

PROTECT – COMMERCIAL

Planning and construction of the Arena took place during the height of the threat from Irish related terrorism. As the primary IRA tactic was to deploy large vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (VBIED), the Arena was constructed with the aim of mitigating against this threat. The result is that the vulnerability of the Arena in many areas is relatively low.

As an international venue the Arena plays an important part in the economy of Manchester. An attack on the Arena would impact not just on the venue itself but also have serious implications for the pubs, clubs, restaurants and hotels that generate a significant amount of revenue from the crowds attracted by the events at the venue.

Approach & Perimeter

The perimeter of the Arena on 3 sides adjoins public roads. To the west Great Ducie Street, to the north New Bridge Street and Cheetham Hill Road to the east.

On the 4th side Victoria station and Victoria Station Approach form the perimeter. Parts of the Arena complex are constructed above the tracks, principally the office block at the southwest corner of Victoria Station Approach and the ticket hall at the northeast corner. Two railway tracks run underneath the south part of the arena.

The perimeter has several pedestrian access points. Because of the perceived threat from a vehicle born IED the pedestrian access points are stepped thus denying hostile vehicular access (photo 2 and 3).



Photo 2.



Photo 3.

Pedestrian access from Station Approach Access from Victoria Station