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TECHNICAL APPENDIX IT WOULD NOT BE A PERFECT ENVIRONMENT FOR ATHLETES TO COMPETE

The training (ie arenas other than field of play, training centres and indeed the provision for hacking) are way below what the FEI sets out in its spec. This is a point of fact. FEI allowed it on the understanding that only one discipline would be on site at a time and so there would never be more than 50-80 vying to use the limited facilities every day. But now timetabling has shown that dressage and show jumping run concurrently. This means 130 horses would be trying to share limited facilities that were already too few for 50-80.

Rules state that "sufficient hacking" (ie riding out) space must be provided. **The planning application makes no mention of hacking.** In view of the small size of the Park, there is no obvious part that could be used, except in the area of the cross-country course. However, it is unlikely that the eventers would be allowed to take their horses near to the course before the competition. If it were thought that other competitors could use the cross-country area after the Three Day Event it would affect LOCOG's commitment to reopen parts of the Park immediately afterwards. A further problem would be the risk of additional damage to the Park's ecology and archaeology if riders were allowed free rein across the Park, as well as a safety issue concerning uncharted and unmaintained underground tunnels to horses and riders

Horses are not allowed to leave the Park venue during their competitions, and LOCOG has not responded to an enquiry about its intentions with regard to hacking. It seems that no sensible provision could in fact be made in Greenwich Park so there would be another lowering of expectations **if they were not allowed to ride round the Park** other than in training arenas.

From the Planning Application it is apparent that the layout for **training arenas do not meet FEI specs.** There is no information as to whether the surface of the training areas would be the same as the field of play. The location of 2 training arenas away from the main stables area, and supply of overspill stabling on Circus Field on Blackheath means that security and surveillance costs would increase to meet the FEI's recently strengthened clean sport rules.

The FEI requirement at the time of the Bid was for a cross country course of 6.3km. The BEF Feasibility Study actually claimed that a cross country course of 9.4km could be provided in Greenwich Park. Although the whole site is 71 hectares, the course has been set in less than 40 hectares and has benefited from a recent **FEI rule change which allows it to be run at just 5.8km.** (If the 100m track event were reduced to 90m, sprinters might feel aggrieved). Even so the route runs over acid grassland for which an assurance was given by Sir Keith Mills (vice chairman of London Bid Company) to DCMS before the Bid in 2004, that there would be no environmental damage as a result of the cross-country event. It is doubtful that, when he gave this assurance, Sir Keith had in mind that 2.3 hectares of acid grassland would be stripped from the site (some overlying possible Roman remains)

and the soil stored for over two years before it could be replaced **with no guarantee that the technique would restore what was there before**; or that the course would **be taken over areas rich in Roman remains**. The going over the rest of the course would also be changed from Hard to Good to Soft by means of intensive preparation of the grass through scarifying, reseeding, fertilising, irrigating etc.

The course has also been designed to pass close to hundreds of trees, some of which would have branches removed to the stem; it also crosses the root protection zones of many, leaving ancient trees particularly vulnerable and possibly unlikely to recover.

It is inevitable that, as a result changing the condition of the course to Good to Soft, while leaving the rest of the Park as Hard, a scar would be left on the ground for many years to come. And, of course, it is impossible to glue branches back onto trees. **Neither legacy has any appeal.**

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