

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

FAO: Sophie Iliffe

By email

23 June 2025

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

Application Reference: 25/00493/FUL

**Proposal: The Installation of floodlighting to an existing Multi Use Games Area
(MUGA)**

Location: Congerstone School, Shackerstone Road, Congerstone

Sport England Reference: PA/25/EM/HIN/70929

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 installation of 4 x 8.0-metre-high lighting columns, each with a single 400-watt dark Licht floodlight, around the perimeter of an existing MUGA.

Located on playing field the proposal would result in the loss of part of the playing field at the site.

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.

The existing MUGA is fully enclosed with a ball-stop fence. The application submission includes a Design and Access Statement. This includes the reason for the proposal to install four lighting columns around the MUGA being to allow the safe and flexible year-round use of the MUGA. This would allow the MUGA to be used during the darker winter months during the afternoons and during evenings. Sited around the perimeter of the MUGA the proposal would not affect the quantity or quality of playing pitches at the site. An increase in the sporting use of the MUGA would promote physical fitness and activity for users and so would support the principal use of the playing field.

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.

Yours sincerely,

Sharron Wilkinson, MRTPI

Planning Manager

E: Sharron.wilkinson@sportengland.org