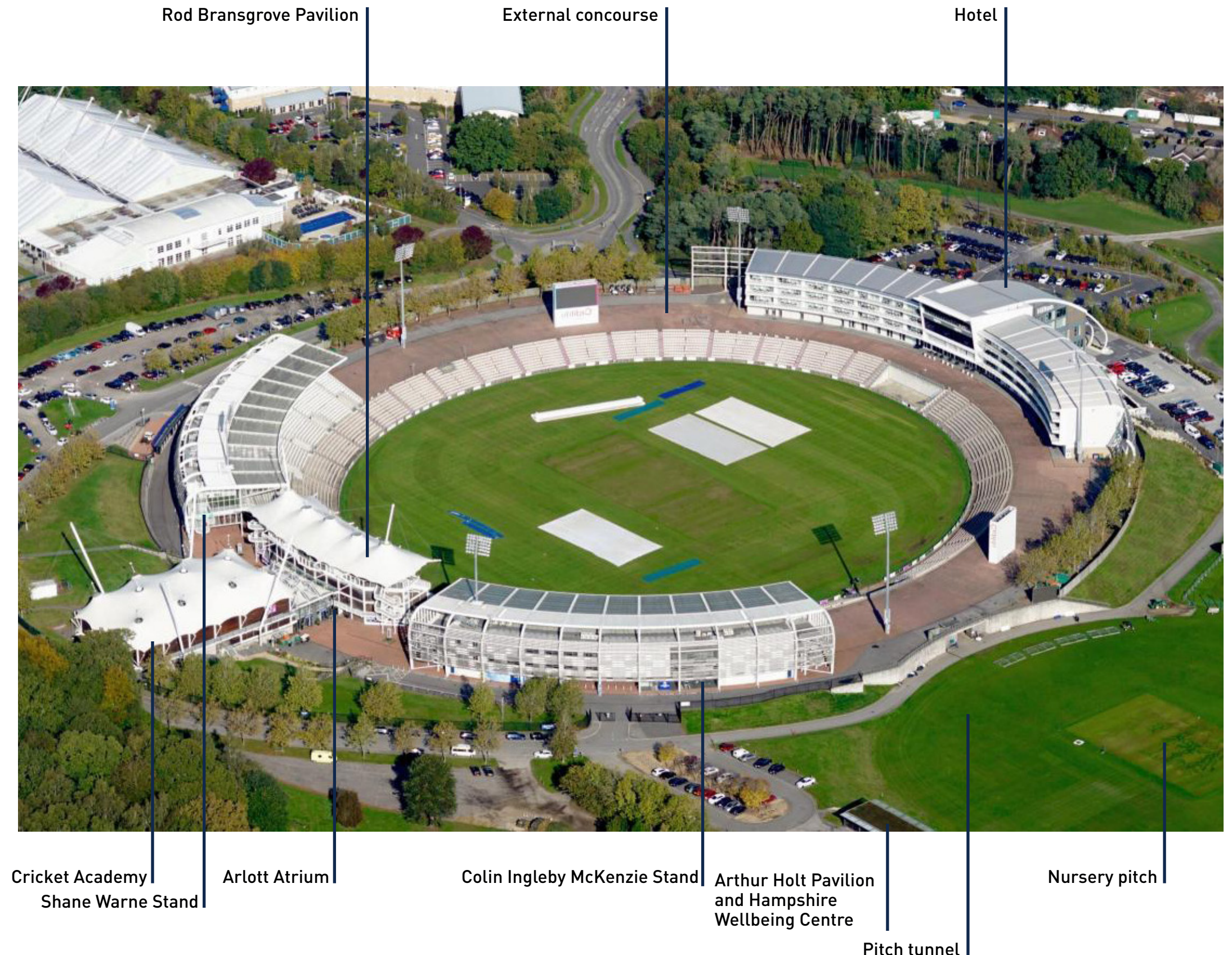


Figure 1.1 Aerial view of the Utilita Bowl



2. Brief

2 Brief

2.1 Key Design Drivers

The applicant's ambition is to enhance the physical and operational performance of the Rod Bransgrove Pavilion creating an environment that supports elite player performance, match operations and a high-quality premium guest experience.

The project seeks an integrated and sustainable design solution that improves functionality, environmental performance and long-term building resilience while working sensitively within the existing structure.

Alterations and additions will complement the original design approach and respect the architectural significance of the existing scheme through careful analysis of the materiality and detailing.

The proposals represent an important series of works to the existing Utilita Bowl cricket venue. They are essential to supporting its ongoing function, specifically it hosting next summer's Men's Ashes test, One Day International and Women's Ashes ODI, as well as other ICC fixtures, and all forms of Men's and Women's cricket. These changes directly respond to a series of operational and England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) or International Cricket Council (ICC) regulatory requirements, bringing the Utilita Bowl in line with England's other top tier cricket venues.

The proposals benchmark against leading national and international cricket facilities, incorporating best practice in spatial planning, player welfare, accessibility and performance analysis, with the ambition of setting a new standard for cricket training.

