

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

FAO: Bradley Sargeson

By email

Date: 14th July 2026

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

Application Reference: 2026/0062

Site: Cricket Pavilion, Bateman Square, Thurnscoe, Barnsley, S63 0QN

Proposal: Installation of replacement non-turf match pitch and erection of two-lane cricket practice nets with associated perimeter security fencing and gates (Amended Description).

Sport England Reference: PA/26/Y/BA/74474

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 exceptions are provided in the Annex to this response.

The proposal and impact on playing field

Proposed installation of a replacement non-turf match pitch and the erection of two-lane cricket practice nets, with associated perimeter security fencing and gates, on an area of playing field that appears from aerial imagery to have been used for the storage of cricket covers. However, imagery submitted with the application suggests that, more recently, parts of this area have been used for the storage of waste, are overgrown in places and do not appear to be in active sporting use.

Assessment against Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and NPPF

Sport England's policy to protect playing fields covers the entire playing field site and not just the areas currently marked out with a pitch. This is because playing field is seen as a resource for pitches to be marked out on, pitches to be changed from one pitch sport type to another to meet new demand, or to allow areas of the playing field to rest from over play. It also allows the potential for non-pitch sports such as athletics to be marked out. If it had been Government's intention that planning policy should protect just pitches and not playing field, then The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order could have been readily drafted in that manner to make it specifically clear.

Playing field policy is a restrictive policy based on a presumption against any development which results in the loss of playing field (in whole or part) or prejudices its use. As such, for development not to encounter an objection from Sport England it must be shown to be of a form covered by one of the exceptions (to the presumption against) set out in the Annex.

As part of the assessment of this consultation, Sport England has sought the views of the relevant National Governing Body of Sport who act as Sport England's technical advisors in respect of their sport and their sport facilities.

The comments received have been summarised as follows:

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB)

- The ECB are aware of the proposals and are supportive.
- The proposals would not have an adverse impact on the quantity and quality of pitches at the site.
- The proposals will remove training activity from the main pitch to an enclosed training area off the pitch which will help with square management and improve capacity.

- The proposals meet the ECB's technical design guidelines.

Limited technical details have been provided in relation to the proposed replacement non-turf cricket match pitch/wicket. However, the proposal would provide a replacement facility and the ECB has raised no objection. Subject to a condition requiring compliance with the ECB's *Performance Standards for Non-Turf Cricket Pitches Intended for Outdoor Use (TS6)*, the replacement non-turf cricket match pitch/wicket is considered acceptable. On balance, the proposal is therefore considered to satisfy Exception 5 of the policy:

"The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor facility for sport, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss, or prejudice to the use, of the area of playing field."

With regards to the erection of two-lane cricket practice nets with associated perimeter security fencing and gates, it is considered that this proposal meets Exception 2 of our Playing Fields Policy and Guidance document, in that:

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

The proposed development is therefore considered to accord with NPPF paragraph 104 of the NPPF.

Sport England's position

Given the above, Sport England raises **no objection** to the application because it is considered to accord with Exceptions 2 and 5 of our Playing Fields Policy and paragraph 104 of the NPPF.

The absence of an objection is subject to the following condition(s) being imposed should the local planning authority (LPA) resolve to approve the application:

Condition: Non turf cricket match pitch

The approved replacement non-turf cricket match pitch shall be designed, constructed and laid out in accordance with the ECB's [*Performance Standards for Non-Turf Cricket Pitches Intended for Outdoor Use \(TS6\)*](#) and shall thereafter be retained and maintained as such.

Reason: To ensure the replacement sports facility is provided to an appropriate standard in the interests of sport and recreation and in accordance with Policy [XX] of the Development Plan.

If the LPA is minded to approve the application without imposing the above then Sport England objects to the application as it is not considered to accord with any of the exceptions to our Playing Fields Policy or paragraph 104 of the NPPF.

If you wish to amend the wording of the condition or use another mechanism in lieu of the condition, please contact us to discuss. Sport England does not object to amendments to conditions, provided they achieve the same outcome, and we are involved in any amendments.

Please note that this response relates to Sport England's planning function only. It is not associated with our funding role or any grant application/award that may relate to the site.

Sport England would be pleased to comment on further details that address the above comments. However, so that there is a formal audit trail and so that workload commitments can be effectively managed, Sport England would kindly request that any additional information is submitted to Planning.North@sportengland.org and not the Planning Manager directly.

Yours sincerely,



Christopher Carroll

Planning Manager

Annex

The Five Exceptions to Sport England's Playing Fields Policy

Exception 1	A robust and up-to-date assessment has demonstrated, to the satisfaction of Sport England, that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, which will remain the case should the development be permitted, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport.
Exception 2	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.
Exception 3	The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming part of a playing pitch and does not: • reduce the size of any playing pitch; • result in the inability to use any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins and run-off areas); • reduce the sporting capacity of the playing field to accommodate playing pitches or the capability to rotate or reposition playing pitches to maintain their quality; • result in the loss of other sporting provision or ancillary facilities on the site; or • prejudice the use of any remaining areas of playing field on the site.
Exception 4	The area of playing field to be lost as a result of the proposed development will be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new area of playing field: • of equivalent or better quality, and • of equivalent or greater quantity, and • in a suitable location, and • subject to equivalent or better accessibility and management arrangements.
Exception 5	The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor facility for sport, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss, or prejudice to the use, of the area of playing field.

The full 'Playing Fields Policy and Guidance Document' is available to view at:
www.sportengland.org/playingfieldspolicy