

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

FAO: Ashleigh Gade

By email

25 June 2025

**Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England)
Order 2015**

Application Reference: 25/00534/FUL

**Proposal: Replacement lighting and replacement ball stop fencing to existing
artificial grass pitch development (AGP)**

Location: Heath Lane Academy, Heath Lane, Earl Shilton

Sport England Reference: PA/25/EM/HIN/70928

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above application.

Sport England – Statutory consultee role and policy

We understand that you have consulted us as a statutory consultee in line with the above Order. Therefore, we have considered the application in light of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), in particular paragraph 104, and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy, which is presented within our 'Playing Fields Policy and Guidance Document': www.sportengland.org/playingfieldspolicy

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

- all or any part of a playing field, or
- land which has been used as a playing field land 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.

The Proposal and its Impact on the playing field

The proposal would involve the construction of 15-metre-high column masts with LED gen3.5 luminaires around the perimeter of the AGP. Full details of the lighting

proposed is provided in the Sports Lighting Statement submitted with the planning application.

The proposal also relates to the replacement of the ball stop fencing around the perimeter of the AGP with a 4.5 metre high fence.

Assessment against Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and NPPF

The proposal would be sited on playing field. Sport England considers proposals of this nature against exception 2 of our playing fields policy which states:

'The proposed development is for ancillary facilities supporting the principal use of the site as a playing field and does not affect the quantity or quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use.'

In assessing whether a proposal meets exception E2, facilities should be of an appropriate scale and, where relevant, comply with Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport design guidance. They should also have no impact on the quantity or quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use.

Sport England has sought the views of the Football Foundation (FF) on this consultation. They have confirmed that they are satisfied with the proposed floodlighting and fencing replacements. The FF's comments are based on the replacement fence being constructed in the same location as the existing fence. It is unclear from the blue line shown on Drw No: 03 Rev 00 (Proposed Site Plan) whether the replacement fence would be sited in the same location along the northern and southern boundaries of the AGP when compared to the existing fence.

Based on the above, it is considered that the proposal would meet exception 2 of Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and the requirements of Paragraph 104 of the NPPF (2024).

Sport England's Position

Given the above, Sport England raises **no objection** to the application which is considered to accord with exception 2 of our playing fields policy and the requirements of paragraph 104 of the NPPF in that the proposed development would support the use of the site as a playing field and would not affect the quantity or quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use. These

comments are based on the replacement fence being constructed in the same location as the existing fence.

Yours sincerely,

Sharron Wilkinson, MRTPI
Planning Manager

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