

Rochdale FC

- **Location** = Why the building is located there.
 - **Area Character** = What the surrounding area is like and how it influenced the design.
 - **Site Appraisal** = Why this part of the site (within the red line boundary) was chosen.
 - **Brief** = What the client needed and how that shaped the building.
 - **The Proposal** = What the final building looks like and how it responds to the site.
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Location – Why is the RAFC Clubhouse Positioned There?

The RAFC Facility is strategically located between the RAFC 3G pitch and the main car park, providing direct and convenient access for Rochdale AFC players, staff, and visitors. Its position allows users to move easily between the parking area, the clubhouse, and the adjacent training pitch.

The building is located alongside the existing RBC Facility, creating a dedicated Rochdale AFC hub within the wider sports complex. This location makes use of the existing access roads, parking, and pedestrian routes while supporting the day-to-day operation of the football club.

The RAFC Facility is designed specifically for Rochdale AFC. It provides dedicated player, staff, and administrative facilities that directly support the club's training and operational requirements.

Key benefits of the location include:

- Direct access from the main car park.
 - Immediate connection to the RAFC 3G pitch.
 - A strong relationship with the existing RBC Facility.
 - Efficient access for players, staff, and visitors.
 - Separation from the community sports facilities.
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Area Character and Area Photographs

The proposed RAFC Facility is located within an established sports and recreation complex comprising football pitches, sports buildings, parking areas, and landscaped open space. The surrounding area has a strong sporting character, with existing facilities designed to support football training and recreation.

The design has been influenced by this setting. The clubhouse has been positioned alongside the RBC Facility to create a coordinated group of sports buildings, while maintaining the open

character of the surrounding playing fields. Its scale, form, and appearance reflect the existing sports environment and integrate with the wider site.

The building also provides direct connections to the adjacent 3G pitch and the main car park, ensuring safe and convenient movement for players, staff, and visitors.

Site Appraisal

The selected location was identified as the most suitable position within the site because it sits between the main car park and the RAFC 3G pitch. This allows efficient movement between arrival, training facilities, and the clubhouse.

The site also benefits from existing infrastructure, including access roads, parking, and pedestrian routes, reducing the need for additional development. Locating the building beside the RBC Facility creates a dedicated Rochdale AFC area while minimising the impact on the surrounding playing fields.

Overall, the site provides a practical and efficient location that supports the operational needs of Rochdale AFC.

Brief

The clubhouse has been designed to meet the operational requirements of Rochdale AFC by providing modern facilities for players, staff, coaches, and club administration.

The ground floor contains changing rooms, medical and recovery facilities, a gym, analysis rooms, and staff accommodation, all located close to the RAFC 3G pitch to support training activities.

The first floor provides office accommodation, meeting rooms, lounge and dining areas, a kitchen, and a flexible function space that supports hospitality, meetings, and club events.

The internal layout has been designed to provide clear circulation, efficient operation, and a logical relationship between all facilities.

The Proposal

The proposal comprises a new two-storey clubhouse designed specifically for Rochdale AFC. The building is positioned between the main car park and the RAFC 3G pitch, providing convenient access for players, staff, and visitors while forming a strong relationship with the adjacent RBC Facility.

The building is orientated so that the principal entrance faces the car park, creating a clear arrival point. First-floor balconies overlook the football pitches, providing views across the training facilities and strengthening the connection between the clubhouse and the playing areas.

The external design adopts a contemporary architectural approach that complements the existing sports campus. Vertical timber-effect cladding is combined with dark grey metal

cladding to create a durable and modern appearance. Blue feature panels and the Rochdale AFC club crest reinforce the club's identity and provide a clear visual focus. Large glazed openings maximise natural daylight and create active frontages overlooking the site.

The building is similar in scale to the neighbouring RBC Facility, allowing both buildings to read as a coordinated sports hub while respecting the open character of the surrounding playing fields. It has been positioned to respond to the site's existing levels, minimising groundworks and ensuring accessible routes between the clubhouse, car park, and adjacent pitches.

Overall, the proposal delivers a modern and functional clubhouse that supports Rochdale AFC's operational needs while integrating successfully with the existing sports complex through its layout, scale, materials, and architectural expression.