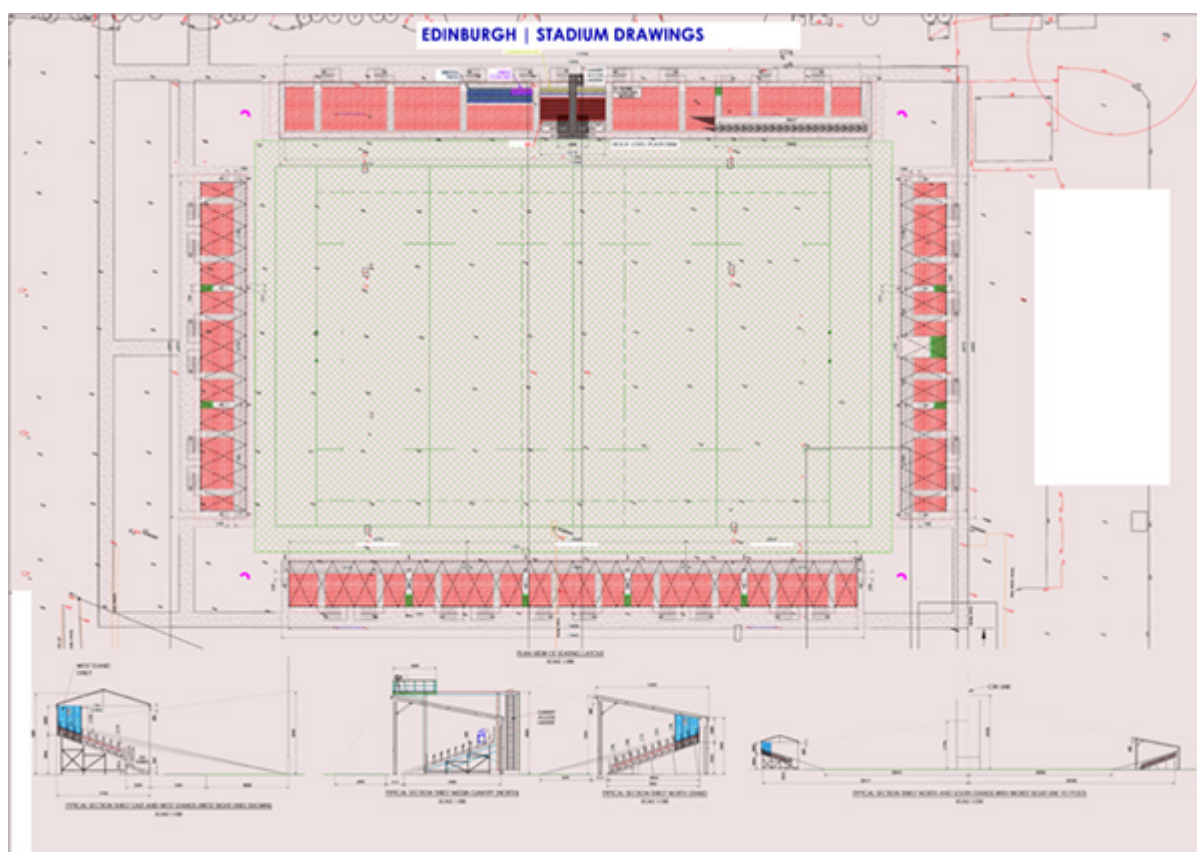


Plans for New 7800-seater Stadium Announced by Scottish Rugby

Scottish Rugby announces plans for new stadium in grounds of BT Murrayfield



Scottish Rugby has today announced it has applied for planning permission to install a new playing venue in the grounds of BT Murrayfield, which will have a capacity of up to 7,800.

The development is intended to be the new home of Edinburgh Rugby and would be located on a section of land currently used as training pitches.

A detailed planning application has been submitted to City of Edinburgh Council to provide a fan-focussed, playing venue in the city that will incorporate a new 3G surface and covered

spectator stands around all four sides of the ground.

Edinburgh will play its home matches on the international pitch at BT Murrayfield for the coming 2018/19 season, with the aim of commencing the 2019/20 campaign in the new purpose-built venue.

Scottish Rugby has designed the project using flexible infrastructure and is open to making the space available to other users from the wider rugby community in Scotland, and the possibility of other sports as well.

Scottish Rugby's Chief Operating Officer Dominic McKay, who has responsibility for Scotland's two professional rugby teams, said: "We are incredibly excited to be in a position to be able to submit this application to give Edinburgh a new home.

"After many years of exhausting all the potential stadium and playing ground options for Edinburgh in the local area, we have taken the initiative and will be investing ourselves to develop a venue that can help the team to grow and provide a great spectator experience.

"We are fortunate to have space within the BT Murrayfield campus to comfortably accommodate this planned new facility and retain practice pitches for all elements of rugby.

"We see this as adding increased flexibility to the BT Murrayfield site and believe we have submitted a robust, sensible application and hope it will be viewed favourably.

"I'd like to thank the City of Edinburgh Council for their support to date and look forward to working with them over the coming months."

Edinburgh Rugby Managing Director, Jonny Petrie, said: "Having just enjoyed one of the club's most positive seasons in recent times on the pitch, it is hugely exciting to announce our

intentions to move to a new purpose-built new home.

“It has been a consistent challenge to grow the club without our own ground and we now have developed plans that meet the needs of our fans and reflect the direction we want the team to be moving in.

“We have given ourselves the opportunity to fully engage with rugby fans across the city and beyond and deliver a matchday experience that merits their growing support.”

Edinburgh Rugby Head Coach, Richard Cockerill, said: “I’ve said right from the start that Edinburgh has a lot of potential but it had lacked a strong culture and sense of identity.

“What is exciting about this new project is that as a club, as players, staff and fans we could have a home that we can begin to build something from. It will give us a focal point, excellent facilities and a chance to move the club forward both on and off the pitch.”

With the Scotland national team and other representative sides now regularly training at the Oriam National Performance Centre and the need to replace an existing 3G pitch the plans will utilise land on the west side of the BT Murrayfield site previously used for training purposes.

The application for the new stadium has been submitted to City of Edinburgh Council today, 31 May, and a further update on developments is anticipated around the start of the 2018/19 season.