2.3 Project Goals

The following key requirements have been identified:

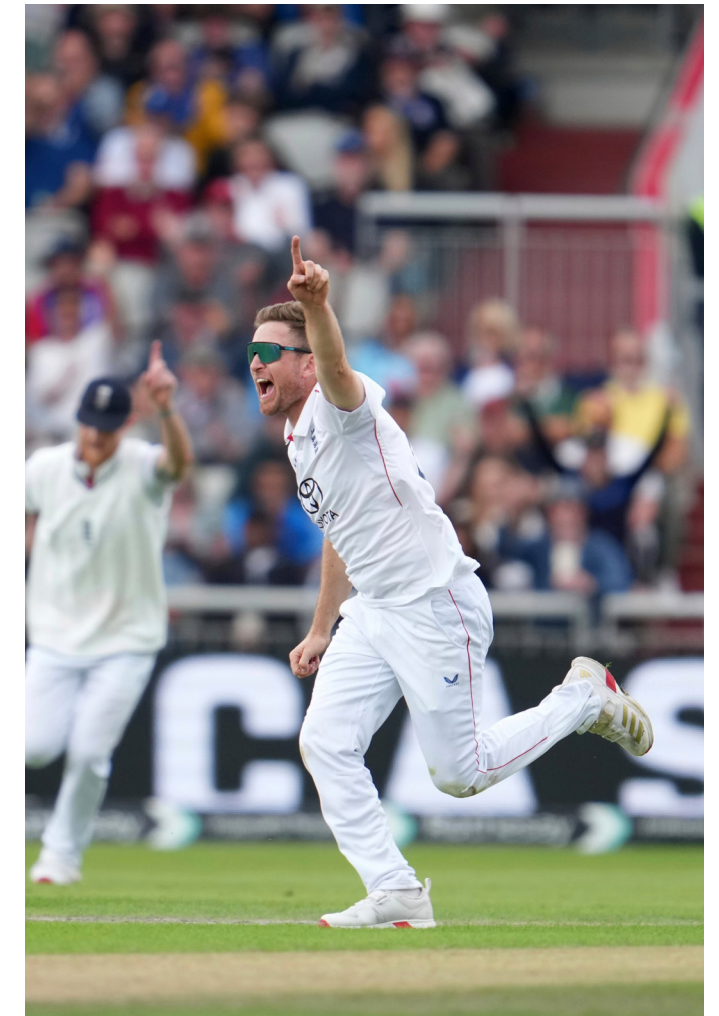
- Incorporation of ECB requirements for Players and Match Officials Area.
- Improve and expand the applicant's Premium and Banquet facilities.
- Increase in provision of Premium seats
- Resolving conflict between player access to the pitch from changing rooms and spectators.
- Replacement of ineffective, inflexible and obsolete heating ventilation and air conditioning systems with new flexible energy efficient systems.
- Improve circulation access to all areas of the building.
- Repair and improve interior finishes in general.
- Deliver a scheme that will be driven by sustainability principals and aim to minimise carbon emissions through construction and operations.

2.2 Developed Brief Schedule

The applicant's brief for the proposed works are as follows:

- 2 no. Changing Rooms equivalent to the ECB Standard for High Profile games
- Player's Lounge Facility
- Associated Kitchen
- 4 no Premium Lounges
- Associated Toilet Facilities, Bars and Satellite Kitchens
- Extension to Level 01 Terrace to increase seating capacity
- Match Officials Room
- Wheelchair Platform
- Atrium extension and level 3 deck
- Fire escape circulation

The brief for the works and the location proposed have been selected and developed through extensive feasibility assessments and workshops in collaboration with key stakeholders. These include but are not limited to venue operations staff, catering and event teams, players and match officials, quantity surveyors and engineers.





3. Site Context



3 Site Context

3.1 Background

The Utilita Bowl is a 15,000 capacity prestigious cricket ground and hotel complex in West End, Hampshire. It is the home of Hampshire County Cricket Club, who have played there since 2001. It was constructed as a replacement for the County Ground in Southampton and also the United Services Recreation Ground in Portsmouth and has been hosting both national and international competitions.

The ground was designed by architect Sir Michael Hopkins, whose design of the centrepiece pavilion with its tented roof was reminiscent of the Mound Stand at Lord's, which Hopkins also designed. The roof geometry has become iconic to the ground meanwhile.

The ground is made of the following buildings:

The seating terraces: the ground is built into the side of the gently sloping hill on which it is located, resulting in a continuous amphitheatre bowl. The spectators concourse is external at the rear of the terraces which is also used for temporary seated terraces when the capacity needs to be increased.

The Rod Bransgrove Pavilion: A southwest oriented building which holds the hospitality terraces and lounges, the players facilities and the main TV gantry. Also included is the first aid room, a floor above pitch level and only accessed by stairs. The facilities and systems have been identified as nearing the end of their service life at approx 27 years old and the applicant have identified the key operational requirements which are addressed in the design options and their variables.

