

From: [Roy Warren](#)
To: [Planning](#)
Cc: [David Elmore](#)
Subject: Planning Application Ref: 6/2020/0830/FULL – Chancellors School, Pine Grove, Brookmans Park, Hatfield AL9 7BN
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For the attention of David Elmore
Dear Mr. Elmore

Planning Application Ref: 6/2020/0830/FULL – Chancellors School, Pine Grove, Brookmans Park, Hatfield AL9 7BN (SE Ref: PA/20/E/WH/56058)

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above application.

Summary: Sport England raises **no objection** to this application as a statutory consultee which is considered to broadly meet exception 3 of our adopted Playing Fields Policy and paragraph 97 of the NPPF.

Sport England - Statutory Role and Policy

It is understood that the proposal prejudices the use, or leads to the loss of use, of land being used as a playing field or has been used as a playing field in the last five years, as defined in The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (Statutory Instrument 2015 No. 595). The consultation with Sport England is therefore a statutory requirement.

Sport England has considered the application in light of the National Planning Policy Framework (in particular Para. 97), and against its own playing fields policy, which states:

'Sport England will oppose the granting of planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss of, or would prejudice the use of:

- all or any part of a playing field, or
- land which has been used as a playing field and remains undeveloped, or
- land allocated for use as a playing field

unless, in the judgement of Sport England, the development as a whole meets with one or more of five specific exceptions.' Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and Guidance document can be viewed via the below link:

https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport#playing_fields_policy

Assessment against Sport England Policy

In summary, the proposal involves using construction spoil from the school expansion scheme that was permitted in 2019 (6/2019/0085/MAJ) for creating earth mounds to form a landscape feature around the proposed sports hall and multi-use games area (MUGA) that form the main elements of the school expansion. The mounds would encroach onto the school's playing field to the south and west of the area proposed for the sports hall and MUGA and would impact on an existing rugby pitch. While the proposal would not technically accord entirely with any of the above exceptions, I am mindful of the following characteristics of the proposal:

- As demonstrated by the submitted playing pitch layouts, the playing pitches on the remaining school playing field to the south could be realigned to accommodate all of the existing winter and summer playing pitches without reducing the sizes of the pitches. Consequently, there would not be a reduction in the number or size of playing pitches;
- The extent of the encroachment of the proposed mounds onto the playing field beyond the area permitted for the sports hall and MUGA would be relatively limited (less than 10 metres);

- The areas proposed for the mounds to the east and west of the proposed MUGA would not be capable of forming a playing pitch or part of one due to inadequate space being available. The proposals would therefore partially accord with exception 3 of the above policy. It would only be the mounds sited to the south of the MUGA and sports hall that would not technically accord with the policy exceptions;
- While not a sports facility, the earth mounds would have the benefit of screening the MUGA from public views which would offer noise and safeguarding benefits plus the mounds would provide the opportunity for spectating sport and activity taking place on the playing field and the MUGA. The mounds could also be designed to encourage physical activity e.g. as part of a cross country running route around the perimeter of the playing field. The earth mounds would also act as a windbreak which would be of benefit to MUGA users from a performance perspective.

Conclusion and Recommendation

In view of the above assessment, despite the encroachment onto the playing field, it is not considered that the development would reduce the sporting capability of the site. As such, Sport England is satisfied that the proposed development broadly meets the intention of the following Sport England Policy exception:

3 - The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming, or forming part of, a playing pitch, and does not result in the loss of, or inability to make use of any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins), a reduction in the size of the playing area of any playing pitch or the loss of any other sporting/ancillary facility on the site.

This being the case, I can confirm that Sport England **does not wish to raise an objection** to this application nor do we wish to recommend any conditions should planning consent be granted.

We would be grateful if you would advise us of the outcome of the application by sending us a copy of the decision notice.

If you would like any further information or advice please contact me at the address below.

Yours sincerely,

Roy Warren

Planning Manager

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Sport England



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