The Cricket Academy: With 6 lanes of cricket nets, this building includes the training facilities and also clearly operational and physical issues such as the poor conditions of the roof, inefficient heating systems and user flow crossovers.

The Arlott Atrium: located between the Bransgrove Pavilion and the Cricket Academy, this is the "welcoming" space to all spectators that arrive to the ground. A large atrium with a mezzanine at level 1 for players access.

The Shane Warne and Colin Ingleby McKenzie Stands: located either side of the Pavilion and Academy these buildings include toilets, bars and concourses in the ground floor, offices and commercial areas on level 1 and premium offerings and kitchens on the top floor.

Nursery Ground: This additional satellite ground borders the main ground to the south-east.

The Pitch Tunnel: To the south east of the ground, this tunnel links the main pitch and the nursery pitch. Inside the tunnel there are several plant rooms and the grounds staff's facilities, including all its vehicles. During concerts, the tunnel is clear of all vehicles and becomes the main public access to the pitch.

The Hotel: A 175 room four-star Hilton Hotel to the north east with an integrated media centre overlooking the ground opened in 2015.

Arthur Holt Pavilion and Hampshire Wellbeing Centre: These facilities host changing rooms, a function room, office space and a sports shop and perform as support for the club and site.



Figure 3.1 Internal view of the bowl



Figure 3.2 View of the external concourse, temporary stands and hotel



Figure 3.3 Pitch tunnel entrance & Nursery



Figure 3.4 Pitch tunnel



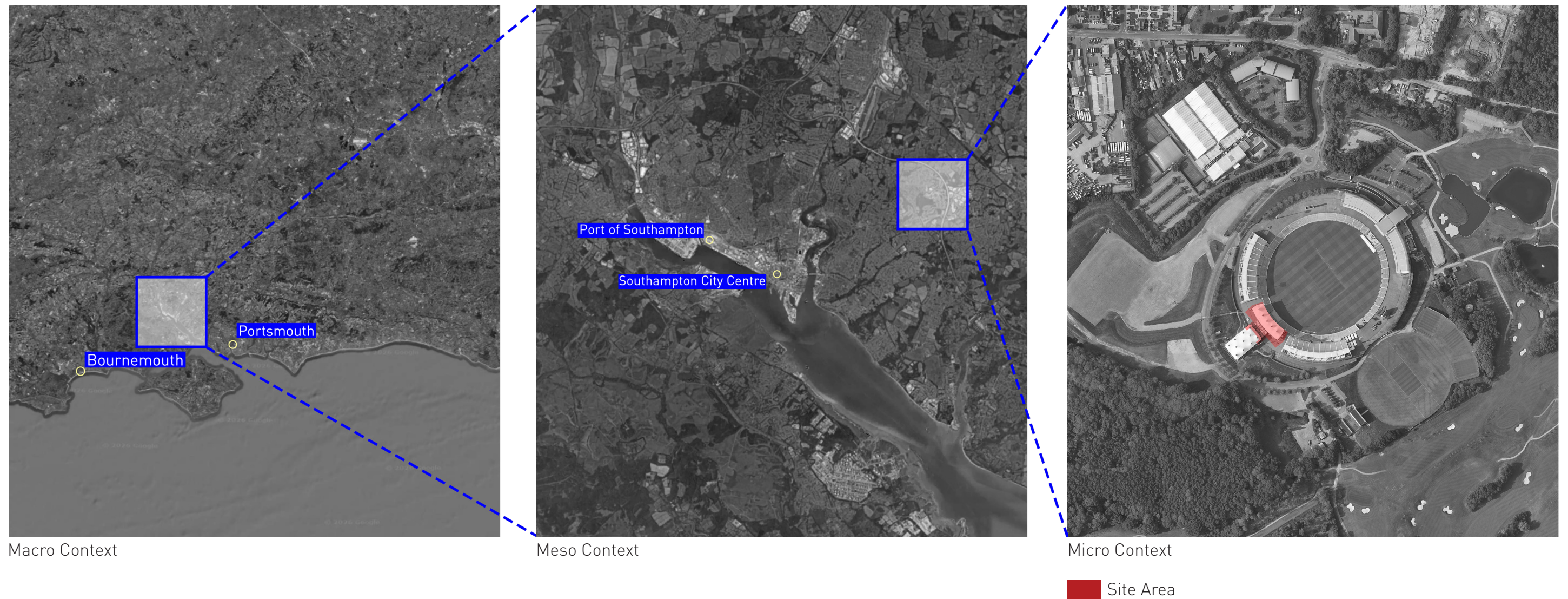


Figure 3.5 Aerial views of site in context of surrounding areas.

3.2 City-Wide Context

The Utilita Bowl is located in the greater Southampton metropolitan area on England's south coast, within the county of Hampshire. Positioned just east of the city centre, the venue sits close to the upper reaches of Southampton Water — the tidal estuary formed by the confluence of the Rivers Test and Itchen before they flow into the Solent. Its location places it within one of the UK's most significant maritime and commercial regions, with strong transport links to London, Portsmouth and the wider South East.